

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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Carnival and fairs consider options

For more than a year, fairs, carnivals, organizational fundraising and other events in North Frederick and Southwest Adams counties have been canceled as the result of the threats to health posed by the COVID pandemic.

In both regions, emergency-responders have also been deprived of critical, fundraising activities such as carnivals and car shows, and have been relying on engaging in alternative types of fundraisers to compensate.

Among local events that have been canceled for the second consecutive year is the Mother Seton School carnival. The carnival, which usually runs during the third week of May, was the first to fall victim to the restriction limiting gatherings to ten or less individuals last year. Now, for the second time in 38 years, the school-run carnival has once again been canceled.

As far as carnival that are held by various emergency-responders are concerned, the Thurmont Community Ambulance Service carnival will be held at the Thurmont Event Complex from June 1 through June 5.

However, Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company President Dale Kline told the News-Journal that, following their April meeting, the leadership decided that "the Rocky Ridge Fire Company will be planning to have a 'modified' carnival this year in August," adding, "It will probably not be the same as before, but we want to put something together for the community."

Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company Vice President Vaughn Zimmerman said whether they will be having their carnival this year remains in limbo at the moment, noting, "We are putting-off our decision until May 3."

Likewise, the Thurmont Guardian Hose Company will be deciding in May regarding whether or not to hold their carnival.

Harney Volunteer Fire Company's Len Bower said the company's annual carnival has been canceled due to "too many (COVID) regulations and restrictions. The company will be holding a Money Bonanza drawing in August 28 as a fundraiser.

Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company's Sam Perry said that



Once again, summer carnivals and fairs will fall victim to COVID-19 concerns. Only the South Mt. Fair plans to return this year.

the carnival for this year has been canceled, but that the company is going to have drive-through food like that offered last year, but with some additions.

Regarding festivals, fairs and other outdoor events, the South Mountain Fair will be held this year from July 27 through July 31. In addition, the South Mountain Fair organizers will be holding a yard/craft sale event on May 15. The event is being held especially to help sellers whose sales have been hindered or diminished by the COVID restrictions.

Taneytown will be holding its Wine, Art & Film Festival on June 19 at Memorial Park, while Thurmont will be holding a Springfest with town-wide yard sales May 7 and May 8. Community Heritage Day in Emmitsburg will be held on June 26. The Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Company will be holding its annual Spring Fling event on June 26th and offer an "exciting opportunity to win great prizes."

Be advised events in-general are requiring attendees to maintain social distancing and wear face-masks.

May to see elections of new local officials

The time is approaching for local residents in Pennsylvania and Maryland to elect or re-elect a number of their township, borough, city and town officials.

In Adams County and elsewhere in Pennsylvania, local elections are tied to the national primary elections, while in Frederick County and elsewhere in Maryland, municipalities tend to establish their own local election dates, regardless of the national primaries.

In Southwest Adams, voters in Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs, and in Hamiltonban and Liberty townships will be holding their local elections on May 18.

Carroll Valley Borough has a number of seats to be filled. Voters will be filling three seats on the borough Council, and electing or re-electing the mayor, the tax collector, and the constable. The council and mayoral seats are four-year terms, while that of the constable is a six-year term.

According to Assistant Borough Manager Gayle Marthers, running for council seats are incumbents Richard Mathews, Robert Verdraime, David Lillard and borough Planning Commission member Sara Laird. Ron Harris is running for re-election as mayor, while Phyllis Doyle-Smith is stunning for re-election as tax collector and

Steve Beans is running for re-election as constable.

Fairfield Borough has three council seats to be filled, as well as the mayoral seat and that of the tax collector. The seats are for four-year terms.

According to borough Secretary Susan Wagle, incumbent Mayor Robert Stanley is running for re-election, while incumbents Camille Cline, Nathanael McNeill, and Dean Thomas have filed to run for re-election to council. Incumbent Tracy Paul has filed to run for tax collector.

Liberty Township has three seats to be filled: supervisor, tax collector, and elected auditor.

According to township Secretary/Treasurer Wendy Peck, Robert Jackson (whose seat is open to be filled) will not be running for re-election. Jessica Ilko was appointed last year for tax collector and is running for election, while, as of April 27, Brandon Lowe is the sole contender to fill Jackson's seat. Susan Hek is running for re-election as elected auditor, but is not on the ballot, and she is running as a write-in.

Hamiltonban Township has one supervisor's seat open, as well as tax collector and township auditor. The supervisor's seat is a six-year term, as is that of the auditor, while the tax collector seat is a four-year term.



Unlike last year's primary, this year's primary will be all about selecting leaders for local governments.

Of the possible candidates running for the three seats, township Secretary Nina Garretson stated only incumbent Douglas Woerner will be running for re-election. No one has yet filed to run for auditor or tax collector.

In Maryland, Taneytown will be filling three, four-year council seats on that board in the upcoming May 3 town election. The council seats that will be up for election or re-election are those presently held by Diane Foster, Judith Fuller and Joe Vigliotti.

Candidates who are running for the seats include incumbents

Foster, Fuller, and Vigliotti, and challenger Barbara Cook. The candidates have been certified and the deadline to file has expired.

Emmitsburg's election will not be held until September 28 when two three-year commissioner seats presently occupied by Timothy O'Donnell and Clifford Sweeney will be up for election/re-election.

Thurmont's election will not be held until October 26 when John Kinnaird's mayoral seat will be filled, as well as the commissioner seats of Martin Burns and Wayner Hooper.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Multiple annexations on horizon

Commissioner Joe Ritz, liaison to the town Planning Commission, told the commissioners at their April 5 meeting that a proposal to amend the town's growth boundary will be going before county and state planning boards for review. The proposal could lead to the annexation of seven properties.

Three of the properties would be newly added to the town's growth boundaries, while another four are already located in the growth boundary but need zoning changes to facilitate future annexation. Two could involve the construction of residential developments.

The details regarding the properties involved were reviewed at the town Planning Commission's March 29 meeting, and include:

Those that could entail residential development: A 15.53-acre lot that would essentially be an extension of Northgate. A developer may be seeking to construct 48 single-family dwellings. A 22.97-acre lot located north of Northgate. A developer may be seeking to build 29 townhomes and 34 single-family dwellings on the site. A .79-acre lot located adjacent to Silo Hill development. This lot would have its zoning changed to low density residential, but no potential development was discussed.

Three North Seton Avenue properties which could be annexed to the town, are already located within the town's growth boundary, including Rube's Crab Shack, Spike's, and the former Emmitsburg Auction site. Each

would be annexed to the town as 'neighborhood commercial.' the county has them zoned as residential.

Finally, the Daughters of Charity property, adjacent to the wastewater-treatment plant property on the west side of Route 15, would be newly included in the growth boundary. The 70.71-acre site would be used to plant trees to assist the town in meeting its stormwater management permit requirements.

The change to the growth boundary must be approved by county and state planning departments. Following their approval, the town Planning Commission would then hold a public hearing on May 3, followed by a final public hearing before the board of commissioners on July 12.

Industrial Park II progresses

At their April 19 meeting, the town commissioners unanimously approved several requests submitted by the developer of the proposed Emmitsburg East Industrial Park II regarding the construction of a wastewater pump-station required by the site.

Specifically, the commissioners agreed that the town developer-constructed pump-station be located on the town's property near the existing wastewater treatment plant, that the town supply electricity to the pump-station once it is completed, and that the town assume the operation and maintenance of the plant upon its completion.

Developer Dan Reaver had requested the approvals in order to further progress the creation of Emmitsburg East Industrial Park II, to be located on the east side of Route 15. Presently, only Reaver's Emmitsburg Glass is located on that site. That land was annexed to the town in 2006.

Prior to the approvals, town Attorney Leslie Powell stated that none of the requests were overly concerning to staff, provided the pump is properly installed, warranted, and that it not imposes any undue burden on wastewater treatment plant staff in terms of additional maintenance.

"If everything is constructed in

accordance with MDE and town requirements, this provides an opportunity for further development within the town limits, may possibly create additional job opportunities, and certainly additional revenue for the town," Powell said, adding, "The developer's requests seem reasonable and will allow the town to manage the system, once it is installed."

The necessity of constructing a pumping station was the result of the town having construction a new wastewater treatment plant, which could not accept gravity-fed wastewater from the proposed industrial park – thereby nixing prior plans that the site employs gravity-fed sewer lines.

News Briefs . . .

Water/Sewer fee increases?

Emmitsburg Commissioner Burns suggested at April 5 Town Council meeting that the town needs to engage in "hard discussions" regarding the town's water and sewer rates in the near future.

"Doing the research that I have (made him realize), we in Emmitsburg have some of the lowest water fees in the county – I have yet to find anybody that's lower," Burns stated. As far as sewer fees, he said the town's fees rank "right there in the middle," relative to other municipalities.

He said that with all this work

that needs to be done on the water clarifier and other projects, that "there's going to have to be some hard discussions on how our sewer fees are going to shape-up as well as our water fees in the near future."

Burns said he was certain that the town staff and commissioners are aware of it (the need to raise rates to support water and sewer infrastructure improvements), as well as all the people in town are being aware of it.

N. Seton 'Green Street' plans progress

The town commissioners approved the conceptual plan for the North Seton

Avenue "Green Street" project at the board's April 5 meeting, with Commissioner Joe Ritz voting against over the proposed reduction in parking spaces planned.

The commissioners previously approved a \$19,825 contract to develop a Green Street Concept Plan, which included plans to enhance North Seton with trees and plants, create safer road conditions, and help relieve flooding at the Northgate subdivision.

Being more than just a beautification project, the estimated \$290,800 project will also help the municipality meet all of its requirements under the state MS4 program, which requires communities to reduce

stormwater-runoff. Also planned to occur in conjunction with the North Seton enhancements is the replace-

ment of subsurface waterlines, which will bring the total cost of the overall project to \$1.5 million.



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Town Manager Cathy Willets stated that no matter what the commissioners approved at the meeting, it must ultimately, also be approved by the MDE "who has the final say in everything."

Attorney Bruce Dean, representing Reaver, posed several other requests, including if the town could assist with the "unforeseen" costs of the pumping station, if the town would consider the creation of a less-expensive station, and if there is anything the town could offer – such as incentives – to

help move the project forward. The commissioners did not address any of those additional requests.

Town Planner & Zoning Administrator Zach Gulden said that Reaver is proposing subdivision of his property into seven more lots – Lot 1 being the location of Emmitsburg Glass. Lot 8 is under contract to Federal Stone Industries of Thurmont, which is expanding their operations and plans to relocate to everything to Emmitsburg.

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Bankruptcy leaves road in limbo

Liberty Township officials are at a loss as to how to deal with the degraded condition of Rist Trail, being that road is a private development road, and thus, does not come under the purview of the local government.

Police and other emergency responders, as well as residents of the affected have consistently complained – as far back as 2015/2016 - about the condition of the road, which can even

be rendered unusable at times.

The original builder of the development went bankrupt, leaving township officials to find a means for having the road repaired.

Supervisor Walter Barlow stated at the board's April meeting that emergency services have discovered Rist Trail as being unpassable at times. "Of course, it's (Rist Trail) an ongoing thing," he said, because no one is maintaining the road, adding, "The

police chief and our police department can't even patrol there because our cars bog down on the roads."

Barlow further stated that, although Rist Trail is a private road within a private, 68-home development, it was his opinion that the situation there constitutes a public nuisance.

Township Solicitor John Lisko declared he was not aware of any situation within his experience

whereby a private road could be declared a public nuisance as a means of addressing maintenance issues, adding, "Generally, it's up to the individual lot-owners to maintain and repair (development roads). It's really not our responsibility."

He said, "If an emergency vehicle can't get up there, they can't get up there. Then maybe those individuals (lot-owners) will (ultimately) get together and improve that road,"

Lisko did suggest that the

township staff should review the original development plans for any notes relating to infrastructure maintenance. "If there is some such note as that on the plan, then you can enforce the note. It doesn't matter that the company went bankrupt, if there's a note ... they're (the homeowners) bound to that note."

The solicitor stated that if there is no note on the plan which binds the lot-owners to make road repairs, then "my gut tells me we won't be able to do anything."

Land cleared, but not by owner

Carroll Valley Borough staff, and other agencies, are looking into alleged unauthorized clearing of land which is not owned by the individual reportedly involved in the land-disturbance incident.

Stacey Whitmore, Blue Ridge Trail, reported to the borough Council at their April 13 meeting that she had observed the questionable activity taking place at 3 Willow Trail, a short roadway which takes access off Blue Ridge Trail,

She stated, "They cut several trees on the other side of Willow Trail ... (and) pushed dirt and

debris into the stream (a tributary of Toms Creek)," adding, "I'm just very concerned. I do think it is important that whoever has done the work – that they do something to fix the damage that they have done."

Council President Richard Mathews said, "We're aware of the problem. County is aware of the problem. We are aware of what's going on."

The Willow Trail tract in question is being held in the county repository. The repository is comprised of lands that have been

seized for non-payment of taxes but have failed to sell during the county's delinquent tax auctions. The owner of the land involved in this case in an absentee owner, while the individual accused of unauthorized clearing of the site - has only placed a bid with the county to acquire the land – but the county has not yet awarded ownership.

Town Manager David Hazlett told the News-Journal that "the person suspected of violating several laws 'thinks' they have purchased the lot out of the repos-

itory, but that sale hasn't been finalized."

Hazlett told the borough Council that the county Conservation District has also been investigating that which has been transpiring at the site, but that the accused "has not been responsive to the county." The Conservation District has the authority to act as an "agent" of the state Department of Environmental Protection regarding environmental issues.

"There are options (in dealing with the issues associated with the property in-question)," Hazlett stated, adding, "He has clearly violated our code in several places.

We're dealing with kind of a several-headed monster there in terms of issues that we need to pursue (along with) different agencies pursuing them as well."

Solicitor Zachary Rice stated that the county has sought input from the municipality regarding the sale of properties within the borough, one of which is 3 Willow Trail. The lawyer stated the borough could therefore question or challenge the sale of the particular lot in question.

Neither the actual owner of 3 Willow Trail, nor the accused offender, were identified during the meeting.

News Briefs . . .

Mobile DUI detector received

Liberty Township Police Chief (Sherri) Hansen informed the township supervisors at the board's April meeting that the police department has received a portable breathalyzer tester (PBT).

Hansen said the unit from the Trooper Kenton Iwaniec Memorial Foundation provided the township with the PBT equipment at no charge.

The foundation was established in Pennsylvania State Trooper Iwaniec's name to provide police forces and individual law enforcement officers with DUI enforcement equipment. Iwaniec was killed in 2008 when his vehicle was struck by an intoxicated driver. The organization holds various fundraising events to help raise money to pay for the PBT units.

In addition, the chief said Freedom Township has expressed interest in extending their police coverage contract with Liberty. Liberty has been providing police services to Freedom for the past number of months.

Hansen stated she would be working with Freedom on a renewed contract in June.

Litter removal appreciated

Liberty Township Commissioner Bob Jackson stated at the board's April meeting, "We had a little action this past couple of weeks with people picking up roadside trash... it was most appreciated."

Commissioner Walter Barlow identified the key individual involved as being resident Gary Rodgers.

Jackson stated that he has also received comments from other residents asking if the township could do more to "police" illegal dumping along the roads. "I think it's a very good idea, and I like to maybe down-the-road

figure out if we could do something a little more supportive, like signs saying, "Thousand dollar fine if you're littering," or something like that.

Barlow said there are a couple of signs posted but it hasn't amounted to much, noting, "They throw trash out right beside the signs."

He noted that if residents wish to pick up trash and litter, the township will send a truck to pick up the accrued bags of litter if those collecting the trash would notify the township to inform the staff regarding where the bags are located.

Barlow also asked that anyone witnessing littering or illegal dumping to immediately report the incidences to the township police. "We actually have a case coming up soon to address this very thing. Chief (Sherri) Hansen and I have to go and appear before the magistrate on a dumping issue," he said.

Work progressing at park

New wood-fiber surface material has been ordered to replenish the surface around the train play structure at the Hamiltonban Community Park. The surface material should arrive within the next ten days.

In addition, the frame of a new bridge to be constructed across the pond spillway is well underway and

should be completed within the next several weeks, according to township Supervisor Coleen Reamer.

Reamer told the News-Journal that volunteers and Joint (Hamiltonban and Fairfield) Parks and Recreation Commission President John Strahler "have been hard at it to make the bridge a reality this year."

This new bridge will carry walkers on the planned 2022 pathway extension over the spillway and around the infiltration-pond area.

CV's 'Movie in the Park' resumes

Carroll Valley Borough will be resuming its "Movie in the Park" program, commencing in May.

Assistant Borough Manager Gayle Marthers told the council at their April meeting, "We'll be having our first (since the inception of COVID-19) Movie in the Park on May 21 at 7 p.m."

"We're working on getting everything together for it," she said, adding that more details will be forthcoming.

Borough Manager David Hazlett said that the event is being held in partnership with the Fairfield Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

"They (Fairfield Elementary PTO) normally hold a movie night at the school but are unable to do it inside (the school building), so we're working collaboratively with them to be able to

let them provide their movie night in our park," he said, adding, "It's a great opportunity, and we're enjoying working with them."

COVID count up in CV area

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 cases in Zip Code 17320 continues to increase, as well as in Adams County as a whole.

Zip Code 17320 includes Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs, and Freedom, Liberty and Hamiltonban townships.

Borough Mayor Ron Harris reported at the borough Council's April meeting that as of April 9, there were 422 confirmed cases of coronavirus within the

municipality, up considerably from the March 9 number of 364 cases.

The number of confirmed cases has been steadily rising since January 9 when there were 243 cases, and February 9 when 318 cases were reported.

"The increase is getting heavier (increasing in percentage between each monthly period of reportage)," adding that he believes 178 of the current number of cases involve Carroll Valley Borough residents, based on the percentage of the population per municipality within Zip Code 17320.

The number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Adams County has risen from 4,818 in January to 7,070 in April.

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THURMONT NEWS

Annexation goes before commissioners

The Thurmont commissioners commenced at their April 6 meeting with their review of a proposal to annex more than 16-acres of land to the town.

If approved, the annexation could ultimately pave the way for the creation of a development of more than 150 new residential units and an assisted living assistance facility.

The commissioners accepted the petition for annexation at their January 4 meeting, during which Daniel Cross, owner, Cross & Company, LLC, presented the proposed plan, and forwarded the application to the town's

Planning & Zoning Commission for that board's recommendation.

P&Z held a public hearing on February 25 which culminated with commission members recommending that the mayor and town Board of Commissioners approve the annexation.

Town Planner Chris Jakubiak opened the April 6 review noting several aspects of "principal ideas" that should be considered during the review process: environmental and energy performance, community design, and neighbor-community impact. "If we focus on an (annexation) agreement around those prin-

icipal ideas, we can't go wrong."

One significant change in the proposed development that would be constructed on the cojoined property has been the number of proposed residential-units, which was initially given as 31 townhouses, seven studio-apartments and 172 condominiums. The need for additional required parking has reduced the number of residential units to 172 units plus an assisted-living facility, or 194 units and no assisted living assistance facility, Jakubiak stated.

The consensus of the commissioners was that more details regarding the

annexation need to be discussed as the review process continues, such as the cost-per-unit for water-capacity usage.

Town Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick told the News-Journal that the annexation agreement is being finalized by the town planner, adding, "Once that's completed, we will have some internal meetings with the developer to discuss the 'wish list' that's within the proposed agreement."

Humerick said that once all parties have reached an agreement on the agreement's contents, then a public hearing will be scheduled at a regularly-scheduled town meeting. "After

that, the mayor and commissioners may act upon the petition, if they so choose," he stated.

The proposed development would be bound by a condominium development (spanning Easy Street, Luther Drive and Cody Drive) to the south side ... Apples Church Road on the west and north sides ... and Graceham Road on the east side.

The land to be annexed, as well as the portion already located in-town, are both zoned for agricultural use ... and would have to be re-zoned in order to permit a residential development. The developers have previously submitted a request for the necessary re-zoning.

Old Shamrock restaurant sold

The Shamrock Restaurant was on its way to hitting its 60th anniversary, but fell short in 2019 when the operation ceased by the owners' decision to retire.

According to Friend Commercial Real Estate realtor Ted Kroos, the buyer who purchased the 4-5-acre tract, which included the landmark eatery, closed on the purchase of the property during the last week of March (reportedly March 31).

The realtor stated that the property will remain commercial, and that a new restaurant may open

there, and/or some other retail operation(s) "which does not compromise the site."

"Sold" was added to the Shamrock sign in front of the establishment, but another sign along the road suggested that leasing is available.

Two conceptual plans have been posted on the Friend Commercial Real Estate website, and elsewhere, and both show the site divided-up into four parcels. One map shows the site overall as it presently exists, and the other map shows potential development. The plans - labeled as

"Overall Lease Exhibit" - state they were prepared by Kimley Horn of Baltimore for the Friend (Commercial Real Estate) and are dated February 20, 2020.

On the map showing potential development, Parcel One contains the existing Shamrock Restaurant located on 2.18 acres. Parcel Two, 2.29 acres in size, depicts a 23,000 square-foot commercial building 30-feet in height.

Parcel Three depicts a 2.71-acre tract containing a 13,200 square-foot commercial building. Parcel

Four shows a 3,200 square-foot fast food commercial building 40-feet in height on a 1.43-acre tract. Including an outparcel containing a private sanitary pump station and a billboard, the entire property is given as 8.96 acres.

All numbers (acreage and footage) are preceded by a "plus or minus." A note on the plan states that the conceptual plan, as depicted, "does not completely take into consideration bulk regulations or other general zoning compliance ..."

Kroos was unwilling to discuss further details, such as who the buyer is and any further plans for the site, citing client confidentiality.

Fitzgerald's Shamrock Restaurant - which had been previously-operated as the Casablanca - was established in 1963 by Donald "Mike" Fitzgerald and Doris Fitzgerald. In 1964, it became the first restaurant in Frederick County permitted to serve cocktails.

Their daughters, Donna Demmon and Dawn Knox, both of whom worked at their parents' restaurant since its inception, acquired the family-owned business in 2016 and operated the eatery until December 30, 2019, stating on the restaurant's website, "with almost 57 years behind us, the time has come to bid farewell, and attempt some rest and relaxation."

News Briefs . . .

New skatepark to take precedence

The proposed expenditure of Project Open Space (POS) money on Phase II improvements at Woodland playground replacement project in Thurmont seemed like a foregone conclusion at the April 13 commissioners' meeting - until 15-year-old Patrick Dugan approached the board.

Prior to Catocin High sophomore Dugan's presentation, Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick had suggested that the town's priority regarding seeking a piece of the forthcoming allocation of POS funding should be the continued improvements at the Woodland playground.

But that all became moot in the wake of the teenager's presentation regarding the need for a skateboard park in the town, backed by a petition signed by 176 Thurmont

teenagers and a video showing skateboarding equipment that the teens had made.

Dugan told the board, "Our town has lots of nice parks ... but the one thing we do not have is a skatepark," adding, "I feel it would also help with our economy because people would come from all around to skateboard and they would eat lunch at the businesses, and people would also come here and say "This is a place I might want to live because they have a skateboard park and it's good for teenagers."

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

The skateboarding enthusiast was supported at the meeting by town Parks & Recreation Commission member Amie McDaniels, Police Department Sergeant Dave Arm-

strong, residents, and more than a dozen of his fellow teenagers.

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

New East End baseball field reviewed

The town commissioners received a presentation at their April 20 meeting regarding a preliminary final plan for a new little league baseball field proposed at the East End Park.

Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick had previously engaged Arro Consulting to develop the design for the new field, which will be located on vacant land within East End Park.

Nate Merkel, with Arro Consulting, told the board this design and the construction of the new base-

ball field "is (intended) to address the additional need for a little league field with the ever-growing Thurmont Little League as well as the additional parking."

Merkel stated that the preliminary final plan being presented represents the first-phase of the project, with the second-phase to include finalizing the design as well as applying for any applicable permits.

The cost of the new field is estimated at being \$261,587, "with the intention funding will be provided through Project Open Space for construction of this complex," Merkel said.

Future development of the remaining vacant land adjacent to the new ballpark could entail the establishment of a multi-purpose field, or another ballfield and tennis court.

Police officer honored

The Thurmont Lions Club honored a veteran Thurmont police officer

with the presentation of an award of recognition for the officer's service to the community at the town Council's April 6 meeting.

Jonathan Hamrick, representing the Thurmont Lions Club, presented the Police Officer of the Year for 2020 award to Officer First-Class Nicole Fair, based upon a recommendation submitted by the Thurmont Police Department.

Officer Fair was a graduate of the Western Maryland Police Academy and joined the municipal department on July 1, 2016. In addition to serving Thurmont as a patrol officer, Fair also assisted the department with the adoption of the Juvenile Diversion Program.

The officer also serves as the Thurmont Police Department's liaison with the State's Attorney's Office and Juvenile Services and helps monitor and track gang-activity for the Thurmont Police Department.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Swell Farm annexation negotiations continue

Efforts by the owners of a Christmas Tree farm to annex a potential 'age-targeted' development-site into the City of Taneytown continue to progress through negotiations, while related issues, such as proposed water and sewer service, must await actual annexation.

The 125-acre farm-tract in question is owned by the Sewell family, and is located north-west of the city limits.

While the purpose of the annexation would be to allow the development to access Taneytown water and sewer services, the Sewell family

is also seeking re-zoning that would allow an increase in the number of residential units than that which would otherwise be allowed.

City Attorney Jack Gullo briefed the council on the status of the project at the board's April workshop, stating, "We are working on the annexation agreement with the owners' attorney, and I am also working on the annexation plan which will be the document that speaks to how we are going to provide services to the property," he said.

Gullo said, "We've been negotiating this for some time, and we

finally came up with a theory that I think all the parties are agreeable about."

He said when the Sewells initially approached the city with their annexation and development proposal, that wanted to start-off with everyone in agreement on all of the aspects that the project would incur before it was commenced.

"The more we went on, the more we found that was not in anyone's best interest," the crux of the issue being, promises made now may not transcend into promises kept later, due to unanticipated, changing variables, including potential

changes that could occur as the actual construction of the development proceeded.

As a result of that realization, Gullo stated, rather than try to agree on all aspects of the project at the beginning, "We want to take the long process ... we want to spread it (the various approval) all apart."

Acquiring annexation, which would deal more with generalities, would be first and would not address aspects such as capacity. The capacity would instead be linked to a concept or preliminary plan.

Secondly, the Sewells are seeking to have the property re-zoned from an R-20 designation (20,000 square-foot lot sizes) to an R-10 (10,000 square-foot lot sizes). Gullo said that could not begin to be considered until the annexation was approved.

The attorney also noted the county Water and Sewer Master Plan would have to be amended to reflect that the development is in the service area until they land involved is actually annexed into the city.

Thus, he summarized, the annexation must preclude all other aspects that need to be considered regarding the advancement of the development project.

City dealing with water and sewer leaks

Increased metering of water lines in Taneytown is aiding the city in addressing water leaks, but wastewater infiltration into the sewer system remains an issue.

Regarding the loss of water through leakage occurring in the pipeline-delivery system, City Manager James Wieprecht told the city Council at their April work session that municipal Department of Public Works (DPW) staff are continuing to install leak-detection meters in order to identify areas of concern.

Weibrecht said, "We have leak

detection equipment throughout the city now, and we're working away from that 'lift and shift' approach ('lift and shift' refers to a type of leak-detection methodology which relies on a change in the sound of flowing water to try and identify the source of a leak)."

The town manager stated that the metering identified nine leaks, and that staff has managed to resolve most of them, adding that there are still two unresolved leaks awaiting remediation, one of those on Frederick Street that is in a lateral line leading to a dwelling,

and the other is on Divern Street.

"Through this leak-detection program, we've identified some areas where we were losing water, and we've managed to pretty quickly resolve all but two, and hopefully these two will be resolved in the next week to two weeks," he said, adding, "That's really helping to keep our water system tight (leak-proof)."

Weibrecht also discussed the city's DPW efforts for controlling inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the municipal wastewater collection system.

I&I involves the introduction of

unwanted wastewater into a wastewater collection system,

which can occur in a number of ways, but the most prevalent cause pertaining to old municipal collection systems is when cracks or breaks in pipelines have occurred.]

The town manager said that tackling the city's I&I issues is not quite the same as dealing with water leaks. "There are more variables because of our inflow and infiltration. In 2018 we had a very wet year; our average flow was 1.244 million gallons (of incoming wastewater) a day."

The amount of incoming wastewater the treatment plant received in 2020 was down to .736 million gallons a day.

He said some of the reduction was due to the work on replacing old terra-cotta sewer pipes during work on the O'Brien Avenue Bridge project, in conjunction with having a drier year than in 2018.

Mayor Bradley Wantz said, "Our biggest pressing issue (regarding water and sewer) is our sewer capacity at the moment, which is what we're trying to tackle with our I&I projects. The sewer definitely needs the biggest attention right now."

News Briefs . . .

May elections

Taneytown will be filling three four-year, full-term council seats on the board in the upcoming May 3 town election, and four candidates have been certified to vie for the three seats to be filled. Voting will take place on May 3 at the Taneytown Police Station from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

The council seats that will be up for election or re-election are those presently held by Diane Foster, Judith Fuller and Joe Vigliotti. Candidates who are running for the seats include incumbents Foster, Fuller, and Vigliotti, and challenger Barbara Cook.

City Attorney Jack Gullo stated at the council's April 7 workshop that all of the candidates' ethics and campaign finance filings have been reviewed by the ethics board and the candidates were subsequently certified by the election board to run.

Gullo noted that all of the candidates are "self-funding" and that under the city's campaign finance laws, the candidates were thus prohibited from raising money through contributions and were limited in the amount that they could spend on their campaigns.

Absentee ballots are available at City Hall or can be requested by mail and must be received by the city no later than 4 p.m. on May 3.

Mayor Wantz stated, "With four candidates vying for three seats, I wish the best to everyone." The mayor asked that everyone in the city to "please come out and vote."

Roberts Mill Park upgrade bid awarded

Mayor Wantz noted at the council's April 12 meeting that one

bid had been received regarding planned improvement to take place at the Roberts Mill Park. The council approved the bid, submitted by Hobbs Excavating, in the amount of \$148,359.

Proposed improvements include re-surfacing and repairing the park's walking trail and the basketball court, as well as installing riprap (loose stone) along the pond to prevent erosion of the embankment.

The basketball court will be repaired and will receive a new fabric overlay, and then a fresh coating of asphalt will be applied, and new lines painted.

George Naylor honored

Mayor Wantz took a few minutes at the end of the council's April 7 workshop that to remember George Wilbur Naylor, Jr., 94, Taneytown, who passed away on March 9.

Wantz said Naylor was a member of the city Planning Commission, and "served the city in many different capacities for many, many years. He was an amazing man ... he worked diligently for the city up until the time of his passing."

Naylor was also a graduate of the Emmitsburg High School and served for 20 years on the Taneytown City Council. He also helped organize the Taneytown History Museum and was one of its found-

ing members, according to Naylor's obituary.

"George Naylor will be missed by everybody," Wantz stated.

In lieu of flowers, it has been requested that memorial contributions be made to Taneytown Heritage and Museum Association, Inc., 340 E. Baltimore St., Taneytown, MD 21787.

'Oyster roast' proposed

The City Council approved at their April 12 meeting a Francis Scott Key Highschool Athletic Boosters event to be held at Memorial Park, Mayor Wantz adding that he hoped

that any COVID-19 mandates that may be in effect at that time will allow the event to take place.

The FSK Athletic Boosters were seeking hold their Annual Bull & Oyster Roast at Memorial Park. The event is to be held on May 22 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The boosters are a non-profit organization of volunteers who engage in providing uniforms, field maintenance, and equipment for the FSK High School athletes, and seek to promote goodwill and provide an example of sportsmanship to the students and guests of the athletic program.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Phil Dacey

The month of May will be filled with the Council's main duty focusing on adoption of the budget for Fiscal Year 22.

From a financial perspective, this was a good year for Frederick County. The county saw an overall 7.7% increase in collected revenue, in spite of the pandemic. Frederick County collected an additional \$52 million beyond what it took in for FY 21. Frederick County benefits from having a broad, diverse economy which helps that we aren't too reliant upon any one sector for revenue.

Most of the revenue increase comes from an increase in the property tax. In fact, \$18 million of the \$52 million is property tax alone – about a 5% year over year increase. Frederick County

has an outstanding quality of life, and it is very attractive to others in the region. Part of this desirability leads to demand for housing which results in both growth and property values increasing.

Home values in particular have spiked over the past six months. The 5% increase in revenues from property taxes will likely look small in the coming years because homes are assessed for their value every three years. Most of the recent increase will not start to show up on an individual's property tax bill in the form of escrow withdrawals until next year. Over the next few years with property values so volatile, one thing homeowners can and should do is to appeal the assessments that are coming their way to see if they can lower their

tax liability. There is no cost or penalty for doing so through the Department of Assessments and Taxation.

Because home prices are soaring, unless the County Council lowers the property tax rate, families will end up paying more every month in their property taxes. In some cases, home prices have surged 25% in the past year. I know in my neighborhood, home prices have increased more over the past year than in the previous 12 years combined. This could be a good thing (if you are planning to sell), but the downside consequence is that there will now be a bigger bite coming out of my family's budget every month that goes toward property taxes.

Over the past two years, I have fought

to lower the property tax rate so that homeowners are shocked by increases in their property tax bills. I have proposed tax rates that would keep homeowner's tax bills the same or even lower them for families. Lowering the tax rate would makeup only roughly \$6 million of the \$52 million increase in spending in this budget. I urge my fellow Council members to move forward with a tax rate reduction so that families are not shocked by their property tax bills in the coming years. The other major contributor to the increase in revenues is a 12% increase in the income tax collection, which is somewhat surprising in the pandemic but it is a good sign that Frederick County as a whole is doing well. In the prior three years it had remained relatively constant.

Overall, the budget in Frederick County increases by 7.7% this year which represents the biggest percentage increase in recent memory. I will be working to find ways to reduce the increase in the county's budget over this month, so that we can live better within our fiscal means and not require more money from taxpayers.

On a final, unrelated note, I was disappointed by the Board of Education's recent reversal of sending elementary education students to school 4 days a week. Most other jurisdictions and most private schools are back more than 2 days a week. By limiting our students to 2 days a week of in person instruction, we are setting our kids behind. We should not let minor logistical hurdles impact something so important as education, especially for the youngest.

