

Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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Anti-growth candidates prevail in election

September's election showed the Council just what the residents of Walkersville really want: little to no growth! Out of the 4,745 registered voters, 509 came out to make their voice heard to vote in three new members to the Council and two reappointed members, all proponents of the “no-growth” philosophy.

The results include Burgess Chad Weddle running uncontested with 390 votes for reelection. Commissioners Russell Winch (382 votes), Chris Ragen (362 votes), and Bob Yoder (356 votes) will join current Commissioners Tom Gilbert (329 votes) and Betsey Whitmore Brannon (295 votes) on the Council. Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis was the only sitting commissioner to not be reelected (258 votes).

This election is unique in that it is the last time all five commissioner seats will be open at the same time, thanks to a resolution passed earlier this year to stagger the length of terms to limit the turnover within the Town Council.

Winch and Ragen, the top vote recipients, will serve for four

years. Yoder, Gilbert and Brannon will serve two-year terms that will expire in 2026. Staggering the terms is expected to alleviate the stress that a full turnover of the Council and the Burgess could have on town staff. The next election will have the burgess and commissioners serve four-year terms, which means the town will have elections every other year going forward.

A common concern for the newly appointed commissioners is the battle for having a “no growth” Town. Regan, Yoder and Winch all proclaimed a “no growth” stance prior to being elected.

While also aiming to combat residential growth by representing the wishes of Walkersville residents, Regan stated his other goals include focusing on blighted properties in town and improving activities for the youth of Walkersville and the aged community. He aims to push for further transparency and public input in town matters by being open to hearing complaints, concerns and grievances of Walkersville residents.

Being a long time resident, Yoder's

goals mirrored the concerns of residents including holding a “no growth” viewpoint, the future rehabilitation of abandoned facilities, traffic safety and water cost concerns. He felt his experience with budget management would be a benefit to the Town by creating a more consistent and informative budget so residents would have a better understanding of how their taxpayers' dollars are being used.

Wench, who has been an elected commissioner in the past, is an avid proponent of the “no-growth” philosophy and has vocally proclaimed his position on growth as a Planning Commission member. As a commissioner, he shares a passion to ensure that Walkersville remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone and will continue focus on a “no-growth” view for Walkersville.

Serving on the Town Council since 2018, Gilbert has been instrumental in many projects designed to improve the quality of life for seniors in Walkersville. One of these is the senior tax credit, allowing lower income



Russell Winch, who previously served ten years on Walkersville Town Council, will be returning after garnering the most votes.

seniors the opportunity to receive a 50% credit on high value properties. For the future he hopes to improve senior amenities in Town. He also plans to continue work on upholding Town Ordinances and listening to residents for suggested improvements as they arise.

The October meeting will include the swearing in of the new commissioners so they can begin their work on the Town Council.

Graceham VFC cease operations, closes doors

On Sunday, September 29th, devoted members of the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company joined together for one last time to recount and celebrate 69 years of memories of serving the community, as well as to mourn the closing of the venerable institution that for years has served as the glue that held the community together.

The closing of the company came at the end of a tumultuous and frustrating two years for the company. In June of 2022, the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company was operationally suspended by the County as a fire and EMS service provider based on the organization's inability to meet the minimum response criteria found in the Frederick County Code. This inability to meet response criteria was directly attributed to a lack of available volunteers.

While the Fire Company received over \$80,000 in financial support in FY-23, the County opted to cease financial support in FY-24 due to the organization's operational suspension. In addition to financial support, the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company received support for years from the County through insurance and equipment that

is provided to all local volunteer companies.

In the months that followed their operational suspension, the Company worked hard to get their organization in a position to again provide service to their community, but never achieved their goal. In November of 2023 the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company's membership made the incredibly hard decision to completely shut down operations, effective June 30.

The Company made their last “call” on June 22, 2022. Since then, the Company has been focused on disposing of its fire trucks and building.

The Company donated its main fire truck, Tanker 184, to the Edgewater Oklahoma VFD. The Company's rescue truck, Unit #8, was donated to the Stanley Valley Tennessee VFD. The Company's remaining unit, a “brush truck,” was purchased by the Benton Illinois VFD. Fire fighting related equipment, such as hoses, axes, breathing apparatus &c., was donated to the Rocky Ridge, New Midway and Lewistown VFDs. Finally, the fire hall was donated to the Catocin Chapter of the Future Farmers of America.

According to Thomas Coe,



On August 31st the Oklahoma Edgewater Park VFC held an open house to welcome Graceham's engine 184 to its new home. May it serve them as proudly as it served Graceham.

Chief of the County's Division of Fire & Rescue, most of the remaining volunteers of the Graceham Fire Company have decided to continue their service by transferring their membership to one of the surrounding volun-

teer fire companies.

Since its closing, residents formerly served by Graceham have received fire, rescue and emergency medical response from Thurmont, Rocky Ridge, Emmitsburg or Lewistown.

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WOODSBORO - UNION BRIDGE NEWS

Water & sewer plant costs increase

Following the retirement of the consultant the Town has been utilizing to maintain the water and sewer plant and conduct mandatory water testing at the end of August, the Town signed a contract with Prostart to maintain the facilities.

"We were lucky in many ways," said Burgess Barnes, "Mark [the consultant] was charging us only \$75,000/year, and as he only lived a few miles away, we could count on him to address emergency issues pretty much 24 hours a day at no additional costs."

But with his retirement, the Town was faced with the reality that few companies are licensed by the State to perform the necessary maintenance and testing that is required. "The lowest bid we could get was \$163,000/year, more than double that which we were paying."

"Unfortunately," Barnes said, "we did not know he was going to retire when we drew up this year's budget, so we didn't budget for the increased costs of the new contract. However, fortunately the Town will be receiving \$83,000 in water and sewer hook-up fees for Arnold's Place, the new townhouses being built on Second Ave., so we are good for this year, but next year we are going to have to figure out how to cover the increased cost, which may include an additional rate increase in water and sewer fees to town residents."

Commissioner Cutshall noted that the \$88,000 increase in the cost of maintaining the facilities, when divided between 450 users, would result in water and sewer bills going up, on average, by approximately \$200/year.

Barnes acknowledged that a water and sewer rate increase may be necessary but placed the blame on past town councils for not raising rates to keep up with costs. "Until this year's 25% rate increase, the Town had not raised water and sewer rates in 20 years. Instead, they simply borrowed from the Town's General Fund to cover yearly shortfalls, and we carried the 'internal loans between the Funds' on our books for years with no intention of repaying them."

"The water and sewer systems need to be operated as a business, which means the users need to cover the costs of the systems," he said.

The Town's auditor told the Council at its November 2023 meeting that while in a "perfect world" the water and sewer systems should pay for themselves, there is no requirement to do so, and that many small towns like Woodsboro often charge staff and office expenses related to working on water and sewer activities to accounts associated with general town affairs. She cautioned the Town that it would be wise to nail down actual costs, which the Town

did in May by voting to clear the loans and reset the books on the Water and Sewer Fund.

"I don't want to end up like Emmitsburg where lack of action has resulted in the Town having to increase water rates by 33% every year for five years. We have to do better," Barnes said.

The new water and sewer plant operators have also submitted an initial list of improvements and maintenance that they feel need to be completed to bring the plants up to satisfactory operating conditions; while some of the actions can be done under the new contract, "some of the items will result in additional unbudgeted costs, such as equipment repairs and replacements. They will give us a prioritized list once they finish all their inspections."

Commissioner Jessie Case queried the Town staff as to why equipment repairs and replacements were not covered under the new contract.

"Repairs and replacements costs were never in Mark's contract," Town staff said. "We always had to pay for them as they came in. It's the same with this contract. If a pump fails, we have to pay for a new one."

"One way or another," Barnes said, "in next year's budget discussion, we need to make sure we nail down the cost of running the water and sewer plants."

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Concerns raised over Town's debt

At the end of what had been a fairly Amundane Town Council meeting, Commissioner John Cutshall lit the room up when he took the floor to raise concern over what he perceives as an increasingly unwieldy debt load the Town is now carrying, which, according to Cutshall, "is going to increase significantly with the new Town Hall."

Cutshall opened his talk with a simplistic: "I think the people of Woodsboro deserve to know how much debt the Town is carrying." From there, Cutshall began to list the balances in the Town's multiple funds and the multiple sources of debts owed by the Town.

Cutshall expressed frustration with the fact that the Town was now paying double for the maintenance of the Town's water and sewer plant, and questioned how the increased costs would be funded in the years to come.

Cutshall, who voted against the building of the new Town Hall at the July Council meeting, questioned whether the residents of the Town truly understood the costs the Town was about to incur with its building, and asked Burgess Barnes to consider withdrawing the contract for the new Town Hall until the finances of the Town could be thoroughly reviewed.

Barnes, who was caught off-guard by the request, pushed back on the idea, citing they already signed the contract to start work. He further indicated that by pulling out now the Town would not only be on the hook for all the work already completed, but might possibly be found in breach of contract and find itself on the hook for paying the full cost without a Town Hall in the end.

When pressed by Barnes as to whether he was asking for the Council to reconsider its decision to build the Town Hall, Cutshall demurred, and said that all he was asking for was an opportunity for the public to hear in detail the Town's budget

debts, something he felt had been given short shift in recent years.

Commissioner Jessie Case suggested that while it was too late to do anything about this year's budget, if it was possible, to hold a public workshop on budgets going forward to give residents more time to comment and provide input on them.

Town staff said that according to the Town's code, they were required to draft a budget and submit it to the Town's Burgess, who then provides it to the Council for their review and approval.

Barnes concurred with Case that there needed be more time for the public to look over the budget and said he would

be open to holding a budget workshop next year if that would facilitate more input from the town's residents and increase their understanding of the where and why the Town spends its money.

While Cutshall seemed pleased with the promise of more time for the public to go over future budgets, he left the possibility open to revising this year's planned expenditures, including the building of the new Town Hall, for a more detailed discussion during the October Council meeting when Commissioner Bill Rittelmeier, who was absent at the September meeting, would be present and able to provide his input on the topic.

Union Bridge to allow cannabis dispensaries

After many inquiries concerning the possible opening of a cannabis dispensary in the restricted industrial area of town, Porter introduced the idea of adding language in the Town's Code that would allow it. Her opinion and advice are if it's something the Council would like to consider doing, it needs to be articulated in the Code because as of right now, it is not. Mayor Jones agreed, stating, "We should be prepared. It's happening everywhere else," he said.

According to Porter, state law dictates that a dispensary cannot be prohibited by setting up zoning requirements or restrictions which burden cannabis businesses, but the law doesn't necessarily say that a municipality or town has to allow them.

"There are a lot of restrictions with the State as far as location for a dispensary and the cultivation aspect," said Porter. She also confirmed that there isn't really a location for the cultivation of the product in town at this time.

Adding to the Town's Code would

just be allowing a dispensary to open in town. However, the dispensary applicant would have to follow the state and town restrictions, making sure electric and security are up to date prior to opening, as well as other strict requirements.

Councilwoman Laura Conway questioned the rules about opening near schools. Porter confirmed that the State has no restrictions, however, the Town can apply their own limits in the Code revision. Porter did say, "Local government can prohibit or prevent dispensaries within 500 feet of schools, daycares, libraries and playgrounds."

Porter will be working on the wording of the Code revision in preparation for a future month's discussion.

In other business...

In preparation for the November elections, Town Attorney Mandy Porter introduced two resolutions to the Town Charter and Code. The resolutions will change the requirements for potential candidates and for when an election is held.

The Charter allows the mayor and town council to deem it necessary and appropriate to amend certain residency requirements in order to provide reasonable and appropriate representation of the Town and its affairs, per the Constitution of Maryland. Municipal Charter amendments are allowed by resolution.

The first resolution requires the mayor and council member candidates to maintain continuous primary residence in the Town of Union Bridge for at least two years immediately preceding the election in which they are running. Additionally, all candidates must be registered voters.

The second resolution regards uncontested elections. The mayor and town council have found that given the cost of conducting special elections and the time commitment required by Town staff and volunteers, it is in the best interest of the Town to amend the Charter so that an election will not be required if the number of qualified candidates for an office is equal or less

than the number of vacancies. "That's to save the Town money when there are no candidates other than incumbents," confirmed Mayor Perry Jones. Porter also clarified that municipalities

are not required to allow write-in candidates; however, they may choose to accept them.

The Council plans to hold a public meeting next month and both resolutions will become part of the Charter if not contested within 50 days.



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WALKERSVILLE NEW

'Growth' oriented Comprehensive Plan approved

After the September election, the Town Council approved the Comprehensive Plan with a 20-acre portion of land available for development. This was after a lengthy public hearing where many residents pleaded with the Commission to not approve the Plan. Some asked the Council to let the new Council take over the responsibility.

The Plan has been sent back and forth between the Planning Commission and the Town Council many times, with the concept of "no-growth" a key concern. The 115-acre Staley property sits at the center of the issue. Residents have pushed for removing the farm from the Plan all together and leaving it zoned as it is: Industrial Agricultural.

Planning Commission members have voiced concerns over leaving the property this way because an Industrial Agricultural zoning means warehouses or solar panel fields could be built in the

neighboring communities' back yards.

One highly controversial option mentioned at Planning Commission meetings included changing the Industrial zoning portion to High Density Residential zoning. This would allow 90-110 units, a concept many are against. After Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver explained the properties natural characteristics made it more likely to have less residential units, the Planning Commission agreed on the High Density Residential Agricultural zoning and sent the Plan to the Council for final approval.

At the September 9 Town Council meeting, the commissioners listened to residents' opinions on the Plan. While most pleaded for "no-growth," some asked for the Council to consider designating some space for future development. Many commented on traffic issues, the lack of infrastructure neces-

sary to provide for new residences and the loss of the "small town feel" so desirable in Walkersville. Residents asked the Council to forward the Plan on to the next Town Council because they felt it was too rushed and it didn't honor what the residents really wanted. Resident and newly elected Commissioner Chris Reagen pointed out, "We just had a highly contentious election where three challengers finished in the top," he said. "It is clear the people do not want growth."

Commissioner Gary Baker considered the Staley property "not a prime option for development at all." He felt that if 60 Townhouses were to be built on the 20-acre portion of the property, it would not impact the Town's school system or traffic issues that much. He also mentioned that the Staley property was essentially all the Town has available for development

after the rejection of other properties.

Commissioner Betsey Brannen agreed with Baker that 60 Townhomes wouldn't impact the Town's roads or school system that much. However, she urged the Council to listen to what the residents want, as that is the Council's responsibility.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert, who has voted against the Plan in the past, explained that there are many safeguards put in place against putting in a development before the appropriate infrastructure is available. "Schools, roads, and other services will be tested and if not meeting the standard, development will be stalled," he said.

He also pointed out that the revised plan reduced the residential acreage from 120 to 25, which is an 80% reduction in growth. In terms of number of houses, it would be 350 units down to 60, which is a reduction of 83%. He

also supported resident Lori Himes' suggestion of adding in senior condos to the 60 townhomes. Doing so would reduce pressure on schools. Gilbert voted for the Plan this time, stating, "I believe the path forward is to adopt the revision - creating the possibility of less than 2% growth over the next ten years, I believe at an average of six townhomes per year, this can be easily absorbed if conditions are met and there will be little inconvenience."

Burgess Chad Weddle described the Plan as "a proposal." If someone wished to act on the proposal, they would need to come back to the Council and request the property be rezoned to meet the proposal.

The Council voted 2 to 2, with Weddle breaking a tie, to approve the Comprehensive Plan. The Council now needs to sign and approve the resolution before the next meeting in October.

Planning Commission ponders updating rules procedure

The Planning Commission began reviewing and updating their operating Rules of Procedure at the August meeting. These rules guide the Commission to work in an orderly and just fashion. One of these Rules of Procedure includes changing when the Commission will hold meetings during busier months, July, November, and December specifically. Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver said the topic had been discussed at prior meetings and asked if the Commission wished to officially change it to follow the same format as the Town Council meetings.

The Commission currently holds regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday with workshops on the second Tuesday. Because of holidays in July, November and December, the Commission usually holds their regular meeting earlier in the month on the second Tuesday. Hauver asked if they wanted to officially have the Rules and Procedures changed to mirror that action. Chair David Ennis showed his favor of the change, saying, "It would be easier on staff if we follow the Burgess and Commissioner's July, November and December schedule."

Another topic was the future of the Town's meeting minutes. Currently

they are written in a narrative format to include detailed notes about each discussion point, how the Commission voted and what (if any) public or Commission members opinions are expressed. Hauver suggested that with the addition of video recordings of the meetings, the Town could consider the video as the official meeting minutes with a shorter version of minutes written down in hard copy form. Ennis preferred keeping the written notes, saying, "One thing about written copies is it's always there. Video and the media are always changing."

According to Hauver, the minutes must be kept forever per the Town's

policy, however they do not have to be super detailed. The Town saves the minutes to two external drives and keeps hard copies in file cabinets. "We could do a condensed version of the minutes discussing motions and who spoke and then go to the video recording to get exactly what was said," she suggested. "One thing we like about Frederick County meeting recordings is how you can go directly to the agenda item via a link and have all of the paperwork and minutes right there," said Hauver. "It's a pretty sophisticated level of archiving that we don't have."

Hauver also discussed Rules of Pro-

cedure regarding Commission member attendance at meetings. Her concern was specifically about the number of days before a meeting a member is required to give notice of an upcoming absence; current rules state five days. "This isn't as much of an issue here as it is at the Burgess and Commissioner level," she said. She pointed out that most members can only give one day of notice, but as long as they have a quorum at the meeting it's not an issue.

Hauver said she would continue researching the changes to the Rules and Procedures before introducing official language to make the changes.

Updates on Public Works projects

Director of Public Works Joseph Birch updated the burgess and commissioners on the status of multiple projects in town.

The water meter replacement project (Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) project) has been ongoing since March. The new technology automatically collects data pertaining to consumption, diagnostic and meter status without needing a physical presence to collect it. The data will be used for billing, troubleshooting, and analyzing the meters for town staff as well as customers via a special portal.

Department of Public Works (DPW) staff has canvassed the town twice already for meter replacements and will continue with appointments only from this point forward.

The Discovery water main replacement project is in the final phase. Plans have been reviewed by Frederick County water and sewer. The Discovery community, which is outside of Walkersville town proper, utilizes the Town's water services with additional fees, even though it is not technically in town. The pipes in Discovery are old and have suffered multiple breaks in the last few months. An estimated 600 homes would be affected by the replacement process.

Once the County's comments and changes are reviewed and

edited, the Plans will need to be resubmitted for final approval.

The Green Street project will be accepting bids in September for a trenchless structural pipeline repair, sidewalk, curb and gutter installation and repaving. A lining will be applied to the entire length of the Green Street pipe with an original estimate of \$286,357. The project will not only fix the pipe problems but also improve the walkability of Walkersville.

A sidewalk will be added to the corner of Maple Ave and Green Street and the sidewalk in front of number three Green Street will be pulled out five feet to connect it to Fulton Avenue. The compli-

cation will be the width of Green Street from Fulton Avenue to the Town Hall (about halfway down Green Street) will be considerably narrower. The Council will be discussing the merits of turning Green Street into a one-way as a result after the bids are received and reviewed.

Birch also requested approval to order two vertical turbine meters for the reverse osmosis racks in the water plant for a total of \$7,583. According to Birch, they have already replaced two and need to replace one more and have a spare on hand. The request was approved.

One more item Birch mentioned to the Council regarded the gas pumps the Public Works staff use. He said

they were getting old and although they can still record gallons pumped out, they are no longer recording the total gallons remaining in the tanks. Birch is required to report these num-

bers at the end of every month, so will need to repair the pumps to do so. He is waiting on official quotes before putting a request for funding in the Council's hands.

WALKERSVILLE INFO

Tues., Oct. 1 - 7 p.m. - Board of Appeals Meeting
Wed., Oct. 2 - 7 p.m. - Parks Commission Meeting
Tues., Oct. 8 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Workshop
Wed., Oct. 9 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
Sat., Oct. 19 - 4 to 6 p.m. - Fall Fest at Heritage Farm
Tues., Oct. 22 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting
Wed., Oct. 23 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
Mon., Oct. 28 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting

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GOVERNMENT

County Councilman Brad Young

The County Council voted unanimously on September 3, to send to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) of their strong opposition to the current proposals for the alignment of the new 70-mile 500kV transmission line from southern Pennsylvania to the Doubs substation in southern Frederick County.

For the residents and property owners of Frederick County I wanted to reprint the letter here for your information.

As the elected leaders of Frederick County Government, we are writing to inform the members of the Public Service Commission (PSC) of our strong opposition to the current proposals for the alignment of the new 70-mile 500kV transmission line from southern Pennsylvania to the Doubs substation in southern Frederick County.

We understand these proposals, put forth by the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) are part

of the large regional utility system upgrade, being undertaken by Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM). Ultimately, this upgrade is planned to address the long-term electrical needs of the entire region. As part of this effort, PSEG will need to file an application for the proposed transmission line alignment with the PSC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). Furthermore, we understand this application may be filed as soon as September, but most assuredly by the end of the calendar year.

As the elected representatives for the residents of Frederick County, we are compelled to express our concerns regarding the lack of public information justifying the full extent of the necessity for the new lines, the devastating effect this project will have on many residents in the Frederick County community, the potential use of eminent domain by the utility to complete the project in a more time efficient man-

ner, and the apparent dismissal of the possibility of using existing rights of way (ROW) or collaborating with Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) to either reconstruct or "reconductor" the existing lines, thereby significantly reducing the impact in all the Maryland jurisdictions.

We recognize that Frederick County has no authority or role in the approval or denial of this project, but as the elected officials we have a responsibility to ensure the voices and concerns of our residents are heard and acknowledged. We understand the need to improve the resiliency and reliability of the regional power grid. However, the new transmission lines for the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) as currently proposed, will directly and negatively impact current homes, businesses and farms (many of which are in agricultural preservation programs utilizing state and/or local funds), historical preservation sites, and will diminish the property values of thousands of Frederick County residents. Some impacts would severely curtail the use of the properties where people presently live and farm and could actually force people off of their properties altogether. In addition, all the proposed alignments will impact environmentally sensitive natural resource areas at a time when counties are required to protect them to comply with federal and state law. Finally, these alignments will certainly threaten Frederick County's nascent but growing agrotourism industry.

We have serious concerns about the use of eminent domain to expedite the completion of this project. The potential use of eminent domain strikes fear in the hearts of the community, frequently leads to the displacement of viable businesses and current residents and could seriously harm our farm community and the

growing agrotourism sector of our economy. There are numerous transmission lines already crisscrossing Frederick County. To dismiss the idea of locating the new lines within existing rights of way seems extremely shortsighted. Furthermore, discounting the concept of partnering with BGE to either reconstruct or "reconductor" the current existing lines without any discussion, seems even more shortsighted. Partnering with BGE to replace current transmission lines either with new twin monopole towers or with upgraded, more technologically advanced lines could allow roughly twice as much electricity to flow through the current ROWs without massive disruptions to the community – a potential win-win for all.

We fully support the PSC's public process that will occur before a CPCN can be issued. We support open, transparent and inclusive public processes, where the public has the right to be heard, and important information justifying the necessity of these types of utility system upgrades will be shared in a public forum. To date, the entire proposed upgrade project has been anything but open and transparent. The public only found out about the proposal through social media postings and word of mouth. There was little to no information from PJM or the PSEG to the public, even when the proposed transmission line alignments would directly impact a specific home or business. Information about the project itself, the justification for the upgrade, or any concern about its impact on residents by anyone with either PJM or PSEG has frankly been abysmal.

For these reasons and many more, we urge the PSC to deny PSEG's application for the MPRP when it is filed, if the issues raised in our letter dated August 8, 2024, to Mr. Kalwa and Mr. Gilroy which was forwarded to the PSC, have not been addressed.

Moreover, we further urge the PSC to undertake the following:

Urge PJM to re-examine its approach to the transmission line alignments though this area and prioritize solutions that maximize the use of existing BGE ROW, consistent with PJM's recent decision (August 7, 2024) in the NextEra proposal in Loudoun County, VA, being built by First Energy, Dominion and Excelon.

Encourage PJM to collaborate with BGE to either reconstruct or "reconductor" the existing transmission line, to allow for more efficient use of the current ROW and infrastructure and less disruption for the residents.

Confer with the FERC to determine if PJM's award of the project to PSEG was done properly and in the public interest.

Engage with FERC to ensure that PJM's proposed application when submitted by PSEG complies with the requirements of FERC Order 1920, to ensure that the application accurately projects and anticipates the energy needs of the region, in accordance with Order 1920.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests.

