

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

JULY 2021

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Rocky Ridge, Graceham responders honored

The Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (VFRA) honored five local emergency responders, recognized for their services to their communities at the association's annual awards ceremony.

Three emergency responders from the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company and two from the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company were recognized during the ceremony, with the awards ranging from Firefighter of the Year to inductees into the VFRA's Hall of Fame.

Rocky Ridge firefighter Ethan McClure was named Firefighter of the Year and was presented with the prestigious VFRA award due to his having "enthusiastically" completed training programs including Gear Up, HAZMAT, and Firefighter 1.

"He was excited to participate in calls for fires, traffic accidents and any other emergencies," the VFRA stated, adding, "The older firefighters appreciate Ethan's help on the fire scene."

McClure also participated in fundraising events and work details. "He can be counted on to lend a helping hand no matter where he is needed," the county stated.

Rocky Ridge firefighter and administrator Craig Hovermale was presented with VFRA's Mumma Outstanding Service Award. In addition to his "dedicated service," his skills as an electrician saved the company money by repairing and maintaining the buildings and equipment, the VFRA reported.

Captain Amanda Kate Lott, of the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company, was the recipient of the Dr. James Marrone EMS Member of the Year.

The VFRA noted that Captain Lott guided the EMTs and first responders of her company through the protocol changes required by COVID 19," adding that she also initiated new procedures, so that ambulance supplies were current, and that equipment was maintained in good working order.

In 2020, under Lott's guidance, another mobile response unit met state standards so that it could be certified as a Basic Life Support unit. The captain was also the top EMS responder for her company with 98 calls.

Graceham Volunteer Fire Company also took third place among all the county fire companies for fire/



Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association's Hall of Fame recipient Jim Rice and Firefighter of the Year award winner Ethan McClure

rescue departmental training.

Regarding Graceham's honors, Chief Louis Powell, Jr., stated, in reference to Captain Lott, "I'm very appreciative to everything she does and proud to have her as my captain." As to the company's training recognition, the chief said that he was proud of the company to have been recognized for training which occurred during restraints generated by COVID-19.

In addition to the above-noted awards, Rocky Ridge firefighter Jim Rice was inducted into the VFRA Hall of Fame, as was Graceham Powell, Jr.

Powell told the News-Journal, "I'm very honored to have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. It is very humbling." The newspa-

per has been unable to reach Rice for his comments on having been inducted.

Nominations for being inducted into the Hall of Fame are based upon distinguished service (active service in the form of leadership or creative participation that significantly impact and/or advances the fire and rescue service) ... within Frederick County for a period of at least fifteen years, according to Joyce W. Shry, VFRA volunteer recruiter.

Nominations for the VFRA Hall of Fame may be received from the nominee's fire or rescue department, the VFRA, or from an individual. Up to ten individuals may be elected to the Hall of Fame, with a maximum of two deceased members being selected in any given year.

Taneytown Wine Fest kicks off summer events

As area residents and tourists begin to 'un-mask,' events that have been canceled for over a year during the COVID-19 pandemic, people have become 'chomping at the bit' to resuming outdoor activities.

The first of a number of major local events was held on June 19, that being the Taneytown Wine, Arts & Music Festival. The festival featured various wineries, along with several distilleries and breweries. Other activities included art, artisan and craft vendors' displays.

The 18th Annual Old-Fashioned Corn Fest will be held on July 25 at the Round Barn Farm Market, located at 298 Cashtown Road, near Biglerville. The event will feature grilled peach sundaes, roasted sweet corn, chicken, and pulled pork, various games and other activities. For additional information, visit www.RoundBarnGettysburg.com.

Other events that are back on the list of those resuming their former 'annual' schedules include the 99th Annual South Mountain Fair, which will be held on July 27 through July 31.

The South Mt. Fair, which is the highlight for local 4-H'ers will allow them to show off their rabbits, poultry, swine, goats, cattle, horses and sheep. The fair also

includes the areas largest variety of carnival rides, craft and flora displays, music, fireworks and food, food and more food. (See article on page 25 for more information.)

The Hollabaugh Brothers' Fruit Farm Market, also in Biglerville, will be moving forward with events that had been canceled last year, by holding two fruit-themed festivals. The market's 66th Anniversary Blueberry Fest will be held on July 10 & 11 and their Annual Peach Festival will be held on August 14 & 15. Both events will feature an ice cream tent featuring event-theme treats, activities for children, live entertainment, guided wagon-rides tours of the farm, and applicable fruit sales (and pick-your-own blueberries during the Blueberry Fest). For additional information, visit www.hollabaughbros.com.

Fairfield Borough's Pippinfest is back-on-track and will be held on September 25 & 26. Planned events for the 40th anniversary celebration include Saturday yard sales, and featuring music, street entertainment, apple dessert contest, and Cruise-In Car Show and Swap Meet on Sunday. Both days will feature craft and food vendors, quilt show & self-guided walking tours. For additional information visit www.pippinfest.com.



If the attendance at the Taneytown Wine Fest is any indication, summer festivals will be jam-packed.

Adams County's 57th Annual National Apple Harvest Festival is also resuming, and will be held from October 2, 3, 9 & 10, at the South Mountain Fairgrounds. Special attractions will include the Apple Auditorium and antique cars, steam engine displays, orchard tours, petting zoo, craftsman demonstrations, and appearances by the Pennsylvania Apple Queen. For additional information visit www.appleharvest.com.

Thurmont's Colorfest will also be resuming on October 9 & 10. Event activities basically take place town-wide. Colorfest is the single largest fundraising opportunity for many of the local churches, civic organizations, and non-profits, whose finances suffered as the result of last-year's COVID-related cancellations. At present, some 237 vendors are listed for participation at this year's event. For additional information visit www.colorfest.org.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Comics & Collectables store opens

Emmitsburg is now home to a new enterprise, a comic book store, which will soon also feature games and sports memorabilia - Wookie Walkers.

With a business name like Wookie Walkers, it should be pointed out right from the start that the business does not offer dog-walking service for area residents.

The business name traces its origins to a band named Fish. Co-owner Casey Myers explained that the more-entrenched fans of the band are often referred to as "Wookies". Myers said he did not, appearance-wise, exactly fit in with the "Fish Wookies", but because he associated with them, his friends called him "Walks with Wookies" - which gave rise to the name of the enterprise.

For the uninitiated, Wookie was a character in the Star Wars movie series, of which Myers is also a big fan.

Myers and his life-partner, Amber Phillips, established their

new comic book store in the Silo Hill strip mall, although the 7,000-plus comic books offered are merely the beginning of what is planned to be a multi-faceted enterprise encompassing other collectible and gaming.

Both Myers and Phillips hail from the Baltimore area, and relocated to Emmitsburg four years ago. Myers is employed by a banking company, but when the business went virtual because of the COVID pandemic, he and Phillips decided to establish their own enterprise as a second source of income.

Myers, who has been collecting comics since he was inspired by neighbors in his hometown in the 1980s, has amassed an accumulation of around 10,000 comics - which he decided to begin selling-off. "I decided to sell them to let other people enjoy them," he said.

Although the business was established at its Silo Hill location in March, much of the

time since then has been spent in designing the store and stocking the shelves with thousands of comics and apparel. While the store is actually now open to the public, the grand opening will be held on July 17.

Not only is Myers continuing to shop for vintage and new comic books to sell, he and Phillips are also planning to expand the collectibles to include sports memorabilia, and possibly offer an opportunity for Mount Saint Mary's University's art students to display their works and even offer art classes.

Wookie Walkers will also be hosting game nights, one geared towards families - and one geared towards serious war-gamers and those who enjoy role-playing games. The first will be held on July 1 from 8 until 9:30 p.m.

The store hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from noon until 6 p.m., Thursdays from noon until 7 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m.

News Briefs . . .