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

Congratulations to the upcoming June graduates of Mother Seton and Catoctin High School classes of 2021. Even with COVID protocols still in place, the schools are planning memorable events.

Four new businesses are applying for permits. We could soon have a creamery/ice cream business across from Dollar General. A pizzeria in the old Stavros location. A comic book entrepreneur, and a smoothie shop in the shopping center.

Pool opens Saturday, May 29th Memorial Day weekend through Monday. Then weekends only (Saturdays and Sundays). Full, open all-week schedule starts the evening of Friday, June 18th. Pool party dates are scheduled for June 25th, July 16th,

and August 20th at 6-8 pm. Free hot dogs and lemonade and/or water, DJ music, lots of fun.

For me, amidst the welcoming of spring, came a surgency not usually associated with my participation in yard work. A certain, 'call to arms'. A surely sourced inspiration through the lens of a post winter - COVID sullied survivor. New "gifts" for the backyard were needed, to add to our enduring homage to provide an attractive setting for our bird friends old and new, and respectfully to the 164-year-old home place lots. Changes had to humbly blend and balance with the setting that includes many heirloom plantings. The upgrades included American Hollies, Bluepoint Spruce, Service Berries and Mulberries. Addi-

tionally, to serve the pallets of our winged friends there is now a four-story insect hotel. For my sake, fortunately, the "hostel" was simple to assemble and install.

With baseball opening days and the death of Prince Phillip came reflective moments. Opening Day in Major League Baseball at one time was big. The game was to many our national pastime. The first game of the season was in Washington, D.C. The president attended and threw out the first pitch beside the home team dugout along the first baseline. The year was 1961 or 1962. No overwhelming Secret Service presence. The venue was Griffith Stadium, an old stadium with very few amenities, no sky boxes then.

The Washington team was officially named the Senators, but "Nationals" or "Nats" was acceptable. The stadium was packed. My dad and I had seats along first base just down from the home team dugout about three rows up. The crowd was not particularly loud but expectedly fidgety. Then came a swelling roar sweeping across the infield toward us announcing the president's arrival as they saw him come out of the dugout onto the field, a chorus we readily joined into. Shaking hands along the way to being seated, there he was, John F. Kennedy, about two rows up and tens seats over. Suit and tie, tall, tan, lean, strong shock of Keltic red hair, as the best I can remember.

The Prince Phillips funeral brought back a memory to when Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip attended

a University of Maryland football game. The year was 1957. The game was respectfully dubbed "The Queens Game". My dad played football at Maryland and was Terrapin Club season ticket holder. Maryland was hosting the University of North Carolina, coached that year by the former coach Maryland coach Jim Tatum. The Queen and Prince Phillip were seated with the University of Maryland President, and Governor Theodore McKeldin. The Prince met with both team captains. My parents sat in their regular seats above the makeshift box for the Queen. I sat across the field with my CYO football coach. Maryland won twice that day.

With the scratching and turning of soil in the garden each spring, the newness, also bring the memories. It is a good spring.

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnard

The Thurmont Main Street Farmers Market has been open for several weeks at the Thurmont Plaza Shopping Center and will be moving to its summer location at the Municipal Parking lot on May 8th. The Farmers Market offers an amazing selection including locally grown produce, homemade baked goods, fresh eggs, Red Angus Beef, bacon, sausage, pork chops, fresh flowers, vegetable plants and handcrafted items. The Farmers Market is open Saturday mornings from 9:00 am until noon.

The Town has several parks projects in the works! The Parks crew has

been working on an extension to the South end of the Thurmont Trolley Trail. The extension will carry the trail across Moser Road and down to a loop trail that will connect the Trolley Trail with the Nature Trail at the Thurmont Regional Library. A new walking trail is being added to the Eyer Road Park. This new trail encircles the lower playing fields and will provide residents with another safe walking path. Both trail improvements will be completed this Summer.

The Town of Thurmont in partnership with the CYA will be building a

new press box, storage area and concession stand at the Eyer Road Park football field. This new building will replace several temporary structures and will provide additional storage and meeting space.

At the April 13th Town Meeting the Commissioners heard from a group of teens interested in having a skate park built in town. After a very impressive presentation the Commissioners voted to apply for Program Open Space funding to help kickstart the development of a Skateboard Park. This new facility may be located at the East End Park. Design recom-

mendations will be drafted by the Parks and Recreation Commission and teen representatives of the skateboard group. During the April 20th Town Meeting lifelong resident Louie Powell, Sr. spoke in favor of both the press box and the skateboard park. Mr. Powell made a donation to both projects and challenged all everyone that uses our parks to also donate to these projects. Donations can be sent to the Town Office, please indicate on your check that it is intended for these projects.

The Board of Commissioners has been working on the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Municipal Budget. There will be a public hearing on the budget before it is adopted. I encourage

everyone to watch the Town Meetings as the budget is finalized. Once adopted, the budget will take effect on July 1.

Work on the Thurmont Master Plan update continues at the Planning and Zoning meetings. This process also includes Comprehensive Rezoning. You are welcome to attend the P&Z meetings and to provide comments on the process. There will be public hearings and presentations prior to the adoption of the Master Plan update.

I hope everyone has a great May! If you have any questions, concerns or compliments, I can be reached at 301-606-9458 or by email at jkinnaird@thurmont.com.



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County destroys quintessential roadside riparian barrier

Michael Hillman

Editor's note: I've made it a policy since assuming responsibility of this paper not to write opinion pieces, but as we got to press, I witnessed the wanton destruction of a quintessential roadside riparian/wetlands barrier by the County and find myself unable to hold my tongue. So here goes.

On April 27, under the guise of 'roadside maintenance,' county crews began to dredge out 16-foot wide, 400-foot long riparian barrier and functioning wetland alongside of Keysville Road. Riparian zones are important in ecology and environmental resource management because of their role in soil conservation, their habitat biodiversity, and the influence they have on fauna and aquatic ecosystems, including grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, or even non-vegetative areas.

In the case of the destroyed Keysville riparian barrier, it filtered out agricultural and roadside contaminants, and slowed the runoff into Tom's Creek, and thereby contributed to the health of not only the Monocacy, but of the Chesapeake Bay.

Anyone lucky enough to have seen this beautiful riparian barrier knows firsthand the impact it had on the local wildlife. The barrier was filled with Milk Weed, Cat Tails, Day Lilies and other native plants. The collection of silt about the plants only showcased the effectiveness of the plants in stemming runoff into Tom's Creek.

During the summer, it provided a haven for the endangered Monarch Butterflies and native bees and served as a vital source of water for local birds and wildlife. Barn Swallows were drawn to the barrier due to the abundance of flying insects. It was a local haven for them. The barrier was a Mother Nature-made environment oasis and wildlife habitat, accomplishing everything the State and County has been preaching and demanding of farmers and homeowners for the past 20 years.

In its place, the county left a mud pit that will allow agricultural and roadside contaminants to run off uninhibited, and more quickly, into Tom's Creek, thereby increasing the wanton pollution of that creek. In addition, without the support of the root systems from the plants in the barrier, the now exposed dirt in the ditch will also erode, attending to the degradation of Tom's Creek.

According to the County Engineer overseeing the project, the destruction of the riparian barrier was to prevent the "flooding of the road", yet when questioned, the engineer could not site a single time the road had ever flooded. He was unimpressed with my comment that in the 32 years I've resided in the area, I've never seen any flooding at the area being destroyed, even during hurricanes. Instead, the County Engi-

neer continued to fall back on the stance that "it was simple roadside work." When pressed if an environmental study was conducted prior to the destruction, he again fell back on a 'malicious complacency' mentality that the law did not require an environmental study for 'roadside work' even if the work was on sensitive land.

When the work was first noticed, I contacted County officials, including Jan Gardener, to request to have the work paused until its environmental impact could be evaluated. And to everyone's credit, the work was paused — for 16 hours.

In spite of multiple calls and e-mails to county officials, not a single one could be bothered to call me back or return my e-mails. This all is the case in spite of the fact that I made myself available to meet with the county at their convenience at the buffer and to assemble ecologists to vouch for the environmental importance of the barrier. Not a single individual in the County thought responding to a concerned citizen was worth their time.

The only time I got a call back was after I contacted the County the next morning after discovering that destruction had been resumed, and that was the County Engineer who told me - from his desk somewhere in the county - that the work was 'simple roadside maintenance.' Apparently meeting me at the scene to discuss what was going on was not worth his time. When it comes to protecting the environment, "just doing my job" no longer cuts it. We need our officials to engage their brains and think bigger.

Over the year, in her columns in this paper, and elsewhere, County Executive Jan Gardner has made it a point to promote the environment, but in this case, County staff let her and the environment down.

If the County wants its citizens to protect the environment, is it too much to ask that they lead by



The Riparian barrier senselessly destroyed by the county was the result of years of work by Mother Nature. Graduates of botanical gardens institutions, like Longwood Gardens, could not touch its beauty and effectiveness. The diversity of plants placed there by Mother Nature not only ensured year-round water filtration, but food for birds, butterflies, bees and other animals with which we share our environment.



The once beautiful Riparian barrier is now a eyesore mud pit, ensuring that all runoff will now run unfiltered into Tom's Creek, increasing the pollution level in that water body. Had the destruction of this Riparian barrier been done by a farmer or a home owner, the County would more than likely have fined them and required the barrier's restoration. But because the County did the damage ...

example? In this case, the example set by the County is that the Environment does not matter. The health of our creeks and streams does not matter. The health of the Chesapeake does not matter.

When the call went out to stop a wrong, no one cared. Suffice it to say, my faith in the integrity of the County has been shaken.

The damage is done and can't be undone. When you keep chipping away at the edges of an eco-system, you'll eventually destroy it. Man will be unable to replicate what Mother

Nature took generations to make.

"One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds."

—Aldo Leopold, Sand County Almanac

Editor's note: I finally did receive a call back from Jan Gardner, who was honestly apologetic at what happened. Unfortunately her call came too late to stop the destruction of the barrier. She committed to ensuring

that the County environmental staff will have input in the future for all road side dredging, which if done properly, will go a long way in preventing this type of environmental insult for re-occurring.

For those interesting in learning more about Riparian barriers, please read our April Master Gardener article. We dedicated two full pages to the critical role they play in increasing water quality in associated streams, rivers, and lakes, thus providing environmental benefits.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

“Stop and smell the roses” was an expression I often heard in my life. It was often directed at me because I was always rushing around doing things or worrying about something I had no control over and never stopped to enjoy the moment. We as a community may be coming to the end of a pandemic. People are starting to get vaccinated. According to the Pennsylvania Department of April 19th, 43.4% of Pennsylvanians have received at least one dose, and 23.9% are already fully vaccinated.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 39.9% of the United States population has received at least one vaccine dose, and 23.3% have been fully vaccinated. We seem to be slowing the spread of this virus. So, I suggest to you that the theme for May is “Stop and smell the roses” – Enjoy the Nature around us. Nature is a resource we all can enjoy. While we still have a long way to go, practice those activities you have used to reduce the spread of the virus in our community and enjoy what we have around us today. Remember, getting people vaccinated is our best hope of ending this pandemic, and we need everyone’s help to convince

people to do so.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) donated flowers for Easter to 56 residents of 2 nursing homes, Comfort Care and Hillside Personal Care in Fairfield. Also, 10 Meals on Wheels recipients received a flower. Thanks to Linda McMullen and Susie Gills for making the deliveries. On April 10th, NHN had their clothing giveaway for anyone to shop for free clothing. They received some genuinely nice donations from the community and had about 50 people showed up to shop.

Appreciation to the following people for helping with set up, shopping, and packing up: Robin Dickens, Kathy Adams, Lori Spence, Gayle Marthers, Terrie Ferguson, Honey Strosnider, Liv Cliber, Carlos Wampler, Sue Pierotti, Deedee Mezger, Sue Strahler, Jim Richardson, Emily Wantz, Deb Kane, Tiffany and Haley Heberton, Susie Gills, Jen Ford, Tammy Deardorff, and Nancy Brill. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful community willing to volunteer! The Electronic Recycling Event was held on Saturday, April 17th.

The number of cars that dropped by was 123. The breakdown by the municipality was: Carroll Valley: 69; Fairfield Bor-

ough: 18; Hamiltonban Township: 15; Liberty Township: 10; Highland Township: 8 and Freedom Township: 3. I want to extend my thanks to Jessica Kraft and her family for volunteering and Carroll Valley Municipal Service staff members Zack Miller and Ken Nicholls to work on a Saturday. The next Electronic Recycling event will be held on July 17th.

The Carroll Valley Library May online program segments videoed at 11 am and available to watch shortly afterward on the library’s Facebook page are Wednesday, May 5th. Spring Vegetable Gardening with host Master Gardener, Mary Ann; May 12th, the topic is Play-Doh Take-and-Make Craft. Make homemade play-doh! Pick up supplies at the library, and on May 19th, join science teacher Dani K. as she shows you fun science experiments that you can do with things you have at home.

We all enjoy Spring weather – performing yard clean-up activities, planting, pruning shrubs, and dealing with mulch. We also allow our family pets, especially our dogs, to run around in the yard freely. But we need to be careful. We want to make sure the dog is not running at large. Why? Because it is unlaw-

ful according to the Carroll Valley Borough Ordinance Chapter 2 (Animals), Part 1, Section 2-103. So, what does “running at large” mean? This phase means the dog is off the premises of its owner, not under the owner’s control, and is strolling on a public highway, street, ally, trail, park, or any other public land or property of another person other than the owner. Dogs are permitted to visit our beautiful park areas with you. But they must be always leash, and you are responsible for cleaning up after them and keep them under control.

Do not forget about the Pennsylvania state annual license requirement. Enjoy our beautiful community during nature’s reawakening. Please be aware that on April 27th, Pennsylvania’s Move Over Law took effect. This law requires drivers to slow down and move into a lane not next to an emergency response area when an emergency vehicle has its lights flashing and where road crews or emergency responders have lighted flares, posted signs, or try to warn drivers. If the driver cannot merge into another lane, the driver must reduce speed by 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit. Fines are set at \$500 for first-time offenders, \$1,000 for a second offense, and a required 90-day license suspen-

sion for a third or subsequent offense.

The Pennsylvania Municipal Primary is May 18th. Remember, the last day to register before the primary is May 3rd. The last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot is May 11. All ballots including any mailed ballots must be received in the Election Office by 8:00 pm on Election Day, May 18th. Unlike the last Fall’s General Election, there is no grace period for mailed ballots received after May 18th, at 8:00 pm. Carroll Valley Polling place will be at the Borough Office from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. If you have any questions, contact Angie Crouse, Director County of Adams Elections and Voters Registration Office, at 717-337-9832. Please vote.

Finally, ‘Movies in the Park’ will be coming back! Mark your calendar for the third Friday on May 21st at 7:30 pm. The movie has not been announced at the time of this writing. The event is sponsored by the Fairfield Parent-Teacher Organization PTO in cooperation with the Carroll Valley Borough Parks and Recreation Committee. I look forward to seeing you there. Watch your speed on the trails. If you have any questions, call me at 301-606-2021 or email MayorRonHarris@comcast.net.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Warm weather is fast approaching, and the Liberty Township Road Crew has begun preparing several roads for repair work. Roads will be closed to through traffic during the base repair and double tar and chip of Irishtown Road, Brent Road, Bullfrog Road, and the section of McGlaughlin Road from Water Street to Bullfrog Road. Old Waynesboro Road has been dug up and resurfaced with stone and rolled. We are currently get-

ting bids to double tar and chip the road.

The road crew continues the work of opening ditches and cutting back trees may potentially fall on the roadways. In May, we will begin mowing along the roadways and start replacing noncompliant signs. Please remain vigilant of Road Work area signs and any flagman. Safety is of our utmost concern while working on township roadways. The state is scheduled to complete pipe replacement and headwall construction at

the intersections of Tract Road and Boyle Road and at Orchard Road by April 22.

In April, I completed the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) recertification provided by the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies. This course is focused on providing the knowledge and tools necessary for road owners to maintain roads in a more cost-efficient and environmentally sensitive manner and certification is a requirement when applying for grants for road projects in the township.

A neighboring township has graciously sold us two used VASCAR units for a total of \$1.00. Once serviced and calibrated, we can put them to use. Our Police Depart-

ment continues to work hard and receive praise from Liberty and Freedom Townships. Please support our police officers and show them appreciation for all that they do.

Also, continue to remain vigilant with COVID-19. While a lot of people are getting vaccinated, still remember to wear your mask while out in public to remain compliant with state and federal mandates. Township meetings are still at limited capacity. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. You can find meeting information on our municipality’s page of the Adams County website.

The Pennsylvania Primary Election is on May 18. We have some candidates that are running for the

open positions in the township. Jessica Ilko is running for Tax Collector. There are four vacancies and three candidates running to represent Liberty Township on the Adams County Republican Committee. Cindy Arentz, Bob Jackson, and I, are all running. Sue Hek is running for reelection of Township Auditor. She is a write-in candidate for the Primary Election. Sue has done a great job serving Liberty Township for the last four years. Brandon Lowe is a young candidate running for Township Supervisor. He was born and raised in the Fairfield Area and is raising his young family in the township. We encourage young people to step up and get involved in our political process. Please show your support on May 18th and vote! Thank you!

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Jim Martin

Since the middle of 2020 Adams County, along with over a thousand other counties, has been the conduit for trillions of Federal Dollars. How wisely and prudently are the trillions of dollars that are going across America to deal with the physical and economic impact of the Corona Virus, being used? My observation is that millions of dollars are being spent without well-defined guidance that can lead to squandering of state and federal taxpayer money. When I hear about stimulus funds going systematically to cities that are under poor financial management, I seriously question the wisdom of putting money in those hands. That, however, is not the case in Adams County.

Millions of dollars of stimulus money has and will continue to pass through the Adams County government with well-planned guidance from the Commissioners' Office. The Commissioners take the responsibility for the proper and appropriate distribution of funds very seriously. When guidance is not well defined, the commissioners have required enhanced directives to be followed. Also the commissioners have not allowed funds to pass to distributing entities without legal and operational oversight. The county's office of planning and development

has developed a model for a well measured process that puts funding to their approved uses. It should be noted that a uniform rating system is used for equitable funding among applicants. Also our controller's office provides oversight that the funds are being used for valid and verifiable expenses.

I indicated earlier that more funding will be coming to the county. This money will come as a result of the recent legislation, The American Rescue Plan Act. Adams County is expecting \$19.9 million from this act. It is to be used for emergency funding to respond to the Corona Virus public health emergency, or its negative economic impacts. Under this Act the monies will be eligible for Corona caused reduction of revenues or to make investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Unfortunately these funds cannot be used to balance the county's annual budget. It appears that the selected uses of these funds will be at the discretion of the county commissioners. To make the wisest use of the funds to benefit our community, advice from various professionals will be sought concerning our options. At the time of this writing, specific federal guidelines have yet to be delivered. Based upon general information sent to us, we expect to

receive half the funding in 2021 and the remainder in 2022. Also per the notice we will be allowed to use these funds into 2024.

That being said, how much more money can we responsibly pump into the U.S. economy? I have great concerns about Pres. Biden's proposal to the legislature to produce a bill that will spend an additional \$2.4 Trillion. Right now federal spending is 102% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GDP, as many understand, is the value of goods and services produced by our country. When federal spending exceeds GDP we are out of balance and weakening the financial strength of our nation. The dollar has already weakened which means we will be paying more for our imports, hence inflation begins. Adding another \$2.4 Trillion puts federal spending well beyond 102% of the GDP. Leading and respected economist Larry Kudlow says this will lead to roaring inflation. Additionally, if corporate and individual taxes are increased as Pres. Biden proposes, this will usher in serious economic slowdown. Roaring inflation combined with an economic slowdown will make a disaster of our economy. Kudlow is confident that the economic fundamentals established during the Pres. Trump administra-

tion remain strong and sufficient for recovery without more stimulus.

I am confident that Pres. Biden's ill-conceived plan for recovery will drive corporations and businesses out of America. Not only will we have roaring inflation, but we will face high unemployment. In this type of environment the gains that have been made in wages under Pres. Trump's leadership will vanish due to a higher cost of living.

What can we do in the face of this impending economic storm? First, contact our U.S. congressmen and senators and tell them that for the sake of our future wellbeing we cannot stand trillions more of federal dollars to be spent. The second thing you may consider is purchasing larger ticket items sooner rather than later. When serious inflation begins, that will not be the best time to be making larger purchases. I will definitely be monitoring whether or not Federal legislators give into Biden's spending plan; if this next spending round passes, I will be taking my own advice.

During the time frame we have been challenged by Corona issues, utility-scale solar projects have been an issue confronting landowners and municipal leaders. The Adams County Commissioners have been closely monitoring these proposed projects and understand that these

facilities have the potential for significant local and county-wide impact. We also recognize that developing utility-scale solar projects is a land-use issue.

As with any land uses, a balance needs to be achieved between the rights of the property owners to pursue legal uses of their property and the mitigation of the impact of that use. The decision of how to respond to the development of a utility-scale solar project rests with municipalities per PA Commonwealth Law. Municipalities must follow Commonwealth code which requires municipalities to zone for every use; this includes solar projects. The township need to carefully address the matter and develop appropriate land-use requirements to manage these facilities in a manner best suited to each municipality. As townships and their property owners address this issue, I feel both would benefit by being well informed of the various facets involved with industrial solar. It is too serious an issue for both sides not to be adequately educated about design, location, and decommissioning.

Voting is also too serious of an issue not to be well informed. There is still plenty of time to become educated for the May 18th Primary Election. On this election ballot we will be voting on PA constitutional amendments, so use your vote wisely.

County Notes...

House Advances Economic Recovery Measures

Three bills aimed at supporting employers, schools and others recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, were voted out of the House this week. House Bill 605 would protect against costly frivolous lawsuits by providing civil liability protections to health care providers, schools, small business owners, farmers, restaurants and others who did their part to keep people safe during the pandemic. The bill does not cover those who put others at risk. Anybody who exhibits gross negligence can and should be held accountable.

The measure is the first in the "Commonwealth's COVID Comeback" package to earn House approval. The House also approved two bills to aid bars and restaurants, which were particularly hard hit by COVID-19 mitigation orders. House Bill 427, which I co-sponsored, would increase the discount licensed establishments receive when purchasing wine and spirits from state liquor stores from 10% to 15%. Finally, House Bill 425 would allow a licensee that closes permanently to sell their liquor or wine to another licensee, helping those who did not survive the crisis. All three measures now go to the Senate for consideration.

L&I to Move to New Unemployment

Compensation System in June Pennsylvanians will have a much quicker and easier time filing claims for unemployment compensation

(UC) benefits when the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) launches its new UC system on June 8. According to L&I, the new system and modern software will replace the obsolete 40-year-old mainframe system, which was unable to keep pace with the crush of claims coming in during the pandemic. The new system will be easy to use; provide access to important information; and streamline the claims filing process for workers, employers, UC program staff and third-party administrators.

The new UC system will have a different look and feel than the current system and is better aligned with the user interface of modern websites, making it more intuitive to use. It will also provide access to more information and self-serve options and reduce the need for claimants to contact the UC service center. Prior to implementation, L&I will provide user guides and will hold live workshops with UC experts to assist individuals on how to use the new system. Announcements will be made in the coming weeks regarding the dates of the workshops and how to access them.

L&I is also in the process of hiring and training an additional 500 to 1,000 customer service representatives and 180 interviewers to help Pennsylvanians with their questions and claims. Claimants, businesses and other users can view tutorials and instruction guides for the new system at uc.pa.gov.

Important Note: The federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

(PUA) program operates on a separate system and will not be affected by the transition of other programs to the new UC system.

Protecting Against Repeat DUI Offenders

Legislation to improve public safety and save taxpayer dollars by targeting repeat DUI offenders passed the House this week. House Bill 521

would authorize courts to require an alcohol-monitoring device as a condition of bail, probation or parole for repeat offenders. A repeat DUI offender is an individual who is pending adjudication for a DUI and has one or more prior DUI convictions within the past 10 years or is pending adjudication for two or more DUIs. Data shows recidivism rates for repeat DUI offenders who wore

a device for at least 90 days are 50% less than those who were alternatively sentenced. In York County, the program has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the number of DUI offenders arrested for another DUI within the first year, in DUI victims served by the district attorney's office and in the number of alcohol-related crashes. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Neighbors

Shannon Bohrer

If your neighbor's house were on fire, and the neighbor wanted to borrow your garden hose, would you say yes? Most people would probably do so, considering that if the neighbor's house fire got out of control, your own house could be in danger. Some might express a more conditional-response; something like, do I like my neighbor, or how far away is the fire, or which way is the wind blowing. What if your in-laws were the neighbors? Sometimes we over think a simple question, and sometimes-simple questions – are not that simple.

When Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana in 2005, their Texas neighbors came to the rescue. While Katrina hit the whole State, it was New Orleans that experienced record flooding. Before the flooding started to recede, caravans with aid came from Texas. Texas also took in thousands of victims since thousands lost their homes. Texas was a good neighbor. The federal government did respond, but it did take ten days for congress to approve federal aid. At that time, that seemed like a long time.

A few years later, the State of Texas experienced severe flooding. The federal government sent help, but it was their neighbors from Louisiana that responded with the 'Cajun

Navy.' The neighbors packed up the trucks and boats, filled their trucks and boats with supplies, and drove west toward Houston. When they arrived, they unloaded the boats and went to work. The 'Cajun Navy' provided relief, transported stranded victims, and probably saved many lives. The Cajun's remembered how Texas helped them.

Not all disasters are given equal treatment by their neighbors or the Federal Government. When Hurricane Sandy struck the east coast in 2011, it took over two months to approve the federal aid and relief package. There was opposition to the aid in the congress that included 67 members who voted "no" to the assistance. The 67 members included eight from Texas, the State that continues to receive aid, for blackouts and numerous hurricanes. Other members that voted no - represented Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, South, and North Carolina. Many of these same congresspersons have since asked for aid to help with the hurricanes and other natural disasters in their home states.

Obviously, there are members of congress that only want to be a good neighbor when disaster strikes their State. When their state is stricken, they ask for and receive help from some of the very states they rebuffed. So, we know that not everyone is a good neighbor.

Being a good neighbor is not just a

neighborhood thing; it crosses counties and state boundaries, and on occasion, being a good neighbor crosses nations and countries. In 1995 Mexico was on the brink of bankruptcy. Their economy was terrible, record job losses, and the peso was almost worthless because inflation was rampant. As a result of the economy, border crossings were at an all-time high, with people pouring into Texas. The crises at the border seemed to be the primary news story almost every day. There were even calls to build an entire border wall, sound familiar?

President Clinton wanted to help with conditional loans to Mexico. He approached the international monetary fund, and they said no. He approached the congress, and they said no. President Clinton then, with the help of Treasury Secretary Rubin, loaned Mexico 20 billion dollars borrowed from the U.S. Treasury's Exchange Fund. The 20 Billion was part of a total 50 billion-loan package (including other countries), with requirements and conditions to be met by the Mexican government.

The congress complained loudly. They had said no to any loans, and they accused President Clinton of going behind their back. This was executive overreach. Congress predicted we would lose the money, and it would never be repaid. There were even predictions that the border crossings would continue to increase, placing a higher burden on the board patrol, the State of Texas,

and the U.S. Government. Their complaints were echoed by a few media outlets, some which still have the same view.

To the surprise of many, the multi-billion-dollar loan worked. Inflation in Mexico slowed, stopped, and then receded, the economy grew, and employment numbers in Mexico increased. The great migration of border crossings reversed, with more people going south than going north. As one Houston resident said, you heard this "great sucking sound" from all the people headed south. The border crises disappeared, temporarily, of course, and the congressional predictions ceased. No one wanted to give President Clinton credit, not even the selected media outlets. Mexico even repaid the load ahead of schedule, and the U.S. received 600 million in interest. Our government made money by being a good neighbor and solving a problem.

Being a good neighbor with other counties can have value in trade and economics, benefiting both countries. The Mexico bailout worked, and it demonstrated that the border immigration crises we experienced, was not a problem but a symptom of a much larger problem. Mexico's house was on fire, so we loaned them a fire hose. Dealing with a symptom does not solve the problem, and not dealing with the problem often exacerbates the symptoms.

The current world pandemic might be the ultimate test to see which countries will be good neighbors. If America

ignores our neighboring countries, what will happen? The experts say that higher infection rates in unprotected countries will produce variants of the virus that might be capable of creating another world pandemic, reinfecting us.

Currently, "Countries in Central and South America are the most intense Covid-19 transmission zones." The most significant increases include Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Haiti, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico. If the United States has everyone vaccinated this year, but our neighbors are still experiencing the pandemic, what could happen? We do not know, and it is the unknown possibilities that we should consider. Will a new variant develop that is resistant to our current inoculations? If the South American countries continue to experience the pandemic, how many will show up at our borders?

The world is both large and small. When someone sneezes in England, sometimes that causes someone in America to cough. What we see as simple problems – are sometimes extraordinarily complex, and just because they are complex does not mean we should ignore them.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

—James Baldwin

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

American Mind

Profanity – it's nuanced

Mark Greathouse

Business, civic, and religious leader Spencer W. Kimball once said "Profanity is the effort of a feeble brain to express itself forcibly." Dang, but that's near prophetic. Can profanity be nuanced? Just as a reminder, Merriam-Webster defines nuance as a subtle distinction or variation, a subtle quality, or sensibility to, awareness of, or ability to express delicate shadings.

Yebat is actually the Russian word for our F-bomb. In Canton you might say puk gai. Mrdat works in Czechoslovakia. A German might say hau ab. But somehow multi-syllabic cussing doesn't cut it. If I hit my thumb with a hammer, I need a word that explodes from my mouth in one hell-bent syllable that soothes my pain. "Ouch" really doesn't cut it, but it's nicer than the F-bomb and won't offend anyone within hearing distance.

I recall witnessing a young coed deliver a profanity-laced poem to an assembly of local poets back in 2017. Her father was seated near me in the audience, and the expression of shock and then anger on his face revealed that there was no nuance in his mind. He took her aside after her performance and am sure he shared his disappointment with her. My free-verse poem, Yebat, was inspired by that incident as a response to the increasing tendency of young poets and

some academics to insert profanity in their verse, as much for shock value as any display of artistic license. My poem goes as follows:

A profane cry on an amoral planet. Alas, stripped from Russian poet's arts! Duma's sacrifice to beauty preserve; Antithesis of the decadent West. Orwell's Newspeak screams to censor all out, As emboldened Winston yearns to shout filth. Some would say lost language is lost culture; So it is that cultures fast disappear. 'Tis said profanity hastens such loss; That linguistic beauty be short-lived. Words lost forever from long-gone cultures, We ask of morality in the loss. Why then, why does profanity endure? It's suppression a grave peril to art, Despite the deep offense it often breeds. Vulgar snake tongues, forked good and bad, Best such artistry be left to hammered thumbs. Profanity cuts verse like a chainsaw, And heals not the writer's desperate pain; Revealing the shadows of discontent, With life but a single breath across time. Dare the cursing poet expect to be adored, As a trap set for man's lower order. For the poet seeks to achieve in poetry What the musician achieves in music. The sweet lilt of the poet's artful phrase, Obscured in the bitter fruit of YEBAT! We teeter on the threshold of heaven, And life's morality play lingers on.

Buried in references to Russia's Duma legislative body which banned profanity in the arts and reference to George Orwell's classic 1984, the

poem laments the very message that Kimball sought to convey.

Is profanity so nuanced? Why is it acceptable to some and not to others? We have been enveloped by a culture wherein our morality in the form of the use of profanity is being exponentially compromised. We see it blatantly blasted across headlines in the media. Asterisks in print and beeps in broadcast are ever-more common. The TV miniseries *Deadwood* took the F-bomb to new heights. A flag flown at a home in Connecticut applied the F-bomb to President Biden. Books targeting teens are laced through and through with all manner of profanity. Our senses of morality are shredded on a daily basis by the profane speech and writings of politicians, entertainers, academics, artists, and news media. In social media, profanity casually hides under cover of the likes of WTF, MF, SOB, &c. Shock jocks don't even shock any more thanks to the plethora of vulgarity spewed across media venues. Is there a middle ground? Should there be?

Take the word F***. The earliest written use dates back to 1310 in British court records. The word had wide probable cognates across other Germanic languages in Europe, such as German ficken (to F***); Dutch fokken (to breed); and dialectal Norwegian fukka (to copulate). F***. Anger? Appellation? Loathing? F*** you or what the F***. In the nuanced sense, if you find it offensive, then it's offensive. But to some folks it apparently isn't. Does that excuse its use? Need we all be subjected to profanity?

What do we do about it? Holy

smoke! Any solution is likely to sound as though it's coming from some Victorian prudes. Federal law prohibits obscene, indecent and profane content from being broadcast on the radio or TV. That may seem clear enough, but determining what obscene, indecent and profane mean can be difficult, depending on who you talk to.

In the 1964 Supreme Court landmark case on obscenity and pornography, Justice Potter Stewart wrote: "I know it when I see it." FCC rules remain influenced by that case today, and complaints from the public about broadcasting objectionable content drive the enforcement of those rules.

Obscene content is not protected by the First Amendment. For content to be ruled obscene, it must meet a three-pronged test: (1) It must appeal to an average person's prurient interest; depict or describe sexual conduct in a "patently offensive" way; and, taken as a whole, lack serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value; (2) Indecent content portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive but does not meet the three-prong test for obscenity; (3) Profane content includes "grossly offensive" language that is considered a public nuisance.

Broadcasting obscene content is prohibited by law 24X7. Indecent and profane content are prohibited on broadcast TV and radio between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when there is a reasonable risk that children may be in the audience. Because obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment, it is prohibited on cable, satellite and broadcast TV and radio.

However, the same rules for indecency and profanity do not apply to subscription cable, satellite TV and satellite radio.

Print media are an especially appropriate measure of the use of profanity. According to a study by Jean Twenge, et.al. in 2017, "We find a steady linear increase in the use of swear words, with books published in 2005-2008 twenty-eight times more likely to include swear words than books published in the early 1950s. Increases for individual swear words ranged from 4 to 678 times. These results suggest that American culture has become increasingly accepting of the expression of taboo words, consistent with higher cultural individualism." Accepting or numb?

