

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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NEWS

Emmitsburg Dodges A Bullet

After a contentious hearing, a request to allow firing ranges in Emmitsburg has been withdrawn. **Page 2**

Council Seat Filled

Kari Buterbaugh appointed to fill vacant the seat of Borough Council. **Page 3**

Simmer's Farm

Annexation Approved

A split council approves annexation that will bring hundreds of new homes. **Page 4**

Swell Farm Annexation

Petition Falls Short

Petition would have required voters to approve annexation. **Page 5**

From the Desk Of Candidate For ...

An educated voter is the best voter. **Page 8 and 37**

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

A look at the misguided movement to ban books with which one disagrees. **Page 12**

Tumbleweeds

Is extremism in American politics new? It's in eye of the beholder. **Page 13**

ARTICLES

The Book of Days

Halloween traditions of old. **Page 15**

Ecology

The versatility of Red-Tailed hawks. **Page 16**

In the Country

Woolly Bears—the bug, the myth, the legend. **Page 17**

Gardening

Turning your lawn into a meadow. **Page 20**

History

The history of the Emmitsburg Railroad. **Page 26**

Cooking

Warming recipes for cool evenings. **Page 30**

Four Years At The Mount

Reflections on the lost art of letter writing. **Page 32**

Humor

More totally useless facts to bore your friends with. **Page 46**

Rutter's on track for autumn grand opening

Emmitsburg's newest business, the Rutter's gas station and convenience center located just off Rt. 15, at the intersection of Taneytown Pike (Md. 140) and Harney Road, is on track for its planned opening this fall.

Speculations has been swirling on the status of the facility following the placement of a 'for sale or lease' sign at the property. The signs, however, refer to lots adjoining the station, which Rutter's will not be using. Rutter's management hopes they can be used by other potential businesses that will complement services offered by the station.

The roughly 8,500 square foot, 15-acre facility has been in the works for almost two years, with multiple permits having been required by the county for the construction, as well as for a sewer line, because the facility is so close to a major highway.

When completed, the station will boast seven gasoline fuel islands and five diesel fuel bays and dozens of parking spaces for tracker trailers and passenger vehicles.

The new Rutter's will include

everything regular customers can expect including Rutter's classic array of award-winning food service, as well as fuel and diesel, according to Chris Hartman, Rutter's Director of Fuels and Forecourt.

Employee training has begun, and the new Rutter's looks to bring about 50 store staff jobs.

Mayor Don Briggs was excited for the new store and hopes it will bring in business for the community. "It's a major traffic area and a place for trucks to land. It will really benefit the town in a great way," he said.

The new Rutter's also looks to impact the price of gas in the area and anticipated gas price relief through station competition. Multiple gas stations in an area generally bring price competition between locations, and the completion of the Rutter's will invariably set off an old fashion 'gas war,' greatly benefiting local drivers.

The expected 'gas war' will only heat up with the completion of the Royal Farm's gas and convenience center, also on Rt. 15, just north of Thurmont. While the start date of the Royal Farm's



The new Rutter's gas and convenience store center is on track for its much-anticipated opening this fall.

facility has not been set yet, when the station is completed, the northern part of the county will be served by 8 gas stations, making it the largest concentration outside of Frederick.

For the past two years, Walkersville and Woodsboro have seen the lowest prices in the county, usually .20 a gallon over surrounding towns, following the construction of three major gas stations with 3 miles of each other, including a Rutter's.

Emmitsburg's current gas stations do not compete between themselves. At the time of printing for this paper, Sunoco's listed

gas prices for regular is \$3.39/gallon while Valero's is .20 more expensive at \$3.59/gallon.

The need to compete will only increase with the anticipated loss of customers from Fairfield, who will be able to purchase gas at the soon to be re-opening gas station in Fairfield, eliminating the need to drive to Emmitsburg to fill their tanks.

This will be Rutter's second attempt at establishing a station in Emmitsburg. Emmitsburg's previous Rutter's was on the west end of town just before the entrance to Brookfield, closed about twenty years ago due to lack of business.

It's Fall Festival season

With summer finally coming to an end, the shorter, cooler days that autumn brings can now commence. Just as summertime brings the carnival season, autumn brings the festival season. In Adams County, there are many festivals that occur during the fall months. Pippinfest in Fairfield occurred at the end of last month.

Smiles were plentiful as Pippinfest returned 41 years strong, and crowds flocked to a plethora of yard sales, craft, and food vendors from all over the region.

With participants coming from near and far, Fairfield was the place to gather and behold exciting local wonders including car shows, an apple dessert competition, and a display of timeless Pippinfest Pottery.

Stitch 'N Peace welcomed craft enthusiasts of all ages for a quilt show and demonstration at the Village Hall.

If you're busy the weekend of September 15th, but are free either of the first weekends in October, then surely you should make a visit to the South Mountain Fairgrounds for the 58th National Apple Harvest Festival, because what says autumn better than an apple festival? This year, the Apple Harvest takes place October 1st and 2nd, as well as the

following weekend, October 8th and 9th.

The Apple Harvest Festival offers something for everyone! There will be over 300 Arts and Crafts vendors, antique and classic cars, antique farm equipment, antique gas engines, a gallery with apple memorabilia, souvenirs, a photo contest, pony rides, puppet shows, apple art, Scarecrows R Us, Kid Country Barn, a petting zoo, and strolling characters.

Of course, jam-packed demonstrations will be occurring both weekends. These include apple butter, apple sauce, and apple syrup making, chainsaw carving, Van Wagner's Tall Timber Lumber Heritage, Native American Dancers, and an antique working shingle mill powered by an antique steam engine, among others.

The festival isn't called the Apple Harvest festival for nothing—apples are the shining stars of this fall fest. There's mouth-watering apple pie, of course, among other apple desserts. Prepare the taste buds for fresh Adams County apples, candied and caramel apples, apple cider slushies, warm apple sauce, hot apple butter, and apple ice cream. Apart from tasty apple treats, the festival also offers an array of other deli-



Camp Eder's Fall Festival is a harvest and heritage celebration designed for the whole family. If you've never made apple butter, here's a chance to try your hand at making your own.

cious foods including finger-lickin' BBQ chicken, open pit beef or pulled pork or ribeye steak sandwiches, kettle or caramel corn, funnel cakes, and fresh dipped ice cream. For additional information, visit www.appleharvest.com.

Another anticipated fall festival is Camp Eder's annual Fall Festival, which will take place October 15, so mark your calendars for a day of fun spent at Camp Eder! Camp Eder's Fall Festival is a Harvest and Heritage celebration designed for the

whole family. Children can enjoy the petting zoo, crafts, games, and a bounce house. Craft vendors will be present and demonstrations including a glass blowing and apple butter making were also featured, as well as many other pioneer-style showcases. An authentic Pit-Roasted Pork and turkey lunch will be traditionally offered as the highlight of the day and leave folks sharing memories for months and years to follow. For more information on the Fall Festival, visit www.campeder.org.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Emmitsburg dodges a bullet

Following exchanges, which at times were contentious, between Kirby Delauter and Planning Commission board members, Delauter withdrew his request for a 'text change' in the current allowable use of land in the town's industrial zone.

Delauter had requested that allowable uses be expanded to include shooting ranges. Delauter, has proposed to build a shooting range on land adjacent and just south of the new Rutter's gas station, across Rt. 15 from the Emmit Garden and Silo Hill residential developments.

In their briefing to the Planning Commission, town staff warned the board that Delauter's requests, as submitted, would apply to all of the town's industrial zone. If approved, this could mean a shooting range would then be allowable on the west side of Rt. 15, directly adjacent to Emmit Gardens and the residential areas of Emmitsburg proper.

Delauter's told the Board his intention was to install a shooting range that would be used to allow individuals to become certified for carry weapons, and while initially it would be limited to pistols, he did not exclude allowing the shooting of rifles. The proposed range would be enclosed within 20-foot embankments with tires filled with stone dust set behind targets to stop bullets.

All shooting at the range according to Delauter would only take place 'under supervision of an instructor.' The facility would not

have its own instructor, but a list of approved instructors who would be given access to the facility. Shooting would be allowed from 9 a.m. until dusk, seven days a week.

While initial concerns from the board revolved around how to stop lead from the bullets leaching into ground water, the discussion quickly pivoted to the noise from the range and its impact on the quality of life in Emmitsburg. Board members also raised concerns over the possibility of stray bullets hitting cars on Rt. 15, landing in Emmit Gardens & Silo Hill, or hitting a gas truck in the new Rutter's service station, which according to the safety standards the town staff utilized to develop their recommendations to the Board, is not a none-zero probability.

Town staff noted that approval for Federal Stone's facility, which is adjacent to the proposed range, was based upon no noise emanating from the facility and questioned the fairness of allowing an adjacent facility to make noise that would be clearly heard in the center of town.

Tim Bieber, representing Rutter's, said he was worried about the safety of the new facility and its customers. "People will be hearing shots as soon as they get out of their cars and not know where they are coming from. This will also have an impact on our employees."

Richard Lindsay, who owns a horse farm near the proposed shooting range, told the Board

of an incident years ago where skeet-shooting took place at adjacent to his farm. "I had two horse that ran through fences out of fright. I can't image how bad it will be if my family and my horses had to hear shooting all day long, every day."

Town staff recommend to the Board that the town first establish requirements for shooting ranges if they where to be permitted within town limits. Staff recommendations included requiring any shooting range be no closer than 2,500 yards from a residential development (a NRA recommendation) & noise abatement measures. Without the requirements in place the town staff warned the Board, Delauter's proposed range could be grandfathered in and built under current regulations that do not address noise.

The potential for a shooting range, however, seemed to hit a brick wall when Board member Kevin Hagen noted that Federal Law prohibits gun ranges no closer then 2,500 yards of a federal facility. The prohibition brought a quizzical look from the proposed range manager who did not appear to be aware of the presence of FEMA across RT. 15 from the proposed range.

Delauter stated that the facility was being built because residents of Frederick County had to drive up to four hours to a faculty that provided qualification. However, County Official interviewed for this story stated there where multiple shooting ranges already



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if Frederick County that offered certification.

Un-mentioned at the meeting is the fact that the target shooting enthusiasts presently have the option of two shooting ranges with 10 miles: one in Thurmont and the Blue Ridge Sportsman's Association, 4 miles west of Emmitsburg.

According to Liberty Township, Delauter is also consider-

ing constructing a shooting range just off of Rt. 116 near the Harrington's equipment yard. The proposal has riled up local residents who plan to turn out to voice their concerns at a public hearing on the proposal.

For the time being however, Emmitsburg has dodged the bullet, so to speak, although the door was left open for Delauter to reappear if he should choose to.

Mowing ordinance modified

At its September 12 meeting, the Emmitsburg Town Council approved modifications to the grass and weed ordinance to allow the town to mow a property's lawn if the property owner fails to respond to notices of violation in a predetermined amount of time.

Under the current system, the town places notices in the form of door hangers to inform property owner to mow their grass when it

exceeds eight inches. However, not all property owners respond to the gentle reminders. If action is not taken by the property owner upon initial notification, a certified letter is sent 15 days later, and again at 30 days if there is still no response. If the property owner still fails to respond, the only recourse, currently, is for the town to issue \$75 citations, Town Manager Cathy Willets said.

Once a citation is issued, the property owner has 15 days to request a court date to dispute the citation and another five days to pay fines. If the resident ops for court intervention, the town cannot take additional actions.

In the past, it has taken up to ten months for the town to acquire an order of abatement from the Frederick County court system, said Town Planner Zach Gulden. "So you're

talking months of the Town being unable to enforce our mowing code," Willets added, noting the struggle for anyone who has lived next to a property with overgrown grass.

Over the past year, the town has issued 127 notices alerting residents that their lawns require mowing. Property owners have a week to comply with the first notice and the vast majority fulfills the obligation within that allotted time. Of the 127 notices sent out, only three property owners failed to mow their lawns in the required time period, Willets said.

Under the revised changes to the grass and weed ordinance, the town will continue to place door hangers on properties that need

their lawns mowed, followed up with a single certified letter stating that if the lawn is not mowed within one week, a contractor will perform it on behalf of the town.

If the property's lawn is not mowed a week after the certified letter is delivered, the town now has the option of mowing the grass and billing the property owner for the mowing.

Adjoining neighbors generally produced the mowing complaints that led to the notices, but they also come from staff observations. "Nine times out of ten they are abandoned properties," Willets said.

If the town staff mows the lawn, a certified letter will be sent to the property owner with a bill for the mowing,



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Lot swap dismissed

At its September 13 meeting, Carroll Valley Borough Council dismissed action for the swapping of a borough owned lot with an adjoining property. The owner was looking to establish an access point for their residence through the lot to allow them to bypass Friends Creek Trail during flooding.

The lots that were being considered involved a .54-acre tract owned by Friends Creek Trail residents, Michael Capone and Mary Jo Vincent, at 66 Ranch Trail and the Carroll Valley .64-acre lot at

82 Tom's Creek Trail.

While original appraisal reviews found both parcels to be of approximately equal value – estimated at \$4,000, a subsequent appraisal conducted by a certified residential appraiser indicated a value of \$14,500 for the property the borough would be swapping to Capone, Borough Solicitor Zachary Rice said.

Rice was uncomfortable that the council was not given sufficient documentation to prove the properties were of equal value and was concerned the council would

be in violation of the Pennsylvania Borough code if the lot trade request was granted.

Prior to making its decision, the council opened the floor for further public comment on the proposed lot swap. Comments received paralleled last month's comments with residents raising concerns that the swap would bring increased traffic and logging.

In response, Capone said he was disappointed in the nature of comments. The access point is not intended to be a major roadway, but merely a way for the property owners to access their residence at times when the creek floods, Capone said.

"There's been a lot of untruths said and I'm not saying they're saying untruths on purpose, they just don't know all the information... We're just trying to do something for a safety issue, a way to get in and a way to get out of our property during flooding conditions," he said.

Following the public comments, Rice suggested that the Council consider offering Capone & Vincent limited resident easement access of the lot, but with the borough still maintaining control and ownership.

How the council responds to this request does not set precedence on how it must respond in any hypo-

thetical future situations, as the council is permitted to exercise discretion in terms of what is deemed appropriate; "and that sometimes means handling different matters in a different fashion," Capone said.

Based on Rice's recommendation, the council approved a motion to decline the lot swap offer, and instead directed staff to evaluate how a right of way through a borough owned parcel would happen, and what conditions will be applied for the council to consider.

"I think it's a good compromise that allows us to be good neighbors," Councilmember David Lillard said.

Vacant council seat filled

Following the resignation of Councilmember Robert Verderaime in August, the Carroll Valley Borough Council appointed Kari Buterbaugh to fill the seat. The term runs until December 31st, in which a municipal election will fill the seat for two years.

Buterbaugh has been a resident of Carroll Valley for 33 years and brings a wealth of community knowledge to the council. In her application letter addressed to the borough, Buterbaugh stated as a local businesswoman that

she will bring a strong interest in maintaining the borough's beauty, charm, and sense of community. She is committed to keeping the area a great place to raise a family, retire, and vacation.

Buterbaugh said she would emphasize maintaining public buildings, parks, lakes, and roads, as well as continuing community events for all ages, while keeping reasonable residential growth.

Other applicants for the open position included Catherine Schubring and Sara Laird.

If appointed, Schubring said

she would bring new ideas to retain young families intown and preserve the area for future generations. She would also get involved in the Parks and Recreation Committee to bring fresh ideas for social planning and attract young people to stay and raise families. One of her priorities would have been to see continual improvement to the playgrounds to provide safe, creative spaces. Schubring said she would want to see the serene community continue to thrive for retirees and those on fixed

income by keeping taxes low.

Sara Laird noted she currently oversees the Mount's technology services, has overseen and managed the Human Capital Management and Finance system, and has helped scope support services including twice yearly bundles of new functionality.

During the pandemic, Laird helped develop a strategy to enable every Mount faculty member to present instruction to students who are in the classroom and remote simultaneously. Laird has over 16 years of higher education technology. Laird has also overseen multiple construction and renovation projects to ensure

that the appropriate technology and budget are utilized.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Verderaime for his four years as a council member and vice president, who has rescinded his seat for personal reasons. "Your tireless pursuit of excellence and professionalism to enhance our community reflects great credit upon yourself and the borough," Mayor Ron Harris said.

Verderaime thanked the council, borough staff, and the leadership of President Richard Mathews for their immense dedication. "In my opinion, this council is the best one the borough has had, bar none, period."

Strawberry Hill welcomes new Education Manager

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve welcomed the return of long-time volunteer and member of the nature preserves legacy Anne Gageby as the new Environmental Education Manager in August.

Gageby was born and raised in Fairfield and literally grew up surrounded by the nature of Strawberry Hill.

Alongside her family, Gageby has been volunteering at Strawberry Hill on and off her entire life, noting her grandfather started the preserve's maple sugaring program.

"Strawberry Hill is my heart and my home," she said.

During her time growing up and around Strawberry Hill, Gageby has had a hand in trail maintenance, animal care, general cleaning around the office, answering phones/ mailing newsletters, and has volunteered with various programs.

Gageby has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Mount St. Mary's University, a master's degree in Teaching from Mount St. Mary's University, and a master's degree in School Library Media from McDaniel College. Gageby is also a U.S. Army veteran.

Gageby now returns to the forefront of Strawberry Hill's one-of-a-kind environmental program for the community as Environmental Education Manager.

Throughout her years as a school librarian and educator, Gageby always sought to incorpo-

rate environmental education and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) into her curriculum as frequently as possible. Now, Gageby considers her return to Strawberry Hill while bringing her teaching experiences, "the best of all worlds."

Strawberry Hill is also building a strong team of naturalists and looks to revive and strengthen many of the preserve's free nature programs, which are open to the public, including full moon hikes,

sensory story time, and of course the preserve's renowned animal ambassador program.

"We are rebuilding a sense of community. This is going to be an amazing fall semester," she said.

First and foremost, Gageby is passionate about nature and education; highlighting the joy she received growing up in the community, Gageby looks forward the most to inspiring a love of community nature with a new generation of conservationists. "When

passion is established at an early age, it carries you through life. I am a testament to that," she said.

Strawberry Hill was established in 1986, and with Gageby at the wheel, it surely looks to usher in

a fresh collaboration of environmental stewardship.

For more information about Strawberry Hill and a calendar of events, go to strawberryhill.org.



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THURMONT NEWS

Simmers Farm annexation approved

In a narrow vote, the Thurmont Town Council approved the annexation of the Simmers property at their September 20th meeting.

Commissioners Bill Blakeslee and Wes Hamrick voted against the annexation, while Commissioners Wayne Hooper and Bill Buehrer voted in favor. Mayor John Kinnard broke the tie with a “yes” vote.

The farmland property is located southeast of Apples Church Road, Roddy Road, and Elyer Road intersection. It borders Graceham Road and consists of approximately 24.5 acres. Seven acres are located in town and currently zoned R-5, while the other

nearly 17 acres lie in the county and are agriculturally zoned.

Thurmont’s 2022 Master Plan has the property identified in its future growth area as high density residential. This designation is not new as it was also deemed this designation in the 2010 Master Plan.

According to the Frederick County Public School System, the capacity of Thurmont schools are also all well below the capacity and are projected to stay within capacity for the next ten years.

The financial contribution to the town per the annexation agreement will be \$2 million and total fees collected with total impact

fees will be \$12,660 per dwelling unit, town staff said.

However, as annexation plans moved forward, so too did public concern. Residents voiced concern that the high-density residential development did not match the feel of Thurmont’s small-town atmosphere.

Residents have voiced apprehension about the annexation, citing that the potential high-density development would increase traffic on narrow rural roads and be detrimental to the small-town atmosphere.

A revised traffic study was performed of the 1 to 6 p.m. time period to cover unique traffic

conditions. While the study found traffic issue, the proposed development “does not exacerbate the current problem,” Town Planner Kelly Duty said.

Resident Louise Schafer presented a petition with over 300 signatures in opposition of the development. “I want to make it clear we are not opposed to the annexation, but we are opposed to the R-5 high density residential,” she said.

Noting the strong options against the development and the effect on the surrounding community, Hooper considered annexation decisions “probably the hardest things we as commissioners have to do.”

With the council approval, the development will now require authorization from the county for the necessary zoning change and only then will the Thurmont Planning and Zoning Commission finalize development plans.

With a long road ahead before the development, Kinnard urged public participation and community input involvement at all town meetings. “There will be plenty of meetings for you to come out and craft this project the way you think it should be crafted,” he said.

Residents in opposition of the development have the ability to raise a petition signed by at least 25 percent of registered Thurmont voters and present it to the council.

State to allow Bentz Dam pond to fill in

Due to the nature of the dam at Frank Bentz Memorial Pond requiring continual repair, Maryland has opted to cease repairs to the dam, and instead, focus on restoring the original streambed. Once the streambed is restored, a park will be established, according to Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock representative John Hoke.

The dam that forms the Frank Bentz Pond is named in honor of one of the Brotherhood’s founding members, Frank Bentz, senior. Hoke emphasized that a concern was that the loss of the pond would mean the loss of a memorial to the community leader, conservationist, and proponent of youth recreation.

In preservation of the legacy of local history, the Brotherhood proposed the

new park to include a historic marker detailing the legacy of both the area’s early electric project and Bentz, a founder of the Brotherhood.

The dam that formed the Bentz Pond was not originally designed for recreational purposes; rather, it was part of an effort to provide hydroelectric power to local residents, according to Hoke.

In 1907, town entrepreneurs formed the Citizens Electric Light and Power Company of Thurmont, and raised money to build the dam and electric generation station. The dam’s generator was able to generate 119 Kilowatt-hours per day. The dam and plant construction were completed in 1908 and sold to the town in 1910 where it remained in operations for 15 years.

Unfortunately, the fluid dynamics of the dam are such that it becomes a place where rocks, sand, and silt settle during times of flooding and high water. In the dam’s 114 years of history, it has needed restoration numerous times, including as recently as 2006, with each restoration costing millions of dollars, Hoke said.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources plan called for ceasing the removal of gravel, stone, and silt that naturally wash into the dam’s pond, so as to allow it to fill up naturally. The filling, over time, will result in a stream about 60 yards long, with five pools large enough for fish. Once the stream establishes itself, and water flows more evenly, the areas currently occupied by the

pond will dry, allowing the creation of a park. The new pools and park area will allow a safe place for youth to learn the wonders of fly fishing, and learn about the local history, said Hoke.

The Brotherhood proposed that the new park includes a historic marker in honor of both the early electric project, and the legacy of Bentz. The Brotherhood also seeks to relocate the Brotherhood monument at Thurmont Park to the new park, and have the DNR include a picnic pavilion. “This would be among the first youth-focused fly-fishing spots in the country, and certainly the first in Maryland,” Hoke said.

The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock was founded in 1940 with

a mindset toward conservation and fly-fishing, according to Hoke. The group of anglers were concerned about wild places being overrun by civilization and wanted to do something to introduce coming generations to the importance of conservation through the sport of fly fishing.

The Brotherhood’s creed highlights environmental stewardship and notes they are “morally charged in [their] time with the responsibility of handing it down unspoiled to tomorrow’s inheritors,” Hoke said.

The Brotherhood is named for a feather from the grey jungle fowl, or the cock bird, that was highly sought as a fly-fishing lure in the 1900’s.

The town council provided unanimous approval for the efforts, and agreed to pen a letter in support for the effort to Frederick County.

Colorfest support service contracts awarded

Thurmont’s Town Council approved bids to provide town services in support of the annual Catocin Colorfest.

Services provided by the town include security, bus transportation, portable toilets, and trash collection.

The town has broken even, overall, on its investment to accommodate Colorfest by providing transportation, sanitary, and security services, Mayor John Kinnard said.

A contract for \$19,080 was awarded to May Security Services of Frederick to provide security ser-

vices for the event. May will provide 26 security guards, two supervisors and two relief guards for both event days, Chief Administrative officer James Humerick said. The numbers this year include less guards but more relief personnel: “We want to insure everyone gets a break,” Humerick said.

Thurmont has used May services for many years, and they have a great relationship with the police department, Humerick said.

The cost of security services are a slight increase from last year’s cost of

\$17,664, according to Humerick.

Rill’s Bus Services of Westminster was awarded a contract for \$22,000 to provide bus services. Rill’s will provide nine standard buses on Saturday and seven standard buses for Sunday, along with two wheelchair accessible buses for both days.

Transportation services have decreased by two busses per day because the town did not incorporate the Thurmont Event complex parking area. Last year’s costs were \$22,320.

Key Sanitation Inc. of Dicker-

son Maryland was awarded a contract for \$19,500, to provide trash removal and portable toilets. The number of festival toilets was reduced this year by fifteen for a total of 114 regular units and 16 handicap accessible units, as well as a pump truck on site both days.

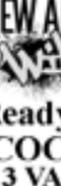
A bid from United Rentals of Baltimore for portable toilets was also received for \$13,310. Although the lower bid, Humerick noted Key Sanitation was also the sole bidder for trash services, and had stipulated in their bid that the two bids could not

be split. This procedure allows the company to multitask their employees, he said.

The town has worked with Key Sanitation for many years, and they have done an excellent job in both service areas, he said.

Special trash pickup after the event each day at 6 p.m. was also awarded to Key Sanitation in the amount of \$3,150, with the cost being the same as last year, Humerick said.

Following the approval of the support service contracts, the council approved raising craft vendor permit fees from \$50 to \$60 for the 2023 festival.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Sewell Farm annexation public vote petition falls short

In response to the City Council's vote of July 11 in support of the Sewell Farm annexation, a petition drive was started to have the annexation subject to a public referendum vote.

The petition, with over 1,000 signatures, was submitted to the City office August 25. At its September 7 council workshop, Taneytown City Manager James Wieprecht informed the council that the petition effort did not succeed due to the number of and

nature of signatures.

Upon verification of the signatures, it was identified of the 1,043 signatures presented on the petition, 52 names that were illegible and thus unverifiable, 149 were unregistered voters, four names did not have signatures, three were duplicates, 10 were obtained by a circulator who was not a registered voter, and seven were found to live out of city limits, resulting in only 818 valid signatures.

Maryland State law, as it applies

to the annexation process, requires at least 20% of a municipality's registered voters to sign petitions to bring a question to a public vote. In the case of Taneytown, that means 1,099 voters according to Wieprecht.

If the petition had reached the required 1,099 names needed, the town clerk might have spent more time deciphering the illegible signatures, he said.

Mayor Bradley Wantz credited the hard work of dedicated resi-

dents and was pleased with the amount of people involved who took it upon themselves to raise awareness.

While disappointed with the outcome, petition representative Tara Stanczyk credited the dedication of fellow volunteer residents and businesses lending support to get the petition rolling. Resident Chris Miller, who also assisted with the petition, reminded the council to be mindful that as representatives,

their votes should always reflect the needs of the city.

The proposed annexation will change the existing zoning on Sewell Farm to an R-10,000 designation, meaning lot sizes will be approximately 10,000 square feet, or one-fifth of an acre in size. A preliminary sketch of the proposed development calls for 318 units—or homes—in the development, which has raised concerns from local residents over increased traffic and water use.

Special exception granted for archery range

At its September 12 meeting, the Taneytown City Council granted approval for an indoor archery range within City limits.

Business owner and archery instructor Shane Fitzgerald requested approval for an indoor archery range at the September 6 council workshop. An archery instructor for over two decades, Fitzgerald said he wants to put in a six lane indoor archery range behind the store's showroom.

Fitzgerald teaches multiple kinds of archery, with National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) style the most popular. "It's a very big thing and it keeps the kids that aren't always athletic into the sport," he said.

Fitzgerald's Bowhunter archery classes constitute four-week classes, noting ages for the program typically start at around seven to eight years old.

Fitzgerald was teaching private lessons at his previous location but found he was running out of space. Fitzgerald has been an instructor with the NASP program for approximately 15 years, "and we've never had any accidents," he said.

In business for over 30 years, Bowhunters Den is located on Frederick Street, having recently returned to Taneytown. The property is zoned commercial and is in the general

business district, which is the broadest commercial zone in the city.

The unusual request for an archery range called for the mayor and council to approve the use within the city, according to City Manager James Wieprecht.

While the City code prohibits the discharge of any gun, pistol, air rifle, bow and such throughout the city, Wieprecht said, the section does not prohibit lawfully allowed indoor tar-

get ranges by any organization having approval by the council.

"Otherwise, the code is silent on archery," he said.

As nothing additional is being constructed, the range's minimal impact may not trigger a site development plan, and may just result in a zoning certificate and change of use building permit with the county, Wieprecht said.

"It certainly has my attention, I think this is a good idea," Mayor Pro Tem Joseph Vigliotti said.

City revisits fence setbacks

Reliving restrictions and requirements on fence setbacks on residents living in corner lots, due to their unique position of having two front yards under Town Code, are now before the Taneytown Planning Commission.

The current Town Code restricts fences to four feet in any front yard whereas residents can build fences up to six feet in rear and side yards. However, a corner lot has a front yard and an equivalent yard. Since corner lots have two yards that face a street, both are considered 'front yards' and restricted to a four-foot fence. While the four-foot fence can abut the sidewalk, any taller fence must be 35 feet from the property line.

"That creates a challenge because people owning corner lots feel they've lost their privacy (by only being allowed) a four-foot fence instead of a six-foot fence, and it happens a lot," Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer Darryl Hale said. City Manager Jim Wieprecht also suggested a shorter setback for corner lots to be able to have a larger, higher fenced-in area that includes some portion of the equivalent front yard.

Because houses in Taneytown are set back 35 feet from the street in most areas, when it comes to homes on corner lots, those tend to have smaller backyard areas available for sheds or tall fences than other houses. According to Town Code, sheds and accessory buildings are not allowed in any front yard, limiting options for those in corner lots. Wieprecht pointed out that this makes it more difficult for residents with dogs or those who are trying to find space for a shed.

If you own a corner lot, "your backyard that you can fence in is

pretty limited," Wieprecht said. "And you've got this 35-foot by 60-foot area that you can't enclose with your privacy fence, or you can't put your shed there."

As the code stands now, residents can submit an exemption request for a six-foot fence to the zoning office.

The request must be approved by the adjoining neighbors, who the Zoning Administrator contacts by certified mail. If they approve or don't respond within 15 days, Hale can approve a setback variance for the pacing of a larger fence up to 30 percent, or 11.5 feet closer to

the sidewalk or property line.

According to Wieprecht, the current process to allow residents in corner homes to have taller fences works, but it is cumbersome for both town staff and often confusing for residents. Not only does the Zoning Administrator have to dedicate extra time to receiving and executing these requests, but

the certified letters are paid for by the applicant.

The need to rethink the process came about following a recent incident where a resident received approval from Carroll County rather than Taneytown to put up a taller fence, only to find out after the fence was up, that they needed to get the city's approval.

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THESE ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTED:
 PAINT. Alkaline batteries, ammunition, antifreeze, tires, medical & biohazard waste, explosives, fire extinguishers, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, kerosene, lead acid batteries, medicine, motor oil, pressurized tanks (such as propane, butane, freon, oxygen, etc.), radioactive materials. NO regular trash or recyclables.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Councilman Michael Blue

The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, or APFO, is a document that was created in 1998 to ensure that our Frederick County schools, roads, and other public facilities serving a proposed development, will be adequate for the existing community after the development is built. It is meant to keep school classrooms from becoming too crowded, roads from becoming too congested, and to make sure there will be sufficient sewer capacity and water supply. The

APFO is codified as Chapters 1-20 Adequate Public Facilities in the Frederick County Code.

There have been several amendments to the APFO over the years. Fellow Council Member Steve McKay has been working on amendments for the past three years. APFOs can be very complicated, and he wants to get it just right. Bill Number 22-17 is an act to “Amend the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance by strengthening traffic mitigation standards, increas-

ing the requirements to be considered a “limited impact development,” revising aspects of the Planning Commission’s approval authority, revising approval time periods, and removing or revising out of date language.” As of this writing, the bill Council Member McKay is proposing will have a public hearing on Monday, October 3rd beginning at 7 pm.