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

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

Unit 282 American Legion Auxiliary
CASH BINGO
Sunday, November 3
 Woodsboro American Legion
 101 W. Elizabeth St., Woodsboro
 Doors open @ Noon - Games begin @ 1:30 p.m.
\$40 for 25 Games
 Extra cards available 3 pack @\$5.00 & 6 pack @\$8.00
*****Reserve tickets by calling Peggy at 301-514-7164 & receive a FREE SPECIAL GAME*****
Bring a canned food item & receive a FREE SPECIAL GAME!
 • 20 Regular Games \$100 • 3 Specials \$150 • 2 Jackpots \$500
 King Tuts, Bingo Balls, Holder Jars & Door Prizes
 Food, drinks and baked goods available

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT
Saturday, October 12 • 8 to Noon
NYMEO Field, 21 Stadium Drive, Frederick
 Located in the baseball stadium UPPER parking lot - enter from New Design Road NOT South Market Street
 No Walk Ups Accepted

MATERIALS ACCEPTED INCLUDE:
 Aerosol paints, automotive & household cleaners, brake fluid, flares, fluorescent bulbs/ballasts, garden chemicals, gasoline, mercury thermometers & thermostats, mothballs, pesticides & poisons, pool chemicals, photographic chemicals, radon & smoke detectors, rechargeable batteries, sealants, stains, thinners & solvents.

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.

For detailed info, including proper handling of items not accepted at the event, use the **RECYCLE COACH** app, visit our website, or call 301-600-2960.

Sign up for automatic reminders for this event at **WWW.FREDERICKCOUNTYMD.GOV/HAZWASTE**

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GOVERNMENT

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

With cooling temperatures and changing leaves, October is a season of transformation. It's a time to appreciate how far we've come and to plan for the future. In Frederick County, we have been focusing on initiatives that will impact us all. I'm excited to share updates on opportunities for civic engagement and ways you can help contribute to the continued growth and vitality of our community. Let's make the most of this season of change by staying informed, getting involved, and continuing to support one another.

Critical Digital Infrastructure

Earlier this year, the Frederick County Data Centers Workgroup released recommendations intended to guide public policy so that any data center development occurs responsibly and in the best interests of Frederick County residents.

As a direct result of the recommendations provided by this workgroup, I recently unveiled two pieces of draft legislation that would put restrictions on where data centers can be built.

The first piece of legislation updates Frederick County's existing Critical Digital Infrastructure zoning law to consider visual impacts, noise, and sustainability practices. The second bill creates a floating zone for Critical Digital Infrastructure that could only be applied to land zoned as general industrial or limited industrial and is within a community growth area, among other restrictions.

In the end, our goal is the same: to ensure data center development occurs responsibly. While I have concerns about the floating zone, I respect the public process and the workgroup's final report. It is important that the discussion about data centers continues in a public forum.

As such, I have asked the County Council to hold a workshop on the legislation during its October 8 work session. Stay tuned for more information about this legislation and public sessions.

I appreciate the work of the Data Center Workgroup. They invested a substantial amount of time and effort to develop recommendations and worked diligently to find common ground, despite diverse and sometimes competing viewpoints.

Transmission Line Meeting

Many residents have rightfully expressed concerns about the proposed Piedmont Reliability Project, a transmission line that will cross Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick Counties. I appreciate the

community's input and share many of the same concerns.

It is incredibly important for us to understand this project and its potential impact on our neighborhoods, agricultural land, and historic landmarks. Right now, we have more questions than answers.

That's why the County Council and I called on the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG), the company managing this project, to conduct a more inclusive and transparent process that is responsive to input from residents.

I am glad to report that PSEG heard our requests, and I am convening a public meeting with PSEG officials on Wednesday, October 9 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Oakdale High School. I encourage everyone to attend to learn more and share feedback. Together, we will continue working to ensure our communities are protected and our concerns are heard.

Consolidated Transportation Program Meeting – October 16

It has long been a priority for Frederick

County to improve safety on U.S. 15. The stretch from Interstate 70 to Md. Route 26 needs critical safety upgrades to eliminate dangerous conditions and provide sound and safety barriers. I am committed to advocating for the funding needed for this project and to address other safety and traffic concerns in our community.

Unfortunately, the recently released Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) draft Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for Fiscal Years 2025-20230 effectively halts the U.S. 15 safety project by not including \$14.3 million for its construction.

This project is vital to the safety and well-being of our community. I encourage residents to join me in sharing feedback with MDOT officials regarding the draft CTP during a public meeting on Wednesday, October 16, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in Winchester Hall 12 E. Church Street in Frederick.

Our voice is strongest when we advocate together, and the U.S. 15 project

already has broad-bipartisan support in our community. I remain committed to ensuring we receive adequate funding to continue improving transit services so that all residents and businesses can thrive.

Rural Broadband Meetings

As part of Frederick County's ongoing efforts to bridge the digital divide, we will be hosting meetings throughout the county to share information with residents about various grant opportunities for expanding broadband access in rural areas. The first meeting was held in Emmitsburg on September 18.

The schedule for the remaining meetings is as follows. Each meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

- October 3: Libertytown – Liberty Volunteer Fire, 12027 South St., Libertytown
- October 10: Adamstown – Carroll

Manor, 2795 Adams St., Adamstown

- October 16: Myersville – Myersville Volunteer Fire, 301 Main St., Myersville

I encourage interested residents to attend to learn how the grants can help bring high-speed internet to rural areas of the county. For those who cannot attend in person, a recording will be made available for viewing on FCG TV, channels 1072 and 19, and online at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV.

These grant opportunities are part of a broader County-wide initiative aimed at enhancing telecommunications infrastructure to ensure rural residents are not left behind in an increasingly digital world. Improving broadband access can help ensure equal opportunities for Frederick County residents, regardless of where they live.



BUSY. BUSY. BUSY. BUSY. BUSY. BUSY.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Janie Monier

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter about why I am seeking a seat on the County Board of Education.

I want to expand the options available to public school students in every Frederick community. Children who live in town, suburban developments, or in low-density rural areas—like I did when I was growing up—deserve equal opportunities to learn and succeed. We should do more than ask students what they want to be when they grow up; let's help them define the adults they want to be.

Getting all our kids a seat at the table of their choice requires them learning about themselves and about the options available. As with individuals, communities have unique needs, which must be met to achieve success.

Determining what these needs are and intervening early improves outcomes. So does parental involvement, which means we must keep lines of communication open and easy to navigate for busy parents like her own, who worked countless hours to keep their career, farm, and family going.

I know what it's like for students to hike across fields, rely on drivers, or ride a bike several miles just to catch that bus. I pursued a career in nursing, worked for Johns Hopkins until the death of her father when she started caring for her mother, and I have served as President of her sons' school PTA in New Market, where I put together a hard-working team that created events and opportunities for parents to get inside the schools, volunteer and celebrate milestones throughout the year.

Still, many parents struggle to find time to participate or monitor their children's progress. Some folks clock long hours to maintain a farm, grow a business, or earn enough to keep up with rising expenses. They need to feel as secure about their child's education as those who spend hours in schools or logged onto Schoology. When all parents and guardians can rest assured our public school system is appropriately assessing and meeting their child's needs, students succeed.

I prioritizes early intervention, but I doesn't limit that to getting kids excited to start school. In addition to early testing to determine if students require additional services, she believes it's crucial for students entering middle and high school to feel equally valued in comparison to those attending newly built facilities in brand-new districts. Our older communities have tradi-

tions that instill pride in students, such as Catoctin High's blacksmithing and metalworking program and Walkersville High School's excellent agricultural education program in partnership with Future Farmers of America.

Students must be free to learn inside spaces that are not overcrowded. Buildings may be constructed in different eras, but all must be fully-staffed, welcoming, safe, and clean in order for students to succeed.

Frederick schools offer a variety of studies that can serve our diverse population so long as families know about them and can access them. In conjunction with Maryland's Workforce Development Board, Career Coaches are giving hands-on demonstrations and getting kids to think about careers to explore earlier than ever. This is the type of expansion I will fight for if elected, expanding and strengthening

the services provided by our Career and Technology Center.

The CTC's focus on employment preparation, training and apprenticeship complements traditional academic and college prep programs. Obtaining excellent jobs is just as important as getting kids accepted into great universities. But right now, only half the kids who apply to CTC are accepted. Those who aren't often don't know about similar programs available at other schools. So the school system must ensure families have relevant information as well as help with transportation. For kids to make the most of valuable opportunities FCPS offers, we must first meet them where they are.

If elected to the Board of Education I will strive to improve transparency and accountability in school funding and fight to increase accessibility to programs across Frederick County.

Josh Bokee

My name is Josh Bokee and I am a candidate for one of the three open seats on the Frederick County Board of Education. I am respectfully asking for your vote in the November election. Every student should attend a school that is safe, inclusive and has a positive learning environment. We should expect success for all students and prepare each one for high academic achievement and life itself by the time they are ready to graduate. I am a parent of a blended family of three teenagers, the oldest of whom is now a junior at

Frederick High School. He is receiving an excellent education. I am running for the school board because every student throughout Frederick County should have an excellent education, helping to unlock future opportunities in both college and career.

It's important to have highly qualified teachers and staff in our classrooms; school buildings that are not overcrowded and are not falling apart; parents who are true partners in education and our community be fully invested in the success of our students. We are one Frederick County in our shared desire to see our students do well; but our needs

are varied. In the more rural areas of our county, we need to ensure students have equal access to AP courses, engineering programs and to the Career Technology Center (CTC). We need to engage our local businesses and skilled-trades organizations so more students have access to internships and apprenticeships.

I bring relevant professional and life experiences that I will be ready to effectively apply on day one, if elected. I have spent the majority of my career in the technology sector and now work on projects across the country on helping to bring affordable high speed internet access to homes and businesses that

cannot obtain it today. All families need access to home technology (such as laptops and internet) no matter where they live; because education requirements do not end with the school day.

I also serve on our highschool PTSA (I help organize restaurant fundraiser nights) and see how important it is that parents and guardians are partners in helping to determine the outcomes in our schools.

Teachers and staff play a critical role as partners as well, and I am proud to have their positive recommendation for this election.

There is much that unites us as Frederick County residents. I am ready to focus on the essentials, help bring partners together and do everything possible to see that all students are successful. I hope to earn your vote this November. Thank you.

Heather Fletcher

I am excited to announce my candidacy as a write-in candidate for the Frederick County Board of Education. My husband and I have called Point of Rocks, our home for over 15 years, and we're proud parents of three amazing school-aged kids. It would be a true honor to serve our community and promote academic excellence, parental rights, and fiscal responsibility in Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS)!

My experience in high-pressure environments has equipped me with the skills to navigate complex challenges and prioritize the needs of our students and community. With specialized training in problem-solving, critical thinking, leadership, and team building, I believe my skills will be an asset to the Board of Education.

After starting my family, I decided to leave my position at the FAA and dedicate myself to being a homemaker. This choice has given me the opportunity to be involved in many different school environments alongside my children including preschool, public school, homeschool, and private school. I'm very grateful for the time I've been able to dedicate to supporting the educational needs of children and for the insights I've gained through this involvement.

When schools closed at the start of the COVID-19 response, we chose to homeschool our children. Once FCPS reopened, I re-enrolled them and took the opportunity to explore the policies and regulations impacting their education and well-being. This inquiry uncovered significant concerns that I believe all residents of Frederick County should be aware of.

Critical Gender Theory in Education: Since 2018, FCPS has integrated Critical Gender Theory into the Family Life Curriculum for middle and high school students. The Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework, adopted in March 2022, also incorporates this theory. Many parents, doctors, and mental health professionals have expressed concerns about

the potential impact on children's health and well-being. Unfortunately, it seems only Nancy Allen from the Board of Education is open to discussing these issues.

FCPS Policy 443: This policy requires that students are asked for their pronouns, which must be used consistently. It also allows students to access bathrooms, locker rooms, overnight stays, and sports teams that align with their gender identity. Importantly, teachers and staff are prohibited from disclosing if a student is socially or medically transitioning at school.

Library Materials: FCPS currently has materials in its libraries that some consider explicit or obscene, raising concerns about compliance with Maryland Criminal Law regarding the display of obscene items to minors. We are committed to advocating for the removal of 35 books approved by Superintendent Dyson, as well as addressing other titles that have yet to be challenged.

MCAP Testing Concerns: The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) tests established new baselines in the 2022-2023 school year, resulting in only two years of comparable data. The Maryland State Board of Education adopted new achievement standards in December 2022, which include shortened and computer-adaptive assessments. While FCPS may perform better than some districts, it still fails to meet our children's needs. Last year, over 40% of students failed in English Language Arts, 68% in Math, and 66% of 8th graders failed Science. FCPS cost taxpayers nearly a billion dollars last year, yet these are the results we are seeing.

I am committed to guiding FCPS in a new direction focused on academic excellence, parental rights, and fiscal responsibility. Together, we can create a brighter future for our children!

For more information and to support my campaign, please visit fletcherforboe.com. I truly appreciate any help you can provide me with! Thank you!

Teacher Recommended



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Josh Bokee Janie Monier
Chad King Wilson

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- Creating** learning environments that are safe & inclusive for all students, educators, & staff
- Ensuring** transparency of resources to address the needs of our special education students.



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... CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Colt Black

Government does nothing well. That is just a solid fact. Government does not create jobs, advance the human condition, nor is it benevolent. With that in mind I pen this article to say what many folks who both have children in Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) or not know, our government run schools and the system itself is failing our children.

For starters one must look no farther than the budget of FCPS approaching just shy of \$1 billion dollars, and for all that money what do we as a community have to show for it? The school budget is approximately half of the county budget total, yet we have crumbling school infrastructure especially in our schools in the

distant areas of the county away from Frederick city such as Brunswick High School, with leaking pipes and roof, mold, and other major issues that have not nor will be addressed until at least 2029 when a new high school is slated to be built.

If you were a teacher, knowing the school system is not investing in maintaining its infrastructure ensuring your safety and pride in your workplace, I ask the question would you work for FCPS? Yet teacher recruitment is another issue frequently mentioned as a hurdle for the school board to overcome. As many points to lower salaries in Frederick County for teachers and other support staff than that of our neighboring jurisdictions, to me even if we increased pay, who wants to work for FCPS when your work envi-

ronment is poor?

Refocusing the school boards commitment to maintaining the facilities we have is tantamount to both fiscal responsibilities, creating a better environment for staff, students, and then community at large, and restoring public trust to the school system as good stewards of monies received. I question how the current school board can ask the county and ultimately the taxpayer for more funds to build new schools when they can't even properly maintain what they have. By ensuring fiscal responsibility we will afford to recruit and retain quality staff, maintain and grow our school system to keep pace with our population and expand educational opportunities with increased offerings for students.

The next elephant in the room is in relation to parental rights in

the schools. I, nor most folks reading this article agreed to co-parent with the government. Yet our schools here in Frederick County is promulgating policy that both infringes on the sacred relationship of parents and their children while giving increasing control to government actors in matters related to students' health. I will never lose sight that without the permission of families across Frederick County trusting their children's education to FCPS, our schools would cease to exist. I will work tirelessly to eliminate barriers to parents ensuring their children are cared for and receive only services that parents request and approve. Quite frankly as I mentioned in the beginning of this article government does not do much at all well, we must ensure the school system is only

doing what we as taxpayers and parents expect: education of our children, nothing more, nothing less. And by this assurance we will ensure positive student outcomes for all, increased confidence in our schools, and reduction in cost of operation.

In closing, while there are numerous points to discuss relating to getting back to teaching the basics of reading, writing, math, science, and history; ensuring our schools are safe from those who seek to do harm, and expanding career and technology programs I will leave you with this thought: I will not seek to raise your taxes or your kids. That is the most important take away, so on election day I ask for your vote, Colt Black for Board of Education. For more about me and my policies please visit www.coltblack.com.

Jaime Brennan

At a recent forum put on by Black Advancement, Inc. I was surprised that my opponents got many facts wrong and misunderstood key issues. The moderator asked about the five main issues in this campaign—academics, budget, school choice, women's sports, and parental rights—and in each of these areas my opponents' ideas were unclear, would not work, or were well out of the mainstream.

For academics, none of my opponents acknowledged that nearly 7 out of 10 students cannot pass their graduation exams, and all of them blamed the tests, claiming they were "biased". While it's true that decades ago some tests were biased, modern psychometricians have largely addressed these concerns. Students from every demographic are performing poorly, so our poor results cannot be explained by claiming "bias" or "text anxiety" (which does not affect most students). We need real solutions like simplifying our math curriculum and using scientifically-based reading instruction, not following instructional fads as FCPS has done for decades.

For the budget, all of my opponents claimed that our schools aren't spending enough money and one even claimed spending decreased. In reality, over the last four years school budgets increased by \$263 million, faster than enrollment and inflation combined. Over the last 10 years, our budget has grown from \$539 million to \$940 million, an increase of \$401 million.

These increases have not found their way into teacher salaries, and the growth in administrative and other non-teaching positions has reached the point where less than half of our staff are actually teachers. We don't have a revenue problem. We have a spending priority problem.

In terms of school choice, all of my opponents said on the "Community for Frederick Candidate Questionnaire" that they did not support school choice options like charter schools. (See <https://tinyurl.com/applepositions>). When asked about whether home school students should be allowed to participate in high school sports, my opponents did not provide a clear answer. My answer is yes, families who homeschool should be allowed to have their children play on high school sports teams, and all parents

need more schooling options, including charter schools

In terms of girls' sports, none of my opponents support fair and safe competitions for girls by guaranteeing girls' sports remain female only. My opponents' views are not mainstream. A recent Gallup poll showed that nearly 70% of Americans support keeping women's sports female only. What's more, my opponents support boys being allowed into girls' bathrooms, changing areas, and rooms on overnight stays. Shouldn't women have the right to privacy and safety?

In terms of parental rights, I agree with my opponent Mrs. Monier's position to not have "sweeping book bans" but to give parents the right to limit their children's access to library books that contain material that many families consider inappropriate. Some of the materials FCPS has approved for its libraries contain graphic illustrations of sexual acts, and it's hard to see how these materials improve academic achievement.

Setting school policy is the primary job of the Board of Education. My opponents talk in generalities about setting goals but have not proposed a single policy change or specific goal. I've written and several policies requiring FCPS to use proven reading and math approaches, which you can read at

www.brennanforboard.com. Ranked #1 in Maryland, the Frederick Classical Charter School (which I served on the Board of) uses these approaches. It


achieves a 90% algebra passing rate, in comparison to FCPS' 75% failure rate.

Knowing what works really matters for students. My opponents have not

offered concrete solutions and misunderstand basic facts about education. I hope parents who want better schools for their children will consider voting for me.

JAIME BRENNAN

CANDIDATE FOR FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



BRENNAN FOR BETTER SCHOOLS


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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

The Supreme Court?

Shannon Bohrer

During Trump's presidency, he had the opportunity to appoint three justices to the Supreme Court. Since then, the court has made several decisions that are divisive and contentious, one of which reversed a previous decision that was thought to be settled law, and another creating a new and totally unexpected law.

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the previous *Roe v. Wade*, a decision made in 1973. In their ruling, the court left the decision to allow or ban abortions to each state. A states' rights issue! That decision has been contentious and has resulted in individual states either limiting, banning, or reaffirming a woman's right to an abortion. The opposition to banning and limiting abortion care is framed as health care, as it should be. In states that have held ballot referendums, the voter's choice has been to ensure a woman's right to have an abortion.

The decision to reverse *Roe v. Wade* is an important topic in the upcoming presidential election. It is thought to be the primary concern for many voters. However, another decision by the Supreme Court has the potential to restrict or even eliminate our democracy. Without a viable democracy, there would be no guarantees for any rights, including

women's health care.

On July 1, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the former president was immune from prosecution for official acts. Additionally, the Chief Justice stated that the former president "*working with the justice department officials to push for investigations into certain state election results... fall under the umbrella of 'official acts'.*" The ruling refutes the long-standing principle that no one is above the law.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a Colorado Court decision to take the former president off the ballot. The Colorado Supreme Court was following section 3 of the 14th Amendment, prohibiting elected officials "*from holding future office if they took an oath to support the Constitution and 'subsequently engaged in insurrection'.*" The U.S. Supreme Court stated there would be potential issues of state disqualifications. So much for states' rights. The Colorado Supreme Court, in making their decision said the former president had engaged in an insurrection. The U.S. Supreme Court did not refute the conclusion that the former president had engaged in an insurrection, so that ruling still stands.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to allow the states to make decisions that could affect the election, and then they made a decision that could affect the election. Special Prosecutor Jack Smith asked the court to accept the Immunity case on December 11,

2023. Then, on July 1, 2024, 203 days later, they gave a decision. Was 203 days a delay tactic by the court for the benefit of the former president? The reality is there is no other plausible explanation.

Virtually every judicial expert, which included current and retired judges, had predicted that the Supreme Court would affirm the lower court's decision that the president did not have immunity. Before reaching the Supreme Court, the trial court and the appellate court had decided that the president does not have immunity. So, what happened?

The Supreme Court's decision to involve itself in a presidential election is not new. When the Supreme Court decided *Bush v. Gore*, stopping a recount of election results in the State of Florida, it was considered a landmark decision. The Florida Supreme Court ordered a recount on December 8, 2000. On December 9, the Supreme Court ordered a stay, i.e., stop the count. Then on December 12, they decided in Bush's favor in just four days. While the Supreme Court likes to cite states' rights, and voting is a state right, yet the Court felt the need to intervene. Four days for Bush in 2000 and two hundred and three days for Trump, from late 2023 to 2024.

If voting is a state rights issue, then why interfere with the Florida and Colorado Case? We all believe we know the answer, but could there be other judicial justifications? Legal experts in various media outlets have denounced the decision.

In response to the Supreme Court's

decision on immunity, the American Bar Association (ABA) created a task force for "*American Democracy.*" The ABA obviously believes the President does not have immunity. Judge (retired) Luttig and Jeh Johnson chair the task force. Judge Luttig has an outstanding reputation in legal circles, and Jeh Johnson is a former secretary of Homeland Security.

The ABA president, Mary Smith, said the committee would study the issues and "*Provide actionable recommendations for reform.*" Adding, "*Clearly, our American Democracy is not as strong as we once thought and there are those who seem determined to push it to the breaking point.*" What factors need to exist for the American Bar Association to be alarmed?

The Society for the Rule of Law, a nationwide organization, is also concerned for our democracy. On July 12, just eleven days after the Supreme Court decision on immunity, The Society gathered more than 2400 signatures from attorneys, law students, judges, and concerned citizens on a "*New Statement of Principles.*" The principles affirmed the respect for the law, stating that the law and our legal institutions are being threatened.

The Society for the Rule of Law's "*Statement of Principles [is] to Preserve, Protect, and Defend the Constitution, the rule of law, and American Democracy.*" Accordingly, everyone enacting and enforcing the laws has a duty to do so. The principles include respecting elections, honoring the truth, and speaking the truth, supporting the principle that no one is

above the law, and opposing efforts to undermine legitimate courts and individual justices.

If Trump were to be elected, the safeguards, including the separation of power between the president, the judicial branch, could be in jeopardy. If the Attorney General classifies the actions of the president as official acts, then anything the president would do would be official business and protected with immunity. With no checks and balances, the office of the president could resemble an autocracy - and probably will if Trump is elected.

The revolution that created this country held the idea that no one was above the law. In England, the King was the law, and in America, the law was the King. The founding fathers structured a diverse government to prevent someone from holding too much power. They feared another king, and the Supreme Court may have upended that premise.

During Chief Justice John Roberts's Senate confirmation hearing in 2005, he said, "*the president in 'fully bound' by the law and he Constitution.*" Adding that not even the president is above the law. In future confirmation hearings, maybe we should ask if the Supreme Court is bound by the law?

"A body of men holding themselves accountable to nobody ought not to be trusted by anybody."

- Thomas Paine

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

The Bulwark

What does "Conservatism" even mean anymore?

Jonathan Last

In general, when people talk about "conservatism" they mean one of four things:

A conservative temperament - This is where I live. It usually starts from a place of humility, gratitude, and pessimism: A person with a conservative temperament or disposition will tend to believe that however imperfect a situation might be, we ought to be grateful for it because it can (and probably will) get worse.

The conservative worldview sees tail risk everywhere and views most progress as beset by unpleasant and unforeseen consequences.

A real-world example: I have written many times about the distortions and ill effects created by the Electoral College. At the same time, I am wary that any attempt at reform it would create different distortions and ill effects. And these might well be worse.

The liberal worldview believes that progress is possible—maybe even inevitable. The conservative worldview believes that we're always a step away from a cartoon anvil falling on our heads.