Town reduces 2021-22 property tax

The town commissioners approved the municipal budget and set the property tax-rate.

for Fiscal Year 2021-22 at their June meeting.

The General Fund was approved in the amount of \$1,907,085, while the Water Budget was approved in the amount of \$711,592 and the Sewer Budget was approved in the amount of \$853,295.

The property tax-rate was reduced from .36 cents per \$100 worth of assessed property to .3464 cents per \$100 worth of assessed property. The reduction was due to the increase of the value of local properties as the result of re-assessments, so the actual tax dollars that property-owners will pay will not sufficiently change.

If the town had retained the .36 cents per \$100 rate, the revenue generated would have amounted to \$739,656, and would have to have been the subject of a public hearing and incorporated in an ordinance. The .3464 cents per \$100 will yield an anticipated total of \$711,786, but its adoption would not entail a hearing and the adoption of an

ordinance. The end result is that the amount of tax property-owners will pay will be about the same that it was last year.

Ice cream and bakery coming

Emmitsburg is about to add-on a new business - an ice cream dairy and bakery. Ripleigh's Creamery, McSherrystown, has been busy renovating the old feed store located on East Main Street that was recently occupied by the Emmitsburg Food Bank and Catoctin Pregnancy Center, and is presently planning on initially having an ice cream-only service on July 3.

Owner Laura Maring told the News-Journal that, initially, Ripleigh's will have a walk-up window for customers to order their ice cream (milkshakes might also be available by the end of July).

During the remainder of the year and into spring of 2022, the building will be overhauled and the company's entire McSherrystown dairy and bakery operation will be relocated to the new location. The building, she said, "needs a lot of work."

Ripleigh's was named for the owner's 14-year-old daughter, a

graduate of Mother Seton School, who also pitches in and makes the ice cream as well.

The ice cream produced by Ripleigh's is made with milk acquired in partnership with Apple Valley Creamery - a small family-owned dairy farm and creamery located in East Berlin, Pennsylvania - who maintain their own herd. "Our ice cream is so fresh that we use milk which arrives from cow-to-product at Ripleigh's facility within 72 hours," Maring said.

The owner said she and Ripleigh had been working on the concept of an ice cream and bakery operation for about two years, when they discovered the old granary property was for sale.

For additional information, visit the Ripleigh's Creamery website at ripleighs.com.

'Shake shop' opens; pizzeria planned

A new business has opened in the Silo Hill "strip mall," specializing in "healthy, gourmet shakes."

Mason Dixon Mixin opened its doors in the Silo Hill strip mall on June 19 and features 40 flavors of shakes and "energy teas," and is owned by Emmitsburg resident Kelly Moreland.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Water/sewer agreement rejected

The Liberty Township supervisors unanimously voted at their June meeting to reject a proposed water and sewer service agreement with the developer of the Greenview Estates development.

The proposed development would span Washington Township in Franklin County and Liberty Township in Adams County, with ten lots lying within Liberty Township, and the balance to be sited in Washington Township.

The developer had sought to gain the township's approval of entering into an agreement wherein the township would assume maintenance of water and sewer lines installed within the township and would bill residents of the development.

In summarizing the developer's proposed water and sewer agreement, Township Solicitor John Lisko stated that, "What they want is, they (the developers)

want to put the water and sewer lines in (in the Liberty Township portion of the development), but they want us to maintain them, but they also want us to bill the customers."

Lisko noted that the developer suggested in the proposal that there would be a meter installed in Franklin Township, and that Liberty would then be billed for the water used by the residents in Liberty Township. Liberty Town-

ship then would have to bill the residents of the development and maintain the water and sewer lines within Liberty Township.

"You're not in the water and sewer business, so basically you'd have to almost have to start a water and sewer authority for ten persons (properties)," he stated.

Lisko said what Liberty Township should allow is to permit them to lay the water and sewer lines for the development within Liberty, provided that the developers maintain the lines and be

responsible for billing the service customers, adding, "We don't want any involvement. We don't need the administrative headache – not for ten people."

While the supervisors unanimously rejected the Greenview Estates proposed agreement, they did indicate the developer would be advised that the township would allow the developers to install water and sewer lines within Liberty with the conditions stipulated by the township solicitor.

Changes coming to CV sign laws

The Carroll Valley Borough Council, in conjunction with the municipal Planning Commission, will be implementing changes to borough regulations pertaining to signage to protected speech, especially signage posted on private property.

Like many other municipalities throughout the country, the Carroll Valley Borough Council found itself faced with the need to consider carefully crafting new or revised language in its regulations to avoid regulating, or potentially appearing to regulate, language on signs.

Attempting to regulate verbiage on signs, especially those posted on private property, has frequently been found to be in violation of the First Amendment rights, notably when it comes to "personal expression signs."

"Personal expression signs" might include signs that are political in nature (such as election signs), or display a personal opinion, or reference a specific topic of interest, or a personal position on a particular topic.

Borough Solicitor Zachary Rice was previously asked to review the municipality's current regulations

pertaining to signage, and Rice presented his initial recommendations at the June meeting of the council.

Rice stated, "Municipalities everywhere have been grappling with this very specific and narrow question of, 'How do we regulate signage, specifically political signage.'" A lot of the root cause to re-examining signage laws, he said, were tied to recent political, national elections.

The attorney noted that where municipalities "have gotten themselves in hot water with review in courts," has been when a municipi-

pality's sign ordinance has tried to regulate the content of "personal expression signs" differently than the content of other types of signs (such as commercial).

Rice recommended any reference to sign verbiage be purged from existing regulations and stressed that signs on private property could still be regulated regarding such aspects as the size of the signs, the placement of any signs, and any illumination of the signs, and prohibit their placement where they could cause confusion to vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

When asked about obscene language being placed on a sign on

private property, the attorney stated that the Supreme Court has established criteria determining what language can't be used on a sign. "You could ... prohibit types of speech or content that is otherwise (and thus) not protected under the First Amendment (based on Supreme Court rulings)," he said.

The council decided to start editing the current sign regulations to reflect current thoughts on Fifth Amendment rights, and to also meet jointly with the Planning Commission to do a more thorough overhaul on the borough's signage regulations.

News Briefs . . .

Carroll Valley July 4 events to be held

Carroll Valley Borough's final plans for the municipality's Fourth of July celebrations – to be held in the Carroll Commons park – were presented at the council's June meeting.

Assistant Borough Manager Gayle Marthers stated that the fireworks will once again be launched from Liberty Mountain, following the singing of the National Anthem. The fireworks will be launched beginning at 9:45 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by The Reagan Years, a 1980s music tribute band which will be performing pop, rock, heavy metal, and New Wave tunes from the 1980s. The group will be performing from 6:30 to 9:45 p.m. Food-trucks and rides (such as the zip-line) will be on-site as well as other activities.

There will be no charge to park, nor for admission. The Boy Scouts will assist with parking and can accept donations for their organization while doing so, but it is not required to give. There is no limit to the number of rides an attendee might wish to enjoy.

"Everything this year is free. They only thing you would have to buy would be if you would choose to buy food from the food-trucks," Marthers said.

Summer music events slated

The Hamiltonban Township and Fairfield Borough Joint Parks and Recreation Commission will be wrapping up their summer "Music in the Park" events with two more performances.

The annual event, "Music in the Park," is held annually at the Hamiltonban Community Park, located off Bullfrog Road. This year the event will be held on the third Sunday(s) of June, July and August from 6 until 8 p.m.

On July 18, Tom Malik will begin the show with traditional folk and Americana tunes. Malik has supported the park with previous performances. Also performing will be Cumberland Shakedown, featuring their "high-energy on-covers and beautiful original tunes," as well as accomplished guitarist due Bruce Rowland and Jimmy Wilkinson.

On August 22, Kaptan Zaplan will return to close out the summer events. Ed Kaplan and friends will be performing original and cover tunes. Kaplan has helped with "Music In The Park" since its inception.