Nuance, however so subtle, is especially in the mind of the beholder when it comes to use of profanity. Maybe this is a case whereby the Russian Duma got it right. Keeping profanity to yourself or among your like-minded associates rather than deliberately offending others seems a preferable course. It's hardly nuanced, but then there's nothing nuanced about F***. Perhaps, we need to more deeply examine the undergirding morality of profanity in our culture. Where goes morality, so goes profanity.

You might follow Ephesians 4:29, "No foul language is to come from your mouth..."

Just sayin'.

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

The Bulwark

Guns should be safe, legal & rare

Tim Miller

I get asked a lot what political views of mine have changed as a result of my Trump-era departure from the GOP. My answer is always complicated and not very satisfying, because while my political priorities have changed dramatically, my views on the issues have only really changed on the margins, with one major exception. And that exception has nothing to do with the bad former guy at all.

My big change is on guns.

As a high school Republican, the debate around guns and school shootings was thrust into my consciousness in the most vivid way imaginable in the wake of the massacre at Columbine High School, which took place a mile from my house. The shooting consumed us. It was a dark cloud that hung over the end of the school year.

At the time I was an unusually young political obsessive who was about to start a summer 'internship' that the newly elected Republican governor of Colorado's staff had made up for me since I had been such an avid volunteer on his campaign. And in the dank corner of the capitol in Denver, where I would read and file the crazy shit people send to their governor, Columbine and guns overwhelmed every other topic.

Not exactly being a 'gun guy' growing up on the Denver suburbs' mean streets, it was through these letters that I first started to really listen to all the arguments that we now hear ad nauseam. At the time I responded, I think reasonably, to the case made by the older staffers in the office and the pro-gun letter-writ-

ers that this was an unusual one-off. That the new governor shouldn't overreact. If anything, Columbine demonstrated that we needed concealed carry for the teachers who were sitting ducks for that massacre. Or more security guards in schools. And more mental health resources. All of that jibed with my experience, it made sense to me.

I remember excitedly making this case for concealed carry in schools to my father at the time. He's a bit more conservative than I am generally, so it surprised me when he was not as excited as I was by the prospect of teachers packing heat. Maybe it was having grown up in a community with gun violence in his childhood or the paternal instinct or, you know, his not being consumed by bloodlust.

With the brashness of a teen I brushed that off and honed my arguments, taking from the best of the letters that were sent in and considering the counterarguments. I went off to college not knowing how to fire a weapon, but zealous in my support for concealed carry and the Second Amendment.

Over the years, as mass shootings like Columbine went from black swan to black plague, I began to reconsider and soften. Columbine no longer seemed like an outlier. And my slow transition came to a head after the carnage at Sandy Hook Elementary and the utter lack of interest among Republican politicians in even trying to address it.

I say all of this as background because what I'm about to offer you isn't groundbreaking. But despite not being a particularly fresh insight, I do want to say something that I know for a fact certain people of the conservative persuasion or background think, directly.

There are too many guns in this country. And we need to do something about it.

As I understand it, there was a time when gun ownership and gun safety were paired with a pride in the craft. Maybe that was only in the movies and lost cause propaganda; I don't know. But it is a concept I can appreciate. But all of this is within the context of seeing guns as a right of passage, a privilege, and at times a necessary danger. That's a frame that makes sense to me.

Another way of putting it is, to borrow a phrase, that guns should be safe, legal, and rare.

But these days American 'gun culture'—has spiraled out of control. From kids in our cities who are getting killed pretending to be hardcore, to the 'hunters' collecting hand cannons, to the lonely boys importing their first-person-shooter video games to real life, to a member of Congress using a rifle cross for her backdrop like she's American ISIS.

It's way, way too much.

Mass shootings, suicides, urban bloodshed, police violence—they all lead back to this fundamental issue.

I'm sure that everyone reading this is familiar with the recent mass shootings at the massage parlors in Atlanta and at King Soopers in Colorado. These have shocked our consciences, again.

But did you know that since those shootings, eight people were killed at a FedEx warehouse in Indianapolis? A former NFL player killed four people in South Carolina? Two brothers killed four family members and themselves in Texas? A gunman killed four people—including a 9-year-old boy—at a real estate office in California? A guy killed his parents, two others, and himself at a convenience store in Maryland? A man was shot to death at a "shot house"? Another in a drive-by shooting



at a strip mall? Another in a drive-by at their home? Another during a domestic argument? A 19-year-old was shot and killed trying to break up a different domestic argument; another shot and killed on the sidewalk; another shot and killed in his car?

And those last seven all happened in a single small city—Birmingham, Alabama (population 210,000)—in the last 10 days. How is this an acceptable state of affairs?

Gun absolutism is one of the few dogmas still in place in conservatism. There are conservative politicians and pundits and voters who feel the way I do. I've met them. These are people who respect gun rights and individual freedoms but are deeply alarmed and horrified by the amount of carnage in our country and believe we need to rebalance the equation.

But saying that out loud is akin to self-deporting from the conservative movement.

Every proposal to try to rationalize gun laws fails one of the (many) litmus tests that have been set up by the gun fetishists.

Any proposed reform is useless

unless it solves every problem. Any proposed reform that solves every problem can't work. Any proposed reform that can work is an abridgment of God-given liberty.

And here's the thing: It's true that any one individual reform isn't going to make a big dent in the problem—because the problem is: We have way too many guns in this country and too many people treat them like they're cool toys; Humans are fallible creatures who when given easy access to cool deadly weapons at scale will use them to kill themselves and others.

That's the problem.

But saying this out loud on the right is verboten and politically toxic.

As a result, any discussion about proposals that attempt to manage the problem turn into the same Thoughts & Prayers. It won't make a difference, everyone is tired of hearing.

Our gun culture itself is the problem.

Solving it starts with people saying that truth out loud.

To read past editions of The Bulwark, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Down Under

Building trust

Submitted by Lindsay
Melbourne, Australia

A team is not a group of people who work together, it is a group of people who trust each other.
—Simon Sinek

Joe Biden has been president for just over four months, possibly the most productive four months in American history, and has already produced a nation that is being restored to its true greatness. The cheers have been heard around the free world, the relaxation of tension a collective sigh of relief. The most electrifying example of this is his condemnation of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, his moral and ethical standards revealing the values of a true statesman, things that would not have happened had Trump still been there.

We all know that his electoral victory was the result of rebellion, the spilling over of the anger and disillusionment of ordinary people who realised they had been sold the dreams of an egomaniacal tyrant, who had his own interests as first priority. Now things are starting

to be repaired, for the reality to emerge from the smoke, for cooperation to become the way of the future.

And there's very little the GOP can do about it. Twelve years ago the Tea Party were in full swing; attacking Obama, healthcare, calling for bank bailouts, demanding smaller government and taxes. Now, President Biden presents a 'nice guy' image, the benign face of a decent person who can be trusted. People really like him, they like what he says, they like what he is doing. He is not afraid to call out things that are wrong, as the Floyd case shows, nor is he afraid to introduce, and get passed, enormous sums for reconstruction, and soon for financial relief.

And, wonder of wonders, he proposes to increase the tax that the very rich pay. In other words, he is helping push the scales of inequality the other way—very slightly, of course, but enough to point to the future.

So, we here in Australia are very jealous of you. Your anti-viral production and inoculation rates are sky-high, unemployment is down, and the economy is bouncing back. There are positive messages, smiles, ideas that are real, (none of which we have—just excuse, frowns, hollow promise, scandal and insensitivity), and that most rare thing in politi-

cians, the appearance of honesty.

Of course he came to the Presidency as production began to increase, which was partly due to Trump's tax cuts, but mostly from the superior efficiency of your industry and the freedom to innovate by your leaders in all fields. He has the vision to lead, the will to succeed, and a team that looks to be capable of achieving it.

What will hold this back is the yoke. That thing around the neck of all leaders, the weight of the past. The blinkers of success that blind the wearers to the periphery. The inability to see the possibility of failure, leading to making the worst decisions possible. In your case, it was the belief you were better than anyone else. And it was true, industrially, financially, in innovation and invention. But winning the second world war, (a reminder, you did not do it alone), was the thing that blinded you. It became the picture that was paraded before the nation, one that no one could not be derided.

That belief became the motive to fight wars that seemed right—Vietnam, Afghanistan, skirmishes in Central America, the Middle East. Hundreds of fights, none of which were won. Coupled with the idea that your brand of Democracy was the only way countries could be successful, and had to be imposed if there was opposition, did nothing but increase feelings of horror,

unfairness, loathing and hatred.

But the notion of superiority remains, and is one that shapes American domestic and foreign policy. It stems from conservatism, the desire to keep the good old days coming, to value the safe and comfortable past more than the scary future. It was, and still is, the banner of the Tea Party and its branches, but it is also totally undemocratic.

Conservatives tend to put their own interests ahead of others. This has led to the pernicious stranglehold that ruins American life: The God of Money. Americans are forced to serve this soulless entity, while its high priests have always tried to set the rules. President Biden surely knows this, having served for so many years in government, and he has a pretty good idea of what his administration is in for.

But his standing in the electorate is so high that the opposition has no way of throwing mud. His smile is the shield, his twinkling eyes the defense, and his initiatives the weapon. It will not be easy for him to achieve some of his domestic ideas, but that may not bother him, as his international standing is now so great that the free world is beginning to look at him with admiration.

He has called out Putin and his cyber tactics, has told China where he stands, got out of Afghanistan, ignored north Korea, and now has put climate change and the need to reduce green-

house gas omissions front and centre to every free nation. The journal 'Foreign Affairs' says that global leadership such as that doesn't fit a foreign policy for the middle class, but it's hard to imagine that he sees himself as a 'Global leader', ready to take on the world's troubles. That was the downfall of all previous administrations, as pride in being American overcame the 'Member of a global community' that today is the only way to see your country.

China sees itself in that role, and is hell bent on imposing it on everyone, but the same fate awaits it because it is driving the world to greenhouse Armageddon. As of last year, it was responsible for emitting fourteen thousand metric tons per annum of combined greenhouse gases. This is close to equal the rest of the world, and if there is one thing China is afraid of, it is loss of face.

Joe doesn't have to say a word, just point to what the rest of the world is doing.

He is building trust among the leaders of the free world, and, as Simon Sinek wrote, teamwork is based on trust.

It is not just Australia who are mighty glad to be part of that team. Trust has been absent, now it is shining.

To read past editions of the Down Under, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

A mother's influence

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

Anna wanted to honor her mother because in her eyes Ann Reeves Jarvis was the perfect mother. She had taken care of soldiers during the Civil War, raised 11 children, taught Sunday school for 20 years, and served in many different charities. Anna felt as if mothers could never be thanked enough, and so because of her mother's influence she decided to honor mothers. What began as a small tribute to her mother at Andrews Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia in 1907, would soon become a national holiday seven years later as Congress passed a resolution celebrating Mother's Day each year on the second Sunday in May. It's for this reason that we have the opportunity on Mother's Day to do what we should be doing every day and that is to say "thank you" to our mothers and all the significant women who are part of our lives.

I love when we find successful people giving their mother credit for their influence in their lives. Denzel Washington on Biography talked about how his mother prayed for him and encouraged him on his path to fame. Of course, a mother's influence has its limits, but you could say that a mother's influence gives a child the home team advantage. Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow speaks publicly about the influence of his mother and even did an ad with her in 2010 that was aired during the Super Bowl. Another well-known man whose life was greatly influenced by his mother was a man named Moses. He was born during an extremely violent period in Israel's history when the Jews were slaves to the Egyptians. The Pharaoh became concerned that he might lose control of the Jews because they had become so numerous, and so in an attempt to control the people, the Pharaoh cruelly determined to kill every male child born to the Israelite women.

Countless baby boys lost their lives at the hands of the Egyp-

tians, but there was one baby boy that didn't because of the courage of his mother. The Bible says that when Moses' mother, Jochebed, "saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months" refusing to stand by and allow her baby boy to be killed (Exodus 2:2). Putting her life at risk, she kept Moses alive for a few more months before releasing him in the wild and praying that somehow, someway, that he would survive. Because of Jochebed's bravery she not only saved Moses' life, but future generations were different because God used him to save the nation of Israel and deliver them from Egyptian slavery.

This month of May I want to share with you just a couple things to maximize your influence in the lives of your children or the children closest to you. No matter whether they are infants, teenagers, or anything in between, we can learn from those mothers that have gone before us. If you want to leverage your influence in the lives of the children around you the most important thing you can do is pray, because there is a God in heaven who answers prayers. The Bible gives us an illustration of this in the life a woman named Hannah. More than anything else in the world she wanted to have children but had none, and so she cried out to God and "she kept on praying to the Lord" (1 Samuel 1:12). God answered her prayer and gave her a son named Samuel, but Hannah didn't stop there, she continued to pray. In the next chapter the Bible says, "The Lord was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord" (1 Samuel 2:21). Hannah was a woman of prayer and her son Samuel grew up to become a great man of God.

We need to pray and keep praying, because our prayers do make a difference. In fact, Abraham Lincoln said it this way, "I remember my mother's prayers and they've always followed me. They've clung to me all my life." And so, it's important to remember that when



you pray for your children, you're not only igniting the power of God in their lives, but you're giving them a powerful example of faith to follow. Your commitment to prayer teaches your children to pray and their prayers will make a difference in all of our lives.

The second thing you can do to maximize your influence is to encourage them, to continue to affirm them, speaking promise and hope into their lives. No matter whether they are running around in diapers, learning to ride a bike, or buying their first car, you just keep encouraging them and don't hold back. Author and humorist Erma Bombeck once said, "When a mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no, because you're going to get it anyway." And so, you keep encouraging them to persevere, affirming them and congratulating them, because you are building their confidence. And in the same way, everytime you teach them a principle of spiritual truth you are building their faith and laying another brick in the foundation of their lives.

The apostle Paul said, "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it." (1 Corinthians 3:10). And so, I want to encourage you mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, to continue encouraging and building up the children. Share your experiences, your wins and your losses, and give them confidence to believe in themselves. You are laying a strong foundation and your words of encouragement go a long way. Denzel Washington tells how his mother's faith in him kept him going. He said, "My mother never gave up on me. I messed up in school so much they were send-



ing me home, but my mother just sent me right back." And so, when your child fails, you just make sure that they never fail alone. When they feel like the whole world has turned against them, you make sure that they know your love is unconditional, and number three you remain faithful.

If you want to maximize your influence in your children you must remain faithful like Mary. I love her example when her Son Jesus Christ was crucified; nearly all of the disciples had abandoned him, his own brothers had rejected him, but the Bible tells us this in John chapter 19, "Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother" (John 19:25). Our children need to know that we will always be in their corner, that we will never give up on them, and we will always be there for them. We may not always agree with their choices, but God said this in Hebrews chapter 13, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (13:5) and that's what we need to be saying to our children, because just like we need to hear it, they need to hear it. Our children need to know that we will remain faithful no matter what they have done, whether good or bad. They need to know that we will always

love them whether they win or whether they lose. They need to know that we will always be there for them no matter how long it takes. And so, let's make every moment count and keep praying, encouraging those we love, and always remaining faithful.

Pope Paul VI once said this, "Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land. She prepares a world she will not see." And like Moses, those of us who are mothers, either physically or spiritually, you are preparing a world that you may never see, because generations will be different because of you. It's your prayers, encouragement, and faithfulness that is making a difference in the lives of so many people. As we consider all that you have done and are doing to make the world a better place, one day a year is hardly enough for us to adequately say thank you. Nonetheless, may we take every opportunity, not just Mother's Day, but every day to say, "thank you" and give you the honor you deserve. God bless you!

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Blood's attempt of the Crown Jewels



May 9

This day, in the year 1671, witnessed one of the most extraordinary attempts at robbery recorded in the annals of crime. The designer was an Irishman, named Thomas Blood, whose father had gained property, according to the most probable account, as an iron-master, in the reign of Charles I.

When the civil wars broke out, the son espoused the cause of the parliament, entered the army and rose to the rank of colonel; at least, in subsequent times, he is always spoken of as Colonel Blood. As at the Restoration, we find him reduced to poverty, we may conclude that he had either squandered away his money, or that his property had been confiscated.

In 1770, Colonel Blood formed the extraordinary design of stealing the crown of England, and he contrived his plot with great artfulness. The regalia were at this time in the care of an aged but most trustworthy keeper, named Talbot Edwards, and Blood's first aim was to make his acquaintance.

Accordingly, one day in April, he went to the Tower, in disguise of a Parson, with a woman whom he represented as his wife, for the purpose of visiting the regalia. After they had seen them, the lady pretended to be taken ill, upon which they were conducted into the keeper's lodgings, where Mr. Edwards gave her a cordial and treated her otherwise with kindness. They parted with professions of thankfulness, and a few days afterwards the pretended Parson returned with half-a-dozen pairs of gloves, as a present to Mrs. Edwards in acknowledgment of her courtesy.

An intimacy thus gradually arose between Blood and the Edwardses, who appear to have formed a sincere esteem for him; and at length he proposed a match between their daughter and a supposed nephew of his. It was accordingly agreed, at Blood's suggestion, that he should bring his nephew to be introduced to the young lady at seven o'clock in the morning on the 9th of May (people began the day much earlier then now); and he farther asked leave to bring with him two friends, who, he said, wished to see the regalia, and

erately to work; Blood placing the crown for concealment under his cloak, while one of his companions, named Parrot, put the orb in his breeches, and the other proceeding to file the sceptre in two, for the convenience of putting it in a bag.

The three ruffians would probably thus have succeeding in executing their design, but for the opportune arrival of a son of Mr. Edwards from Flanders, accompanied by his brother-in-law, a Captain Beckman, who, having exchanged a word with the man who watched at the door, proceeded upstairs to the apartments occupied by the Edwardses. Blood and his companions thus interrupted, immediately decamped with the crown and orb, leaving the sceptre, which they had not time to file.

Old Edwards, as soon as they had left the room, began to shout out, 'Treason! Murder!' with all his might; and his daughter, rushing out into the court, gave the alarm and cried out that the crown was stolen. The robbers reached the drawbridge without hindrance, but there the warder attempted to stop them, on which Blood discharged a pistol at him. As he fell down, though unhurt, they succeeded in clearing the other gates, reached the wharf, where horses were ready for them, when they were overtaken by Captain Beckman.

Blood discharged his second pistol at the captain's head, but he escaped hurt by stooping, and immediately seized upon Blood, who struggled fiercely; but finding escape impossible, when he saw the crown wrested from his grasp, he is said to have exclaimed, in a tone of disappointment, 'It was a gallant attempt, however unsuccessful; for it was for a crown!'

The king, when informed of this extraordinary outrage, ordered Blood to be brought to Whitehall to be examined in his presence. The singularity of the crime, the grand impudence of the offender, united perhaps with a fear of the threatened consequences, induced the king to

save Blood from the vengeance of the law. He not only pardoned the villain, but gave him a grant of land in Ireland, by which he might subsist, and even took him into some degree of favour. After he had thus gained favour at court, Blood took up residence in Westminster. He died on the 24th of August, 1680.

The imperial crown now used by the British monarch on state occasions is different from that so nearly purloined by Colonel Blood. It was constructed in 1838, with jewels taken from old crowns, and others furnished by command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

It consists of diamonds, pearls, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, set in silver and gold; it has a crimson velvet cap, with ermine border, and is lined with white silk. Its gross weight is 39 oz. 5 dwts. Troy.

The lower part of the band, above the ermine border, consists of a row of 129 pearls, and the upper part of the band is a row of 112 pearls, between which, in front of the crown, is a large sapphire (partly drilled), purchased for the crown by King George the Fourth. At the back are a sapphire of smaller size and 6 other sapphires (three on each side), between which are 8 emeralds.

Above and below the seven sapphires are 14 diamonds, and around the eight emeralds 128 diamonds. Between the emeralds and sapphires are sixteen trefoil ornaments, containing 160 diamonds. Above the band are 8 sapphires, surmounted by 8 diamonds, between which are eight festoons, consisting of 148 diamonds.

In the front of the crown, and in the centre of a diamond Maltese cross, is the famous ruby said to have been given to Edward Prince of Wales, son of Edward the Third, called the Black Prince, by Don Pedro, King of Castile, after the battle of Najera

near Vittoria, A.D. 1367.

This ruby was worn in the helmet of Henry the Fifth at the battle of Agincourt, A.D. 1415. It is pierced quite through, after the Eastern custom, the upper part of the piercing being filled up by a small ruby. Around this ruby, to form the cross, are 75 brilliant diamonds. Three other Maltese crosses, forming the two sides and back of the crown, have emerald centres and contain, respectively, 132, 124 and 130 brilliant diamonds.

Between the four Maltese crosses are four ornaments in the form of the French fleur-de-lis, with 4 rubies in the centre and surrounded by rose diamonds, containing, respectively, 85, 86, 86 and 87 rose diamonds.

From the Maltese crosses issue four imperial arches, composed of oak leaves and acorns; the leaves containing 728 rose, table and brilliant diamonds; 32 pearls forming the acorns, set in cups containing 54 rose diamonds and 1 table diamond. The total number of diamonds in the arches and acorns is 108 brilliant, 116 table and 559 rose diamonds.

From the upper part of the arches are suspended 4 large pendant pear-shaped pearls, with rose diamond caps, containing 12 rose diamonds, and stems containing 24 very small rose diamonds. Above the arch stands the mound containing in the lower hemisphere 304 brilliants and in the upper 244 brilliants; the zone and arc being composed of 33 rose diamonds. The cross on the summit has a rose-cut sapphire in the centre, surrounded by 4 large brilliants and 108 smaller brilliants.

To read other selections for Robert Chambers' *The Book of Days*, visit www.thebookofdays.com.

it would be a convenience to them to be admitted at that early hour, as they were going to leave town in the forenoon.

Accordingly, at the appointed time, the old man had got up ready to receive his guest, and the daughter had put herself into her best dress to entertain her gallant, when, behold! Parson Blood, with three more, came to the jewel house, all armed with rapier blades in their canes, and every one a dagger and a pair of pocket pistols. Two of his companions entered in with him and a third stayed at the door, it seems, for a watch.

At Blood's wish, they first went to see the regalia, that his friends might be at liberty to return; but as soon as the door was shut upon them, as was the usual practice, they seized the old man, and bound and gagged him, threatening to take his life if he made the smallest noise.

Edwards persisted in attempting to make all the noise he could, upon which they knocked him down by a blow on the head with a wooden mallet, and, as he still remained obstinate, they beat him on the head with the mallet until he became insensible; but recovering a little, and hearing them say they believed him to be dead, he thought it most prudent to remain quiet.

The three men now went delib-

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ECOLOGY

Cicadas – Why every 17 years?

Amanda Markle
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

If you have a pet, you probably already know that animals, though lacking what we consider to be the traditional tools, can be surprisingly accurate in their perception of time. Often, they appear seemingly better at it than those of us who do have the benefit of a wristwatch. Forget to fill your cat's food dish by the regularly appointed hour, and she will not hesitate to let you know of your folly.

Biological timekeeping can be observed in animals, plants, fungi, even organisms as simple as cyanobacteria. Circadian clocks, the central mechanisms that allow for internal timekeeping, allow living things to anticipate regular changes in their environment and adapt their behavior accordingly. They help animals know when to search for food, when to sleep, and when to look for a mate. These internal clocks sync up with Earth's solar day with astonishing accuracy, even without external cues. Lock a human in a lab with no clocks, no social interaction, and a constant low level of light, and with time, his sleep-wake cycle will shift only slightly, averaging about 24.2 hours.

These internal clocks can be affected by external or environmental cues, known as zeitgebers, a German word translated as "time-giver." Zeitgebers help calibrate the biological clock when there are changes in the environment. The most obvious, and most powerful, is light.

Researchers can induce off-season migration or mating in birds by artificially controlling the amounts of light and dark they are exposed to. Natural light therapy is one of the best ways to combat jet lag when travelling between time zones. Light is not the only external cue that can affect internal clocks, however. Lunar cycles, feeding patterns, tides, and temperature all have an impact on the way organisms track the passage of time. Even scent can be used as a timekeeper.

One study found that dogs can predict the moment of their owner's return from work by judging how human scent dissipates over time in their absence. These factors work together to give animals the ability to track the passage of time and engage in cyclical behaviors that most humans would need a calendar to remember. This year, we are lucky enough to witness one of the most fascinating of those behaviors—the emergence of the 17-year cicadas.

By now you have likely heard about the storied Brood X—the massive cohort of periodical cicadas set to emerge this year in 15 states across the Eastern United States. Though different broods and species of cicada erupt from the ground every year, Brood X will appear above ground hundreds of billions strong, in a mass of lacy wings and bulging eyes; a brood the size of which has not been seen since the last time they emerged back in 2004. Which leads to the question: how does a cicada, buried alive underground, keep accurate track

of time for seventeen years? How do billions of insects coordinate such a dramatically grand debut, and why?

Though out of sight, and mostly out of mind, cicadas do not spend their time underground hibernating; they have a lot of work to do before they emerge. Cicadas first dig underground as nymphs, after hatching from eggs laid in tree branches and falling to the ground. Once under the dirt, cicadas attach themselves to a tree root and feed on sap. Here, they undergo five distinct developmental stages known as instars. With each instar, the developing cicada molts its exoskeleton and grows one step closer to its adult form. Periodical cicadas can be divided into 13-year and 17-year groups, with the time it takes for each to complete its second instar phase determining which group they fall into, but external factors can throw off these cycles of growth.

Evidence strongly supports the theory that annual changes in the flow of nutrients through tree roots signals their countdown to emergence. In the rare instances that trees produce an extra leaf set in a year, typically caused by a warm spell in winter, followed by a cold snap and then a normal spring, cicadas can be found emerging a year too soon. The spikes in the nutritional composition of the sap on which they feed becomes a zeitgeber, altering the normal internal clock that controls their growth and development.

The other zeitgeber acting upon cicadas and their impeccable sense of timing is temperature. Cicadas will not emerge until soil temperatures reach about 65°F. This precisely coordinated act, synchronized across billions of individual insects plays an important evolutionary role for cicadas, and their primary survival strategy—predator satiation. Cicadas do not have many defenses, especially in the first days after they emerge and are undergoing their final molt into the adult form. Instead, they sim-



Birds will feast on the cicadas but even the greediest amongst them cannot make much of a dent in the population.

ply overwhelm the food chain. Fish, birds, snakes, rodents, raccoons, squirrels, even domestic cats and dogs will all take advantage of cicadas and the easy feast they provide, but even the greediest amongst them cannot make much of a dent in the population.

Despite the many predators they face, the sheer number of cicadas that emerge over a relatively short period of time ensure that enough insects survive to mate, lay eggs, and continue the species. That is why precise timing is so important to the cicada population. A precise internal clock, calibrated with external stimuli, is key to their survival.

By prolonging their underground development and growth phase their predators cannot rely on them as a consistent food source. As a result, predators likely will not have a consistently large population because they have staggered their emergence years. By overwhelming predators with enormous numbers and delayed emergence the probability of species survival significantly increases.

Many unknowns remain when it comes to the exact reason why periodical cicadas have evolved to follow the schedules they do. One question being studied is why their developmental cycles are so long. Some scientists theorize that cicadas evolved to avoid spikes in predator populations that occur after a cicada brood appears above ground. The biomass

added to the food chain in years of large cicada populations can have significant effects on the survival of predators and their offspring. Studies have shown survival increases of 10% or more in bird species that feed on cicadas in these years, and the effects on population size can be seen for generations. By returning above ground so infrequently, cicadas can wait out these populations spikes until predator numbers return to typical levels.

A closely related theory looks at number of years periodical cicadas divide themselves into, 13- and 17-year groups—both prime numbers. Some scientists believe that evolving to follow a time schedule not easily devisable makes it harder for predators to evolve to match the cicadas' periodic population increases, helping them maintain the advantage of appearing in enormous quantities. Still another theory postures that these 13- and 17-year cycles evolved to prevent the mixing and hybridization of different broods during times when periodic fluctuations in climate have limited the physical scope of cicada populations. One interesting observation is that of brood stragglers. These are cicadas from a certain brood that miss their cue, emerging typically one or four years before or after the rest of their cohort. The reasoning why this occurs is not known for sure, but it is theorized that a particularly successful group of stragglers in any one year may be able to establish their population enough to become a brand-new brood all their own.

The arrival of periodical cicadas may seem like an alien invasion, and a noisy one at that. But it is also an amazing display of biological timekeeping and evolutionary survival strategies; a phenomenon that only occurs in one tiny corner of the world. So, while they are filling your backyard with their boisterous chorus this summer, take a moment to appreciate all the complex systems that have come together to bring them here at this exact moment. You will not see these ones again for a long, long time.

Amanda Markle is the Environmental Education Manager of the Strawberry Hill Foundation. Strawberry Hill inspires stewardship of our natural world by connecting the community with educational opportunities. Learn more by visiting StrawberryHill.org.

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Cicadas – Take 2, noise & plant damage

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

For the eastern United States the soundtrack of the summer is cicadas. Annual, or sometimes called ‘dog day’ cicadas come and go every year, but this year we are in for a multigenerational event. Brood X, as in the Roman numeral 10, cicadas are set to reemerge after nearly two decades underground.

These periodic cicadas were last seen in 2004. In a time before smartphones and social media, these entomological darlings were midwived into existence as a result of a long lifecycle process. From New York to Illinois down to Georgia, cicada nymphs will summon themselves up from the soil and ascend to the treetops. Their synchronized exit ensures safety in numbers - their only defense. The nymphs will crawl up to the forest canopy, shed their juvenile shells, then emerge as an adult ready to sire the next generation.

The purpose of their subterranean emergence is not to preserve their own lives, but to create the next generation. By crawling to the surface, the cicadas are now able to find a mate, which they attract through their shrill serenade. What may sound like the cacophony of swarming critters is a unique song that differentiates different species from one another. After cicadas mate, the female will lay the eggs into the stem of a plant or branch of a tree. Once the eggs hatch the larva will drop to the ground and burrow into the soil. Here they will spend the next 17 years growing into maturity by feeding on the sap from plant roots. Once they reach full size the cicada nymphs will dig to the surface, shed their skin, and begin the process all over again.

High in the tops of trees the adult males will begin their siren song beckoning any female within earshot to come and mate. Their songs are loud enough to be heard over significant distances too. The cicada produces these love lullabies in a really unique way. Many insects, like crickets, produce sounds by rubbing together different parts of the body. This is not the case for cicadas. The organ responsible is a ribbed membrane located at the base of the abdomen called a tymbal. These tymbals are contracted inward causing them to buckle and produce sound. Then the cicada relaxes the muscles and the tymbal pops back out and again produces a noise. The sound resonates within the abdomen, which is mostly hollow, to amplify it.

Cicadas perform these contractions very rapidly and will alter their body positions to modify the song. The noise created by them reaches up to 100 decibels, which is as loud as a lawnmower. Congregated en masse, large groups of these can be deafening to the surrounding area and even disorient predators.

Large groups are what cicadas do best. These awakening Brood X cicadas make the largest insect emergence in the world. In densely packed areas they have been found to have as many as 1 million cicadas per acre. This is part of a necessary survival strategy called “predator satiation.”

Billions and billions of cicadas show up on scene to the delight of nearly every other living animal. Cicadas don’t fly well. They don’t walk or run well. Cicadas are clumsy and lack good physical coordination. Birds, fish, turtles, snakes, lizards, raccoons and other mammals have never had it so good when it comes to preying on a potential meal. They will dine until they simply cannot eat anymore. By sheer volume the cicadas survive. The other trick to their survival is the 17 year odd-numbered life cycle.

Cicadas often get grouped together or confused with locusts. As an insect people tend to assume the worst, creepy crawlies give people the heebie jeebies. Cicadas are not locusts and are actually more akin to leaf bugs or even aphids. They belong to a family of insects, Hemiptera, which have a piercing mouth used to suck the sap out of plants and trees. Their mouths have a sheath-like encasing that retracts between the legs when not in use. When they are using it the sheath extends and contains four needle type proboscises that pierce into plants. They will use these like a straw to slurp out the sap. Cicadas don’t bite or sting, are not venomous, and pose no threat to people or crops at all.

Cicadas tend to emerge once trees have grown leaves. Deciduous trees such as ash, maple, oak and even red bud are the preferred host trees of periodical cicadas. Young trees especially are at risk. Damage comes from female cicadas piercing the tender outer

branches with their ovipositor and inserting eggs. These eggs hatch and feed on sap causing the rest of the branch to brown out to the tip and die. At some point, the nymphs drop to the ground burrowing to remain for the next 17 years.

Cicadas feed only on sap and do not bite or sting. They are not major agricultural pests, but in some outbreak years, the sheer numbers of females laying their eggs in the tender outer branch tips may overwhelm trees and smaller trees may suffer real damage. Some species have turned to crops such as sugarcane and in a few cases have injured cash crops such as date palms, grapes, and citrus trees. Cicadas sometimes also cause damage to ornamental shrubs. A simple covering with a screening material like cheesecloth will prevent damage to small trees and shrubs.

Damage from cicadas is caused by their egg laying method. Cicada females have an organ called an ovipositor. This ovipositor is used to pierce twigs about the thickness of a pencil, where she lays a few dozen eggs. Sometimes this action causes the end of that branch to die. On large trees these branch tips stand out against the dark green of the rest of the tree. A good windy thunderstorm will eventually bring these dead branch ends to the ground, ending the cycle of cicada worries. I anticipate this pruning will actually benefit homeowners with large trees who couldn’t hire a tree service to do the same thing.

If you live in a neighborhood that is less than 17 years old, you may not see any cicadas. Because they live underground for 17 years, any disturbing of the soil is enough to rid the area of cicada nymphs. Cutting down trees removes the roots the cicadas feed on for this long period of time.



Cicadas are harmless to humans, but they will wreck havoc on tender new growth on trees and unprotected shrubs.

If you live on previously farmed ground the cicadas will be rarer on your place. If you live in a neighborhood with few large trees you will have only few of the cicadas this year.

If a cicada does land on you, it is not for some nefarious purpose; it is just that you were in the way. Because they are harmless to people and animals alike there is no reason to be particularly worried if you come into contact with one. As the clumsy swarms flutter about it is not uncommon for cats or dogs to eat them. Their exoskeleton can be a little tough to digest and may cause some gastric distress or an upset stomach, but otherwise pose no threat and pets should be just fine.

People have been known to eat cicadas too. Recipes abound online and they are often described as

having a shrimp like flavor. Individuals with shellfish allergies should exercise caution though, as they are in fact related to shrimp.