The previous version of this bill was introduced by Council Member Steve McKay and co-sponsored by Council

Member Kai Hagen on May 30. Following review and comments from the Planning Commission and comments made during the Council’s public hearing, they attempted to formulate a compromise. The compromise would still strengthen the proposed level of service (LOS) standard, while not creating a prohibitive standard for non-residential development. Facing the 90-day deadline for bill passage, they were unable to formulate this compromise in time. They opted to withdraw the bill and reintroduce it in a modified form. In this modified version of

the bill, they incorporated most of the Planning Commission’s recommendations, and made other changes to attempt to meet the Planning Commission “in the middle.”

The part of this bill that I believe is most important is Strengthening Traffic Standards. The following information is from Council Member McKay’s Briefing Memo. “The more stringent LOS mitigation standard in the original bill was a subject of concern both from public comment and from the Planning Commission. The revised bill addresses these concerns in two ways. First, the threshold for applying the higher mitigation standard has been raised from 50 peak hour trips to 100. This means that more of the smaller developments will still be able mitigate to the current LOS standard. Second, for larger developments that exceed the 100 peak hour trip threshold, they have provided the Planning Commission with the authority to modify the mitigation standard to the current LOS “E” standard if two criteria are met: (1) the development is within a growth area and (2) it is served by regularly scheduled public transportation.

The public transportation criteria is the new feature here that distinguishes this bill from the current ordinance. Not all of our growth areas are served by public transportation.

Public transportation is important to offset the demands on our roadways created by new development. For this reason, they believed that new development in growth areas served by public transportation can rely on the current LOS mitigation standard. Under this bill, the Planning Commission will have the authority to make this happen.”

The proposed bill also addresses several other areas of concern, including, reducing the duration of APFO approvals, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and other revisions to the Planning Commission’s authority.

I believe this bill will provide for better managed and controlled growth not only in District 5 but for Frederick County as a whole.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardener

As the first County Executive of Frederick County, I am keenly interested and vested in ensuring Frederick County remains a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire. I am proud of the accomplishments of the past 8 years delivering outstanding schools, safe communities, historic job growth and a thriving economy even with a pandemic. The county is in strong financial condition with an inherited structural deficit replaced by fully funded reserves and a coveted AAA bond ratings from all three rating agencies. And, we have reduced taxes.

The County has adopted the Livable Frederick Master Plan to provide a road map for future economic growth, transportation, health, recreation, and more. The Seniors First initiative has been fully implemented to support our growing senior population to live their best life. And, we have successfully implemented an aggressive agriculture preservation program along with agriculture innovation grants to ensure that Frederick County retains its unique and valued agricultural heritage for future generations.

The upcoming election will determine if Frederick County continues in a positive direction with a bright future for all. I am truly concerned that Michael Hough, a candidate for County Executive, will be just like Blaine Young and will undo the good work of recent years, dismantling county agencies and services, undermining public education, and tossing Livable Frederick aside to pave over hundreds of acres of agricultural land for residential housing. After all it was Michael Hough who helped pay off Blaine Young's campaign overspending after he lost the election in 2014 and Hough's fundraisers are a who's who of residential developers. Hough has also said he will sell Citizens and Montevue once again violating our promise to our seniors.

Hough is working hard to re-frame himself as a moderate, but actions speak louder than words. Hough wants you to forget that he currently works for U.S. Senator Alex Mooney of West Virginia who is among the most far-right Republicans in Congress. Hough has been one of the most partisan members of the state legislature. Why is Hough actively avoiding saying he supports Dan Cox, the Republican's nomination for Governor? It appears Hough is running away from his right-wing credentials.

Hough talks a lot about Montgomery County, the place where he grew up and where he moved to Frederick County from. Hough alludes to wanting to avoid what he calls "Montgomery County crime". Does this mean he thinks Sheriff Jenkins is doing a bad job manag-

ing crime in Frederick County? Doesn't Hough know that most violent crimes are actually down in Frederick County? Under my administration, the county has supported our Sheriff Deputies with salary improvements and have increased funding to the Sheriff's Office by over 35%.

Hough says he wants to ban multi-family and high density housing. He shows photos of high-rise buildings in urban cities not located in Frederick County. No one has proposed these kinds of high rise buildings and they are not even allowed in the City of Frederick where there are height restrictions to protect the views of the clustered spires. While it is questionable as to whether it is even legal and in compliance with federal fair housing laws to ban multi-family housing, this rhetoric seems like a dog whistle for not wanting "certain people" who live in multi-family housing. Really? We have multi-family housing in the county that meets a need for seniors who want to downsize and for young adults starting out who don't want to live with their parents or who are working people who simply don't want the yard work. Does Hough oppose the multi-family housing at Homewood or at Woman's Mill? Does Hough want our seniors and our young people to relocate somewhere else? Shouldn't apartments and condos

be allowed in certain more urban areas?

So, let's acknowledge the facts about residential growth. Over the past 8 years, virtually all the housing growth in the county is a result of what was approved by the last Board of County Commissioners, who approved over 20,000 houses between 2012 and 2014. Some of these housing projects have not even started yet. During my administration, only two senior only projects have been added to this huge pipeline of housing. We have stopped approving more housing and have instead focused on providing needed schools, roads, fire stations and public safety staffing to keep up with the demand for service. Hough actively supported the last BOCC and their massive residential growth decisions – all made without thought for needed infrastructure, services and impacts on taxpayers. Actions speak louder than words.

Hough says he will support education. But, actions speak louder than words. He has a solid record as a state senator of not supporting public education. Under my administration, the county has advanced three new and very much needed elementary schools in the County using \$105 million specifically allocated in the state Built to Learn Act for Frederick County. Michael Hough voted against

this bill. He actually voted against state funding for school construction that has been allocated for the new Brunswick Elementary Schools, the new Landsdale Elementary School in Monrovia, and the replacement Valley Elementary School in Jefferson. Actions speak louder than words with Hough voting against school construction money specifically designated for Frederick County.

Hough claims he wants to "freeze" property taxes but yet again actions speak louder than words. During his years as a state senator, Hough never proposed to freeze state property taxes, never introduced legislation to hold the state property tax to the constant yield tax rate, and actually voted for a state general fund budget this year that increased over 15% as compared to the prior year.

By contrast, the current county council has voted to pass an expanded senior tax credit, a tax credit for veterans, and adopted a targeted income tax reduction

of 7% for households filing joint returns with a taxable income of \$100,000 or less to support our working families. Michael Hough actually voted against the state legislation that allowed counties to provide targeted income tax relief. His actions, speak louder than words. The only person in the race for County Executive who has actually voted to reduce taxes is Jessica Fitzwater.

If you want good schools and the best teachers in our classrooms, there is only one person to vote for and that is Jessica Fitzwater. If you want balanced, rational growth in the county that does not outpace infrastructure and support for a diversity of jobs and a thriving economy, there is only one person to vote for and that is Jessica Fitzwater. If you want a Livable Frederick, support for agriculture preservation and agriculture economic vitality, there is only one persons to vote for and that's Jessica Fitzwater.

Actions speak louder than words.

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FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive

As a music teacher at Oakdale Elementary in the Frederick County Public Schools system for over 16 years, I am exactly like every other FCPS educator in knowing the joys that come from working with children each and every day of my career — and understanding the challenges faced by our staff, our schools, and our families.

That's why — as a leader on the Frederick County Council for the past eight years — I've fought so hard to raise new teacher pay, keep our school construction schedule on track (and accelerate it where possible), and adopt policies to make sure that developers are paying their fair share of costs for new schools.

COVID-19 hit our students and families hard. Some stu-

dents thrived with online learning. Others did not. As your next County Executive, I'm committed to robust funding for our schools to ensure they have the resources to address some of the set-backs we've experienced in both academic skills and social-emotional learning. And as we recover, it's important that our North County students and those in other rural areas receive their fair share of attention and support.

As the mother of two children — Jane (3) and Jonah (6), who is now in first grade at North Frederick Elementary — I'm keenly aware of the need for quality education for our kids. It's an awareness shared by North County families. From Wolfsville to Lib-

erty, to Thurmont to Glade, and everywhere in between— we want to make sure our kids get a great start on their educational path as they move on through the Walkersville and Catoctin feeders.

That's why I'm so concerned about my opponent for County Executive who would certainly take us backward. He's already announced his intention to impose a hiring freeze and make significant budget cutbacks. Have we already forgotten the tremendous negative impact we experienced within the past decade when the last group of County Commissioners held our educators, public safety professionals, and county employees without raises for years? Frederick County is still

feeling the effects and remains at the bottom in Maryland in spending per student; but that shortsighted board refused to spend a dollar over what was required by state law. We can't take a chance on any County Executive that would stop our progress.

A strong school system isn't just good for our kids, it's essential as our county — the fastest-growing in Maryland — writes its future. We know that a strong public school system and a well-educated workforce are at the heart of bringing business investment to Frederick County. Me must continue to attract major employers like Kite Pharma, Ellume, Kroger, and the hundreds of small businesses that have opened their doors in Frederick County during my time on the County Council.

We also know that provid-

ing career opportunities and high-paying jobs right here in Frederick County are key to keeping our crime rate low and building safer communities. When our young people are educated and engaged and enjoy choices for their future, we all benefit.

The upcoming election is extremely important. As County Executive, I'll continue the forward progress we've made in education and do my best to create even more opportunities for Frederick children in the future. There will never be a better or more effective champion for Frederick County and our public school system than a teacher who has spent her career in public service to our kids and their families. With your help, we'll keep moving our county forward—together.

Brad Young, County Council-At-Large

This past month has been busy with many campaign events. We recently had our first two candidate forums where all 4 candidates-at-large participated in both. I was very happy to share my positions on many issues including growth, education, public safety, and quality of life issues in Frederick County. I look forward to several upcoming events to get to

share more about the campaign and meet more voters.

I wanted to talk this month about our parks and recreational areas in the county. I have had the pleasure of serving several years on the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Committee and learning the great things going on in our county.

Many people have moved to Frederick County for the quality of life

that we have here. That has put pressure to continue to add parks and recreation events for those that are here. Three new parks that I have visited and was on the parks and recreation committee, as they were being built, are Urbana Regional Park, Utica Park, and Othello Park. These 3 parks are all outstanding increasing opportunities for our residents to enjoy.

I am supportive of the Frederick

County Bike-ways & Trails Plan. We have a beautiful county and people want to enjoy it by walking and biking, we need to make sure that they can do that safely and have proper paths. The parks and Rec department also do an excellent job of providing events for us in the county. You can see those at www.recreator.com.

An example of an event is Paw-O-

Ween on October 26th at Ballenger Creek Park and the History Trick or Treat on Friday, October 28 at Rosehill Manor Park. I will be very supportive of continuing to grow this department and provide additional opportunities for our residents.

You can email me for information or send questions to FreindsofBradYoung@yahoo.com. You can also visit my website at www.brad-young.com.

Renee Knapp, County Council-At-Large

We have a strong and expanding economy in Frederick County. Under the leadership of County Executive Jan Gardner, the county has seen significant economic development while meeting and exceeding agricultural preservation goals. Our county economy is driven by traditional agricultural industries, biotechnology and other tech enterprises, construction, and vibrant tourism. Large and small businesses are choosing to locate here because Frederick County is a beautiful place to live. It's an exciting time to do business here and new businesses are on the way with new opportunities

to live and work in the county.

As Frederick County continues to grow, the county will continue to build and maintain infrastructure projects like schools, libraries, and roads. These are real county needs. To fund these projects, the county must be positioned to take advantage of all available products for financing. We currently hold a AAA bond rating from all three rating agencies. When the county gets better interest rates, taxpayers save money. Like any other enterprise, our demonstrated fiscal responsibility and cash reserves factor into decisions of credit worthiness. The county property tax rate has remained unchanged

since 2014. Since then, county residents have seen more parks and trails built, and more resources have been dedicated to supporting county farmers and agrotourism.

It's true that county property assessments, which tend to lag behind market values, have increased during that time. Owning a home is still one of the biggest investments that families make to secure retirement or pass something on to future generations. The financial stability created by conservative fiscal management and a constant rate of property taxation allows the county to deliver the services we count on and

future capital improvement projects like road improvements and school construction.

I will support responsible budgets that preserve Frederick County's stellar credit rating and current financial stability. We can't address the most pressing challenges in the county otherwise. To keep pace with the growth that follows successful economic development, responsive county budgets must reflect dedication to excellent public education and necessary transportation solutions. If I am elected to the County Council, I will be an advocate for both. I ask for your vote so I can keep

Frederick County moving forward.

It's hard to believe mail-in ballots are already being mailed out and that Election Day is just about a month away. If you need any information about your voter registration, or your polling location during Early Voting or on Election Day (November 8th), you can visit www.elections.maryland.gov. You can also apply to be an Election Judge by visiting the Frederick County Board of Elections website.

For more information about my campaign, you can visit www.knapp4countycouncil.com, or feel free to email me at renee@knapp4countycouncil.com.

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- Commitment to Public Safety
- Enabling Good Business
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- Parks and Recreation
- Supporting Seniors
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By Authority of Cheryl Young, Treasurer

FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

David Trone – U.S. Congress

When I chose to run for Congress, I knew that I wasn't following the path of many of my colleagues in Washington. I wasn't doing it for fame, or power, or money. And I certainly wasn't doing it to become a career officeholder. I was doing it to make a difference. Since my election, I've strived to fulfill my promise to put people over politics and deliver results to those I serve — especially those whose voices are not heard in the corridors of power.

This is why I am so disappointed that our government too often fails to deliver meaningful results to seniors and older adults. It's past time that we correct this omission.

Across our country today, over 15 million seniors are economically insecure. Nearly 40% of them rely on Social Security as their only means of income. Over 5 million seniors struggle to access food on a regular basis. These

numbers are incredibly dire. They represent grandmothers, grandfathers, parents, and neighbors who have been left behind. They deserve more.

On the positive side, we've made some progress recently in combating these challenges. For example, when COVID-19 struck in early 2020, necessary social distancing measures left more seniors feeling alone than ever before. It was clear we had to act. That's why I introduced bipartisan legislation in 2020 that provides millions in funding for senior outreach programs, home and community-based services, and more.

In recent months, we've also taken steps to make healthcare more affordable. The Inflation Reduction Act — which is now law — included several provisions to reduce the economic burden on seniors. First, we empowered Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical com-

panies for the very first time. From 2008 to 2021, median drug prices for a yearly supply rose from \$2,115 to more than \$180,000. Much of this is due to corporate greed. But a critical factor is that Congress previously prohibited the government from using its leverage to negotiate lower prices. Now, Medicare, the biggest buyer of pharmaceuticals in the country, will be able to put a stop to these increases.

But these promising steps are far from enough. If we don't take drastic measures now, Social Security is projected to be insolvent by 2037. Healthcare costs will continue to rise. And a growing number of seniors will face economic, food, and housing insecurity. We must do more.

The first step is to fix Social Security and ensure that this lifeline is there for seniors for years to come. Despite the rhetoric of some opponents, Social

Security is most assuredly not a hand-out. It's an entitlement that every American pays for. The very least we can do is make sure it's there for seniors when they need it.

Attempts to privatize Social Security are dangerous and misguided. This would do much more harm than good. To address long-term solvency issues, we need to make sure the wealthiest Americans do not hide behind outdated caps and begin paying their fair share into the Social Security trust fund. They can afford it, and seniors need and deserve the financial safety this would provide.

We also need to recommit ourselves to being leaders in medical research. My father, like too many Americans, died of Alzheimer's in 2011. It was devastating to watch him deteriorate over the years, a pain too many families know firsthand.

One of the very first proposals I offered when I moved into public service was doubling the budget of the

National Institutes of Health. Increasing what we spend on medical research is a great investment, as the case of Alzheimer's shows. We spend hundreds of billions each year caring for people with Alzheimer's, but NIH spends only a fraction of that researching a cure. This recommitment to researching deadly diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and even mental illness will save lives — and save money in the long run.

In order to get all of this done, we need leaders willing to put in the work and leaders with the right priorities. We need leaders who will put the people first and stand up against special interests who try to stop our progress. We need leaders willing to listen. Most importantly, we need leaders with compassion and a willingness to make decisions for the long term, not just the next election. While the road to solving the challenges our seniors face is far from simple, it couldn't be more important.

Julianna Lufkin, County Council District 5

It's officially October, District 5! We're now a little over a month away from the General Election on November 8, 2022, and I can't wait. It's been a long campaign, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for us here in northern Frederick County.

So with an eye to the upcoming election, my friends, I'm delighted to be able to share a piece of news with you!

Michael Blue, Vice President of the Frederick County Council and the Republican incumbent here in District 5, has endorsed my candidacy to represent Northern Frederick County on the Council.

I am truly grateful for the outpouring of bipartisan support my campaign has received from across Northern Frederick County. As a member of the County Council, I vow to work hard for Frederick County Council. I commit to respecting and listening to the citizens from our community regardless of any party label.

When I first considered running for local government, what decided me was realizing all the ways I could make lives better for communities I care about. My late grandfather, Dr. Thomas Seess, whose field was Political Science and Constitutional Law, was an old fashioned conservative. He approached each political question with the question "which politician would work towards the common good?" He would have been so proud to call me "an across the board common good politician."

Michael Blue shares that same view. He believes that I will work towards the common good, not just for District 5, but for all of Frederick County. During Mr. Blue's tenure on the Council, he has examined each issue with that goal; to work towards the common good, and he knows that I will do the same.

If you elect me to be your representative on the Frederick County Council, I will never stop working for Frederick County in general, and District 5 in particular. I will ensure that we are represented by a compassionate, hard-working, reasonable voice on the

County Council. For those who aren't registered Democrats, your first chance to vote for me will be on November 8. I hope that in the next month, I can demonstrate to you my unending commitment to the betterment of Frederick County and the lives of all of her residents. My door, and email address, will always be open to you.

As always, no matter your party affiliation, please reach out to me with your concerns and issues; I'm here to listen, and to work towards the future we all want for ourselves and our county. My email address is Lufkin.Listens@gmail.com, and you can find more information about me and my platform at my website; Linktr.ee/Lufkin.Listens.

Michael Blue Endorses Lufkin
Michael Blue, the Republican vice president of the Frederick County Council, has endorsed Lufkin in the

race to succeed him in District 5.

"I can't support somebody that has no life experience, that just graduated

high school." Blue said. "Mason Carter is only 18, he only graduated from in May. He has never had a full time

job or ever paid Frederick County taxes. District 5 deserves someone experienced in life to represent them, not a 18-year-old that will only be a figure head for outside parties."



Vote for Julianna Lufkin for County Council District 5



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By Authority of Martin Gross, Treasurer

Proudly endorsed by Republican Michael Blue current County Council District 5 Representative

Julianna **LUFKIN** LISTENS
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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is October. The leaves will start to change into brilliant colors – a last “hoorah” before they fall. The farmers in the area will finish harvesting their crops, and the birds will migrate south. The Summer Movies in the Park series will end on October 21st. This last movie will be “Hotel Transylvania 4.” And then, on October 31st, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., children and adults will dress up in “strange looking” costumes to celebrate Halloween and go around the community proclaiming, “Trick or Treat.” While at the same time, the Carroll Valley’s “Trunk or Treat” event will be held in the Borough parking lot. To reserve a parking space to set up your Halloween Trunk, call the Borough office at 717-642-8269 by Friday, October 28th. Set up starts at 4:30 p.m. and should be completed by 5:45 p.m. The Halloween “Trick or Treat” visitors’ line will open at 6 p.m.

The last Covered Device Recycling for 2022 will be held on Saturday, October 15th, from 8 a.m.

to 12 p.m. at the Freedom Township Building, 2184 Pumping Station Road. This event is for current Park’s Garbage Service customers in the boroughs of Carroll Valley and Fairfield and Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, and Liberty townships. The following is a list of acceptable electronics recycling items: computers, copiers, gaming equipment units (but not their peripherals), keyboards, modems, monitors, printers, routers, scanners, stereo receivers, and televisions (the TV must be removed from the wooden cabinet). If questioned, proof of residency is requested.

October 9th thru 15th is National Fire Prevention Week. The National Fire Protection Association is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week (FPW). This 2022 year’s FPW campaign, “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape”, works to educate everyone about simple but meaningful actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep. One-quarter of home fire deaths were caused by fires that started in the bedroom, and three out of five of those deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Only one-third of Americans developed and practiced a home fire escape plan; of the remaining three-quarters who have an escape plan, over half never practiced it. These statistics collected by NFPA indicate several things for you to think about.

First and foremost, make sure you have working smoke alarms and remember to check them. Install a smoke alarm in each bedroom and throughout the house. Finally, do you have an escape plan? You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Heat is more threatening than flames, and room temperature can rise to 1,000o Fahrenheit. Bottomline, an escape plan and

practice could save a life.

On October 16th, the Fairfield Fire and EMS Department is holding an Open House from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The next Medicine Take Back day is Saturday, October 29, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This Medicine Take Back day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Large amounts of medicines go unused or expired, and how we dispose of them makes a difference to our waters and our environment. In the past, the advice was to flush our drugs or mix them with kitty litter and throw them in the garbage. Well, flushing drugs sends them directly into our waters, harming the environment. Medications thrown in the trash are available for others to take and use and can still get into the environment. Returning medicines to a take-back program is the only environmentally sound method for disposing unused medicines.

Carroll Valley Police Department

Administrative Assistant, JoAnn Myers, has retired after over 27 years of faithful service to the community. We wish her well. Please note, if you need to report something to the police, please call 717.334.8101 for Police Dispatch. For immediate assistance, dial 911. If you are returning a police faulty equipment notice, leave it with the Borough secretaries or in the silver mailbox out front of the Borough entrance. If you have administrative business, please either email pdadmin@carrollvalley.org or leave a message at 717-642-8269 ext 185, and as soon as someone is available, the police department will be in touch. If you have a dog complaint about dogs running loose, call Dog Warden Brandon Mitchem at 717-756-4350. If you have a complaint about dogs barking, please email the above address with the details, and we will get back to you. Please join me in welcoming Sarah Ginn to the Borough staff. She is the young lady who greets you at the front desk. If I can be of help, call me at 301-606-2021.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

During the month of September, we completed this year’s scheduled road projects by lining township road shoulders with R4 stone. In late October/early November we will be performing tree canopy work along roadways in preparation for snow and freezing temperatures. Be mindful of our work crews and plan for minor traffic delays. Thank you in advance for your patience as we are working

with a light crew this year. We are also getting ready for winter by dressing the trucks for snow, placing snow markers to indicate crossover pipes, and obtaining deliveries of antiskid and salt.

Additional “Permits Required” signs are being placed throughout the township to remind property owners of the importance of obtaining the necessary permits before improv-

ing your property. Too often someone has invested time and money in to a project only to learn later that it is not permitted, and more time and money is needed to correct the problem. If a project is discovered to be in violation of our ordinances, we will work with the property owner to help them obtain the proper permits and bring their project in to compliance.

Please research our ordinances

online at ecode360.com/LI4001 and contact the township office to obtain the necessary permits before beginning your project. Two zoning board hearings were held in September, and we are expecting another one this month. The primary purpose of the zoning hearing board is to help assure fair and equitable application and administration of the zoning ordinance. We thank the Zoning Hear-

ing Board members for volunteering their service to the township in this extremely responsible and demanding position that plays an important role in the growth and development of the community.

Liberty Township recently signed a three-year intermunicipal police service contract with Freedom Township, and we are currently discussing renewing a service contract with Highland Township. We appreciate both municipalities for continuing their intermunicipal agreements as we encourage sharing resources within municipalities and maintaining cooperative relationships with our neighbors. We have received notification that the grant application for funding of a new police vehicle has been approved and congratulate Officer Roosen on the success of his first grant application for the township. This grant will offer relief to the Police Department portion of our 2023 budget that we are currently working on to be adopted by December 31.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the FREMA table during Pippenfest on Saturday, September 24 to learn how to help the community during an emergency. If you missed the event, Fairfield residents can still sign up by contacting FREMA or the Liberty Township municipal office. I cannot stress enough the importance of coming together as a community to support our neighbors in times of emergency. There were a few house fires in the township this month and our condolences go out to the families who were affected.

An E-cycle event will be held on Saturday, October 15 for Park’s Garbage customers living in Fairfield. Please contact your municipality for additional information if you have electronics to be recycled.

Be sure to get out and vote on November 8, in the Gubernatorial General Election!

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

The Pennsylvania General Election is just around the corner on Tuesday, November 8th. Here is a reminder of some important General Election dates. The last day to register to vote or make any changes to your current registration before the November election is October 24th. The last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot is November 1st. Mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by 8 p.m. by the County Board of Elections on November 8th (Election Day). Mailing the ballot on election day, and if the ballot is received after election day, will void your vote and your voice will not be heard!

Broadband is an extremely critical linchpin for economic, education and quality of life. The State of Pennsylvania has formed The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), created under Act 96 of 2021, recently submitted an initial draft plan to the federal government to access \$5 million in planning funds from the \$100 million Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program funding each state is guaranteed. Additionally, the Authority has developed four subcommittees – data and mapping, technical, workforce and supply chain and outreach and education – to allow for stakeholders to provide input and expertise to the Authority in development of the broader state plan, which is required to apply for the state's share of the \$42 billion national pot. The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) has been appointed a seat on the data and mapping subcommittee and will also have opportunities to provide input and feedback to other committees.

At its August meeting, the CCAP Board approved the creation of a CCAP Broadband Task Force to help direct specific county requests as part of the statewide broadband planning process, as well as provide a timely and effective feedback loop to assure CCAP can fully represent

Pennsylvania counties as critical stakeholders. The task force will be chaired by Clearfield County Commissioner Dave Glass and members who represent county commissioners and council members, chief clerks, solicitors, GIS professionals, planning directors and IT professionals. I sit on the CCAP Board of Directors representing Adams County and 9 counties to our west and north. The CCAP Board of Directors recently appointed Commissioner Marty Qually to the CCAP Broadband Task Force. With my CCAP board membership, and Qually's appointment to the Task Force, Adams County should be in a good position to gain knowledge and results as these opportunities unfold.

Have you given any thought to our population trend, whether it is growing, shrinking, or staying the same? The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released its August 2022 report on Pennsylvania county income patterns, which uses recent demographic and income trends at the county level to analyze per capita income trends across the Commonwealth. Overall, the IFO reported an average population decrease of 0.03% per year from 2017 through 2020, ranging from the highest increase of 0.87% (Cumberland County) to the lowest decrease of 2.07% (Cameron County), with population generally declining in the north, central and southwestern parts of the State compared to population growth in the south and southeastern parts of the State. From 2017 through 2020, 59 counties showed personal income gains of 1.4% per year, exceeding inflation and implying real income gains. My guess is that 2022 is blowing up that trend? Statewide, personal income growth ranged from a 0.8% decrease (Cameron County) to a 4.6% increase (Forest County).

The Adams County Information Technology Department has been awarded the 2022 County

Commissioner Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) Technology and Innovation Award. This is the first year for the award. Recipients of the award are those who have made significant contributions to advance technology and cybersecurity initiatives within the County that improved internal or external services and solutions. The award was presented to Adams County on the evening of Tuesday, August 9th, at the Lancaster Marriott during the CCAP Annual awards dinner. IT is front and center in our daily lives, especially when providing and storing a mass of critical information. Congratulations and job well down to Adams County IT!

Speaking of information storage, in order to reduce storage space, improve customer service and enhance information retrieval, Adams County row offices are in the process of increasing the digitizing of county records. Kelly Lawler, Clerk of Court, recently reported that despite a requirement of physical maintenance of some court records, her office has made huge strides digitizing office records, including eliminating the need for 19,951 paper case files. As the IT evolution marches forward,

the Clerk of Courts has consistently been a proponent and innovator for utilizing IT to improve both process and service. Congratulations to the Clerk of Courts Office for achieving this milestone!

If you live in southern Adams County near the Maryland line, you may be familiar with the historic Rhodes Mill Bridge. Adams County received an award at the CCAP Summer Conference for rehabilitation of the Rhodes Mill Bridge over Middle Creek, on Shorbs Mill Road, off Old Rt. 15. A panel of judges representing the Pennsylvania Highway Information Association & PennDOT selected this project as the winner of the Pennsylvania 2022 Road & Bridge Safety Improvement Plan. The bridge is a complete and beautiful example of a small polygonal Warren pony truss bridge. It was built in 1905 and is 84' in length by 13' wide with stone sidewalls. This is one of many county-owned historic and beautiful bridges that we are very proud of.

All three commissioners and two former county commissioners, plus past and present Conservation District representatives attended the Adams County Conservation District 75TH Anniversary at the

Adams County Agricultural Complex on Thursday, July 28. The program included a picnic dinner with recognitions presented to the Conservation District from county and state officials. Conservation District Manager Adam McClain provided a history of the Adams County Conservation District from its inception in 1947, to the construction of the Ag Center in 2000, to present day. Given Adams County's agrarian heritage, and the significance of agriculture's economic impact, the Adams County Conservation District plays a vital role in providing service to the ag community as well as all residents whether it be a home gardener or a 500-acre farm. As the ag industry continually evolves, the Adams County Conservation District must and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of our community.

With Fairfield's Pippinfest in our rear-view mirror, and two week-ends of Apple Harvest Festival just around the corner, they highlight a variety of pleasurable Fall activities. Fall is a beautiful season in Adams County, no matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Book bans?

Shannon Bohrer

I was surprised when hearing of proposed book bannings around the country. I grew up in a home that encouraged reading, so the idea of banning books is a foreign concept. The history of fascist and communist governments, always includes a list of books, authors, playwrights and even composers - that were banned.

The fact that Germany banned books during World War II should be sufficient evidence that banning books is frequently associated with fascism. However, the history of book banning tells a different story. Book banning has occurred in all forms of governments, including democracies, as we are currently experiencing. Of note, this is not our first experience with book banning. I am old enough to be cognizant and remember that during my youth there were attempts to ban books and some were successful, if only temporarily.

Any one of my age remembers the Tropic of Cancer, a book containing candid reference to sexuality, being banned. The book was published in 1934 in France and was banned in the U.S. In 1961 it was published in the U.S. and in 1964 the Supreme Court lifted the ban. I remember classmates being excited about obtaining a copy. However,

once the ban was lifted, the attraction waned.

Another book that received a lot of notoriety was Lolita, a book that was supposed to be full of eroticism. The book was banned in France and England, but was never banned in the U.S. The character of the sexual desire was a 12-year-old girl, which added emphasis for the call to ban the work. Book reviews noted that the sexual references in the book are far and few, with a lack of eroticism. It was a book with more hype than content, similar to other banned books. Sometimes the idea of banning anything, creates an attraction that promotes the marketing and sales of the product.

We tend to think that books including sexual references and eroticism are the impetus to ban them. While often true, the history of book bannings includes written materials that contained political, ethnic, or other unexpected topics. Oliver Twist, a required reading in one of my classes, was banned in Nazi Germany. It was banned because it featured Jewish characters. All Quiet on the Western Front was also banned in Nazi Germany because of the realistic depiction of war and the demoralizing portrayal of the German government. The Grapes of Wrath, another required reading, was temporarily banned in California, because the depiction of residents was seen as unfavorable. Think about that.

When books reflect challenging

times, the realities of war or ethnic biases, banning those works does not eliminate the issues presented. If written words accurately describe people places or events that are unbecoming, uncomplimentary or unfavorable, it will not go away because the work is banned. Conversely, it could be argued that exposing social, ethic or other problems can create a better understanding of the problems.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” James Baldwin

One of the most often illogical arguments for book banning, is the exposure of poor ethics and immoral behavior to minors. If one reads about the holocaust in World War II, you would think they would be horrified about the events. They were real, they occurred, and they reflect the worst of human behavior. If one reads about the horror of any event, it educates and gives purpose for good moral behavior.

While arguments are currently being made on both sides of the issue of book banning, we are simultaneously experiencing dis-information in volumes that defy any normal comprehension. The troubling concept is that many of the arguments made for book banning, are made by the same individuals and groups professing and advocating the dis-information.