Conservative political theory - You could trace this back to the Greeks, but for our purposes it makes more sense to start around the Enlightenment. Often, the great minds of conservative political theory were recoiling from contemporaneous upheavals: Edmund Burke was reacting to the French Revolution.

Is conservative political theory operable today? That's a complicated question. For instance, conservative political theory has a lot to say about subsidiarity and the size of government: It believes that small government is best. But in practice, there is no movement or constituency in modern America for "small government." Absolutely none.

Meaning that people who cling to conservative political theory on small government have basically opted out of the real world. They're the equivalent of a Frenchman arguing that the Merovingian dynasty was better than the Fifth Republic. Maybe this is true! But it's also immaterial, because the Merovingians are a dead letter.

The other thing that's odd about conservative political theory is that, historically, it has grown during societal convulsions, when challenges arose to the established order.

Are there any "convulsions" at the moment? I suppose some would say that "wokeness" or immigration or DEI have represented a societal convulsion.

But I would argue that both of these progressive challenges fit firmly within established dynamics of reform and counter-reform.

Instead, I'd argue that the only true challenge to the established order comes from the movement that seeks to move us away from liberal democracy into what it calls illiberal democracy.

One of the great confusions of our time stems from the fact that conservative political theory has traditionally rejected radical change, but the people pursuing radical change today mostly emerged

from conservative political theory.

Conservative policy preferences - This is the most plebeian form of conservatism because it's almost entirely based on recent associations.

For 75 years the Republican Party has been the conservative party in America. So people conflate Republican policy preferences with conservative policy preferences.

Many Trump-skeptical conservatives claim that the policy preferences of the Reagan era are the "true conservative" policies. But I'm not sure why that should be.

Here's a list of Reagan-era policy preferences: Activist foreign policy built on robust alliances; In favor of large-scale immigration; Constitutional originalism and judicial restraint; Committed to free trade as an engine of economic growth. Today, those preferences are rejected (to varying degrees) by the "conservative" party and embraced (again, to varying degrees) by the "liberal" party.

The rump of Trump-skeptical conservatives mostly grew up in the Reagan era and they continue to insist that the policies from that time are the True Conservative policies, while the policies of the current Republican Party are not.

The conservative movement - There exists in the world a number of people who professionalized "conservatism" and turned it into a small industry. Another common conflation is to equate professional operators with "conservatism." For instance: If Rush Limbaugh was touting some person or thing, then that person or thing was conservative by definition.

The ne plus ultra here is Donald Trump, who has come to personify "conservatism" to the point that whatever he

espouses at any given moment becomes the party line in the conservative movement—and hence the official stance of mainstream conservatives.

I'm skeptical of all four of these types of conservatism.

Let's start with the conservative movement, which has exposed itself as a partisan, rather than an ideological, enterprise. Movement conservatives have abandoned most of their previously stated positions over the last eight years as Republican voters shifted their own views.

Worse, in cases where movement conservatives have held on to a position and that position has been adopted by Democrats, the movement conservatives have refused to give Democrats credit or join with them.

For instance, there are many Reagan-conservatives who claim to care deeply about foreign policy. But their views on America's place in the world, the efficacy of intervention, and the importance of alliances now exist entirely within the Biden-Harris Democratic coalition. Meanwhile, the Trump-Vance Republican coalition is actively hostile to the foreign-policy views of Reagan-conservatives.

Show me the list of Reagan conservatives who credit Biden and Harris for their positions and recognize that the Democratic party is now the home for such views. I'll wait.

Many "conservative policy preferences" were redistributed between the two parties by realignment. And when it came time to choose between the policy and the party, nearly all of the movement conservatives chose the latter.

I'm skeptical of conservative political theory, too.

Don't get me wrong: There's wisdom to be mined in conservative theory. But also danger. You get Edmund Burke, but you also get Joseph de Maistre. To put it starkly: If we've reached a point where fascism has been brought to the fore not by runaway liberalism but by the conservative party and the conservative movement, then maybe we ought re-examine some parts of conservative political theory. I'm Ron

And any conservative who doesn't feel the need for such a reexamination, and thinks that the answer is something like "True conservatism has never been tried . . ."

Well, I'm skeptical of that as well. Why?

Because while I believe that the presence of temperamental conservatism is required for a healthy society, it's certainly not sufficient. We do make progress. The world does get better. We need the progressive impulse to push society in that direction.

Now, I think we also need engine governors to keep things like the French Revolution from happening. So in the end, people like me aren't totally useless.

At the end of the day, I guess you could say that I distrust anyone who believes that only one system of thought, or set of policy preferences, has all the answers.

And I'm doubly distrust anyone who holds themselves apart from the real world, as if they're the keepers of an ideological true faith, rather than understanding that society requires a cycle of reform and counter-reform; that human flourishing needs both engines and engine-governors.

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

The Liberal Patriot

The battle for skeptical independents

John Halpin

Independent voters come in several stripes. The bulk are traditional moderates who value pragmatism and core American values over radicalism and extreme positions that increasingly define the two political parties. Others are either right- or left-populist voters, Americans who disdain the political system for a variety of reasons due to incompetence and corruption, and desire a sometimes odd mix of changes to the status quo. The final group of independents are mostly disengaged and disaffected voters, those who keep up with politics and check in on elections only sporadically, if at all, as they pursue other things in life.

The one thing that unifies these diverse independent voters is skepticism of anything politicians say—across the board, independents feel politicians are basically full of it, have few principles, and will say anything to anyone if they think it gives them a leg up on the other party.

To win these skeptical independent voters, actions matter a lot more than words. Right now, both Donald Trump and Kamala Harris have hit a wall in terms of showing independents who they are and what they are about through their deeds rather than proclaiming more things these voters fundamentally don't believe.

The debate last night likely did little to assuage their doubts. Debates in general have lost their importance as defining moments in presidential cam-

paigns, with the exception of Biden's performance in June which drastically altered the internal dynamics of his own party. The pattern is always the same. Partisans defend their candidate and say he or she "obviously" won the debate. Analysts score points on style or substance. But most non-partisan voters either don't watch these things, tune in for a bit and leave, or wait to see what others are saying the next day before making a partial conclusion.

One of candidates might get a bump in the polls and the other a ding based on the performance, but a week from now most voters will have moved on from a night of bickering and fighting.

Looking at Adam Carlson's nice cross-tab aggregator, independent voters (including those who lean to either Democrats or Republicans) remain essentially split on their 2024 vote choice with 45 percent favoring Harris and 44 percent favoring Trump. Notably, the current head-to-head marks a significant decline in independent support for Democrats who backed Biden over Trump by nine points on average in 2020.

Donald Trump has been in the public eye for a long time, and still hasn't managed to significantly increase his national support to reach majority status. Why? For independent voters who aren't already aligned with him, his personal and presidential actions—particularly those after his election loss in 2020—define him in a highly negative manner. Nothing much he says in this campaign will be taken seriously by these voters since he's already proven himself to be an untrustworthy person and failed leader.

Has Trump done anything notable this campaign cycle to prove to voters that he has evolved personally and politically from his past behavior? Not really. He said a few things that suggested possible moderation on abortion, but then turned around and said he would vote no on a ballot measure to repeal Florida's six-week abortion ban after appointing the Supreme Court justices who overturned the national right to abortion in the first place. Trump continues to downplay and defend his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden—and even promises "on Day 1" if elected president again to pardon the convicted people who attacked the U.S. Capitol on his behalf.

Not surprisingly, given his deeds and lack of tangible improvement, Trump is stuck at 46 to 48 percent nationally. Actions over words.

Kamala Harris, on the other hand, is basically a non-entity with many independent voters who are not already aligned with her. Although she has been vice president for nearly four years, many voters remain unaware of the concrete actions she has taken on domestic and foreign policy to help define and advance the Biden administration agenda.

For example, they haven't heard much if anything from her about why she took steps to cast tie-breaking votes in the Senate to advance major legislation like the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act—and what she hoped to achieve in doing so. It wasn't just that she was Biden's vice president, surely. She clearly believed in the substance of these bills and voted to pass them, and consequently, would be wise to defend these actions and their consequences to voters as evidence of what she will do as president rather than what



she says as a politician.

Likewise, people still know very little about Harris's time as a U.S. Senator and attorney general in California. What did she do in those jobs and what actions or steps would she highlight today to show—not tell—voters what kind of person and leader she has been and would be as president? It's a bit of a mystery honestly.

In terms of policy debates, particularly between the center and the left in the Democratic Party, where and how has Harris concretely broken with the progressive left as state attorney general, as U.S. Senator, and as the current vice president? Inquiring minds want to know. Calling yourself a moderate is not the same thing as proving to hesitant voters that you are a moderate. Actions over words—again.

What independent and other undecided voters have heard about Harris is a lot of back and forth about the out-of-the-mainstream positions she took in the 2020 Democratic primary that she has since renounced in the short 2024 presidential campaign following Biden's exit.

But barring some deeper awareness of what Harris has actually accomplished

as a political leader, it's hard to believe that these new words and policy positions will be convincing to a range of skeptical independent or undecided voters.

In the few remaining weeks of the election, it would be helpful for both Trump and Harris to spend more time proving to voters—through their past and current actions and serious future pledges—that they genuinely mean what they say and that they possess the personal character and leadership qualities necessary to serve the American people well.

To win over remaining skeptical independents, many of whom are still making up their mind about the two candidates, it's critical for Trump and Harris to concretely challenge public assumptions about who they are and how they might govern.

Ultimately, their actions as leaders will matter more to independents than empty campaign rhetoric and partisan cheerleading that voters won't believe anyway.

"Talk is cheap, it takes money to buy whiskey," as the old proverb goes.

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

Good Day Neighbor

The fabric of our county, our country

Dorothea Mordan

Woodsboro was founded in 1786 by Joseph Wood (1743-1800). Our little town was built along ancient footpaths, growing with the country into a home to generations. Home school to public school, local business and churches that fostered the community found in small towns. Human migration and trade grew by traveling roads started from trails worn into the earth by native Americans, becoming dirt roads for settlers with their horses and wagons. Railroads appeared for early mass transit. The horse and buggy fell out of favor, making way for our beloved automobiles—mini-fiefdoms on wheels.

Our nation thrives on healthy competition in business and sports. A century of Woodsboro's Rosebud Salve is testament to ingenuity, product loyalty and good old fashioned hometown pride. No doubt more than a few folks from Woodsboro would buy no other salve over the years.

Woodsboro and Walkersville have a blend of everything that makes neighbors into a community. Our children attend the feeder schools, graduating together from Walkersville High School. We have locally owned businesses that make buying local part of daily life. We

are close enough to Frederick to get all the Big City Stuff we desire, but having hometown merchants and great schools makes this a Community.

Trout's Market, on Main St. in Woodsboro, is a priceless asset for our towns. It has been here over sixty years, nourishing us everyday, and saving dinner time on super busy workdays. Trout's as a small, full service grocery store is a lifeline for many residents who don't have a vehicle to get to distant grocery options. Over the years we have had many friends from around Frederick County come to Trout's because of its personal feel, and the dependable selection seafood, meat and vegetables. Communities all over the country are losing the businesses that hold them together, and grocery stores are particularly vulnerable. Our grocery store supports us in this community, and it takes us to support our grocery store.

Our country is built on small communities woven together by our needs. Countries fray when a few poor leaders convince the public to feel threatened, taken advantage of by "those people" from "somewhere else". Just ask anyone from Springfield, Ohio. (I have yet to hear any Republican from Maryland denounce—UNEQUIVOCALLY—the false claims about pet eating or any other raving claim made by current GOP leadership.)

In our public schools there is a fraying of trust between the grownups. We each

have our own story and perspective—teacher, current student, a parent of a student, or our childhood as a student. The Special Education Department is uniquely delicate, trying to navigate the needs of students and concerns of parents. All of us in that arena have a steep daily learning curve when it comes to communication challenges, such as with a nonverbal child.

On the ballot in the general election are candidates who have built their careers on understanding how leadership impacts communities and trust. Each understands that education and community together form the backbone of any town, county or country. Education brings access to information, inspires curiosity, and advances our problem solving and critical thinking skills. Our community connections deepen with opportunities to understand other perspectives. A strong economy depends on an educated public with a sense of community. Each of these candidates understands that education and community are the path to, and inspiration for, the resilient economy and society we have.

Angela Alsobrooks, US Senator. angealsobrooks.com

"Angela firmly believes that the investments made into the education system reflect the value society places on its children and how these children feel valued by their community."

As County Executive, "Angela spearheaded the construction of 10 new schools in Prince George's County,

accomplishing this feat with the help of a public-private partnership (P3) model that can deliver schools 10 years faster and at a cost of 15-20% less without the need to raise new taxes."

April McClain Delaney, MD 6th Congressional District. aprilmcclaindelaneyforcongress.com

"April supports the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which makes critical investments in Maryland's public education by increasing funding for public schools, expanding access to pre-K, addressing resource disparities, and applying new standards for college and career readiness. Once elected, April will work with state leaders to ensure Blueprint for Maryland's Future is fully funded, so our public education system continues to have the critical resources it needs."

Janie Monier, Board of Ed. Candidate. janiemonier.org. Has a comprehensive approach to supporting Parents, Families, and Teachers that includes real improvements to education such as managing class size, and funding the staff and resources to achieve realistic goals.

Chad King Wilson, Sr. Board of Ed. Candidate. chad4boe.com

"... a 17-year veteran educator, coach, and educational activist with a background in Special Education, Social Studies, and Alternative Education programs..."

Mr. Wilson believes that every child should have access to an inclusive, diverse, world-class education

that is, as Nelson Mandela stated, "the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Josh Bokee, Board of Ed. Candidate. joshbokee.org

"...All students deserve to be challenged, encouraged, supported and presented with opportunities that lead to success"

Let's not forget the top of the ticket, kamalaharris.com

Kamala Harris, whose career path is illuminated by battles she won to keep our communities safe, and our economy and personal finances stable.

"...went up against predatory for-profit colleges and won — delivering a \$1.1 billion settlement for students and veterans who got scammed."

Tim Walz, who has seen education and community from his many perspectives as a veteran, teacher, Congressman, Governor.

Yes we all want a strong country and economy, but it all starts with community. There is a real attempt to unravel the fabric of our communities, voting is the repair. When this election cycle is just too overwhelming, take a break and buy a nice meal or a snack at Trout's. We are almost there.

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

To read prior editions of Good Day Neighbor, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net or visit her website: ChandlerDesignsLimited.com.

PASTOR'S DESK

Saints: perfected in the divine life

Father Timothy Barkley
St. James Orthodox Church

The traditional churches of the West celebrate the Feast of All Saints on November 1st. In the Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Synaxis of All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Christians from time immemorial have commemorated saints known to us and known only to God together on All Saints.

We are "called to be saints". What does that calling mean? How do we walk it out in our daily lives? And what is a "saint"?

The word "saint" comes from the same root as the word "holy." Saints are those called to be holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16). God is holy, and we are made in his image and likeness, formed according to the archetype of Christ. Holiness is often understood as being "set apart to God" or "set apart for God." I suggest that holiness is more than that. Holiness isn't something we become; holy is who we become. It's not something extrinsic to us that we attain; it must become who we are. We are holy, not by becoming something foreign to our nature, but by

fully becoming who we were always meant to be.

Holiness is becoming by grace what Jesus is by nature, rising from the baptismal font in newness of the resurrection life of Christ, partaking of the divine nature as he is formed in us not as an abstraction but as a reality. By receiving the gratuitous outpouring of God's energies ("grace"), and engaging with those energies all of our being ("faith"), we become all that he is. We do not become a divinity, a member of the Holy Trinity, but we do become "little Christs," which is what it means to be a "Christian." We are filled with all the fullness of God, having Christ, who is the fullness of the godhead formed in us and dwelling in us.

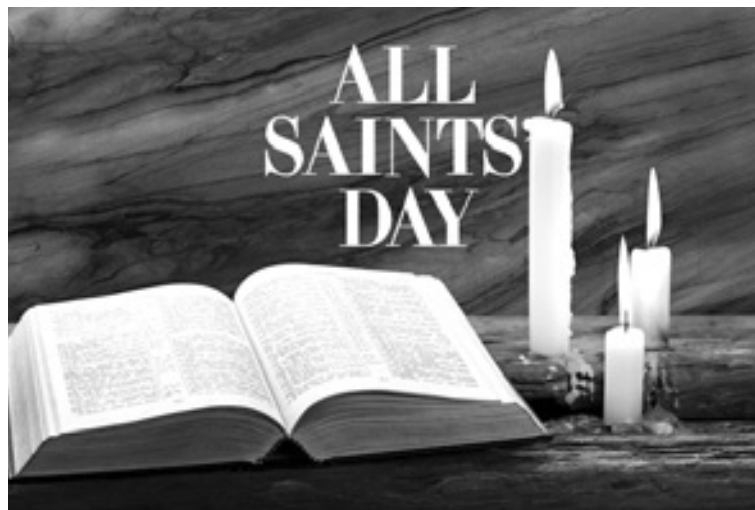
The Orthodox Church teaches that this happens literally, by grace, and not just figuratively, allegorically, or juridically. It's not that if we become holy, we are moved into a category of things that now belong or pertain to God. Rather, by being re-formed into the fullness of the person and nature of Christ who is fully God, we take on the nature of the God who is holy. We become filled with his life, so that

we live that life in our human nature just as Jesus did. All that the Father is by nature, the Son is by nature; and all that the Son is by nature, we can become by grace, thereby becoming by grace what God is by nature. We can thus be holy, precisely because by receiving the gratuitous outpouring of his energies we take on the nature of the One who is holy.

Sainthood, then, is godhood, becoming the very light, life and love of God in the earth by grace. That sounds suspicious to some Christians. But this is not a syncretistic and heretical blending of truth and falsehood. The truth is that we can become divine, but we are not divine by nature, as the heretics claim. Rather, we become divine by grace. The falsehood is that we are divinities by nature; the truth is that we become partakers of the divine nature by grace.

The saints are those who took seriously the call to live the divine life in this life. They let nothing stand between them and the "one thing needful" fixing their eyes on Christ and running with endurance the race marked out for them, persevering until the end, that they might be saved.

The saints weren't saints until they



were saints. The saints didn't walk around on a cushion of air, their feet not touching the ground. They didn't—at least, most of them didn't—exude a special aroma or act spooky or weird. They just took their faith very seriously, like it was the only thing that really mattered. Everything else was either a means to faith and embraced, or a hindrance to faith and eschewed. And they were right.

When pastors hold up saints as an example of the Christian life, people often object, "but they were saints," seeming to believe that saints had an unfair advantage over the rest of us ordinary people. Not so. Saints didn't start as saints with an easy road to holiness; they chose to be holy and became saints. They made a choice, the same choice that we can make, if

we want it badly enough. How badly do we want to fulfill our calling?

Some saints are saints because of one event at the end of their lives, when for the first time they saw clearly the glory of God in the face of Christ's martyrs and embraced martyrdom for themselves. They were perfected in the divine life in an instant. Other saints persevered in the marathon of the Christian life over their entire lifetime. They show us what it means to "run with perseverance" or endurance. They were perfected in the divine life throughout their lives.

Classically, there are six categories of saints: apostles and equals-to-the-apostles, who dedicated their lives to the spreading of the Gospel; martyrs and confessors who died for the faith or made extreme sacrifices rather than deny, obscure, or compromise the faith; prophets of the Old Testament and the prophet, forerunner and baptizer John who prepared the people of God to receive their salvation in Christ; bishops and priests who served the churches well; monastics who withdrew from the world to embrace communion with God as their one aim; and "the righteous" who lived holy lives in the world.

Any of us could be described in any of these categories, but the last gives me hope for myself. I am a priest and pastor, a husband and father, and I work a "secular" job in the world. I am encouraged at the example of the righteous such as St. Juliana of Lazarevo, who was married and ran a large household, raised seven children, and set an example of the Christian life; and St. Emilia, who raised ten children, five of whom were numbered among the saints.

My family obligations and workday life are no excuse. I am called to the same calling. I, too, am called to be a saint, to be holy as God is holy, to be his life, light and love in the world. I'm not called to be spooky and weird; I'm called to be truly normal, living life according to the "norm," the archetype Christ, who showed us what it means to be fully human.

The life of the saints isn't remarkable; it's ordinary. It's the way we're all supposed to live. The reason it strikes us as different is that we are messed up. What the Church offers us, among many blessings, is the opportunity to get cleaned up, reoriented, and energized with the life of Christ so that we can live his life in the world. For we are "called to be saints."

To learn more about Taneytown's St. James Orthodox Church, visit them online at stjamesorthodox-church.org, or better yet, join them for Sunday service.

Graceham Moravian Church

Sunday Worship hours
Sunday School 9:15
Worship Service 10:30

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Thurmont
Facebook Live - You Tube
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Yard Sale
October 10, 11 & 12
8 to 4

Food Sale!
Friday October 11
from 11 to 6
Saturday October 12
from 9 to 4

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Hot Dogs, Hot Beef, Ham
Sandwiches, Chicken Salad, baked
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301-845-6733 - gracerockyhilllutheran.com

**Community
Yard Sale**

Saturday, October 13
9 to 3
(Rain date 10/26)

Food will be available for
purchase 10:30 to 2.
Please call 301- 515-1297
for table rental reservations.
\$10 for 10 x 10 space
\$15 with table

Other requests considered, spaces limited

Huge Colorfest Yard Sale!
Benefiting Apples Church and the Community

Join us Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
October 10th, 11th, and 12th

Tons of great stuff for sale!
Awesome hot dogs and baked goods available!

YARD SALE

Apples United Church of Christ
7908 Apples Church Rd.
Thurmont
301-606-2169
Service every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Glade United Church of Christ

**2024 Fall
Dinner**

Served at:
The Walkersville Volunteer Fire Hall
79 W. Frederick St., Walkersville

Fried Oysters, Roast Turkey and Ham Dinner
Served Buffet Style

Friday, November 1 - 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 2 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(Carryout available until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 2nd)
**Please note new times for Saturday*

Adults - Cash \$30 ~ Credit Card \$31
Ages 6-12 \$15 ~ Ages 5 & under Free
Carryout Dinners \$1 extra

Glade United Church of Christ
21 Fulton Ave., Walkersville
Contact info: dinner@gladechurch.org or 301-845-6775
Visit us on the web: www.gladechurch.org

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Grace Darling



Oct 20

One of the most pleasing incidents in humble life, within the present century, was the heroic achievement of Grace Darling. Her very pretty name, too, had something to do with the popularity which she acquired; for, without attaching over-importance to the matter, there can be little doubt that lovable actions become more fixed in the public mind when connected with such gentle and pleasant names as Grace Darling and Florence Nightingale.

Grace Darling, born in November 1815, was the daughter of William Darling, keeper of the light house on the Longstone, one of the Fame Islands, off the coast of Northumberland. They are scarcely islands, indeed, being little more than barren and desolate rocks, in most parts very precipitous, and inhabited by little besides sea fowl. The sea rushes between the islands with great violence; and the spot is so dangerous to ships passing near, that a light house has long been maintained there.

Almost shut out from the world in such a spot, Grace Darling saw very little society; yet her parents managed

to give her a fair education for a girl in her station. She was described as being 'remarkable for a retiring and somewhat reserved disposition, gentle in aspect, and mild and benevolent in character; of a fair complexion and comely countenance, with nothing masculine in her appearance.'

It was on the 6th of September 1838, when Grace was about twenty-two years of age, that the event took place which has given her celebrity. The Forfarshire, a steamer of about 300 tons, was on her way from Hull to Dundee. She had a valuable cargo, and sixty-three persons on board the master and his wife, a crew of twenty men, and forty-one passengers.

A slight leak, patched up before her departure, broke out afresh when off Flamborough Head, and rendered it difficult to maintain the fires for the engine. She passed between the Fame Islands and the mainland about six in the evening of the 5th, and then began to encounter a high sea and a strong north wind. The leak increasing, the engine fires gradually went out; and although the sails were then used, they could not prevent the vessel from being driven southward.

Wind, rain, fog, and a heavy sea, all beset the hapless vessel at once. About four o'clock on the morning of the 6th, she struck bows foremost on a precipitous part of one of the rocky islands. Some of the crew and one of the passengers left the ship in one of the boats; two other passengers perished in the attempt to throw themselves into the boat. The females on board clustered round the master, shrieking, and imploring aid, which he could not afford them. A heavy wave, striking the vessel on the quarter, raised her from the rock, and

then caused her to fall violently on it again; she encountered a sharp ledge, which cut her in twain about mid ships; the forepart remained on the rock, while the hinder part was carried off by a rapid current through a channel called the Pifa gut. In this fearful plight the remainder of the passengers and crew awaited the arrival of day-light, no one knowing how soon the waves might destroy them altogether.