Because of their periodic 17 year emergence an average person would be able to see this cohort of cicadas about four or five times in their lives. They are a multigenerational event that spans decades. Brood X will emerge sometime in late spring or early summer. Once they are here the swarms will announce their arrival heralding in the legions of insects mating over the course of four to six weeks. After this extravagant show of force they will disappear underground for another 17 year cycle to reemerge in 2038.

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REAL SCIENCE

Facial recognition

Michael Rosenthal

A facial recognition system is a technology capable of matching a human face from a digital image or a video frame against a database of faces. It is typically employed to authenticate people by matching a face from the database against that face one wishes to identify. It is used in smartphones and in other forms of technology such as robotics. Facial recognition systems are categorized as biometrics. This technique is not as accurate as iris (eye) recognition and fingerprint recognition. However, it is especially useful because it can be performed without physical contact, especially using video surveillance and by law enforcement agencies.

This technique was pioneered in the 1960s where a computer was used to recognize human faces. The computer was used to acquire and store 20 facial distances, such as the pupil centers, the inside and outside corners of the eye, and the widow's peak in the hairline. A database would be established that could be applied to a photograph with a goal of identification. The system was crude at its beginning, but became more refined with time. The first detailed book on facial recognition was published in 1977 by Takeo Kanade, a pioneer in the field who began his work in 1970.

In 1993 the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) and the Army Research Labora-

tory (ARL) established a program known as FERET to develop automatic face recognition. Private companies then took on their results to further develop the use of facial recognition, and further refinement took place through the remainder of the 1990s.

The Department of Motor Vehicles in West Virginia and New Mexico were the first Departments of Motor Vehicle offices to use automated facial recognition systems to detect people trying to obtain multiple driving licenses under different names, improving greatly on the prior use of photo identification.

In the 1990s a refinement was developed beyond the use of photographic recognition of human faces. PCA, principle component analysis, also known as Eigenface, was developed by looking at the human face as a weighted combination of a number of Eigenfaces. The technique reduced the amount of data required to detect a face. Other improvements occurred over time that could make identifications from less than perfect face views, such as at airport locations, and could identify individuals in spite of beards, mustaches, changed hairstyles, and even sunglasses.

In 2001 real-time face detection in video footage became possible with the Viola-Jones object detection framework. This technique is applicable using both handheld devices and embedded systems. An obvious and important appli-

cation of this device is in airports. The emerging use of facial recognition is in the use of ID verification services. Such services are being provided and utilized by banks and other businesses wanting to prevent fraudulent use of another's ID.

Facial recognition is very much employed in China, where some 20 million cameras were put into use in 2018. This is called the Skynet Project, many of which cameras are capable of real-time facial recognition. They are deployed across the country. Don't plan a trip to China thinking you can remain anonymous! They have a major application in travel locations such as railway stations and airports. Facial recognition systems are being utilized all over the world. 117 million adults are in the United States Department of State face recognition system. The FBI uses these photos as an investigative tool. Here in Maryland the system drew controversy when it was used in Baltimore to arrest unruly protestors after the death of Freddie Gray. Many countries in the world, including Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, South Africa, and 21 countries of the European Union are using or developing the use of facial recognition technology.

Not surprisingly, many retailers are using or preparing to use facial recognition video surveillance systems. At Super Bowl XXXV in 2001, police in Tampa Bay, Florida used facial recognition software to look for criminals and terrorists - 19 people with minor criminal



While there have been amazing advances in facial recognition, the technology has yet to advance to the point where it recognizes what we see when we look into a mirror.

records were potentially identified.

There have been reactions against the use of facial recognition technology. In May 2019 San Francisco banned its use for police and other government agencies. The American Civil Liberties Union has called for more transparency in its use. Municipal use of this technology has been banned in several California and Massachusetts cities, as well as in Portland, Oregon.

And here is a new development. The Washington Post reported that Chinese scientists are developing facial recognition for animals. China has been a leader in this new side of facial recognition with some 630 million facial

recognition cameras in use. They monitor health conditions, insemination dates and other behavior data to identify animal health concerns without direct human intervention. This is part of the Chinese effort to maintain the health of farm animals, particularly in the milk industry. In addition the technique helps monitor food hygiene, especially to see whether pigs are healthy. China feeds 22 percent of the world's population with only 19 percent of the world's arable land, an incentive for monitoring animal behavior and their health.

Lastly for now, the Cicadas are coming! In May we expect the arrival of the insect known as the cicada, a sizable insect with orange-veined wings, black bodies, and beady red eyes. The female cicada makes a slit along branches to lay her eggs. This commonly results in the drooping and dying of branches on the tree. It can be only a disfigurement, but it can sometimes result in tree death. There is good news, too. The cicada does not bite or sting, it is not poisonous to the touch (it is probably not a good idea to eat them!), it does not eat plants or transmit disease. Since they tend to congregate in tree branches, they are most common in wooded areas, where the husks of the nymph casings fall to the ground, littering the garden. Animals such as fox, raccoon, possum, skunks and squirrels eat the nymphs. The nymphs emerge from the soil in mid to late May. Though they are a nuisance and make a mess, cicada damage to the environment is rarely fatal or lasting to plants and trees, but they really can make a mess. I remember a cicada visit when my family and I lived on the Bard College campus in the mid-Hudson Valley of New York State. Netting plants is an effective way to reduce the damage without side effects.

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Church of The Falling Rain

Jack Deatherage

*Well, it's days like these
Make you fall down to your
knees
Beauty sometimes takes your
breath away*

...
*In the church of the falling rain
The keepers of the flame
Kneel at the altar of the ris-
ing sun
-The Stone Coyotes*

Having overflowed a 150-gallon tank with one inch of rainfall we dropped a pond liner in the second cracked tank and filled that with a day's drizzle. I wanted two more tanks, but the DW settled on one. So, we've 450 gallons of water waiting for the summer's drought and the town's eventual ban on outside water use. I might buy a smaller tank (100-gallons) for storing some of the water I capture in-house, but don't have room to store. (Captured water is shower water, fish aquarium water siphoned off during rare water changes and various "kitchen" waters that would normally go down the drain.)

Water tanks full, I turn my attention to filling plastic and cloth buckets with potting soil and various seed potatoes, flowering bulbs, rhizomes and corms. Doing the potting up in what used to be the dog room I was constantly opening the outside door so the aged kick mutt could go bark at the neighbor kidlets and their dogs. Pausing the potting to ease my back, I pondered the mouthy little beast and noticed mosquitoes doing "touch and goes" on the surface of the water tanks. Great! Now I need some fish to eat the skeeter larvae. With ice having skimmed the tank surfaces just the week before, I knew goldfish would be the only fins likely to survive this early in the season.

I prefer mollies or sword-tails for summer skeeter control, though a Siamese fighting fish in each tank does a great job of gobbling the wigglers. (A diet of larvae brings the Siamese up to not only their best colors, but also prepares them for breeding if one is into that.) But, goldies it be until warmer weather.

Now where do I find aquarium fish? There used to be a shop in Thurmont - long gone. Fairfield had one - also gone. Gettys-

burg once had one that specialized in goldfish, but - yes, gone. There were four shops in Frederick - the three I patronized have been closed for at least a decade. The one remaining shop inspired me to drive to Hagerstown, Randallstown and Lancaster to seek what I needed aquarium wise. Come to think on it, there were a couple of shops on the way to Hagerstown that have closed. Even Walmart in Gettysburg stopped selling fish!

Randallstown and Lancaster are just too far away when all I need are some feeder goldfish. That pretty much leaves Hanover, which has one shop that sells fish (a chain pet store) out of the several mom & pop shops I used to do business with over that way.

Fifty-two mile round trip for a dozen comet goldfish at \$0.20 each. Man, the days when we would spend at least a hundred dollars on fish alone, during one visit to a shop, seems a lifetime ago. On the other hand - I've spent well over \$500 on pond liners, stock tank, corrugated pipe, battery powered tree trimmer (the DW wanted it because it's cute), weed trimmer string modules, bags of potting soil, plastic and cloth buckets, wooden stakes, fertilizers, seeds, bulbs, corms and rhizomes just this spring.

I keep telling the DW that I'm done spending money on this project. Why she believes me is a puzzlement. Though she is aware I'm no longer spending money on vodka, bourbon, rum and gin so maybe she's just humoring me? Whatever.

It's time to build our altar to the rising sun, though the sun doesn't hit the garden until well after sunrise and we ain't kneeling at it with our knees the way they are. Those details aside - the laughing gods aren't particular about precision as much as they are demanding of amusement (I amuse them no end) - the altar is a dog kennel built to contain a wolf. The chain link enclosure is being repurposed as the center of the container garden we're building in the dog run. The rest of the yard's flowerbeds will have to wait another year for us to do more than weed whack them, though I might toss a few handfuls of fertilizer in them. They haven't been fed in a score of years.

The plan for the altar (hear the gods laughing?) is to lay down a paper weed barrier, assemble the

kennel on that, line the perimeter with grow buckets and the interior with straw and hay bales. (Middle Brother is trialing hay bales in Mississippi this year and is having greater success than I've had with straw!) I want to lay rods across the top of the kennel and train various vines onto them to create a shaded spot for the DW to place a chair so's to meditate on how she ended up stuck with me.

Not being completely unaware that altars are what I make them of, I'll be trialing flowers in buckets in front of the house again. They'll be catching the first kiss of the rising sun so I'm technically following the song, though I sure as hell ain't kneeling on the concrete walk! At least not by my own choice. (Falling down and having to kneel to regain my feet does not count as kneeling at any altar! While the gods may laugh, they don't require physical suffering to amuse them.)

I'm thinking a coupla cloth buckets of Titan sunflower. Boxes of gladiolus cormlets that won't flower, but will grow to be larger corms for future flower gardens. Buckets of marigolds, zinnias and snapdragons. The DW wants to trial a few buckets of tomatoes and I might as well add a few with peppers. Our wants might be too much for that space so I'm



After discovering the course material on 'How to get your women to do your work' from the 1921 Former Boozers Association's 'Women's Course' series, Jack immediately put it to work ...

also planning to trial some of the buckets along the walk beside the house.

The buckets surrounding the kennel will mostly contain heirloom varieties of tomatoes - 'German Pink', 'German Johnson' and 'Striped Roman'. Beans - 'Christmas' pole limas and 'Rio Zape' - a dry pole bean. Peppers - 'Ajvarski' (sweet) and 'Kalugeritsa' (hot) from Macedonia, and 'Txorixero' (sweet) from the Basque region of Spain. I might toss in some of the more familiar varieties as I won't be saving seeds this year. I've also seeds of 'Orangeglo' watermelon I want to train to fruit on top of the straw bales and a Soviet Union melon called 'Rich Sweetness 132' I'll train up the kennel pan-

els because its fruit is tennis ball in size with perfume melon fragrance and honeydew flavor. I think the neighbor kidlets might enjoy both melons.

I bought *Ipomoea lobata* - 'Spanish flag' or 'Firecracker vine' I'd planned to grow up the front of the house to shade the brick a bit. However, the North Seton Ave Green Street Concept Plan derailed that idea while turning me to more fruitful adventures. Odd ain't it, how an unfunded state mandate can refocus my efforts to make the gods laugh.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

A bee garden?

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Bees, bees, bees! What's all the talk about? You may have heard about the honey bee decline. Research continues to try and understand the why's of this problem. What has been found is that many things are contributing, including bee stress from transportation of the hives around the county, mites and pesticides.

As researchers continue to learn more about the decline of the honeybee, consumers are becoming more aware of the importance of pollinators. One third of our food is a result of pollinators, which includes bees and other insects, butterflies and moths, birds and bats. However the bees are a major contributor to the pollination process, pollinating about 90% of the food.

As a result of this decline of the honeybee, we also recognize the importance of our native bees that live here. Therefore, a push for bee habitat and food supply for these bees is now in the forefront to fighting our pollination problems. These native bees can pick up the slack that the honeybees are unable to fill. This pollination is incredibly important for our diversity of food. Why not encourage our native pollinators?

In addition to the researchers working on the Colony Collapse Disorder (the term used to identify the honeybee problem), there is also work being done on the sustainability of our own pollinators. Plant selection and habitat are the most

important things when considering attracting and maintaining our native bees and pollinators.

As a homeowner, there are many decisions we can make in our yards and gardens to support the pollinators. Choices of plants is one of the easiest things we can do to increase the pollinators that visit our gardens. Following a few simple rules will create a great place to encourage the bees to live and thrive in your garden.

Choose flowering plants, including annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. The more diverse the flowering time, the longer period of time pollinators will be feeding.

When choosing plants, stay away from the double flowering types. Often in the breeding of these fancy blooming plants, the attraction of the flowers to the bees goes away.

Choose native plants. These plants have evolved with our native insects, making them the needed food source.

Provide water, whether it's through a birdbath, or a bowl of rocks with water in it.

When considering the plants, here are a few you may want to try:

Picnanthemum - Mountain mint: a native plant, this is a full sun lover. It prefers moist soils and is deer resistant. This plant will move with the hustle of insects feeding on its flowers.

Agastache: There are many species and cultivars of agastache. In our trial gardens at the Ag Center in Gettysburg, we have noted many bees visiting these plants. It's probably the most visited plant. They take full sun and well drained soils. Easy to grow, most

reach about 24 – 30 inches in height.

Eupatorium purpureum, Joe Pye Weed: This very tall plant, up to six feet, likes full sun to part shade. Moist soil is preferred, but I've seen this grow along roadsides that appear to be on the drier side as well. Dark pink flowers cover the tops of this plant in August, and are great as a back drop to any perennial border or bed.

Solidago, Goldenrod: This fall bloomer has an undeserved bad reputation. Often thought of as ragweed, the plant everyone and their brother seem to be allergic to, goldenrod is not ragweed. Ragweed happens to bloom at the same time, but has nondescript little green flowers. Goldenrod has showy yellow-golden flowers that start blooming in late August and continue to bloom almost till frost. They are a great nectar source for migrating monarchs in the fall months as well as for the native bees.

There are many species and cultivars of goldenrod. Probably my favorite and very common cultivar of goldenrod is Solidago rugose 'Fireworks'. This particular plant has golden flowers that burst from the tops of the plants, slightly drooping. A full sun plant, the solidagos, with the many cultivars, come in heights of 12 inches to 3 feet.

Trees should not be forgotten when selecting plants for pollinators. Oaks support over 500 types of pollinators! Blooming in spring when some herbaceous plant material is still dormant, the oak tree is a food and nesting source for many types of wildlife, whether it's bees, birds or squirrels. Some of our native oak trees include the scarlet oak, pin oak, white oak, swamp white oak, red oak, and more. This group of trees get very large – 120 feet – and like lots of room to grow. Found in many soil types, depending on the species, be sure



A bumble bee feasts on Globe Thistle, which flower in Late summer and early fall



Bee Balm (Monarda fistulosa) is must for any bee garden.



When planning your bee garden, ensure you plant plants that flower at different times, so your bee population always has something to feed on.

to know whether the soil is dry, moist or wet before determining the type of oak you plant.

Flowering trees, like redbuds,

support bees. Considered a small tree, the redbud blooms in April with purple-pink flowers and reaches about 25'. Found all over the battlefield in Gettysburg, it grows along rock outcroppings and along woods' edge. This is naturally an understory tree, so giving it part sun is ideal.

Some flowering shrubs that should be considered when developing a pollinator garden include viburnums, shrub dogwoods, spicebush and elderberries. All of these native shrubs do get to be large, so using them as a foundation plant would not be wise. However, used in a shrub border or in a garden as the backdrop to perennials will create an absolutely spectacular show.

Our native viburnums include Viburnum acerifolium, Viburnum trilobum and Viburnum nudum. These particular viburnums like part sun and bloom in May-June. The fun thing about the viburnums is that not only are the flowers beautiful – offering white blooms, but they get pretty berries in late summer, and have a lovely fall color as well.

Viburnum acerifolium has dark purple, almost black berries and a nice red fall color. Viburnum trilobum gets red berries and red color, and Viburnum nudum (nannyberry) has blue berries with a red fall color, making all three of these

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species great choices for your pollinator garden.

Sambucus, otherwise known as elderberry bush, is found naturally along streams and in moist sites. Reaching up to 12 feet, this large shrub is well known for its delicious berries that are great in a pie—that is if you get to it before the birds! Filtered sun is best, but I've seen them quite happy in full sun as well. Be sure it has moist soils, a dry site may not be a good choice for this pretty plant. It gets white flowers and the berries are a dark purple to black color.

There are many newer selections that have been introduced. I have elderberries growing in a shrub border and it creates a great backdrop to other flowering plants in the area. I see lots of insects buzzing around the flowers when in bloom. The shrub has compound leaves, making it look more delicate in form. The

white flowers are really pretty when in bloom and the berries are pretty as well. Although it gets quite large, up to 10 feet, it can be a great focal point or backdrop in any garden.

In our world today, it's important for us to re-think what we consider a "pretty" landscape. The choices we make in plant selection directly impact our life and our environment in which we live. A more "wilder" look is and should be acceptable in any neighborhood when we are providing a food source and needed habitat for our insects.

When planning your garden, consider the bees. Providing a place to live and food to eat for these insects will help our native insects in the quest for pollinating our food supply.

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

Small Town Gardener

Shame: The ultimate tutor

Marianne Willburn

Embarrassment is definitely frowned upon as a teaching tool. In a world where everyone's a winner, no one has a wrong answer, and definitions are fluid, it might be fairly unpopular to assert that I have learnt some of my best lessons sporting a red face and sheepish grin—but as it's absolutely true, I'll assert it anyway.

Global botanical knowledge is increasing at a pace too rapid for this poor brain to fully absorb no matter how much fish I consume, so I must be grateful for red-faced moments that impress upon it facts and techniques that won't be forgotten in a hurry.

Some of them are trivial, or at least trivial in the practical, shovel-to-soil world of gardening. For instance, I won't forget being schooled on conversationally adding a third 'N' to 'anemone' by a knowledgeable, if annoying friend. If you've ever stood at a plant swap with plant snobs desperately trying to hold your own, you don't want to nobble yourself by glimpsing phantom N's where N's do not exist. The eye-raise and subtle smirk are taught at birth to plant snobs.

Petty silliness and the world of Latin one-upmanship aside, there are far more embarrassing moments in my horticultural life upon which to reflect. For instance, the time nearly two decades ago I told a friend how to cut a begonia leaf in half to make more plants, spoke with authority using appropriate knowledgeable head nods, and ended up instructing her to use the wrong half of the leaf, which languished in soil for weeks until it rotted and my friend found out that maybe Marianne doesn't know everything she says she does. She consulted books after that, and for many years rolled her eyes when I started to horticulturally pontificate.

There was the time that I dug a trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) seedling from one of hun-



There's no point in transplanting these beautiful *Verbascum thapsus* (common mullien). These flowering plants are biennials and will die after flowering and setting seed. Collect seeds and throw them instead.

dreds of seedlings dotting another friend's garden. He protested. I pretended to listen, utilizing the head nod technique and assuring him of my ability to control nature. I lived on a tenth of an acre. I don't even think I need to finish that particular story, but it did involve him visiting my property four years later.

Another digging moment of shame occurred the time I excavated some just-flowered mulleins (*Verbascum thapsus*) from the side of the road, planted them in my new-ish garden, and was told by a plant friend three days later that they were biennials and on their way out. "Planting the entire plant as a seed vessel is a new one on me," she said. "Personally I would have collected the seed and thrown it." Oh boy.

Plant identification is another minefield. Potting up peony seedlings for a friend years ago I instead gave her pots of bishop's weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*), that from a certain angle and from the vantage point of zero experience and an accompanying gin and tonic, could be mistaken for the former. She had no more experience than I. *Aegopodium* is aggressive. Again, no need to finish that story either.

Most recently I suffered not only a hit to my ego, but to my skin. Whilst helping a wheelchair-bound friend to

weed and plant bulbs in his garden, I was expressly warned against the seasonally naked vines that snaked through the unruly bed. Whether nude or clothed, poison ivy is never without a wicked sting.

He offered me Technu. I refused. "That's Virginia creeper." I said with conviction, and as it happened I was right. I just wasn't right about a half an hour later when I went to dig out some winter aconite from another wilder bed and ended up looking like a colony leper three days later.

Little slices of humble pie are good for the digestion. I am grateful for all the lessons hard-learned, it's just the little matter of keeping chatty friends around that literally have the dirt on you.

"Are you cruel enough to be a gardener?" asked the garden columnist Elizabeth Lawrence many decades ago. It has only recently occurred to me that she might not have been referring to our relationship with our plants—but with each other. That subtle smirk is a killer.

Marianne is the author of the new book *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

I'm not alone anymore

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

Neutered. I found out later that's what the humans call what had happened to me.

I'd been neutered. The other cats are never going to take me seriously now.

It happened last week and the lady who had trapped me and taken me to the vet told me that I'd be safe with her. I figured the effects of the sedative must have still been working on me at the time because I really wanted to believe her.

But it wore off, I got my wits about me again and figured I was just being sentimental. For some reason.

I wandered around for a few days, but something strange seemed to have happened to me. The urge to fight and mark my territory and all that other macho stuff had gone away.

I was tired of being scared all the time. I was tired of being on my own.

My mom and siblings are gone and I'm alone and I figure that's how it's supposed to be.

But one night when I couldn't sleep – again – something in me wondered if it had to be this way.

"You can stay if you want," she whispered. "You'll be safe with me. I promise."

It was her voice again. It seemed to echo in my mind. Could I really trust it?

Humans have shown me how awful they really are. The ones I've known really seemed to hate me. A lot. I honestly didn't do anything to them. They just didn't want me around.

It's mostly luck that has kept me alive for the last five years. I know I shouldn't try pressing it now.

By the time the sun comes up, I wander nearer and nearer to the lady's house. No particular reason. Just wandering.

I laugh at myself when I think of the infamous curiosity and what it did to the cat. It would serve me right if it turns out to be true in my case.

I peek around the corner of her front porch and she's there with

a bowl and some food and a few other cats are around her.

My instincts tell me to just back away. She hasn't seen me. None of the other cats have seen me (although I suspect they know I was there because I have that ability, too, but they don't seem to care).

She has long, dark hair and soft-looking clothes. And there's a soothing sound coming from her. She's humming, maybe singing, it's difficult to tell. Sounds almost like a purr – like my mom would do when we had all been together.

Man, I'm getting maudlin in my old age. It'll probably be the death of me. Literally.

She stands up from filling the bowl and makes eye contact with me.

Darn it. I'd waited too long to get out of here.

Her entire face softens when she sees me. She says, "Hi, there. I was hoping I'd see you again. You feeling okay?"

My chest goes warm at the words and the tone and my God I have never wanted to trust something more in my life. I'm actually shaking with it – the want, the need.

"It's okay," she whispers. "You take your time. You look pretty good. Get yourself some breakfast and I'll be back out to see how you're doing."

She heads inside and the other cats have left a little in the bowl so I sneak over and get something to eat. There's a shrub by her steps and I settle in underneath it just to see if she really will be back.

True to her word, she walks outside a little while later and I hear her say, "I see you down there. Thought you could trick me, huh? Well, I've had cats all my life and you'll have to get up pretty early in the morning to get something by me."

She chuckles. It's an almost affectionate sound. She says all that as she's collecting the now empty bowls.

She pulls open the screen door and holds it for a second or two when she says, "I know it's way too early for us, but you can come inside if you'd like sometime. You've had a rough life. The vet told me so when she neutered you. I've got other cats inside with me, but they won't bug

you. I think you might like to see what it's like with someone who would never hurt you. Ever."

Why am I even listening to this? Why am I even considering it? Am I crazy? Did they take my brain, too, when they neutered me?

I'm still in the shrubs by the time the sun sets and when she offers the open door again with the same kind words and sweet tone, I take a chance.

The biggest of my life.

I walk through the open door.

And in that split second of time, my life becomes absolutely surreal. I'm face to face with a cat that I know, on some instinctive level, is my sister. The one the lady had picked up under the porch so many years ago.

This can't be that lady, could it?

And around the corner from another room walks a cat – and I stop breathing. It's my mom. Mother. The cat who had me and took such good care of us when we were little.

The three of us are tentative around each other at first, but we know our connection. You really can't lose that, no matter what happens. I slunk down when mom finally came up to me, not sure what to expect, but in a second I was her kitten again as she started to groom me.

Five days later I have my own blanket (sometimes I share my sister's) and food and water every day and the first time the lady touches me, not to chase me away, but to cherish me, I cry a little.

I didn't know what it was like to be so happy. I didn't think it was possible for me.

It just goes to show, no matter how hard life may get, good times and a happy ending can be waiting just around the corner.

Or in my case, inside an opened screen door.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications 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 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.



Rosie was surrendered to the shelter when her owner could no longer care for her. She is an 8-month-old terrier mix with typical puppy behavior. She does not care for the company of other dogs, so being the only dog in the home would be best for her. Rosie also chases cats, so a home without cats would be best, too. Because of her age, she will need someone who understands the time and patience required in training a puppy. Due to her energy level and having no previous history with children, an age restriction may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff. Rosie loves people and will be a wonderful best friend.



Stella is a 3-year-old terrier mix who was found running in one of the nearby state forests. She is an incredibly sweet girl who loves pretty much everyone she meets. Stella is an active girl who will need someone that has the time to exercise her every day. She's very people oriented and just likes being around humans. Because of her energy level and no past history, an age restriction for children may apply. Be sure to discuss this with shelter staff. Stella will make someone a loyal and loving companion, and she cannot wait to find her forever home!



Kenzo was adopted from the shelter, but returned because he wasn't a good fit for the home. He's about 3 years old and has a very unique orange coat. Kenzo can be a little shy at first, but once he gets to know you, he comes out of his shell and loves attention. Do you have the right spot for this sweet fellow?



Yota is a 4-year-old black-and-white cat who came into the shelter as a stray. When he first arrived, he was not terribly happy and didn't really want to eat much. We put him in one of the back offices to get him a little more acclimated and fixed him up and he has done a complete turn-around. Yota is such a sweet boy. He loves to be petted and wants to hang out with people. This guy will make someone a great companion.

For more information about Rosie, Stella, Kenzo, or Yota 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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How to feed your dog

Dr. Jon Branson
Catoctin Veterinary Hospital

It is not easy formulating a diet for 4-month-old puppies, a Dachshund with liver issues, a Cockapoo with urinary crystals, several senior dogs, young adult dogs, and cats prone to urinary crystals. That is why I entrust companies like Hill's, Purina, and Royal Canin (and I use all three) to formulate diets that have a proven track record to take care of all my critters at home. I know those companies employ veterinarians and nutritionists who utilize science and research to keep my pets healthy.

Some diet fads that have caught on over time encompass raw and grain free diets. Unfortunately, there is a lot of marketing behind these diets but not science to back them up.

Raw Diets

There are claims that these diets are beneficial because they improve longevity, improve oral and general health, and resolve diseases. The problem is there are no published peer-reviewed studies to prove these claims. There are risks. These include nutritional imbalances, bacterial and parasite contamination that can affect pets, and the possibil-

ity of food poisoning for the people who make and handle these diets.

Grain Free Diets

Marketing has been behind these diets as the pet food industry is a multi-billion dollar enterprise. Grains are not the evil ingredient they have been made out to be.

Myths:

- Grain Free means low carbohydrates - False
- Grain Free has health benefits - False, there is no scientific proof (however, there is scientific proof to the contrary-see below)
- Grains contribute to health problems - False
- Grains are a common food allergen in dogs - False
- Ingredients are the most important when choosing a food - False, it is the nutrients delivered by the ingredients

Now there is scientific evidence that comes from cardiologists who discovered that many grain free diets led to the development of life-threatening heart disease in young dogs who should not have developed this condition. The heart disease is Dilated Cardiomyopathy. Two years ago, the FDA even issued a statement about this:

FDA Investigation into Potential Link between Certain Diets and Canine Dilated Cardiomyopathy (April, 2019). 93% of the reported dog foods had peas and/or lentils. Highest case numbers were linked to Acana, Zignature, Taste of the Wild, 4Health, Earthborn Holistic, and Blue Buffalo, and there are more diets linked to this specific heart disease.

Home Cooked Diets

Many people like the idea of home cooking diets for their pets. After all Food=Love and what better way to bond with your pet? There is the belief that it is safer and more natural. It is believed to be more healthful. Certain ingredients can be avoided (such as grains, preservatives, and by-products) as well as specific proteins (i.e. beef or chicken) and fat. There are philosophical views that owners want to follow such as vegetarian, organic, or raw. Some pets refuse commercial diets due to learned behavior or food aversion.

Home cooking can be problematic due to not getting the correct proportions of proteins, carbohydrates, and fats let alone important vitamins and trace minerals that are needed. It can be done, but it is not advisable to go it alone. Employ a veterinary nutritionist to help custom formulate and balance a diet based on your pet's life stage, breed, health conditions, and preferences. Vet

nutritionists spend time going over a health and diet history with an owner. They can spend several hours formulating a recipe to be made by the owner.

This is a fee for service endeavor. Some options are: Petdiets.com & BalanceIT.com.

Food Allergies

The most common food allergies for dogs are beef, dairy, chicken, lamb, soy and rarely wheat and corn. The longer a diet is fed, the more of a possibility that an allergy could develop. It takes time for the immune system to (over) react.

Hypoallergenic Diets

It is best to feed one protein source at a time until there is a problem. That way you can then switch to a new (novel, never before eaten) protein source unrelated to the first. For example, chicken and turkey or beef and bison would be closely related proteins. The problem with over-the-counter Limited Ingredient Diets is that they often are contaminated with other protein sources (even just left-over in the machinery used to make the food) that will cause the allergy! It needs to be a strictly new, one source protein diet.

An alternative to a novel protein diet is a hydrolyzed protein diet. Hydrolysis breaks down proteins into more manageable small sizes that are unrecognizable by the immune system and

therefore no allergic reaction is triggered.

The technology, standards, and quality control needed to make these foods leads to a higher cost. But these are therapeutic diets that need strict manufacturing procedures under the guidance of veterinarians and nutritionists. It is dietary treatment for disease.

Breaking News

A new diet that is about to be released will address environmental (skin) allergy and food allergy. It is Hill's Derm Complete. It will be a prescription diet. It is used to treat dogs with allergic dermatitis(atopic skin disease) and/or food allergy. It improves the health of the skin barrier which contributes to decreasing exposure to allergens and reaction to them. It uses egg as the protein source.

For more information on nutrition consult these veterinary sources: 1) your veterinarian, 2) www.petfoodology.org, 3) www.acvn.org American College of Veterinary Nutrition, 4) www.petnutritionalliance.org, 5) wsava.org/nutrition-toolkit. Not online bloggers and reviewers who get paid by pet food companies

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YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

Three lessons

Natalie Unger

Lesson One

Admittedly, I was unsure of what to expect, but at least I brought myself.

I was living out a wonderful childhood dream. I had experience with horses when I was ten or so. These ventures would take place in limited amounts of time spent whereas I am still an adult who considers horses as mystical creatures, but I finally got an opportunity to live that childhood dream. How that came about I'll save for another story. Suffice it to say, the price of the lessons was the article you're about to read...

One of the first things I had to do was find the horse I was riding and get him brushed before the lesson his name was Wesley. Apparently, General Custer said that if you could not feed your horse, at least brush him.

Mike's farm has tons of animals. They all have the names of Star Trek characters. I had recently binged on Star Trek Voyager so this was a great reference for me. I have since started Star Trek Next Generation and realize what kind of character Wesley the horse is named after. Mike consistently reminds me Wesley has a heart of gold, as I assume the character Wesley does on the show.

However, Wesley, like every other creature, can be a bit naughty sometimes. Wesley, as bay, is darker than Kit and Scott, who are chestnuts (so Wesley is the 'dark horse' of the group you could say) and is a tad smaller than the other two. I have feeling that he is watching me as I brush him. We look at each other from time to time. I guess he is just making sure I am brushing him correctly.

Once the brushing is complete, Mike shows me what we put on Wesley so I can ride him. There is a white cotton layer, a gel layer, and then the English Saddle. Mike gets the bridle on and we head outside to the arena for lesson 1.

Considering this was my first lesson, Mike has attached a long

rope to Wesley which I later learn is called a 'Lunge line.' Mike is leading the show. I learn what two-point is and well, my calves will not have any trouble remembering what that is. Mike suggests that I pull on Wesley's mane to help keep balanced. I, for one, do my best not to because I know what it is like for someone to pull my hair. The longer my legs could stay in two points was eleven seconds that first lesson. Later, I learned how to hold the reins correctly and what it is like to be a Dairy Queen - where I have to balance myself while raising one hand and waving at an imaginary crowd.

It seemed like almost every other sentence out of Mike's mouth was on the importance of the leg in ridding - without it, I would never be more than a passenger. To be a rider, one had to be able to use one's legs, and the Dairy Queen position was just the first step in developing my legs.

It was a great first day for me.

I asked after the lesson if I was supposed to be wearing a helmet. He said, "Yep, you were." I have got to remember that helmet, I think to myself. Once the bridle and the saddle are taken off, I give another brushing down for Wesley. Once done, I gave Wesley a peppermint, a nice long pet, and turn him out with his buddies.

Before I leave, I pet Will, one of the barn cats. I was nervous petting him because he likes to play bite. Mike relayed to me that Will had been raised by someone how used to shove their hands into his face, thinking the play biting was cute, until it wasn't; then they abandoned Will behind the post office where Mike found him. Mike showed me how to pick Will up without him biting me, and when I did, Will just went limp and purred. I purred back. As I was snuggling with Will Mike came into the tack room and asked if I was aware my car is still running. I was mortified. I was so excited for the first lesson that I forgotten to turn it off when I arrived!

Lesson Two

I turn in to park on Mike's Farmette and am immediately greeted by Mike's tow dogs, Troy and Jake. They remember me from last time, so both are wagging their tails. I turn off the engine this time and get out to be welcomed by Jake's Jack Russell muddled paws and wagging tail.

Mike kindly reminds me that horses will not be as excited to see me as the dogs do. I make the horses work and not the dogs.

I go and get Wesley again. I brush him with his eyes checking on how I am doing. Once again the lesson is all about stitching my calves in what Mike calls the 'two-point position' and practicing my balance. When my calves hurt, Mike lets me sit down. But Mike must have a sixth sense, for just when they begin to feel better, it's back into the two-point position. By the time the lesson is over, my legs are killing me. Mike smiles when I tell him that. "Then my job is done," he says. "No pain, no gain." I hobble to the car and make a mental note to bring Advil next time.