Shortly after the 911 terrorist attack there were published reports on alternative media sites, including far right radio

programs, that not only did the event never occur, but if it did occur, it was conducted by our own government. The idea was that our government wanted to start a war. Prior to 911, many of the same conspiracy theorist put forth the idea that in 1995 the government was responsible for the bombing of the Murrow Building in Oklahoma.

We have a history of individuals, groups, and alternate sources creating and pushing false information. The same segment often used social media sources to magnify the misinformation. When the Sandy Hook School shooting occurred and twenty children were killed, there were media outlets and individual personalities that believe this was a made-up story, it was a “false flag” operation by our government to regulate guns.

We also have “Q” who is supposed to be a secret person in our government. According to “Q” the democrats are child molesters, and they are killing children to harvest their blood. In a strange turn of events, an individual attacked the “Comet Pizza” restaurant in Washington to save the children. The attack was later referred to as “Pizza gate” contradicted this claim. I am sure that many of the “Q” followers still believe, well I am not sure what they believe?

According to Alex Jones, a propagator of “Q” and other disinformation, our government planned “to use chemicals to turn people gay.” Jones said, “I have the government documents where they said they’re going to encourage homosexuality with chemi-

cals so that people don’t have children.” Alex Jones and many of his followers often push and repeat false information, especially around mass shootings. According to Jones, and others, the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman high school in 2018 in Florida, never occurred. It was staged by our government and the victims and witnesses you see on the news, were really actors.

Dis-information is not new. I remember hearing that the 1969 moon landing, was staged, and filmed in the desert. The specific area used to film the landing was reported to be area fifty-one where the alleged aliens landed in the early 1950’s.

If someone authors a book about “Q” and the work contains misinformation, similar to what is reported in this piece, would the same people want to ban that book? The two perspectives seem incompatible in that many of the books they are trying to ban are non-fiction and reflect science, truth, and facts. Even many of the fiction works, are novels that reflect real events, like Maus a book about the holocaust. How can many of the same book banners, adhere to the false and misleading information?

“Banning books gives us silence when we need speech. It closes our ears when we need to listen. It makes us blind when we need sight.”

— Stephen Chbosky

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

Tumbleweeds

Extremism—Yours? Mine?

Mark Greathouse

I am an extremist. Yep. In the flesh. Surely there’s someone or some organization out there that categorizes me as an extremist. I’ve already been labelled a gun-toting, bible-clinging, flag waving, deplorable, or whatever without half trying. It’s just because I’m a...oh my...a conservative Republican.

But wait! What is an extremist? Why, the dictionary says an extremist is an advocate of extreme measures or views; a radical. Whoa! Y’all don’t get off so easy. Who decides what is extreme? You? Me? Politicians? New media? Social media? Some cloistered academic? A big-tech algorithm? Such a dilemma! In its simplest form, extremes sit on opposite ends of a continuum of core beliefs. Where on that continuum might we be?

Was Patrick Henry extreme when he shouted the famed, “Give me liberty or give me death!” For that matter, were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and the other founding fathers extremists? Was Abraham Lincoln extreme? Despite accomplishments like the Homestead Act, Land Grant Act, Emancipation Proclamation, and getting the intercontinental railroad started, Lincoln dared suspend to habeus corpus (right of a citizen to obtain a writ as a protection against illegal imprisonment) and approved General Sherman’s scorched-earth strategy, thus garnering enough extremists to be assassinated. William McKinley was assassinated by a hate-filled extremist anarchist, John F. Kennedy was felled

by ambush in Texas, and attempts have been made on other presidents. Were they all extreme?

Shucks, in the old west, it was often far too easy to stir up extreme views over things ranging from water rights to fences to rustling to sodbusters to politics. The southern Democrats in the 1870s spawned the Ku Klux Klan to suppress black folks and their sympathizers. The KKK was generally regarded as pretty extreme. Antifa radicals took to the streets of several cities and burned and looted properties. That just might be considered extreme. A bunch of far-right “white supremacists and skinheads” wrought deadly havoc in Charlottesville. The woke cancel culture tear down statues they find “offensive” and stop invited lecturers seeking to share ideas on college campuses. Extreme? Oh, how about climate? If you disagree with the supposedly “settled science” of global warming, you are extreme. Were the unarmed, disorganized idiots that stormed the Capitol on January 6 extreme? Well, extremely stupid for sure, though my heart goes out to the woman who was accidentally shot and killed.

Have y’all noticed one particular common thread here? Extremism seems to invariably spawn violence or threats thereof. But the common problem with violence spawned by extremes is that it makes for a very unsatisfying, very morally sparse meal. And those who use it leverage it to drown out legitimate well-reasoned concerns. Frankly, it makes for a downright uninformed stupid culture wherein differing viewpoints are snuffed out.

Who decides what’s extreme? Seems social media, academics, news media, tech oligarchs, and politicians have that honor sewn up and tied in a neat bow. Who made Mark Zuckerberg or Ilhan Omar or Jeff Bezos or Maxine Waters or some podcaster or some campus radical our arbiters of truths? By some measure, George Soros, Al Gore, Donald Trump, and plenty more are extremists in some way, shape, or fashion.

Voters rational thinking has been so clouded that they would vote for pretty much anyone promising relief from that extremist President Trump. What did they vote into office in 2020? A feckless, morally-bereft president surrounded by a cabal of extremists seemingly hell bent on casting our nation into economic and cultural oblivion. We have gone from thriving economy to economic horror show, from a time of community healing to intense divisiveness, from a stable world order to utter global chaos, and this happened in a mere 20 months. Extreme? Many would say so.

Now, I can say there’s plenty I don’t like about former President Trump. He ran on a populist platform of serving “everyman” but seemed to lose that along the way to focus far too much on himself. Pity that he failed to stay above the fray. Trump’s “fake news” grew as tiresome as the unfounded media and political assaults. His tone of voice often grated on me, but I strove to look past that to focus on underlying good intentions and great results like energy independence, lower taxes, secure borders, profitable trade agreements, more jobs, and higher wages. I guess some folks considered those successes extreme given who claimed responsibility for accomplishing them.

So, where are we extremism-wise today? Well, we have extreme inflation driven by flagrant government spending solutions morphing us into a full-fledged “technical” recession; crime has become extremely bad in many cities, as police are fiscally and legally handcuffed and thugs run free; our unsecured southern border is an extreme “humanitarian crisis,” leaking like a sieve as it overwhelms border communities with millions of illegal immigrants; we are enduring extreme culturally divisiveness agendas, especially as concerns race and gender; our public education system is under extreme duress as leftist indoctrination runs rampant; illegal drugs are an extreme problem, especially fentanyl made in China and imported via Mexican cartels that is annually killing tens of thousands of our children (more than 100,000 last year); labor force participation is at an extreme 40-year low as 11 million jobs go wanting; and there’s much much more depending on what you, me, or they consider extreme. Bottom line, one set of extremists’ overreactions to another set of extremists is leading our nation down an ugly path.

Extremism has become an existential threat to the United States. Extremists desperately yearn for something... anything... to achieve what they view as their norm. Is there a utopia; a perfect world. Not so long as we have human beings populating it, especially folks with their own sets of beliefs and values. Is there a middle ground? Emphatically no! Folks will not compromise their core principles, though they may be persuaded to be more tolerant of each other and be open to rational debate. We certainly do not

want one point of view dominating to the level of drowning out opposing views. America would be no better than Communist China or Stalinist Russia were we to succumb to a one-party government run by executive and bureaucratic fiat. It’s called a dictatorship and it sucks away all our life motivations, steals our freedoms, and places us in an amorphous, mind-numbing world where as T.R. Roosevelt said, “poor spirits neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows no victory nor defeat.” I should think we’d all agree that such an extreme outcome would entail the demolition of the Constitution that has served us exceptionally well for more than two centuries.

Perhaps, we should heed the warning of the “extremist” James Madison in 1787 in Federalist No. 10, “To secure the public good, and private rights, against the danger of... faction, and at the same time to preserve the spirit and form of popular government, is then the great object to which our iniquities are directed.” Oh, that we all should take to heart Madison’s words as warning against the factionalized extremists we face today and fight against those extremists bringing down arguably the best, most-productive, most freedom supporting government ever on planet Earth.

Come final accounting as to our life’s legacy will we have travelled blithely along in Roosevelt’s gray twilight or fought to preserve Madison’s spirit and form of popular government? Dare we call that extreme? Just sayin.’

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

Country First

National unity comes first

David Marshall

The passion which fuels politics is not new in America, neither is the subsequent political violence which sometimes occurs. Therefore, it should not surprise us that a North Dakota man was charged with felony vehicular homicide after he fatally struck a teenager with his SUV following what he said was a “political argument”. From the day the FBI searched former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort, researchers who track extremism have sounded the alarm about an escalation of violent rhetoric from the far-right, including talk of another “civil war” and threats against federal law enforcement.

Former Trump White House advisor Steve Bannon said the FBI was “a new American Gestapo.” Words can be deadly. As a result, the threats against law enforcement ultimately materialized in an attempted attack on an FBI field office. An armed man wearing body armor tried to breach the FBI’s field office in Cincinnati sparking an hours-long standoff that ended when he was gunned down after firing at officers. In situations where people are already filled with strong and barely controllable emotions, it does not take much in the way of specific words to provoke them into committing deadly action.

Not only does passion come with anger, passion also creates a strong and sometimes unhealthy level of

devotion. For many people devotion is given to the man who one Republican lawmaker refers to as the “Orange Jesus”. Devotion to political leaders is not a bad thing in itself but when it becomes exploited and used to carry out political violence, it can be dangerous.

Regardless of his questionable actions, Sen. Linsey O. Graham is fully aware of the depth of loyalty and devotion Donald Trump supporters have toward the former president. Graham said that there would be “riots in the street” if Trump is prosecuted for taking classified government documents to Mar-a-Lago after leaving office. Trump himself warned that if he were indicted there would be “problems in this country the likes of which perhaps we’ve never seen before.” He added, “I don’t think the people of this country would stand for it.” The attack on the U.S. Capitol shows that Trump has an army which is armed, waiting and willing to be deployed.

The threats from Graham and Trump are a serious call to action for future violence which reflects our nation’s red/ blue, rural / urban and white / black divides. The passion behind politics has always been a fight over control, power, dominance, respect and the desire to be heard and not forgotten. Unfortunately, the obsession of power can open the door to corruption and loss of values. The

uneven distribution of power can lead to chaos. We have become a nation that struggles with the need for coexistence. In our politics, too many lawmakers have accepted the belief that “my way is the right way and the only way”. How did we arrive to this point? Of course, most things political has its root to our Founding Fathers.

So much is still spoken today about our Founding Fathers in ways where we continue to hold them in high esteem. While they were a group of 18th century revolutionary leaders who united the Thirteen Colonies and led the war for Independence, they were also trailblazers. As trailblazers, they created an unknown path for future generations by establishing the framework for a form of government called democracy.

When the Thirteen Colonies fought a common external enemy in the form of the British Army, they banded together in national unity. When it came time for representatives of the young nation to actually govern, the unity did not last long in part to the running feud and philosophical differences between two men who were members of President George Washington’s cabinet. Perhaps there is no feud more significant to American history than the one between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

The Hamiltonian school of thought represented the interests of trade, manufacturing and a well-educated elite which was centered in the industrial North. They

preferred a strong federal government. In contrast, the Jeffersonian school of thought argued that too much power in the hands of the federal government would lead to tyranny. It reflected an economy based on farming which was centered in the agricultural South. They preferred a limited national government where more power was given to the state and local governments. Regardless, democracy is a form of unity with one body (nation) consisting of many parts (states). Each of the parts, despite representing diverse interests and cultures, are interrelated and interdependent upon each other. For that reason, there is always the need to master the art of coexistence.

During Hamilton and Jefferson’s time, the nation was not all industrial neither was it all agricultural. The same is true today. Both men maintained valid points in their respective perspectives in how they saw the function of a central government. The answer has never been one school of thought over the other. The answer is a combination of the two working together. The Founders gave us a system of unity for our government which is the model for the world, but as “We the People” have diverse interests the Founders did not give us the example of how to coexist within the system. There was no love lost between Hamilton and Jefferson and their hatred toward each other left us with an example of political and cultural divisions which still exist today.

Throughout history, these fault lines has led to internal hate including a Civil War. Today, we now have talk of a second civil war. At times, we are able to avoid grave harm and damage to the nation when we have true statesmen stand up and become the “adult in the room”.

Unfortunately, the effect often fails to remain longstanding. As president, when George Washington first realized the depth of the two men’s hatred for each other and its harm to the nation, he wrote almost identical letters to them pleading with them to try to get along.

Washington wrote, “I believe it will be difficult, if not impracticable, to manage the Reins of Government or to keep the parts of it together: for if, instead of laying our shoulders to the machine after measures are decided on, one pulls this way and another that...” He ended the letter by stating, “And, in my opinion, the fairest prospect of happiness and prosperity that ever was presented to man will be lost-perhaps for ever!”

David W. Marshall is author of the book “God Bless Our Divided America” and member of Country First. Country First is focused on recognizing that Republicans, Democrats and Independents don’t have to be enemies because they have different experiences and perspectives. To learn more about Country First visit www.country1st.com.

Good day, neighbor

2022-10 Straw Man Arguments

Dorothea Mordan

Humans have argued about everything since the dawn of time. Using an opponent’s own words to win an argument is only about five minutes younger. That’s a little exaggerated. The straw man argument—attacking a distorted version of an opponent’s argument—lives on as the means to turn an audience away from the debate topic.

Today’s audience: You and Me

Today’s straw man: Montgomery County North

Today’s real topic: Smart Growth for a diverse population

The Montgomery County North straw man argument is woven from a simple idea. Frederick County faces a threat in the form of Montgomery County. Our neighbor to the South is waiting to sneak up on Frederick County and swallow it whole.

In the County Executive race, the republican platform declares, don’t let Frederick County become Montgomery County North. The democratic platform promotes Smart Growth that is being implemented in the county.

Right before the transition to a Charter Government 2015, the Board of County Commissioners made long term commitments

with developers. The legal title is Developers Rights and Responsibilities Agreements (DRRAs). DRRAs put development plans in place for up to 30 years, with no legal right to appeal. Developers, once they had Letters of Understanding (LOU) and DRRAs, had no further requirements to make changes for the benefit of Frederick County. There are at least 13,000 dwellings with DRRAs that are complete or in the planning stages through 2039.

Jan Gardener’s administration had to work with them as written. Regardless of changing needs for schools and infrastructure, the DRRAs remain unaltered. This experience inspired the Livable Frederick Master Plan. This is a set of guidelines for managing future growth. The goal is maintaining quality of life as new variables appear. Livable Frederick is not a set of laws or agreements that we must follow for a set period of time.

Even with the huge number of houses planned for the county there are reasons why Montgomery County won’t be duplicated here. The land available for development has limits in Frederick County. The topography limits residential uses. Zoning is in place for agriculture. With protections on agriculture and natural limitations to devel-

opment, the republican statement of banning a type of housing, high density or otherwise, is a misdirection. Having a diverse population calls for having a variety of housing options.

We live in a free society, where people move in and out of neighborhoods as they find housing for their needs. When the population has safe homes to live in, that is when social issues start to stabilize. In Montgomery County crime has been on the decline for a decade. Maybe they are on to something. Maybe communities can’t be summed up in a campaign tag line.

The republican platform claims banning high density development is an answer to not becoming Montgomery County North. But we already have housing density, a contractual gift from a previous administration. So what is this argument about? One of the things that give Montgomery County personality is its diverse population.

The message of “banning high density development” is to keep out:

the “other”
the immigrant
the ones not like me

The straw man says, my taxes are too high. Rising property values usually match rising costs of maintaining the property value, including roads, utilities, schools, and the public amenities that make the housing desirable. Property value and desirability, one is measurable, one is not.

Schools are where Montgomery County North and the No Property Tax straw men meet. A problem with development brought into Frederick County before 2015, developers could opt to pay a flat fee up to 2016 which was a cap on their contribution to schools. In the years with Jan Gardener as CE our property values have gone up, the tax rate stayed the same, resulting in increases on property tax paid. All the while, our county attracts more people buying valuable property and sending their kids to the public schools. Lower taxes for the sake of lower taxes is such a great idea. Until you need something. Schools get overcrowded. Where does the money come from to pay for more schools?

Transportation is a problem around our county. Needing a vehicle in rural areas is obvious. Commuting around Frederick City, or living in Woodsboro and working in Walkersville, seems easy. Without a car it’s a real challenge. For commuting in general, debate continues about widening 270, high efficiency trains, public transportation, or more public charging stations for electric cars. Transportation partnered with livability is a county issue, and impacts people in different ways. People living off the public transportation routes need a car to do anything beyond visiting the neighbors. Building a low density neighborhood does not

spontaneously make it a community. That takes neighbors working toward common goals.

New public facilities, such as libraries, can shine a light on the lack of communication between interested parties. Current debate is where to put a new library to the west of Rt 270, the empty building at 800 Oak Street or farther down the Golden Mile. There are practical reasons for the existing building. It can house a lot of offices, and a library. It needs renovation, not a start to finish budget. There are sound financial reasons to choose this option. Public transportation exists, but is marginal.

Farther west there is a large population with families, lots of children. It is “only a mile or so away”. That mile is pretty long if you have to work hours when your school age children need to go to the library to do school work. Most parents wouldn’t want to send their kids off by themselves on public transportation.

A free public asset can wind up not helpful, free or an asset if you have to have some affluence to use it. Schools and libraries two great assets in a great place to live.

What’s needed in this election? Leadership for our diverse community. Jessica Fitzwater is getting my vote.

To learn more about Woodsboro’s own Dorothea, visit her site at chandlerdesignslimited.com.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Do you enjoy watching magicians?

Pastor Jay Petrella
Graceham Moravian Church

I do. Occasionally in my internet meanderings I come across a video of someone performing some kind of magic trick. You click the play button and you're watching closely, trying to spot any trickery going on, trying to spot the moment a hand disappears into a pocket or a card slides out of a sleeve. You're waiting for a trick to happen. For what seems like the longest time, the magician is shuffling cards, moving some cups around, telling a story or giving an assistant or volunteer some instructions and you're wondering where all this is going; wondering just what the trick is going to be. Then, while you're still watching closely, but somehow not expecting it, poof, the trick happens and you're amazed.

You didn't see anything weird or sneaky happening. You didn't notice any obvious opportunities for the magician to switch decks, or where on earth he or she could have been hiding a dozen lemons while still keeping them accessible. But there you have it. Fruit conjured from inside a cup, or a signed playing card somehow appearing in the magicians empty palm.

I'm not a magician, but I do know a part of the performance often involves distraction. Maybe the magician does a lot of fidgeting or lots of hand waving. Maybe

they adjust their shirt or sleeves. Maybe there's lots of talking, perhaps a pointless story, or verbose explanations of things. All of that is meant to be a distraction. Often, hidden among the extemporaneous movement and words is the secret of the trick, but you didn't catch it because you were looking in the wrong place. Like the religious leaders in Luke 13:10-17 you missed out because you were distracted, you were paying attention to the wrong thing.

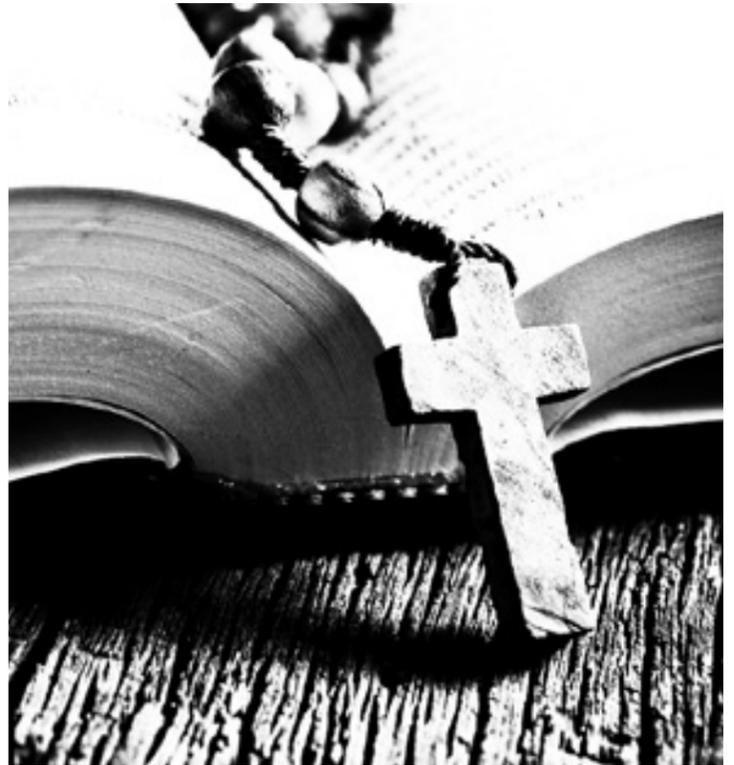
One day Jesus was teaching in a Synagogue. Luke tells us a woman shows up. Whether it was outside after the religious service, or Jesus noticed her in the synagogue or saw her through a window-walking past outside, who knows. But suddenly this woman appears on the scene who has had a physical illness for 18 years that prevented her from standing up straight. Perhaps scoliosis, or osteoporosis. Again, who knows? Whatever crippled her caused her to struggle for the past 18 years. Anyway, when Jesus saw her, He immediately healed her. Hooray! What an amazing miracle!

Everyone was happy and amazed at what they just saw happen. Well, everyone except some the crotchety religious leaders of course. As they explained their outrage I couldn't help but to smile to myself. I pictured them being interviewed on some 24 hour news network once this con-

trovery blew up.

Live, on air they explained themselves. "Of course we are glad this woman who has been suffering for so long has been healed of her ailment. You'd be heartless if you didn't think this miracle was an amazing thing." Then they'd clutch their pearls tightly and say, "But we have laws in this country. God's laws. And God himself tells us that we are to do no work on the Sabbath. Now this woman was sick for 18 years. How would it have hurt for this Jesus fellow to tell her to come back tomorrow to be healed. In fact, not even tomorrow. Just 12 more hours. If Jesus would have waited just 12 more hours, the woman would be healed, and the law would have been obeyed. The fact that he didn't wait shows us that Jesus has no respect for our traditions, or for God himself. If this act to go unpunished then we, the leaders of this community will be guilty of letting our society abandon God and descend into chaos."

Jesus immediately points out to them that they are misusing the law they claim to love so much. He calls them hypocrites because even they perform basic work tasks on the day of rest. Tasks like relieving the hunger and thirst of their livestock, as they can't let their animals go hungry just because it's the Sabbath. Jesus basically says, if God is OK with them watering their cows so the animals don't suffer, why would God have a problem with Jesus providing a much greater relief to this woman who was suffering. Why should



her suffering continue even one minute longer than it needed to?

The issue was the religious leaders were treating the law of God like an idol. By blindly serving the law, they felt they were being faithful to God. People back then felt their preferred deities inhabited the material stuff of this universe. So "feeding" a wooden statue of said deity was the same as feeding the deity itself. But God is not a carved piece of wood, nor is God a scroll or a book containing a written set of laws.

The law is a tool that is supposed to direct us to God, to teach us and allow us to learn in a safe environment. Treating the law as God himself is what lead to the logic allowing the law "Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy" to turn into killing a man because he

helped a woman on the Sabbath. The law must be obeyed at all cost. All hail the law!

Now before we throw too much shade at those religious leaders we also have to be honest with ourselves. Christians have the tendency to proclaim with Paul and Luther that Jesus has fulfilled the law on our behalf so we are not saved by our adherence to the law, or by our works. We are saved only by the grace of God. But in the next breath some turn around and create a new batch of laws for us to follow based on select texts of both Old and New Testaments and they treat those laws with the same reverence and religious ferocity as the religious leaders in this gospel passage. So they end up back where we started, under the law's oppression. Serving this new law is on par with serving God Himself, therefore it doesn't matter who or how many people get hurt in the process. People aren't important. Worshiping this new idol is what's most important.

Well Jesus offers some correction, a different perspective. We serve God best not by ruthlessly applying law, but by loving others. Remember the two greatest commandments? Love God and love others. Everything else should fall into one of those two categories. For all you Star Trek fans, this is like the prime directive. Wherever we go, whatever situations we find ourselves in, we need to test our decision making against those two permanents. If something we're saying or doing brings harm to someone, then we can be assured we're doing something wrong.

So long story short, we shouldn't use our religious beliefs or the bible itself as a means to cause others harm all in the name of serving God. Jesus made it clear that we are to love God AND love others. We can't do that if we worship law in place of God, or love law more than people.

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

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Halloween traditions of old



There is perhaps no night in the year which the popular imagination has stamped with a more peculiar character than the evening of the 31st of October, known as All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. It is clearly a relic of pagan times, for there is nothing in the church observance of the ensuing day of All Saints to have originated such extraordinary notions as are connected with this celebrated festival, or such remarkable practices as those by which it is distinguished.

The leading idea respecting Halloween is that it is the time, of all others, when supernatural influences prevail. It is the night set apart for a universal walking abroad of spirits, both of the visible and invisible world; for, as will be afterwards seen, one of the special characteristics attributed to this mystic evening, is the faculty conferred on the immaterial principle in humanity to detach itself from its corporeal tenement and wander abroad through the realms of space. Divination is then believed to attain its highest power, and the gift of calling spirits 'from the vasty deep,' becomes available to all who choose to avail themselves of the privileges of the occasion.

There is a remarkable uniformity in the fireside customs of this night all over the United Kingdom. Nuts and apples are everywhere in requisition, and consumed in immense numbers. Indeed the name of Nut-crack Night, by which Halloween is known in the north of England, indicates the predominance of the former of these articles in making up the entertainments of the evening. They are not only cracked and eaten, but made the means of vaticination in love affairs.

It is a custom in Ireland, when the young women would know if their lovers are faithful, to put three nuts upon the bars of the grate, naming the nuts after the lovers. If a nut cracks or jumps, the lover will prove unfaithful; if it begins to blaze or burn, he has a regard for the person making the trial. If the nuts named after the girl and her lover burn together, they will be married.

As to apples, there is an old cus-

tom, perhaps still observed in some localities on this merry night, of hanging a stick horizontally by a string from the ceiling, and putting a candle on the one end, and an apple on the other. The stick being made to twirl rapidly, the merry makers in succession leap up and snatch at the apple with their teeth (no use of the hands being allowed), but it very frequently happens that the candle comes round before they are aware, and scorches them in the face, or anoints them with grease.

The disappointments and misadventures occasion, of course, abundance of laughter. But the grand sport with apples on Halloween is to set them afloat in a tub of water, into which the juveniles, by turns, duck their heads with the view of catching an apple. Great fun goes on in watching the attempts of the youngster in the pursuit of the swimming fruit, which wriggles from side to side of the tub, and evades all attempts to capture it; whilst the disappointed aspirant is obliged to abandon the chase in favour of another whose turn has now arrived.

The apples provided with stalks are generally caught first, and then comes the tug of war to win those which possess no such appendages. Some competitors will deftly suck up the apple, if a small one, into their mouths. Others plunge manfully overhead in pursuit of a particular apple, and having forced it to the bottom of the tub, seize it firmly with their teeth, and emerge, dripping and triumphant, with their prize. This venturesome procedure is generally rewarded with a "hurrah!" by the lookers on, and is recommended, by those versed in Halloween aquatics, as the only sure method of attaining success.

In recent years, a practice has been introduced, probably by some tender mammas, timorous on the subject of their offspring catching cold, of dropping a fork from a height into the tub among the apples, and thus turning the sport into a display of marksmanship. It forms, however, but a very indifferent substitute for the joyous merriment of ducking and diving.

Among these is the custom still

prevalent in Scotland, as the initiatory Halloween ceremony, of pulling kailstocks or stalks of colewort. The young people go out hand in hand, blindfolded, into the kail-yard or garden, and each pulls the first stalk with which he meets. They then return to the fireside to inspect their prizes. According as the stalk is big or little, straight or crooked, so shall the future wife or husband be of the party by whom it is pulled. The quantity of earth sticking to the root denotes the amount of fortune or dowry; and the taste of the pith or custoc indicates the temper. Finally, the stalks are placed, one after another, over the door, and the Christian names of the persons who chance thereafter to enter the house are held in the same succession to indicate those of the individuals whom the parties are to marry.

Another ceremony much practised on Halloween, is that of the Three Dishes or Luggies. Two of these are respectively filled with clean and foul water, and one is empty. They are ranged on the hearth, when the parties, blindfolded, advance in succession and dip their fingers into one. If they dip into the clean water, they are to marry a maiden; if into the foul water, a widow; if into the empty dish, the party so dipping is destined to be either a bachelor or an old maid. As each person takes his turn, the position of the dishes is changed.

The ceremonies above described are all of a light sportive description, but there are others of a more weird like and fearful character, which in this enlightened incredulous age have fallen very much into desuetude. One of these is the celebrated spell of eating an apple before a looking glass, with the view of discovering the inquirer's future husband, who it is believed will be seen peeping over her shoulder.

Another of these, what may perhaps be termed unhallowed, rites of All Hallows' Eve, is to wet a shirt sleeve, hang it up to the fire to dry, and lie in bed watching it till midnight, when the apparition of the individual's future partner for life will come in and turn the sleeve.

Other rites for the invocation of spirits might be referred to, such as the sowing of hemp seed, and the winnowing of three wechts of nothing, i.e., repeating three times the action of exposing corn to the wind. In all of these the effect sought to be produced is the same the appearance of the future husband or wife of the experimenter.

It may here be remarked, that popular belief ascribes to children born on Halloween, the possession of certain mysterious faculties, such as that of perceiving and holding converse with supernatural beings.

Discovery of America

On 12th October 1492, Columbus with his followers landed on Guanahani or San Salvador, one of the Bahama Isles, and planted

there the cross in token of gratitude to the Divine mercy, which, after guiding him safely through a perilous voyage, had at last, in the discovery of a western world, crowned with success the darling aspiration of his life. Land had already been descried on the previous evening, but it was not till the ensuing morning that the intrepid admiral beheld the flat and densely-wooded shores gleaming beneath the rays of an autumn sun, and by actually setting his foot on them, realized the fulfilment of his hopes.

It is now well known that although Columbus was unquestionably the first to proclaim to the world at large the existence of a new and vast region in the direction of the setting sun, he cannot literally be said to have been the first European discoverer of America. The ancient Scandinavians or Norsemen, so renowned for their maritime enterprise, had, at the commencement of the 11th century, not only settled colonies in Greenland, but explored the whole east coast of America as far south as lat. 41° 30' N, and there, near New Bedford, in the state of Mass., they planted a colony. An intercourse by way of Greenland and Iceland subsisted between this settlement and Norway down to the fourteenth century.

There is also satisfactory evidence for believing, that in the twelfth century the celebrated Welsh prince, Madoc, having sailed from his native country with a small fleet, landed and founded a colony on the coast of Virginia. But to Columbus still belongs the merit of having philosophically reasoned out the existence of a New World, and by practically ascertaining the truth of his propositions, of inaugurating that connection between the Eastern and

Western Hemispheres, which has affected so remarkable a revolution in the world's history.

It is a little curious, indeed, that the belief which Columbus entertained, at first, as to the land discovered by him being part of India or China, was adhered to by him to the last, and he died in the idea that Cuba formed a portion of the mainland of India. This notion so pertinaciously clung to, both by the great Genoese and Europe in general, was dispelled by Balboa's expedition in 1513 across the Isthmus of Darien, and discovery of the Pacific Ocean. Whilst a few years later, the real position of these countries with respect to America was demonstrated by the expedition of Fernando Magalhaens, whose untimely death, in the Philippine Islands, deprived him of the honour of being the first circumnavigator of the globe.