Hamiltonban Township Supervisor Coleen Reamer said that being the event is all outdoors, there are no planned COVID-related protocols beyond requesting that attendees respect social-distancing. It is suggested attendees bring their own lawn chairs. For additional information, contact the Hamiltonban Township

Office. or call joint-commission President John Strahler at 717 642-5858.

Truck causes property damage

Liberty Township Police Chief Sherri Hansen reported at the June township supervisors' meeting that a tractor-trailer accident occurred at the intersection of Stultz and Wenschoff roads which resulted in damage to a private yard in which the truck left "massive ruts."

The incident occurred during May. Hansen said that the driver was traveling on Stultz Road and tried to make a right turn onto Wenschoff, "and got off the road and tore up the front yard" and had become stuck.

The chief noted that neither of the roads were posted to prevent trucks over 45-feet from utilizing them. She suggested that the supervisors might want to post one or both roads to prevent similar accidents from occurring in the future.

Hansen noted that if the owner of the damaged property was unable to get restitution for the damages directly from the truck driver's insurance provider, she would attach damages on behalf of the property owner as part of the traffic citation.

Summer storm slams SW Adams

A powerful thunderstorm struck the News-Journal's northern coverage area on June 21, leaving thousands without power and/or internet service, and downed trees and powerlines, and damaged property in its wake.

Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs, and Hamiltonban and Liberty townships were impacted by the severe storm which generated winds of up to 60 miles-per-hour (the National Weather Service had predicted winds up to 70 miles-per-hour).

The Emmitsburg area experienced occasional, heavy wind and rain and apparently sustained min-

imal damage as compared to its northern neighbors.

In the aftermath of the storm, Adams Electric and MET-ED scrambled to restore electric service, in some cases employing temporary "fixes," some of which subsequently failed - leading to limited secondary outages into the next day.

Unofficial reports of a tornado having struck north of Fairfield Borough could not be confirmed by the National Weather Service in State College, but meteorologist Barry Lambert noted that tornado-like damage can be produced by powerful straight-line winds – which are more endemic to the semi-mountainous geography of the area.

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THURMONT NEWS

Hobbs Hardware under new ownership

Hobbs' Hardware, established in 1925 and formerly owned by brothers Michael and Edward Hobbs, is now under new ownership and undergoing a major million-dollar renovation, including plans calling for a full-blown lumber yard.

Rob Baker, Hobbs' Hardware's new manager, said the hardware store, located at 15 E Main Street, was acquired from the Hobbs brothers by Gulf Group, having closed on the contract of sale in mid-May.

The actual renovation work com-

menced at the end of May, and the store has remained open in the wake of its sale to the Gulf Group and remains open while the overhaul and re-design proceeds.

Virtually all the shelving that once lined the walls of the store is being taken down, or already has been. Baker said the shelf removal is to facilitate the renovation of the walls.

In addition, considerable attention is being given to the ceiling, which entails removing all of the ceiling tiles as well as any insulation around the ceiling vents. The man-

ager said the ceiling will be left open to expose the metal beams, and the ceiling and beams will then be spray-painted black to maintain an "industrial look and feel."

The check-out counter will be relocated in the center of the front of the store, and a wide central lane will be created down the center of the store, with rows of shelving emanating right and left, perpendicularly off the main aisle.

Much of the original hardware and supplies that were in the store at the time of the sale have been retained

and are available for sale, but Baker stated that an additional \$200,000 worth of new stock will be arriving at any time to enhance product choices and assure a wider selection of items.

In addition, signage and obstruction are being removed from the front display windows in order to allow passing motorists and pedestrians to be able to view the entire contents of the store from the street.

But one of the significant features being added to the building proper is a full-service lumber yard, including lumber sheds, which will soon

come in the presently open parking and open lot area located to the side and rear of the main store.

As far as what the Hobbs brothers think about the renovations, Baker said, "They've been open to it - the changes."

Because the store has remained open for business, he said, "We've been busy. Sales have been booming," with some customers coming in just to ask about the changes. He said the business will be "contractor pro" focused but will maintain a diverse stock for any hardware needs.

A grand opening is planned for early fall.

Thurmont trails work progresses

The Thurmont commissioners awarded a bid at their June 1 meeting that will advance work proposed on two trails in the municipality. The proposed work will include paving for the new Eyer Road exercise trail and the Thurmont Trolley trail extension.

The town received a number of bids for the work, but the winning low bidder was American Asphalt and Paving Company of Baltimore; who offered to provide for the paving in both parks for a combined bid of \$47,835.

The commissioner voted to award the bid to American Asphalt based on a recommendation by Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick. Humerick said, "This company has done work with us here in town before," noting that the company was a "real good contractor to work with... we've had a good relationship with them. They do great work."

Under the approved contract, a little over half a mile of the Eyer Park trail and approximately 350 feet of the trolley trail's extension

will be paved with asphalt.

The work will be paid by using two Project Open Space grants, amounting to \$65,900. Town staff has performed work on the trails, and the town will be reimbursed for staff costs from the Project Open Space funds, and, after additionally paying the contractor, will still have about \$3,000 of the grant money remaining, which they will utilize for additional work on the trails.

The Eyer Road Park Exercise Trail is approximately .52 miles.

Upon completion, the park is expected to be three-quarters of a mile in length. The exercise trail is a circular trail that starts and ends in the front parking lot of the Eyer Road Park and was conceived and implemented this year by town staff and the Thurmont Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Thurmont Trolley Trail is a .716-mile trail that has been installed over the former Hagerstown and Frederick Railway trolley tracks that serviced Thurmont in the 1900s until 1954. The trolley serviced the area that ran from Frederick to Thurmont,

and back.

Thurmont Trolley Trail starts at East Main Street and ends 350 feet south of Moser Road, with the connection to the library. Humerick told the News-Journal that much of the work on developing the trolley trail has been with the help of volunteers from the Hagerstown & Frederick Trolley Trail Association, such as adding a Library Loop Trail.

The trail was established beginning in 2004 when the Thurmont Lions' Club assumed the task of refurbishing the old trolley route into the now-existing trail.

News Briefs . . .

Funding for emergency generator approved

The Thurmont commissioners awarded a contract for the installation of an emergency generator to be installed at the town office by GS Electric of Thurmont, for \$45,000 at their June 15 meeting.

Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick told the commissioners that the town had received a Hazardous Mitigation grant from FEMA for the proposed emergency-generator installation project for the town office.

However, FEMA initially indicated that, due to funding shortages, that the grant could only be approved with 60 percent funded, to be provided by FEMA with the expectation that the town would provide 33 percent of the project costs. Normally, such grants are arrived on a 75-percent/25 percent cost sharing basis.

Complicating matters further, the

award was based on now-obsolete cost estimates for the project which had been submitted in 2018, resulting in the bids coming in well over the allocated funding.

Given the impact of inflation on the cost estimates, Humerick contacted the agency that manages FEMA funding, and was informed that the town could re-submit the application with updated numbers, and may now obtain the 'more traditional' 75-percent/25-percent cost-sharing allocation due to an increase in available FEMA money.

If the resubmittal is re-approved, it would save the town some \$5,000 in the amount the town would otherwise have to provide under a 60-percent/33-percent arrangement.

Thurmont may see more park funding

Mayor Kinnaird stated at the

commissioners' June 22 meeting that he recently learned at a Project Open Space meeting that Frederick County has received \$6 million "specifically for parks and improvements."

The mayor said that the county will be sharing that on a 50-50 basis with the county's municipalities, "so we will have \$3 million to divide between all the (county's) municipalities."

Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick has been tasked with assimilating a list of possible projects, which must be "shovel-ready" to qualify. Humerick cited four projects: seal-coating paths in the Trolley Trail; the proposed Gateway Trail pedestrian bridge; the creation of the East End Park baseball field; and possibly field-lighting for Eyer Road Park.