Lesson Three

For the first time, Mike lets me go get Wesley by myself, and gives me three large carrots to bribe Wesley to come along. He tells me that it's important the horses can't see these treats before I give them, or they will mob me. And at 1,200 pounds each, I could get hurt. Mike said before I walked into the pasture that he would be watching me, and yell if I was doing anything wrong.

Mike tells me to be careful not to get crowded by the horses, and a gentle as his three horses are, one may run while I have one on the lead line, and before I know it I could be dragged by Wesley. When I reach Wesley, I give him a carrot and begin to head to the barn. I notice Scott has flanked me on my left. I try pushing him away with hand. Again, Mike stressed how important it was not to be a part of a horse sandwich: Horse, Human, Horse. Scott finally gets the picture and goes away.

Once again, Wesley gets his brushing. I break another carrot again and give half to Wesley



Learning to ride as an adult can be fun and rewarding - provided your horse understands that it is his job to take care of you.

before we start. I leave the other in his view, so he knows he'll get a treat when he's done being brushed and saddled. As I'm beginning to learn, there is a right way, and a wrong way to just about everything when it comes to horses, even brushing. Mike tells me to use longer strokes because horses like long strokes, not short, stubby ones. It was clear by Wesley's ears, which Mike reminds me to always notice, that Wesley agreed.

Mike helps me with the bridle again, although this time he explained to me the correct way to put it on, promising me that sooner rather than later that would be my job.

The three of us go to the arena and once again we commence practicing my two-point position. Unlike the first two lessons however, I'm able to stay in the position longer, so Mike ups the ante, and lesson three become lesson one in proper ridding position. "Sit straight, move more back in the saddle, feel the horse moving." Mike gets me into what is called a jumping position and I get to do my first trot with Wesley. I love it! I have smile never wanting to falter, then we stop. Mike asks me to tell him who stopped me. I thought it was Mike because I was a bit out of breath. Oh, no! It was Wesley. Wesley did it a second time when I was out of breath. He is such a smart boy!

Once my calves start to hurt, I think it's time for the lesson to end, but Mike leads me into another, smaller field and unlatches the lunge line. I am free to roam with Wesley.

I notice I can't get too close to the fence because there are some tree branches in my way, yet not in Wesley's way. Mike says if I don't pay attention, Wesley will, for fun, get me closer to the fencing where the branches may hit me by surprise. For the most part, I get in the jumping position where from my torso and up are parallel with Wesley's neck, so it isn't horrible when the branches are near. I think a funny thought, "I am doing the limbo with Wesley."

Sadly, the time comes to end the lesson and go to the barn. I brush Wesley down and give him another carrot. Wesley of course is more than happy to partake of it!

I am ready to say goodbye to Wesley in his pasture, but he keeps checking my hands with his soft nose. I tell him I have no more treats for him. I open my palms as proof to him. He doesn't believe me and checks again, and again, and again. As I hobble to the car on my sore legs, I make a mental note to bring a whole bag of carrots next time.

I drive home, smelling of horses. The smile never left my face.

To read other Young Equestrians articles, visit the author's section of emmitsburg.net.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Catoctin Mountain Park recruiting volunteer camp hosts

Catoctin Mountain Park is recruiting volunteers to serve as camp hosts at overnight facilities during the 2021 season. Camp hosts are needed for Owens Creek Campground and Camp Round Meadow/Poplar Grove Youth Campground.

Volunteers must be able to supply their own camper or RV. Camp hosts are needed May through October with a minimum commitment of one month. Preference will be given to applicants who can commit to a longer period of time.

Camp hosts serve as volunteers in the National Park Service's Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) Program and assist

park staff with campground operations. Hosts provide a variety of information to visitors to ensure a safe and positive park experience.

Camp hosts will: Perform routine custodial duties and minor maintenance; Perform grounds maintenance; Review camp rules and regulations with campers; Enforce quiet hours; Respond to camper questions and concerns; and Report or address wildlife pest concerns.

Requirements include: a valid state driver's license, ability to perform general custodial and minor maintenance duties including mowing and leaf blowing, ability to greet and share information with park visitors and ability to pass

a background check. Hours are flexible, but volunteers will be expected to work 32 hours per week, including weekends (Friday – Sunday).

Volunteer camp hosts will be provided with electricity and water hookups, laundry facilities and volunteer shirts, hats and nametags.

Are you interested? Apply at volunteer.gov; Send us an email at cato_superintendent@nps.gov; or, call the visitor center at 301-663-9388 to request an application.

Owens Creek Campground is a small campground for families and individuals. It is nestled in the woods at Catoctin Mountain Park. There are 49 sites

suitable for tent camping and small trailers. Public restrooms and hot showers are available. Reservations are accepted online through Recreation.gov.

Camp Round Meadow is a four-season camp that includes four dormitories, a dining hall with a commercial kitchen, a gymnasium and conference room. The facility accommodates a maximum of 120 people. Originally used from 1939 to 1941 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the camp also operated from 1965 to 1969 as the first Job Corps Center in the United States. Reservations are accepted online through Recreation.gov. The camp host for Camp Round Meadow will also

assist at Poplar Grove.

Poplar Grove is open to adult-supervised, organized youth groups whose members are under age 18. The primitive campground offers three sites. Each site accommodates up to 25 people. Groups share vault toilets, water and a pavilion. Each site has picnic tables, grills and a fire circle. Groups provide all personal convenience items. Reservations are accepted online through Recreation.gov.

To learn more about Catoctin Mountain Park and the camp facilities, please visit the park website at: www.nps.gov/cato/plan-yourvisit

Adams Economic Alliance announces Chirp Grant Program

Adams Economic Alliance, with support from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, has opened a grant program—designed to help tourism and hospitality businesses.

The COVID-19 Hospitality Recovery Program (CHIRP) will provide \$1.16 million in state funding to qualifying Adams County businesses. The program is part of a larger \$145 million statewide initiative recently announced by Governor Tom Wolf to help sustain Pennsylvania's ailing tourism sector amid the pandemic.

"We welcome applications from Adams County businesses whose livelihoods focus on eating, drinking and sleeping as their primary functions,"

said Robin Fitzpatrick, Alliance President. "This program is designed to help these vital businesses hang on through the pandemic, until travel can safely resume at the level that its once again a lifeblood to Adams County's beloved, historic and renowned tourism industry."

"COVID-19 has devastated the Adams County travel industry which produces over \$735 million annually to our local economy," said Norris Flowers, Destination Gettysburg President and an Alliance Board Member.

Hospitality businesses with a NAICS code beginning with 721 or 722 are eligible.

Applicants must demonstrate that gross receipts for the first, second, third

or fourth quarter in 2020 were reduced by at least 25% for that same period in 2019. Qualifying businesses must employ less than 300 full time equivalent employees.

Grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 are available in increments of \$5,000. Additional information, including the application, is located online at adamsalliance.org/chirp. Business owners with questions may contact the Alliance via email at hospitalitygrant@adamsalliance.org.

It is the mission of the Adams Economic Alliance to develop and implement creative community-based strategies to enhance economic opportunity and foster a dynamic framework for balanced growth and development

through the Adams County Economic Development Corporation, Adams County Industrial Develop-

ment Authority and Adams County General Authority. For more information, see adamsalliance.org.



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HEALTH NOTES

Frederick Health recognized for nursing excellence

Kelsey Shupe
Frederick Health

Frederick Health recently achieved Magnet recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The ANCC is the gold standard for nursing excellence, positive practice environments, and high-quality patient care. This is one of the top honors a health care organization can achieve from the ANCC.

Frederick Health now has the distinction of being one of the only 9 acute care hospitals in the state of Maryland, placing our organization in the top 9% of 6,000 hospitals nationwide.

“We are very proud of our nursing staff and our entire team’s hard work and dedication,” says Cheryl Cioffi, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, NEA-BC, FACHE, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Frederick Health.

In regard to patients, Frederick Health was recognized for nurses putting patients and their families at the

forefront of care.

“At the center of our professional practice model is Frederick Health’s care delivery model: patient and family-centered care,” says Denise Owen, Magnet Program Director at Frederick Health. “Our nurses keep the patients and their families at the center of their daily care. We believe that the gifts of hope, confidence, and safety that our nurses offer patients and families can only come from a workforce that feels hopeful, confident, and safe. Joy in work is an essential resource for the practice of nursing.”

Frederick Health nurses were also credited with patients experiencing fewer complications and lower mortality rates. And, Frederick Health nurses also received higher satisfaction scores.

Frederick Health submitted more than 3,500 pages of evidence to the ANCC describing their nursing practices and positive patient outcomes. They described how nurses identify

and improve processes, address the organization’s strategic priorities, are involved in the design and implementation of technology to enhance the patient experience, and improve workflows and the work environment. Nurses also identified Frederick Health as a supportive work environment where they are empowered, leadership is visible and accessible, nursing practices are based on evidence, and nurses can advance professionally.

The ANCC was especially impressed with how collaboratively all departments work together to achieve the health system’s mission “to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community.”

“This designation is a celebration and validation of the amazing work our nurses do every day,” says Jamie White, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, Vice President of Quality Assurance and Patient Experience at Frederick Health. “It is a symbol of quality care



for the community to be proud of as well.”

Congratulations to the talented Frederick Health team for achieving this prestigious honor. This award wouldn’t have been possible without their hard work and dedication. To learn more, visit FrederickHealth.org/Magnet.

COVID-19 Update

29.6% of the Frederick County population has been fully vaccinated.

101,205 first doses, 64,702 second doses, and 12,083 single doses have been administered to Frederick County residents.

The Health Department is now reporting that 19,215 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and 305 people have confirmed COVID-19 as cause of death.

All Marylanders 16 and older will be eligible to schedule appointments and get vaccinated through all providers. Please note that the health department primarily has Moderna vaccine, which is approved for people 18 years and older.

Frederick County Leases Fourth Location for High-Volume Vaccination Site.

Frederick County’s newest high-volume vaccination clinic will open at the site of the former United Healthcare office on Oak Street in Frederick on Saturday, April 24. The location will be operated by the Frederick County Health Department and County staff, and supported by the State of Maryland with additional allocation of doses. County Executive Jan Gardner signed a lease this week for 54,000 square feet of the building. The site will allow at least 4,000 or more people to be vaccinated per day, about twice the capacity of existing clinics.

“I am excited to be able to have a larger space to accelerate our vaccination efforts as more vaccine becomes available,” Executive Gardner said. “Thanks to our great partnership with Frederick Community College, which continues to provide space for our clinics, we have been able to administer first doses to about half of all the adults in Frederick County.”

Any appointments scheduled at Frederick Community College or the Scott Key Center will still be vaccinated at those locations.

Individuals who are 16 years and older can pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine at the Maryland statewide pre-registration system <https://onestop.md.gov/preregistration>. Appointments are required at Frederick County Health Department COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Frederick County residents who need help scheduling their appointment can call the Frederick County Appointment Line at 301-600-7900 or 301-600-7905 for help in Spanish Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Maryland COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center is also available at 1-855-MDGOVAX (1-855-634-6829) every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Catoctin students advocate for mental health awareness

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

Mental Health Awareness Month is here, and the community is honoring the occasion through a variety of activities leading into and throughout the month of May. Hosting these activities, Catoctin High School's Mental Health Awareness Club encourages the wide participation of students, staff, and other locals of the Catoctin area. The club was created in 2020 by two freshmen with a shared concern for the lack of support around mental health in the school and community. The Mental Health Awareness Club now has 20 members, including myself, that are all determined to promote self-care and dismantle the stigma around mental illness.

It is a clear consensus among the Catoctin community that there must be more outreach for those struggling with mental illness. We have witnessed the tragic loss of members of our community due to suicide, and the damaging effects of the lack of awareness towards mental illness. It is crucial that self-care is prioritized and a system of support is established. The Mental Health Awareness Club strives to construct this support system through events, contests, informative and inspirational online posts, and other approaches.

These Mental Health Awareness activities serve to promote healthy habits, including sobriety and healthy sleep schedules. CHS has partnered with the Thurmont Addictions Commission to host the 4th annual Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest throughout April, to spread awareness of the negative effects of substance abuse and addiction. The submitted posters were to be displayed at the high school during and following the contest for substance abuse education and awareness. Winners are to be announced

April 30th and will receive a monetary prize of the following: First Place--\$100, Second Place--\$75, or Third Place--\$50. The Mental Health Awareness Club also held a "Healthy Sleep Challenge" this past April, where CHS students submitted a log of their sleep routine each day for a week. With 25 selected winners, each submission was a chance to win one of 25 prizes. These prizes included a weighted blanket, sleep masks, a memory foam pillow, fuzzy socks, a sound soother, dream journals, and several other items to encourage healthy sleep.

Perhaps the club's most significant activity is the "Be Kind to Your Mind" Virtual Wellness Challenge that is currently underway.

In another initiative, the club will be sharing one informative and inspirational Google Slide every day throughout Mental Health Awareness Month. There will be 31 slides in total, with a different theme for each day of the week. "Celebrity Sundays" will tell about a celebrity who has been affected by mental illness. "Mindfulness Mondays" will share techniques to practice being mindful, present, and aware. "Togetherness Tuesdays" will focus on different clubs, support groups, and networks in Frederick County that support mental health in any way. "Wellness Wednesdays" will advertise any sort of wellness activities or resources. "Thankful Thursdays" will reflect on how we can practice gratitude and why it is important for our men-

tal health. Finally, "Community Spotlight Fridays" will focus on an agency, person, or resource that is especially notable in relation to mental health. These slides will be promoted on different platforms, including our social media pages.

Perhaps the club's most significant activity is the "Be Kind to Your Mind" Virtual Wellness Challenge that is currently underway. The purpose of the event is to present a reason to get active and support our physical, emotional, and mental health. The wellness challenge was originally planned as a 5K that would take place in May of last year, but was unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic. Although it is no longer a 5K, the event is now ready to take off in a virtual setting a year later for Mental Health Awareness Month. The challenge is to "run, walk, skip, meander, or dance your way to logging miles." Daily challenges will be posted on the event's website throughout May. Awards will be given out to the participants who have logged the most miles, and there will be giveaways for active involvement.

The top 200 participants will be determined by both the amount of miles and frequency of logs, and will be awarded a finisher's medal. Total miles will be tallied on May 31st, and the winners will be announced shortly after. Registration is free and is still open to the public. By registering, you are able to log activities and take part in the event. To register, participate, and find more details, you can access the "Be Kind to Your Mind" Virtual Wellness Challenge website at chsbekindtoyourmind.weebly.com. The website will display photos of the event posted on social media.

Those considering contributing financially to our club can choose to donate, fundraise, or purchase promotional products or gear from the swag shop on the virtual wellness challenge website. You



can also contribute by sponsoring the event so that the club can bring more self-care incentives to Catoctin High School. "As a sponsor, you not only help to fund the challenge, but you are also directly impacting mental health in our community," the site reads. "The students who participate in the Mental Health Awareness Club are driven and motivated toward improving our community, particularly in addressing mental health and addiction needs. Without you, our impact is limited." The club is grateful to our sponsors that have contributed \$500, earning the title of "Gold Sponsors": Milton Hershey School, the Car Care Crew at washluberepair.com, and the Frederick County Health Department--as well as our "Silver Sponsors" that have contributed \$250: Baker Tree

Services, Inc., Thurmont Little League, and Winterbrook Farms--and our several "Bronze Sponsors" who have contributed \$100. The club appreciates their contributions and those of the many others who have donated. Sponsorship opportunities and forms can also be found on the chsbekindtoyourmind.weebly.com website.

If you'd like to support us online, you can help our social media presence grow by following and interacting with us online. You can find our Facebook page at @CHSMHAC, our Twitter account at @CatoctinMHAC, and our Instagram account at @catoctinmhac. These accounts actively provide updates on upcoming activities, share informative posts regarding health, and (re)post encouraging reminders and lessons about self-care.



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HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman

Chapter 34

Bicentennial Celebration — 1951

The Bicentennial Celebration of 1951 was, without a doubt, one of the greatest celebrations ever staged by the citizens of Thurmont. When a community such as Thurmont, reaches its 200th birthday, it's time for a celebration.

It all began in the Spring of 1951, when a group of civic-minded citizens called a community meeting to discuss plans and begin preparations for a gala week-long celebration and homecoming. The response to this meeting and the interest shown in the celebration from its inception to the thrilling climax, was the reason for its tremendous success.

The first order of business was to select a Steering Committee to shoulder the many responsibilities pertaining to such a celebration. The following citizens were appointed: Howard R. Damuth, General Chairman; D. Saylor Weybright, Vice Chairman; S. Elmer Barnhart, 2nd Vice Chairman; George W. Wireman, Secretary; Edgar B. Palmer, Treasurer

General Chairman, Howard R. Damuth, called many meetings and followed closely the progress of the committees. After many weeks of hard work, Chairman Damuth called a special meeting of all committee chairmen on July 17 at which time last minute de-tails were discussed and attended to. By Saturday, July 21, the town was buzzing with activity for the long-awaited celebration was just a day away.

The streets and business places were gaily decorated with flags as were many of the individual homes. Many former residents of Thurmont had returned for the celebration, visiting with relations and friends. The many and varied decorations, window displays and exhibits attracted visitors and residents alike, and even tourists passing through stopped for a stroll before continuing on their journey.

Sunday, July 22

The first day of the celebration was ushered in with special church services conducted by the churches in the community. Those who took part were: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Stephen's, Harriet Chapel, Evangelical United Brethren, St. Johns Lutheran, Thurmont Meth-

odist, Church of the Brethren, Trinity Reformed and Apple's Church.

From Noon to 3 former residents and visitors to the community, visited the Firemen's Hall where they were officially registered. Registration committee members enjoyed their job and renewed many old friendships.

By 3 a large crowd had gathered at the site of the old Town Hall, for the dedication ceremonies of the new Firemen's Hall.

Preceding the program, Mrs. E. G. Miller of Boonsboro, Maryland, gave an organ recital, and her daughter Betty, rendered several enjoyable accordion solos.

D. S. Weybright, President of the Guardian Hose Company, acted as Master of Ceremonies. The Rev. Charles H. Corbett, St. Johns Lutheran Church gave the invocation. Members of the Building Committee, the Bicentennial Queen and Her Court, visiting firemen as well as County and State officials present were recognized and introduced. Howard R. Damuth, Vice President of the fire company, presented a historical sketch of the company from its beginning in 1887 to the present.

Governor, Theodore R. McKeldin then dedicated the new \$40,000.00 building and delivered a most inspiring address, "Here Is America." He pointed out that it was events such as this, held all over America, that combine to make this nation of ours great. James Fisher sang a solo, "God Bless America" after which the ceremonies closed with the benediction by the Rev. Edouard Taylor of Trinity Reformed Church.

Open House was then conducted by the local firemen and light refreshments were served. Following the dedication Governor McKeldin and his party, accompanied by a small group of local citizens, mostly members of the Bicentennial Committee, walked about the town viewing the many window displays and exhibits of old relics of days gone by.

The group then visited Cozy Restaurant where they were entertained and served a delicious ham supper. The proprietor, Wilbur Freeze, presented the Governor with a large Maryland cured country ham.



The crowds turned out in full force for Thurmont's 1951 bicentennial celebration. (Special thanks to Mayor John Kinnaird for out two photos. To see other historical photos of Thurmont we encourage you to visit www.thurmontimages.com)



The first day of the celebration closed with vespers and a hymn sing in the beautiful little Memorial Park. The program, getting underway at 7:30 P.M., was under the supervision of Rev. Ivan G. Naugle, who presented a most inspiring service. The program included singing by the congregation; musical selections by the choirs of the various churches; a trombone solo by Luther Robinson, Jr.; solo by Miss Patsy Shook, and a lesson from the scriptures.

Monday, July 23

Only two events were scheduled for Monday, but everyone turned out for them. The soaring temperatures failed to keep any-one home or from joining Louis A. Jones, who served as lecturer on a tour of the many points of interest in and around the community. Included in the tour was the Match House, Webster's Spring, Catocin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls, Tresselt's Fish Hatchery, the Floyd Akers estate where Herbert Hoover visited on occasions, Jungland Snake Farm, Weller's Church and the old Weller home-stead.

In the evening, the Thurmont High School auditorium was filled to capacity for the showing of "Thurmont On Parade," a moving picture sponsored by the Thurmont Lions Club and featuring such highlights as the ground breaking ceremonies of the Thurmont Shoe Company; the opening of the farm shop during World War II; lo-cal citizens leaving their respective churches following Sunday services, and many other memorable occasions. Also included on the program was a film featuring highlights of the George Washington Sesquicentennial Celebration staged by the citizens of Thurmont in 1932.

Tuesday, July 24

Tuesday was reserved for the Bicentennial Picnic, sponsored by the Thurmont Conservation and Sportsman's Club. This event was held at the club's headquarters along the Monocacy River near Creagerstown. A very enjoyable outing with many amusements and lots of food was well attended. The Bicentennial Committee arranged transportation for those who needed it and every-

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HISTORY

one agreed that the Committee had left nothing to chance in preparing for the event.

Wednesday, July 25

Wednesday morning was reserved for the judging of the flower and vegetable gardens and the many homes and window displays. In the afternoon a large crowd gathered in the United Brethren Cemetery to pay tribute to the founder of Mechanicstown, Jacob Weller. The special memorial services were conducted by the Edwin Creeger, Jr. Post 168 of the American Legion. In honoring Jacob Weller and the other early pioneer settlers, Post Commander, Lloyd Mackley said in part:

"We pay tribute today to those strong and courageous pioneers who passed this way 200 years ago in search of a home, and finding these surroundings much to their pleasure, remained to build their homes, laying the foundations of this great community which we now claim as our own.

"Not only do we pay tribute to these pioneer settlers who have experienced untold hardships and met dangers, but in the same pride and spirit of devotion we honor their brave sons who have paid the supreme sacrifice to preserve for us this heritage and keep us free from the tyranny that threatens the world.

"As we place these flags upon the grave of Jacob Weller as a token of the sacredness of his memory, and to all the pioneer settlers, and upon the spot marked with a monument "To The Unknown Soldier," may we exemplify their devotion, and all that we note of them, in our daily living in this hour of grave responsibilities.

"To our heroic dead, before whose monument we extend this our National Emblem, may we ever likewise be devoted and reminded that they have not died in vain. May that spirit of giving the last full measure of devotion be our spirit as we continue to defend and protect her glory."

The Bicentennial Committee sponsored a buffet supper in Memorial Park beginning at 5:30 and all who attended this event will agree that there was every kind of food available and in great quantity.

Following the supper, hundreds more gathered in the park for a hand concert by the Yellow Springs Concert Band, under the able direction of Charles C. T. Stull. The band presented a most enjoyable concert, playing a wide

variety of selections. Included on the program were marches, overtures, popular numbers and several solos. During the program the band played Fillmore's march, "His Honor," dedicating it to Mayor S. Elmer Barnhart. The concert closed with the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" as everyone stood at attention. All who witnessed the concert agreed that it was one of the finest performances ever given by the band.

Thursday, July 26

The three major industries of Thurmont held open house, inviting the citizens to visit their plants and see them in operation.

The Thurmont Shoe Company presented a most interesting tour, which featured the 265 operations necessary in the manufacture of a pair of shoes. This firm produces approximately 1,400 pairs of shoes daily and over 330,000 pairs annually. There are 170 persons employed by the shoe company and the finished product is sold at 101 stores located throughout the country.

Moore Business Forms, the world's largest manufacturer of business forms of all types, welcomed the opportunity for open house, as they were new to Thurmont, having just opened the Thurmont Plant in December of 1950. The tour began in the office, where samples of the business forms printed in Thurmont were displayed and explained. The public was then invited into the factory, where they could see the various steps required in producing "the right business form for every form of business."

The Claire Frock Co., which manufactures garments sold throughout the United States and Europe provided a most interesting tour of their operations. Beginning with the first opera-

tion in the cutting room, they took the visitor through each step of manufacture. The tour concluded with a visit to the packing room where the dresses are pressed, folded and prepared for shipment. Three thousand dresses are produced daily by the company and they employ 125 persons.

Thurmont is very proud of these industries and is deeply grateful to them for providing local employment.

The Thurmont High School auditorium was the scene of a most colorful pageant, "Gateway To The Mountains," presented on Thursday and Saturday nights to capacity crowds. The pageant depicted life in Mechanicstown from the time of the early settlers to the present.

Written by Miss Laura Sylvester, the pageant was under the direction of Miss Mildred Trevvett, music teacher at the local school. The scenery which added greatly to the production was painted under the supervision of Paul R. Strine, artist and designer.

Lee Munshour acted as historian and entered in the first scene through the gateway which opened and revealed the mountain range in the background. The lighting effects in the second scene when the Indians sat around and smoked the peace pipe, made one of the most colorful scenes of the pageant. Other scenes were well arranged for the various outstanding events in the life of the early settlers.

A choir of twenty voices, directed by Miss Trevvett, contributed fitting selections throughout the pageant. Those taking part were: Jeanne Barnhart, Alice Bittner, Peggy Blair, Lucy Corl, Olive Duple, Evelyn Green, Naomi Mackley, Lois Mumford.

Thurmont High School Alumni Reunion

The Thurmont High School Alumni Association will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, June 12 at the new Thurmont Event Complex, located at 13716 Stratford Drive, which is just off of Lawyer's Lane south of Thurmont.

Due to COVID-19, masks will be required inside the complex. Social hour will begin at 5 p.m., with the meal served promptly at 6 p.m. The anniversary classes this year are those that end in 0 and 5 & 6 and 1 since we did not have a dinner last year. Several basket raffles and a 50/25/25 raffle will take place. Special scholarships

will be awarded to graduating seniors, related to Thurmont High School Alumni. The cost for the evening is \$23.00 per person, which should be mailed to Viola Noffsinger, 131 Cody Drive #33, Thurmont, MD 21788 (before May 26).

All alumnus of Thurmont High School and Catoctin High School classes (1969-1974), and friends, are encouraged to attend. Visit the alumni Facebook page: Thurmont High School Alumni Association. Questions, special reports, or other information may be sent to vmnoff@gmail.com or call 301-418-1760.

Betty Miller, Erma Rice, Bernadette Warrenfeltz, Patsy Wolfe, Harold Bittner, Raymond Boller, James Fisher, Emmert Rice, Emory Stottmyer, Daniel Weybright and Harold Weybright. Miss Madeline Buhrman was the accompanist.

There were a number of committees who worked hard on the pageant

and without their help it would not have been the success it was. Some of the committees necessary in producing "Gateway To The Mountains" were, Art and Scenery, Properties, Lighting, Stage Managers, Posters, Tickets, Ushers and many others.

Continued next month

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Taneytown in the Revolutionary War

David Buie

Last month we examined Taneytown's early involvement in the American Revolution, including the role of Jacob Good who served as captain of Taneytown's militia company. This month we will discuss a few men from Taneytown who occupied various ranks in the Continental Army.

As the war escalated, the safety and security of travel on the Monocacy Road or "Upper Road" lay in its distance from British forces occupying areas further east. Frederick County was a giant breadbasket of supplies for the American troops, and Taneytown became one of the collection points for food, clothing,

horses, and arms under the supervision of Col. Norman Bruce (1733-1811). Herds of cattle and other supplies passed through on their way to and from areas farther south. So did troops, ranging from small detachments of recruits to, on one occasion, an entire army. On May 28, 1781, "Mad Anthony" Wayne's portion of the Continental Army marched through Taneytown and camped for the night in Bruceville on its way to join Washington in Yorktown.

The voices of freedom began to be heard in the taverns of Taneytown, causing men in the area to enlist in the militia. A few men were fortunate enough to see action as members of the Continental troops which formed the

famous Maryland Line. The term "Maryland Line" referred to the quota of numbered infantry regiments assigned to Maryland at various times by the Continental Congress. These, together with similar contingents from the other colonies, formed the "Continental Line."

The concept was fundamental to the promotion of commissioned officers. Officers of the Continental Army below the rank of brigadier general were ordinarily not eligible for promotion except in the line of their colony. Henry Spalding (1757-1842) enlisted as a private in 1777 and served for three years. John Trux (1756-1831), originally from the Middleburg area, was a captain and settled in the Taneytown

area after the war. Joseph Simm Smith (1752-1822) also settled in Taneytown after the Revolution and became particularly well known as a public figure. In addition to practicing medicine, he became a justice of the peace. Jacob Sheetz (1725 -1806) served in the German Regiment, as did the unlikely Henry O'Hara (1730-1815).

Perhaps Taneytown's most famous patriot was Adam Good (1750-1813). There are a number of records of his activity during and after the Revolution. At one point he joined his brother Jacob in reporting the Tory activities of Capt. Hugh Scott (1725-1819). In early 1779, he applied for compensation for damages sustained at the hands of the Georgia Battalion (possibly during a trip to the South). In May 1779, he received payment for services as Assistant Forage Master.

From 1778 to 1779 he served as the first lieutenant in Jacob's militia company, then succeeded Jacob who died in 1783. Adam was paid for express (carrying messages to the northern part of the county) in 1779. Two years later he was charged by the grand jury in Frederick County for not fulfilling his obligation as overseer of the roads. In the 1796 election, Adam voted for the Democratic-Republican candidate Thomas Jefferson who lost to Federalist John Adams. That same year he was appointed postmaster of Taneytown, a prestigious position.

By 1790, it appears that Adam was living outside of Taneytown proper in the Piney Creek or Taneytown Hundred. The 1800 census revealed he owned four slaves. Then, unexpectedly, it appears he began having money problems and started to mortgage his slaves and sell off small pieces of property.

Adam Good was first mentioned in Frederick County records in 1769 when, at the age of 19, he acted as surety for several men applying for tavern licenses. He was referred to as a "Sadler" in 1773. After that, until 1785, the title "Captain" was used. By then, he was also spoken of as "of Taneytown." He received

his first tavern license in 1774 and renewed it through 1784. In 1773, he acquired his first town properties—Lot #21 (on York St.) from his brother Jacob and Lot #8 (the traditional Adam Good Tavern site on Frederick Street). The purchase price suggests that a tavern was already there. In 1793 he purchased Lot #3, a tavern site on the east corner of Taneytown's square from his niece and her husband, Mary and John Gwinn. He acquired Lot #90 in 1796. In 1807, he bought Lots #24 and #28 and inherited another lot from his brother, Jacob.

Adam's two marriages, both to women from prosperous families, brought some property. His first wife, Barbra Fishburn (died before 1796), was the daughter of Phillip Fishburn (a.k.a. Fishpond), a Taneytown landowner who later moved to Baltimore, suffered a financial reverse, and died in 1796. This marriage produced three children: Jacob, Barbra, and Elizabeth. His second wife was Catherine Groff (died before 1805), daughter of John Groff, a miller and landowner from the Union Mills area. From his second marriage came two daughters, Matilda (b.1798) and Rosann.

Perhaps anticipating the end of his life, Adam wrote a will on October 11, 1813; it was probated January 10, 1814. Joseph Taney, Jr. served as the executor. At the time of his death, his daughter, Barbra, lived with him but was "working chiefly for her advantage" (possibly as a seamstress). His daughters divided his property on his death, including 300 acres in Tennessee.

Taxes, inflation, disruption of trade, labor shortages—these and other factors made life hard during the war years for many in the area, and this carried over into the decade after the Revolution. Next month we will explore how Taneytown began to establish itself at the beginning of the 19th century.

David Buie is a Taneytown Resident who has a passion for Carroll County and its place in history. For more information on the history of Taneytown, visit [Downtown Taneytown on Facebook](#).

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Saturday, June 19th, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Taneytown Memorial Park, 1 Park Drive

We invite vendors to join our 9th Annual Wine, Art & Music Festival, to be held Saturday, June 19th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Taneytown Memorial Park. 1 Park Drive, Taneytown.

The vendor registration fee is \$30 for a standard 10' x 10' booth area and \$50 for a 20' x 20' booth area. We will have volunteers available to assist you with set-up and take-down, if requested. Spaces are allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. *Note: Registration fees are fully refundable should the event be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.*

If interested in participating as a vendor, contact Lorena Vaccare, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Taneytown, at 410-751-1100 ext, 108, or email Lvaccare@taneytown.org.



100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

May 7

Lack of News

News of importance seems to be very scarce this week, or perhaps we have not heard it all, which is frequently the case. We know that in bygone days we were frequently accused of not publishing the fact that John, Bill, Mary or Kate had gone on a visit somewhere that was unknown to us. We are not supposed to know and hear everything that happens in the community. So to avoid being accused again, we would kindly ask anyone who has news of importance to hand it to us, as soon as possible.

Never Kill a Snake

A snake is your best friend, says Miss Elizabeth Remington, member of the Reptile Study Society. With only two exceptions – the Timber Rattlesnake and the Copperhead, there is not a snake in America that can bite you or injure you in anyway. A snake will eat the vermin on a farm without touching green things; he will kill every rat and mouse in the cellar, he will purge a well of infection and protect your household at night by driving away deadly pests. Never kill a snake.

Women Protest Boozers' Women's Classes

Wives of members of the Former-Former Boozers Association turned out in force Saturday afternoon in front of the Chronicle offices to protest the paper's promotion of the Boozers' Women's classes. They claimed that the paper, by highlighting the courses and ongoing antics of the Boozers, was only encouraging their bad behavior. Unfortunately for the women, the paper's staff was at the time at the Boozers' class on 'How to avoid your woman's nagging'. Word of the protest only reach the staff after the question and drinking session was in high gear – at which point the staff broke out in riotous laughter over the effectiveness of the course and vowed they would continue to promote the Boozers, saying "We will not bore our readers with the dreary news womenfolk want, but ..." at which point the speaker fell down on his face stone drunk, which is why we missed the deadline.

May 14

Holdup Man Caught

Charge with being one of the four men who held up the Republican Club in Baltimore several weeks ago, Ernest Myers was arrested two weeks ago at his aunt's house near Mount Saint Mary's. The arrest was made on the day the man charged with burglary at Hanover was being chased through the mountains west of Thurmont. When it became known that an arrest was made in this section, many persons thought it was the supposed of burglar that was caught. The officers kept the arrest of Myers undercover hoping that other members of the gang of holdup man might be located.

Myers was trailed to the home of his aunt after he was seeing living his father's home in a Ford automobile. The license number of the machine was taken down and upon investigation found that it had been issued to his aunt. When they arrived at his aunt's house, they found a young man standing in front of the house. As his aunt keeps a little store, the officers made a pretense of stopping to purchase some cigars and went into the store while other officers remained outside to watch the man who they thought was Myers. The officers asked his aunt some questions and inquired if the man was Ernest Myers. At first she said she did not know but later confessed that it was her nephew. Myers was placed under arrest. He did not have anything to say.