At daybreak, William Darling descried them from Longstone, about a mile distant; and it soon became known at Bamborough that a ship had been wrecked. So fearfully did the waves beat against the rock, that the boatman at Bamborough refused to push off; and Darling, accustomed to scenes of danger as he was, shrank from the peril of putting off to the wreck in a boat. Not so his gentle but heroic daughter. She could see, by the aid of a glass, the sufferers clinging to the wreck; and, agonized at the sight, she entreated him to let her go with him in a boat to endeavour to rescue them.

At last he yielded; the mother helped to launch the boat into the water, and the father and daughter each took an oar. And so they rowed this fearful mile, at each instant in danger of being swamped by the waves. They reached the wreck, and found nine survivors. One of them, a weaver's wife, was found in the forecabin, exposed to the intrusion of the sea, and two children lay stiffened corpses in her arms. The whole nine went with Darling and his daughter into the boat, and safely reached the lighthouse, where, owing to the severity of the weather, they were forced to remain two days, kindly attended to by the three inmates.

When the news of this exploit reached the coast, all Northumberland

was filled with admiration; and speedily the whole kingdom was similarly affected. Grace Darling's name became everywhere known, and she herself received attentions from all quarters. Tourists came from all parts to see the Longstone light house, and, still more, to see Grace herself.

The Duke and Duchess of Northumberland invited her and her father to Alnwick Castle, and gave her a gold watch; the silver medal of the Shipwreck Institution was awarded to her; and testimonials came from various public bodies. A purse of £700 was presented to her by public subscription. Portraits of her were eagerly sought for and purchased; and a speculating manager of a London theatre even offered a large sum to her, if she would merely sit in a boat on the stage for a few minutes, during the performance of a piece written for the occasion.

But her modest and retiring disposition revolted from this last named notoriety; she rejected the offer; and throughout the whole of this novel and tempting career, she never once departed from her gentle, womanly demeanour. Lovers, of course, she had in plenty; but she accepted none of them; she continued to reside with her father and mother at the light house. And there she died of consumption, on the 20th of October 1842, at the early age of twenty-seven, about four years after the event which had given her fame. Long before her death, she had the means of seeing how literature was invoked in her honour; for memoirs, tales, and poems relating to her were issued from the press such as Grace Darling, the Heroine of the Fame Islands; Grace Darling, the Maid of the Isles; and so forth. One biographer managed to fill 480 octavo pages with an account of her life and of the shipwreck!

St. John's Lutheran Church
8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown
301-898-5290
Or Visit Us At: www.emmitsburg.net/ajlc

October 10th, 11th, & 12th - Estate Yard Sale
In the Parish Hall starting at 7:30 a.m. to benefit the building fund/window project. Pulled Pork Bar-B-Que by Jake and other food for sale.
Apple Butter - Quarts \$7 Pints \$4

October 19th - Drive-thru Dinner & Bake Sale
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Order deadline: 10/13
Fried chicken, green beans, pepper slaw, biscuit & piece of cake..... **\$15**

Buckets of chicken: 8 pc. \$10, 12 pc. \$15, 16 pc. \$20
Call Carmi Saylor at 301-401-0633 or the church 301-898-5290 with your name, phone number and order.

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ECOLOGY

Squirrels

Anne Gageby
 Director of Environmental Education
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

Raise your hand if you have a bird feeder. Give it a wave if you've ever dealt with squirrels getting into said bird feeder. It seems like there are a hundred ways of preventing the pesky rodents from stealing bird food and just as many ways squirrels find their way in anyway. Squirrels are sneaky, tricky, and snap-quick at evading predators. They're also kind of cute.

Sometimes, when I'm out on the trails, I'll stop and watch as these small to medium-sized rodents scurry along the forest floor or across branches. It's fascinating to watch them bolt then stop to look around and swish their tails, before bolting again as if spooked by the dappled sunlight or maybe their own imaginations.

Not that squirrels don't have real predators. Hawks, foxes, snakes, and owls are the most common predators though they are most successful when squirrels are young. As adults, all squirrels are incredibly adept at evasive changes in direction and disappearing. Gray squirrels are especially quick, much faster than reds. Unlike many other animals, adult squirrel populations are not usually impacted by predators as food accessibility is a bigger determining factor. A bad year makes a more noticeable impact on population density.

Grey squirrels consume mast such as hickory nuts, beechnuts, walnuts, and acorns. The quintessential image of a squirrel is of one holding or hiding a nut. They're famous for burying extras and inadvertently growing a forest. But they eat other foods, too. Berries, mushrooms, corn germ, insects, and amphibians round out squirrels' diets. Yes, squirrels are technically opportunistic feeders that will consume animal parts alongside the more typical nuts and fruits. Foods such as bones, bird eggs, and even dead animals are consumed when season and availability call for it.

As for water, squirrels consume high-moisture foods such as buds and flowers though gray squirrels will drink from ground-water sources as needed. They've been known to scratch at maple trees until sap flows and indulge in a tasty drink. Hobbyist maple sugarcers can often spot the little rascals sneaking drinks from winter maple taps. Work smarter, not harder, after all.

Pennsylvania is home to four native arboreal, or tree, squirrel species – the gray, fox, red, and flying squirrels. The gray is the most common species found in Pennsylvania. Squirrels are members of the family Sciuridae; a family that includes the previously mentioned tree squirrels, ground squirrels including chipmunks, and flying squirrels. They have keen senses of hearing and smell. All species are most active during the day except for flying squirrels which are nocturnal. Unlike many animals,

these interesting little rodents only see in black and white. Like many other mammals, however, they're born hairless and blind and are dependent upon their mothers for the first two months of life. Upon maturation, squirrels become incredibly agile and able to care for themselves.

They're one of the only mammals that can descend a tree upside down due to two unique adaptations. First, their tiny claws are hook-shaped and are able to grab tree bark with ease. Second, their wrists and ankles can turn 180 degrees which allows them to climb, hang, and flee as needed, no matter the direction. They are among the most skilled tree-climbers in Pennsylvania. They have the added advantage of having powerful abdominal and back muscles which make climbing a breeze. And even non-flying squirrels have the ability to jump about seven feet at a time as they move from branch to branch.

Interestingly, the northern flying squirrel doesn't actually fly. It travels by gliding, reaching an average distance of about 65 feet. They can also reach eight miles per hour in ground speed. Unfortunately, the northern flying squirrel is listed as endangered here in Pennsylvania as it's becoming more and more rare. Its home range is now limited to northern conifer forests. The smaller southern flying squirrel is not endangered as is more widespread in both habitat and range. Fortunately, the northern flying squirrel is considered secure nationally so that's a positive checkmark for the species.

If you've ever seen a squirrel up close, you might notice how gray



If you've ever dealt with squirrels getting into bird feeders, you know there are a hundred ways of preventing them from stealing bird food and just as many ways squirrels find their way in anyway. Squirrels are sneaky, tricky, and snap-quick at evading predators, however, they are also kind of cute.

squirrels are only partly gray. They are often silver-gray on top and off-white on their bellies. There are usually rust-colored markings on their sides that add interesting visual contrast. Like many creatures, albino squirrels do occur though they are considerably more rare than melanistic squirrels. In fact, dark gray-black to jet-black squirrels are fairly common.

Their long, bushy tails are iconic and useful. They aid squirrels in maintaining body heat when temperatures drop by acting like a fluffy blanket to curl up under. They help keep rain and snow from the main body and when necessary, can signal to other squirrels if danger is close by. Probably the coolest use of squirrel tails is parachuting. Squirrels are just as adept at landing as they are jumping. That's because they can flatten their bodies and use their tails like a parachute to help slow their fall. Squirrels are fantastic showmen

when it comes to feats of falling.

Just today I was out on the trail and watched a gray jump between branches. He lost his balance just enough to slide sideways before catching himself and scurrying up the tree trunk. It was pretty impressive and definitely took skill. I continued to watch him as he paused, looked around, and climbed back down to his previous spot. It made me wonder what exactly was going through his mind. Do squirrels have thoughts and if so, do they operate at the same warp speed as the rest of them? Better yet, do they understand how interesting they are to watch as they scramble across yards, backtrack, and bound playfully around as if physically unable to sit still? They're adorable and fascinating. Although, I'm quite certain birds trying to get to feeders would disagree.

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THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

The fable of the world's smallest bird

Bill Meredith

Fable: "A narrative making an edifying or cautionary point, often employing as characters animals that speak and act like human beings."

—American Heritage Dictionary, 1980.

"Nostalgia, as Uncle Joshua said, ain't what it used to be."

—Peter deVries

My wife and I spent much of the summer of 1990 landscaping the lawn of our new house. The front yard was bounded by a bank that was too steep to mow, so I planted it with low-growing junipers; I expected to them grow and merge together, forming a continuous, maintenance-free carpet. To prevent erosion until that happened, I covered the area between the junipers with wood-chip mulch.

It was a good plan in theory, but it didn't work very well in practice. The bank faced southward, and the next few summers were dry, so several of the junipers died. The mulch turned out to contain the spores of wood-rotting fungi, as well as seeds for several kinds of weeds that we didn't already have, and they seemed to be better adapted to a dry habitat than the junipers were. So what I had expected to be a maintenance-free zone became a sort of arena where I had to wage a pitched battle every couple of weeks, pulling weeds, replacing dead junipers with more drought-resistant ground covers, and replacing mulch that had decomposed. Over the next decade it gradually stabilized, but even now I still have to weed and re-mulch regularly.

One summer in the mid-90s there was more rain than usual, and I noticed an odd-looking fungus on some dead juniper twigs on the bank. At the first casual glance it looked like small white lumps, but on closer inspection the lumps proved to be tiny cup-shaped growths, about an eighth of an inch in diameter, and each cup contained several round, egg-like objects. After some searching, I found a drawing of them in an old textbook*. They were Bird's-nest Fungi.

Our grandchildren were young then, and when I showed them the bird's-nest fungi we began making up stories about tiny birds building nests under my juniper bushes and hatching chicks so small you could hardly see them. Naturally, the stories took on a life of their own; the cup-shaped fungi morphed into the nests of the smallest birds in the world, which lived only in Grandpa's yard and came every year to build their nests and raise their young among the juniper bushes on the bank. Since we never saw the birds, it was obvious that they must be nocturnal, and before long we could hear their songs among the other tiny peeping sounds at night. The stories grew, and it turned out that the birds could sense the coming of winter, so on the night before the first frost they would begin their migration flight. But instead of going south, they flew north until they reached the North Pole, where they spent the winter in Santa's workshop and earned their living by singing to the elves who were making toys.

As I look back on my own childhood, it seems that all of my elders on both sides of the family... parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts... were great story-tellers. Some of the stories were family lore and tradition, about things that had happened to them "in the old days"... the time the carriage upset and the horse ran off, the big storm when lightning struck the haystack, that butchering day when someone forgot to take the ramrod out of the gun before he shot the pig... things that really happened, perhaps embellished just a little bit. Others were based on classic fairy

tales, Aesop's Fables, or Biblical parables, designed to teach a moral lesson while keeping the kids quiet after dinner or at bedtime. My own fable about the smallest birds in the world had its roots in the story of Thumbelina, whose kindness in nursing a wounded swallow back to health was rewarded when the swallow carried her on its back as it flew south, and took her to a handsome prince who happened to be just her size....

This year the weather was cooler and wetter than usual, and the nests of the world's smallest bird appeared in abundance under the junipers on the bank. I have showed them to some of my small friends and told them the fable; and I added a bit of a moral to it to teach them that every living thing has a task to do in nature, and fungi are valuable because they break down dead sticks and leaves to make the soil richer. The youngest of them now four, understands that the fable is just a story, like Jack and the Beanstalk; but he also has picked up the lesson. My wife says I'm crazy, making up stories like that; but I can't help it. It's in the blood.

Heritage

My grandfather's name was Pappy, And he was very old, at least sixty, Because his hair was gray And he wore glasses. He had two chins and a big belly, and rheumatism, So he couldn't run or play games, But he could tell stories, And we knew they were all true Because he didn't smile.

When he died there was no mention

Of me in his will,

But I found out sixty years later

That he left me the gray hair,

And the glasses, the chins, the belly,

And the rheumatism,

And the stories too,

Even some he never really told,

But he would have if he'd got around to it.

They all knew Uncle Lon was absent-minded,

So no one was particularly surprised

On butchering day back in '87

When he forgot to take the ramrod

Out of the gun before he shot the pig;

And by the time they finally caught it, Pappy said,

The bacon was ruined because it had run all the fat off.

The next day the Times reported That seventeen reliable witnesses

Had called in to report



They'd seen a Unicorn Running down the road in Meadowdale;

But one of them remarked, Pappy said,

That it didn't look as much like a horse as he'd expected.

—wgm, 1996

*The book was Fieldbook of Natural History, by Laurence Palmer, 1949. It was one of my first ecology books, and it still is one of the first places I look when I find something I don't recognize.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Serpentine Aspirations

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

October is a month associated with things that go bump in the night and ghoulish or nightmarish creatures. For many of us, snakes embody that idea year round. Slithering, hissing, forked tongues, and the like evoke different visions and meaning for all of us. In my line of work I've found that most people either love or hate snakes, rarely are people indifferent. Whether they're venomous or not, snakes are truly a vital part of the ecosystem. There is a great deal of mystery and misinformation surrounding snakes so with our proverbial flashlight let's plunge into the darkness and illuminate the darkness.

Snakes the world over get a bad rap. We might trace this to a Biblical tradition where a deceitful snake spring boarded humanity into a descent towards chaos. Perhaps it's something engrained into our DNA from our universal African heritage, where virtually every snake from the continent that birthed early humanity is fatally venomous. In children's stories snakes are usually depicted as villains so we start off early knowing snakes are bad guys. No matter the root cause it's something societies young or old or separated by oceans share – fear of the serpentine. This fear causes all snakes to be killed indiscriminately.

Maryland is home to 27 different species of snakes, only two of which

are venomous. The Timber Rattlesnake and the Northern Copperhead, both of which can be found in our area, are the only venomous snakes that call Maryland home. Contrary to popular belief we do not have the Water Moccasin (aka Cottonmouth). There are a few simple ways to differentiate between a venomous or non-venomous snake here in Maryland (disclaimer – these methods do not hold true to all areas of the US or worldwide). First, you can go by the shape of the head. Venomous snakes, in our area, will have a triangular shaped head. Whereas, non-venomous snakes will have a cylindrical shaped head that runs almost seamlessly into the rest of the body. So, if you see a snake and its head looks like the shape of your thumb it is non-venomous. If its head looks like a spade, then tapers off into the body it could be venomous. Many snakes however are aware of this feature and will flatten their heads out to pose as venomous snakes in order to scare of potential predators. Another method of differentiating between the two is by looking at the shape of the iris. A non-venomous snake will have a rounded pupil, just like you or I. A venomous snake, however, will have an elliptical shaped eye. It will resemble an eye like a cat.

By this time of year though snakes should be relatively inactive and if not already hibernating should be preparing for it. When temperatures fall below 50 degrees

is their cue to nestle down. As the temperatures rise in the spring, or even warm fall or winter days they may reawaken for short periods. This helps conserve energy during the winter months when food sources may be scarce.

Just like people growing up, or out, that need newer bigger clothes snakes do too! Snakes will shed their skin anywhere from once a month to just a few times a year depending on many factors. The skin will begin to look ashy and eyes may look blue or "cloudy". Their eyes appear this way because they actually don't have eye lids and the scale covering the eye is beginning to pull away from the eye itself. After a few days of this the skin will begin to flake and resemble sunburn on a person. Snakes will rub their nose and mouth on a rough surface like a rock and the skin begins to peel backwards and inside out. Snakes will wiggle their way out until they shed that skin and don their new threads.

Snakes will kill prey in one of two ways, either through venom (if that's an option) or by constriction. Once a constrictor snake locates prey it will strike and sink their fangs into dinner. Then they will begin to wrap their bodies around the meal and squeeze until their prey is no longer moving – it's like the worst hug you've ever had. All snakes can swallow food that is actually bigger than their heads. A human jaw is attached to the skull so movement is fairly constrained. The jaw of a snake is joined to the skull by muscle, tendons, and ligaments. Because of this extra flexibility snakes can open their mouths to about a 150 degree angle. They can stretch their jaws open wider



There is a great deal of mystery and misinformation surrounding snakes. Whether they're venomous or not, snakes are truly a vital part of the ecosystem.

than the width of their bodies to swallow larger prey, but that doesn't mean you're on the menu! Snakes generally want to be left alone. So if you happen to stumble upon one on a hike or even just in your yard they will want to go the other way. A person is way too big to be eaten by any of our native snakes so the only reason it is going to strike is if it feels threatened. So the best way to avoid being bitten is to just back away and give it plenty of space. If you are bitten you may want to seek medical attention whether it is venomous or not, because an infection could still occur from any bite.

Snakes are crucial to pest and rodent control for the environment and us. Most of what snakes eat is largely rodents. Rodents, like mice for example, are prone to spreading disease. Often they are carriers of ticks. In case you live under a rock: ticks can transmit a plethora of pathogens to people including (but not limited to)

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme disease. By indiscriminately killing snakes we are limiting their natural ability to help defend us from these illnesses. Mice don't need help from ticks to spread disease though. They are effective enough at it on their own. Through urine and fecal excrement mice are known to transmit salmonella, hanta virus, and of course plague. Bites or scratches from mice or mites that live on mice can cause rat-bite fever, typhus, and types of pox. We of course can't forget that mice are prolific breeders and chew incessantly, so it can be costly to repair or replace damaged wiring. The last thing I need is for a mouse to chew through my X-Box cables! Snakes are glad to lend a helping hand in protecting us from all this.

Aside from being hugely beneficial, reason alone not to kill them, it is also illegal to kill any snake in Maryland. They are protected by the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. This act states that that native snakes cannot be killed, possessed, bred, or sold without first acquiring the proper permit from the Department of Natural Resources, and a permit is required for the possession, breeding, and sale of native reptiles and amphibians in the state. When encountering snakes in the wild it is best to leave them alone. If they enter a home you can either attempt to remove the snake yourself or call animal control. You can discourage snakes from becoming a problem by rodent proofing homes, keeping lawns mowed short, making sure entry points (doors, cellars, windows) are sealed tightly.

Snakes are a remarkable and highly beneficial species. Remember snake bites in Maryland are rarely fatal, and if left alone snakes pose no threat to people. While there is a cultural and literary history that vilifies snakes, they are actually our friends. By valuing their assistance and knowing the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes we can aspire to all get along much better!

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Figures don't lie, but they can mislead

Boyce Rensberger

Numbers don't always mean what they seem to mean. Consider these two examples:

- The average salary of the 145 women who work at Widget Inc. is \$60,000. Widget's 100 men are paid salaries averaging nearly 60 percent higher--\$95,000. Is this an obvious case of sex discrimination?
- Mercy Hospital has a 50 percent higher death rate among its surgery patients than does General Hospital in the same town. If you need an operation, you'd be safer at General, right?

Not necessarily. Not in either case. Impossible as it may seem, Widget actually pays women significantly better in every job category than it pays men. And your chances of dying during surgery would be lower in Mercy Hospital despite its statistically higher death rate.

This is because, in some cases, numerical data can work in a perverse way that experts say often is ignored in public debates.

"These problems come up again and again in public debate, and because most people have a fairly weak grasp of statistics, the debate just gets muddier," says David S. Moore, a statistician at Purdue University.

Statisticians are well acquainted with situations in which the same raw data can be represented in different ways, both of them technically honest and both accurate and yet point to opposite conclusions. It's called Simpson's paradox, named not for Homer, the cartoon character, but for the late Edward Simpson, a British statistician.

Let's take a closer look at whether Widget Inc. has a sexist pay scale. The company could point out that, in all three of its categories of employment, it pays women higher salaries.

For example, women in Widget management average \$160,000 while the men average \$150,000. In the engineering department, women get \$110,000 to the men's

\$100,000. And in the clerical ranks, women average \$35,000, compared with \$25,000 for men. Widget's salary practices can hardly be sexist if it pays women better at every level. How can this be?

The thing that misleads people is what's often called a lurking variable, which is some other feature underlying the data that you may not realize is there. The trick is to pull apart the numbers and look at smaller categories that might be more relevant.

The lurking variable in the Widget case is that women are not evenly distributed through the ranks. Hardly any women are in management, so the salary advantage of those who are there does little to boost women's average for the company as a whole. By contrast, women dominate the clerical staff, and even though they are paid better than men in the same department, they are paid so much less than the male-dominated management staff that the company's overall average for women drops.

Clearly, a closer analysis of the data indicates that Widget's situation is more complex than either side might think.

Here's a closer look at this same kind of paradox in the hospital comparison. Stick with me here, this involves arithmetic. Statistics can be that way.

In one year, Mercy Hospital has 2,100 surgery patients, of whom 2,037 leave the hospital alive and 63 die. Its overall death rate, therefore, is 3 percent. General Hospital has 800 patients, of whom 784 live and 16 die—a death rate of 2 percent. Thus, Mercy's death rate is 50 percent higher than General's.

On the face of it, General would seem the safer bet. In fact, the safer choice actually is Mercy. That becomes obvious only when you break the data into smaller categories.

At Mercy, 600 patients were in good condition. Of these, six died,

creating a 1 percent death rate for this category. General also had 600 patients in good condition but eight of them died, giving a death rate of 1.3 percent—higher than at Mercy.

What about the patients in poor condition? Mercy had 1,500 of these, and 57 died, a death rate of 3.8 percent. At General, only 200 patients were in poor condition, and eight of them died, a death rate of 4 percent. Again, General had the higher death rate.

In other words, no matter whether you are in good condition or poor, you should go to Mercy Hospital, the one with the higher overall death rate.

In the hospital case, the lurking variable is the difference in the type of patients. The great majority of Mercy's patients arrive in poor condition, and many are simply too ill to survive even the best medical care. That raises its average death rate for all patients by more than it is lowered by Mercy's good record with patients in good condition.

General's patients are in better shape to start with, which means that, although it does a poorer job with them than Mercy would, the proportionately high number of those patients significantly boosts the overall average.

Simpson's paradox is not confined to hypothetical comparisons like these. A famous real-life situation emerged in the 1970s when the University of California at Berkeley was accused of bias against women seeking admissions to its graduate departments. About 44 percent of male applicants were admitted, but only 35 percent of female applicants.

Those numbers were so different from what would be expected in an unbiased selection process that critics calculated the odds of the difference emerging by chance as "vanishingly small."

It turned out there was a lurking variable.



"Numbers don't lie. That's where we come in."

The women tended to apply to departments where competition is much stiffer for both sexes. Men, on the other hand, were more likely to apply to departments with fewer applicants and easier acceptance.

When the numbers were examined for each department separately, admission rates differed only slightly and, in fact, about as many departments favored women as favored men.

Three Berkeley statisticians who examined the case pronounced it "a clear but misleading pattern of bias against female applicants." Their analysis, after searching out lurking variables, led to a more profound conclusion.

"The bias in the aggregated data," they wrote in a report, "stems not from any pattern of discrimination on the part of admissions committees, which seem quite fair on the whole, but apparently from prior screening at earlier levels of the educational system."

Women, they said, are shunted by their socialization and education toward academic fields that are more

crowded and less well-funded. But since so many people apply for them, they are harder to get into. These include such "soft" teaching fields as English or history.

Men, by contrast, are more likely to aim for "harder" fields such as science or engineering, where fewer people are competing for acceptance.

So, how can you guard against being misled?

Statisticians recommend a simple starting point: Don't be too quick to accept any interpretation attached to a set of figures, especially if the numbers lump several categories of the thing being studied. Try to obtain the numbers for each of the categories and see whether the interpretation holds true for each.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Groundcovers: living mulch

Maritta Perry Grau,
Frederick County Master Gardener

Fall is really here at last, and it won't be long before the first frosts creep across our landscapes. As I write this column and gaze out the windows into our backyard, I can see that the most tender annuals and perennials have already succumbed to the cooler nighttime temperatures, although hardier flowers—the zinnias, feathery coxcomb, portulaca, some petunias, and some succulents—are still raising defiant blooms.

I've mentioned in other columns that the Old Coach and I have gradually been converting some of our flower beds to areas that will require less maintenance. One of the changes we're contemplating is replacing some flower beds, especially in the shade, with groundcovers. Many gardening experts have been advocating the use of native ground covers, also referred to as "living" or "green" mulch, for several years now. Some gardeners—and many farmers—plant a green mulch in the fall and plow it under the following spring to add more nutrients to the soil before growing vegetables or flowers. Others just keep it growing year-round.