Much obloquy has been thrown on Amerigo Vespucci, the Florentine navigator, for depriving Columbus of the honour of giving his name to the New World. How the denomination of America arose from Vespucci's Christian name has never been satisfactorily explained, but it appears to be sufficiently ascertained that he himself is in nowise responsible for the circumstance. Vespucci, who was a man of considerable attainments, wrote an account of his American voyages, which was translated into German, and obtained an immense popularity with that nation. It has been conjectured that the name of America was first applied in Germany to the New World, and from thence was adopted by the other countries of Europe.

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ECOLOGY

The versatility of Red-Tailed Hawks

Anne Gageby
Environmental Education Manager
Strawberry Hill

Few species can claim they have benefited from human actions like the red-tailed hawks. These large, stocky buteos have adapted in ways most other animals never could. The expansion of human civilization has created landscapes dotted with small woodlots and isolated trees where expansive forests once stood. For most animals, this means fewer resources and tougher competition for basic necessities like food and shelter. But for red-tailed hawks, it has created opportunities.

Unlike most animal species living so close to humans, redtails haven't felt the pinch of limited space and resources. They haven't had to contend with expanding roads and the dangers of traffic like Eastern box turtles or white-tailed deer. Nor have they dealt with the loss of nesting areas like the Great egret, which have a total of two nesting sites remaining for the entire state of Pennsylvania. Great egret numbers have further dwindled because of dams causing flooding in shallow feeding areas, a problem red-tailed hawks don't face. Instead, red-tailed hawks are thriving by taking advantage of human ingenuity and adapting where other species fail.

In the Eastern half of the United States thinning forests and the Interstate Highway System have proved to be a boon for redtails, providing both prime

real estate for nesting and hunting grounds. Where mankind has built infrastructure, the red-tails adapt and flourish. At the opposite end of this spectrum sits the elusive long-eared owl. The reduction in wooded habitats is only part of the problem. Over the years, our forests have converted from primarily softwoods to hardwoods, a problem for the long-eared owl who nests in dense conifers. Their preferred habitat is a perfect mix of forest, wetland, and open fields, yet areas that meet this description have greatly diminished. Other raptors have been even less fortunate. The northern harrier, for example, has been listed as 'threatened' due to its loss of wetlands and riparian woodland.

Red-tailed hawks haven't suffered from a lack of forest. This thick, broad-winged raptor prefers to perch high above the open ground, so power lines and telephone poles are a prized addition to the usual tree branches, especially along wide stretches of road flanked by open fields. These specific perches are also innumerable in today's modern landscape. This is one of the reasons redtails have become one of the most recognizable birds, regularly spotted along roads and flying over fields. They are often referred to as 'roadside hawks' because of their preference for this environment.

Redtails haven't been limited to smaller and smaller ranges like other animal species. The Florida panther, for example, now roams

only five percent of its native territory. Similarly, the Mississippi gopher frog has been restricted to only three small breeding ponds in the state with a total population count of less than 250 in the wild. The roseate tern has become endangered as its territory along the Eastern seaboard has diminished. Even still, other species have fared worse. The red wolf, for example, has less than two dozen wolves remaining in the wild. Red-tailed hawks haven't been dealt the same blow. Their territory still stretches from Panama to central Alaska and Canada and their numbers are in the millions.

Similar to other members of their family, red-tailed hawks are partial migrants. Those living in the northernmost territories typically migrate south for winter. Redtails living along the mid-latitudes tend to stay put though individuals may migrate south for a few weeks during the deepest part of winter. The autumn migration runs from mid-August to mid-December, though late October is when birdwatchers will be able to see the most diversity in the skies. The average red-tailed hawk usually migrates alone but will sometimes migrate in small flocks.

Red-tailed hawks are members of the family Accipitridae which includes nearly 250 species of eagles, hawks, kites, harriers, and more. Red-tailed hawks have a wingspan that averages between three and a half to four feet, and they typically weigh two to three pounds. They have dark patagial marks on the undersides of their wings and tend to be light in color though they can range from brown to black on their upper body. Coloring differences depend on age and race though adults usually have reddish tails with a dark, narrow band along the tip. At a distance, large females appear so similar to young eagles that they're often confused for one another.

Unlike many of their kin, red-tailed hawks are primarily perch-hunters who only occasionally hunt via flight. This is an interesting contrast to their image as elegant fliers best known for their ability to kite – appearing to fly in place. Remarkably, researchers have found that red-tailed hawks prefer hunting locations with high perches even if



Humans have been fascinated with birds of prey—eagles, hawks, falcons, owls—for thousands of years. Of all the birds of prey in North America, there are few more widespread or familiar than the red-tailed hawk.

Land Conservancy readies for road rally 2022

The Land Conservancy of Adams County will hold its 24th annual Fall Classic Road Rally fundraiser this year on Saturday, October 15. This Rally will be full of lots of surprises.

Each year's Road Rally guides more than 50 driver-navigator teams on an exciting road trip over the county's most beautiful, least-traveled roads, highlighting scenic vistas at the peak of fall foliage colors. The event's aim is to build interest in preserving Adams County's rural lands and character. Some teams have participated in the Road Rally every year for nearly a quarter-century, never missing an opportunity to enjoy this legacy event.

This year's Rally, "Catch '22, Puzzles and Conundrums," will perplex and challenge participants with thought-provoking and puzzling clues that will lead to some unexpected twists and

turns. Along the way participants will visit unique locations that are unknown to many, answer trivia questions and participate in small skill challenges—all in a quest to take home the coveted fuzzy dice as this year's Grand Champion.

Driver-navigator teams can register to participate in this year's Rally at PreserveAdams.org before Friday, October 7.

Rally organizers are actively recruiting organizational sponsorships, which are available beginning at \$300 (\$200 for non-profits) up to \$1,000 for premium sponsors. Individuals who would like to become a friend of the event can do so for just \$100.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is an accredited nonprofit, member-supported land trust dedicated to preserving the rural lands and character of Adams County. To learn more, visit PreserveAdams.org.

the prey density in those areas is low. They are also piratical in their hunting. Redtails frequently steal prey from other raptors, especially in winter or if the prey quantity is slim. They have even been known to hunt in pairs with each individual scanning distinctly separate angles of the same space and working in tandem to finish the task.

Red-tailed hawks are known as generalist predators because they tend to prey on many different types of animals. Diets vary by location but generally include everything from rab-

bits and squirrels to reptiles such as snakes, bats, frogs, and even other birds. Carrion, including roadkill, are a regular addition to their diets. Despite preying upon a wide variety of animals, most focus on hunting abundant species which are easily caught like field mice, rats, and chipmunks. Not every species is fortunate enough to have a varied diet. The black-footed ferret, the only ferret native to North America, mainly feasts on prairie dogs and has suffered greatly because of prairie dog eradication programs.

This flexibility in diet and habitat has made red-tailed hawks uniquely able to tolerate human development. They are one of the few species that have been able to do so. These traits have allowed redtails to become the most abundant hawk in North America, pushing out red-shouldered hawks for prominence as well as the most visible. It's clear that red-tailed hawks have the upper hand in this evolutionary game and aren't afraid to play.

To read other Ecology articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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IN THE COUNTRY

Woolly Bears—the bug, the myth, the legend

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

The myth holds that the woolly bear caterpillar is some sort of meteorological prophet. As an insect seer they can predict the severity of the upcoming winter. The story goes that on a dark and stormy night Wrong story. The story goes that the amount of black fur on the caterpillar is proportional to the severity of winter. The more black fur found means the harsher the winter will be. Conversely, if the middle brown stripe is larger than the black portions than the winter will be mild. In addition, if the head portion is dark than the start of winter will be severe. Or if on the hand, the hind end is darker and/or longer than the end of winter will be especially harsh.

Legend also has it that you can discern Old Man Winter's intentions by the direction in which they crawl. If the caterpillar crawls towards the south than expect a brutal winter. If they're making their way north than it should be a fairly mild winter. If they're going east or west than perhaps check your compass, look puzzled, scratch your head, and find another.

The woolly bear has been heralded as a prognosticator of winter weather since at least the colonial era here in the Americas. It wasn't until 1948 though that the myth hit a fever pitch. Dr. Howard Curran, Entomology Curator of the American Museum of Natural History, went to Bear Mountain, New York. He took a quick weekend trip there with some colleagues, their wives, and a reporter. While there he collected fifteen caterpillars, and counted their brown bands. From this he made a prediction on the upcoming winter, and the reporter ran the story in the New York Herald Tribune. The story was picked up by national markets, which was the equivalent to going viral in 1948.

Now, mind you fifteen specimen samples is hardly considered rigorous science. My guess is that this guy took a weekend vacation trip with some buddies and their wives and needed a way to write off the trip as a business expense so he took 15 minutes of his time to find 15 caterpillars to make wild guesses about weather. That's purely speculation on my end and a digression at the very least if not borderline to full blown libel. The point is the story took off and it's been engrained into pop culture ever since. It's grown so outrageously in popularity that festivals have even arisen around the notion.

Woolly Bear Festivals have sprung up in at least six cities across the U.S. and Canada to celebrate the psychic who is shrouded in Punxsutawney Phil's shadow. Each festival sports their own flare and ceremonies, but a couple

boast races. "Trainers" coach these little guys to race up strings to a finish line. The first one to cross the line is considered to be boss supreme of the worm world and will be the official woolly bear forecaster for the year. This is an awful lot of frenzy over a fuzzy worm, but the fiction isn't half as interesting as the actual facts.

The woolly bear caterpillar is the larval stage of the Isabella Tiger Moth. The body has 13 segments total, some say they represent the 13 weeks of winter. The fur (it always goes back to the fur) is called setae (pronounced see-tee) and is what makes its survival of winter possible. The fur doesn't keep them from freezing, it makes it possible. This fur helps them to freeze in a controlled manner, but hold that thought.

Once the woolly bear caterpillar hatches from an egg laid by an adult moth it will start life in the spring voraciously munching on plants like dandelions and nettles. It will continue to do this all through spring and summer. Once the warm air moves out, and the chill of fall settles in the woolly bear makes its way from feeding grounds to overwintering sites. They usually set out for places underneath logs, rocks, or dense brush that will provide protection from any unwanted disturbance. The cool turns to cold and this is where the fur kicks in. The caterpillar begins to hibernate. Once this begins their bodies produce a natural "anti-freeze" called glycerol, and they begin to freeze

almost solid. They will freeze until everything but the inside of their cells is frozen. The setae will actually begin the freezing process on the outside of the body, away from the internal cells. This is less damaging to their bodies, and energy reserves aren't taxed on healing as much when it's time to thaw out and wake up. It will spend just a few more weeks in spring eating some more before it spins a cocoon and grows up into a moth.

The average total lifespan for these insects from birth to death is usually one to two years maximum. In the colder arctic climates though there just isn't enough food to spurn the kind of growth necessary to mature. Most of these caterpillars will take as many as 13 or 14 years to complete their life cycle!

The great clairvoyant caterpillar legend is based entirely on fur coloration. The bottom line is that they have no soothsaying ability. The fur coloration has more to do with the current season or past season than any upcoming one. If it's been a great growing season than they're likely to have narrower orange bands in the middle. If it's been a poor season than the opposite should be true. The coloration pattern is entirely dependent upon feeding, age, and species. These caterpillars will molt approximately six times before reaching adulthood. With each successive molt they get a little less black.

I know, I'm a buzz kill. There are, however, some instances



One special trait of the Woolly Bear Caterpillar is that if it hasn't consumed enough food in the course of the year, it can hibernate until the following spring. The caterpillar finds somewhere quiet to go, under a rock or in amongst some leaves. When the ground freezes, so does the caterpillar; but it can withstand temperatures as low as minus 8 degrees. Its heart stops beating, it produces an organic antifreeze, and in the spring it just wakes up and starts eating again, until it is ready to form a chrysalis and continue the life cycle.

though where fact is stranger than fiction. The 'pillar party doesn't need to end though. We can still marvel at the fact that this remarkable insect has carved out its niche in this world in an incredible way. So, when you begin seeing these little guys crawling across trails and roadways in search of win-

ter homes you can definitively say that winter is on its way. Despite what the fur color indicates or the direction they crawl I'd still buy a coat.

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

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Vitamin D

Michael Rosenthal

Vitamin D is a fat-soluble nutrient best known for its role in bone development and maintenance. Other functions of Vitamin D include the reduction of inflammation and in modulating neuromuscular and immune function. It is found in two forms: D3, which is synthesized from sunlight and is naturally found in a few foods, particular in fatty fish. The other form is D2, found in dietary supplements and fortified foods, such as milk, cereal, and orange juice. The success in receiving the proper amount of Vitamin D from sunlight and foods such as from fatty fish, is dependent on life style and on intake from Vitamin D fortified foods such as milk, cereals, and orange juice. For those individuals who need to guarantee a source of Vitamin D, a supplement is available, and can be recommended by your physician. That is the case with me. I take a daily Vitamin D supplement with a meal, as recommended by my physician. It has no ill effects and

is modest in price.

The amount of Vitamin D that is taken is something to be determined by your physician. The status is dependent upon the 25-hydroxyvitamin D level in the blood, something obviously determinable by laboratory blood analysis. The desirable amount of Vitamin D depends upon age and certain specific medical conditions. Vitamin D deficiency is more common in older adults and those individual who are seriously overweight and/or suffer from Hypertension.

Vitamin D is recommended as a result of research specifically for cancer, obesity, autoimmune diseases, cognitive health, and osteoporosis. Research is taking place to determine whether vitamin D is desirable or safe for adults with COVID-19. Not surprisingly, the advent of COVID-19 has made it necessary to reexamine the use of certain medications.

Vitamin D is generally safe in appropriate doses, with an upper limit of 4,000 IU per day for adults. The toxicity from a supplement, not found from diet or sun exposure, can result in nausea, vomiting, weakness, and could lead to pain and kidney problems.

The main side effect from Vitamin D toxicity is a buildup of calcium in the blood which can lead to nausea, vomiting, weakness, and could also lead to bone pain and kidney problems. Vitamin D may interact with other medication, including corticosteroids, weight loss, cholesterol lowering, or seizure prevention medication. As a scientist, this fact supports my belief that one should seek out a board certified physician for consultancy when making such medication decisions.

In my college teaching career I served as health professions advisor for many years. One of the things I learned is that a physician should be cautious in making medication and treatment decisions. The ability to make sensitive decisions based on subtle aspects of medically knowing the patient is a very important quality. I looked for this quality in the students I recommended to medical school. I believe they need to be more than just students with good classroom grades!

Much of the information above is from the newsletter Environmental Nutrition, which I have previously recommended. I remain very impressed by the content of this newsletter, and I encourage the readers of my column to enter a subscription.

The same issue of Environmental Nutrition has an interesting article on Restaurant Breakfasts. I think it is generally human nature to eat a breakfast, especially if included in your overnight package, after staying overnight in a hotel without giving a great deal of consideration to the healthiness or lack of healthiness of what you order. I admit never to thinking about the healthiness of a breakfast that come with the room cost at a nice hotel, but here are some things to consider. Often they load your food with saturated fat and calories. There is good stuff to like oats and whole grain toast, which are good sources of heart-healthy fiber and B-vitamins. Bone-building high calcium foods and drinks include Greek yogurt parfaits and dairy-based smoothies. Look for fruit options.

Here are some "helpful hints" mentioned in the article. Limit meat intake, as meats tend to be high in sodium and saturated fat.



A deficiency in vitamin D affects bone density as well as the immune system, the nervous system, and your muscles.

Carbs and proteins provide an energizing start to your day. The carbs provide energy and the protein offers longer lasting benefit. Be sure to consider the amount of butter and syrup you add to the courses. Other hints mentioned in the article include limiting meats, be sure to include the carbs and proteins, and watch out for the bottles and things like butter on the table. Mother Nature doesn't give you anything calorie free!

What is really fun in this issue is a list of some 39 specific meals at breakfast-serving restaurants with total calories, total fat, saturated fat, carbs, sodium, fiber, total sugar, added sugar and protein listed.

The highest calorie breakfast is Denny's Grand Slamwich with Hash Browns at 1320 calories. McDonald's Egg McMuffin is only 300 calories and a piece of Dunkin Donuts avocado toast is only 240 calories. I think this newsletter is worth a subscription just for this table. Also noted in the table are 8 items that Environmental Nutrition has picked as especially healthy. They are from Bob Evans, Cracker Barrel, McDonald's, Panera, and Perkins. So the same restaurants offer both healthy and unhealthy (and sometime outrageous!) breakfasts.

So much talk goes back and forth on sweeteners, including a period some years ago in which it was suggested that they were dangerous, even causing cancer. I always suspected that the sugar industry was behind it, trying to steer people back to using sugar. Aside from conspiracy theories, the September 2022 issue of Environmental Nutrition does a review of non-nutritive sweeteners, and as I've said, I have faith in their

reports. Here's what they say.

Acesulfame potassium, also known as Ace-K is more than 200 times sweeter than sugar. It is used with other non-nutritive sweeteners, and is found in sugar-free sodas, yogurt, candy, baked goods, and chewing gum.

Advantame is 20,000 times sweeter than sugar, but is newly approved and not yet commonly used.

Aspartame (Equal or Nutrasweet) is 200 times sweeter than sugar and is widely used in low-calories and sugar-free foods and beverages,

Luo Han Guo also known as Monk Fruit in the Raw, is made from crushed monk fruit and is 10 to 250 times sweeter than sugar. It has been used in China for nearly 1000 years!

Neotame is 7,000 to 13,000 times sweeter than sugar and is less commonly used in low-calories foods and beverages compared to other sweeteners.

Saccharin was discovered in 1878, is 200-700 times sweeter than sugar, and is the first artificial sweetener. (I remember my father using it when I was growing up!)

Stevia is made from the leaves of the stevia plant, is 200-300 times sweeter than sugar, and is used in a variety of foods and beverages, often in combination with other non-nutritive sweeteners,

Sucralose, marketed as Splenda or Equal Sucralose is 600 times sweeter than sugar, and is used in low-calorie foods and beverages and as a sugar replacement in baking and cooking.

I really think a subscription to Environmental Nutrition is money well spent!

To read past articles by Michael Rosenthal, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Down a rabbit hole

Jack Deatherage

The DW looks in the shopping cart as we approach checkout. "Did I get anything to eat?"

I glance in the cart we've barely covered the bottom of. Canned and dry dog food, laundry and dish machine detergent, a box of black tea, a gallon of milk, three 12 packs of store brand diet cola, box of microwave popcorn, can of Spam, a can of chicken or tuna, a few cans of cheap sardines, a bag of bagels, a few heads of broccoli, a small head of cabbage, some canned leafy greens and assorted condiments.

"Uhh... the canned chicken and bagels?" The bill, minus the DW's senior discount, store club card and a coupon or two, comes to \$101. On the drive home I ask, "What would you eat if me and the other dog weren't around?"

Without more'n a second's thought she replies, "Cup of soups."

I suspect she'd dine occasionally in at least three of the local eateries she can walk to in under five minutes. Places she hasn't visited since the offspring and his DW moved to the nation's cat litter box - Florida. I keep urging her to find someone to dine out with, but she seems determined to suffer some odd penance for having married me. I think just being married to me should be penance enough, but evidently she's able to bear an even heavier burden.

Grocery day isn't over as we head up the mountain to a small

Mom & Pop grocery store where we spend another \$50 on things we can't find in the flat lands at prices we're willing to pay, or can't find at all in the three supermarkets I'll spend money in. (The DW keeps warning me we'll run out of stores if I keep losing my temper and abandoning them at the rate I've been going since before COVID was unleashed upon humanity. Self-checkout is my biggest bugaboo and has caused me to quit at least two supermarkets. "Bah! We'll shop the Mom & Pops. They actually appreciate our business.")

In the last six months we've cut snack foods and desserts, as well as shrimp and fresh fish from our diets. The quarters of beef and halves of hogs that used to fill our freezer have long been absent from our lives. (The DW is shutting down the freezer as there is so little in it these days.) We haven't bought a pot roast this year and rarely bring home more than four pounds of ground beef - the cheapest grind we can bring ourselves to eat. Pork and chicken rarely gets eaten at all. This summer we haven't visited any of the five takeout places we used to frequent. There have been weeks when the only meat we ate was a gifted haunch of dead deer I added to a crock of root veggies, aromatics and a handful of rice. However, we're still spending more money at the supermarkets than we ever have before.

It's no secret I didn't pay much

attention to my classes in school once the Sisters at Holy Spirit in Columbus Ohio almost taught me how to read in 1960. Still, I'm pretty sure I'm experiencing rampant inflation at least as bad as what I remember from the Nixon, Carter and early Reagan years. Oddly, I'm hearing the Feds no longer calculate inflation as they did in those days. Is that so they can assure us peasants that inflation is currently under 9% rather than the 15 or 16% it would be by the old way of calculating it?

Whatever the world's geniuses of smart are preparing to inflict upon the global peasantry, it ain't likely to be pleasant for an aging village idiot. I've been advised by escapees from communist countries that I should be aware starvation is more likely my lot rather than a merciful lead pill insert between my ears.

"Jack. Bullets cost money. Not feeding you costs the rulers nothing."

I find myself ransacking YouTube for videos on gardening, food preservation and primitive living. The state's Marina public libraries catalog has sent me an almost weekly supply of survival, wild foods, herbalist medicinals, canning, drying and salt/smoke curing books. Working out of the more useful books I've been learning to "put up" a few food items just in case the global economy actually collapses as the globalists' Great Reset goes into effect.

And if this Great Reset doesn't do more than slightly judder the economy?

Well hurrah for me. I'll have occupied my declining years with learning new skills. Perhaps finding myself with interesting food stuffs- Swiss chard kimchi or stuffed cabbage leaves made from whole heads of cabbage- brine fermented using a Bulgarian recipe-dumped in my feedbag before the DW ties it under my chin.

Somewhen, I heard that teaching a subject was a good way to learn it. To that end I've offered the local branch library several lectures on topics currently captivating my attention: Basic Fermentation (a fav of mine), Non-Perishable Foods (noodles, hardtack and Hellfire Stew) and Secrets of Micro Greens (a subject I'm going to have to do a crash course study of to have even a slight clue of what I'll be babbling about). Librarian Penny has given me dates and times for each lecture, but I'm not promoting them here. People wanting to see me stammer, stumble and fumble can seek out that information themselves. I'm busy enough trying to organize my lecture notes and proof whatever recipes I'll be suggesting to whichever attendee accidentally wanders in during the soliloquy - urrrr lecture.

Beyond learning a subject by teaching it, I find committing myself to volunteering to present a lecture a suitable way of keeping my bobble-headedness in check. I'm forced to stay focused on the promised topic when researching a topic constantly presents me with new, unexplored topics that my instincts

urge me to pursue. For instance - fermentation includes turning sugars into alcohol. Alcohol can be a medicine, especially if combined with medicinal herbs such as St. John's wort, ginger root, elderberries, marijuana, or immature opium poppy seedpods. All of which leads to the harm such "medicines" can cause, just as the laboratory concocted drugs can do, if used more often than they should be. Hell, the drug overuse stories I've witnessed and experienced could be a lecture of their own.

Then there's always a chance I'll make some stupid mistake with a recipe and harm myself before a lecture date. If there's a wrong way to ferment something, I'm likely to find it, though so far I've been aware enough to toss such mistakes and begin over with closer attention to the instructions. Hmm... If I survived a nasty case of food poisoning I'd have another topic to do a deep dive into!

Oo! I just thought of another idea. If I lecture on dry brining meat (curing) I might accidentally cut off a finger and get to talk about how salt cured finger tastes compared to salted pig's knuckles!

I'll tell a man, and a woman - Heck, even a child! There's so much to learn and play at! However, "focus" is my watchword! Though an occasional "Jack!" From Librarian Penny also works.

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



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Planting a meadow

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

As many of us become more in tune with environmental issues and how we impact them, the terms “meadows” and “pollinators” and “no-mow lawns” have become our new buzzwords. What can this mean for us homeowners? And what can we do to help?

Most folks know the reasons for the concerns. The colony collapse disorder in our European honeybees, the same bees that live in hives and are moved around the country to pollinate our crops, from almonds, to citrus, to apples, began to die in large quantities. As research continued, the awareness of our native bees and other pollinators came to the forefront. Why are we, as a nation, depending so heavily on European honeybees, when we have so much diverse pollinating insects here in our backyards?

But are they really in our backyards? With the need to begin

to rely on our native bees and insects to pollinate our crops came the realization that their habitat is reduced dramatically. Due to development, monoculture, industrial parks and so on, their decline is a problem too. However, in the words of Doug Tallamy, Professor at the University of Delaware and author, “one yard at a time” can combat this incredible national crisis. This is a crisis that we can address and help.

In order to increase the population of beneficial insects, we must create a place for them to nest and feed. What might that look like? Much research has been done to answer this question. There’s a good sense of what the habitat should look like for these beneficial insects, and, dare I say, WILD, is the first word that comes to many minds.

We are accustomed to mowed lawns, with no weeds, sheared evergreen shrubs, and one or two trees growing on any given subur-



This meadow was once a sterile lawn mowed weekly. Now it is home to countless birds, bees and butterflies. Summer afternoons are filled with the buzz of bees moving from one flower to another. The brown lawn of late summer has been replaced with flowers of all shapes and sizes.



It's by watching a bee land on a flower that reminds the gardener why they garden.

ban property. But if we recreate, or rethink, what we are planting in our own little worlds, we can help bring back the pollinators that support our food production.

Let’s tear apart some terms. When we read “no-mow” lawns, what does that even mean? Should we never mow our grass again? Well, a more descriptive term may be “no mow after planting the right plants”.... We do want to reduce the typical suburban/industrial turf grass and replace it with plants that support insects. Transition our turf grass to plants that flower for the nectar and go to seed for the food, and produce stems for overwintering insects. This requires native, herbaceous plants. Trees and shrubs can and should also be incorporated in our plantings, as they too increase the habitat for not only insects, but birds and mammals as well.

From this, we can think about the term “meadow”. Meadows specifically are made up of herbaceous plants, not shrubs or trees.

In order for us to create the best meadow habitat for the insects, we need to have a diversity of plants that bloom different times throughout the growing season. This brings me to the “how” of a project such as this.

I will tell my story of creating two meadows in two very different ways. The first meadow that we created was about 10 years ago. It was a field full of switch grass, a native warm season grass. We wanted to add color to the field. Our first step, in our mind, was to get rid of the existing plants. With some mowing, followed by herbicides, followed by tarps, we did a pretty good job of erasing the grasses. We then overseeded with a seed mix of native perennials, both flowering perennials and grasses. It took a few years for the plants to get established, but by year three, we had a pretty nice mix. Then things began to change. The switch grass and Canada goldenrod became bullies. I believe the switchgrass started growing from a seed bank

that was still in the ground after our eradication efforts, and the goldenrod blew in from surrounding fields. Now, although an absolutely beautiful fall display, the rest of the growing season is pretty mundane. There are a few flowering plants that provide a food source throughout the summer, to include Heliopsis and milkweed – a good thing. But we were wanting to have just as much of a food source in the spring as we do in the summer and fall.

Meadow number two, a small pasture that a few goats used to roam, has been our second meadow project. In preparing for this planting, we decided to start seeds and grow them on in containers, then plant them in the meadow, hoping to reduce competition of unwanted bullies. Our effort to eradicate unwanted plants happened about the same as it did before. We had much less to control – mostly cool season grasses, so much easier to manage.

This spring began our transformation. Seeds were started in flats. Once they grew to a transplantable size (a minimum of the first set of true leaves), the seedlings were planted in clusters in quart sized containers. When those plants had a nice root system (beginning to grow out of the bottom of the pots), we began planting them in the old goat pasture. The difference between this meadow and our first was not only seeds vs plants, but the way in which they were planted.

I put them in groupings, or drifts, of the same species. Each grouping may have 10 – 30 plants, depending on their ultimate size. My thought process is threefold: 1. Larger grouping of plants should reduce the competition, 2. larger groups of plants should increase the attraction of the beneficials, and thirdly, larger drifts of plants will look purposeful and colorful.

We did add a pathway of cool season grasses. This will allow us access throughout the meadow for observation. This “meadow” would probably be better described as a “pollinator garden”, as a meadow refers to more of a ran-

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dom mix of plants, as opposed to drifts of plants, like the area has been planted.

Back to our first meadow. I mentioned that we have a few bul- lies now. We have quite a diverse list of potted perennials that we grew, and now are introducing to this space. We mowed and sprayed some patches where Can- ada Goldenrod was dominant, and we planted many potted perennials to add diversity. Our hope is that these potted plants take hold and become our missing spring and summer season.

And why are we doing this? First, we love plants. We love the concept of adding the right habi- tat that encourages the insects and birds to join us. Secondly, we feel we are doing our part in creating a

diverse plant community for these creatures that are in trouble, which ultimately, affects us.

Meadows are not maintenance free. There are always invasive spe- cies that want to grow, if allowed. Trees and shrub seedlings will take hold, if allowed. After all, we are "Penn's Woods". Our landscapes are always changing. Whatever your landscape looks like, do your part in adding native plants that support our insects. Call it a meadow, a no mow lawn or a pollinator garden, it doesn't matter. Look at yard spaces differently. No longer think of them as neat and tidy spaces, but homes for our insects, birds, and us.

To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of Emmits- burg.net.

Small Town Gardener

Garden where you are, not where you're not

Marianne Willburn

There are problem areas in a garden and then there are problem gardens, period. Poor drainage, terrible views, a neigh- bor with a security light fixa- tion, barking dogs, chain-link fences, no fences, steep hills, deep gullies, dry shade, rocky soil, that neighbor with the security light fixation (worth mentioning twice) and a hun- dred other issues that can, and often do, stop us from enjoying the place where life has placed us for a year, five years or two decades.

Most of us never intended to be 'placed' anywhere, and are still reeling a bit from the knowledge that the economic events of the last two decades have decided a few things for us without our blessing or indeed, our reluctant consent. We wanted a huge vegetable garden and instead have a massive wal- nut tree suppressing all forms of life on a marginal slope. We wanted beautiful views but a developer wanted to make a few bucks off surrounding prop- erties. Perhaps we just wanted a porch to sit upon, and instead we have a front step.

And we are thus served with a choice: accept where we are, right now, and use our creativ- ity and positivity to create and maintain a home and garden, or live angry, resentful and envious of others around us.

Spelled out in this way, the choice might seem obvi- ous...but for many people, it is anything but. Making the decision to live in a state of contentment is actually a series of choices that must be made every day. Some of us do that instinctively, and some of us must train ourselves to see the joy in conquering adversity – knowing that it takes time to build a habit of mind.

Years ago, a co-worker of mine was complaining about

the torn curtains literally rotting in the front room of her rented flat. "Replace them!" I exclaimed, having spent years sewing cheap coverings for windows to brighten up rented digs too numerous to count. "Why should I?" she said indignantly, "I don't own the flat."

"But you live there." I chal- lenged her. "You've lived there for ten years. It's your home."

"Nevertheless." She ended the discussion, passed the wine, and changed the subject.

We have a choice: use creativity to create and maintain a garden, or live angry, resentful and envious of others who do.

Let's think about this for a min- ute shall we? Would you rather stare at ugly, rotting curtains every morning over your coffee and every evening over your mac and cheese and grow ever more resentful over the larger picture of where you are and where you may or may not be going; or replace them with something that makes you smile, even if it's as simple as a Goodwill quilt and a few clothes- pins?

It may be odd to discuss win- dow treatments when I should be discussing viburnums, but – whereas many of my readers are still struggling with the idea that somewhere inside them lurks a hidden gardener, everyone has curtain issues.

What are the rotting curtains in your outside space? Do you have odds and ends lying around, cluttering the yard? Remove them. Are you tired of looking at your neighbor's half-painted shed? Plant a row of fast-grow- ing Manhattan euonymus. Sick

of looking of the peeling paint on your own? Grab a gallon of paint and a weekend and solve it. Wanted a vegetable garden but don't have the legs of a Billy goat to tend your 20% slope? Plant cheap decorative grasses and put some tomato pots on the porch. Find a way to put your individual stamp on the place where life finds you right now.