Was Traveling Fast

The chief of police for Thurmont received a call Tuesday night from Emmitsburg to be on the lookout for a motorcycle that was headed there way like a streak of lightning. The officers were on the lookout for the machine, which had been stolen, but the driver either turned back or took a side road.

Farmer's outlook not encouraging

Local farmers will start off the season against a formidable array of discouragement. Whatever way they turn they seem to be confronted with difficulties of an unusual and tiring nature. The fruit crop has

been seriously damaged by frost and spells of freezing weather. Canning crops hold fourth little inducement, and tomatoes are practically out of consideration as an important crop.

Grain prices have tended steadily downward, with number two red Winter wheat fluctuating around \$1.50 a bushel and corn hovering around \$.70 per bushel. Live stock prices are low. And for the first time since the World War a summer surplus of milk is anticipated to do the slack demand for milk for condensed products. A winter wheat crop estimated to be the fourth largest in history and 44,000,000 bushels larger than last year's has been forecast by the Department of Agriculture.

May 21

Falls From Ladder

John Lemmon, of Harny, while preparing to erect a large sign at his place of business, had the misfortune to break one of the rounds of the ladder he was using, which caused him to fall about 10 feet, landing on the cement pavement, headfirst. This rendered him unconscious for a short time, and a large gash in the back of his head caused him to bleed fiercely. The indications are that there will be no permanent serious results.

Home Burglarized

Last Saturday while Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beard, of Thurmont, were downtown, burglars entered their home on W. Main St.. It is said that when Mrs. Beard went home about 10 o'clock she noticed flashes from the flashlight in the house. She entered by the side door and the robbers fled by the way of the front door. After investigating it was found that Mr. Beard's best suit of clothing was gone, also Mrs. Beard's fur coat and a \$10 bill that have been left in the coat. Some other articles were also missed. Tracks of a buggy thought to have been used by the thieves was followed up the mountain road, but so far no trace has been found of the stolen property.

Decorations in Taneytown

Preparations are being made Memorial Day that will be a credit to



Taneytown, and that will be bring a large number of people together to enjoy it. The exercises will be held on Monday afternoon, May 30. The Woodsboro Band, of 33 members will furnish the music. All veterans of the Civil War, and soldiers of the Spanish American and World War are invited.

Fire Destroys House

Harry Lambert's summer home was destroyed by fire about midnight, Monday night. The Taneytown fire company struggled to put out the fire as the mains where filled with mud. The muddy mains only proved what some have been saying for a while, that the mains need regular flushing to keep them in proper trim for use in case of fire. With our week or gravity pressure, it seems evident that the mud will be a handicap in the case of future fires unless the mains are attended too.

May 28

Rain Does Much Damage

During the past week considerable rain has fallen. On Thursday of last week rain fell all day and put some streams out of their banks. On Friday evening, a heavy cloud came over us from the southwest. Rain began falling about 6 o'clock and continued an hour more, at times falling in torrents. The rain was accompanied by very vivid lightning and heavy thunder. Emmitsburg was held in the grip of this

electrical storm for about 20 minutes. The factory of the Emmitsburg Broom Company was struck by lightning and caught fire. William Hayes, 18, was at the railroad depot waiting for newspapers and saw the fire start. He broke out a window in the factory, climbed in and smothered the flames with his raincoat before they can make any progress. The fire bell rang and the Emmitsburg fire department turned out but it services were not needed.

Injured By Explosion

On last Friday afternoon while George Florence and Quinn Topper of Emmitsburg were blasting out stumps on the Annan farm orchard near Zora. A blast of dynamite went off prematurely and both men were seriously injured. They had set the blast and a fuse was lighted and the men retreated to wait for the blast. After several minutes had passed and no explosion, the man went to the stump and remove the blast and placed a new one. The new fuse was lighted and an explosion followed instantly while both men were standing over the stump. Both were thrown to the ground by the force of the concussion. It was thought that a short fuse was used and after lighting the men did not have time to reach a place of safety. Mr. Topper had his left arm broken into places and Mr. Florence was badly cut about the face and head.

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

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COOKING

Blossoms, bees, and honey, please!

Kathy Jo Serfass
Hollabaugh Brothers Farm Market

As April showers, bring May flowers, the hives of honeybees kick into full gear. Here on the farm, honeybees have the very important job of pollination, and they are essential for pollinating our many varieties of apples. Having enough honeybees is so important that we even rent bees to have on our farm. In addition to apples, bees also pollinate many types of berries, vegetables, and herbs. Of course, they have no idea of this tremendous service they are doing for us. They are visiting the blossoms for another reason—food! They collect pollen and nectar, and bring it back to the hive for processing.

As bees return from foraging, they deliver the nectar to the honeycomb where evaporation of water yields a concentrated sugar product—honey. This amazing substance never spoils and has been used for thousands of years as a sweetener in food. The first arrival of honeybees in North America dates to 1622 in Jamestown. The English settlers brought honeybees with them on the voyage across the Atlantic. I'm not sure how they managed to keep the bees happy on the ship, but this demonstrates how important it was to have honey available.

While we have many choices of sweeteners today, I like the taste of honey the best. Plus, using local honey has been linked to improved health. We've kept bees for several years now at my home, and there is nothing better than harvesting honey made by your own bees. I love adding it to tea and toast, making honey butter, and finding recipes that use this golden deliciousness. Plus, it gives me an excuse to create lots of flower gardens!

Honey Muffins

Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour
½ cup sugar
3 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 large egg, room temperature
1 cup 2% milk
¼ cup butter, melted
¼ cup honey

Preparation Directions: Preheat oven to 400 oF. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. In a small bowl, combine egg, milk, butter, and honey. Stir in dry ingredients just until moistened. Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups three-fourths full. Bake until a toothpick in center comes out clean, 15-18 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan to wire rack. Serve warm.

Ham, Swiss, and Apple Quesadillas

Ingredients

2 Tablespoons Dijon mustard
4 ounces cream cheese, softened
4–10 inch flour tortillas
1 ½ cup swiss or gruyere cheese, shredded
½ lb. black forest ham, thinly sliced
1 tart apple, cored and very thinly sliced
¼ cup honey
2 scallions, finely chopped
2 Tablespoons coconut oil

For Honey Mustard

Dipping Sauce

¼ cup honey
¼ cup Dijon mustard
2 Tablespoons mayonnaise
¼ teaspoon paprika

Preparation Directions: Preheat oven to 375 oF. Line 2 sheet pans with parchment paper. Whisk together the Dijon mustard and cream cheese to a spreadable consistency. Lay out 2 of the tortillas on each pan, divide cream cheese mixture between the 4 and spread within 1 inch of the edges. Sprinkle shredded cheese over the cream cheese mixture. Add ham slices evenly over each tortilla, add the apple slices to only half of each tortilla and drizzle each with 1 Tablespoon of honey and some scallions. Fold each tortilla in half and brush with melted coconut oil. Bake for 10-12 minutes until the cheese is melted and tortillas are browned. Mix together the dipping sauce ingredients. Remove the tortillas from oven and let rest for 2 minutes, cut into wedges and serve immediately with the Honey Mustard Dipping Sauce. Note: You can cook these tortillas in a skillet or grill pan if you prefer.

Honey Dressing

Ingredients

1/3 cup white balsamic vinegar
2 Tablespoons honey
1 Tablespoon Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
2/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

Preparation Directions: Whisk together vinegar, honey, Dijon mustard, salt, and pepper. Add olive oil in a slow, steady stream, whisking constantly until smooth. Tip: This dressing goes well on a spinach salad with strawberries, onions, crumbled bacon, and blue cheese.

Spaghetti Squash with Honey Roasted Peppers, Zucchini and Crispy Goat Cheese Medallions

Ingredients

1 spaghetti squash, washed and cut in half around, not lengthwise
2 red peppers, remove stem, seeds and core and cut into thin strips
2 small or 1 large zucchini, ends removed and sliced into ¼ inch thick rounds
¼ cup olive oil, divided
2 Tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon kosher salt
8 ounces log of goat cheese
½ cup Italian breadcrumbs



If you follow the advice of our Master Gardener columnist and plant a bee garden, you will be in position to become a bee keeper, which will ensure an endless supply of honey made from the nectar of your own flowers!

1/3 cup grated parmesan
¼ cup fresh basil, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Preparation Directions: Preheat oven to 375 oF. Add ½ inch water to shallow pan and place the cut side of the squash down. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 1 hour or until squash is tender and strands easily separate. While squash is baking, unwrap the goat cheese and place in freezer so that it can get firm for slicing, about 15 minutes. Toss red peppers and zucchini with the 3 Tablespoons olive oil, honey, and salt. Spread on a sheet pan. In a small bowl, mix the bread crumbs with the remaining 1 Tablespoon of olive oil. Remove goat cheese from the freezer and cut into 12 slices. If it crumbles, just press it back together. Gently press each slice into the bread crumbs and place on a second sheet pan lined with parchment paper. When squash is done, remove it from the oven and raise oven temperature to 425 oF. Add the sheet pans of veggies to the oven and roast for 5 minutes. Then add goat cheese slices and cook for another 5-7 minutes. Remove goat cheese when they start to brown and become crispy. Take care that the cheese doesn't start to run. When the veggies and goat cheese are almost done baking, take a fork and begin to remove the strands from the squash into a large bowl. Add the veggies along with parmesan, basil, and garlic and toss to combine. Serve immediately with the crispy goat cheese medallions on top along with pepper and salt to taste.

Honey-Thyme Butter

Ingredients

½ cup butter, softened
1/3 cup honey
teaspoons fresh thyme leaves

Preparation Directions: In a small bowl, beat the butter until light and fluffy. Add honey and thyme and beat until just blended. Store in refrigerator. Tip: This is perfect on bread or rolls and works with sweet or savory dishes.

Upcoming Events

Mother's Day Make 'n Take May 8th, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join us for a special day devoted to mothers. Paint a pot, plant a flower, and show your mother how much she means to you with a hand-made card. Cost: \$10 per flower pot. Recommended for children ages 3-10. Join us anytime between 10:00 and 11:00 AM to participate. Program ends at noon. Pre-registration is required. Register online or by phone 717-677-8412. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 2 years.

6th Annual Strawberry Fest 2021 June 5th and 6th, noon - 4:30 p.m.

We definitely missed having our Annual Strawberry Festival last year and we are hopeful that this year will look just a little bit more "normal" than 2020. Our Festival is tentatively planned to feature live music from Paul Zavinsky both days from 1p.m. – 4p.m. We are also planning on having our amazing ice cream tent back up and running for the weekend so you can enjoy some delicious strawberry treats. A free strawberry craft will also be available for the kids and of course, there will no end to strawberry themed products available for purchase. Please note that these details may change as the event gets closer depending on COVID restrictions

Family Cooking Class – Strawberry Rhubarb Pie June 12th, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Join us as we use this favorite combination of classic June flavors to make a delicious pie. We will be making the crust from scratch and assembling the pie for baking when you get home or freezing for a later date. This program is limited to 4 groups, so make sure you register early to save your spot. Each family/ group will work separately so there will be no sharing of ingredients or equipment. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 2 years. With Adams County currently in the Green Phase, masks are required for anyone over 2 years old. Cost: \$45 per table*. These classes are open to ALL ages! To participate without a grownup, you must be at least 8 years old and up. Pre-registration is required. Call 717-677-8412 or visit our website to register. *Your registration for the class will reserve 1 table that can seat up to 5 people, so come by yourself or bring your family or friends!

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



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MOM'S TIME OUT

The college learning curve

Mary Angel

No matter how many years I have been a mom, there are still things for me to learn. When they were babies, the learning curve involved diapers, rashes, and food allergies. When they were in elementary school, the challenges involved math, science, and friends. Then they entered middle school and I need say no more. In high school they are teenagers and working on becoming adults. At this stage the learning curve is about puberty, dating, and grades. When they get into college, everything is simple and the learning curve is over...right?

WRONG (insert evil laugh)! The first thing I learned in the college years is that there is no way to be prepared for college. My kids (so far) have all taken AP courses, which are supposed to be college level classes. Although they are more challenging, cover more information, and move at a quicker pace, they are still high school classes. Nothing my kids could have done leading up to college could have prepared them for the academic challenges of college. I have talked to my kids' friends as well and they agreed. It took all of them at least a semester (sometimes two) to get into the swing of things. The moral of this lesson is to not be disappointed if their grades are similar to what they were in high school; it will get better.

The second thing I learned was that the old learning curves don't all disappear when they start college. The child who struggled with math in high school might struggle even more with math in college. The child who hates reading in high school isn't going to suddenly call you and tell you all about War and Peace and how much they loved the last chapter. My hope is that they each do their best in these challenges they face. Well, maybe I also hope they pass that math class that is a thorn in their side.

Some of the other lessons are college prep lessons. When your child has their heart set on a specific college and nothing is going to deter them from that laser focus, make sure they know more about the college than what they see on the college's website. When my son was in high school, a college representative came and talked about a scholarship that was a full ride if you were majoring in education. Later we found out that it wasn't quite a full ride, but pretty close. Still later, we toured the campus. The campus was located in the middle of nowhere and very institutional-looking according to my son. After the tour we spoke to someone in financial aid only to find out the scholarship was still in the planning stages and they didn't know if it was going to happen at all.

Fast forward about two years and that same son is getting ready

to finish at community college. He once again has his heart set on a college, this time in Virginia, and nothing can change his mind. I should probably explain that my son's method of finding a college is a four-step process. First he looks at the gallery of pictures on each of their websites and waits to be enchanted. After he is enchanted by the pictures, then he checks to see if they offer his major (a little backwards, I know). The third step in the process is applying to the college that meets the first two criteria. Lastly, he prays that he gets accepted and that he will get enough scholarships to make it possible. Did you notice that nowhere in his process is going to tour the school? That is yet another lesson that I learned. If there is one thing I would beg you to do, go and tour colleges. Tour as many colleges as you can, because you never know when there will be that "aha" moment.

The rest of the story is that a week before my son had to commit to a college (to guarantee housing) he went to tour that dream school. As he drove there with my husband he started to realize that it was much further than he thought or intended to go. When they arrived he quickly noticed that the pictures he saw online were not quite an accurate picture of his dream school. The disappointment grew and grew as the trip continued. With only a week to turn in a deposit, he was



no longer going to his "dream" school but instead was looking for a new dream. At this point we all regretted not touring more schools. We are now planning some extremely quick road trips to 3 other schools that were high on his list. These will not be those Hallmark Channel trips that are planned and magical, but rather "hold onto your hat" kind of trips.

As I finish writing this, my son and husband are on their way back from the "dream" school and I am getting ready to check mileage and maps to see what the next week holds for us. So, once again I encourage you to tour as many schools as you can and as early as you can. Never forget that the learning curve when you have kids

is large and ongoing. Whether it is diapers, puberty, dating, or college there is no end to the choices, education, and challenges you will face when you are raising kids. Luckily, all of those challenges come with a

ton of smiles, laughs, joy, and love. Hold on tight - it is a crazy ride!

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

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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Schools

Karen Yoho
Frederick County School Board

I had hoped I could move on from focusing on Covid-related issues by now (wishful thinking at best, I know), but if you've visited social media or listened to the radio in the past week or so, you will know that the Board of Ed definitely made the news. I'll leave that there except to say that one thing I know about the seven members of this board is that we all care deeply for the welfare of our students. We may have different ideas on where we think we need to be or how we get there, but I never doubt that each member cares.

I'm sure our three new members are at times wondering if it was a wise decision to run and be elected at this moment in history. On the other hand, I would lay a bet that they feel this is the most crucial time to be on a board of education making incredibly difficult decisions. Any motion we make, we are aware that probably half the community is going to be angry at whichever side you take.

And then the emails will pour in, so we don't have to guess who is most upset at that moment.

I'm certain Mr. Hatter will address the vote taken on Sabillasville Elementary in more detail, so I will just mention that a majority of the board voted to keep the school open for an additional year while seeking all options to maintain the future viability of the school.

Graduations will be outside this year. With a few exceptions, most will be held in the home stadium for that school. This link will take you to the graduation updates page on the FCPS website. <https://www.fcps.org/student-services/graduation-2021>. Each graduate will be allowed two guests. The Board approved a contract with a company to livestream each graduation so that extended families won't have to miss out completely. We understand it's not perfect, but it's one step towards a more normal graduation experience.

One of the main highlights of the 2021 Legislative Session was the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act. From a Maryland Association of

Boards of Education (MABE) presentation: "The 235-page bill contains comprehensive funding and policy reforms in five major policy areas, based on the Kirwan Commission's report and National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) framework intended to build a world class education system in Maryland, including: 1) Early childhood education; 2) High-quality and diverse teachers and leaders; 3) college and Career Readiness Pathways (including Career and Technical Education); 4) More resources to ensure all students are successful; and 5) Governance and accountability." Where Governor Hogan vetoed the bill last year after it was passed due to concerns about the economic situation of the state due to the pandemic, the fiscal picture is much more positive at this time. The legislature felt it could responsibly override the veto to enact the legislation.

One aspect of the revised bill is a requirement that local boards of education implement summer school programs, provide tutoring and sup-

plemental instruction, and address trauma and behavioral health issues. There is no disagreement that many students will need these services. Every local school board that I've communicated with through our state organization, MABE, is predicting a shortage of instructional personnel to staff these programs.

In my 25-year career I never once taught elementary summer school. I needed a break to refresh for the upcoming school year and my next group of students. For ten years, I applied to be part of summer curriculum writing where I was able to collaborate daily with other adult educators, not take any work home, and go to the bathroom on my own schedule. There were always a few teachers that loved teaching in the summer because of the smaller group size and shorter day to focus on critical areas of instruction. That's when only a handful of teachers and instructional assistants were needed. This new mandate will require a much larger force due to the expected needs of our students. It's refreshing to have a funded mandate for once, but the predicted lack

of personnel is posing a major concern statewide.

Between funding from the state and federal governments, as well as generous budgeting from the county, the budget our board sent to the county executive is not as unattainable as we initially presumed. What we requested in our budget was what we felt was needed. We still haven't necessarily gotten to the point of getting to our wish lists of what we would like to have. We may still have a few cuts to make, but I know our financial department is hard at work to make the most with what dollars have been put forward so far.

Finally for this month, the board did unanimously pass a motion to return our students to the classroom five days a week next year. Parents will have the option of choosing in-person or virtual instruction. Teachers will do one or the other; no one will be expected to teach concurrently with one group in the classroom and one simultaneously at home. I haven't yet heard of another county in Maryland that has made this commitment to the 2021-22 school year yet, although others are certain to join in the near future.

FASD backpack rules challenged

The Fairfield Area School District (FASD) may be evaluating an issue regarding the prohibition of students carrying backpacks into their classroom during a pandemic.

FASD senior Colby Redding, who serves as the student representative to the school board, addressed student concerns during the April 12 school board meeting regarding a renewed prohibition

on allowing students to carry their backpacks into their classrooms.

Redding pointed out the secondary school was allowed to take their backpacks to class in lieu of using lockers while the school was using a hybrid schedule (a mix of in-person and virtual education). When the school returned to solely in-person classes, the prohibition of taking backpacks into the class-

room was reinstated.

"It's a small thing, but it's just kind of frustrating for a student. Before we went to a full-day schedule, when we were on hybrid, we were told to bring our backpacks with us to and from class, instead of using our lockers," Redding stated.

The student representative further noted that being able to carry all of each day's schoolbooks and notebooks in the backpacks "actually worked a lot better (than using the lockers)," adding, "Students were not late. There was no 'I forgot something in my locker.' Hallway time was nearly cut-in-half, if not more. Now that we're back five days a week we're told

we have to use our lockers."

He said that he and other students were having trouble with understanding the reason for that, and that students have to go to their lockers multiple times a day, and squeeze in between other students in order to get what they need for the next class, noting that, "Students are in the hallways a long longer now, mingling and not social-distancing – because it's practically impossible."

District Superintendent Michael Adamek said most schools require students to use lockers rather than carrying backpacks to class for a number of reasons, including that they might carry prohibited items within their backpacks, "not saying any of our kids are bringing anything

(prohibitive) in, but (the prohibition was reinstated) just as a possibility of what anybody would bring in and keep in a backpack."

The general consensus of the board seemed to be that the backpack prohibition needed to be re-evaluated with respect to the concerns that contraband could be carried within a backpack versus the potential COVID-related health threat that may be posed by the lack of social-distancing in the halls and at the lockers.

However, the discussions regarding backpack-usage were diverting into a discussion about quarantines - without the board providing any direction to the staff regarding the backpack issue.

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LIBRARY EVENTS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

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

While the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will only be hosting its Saturday Story and Craft Hour, where members can listen to a good book and make a really fun craft, and then spend some quality time with Wee Build Imagineering, other virtual events will be taking place across the library system that members can join in on live on the systems Facebook page. These include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Frederick County Public Library

Hooray for May with warmer weather and blooming flowers! May also brings us closer to our annual Summer Read-

ing Challenge! It will be time to celebrate summer and "Rediscover the Magic" in your own back yard, our northern county communities and all of Frederick County. Explore our covered bridges, the Big Slide, and all of partner destinations from the comfort of your home. Reading and fun activities are always part of the challenge and provide an opportunity to earn badges and win great prizes! The challenge starts June 1 and runs through August 31; stay tuned to FCPL.org for additional information.

FCPL staff have been busy helping out at the County's vaccine clinics in an effort to assist county residents who want to be vaccinated. We are still hard at work providing services and resources to our customers through Personalized Picks for a customized selection of titles, an expanded catalog of digital titles that anyone can access from home, and robust virtual programming. Emmitsburg's curbside hours and phone service remain on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 - 4:45. Thurmont Regional Library offers curbside and phone service Monday - Saturday 10 - 4:45. Virtual programming can be found at FCPL.org and include the following:

- May 1, Homemade Dyes, 10 a.m.
- May 2, Kindness Challenge, 10 a.m.
- May 3, 10, 17, 24, Baby Storytime 101, 10 a.m.
- May 3, We Love Teachers! 1 p.m.
- May 5, 12, 19, Toddler Storytime 10 a.m.
- May 5, Paper Flowers, 1-1:15 p.m., Kanopy Digital Spotlight, 7 p.m.
- May 6, Silly Eggheads, 1 p.m.
- May 7, 14, 21, Preschool Storytime 10 a.m.
- May 7, Natural Suncatchers, 1-1:15 p.m.
- May 8, Cardboard Tube Craft and Picture Book Recommendations, 10 a.m.
- May 10, Luna Aerial, 1 p.m.
- May 11, Dollar DIY, 1 p.m.
- May 12, Found Nature Art, 1 p.m.
- May 13, Phone Photography, 1 p.m., C.A.M. Club, 4 p.m.
- May 17, Growing Roots, 1 p.m.
- May 18, Forged by Heat and Hammer, 1 p.m., Teen Game Night: Among Us, 4 p.m.
- May 19, Adventures with Tilda, 1

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- p.m., A Primer on Plastics, 7 p.m.
- May 20, Beautiful Bluebirds, 1 p.m., Book Banter (ages 13-18), 4 p.m.
- May 21, "Glam" Camping, 1 p.m.
- May 24, Abstract Art and the Process by Mark Hatfield (ages 13-18), 4 p.m.
- May 25, Dungeons and Dragons: Let's Play! (ages 13-18), 4 p.m.
- May 27, Life Hacks Series: Public Speaking 101 (ages 13-18), 4:30 p.m.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our students to reflect on Memorial Day and what it means not only to them, but to our society

Freshman

A deep respect

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2024

Memorial Day for me has never been experienced through large town events, or even neighborhood events. Instead, I've always experienced it through my own family. I've grown up in a military family my entire life. I have moved all about the South, and even up in Maryland for a while, so my "familiarity" with my town and local community shifted all the time growing up.

I never connected that closely with my town in terms of celebrating holidays like these. I don't recall really going out to some kind of gathering on Memorial Day, hosted by a local group or church. Maybe I never looked all that hard for these events, but the reality is I just never was quite connected enough to know of these Memorial Day celebrations and gatherings that are apparently common.

Instead, for me, Memorial Day is usually pretty quiet. We never invited people over to hangout for the day. Pre-retirement from the military, my

dad always had Memorial Day off. Wouldn't a lot of people like to seize this day off as some fun holiday to invite people over, to enjoy the day, treat it like a mini Fourth-of-July? That's what I've heard about how other people celebrate Memorial Day.

Perhaps in other circles, that is how this day is treated. But in my family circle, it is quiet, like I said. We usually spend the day outside, gardening and cleaning up reflectively, and then we have dinner as a family.

Don't get me wrong, I am all for patriotic get-togethers that celebrate American freedom and the men who have fought to keep our country safe. They deserve to be celebrated, and patriotism is something worth throwing parties for.

But this day isn't a mini Fourth-of-July. It's not an alternative Veterans' day. This day is Memorial Day. This day is a memorial for men who have died serving our country. The focus is less on the freedom we enjoy in the present because of this great sacrifice, and more on the men who made the sacrifice in the first place. Grilling hotdogs and hamburgers never really seemed to do that justice for my family. So instead, it is quiet.

Hence, my family never was about that kind of overtly joyful celebrating on Memorial Day. It just never

quite seemed right. I speculate that it is because we grew up with a more intimate connection to those in the occupation that Memorial Day typically commemorates.

I watched my dad deploy multiple times growing up. He would leave for about a year at a time. Technology in the early 2000's was still in its formative stages, not nearly as refined as we have it today, which means communication with my dad, who was far overseas, was a big challenge. Skype calls were fuzzy, hard to hear, with poor connection. Phone calls were hard to hear and text messages were sent infrequently due to the demanding, all-time-consuming nature of his job. One particular year, my dad didn't have access to really any technology at all to reach out, and I recall my mom saying she had to handle, on her own, homeschooling five young children, and waiting in patient, but painful silence as she hoped to hear of the safety of her husband. He was able to give her updates once every couple of months, totaling about five times over the span of a year, letting her know he was safe. My mother handled this stress gracefully, making sure her children felt secure and safe, and taught that God was the greatest source of comfort in times like these. She took us to weekly Adora-

tion, to sit with the Lord in silence, because He would wait with us for our dad. He would support my mom in times like these, when her little kids were missing their dad, and waiting for him to come back. And when we were blessed enough to have our dad return safely, He celebrated with us. He was there throughout all these deployments, walking both with my dad, and my mom, though thousands of miles apart.

But my dad didn't always return home with everyone he left with. Some soldiers didn't come back. Some families didn't get to share the joy that my family did in seeing their dad walking to them in the airport after being gone for a year.

Memorial Day isn't for us to celebrate people like my dad. My dad has Veterans' Day to be celebrated. Memorial Day is for the soldiers who didn't come home. The ones who said goodbye to their families before deployment, and who didn't get to say hello again.

My dad has been friends with those soldiers. My mom has been an active leader in the Family Readiness Groups that support women whose husbands deploy, and helps carry the weight of life without them around. The connections my family has grown up with, knowing these families by name and the soldiers lost, have made me view Memorial Day differently. That is why Memorial

Day, to my family, is quiet. Burgers and throwing parties isn't what this day calls for. We remember, in quiet reverence, the brave soldiers who fought and died for our country. They deserve that kind of respect. They deserve the Memorial Day that's been designated on the calendar for them.

Let the veterans have their Veterans' Day, and let all the patriots share in the Fourth of July. That's who those holidays are for. But let Memorial Day be different. Reach out to those military families you might know, and see how they celebrate Memorial Day, and how it might be celebrated differently by them. If you haven't been moving as much as I have, and you're more deeply engrained in your local community, try to learn the names of those soldiers from your town who have served.

Let Memorial Day be more than an excuse to invite people over and grill burgers. Let it be respectful, commemorative, and prayerful, honoring those who died serving their country, their local communities, and their families. Those men are brave individuals who heroically gave their lives for American freedom, and deserved to be honored as such.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

Memorializing Memorial Day

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

If there is one thing every reader should know about me, it is that I am incredibly patriotic. I love this country. A secret dream of mine is to serve in the armed forces, but a medical condition prevents me from being able to enlist. As I sit squandered stateside, I try to foster that same spirit of servitude and pride. For me, that has manifested in political aspirations and a love of all things American: American history, American literature, American art, etc.

I realize that this is not the life that most American teenagers lead. Memorial Day is not Memorial Day anymore. Memorial Day was established after the Civil War, where every American was impacted by the conflict. This war is debated over heavily in society today and as we view it critically, we should also recognize how much death and destruction ravaged the entire country. Memorial Day was established because it was needed; there were so many deaths, we had to create a holiday of remembrance. As we spend the last Monday of May gathering to honor fallen soldiers in generations past and present, we should remember the sorrow and tragedy that created this holiday in the first place.

Some more patriotic, pro-military individuals may criticize those who only see Memorial Day as an excuse for a party, a department store sale, or a day off work. They would be justified in doing so, as this holiday should be celebrated to recognize the great sacrifice men and women have given to this country. However, the fact that modern society can turn Memorial Day into something other than its

intended purpose should comfort us: there is less death to memorialize.

In the late nineteenth century, every family had someone to mourn. National cemeteries had to be founded simply to create room for the bodies of the slain. People debate today about who won and lost the Civil War. From my perspective, no one won. Each side saw almost as many American deaths as World War II claimed. America lost. There are no winners when every hill and valley run with the blood of those who died. The Civil War Era is a dark period in American history, and for good reason, but we cannot ignore the tragedy and mourning that every individual experienced at this time.

I grew up in Richmond, Virginia and since stepping outside its borders, I have come to understand that my relationship with the Civil War is different than most Americans. Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy. In some ways, Richmond still is the capital of the Confederacy, not because pro-slavery movements still exist but because the city is still healing. If I could sum the Civil War up in one word, I would choose the word 'destruction'. Even though Richmond is an old city and is one of the earliest colonial settlements, you would not know it by looking around. This is because the city was set ablaze in the final days of the Civil War. The old, historic buildings that exude New England charm are a privilege that Richmond is not allowed. The scorch marks are still burned into the earth, even though you cannot see them. The spirit of Virginia is not one of Union or Confederate but one of complete and utter loss. Hollywood Cemetery is a landmark of Richmond which holds the final resting place of many leaders, presidents, and fallen soldiers. On the hillsides, you will find headstones that do not read 'army' or 'navy' like most military cemeteries have. Some headstones

say C.S.A: Confederate States of America. Their blood bleeds red too.

Growing up in this backdrop, I have always understood and appreciated the destructive power of war. This notion may be foreign to people who did not grow up in towns healing from war, even more than a century later. In a modern world where war feels very distant and impersonal, it can be easy to forget the magnitude of such diplomacy. Memorial Day should be a time to reflect on this.

The desolation witnessed in the Civil War continued into the twentieth century with both World Wars claiming the lives of sons and daughters. However, there is less death in the world. This may surprise us, as the media seems to be proliferated with images of violence and unrest all over the world, yet this is false. The world is seeing less violence. This is a trend that scholars have recorded globally where the amount of war, armed conflict, and combatant deaths have decreased. We tend to think of the World Wars being the most devastating wars ever fought and their tragic nature should not be ignored. However, the Civil War claimed more American lives than both World Wars combined. Setting aside the politicized nature of the conflict, can we reflect on how tragic that statement is? The greatest number of combatant deaths did not occur as a push for democracy, equality, and human rights in a distant country of dictatorship. It happened in our own backyard.

So, while we may spend the end of May perturbed by the lack of respect being shown by individuals who spend their holiday shopping instead of paying tribute and remembrance to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, we should supplement that with appreciation. We have grown from a time where everyone knew someone who had died in combat to a generation where most people

are simply distantly related to a veteran. The call to duty of the present-day armed forces is something we should be greatly thankful for and our Memorial Day celebrations should be reminiscent of this spirit. But we should also find solace in the shift in the tone of Memorial Day itself. Being a soldier in modern America is not the certain death that

it once was. The sacrifice being asked of soldiers is not what it has always been. One can serve their country and picture a life after their service has ended. Memorial Day is not Memorial Day anymore. Thanks be to God.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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REFLECTIONS ON MEMORIAL DAY

Junior

Poppies to remember

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

*"If ye break faith with us who die
/ We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow / In Flanders fields."*

These three lines complete the 1915 John McCrae poem entitled "In Flanders Fields." This poem is one which valorizes courage, patriotism, and self-sacrifice. Lieutenant McCrae wrote it as a remembrance of the British soldiers who died in World War I. At the very least, the conclusion of the poem demands remembrance and reverence; for the particularly zealous, it requires action.

For an education professor at the University of Georgia, this call to action was unavoidable. Moina Belle Michael, now affectionately known as "The Poppy Lady," felt called to honor her fallen brothers and instituted a nationwide campaign to popularize the use of poppies as a symbol of gratitude for those who died in battle. The campaign was one of both mental and material benefit; in addition to remembering those who died in bat-

tle, the sale of the poppies brought financial relief to soldiers and their families. Michael's goal was one intent on strengthening a certain social memory and practically providing for those who can be so easily forgotten.

A more often forgotten aspect of her movement was a poem that she wrote as a complementary response to McCrae's. In 1918, she said in her poem "We Shall Keep the Faith," "We cherish, too, the poppy red / That grows on fields / where valor led; / It seems to signal to the skies / That blood of heroes never dies." These lines answer the inevitable question of "why poppies?" We could safely point to a suggestion of convenience; McCrae, and Michael after him, focused on the poppy because that is the flower that grows on the field where fallen soldiers lay. On a deeper, figurative level, Michael points out that the crimson red of the poppy flower signifies the blood pouring from the lifeless bodies formed by courageous souls. The flower in itself, though, is strangely one of hope. The vibrant color reflects off of the sun and the thin petals gracefully fold into one another.

Both McCrae and Michael recognized that soldiers saw these peaceful flowers sitting and growing silently

as the world around them fought in frenzied anxiety. The poppies signify the refreshing, but at times dreadful, contrast between theory and practice, ideal and iniquity. It is certainly a fitting poetical tool to identify the poppy, a beautiful manifestation of the natural world, as a manifestation of what could be as opposed to the unnatural brutalities of war.

Furthermore, the poppy physicalizes the memory of those who have fallen before us in a way that some other plain object cannot. The flower serves as a catalyst to memory, which in itself is a debt of gratitude to those who have died for our sake. Memory, as a faculty of the intellect, aids us in bringing to life something that has passed. By remembering someone or something, we are identifying that person or thing as existing; if it does not exist, we could not remember it. For example, when we recall our first car, even if the vehicle was demolished into a sheet of metal decades ago, the form of the car still exists, at least insofar as it exists in our memory. While the physical matter of the car no longer exists in time, the form of the car exists.