A good "green" mulch suppresses weeds, helps control erosion and stormwater runoff, provides food and habitat for wildlife/insects, and often continues growing long into winter. While most bloom with bright flowers in the spring, a few show off their flowers in summer

or early fall. Additionally, according to Miri Talabac, lead horticulture coordinator of the Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) at the University of Maryland Extension Service, such groundcover can be used to replace turf grasses in a lawn area that won't easily grow those grasses or is difficult to mow or maintain.

Interestingly, not all ground covers are ground-creepers. Talabac writes that most groundcovers "are chosen for their sprawling, spreading, or creeping growth habit and relatively short mature height." Some may grow more than a foot tall and in clumps that spread out quite far. Several planted fairly close together will shield the ground and prevent most weeds from growing, while making a lovely greened vista.

And as with flowers, shrubs, and trees, a mix of groundcovers rather than a monoculture may be your best choice to minimize pests or diseases. According to Ms. Talabac, "Species have different vulnerabilities and tolerances. In the event of a pest or disease outbreak or weather stress, not every species in a mixed planting will be equally affected."

Like ornamental groundcovers, native groundcovers can be ground-hugging or grow to be one or two feet tall; will grow in a variety of conditions and zones; and will reproduce in different ways. Some are self-seeders; others multiply through horizontally growing suckers or underground rhizomes.

Some do better than others at tolerating extremes of heat and cold.

Instead of the traditional groundcovers such as periwinkle (vinca major), ajuga, Japanese pachysandra, or Bishop's weed, all of which can be thuggish or invasive, you might consider several lesser known native, as well as non-native, groundcovers:

Golden ragwort (Packera aurea) has big, heart-shaped leaves; it blooms in early spring with daisy-like single-petaled flowers; the flowers are light yellow with darker yellow centers. Among the taller of groundcovers, ragwort, an eastern North American native, grows to about 2½ feet tall and wide. It spreads quickly through both rhizomes and seeds but is fairly easy to control. It grows well in dry shade.

Your grandmother's beloved hostas are also excellent as decorative groundcovers in dry shady/partially shady areas. Today's varieties come in all sizes from about six inches to 18 inches tall, and can be found in shades/mixtures/textures of any mix, including green, chartreuse, and white, with broad or narrow, smooth or seersucker-wrinkled leaves; and will last until a hard frost. Many send up stalks of lavender or white bell flowers in early to mid-summer, or even in early fall. While most of ours are in full shade, a few are surviving in early morning sun, although their leaves are brighter green than their grayish-green-leaved compatriots in full shade.

Instead of Japanese pachysandra (Pachysandra terminalis), you might try the native (southeastern U.S.) Allegheny spurge (Pachysandra procumbens), which is both drought- and shade-tolerant, loves acidic soil, but also tolerates more alkaline soils. Unlike



The Ostrich Fern is a grand, native plant from the Eastern American woodlands. Unfurling in a fiddlehead shape, it gets its name from the open plumes that resemble ostrich feathers. Like most ferns, this one prefers a cool, moist spot and will spread and thrive in any wet, shady area of the garden. A notably graceful plant.

the traditional pachysandra, it has more of a bluish tinge to its light green, serrated leaves, which cluster in whorls around the stalk. The plant grows up to one foot tall, up to two feet wide.

Two other shady groundcovers, both low-growing, are Jack Frost brunnera (Brunnera macrophylla)—small, heart-shaped leaves, mainly white with green edges and green veins showing through; or Lungwort (Pulmonaria spp. and cvs.), which has clusters of long, narrow leaves growing out from a central point. Older leaves may have slightly crinkled long edges.

Meehan's mint (Meehania cor-

data), native to eastern North America, is also a low-growing groundcover, only about 3 to 6 inches tall, and up to 3 to 18 inches wide. It's similar to ajuga but not nearly as aggressive. It seems to grow well in both sun and deep shade, but it does like a moist soil. The flowers are a lighter lavender, compared to the deep purple of ajuga, and fill the stalks rising above its glossy green, rounded leaves.

For variety in texture, you might mix in Quamash (Camassia leichtlinii), native to western North America, which has bell-shaped, light lavender flowers that cluster along straight spears of stalks amid blade-shaped leaves; or Bergenia (Bergenia cordifolia), which boasts broad, bright green leaves with slightly ruffled edges. Bergenia is not native to the U.S.

In a recent Fine Gardening podcast, author Nate Gruca recommended planting Goldenstar (Chrysogonum virginianum), an eastern U.S. native, instead of periwinkle (vinca minor). Each Goldenstar plant grows to about 12 inches tall and nearly 18 inches wide. It is shade-tolerant but does need a moist soil. If its conditions are met, it blooms with yellow flowers in the spring and intermittently throughout the summer.

Gruca also recommended two non-native plants as ground covers: yellow corydalis (Corydalis lutea), which boasts clusters of trumpet-shaped yellow flowers at top of the stalk and numerous small leaves; and spring cinquefoil (Potentilla neumanniana)—glossy green, serrated leaves; pale yellow flowers with five petals and a pale yellow center; and clusters of five leaves, serrated, with a touch of purplish around edge of leaves.

A final aspect of the green mulch is that it is usually very low maintenance. As the individ-

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Golden ragwort has big, heart-shaped leaves; it blooms in early spring with daisy-like single-petaled flowers; the flowers are light yellow with darker yellow centers.

ual plants spread throughout the area you've allotted, they will prevent most weeds from growing and often will continue growing throughout the cold months, providing a welcome respite of green against the drab colors of winter. In addition, worms, insects, other minute creatures, and even birds will find this living mulch a protective environment.

If you want more information about groundcovers or other plants, check in with the Frederick County Master Gardeners for upcoming seminars, Master Gardener certification classes, or other activities or call us at 301-600-1596.

To read other Gardening articles, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Frederick County Master Gardeners October Seminars

October 5 (10 to noon): "Mindfulness in the Garden" Experience the healing power of the garden and plants. We will start with a discussion of the benefits of plants to your wellbeing and then take a walk in the demonstration garden for mindfulness activities.

October 12 (10 to noon): "Propagating Native Plants" Native perennials are a wonderful addition to any landscape! Find out about the benefits of native perennials and why they're essential for pollinators and wildlife. Join us to learn how to propagate

various natives and expand your garden, then take a few plants home. Class size is limited to 15 participants.

All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick.

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

Small Town Gardener

It's October. Got berries?

Marianne Willburn

Autumn berries are colorful. They are abundant. They are also incredibly difficult to define. Many edible fruits that we culturally consider berries, botanically speaking, just aren't (such as blueberry). Still others that we consider fruit, or even vegetable (such as avocado), are botanically, berries.

Fortunately, enjoying a spray of holly berries in an autumn wreath is not dependent on whether or not you know they are actually multi-seeded drupes. Let's leave such pedanticism to hard-working botanists, and instead work with the commonly held definition of berries as small, often very colorful fruits that adorn the branches of some of our most beloved shrubs and small trees.

If a quick scan of your garden proves you to be sporting a severe deficit in that department - I'd like to change that with a few suggestions for fall planting.

Callicarpa - The common name beautyberry describes the many species of this purple, white and pink-berried genus with precision; and though I love the darker foliage of some hybrids such as 'Pearl Glam' & 'Purple Pearls' and enjoy them in flower, I do not find the berrying to be as abundant as that of our native *C. americana* or non-native (and gracefully arching) *C. dichotoma*. Self-fertile.

Celastrus - Bittersweet is a fall favorite - if also a high maintenance choice for the gardener. The long, girdling, woody vines and scarlet red berries sheathed in papery yellow packaging can make wreath-makers out of the most reluctant among us. But

take note: Oriental bittersweet (*C. orbiculatus*) is invasive and gardeners are urged by those that urge to choose *C. scandens*, our native species, when buying (you'll need male and female plants). Got some and not sure which it is? The American species holds its berries in terminal clusters where Oriental species sprout copious berries along the leaf axils.

Cornus - The red berries adorning our common Florida dogwood (*C. florida*) are some of the brightest of winter, but they don't take well to being brought inside on a severed limb (I've tried). Instead, enjoy them outside and if you're planting a new dogwood, find a place with a generous amount of morning sun to encourage those blooms and berries without leaf scald. *C. kousa* also fruits well and edibly, but the rough-skinned pink fruits rarely last through September. If you can get them past the deer, redosier dogwood (*C. sericea*) bear bluish-white berries in late summer which can last into fall. Self-fertile.

Ilex - Most people are familiar with the evergreen boughs of American or English hollies, but many assume that the heavily berried, leafless stems seen in wreaths must be florist magic. They're not - they're cultivars of the species *Ilex verticillata* and they'll add much to your garden and arrangements. I'm particularly fond of the generous tight clusters in 'Winter Red' and 'Winter Gold' but you'll need a male cultivar that matches bloom time for the female you've chosen (in this case 'Southern Gentleman'). Sadly, the male plants are not much to look at, but at least you'll only need one for up to ten plants. For those two winter girls look for 'Southern Gentleman.'

Lindera - A prolific native in our part of the world, spicebush decorates the edges of woodlands and other part-shade areas with grace and color. Tight

clusters of chartreuse blossoms are some of the earliest signs of an awakening landscape, and birds love those fall berries. So do foragers - who use them in peppery dry-rubs and adventurous ice creams. Though the berries start to redden by late August in the Mid-Atlantic, they come into their own when spicebush leaves brightly yellow and begin to fall, and are found more heavily on plants that receive a good amount of sunshine in moist soils. This is also a male/female party, so be aware when you buy.

Pyracantha - I grew up with a pyracantha scrambling up our stone chimney in California and fought the thorns each November to bring heavily berried branches in to drape over the Thanksgiving table. Here in the East, I still consider it a fall staple - though I am aware that hardiness can be marginal if not in a sunny location in very free-draining soil. 'Mohave' now scrambles up my barn, and I grow 'Silver Lining' for its variegated foliage in a mixed border. Flowering (on old wood) is showy, if malodorous, and the resulting berries ripen in September and persist well into winter. Self-fertile (an understatement).

Viburnum - So many species and cultivars, so little time. Viburnum is a large shrub that sometimes holds its own as a specimen, and is sometimes better growing within a mixed border where it doesn't have to be everything to everyone. For berries, my very favorite has to be the orange red clusters of *V. dilatatum* 'Asian Beauty' but next on the list are the deep reds of 'Cardinal Candy.' *V. nudum* 'Brandywine,' is a true stunner with pink purple berries to match pink-tinged foliage. *V. trilobum*, or American cranberrybush viburnum is a native miracle in the landscape - bringing rich, reddish orange foliage to fall with those equally rich bracts of berries - but boy do I have to fight the deer on this one. Viburnum is self-fertile, but growing more than one ensures a better fruit set.

Other genera to explore - *Aronia*, *Cotoneaster*, *Skimmia*, *Crataegus* - and if you can expand the already dodgy definition of 'berry' to include the equally dodgy one of 'fruit' - hip-forming species of rose, such as *Rosa rugosa*, the tiny crabapples of some *malus* species, and *poncirus* for dramatic crops of tiny yellow oranges held between beautifully lethal spines.

Marianne is a columnist for *The American Gardener and Garden-Rant*, and the author of *Tropical Plants and How To Love Them* and *Big Dreams Small Garden*. She writes from her home in Lovettsville, VA.

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PETS

Refeeding Syndrome



Jemma

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

I learned a new term today. It's called refeeding syndrome and it can happen to either humans or animals who are malnourished.

Unfortunately, working at an animal shelter, we see animals come through our doors in need of all kinds of help and this time, it's a little terrier mix we named Gemma.

She's about 11-months-old and when we got her, she'd been found running around the area. She was severely underweight, and I mean severely. She was so bad off we had to be incredibly careful how much and when we fed her.

Over the years since I've been at the shelter we've had animals come in from time to time in this bad of shape. It's bizarre because there's some part of me that wants to just dump an entire bag of food into their kennel and let them gorge themselves, just have at it honey, and fill that empty tummy.

Jemma into the shelter, her body has been so used to metabolizing what little she has eaten that to suddenly give her a huge meal could run the risk of actually shutting her body down. Tons of food would have the opposite affect of helping her simply because her body isn't used to it.

There's some part of my brain that says that seems counterintuitive, but once I learned what really happens when people and pets are malnourished, it makes more sense.

Because there are so few nutrients in the body, digestion becomes slower, so adding a ton of food actually makes the body work harder, particularly since the normal electrolytes aren't there.

It really is about biology.

Refeeding syndrome can cause symptoms in both human and animal that include kidney problems, low blood pressure, trouble breathing and even confusion and disorientation. Introducing food again can have serious effects on the heart, lungs, brain and muscles.

So it's best to start with incredibly small amounts of food over a specific time.

That's exactly what we did for Gemma. We were incredibly careful what kind of food she ate and how much of it we gave her.

Eventually, she began regaining her strength and energy. She's still quite skinny, but she's so much better than when she first arrived and she's ready for find her forever home.

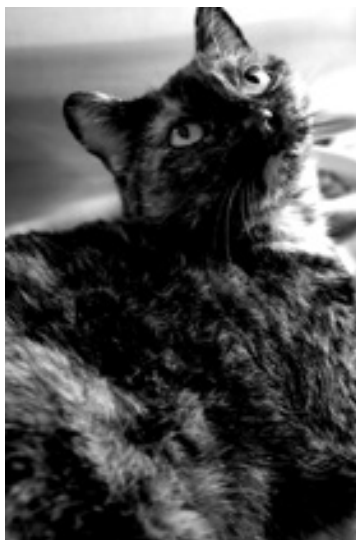
If you want to see an adorable little girl who is most definitely in need of a second chance, check out Gemma at cvas-pets.org.

She's been through a lot in her short time on this planet, but she's a fighter and we know there's someone out there who will show Gemma that this life can be good and loving and have quality food on a consistent basis and that she'll never have to starve again.

This sweet, tough little girl deserves that so very, very much.

Could you show it to her?

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



Patchwork came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but she is one sweet girl. This 3-year-old tortie girl loves getting her ears rubbed. She also enjoys treats and lounging on a nice soft bed.



Quarter is a 1-year-old playful guy that has a shorter than average tail. He loves to play with the feather toys and enjoys getting treats! Quarter would love to find out what a loving forever home is all about!



Judge is a handsome 2-year-old Husky who can be a bit aloof when he first meets you, but Husky people will understand that. He does enjoy getting treats though, so he can be won over that way. Judge knows to sit and shake, in fact, he will shake with either of his paws! Someone that has had Husky experience would be best for Judge and he needs a home without cats. True to his breed, Judge can be on the stubborn side at times, as well as vocal. He's not in our adoption area at the moment but will be shown with approved applications.



Tuck is a shy but sweet 1-year-old terrier mix who came into the shelter as a stray. He loves to go out to the yard and play with the rope toys! He is a bigger guy at 65 pounds and does know sit. Because of his shyness, a home with older children may be best. Tuck would love to know what a forever home is all about!



Aries was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer keep him due to landlord issues. He's 1-year-old terrier mix who needed some time to adjust to shelter life, but has come out of his shell and enjoys treats and going on walks! He can be shy at first with new people, but treats are the key to his heart! Aries knows sit but will need some work on other commands. Aries has lived with children but may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff.

For more information about Patchwork, Quarter, Judge, Tuck, or Aries call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

Microchips

Shawn Snyder
Frederick County Animal Shelter

It can happen in an instant. Despite all of an owner's efforts to keep their pets safe and sound, sometimes they still get lost. Curiosity gets the better of your cat and she wanders out that back door that your kids left open again. Or your beagle chases the bunny that's been taunting him for days straight through your invisible fence and out of sight. But there is a way for owners to be prepared for that distressing moment when a beloved pet goes missing before it even happens. That method is microchipping.

Microchips are small radio transmitters that are placed beneath an animal's skin between the shoulder blades. These chips, that are approximately the size of a piece of rice, contain unique identification numbers. When properly registered, veterinary offices, animal control centers and other animal welfare organizations can use universal chip readers to find an animal's number, which will then lead them to contact information for an owner.

A 2009 study by researchers at the Ohio State University found that microchipped dogs are 2.4 times more likely to be returned to their owners than their unchipped counterparts and stray cats with microchips are 21.4 times more likely to make it back to their homes. The



A microchip can be easily reprogrammed while in your pet to reflect your current address.

benefits of microchipping are seen regularly at Frederick County Animal Control as staff reunite stray pets with their families, however, chips are not a replacement for other methods of pet identification. Microchips work best as a back up to proper identification tags and are only helpful if owner contact information is kept current.

Microchipping and chip registration is a part of every animal's adoption fee at Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center. For owners who adopted their pets elsewhere, FCAC provides low-cost microchipping clinics every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. Appointments are not required and the fee for chip implantation and

registration is \$20 (Cash Only).

This October FCAC is teaming up with our friends from Frederick Subaru once again for Subaru Loves Pets. Not only will they be helping us promote our wonderful adoptable pets, thanks to a generous grant from Subaru and the ASPCA all our microchip clinics in the month of October will be free. If you can't make it to a Wednesday clinic at our Rosemont Avenue location don't worry. We'll also be hosting a microchipping clinic and adoption event on Saturday, October 12th from 9am to 1pm at Frederick Subaru (1417 W Patrick Street). For additional information about FCAC's microchip clinics, call 301-600-1546.



Bo & Meatball are two peas in a pod; therefore, the shelter considers them a bonded pair and they must be adopted together. Bo, grey and white, is outgoing and loves to meet new people. Meatball, orange and white, is friendly but a little more reserved; having his big brother Bo around boosts his confidence. Unfortunately, their owner was no longer able to financially care for them, so they were relinquished to the shelter.



George Washington, or G.W., lost his lifelong home when his owner suffered a medical emergency and was no longer able to care for him. G.W. is shy when meeting new people, but once you earn his trust he enjoys being pet and will accept any attention you are willing to give. George hopes to find a quiet home and new owners that are patient while he settles in. In his previous home, he lived with other cats as well as small dogs.

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Gia is a spunky, two-year-old terrier mix. Found as a stray, by an Animal Control Officer, not much is known about her past. She loves to be pet, play with her toys, and can be a ball of energy. Gia's adoption fee is \$92.50 and as always includes spaying, microchipping, routine vaccinations/preventives, a vet wellness visit, and a Frederick County dog license.



Found as a stray, Mr. Wiggles likely got his name because he wiggles from tip to tail when meeting a new person. At ten years old, he still loves to go for walks and will even run and play for short periods of time. Mr. Wiggles has a few minor health challenges, so he will need a family that is willing to care for him in his golden years. Mr. Wiggles likes people of all ages and would likely do well with another dog and/or a cat.

For more information about Bo and Meatball, George Washington, Gia, or Mr. Wiggles, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

National Apple Harvest Festival celebrates 60th year

The National Apple Harvest Festival is celebrating its 60th old-fashioned family event in October over the weekends of the 7 & 8 and the 12 & 13, at The South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville, in the heart of Apple Country USA. The event is held all four days, Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays, 8 a.m. to 5 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 Oaksid

Community Park, located outside of Biglerville on Route 394, is open to the public April 15 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 Oaksid 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 an active member of the organization when they turn 41) 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



Once again, Adams County-grown apples of all sorts and sizes will be front and center at the National Harvest Festival.

Pennsylvania Apple Queen Contest will be held Sunday, October 13, at 11:30 a.m. with the Coronation at 2:30 p.m. in the Apple Auditorium.

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.

Ghosts, Oddities and Morbidities Tour

Sunday October 27 - 4 p.m.

Come for a colorful narrative to learn the stories of those who have passed but may still linger, discover architectural oddities and learn why they existed, & hear morbid details from the distant past of Walkersville and the Glade Valley area

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HISTORY

Williams History of Frederick County

Continued from last month

Howard Ramsburg

Howard Ramsburg, one of the well-known and leading farmers of the Lewistown District, was born March 25, 1855. His parents were Louis and Catherine Ramsburg.

The Ramsburg family is of German lineage and is found to be located in Virginia at an early day. Henry Ramsburg, the great grandfather of Howard Ramsburg, was a native of Virginia. He was an owner of a large invaluable plantation in Berkeley County. He was accidentally killed by cutting himself by butchering.

Jacob Ramsburg, son of Henry, was but an infant at the time of his father's death, and he was brought to the Lewistown District, where he was raised by relative. He died at an age of 65 years old. He was one of the wealthiest and influential farmers of the county. In politics, he was a Democrat, and very aggressive in his support, but the only public position ever held by him was that of Judge of Elections. Jacob was married to Elizabeth Snook. She lived to be 91 years old. They were the parents of three children.

Louis Ramsburg, son of Jacob and Elizabeth, was born on a farm in Lewistown, July 5, 1830, and died in Walkersville in December 1908. He was a farmer

by occupation, and was an honorable and highly respected citizen. His political position was Democratic. He was a member in the Reformed Church, serving as deacon and elder, for many years in the Glade Reformed Church. Louis was married to Julia Pittman, they were the parents of five children, all who live in Walkersville.

Howard Ramsburg, son of Louis and Julia Ramsburg, past the early years of his life upon the farm of his father. In the public schools of his native District, he secured his education. Having while a boy become familiar with the duties of a farmer's life he chose agriculture as an occupation.

In 1882 Howard purchased the present farm from Isaac Michaels, known as the Old Hill farm, and contains 85 acres of excellent agricultural land. It is situated on the Emmetsburg Pike 5 miles north of Frederick City. Howard has just completed a handsome eight-room, two-story frame dwelling fitted with all the modern conveniences. Howard is one of the most prosperous, successful farmers of the District.

In politics, Howard supports the candidates of the Democratic Party. For 20 years, he served as school trustee in the Hansonville School District. His religious connection is Reform Church. Howard was married to Mary

Leatherman, and are parents of 10 children, nine of which survive.

Calvin Putman

Calvin Putman devotes his energies and time to agricultural, and is one of the leading young farmers in the Creagerstown District. He was born on his father's farm near Harmony, June 10, 1873. He is a son of John Jr. and Rebecca Putman.

John Putman Sr., the grandfather of our subject, was among the well-known and prominent farmers of Middletown Valley. He lived near what is now Harmony. His parents were of German birth, and came to America, going to live in Middletown Valley, where he was reared, and became a highly respected citizen. His wife was Annie Summers, by whom he had six children that grew to mature years.

John Putman Jr., son of John Sr. and Annie, received a common school education, and was engaged in rural pursuits all his life. He began for himself by cultivating one of his father's farms in Creagerstown now occupied by Andrew Hankey. This place he successfully managed for sometime and then he purchase it. It contained 145 acres of good farmland, and was located about 1 mile south of Creagerstown. He later disposed of this track and bought a fine farm near Utica, where he removed. This property, he also sold, and returned to the home farm in Middletown Valley, where he stayed until his parents died.

John then brought the old McDaniel Farm, on the Utica Road in the Creagerstown District. This farm he sold to his

son, Jay Frederick, and it is now owned by Howard Garver.

John then went to live on the M. J. Grove farm in the Buckeystown District, and remained there for six years. He then made sale and later purchases a small track in the Lewistown District, which is now owned by his daughter. The remainder of his days were spent here. His death occurred in October 1907, and he is buried in the Lutheran cemetery and Utica.

In politics, John was a supporter of the Democratic Party. He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Utica, where you held office for a number of years. John was married to Rebecca Shriver, by this marriage there were 12 children who grew up.

Calvin Putman, son of John and Rebecca, acquired his learning in the public schools. His life has been passed in rural pursuits. He was reared on a farm, and began farming for himself on the place where he now resides in the Creagerstown District. He brought his farm of 135 acres of farmland from James Mill, and began to make his own way in the world. This property lies 2 miles east of Lewistown and is beautifully situated. It is watered by a small stream, known as Sand Run. for six years, Calvin remained on this farm, at the end of which time he rented it, and removed to a farm in the Buckeystown District. Here he spent two years, and then returned to his own property in the Creagerstown District, where he has been since.

Calvin put up a fine two-story brick house and an excellent bank barn. He

later bought 60 acres of land, which he added to his former purchase. His track is one of the best producing farms in the District. Calvin is a progressive farmer and has received large returns for his labors. He is a stockholder in the Washington, Frederick & Gettysburg Railroad.

In his political views, Calvin is a Democrat. He takes much interest in religious affairs, and is a member of the St. John's Evangelical Church of Creagerstown, with which his wife is also connected. Calvin is married to Effie Fisher and they are parents of four children.

John Long

John Long, is well-known in Creagerstown, where he has been successfully engaged farming, is a native of Carroll County, where he was born, May 20, 1858. His parents are Abraham and Amanda Long.