The commissioners will review Humerick's recommendations before proceeding with submitting the applications.

KTS Mental Health Group opens



The Town of Thurmont welcomed KTS Mental Health Group to 5 B East Main Street on June 19. Pictured L-R are: front row: Commissioner Bill Buehrer, Dr. Natasha Smith, Christian Adams, Caleb Adams, Olivia Adams, CEO Chris Adams, Chris's wife Misty Adams, Chief Financial Officer Keith Bor-

ing. Back Row L-R: Commissioner Wayne Hooper, Mayor John Kinnaird, Chris Adams Jr., Chief Operating Officer Cynthia Covington Boring, Counselor Cheryl Back, & Clinical Social Worker Montana Love. For more information on Key Therapeutic Solutions visit www.ktsmentalhealth.com.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Councilman hired as planning director

The Taneytown City Council voted unanimously to hire a fellow council member as the municipality's new planning and zoning director at their June meeting, resulting in a now-vacant seat on the council.

Mayor Bradley Wantz stated at the council's June 9 workshop meeting that he was prepared to announce a nomination for a new director, whereby he identified Councilman Darryl Hale as his recommendation for filling the vacant staff position.

Wantz noted that City Manager James Wieprecht has served as the planning and zoning director, continued to do so while serving as the acting city manager, and further, continues to do so even after having been named as city manager. It was noted that Wieprecht had originally been a councilman when he had been initially hired as the city's planning and zoning director.

The mayor pointed out that town staff had held three rounds of accepting resumes over the course of several

months for the position of director, which had not resulted in producing a single, viable candidate suitable for that position, other than Hale, who had submitted his resume during the course of the last round of accepting them.

"Many of them (applicants) demanded a far greater salary than we were able or willing to pay," the mayor said, adding, "A lot of them brought good qualification but I don't feel they were pertinent to the City of Taneytown."

Councilman Joe Vigliotti also stated at the work session that he was "quite comfortable" if Hale were voted as the new planning and zoning director position.

In considering recommending Councilman Hale for the position, the mayor said that, given Hale's past work experience, his dedication to the city, and being so familiar with the city, he thought Hale would "fit well in this (position). This is the best recommendation I can make."

The council voted at their regular June meeting to hire Hale – Hale recusing himself from the vote – at a starting salary of circa \$43,000, with his start date to be determined. As a result of the vote, Hale must resign his seat on the council, to be effective immediately.

The mayor and council plans to select a candidate to fill Hale's now-vacated seat via application submitted by any interested parties, and the selected candidate will be voted on at the council's July 7 workshop meeting.

Memorial Park parking to be refurbished

The Taneytown Council voted to award a contract at their regular June meeting for refurbishing the large Memorial Park parking lot.

The council awarded the bid to Highland Turf (HTI), who will be performing the overhaul at a cost of \$203,553. Wantz noted that the parking lot has been used extensively during the winter for the storage of snow and salt, as well as for public parking for the numerous park activities. "Hence the

reason for the condition it is in today."

Parks & Recreation Director Vaccare told the city Parks & Recreation Advisory Board at their June meeting that HTI will commence with the work on the parking lot after July 4. The upgrade will entail the demolition of the existing parking lot and the construction of the new one.

The contractor will be applying on the city's behalf for the grading permit, "and get all the paperwork squared

away," so that they can start as soon as possible after the July 4 weekend, Vaccare stated, adding that the work needs to be finished by August 31 before football season commences. Because the work must be completed by the end of August, Vaccare said work around the parking lot is going to be very busy.

Vaccare said that HTI's bid was \$100,000 less than the amount that had been budgeted for the project.

The \$100,000 left over from the parking project can be applied to other park-related improvements, and regarding that, the director said, "We can figure out what we can do with those remaining funds. There is a lot to be done."

The discussion of wear and tear on the Memorial Park parking lot also resulted in Councilman Joe Vigliotti asking if there were other places the salt and snow could be dumped, instead of

Memorial Park.

City Manager James Wieprecht responded, "We (staff) have talked about some alternative locations. Public Works is open to some suggestions there, adding, "This parking lot is going to be a bit more robust than the current one as far as how it was constructed and will be constructed."

However, he continued, "We've also looked at some other locations of city property that we could potentially dump the snow and avoid having all of it go down to Memorial Park."

News Briefs . . .

July 4 event details

Taneytown will be celebrating the Fourth of July on July 3 at Memorial Park, with event activities beginning at 2 p.m.

Lorena Vaccare, director of Parks & Recreation, stated at the June meeting of the city Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting, that music will be provided by a disc jockey at the event. "We could just not rustle up a band," she said, but the DJ would be playing a variety of music, possibly including that the DJ might be taking requests.

Featured at the event will be a bounce house, a waterslide, and a dunk tank. Vaccare said she is looking for "volunteers" to be dunked and has sent invitations to the mayor and members of the council (hint, hint). Also, there will be pony rides and a petting zoo.

Several food trucks will be on-site to provide meals. Snacks, refreshments, and beverages The Lions Club will also be providing food.

The professional fireworks display will be presented by Fantastic Fireworks, with the display to commence at 9:30 p.m. The fireworks will be launched safely from a nearby field, Vaccare said, noting that the city chose to have the celebration on July 3 because fireworks displays were twice-the-price if held on July 4th.

"This should be a fantastic day," she stated, adding "I can't wait for this one."

The rain date for the celebration will be July 5.

Bullfrog Bridge reopens

The Frederick County Office of Transportation Engineering announced on June 24 that the Bullfrog Road Bridge, which spans the Monocacy River, has been re-opened to traffic.

The bridge was closed on January 31, 2020, due to safety concerns of cracked structural members. The closure allowed the Office of Transportation Engineering and the Office of

Highway Operations to make repairs to the bridge.

The structure, built in 1908 and rehabilitated in 1996 and 2010, is a single span, steel through-truss bridge of camelback design. The single-lane bridge has a span length of approximately 183 feet in length with a roadway width of approximately 13 feet.

Even with repairs, the bridge structure's posted weight restriction of 30,000 pounds will remain in place.

Project Manager Amanda Radcliffe, Office of Transportation Engineering, stated, "The Division of Public Works appreciates the public's patience during unanticipated closure."

Community garden discussed

Taneytown could be hosting a community garden in the near future, but discussion of such a project is presently in the very early, exploratory phase.

P&R Director Vaccaro briefed the advisory board at their June meeting that she had been having discussions with David Evans, a local, retired landscape architect, who had inquired about creating a community garden.

She stated that possible locations were discussed and the various features that might be included. One particular location that was mentioned was Roberts Mill Park, off of the small, stand-alone pavilion parking lot.

Conceptually, he envisioned an ADA-accessible, concentric design, with vegetables in the middle, and flowers on the outside, she said.

If such were to become a reality, Vaccaro stated that site security could be an issue. "I would want to make sure there is proper security there, because unfortunately -as we know from experience - 'Great idea,' then the second thought is, 'What would vandals do to it?'"

She said a community garden definitely needs to be researched further,

along with gathering community feedback as to what they might want to see included. She said the gardens would be volunteer-led and operated. The size of the plots, she said, would depend on how many individuals would want to be involved.

THS park gains security measures

Security lights and cameras have been installed at the Taneytown High School Park to monitor the grounds for the safety of those using the parks, and to protect the assets within the park and improvements that had been made.

P&R Director Vaccaro told the advisory board at their June meeting that the security measures were installed on June 4 and consisted of two 300-watt LED lights - one pointed at the skate lot and the other pointed towards the

parking lot and the playground.

Vaccaro said the lights required a slight re-alignment after they were installed because they were "projecting now into neighbors' windows." The angles were altered to avert the problem, she said, adding, "So we still have full light coverage, but it doesn't look like a train is approaching the neighbors' bedroom or anything (now)."