The same is the case, in a much more profound and human sense, with those who have fallen in battle. While the matter of their bodies

is lifeless and no longer inhabits their soul, the form of the person, the person still exists spiritually. To deny this would be to accept annihilation as the fate of human persons at death, which on its own is certainly a depressing theory. The poppy is a recognition of all of this as true; while anxiety hung over the hearts of men as they fought in battle and cared so much about returning home to their families, the poppy swung back and forth in the wind without care to human ignorance and shortsightedness.

The poppy also surely serves a social tool that encourages discussion among family members and friends about the memory of their loved one lost in battle. The social dimension of memory seems to be incredibly important because it is this social engagement with memories of the past that allows for a crystallization and clarification of their content. It is certainly a natural human desire to share grief, slowly and socially. The verbalization of memories allows for the one sharing to develop the memory from a mental reality to a verbal one and the one hearing it from a possible one to an audible and certain one. Sharing memories is an act of trust and something that should be encouraged by any community

interested in exposing and mutually understanding the weaknesses of its members for the sake of personal and corporate strength. The notion of strength through weakness seems to be an overly used but poorly understood metric of development; if a building is weak, the inhabitants want to know everything that is weak about it so that the weaknesses can be recognized, addressed and reformed. The same is the case with persons and communities, especially bodies that are enduring a period of trauma in common. That which causes weakness, especially the physical and mental weakness that can come from the loss of a loved one from war, deserves to be shared with those in the griever's community; a refusal to do so, especially for a long period of time, could understandably come from a refusal to recognize reality as it is.

While death and grief are sorely parts of life itself, the poppy sways in the air, drawing searching souls closer to an embrace of loss as something dreadful but necessary. The poppy is a figure of solidarity, the same image gazed upon by the brave in battle and those who promise to keep the faith.

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

Senior

Memorial Day is...

Angela Guiao
MSMU Class of 2021

Growing up, there was this story my mom loved to tell me. And yes, I've heard it multiple times. When I was younger, I had to attend CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) classes at a local church so that I could participate in my First Communion ceremony. The church so happened to be called the church of St. Jude, and since we lived nearby, it was the church my mom usually attended. My mom is a very religious person. Whenever she had a problem or couldn't make a decision, she would go to church and pray. She strongly believed in asking the saints for help. I distinctly remember having lost my mermaid Barbie when I was a kid, and her telling me to pray to St. Anthony in order to find it. St. Anthony is the Patron Saint of Lost Things.

She often made remarks like this. She'd tell me to pray to God or one of the saints whenever I felt worried or sad. Praying brought her immense comfort. But there is one thing that she said she was scared of praying for again. And that is where her story begins.

Now this may be too much information, but my mom got married very late in her life. She spent most of her twenties and thirties single. Now, she wasn't much of a partier, or a drinker, or a smoker, or an extrovert at all really, for that matter. She was a prayer.

One day, on the way to church, we passed this graveyard in the middle of Arlington, Virginia. This particular graveyard always caught my eye when I was younger, because at

first glance, it looked like an army of identical, white marble headstones. It was quite jarring, the sight of hundreds of gravestones lined up one after another. It was unlike any other graveyard I'd ever seen.

One time, I asked my mom why there were so many headstones. And why they all looked the same. This graveyard wasn't particularly scary. It was dignified in a solemn way. Anyways, he said that it was because soldiers were buried there.

She told me how when she first came to America, she also was fascinated by the graveyard. She was born in the 60's, during the Vietnam war, but had only heard about the things that were going on. She also wasn't very exposed in the Philippines to anything war related and had rarely ever seen any soldiers in her small town. When she came to America and saw the sheer number of soldiers who have died, she did the one thing that made her feel better. She prayed. She prayed specifically to St. Jude, the patron saint of Lost Souls.

Her story goes that she would pray for the lost souls of the soldiers who were buried but not identified. After learning about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a memorial built for all the unidentified soldiers who had died during the Civil War, she believed that she should pray for those souls to find their peace. As a result, she began to have these terrifying dreams. She said that random men who she had never seen before would appear in her dreams asking her for directions. Some of the men were missing their arms, others their legs. But they all appeared to be lost. After dreaming about a man who was missing his head, she decided that instead she would light a candle for all the lost souls each Memorial Day.

Now, that memory has been buried far in the back of my brain for a while now. This is because I do not have a deep connection to the military. I was not raised in a military family, and I don't know very many people who have joined the military.

For me, Memorial Day meant summer. It meant pools opening, and discounts at my favorite stores. It meant a long weekend, usually with barbeque, and probably a trip to the beach. If I am being very honest with you, I wasn't even sure what exactly Memorial Day was a celebration for until I searched it up a few minutes before writing this very article.

Writing this article has made me painfully aware. I've realized how easy it is to forget. I wonder how many people pray for the lost souls of the war or how many unidentified soldiers there are. I wonder how many people, like me, don't know what Memorial Day is a celebration of, but continue to celebrate it anyway.

Now, in no way am I saying people should stop celebrating and stop being joyous and patriotic and proud. I believe we should do all those things because that is what our soldiers fought for: our freedom, our happiness, our opportunities to live our life the way we choose.

What I am saying is that perhaps we can do a little better. Perhaps we can find more ways to remember the fallen soldiers. Perhaps we can educate a little bit more, whether it be through our word of mouth, or through a small article like this.

Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday of May each year. It was once called Decoration Day because it was celebrated by decorating the graves of the soldiers who had died. While originally, Memo-

rial Day was dedicated to honoring those who had died during the Civil War, it eventually evolved and became the day that all soldiers who had died in all wars were remembered and revered.

For me, I think I want to carry on the tradition my mother started. While I look back and find her story somewhat silly, it does make me wonder how many soldiers have died without anyone left to

remember who they were. Memorial Day is so much more than just a day to celebrate with your family, it is also a day for understanding loss. It is a day of respect, of dignity, and of honor. And because of this, from now on, every Memorial Day, I will light a candle and pray to St. Jude.

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

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HOME DECOR

Silver linings and intentional time

Jessica Crawford, Owner
Cotton & Co Vintage Boutique

I think it's pretty safe to say, whether you're isolated at home, still working as an essential employee, or braving those front lines, this current situation is probably wearing on you. This is an extremely trying time for everyone; mentally, emotionally, and possibly financially. With the store (Cotton & Co) temporarily closed, I've been working from home and 'home schooling' my two little ones, like most parents these days. It was an overnight shake-up of life and routine and normalcy. Normally, I would focus my articles on vintage and home décor. But with the current world climate as it is, I thought I'd write more on lifestyle and how our family has been coping and surviving through these challenging times.

My husband, while his job remains 'essential', has been able to work mostly remotely from home, and we fashioned a home office in our attic for him. Like many other families out there, our family has spent over a month holed up together, weathering this

storm. And while some days are easier than others, I will say, we've had a lot of fun. This has allowed us the opportunity as a family to slow down, reconnect, recenter and refocus on one another, and spend quality and intentional time together. We've been learning new skills, that we've been wanting to learn, but always putting off too.

We've been doing our best to be creative in finding constructive ways to pass all of this time that's been handed to us, rather than allowing it to be squandered away. We live on two acres in Westminster, and have a mini-homestead. Last year when we purchased and overhauled the shop and business, that little homestead saw some serious neglect, while working out the kinks and getting settled into life as business owners.

This current slow-down period, has given us the opportunity to get our 5,000 Ft² vegetable garden tilled and prepped. As part of our home studies, we spend a few hours a day outside, in the sunshine. The kids love learning about gardening and seed planting and imagining all the delicious ways they're going to prepare and eat all the food they've planted,

once it's ready to harvest. One major lesson I have learned over my eight years as a parent, is the vast benefits of involving children in the production of their food. The more involved they are in the process of planting, growing, harvesting and preparing their food, the more adventurous and diverse their appetites, palettes and diets will be. Even if this means, just a couple of pots on the front stoop with some herbs and tomatoes.

Every Spring, we also make Dandelion Jelly and Wild Violet Jelly. Both flowers are likely blooming in your yards right now. Both the leaves and blossoms of these plants are edible, and can be prepared in many ways. Dandelions make a sweet jelly, that tastes remarkably like honey. Wild Violets make a hot pink jelly with a mild, sweet, floral taste. These are great recipes to do with children, because they can either be completed in stages, or done all at once. It also offers a great outdoor activity, which children need in their daily routine. And additionally, it offers a memorable bonding experience, teaches a new skill, and they'll feel a huge sense of pride in the finished product. Plus it's fairly inexpensive to make, as you're foraging the main ingredient. If you're interested in these recipes, check out our Facebook and Instagram pages (@CottonAndCoVintageBoutique), I posted them there for reference.

I'm also a huge advocate for backyard poultry, as a way to connect children to their food. In terms of a farm animal, they're easy to raise, and are a lot of fun. Over the years, we've raised turkeys and meat chickens for food, and have maintained a flock of hens and ducks for egg production. During this time of home isolation, we got a round of ducklings and chicks, and our children help take care of the animals. As always with anything, you'll want to do your research first. On compatible breeds, habitat and materials required to raise the animals, whether or not your community allows chickens, etc.. But raising



Kids love learning about gardening, seed planting, and imagining all the delicious ways they're going to prepare and eat all the food they've planted. Not to mention, soaking up some rays and Vitamin D is one of the best ways to clear one's head. Every spring, we make Dandelion and Wild Violet jelly. To purchase these incredible tasting jellies, visit our Facebook page at @CottonAndCoVintageBoutique.

backyard birds has always been an educational and rewarding experience for our family.

The kids have also been begging for about a year to learn bread making. Which for me has always seemed to be this big mountain to climb, and skill to learn. I love to cook, and cook most meals for our family, but bread-making has always felt like a mental hurdle. Until this forced time to slow down. We got our hands on a large bag of yeast, and have been slowly chipping away at bread recipes from friends and family over the past month. It's been a great skill to learn and master together as a family.

One of the biggest ways we've been finding joy in all of this, is removing ourselves from the confines of the walls of our house, and getting outside into the sunshine. Soaking up some rays and Vitamin D is one of the best ways to clear your head. Send the kids outside

as much as possible. Pour yourself a hot cup of tea or a glass of wine, and join them. We happen to have a delicious line of loose leaf teas in the shop, and we can ship most small items now too.

This is all hard. Everyday can feel like a rollercoaster, that you can't get off, with no end in sight. But we are trying very hard, as much as possible, to focus on the positive that is around us. The little silver linings and hidden life lessons, buried in this whole experience. Follow along with us on social media, Cotton and Co Vintage Boutique. In between sales albums, new merchandise and projects, we are also focusing on lifestyle, and surviving this experience together, with posts to inspire and offer fun activities and ways to spend your time. Stay healthy, we can't wait to see everyone when this is over.

To read past Home Decor articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Thurmont Little League kicks off 70th season

Ryan Tokar

After months of planning, Thurmont Little League's opening day arrived on Saturday, April 10th. Unfortunately, due to several days of rainy weather the full slate of games scheduled for the day were forced to be postponed. However, despite the soggy conditions, and lack of games, the league proceeded with the festivities and a wonderful time was had by all.

The day started off with a welcoming address by League President Keith Myers, who kicked off the 70th season of TLL baseball. In an effort to socially distance, and help with crowd control, the league held dual ceremonies this year. At 10 a.m. players from the T-ball and Instructional divisions were introduced along with their Coaches and Team Moms. The second round of introductions were held at 3:30 p.m. for the Minor and Major divisions.

On hand to throw out the first pitch for both ceremonies was Sherry Myers, owner of Thurmont Kountry Kitchen. Selected for the amazing work that her family has done for the community, Sherry stated "I felt so honored as I stood on the field representing our business. It was so awesome to see all the players walk across the field as they were introduced." After receiving her ball in a commemorative holder for display, Sherry was kind enough to present the league with a donation.

Next, the National Anthem was sung by Allison Balanc, who hon-

ored our country with a beautiful rendition. Players Carson Fry, Ethan Tokar, and Connor Smith led all players in reciting the Little League Pledge, while Luke Humerick and Pam Eyer led everyone else in the Parent/Volunteer pledge. To close the ceremony, league VP John Code thanked everyone for coming and also recognized the many volunteers who have made the league so successful over the past 70 seasons. A special moment of silence was held for one of those individuals, Ronnie Eyer, who passed away in December. The Thurmont Yankees Minor and Instructional teams will be playing in his honor this year.

After the ceremonies, families and players stayed around to enjoy delicious BBQ by The Sauced Savage, ice cream from Antietam Dairy, and many other treats from the TLL Concession Stand. Pivot Physical Therapy and Thurmont Cub Scouts were on hand with tables to provide information about their services. Other highlights of the day included a photo booth complete with balloon archway and fun photo props courtesy of Carrie's Craft Room.

Fundraising is always a big part of the opening day ceremony, and this year was no exception due to the loss of revenue from missing out on last season due to Covid-19. The community showed up in a big way to support the league this year, as the basket raffles and spirit wear tables generated over \$7,000 for the league. People were excited to get their TLL t-shirts, masks, hats, and hoodies and

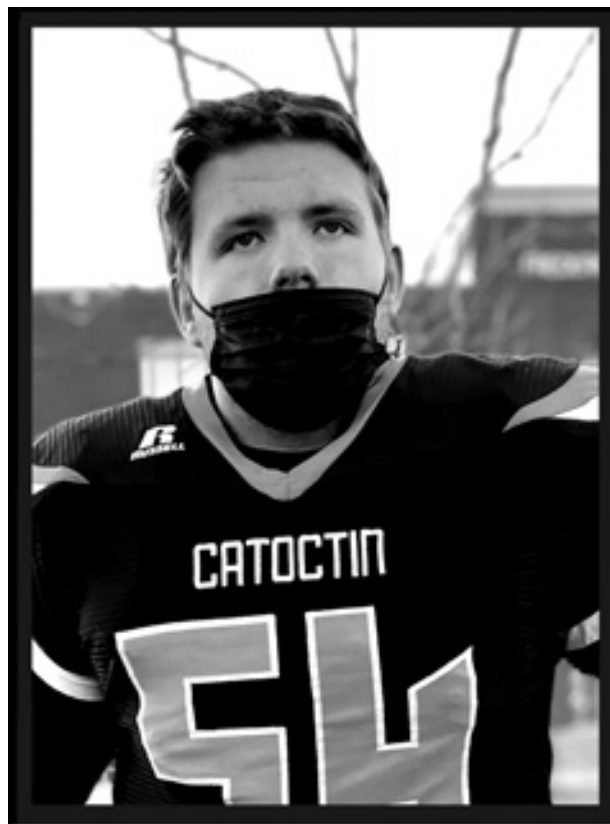
to take a chance at one of the 17 wonderful prizes. The Grand Prize was a DeWalt Tool Set, valued over \$700 dollars, generously donated by Hesson Bridge Contractors. The winner was Shaun Hamlette. The league would like to thank all the local businesses that donated to our baskets, without this support we could not have generated the interest and raised the money that we did. To view a full list, please check out the Thurmont Little League page on Facebook. The next big event will be the annual hit-

athon on May 1st. This is the largest annual fundraiser for the league and helps raise money for uniforms, field maintenance, and everything else the league needs to make a great experience for its players and fans.

Finally, on Tuesday April 13th, the league was able to kick off its actual game schedule. After several days of games being postponed due to rain, the newly refinished fields were finally deemed to be playable. The first two games to be played were the Majors Orioles vs

the Brewers, with the Orioles coming out on top. On the other field, the Minors Nationals were victorious over the Cubs. Everyone was extremely excited to be back out there, and the fields looked great! Come on out and watch a game this year to support the players, coaches, and volunteers as TLL celebrates 70 seasons of baseball!

To read past Catoclin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of emmitsburg.net.



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LOCAL ARTS

Gettysburg Community Theater reopens

Gettysburg Community Theatre in historic downtown Gettysburg has been closed to the public since March 16, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Last Spring, GCT pivoted completely to virtual programming rather than in person camps, classes, rehearsals and performances, and during that time produced over 10 different online classes and over 20 different virtual remote safe at home performances for 2020. On April 16 GCT opened to a sold out (20 seats) audience for the Jason Robert Brown contemporary musical *The Last Five Years* about a relationship between two New Yorkers. This will be the first time an audience has been inside GCT in over a year.

Even with Governor restrictions on venues being lifted some to 75% capacity, theatres still need to follow CDC guidelines on masks and distancing. Distancing theatre seats is near impossible with 75% capacity, so GCT's 80 seat theatre will currently only allow 20 seats to be filled per performance until further notice. Unfortunately, ticket sales cover 70% of the non-profit theatre budget, which is pretty standard among community theatres across the country. Limiting ticket sales to so few seats will definitely be a new challenge for GCT to face in 2021, but the

Board of Directors and staff of two agree, anything is better than nothing at all. As the only year-round community theatre in all of Adams County, Gettysburg Community Theatre fills a void in the community.

Now in its 13th season, Gettysburg Community Theatre has offered educational, performance, and volunteer opportunities for all ages and abilities. The non-profit recently held a successful Facebook fundraiser open to anyone to donate for the month of March. The fundraiser raised over 18k from 157 donors. GCT is so grateful to these very generous donors as every little bit helps get the theatre through another month of being shuttered. Limits on how many students, actors, volunteers, and audience can be in the theatre, will put a damper on generating income through programming, so fundraisers will be prominent this year.

GCT hopes to partner with local restaurants for dine in/take out days where the restaurants will donate a percentage of their choice of all checks to GCT in order to help raise much needed funds for the struggling theatre that so many children and adults alike call their second home and second family. GCT held one of these restaurant fundraiser days at Hoss's in March and the next one will be April

20th dine in or take out any time between Noon and 8 p.m. at The Upper Crust located just a few doors down from GCT on York Street near Lincoln Square. The Upper Crust is donating 20% of each check to GCT that day if the patron says they are there for GCT before they order.

Another fundraising effort GCT is currently doing is selling Raffle Tickets for a chance to win five seats to any upcoming performance inside the theatre for a live in person show. Streaming tickets are also on sale on the theatre website www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org so audiences can enjoy performances at home at the exact same showtimes. Patrons that win the raffle drawings will win five seats to see the show inside the theatre. Each of the groups of five or less would be distanced from other groups. All audience members must remain masked at all times even when seated watching the show. Temperatures will be taken at the door for entry, and hand sanitizer can be found throughout the theatre. There will be no concessions available and doors will only open just before showtime to limit the amount of time audiences are inside the building.

"What we are currently doing at GCT with streaming shows, limited

tickets in person, and various fundraising efforts to make up the difference in revenue loss", says Carr, "is no different than the majority of community theatres across the country. Each State and each County is different, but we continue to monitor closely the Covid-19 Pandemic and follow Governor and CDC guidelines to help protect our community as best we can. This new normal is something we must get used to. Anything we can do to continue providing a safe and creative place for our community, we will do. We are very blessed by our supportive community. We would not be here without them."

Both raffle and streaming tickets are available online now to upcoming shows: *The Last Five Years* 7 p.m. April 16, 17, 23, & 24, *Laundry And Bourbon* (Southern Comedy) by James McLure 7 p.m. May 14, 15, & 16 and 2 p.m. May 16, and *Lone Star* (Southern Comedy) by James McLure, 7 p.m. May 21 & 22, and 2 p.m. May 22 & 23. Available for streaming tickets only will be a remote performance reading of a brand new comedy, *They Never Did Shakespeare Again*, by GCT alum Elizabeth Pellegrino at 7p.m. May 1 and 2 p.m. May 2. All raffle and streaming tickets must be purchased online in advance,

as streaming begins promptly at showtime. All streaming performances are made possible in part by the Adams County Arts Council's STAR Grant, which is funded by the Borough of Gettysburg, Adams County Commissioners, and the Robert C. Hoffnan Trust held by Adams County Community Foundation.

GCT has been called a gem, a community treasure, and a light of hope in the past by members of the Adams County community. One thing that GCT was able to do during 2020 is light up the front of the building with colored lights a different color each month for various causes and awareness. This month of April, GCT is lit up blue for Autism Awareness, also displayed out front are puzzle piece ribbons for Autism, and pinwheels for Child Abuse Awareness. The lights may be dim for now inside but soon the stage lights will shine again for everyone to "find their stage door...and open it!"

More information about upcoming performances, fundraisers, and donation information can be found online at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org

GCT Mission to inspire creativity and confidence, provide cultural enrichment, and instill a love of the theatre arts in people of ALL ages and abilities through quality education and performance.

The Maryland Iron Festival



The Catocin Furnace Historical Society will present the third annual Maryland Iron Festival online during the weekend of May 22 and 23. This free online event will 'transport' you to the historic iron furnaces featured in Catocin Furnace's new Iron Road driving tour brochure and to Catocin Furnace, Maryland where you will experience tours, demonstrations, lessons, music, artisans, craftspeople, archaeology, and history.

The Maryland Iron Festival will commemorate the state as a

center for the craft of ironmaking and explore the contributions of ironmaking sites from across Maryland and Pennsylvania. The festival will feature traditional blacksmithing, period music, traditional food preparation demonstrations, garden and trail tours, artisan demonstrations, children's activities, fascinating archaeology talks about the amazing discoveries at Catocin Furnace, and more. The festival will include live and interactive sessions!

Visitors to the virtual festival can also enjoy a virtual tour of

the newly installed Catocin Furnace African American Cemetery Interpretive Trail wayside panels.

The trail links the furnace to the historic village and to an overlook near the Catocin Furnace Cemetery. The Catocin Furnace was built by workers owned or employed by the four Johnson brothers in order to produce iron from the rich deposits of iron ore found in the nearby mountains. At least 271 enslaved people of African ancestry made up the bulk of Catocin Furnace's earliest workers.

In the decade before the Civil War, European immigrants began replacing the enslaved and freed African American workers as it was more economical to hire cheap labor than support an enslaved workforce. Descendants of the immigrants still live in the village. The iron furnace at Catocin played a pivotal role during the industrial revolution in the young United States. The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the furnace produced iron for household and industrial products. After more than one hundred years of operation, the Catocin Furnace ceased production in 1903. In 1973, the Catocin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., was formed to "foster and promote the restoration of the Catocin Furnace Historic District...and to maintain the same exclusively for educational and scientific purposes...to exhibit to

coming generations our heritage of the past."

Today, the Catocin Furnace Historical Society is undertaking groundbreaking research, including bioarchaeological research of the African American cemetery in Catocin Furnace. In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Reich Laboratory for Medical and Population Genetics at Harvard University, this project is analyzing ancient DNA and the human genome of revolutionary-era enslaved African American workers at Catocin Furnace.

Such research, in conjunction with other technologies such as

stable isotope analysis, could tell us where these workers were born, where they lived throughout their lives, and what constituted their diet. We believe that every life mattered, and every past matters now. By studying and disseminating the results of this research, we hope that people everywhere will get to meet some of these early workers and understand the critical roles they played in the development of our young nation, as well appreciate the rich, varied trajectories of their lives.

For more information visit www.catocinfurnace.org.



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Inching back to normal

Tristan Anderson
MSMU Class of 2024

The way that life around us has become, it sometimes feels like we have lived through a paradigm shift. Everything from watching a movie in a theater to seeing the face of a good friend has an almost foreign haze over it in our memories. Whatever one thinks of the measures used to handle COVID, this is a fact that cannot be ignored. With that in mind, almost everyone continues desperately to find that last hint of normalcy in the chaos. Sometimes, they are blessed with enough fortune to find that little speck.

One of these last ounces of normalcy was found at Mount St. Mary's not long ago, at least at the time when this article was published. Late in the afternoon on April 8, an e-mail was sent out to the students en masse, announcing the presentation of a student art exhibition. Quite a bit of time has passed since the last one, due to the interruptions of the previous spring semester. It was all the more reason to look forwards to the Simon Gabriel Bruté Student Art Exhibition, as it was called. The art show ran from the day of its announcement to 23 April, leaving plenty of time for those interested to take full advantage of the artworks on display. Just like old times, the Delaplaine Arts Center was the home of the exhibition.

Professor Elizabeth Holtry, a familiar name at Mount St. Mary's in the visual arts field, was the primary leadership figure of the exhibition. "I installed most of the artworks, but four students needed to re-create their installations on sight," she noted in an interview. A variety of art was present in the room and on the walls, with everything from student produced sculptures to delicate pastels. Encouraged by challenge as usual, however, not a single piece was picked due to professor favoritism. Rather, exactly as in a professional art show, there was a much more complicated selection process. "A jury chose the works for the exhibition," Holtry explained. The competition for selection, however, provided an opportunity to admire the labors of love on display from a small selection of the student body.

As with anything nowadays, this

viewing pool was limited. Only faculty, staff, and administrators were permitted to attend the show alongside the students. "I wish my parents and my sister could see the piece in person," Lyla Kline, a freshman artist featured in the exhibition, commented. Her submission, which was displayed adjacent to the entryway door, was a unique piece that took much time and experimentation to complete. More than that, it was the perfect location for such a unique piece to set the standard for the exhibition. Titled Perpetual Wish, the sculpture was made of a variety of household items such as wire, dried flowers, and antique store merchandise, representing certain themes. Kline mentioned stopping by an antique store with her sister to purchase items out of which to make the piece. "I initially found an old phone," she stated; "when we were getting ready to leave, I found this pink perfume bottle with a decaying atomizer. I thought this found object had a lot of potential."

Underlying the objects used to produce the sculpture was a distinct theme integrated with the physical presence of the items. Choosing to use the atomizer to represent the finiteness of reality, Kline developed the guiding theme. "I wanted to add on to this even more and make a piece about how all good things must come to an end, but there is always something new to look forward to in life," the freshman explained. At the same time, however, Kline noted that "What made this piece unique, was the fact I did not really have a plan or vision with how it was going to turn out." The only certainty in the

process was the use of clay, learned from her high school years. The artist decided to display the piece on the wall rather than on a pedestal or shelf. In her opinion, there was an aspect of surprise to seeing a perfume bottle on a wall, carrying with it an air of unpredictability. It was enough to seize the attention of a visitor to the exhibition, exemplifying Kline's careful consideration behind her art. Considering all her work, the freshman expressed her feelings that it was a satisfying experience. In Kline's own words, "to see my piece hung on display with the official name tag was a reminder to me of the positive impacts that come from determination and hard work."

Another student featured in the show, Natalie Meador, had similar feelings about having her artwork on display. "I'm extremely grateful to have my work shown alongside my peers because you can see how hard everyone worked on their pieces," she explained. Her piece, given the title of Reaching, was a penciled image of treetops bolstered by a naturalistic perspective from the forest floor. Meador explained that the drawing was inspired by an article she read that detailed "how certain trees in nature grow in a unique way to avoid touching one another and to maximize light exposure." Reflected by the gaps between the treetops in the image, called "crown shyness", this concept was a means for Meador to reflect on the current pandemic. "I felt like this pattern in nature was a more abstract way of commenting on social distancing without being too literal," she noted.

Meador sought to create what



Lyla Kline, Class of 2024, was featured in the Simon Gabriel Bruté Art Exhibition at Mount St. Mary's. Even in these strange and often dark times, she was hardly the only student to find herself grateful for the opportunity to display her hard work for the campus community to see.

she called a "sense of mystery." With that goal in mind, she employed the unique perspective of the scene and combined it with vivid abstract colors to develop the mysterious demeanor of the painting. Equally interesting was the fact that Reaching was the culmination of Meador's prior works. She explained that "A lot of my previous work focused on colorful, abstracted organic forms but this one was mostly unique." Similar to other artists in the exhibition, Meador's work had a general idea, but not exactly a "plan" in the traditional sense. It is under such circumstances that the greatest of art results from, a reality both her and Kline seem to have understood. "I knew I wanted trees to be my subject for this project, so I sketched out some ideas and just went from there," she explained, detailing the process of Reaching's creation and evolution. When asked about how the art show's differences affected the experience, Meador held a pos-

itive outlook. In her own excited words, "knowing only the campus community can view it in person is still an honor because last year we could not even have a student show, so I'm really happy it came together this year!"

That is a sentiment that all can share at the moment. Life is gradually returning to normal, and as the chaos of the past year slips behind us, the future opens bright. The Simon Gabriel Bruté Student Art Exhibition at Mount St. Mary's reflected this on a smaller scale. As the semester draws ever nearer to a close, the art show serves as more than just an opportunity for the artists to display their work and for students to enjoy it, but for the glimpse of a hope for the future. Perhaps, then, the sentiment that there is "always something new to look forward to in life" is a timely and fitting one.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Catoctin transitions from fall to spring sports

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 22

This past April, Catoctin High School completed the short but eventful season of fall sports and made the transition into the promising new athletic season of spring. Having officially begun on February 13th, fall sports began competitions on March 5th and concluded on April 17th. CHS fall sports teams countered the complications and delays in the season with constant improvement and winning streaks, while the spring teams have returned prepared and motivated after the cancellation of the season last year. Proud representation of these teams are the CHS varsity volleyball (fall) and varsity baseball (spring) teams.

The Cougars' varsity volleyball team made a strong impression this past fall season. The team carried into April with two losses and four consecutive victories upon winning their match of 3-0 against Governor Thomas Johnson High School on March 30th. Their next two victories were followed by one loss, finishing up the regular season on April 13th and finalizing the team's overall score of 6-3. They then went on to a play-off match at Tuscarora High School on April 15th. Each set resulted in a close score, with a win of 26-24, loss of 21-25, win of 25-23, loss of 23-25, then loss of 12-15. Despite the overall loss, the match was nevertheless deemed the "best match of the season" by CHS varsity volleyball coach Wesley Fream. Setters Mee Rae Harding and Paige Smith each had 24 assists, and middle hitters Chayne Barnhart and Paige Romeril each had 20 kills.

As the team was unable to attend an annual volleyball banquet due to COVID restrictions, Coach Fream announced the awards typically given at the end of the season by email. The MVP award went to Barnhart, a senior. "In the eight seasons that I coached at Catoctin, Chayne was the best offensive volleyball Cougar during that time," Fream praised. "Each year she improved a part of her game and in her 4th season, she put all of these hard earned tools out on display." Barnhart finished the season with 128 kills, the most kills on the team, accumulated in only 9 matches.

The award for Most Improved was achieved by Harding, another senior. "She gained strength with outside sets and became a virtual machine at setting middle," Fream described. "Her backsets to the right side were also much improved. She worked very hard to get to this level and it paid off." Harding finished the season with 158 assists in only 9 matches. "Mee Rae found the perfect groove between herself and Chayne," Fream said. "It's what all hitters dream of having between them and their setter. Chayne looked like she was hitting some of those sets off of a tee!" He credits the two seniors for their admirable teamwork and cooperation with one another during matches. "It was so exciting to watch the chemistry formed on the court with these two."

Lastly, the Cougar Spirit award was earned by Romeril, a junior. "No need to point out the energy that she brings to the team. The spectators can see it and hear it!" Fream praised. "She picks up the team when they are down. She

gets them in gear when they are being lazy. She fires them up when they are nervous. The list goes on." Romeril is second on the team in kills after Barnhart. She has been on the varsity team since freshman year, and will be returning again for her senior year. "She is the epitome of the perfect teammate," Fream said. "We are lucky to have her for another year!"

Immediately following the end of the fall season, practices for spring sports began on April 17th. Competitions begin May 7th, with six competitive weeks lasting until June 19th. This season, CHS athletics welcome back many familiar names to the coaching staff: Michael Franklin--baseball, Neil Metzgar--boys lacrosse, Miriah Stone--girls lacrosse, Jess Valentine--softball, David Gadragirls tennis, David Lillard--boys track and field, Lois Strickland--girls track and field, and Charmaine Nesbitt--unified track and field. CHS also welcomes one new name, Robert Merki, coaching the boys tennis team.

The CHS varsity baseball team is scheduled to compete at their first game on May 7th against Governor Thomas Johnson High School, but the team has been active since before practices began. The athletes and coaches attended an event outside of Thurmont Middle School on April 15th, two days prior to their first practice, to distribute food to members of the community. "We were blessed to help that day," CHS varsity baseball coach Michael Franklin expressed. "Our players were excited to serve our community in that way. It provided great perspective and brought us together as a team." Another early oppor-



CHS baseball team volunteering to distribute food for the community.

tunity offered to the athletes were Open Field Workouts. The baseball-specific workouts were held for a month leading up to the official start of spring sports to prepare athletes for the season.

The CHS baseball coaching staff refrained from cutting any players off of the team this year, with the intention of offering more inclusion for the athletes that did not have the opportunity to play last year. There are 25 players on the junior varsity team and 20 on the varsity team. Dustin Isanogle, Bryson Caballero, Dylan Click, JJ Zirkle, Ayden Shadle, Aiden Mayne, and Dylan Cevario are a few notable seniors returning to varsity after playing their sophomore year. Despite the great amount of time spent away from the field, Franklin is impressed with the team's progress. According to Franklin, the team's pitching has excellent potential and he believes they will be "fundamentally sound" on defense. "Our goal is to get better each day," Franklin stated. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) has been meeting and discussing the possibility of holding a State Tournament for baseball this year, providing the

team with another motivation to improve and prepare every day, in anticipation of the association's decision.

Coach Franklin observed that the baseball team has put an immense amount of effort into preparation, and they appear to be adjusting to practices nicely after the cancellation of FCPS spring sports in 2020. "There's nothing normal about this and I'm going into this season with the mentality that we are just fortunate to be playing," he explained. Franklin commends CHS Athletic Director Keith Bruck for his hard work he does to ensure that this season will be safe and enjoyable. "Most people don't see the stress and hard work that these athletic directors are dealing with every day," Franklin expressed. "You can imagine how many challenges they are seeing that are new and many do not have a good answer. I'm just thankful for the job he does everyday so our kids can have a season." Franklin also offers his gratitude to Assistant Athletic Director Kim Flabbi who is recovering from surgery. "She has given her soul to this building for decades," he praised. "We are so lucky to have them both."

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MOUNT SPORTS

Mount St. Mary's women's historic lacrosse season

Sam Barber
MSMU Class of 2023

Whoever said high-end success was limited to merely the Power Five ranks was clearly wrong. Collegiate sports often offer some of the best stories where a program is rebuilt from the ground up. The Mount St. Mary's women's lacrosse team has embraced a complete renaissance over the past three years, as the Mount is playing its best lacrosse in nearly two decades. Despite this newfound success, there are still two major accomplishments that are missing from the teams' bolstered resume: a Northeast Conference (NEC) Tournament title and an NCAA Tournament appearance. Will this finally be the year that Mount St. Mary's overcomes their final two barriers?