John Long, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Germany, and came to the United States when he was a young man. He settled here in Littlestown, Adams County.

He had learned the veterinary surgeon business under his father in the Fatherland, and followed that possession in this country successfully for a number of years. He then purchased a fine farm, located near Littlestown, and began farming, in addition to his medical work.

John made a success of life from the time of his landing in America. He began life as a poor boy, but at the time of his death, was in comfortable circumstances. Besides his farm, he also owned a small track in Littlestown, on which now stands the Union Church of the Reformed and Lutheran

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HISTORY

congregations. He was an honored and respected citizen of his community. John was married in this country to Sarah Keller, who, like himself was of German birth, and came to America early in life. They were the parents of three children.

Abraham Long, son of John and Sarah Long, was a prominent farmer of Frederick County. He was born in Adams County, and received a private school education. For five years, he was successfully engaged in teaching school in his native county, but not having a liking for that profession, he bought a farm from William Black, which situated in Carroll County. Here he began to farm. This track he cultivated with large returns for sometime, and improved it in general. He later purchase another farm, containing 133 acres, from Joseph Black, located in the Woodsboro District. To this property, he removed, living here for two years. Abraham leased his farm to one of his brothers and rented the old Bussard Farm in the Creagerstown District.

For a period of 23 years, Abraham was highly successful in his management of that ladder place. At the end of that time, he returned to his Woodsboro District farm, on which he spent the rest of his days, dying there, July 11, 1895. He was laid to rest in Mount Tabor cemetery at Rocky Ridge.

Abraham was a prominent and highly regarded citizen of Frederick County. He was a staunch Republican and in his early life was appointed a magistrate of Carroll County. He was one of the leading spirits in the erection of Mount Tabor Reform Church at Rocky Ridge, of which he was a devoted and consistent member. He served as a member of the church council, and also as an Elder. Mr. Long was married to Amanda Mengus, they had 11 children, 10 of whom reach mature years.

John Long, son of Abraham and Amanda, was given a public school education and has followed farming and milling all his life. He remained with his father until he was 26 years old, when he was married, and began farming on his own account on his father's farm in Woods-

boro. There he made his home for four years, after which he secured possession of his present farm of 124 acres, lying in Creagerstown District, two miles south of Rocky Ridge, on the banks of the Monocacy River, the location being a beautiful one. The former proprietors were the Bussard estate. John has since added to his original purchase 94 acres, making a total of 218 acres of excellent land.

This is one of the finest farms in the District and is under a high state of cultivation. In 1904, John purchased the old Jacob Eichelberger Mill property two miles north east of Creagerstown, on the road from that place to Rocky Ridge. He received instruction in milling, under Newton Zentz. He then remodeled his mill and installed all new machinery, all the latest, making this one of the leading mills in the county. He manufactured a grade of flour, named the 'Standard', for which there was a large demand. He was also a stockholder in the Woodsboro Canning Factory.

In politics, John was one of the leading Republicans of the Creagerstown District. He is identified with the Monocacy German Reformed church, in which he has an active part. He has served as a Deacon, and is now fulfilling the role of an Elder. Mr. Long is married to Emma Phillips, and they had six children, four of whom survived into adulthood.

Frederick Hankey

Frederick Hankey, who spent his active years in agricultural occupations, is now living in retirement, enjoying the fruits of his labor in Creagerstown. He was born on the Hanky Homestead, 1 mile south of Creagerstown, March 16, 1847. He is the son of Frederick and Mary Hankey, both deceased.

John Hankey, the great grandfather of our subject, was a native of Germany, where he was born May 23, 1736. While yet a young man, he came to the United States, accompanied by two brothers. He afterwards took up his residence in the northern part of Frederick County. By trade he was a wheelwright and fol-

lowed that occupation all his life. His wife was Barbara, she was born in Germany in May, 1740, and came to this country early in life.

Isaac Hankey, son of John and Barbara, was born April 15, 1769, and died July 19, 1840. He was a prominent farmer and large landowner of his time. He was the possessor of two farms in the upper part of Frederick County, and achieve much success at agriculture. Isaac was married to Susan Apple, who was born January 22, 1773, and died January 5, 1851. They are buried side-by-side in the graveyard at Apple's Church.

Frederick Hankey, son, of Isaac and Susan, was born February 3, 1811, and received such an education as the common schools of his day afforded. Early in life, he followed the profession of a school-teacher. He learned the trade of a saddler, which he followed for sometime. He then married and bought a fine farm of 175 acres, situated 1 mile south of Cre-

gerstown on the road from that place to Utica to which he removed and turned his attention to farming, which he met with success. He passed the rest of his life there, dying, June 16, 1833, and is interred in the cemetery at Apple's Church.

Frederick was a supporter of the Republican ticket. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church of Creagerstown, in the affairs of which he took an active part. He served in the capacities of Deacon and Elder for a number of years. Frederick was married to Mary Gemand with whom he had six children. Mrs. Hankey is buried by the side of her husband, and like him was connected with the Lutheran Church.

Frederick Hankey Jr., son, of Frederick and Mary, acquire his learning in the county schools. Until his father's death, he remained on the homeplace, where he early became acquainted with a various face as a farming. He then secured by purchase a small farm near Loy's Station,

to which he removed with his mother. He remained there for two years and sold it. Frederick then purchased his present farm of 60 acres of fertile land. This track is located half a mile east of Creagerstown, on the road to Rocky Ridge. This farm has a fine two-story house that was erected many years ago. Frederick made extensive improvements and brought this farm to a high state of cultivation. Here he farm for a period of 20 years very successfully. Three years ago, he relinquished active work and has since that time been living, retired. His farm he has rented. He is one of the substantial citizens of his District and is held in highest team.

The influence and support of Frederick is given to the interest of the Republican party. He is affiliated with St. John's Lutheran Church of Creagerstown, in which he is active. Mr. Hankey is married to Sarah Domer, but there is no issue.

Continued next month

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 3

Observe The White Line

“Show me the automobilist who fails to keep to the right of the white line and I’ll show you a careless driver,” said Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, Edward Baughman in commenting on the alleged practice of automobiles who drive in the center and wrong side of the road, while rounding curves on the state highways.

“I will venture to say that approximately 80% of motorists pay no attention to the white lines appearing in the center of all curves,” said the Commissioner. “And I will say that up this 80%, at least 60% are violating other automobile laws; such as failing to have their operator’s or registration card with them, improper headlights or obscure license tags.

“A careful motorists, when he sees a white line on the road, realizes that it is put there for his safety. By keeping on the right side of the road while rounding curves, and in doing so, collisions are less likely.”

Members of the State Police force have been ordered by the Commissioner to warn all motorists of the danger occurred by their failing to observe the white line.

Baughman also encouraged towns to enforce the regulations for parking cars that are in use in most towns having a main street – that of running cars to the curb on an angle, and not broadside. The angle parking not only accommodates fully a quarter more cars, but permits backing out easily without disturbing other cars. By marking white angle lines on the bed of the street, the plan could be adopted without trouble, and still leave room in the center of the road for two cars to pass.

Auto Accident Case Settled

William Boyer, of Woodsboro, and Berger Fogle, of Walkersville, whose cars collided Thursday morning were dismissed at a hearing at police headquarters Thursday night, as there were no specific charges against them.

The automobiles came together, in a head-on collision, and the Boyer machine, carrying six passengers, was turned over by the impact and badly smashed, although the occupants escaped injuries.

The police were notified soon after

the accident, and the Sheriff went to investigate. No charges could be placed upon the drivers, as no one witnessed the accident and no one was hurt, and it was not known, whether either was on the wrong side of the white line on the road. After being dismissed, the drivers conferred and settled the case on private terms.

Rare Old Paper Money

Robert McKinney, in going over old papers that belong to his father, Andrew McKinney, the well-known Taneytown teacher of years ago, found a package of old time Continental Currency, seven notes as follow:

Two Dollars, entitling the bearer to two Spanish Milled Dollars, or the value there of in gold or silver, according to resolution of Congress passed in Philadelphia, November 2, 1776

Two and two thirds Dollars, gold or silver, at the rate of four Shillings, and six Pence per Dollar, according to the Provincial Convention, held in Annapolis, December 7, 1775.

One Dollar, conditioned as above, same date.

One Dollar, entitling the bearer to receive one Spanish Milled Dollar, or an equal in gold or silver, according to resolution of Congress, January 14, 1779.

Three Dollars, as above, by active Congress, February 26, 1777.

Two Dollars, according to a resolution of Congress past February 1776.

Twenty Shillings, according to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed in the 13th year of the reign of his Majesty, George the Third, dated October 1, 1773.

These notes are in fair state of preservation and are perhaps still redeemable but are probably worth more than their face value to collectors.

October 10

Frederick County Liquor Cases

At a trial before Chief Judge Ulmer, Robert Roberts, of Woodsboro, was given six months in the Maryland Home Corrections on being convicted a five counts of having soul liquor in Frederick County. He was also fine \$200, which was later suspended.

James Potts, of LeGore, was acquitted by a jury on the charge of hav-

ing sold liquor to Elmer Hahn. The Judge found Potts innocent based upon the testimony of Hahn that the ‘hooch’ Potts had sold him tasted like ‘horse piss’. While still on the stand, Hahn demanded that Potts return the money he had given him.

A second count against Potts was held over to the next session of the count on an objection by the defendant’s council that the wrong name had been used in the indictment and that his client had no previous knowledge as to whom he was accused of selling the liquor. “My client has sold so much liquor, to so many people, that it is not unreasonable for him to not know all their names,” said his Council to the flabbergasted judge.

Robert Eyley, of Woodsboro, was found guilty of selling liquor on one count and held under \$500 bill on a second count, filed that day, for appearing in court for his case “under the influence.”

Charles Ricketts, of New Midway, was fine \$3.30 and costs on charge of being drunk and disorderly. Ricketts was found passed out in the middle of the Woodsboro-Taneytown Road, and upon being awakened by a Deputy Sherriff, preceded to carry on about someone stealing his ‘supply’ while he was passed out.

Victoria Tucker, an aged colored woman, of near Libertytown, was found guilty of selling intoxicating liquors. The case was taken under consideration by the court and sentence will be imposed later.

Inspection Made A Fitch Hatchery

An inspection of the fish hatchery at Lewistown, and an address at the special meeting of the Frederick chapter of the Isaac Walton League were made by Swepson Earle, Chairman of the State Conservation Commission, Monday afternoon.

The hatchery has been repaired, and put into excellent condition preparatory to the placing in it of bass and trout. They are now some blue gills and perch in the Lewistown hatchery.

Mr. Earle was very well pleased with the condition of the hatchery, it is said. Following the inspection, a special meeting of the local chapter of the Isaac Walton League was held. Mr. Earle made an address in which he described the habits of crabs and other denizens of the deep. His talk related chiefly to the commission’s activity and preserving of fish, etc. in the Chesapeake Bay. He also touched upon the laws made in connection with the preservation of game life.

Dr. Luther Kemp Victim Paralysis

Dr. Luther Kemp, of Uniontown, one

of the best known of Carroll County’s physicians, was found unconscious from a stroke of paralysis, early Monday morning, by William Bowers, who was on his way to New Windsor with a load of milk. The doctor was found in his car in a stupor, the supposition being that he felt ill, drove the car to the side of the road, and either stopped it, or choked the engine on falling over.

Dr. Kemp had been summoned to the home of Pierce Zile, near New Midway, and after treating the case, left for his home in Uniontown, about 8:30. He was therefore in his car in a stricken condition all night. On being found, a New Windsor physician was hastily summoned, and he was taken home and another physician and a trained nurse called to his bedside. He died about 8 o’clock Tuesday morning without regaining consciousness.

Dr. Kemp was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Kemp of Taneytown. He spent his boyhood days in Taneytown and attended the local schools, afterwards engaging in teaching at Detour, having in view earning money for entering the medical profession. He read medicine under late Doctor Coltworthy Birnie for a time, then took his medical courses at Maryland University, and upon graduation located at Uniontown for practice, where he remained since, a period of 37 years.

He was twice married, his first wife, who died some years ago, having been Miss Sally Wheat, of Detour. His second wife, who survives him, was Miss Alice Lamb, of Uniontown. He leaves no children by either marriage

Dr. Kamp was not only known as a successful physician with a large practice, but was prominent in other ways in the County. At the time of his death, he was Vice President of the

Carroll County Savings Bank, and an Elder in the Baust Reformed Church, a position in which he had served for 50 years. He had also had at different times a prominent role in Republican politics in Carroll County.

October 17

Girl Returns Home

Grace Carly 14, of LeGore, who went missing from her home Saturday night, and Sunday, returned Monday morning. Grace Redmond, 13, of the same place, her companion, is still missing. It is thought that she has been located and will return. The girls ran away from their home Saturday evening, and no trace of their whereabouts could be obtained until the Carly girl returned.

The two girls left the door early Saturday evening with the intention of going to Ladiesburg, it is stated. They obtained an automobile ride, and according to the Carly girl, finally reach York, where they obtained shelter, and something to eat. Evidently Carly disliked her new life and return voluntarily. It is thought that the other girl will be brought back home soon.

The escapade of the young girls caused much excitement in the neighborhood and a search was made for them Saturday night and Sunday, but little could be learned of their whereabouts, and the Sheriff was notified by the girls parents, who are much surprised at their leaving home, although both of them had expressed desired to go to York.

Thurmont Man Pleads Guilty to Bastardy

Allen Willard, of Thurmont, pleaded guilty to a charge a bastardy, and was in order to pay the prosecution witness, Maude Wolf, the sum of \$12 per month for the support of his children, twin boys. Willard was also ordered to post \$533 bond as security and this was provided by his father.

The judge ask Mr. Wolf if he wished to arrange a ‘shotgun wedding’ for his daughter while the pair was in his courtroom, but Mr. Wolf declined the offer. “It’s bad enough I have to support the no good’s offspring, but I’m sure as hell not going to support a useless drunk who hasn’t the capacity to even walk a straight line if it was painted in the middle of the road for him. Let his useless parents pay for him. What my daughter ever saw in

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him I'll never know, nor do I care." He told the judge.

Wolf asked the judge if he could shoot Willard based upon "justifiable homicide". The judge said that while he was supportive of Wolf's request, he doubted higher courts would support such a decision and recommend Wolf not shoot Willard.

Joseph Smith, of Libertytown was also found guilty on a charge of bastardy, and was ordered to pay seven dollars a month to Helen Horton, also of Libertytown for a period of 12 years.

Church Improvements Completed

On Sunday, a reopening service was held at the Mount Tabor Union Church in Rocky Ridge, after making repairs and improvements by way of the laying of a new hardwood floor with a fine wax finish, painting the interior of the church, and carpeting the aisle and the pulpit platform.

Reverend Stogmister, President of the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, preached the sermon. That evening, Reverend Helmer, preached a sermon that was inspirational in nature with a special appeal to the young to return to life and service of the church. There was also a special concert given by the large community choir of the church.

Boy Hurt By Cross Bull

Virgil Lescalet, son of Charles Lescalet, of Keymar, met with a very serious accident, on Sunday evening. While his father was feeding his cows in the stable, he told Virgil to get the bull and tie him as he was becoming very cross as a result of the railroad employees teasing him. The bull turned on the boy, knocking him down, and gourd him. Dr. Diller was called at once. No bones were broken, but the boy was badly bruised.

Walkersville Pastor to leave

Rev Shilke, the Pastor of the Lutheran Church at Walkersville, has resigned to accept a call in Clarksburg, West Virginia, and will take up his duties there about November 15. Reverend Shilke has been a popular and energetic pastor at Walkersville and his parishioners regret to have him leave.

October 24

Woodsboro School Association Meeting Successful

The Improvement Association of The Woodsboro School held its initial meeting for the year, at the schoolhouse, Tuesday evening, presided over by the president, Mrs. Feiser. After the reading of the minutes by the Secretary, Mrs. Dorcas; and reports from the different committee chairwomen, regular business was transacted.

A letter was read From the County President Of The League Of Women Voters, requesting report on the unregistered women of the organization, the organization reported 100% registered.

A motion was adopted to use the school improvement fund for equipping the playground. It was also decided that the teachers be instructed to use the fund from the various sales for supplies for the schoolrooms. Plans were then discussed to make this year, the best and most profitable in the history of the Association.

Two Dollar Note May Not Be Abandoned By The Treasury

Sharp differences have arisen over whether the traditionally unlucky two dollar bill should be discontinued by the treasury.

There is a demand in the south that the government adheres to its previous intention to wipe it out, and establish a reign of Lady Luck, but New England merchants are urging that it be retained for payroll purposes.

The new five-dollar bill appeared Thursday. There are two varieties, but the only difference is in the printing on the face, one being a Silver Certificate, and the other United States Notes.

Lincoln's portrait, which will appear only on five dollars notes in the future, is on the face of the note. The border is much darker and heavier, designed to prevent counterfeiting. On the reverse is the great seal of the U. S. Treasury and another heavy border. The designation of the amount is in each corner on both sides, and the so arrange that the notes cannot be counterfeited easily.

The new one-dollar bill appeared sometime ago. Future new issues will include the \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes, which will appear from time to time as the plates are prepared. Uniform designing has been done for all but the two-dollar bill. The treasury will proceed with the 10s and 20s, but the unlucky note has been skipped.

It is possible that the two-dollar bill never issued as the Under Secretary of The Treasury intends that the final decision will depend upon the demand from the country.

The purpose of the new issue, he explained, is twofold, first, by making all bills of the same denomination uniform, expenses will be cut, second, by permitting the public to associate only one portrait with the bill of a given denomination will help the public identify counterfeits more readily.

October 31

Radio To Broadcast Election Returns

The C&P Telephone Company has authorized each of its local exchanges to broadcast over a 'party line' the returns on election night, as received

by radio, providing the night is good for clear reception.

All customers of each exchange who request it, will have their phone be connected to the line carrying the results, but no conversation can be carried on with this number, as the receiver will necessarily be down in order that the voice of the radio may be broadcast through the transmitter to the phones of the subscribers.

No returns are likely to be given before about 9 o'clock, and it is quite probable that this service will be discontinued about one in the morning - no all night session, no matter how the returns may be.

Phones with weak batteries, or otherwise, not in first class order, are not likely to reproduce the voice of the radio very clearly, but good hearing, and close attention may enable all to get at least the substance of what is going on. As the loudspeaker of the radio will be about 10 to 12 inches away from the mouthpiece of the operator's phone, the volume of sound will not be equal to voice close up to it.

Customers must asked the exchange to connect with the 'return line,' and C&P will do its best to give the phone subscribers, the returns as they come in. This arrangement, of course, will be subject to telephone regulations related to the lines that may be used, and not interfere with the rights of subscribers who want to use those phones for regular purposes.

The United Press Association will broadcast the election returns that will be transmitted by C&P, beginning at 7 p.m. Special wire and telegraph instruments will be run into the broadcast station, and a special staff will be working to receive and edit the latest returns, coming from all sections of the United States. Those listening in will be afforded the privilege of hearing the latest up to the minute tabulations.

Never again, said the head of the United Press Association will Amer-

icans have to go to bed on election night without know who won the Presidency.

Paid Fine For Being Profane

William McCain, of New Midway, was fined three dollars and cost by Magistrate Sherman Bowers, on a charge of using profane language on a highway of the State of Maryland, sentence was suspended on a second charge of assault. McCain pleaded guilty to the first charge, and not guilty on the assault charge.

McCain was charged with having attacked Deputy Sheriff Radcliffe, who resides near New Midway, on Saturday night. The differences between the officer and the defendants grew out of a dispute over a torch, which had been placed at a closed road, at New Midway, and which the Deputy removed to aid him in repairing a punctured tire. McCain, it was learned, swore at the officer, and also threatened to strike him when he thought Radcliff was using the touch to follow the smell from the still he had just recently built and set into operation.

Court Cases

Levi Fischer, colored, of Union Bridge, was arranged before justice Bowers on charges of assault and battery and resisting arrest. His case was held open after several witnesses had testified, to await testimony of other witnesses. Fisher it is claimed, struck Archie Derr, also colored, at a dance at the hall on All Saints St., badly lacerating, the latter's face and inflicting injuries from which he has not recovered. He is also charged with having struck Walter Jackson at the police headquarters on Thursday night and with having resisted the officers when he was arrested.

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

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\$25 Per Person
20 regular games ~ 3 specials ~ Minimum \$500 jackpot
Doors open @ 5 p.m. Games begin @ 7 p.m.
For more info call: 301-898-0543

New Midway Vol. Fire Co. Breakfast
Sunday, October 27 - 7 to Noon
Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Potatoes, Sausage, Gravy, Puddin, Hominy, Spiced Apples, Orange Juice, Coffee

Adults: \$13
Children 5-10: \$7
Children under 5: Free
Carry-Out: \$14

LIBRARY NEWS

Autumn days are here, and there's no shortage of things to do here in Frederick County. Mosey down to the Walkersville Branch Library for a new experience each week, for all ages! From storytimes and homeschool programs to senior café and yoga classes, you'll never be bored when you go to the library. No need to have a library card to participate in programs, but if you want to access the plethora of resources that an FCPL card gives you, just stop by the front desk and ask for a card!

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed October 14.

A sensory program for adults with intellectual disabilities takes place at 10:15 on Wednesdays at the Walkersville Branch Library. Dance your heart out with Rhythm Works on October 2, Theatricks returns to the library on October 9 with an amazing show full of clowning, juggling and more! Move your way with Chair One Fitness on October 16 and come back for a fun surprise on October 23. Wear your favorite costume to the library

for all kinds of fun on October 30; go through our haunted house, indulge in some treats, and enjoy karaoke during our costume party!

Interested in buying a home but not sure where to start? Does what you hear from the media about buying a home make you uneasy? Join Sasha Daugherty (bilingual Spanish) from Bob and Ronna Group of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty, loan officer Natalie Winter from PMRI, and Meg Gawler from Community Title Network to demystify the process and get updated information on today's market. You will leave having all your questions answered to make informed decisions as well as a giveaway, light fare, and a free radon test on Sunday, October 20 at 1:30.

SOAR (Supporting Older Adults through Resources) will be at the Walkersville Branch Library on Thursday, October 31 from 1:30 to 3:30 with a panel of experts to discuss multiple topics important to the wellbeing of seniors around Frederick County. SOAR connects seniors "with financial resources and services

they need to live healthier, safer, more comfortable lives."

Medicare Open Enrollment is right around the corner, do you have all the information you need? Join us at the Walkersville Branch Library for a Q & A session with the Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence on Thursday, October 10 at 10.

Learn more about your body and health with Dietician Sarah Thompson with Farm to School on Thursday, October 24 at 10 as she discusses the foods we eat and how they affect the health of our gut.

Seeking a connection to your dearly departed? Join Spiritualist and Paranormalist Rhonda Russo as she discusses how to determine signs from lost loved ones, how you can get a good medium reading and more. Come ready to share your experiences on Sunday, October 27 at 1:30.

A 1-hour, free yoga class offered by Sol Yoga will be held at the Walkersville Branch Library on Monday, October 28 at 6. This is a great way to center yourself before the week ahead. Looking for an exercise class that will pump you up? We have that too! Freedom BANG Fitness happens every Saturday at 10. Freedom BANG is a pre-choreographed fusion of boxing, HIIT, hip hop, world dance, optional weighted gloves and just a touch of attitude. Offering a wide range of intensity options to help you customize your workout.

Need help expunging your record from a past conviction? Meet with an

attorney from Maryland Legal Aid to discuss your options and begin the process. This is a free service offered on October 10 from 4 to 7!

If you're looking for fun, educational programs for your elementary and middle grade kids, "Take a Closer Look" at Walkersville Branch Library on the following Fridays at 1: 10/4, 10/11, and 10/18. This three-part series will dive into our senses, the kingdoms of nature, and the amazing biodiversity of the world. Once a month, kids will have the chance to learn more about a topic and earn a Library Explorers Badge! In October, the topic is camping; learn what it takes to spend a night in the great outdoors, how to be prepared and practice skills you might need if you go camping! This program will take place on October 8 at 6.

For kids (10-13) who are into all things spooky, they have the chance to transform old toys into spooky Frankentoy. Disassemble them piece by piece and reassemble them in a whole new way to create a truly unique, quirky creation. Get ready to tinker, build, and unleash your creativity on Wednesday, October 2 at 4. Minecraft Monday returns this month on October 8 at 6. Get ready to flip, sizzle, and create delicious dishes on Monday, October 21 at 6. Tweens will learn the basics of griddle cooking while mastering easy and tasty recipes. From golden pancakes to savory snacks, you'll discover the joy of cooking with a griddle and gain hands-on experience in the kitchen. Join us for a fun-filled culinary

adventure and take home some new skills and tasty treats!