We must claim our liv- ing spaces, whatever they are, because they are just that – our living spaces. We nest here. We raise our kids, live our heart- breaks and experience some of our greatest joys here. For gar- deners, would-be gardeners, and if-only-I-had-the-perfect- place gardeners, we cheat our- selves if we keep waiting.

The autumn is bringing to a close another growing season. If you were a person who let it pass you by this year, I hope you will reconsider that posi- tion next year. Fall and win- ter offer us time to reflect and to shift our perspective, whilst naturally fostering a desire to actively participate in the excitement and energy of the coming spring.

Harnessing that energy – even in small ways – may allow you to embrace the imperfect next year, creating something where there was nothing, and finding great contentment in the process. I cannot over- state how incredibly beneficial that process can be – particu- larly as we find ourselves daily navigating an increasingly digi- talized and depersonalized world.

From a tiny balcony to a sub- urban lot, the garden can recon- nect you. Please let it.

Marianne is an author and a columnist for The American Horticultural Society, and Gar- denRant.com. You can find out more about her garden at Mari- anneWillburn.com.

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PETS

Kids really get it...



**Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter**

In the world in which we live today, it's sometimes easy to get a little down. I struggle some days to be positive and optimistic.

Although, really, that can be okay, too. Being down is all part of nature and the feelings we perceive of as being bad are really just part of who we are. There are definitely moments when I get upset and troubled. Occasionally it's a struggle to pull myself out of it.

Yes, it can be tough to be there, but as with all things in life, this too shall pass.

It can pass a lot easier when I remind myself of a phenomenon we have at the animal shelter where children will surprise us with donations they have collected for our animals.

I'll never forget the young girl who had a lemonade stand in her neighborhood to collect funds for the animals at animal shelter. She managed to raise more than \$900! Can you imagine? I'm thinking she should really go on Shark Tank or something. She's got quite a head for business.

It's a Normal Rockwell kind of scene — she set up the stand in her neighborhood and sold cups of lemonade. She came into the shelter to present the collection and was absolutely taken with our cats and kittens. She got to hang out with a few and just loved them.

Throughout the years, we've had kids have fundraisers for us, either collecting donations door-to-door or foregoing birthday presents to collect items for the animals in the shelter.

I'm always amazed by the children who actually have birthday parties where they only get supply donations for CVAS. Some of these kiddos are young — I'm not sure I can imagine being 8 and not getting birthday presents. Talk about true altruism.

Instead of a My Little Pony, there are bottles of bleach. Instead of a G.I. Joe figure, there are bags of dog food. Okay, my references are clearly from my generation in the 1980s, so you'll likely need to substitute them with...actually I don't know what the kids like today, but the point stands. It's pretty unbelievable.

I have to admit, coming face to face with these impressive tykes really can be incredibly poignant. Despite the young age, I really do think many of them fully understand what they've done and why they sacrificed birthday presents.

They typically come into the shelter and spend some time with the animals in our kennels and I swear it's like they make that connection, that unspoken understanding that sometimes happens between kids and animals, in an instant. The boys and girls will look into the faces of our dogs and cats and rabbits and it's as though they truly get it.

It's sometimes difficult to

describe with words.

These situations seem to happen exactly when a lot of us need them to. Maybe that aforementioned day where I've been knocked down and struggling to keep going is the very moment when a little one will come in the doors with lemonade money.

And in that moment, the sadness I'd been feeling doesn't seem that insurmountable. In fact, it often doesn't seem truly worth worrying about.

Because here is a young child who has shown me the goodness that is really in the world — because no matter how bad it gets, generosity really is out there. It may not always seem that way, but it's true.

And that's why I said in the beginning, maybe the "bad" times really aren't all that bad because inevitably, the universe will show us the good that's out there, especially if we look.

If you, like me, have tough times, try to take just a moment and remember this column. Picture in your mind the little girl with the genuine grin as she held a kitten while presenting her lemonade check.

Imagine the young boy who brought a literal truck-load of donations he had gotten from his 9th birthday party and when the camera clicks, he grins like he has the answers to the secret of life.

And really, maybe he does. Maybe they all do. Maybe it really is just that simple.

Generosity. Kindness. Giving. Benevolence.

Maybe that's what life really is all about.

I've found in my almost-50 years on this planet some of the best lessons can come from children and animals if we just have the chance to look and see it. Thankfully, at the animal shelter, we're shown these messages exactly when we need them and on a relatively regular basis.

And in sharing these stories with you, the magic can continue to affect us all.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvascomm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org.



Hyena was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He is around 6 years old and a happy-go-lucky guy that enjoys going on walks and playing in the play yard here at the shelter. He knows the commands sit and lie down. He does chase cats, so a home without cats would be best for Hyena. Hyena has never been around children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Please discuss this with shelter staff. It does take Hyena a little while to warm up to new people, but once he is used to you he is your best friend! Do you have the right spot for this sweet boy?



Beeswax came into the shelter as a stray so we don't know a lot about his past. When he arrived, he had some kind of wax, either from a candle or wax warmer all over his tail. Some of it was even on his feet! We got the wax cleaned off, but the name Beeswax has stuck. This guy is super sweet and looking for his forever home. Could that be yours?



Scorpius was returned to the shelter after being in a home for several years because his owner was moving and could not take him along with them. He is 3 years old and is a sweet guy. Scorpius likes to just relax with his people. He would love to find his forever home soon!

For more information about Hyena, Beeswax, Scorpius, and 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.

Before humans die, they write their last Will & Testament, give their home & all they have, to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

- My happy home.
- My bowl & cozy bed, soft pillows and all my toys.
- The lap, which I loved so much.
- The hand that stroked my fur & the sweet voice which spoke my name.

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

So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand."

Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope and give MY place to HIM.

This is the only thing I can give...
The love I left behind.

-- Author Unknown

Fostering love

Shawn Snyder
Volunteer Coordinator
Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

Six days a week visitors walk through the rooms of adoptable animals at Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center. These potential adopters peer into cages and kennels in search of the perfect new furry family member. When one catches their eye, they glance down at cage cards for more information. The sound of various people reading off names, ages and genders is a frequent occurrence through-

out FCAC. From time to time, once they reach the bottom of the card, you can hear the phrase Just Returned from Foster Care.

One such animal is McGee. This handsome little orange tabby was found as a stray in a mulch pile when he was three to four weeks old. Too young to survive on his own, he was quickly placed in foster care with one of the members of our kennel staff who acted as his surrogate mother. She and her family initially had to bottle feed the kitten. After a few weeks they transitioned to assisting with feeding and grooming, reinforcing all the kitten's natural instincts. They

provided him with tons of TLC to teach him that humans are wonderful. When McGee was ready at 2.5 pounds, which is usually around three months old, he was returned to the shelter to find his forever family. McGee has been on the adoption floor since early September. Thanks to his time spent in foster care, he is a friendly and outgoing kitten. He loves to play and is an expert cuddler. As a product of foster care, we also know that McGee does well with other cats and dogs.

Foster care programs are a vital and lifesaving part of any animal shelter or rescue. In a nutshell, foster homes provide temporary care for homeless animals. These volunteers do all the things most of us do every day for our pets. They provide the basics such as food, litter, toys, exercise and medication when necessary. But perhaps the most important thing they provide is socialization. Depending on the facility and the situation, animals will remain in foster care until they are adopted. Other times, they will return to the shelter when they are ready for adoption.

Post pandemic, we are seeing a rise in the number of kittens in need of this program arriving at our facility and are looking to add to the ranks of our dedicated foster care providers. The requirements to become a foster are very similar to the ones for adoption. Participants must be 18 years of age. Landlord permission is necessary for those who rent. Personal pets must be up to date on rabies vaccines and county licenses. Additionally, a home visit is required and training will be provided. FCAC will assist with food, litter and other supplies. The shelter is responsible for and will provide all veterinary care.

Being a foster care provider doesn't just change the world for the animal. It can also have a big impact on the foster parents as well. "Fostering opens up a whole new world for you and your fosters," said Leslie Hay, a Kennel Technician and McGee's foster mom. "And, oh my the entertainment," she continued. "It has given me the opportunity to experience different personali-

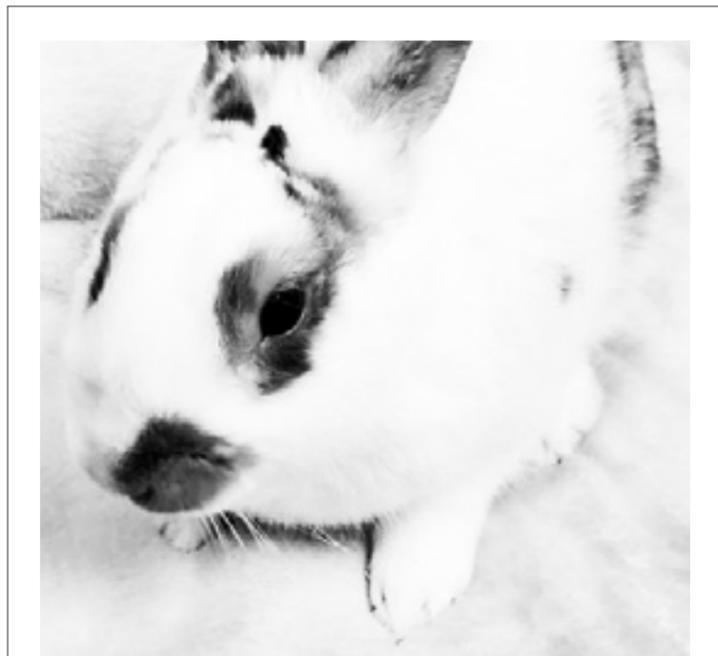


McGee

ties and behaviors and learn how to work with them. Most of all, fostering has helped my kids learn responsibility."

Those interested in learning

more about the program should contact Frederick County Animal Control's Animal Care Supervisor Brandy Odin at bodin@frederick-countymd.gov.



Turbo was surrendered to the shelter when his owner was no longer able to care for him. He is around 5 months old and has been neutered since his arrival at the shelter. Turbo is a nice guy that loves to flip his toys and is very curious about what is going on around him. He would love to find his loving forever home soon! Especially if it comes with the treat of apple slices!

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



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National Apple Harvest Festival celebrates 58th year

The National Apple Harvest Festival is celebrating its 58th old-fashioned family event in October over the weekends of the 1 & 2 and the 8 & 9, at The South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville, in the heart of Apple Country USA. The event is held all four days from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. rain or shine. October, proclaimed National Apple Month, is when the Upper Adams County community celebrates apple season with an apple festival.

The festival's roots date back to October 14, 1961, when The Adams County Fruit Growers Association held an Apple Harvest Holiday to celebrate the apple harvest. After the fruit growers decided not to run the holiday again, The Upper Adams Jaycees—a new chapter in need of a fundraiser—organized and sponsored the very first Apple Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 10, 1965. Admission was free. The Jaycees earned a profit of \$297 that first year and voted to try it again.

In 1967, the event grew from one day to three days. Saturday's admission was \$.25 and Sunday's was \$.50. The first Apple Harvest Ball was held in 1968 at the Holiday-Inn Gettysburg. In 1969, the first Miss Apple Queen USA Contest was selected at the ball held in conjunction with the festival. The tours of the processing and fruit packing plants, that were proven crowd pleasers, were discontinued in 1970 because the plants could no longer handle the crowds.

The festival's 10th Anniversary was held in 1974 and had become so popular that all the cars could no longer be parked on the South Mountain Fairgrounds. And, with the profits from the festival, the Jaycees voted to build a community park. Then in 1975, it became a two-weekend event held the first two full weekends in October. The name was changed to the National Apple Harvest Festival in 1977 in honor of the National Apple Queen Contest it sponsored from 1969 to 1986.

The Upper Adams Community area benefits most by the community park that was begun by the Jaycees in 1975 funded from profits of the festival. The 92-acre Oaks Community Park, located outside of Biglerville on Route 394, is open to the public April 1 to November 1 each year. The park features an amphitheater, six baseball/softball fields, five rental pavilions, a catch-and-release fishing pond, a soccer complex, a dog park, a three-mile walking trail, and a covered bridge. In 1989, the Jaycees built an office complex at the entrance to the park that houses offices for Oaks Community Park, The National Apple Harvest Festival, and The Upper Adams Jaycees.

The Upper Adams Jaycees use profits from the festival for all types of community, member and individual projects. A fifteen-member board of directors of current Jaycees and Exhausted Jaycees (no longer can be a member of the organization when they turn 40) guide the festival each year. The board meets every month and is responsible for improvements to the festival.

Of course, what would an apple festival be without apple-delicious products? Apple bread, an apple butter boil, a cold cider press, cider slushies, hot cider, apple desserts, daiquiris (non-alcoholic), fritters, jellies, pizza, sausage, sauce, candies, apple syrups and pancakes, sliced caramel apples, apple ice cream, and fresh Adams County apples can be found here, there, and everywhere as one strolls the grounds. Besides Apples, there are various other delicious foods available. As you step onto the fairgrounds, smell chicken barbecuing, the pit beef and pulled pork, sweet potato and regular French fries, homemade soups and sandwiches, homemade scrapple, and "fair" food.

With admission, entertainment is included on six stages—Apple Auditorium, Appleseed, Bluegrass Hollow, Cider Barrel, Cortland Circle, and Rockin' Apple—with

music of all genres included—Bluegrass, Country, Rock and Roll, and Celtic. In the Exhibition Area view the Native American Dancers and listen and learn at Van Wagner's Tall Timber "Lumber Heritage" Program.

Take a hayride; stop at Kid Country—storytelling, apple pie eating contests, and a petting zoo. Enjoy the Orchard Tours, craft demonstration area, and shop at over 200 arts and crafts vendors. Don't miss the operating steam engine and shingle mill, listen to the hit 'n miss engines, and enjoy the antique autos! Check out the National Apple Harvest Festival Gallery with displays of old-fashioned apple production equipment and past festival memorabilia. The Pennsylvania Apple Queen Contest will be held Sunday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m. with the Coronation at 2:30 p.m. in the Apple Auditorium.



With over 200 arts and craft vendors, thousands upon thousands of apples to sample, and not to mention apple buttering demonstrations, this year's Apple Harvest Festival is a must-visit for everyone.

For more information including the full four-day schedule, food vendors, and to buy tickets online, visit www.appleharvest.com or call 717-677-9413. General admission is

\$10, \$9 for Senior Citizens 60 and older, \$9 for Military and Veterans with proper ID, and free for children under 12. Parking and shuttle services are included.

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HISTORY

The Emmitsburg Railroad, 1875 – 1940

Louis O'Donoghue

Chapter 7 - Conclusion

After a railroad company is formed and granted a charter and before any construction can begin a survey must be completed. Generally, three surveys are required. To start with, the beginning and the terminal point must be established. The land that the roadbed will traverse must be delineated and the landowners must be identified and negotiated with.

Of necessity construction of the Emmitsburg rail line had to start by connecting both legs of a 'y' [wye] to the tracks of the Western Maryland line as it passed through Rocky Ridge. Of course, the WMRR was in agreement with this action, a Memo of Agreement (MOA) had already been worked-out in 1875.

All the construction work was done with hand tools and horsepower, in this case mule power. Tools were very basic, such as picks, shovels, scythes, wheelbarrows, and wagons and scoops, as well as mule drawn scrappers. These were the same tools that have been used by canal workers both here and in Europe. First, trees were cut or broken, stumps were pulled and burned or removed by dragging then on sledges; roots were removed by root cutting plows. Sledges were used to drag logs and rocks away. As many as eight teams of two horses were employed. The contractor hires teams of two horses, harness and drivers for grubbing at \$2.00 a day. Grubbing, the cutting and removing of scrub undergrowth, was done with axes and scythes.

Picks, horse drawn scoops and plows were used to break up the surface, to dig down into the roadbed and loosen about a foot or two of the surfaces then horse drawn rakes and drags were used to level and smooth the road bed. This was repeated until enough material had been removed to get down to grade. Dirt was moved by using one horse dump carts. Scows and bin-like wagons were used to drag rubble to low areas. Mule drawn scrapers leveled the surface. Cuts and fills were made. Retaining wall, culverts and berms were

constructed. Foundation footings were built for trestles. The bridge over Toms Creek was built under a separate contract by The Taylor Brothers.

As railroad companies go, the Donoghue Brothers Construction Company was a very small company. Mostly they did finishing work at either end of newly bored tunnels. They cleared away the tailings and dressed the rock face giving the setting a safe and pleasant look. They also built a few sections of straight and level track and worked on several water systems.

When the Donoghue Brothers Construction Company finished the Jack's Mountain project, they brought along their own cadre of railroad workers to Emmitsburg. No pool of skilled workers was locally available as most of the men were farmers or day laborers. John Donoghue went to Baltimore and brought back 80 hands. However, a number of local people were employed, sometimes up to 140 men. Local folk would rent out horses to the construction company.

Railroad construction work required great strength and endurance. The construction workers were usually rather young, tremendously strong men, and with great endurance. As they moved into their middle years they usually sought less strenuous work.

John and his family continued to live in Emmitsburg for most of the next twenty years. John took contracts where he found them, resulting in his living away from home for various periods of time. In 1892 John still held some ERR stock. It was also the year the whole family, except David, went back to Altoona.

In late summer of 1871 a dozen or so shanties mounted on wooden sledges were pulled by mule teams down from Chairman on Jack's Mountain to Zora, and then on into Emmitsburg. This was done by John Donoghue's railroad work crew. John put these men to work building shanties for the 80 or so men he meant to hire from Baltimore. John arranged with local leaders to rent or use a field just northwest of town. The field was on a small road leading up to Poplar Ridge north of Elias Church. He had from 20 to 40 shanties



Emmitsburg Railroad bridge over Toms Creek. The center pylon is still visible today, just south of the current bridge over the creek.

built to house the 80 men from Baltimore.

The rails were laid five years later in 1875 by the WMRR's track laying crew. There are no written records or are there any folk tales describing how the ERR rails were laid. However, typically the following account gives a good description of the work and how a track gang did its job.

This account is from the Frederick-Post of June 3rd 2013. It was written by Jorge Ribas, Ph.D. describing his 'First Job' "...crew that laid, repaired and aligned the rails using heavy tools and muscle power. This backbreaking job required teamwork whether we were replacing ties and missing plates and spikes, aligning rails or clearing brush. Working in a two-person team, we secured the new ties with steel plate nailed down on the tie with 7-inch spikes, or crampons. We hammered the spikes alternately and in a tight rhythm that required speed, precision, focus and trust. Track alignment required a unity of movement, too, in that we lined up on one side of the rail, wedged in our lining bars and leaned in on cue to move it. If even one person was off, there was a jarring sensation of failure against the rigid rail. But when we moved in unity over several repetitions the rail moved neatly – or danced, as it's

been called – and it was a beautiful feeling."

After the tracks were laid, Osage Orange trees were planted along the track bed in and near Saint Joseph's College. Osage Orange trees grew to about 40 feet high but if trimmed grew as a bush or hedge. The cutting of the Osage stumps produces vigorous, thorny sprouts that form an impenetrable hedge that is "horse high, bull strong and pig tight." They were drought tolerant and pest-free. The hedge kept livestock off of the track and acted as a visual barrier screening the college from the unsightliness of the railroad. The use of Osage hedge faded after the invention of barbed wire in 1875.

The ERR's prime source of locomotion was provided by steam driven engines. Over the years, the line had eight different engines. In addition, they had a gasoline driven work car that was purchased in 1920 for \$950. During the last few years a motor truck was driven, over the state roads, to Rocky Ridge and back. The Emmitsburg Railroad consisted of seven and three tenths miles of standard gauge (five feet

seven and three quarters inches) railroad track on a 60-foot wide right of way.

The original rails were made of iron. In 1896 these rails were replaced with 60-pound steel rails. The line had three stations, two bridges, three or four stops, and three or four sidings. The total length of the trackage, including the switches, was 8.0 miles. As the railroad left the Emmitsburg station it passed through a long cut in front of St. Joseph's College. The railroad maintains a level course by crossing Toms Creek on an elevated bridge. The stream at this point was just 380 feet above sea level. The railroad then starts to climb to its highest point, about 470 feet, which was near Long's Stop. It continued south through cuts and fills and across trestles and culverts until it reaches the station at Rocky Ridge, just 14 feet lower than the station at Emmitsburg.

To read an expanded version of the rise and fall of the Emmitsburg Railroad visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.



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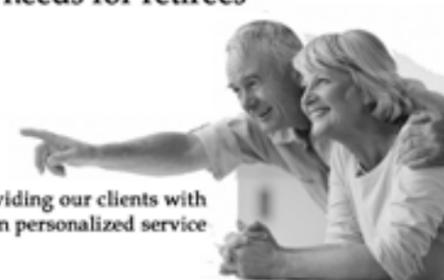
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The decline and fall of the Emmitsburg Railroad

Joe Ritz

The Emmitsburg Railroad progressed through the early years of the twentieth century without facing many difficulties. However, when an increase in transportation technology occurred due to Henry Ford's concept of mass-producing automobiles, the need for passenger service trains greatly diminished. This obviously affected the railroad in Emmitsburg. In addition, the railroad had to cope with the bus service provided by Blue Ridge Bus Lines in 1931.

The official bus stop was at the Square in Emmitsburg. But the railroad wanted the bus stop to be at the railway station. A protest was filed with the Public Service Commission in an effort to get the buses to stop at the station and to set up a schedule that would meet the trains. This effort failed and it wasn't long before passengers riding the trains began to use the bus service.

The citizens of Emmitsburg and the railroad's directors tried to compete with the bus line, but the Public Service Commission did not respond to the protest. To make matters worse, the PSC declared that all passenger service on the Emmitsburg Railroad would end June 4, 1935. The railroad was now limited to only hauling freight. Still, the community, though unsuccessful, fought together to keep the railroad in operation.

George Wireman, a local amateur historian, rode the railroad when he was a young boy. According to Wireman, "trains were being run only when needed... [and] operating the railroad on a 'when needed basis' just wasn't considered good business economy."

Some claim that the great blizzard of 1936 caused the demise of railroad. The company was too small to absorb the costs of repairs, nor did traffic warrant the continuation". Regardless of how one summarizes what exactly caused the demise of the Emmitsburg Railroad, a series of well-documented events sealed its fate.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors in February 1940 decided to abandon the line as soon as possible. Three months later, on May 15, 1940, operations of the Emmitsburg Railroad ceased. In August of that year the line was sold at a public sale...by May of the following year official authorization for abandonment was granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the rails were promptly torn up and sold as scrap.

There is not much documentation regarding Emmitsburg citizens acting in such a way to prevent their railroad's demise. However, one source does tell of an F. J. Campbell, a local attorney and more importantly, the vice president of the Emmitsburg Railroad at the time of its demise. He claimed "that he had made strenu-

ous efforts two years ago to get the business community to cooperate in putting the enterprise back on its feet, but that he had been unsuccessful".

If not regular townspeople, at least the aforementioned "business community" could have done something positive to prevent the railroad's dissolution. Nonetheless, they did nothing in this manner. In addition, not much has been said about the Daughters of Charity and Mount Saint Mary's. Perhaps they just abandoned the use of the railroad since both supplies and students could be brought in by other modes of transportation. Regardless, the railroad was sold because of this lack of community support. This transaction brought \$11,000 for the rails alone and \$14,600 for the entire property.

Thus, after 65 years, the whistle stop of trains ended in Emmitsburg. Like other trains

of the era, the Emmitsburg Railroad folded as well.

As an article in the Baltimore Sun stated a few months after the railroad ceased running: "a few Emmitsburg people appear to believe that the property, which was once highly profitable, might have been able to keep going indefinitely with full community cooperation". There was no full community cooperation, though. Emmitsburg turned her back on the railroad and likewise, "fatally damage whatever chance [it] had of acquiring manufacturing establishments in the future".

Losing their jobs once operations ceased did not seriously hurt those who worked for the Emmitsburg Railroad. In fact, some of these individuals secured new occupations that possessed a connection to their previous employer. Engineer Guy Baker, Sr., father of Guy Baker, Jr., a former registrar for Mount Saint Mary's College, obtained a mail

contract and used his truck to make "three daily trips to Thurmont to connect with the Western Maryland Railway".

On the site that used to be the train station, former railroad workers Leslie Fox and Murray Wantz established, respectively, a filling station and an automobile repair shop. Therefore, these individuals still held ties to the Emmitsburg Railroad.

Today, there are hardly any visible traces that the Emmitsburg Railroad even existed. The town post office borders South Seton Avenue; the train station was located on this site. Traveling south on this road, one passes the Basilica and the National Emergency Training Center mentioned earlier. Then, before the road's terminus with U.S. Route 15, a bridge crosses Toms Creek. If, crossing south on the bridge, one looks to the left, one can see the remains of the truss bridge that the railroad used.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 6

Drought Conditions Become Serious

The authorities of Frederick County have taken measures to conserve the water supply. The Monocacy River has not been so low in 50 years and can be crossed. In many parts of the county, many farmers are compelled to haul water for their livestock, and the drying up of pastures has already hurt the dairy business. Farmers are in a quandary whether to sow their wheat in the dust, or wait, and then perhaps be prevented from sowing by a wet spell.

Naturally the fire danger has greatly increased, with not enough water for household use, there would be little for the fire protection, and property owners are warned to observed unusual precautions to prevent fires.

Meets Sudden Death

Just minutes before the lunch whistle was to sounded Charles Colliflower, of Thurmont, was killed while at work near the Portland Cement plant at Union Bridge. Mr. Colliflower was employed at the new plant being erected for the cement company. From what can be learned of the matter he was at the time helping to sink a pit and was about 18 feet in the ground. The earth caved in and crushed him. Colliflower was buried under three to four feet of dirt. The body was brought to his home on Tuesday evening for burial. Mr. Colliflower is survived by his wife and six children. He was 50 years old.

Woodsboro To Play Taneytown

The Woodsboro baseball team, champions of Frederick County, will play the Taneytown baseball team, the champions of Carroll County, in Taneytown on Saturday afternoon. The return game will be played in Woodsboro, on Saturday the 14th.

October 13

Rain At Last

Rain of the settle variety began falling gently last Saturday. Although the pre-

cipitation began in a mild away, it gave every indication as the day advanced of becoming more precipitous. Mild though it was, it proved a boon wherever it fell. It was not long until dusty side roads turn to lanes of mud. Brown pastures again took on a more verdant color, and small streams that had dried up almost entirely were once again flowing.

Rain Cancels Woodsboro-Taneytown Baseball Game

The fine rain last Saturday afternoon was generally more needed than the baseball game, but the fans did not think that as the rain had waited so many weeks, it might have waited a few more hours longer. The local baseball management has decided to cancel the Woodsboro game, owing to the lateness of the season, and the uncertainty of the weather. There will be no more games played this.

Horse Drawn Vehicles Increasing

City people who think there is no other way to travel except in street cars and automobiles will be surprised to learn that more than 500,000 buggies are sold every year by the members of the Carriage Builders National Association. Before the automobile came, annual sales averaged 1.75 million. But the automobile cannot make any further inroads in rural parts of the country where sales are increasing. Farmers who have an automobile also have one or two buggies. There are about 27 million horses in United States and the number is increasing. A speaker told the audience that: "as long as gas takes money out of one's pocket, while horses can eat in fields for free, the automobile will never surpass horses as the principle source of transportation."

Will Again Try To Pardon Eyler

For the third time in six years, and probably the last, a petition will be presented to the State Board of Pardons in an effort to secure the release of William Eyler, convicted of the murder of Howard Miller and now serving a life sentence in the Eastern Penitentiary. Eyler has been in confinement 16 years.

Two years have passed since the last attempt to free the life prisoner. From all reports he remains the model prisoner he has been since his incarceration. He has been made a trustee at the penitentiary and has had an exceptionally good prison record.

Eyler, a resident of Emmitsburg, alleged to be under the influence of liquor, became enraged at some remarks Howard Miller is alleged to have made about a relative of his. Breaking off the iron handle of a pump, Eyler struck Miller a heavy blow upon the head, which fractured his skull, causing his death sometime later.

His trial was a short one and he was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to die. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment with the understanding that no attempt to have him pardon would ever be made.

October 20

Emmitsburg Lutherans Celebrate Anniversary

Emmitsburg Lutherans concluded a weeklong program celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Elias Lutheran Church by laying a corner stone for the Reinwald Memorial Chapel. The church dates its origins from 1757 on the banks of the Toms Creek, two and a half miles east of Emmitsburg. Later a new building, erected on the same site by the Lutherans and Reformed congregations, took the place of the first log church. The present stone church was erected in 1797. Until 1869 the Lutherans and Reformed congregations owned and used the stone church jointly, alternating their services each Sunday.

Train Car Wheel Breaks

The breaking of a wheel on a train car loaded with coal, one of 40 attached to one of the big Western Maryland engines going east last Friday, came near causing a big wreck near Loys Station. After the wheel broke the train continued about a mile before it came to a stop. In the meantime the portion of the wheel remaining attached to the

aisle broke some 40 odd steel rails and put out of use about 500 cross ties. All of the cars stayed on the rails. The accident happened about the time the Fast Mail train west was due and forced the passenger train to be held at Loy's Station for two hours. Station man from Thurmont and Loy's made the repairs.

Horse Injured

Last week while Mr. Howard Eigenbrode of Graceham was working a team of horses to pull a harrow, one of the animals was caught by the disc and severely cut. Mr. Eigenbrode was walking at the head of the team and didn't know how it happened, but suppose that the horse, while passing some trees that stood nearby, stopped to eat some of the leaves and the rest of the team pulled a harrow upon it. Blood poison developed and Dr. Martin, veterinarian, of Emmitsburg, was called to attend the animals. At last report the horse was doing fine and enjoying watching its compatriots work while it munches grass in its pasture.

Celebrates 90th Birthday

Mrs. Sarah Rowe, one of the oldest living residents of Emmitsburg celebrated her 90th birthday on Saturday. Mrs. Rowe spent the day at the house of her daughter on West Main St. where she received the congratulations of her many friends, besides being the recipient of many beautiful gifts.

She was in a pleasant and reminiscent mood and, not only the members of her family but also her many friends, were agreeably surprised at the activity of her mind, recalling many incidents of years ago in such a clear manner as to make it appear as though they occurred just a few days ago.

Mrs. Rowe moved to Emmitsburg as a young girl and has made her home here ever since. She has lived her present home on West Main St., for the last 67 years, noting many changes in the surroundings of the town during that time.

Farmer Dies While Working In Field

Friday the 13th proved unlucky for Charles Hoffman, who while working on Stewart Sites' farm near Fairfield, was stricken with a heart attack and died. He was 55 years old. Early Friday morning Mr. Hoffman went to the Sites' farm to haul in corn fodder. He was apparently in good health and work steadily until he was stricken about 10 a.m.. Mr. Sites was on the wagon and Mr. Hoffman was pitching fodder to him when stricken. Mr. Hoffman lived only a few minutes after he was taken ill.

October 27

More Rain

On Monday afternoon rain fell in this vicinity. Several reports of heavy thunder were heard. This shower will be of

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great benefit to the grain in the ground. The ground is still very dry and many persons are being inconvenienced by lack of water at their homes.

Thurmont Memorial Park Dedication

As the time for the dedication of the new Memorial Park in Thurmont, on Armistice Day, November 11, draws near, keen interest is being felt not only in this community, but also in the neighboring towns. The committee in charge of the program is leaving no stone unturned to make it the most memorable in the history of the town. They are requesting that the citizens of Thurmont cooperate with them by decorating all homes and places of business on that day.

Emmitsburg Water Company Files Answer

The controversy over the new water rates that the Emmitsburg Water Company put into effect October 1st is expected to come to a climax at an early date. Stuart Annan, President of the water company, filed his answer to the petition that customers of the company filed with the Public Service Commission of Maryland protesting against the new rates.

Vincent Seybold, Emmitsburg resident and counsel for the petitioners, stated that while he had received a copy of the water company's answer, but that he had not read it over yet and will make no comment.

It is understood that the company states in its answer that it has authority to make the advances in the rates and that they were necessary to pay for improvements that the company had made to the water systems. It is expected that the Public Service Commission will set an early date for the hearing of the case. The new rates are now in effect in Emmitsburg.