The team continued to add to its list of accolades as they were named the regular season champions of the NEC on April 21.

After beginning the season with back-to-back losses, Lauren Shellchock's team has completely flipped the switch while steamrolling the entire NEC in the process. Mount St. Mary's is in the midst of an 11-game winning streak, as their defense has been impeccable as of late. Since Feb. 27, Mount St. Mary's have downed teams by an average of 10.9 goals per contest (GPC). Although the common saying of "defense wins championships" rings true with this team, it is the offense that the team possesses that is stealing headlines. Out of the 13 games this season, 10 games have seen the Mount eclipse the 15-goal mark. Achieving this feat this many times during a single season speaks to the overall versatility of the team.

A majority of the teams within the conference are dominated by players out of the sophomore and junior ranks. However, the Mount is dominated by the likes of juniors and seniors. The latter have offered not only Mount women's lacrosse fans, but women's lacrosse fans in general must-see action. Alayna Pagnotta, a senior out of Woodbine, MD, as well as fellow senior Jordan Butler are spearheading the offense with 37 and 35 goals respectively. Both players erupted for a combined 11 goals in an April 7 game against Long Island University (LIU). Two other notable seniors have also notched their way into the stat sheet for the Mount. Kate Kinsella and Sara Moeller both have had multiple 5+ goal games during the season, with the former recently being named NEC Player of the Week.

Outside of the surge in success from the array of seniors, various juniors and underclassmen have elevated their games. Junior duo Erin Anderson and Jordan Groover have made the most of their limited starts. Anderson, a Westminster, MD native has found the back of the net 19 out of the 33 trips. Groover presents a more lethal offensive blueprint to the field. Through 19 shots on goal (SOG), the midfielder has scored on 17 shot attempts. The Tennessean has continued her long-standing success in a Mount St. Mary's uniform, as she is only a year out of being named NEC Rookie of the Year. One of the most underrated play-

ers for the Mount this season is Christina Haspert. The freshman attack has made the most of her limited minutes, tallying six goals in five games, with her breakout game coming against Central Connecticut State (CCSU) where she notched four scores. As a team, the Mount has outscored opponents by a staggering 214-99 margin.

Despite the four leading scorers being miles ahead of other players, an unselfish playstyle has become a common theme for this team down the stretch. On nearly every scoring possession this season, the goal has been accompanied with a dime being dropped, better known as an assist in layman terms. A team that possesses this skill is almost always going to be a hard team to beat. Butler and Moeller have emerged as the team's assist leaders with 19 and 20 respectively. A balanced scoring attack paired with a sturdy offensive front is destined to be a recipe for success.

Since Shellchock was hired by the Mount back in 2014, her success story has done a complete 180. After beginning her tenure in Emmitsburg with an underwhelming 18-47 record, the seventh-year head coach has compiled a 43-13 record through the ongoing 2021 season. The resurgence of the program has not been an overnight project. Instead, it has been a nearly five-year rebuild. Mount St. Mary's has gone from being an irrelevant Division-I program, to being a team that is on the cusp of cracking the Inside Lacrosse Division I Women's Lacrosse Top-20 for the first time in program history.

Currently standing atop the NEC

with a profound 11-2 overall record and 10-0 conference mark, there appears to be no clear challenger willing to take the Mount down when it matters the most. However, as a team that is used to lopsided victories, the teams' past two games against Bryant and Wagner (both games decided by only six goals each) served as a reminder that anyone can win on any given day. The spotless record within the conference is nothing new to the Mount. This season will mark the fourth time since 1998 that the Mount has finished NEC play undefeated. They look to become the first team to post back-to-back undefeated marks in conference play since University Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) obtained the feat in 1999-00.

Across the entire collegiate sports landscape, administrators, athletes, and coaches alike have viewed this season as a redemption season. This cannot be more of an accurate statement for Mount St. Mary's women's lacrosse. After having the 2020 season axed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Mount St. Mary's has certainly picked up where they left off. Posting a 6-1 record, many across the women's lacrosse world believe that 2020 was going to be the year that the Mount finally breaks the ice.

The team's quest for an NCAA Tournament berth is nearly 16 years in the making as the Mount has not heard their name be called on the selection show since 2005. In the 2005 tournament, the Mount routed Manhattan in the play-in game 18-2 before losing to eventual national champion Northwestern 16-3.



As for the current team, the final two games of the regular season against Saint Francis (PA) and LIU have been halted due to a severe surge in coronavirus cases on the Mount St. Mary's campus. With their regular season all but over, the focus switches to the NEC Tournament which is slated to begin May 5. After winning the regular-season crown, the Mount will host the conference tournament from Waldron Family Stadium.

With Mount St. Mary's firmly holding onto the top place, and LIU and Wagner clamping down the second

and third places respectively, all eyes have turned to the race for the last tournament spot. Three teams (Bryant, Sacred Heart, Saint Francis (PA)) are currently in the running, as only a half-game separates the three schools from the coveted fourth-place position. Out of the three teams, the Bryant Bulldogs appear to be in the driver's seat.

The Wagner Seahawks are two-time defending champions heading into the 2021 tournament.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Challenges create growth

Renee Lehman

Let us face it, the past year has been full of challenges. Challenges, whether appreciated or not, at the time of the actual event, provide us with the opportunity to grow. If we do not grow from challenges, we can become miserable. The phrase, "Pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional," is a platitude within the Alcoholics Anonymous organization. Or, as Bob Duggan (one of my acupuncture mentors and founder of Tai Sophia Institute, currently known as the Maryland University of Integrative Health) repeatedly said during his life, "Upset is optional."

So, how have you dealt with your recent life challenges? Have you struggled and grown? Are you feeling stuck and miserable? I have included the following story called The Parable of the Farmer and the Wheat (as told by Osho)

to demonstrate how challenges are part of life and can bear beautiful fruit.

The Parable of the Farmer and the Wheat

Preface: Misery only means that things are not fitting with your desires—and things never fit with your desires, they cannot. Things simply go on following their nature. Lao Tzu calls this nature Tao. Buddha calls this nature Dharma. Mahavir has defined religion as "the nature of things." Nothing can be done. Fire is hot and water is cool.

The wise man is one who relaxes with the nature of things, who follows the nature of things. And when you follow the nature of things, no shadow is cast. There is no misery. Even sadness is luminous then, even sadness has a beauty then. Not that sadness will not come—it will come, but it will not be your enemy. You will befriend it, because you will see its necessity. You will be able to see its

grace, and you will be able to see why it is there and why it is needed.

The Parable: I have heard an ancient parable – must be ancient, because God used to live on the Earth in those days. Slowly, slowly, he became very tired of man, because people would torture him continuously. In the middle of the night, somebody would knock and say, "Why have you done this? Why not do it this way?"

Everybody was advising; everybody was praying, and their prayers were contradictory. A man would come and would say, "Today, let there be sun, because I am going to wash my clothes."

And somebody else would come and he would say, "Today, let there be rain, because I am going to plant trees."

One day a man came, an old farmer, and he said, "Look, you may be God and you may have created the world, but one thing I must say to you: you are not a farmer, and you don't know

even the ABC of farming. And your whole nature and the functioning of your nature is so absurd, and this I say out of my whole life's experience. You have to learn something."

God said, "What's your advice?"

The farmer said, "You give me one year's time and just let things be according to me and see what happens. There will be no poverty left!"

God was willing and one year was given to the farmer. Now it was according to his will that everything was happening. Naturally, the farmer asked the best, he thought only of the best – no thunder, no strong winds, no dangers for the crop. Everything comfortable, cozy, and he was very happy.

The wheat was growing so high! No dangers were there, no hindrances were there; everything was moving according to his desire. When he wanted sun, there was sun; when he wanted rain, there was rain, and as much as he wanted. In the old days sometimes it rained too much, and the rivers would be flooded, and the crops would be destroyed; and sometimes it would not rain enough, and the land would remain dry, and the crops would die... and sometimes something else...and sometimes something else. It was rare, very rare, that things were right. But this year everything was put right, mathematically right.

The wheat was growing so high, that the farmer was very happy. But when the crops were harvested, there was no wheat inside.

The farmer was surprised. He asked God, "What happened? What went wrong?"

God said, "Because there was no challenge, because there was no difficulty, because there was no conflict, no friction, because all was good, you

avoided all that was bad, the wheat remained impotent. A little struggle is a must. Storms are needed, thunder, lightning is needed. They shake up the soul inside the wheat."

I believe that this parable is of immeasurable value for today and every day. If you are simply happy, happiness will lose all meaning. It would also be as if you were to write on a white board with a white marker. No one would be able to read it. You must write on a white board with a colored marker. What you write must be clear and comprehensible.

Night is needed as much as day. Sad days are as essential as joyful days. Does this make sense? Once you understand this, you can relax. Then you can say to God, "Do whatever you feel is right. If today clouds are needed, give me clouds. Just go on doing your will."

Challenges are inevitable, but suffering is optional. Life is full of duality, Yin and Yang. Learn that the challenges provide the opportunity for our personal growth. You have the gift of being alive. How great is the blessing of being alive and living life fully.

"The challenges we face in life are always lessons that serve our soul's growth." - Marianne Williamson

"All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me. ... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you." - Walt Disney

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist, with over 34 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg. She can be reached at 717-752-5728 or rlehman7@gmail.com.

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Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

I have had many questions over the years about exercise, nutrition and health related matters so in this article I will be sharing a few of them. One question that some people are confused about is how much weight they should lift if they start weightlifting. I usually ask them, what they are trying to achieve? Do they want to lose weight and build strength or do they want to build muscle like a bodybuilder? Most people want to keep the muscle they have and build more strength to be healthy. This type of

weightlifting is achieved by using light to moderate weight and doing more repetitions.

A person who wants to body build large muscles or go into competition would use heavier weights with less repetitions. You should always get some advice and training from someone who has been educated in lifting weights before you start. It is definitely important to have training in the proper techniques before you start bodybuilding.

A question many people have is, which is better running or walking. Again, my question to them is what are they trying to achieve? Walking is the

best way to start, especially if you have been sedentary and not doing much. For most people, walking gets their heart rate up and burns calories. Walking also gets their muscles and joints moving. Starting at a moderate to brisk pace is usually fine for most people but everyone should check with their doctor, especially if you have any health issues before you start any type of exercise program.

After you have been walking for a few weeks or months, whatever is right for you, you could start jogging or running if that is what your goal was. Many people like to run for exercise and to clear their head from the

stress of the day. Others run to train for a race. Whichever you choose, walking or running, they are both great to improve blood pressure, cholesterol, weight, depression and many other health issues. It is also a great way to spend time with family and friends.

Fresh or frozen, which is better when it comes to fruits and vegetables. I always prefer fresh when it is in season. Fresh tastes better and we always look forward to what is coming in at the time. Strawberries and blueberries fresh from the field are fun to have. Apple picking in the fall can

be a great way to get exercise and great tasting fruit. Veggies from your garden or the community farmers market are always good. Frozen fruits and vegetables are usually picked at the peak of freshness and contain the same nutrients as fresh ones. The important thing is not fresh or frozen. The important thing is to eat your fruits and veggies for good health.

I hope these have answered a few of your questions. If you have more questions I would like to hear from you. You can contact me at 717-334-6009 with any questions.

Planning for the inevitable

Doug Propheter

Catocin Advisors is a Thurmont-based consulting business that offers estate readiness planning, estate administration, and budgeting and bill-pay support to survivors. Each month we answer common questions about end-of-life issues.

Q. Q. How long do I need to keep paying for life insurance?

A. Someone long ago offered the statement, "Life insurance is for the living," and it's been a pillar of the insurance industry for many years. That's because it makes sense. As a result, you may want (or need) to pay for life insurance as long as someone will survive you. The amount of coverage (death benefit) you choose to pay for might change as you progress through life, however. Generally speaking, parents with young children have an immediate need to ensure benefits exist in the event of an unexpected death by either, because when someone earning income dies there almost always is a need to replace the lost income. But even if your children are adults with families of their own, if you died in the coming months would you be leaving behind debts that will be a burden for the spouse who will survive you? Will

medical expenses from your final illness, or funeral and burial costs, be an obstacle for your survivors?

Karen Simundson at Senior Benefit Services in Thurmont says, "I always start with, 'What's your goal?'" According to Simundson, a lot of people who come to her for advice don't remember why they chose the policy-type or coverage they have, because they initiated the policy 20 or 30 years ago. One option, depending on the type of policy you currently hold, is to convert a life insurance policy to final-expense coverage. That usually can bring down the cost considerably, because in most cases the death benefit drops substantially. For example, you no longer need \$500,000 to provide for small children; instead, you just need \$10,000 to cover funeral costs. That type of policy can be paid-in-full ahead of your need and then you're done with the issue.

In addition, some types of life insurance products actually can be paid off. If that is your situation, you would continue to be covered by the benefit but no longer have the annual premium. Be sure to check with a licensed agent to confirm the type of policy you hold. Nicholas Miceli, an advisor with Peak Benefits Group in Thur-

mont, said, "A lot of people are under the impression that 'since I'm retired now, I don't need life insurance' and that certainly is not the case. Everyone has a different situation."

For example, life insurance may be a convenient vehicle for leaving bequests to grandchildren – in some scenarios, tax-free. But, if you're considering eliminating life insurance because you will make bequests out of your retirement savings, first, consider that they may be taxable gifts. But, second, doing so means you're inhibiting yourself from spending the money you purposefully saved for your retirement years. Miceli says, "Use your [retirement savings] for living."

These few examples make plain that there are many unique life scenarios, so you should talk with a licensed insurance agent about your situation to ensure you end up with policies that are right for you.

For more information about Catocin Advisors, visit our website (www.catocinadvisors.com) or send email to doug@catocinadvisors.com. We're happy to help you. This is not offered as insurance advice. If you want to meet with a licensed insurance broker or agent I can connect you with someone.

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You must wear a mask/face covering over your nose and mouth to purchase or you will not be permitted to buy. Social distancing will be enforced. You must stand at the orange cones in front of each vendor while waiting. NO EXCEPTIONS! These procedures will be enforced as long as the county & state mandate is in effect. We hope these mandates at one point during the market will end.

HELP STOP MEDICINE MISUSE IN FREDERICK COUNTY

Dispose of unwanted & expired medicine at the following locations:

Brunswick Police Dept.
20 East "A" Street
24 hours a day

Middletown Municipal Center
31 West Main Street
Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM

Frederick County Law Enforcement Center
110 Airport Drive East 24 hours a day

Frederick Police Dept.
100 West Patrick Street
24 hours a day

Emmitsburg Community Center
300 South Seton Avenue
Monday-Friday, 8AM-4:30PM

Myersville Municipal Center
301 Main Street
Monday-Friday, 9AM - 4PM

Thurmont Police Dept.
800 East Main Street
Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM

Acceptable Items: prescription & over-the-counter medications (in pill form only), prescription patches (fentanyl & nicotine replacement), medication for pets (in pill form only)

Unacceptable Items: needles/sharps, inhalers, thermometers, aerosol cans, ointments, liquids, lotions, hydrogen peroxide, medicine from businesses or clinics

Stay In The Know by visiting stayintheknow.org/opioids

A collaborative effort of local law enforcement, local government, and the Frederick County Health Department with funding from MDH and SAMHSA, 2020.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

ASTRONOMY

The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May the last quarter moon passes south of Saturn on the morning of May 3rd, and then below Jupiter on May 4th. The new moon is on May 11th. Than slender waxing crescent is besides of Venus just after sunset on May 12th (use binocs and clear western horizon 30 minutes after sunset), then next to Mercury on the 13th; the two day old moon will be beautiful with earthshine an hour after sunset...great photo op. The waxing crescent passes close to Mars on May 15th; from Europe, this will be an occultation of the Red Planet by the moon. The first quarter moon is on May 19th, and the Full Moon, the Rose Moon, is on May 26th.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about April 30th, visit the www.sky-maps.com website and download the map for the new month; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Also available is wonderful video exploring the sky, available from the Hubble Telescope website at www.hubblesite.org. Sky and Telescope



NASA's Ingenuity Mars helicopter made history on April 19th by being the 1st craft (at least human made craft) to fly on Mars. The tissue-box-sized rotorcraft lifted off from what's been dubbed 'Wright Brother's Field' on the Red Planet and flew for 51.9 seconds before descending safely to the ground. This first-ever flight was a test of the technology; Ingenuity won't do any science during its mission. But its success proves that powered flight is possible in Mars' thin atmosphere. Future aerial vehicles on Mars could help rovers or human astronauts scout safe paths through unfamiliar landscapes, or reach tricky terrain that a rover can't traverse.

has highlights at www.skyandtelescope.com for observing the sky each week of the month.

Mercury and Venus are both visible in the west this month, with Venus still very close to the Sun and next to the Moon on May 3rd. Mercury is higher up, and next to the Moon on May 4th. But Mercury soon retrogrades Sunward, and is lost in Sun's glare by midmonth, while Venus rises higher in the evening and dominates the western sky for the rest of 2021.

Mars is losing its race with the

Sun, setting lower and sooner each evening. It passes below the Gemini at month's end. Jupiter and Saturn are in Capricornus, in the dawn sky; they return to the evening sky by late summer.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the NW

is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west. Our feature photo for May comes with my own old iPhone 6s and the free smartphone astrophoto program, "Starry Camera". It shows the Big Dipper to upper right, with the pointers directing us to Polaris at the center left edge. The little dipper runs down and to the right from Polaris at the end of its handle to the bowl behind the dark security light. The Pro version is only \$5 more and gives many more options for photographing the ISS, Milky Way, aurorae, etc. Check it out in the Apple App Store.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The 'regal' star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its

strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapely Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four-sided grouping. The arms of Virgo harbor the Virgo Supercluster of Galaxies, with thousands of "island universes" in the Spring sky. We are looking away from the place of thickly populated Milky Way, now on the southern horizon, toward the depths of intergalactic space, where even amateur telescopes can spot quasars billions of light years distant.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. Find it with binoculars midway on the top left wing of the cosmic butterfly, then take a look with a larger telescope and you will find it resolved into thousands of stars!

To read past editions of the *Sky at Night*, visit emmitsburg.net

Farmers' Almanac

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow"
—Old Proverb

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Fair and mild (1, 2), storms, cooler (3, 4); fair and warmer (5, 6, 7, 8, 9) with more storms, breezy (10, 11, 12) then turning fair and chilly (13, 14, 15, 16). Fair and mild (17, 18) with yet more storms, cooler temperatures (19, 20, 21); fair and mild again (22, 23, 24, 25) with still more storms and windy (26, 27, 28) returning to fair and mild weather (29, 30, 31).

Full Moon: The Full Moon in May occurs on Wednesday, May 26th. While the farmer came to refer to it as Milk Moon because of the noticeable increase in milk produced by dairy cow, many Native American tribes called it Flower Moon because of the many flowers that have started to emerge and blossom during this month. The Huron tribes specifically chose to call it Budding Moon for the very same reasons!

Special Notes: The Gruber Almanack is excited to announce that the Town and Country Almanack

has partnered with PennState Extension of Franklin County, Pennsylvania! The Extension is a modern educational organization, dedicated to delivering science-based information to people, businesses, and communities to help address problems and help to implement innovative techniques in farming, agricultural, and dairy to improve efficiencies and yields.

Holidays: Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Wednesday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday May 9th. She's your "special lady" and she deserves a nice dinner out, a sentimental card and/or nice flower arrangement, or just a telephone call to say, "I love you"! Rogation Sunday also falls on May 9th with Ascension Thursday following Thursday, May 21st., and Trinity Sunday, on Sunday, May 30th. Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 31st. This day has been set aside for honoring those who have died serving in our military and to all those who are currently serving today. Their service and sacrifice have protected our precious freedoms and have ensured that our way of life will continue.

The Garden: It's not too late to fertilize your trees and shrubs. Use a Rhododendron or Evergreen type of plant food to feed evergreens and other acid loving plants like Azaleas and Rhododendrons, Camellias and Junipers, etc. Use an all-purpose garden fertilizer (10-10-10) to feed roses, deciduous shrubs and trees. Be sure to water the fertilizer in thoroughly after it is applied.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (1, 2); weeding and stirring the soil (13, 14); planting above-ground crops (15, 16, 17); harvesting all crops (26, 27, 30, 31); best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 2, 31); slaughtering and butchering meat (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18); harvest and store grains 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17); transplanting (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18); weaning of small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

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COMPUTER Q&A

Prolong your PC!

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Repair

In today's throw-away society it is not uncommon for computer users to consider replacing their several-year-old devices after experiencing issues. At Jester's Computers, we always encourage our clients to extend the life of their device if the performance is or can meet the needs of the user without exceeding the value of a new device. As many of us know the supply chains are beginning to struggle because of the pandemic and computer equipment and supplies are no different. We are finding that many users are replacing their devices only to find that their new computer is much slower than their existing device.

Buying a new computer does not mean that it will be faster even if it is more expensive. Unfortunately, several of our clients have found this out the hard way after it was too late to do anything about the problem. Even if you are purchasing a new computer with an increase in performance, you should understand that technology CAN be defective straight out of the box. Since computers are not fully set up until you turn on your device for the first time, there is no way for thorough testing to occur before unboxing a new device when bought directly from a store or online retailer. This means that if something is wrong or not working right you should return your device to the retailer if possible. Many retailers have a restocking fee so it's important to understand what penalties you might face if returning your device to the retailer rather than having it repaired through the manufacturer.

Several circumstances including the current chip shortages and cryptocurrency mining have caused a substantial rise in graphics card prices. Users who find themselves lucky enough to get their hands on a graphics card can expect to pay at least DOUBLE the typical cost. All these reasons make this a terrible time for those wishing to upgrade or purchase gaming machines. A graphics card purchased back in 2017, now 4 years later is in many cases costing MORE than the original purchase price. To make matters worse many of the video cards found available for resale are not even new, many of them are used or refurbished cards which may be the only option.

Several of our clients have purchased new computers to replace their machines for various reasons only to find that their old machines had more speed than the new one. Instead of replacing your device, we encourage users to have PCs checked for potential affordable performance upgrades. Most computers that suffer from performance issues after several years of use can benefit from a hard drive replacement which is a physical hardware component that does fail over time with increased usage. Think of your computer's hard drive as you would your

vehicle's tires. Over time they go bald and wear out, you might still be able to drive on them once they are worn or have a slow leak, but you certainly will not get the most efficiency or performance from worn-out tires. All the data that makes your computer run the way it does is located on your computer's hard drive which means that if your drive fails completely, you will be starting over from scratch.

Luckily, hard drive replacements and memory upgrades are fairly inexpensive especially when comparing that to the cost of a new computer. Factor in the current price hikes and the potential to lose personal data files and software and one can begin to see how prolonging the life of your PC becomes more and more appealing. Users who opt to replace their hard drive sooner rather than later are pleased to learn that many times their existing hard drives can be replicated on the newer much faster hard drive. Many computers even those being sold today come with standard SATA hard drives which contain moving parts. Technology has advanced and Solid-State hard drives which utilize flash storage and have

no moving parts are much more affordable and provide a hefty performance boost over standard drives.

If you find yourself considering a replacement computer or have questions about what to look for when purchasing a new device, consider reaching out to us at Jester's Computer Services by calling or texting 717-642-6611. You can also find us on Facebook or visit our website www.jesterscomputers for free technology tips including our pc buying guide.



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HUMOR

More totally useless facts for you to impress your friends with

- There is a seven-letter word in the English language that contains ten words without rearranging any of its letters. This word is "therein," and the words within it are: the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein.
- The letters KGB stand for Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti.
- To "testify" was based on men in the Roman court swearing to a statement made by swearing on their testicles.
- The combination "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways the following sentence contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."
- The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.
- Facetious and abstemious contain all the vowels in the correct order, as does arsenious, meaning "containing arsenic."

- The word "Checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat," which means "the king is dead."
- Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.
- The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.
- No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times. (try it)
- The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.
- A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brothers' first flight.
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.
- Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
- The national anthem of Greece has 158 verses. No one in Greece has memorized all 158 verses.
- There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
- The average secretary's left hand does 56% of the typing.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- There are more chickens than people in the world.
- Two-thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey.
- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."
- All of the clocks in the movie Pulp Fiction are stuck on 4:20.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
- All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
- Almonds are members of the peach family.
- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
- Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
- There are only five words in the English language which end in "-dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, Timidous, and hazardous.
- Los Angeles's full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula". And can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size, "L.A."
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain.
- Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
- In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
- Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
- The only real person to be a Pez head was Betsy Ross.
- When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the state's third largest city.
- The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "It's A Wonderful Life".
- A dragonfly has a lifespan of 24 hours.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
- A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
- On an American one-dollar bill, there is an owl in the upper left-hand corner of the "1" encased in the "shield" and a spider hidden in the front upper right-hand corner.
- It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.
- Who's that playing the piano on the "Mad About You" theme? Paul Reiser himself.
- In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.

- The name for Oz in the "Wizard of Oz" was thought up when the creator, Frank Baum, looked at his filing cabinet and saw A-N and O-Z, hence "Oz."
- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- Mr. Rogers is an ordained minister.
- John Lennon's first girlfriend was named Thelma Pickles.
- The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
- There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
- Stewardesses' is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
- Typewriter is the only ten letter word you can type on the top row of your keyboard.
- The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer.
- Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.
- Marilyn Monroe had six toes.
- All US Presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn't like being seen wearing them in public.
- Walt Disney was afraid of mice.
- The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca Cola, and Budweiser, in that order!
- And the best for last... Turtles can breathe through their butts.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world's nuclear weapons combined.
- On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.
- On average people fear spiders more than they do death.
- Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.
- Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.
- Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
- Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
- It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.
- No word in the English language rhymes with "Month".
- Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- All polar bears are left handed.
- In ancient Egypt, priests plucked every hair from their bodies, including their eyebrows and eyelashes.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Typewriter is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- "Go." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
- A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
- Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- In the 1940s, the FCC assigned television's Channel 1 to mobile services (two-way radios in taxicabs, for instance) but did not re-number the other channel assignments. That is why your TV set has channels 2 and up, but no channel 1.
- The "save" icon on Microsoft Word shows a floppy disk.

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Vigilant Hose Company's

2021 VIRTUAL Spring Fling 75K GIVEAWAY

Drawing to be held June 26 at 1 p.m.

Early Bird Drawing - purchase and submit your ticket by May 1, for a \$1500 Prize (2 winners @ \$1500 each)

NO PAYOUT LESS THAN \$500!

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 - \$5000 | 17 - \$500 | 33 - \$500 | 49 - \$500 |
| 2 - \$500 | 18 - \$500 | 34 - \$500 | 30 - \$1000 |
| 3 - \$500 | 19 - \$500 | 35 - \$1000 | 51 - \$2000 |
| 4 - \$500 | 20 - \$1000 | 36 - \$500 | 52 - \$500 |
| 5 - \$1000 | 21 - \$2000 | 37 - \$500 | 53 - \$500 |
| 6 - \$500 | 22 - \$500 | 38 - \$500 | 54 - \$500 |
| 7 - \$500 | 23 - \$500 | 39 - \$500 | 55 - \$1000 |
| 8 - \$500 | 24 - \$500 | 40 - \$1000 | 56 - \$500 |
| 9 - \$500 | 25 - \$1000 | 41 - \$5000 | 57 - \$500 |
| 10 - \$1000 | 26 - \$500 | 42 - \$500 | 58 - \$500 |
| 11 - \$2000 | 27 - \$500 | 43 - \$500 | 59 - \$500 |
| 12 - \$500 | 28 - \$500 | 44 - \$500 | 60 - \$1000 |
| 13 - \$500 | 29 - \$500 | 45 - \$1000 | 61 - \$1000 |
| 14 - \$500 | 30 - \$1000 | 46 - \$500 | 62 - \$2000 |
| 15 - \$1000 | 31 - \$5000 | 47 - \$500 | 63 - \$1000 |
| 16 - \$500 | 32 - \$500 | 48 - \$500 | 64 - \$2000 |

Grand Prize Drawing #65 - \$15,000

\$100 PER TICKET

Tickets available from any fire department member or contact

Chris 240-674-0391
Gabe 391-447-2212
John 301-447-3648

VHC has a PayPal account where you can purchase tickets or send a check for \$100 to:

Vigilant Hose Company
Attn: Spring Fling Committee
P.O. Box 171
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Your ticket stub will be mailed to you

HUMOR

with the shutter on backwards.

- The combination "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways. The following sentence contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."
- The verb "cleave" is the only English word with two synonyms which are antonyms of each other: adhere and separate.
- The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.
- Facetious and abstemious contain all the vowels in the correct order, as does arsenious, meaning "containing arsenic."
- Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards, and are on the Australian coat of arms for that reason.
- Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.
- The word "Checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat," which means "the king is dead".
- Pinocchio is Italian for "pine head."
- Camel's milk does not curdle.
- In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.
- An animal epidemic is called an epizootic.
- Murphy's Oil Soap is the chemical most commonly used to clean elephants.
- The United States has never lost a war in which mules were used.
- Blueberry Jelly Bellies were created especially for Ronald Reagan.
- All porcupines float in water.
- Hang On Sloopy by the McCoys is the official rock song of Ohio.
- Did you know that there are coffee flavored PEZ?
- Lorne Greene had one of his nipples bitten off by an alligator while he was host of "Lorne Greene's Wild Kingdom."
- Cat's urine glows under a blacklight.
- If you bring a raccoon's head to the Henniker, New Hampshire town hall, you are entitled to receive \$.10 from the town.

- The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.
- Non-dairy creamer is flammable.
- The airplane Buddy Holly died in was the "American Pie." (Thus the name of the Don McLean song.)
- Texas is also the only state that is allowed to fly its state flag at the same height as the U.S. flag.²⁸ The only nation who's name begins with an "A", but doesn't end in an "A" is Afghanistan.
- Pamela Anderson Lee is Canada's Centennial Baby, being the first baby born on the centennial anniversary of Canada's independence.
- When opossums are playing 'possum, they are not "playing." They actually pass out from sheer terror.
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.
- The citrus soda 7-UP was created in 1929. "7" was selected because the original containers were 7 ounces. "UP" indicated the direction of the bubbles.
- Mosquito repellents don't repel, they hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito sensors so they don't know you're there.
- Dentists have recommended that toothbrushes be kept at least 8 feet away from toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.
- The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.
- American car horns beep in the tone of F.
- No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times.
- Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.
- 1 in every 4 Americans has appeared on television.
- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are 50 years of age or older.
- The 1st product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
- The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.

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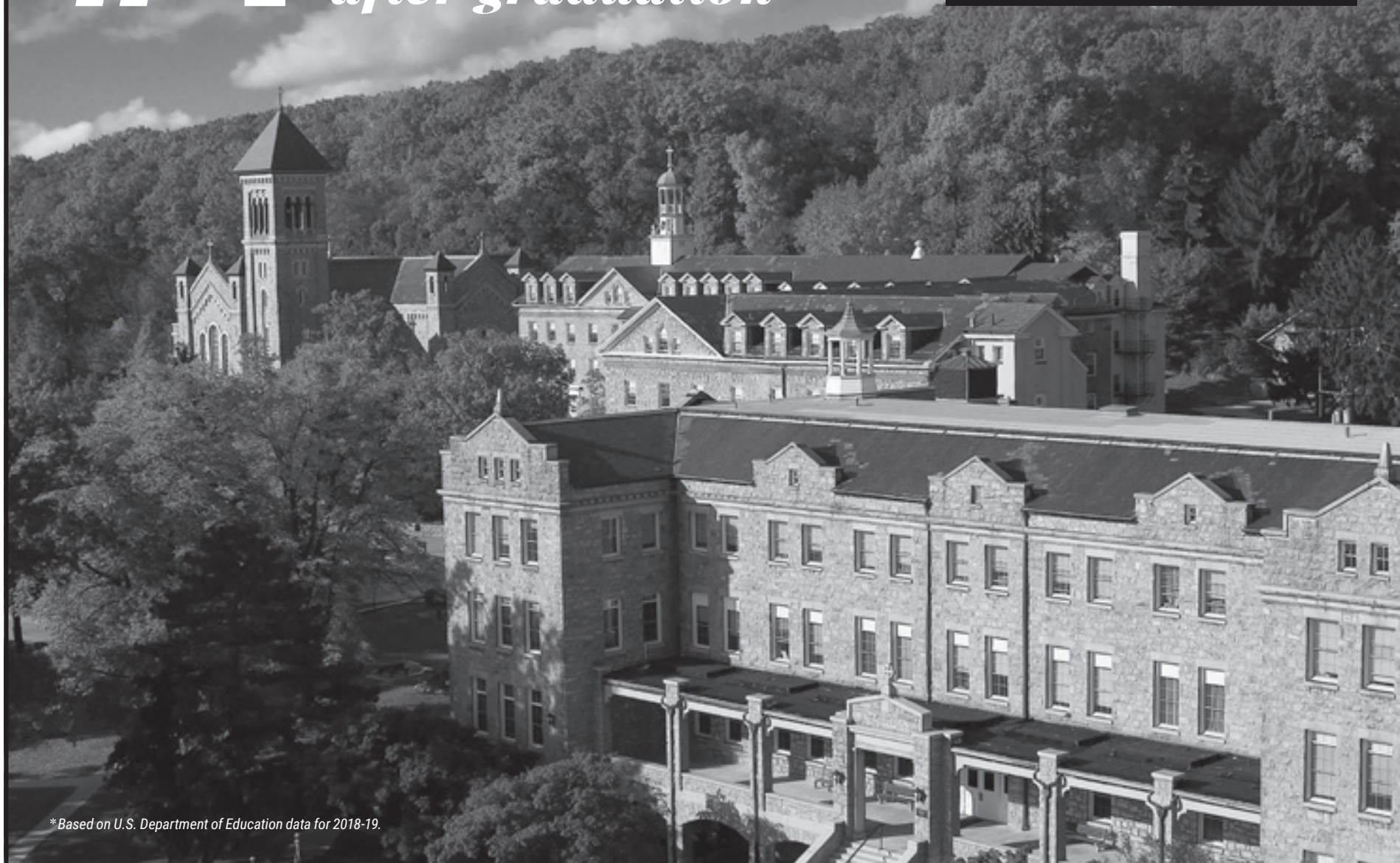

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