The library is a great place to hang with friends after school, and on Tuesdays in October at 3:30, we need help making spooky things for our haunted house! Share your scary ideas on 10/1 and bring them to life with supplies provided by the library. Make Frankentoy and Zombie Dolls on 10/8, ghoulish apparitions on 10/15, and lots of creepy creations on 10/22. Experience the horror of your creations on October 31 during the Friends of the Walkersville Library Trunk-or-Treat at 6.

Improve your reading confidence and make a new friend when you read aloud to a Go Team Therapy Dog on October 10 from 6:30 to 7:30. P.S. You don't have to read to the dogs, all are welcome to come say hi and get some cuddles from the best dogs around!

Is your middle or high schooler looking for ways to volunteer or be part of the community? Send them to the Walkersville Branch Library on October 29 at 3:30 to learn about the Teen Library Council. This monthly meeting is for teens interested in being part of the community and having an impact on activities at the Walkersville Library. Attendees will not only receive volunteer hours, but also develop marketable leadership skills, credentials for future job and college applications and have a fun time with peers.

If you have little ones who are not yet in school, join us at the library for Fri-Yay on Fridays at 11. Full of hands-on and engaging activities, there's plenty for everyone to do at their own pace! October 4 is all about our senses; kids will have ample opportunity to explore sensory toys, textures, and more! Learn how to be safe from our friends at the Walkersville Volunteer Fire Department on October 11 and have fun with numbers and math skills on October 18. Finish out the month with a Monster Mash and costume parade on October 25!

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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County School System

Jason Johnson
Frederick County School Board

Congratulations to Catoc-tin High School for receiving national banner recognition from Special Olympics North America for its commitment to fostering an inclusive environment through sports and activities for students with and without special needs. The school earned this honor by meeting 10 national standards of excellence in inclusion, advocacy, and respect.

Catoc-tin High joins Twin Ridge Elementary and Tuscarora High as the third FCPS school to earn this prestigious recognition. Additionally, Catoc-tin High, along with Urbana High, Gov. Thomas Johnson High, and Tuscarora High, was awarded 2024 Special Olympics Maryland Unified Champion School status. Special Olympics Maryland, a longstanding partner of FCPS, continues to support inclusive physical activities across more than 250 participating schools statewide.

Congratulations to the nine FCPS Career & Technology Center students who recently excelled at the 60th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta! This prestigious event, recognized as the world's largest skill competition, brought together over 6,500 of

the nation's top students—each a state gold medalist—to compete in 115 hands-on skill and leadership contests. This year, 26 talented students from FCPS Career & Technology Center stepped up to showcase their skills, with nine finishing in the top ten nationally!

Additional recognitions went to other FCPS students and teams, including participants in Robotics: Urban Search and Rescue, Entrepreneurship, Related Technical Math, Plumbing, HVAC, First-Aid/CPR, and the Health Knowledge Bowl.

The FCPS Career & Technology Center provides specialized training for students in grades 10-12 from any Frederick County public high school, focusing on career-specific skills and broader professional competencies essential for employment. Approximately 700 students enroll each year, splitting their time between CTC programs and their home schools. For more information, contact Principal Michael Concepcion, Assistant Principal Jack Newkirk, or Chapter Advisor Lera Straits at (227) 203-3650. Further details on the competition can be found at SkillsUSA.

There are so many wonderful things happening around FCPS to be excited about this school year. I look forward to the continued success of our students!

As we approach the midpoint

of the first quarter, the excitement and energy that marked the start of the school year have now settled into a steady rhythm of school activity, with the all-too-familiar routines of homework, projects, and tests setting in. We encourage our community to help students remember that the midpoint of the quarter is a pivotal time—a checkpoint where they can assess their progress and recalibrate if necessary.

We urge our students to dig deep and finish strong. The effort you put in now can set the tone for the rest of the year. If you have encountered bumps along the way, now is the perfect time to communicate with your teachers, reflect, adjust, and move forward with renewed focus. If you have been doing well, maintain that momentum and avoid complacency. Think of this as the first leg of a marathon—pacing yourself is key, but so is pushing through when the going gets tough.

Remember, the habits you form now will shape the rest of your school year. Stay organized, and most importantly, believe in your ability to succeed. Every small step you take now moves you closer to your dreams.

To our seniors: This is the year you have been working toward since kindergarten! It is the culmination of your hard work and dedication. As you prepare for your next chapter, it is natural to feel both excited and overwhelmed. You are balancing academics, extracurriculars, and the college/career application process, but remember, you are ready for this.

When applying, highlight your strengths and accomplishments thoughtfully—you have many! Think of describing yourself the way a menu showcases its best dishes. Just as a menu does not simply list “pasta,” but instead details “a rich, handmade fettuccine with a bold, creamy sauce,” do the same for your experiences. Rather than saying “I am a hard worker,” express it as “Through my leadership role in this club, I developed strong

analytical and communication skills, balancing academic rigor with extracurricular success.” Present yourself confidently, emphasizing what makes you stand out.

Additionally, do not overlook scholarships. Many opportunities are available that can help ease the financial burden of higher education. Start your search early and apply to as many as you can reach is a chance to make college more affordable.

Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company

COUNTRY BUTCHERING & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 23

6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Activities building - 13516 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge

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Coach Bag & Money BINGO

Sunday, October 27

Doors Open: 11
Bingo Starts: 1

\$25 Per Person

28 Games Total ~ 12 Games at \$100
14 GAMES OF COACH BAGS
Half Time Game \$500 ~ Final Game \$1,000

Tickets - Available at the door or call:
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Cash Bar & Kitchen Non-profit event to benefit the Thurmont Ambulance Company

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13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont **301-1271-7550** www.thurmonteventcomplex.com
Both events will benefit the Thurmont Community Ambulance Service

FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month, our writers will take you to a moment in time to tell a story, filled with historically accurate details, that will make you feel what it is like to have lived in the past in various locations. In addition, we have a new freshman writer on our staff, and he would like to introduce himself.

Freshman

Introducing our freshman writer

Cameron Madden
MSMU Class of 2028

Greetings to all readers of the Emmitsburg News! My name is Cameron Madden, and I am so gracious for the opportunity to be writing for all of you readers out there. Today will be a day in which we will discuss (I promise in the least narcissistic way possible) me, and who the person behind the ink and paper wishes to be. My hope is that you come out of this with perhaps a better understanding that the words you are reading now come from another soul, just as yourself, that's trying to figure out where he will fit in the world. Or maybe a chuckle, I feel like the chuckle would be apt enough for a life story.

To begin, let us establish a crucial detail about myself that I need you to remember for the rest of this introduction; yes you will be tested and if you remember it by the end you will get the reward of knowing that your

memory is working just fine, and that your medical provider is treating you just fine. The fact is that I was born in New Jersey and have lived there my whole life up till now. I was born the middle child of eventually four children (an older brother, and two younger sisters,) and in my youth I can say confidently that my childhood is something as you can expect from a kid born in 2005.

My youth primarily featured growing up alongside my family and technology. On one hand, I would live in a divorced household and live in a reality of two separate places to call home, and on the other, a new laptop or Playstation 3 that would take up all my attention. During my childhood, I look back and realize that I took an affinity to things past my own environment. I liked the stars of the night when I was supposed to be in bed, the stories of heroes and villains that a child simply could not have embodied, and the worlds described in stories from books, movies and games. In other less inspirational words, I was a nerd. My days were spent with games, movies, shows, chores with parents, and always hanging around with my best friend who lived next door.

As time moved on, and I breezed through elementary school, middle school defined much more about myself than I would like to admit. It cemented the friends that I carry with me to this day, established that I was, in fact, good in school, and mostly pushed the love of stories further upon me. It turns out when your English teacher makes you read any book from the library as a semester-long project, you find yourself picking the books that interest you. I would pick up books describing wars and battles of the past, and of historical figures that lived alongside them. Trust me, you do not expect a 7th grader to tell you about Louis Zamperini, the 1936 US Olympic Runner and WW2 Pilot. I think from this moment on, and with the encouragement and enabling from my older brother, that history took precedence in my life. I was surely interested in storytelling, and while Star Wars and the Hunger Games were interesting stories, they ultimately have less substance than in the stories that are written everyday and by every person.

It is obvious that you can confidently call me a nerd by this point now; I would counter this assump-

tion by saying I played many years of tee ball/baseball and one of soccer during my childhood, but I would also admit that I never was the best, nor had the greatest of interests in them. By high school I was set on the historical path, but when going to pick a career class I had to establish an actual career path. I thought arguing with my siblings was enough of an inspiration to be a lawyer, and thus I would spend my high school years sitting mostly in a class where I would type up legal papers. It was more boring than you realize for a high schooler to go through; I honestly am surprised I do not have carpal tunnel by this point. At least by the end of that I found a best friend only through that class, so I am going to say I prevailed from that.

Regardless, high school let my love of history expand into that of literature, simply because you can not talk about history or its beauty without writing accordingly for it. This is clearly where my interest in writing comes from, and if you can not tell, it is why I may seem more personable in retelling this, because I like when writers long gone or distant can connect through the ink they preside over.

In fact, I think in all things about myself I can identify that every hobby or action I wish to take part in is some reflection of a connection or extension of who I am. I enjoy older music and play the bass and piano accordingly for this music I love; writing is a fulfillment of how I wish to express any thoughts or inspiration; service to my friends and strangers is how I want everyone to act; and I make dry, cynical jokes because it connects to the stories and past to which I grew up in. In truth, I myself am a history major because some part of me wishes to be connected to the stories I grew up with. This drive to express myself has landed me here, to be read by you, a wonderful reader.

Think kindly to yourself and how you became the person who picked up this paper. I am sure that you and I will go to great places with that mindset. But just to make sure, I hope you can remember where I was born! If you can not, I have some real concern for you.

To read other articles by Cameron Madden, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Sophomore

The Innocent Casualty

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

It was the hottest summer I'd seen in all my days. Not only were the crops feeling it, but so were the livestock and the people who occupied the small town. It had been some time since our town was what it used to be, all from the war that didn't seem to have an end in sight. The Confederates claimed victory at Chancellorsville in May, while the Union seemed to continue their back peddling. I pushed away the thoughts of war and wrapped my hair up in my mother's old bonnet. The soft, now off-white lace complimented my pale, soft skin.

It was my turn to run into town and gather food for the women in my house, that is, my mother and my sister Georgia who had just given birth a number of days ago. Rumor had it that the Confederates were coming here. I

wondered what would make our town such a desirable location for them. We were known for hardly nothin'; why wouldn't they head for the capital? I found myself lost in the thought of war again. I sighed, as this usually happened. I mustn't focus on things I do not understand, that's preposterous.

As I walked to the center of town, I could sense the town had an eerie, uneasy feel to it. Where were the children running in the street? Where were the carriages hauling people around the town? Even the train station seemed bare with only two people occupying the inside. The thought did cross my mind that the rumors of the Confederates' intentions were, in fact, true. I exercised my self-discipline and refused to think anything of it. That's when I saw the Union Cavalry.

The sound of the horses marching in the streets was enough to intimidate anyone. I turned my head and without thinking, found my legs hurrying back to the edge of the pathways, making room for the cavalry.

Why were they here? What

could they want? What are they looking for? Can I trust them?

I unintentionally found my eyes glazing over all of the men in uniform. It would be unreasonable to deny their attraction. Surely, every woman felt some sort of desire for a man in a fresh uniform. By their appearance alone, I wouldn't have taken them to be any copperheads.

I notice a particular set of eyes on me. Unfazed by it, I look up to meet his gaze. He looks rough... like he'd seen the effects of this war. But this was also admirable, it meant he was wise. Looking at his uniform, it was evident that he was of a higher rank. What rank, well I wasn't so sure. My eyes looked back at his for a moment before I realized that he and his men had slowed their pace to all look at me. At this point... I began to feel slightly anxious.

When had they last seen a woman? Are these men married?

I decided to play coy, it'd been a long time since I'd seen a Union officer, or even a soldier for that matter.

"Is there going to be a disturbance in our town?" I say, pulling out my fan to cool myself down from the heat. My eyes glossed over the soldiers and their uniforms, only one name

looked familiar, Buford. I'd seen it somewhere...

I could feel the perspiration forming on the back of my neck. The sun's heat was not very accommodating as of late.

"Nothin' the calvary can't handle," A soldier, what looked to be an aid to the officer, lowered his cap to me. I nodded in return, giving a soft smile.

I watched as they rode on, pondering on the name Buford. Suddenly it clicked, I'd seen it in a letter from my fiancé who too was off fighting in this great war. Then, my thoughts were quickly interrupted by the sound of church bells from the seminary.

On my walk back to my sister's home, I saw the cavalry once more talking to the bank teller. Though I couldn't read their lips, I could read their expressions... and something told me that the war was close to home.

The next 2 days were almost unbearable.

Trapped in a home, sheltering my mother, my ill sister, and her newborn child from the war that raged just outside our door. Every few minutes the floorboards would rattle mercilessly from a nearby canon, leaving us all shaken at what could be next.

Every second hearing gunshots, some louder than others indicating how close the action, the violence, was to us. Though my composure remained sturdy for the sake of my family, my insides were torn up with fear. Just because there was a battle occurring just yards outside our home, didn't mean that our daily operations had to come to a halt. My mother and I did our part and fed the local Union soldiers what we could, mainly leftover food from our table and freshly baked bread.

Though a small contribution, my mother and I could see in the soldiers' eyes how much it meant to them. They were just as frightened by what was happening, if not more so than I. They most likely weren't from these parts, and a part of my heart ached for them, as they reminded me of my own beloved; In unknown territory... unsure of whether or not he will ever make it home...

Thoughts such as this made it possible to keep going... for the sake of innocent, meek soldiers such as my fiancé.

On the morning of the third day, it was evident that the morale of both armies was thinning. The air was quiet, hardly a bird chirping. I took solace in this peace, for the fighting hadn't begun yet for the day. I stood in the kitchen, enjoying normalcy for a few brief moments before the soldiers fired up their weapons again in the distance.

"Jennie," I heard my mother call from the other room, "it's s-

To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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IF WE COULD GO BACK IN TIME ...

Junior

The Highlands in 1746

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

The winds howled as they swept across the hills, carrying the scent of peat smoke and a whisper of rebellion. The Highlands stood as the always had—unyielding, wild, wrapped in ancient mist that held the history of the Highlander culture. However, the men who walked the rugged path here were restless, anticipating the change they could feel whipping through the air in their midst.

Amongst these men stood Brodie Mackenzie, a young man of only twenty-three summers, ready to swear his life to the Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite cause. Brodie was no stranger to battle, being a Scot entitled him to that, but the air felt different this time around leaving a pit that gnawed at the man's stomach in anticipation and dread for what was to come in the next few hours.

It was the late hours of April 15th, 1746, and the Mackenzie boy did not find himself graced with sleep. Instead, he spent those hours thinking: of his wife Caroline and daughter Ailee, of his brothers and sisters and nephews back home, and of what was to become of him once he went through with this

battle. As ready as he was to give his life for the Young Pretender's cause, he never considered what else he would be giving up within that.

It had been two years since the Bonnie Prince had returned to Scotland, raising the banner of rebellion against King George. For Brodie, the decision to join the Jacobite cause wasn't a simple one. He did not care much for the politics of distant kings. But the Mackenzie's had sworn fealty to the Stuart line for generations, and when his clan chief called them to arms, he could not stand idle, regardless of the family he was leaving behind.

Brodie's wife Caroline was a bonnie lass, but a sassenach. Their marriage wasn't something that originally sat well with other members of the Mackenzie clan, but Brodie was entranced when he first laid eyes on her. He knew she was the one for him and has'na let her go since. He thought back to the last conversation they had, where she begged him not to leave, her eyes filled with sorrow and loss. "You don't have to fight for Kings Brodie. This land and your family, that's what's important," she cried. He tried to believe her but, loyalty to clan and country weighed to heavy on his shoulders. Leaving Caroline and Ailee behind to fight this fight was the hardest choice he's ever had to make, but a choice he made nonetheless.

The hours passed on and Bro-

die Mackenzie found himself standing shoulder to shoulder with his fellow Highlanders, each man bristling with anticipation for the coming battle. The rising sun barely broke through the thick clouds, casting the day in a cold, grim light, as if even the heavens have turned their backs on the Jacobite cause.

Brodie glanced over at his older brother, Callum, whose face was etched with determination. The Mackenzie plaid was wrapped tightly around Callum's broad shoulders, and his claymore hung at his side, its blade kissed by a history of blood and honor.

Brodie gripped his dirk tightly, the cold metal biting into his palm. His mind wandered, for a brief moment, to the days of peace in the glens of Kintail. He remembered the bright streams that trickled down from the mountains, where he and Callum fished as boys, their only worry being whether their mother would scold them for staying out too late. Those were simpler times—before the call to war, before the cause of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

Beside him, the men muttered prayers in Gaelic, the ancient words rising like mist from their lips. Brodie's heartbeat quickened as he gazed across the moor, where the red-coated British soldiers were assembling in rigid lines. They looked as though they belonged to another world entirely—a world of cold steel

and gunpowder. The Highlanders, by contrast, were an untamed force, their swords and shields imbued with the fierce independence of the north.

The Jacobite's had no choice but to charge. It was all or nothing now.

Brodie caught Callum's eye. They exchanged a nod—no words were needed. Blood of the same blood, they had fought side by side through the skirmishes in Falkirk and Prestonpans. If today was to be their last battle, they would face death as they had faced life: together.

The signal was given. Brodie's heart leaped into his throat as the men surged forward, their war cries rising above the howling wind. He ran with them, his feet pounding against the sodden earth, his dirk raised high. Around him, Highlanders shouted, screamed, their faces twisted with the savage determination of a people fighting for their very existence.

The first crack of cannon fire split the air, followed by a barrage of musket shots. Men fell—some silently, others with cries that curled your blood. The smell of gunpowder grew thick, mingling with the iron tang of blood. Brodie ducked, narrowly avoiding a volley, and kept moving. His muscles burned with the effort, his mind a blur of instinct and adrenaline.

He turned, searching for Callum. The battlefield was a nightmare of

mud, blood, and smoke—it was nearly impossible to see more than a few feet ahead. "Callum!" he shouted, his voice hoarse, but there was no answer. Panic gripped him. He pushed through the throng of men, desperately seeking his brother.

And then he saw him.

Callum was on the ground, dark-red spreading across his chest. Brodie rushed to his side, dropping to his knees. "Callum!" he cried, his voice breaking. Callum's eyes fluttered open, his face pale. "Brodie..." he whispered, his voice barely audible over the din of battle.

"No, ye cannae leave me," Brodie said, his hands trembling as he tried to stem the flow of blood. "We'll get ye home. Ye'll be fine. We'll get ye home to yer family brother." But Callum shook his head, a faint smile tugging at the corner of his lips. "It's over, Brodie," he said, his voice weak. "The clans... we're finished." And then he took his last breath.

The Battle of Culloden was lost.

But Brodie Mackenzie would live to tell the tale. He would be the only of the Mackenzie boys to leave Culloden Moor still breathing. He would go home to his wife and children, carrying the weight of two losses and his own survival.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Senior

It takes a village

Dolores Hans
MSMU class of 2025

Beyond the aroma of Florentine pappa Bal pomodoro and the feel of the warmth radiating from the cobblestone streets, and magnificent flow of colorful buildings throughout the hills of Campobasso, there's a maze-like old town containing the chill of the seaside breeze and the subtle strength of the Alberobello. This town was once a home for a young orphaned boy who had only his village and God to depend on. They called him LeProtto, Antonio LeProtto, meaning "wild rabbit". No one knew his family, no one knew him, just that he was courageous. He would do small jobs for the people of Bari, in exchange for hospitality. They became his family. There was this one woman, he called her Nonni but she was of no blood relation to him, who would look after him when he was most in need. She had little to give him, as she had no one to provide for her either. But what she had she shared with him, and what he provided in return was someone to run her errands and listen to her stories.

He wasn't the most talkative boy, and as he got older he spoke even less. However, his humor and courage always remained strong.

"Manga mio figlio, eat you supper", Nonni pleaded gently with Antonio.

"Ghimmone- I'm so full" he said, sliding down into his chair and onto the floor. "It been long day. Let me be".

He rose from the floor quite slowly, aching and moaning the whole way until he was on his feet, jokingly trying to get sympathy from the woman after rejecting more food. He stood, smirked, kissed her on the cheek and went out the door. "A presto", he said as he threw on his hat.

The next morning, as Nonni was hanging the kitchen towels to dry on the clothesline, she heard the rustling of papers somewhere behind her. She turned, saw nothing, and went back to her chores. A moment later, Antonio jumped out from behind a sheet and yelled in an attempt to frighten her. She jumped back, placed her hand on her chest, and nearly fell backwards. "LeP-rotto! Gocciadave! Don't you ever..." she began to lightly hit his arm repeatedly as she went into a verbally profane frenzy. Antonio just laughed, gave her a big hug, kissed her hand, and helped hang up more linens. She scoffed.

"You know something," she began to say in a soft spoken tone, "you are kind, and you are wild, and you work hard. But you are never going to get anywhere if you stay around here. You'll be doing chores for the rest of your life. That's no life." He stood there quietly, thinking about what life she could've been picturing for him. What she meant when she said "if you stay around here". Did she want him to go to another town?

"A younger like you should be thinking about you future. You need to make something of yourself, mio figlio." She held his face in her hands, examined him lovingly, then shoved his head downwards and scoffed once more.

A few months later, LeProtto was sitting just outside a market in town, hoping someone would offer him a job or a snack. Almost everyone there looked so thin, and even the produce looked like it hadn't been properly nourished by the earth. People spoke to each other in grunts or gestures, or spoke just a few words. Even more people couldn't read what the signs said. Poverty was never an experience left un-lived by LeProtto, or much of Italy for that matter. As people walked by, he would think of their stories. He saw a man in a hat using a cane, and he wondered if he had a good job. He saw a woman and a

child and it reminded him of the family he used to dream of. He closed his eyes and tried to picture a future for himself, but it was too difficult, all he could think of was his past. Here he was, a nineteen year old boy, consumed by his past, and stuck in a time where it feels impossible to escape the effects of natural disasters and poverty.

As he wandered back to the village, he waved hello to the people who took care of him the best, and thought about how he loved it there. Sure, it was tough and by anyone else's standards it might have been a sad excuse for family and career, but for Antonio, it was all he knew, and he wasn't sure if he wanted to know better. Even if he somehow came out on top of the world one day, he knew that it would mean nothing if he wasn't giving it back to Nonni and the village who raised him. They sacrificed so much to keep him going, and that seemed like a pretty good place to be.

"Antonio," he heard a soft voice from behind him, and felt a hand rest on his shoulder. "It's a time to listen," said one of the men from the village, "we make a you an opportunity. You no been anywhere but Bari, you whole life". A woman approached him as well saying, "there's more out in the world for you. Bring your skills and wits along. They will service you a good somewhere else". Antonio listened to what they were saying, but he didn't understand. Nonni came through what was now a crowd of people, and put her hand in his. "It's a time," she said with tears in her eyes, "America. Go." Antonio was even more confused now. He looked at her bewildered. "Whatta you mean, go? America, it a too much. I no money, no people over there, whatta you mean?"

"We sponsor you, whole village, we raise money, we get everything in place. You go, live well, use skill to make living. You better over there than here now," explained another man from the village, "don't you see, best opportunity over there."

Antonio didn't know what to think. He did hear about some people who went to America to live the same way but make more money and over time they would get more and more, and eventually come back to Italy to live better. Antonio wondered if the reason he couldn't see a future for himself is because that future didn't exist based off his current circumstances. He looked around at the village who had done

so much for him. He thought that he could go to America, make a lot of money, then come back one day soon, and give the money away to the people. He got close to Nonni, put his arm around her, picked up a potato sack from the ground, and said "when I getta on thata boat, imma cry".

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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ARTS

Way Off Broadway's Murder In The Big Easy

In addition to its regular Mainstage Season, Way Off Broadway has become known for its special events throughout the year. Notably, its interactive murder mysteries in which the audience gets involved and helps solve the case. As part of the theatre's 30th Anniversary Season, Way Off Broadway will play host to the newest installment of the Marquee Mysteries Series, Murder in the Big Easy. The interactive event will appear at the theatre for two performances only on Friday evening, Friday evening, October 4th and Saturday evening, October 5th.

Detective stories and mysteries have

been a part of entertainment culture for as long as anyone can remember. From the days of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie to the modern television crime shows of today, everyone loves a good mystery, and everyone thinks they can be the next Sherlock Holmes. With Way Off Broadway and Justin Kiska's Marquee Mysteries, they have that chance.