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

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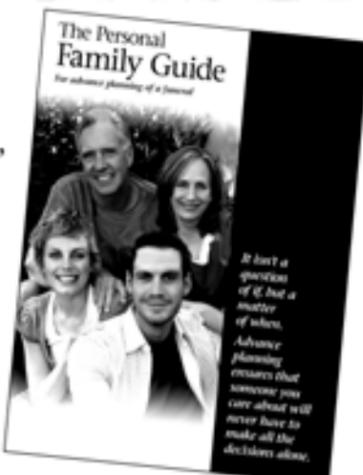
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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

The Taneytown Coronet Band

David Buie

There is little information regarding the Taneytown Coronet Band. A scrapbook kept by former band member John J. Reid contains the only information on record. Reid later moved to Detroit in 1917 but continued to correspond with The Carroll Record. His scrapbook and correspondence provided the information for this article.

The Taneytown Coronet Band was formed in 1884 from the remains of the Copperville Band (Copperville is located two miles (3.2 km) southeast of Taneytown). According to Reid, the first conductor was J.N.O. Smith, a prominent local auctioneer and businessperson. Among the original members were Levi Sell (1861-1915), Harry S. Koons (b. 1858), Oliver Hiner, Ed Favorite, and U.B. Pilot.

As the Band was forming and becoming organized, and members identified, officers were elected, and a leader was appointed. Following the Band's charter acquisition by H.M. Clabough, the newly formed Taneytown Band assumed Copperville's debt, uniforms, instruments, and chariot. Following Taneytown's citizens' help in paying off the debt, the inherited instruments and uniforms were replaced with new ones. The new uniforms consisted of tan coats and gray caps, trimmed with red, styled after those which the soldiers of the Union Army wore during the Civil War. The caps were topped off with Pompons of red and white (interchangeable

with feather plumes that were yellow or red).

At first, the music played was quite simple, and the Band was small—eleven in number for several years. Gradually, instrumentation and membership increased, and soon the Band reached the same level of music proficiency as the other bands in the county. About 1908, A. H. (Bob) Bankert took charge until 1912. Under Bankert, the Band's reputation grew, and membership increased to twenty.

Several stories of the band members appeared over the years. Perhaps one of the most legendary appeared in the June 21, 1933, *Harrisburg Telegraph*. According to the story, a young medical student attended the Taneytown Fair in 1931. Seeing a great deal of shuffling on the stage, the medical student approached the band director. The band director informed the student that the bass horn player did not feel like playing that night. "I can handle the bass horn," the student told the director, but the student insisted that the bass horn player accompany him. So, as the story goes, "they got their horns and tooted along together." Eventually, the medical student graduated, hung his shingle in Taneytown, and became Dr. Thomas Martin (1907-1973). Dr. Martin later moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, where he became a respected Eye Surgeon.

In 1935, the Band underwent some changes; on May 17, 1935, *The Hanover Evening Sun* wrote that the Chamber of Commerce made public that a concert would



Front row, left to right: Robert Bankard, J. N. O. Smith (1862-1937), Earle Phillips, Emory Hahn, Tolbert Shorb (1881-1943), John J. Reid (1865-1945), Edward Zepp (1862-1934), Upton Myers (1866-1939), and Oliver Heltebride (1879-1933). Back row, left to right, Bernie Babylon, Frank Thomas, Elmer Shorb, John Shriner, Robert Shriner, Nelson Bankard, William Hawk, Claude Myers and Ervin Reid.

take place by the newly organized Band on the square Saturday night, May 18. The show was the first appearance in the Band's new uniforms. The band officers were listed as Dr. Thomas Martin, President; Marlin Reid, Vice-President; Paul Fair, Secretary and Harry Baumgartner, Treasurer.

An article in *The Evening Sun* (Hanover, Pa), June 10, 1980, claimed that G. Emory "Cutie" Hahn (1893-1983) may have been the last surviving Old Taneytown Coronet band member. According to Emory, Saturday evenings in Taneytown were social events. All the people from the area farms and smaller communities would come into town to shop, stay around to visit with neighbors and friends, and enjoy the Band's music on the square. At that time, Taneytown could boast three hotels, two blacksmith shops, a few bakeries, and numerous other stores.

Emory started working at Baumgartner's bakery as an apprentice for three dollars a week. As a young man, he worked jobs in Taneytown. Besides being a baker, he worked for Stokes Creamery and Cambridge Rubber Company. He became the Deputy Sheriff in 1930 and later the Chief of Police in Taneytown.

Emory became interested in the Taneytown Coronet Band through a friend. He used to ride to Detour in a horse and buggy with his friend to listen to the band practice; it was not long before his friend convinced Emory to march in the Band too.

One parade stands out in Emory's mind. The parade took place in Frederick during the dedication of the Odd Fellows Hall. As Emory carried the flag, a fierce storm rolled in. "Stick to your colors," Emory was told by the parade major when he asked if they should take cover.

Despite the wind, rain, and thunder, Emory held the colors high as he marched along the parade route. The storm had passed when he reached the Odd Fellows Hall. Upon hearing the crowd's thunderous cheers, Emory raised his head; looking behind him, he realized the other parade participants had sought shelter, leaving him alone to finish the parade.

In 1943, the Band, established in 1884, no longer had parade routes to march or concerts to play. Eventually, Taneytown's Band faded, and the remnants were absorbed into the Taneytown Lodge of the Odd Fellows' marching band.

David Buie is a Taneytown Resident passionate about Taneytown and its place in history. For more information on the history of Taneytown, visit the Downtown Taneytown Facebook page.

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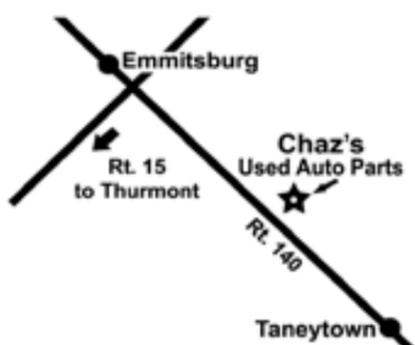
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COOKING

It's fall, y'all!

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Student

As the weather turns crisp (finally) fall foods and holiday baking can begin. I consider October not just to be spooky season, but also the beginning of soup season. Instead of cracking a can open, this copycat Panera soup is easy and fast for dinner and you can make the bread dough ahead of time to bake off when you are ready. It keeps in the fridge for up to about 5 to 7 days and doesn't require kneading - all of the gluten is developed by autolysis under refrigeration.

Creamy Tomato Basil Soup

Ingredients

- 1 28 oz can crushed tomatoes
- 1 28 oz can diced tomatoes
- 1 tbsp crushed garlic
- 1 14 oz can chicken broth {or 2 cups}
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 15-20 Basil leaves chopped

Instructions: Combine the tomatoes, broth, and garlic bring to a boil and let boil for 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to low and stir in the sugar and butter and mix until they are dissolved, melted and well combined. Very slowly pour in the heavy cream while simultaneously stirring until all the cream is combined and the soup is creamy. Stir in the basil at the end. Serve in bowls hot with a

side of grated parmesan to sprinkle on top or some nice hot bread.

No-Knead Crusty White Bread, from the King Arthur Flour Test Kitchen

The most basic of all no-knead loaves. You can make this dough the day before and then bake it while you make your soup. About 90 minutes before you want to serve bread, grab a handful of dough, shape it, let it rise, then bake for 30 minutes.

Ingredients

- 7 1/2 cups (900g) King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
- 3 cups (680g) water, lukewarm (about 105F)
- 1 tablespoon (18g) salt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons (14g) instant yeast or active dry yeast

Instructions: Combine all of the ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Mix and stir everything together to make a very sticky, rough dough. If you have a stand mixer, beat at medium speed with the dough hook for 30 to 60 seconds. If you don't have a mixer, just stir-stir-stir with a big spoon or dough whisk until everything is combined. Next, you're going to let the dough rise, it's going to rise a lot. Cover the bowl and let the dough rise at room temperature for 2 hours. Then refrigerate it for at least 2 hours, or for up to about 7 days. The longer you keep it in the fridge, the tangier it'll get; if you chill it for 7 days, it will taste like sourdough. Over the course of the first day or so, it'll

rise, then fall. When you're ready to make bread, sprinkle the top of the dough with flour; this will make it easier to grab a hunk. It'll be about the size of a softball, or a large grapefruit. Plop the sticky dough onto a floured work surface, and round it into a ball or loaf.

Place the loaf onto a lightly greased or parchment-lined baking sheet. Sift a light coating of flour over the top; this will help keep the bread moist as it rests before baking. Drape the bread with greased plastic wrap. Let the loaf warm to room temperature and rise; this should take about 60 minutes (or longer, up to a couple of hours, if your house is cool). It won't appear to rise upwards that much; rather, it'll seem to settle and expand. Preheat your oven to 450°F while the loaf rests.

Place a shallow metal or cast iron pan (not glass, Pyrex, or ceramic) on the lowest oven rack, and have 1 cup of hot water ready to go. When you're ready to bake, take a sharp knife and slash the bread 2 or 3 times, making a cut about 1/2" deep. The bread may deflate a bit; it will spring up in the oven. Place the bread in the oven and carefully pour the 1 cup hot water into the shallow pan on the rack beneath. It'll bubble and steam; close the oven door quickly. Bake the bread for 25 to 35 minutes, until it's a deep, golden brown. Remove the bread from the oven, and cool it on a rack.

Pumpkin Snickerdoodles

It wouldn't be October without something Pumpkin, so here is the obligatory pumpkin recipe to make with kids.

Ingredients

- 3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 1/2 tsp cornstarch
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (heaping) salt
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground allspice
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar



FCC Students show off culinary skills

This fall, the Frederick Community Collage's restaurant, 200 Monroe, will be open to the public for an exclusive three-course dinner service prepared by students under the guidance of culinary and hospitality instructors.

The restaurant delivers a capstone learning experience for Hospitality, Culinary, and Tourism Institute students who work in the open-kitchen restaurant setting during their final semester of the program.

The restaurant is open on Thursday evenings, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., October 3 through December 6.

In past seasons, 200 Monroe has been named to numerous

OpenTable Diners' Choice lists, including the best overall, best value, fit for foodies, great for lunch, and best food lists. It was also recommended by 100% of diners.

The menu includes numerous options for first, second, and third course selection, as well as a choice of beverage from \$38 to \$42, including tax and gratuity. All restaurant revenue directly supports student training and instruction in the program.

Please note, while reservations are not accepted by phone, reservations are accepted online anytime. For additional restaurant inquiries please call 301-624-2768.

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 large egg yolk
- 3/4 cup canned pumpkin puree
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

For rolling

- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

Instructions: In a mixing bowl whisk together flour, cornstarch, cream of tartar, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, gin-

ger, nutmeg and allspice for 20 seconds, set aside.

In the bowl of an electric stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream together butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar (not until pale and fluffy, just to combined and scrape down bowl. Mix in egg yolk, then pumpkin and vanilla extract. Mix on low and slowly add in dry ingredients until combined.

Divide dough in half and place each half in a bowl, cover with plastic wrap and chill 45 minutes (dough should be slightly sticky). Preheat oven to 350 degrees during last 10 minutes of refrigeration. In a small bowl, whisk together 1/4 cup granulated sugar with 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon. Scoop dough out 2 even tablespoons at a time and shape into a ball, roll dough ball in cinnamon sugar mixture to evenly coat then transfer to parchment paper lined baking sheets spacing cookies 2-inches apart.

Bake in preheated oven 12 - 14 minutes (they should look just slightly under-baked). Cool on baking sheet about 5 minutes then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

To read other cooking articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Picture it, Sicily...

Mary Angel

The other day I was telling the kids a story about when I was young and made the joke, "Picture it, Sicily...". For those of you who don't get the reference it is from The Golden Girls. At a very young age, I started my kids on the classics. We watched everything from The Cosby Show to The Golden Girls to I Love Lucy. I believe my kids had a better childhood because of it. The also learned a lot of life lessons and a few cliches!

It turns out that many of my favorite quotes would get me "canceled" these days. One of my favorites was a Cosby quote, "I brought you into this world, and I'll take you out!" This was always my favorite quote for my second son when he was being a knuckle head. Inevitably, after hearing that quote, he would calm down and burst out laughing. There is something about a goofy quote to make everything seem a little silly and not so difficult. When my kids would ask me to buy them something that cost a small fortune, like top-of-the-line tennis shoes or some Tic Tokker's merch, I mention that "No 14-year-old boy should have a \$95 shirt unless he's on stage with his 4 brothers." For those of your too young to remember, that is a reference to Michael Jackson.

When it comes to the classics, all of my kids loved (no pun intended) I Love Lucy. My wild child, first daughter, heard "You got some splainin' to do" more times than I can count. I even think she was developing some of Lucy's trademark looks. I remember one time when she was trying to insist that she should have the right to have ice cream for dessert and she quoted Ethel from I Love Lucy by paraphrasing, "You mean to tell me I have equal rights as you and dad, but you don't give me a chance to act like it". When I pointed out that Ethel was talking about Women's Rights, not ice cream rights, she didn't want to hear it, nor did she understand what I was talking about. I know I have used a Ricky quote on all of my children, when they give me one of those looks. You know the ones I am talking about, they either come from a toddler or a teenager. When I get one of those looks, I respond with my best Ricky voice, "I don't like that tone, you're thinking!" Again, some of the best quotes can be paraphrased into a useful point made to my kids.

The kids would all agree that the most beloved of all the classics would have to be The Andy Griffith Show. That always came in handy, because above all of the shows, this is the one with the best teaching moments for children. When they were being sore losers, whether it be at sports or board games, I would break out an Andy Taylor Quote. "It doesn't take courage to be a winner. It does take courage to be a good loser...now, you wanna be a good loser, you'll be proud of your friends that did win, and you'll congratulate them for it." The Andy Griffith Show was not just about life lessons, although there is no show better. It was also full of

quotes to simply make you laugh. Anything that Barney Fife said was always bound to make me laugh! Barney said, "Boy, giraffes are selfish." That is not to say he didn't have wisdom in the midst of the laughter. "Because today's eight-year-olds are tomorrow's teenagers," didn't ring so true until I realized my eight-year-olds were suddenly teenagers in the blink of an eye.

There are so many wonderful old shows that I would recommend families watching together, not only for life lessons, but also for some good old fashioned family bonding. The memories we have

made will stay with all of us through our lives. My oldest still likes us to call him "Norm" at the top of our lungs when he comes home from work. My oldest daughter is fondly referred to as "Marcia, Marcia, Marcia" by her little sister. Any one of the four of them could be overheard at the dinner table stating, "No soup for you!" Not as old as some of the quotes, but you can hear someone saying, "Joey doesn't share food" when one of their siblings was trying to make off with part of their dinner. Additional, when one of the siblings were about to get grounded, another one would mumble under their breath, "Ruh Roh!", in their best Scooby Doo.



No matter what shows you watch, do it as a family. There are memories to be made, laughs to be had, and tears to cry, not to mention years and years of quotes to share with your family. Think

of me when you go on your next three-hour tour.

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



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SCHOOL NEWS

BOE candidates form 'Students First Slate'

Following the results of the recent primary election, Board of Education Candidates Ysela Bravo, Rae Gallagher, Dean Rose, and Karen Yoho formed the "Students First Slate" in order to consolidate resources and make clear our plans for Frederick County Public Schools.

Our slate is made strong by our diverse backgrounds and experiences. Our differences are reflective of the community we hope to represent. We understand that we may not agree

on every issue, but our shared fundamental values make us the best candidates for the Board of Education. We embrace creativity in problem-solving, collaboration, teamwork, and productive dialogue to reach the best solutions for the FCPS community.

As the name implies, we will always put the needs of our 45,000 students first. Every decision will be grounded in the belief that the needs of our students come first, and we are committed to allocating resources,

considering curriculum, and making decisions based on meeting the unique and varied needs of Frederick County students.

We are all committed to ensuring that all FCPS employees are provided competitive compensation, benefits, training, and the resources necessary to allow them to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. We believe that FCPS employees should be trusted to do the jobs they are hired to do and that their education and professional train-

ing best positions them to meet the needs of our students. We are committed to exploring creative ideas to reduce class size and increase planning time to ensure FCPS educators can meet the needs of students.

We also believe in the importance of building trust through transparency with parents, central office staff, educators, and students by providing open communication and making all FCPS resources easily available.

As Board members, we vow to

hold ourselves and all FCPS employees accountable for ensuring that all our students are provided a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and world class education. Together with other Board members and FCPS staff, we will work with all stakeholders to ensure that not only are our students career and college ready but life ready in our ever changing world.

Early voting begins October 27th and Election Day is November 8th. The "Students First Slate" is committed to the success of ALL students and looks forward to earning your vote.

FCPS seeks nominations for Teacher of the Year

Brad Young
President Frederick
County School Board

I was very honored to be at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School to see Jonathan Kurtz being named as one of seven finalists for 2022-23 Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Kurtz, the 2022-23 Frederick County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, is the Coordinator for the Academy for the Fine Arts at TJ High. The Academy for the Fine Arts is a program open to students from all 10 comprehensive FCPS high schools.

Mr. Kurtz is an outstanding teacher, and I was honored to be there to surprise him with the news. We wish him

luck in the finals later this month.

Frederick County Public Schools seeks nominations for the Veteran in Education Service Award, to honor an FCPS employee who has served our nation in the armed forces and provided exemplary service to the school system and the community.

Any community member, FCPS student, former student, student's parent or FCPS employee may nominate an individual.

Each nominee must be a veteran, as defined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (the VA), or be currently serving in the armed forces as a member of the Reserves or National Guard. The Reserve components of the armed forces are the Army National Guard of

the United States, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard of the United States, Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve.

Nominees must have demonstrated exemplary service to FCPS and the community. They may have done this by showing integrity and trustworthiness, perseverance in overcoming challenges, selflessness in helping others, and teamwork and loyalty, for example.

A committee of FCPS staff, community members and veterans will review all nominations and choose the award recipient. The recipient will receive Board of Education recognition including an engraved plaque and gift sponsored by Woodsboro Bank. FCPS will also honor the winner in the school

system's Veterans Day celebrations and recognition ceremonies.

Last year's recipient was Juana Anderson, Substitute Teacher, at Thurmont Middle School.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 7. The application is online at www.fcps.org/awards. Only electronic applications will be accepted this year. Please submit all application materials in one electronic file to Service.Award@fcps.org.

Frederick High sophomore Charley Drayer is spending this year studying in Poland, courtesy of a full scholarship to take part in the Future Leaders Exchange FLEX Abroad program through the U.S. Department of State. She is one of only 15 students

nationwide selected to take part in the program, which covers the 2022-23 school year.

Drayer's scholarship covers the full cost of an academic year abroad and allows Charley to attend a high school in Poland. It also will help her develop the skills necessary to become a leader in whatever academic or employment opportunities she pursues. Through the FLEX Abroad program, Charley will serve as a youth ambassador in Poland and engage in volunteer service and leadership training to help her host community.

While the FLEX Abroad program was approved by Congress in 1992 to allow international students to study and live in the U.S., this is the first year that American high schoolers are permitted to do the same in select countries overseas.

Harney VFW's Patriot's Pen

All student voices are welcome as Harney Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Auxiliary of the Monocacy Valley Memorial Post 6918 kick off its annual youth engaging programs.

Harney's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has been participating in the annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen youth contests for 20 years, according to representative Frank Rauschenberg.

VFW officials are always excited to have participants involved from all over the area and the contests are open to students at all school types, including homeschooled, he said.

"It truly is important, and it gets a sense of patriotism from the student's perspective," Rauschenberg said.

Each contestant of this year's Voice of Democracy contest must record a three-to-five-minute audio recording with the theme of "Why is the Veteran Important?" This contest is open to grades nine thru 12th.

Each Patriot's Pen contestant must write a 300 to 400 word essay on the topic of "My Pledge to Our Veterans." Contestants must be in grades sixth, seventh or eighth grade.

Last year's youth contests for the two saw 30 participants from the eight posts across the regional Maryland District 7, Rauschenberg said.

At the local level, all first-place winners will receive a \$200 award, and second place will receive \$100. Winners will receive the chance to advance to the VFW District level. The Department level winners will then get the opportunity to advance to the National VFW level for a chance to claim a \$30,000 scholarship. Five years ago, Maryland's regional District 7 of the VFW had winners at the National level. "It was quite an honor for the VFW," he said.

The deadline for all entries is October 31. Additional information and program submission forms can be found by contacting Frank Rauschenberg at 240-367-6110 or Linda Eberhart at 410-596-7990.



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LIBRARY EVENTS

October at the local libraries

Blue Ridge Free Library

Monday - Story Time starts at 4:30 p.m., immediately followed by Legos and Wee Build Imagineering until 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday - Coffee club from 4 - 5:30 p.m.! Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Wednesday- VITT (very important teens and 'twens) night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 6 - 7:30 p.m.. just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday - Join us at 11 a.m., for Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club is also meeting at 5:30 p.m. on October 18. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year's gorgeous raffle quilt.

Carroll Valley Library

The Carroll Valley Branch of the Adams County Library System has a full and exciting October program. On Monday, October 3rd, at 2 p.m., a video documentary on Thaddeus Stevens will be available to view on Carroll Valley Library's Facebook page.

On October 3rd at 6:30 p.m., Barks and Books will be featured. This is a time when children read to Danny, the library's favorite therapy dog.

On October 6th at 6:30 p.m., Terrific Trees will be held. The evening will be filled with hands-on activities dealing with identifying and learning how to tell the age of a tree.

Have fun making a craft too! "Bunnies at the Library" 4-H program is scheduled for October 13th at 6:30 p.m. Hop down to the library and join Adams County 4-H Rabbit Club to learn about rabbits and 4-H! The 4-H members will be doing a rabbit demonstration where attendees will learn different breeds of rabbits and how to care for rabbits. This event is open to ages 8 - 15, and pre-registration is required by contacting the librarians. The book "Leave Only Footprints" by Conor Knighton will be discussed on October 19 at 2:00 p.m.

On October 20th at 6:30 p.m., Brion FitzGerald will share his experiences serving as a U.S. National Park Service ranger between 1978 and January 2017. Finally, go to the library on October 24th, play a few rounds of Halloween bingo, and create some crafts.

Frederick County Library

Fall ushers in cooler temperatures, turning leaves, and plenty to do at the library! Each Fall, FCPL participates in the One Maryland One Book program in conjunction with Maryland Humanities to connect readers across the state in a shared experience of reading the same book. Naomi Coster's, "What's Mine is Yours" is this year's book which follows a North Carolina community and two families through a sequence of events that spans two decades. Join FCPL and Naomi Coster on Monday, October 3rd, 7 p.m., at Frederick Community College Jack B. Kussmaul Theater for an author visit. Visit the library to pick up a copy of "What's Mine is Yours".

Promote your local business or organization by participating in Trunk or Treat at Thurmont Regional Library on Tuesday, October 25,

from 6 - 8 p.m. To reserve your spot and table, drop by or send payment of \$25 to Thurmont Regional Library. Spots are limited to 16, and are going fast! Last year we had over 350 participants for a fun, festive, and (not so) spooky time!

Programs at Emmitsburg Branch Library include:

Tuesday, October 4, 11, 18, 25: Family Storytime, 11 - 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 6, 20: Open Game Night with Wookie Walkers (teens), 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Monday, October 10: Libraries Closed.

Saturday, October 15: Basic Fermentation with Jack (teens/adults), 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.; Fall Pumpkin Flower Arranging with the Silver Garden Fancy Club (teens), 1 - 3 p.m.

Programs at Thurmont Regional Library include:

Monday, October 3: Language Learner Storytime (birth to 5), 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, October 4, 11, 18, 25: Baby Storytime, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, October 4: Pollinators, Flowers, and Nature!, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5, 12, 19, 26:

Toddler Storytime, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Thursday, October 6, 20, 27: Musical Storytime (birth to 5), 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Thursday, October 6: Esports Trick or Treating Tournament (teens), 3 - 4 p.m.

Monday, October 10: Libraries Closed.

Tuesday, October 11, 25: Fantastic Beasts: Exploring the History, 1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, October 13: Reading with Heiress - Live Animal Event, 11 - 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, October 13: Fairytale and STEAM, 1 - 1:30 p.m.; Slime Lab (teen), 6 - 7 p.m.

Friday, October 14: Nature & Storytime at Catoctin Mountain Park, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Monday, October 17, 24: Pre-school Storytime, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, October 18: Make a

Game: Castles & Catapults, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

Thursday, October 20: Frankentoy (teens), 3 - 4 p.m.

Friday, October 21: Farm Tales Storytime, 10:30 - 11am, AG Day events

Tuesday, October 25: Trunk or Treat, 6 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26: Ready to a Therapy Dog, Wags for Hope, 7 - 8 p.m.

Monday, October 31: Not - So - Spooky Halloween Storytime, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we challenged our writers to write a letter to someone, showing how good it is to write a letter and what an art it is that we are largely losing as a society.

Freshman

Thank you, Mom

Sarah Miller
MSMU Class of 2026

Dear Mom,
First off, I want to preface this letter with how much you mean to me. Although the yearning for teenage independence floods my thoughts sometimes, so does making you smile. I have pure, fond memories of cuddling on the couch together while watching the Berenstain Bears. When we were all snuggled up in our pajamas at 7:30 pm on the dot every night, and it was our last episode together because 'I have to go to bed soon. It's a school night.' I wish that we could watch the Berenstain Bears every night together. Maybe we could change our nightly show, the Berenstain Bears, because Law and Order is getting old, and I miss Momma Bear.
I always miss you, even if you think I don't. It was difficult starting here, not because of the usual college adjustments, but because of seeing Route 15 every day. It cuts through the campus so perfectly that anytime I walk to class, I see the highway, and that highway always leads me home; but I promised myself that I wouldn't go a lot yet. I need to stick it out. Although

I feel adjusted now, I would do anything to sleep in my own bed and get some nice shower pressure.

I am blessed with the best mom ever, which is so cheesy and overused—but I know I have the best one. You filled the mother and father role for me at pivotal points in my life, and I hope that I can raise my children exactly how you raised me—the New Jersey mom way. I hope I have your qualities, especially your resilience and caring heart. You gave us so much growing up, and tangible things aren't even the most important gift; it is having you as a constant person.

I did not realize how much of a homebody I was until I thought I wanted to go to college in Florida. I remember that time so clearly: we were sitting in a rental car in the parking lot of a pizza shop, and I cried in your arms because I knew how much I would miss you in the few months I had to leave. Although we lost five hundred dollars in college deposits, this is when I knew you accepted me and learned that although hard a decision, I would make the right one. Decisions can be remade, but times with my mom can't, and I am happy that I decided not to be a stranger. I have enjoyed coming home for the weekend I did, and seeing you. Decompressing felt nice. It is a feeling that I know I will forever cherish, because seeing you always makes me feel at

home—because you are my home.

When I was deconstructing my room the month before I left, I came across some memorabilia. First off, I found Lammy and Sharky, the iconic duo. When I was younger, I asked you, "Mom, is it okay if I sleep with stuffed animals for the rest of my life?" You responded, "Of course, baby, your older sister still does," which made me laugh. Honestly, I cannot see myself not sleeping with stuffed animals. I probably will be married and sleeping with them still. It is just so comfortable and warm. It makes growing up easier because I know I will still have that piece of childhood with me, although I fluctuate my stuffed animals along the way. Currently, I am sleeping at college with a pink weighted dinosaur, a bumblebee squishmallow, and, of course, the New York Giants pillow pet. I will never let him go, though, because the Giants need all of the help that they can get. I am praying for a winning season this year. Secondly, I found a copy of *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein in my room. This is our favorite book ever. I will have this book displayed in my classroom for all of my kids to read every year, because of its effect on me when you read it to me. It helped me grow up and realize that the world doesn't revolve around me. In reality, when you



are eight, something you have in common with every eight-year-old around you is that they are all selfish—but isn't that one of the joys of being a child? Only thinking about yourself for a few years, until reality and priorities sink in. Honestly, Mom, maybe I will even make it a part of my curriculum because, for high schoolers, it could be a good lesson too. I will absolutely think about that.

You are my giving tree. You always provide for me, even when it is particularly hard to give. Especially when you worked your old job after dad died. I know that we were in a harder space financially, but you got us through it. You always do. You were my rock and still are. That time was hard on all of us, but you helped me grow in that time and provided me with everything I needed and wanted; and for that, I am forever thankful. I know that dad is thankful

for you, too, because of how great you are raising your two daughters. Thank you, mom.

As I wrote this letter to you, Sara Smile by Hall and Oates started playing. You always say that you hear this song whenever you think of me, and now when I hear it, I always think about you, too.

I love you so much, Mom, and I hope York is treating you well. You really need to take time for yourself and stop working so hard. I worry about you sometimes. Maybe go to the beach for the weekend or come walk through the Grotto with me. You always tell me how beautiful it will be in the fall here. When the weather starts getting crisp, I expect to see you.

I love you, Mom, to the moon and back, Boo .

To read other articles by Sarah Miller, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

To my beloved

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2024

Dear Rosy, October begins to tread out her colors, and I cannot help to think of your own color, darling. Though I spend all my days with you, how often have I spoken to you free of tenebrous cares? How often have I made known to you my affection, which I once often made known to you in such words as these? It is true that daily life is its own affection when it is lived for another; yet I would be remiss if, besides my choices, my intellect did not make

known to you what I think of you.

I once would have cared little for October and her comforts. In fact, a life such as mine might as well have been a simulation, an unhappy unreality; as such does it now exist in my memory. Dark had been my dreams of late, and to wonder beyond ambition, beyond urgency and strain, was so far from my experience that I could not have imagined it if I had known to try. Your entering in did not set all things right, that is certain. You know well that I had begun to wander into the peaks and valleys of virtue, of holy desire, and of self reflection, before your appearance on stage. Otherwise, our languages would have been so far apart as to

not have been related. It seemed to me at the time of our encounter, that I was walking through a forest, a beautiful yet strange, fearful and awe-filled place. I had not another beside me in my odyssey, though I never ceased to surround myself with people. I trekked alone, and after some time spent looking ahead, I saw you, barely distinguishable from the beauty surrounding us, yet obvious upon first notice. As I began to ponder who you were, your beauty grew and grew, till I had no other recourse but to speak to you with words from my heart. I made a friend that day, a friend whose color abounds more deeply than any Autumn, more dearly than the happiest music, more renewed than the most perfect sunrise.

You might wonder if, considering how I felt that day, whether or not I feel the same now. In all honesty, it was a question I wondered about then too. My wondering, however, was rooted in the surest expectation; I simply did not have the capacity to imagine the future, or what you would mean to me in it. I would have predicted reality, that every moment with you would be a culmination of many wonderful moments with my best friend. I would not have known the feeling, for I was not able to know it, but in every additional experience I shared with you, I received one more little gift. My life has been built before my own eyes, and even now I see but a thread in a splendid tapestry of our Lord's making. You

and I are like two threads bound together in order to make a hue like something only God could imagine. I certainly cannot, for I cannot even see myself correctly. I am happy to see God and to see you, and to let the two of you see me. To answer your wonderings, I would say that, though that initial moment of romance and most pleasant surprise still persists in my heart, something far greater has dawned in my love for you.

To say one thing, I am proud that I have been steadfast for you. Every choice was surest assurance that I ought to do it again. However, I have not always been steadfast in my love for you, for every day I am reminded of my own selfishness. Yet even here, your color shines, a color of mercy, and love which calls me on to greater love. Ironically enough, you are the happier one between us. Though the whole world sees in you melancholy and in I sanguinity, you, practically alone in the whole world, are capable of simple joy. My happy moments are often marked by that which I love: God at times, though far more seldom than they ought to be; you and your hues; music, the sky; our family and friends. Yet, in the painting that is my heart, these beautiful things often must make way for silly splotches of ugly, random selfishness. You are happier than I because you care more about others than about yourself. Though sometimes you need a reminder of your own worth,

it is far more often that I need a reminder of the worth of others. This, it seems, is the growing mark of my love for you: I have begun to, and have grown, in my care for others. I know that, though you are happy with me as I am, you would be happier if I chose more compassionately, and less selfishly. I would be happier too.