In addition to the lighting, three cameras have been mounted on a single pole, one of which is pointed at the skate park, a second is aimed at the pavilion and the field, and the third camera is pointed at the playground and parking lot.

The director also said that video-surveillance warning signs have been posted. "We should be all set (now) to ensure the safety and preservation of the area, its features, and park visitors," she stated.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Emmitsburg Commissioner Joe Ritz

Hello Emmitsburg, it's been awhile since I last gave an update to what is going on in Town government. I know that some of you joined, or at least tuned into, our virtual town meetings over the past almost year and half. I realize this brought several inconveniences, such as ensuring the Zoom call connections worked and signing up for public comment prior to a meeting. I am happy to report that the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved opening the town office for regular business and in-person meetings starting July 12th. The Mayor will communicate this request to County Executive Gardner, since our Town office is housed in a County-owned building.

We are optimistic she will approve granting full access to the public before her recommended transition plan takes effect. We've all lived through this pandemic

and it altered our lives significantly. We wore masks to buy groceries, our children received their education from teachers on a computer screen, listening to live music at the Ott House was out of the question, and friendly handshakes became taboo. We know that opening the town office sooner rather than later will only help Town staff and government better serve you.

The pandemic also brought hardships upon many of our town businesses. Although many of you supported them during these trying times, now that restrictions have been lifted, they're counting on us for our continued support. This includes some recently opened, and soon to be opened, stores. Looking for some healthy smoothies or antioxidant energy teas? Check out Mason Dixon Mixin. How about comic books and unique games and apparel? Swing by Wookie Walkers.

Both of these are located in the Silo Hill Shopping Center.

When I was young, Emmitsburg had an option for ice cream at Crouse's on the square. Sadly, we've been without frozen treats for a long time. That's about to change when Ripleigh's Eat it or Not opens across from the Dollar General. Not only will they offer traditional chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry, there will be other unique flavors such as gumball blitz, everything bagel, and maple bacon caramel. There will even be "adult" offerings such as mojito mint, cosmopolitan, and blackberry wine - valid ID required!

In addition to business growth, there is residential growth underway. The final stages of Brookfield have been approved and some new homes have already been constructed. Plans for that same developer to finish Emmitt Ridge II, after it has remained unfinished

for over 20 years, are also currently being discussed. There have also been discussions of developing the Frailey Farm, which also contains a projected bypass per the Town's Comprehensive Plan, off of Frailey Road and the property east of northbound US Route 15, across from the future Rutter's site. Other new housing developments on the horizon will also involve you, as those areas are currently outside of Town limits. A public hearing is required for any annexation resolution, and a referendum vote will be required if at least 20% of qualified voters in Town petition an annexation resolution. I'm taking this opportunity to remind you that you truly do have a say in the future of Emmitsburg.

You also have a say in the future of Emmitsburg via Town elections, whether voting or running for office. Our next election is sched-

uled for September 28th and there are two Commissioner seats up this year. Candidates have until August 28th to file and have their name on the ballot. I also cannot stress enough, please reach out to any or all of the Commissioners with any questions or concerns you may have. We really do like hearing from you.

Due to the upcoming holiday, our next Town meeting is July 12th, not July 5th. Some items on the agenda include an update to the federal funds we received from the American Rescue Plan, officially renaming ballfield #7 (Little League) in Memorial Park to honor the late, great Coach Jim Phelan, and the aforementioned public hearing regarding the intent to annex properties into Town corporate limits.

As our country celebrates 245 years of independence this year, I hope that everyone has a very safe and Happy July 4th! I look forward to seeing you around Town.

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

First I want to congratulate the Catocin High School Cougars Baseball Team for their 1A State Championship win. We are all extremely proud of this amazing accomplishment!

As we all know, Governor Hogan has lifted the State of Emergency for Maryland residents and businesses as of July 1st. This action removes the remaining restrictions on mask, gathering and social restrictions. Please note that individual businesses can still request facemasks. With the help of the vaccination we are passed the most critical months and can look forward to decreasing cases of COVID-19. The Town of Thurmont and the Frederick County Health Department are offering free COVID-19 vaccinations every Friday evening from 5 - 7

p.m. at the Town Office parking lot. Please take advantage of the free vaccinations if you have not already received the vaccination.

The Thurmont Skate Park is getting closer to reality! I recently acquired \$40,000.00 in Open Space Funding for developing the skate park. We had requested \$43,750.00 and I was extremely pleased to bring home 40K! I want to thank the teens and adults in the Skate Park Commission for pressing forward with this project. They have secured financial support from many donors. They are also selling t-shirts and raffle chances on two amazing skateboards. There has been a skate park booth at the Main Street Farmers Market where you can buy chances and shirts, donate or chat with the kids. Project Open

Space Funding comes from the State of Maryland through Frederick County.

The County is awarded funds which the County split with all the municipalities. Municipal leaders gather and decide how the funds are invested. Each municipality can request funds for acquisition of park property and funds for development. The funds are generally split equally between acquisition and development, this year there was almost \$400,000.00 available for each. I was able to get acquisition funding for two properties we are considering.

The Town of Thurmont welcomed two new businesses to Main Street on June 19th. KTS Mental Health Group opened their Thurmont practice at 5B East Main Street. They special-

ize in children and family mental health. Cuddles Cat Rescue opened at their new location at 3 East Main Street. Cuddles Cat Rescue is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization dedicated to humanely reducing the feral and stray cat population in the Thurmont area.

School is out for summer and our kids will be out and about playing and visiting friends. Be sure to be on the lookout for kids crossing our streets or riding bikes and skateboards. They are not always aware of their surroundings, so we need to be extra careful while driving. The kids are out having fun so let's take the extra

time necessary to make sure they are safe.

As has been the practice for many years, the Thurmont Board of Commissioners will have only one meeting in July. The meeting will be on Tuesday, July 27th at 7 p.m. The regular schedule of weekly meetings will resume on July 27th. Please feel free to contact us during July! The Town Office and Staff will be operational or their regular schedule the entire month.

I hope that families going on vacation this month have a great time. We all need some time off and the opportunity to get away for a few days!

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

We are all saddened by the loss of legendary Jim Phelan a cherished basketball coach at Mount St. Mary's. His life and legacy are part of Emmitsburg fabric that makes it so special and will continue to do

so. He was a player's coach first and that made all the difference. Everyone who has ever met him walked away with a special story to cherish. I coached young men at the Mount during his time as an active coach,

we shared coach to coach stuff. Very special. Always with some humor included. Our thoughts and prayers go out the Phelan family and greater Mount family.

continued on next page

Election Judges Needed For 2021 Emmitsburg Election

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

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

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



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

Summer is in full swing. We are beginning to see the return of some longstanding traditions, thanks to the widespread availability of vaccines. So far 70% of adults in Frederick County are fully vaccinated, which is great news! We are able to safely celebrate the Fourth of July with family and friends this year. July also marks the start of Frederick County's carnival season. Walkersville kicks off the schedule when it opens July 5th, and the Thurmont Firemen's Carnival begins the next night, July 6th.

Speaking of our firefighters, I was pleased to honor our many volunteer firefighters and auxiliary members recently at the 28th annual awards ceremony. Their dedication to serving our community, especially over the past year, is truly commendable.

Preserving Our Rural Areas

We value our rich history in Frederick County. When we protect our historic and cultural resources, future generations can understand what makes our rural communities distinct and special. That is why preserving the rural parts of Fred-

erick County has been a top priority of my administration. This year, we launched two new programs designed to protect our historic sites and keep our agriculture industry profitable.

Frederick County's farmers are creating value-added products to carry their industry into the future. To support that effort, we started the Agriculture Innovation Grant Program. County Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer and Vice President Michael Blue joined me this spring to announce \$306,000 in competitive grants to 14 farming operations. The goal of the grants program is to help ag businesses to expand or diversify their operations.