With Murder in the Big Easy, multi-millionaire businessman, philanthropist, and infamous New Orleans playboy Charles Broussard disappeared, only to have his lifeless body found a few days later. His murder

has sent shockwaves through the Big Easy's social elite and left everyone in his life as a suspect. There were some in his circle of friends who thought he simply ran off with a young, energetic fitness trainer, leaving his wife nearly penniless. Others wondered if a shady business deal or dark political connection finally caught up with him. Regardless of what finally led to his demise, it is time for his will to be read and his assets to be distributed, which is why friends, family, and enemies have gathered for the evening.

Suspects for the mystery include Betsey Whitmore Brannen as Madam

Agribah, Dino P. Coppa, Sr. as Atticus Broussard, Melissa Ann Martin as Miss Pennyrose, Sarah Melinda as D. Eleanor Davis, Esq., and Megan Elizabeth West as Claudette Broussard.

Murder in the Big Easy is the latest interactive mystery from the creator of Marquee Mysteries, Justin Kiska, who is directing the event for the theatre

The mystery on both evenings will begin at 6:30. Tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased by contacting the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

For complete details about Murder in the Big Easy, or any of Way Off Broadway's



upcoming productions, visit the theatre's website at www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Weinberg Center & New Spire Arts events

Frederick Experimental Music Association

Frederick Experimental Music Association (F.E.M.A.) presents Wadada Leo Smith at New Spire Arts on Friday, October 4 at 8, in a tribute to his long-time friend and creative collaborator, Lester Bowie. Smith will deliver a program of solo trumpet works that honor Bowie's legacy.

For over five decades, Wadada Leo Smith has been at the forefront of American music, recognized both as an innovative composer and a masterful improviser. His compositions have resonated through prestigious venues, including performances by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and the Kronos Quartet.

Notably, his monumental work, Ten Freedom Summers, which vividly por-

trays the Civil Rights Movement, was a Finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Music. Smith's groundbreaking contributions as a trumpeter are captured in over 100 recordings, showcasing his unique ability to blend compositional rigor with spontaneous creativity. This concert marks the 2nd annual event hosted by F.E.M.A. in honor of Lester Bowie, promising to be a highlight of Frederick's fall concert season. Audiences can expect an evening of profound musical exploration and a heartfelt homage to one of the great figures in jazz history.

A Tribute to ABBA

Get ready to relive the timeless hits of ABBA as The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA takes the stage at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Sunday, Octo-

ber 13, 2024, at 7:30 PM. This electrifying performance is set to transport audiences back to the golden era of disco, with all the glitz, glamour, and unforgettable music that made ABBA a global sensation.

As the premier ABBA tribute band in the world, The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA has captivated audiences across the United States with their authentic performances and an all-Swedish cast that perfectly captures the essence of the original band. From the iconic harmonies to the dazzling costumes, this group delivers a show that will have everyone on their feet, dancing and singing along. The evening will feature ABBA's greatest hits, including "Mamma Mia," "S.O.S.," "Money, Money, Money," "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "Waterloo," "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme," and the ever-popular "Dancing Queen." With each note, the band promises to bring the spirit of ABBA to life, creating a night of nostalgia and fun for fans of all ages.

The DMV Jazz Series

The DMV Jazz Series, a new initiative designed to showcase jazz musicians from across the DC-Maryland-Vir-

ginia (DMV) region will take the stage at New Spire Arts this season. Hosted by acclaimed local jazz musician Eric Byrd, the series aims to create a space for jazz lovers to enjoy the talents of the region's top artists in an intimate setting, while fostering connections between musicians and the community.

The series will kick off on Thursday, October 17, with a performance by the Todd Marcus Quartet, led by Baltimore-based bass clarinetist, composer, and bandleader Todd Marcus. Marcus is one of the few jazz musicians worldwide who focuses primarily on the bass clarinet, carving out a distinct place for the instrument in the world of straight-ahead jazz.

His playing is characterized by a dynamic blend of fiery intensity and lyrical beauty, setting him apart as a true innovator in modern jazz. Marcus' accolades include being named a Rising Star in Downbeat Magazine's Annual Critics Poll since 2013, and he has been described by The New York Times as "probably the most inventive bass clarinetist working in straight-ahead jazz today." In addition to his work with small ensembles like the Todd Marcus Quartet, he leads the

Todd Marcus Jazz Orchestra and performs regularly in Baltimore, Washington, New York, and beyond.

Experience Svetlana: Night at the Movies at New Spire Arts

Celebrated jazz vocalist, bandleader, and songwriter Svetlana brings a fusion of cinema and jazz with her critically acclaimed show, Night at the Movies, to New Spire Arts on Saturday, October 19 at 8. This unique concert, inspired by Svetlana's chart-topping record that soared to #1 on the Billboard US Traditional Jazz Charts, promises a thrilling evening of music and film nostalgia.

Svetlana's Night at the Movies transports audiences through a dynamic program of jazz interpretations of iconic movie soundtracks. From the enchanting melodies of The Wizard of Oz to the evocative themes of French New Wave films like The Umbrellas of Cherbourg, and from contemporary Academy Award-winners like Coco and Sabrina to beloved animated classics like The Princess and the Frog, this concert celebrates the magic of cinema through the lens of jazz. Svetlana is a renowned vocalist, bandleader, and songwriter known for her charismatic stage presence and deep connection with audiences. With multiple sold-out performances in premier venues worldwide and nearly one million streams on Spotify, she continues to inspire listeners with her unique blend of swing, jazz, and original music.

Tickets for these events can be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street. Discounts are available for students, children, military, and seniors.

The Weinberg Center for the Arts is one of the region's premier performing arts presenters, offering film, music, dance, theater, and family-focused programming. Located in the historic Tivoli movie theater in downtown Frederick Maryland, the Weinberg Center strives to ensure that the arts remain accessible and affordable to local and regional audiences alike. Weinberg Center events are made possible with major support from the City of Frederick, the Maryland State Arts Council, Plamondon Hospitality Partners, and other corporate and individual donors.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2024-25 season can be found at WeinbergCenter.org.

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Great Frederick Fair fiasco

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

We have been living in Frederick for about 6 years and finally entered the Great Frederick Fair. The boys entered each a piece of art and something they baked. We went the very first day it opened to see everyone's entries, and each kid was in the ribbons. I, on the other hand, was a big loser. My littlest one was sad and said "Mama, I'm sorry you didn't get anything" but, really we had lots of fun. So, continuing on our fair adventure, here are a few of our entries.

Second Place Chocolate Cake

I asked Ry what he wanted to bake, and he said a chocolate cake. And then of course, while searching recipes he found possibly the most complicated chocolate cake recipe that existed on pinterest. We did tweak it a little and also made the cakes on Wednesday and refrigerated them, and iced the cake on Thursday before taking it in the enter in the fair. After all that effort he was disappointed to win second place, but the cake is delicious and worth the effort.

Ingredients - Chocolate Cake

- 1 3/4 cups (230g) all purpose flour
- 1/4 cup (30g) cornstarch
- 1 cup (100g) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (205g) dark brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup (108g) vegetable oil
- 1 cup (230g) mayonnaise
- 3 large eggs + 1 egg yolk
- 1/2 cup (128g) buttermilk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup (240g) instant espresso

Ingredients -

Chocolate Fudge Frosting

- 2 cups (450g) unsalted butter, room temp
- 1 1/2 cups (165g) powdered sugar

- 3 tbs corn syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Pinch of kosher salt
- 3/4 cup (177g) warm water
- 3/4 cup (75g) dutch process cocoa powder (or unsweetened cocoa powder)
- 10 oz dark chocolate chips (one bag), melted and cooled slightly

Preparation: Chocolate Cake - Preheat the oven to 350F and prep 3 8inch cake pans. Grease the inside and line the bottom with parchment paper. If you have them, wrap the pans in damp cake strips and set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cornstarch, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the sugars, oil, and mayo, followed by the eggs and egg yolk, and then milk and vanilla. Pour in half of the dry ingredients and whisk to combine. Pour in the hot coffee and whisk to combine, followed by the remaining dry ingredients. The batter should be very thin and liquid. Evenly distribute the batter between the three pans. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick in the center comes out clean with a few moist crumbs. Allow the cakes to cool in the pan for about 10 minutes, then run a knife around the edges and turn out onto a cooling rack. Cool the cakes completely before frosting, either at room temperature or in the refrigerator. You can wrap the cake in plastic and store to frost and decorate the next day.

Chocolate Fudge Frosting - Using a hand or stand mixer with the paddle attachment, beat the

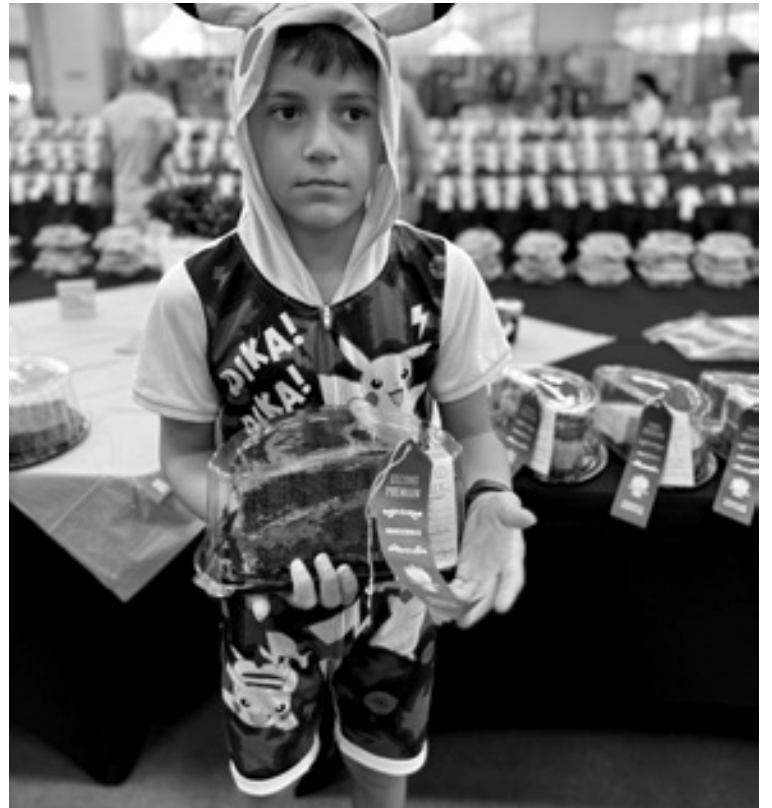
butter until smooth. Then mix in the powdered sugar, corn syrup, vanilla, and salt and beat so it is fluffy and pale. In a measuring glass, whisk together the warm water and cocoa powder. Pour into the frosting and mix to combine, scraping down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed. Then pour in the melted chocolate and mix to fully combine. The frosting should now be smooth and glossy but somewhat thin. To thicken, place the bowl in the refrigerator for about 45 minutes. Once chilled, whip again either by hand or with the mixer. If the frosting holds its shape inside the bowl, it's ready to go. Before assembling, make sure the cake layers are completely cooled. Level off the top of each cake layer if needed. Lay one layer down on a cake turntable and spread a layer of frosting on top. Lay the next cake layer on top, repeating the process. Once all the layers are stacked, place the cake in the refrigerator for about 20 minutes to allow those layers to set. Once set, cover the entire outside of the cake with frosting.

Blue Ribbon Coconut Macaroons

Hudson is in kindergarten and so excited for his big win with these 5 ingredient macaroons. These are fast and so easy our 5 year old can do almost every step by himself.

Ingredients

- 14 ounces sweetened condensed milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 2/3 cup flour
- 5 1/2 cups sweetened coconut flakes, 14 ounce bag



Second place is first loser.

- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips melted

Preparation: In a large mixing bowl, mix the extracts in with the condensed milk. Add the flour, coconut flakes, and salt and mix until well combined. Cover and refrigerate for one hour. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Use an ice cream scoop to scoop 18 mac-

aroons onto parchment paper and bake in a preheated oven for 12-15 minutes. When baking they are done when the edges are just a little golden brown. After they are cooled, drizzle with the melted chocolate using a spoon.

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




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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of October

Professor Wayne Wooten

For October 2024, the moon is new on October 2nd. The waxing crescent makes a nice pairing with bright Venus in twilight on October 5th. The first quarter moon is on October 10th. The waxing gibbous moon is just west of Saturn on the evening of October 13th, and to the left of it the following evening. The Hunter's Full Moon on October 17th is also a "supermoon", the closest full moon of 2024. In the morning sky, the waning gibbous moon passes north of bright Jupiter on October 21st. The last quarter moon is just below reddish Mars on October 24th in the dawn. No moon this Halloween, alas; it will be new on November 1st.

Mercury lies too close to the Sun for visibility from Earth this month. Venus pulls away from the Sun, higher in the southwestern sky, and passes just above Antares on October 25th. It appears gibbous in the telescope, still on the far side of the Sun. Mars is in the dawn sky in Gemini, and is also now gibbous in the scope. It passes south of the Twins, Castor and Pollux, with the moon joining the group on October 23rd. Jupiter reaches opposition in early November, and rises about 10 PM in the northeast in Taurus at midmonth. But Saturn is well up in the SE at sunset in Aquarius. Its rings are very thin and closing, become edge on at its equinox in May 2025, almost invisible from earth.

While T Corona borealis has still not flared as expected at this writing,



Photo of the Pillars of Creation taken by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. The pillars look like arches and spires rising out of a desert landscape, but are filled with semi-transparent gas and dust, and ever changing. This is a region where young stars are forming.

we do hope it will soon. Its position on the comet finder chart, between the crown and Hercules overhead, is noted. Ideally it will flare when the comet is at its best! The big question is just how bright Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS 2023 A3 will be in the evening skies this month. So far, it has stayed intact and brightened more than predicted, and will get closest to the Sun at the end of September. When it passes between us and the Sun in mid October, it may become the best naked eye comet for most of us living now. Stay tuned!

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. Here is the little bear in the woods at Big Lagoon at our August Gaze. The app is called "Nocturne" and it is free for iPhones and ideal for shooting the comet in October. Note you can add the constellations and labels to the original, a great way to teach kids the constellations

To the southwest, Antares and Scorpius also set soon after twilight, 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. If it lives up to expectations, the comet will move up and to the east each evening through Ophiuchus above them this month.

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 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 2.5 million light years distant. South of M31 is the other great spiral in our Local Group of Galaxies. M-33 in Triangulum is seen from a higher viewing angle, so the spiral arms are even more striking. It too is about three million light years distant Both are visible in good binocs.

Below the head of Pegasus is Aquarius, the Water Carrier, now home to Saturn. 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.

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, an orange giant covering most of its blue companion.

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. The giant planet Jupiter now sits just west of this famous group in early evenings.

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. Again, binoculars come in handy to reveal three fine Messier open clusters, M-36, M-37, and M-38, all within the pentagon of Auriga.

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. Jupiter is now near the lower horn of the bull.

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"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: Dry and milder at first, then turning breezy and colder with rain east and snow west (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); seasonably cold and dry, then breezy with light snow (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry, turning milder, then rain, possibly mixed with wet snow West (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and mild at first, then showers, turning breezy and cooler (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); seasonably mild with periods of rain (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); dry, turning cooler but more seasonable; flurries possible west (27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Full Moon: October's Full Moon will occur on October 17th and is the Hunter's Moon of 2024. Named because of the extra light the moon provided to many Native American tribes, giving them more time to hunt for. The Cree Tribe referred to as and Yellow Leaf and Falling Leaves because of the many leaves turning bright yellow (and many others, as well!) and because most trees have lost the last of their leaves during the month.

Holidays: Columbus Day is observed on Monday, October 14th, United

Nations Day is celebrated on Thursday, the 24th, and Halloween falls on Thursday, October 31st.

Special Notes: October is Fire Prevention Month. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in 1922 in commemoration to the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Today, we celebrate Fire Prevention Week and Month by educating families, students and communities across the United States raising fire safety awareness. During this month, local and regional fire departments provide education to their communities and encourage parents and loved ones to practice fire safety. Remember to have an evacuation plan ready for your family to follow, check smoke detector batteries often, and always, always respect the power of fire.

The Garden: There is still time left to plant perennial seeds and bulbs! With a little effort at Fall planting time, you will speed the timing of that first new growth by as much as a month. During the fall months, after soil temperature drops below 60°F, the bulbs of spring flowering Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Siberian Squill, Dwarf Irises, Anemone, and Crocus should be planted. Most spring flowering bulbs should be in the ground

by the early part of this month, except for Tulips, which can be planted up until early November. Select healthy, disease-free bulbs. Add bone meal or bulb fertilizer into the planting hole, as you prepare the soil. One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your 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! The longer your house plants were 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 (1, 2, 13 14); weeding and stirring the soil (8, 9, 10); planting above-ground crops (15, 6, 17); harvesting all crops (18, 19, 26, 27); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 2e, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); transplanting (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); weening of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); harvesting and storing grains (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13).

J. Gruber's Thought
For Today's Living

"A true friend offers a helping hand without expecting thanks in return"

Frederick Health on leading edge in robotic-assisted surgery

Michael Hillman

One of the nicer aspects of being an Editor of a local paper, is sometimes you get invited to events that will help shape the community at large for the better.

Such was the case with Frederick Health's invitation for me to attend the unveiling of their new da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgical system with hands on demo. I freely admit the "hands on demo" got my attention – after all, who in their right mind would turn down an opportunity to control a robot with their hands?

While I admit, I went in their to play with the robotic-assisted controls (which I did) I came away blown away with the depth of the philanthropy that allowed the hospital to obtain a leading edge medical instrument that will serve our community well for years to come; the depth of knowledge and skill sets of Frederick Health's deep bench of surgeons that will utilize it – not to mention their people skills; and, the management that pulled this all together. In the military we use the term – "Bravo Zulu" when someone does a great job.

Frederick Health deserves multiple 'Bravo Zulus' for putting Frederick County on the cutting edge of robotic-assisted surgical options.

But I digress. Joshua Faust, who usually writes this column, allowed me to play with the da Vinci 5 for over 25 minutes provided I write a review of it ... so let me get on with the review.

The first question most people have, as I did, was "what is the benefit of a robotic-assisted surgical system?"

"Compared to traditional open surgery, robot-assisted surgery offers benefits like less pain during recovery, lower risk of infection, reduced blood loss, shorter hospital stays, and smaller scars," said Dr. Shyam Jayaraman, a general surgeon with Frederick Health Medical Group.

"The main difference between open, traditional surgery is instead of making one large incision, I will make a few small incisions in which to insert the robotic arms that hold the tiny instruments I will

use. Another difference is that the surgical instruments require less space to do their job. This limits the need to push tissue, muscles and organs aside."

"Traditional surgery and robot-assisted surgery takes about the same time, but with robot-assisted surgery, the patient can often walk out the door and head home to get on with their lives hours after the surgery, as opposed to days, if not weeks of recovery from traditional open surgery," said Jayaraman.

Frederick Health's new da Vinci 5 includes a camera and mechanical arms with surgical instruments attached to them. The surgeon controls the arms while seated at a control center near the operating table. Surgeons like Dr. Natalia Kubicki, also a general surgeon with Frederick Health Medical Group, will see a magnified, high-definition, 3D view of the surgical site and using hand controls, perform some of the more complex surgeries without getting a drop of blood on their hands – and very little on the patient!

Some of the most common types of robot-assisted surgeries Frederick Health's da Vinci 5 will support include appendectomies, colectomies, gallbladder removals, gastric bypasses, hernia repairs, hysterectomies, and mitral valve repairs to name just a few.

The da Vinci 5 allows Frederick Health to deliver improved outcomes with minimally invasive procedures, offering its patients precise and exceptional care. The da Vinci 5 achieves this by providing the surgeon with a first-of-its-kind feedback technology that provides greater tactile response – allowing the surgeon to actually 'feel' the instrument as it moves within the patient. "With this new system," said Dr. Jayaraman, "I'll be better able to feel any resistance from tissue or muscle as I'm working. The 'better' I can feel, the faster and more successful the operation will be."

The da Vinci 5 visual displays are leading edge, providing surgeons with truer colors and higher resolution for delicate dissections and reconstructions. Besides its state-of-the-art displays, the da Vinci 5 control station offers improved ergonom-

ics, reducing surgeon fatigue.

One of the most frequent questions Dr. Jayaraman said he hears is "what is the difference between robotic-assisted surgery and laparoscopic surgery?"

"In traditional laparoscopic surgery," Dr. Jayaraman said, "the surgeon performs the procedure standing next to the patient holding rigid instruments while viewing the surgical area through an endoscopic camera that projects the images onto a monitor."

With the da Vinci 5, the surgeon sits at a console while viewing a high-definition 3D image of the targeted area inside the patient's body. The surgeon grasps the master controls connected to the robotic arms, which hold a camera and surgical instruments. The da Vinci 5 seamlessly translates the surgeon's hand, wrist and

finger movements into precise, real-time movements of the surgical instruments positioned inside the patient's body.

The 'arms' can bend and rotate at far greater degrees than traditional laparoscopic instruments and the human wrist. More importantly, the robotic arms also filter out any hand tremors the surgeon may have, ensuring that no matter how old Dr. Jayaraman is when my left groin muscle decides to go and I wake up with another hernia – which he told me I had a 25% chance of, he'll be able to take care of it and ensure I'm back on my horse in a few days!

"We've become a destination for surgical excellence and innovation," said Mike McLane, Vice President of Surgical & Support Services with Frederick Health. "This new system speaks to the investments we are making to provide expert

surgical care to our community."

As shown by their investment of the da Vinci 5 system, Frederick Health continues to invest in the future of healthcare delivery; ensuring access to expert providers; family-centered communication; and a seamless delivery of care. And Frederick Health accomplished this, in no small part, thanks to the philanthropy of many great residents in the community, who donate not only their money, but also their time to ensure Frederick Health provides a level of care second to none.

To learn more about Frederick Health's da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgical system, as well as how Frederick Health's exceptional team of surgeons and care options can get you back on track with your life, visit www.wgetyouback.org.



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FROM THE DESK OF ...

April Delaney, Congressional Candidate

I am running for Congress because I carry a unique blend of life experiences that I believe will make me particularly effective for the people of the 6th District. With a background spanning both the public and private sectors, I am committed to addressing challenges through a “common sense, common ground” approach.

As a mother of four daughters, I understand the issues facing families. With over 30 years of experience in media and tech, I have the expertise to assist small businesses in connecting and marketing globally. My 15-year leadership tenure at Common Sense Media has made me an expert on kids’ online safety and the impact of media on children’s health

and well-being. In my recent role as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications in President Biden’s Commerce Department, I spearheaded efforts to expand broadband access and digital equity, address online harassment and abuse, promote U.S. competitiveness through innovation, and bolster the security of our nation’s networks.

I am deeply committed to Maryland’s families and communities and want to ensure that the ongoing tech revolution strengthens community resilience. Through my experience, I understand that technology has both great potential and a need for trustworthiness and strong privacy protections in tech and AI tools. I know that there

must be deliberate action and coalition-building to achieve these goals.

My vision extends to leveraging technology to drive economic growth in the 6th District. I understand the importance of strategic investments and capitalizing on the District’s research and education assets. I will work to create job opportunities and prosperity across the region by bringing economic development in line with climate legislation and tapping into local entrepreneurial spirit and private sector resources.

I am fully committed to restoring trust in our democracy, seeing it as essential to our nation’s resilience. I pledge to foster open dialogue and prioritize the common good, drawing

inspiration from America’s historic role as a symbol of hope and potential.

I cannot believe that my daughters are growing up in a world where they have fewer rights than I did. In Congress, I will work to restore reproductive rights for all.

Recognizing the divisive impact of past administrations, I will emphasize the importance of unity in addressing key challenges such as economic revitalization, technological advancement, reproductive rights, climate action, crime prevention, and education improvement. I will push for pragmatic, consensus-driven solutions, and work to build coalitions to serve the families of the 6th District.

My advocacy for youth well-being

led me to join Common Sense Media, where I work to ensure that young people thrive in the digital age. I spearheaded initiatives to bridge the digital divide, enhance digital literacy, and advocate for privacy protections. My tenure as Washington Director saw a strategic shift towards policies promoting K-12 digital literacy education.

My diverse life experiences equip me to be a hands-on, effective, and compassionate Member of Congress. With a foundation in both public and private sector experience, my approach revolves around practical problem-solving guided by common sense and a dedication to seeking consensus. I will use my skills and perspectives to address the needs and aspirations of Maryland’s families and communities.



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April McClain Delaney

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