It seems, after years of your happy company, I have appropriated so many of your blessed characteristics. I desire to be like you, darling. Yet, even here, though I have made so much progress, I must let myself notice the most obvious thing: your kindness points not at yourself, but at Christ. If I desire to be happy, if I desire to care for others, it is not enough to simply look at you, an icon of our Blessed Lord. Rather, I must look at Him, wholeheartedly.

I wish the whole world would realize these truths. All the loveliest things that we have encountered in the loveliest people can only come from the Origin of all Goodness. When I praise your virtue, I praise our Creator, but I must praise Him and Him alone as well. I am most thankful that you do not point at yourself, but rather at God. Otherwise, my whole life spent loving you, and every moment of beauty and joy would have been for naught.

Love, Your Joe

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE LOST ART OF WRITING A LETTER

Junior

My heart is telling me to write this letter

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Dear Iced Americano Drinker, I don't blame you for being here at Starbucks, too. It's Friday. A beautiful Friday, the kind where there's something in the air that just makes you breathe slowly and sink into yourself a little. The sky is entirely and wholeheartedly blue, and the sun is shining. It's September. The leaves are turning, just a bit, but summer still remains, if only for moments more. Life is good, isn't it?

I didn't go to my theology class today. It was cancelled, I promise (I'm not a skipping kind of student). So naturally, I woke up early and watched the sunrise with my best friend. We walked two miles, then made eggs for breakfast, and I had a slow morning full of laundry and essay writing and revising papers. But then I realized just how beautiful of a day it was, and how I couldn't spend the rest of my life wasting away, doing homework. That I needed to really live, you know? Hop into my car and

make spontaneous decisions. Follow my heart, wherever it takes me.

Well, my heart didn't take me far. The Gettysburg Starbucks is my favorite, of all the ones I've been to. And as I stood in line, waiting for my pumpkin cream cold brew, I began having existential thoughts. The annoying thoughts that bug you until you give in, and then you just can't do anything else for the day. Do you get the same thoughts? You must. You're a human, just like me, and you're also sitting alone, on your laptop, in a coffee shop on a Friday afternoon. On one of those days where it's beautiful and bright and the weekend stretches ahead like a long road where you can't really see the end. Did your heart tell you to come here, too?

That's the funny thing, though. How do we know what our hearts truly tell us? How do we know that we're not letting our lives waste away, with every decision we make? Part of me wishes that when I got into my car this morning, that I would've just kept driving. That Route 15 would never have ended, and maybe I'd end up in some random part of Pennsylvania, meet someone new, and experience something crazy. I think a small part of me always wishes this, whenever I go out. That life would do that amaz-

ing thing of just flipping upside-down for only a moment, enough to make me feel like I'm not wasting away.

Do you see what I mean by existential thoughts?

I know I'm not wasting away—but also, aren't we all? In a physical, we're-all-meant-to-die kind of way? It's a paradox. Like autumn. Although the fall leaves are artwork, painted like a thousand golden sunsets, what all this beauty really means is death. I could've driven all the way to Maine this morning, and still, this truth would be just as relevant.

I don't think I'm being as morbid as it might seem. I guess what I'm saying is that life has a funny way of making beautiful days, and we can do whatever we want with them. Whatever our hearts say.

You're drinking an iced Americano, large. Maybe you didn't get a lot of sleep last night, because Americanos are strong (seriously, that much espresso at 2pm?). But who am I to judge? I'm the kind of person who orders an iced latte decaf, just for the aesthetic. I'm also the kind of person who gets hungry so quickly that I simply need a bagel just to push me through the afternoon. I mean, we're all humans. We all have our own little reasons for everything, and I just

think it's wonderful.

Here comes a spontaneous thought: do you have any dreams? Everyone wants to travel the world, make something of themselves, or see something they've never seen before. Are you like everyone else? That's not a bad thing, I promise. I'm the same way. I'm only asking, because I want to know if we have more in common than just being here at the same place, at the same time. I want to know what you would do if you won the lottery, or more simply, what you want to do in life. You seem to be my age, a college student. Maybe you go to school around here. I don't, but I like pretending that I do sometimes. Anyways, maybe you're one of those students who has a fascinating major, like biochemistry or theatre. I don't know what I find so captivating about people and their goals for the future, but I'm so interested in how we all view life, collectively.

If you had the chance to go anywhere in the world, would you take it?

What if your heart begged you to take the chance?

Would you listen to it?

I don't know why I'm writing to you. I could've written a letter to my younger self, or my parents, or my best friend. I could've written to someone

I know dearly, pour all my thoughts and feelings onto a page (and then to the entire town of Emmitsburg). But I chose you—because you're sitting on your laptop just like me, you're drinking an iced Americano, and it's a Friday afternoon. The sky is bright and it's gorgeous outside, and you could be doing a million other things, just like me. But our hearts have this funny way of leading us to experiences we can't seem to forget. And maybe we're not wasting away. We're just following life, in whichever direction we like.

When I get back to my campus, I'm going to finish my English essay, and maybe bake some muffins with my roommate. We'll end the night watching reality TV, and tomorrow, we'll go somewhere new. Somewhere our hearts will lead us.

ABBA is playing on the Starbucks radio, and I wonder if you also feel inspired. After all, it's Friday. A beautiful Friday, at that. We're as human as humanly possible. Life is really, truly good, isn't it?

Sincerely,

A Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew Enthusiast

To read other articles by Claire Doll visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

A letter to my littlest siblings

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

Dear 3 littlest siblings of mine, how are you? How is home? I told you I would write you a one-thousand-word letter! Here it is for you to read together. My school is going well. I am taking 5 classes this semester, and am working on an Honors project that is practically a class all on its own. How many classes does that make? (It's 5 + 1, if the six-year-old wants to try to figure that out).

How is the weather at home? It is raining here as I write this. I am currently listening to Mozart on the violin and piano. What books have you been reading? I have had to read a lot of the Bible for one of my classes, so that makes me very happy.

I will fill you in on what I have been up to over the weekend, as today is Monday. This weekend, I got to see our older brother! He came to the Mount and we got to go out to dinner. We went to a sushi restaurant and I got chicken, noodles, and green tea. On Saturday, I went out all day with Women's Fellowship. We went to a beach in the mountains—it was connected to a lake, not an ocean—and we played cards there. Some girls also played volleyball. We had sandwiches for lunch, and then we hiked to these beautiful waterfalls. You had to climb up a lot of massive rocks to get to the waterfalls area, but it was worth it. It was great to get to spend time with other girls my age, and have a very relaxing Sunday the next day. I sadly came down with a cold the next day, but that ensured that I

took the day very slowly, and that I took a nap...

It is okay to take a few days to write a letter. Now as I write this part, it is Tuesday. Let me tell you how beautiful the weather is today! It is not raining like it was yesterday—quite the opposite. I sat outside all morning in the shade to read for class. I brought a medium hot coffee, my book, and a highlighter with me, and that was all I needed. Outside felt so nice: the air was cool, the breeze was soft, and the sky was a perfect blue. Some rainwater was left over on the benches around me, though, but that wasn't a bad thing. As I was reading, I witnessed a squirrel jump onto a bench and drink from the rain water. In little ways like this, it is evident that God is very good at always providing for all His creatures.

After class, I got lunch with my friend, Lyla. Guess what! She brought me a little gift. She bought me Dunkin' Donuts Pumpkin Spice Goldfish Grahams. They are delicious, and they make me excited for fall. It was a very sweet gift to receive from her. What gifts have you given to each other recently? It is a good habit to be in, to give gifts every now and then, even if there is no particular reason for it. Tuesdays can be a special occasion, too.

As I write this part of the letter, I am sitting in the library. I have a lot of homework to do today, so I will likely have to pause writing again and pick it back up tomorrow. That is one of the nice things about informal, thoughtful letters: no one has a due date for you, no expiration date, no "too late" sort of timeline. You can write a letter whenever, at whatever pace works for you, in whatever length you want (1,000 words is a little lon-

ger than most people would normally write)...

And here we are. It is Wednesday, and this will be the last time I write for this letter, because I think it's almost long enough and I'm sure I've asked enough questions for you that you don't want anything else to have to respond to.

But writing letters isn't a chore—it is a gift. We are blessed to have postal systems that allow for sending letters to one another, even if we're hundreds or even thousands of miles apart. And there is something very special about letters, wouldn't you say? They are better than text messages. With letters, you get something real, physical, something the other person had to hold with their own hands in order to send it to you. We can't hold text messages. And, you can't see a person's handwriting in text messages. In letter-writing, you get to see that person's unique handwriting style, almost like a piece of their personality expressed in written word. What kind of handwriting do you have? How does it differ from your sister's, or your brother's?

A person's handwriting gives away what sort of care the letter was written with, too. Does your handwriting look better when you write quickly, or when you write slowly? How much thought are you putting into each word you write? Hand-writing things requires a lot of intentionality and deliberation, because we get tired when we've written for a while. Thus, the words we pick are important, because we only have so much space to write in. What you say matters, even if it is just a letter telling the other person about your day.

Letter-writing doesn't seem as popular these days, have you ever

thought about that? People like to send text messages. Those are fine, but they are indicative of a culture of busyness, and even laziness. Letter-writing takes care and preparation. You have to pick out the paper, or card, and the envelope, and the stamp it will have. But, as a result, what a great gift letters make! So much thought and love goes into even just one postcard.

Letters are a special thing, and

that's why I look forward to receiving a letter from you in response to this one. I love your little drawings, the stickers you put on the page, and getting to read in your handwriting. I love hearing about your day, too. Alright, I will be home soon to give you all lots of hugs! I miss you! Love, Kenna.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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Turn Your Pink On!



Please Turn Your Pink On during the month of October at 6 p.m.

A generous anonymous donor has donated \$1,000 to purchase pink light bulbs for Gateway To The Cure. He would like to see the town lit up pink during the month of October. Please help create awareness by turning your outside light pink in the month of October. There is a limit of 2 per person and only while supplies last. (Once bulbs are gone, they will be available for sale at Cousins Ace Hardware and Hobbs Lumber & Hardware).

Pink Bulbs available at the following locations:

Beautiful You Salon & Spa	Shear Magic
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Covered Bridge

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Sunday, October 16

Eyler Road Park, Thurmont

Start time: 8:30 a.m. Check in: 7:30 a.m.

Register online at:

runsignup.com/Race/MD/Thurmont/GatewaytotheCure5K

Register by phone through October 13. You may call the town office at 301-271-7313 & press 0. You may charge the entry to a credit card or download the application to mail here.

Walk up registrations accepted the day of the event between 7:30 & 8:15 a.m.

Proceeds are donated to the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund. Thanks to your support, the town of Thurmont has donated over \$117,000 in the last eight years to the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund in Frederick County. For more information on the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund go to: www.pinkribbonfrederick.org.

FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Karl Bickel, Sheriff

"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

November 8th is fast approaching, and it will be time to cast a vote for those who will lead local government for the next four years. It is important for all of us to make thoughtful choices, taking into consideration leadership styles that will inspire and motivate those serving in local government to get things done because they want to.

In the 21st Century workplace, an autocratic leadership style of the past does not make a good fit. It does not motivate people to "get things done because they want to." Today's county employee, particularly millennials, feel suffocated under autocratic leadership, where power is concentrated in a few hands and decision making is made without input from others.

Autocrats are often ego driven and self-centered. They tend to surround themselves with yes men (women) to the detriment of the organization. This style of leadership is slowly fading away in the 21st Century making way for a more people centered approach.

Beware of the toxic leader. Symptoms of toxic leadership may include low morale, disgruntled employees, high rates of sick leave use, turf protection, high rates of turnover, and an us versus them climate that widens the gulf between leaders and the rank-and-file.

It can sometimes be difficult identifying the toxic leader. At times they can be a quiet seemingly timid leader who focuses on advancing their own personal goals at the expense of others and the organization. It is often rank-and-file personnel who will be the first to identify a toxic leader.

Toxic leaders poison the workplace environment, demoralize personnel, create disincentives, and produce

unnecessary stress. They stifle creativity, decrease risk taking, and promote themselves on the backs of the rank-and-file. They present an obstacle to organizational progress and efficiency.

The challenges of a rapidly growing community like ours, one growing economically and growing in diversity, will be better served by leaders who understand what it is to put others before themselves. A servant leader if you will. Leadership can no longer be predicated on what can be done to personnel, management through fear and intimidation, but must be based on what can be done for the employee.

The most valued asset in our local government is the county worker who day in and day out provide the services that make our community what it is today. Selecting political leaders who recognize that and who support, who actually serve, county personnel for the next four years will determine what the future of our county will look like.

Those who can get what needs

North County Council and County Executive Candidates Forum

On Monday, October 17, the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Lions Clubs are hosting a Candidates Forum for candidates running for Frederick County Council in District 5 and At-large, as well as candidates for County Executive. The County Council candidates include; District 5, Mason Carter (R) and Julianna Lufkin (D); At-large, Tony Chmelik (R), Phil Dacey (R), Renee Knapp (D), Brad Young (D). County Executive candidates are Jessica Fitzwater (D) and Michael Hough (R).

The Lions Club holds these candidate forums as a service to our community so that res-

idents of northern Frederick County can hear directly from candidates about issues that concern them and so that they may be better informed voters.

The forum will be held at the Thurmont Middle School Cafeteria, 408 E. Main Street, Thurmont. The entrance and parking are off Summit Avenue. It will begin at 7 p.m., Monday October 17, and end around 9:15 pm.

The first part of the evening will be a forum just for County Council candidates and the last part of the evening will be for County Executive Candidates.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend!

to be done because our rank-and-file county personnel want to do it

will be the worthiest of our vote on November 8th.

Christopher Manners, Register of Wills

My name is Chris Manners, and I am running for Register of Wills. It's crucial to have a Register of Wills that has a broad understanding of Estates & Trusts law. The legal landscape is more litigious every year. As the Chief Deputy of the Register of Wills since 2010, I can tell you that an operational understanding of the job is an absolute necessity. While often called "the easiest job in government,"

the office is like a statistics class: easy to get a C, but incredibly difficult to get an A. As the acting clerk for the Orphans' Court for a decade, I can tell you that the Court handles about five percent of Estate issues in Frederick County; the Register's office handles the other ninety-five percent. I left private practice for public service to assist in preserving an institution that I found invaluable. Part of what I

offer as Register is those years of institutional knowledge and experience in handling the most complex of probate issues.

I have been available and accessible for the legal and professional community to assist with administration of estates. The public has been largely unaware of the services rendered behind the scenes that make the probate process easy, however, we pride

ourselves on service and making sure that Frederick families get the support they deserve. The strong professional relationships that I have maintained with Registers Virginia Fifer and Sharon Keller have helped me develop a collaborative, supportive method of providing that aid. We have consistently delivered grade A results.

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that the Frederick County Register's office is known for requires experience. There is no substitute. Not only do I have more than a decade of actual experience, I also have the skills necessary to insure that Frederick County families receive the best care the law affords. Although far down the ballot, the position of Register is important enough to demand the best and most experienced. I believe that I am that candidate. I ask you for your vote and support. Thank you.

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LOCAL ARTS

Way Off Broadway announces 2023 season

Following a year that has seen a strong return of audiences to live performances, The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre is looking toward its 29th season of bringing live Broadway-style entertainment to the Frederick stage with the announcement of its 2023 Mainstage Season.

Way Off Broadway's 2023 Season will begin with the Lerner & Loewe classic, Camelot. The spring will welcome the hilarious musical Church Basement Ladies to the stage. Followed by How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying in the summer. The theatre will then present the area premiere of A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder. For the holidays, Jingle Jingle All the Way will take the stage.

Camelot will run from January 13 through February 25. The show features an idealistic young King Arthur hopes to create a kingdom built on honor and dignity, embodied by his Knights of The

Round Table. His Ideals, however, are tested when his lovely queen, Guinevere, falls in love with the young Knight, Lancelot, and the fate of the kingdom hangs in the balance. The legendary love triangle of King Arthur, Guinevere and Sir Lancelot leaps from the pages of T.H. White's novel in Lerner and Loewe's award-winning, soaring musical.

Church Basement Ladies will run from March 31 through May 20, and is based in 1965 rural Minnesota where the ladies of the local Lutheran church fortify their flock with love, wisdom, and the food they prepare in the church's basement kitchen. In Church Basement Ladies we meet the pastor, three cooks, and one daughter who run the kitchen and care for the congregation. This funny musical comedy sees the four women handle a Lutefisk Dinner, a funeral, an Easter Fundraiser, and, of course, a wedding.

How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying will run from June 23 through August 12. This classic comedy is about power, sex, ambition, greed... It's just another day at the office in this classic satire of big business. A clever lampoon of life in the corporate world, How to Succeed... follows the rise of J. Pierrepont Finch, who uses a little handbook to climb the corporate ladder from lowly window washer to high-powered executive, tackling such familiar but potent dangers as the aggressively compliant "company man," backstabbing coworkers, caffeine addiction and, of course, true love.

A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder will run from September 1 to October 21. A distant heir to the D'Ysquith family fortune sets out to speed up the line of succession by using a great deal of charm...and a dash of murder. A Gentleman's Guide to Love

and Murder is a murderous romp filled with unforgettable music and non-stop laughs as low-born Monty Navarro designs a plan to knock off his unsuspecting relatives without being caught and become the ninth Earl of Highhurst. And what of love? Because murder isn't the only thing on Monty's mind...

Every year Way Off Broadway brings a brand new Christmas production to the stage, making it the perfect place to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. The most joyous time of the year, the magic of the season makes anything possible. Always the most popular of the year, blending songs and music from Christmases past and present, the show is perfect for the entire family. This year will be no different with Jingle Jingle All The Way, which will run November 25 to December 23.

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre is a unique entertain-

ment destination in the region, combining both a delicious dinner with live theatrical entertainment. Under the direction of the Kiska family since 2002, it is now in its 28th Season of producing live theatre. Since it first opened in 1995, the theatre has been a leader in the area's theatre community, proudly bringing both classic musicals, as well as regional and area premieres to the Frederick stage.

Way Off Broadway has performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. For evening performances, guests arrive for dinner at 6 p.m. with the show beginning at 8 p.m. For matinees, guests arrive for lunch at 12:30 p.m. with the show beginning at 2:15 p.m. Regular priced tickets on a Friday evening or Sunday matinee are \$55 per person; on a Saturday, tickets are \$59 per person. Season Subscriptions are currently on sale.

To learn more about Way Off Broadway's 2023 Season, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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"Spirits of the Furnace"

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., Cunningham Falls State Park, and Harriet Chapel present "Spirits of the Furnace" on Saturday, October 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. "Spirits of the Furnace" is a guided night tour through the historic Catoctin Iron Furnace and Village, with stops in historic structures

and along the landscape. The scenes encountered during "Spirits of the Furnace" are based on actual events in the village. For example, an enslaved furnace worker who is getting food from company store in return for overwork scrip that he has earned. In another scene, a grave is being dug for a worker killed in an

industrial accident. In addition to volunteer actors from Cunningham Falls State Park and the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, professional actors portray enslaved workers and servants.

In 1774, Catoctin Furnace was built by four brothers in order to produce iron from the rich deposits of hematite found in the nearby mountains. The iron furnace at Catoctin played a pivotal role during the industrial revolution in the young United States. Cannonballs fired during the battle of Yorktown were made at the furnace. The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack. Throughout the nineteenth century, the furnace produced iron for household and industrial products. After more than 100 years of operation, the Catoctin Furnace ceased production in 1903.

Refreshments will be available at the Museum of the Ironworker. Bring a flashlight and wear shoes appropriate for walking on uneven terrain. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. All proceeds will benefit the preservation and interpretation of the historic village. Admission is limited to 75 (15 per group beginning every half hour) and must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets, visit www.catoctinfurnace.org, or call 240-288-7396.

The village of Catoctin Furnace maintains the layout and structures built from 1774 to 1820 with remarkably few modern intrusions. A visitor to Catoctin Furnace is introduced to the historical importance and heritage resources of the area, and experiences the look and feel of an early industrial complex. For the past 50 years, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. has worked to commemorate, study, preserve, protect, and interpret the historic village located 12 miles north of Frederick on Maryland Route 806 (Catoctin Furnace Road).

Fall has arrived!

We've made it through the heat of summer. Now it's time to wind down a bit and start the end-of-year decorating. And we can't forget the sales! Watch our website and Facebook page for the latest info on sales, including our plans for Black Friday!

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MOUNT ARTS

Night at the Delaplaine

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU Class of 2024

Another summer has come and gone, and with autumn comes a new schedule set for the 2022-2023 school year. More specifically, this means new opportunities for students to get involved in the fine arts!

The start of the school year began with the annual Night at the Delaplaine. Night at the A large Delaplaine is an event for the Fine Arts program that allows incoming and returning students to learn about music, art, and theater opportunities on campus. The night opened up with the band and chorale performing the Alma Mater of Mount St. Mary's University, following the Wind Ensemble's performance of Bon Williams's "Flourish." Dr. Mark Carlson commented that this was the song the ensemble had prepared for during the first three weeks of the school year. He's hoping for a wide variety in his repertoire during the semester and school year.

Chorale came back into the spotlight to sing their piece by Florence Price entitled "Resignation." The importance of Price, as Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld explained, is that she was the first African-American woman to have a symphony performed by the major US orchestra located in Chicago. "Resignation" was a beautiful piece. Rosenfeld also commented that this was the chorale's first live performance of the year, mentioning that they were just dipping their toes into music in the ensemble. He noted that this is just the beginning for the ensembles.

To complete the trinity in fine arts, theater takes the stage. Dr. Kurt Blaugher asked the audience for twelve participants, each agreeing to participate in four games for the night. The first game was a mirroring game. Participants gathered into partners, with one being A and other being B. Person A was designated as the leader, and Person B was the follower. The leader used their entire body for this exercise, moving and directing the motion. Person B followed each of the motions of the

leader, essentially reflecting what they view in front of them, like a mirror.

The next game was similar: Person A sticks their hand out in front of Person B, about five to six inches away from their partner's face. Person B is, in essence, "attached by a string," following Person's A hand with the tip of their nose in the center of their palm. One member of the small selection of students was asked to attempt this game with not one partner, not two, but four partners, each one being attached to one of his limbs; a balancing act indeed. He commented that the game was much simpler with only one partner, stating that focusing on all four people made it much more difficult.

The next game required the group to stand in a circle, with one participant in the center of the group. That person, who is similar to that of a "detective," is asked to close their eyes before the beginning of the game, allowing Blaugher to pick a person standing along the outside of the circle as the "leader." The game begins when the detective opens their eyes. The rest of the participants has to follow the movements of the leader, trying to copy the movements as quick as possible to not get their leader caught. The rest of the participants knows who the leader is, and with eye movement or head turning, it makes the game a lot shorter and easier to pick out the leaders of the game. In fact, all of the correct guesses were made on each detective's first guess.

The last game is what is known as a "vampire" game. Blaugher asked several members in the audience to stand around the original twelve participants, because this game asks all who are playing to keep their eyes closed. Blaugher tapped one of the participants on the back of the neck, indicating that they are the starting vampire. The goal of the game for the rest of the participants—called civilians—is to avoid being bitten by a vampire. The vampire's job is to attack the citizens, "biting" them on the neck, and turning them into a vampire. The catch of this game is that no one knows who the vampire is, nor does the vampire know who they are turning into vampires.

Although this game seems like less of a theatrical game, it requires those who are "bitten" to scream out in pain, signaling the rest of the players that there is another vampire amongst them. However, if a vampire "bites" another vampire, the player who was "bitten" is required to sigh heavily, indicating that they are released from the duty of a vampire. It is more terrifying of a game for those who are citizens. The restriction of sight requires those participants to be cautious when roaming, while the vampires have a difficult time turning the civilians. Blaugher offered another version of the game, where the entire group, except for one participant, are vampires, and they have to work together to get the remaining civilian.

Concluding the night completely was another small ensemble group known as the Lab Band. The Lab Band is a group of five students who came together to form a rock-and-roll band. A fan-favorite for the crowd, the band performed two songs: "Monster" by Skillet and "Shot in the Arm" performed by Wilco. Other small ensemble groups that did not perform at the Night at the Delaplaine include strings, flute, and percussion.

The purpose of Night at the Delaplaine was not only for returning students to see each other after the long summer break, but also to attract and recruit transfer and new students. Both Wind Ensemble and Chorale will have two major performances this semester; they will also have numerous performances throughout the semester.

The excitement for the semester was evident when interviewing both Dr. Carlson and Dr. Rosenfeld. Both commented that the fine arts offer a series of opportunities for freshmen and returning students; they encouraged everyone to pursue all that one is interested in, on and off the stage. Rosenfeld believes that you don't want to miss the opportunity to get involved on campus, recalling previous seniors coming



The Delaplaine building located at Mount St. Mary's University. This is the hub for all of the fine arts here on campus.

to him and expressing their regrets of not joining chorale in freshman year.

The most exciting part for everyone involved in the program is seeing the incoming talent from the freshmen class. Dr. Carlson and Dr. Rosenfeld expressed their excitement and delight that the incoming class is just as excited. Carlson in particular noted that "working with incoming students is always exciting because you both don't know what you're expecting." Both directors ask freshmen and new students to jump on the opportunity and to not wait. They believe that time is the most valuable asset in college, and if you have any questions, come and ask the department.

Upcoming events for the month of October include: Junior Music Recital,

performance by Kennedy, at Morning Theater at Delaplaine on Monday the 3rd at 7:30 p.m.; Artist Nick Hutchings at the Williams Art Gallery in Delaplaine, with the reception on Thursday the 20th from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Russia - Revisited Concert, performed by Bartoldus and the Wind Ensemble in Knott Auditorium on Friday the 21st at 7:30 p.m.; and finally, the Halloween Lab Band Concert in Knott Auditorium on Friday the 28th at 7:30 p.m.. More events for the months of November and December will be coming soon. The Mount Fine Arts program hopes to see you there!

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Keeping up with fall sports

Gina Lin
CHS Class of 2024

The seasons are in transition from summer to autumn. It is unbelievable that we are already in October! Cooler weather signals sweaters, pumpkin spice everything, and extremely early Christmas decoration. Additionally, fall sports are also in full swing. The Cougars have worked, trained, and played hard, across all sports. Their stellar efforts are reflected during the competition, especially on the varsity volleyball and cross-country teams.

The Catoctin field hockey team has started off the season strong. Their first game was against Brunswick High School. In the first half, Catoctin led 4-0. The Cougars overwhelmed the Railroaders, securing 13-1, at the end. Junior Grace Williams managed five goals, along with senior Jazmyne Howard scoring three goals. Seniors Morgan Rideneour, Cait Werlang, and Maddie Grecco each contributed a goal. Additionally, junior Reagan Miller contributed an assist. Annalise Abruzzese also contributed an assist. The goalie, junior Natalie Hoyt, pulled off six saves. On September 13th, the Cougars faced St.

James and won 2-1. Rideneour scored a goal with Williams contributing an assist. Howard scored a goal aided by Miller. Hoyt made four saves.

Walkersville High played an away game against Catoctin on September 15th. The two teams were playing neck to neck the entire time. During the second quarter, they were tied 1-1. After an intense game, the Cougars lost against the Lions, 1-4, breaking their winning streak.

Cougars varsity girls' volleyball has maintained a winning streak so far this season. The girls' first game was set on September 6th, against Frederick High. Cougars beat the Cadets with a score of 3-0. The following contributed aces: senior Abby Moreland with six, senior Anna Belluomo with four, and junior Aria Calhoun with four. Belluomo made 13 kills, along with Abbey Bowley contributing six kills. Additionally, senior Abby May produced four kills and Moreland with three kills. On to digs, Calhoun and Moreland manifested seven digs each, May with three, and one dig from Belluomo. Senior Michaela Windisch aided with 18 assists, and senior Maddie Binnix had 12 assists. The volley-

ball team was just able to pull off a win against Gov. Thomas Johnson High on September 14th. Fans cheered from the sidelines, clothed in the snazzy "business attire" theme.

The Cougars won the first two rounds, and last round, while the Patriots took the third round, with 25-23. Catoctin scored 25-22 in the first round, 27-25 in the second, and 25-20 in the final round. In the back row, Abby Moreland contributed 22 digs and five kills and libero Aria Calhoun contributed 14 digs and four aces. Abby May had 15 digs and nine kills. Anna Belluomo contributed 14 kills, and senior Abbey Bowley contributed five kills and three blocks. Kailee Akee presented three blocks, and Calhoun was able to pull off three aces. A total of 35 assists were made by Michaela Windisch and Maddie Binnix. Windisch also contributed four aces. Catoctin secured the final round and was able to prevail victorious. After a hard-played and close game, the Cougars prevailed with a score of 3-1.

Catoctin volleyball competed against Middletown High School on September 15th. The Cougars easily defeated the Knights 3-0. At the conclusion of the second round, the score was 27-14; Cougars had 14 more points than Middletown! Belluomo and Bowley each contributed eight kills. Additionally, Moreland had six kills, followed by May with five, and senior Lily Bingman, with 3. Windisch aided in 16 assists and Binnix with 14. Belluomo carried out nine digs. Windisch made eight digs along with May. Digs from Binnix, Calhoun, and Moreland, totaled 16. Onto aces, Calhoun and Windisch each accomplished three; and Belluomo with two.

The Catoctin boys' soccer team competed on September 3rd against Clear Spring High in their first game. During the game, junior Matt



Catoctin's Abby May braces for a serve during a game against Governor Thomas Johnson High School.

Offutt scored three goals, assisted by Eric Lopez and junior Franklyn Peña Martinez. A highlight of the game included Peña Martinez scoring a goal from outside the 18. "It was pretty incredible," fellow team member, senior Thomas Bower, recalled: "he didn't even try, and he made it in!" Catoctin lost in the shoot-out, though. The Cougars lost 1-3. On September 6, the boys' soccer team played Liberty High at home and lost 0-13.

Cross country continued their successes from the earlier season. The boys' cross country team blew away competition at the Interstate Classic meet, which was held at Clear Spring High. All seven of our runners, on the boys team, claimed the top 10. Senior Alex Conteras blew away the competition in the three miles small school run, seizing first place with a time of 16:58.3 minutes. He was 39 seconds faster than the runner up. Junior Santi Canadas Fraga came up in third place, with a time of 17:47.5. Fourth place was claimed by junior Gabe Riling with a time of 18:15.5. Sophomore Daniel Hoyle took sixth place with 19:00.04. Senior Nikolas Contreras came in seventh place with 19:12.6. Eighth place, with a time of 19:24.2, was occupied by senior Dennis Lease. Finally, senior Chris San-

chez placed 10th with a time of 19:48.2. The boys placed first in the Interstate Classic, with a score of 15. On the girls cross country team, junior Kiera Taylor, placed ninth overall in the Interstate Classic small school race, with a time of 23:16.8. Sophomore Kylie Foster came in 16th with a time of 26:19.4.

The Run in the Valley meet took place on September 13th, at Middletown High. Contreras, once again, placed first, in the 5000-meter race, with a time of 17:27.15. Canadas Fraga followed in third place and ran 18:24.78. Seventh place, with a time of 18:59.45, was given to Riling. The Cougars scored a 50 and placed second overall. The girls placed sixth overall at the meet. Taylor represented Catoctin in 16th place, with a time of 24:48.93.

Catoctin football took on Boonsboro High School on September 2nd. The Warriors won with 28-3. The Cougars made some improvements as they faced Mountain Ridge High on September 8th. The final score, from the game, was 14-41, with the Cougars losing. Catoctin's homecoming football game will be held on September 30th at 6:30pm. The Cougars will be ushered in by the homecoming parade. This year's homecoming parade is set to take place on September 28th from 6:30 to 7:30. The route is expected to begin at the Thurmont Food Bank, venture through downtown Thurmont, and conclude at Catoctin High School. During the half-time of the homecoming football game, the 2022 homecoming senior courts will be present, and the king and queen will be announced. Catoctin will be playing Frederick High, who holds the Maryland 3A Champion title. The theme for the game is school colors. Be sure to come out and show your support!