Recipients included Catoctin Mountain Orchard to establish an apple dessert trailer; Chestnut Hill Farm and Market for a well and irrigation system; Frey Farm for equipment to set up a farm stand; Inskeep Family Farm to construct a hog nursery barn; Heritage Hills Hops to purchase a hops pelletizer; the Kombucha Lady in Rocky Ridge to buy processing equipment; Libertas Estates for the purchase of ducks for egg

and meat production and to control pests; Moo Cow Creamery at Walnut Ridge, for a walk-in freezer and refrigerated van; Moon Valley Farm in Woodsboro, for a well and irrigation system; Needwood Farms for a walk-in freezer and shed; Rights of Man Farm to add a cut-your-own Christmas tree operation; Stillpoint Farm for farm stand equipment; Valley Homemade and Homegrown for a pavilion to teach flower arranging; and Willow Oaks/Country Pleasures Farm for mead production fixtures. These projects are expected to create 11 full-time and 17 part-time positions.

Agriculture Innovation Grants will be awarded twice a year. Applications for the second round of funding are being accepted throughout the month of July. Information on the program can be found online at www.DiscoverFrederickMD.com/ag_innovation_grant. Those who prefer paper applications can contact Katie Stevens, Associate Director of Agriculture Business Development in the County's Office of Economic Development. She can be reached at 240-285-2795 or at KStevens1@FrederickCountyMd.gov.

Our second new program is the Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program. This program allows us to preserve what makes our rural districts distinct and special. Eight historically significant structures were awarded funds in June to restore and protect the buildings. This competitive grant program will be offered once a year.

Both the Agriculture Innovation and the Rural Historic Preservation grant programs help to implement the goals of our award-winning Livable Frederick Master Plan. Applications are reviewed by review committees and scored based on established metrics. Funding comes from the county's recordation fee, which is a one-time fee charged on certain real estate transactions.

Rural Broadband

Last year, the County conducted a comprehensive Rural Broadband Study, which found that thousands of residents have no access to broadband service, and many more are underserved with slow or spotty connectivity. The past year has shown us how vital broadband access is, especially for residents who have been connecting to work or school from their

homes. We need to ensure more residents have access to fast and reliable internet service.

I am excited to announce a pilot program that will bring high-speed broadband internet to a portion of the Rocky Ridge community. Frederick County was awarded a \$202,000 grant from the State to establish the pilot program. The grant supports broadband expansion into rural areas as part of a private-public partnership. Comcast already maintains an extensive network in more densely populated areas of the county. The company agreed to partner with Frederick County on the project. Details, including the exact route of the network, are being worked out now. Individual property owners along the route will choose whether to connect their properties to Comcast's infrastructure.

Bringing broadband to our rural areas supports our economy and allows work and education to happen anywhere, anytime. The pilot program in Rocky Ridge is a small step. We know it will take a combination of approaches over several years to close the digital divide in our community.

Happy 4th of July! May God bless America!

continued from previous page

June has been special with the swiveling three season weather dynamic. Whatever, the next generation of homeowners are now settling in throughout the town. Included are the families purchasing the new homes that will finish out the Brookfield subdivision. Their settlements started in June and are queued throughout the summer and fall. With the completion of the buildout in the subdivision will come the completion of the necessary upgrades to Irish-town Road to permit opening Brookfield Drive onto Irishtown Road to two-way traffic. The road work is expected to be completed before Labor Day.

To our new neighbors, welcome to Emmitsburg. History has been very kind and generous to us. Our heritage includes Main Street being a primary western migration route for the early settlers. The place where master craftsman John Armstrong made signature Kentucky Long Rifles at the turn of the nineteenth century. Later to the where thousands of Union soldiers encamped and were nourished before moving on to Gettysburg. The town is the seat of mercy from which the Daughters of Charity went the ensuing days to tend to those wounded in the battle.

To the prestige embodied, the town, being recognized as a National Register of Historic Places, has picked up the monikers of "Fire Town" and "Green Town".

It is left to wonder what those who formed our history would say to a town being a regional leader in the use of renewable energy. What we did eight years ago is where most of the country must go. The town has an electric car, four electric vehicle charging stations, solar

powered algae control at the town lake, 94% of our town government energy needs are provided by renewable solar power. But they still would recognize a quiet town idyllically set amid a natural balance of mountains, farmland, and streams absorbing what comes its way. Earlier this year Emmitsburg was recognized as being one of the top ten most beautiful small towns in Maryland.

Today, unlike in the past, residents go about their "day to days" amidst their daily scurries and interactions at our restaurants, three museums and four archives, the world's most visited fire house the Vigilant Hose Company, the Seton Shrine, the Homeland Security/

Fire Academy facility, the Fallen Firefighters Memorial, the Grotto of Lourdes and Mount St. Mary's hosting over 400,000 visitors a year. All cylinders running 24/7/365. We welcome you as we do the streams of returning University students, alums, firefighters.

Our history is harrowed deep from what those before us did and left. Like them we are day in, and day out committed to growing the quality of life in Emmitsburg.

Emmitsburg, a great place to live, work, and visit. Join us. Your choice, step back in time, follow the wayside exhibits or step into the future forward in a regionally recognized sustainable leading community. Embody it, let its

place speak to you.

Now with your first experience of the Emmitsburg annual Community Heritage Day festivities and parade, do not stop now, go to the

pool, farmer's market, library, dog walk or just step out your front door and take a leisurely walk.

To all best wishes for a wonderful 4th of July.

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Thurs., July 8	Special Delivery Band Regular Thursday Night Bingo - Fire Hall Doors open 4 p.m. Games begin 6 p.m.
Fri., July 9	Gigantic Fireworks Display - 10 p.m. Feehan Brothers Band
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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

At 11:32 pm, Sunday, June 20th, summer began. On Monday, a heavy rainstorm with 30 miles per hour winds hit our local area, causing power outages, uprooted trees, and damaged power lines. Hopefully, we will have calmer weather for the rest of the summer. However, during July and August, we need to pay attention to heat advisories. It would be best if you understood the difference between an 'Excessive Heat Warning' and a 'Heat Advisory.'

Excessive Heat Warning means "the Heat Index values are forecasted to meet or exceed locally defined warning criteria for at least two days of daytime highs = 105 degrees Fahrenheit or higher". A Heat Advisory means the "Heat Index is forecasted to meet locally defined advisory criteria for 1 to 2 days of daytime highs 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher". During a heat-wave, you should listen to the updates from the National Weather Service.

Stay hydrated by drinking fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol. Use the buddy system when working in excessive heat and take frequent breaks if you must work outdoors. Check on your animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat. Please discuss heat safety precautions with members of your household.

While the 17-year cicada sound is subsiding and will mostly be gone by the middle of July, we need to be aware that the summer months represent a time when the cases of Lyme disease increase. Why? The reason is that we spend more time outdoors enjoying where we live. In Pennsylvania, Lyme disease (LD) is the most reported tick-borne disease and is usually seen during June through September months throughout the commonwealth. Lyme disease is an infection caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is carried to

people from a bite from a black-legged or deer tick.

The disease affects different body systems, such as the nervous system, joints, skin, and heart. Early symptoms may include headache, fever, fatigue, and a characteristic circular skin rash. Some of the things you should consider when you are out and about are; stay out of tall grass and un-cleared areas of the forest floor; don't roll in a pile of leaves, check daily for ticks; and if you plan to use insect repellent, be sure to review the safety information on the label. Many websites provide information on Lyme disease. One site you may want to visit is www.cdc.gov/lyme/. This website addresses diagnosis, testing, treatment, tick removal, and post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome. Please be careful. Enjoy summer and keep safe.

On June 17th, Carroll Valley Borough (CVB) lost one of its outstanding residents, Ms. Dorothy Anne Corbin, who served her community for over 17

years. She was an employee of the Borough for four (4) years, a member of the CVB Board of Health (17 years), Health Inspector (5 years), Roads & Parks Committee (16 years), and Borough Council (5 years). She also worked as a registered nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Frederick County Health Department. This lovely lady will be missed.