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Women's soccer makes a comeback to start MAAC play

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

On Saturday, September 17, 2022, the Mount women's soccer team opened their inaugural MAAC season with a 2-2 tie over Marist College in Emmitsburg. The team went behind 2-0 within the first twenty minutes of the first half, but after substitutions and formation changes, fought back to tie the game 2-2. It's the start of a brand-new year in a brand-new conference, and it was important to establish a fighting mentality in the team. But the tie against Marist is not the first game of the season for the team; for that we must go back to August to get a good idea of what the team is all about.

The team opened their season against Western Carolina University at Waldron family Stadium on August 18th with a 1-1 tie against the Catamounts. In the first-ever meeting between the two schools, there were two first half goals, the Mount's being score by first year student, Nicole Wilson. After the first half, the Mount's defense clearly leveled up their game, not allowing a goal after the 23rd minute; goalkeeper, Arden Lem-bryk, junior, made eight saves and helped sure up the Mount defensively between the posts.

A canceled game against Bucknell, a 1-1 tie against Robert Morris and a 2-0 loss to Towson defined a hard away trip for the Mountaineers. The loss against Towson is especially frustrating as it accounts for their one and only loss of the year so far. That loss against Towson signaled the end of rough away

trip and a return to Waldron family Stadium to open a two game homestand against Radford University and Hampton University. The game against Radford ended in a 1-1 tie for the Mountaineers as graduate student Maevyn Jones scored the only goal that night. Sophomore Drew Camp was in goal this time and made four saves off nine shots on target faced.

The Mount faced the Hampton Pirates on the afternoon of September 10th in Emmitsburg and the game did not disappoint. The Mountaineers notched their first win of the season with three first half goals by Kalli Bell, Madison Bee and Luisangely Navas, respectively, to give a dominant 3-0 win to the team and fans in attendance at Waldron Family Stadium on Mental Health Awareness Day. The Mount out shot Hampton twelve to five with all three of the Mount's shots on target counting for goals in the end. Camp, who was in goal again, only faced two shots, saving both in the process to pick up her first clean sheet and more importantly, the team's first clean sheet of the season.

The Mount travelled to Ashville, North Carolina to play their final out of conference game before the start of the MAAC season against UNC Ashville and tied 0-0. Drew Camp started in goal again and recorded her second clean sheet in a row, saving all three shots on target by the Bulldogs, guaranteeing that the Mount would be in good hands going into their opening game against Marist College.

This year, with the Mount being the newest team in the Metro

Atlantic Athletic Conference, naturally brings challenges to how they will both play their game and manage their team. The MAAC is a much tougher conference than the NEC ever was and has the added challenge of having more games in a season since there are more teams in the conference. The travel is also a tough factor, as most of the away games will be played in the greater New York area, besides the away game against Quinnipiac University, which will be played in Hamden, Connecticut. But the Mount should be in good hands with regards to knowing what the MAAC will bring, as head coach Melissa Sherwood spent four years as head coach at another one of the conferences schools, St. Peter's University, which the Mount plays on October 5th.

As the players of both teams entered Waldron family stadium on September 17th, the Mountaineers knew they needed to make a statement in their new conference, and they did. Marist scored quick in the second minute, with a shot beating Camp in goal to set an early precedent. An own goal in the seventh minute by the Mount's defense, they quickly found themselves down 2-0 within twenty minutes. Soon after the second goal, Sherwood decided to change things up forward and bring on several new players, including sophomore Luisangely Navas, a substitution that would prove pivotal later.

Before the end of the first half, junior Kayley Kocent scored off the build up after a corner. Through traffic she was able to beat the goal-



Women's soccer team impresses on MAAC opening day.

keeper to the ball and head it past to pull the Mount within one. At halftime, Sherwood had to change things up yet again, and try to inspire the players on the field. "We had to go a little bit more man for man, which helps people have a direct opponent to be a little bit more physical and a bit more aggressive," Sherwood added, "At this level, its not about playing football to win games, its about putting the ball in the right areas and doing the nitty gritty."

The Mountaineers started quick at the start of the second half, with Navas sliding the ball past the keeper at the far post to level the game. Sherwood's changes and halftime team talk seemed to spark the Mount's attack as they looked like a brand-new team at the start of the half. The game ended in a tie, 2-2, but that wasn't the only thing to talk about at the end: a Marist player and a Mount player, junior Alexa Dragisics, were both given a yellow card in the seventieth minute, after a run in and a push on the ground alerted the referee to a potential situation. After yellow

cards were given out, it was noted in the press box that the animosity between the two teams might result in an ensuing red card if it kept up; it did not. After the game, graduate student and team captain Cheyenna Cook noted that "people get riled up, the bench and the crowd, we have to stay levelheaded and take the emotion out of it, say that happened, regroup and be ready for the next play."

With this resounding comeback today from the Mount, the future in the MAAC is bright for the women's soccer team. The composure that they showed, and the managerial decisions made by Sherwood and her staff were smart for the situation that the team was in. "We have to fight back, we have to show big heart and as I just said to the players there if we can't win it, make sure we don't loose it and we were able to claw ourselves back," Sherwood added after the game.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.







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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Be a good ancestor... now

Jefferson Breland

Part Two

This is the fourth installment on the influence of "context" on our health. What is the "context" of our health? It is nothing less than all of our relationships with everything in the world.

The title of this article comes from the idea that everything we do now should honor the ancestors and serve the future generations.

Let's suppose, totally hypothetical, for a moment, for the first time ever in your life, someone in your family has a beef with you or you have a beef with them.

What is the nature of the upset or complaint? It could be anything. Different opinions? Sports? Politics? Space aliens? Philosophy? Religion? They don't seem to listen? They say hurtful things? They don't believe you? They don't thank you? They should know better? You should have known better?

As you can see, there are myriad reasons why we get upset with each other (as if I am telling you something you don't already know).

Who said what to whom? Who did what to whom? Who said what to someone else and they said something to someone else and next thing you know sides are taken, it's us against them, and only 30 seconds have passed or 30 years.

Of course, you are right. Of course, they are to blame. Of course, they have no right to do or say what they did or said. How could you have said what you said?

Are you right? Are they wrong? Don't they have a right to express themselves? Don't you have a right to speak your mind?

When we are in the presence of our own or someone else's upset, it may be very difficult to not react; to speak without thinking; to add fuel to the emotional bonfire in you or in front of you. Sometimes, the upset is caused by a repeated lack of mindfulness and we or someone else reaches the "breaking" point and erupts with strong emotions.

When people do or say something hurtful, it is most often a reflection of their level of suffering. They may be experiencing an intense emotion and it is dominating their life in that moment. They may be completely unaware of how you are affected by what they are doing or saying.

It is interesting to note in these moments when we might think to ourselves "how can they do, think, or say that," the other person is doing the best they know how in that moment. Yes, that is their best. Hard to believe and yet, if they knew a better, more loving way to do life, they probably would do or say things differently. It is in these moments when we forget the potential gifts of our relationships. In these moments, we forget all the good that many have come before.

So, what does this have to do with our health?

Well, as I have said before and will say again, according to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), 90% - 95% of ALL illness is caused by unbalanced emotions and are referred to as the Internal Causes of Disease. This has been a foundational theory of TCM for over 2,000 years.

Emotions have an immediate effect on our bodies via neurotransmitters. These neurotransmitters effect different parts of our body in different ways. Over time, the accumulation of their effects influence our biology and our genetic expression.

Emotions are meant to flow. According to TCM, emotions are a form of energy we call Qi (pronounced "chee"). There are things we can do to promote the smooth flow of Qi and allow our body to return to a more balanced state of being.

Okay, what does this have to do with the jerk who pisses me off?

There is no pat answer. The goal is to not make things worse. The bigger goal is to have emotional freedom. It's not to say we shouldn't have emotions. We are human, after all.

The answer lies in what you can do to help make things better between you two.

Please note I said "make things better,"

not fix it or correct the other person or take the blame.

(And there is something to be said about taking responsibility for one's actions- that may be next month's column)

Speaking about this topic in an abstract way is rarely helpful, so I am going to use a specific example to illustrate potential actions we might take.

My friend Dave has a brother named George. Dave is about 60 years old. George is about 70. In their regular conversations George will talk about his own life ad infinitum. He will speak of details about diet, weight-loss, his new E-bike, his relationship to aging, among other things. He may talk for 58 minutes out of an hour-long conversation.

Occasionally (not in every conversation) George will ask Dave, "How are you doing?"

Dave will say a few things. He will talk about work, his wife, his pets, his friends, and anything that might be going on physically.

Almost invariably, George will pivot off of Dave's speaking to talk about a specific work project (he's retired), his two ex-wives or an old girlfriend, the number of dogs he had, or a similar injury he had in college.

George listens enough to know what Dave has said, the he turns the conversation around to him. George doesn't ask for more details or clarification or even offer empathy for any of Dave's health concerns. George has even interrupted and changed the subject when Dave was speaking of something heartfelt.

You may know somebody like George. By the way, their relationship has been like this for decades.

Dave has choices (see Complementary Corner May/April).

Dave has been very angry and upset about his brother's behavior for years. Dave can continue to become angry when he talks to his brother. The challenge here is the emotion anger stirs up a particularly nasty cocktail of neurotransmitters which has a particularly nasty effect on the body. An old adage says getting angry at someone is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die. Hmmm?

Dave can stop talking to his brother completely. Concerns, here, are both of their parents have died; they are the last two in a relatively small family continuum, and his brother has almost no friends to talk to. Hmmm?

Dave can ask George to be more respectful and listen more thought-



Like most hound type dogs, Tuna can hold up his end of a conversation. He was found in Middletown and no owner has come to the shelter looking for him. Tuna loves being close to people, so much so that he will climb into your lap if you allow him. At nine years old he enjoys relaxing but is more than willing to go on a leisurely stroll if you are looking for a walking partner.

For more information about Tuna 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.

fully. Dave has asked. George has agreed and to date has not changed his behavior. Hmmm?

Talk about being between a rock and a hard place.

So how can Dave be more peaceful with George? How can Dave find emotional freedom and not be controlled by the history of their relationship?

One way I have recommended to Dave to release or move his emotions is by getting a classic, skinny, yellow wiffle ball bat and beating on a pillow (that no one will put their head on) for about 15-30 seconds. The whacking of the pillow helps move emotions through the body according to TCM. You don't have to be angry to do this one by the way. It could be a daily practice. Dave has found this to be very helpful.

Dave can choose to see the bigger picture. He can choose compassion. He knows George is lonely.

Dave also knows their relationship is not all bad. There is genuine love between him and his brother. He wants his brother to be a part of his life.

Dave can also design his relationship with George. He doesn't have to answer every phone call or text right away.

Dave can choose to see George as his teacher for love and compassion. Our teachers don't always show up as we

want them to. Also, our greatest learning comes from our greatest challenges.

Dave can also accept his brother exactly as he is. George is simply being the George. He's doing his best at being George.

Are there challenges? Yes. Does there have to be suffering? No. My friend's suffering comes from expecting his brother to be different than he is. My friend's suffering also comes from wanting his brother's respect and listening.

Dave can let go of his expectations. By letting go of his desire to have a different brother, he can more readily see the gifts and love of the brother he already has.

Letting go of what no longer serves creates the opportunity for what we truly need to enter our lives.

Look around you. The trees are doing it. Letting go. Raking is optional.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with a office in Gettysburg. If you would like to know more about how Jefferson helps people please call him at 410-336-5876 or visit his website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org.

To read past Complementary Corner articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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Frederick Health's new lung biopsy equipment

Josh Faust
Frederick Health

Frederick Health, the largest health-care provider in Frederick County, is pleased to announce that it is offering the Ion Lung Biopsy procedures to patients in need. This minimally invasive biopsy tool can detect even the smallest traces of lung cancer in patients. Frederick Health is the first community healthcare system in the state of Maryland to utilize this tool, which improves patient outcomes and treatment results.

Statistics show that the overall numbers of lung cancer deaths in America have seen a significant decline in recent decades. Experts say that this is due to lower smoking rates among the population and other factors such as concerted efforts by awareness groups and the government that have aimed to help cut the rate of smoking and overall tobacco usage. Lung cancer, however, is caused not only by tobacco usage, but also by pollution, hereditary conditions, and environmental factors like radon gas or your occupation. As a result, lung cancer is still the third most diagnosed form of cancer and, unfortunately, the most common cause of cancer deaths in the United States with an estimated 130,000 deaths expected in 2022. That number constitutes around 35% of all cancer-related deaths. While most individuals that are diagnosed with lung cancer are in their 60's, individuals as young as 20 and 30 have been diagnosed as well.

Lung cancer typically does not cause signs and symptoms in its earliest stages; signs and symptoms of lung cancer typically occur when the disease is advanced. Some of the earliest symptoms of lung cancer include a cough that does not go away, coughing up blood, even a small amount, shortness of breath, chest pain, losing weight without trying or headache. While some of these symptoms seem innocuous, it's important to get talk to your Primary Care provider about your concerns. From there, your Primary Care provider can recommend several options or future tests.

The easiest way to prevent serious lung cancer from developing and spreading is to schedule routine screenings and checkups. By understanding the risks of lung cancer, patients can take an active role in their health. In the situations where those routine screening show that something is amiss, a biopsy is often the best way to determine an appropriate treatment plan.

But what is a biopsy?

A biopsy is a surgical procedure where a small sample of the impacted tissue or nodule is removed for testing and diagnosis. Historically, a biopsy could be painful. While the good news is that there have been significant improvements in the field of biopsy procedures, Frederick Health's new Ion technology is the most accurate and scientifically advanced equipment available for performing a lung biopsy.

Dr. Maurice Smith, Medical Director of Chest Surgery with Frederick Health, was very excited to bring the Ion lung biopsy technology to residents of the area.

"Frederick Health is leading the

way," said Dr. Smith. "We are the first community health organization in the state of Maryland to offer this service and this Ion equipment gives us the ability to biopsy smaller nodules. It also allows us to provide an earlier diagnosis and peace of mind."

Any medical issue can be frightening, and cancer is no different. By helping to offer timely information on biopsy results, as well as empowering the patient by providing the most up-to-date technology and resources, Frederick Health is working to positively impact the well-being of every individual in the community. Medical experts agree that the patient experience is often the most important factor in determining how an individual accesses their healthcare. Ensuring that they feel heard and that their care is unique is often a primary factor in an individual's decision to pursue one healthcare provider over another. By making the biopsy procedure a more comfortable patient experience, Dr. Smith hopes to boost earlier detection and treatment rates in the community.

"This technology really puts the patient experience first, without incisions or needles," adding Dr. Smith. "As with most cancers, detecting lung cancer early is the key to an increased survival rate."

Studies have shown that a pos-

itive and successful cancer treatment often depends on how early in the process the cancer is detected. If the cancer is "caught" early enough, a vigorous, proactive, and unique treatment plan can be developed to help improve the overall patient outcomes. By encouraging residents to get their screenings, as well as ensuring that they have the follow up care that they deserve, Dr. Smith hopes to spread an important message.

"The simple truth of the matter is

that early detections save lives," said Dr. Smith.

Part of Frederick Health's cancer treatment plan is being there for the patient at every step of the journey. The healthcare system employees a large and diverse team of expert providers that can help shepherd a patient through something as daunting as cancer. From detection, through treatment, and ultimately being cancer free, Frederick Health is there to support patients and their families.

"Cancer is a family diagnosis. What I mean by that is it impacts not only the patient, but those closest to them, those that they hold dear. Frederick Health understands this and is here for you and your family during every part of your treatment."

To schedule an appointment with the Frederick Health PMDC, individuals can call 240-566-7632. For more information, please visit www.frederickhealth.org/pmdc.

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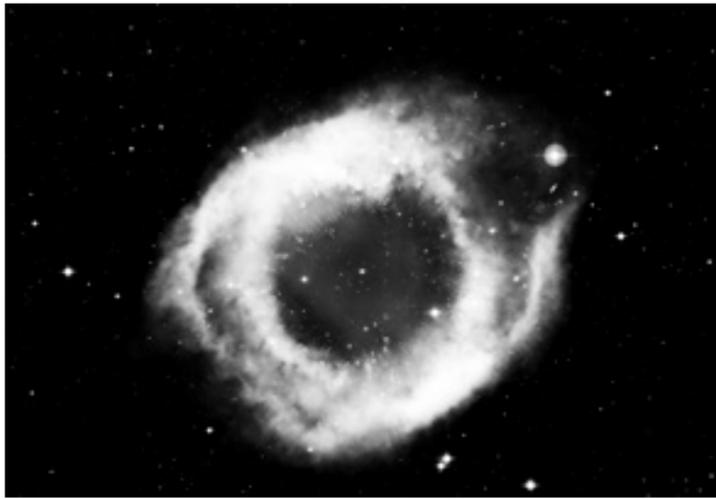
The night sky of October

Professor Wayne Wooten

For October, the first quarter moon is in Sagittarius on October 2nd, and waxing gibbous moon below Saturn on October 5th. Almost full, it passes below Jupiter in SE on October 8th, and the Full "Hunter's" Moon is October 9th. The waning gibbous moon passes above Mars in the dawn on October 15th, and is last quarter on October 17th. The old moon is above Mercury in the dawn on October 23, and very close to Mercury (use binocs about 30 minutes before sunrise) on October 24. The first quarter moon will make a telescopic treat for Halloween on October 31st, with Saturn and Jupiter also out to share with the kids in the neighborhood. Set up your telescope!

Mercury is low in the dawn sky in October. Venus lies behind the Sun all month. Mars is in Taurus the bull, rising about midnight, and will get much brighter and come to opposition early this December, the best time to observe it in the next two years. Jupiter reached opposition last month, and is well placed for viewing in the east and the brightest object in the night sky now. Saturn is in the tail of Capricornus, and well up at sunset in the SE.

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



The Helix Nebula (NGC 7293) is a bright, large planetary nebula located 650 light years from Earth in the constellation Aquarius. It is one of the closest planetary nebulae to Earth, as well as one of the brightest. Its striking appearance has earned it the nickname the Eye of God Nebula.

of northern hemisphere skies, about September 30th visit the www.sky-maps.com website and download the map for October; 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. Also available as the next month begins is wonderful video exploring the October sky, available from the Hubble Space Telescope website at: http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/.

The Big Dipper falls lower each evening. By the end of October, it will be only the three stars in the handle of Dipper still visible in the northwestern twilight. By contrast, the Little Dipper, while much fainter, is always above our northern horizon here along the Gulf Coast.

To the southwest, Antares and Scorpius also set soon after twi-

light, and will be gone by month's end. East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Saturn lies above of the pour spout now. 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.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky overhead. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. To the east of Altair lies tiny Delphinus, a rare case of a constellation that does look like its namesake.

To the south, Saturn is in the head of Capricornus, and Jupiter

above its tail. Aquarius and Pisces are among the faintest of the zodiacal constellations, and need dark skies to pick out. Fomalhaut is the only first magnitude star of the SE fall sky, and stands alone above the SE horizon now.

To the east, the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

Below the head of Pegasus is Aquarius, the Water Carrier. Below his western foot is the only bright star of the southern fall sky, Fomalhaut. It means the "mouth of the fish", and carries on the watery grouping of Pisces the Fish (home to Jupiter now), Capricornus the sea goat (with Saturn in its tail), Cetus the Whale in the SE, and Grus the Crane due south now. It is just north of Fomalhaut we find our beautiful "Eye of God", the Helical Nebula, NGS 7293, which

is very dim in big binoculars, but half as big as the full moon. This shot is with a 9.25" scope by EAAA member Dan Beggs, and reveals the white dwarf star at the center of this cosmic tombstone. Our own sun will probably pass through this stellar striptease about 5 billion years from now, after it swells up into a red giant and devours the inner planets.

Below Andromeda is her hero, Perseus. In his hand is a star most appropriate for Halloween, Algol. This star "winks" at us for six out of every 70 hours, which Arabic astronomers centuries ago found spooky, hence naming it "the ghoul". We know today it is an eclipsing binary system, with the larger, cooler orange star covering 80% of its smaller, hotter neighbor during the "wink". At the foot of Perseus, the hero of "Clash of the Titans" is the fine Pleiades star cluster, the "seven sisters" that reveal hundreds of cluster members in large binoculars. This might be the best object in the sky for binocular users.

Winter will be coming soon, and in the NE we see yellow Capella rising. It is the brightest star of Auriga the Charioteer, and pair of giant stars the same temperature as our sun, but at least 100X more luminous and about 10X larger than our sun. It lies about 43 light years distant. A little farther south, below the Pleiades, orange Aldebaran rises. It is the eye of Taurus the bull, with the V shaped Hyades star cluster around it making the head of the bull. This colorful giant star is only 2/3 as hot as our yellow sun, but 44X times larger and at 65 light years distant, one of the closest of these monster stars.

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Farmers' Almanac

*"O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all."*
Robert Frost (1874-1963)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Scattered showers, mild (1, 2, 3); breezy, cooler (4, 5) staying dry and milder (6, 7). Showers (8, 9) with a morning freeze far north and west frost in central part of the region then dry and turning warmer (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16); rain (17) then turning mild and dry (18, 19). Few showers, cooler (20, 21) turning dry and dry again (22, 23, 24, 25); windy showers (26, 27, 28, 29) with another morning freeze in the western and central parts of the region (30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Almanack sees hard freezes hitting the region on the 10th to the 12th and from the 30th to the 31st.

Full Moon: October's Full Moon will occur on October 9th and is the Hunter's Moon. Many Native Americans named it so because of the extra light it provided, extending their hunt for food well into the early evening. It was also referred to as both Yellow Leaf and Falling Leaves Moon by the

Cree Tribe because of the many leaves turning that color and that most of the trees lose the last of their leaves during the month.

Holidays: Columbus Day is observed on Monday, October 10th, United Nations Day is celebrated on Monday, the 24th, and Halloween will fall on Monday, October 31st.

Special Notes: October is Fire Prevention Month. In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Today, we celebrate Fire Prevention Week and Month by raising fire safety awareness and educating families, students and communities across the United States. During this month, fire departments provide education to their communities, and encourage parents and loved ones to practice fire safety and whole home safety. Have an evacuation plan ready with your family and check smoke detector batteries often.

The Garden: One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of the garden throughout the winter. Any weed that you can eliminate

from the garden this Fall will possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next Spring! Do not prune or fertilize any trees or shrubs anymore this year. They need to go into a resting phase to prepare for the colder winter months ahead. Do cut back perennial foliage and shrubs to discourage winter pests. Leave flowers with seeds for the birds. The longer your house plants are allowed to remain outside in the fall, the more shock they will go through when they are finally moved indoors. If you haven't brought them in yet, do it now!

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (11, 12, 23, 24); weeding and stirring the soil (18, 19, 20); planting above-ground crops (25, 26); harvesting all crops (4, 5, 6, 9, 10); the best days for setting hens and incubators (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); transplanting (1, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); weening of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); harvesting and storing grains (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24).

John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"A true fiend offers a helping hand without expecting thanks in return."

COMPUTER Q&A

Network connections – what you need to know!

Ayse Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Services

Connecting to the internet seems simple enough, but in some situations, it might be helpful to know more about your connection. If you're using a hotspot or a connection that has a limited data plan you might want to setup a metered connection. If you're connecting to wireless networks and are connecting to the "XFINITY" you may not be connecting to the current wireless network. When you connect to a network you may need to change your network profile from public to private or vice versa. Not sure what that all means? Read on to gain an understanding of what this all means and how it might affect your internet speed and connectivity.

Metered Connections

If you are using a hotspot or if you have a limited data plan through your internet service, a metered connection can help prevent you from going over your data limits. What is a metered connection you ask? When you set your connection to a metered connection you are limited what your computer is using the internet for. When you connect to the internet background tasks are happening, programs and your operating system perform updates and some applications run in the background and use your internet connection even if you aren't using them. By setting your connection as a metered connection you are telling your computer to NOT allow these background tasks to use your internet connection. This is recommended to use if you are using a hotspot or your cell phone to share your internet connection. It's important to know that setting a metered connection can prevent some actions from happening such as Windows updates. Sometimes updates are necessary for devices to work properly (especially printers) so if you have your connection set to metered and begin to have problems with programs or devices you might want to visit somewhere that you can use a high speed internet connection with no data limits, or temporarily switch your metered connection off while you resolve the problem.

To set a metered connection in Windows 10, click on your "type here to search box" in the bottom left corner of your screen, if you don't see the box click on your start button instead (the 4 square looking button in the far bottom left corner of your screen). Now type in network and you should see "network status" in the search results, click on this result to open your network settings screen. Then click on "change network properties", here you will have the ability to set your connection as metered.

The "XFINITY" network

If you have a wireless device you've probably come across the Wi-Fi network called Xfinity. If you connect to this unsecured network (no password is required to connect) you will be prompted to log into your Comcast

account to be able to use the internet on the network. Once you connect to that network your device will try to automatically re-connect to that network anytime it is in range. What sometimes happens is you automatically connect to this network instead of your intended network. The Xfinity network is a throttled connection meaning you won't get the full network speed that you would on your regular comcast network. In Windows 10 if you are connected to the Xfinity network or have an Xfinity network within range, you can click on the wireless network connection (where you would normally connect) and then uncheck the "connect automatically" check box. If you are on a mobile device you can sometimes choose to not automatically reconnect to a network. If you can't find that option you can choose to forget the network, on an android device you will have to go to your settings, access network connections and press and hold until you see the forget network option. On iOS you can forget a network by going to settings, selecting Wi-Fi, and then pressing the "I" or the info button beside the Xfinity network. There

you will have the option to forget the network. You can always reconnect to the network again the next time you want to use it.

Private vs. Public Networks

When you connect to a wireless network for the very first time, your computer will ask you if you want to be able to see other devices on the network. It would be great if Microsoft was a little more straight forward with what exactly this means. When you are asked this question your computer is actually trying to determine if your network location should be set as "Public" or "Private". When you choose to not see other devices on your network you are setting your network to Public. That means that any other computers and printers on the network won't be visible, if you are using a printer that is not directly connected you won't be able to use it if your network connection is public. When you say yes you are setting your connection to be a private connection, meaning that you trust the network and want to be able to see other devices on the network as well as allowing other devices to see your computer. This does NOT mean



that others can automatically access your data, only folders that you have designated to be shared will be accessible by others on your network.

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Now you know everything!

- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- Almonds are a member of the peach family.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- If the population of China walked past you, 8 abreast, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite!
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
- The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.
- There are more chickens than people in the world.
- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Trivia is anything but. It can be amusing, baffling and enlightening.

- Sneezing may be a symptom of pregnancy. Expectant mothers often sneeze for no apparent reason.
- Snoopy Dogg's real name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr.
- The typical pine cone is female.
- The first World Wide Web search engine was called Wandex.
- According to a recent study, 87% of women use scissors as their first throw when playing "Rock, Scissors, Paper."
- "Anhedonia" is an inability to experience pleasure from normally pleasurable experiences.
- Ancient Greeks believed wearing amethysts would help keep a person from becoming drunk.
- The original Scrabble game didn't have a board. It was played with tiles only.
- Alfred Hitchcock had a morbid fear of eggs (ovophobia).
- The risk of having an auto accident is about four times higher for drivers using cell phones (whether handheld or hands-free).
- The U.S. has the highest dog population in the world. France has the second highest.
- In a typical restaurant, customers get 27 cents worth of food for each dollar they spend.
- In casinos, \$50 bills are known as "frogs" and are considered by many to be bad luck.
- During the ice age, there were six-foot tall "mammoth penquins."
- Bubbles in champagne were seen by early wine makers as a highly undesirable defect, one that should be prevented.
- "Typhlobasia" is the practice of closing one's eyes when kissing.

- Just less than one quarter of the people in the world are vegetarians.
- William Howard Taft was the first golfer to become President.
- It is tradition in countries such as Venezuela and Peru to wear yellow underwear on New Year's Day for good luck throughout the coming year.

Little Known Facts You Can Live Without

Q: Why are many coin banks shaped like pigs?
 A: Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks.' When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a bank that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

Q: Did you ever wonder why dimes, quarters and half dollars have notches, while pennies and nickels do not?

A: The US Mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage holders from shaving off small quantities of the precious metals. Dimes, quarters and half dollars are notched because they used to contain silver. Pennies and nickels aren't notched because the metals they contain are not valuable enough to shave.

Q: Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

A: When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the

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HUMOR

right through holes on the left. And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

Q: Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

A: In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Q: Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called 'passing the buck'?

A: In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

Q: Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

A: It used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would then just touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

Q: Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?

A: Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and stage lighting by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, performers on stage 'in the limelight' were seen by the audience to be the center of attention.

Q: Why do ships and aircraft in trouble use 'mayday' as their call for help?

A: This comes from the French word m'aidez -meaning 'help me' -- and is pronounced 'mayday.'

Q: Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

A: Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares..

Q: Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

A: In France, where tennis first became popular, a big, round zero on scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'egg.' When tennis was introduced in the US, Americans pronounced it 'love.'

Q: In golf, where did the term 'Caddie' come from?

A: When Mary, later Queen of Scots, went to France as a young

girl (for education & survival), Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scot game 'golf.' So he had the first golf course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into 'caddie.'

Bread Facts ...

- More than 98 percent of convicted felons are bread users.
- Fully half of all children who grow up in bread-consuming households score below average on standardized tests.
- In the 18th century, when virtually all bread was baked in the home, the average life expectancy was less than 50 years; infant mortality rates were unacceptably high; many women died in childbirth; and diseases such as typhoid, yellow fever, and influenza ravaged whole nations.

- More than 90 percent of violent crimes are committed within 24 hours of eating bread.
- Bread has been proven to be addictive. Subjects deprived of bread and given only water to eat begged for bread after as little as two days.
- Bread is often a "gateway" food item, leading the user to "harder" items such as butter, jelly, peanut butter, and even cold cuts.
- Bread has been proven to absorb water. Since the human body is more than 90 percent water, it follows that eating bread could lead to your body being taken over by this absorptive food product, turning you into a soggy, gooey bread-pudding person.
- Newborn babies can choke on bread.
- Bread is baked at temperatures as high as 400 degrees Fahrenheit! That kind of heat can kill an adult in less than one minute.
- Most American bread eaters are utterly unable to distinguish between significant scientific fact and meaningless statistical babbling.



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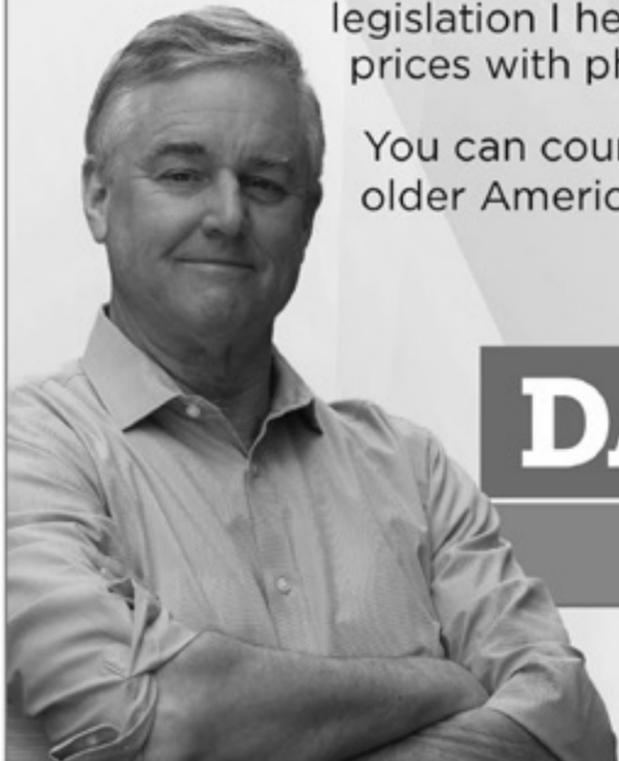
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