The Carroll Valley Library July virtual programs are: Rain Barrels, Monday, July 5th, 11 a.m. - Join Watershed Specialist Joe Hallinan from the Adams County Conservation District as he shows us how to build a rain barrel; Ninja Stress Ball (teen program), Monday, July 12th, 2 p.m. - Watch and learn how to make a great ninja stress ball and pick up the supplies at the Carroll Valley Library; Kindergarten Here I Come! Fairfield Elementary Edition, Wednesday, July 14th, 6:30 p.m. - Fairfield Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Westfall, reads a story!; Kite Craft, July 19th, 2 p.m. - Watch and learn how to make a colorful kite

craft and pick up the supplies at the Carroll Valley Library; and Rainbow Craft July 26th, 2 p.m. - Watch and learn how to make a colorful rainbow craft and pick up the supplies at the Carroll Valley Library.

The Carroll Valley plans to have fireworks on July 4th displayed on top of Ski Liberty Mountain once again. The venue is all grass seating, so bring chairs or blankets and save a little room around you to dance! As our borough manager, Dave Hazlett, said, "What began as a small community picnic has evolved into a musical celebration of community." So please come on down and celebrate the anniversary of our country with your friends and neighbors. (See news brief on page 3 for more details.)

The Carroll Valley Borough is resuming in-person committee meetings. Check the website for which committees will be meeting in July. Also, when driving, please be aware that more people will be out and walking on the trails. Keep well.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

We have had our share of some hot days over the past few weeks. Along with the nice weather, comes an increase in building activity and road work being completed. Please be mindful of the additional construction vehicles and road workers in our township. Safety always remains our priority.

We are actively putting up the new reflective signs and break away poles in the Township. To date, we have replaced half of the old signs. We will also be doing additional roadwork on McGlaughlin Road preparing it to be paved next year. We are scheduled to start tar and chipping Irishtown Road, Brent Road, parts of Bullfrog Road, and Old Waynesboro Road. We hope to have those proj-

ects completed by the July 4th holiday. Bruce Pecher is back out doing the third mowing of this season.

The grass is growing very rapidly along the township roads. We are trying to stay ahead of the growth as best as possible. We do have some places in the township along Stultz Road, Brent Road, and McGlaughlin Road where wire fencing is caught up in the weeds and brush along the roadway from old fields that have not been maintained. That wire gets caught up in the mower and then causes the mower to become unserviceable sometimes for days at a time. If you have property that has wire along the right-of-way of the township road that is no longer being used, please let us know so that we can remove the

wire and avoid destruction to our township equipment.

Ricky Haywood was hired as a seasonal Part-Time Road Crew Employee. You will see him out weed whacking a lot around the signs and bridge abutments. We are thankful that Ricky has come on board to be a part of our team.

We have joined partnerships with Hamiltonban Township to swap off labor. A couple of the road crew performed flagging work when they paved some of their roads in their township. They will offer the same service to our township when needed in the future. I am very thankful that we have a good working relationship with Hamiltonban Township. Hopefully, we can build additional working relationships with other local municipalities.

A friendly reminder that Steelman Marker Road is a no left turn off 16. There is still some activity with vehi-

cles turning left from PA Route 16 onto Steelman Marker Road. Please be aware that the police are enforcing this restriction. We encourage you to use the Orchard Road entrance. We continue to praise our Police Department for their solid police presence in both Liberty and Freedom Township.

Our township ordinance Codification is in the process of being completed. Once our ordinance and zoning codes are all codified, and you will be able to search online on the Liberty Township page of the Adams County website.

We are in the process of negotiating a three-year waste management contract. Additionally, the Comcast Cable Franchise Fee contract is up for renewal. I know some of our residences do not have the opportunity to have cable. If you are interested in services, please contact the township, and let us know and we will make sure that we bring it to the

attention of Comcast.

We are still actively looking for people to do appraisals for new flooring in the township. We would like to replace the floors, paint the walls, and spruce the building up. It is long overdue for maintenance. Please reach out to the Township if you are interested in providing an appraisal.

In July we will be starting the budget workshops moving forward with the 2022 budget. Discussion projects on our agenda include Roadwork for 2022 and replacing outdated equipment for the Police Department.

Brandon Lowe won the Primary Election for the position of Township Supervisor. Brandon Lowe, Liberty Township Tax Collector Jessica Ilko, and Township Auditor Sue Hek will be on the ballot unopposed in November. Cindy Arentz, Bob Jackson, and I are 4-year representatives of the township republican party. We will be going to the County meetings representing our taxpayers. If you see us out and you have a concern with something you want brought to the county level, please let us know.

We encourage residents to come to our township meetings the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. and offer any input on how we can better service our community. On behalf of all the Liberty Township Supervisors, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. God Bless! Have a safe July 4th!



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

Adams County received notification from WellSpan that the Adams County Community Vaccination Center at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services will be ceasing operations on July 1st due to the decrease in demand. Vaccinations will still be available at Gettysburg Hospital, other WellSpan locations and at other vaccination participants.

The Board would again like to applaud the collaboration between Adams County and WellSpan to make the Adams County Community Vaccination Center timely, efficient, and convenient. We have heard nothing but positive comments regarding the venue and the service provided. Special recognition goes out to DES Director Warren Bladen, Adams County Manager Steve Nevada, Solicitor Molly Mudd, the Adams County Security Department, the Adams County Sheriff's Office, and Building/Maintenance for their key roles in facilitating and managing this critical community facility.

The Board thanks WellSpan for this community partnership that greatly benefited many residents of Adams County! If you haven't been vaccinated - please consider getting vaccinated! For vaccination information contact WellSpan at www.mywellspan.org or by calling The WellSpan COVID Hotline at 855-851-3641.

Until recently, to enter county facilitates an appointment was required along with a tempera-

ture scan and mask. This policy has changed. Following CDC protocol, applicable to both staff and public, persons that have been vaccinated are not required to wear a mask. Persons that have not been vaccinated are still required to wear a mask. Temperature checks for public and staff have ceased. Signage indicates this policy to visitors entering the building.

Appointments are no longer required to visit county offices - with the exceptions being the District Attorney and the Sheriff's Office. Public viewing of court proceedings is still limited to virtual viewing at the Human Services Building by contacting the Court Administrator at 717-337-9846 at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

The May 18th Primary Election is in the books and we are happy to report the process in Adams County was generally seamless. The total voter turnout was 28.68% from a registered voter pool of 70,268. Absentee/Mail-in ballots applied for and mailed out was 6,371 and the total returned was 5,049. Unlike the much larger Presidential General Election, the Elections office, supplemented by other county staff, was able to process all ballots on election day. A shout out to our Elections Staff for their extra effort put in to assure the election went smoothly.

We are always looking for assistance at the polls. This is a great opportunity to see your friends

and neighbors while serving your community. Anyone wishing to serve our community and run for a Judge of Elections, or sign up as a poll worker, are urged to contact the Adams County Voter Registration & Elections office at 717-337-9832.

In late May, the Adams County Board of Commissioners cut the ribbon for the Mercy House Recovery Center. Mercy House is located on High Street in Gettysburg beside St Francis Church. The building includes a walk-in center on the 1st floor and residential housing for 7 males approved for the treatment program. The center will be administered by The Rase Project who have a commendable track record with similar centers in York, Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Carlisle.

Mercy House has been an outstanding collaboration between The Adams County Board of Commissioners, York/Adams MHIDD Health Joinder, community organizations and individuals that made this vision possible. To take a county owned, vacated and deteriorating building, and re-purpose it for a significant community benefit is very gratifying. To largely accomplish this with grant funding, and funding from community organizations and individuals, is a tribute to this cause and the vision and generosity of our community. The Mercy House project and The Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range are

two public/private projects our community can be very proud of accomplishing.

The Board has already begun to examine properties for a female version. It is anticipated that the female facility will be entirely residential as the walk-in center already exists at Mercy House.

COVID has certainly enhanced and illustrated the benefits of electronic communications. The Adams County Information Technology Department is in the process of working with Court Administration on the development and deployment of new courtroom technology. A trial of new technology was initially put into the Human Services Building Courtroom so that thorough testing could be completed. After multiple years of testing, a determination has been made to extend this technology into all Common Pleas courtrooms located at the Courthouse.

The new technology will include digital recording, video conferencing, and audio system upgrades. With the modernized technology in place, the Courtrooms will have further capabilities that would otherwise not be available. The goal of the effort is to leverage the technology to provide a courtroom that is capable of meeting the standards of our current time while increasing efficiency and safety.

At the May 5th Commissioners Public Meeting, our Corrections Employees were recognized

on Corrections Employee Week - May 2-8. The Board was honored to recognize our corrections staff for their contributions to Adams County with a proclamation and remarks by Warden Katy Hileman.

Adams County has several departments that are deemed essential - including corrections. A career in Corrections provides excellent benefits and competitive wages with advancement opportunities. The Board, HR, and Prison Administration has been discussing both proven and new methodologies for recruiting corrections officers. Apply online at www.adamscounty.us or call Adams County Human Resources at 717-337-9822.

Summer has finally arrived, and we are hopefully putting COVID in our rear-view mirror. Adams County Farmers markets are bursting with fresh produce with corn, peaches, and apples on the way. The Majestic Theater, Totem Pole Playhouse and Gettysburg Community Theater have turned the lights back on. There will be a Civil War Reenactment/Living History at The Daniel Lady Farm on July 3-4, Bike Week is back from July 8-11, and there will be July 4th celebrations at the Gettysburg Rec Park & Carroll Valley Community Park, with food trucks, music, and fireworks.

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.

County Notes...

PA Treasury Now Processing Payments for Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity announced that the state Treasury has started processing payments for its annual Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Eligible Pennsylvanians can still apply through June 30, to receive a rebate. Direct deposit payments are scheduled to be sent to recipients on July 1, while check payments are scheduled to be mailed on June 30.

Garrity encourages applicants to sign up for the direct deposit option because it is more secure than sending paper checks, it will help ensure that payments are received on time, and it will cut the cost of administering the program. The program benefits about 550,000 Pennsylvanians each year with approximately \$250 million in rebate payments. If you have questions about the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program, contact the Area Agency on Aging or a Department of Revenue district office.

Older adults and Pennsylvanians with disabilities now have until Dec. 31 to apply for the state's 2020 Property Tax/Rent Rebate program. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians

aged 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The eligibility income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for certain qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

Claimants are encouraged to file their rebate applications online at mypath.pa.gov. Additional information, including how to apply online and how to access paper forms, can be found by clicking here. Rebates will be distributed beginning July 1, as required by law.

Farmer's Market Vouchers for Eligible Adams Seniors

The Adams County Office for Aging (ACOFA) is partnering with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to bring fresh, locally grown produce to eligible seniors through the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. This program has benefitted our lower income seniors by providing vouchers valued at a total of \$24 for individuals or \$48 for couples, which can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables

at participating farmers markets through November.

To apply, call 717-334-9296, visit one of the seven senior centers in Adams County or click here. Vouchers will be available on Senior's

Day, Saturday, June 5, at the Adams County Farmer's Market.

Beginning June 7, vouchers will also be available at the ACOFA and area senior centers. Eligible seniors must reside in

Adams County, be 60 years old or older by the end of the year and meet income requirements. The annual individual income limit is \$28,828; the limit for couples is \$32,227.



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

What is Conservatism?

Shannon Bohrer

The conservative party has strong beliefs in small government, lower taxes, and fewer regulations, what many call the Republican three-legged stool. The Republican Party has held the presidency for 24 of the last 40 years, and they have been successful, but they have also experienced some problems. However, one issue in particular where they have prevailed, lowering taxes, has had long term unintended consequences.

Our current president says he wants to work with the Republicans. The Democratic proposals include pandemic relief, infrastructure, voting rights, and criminal justice reform. Republicans have complained that the pandemic relief gave away too much money to the unemployed, and the infrastructure bill encompasses too many programs that are not actual infrastructure, and it cost too much. Too much from the conservative perspective.

While the democratic president has said he is open to ideas, the few ideas put forth by the Republicans seem woefully inadequate from the democratic perspective. They keep repeating that their fiscal conservative values will not allow them to spend too much. The problem, at least one problem, with their protestations of being fiscally conservative, is that under the

previous administration, the budget deficits exploded. The national debt increased by \$7.8 trillion. That was a 40 percent increase in our debt, in just four years, under a “conservative” Republican president.

How did the party of conservatism spend so much in a short period? Part of the problem has been their success with reducing taxes and enacting rules that allow companies and individuals, to avoid paying taxes. The tax reduction act, passed in December of 2017, was supposed to add \$1.8 trillion in new revenue, which would pay for the \$1.5 trillion in tax reductions. It did not. Additionally, Trump asked for \$1.15 trillion for discretionary spending. Congress approved \$1.3 trillion. What discretionary spending cost \$1.15 Trillion?

When the tax bill passed, the non-partisan Tax Foundation predicted the act would “add almost \$448 Billion to the deficit over the next ten years.” And we are going in that direction.

The real issue is that the excessive debt increases by the Trump administration is not new in Republican administrations. In 2007, the late Senator John McCain, said: “Congress spends money like a drunken sailor.” Senator McCain also said it was not his intention to disparage drunken sailors by comparing them to members of congress. What happens when a party of small government, lower taxes, and fewer regulations keep creat-

ing more significant deficits? How we got here helps to explain our current predicament.

Many credit the beginning of the modern conservative movement to Barry Goldwater’s campaign for president in 1964. However, President Nixon was more liberal than conservative, he wanted to expand many of our social programs. After Nixon, the republicans turned back to conservatism. Many ascribe President Reagan their popularization of the three-legged republican stool, small government, lower taxes, and fewer regulations. Reagan famously said that with less corporate tax, business would prosper. This was attached to the famous trickledown economics theory, that with free enterprise, everyone would thrive. It never worked and, at the time, Vice President Bush called the trickledown theory - voodoo economics. He was correct.

Since President Reagan, the republicans have espoused conservative values as the parties’ beliefs. They have been successful in their accomplishments; in that, they have reduced regulations and taxes. The conundrum is that when in office, they have not reduced government spending. While they have held the presidency 24 years, of the last 40 years, their record of deficits is inconsistent with what they say. Under every Republican president, including Reagan, our national debt has grown - a lot.

Conversely, under the only two democratic presidents, the national

debt has been reduced. During the last two years under President Clinton, we had a balanced budget and were paying down the national debt. Under President Obama, the national debt he inherited was skyrocketing, but before he left, it was in decline. “The tax and spend liberals” have held the presidency for 16 years, and they decreased the deficits they inherited, while the “Conservative Republicans” have increased the deficits.

While the Republicans did increase the debt, they were successful in lowering taxes, one of their strongest beliefs. Of course, their success is also the problem. In 2018, the first year of the Trump tax reduction act, almost one hundred of the Fortune 500 companies “effectively paid no federal taxes.” Additionally, sixty of the same companies earned \$79 billion in the same year. How do you make \$79 billion in profits and have no tax liability?

In 2018, with the new corporate tax rate, Amazon, and Netflix, because of their profits, should have paid \$16.4 billion (21 percent) in taxes, but they paid nothing. While not paying taxes, they received \$4.3 billion in tax rebates. To make this clear, Fortune 500 companies that are profitable – pay no taxes and are given tax rebates. I would guess that the more you do not pay, the higher the rebate; at least, it seems that way.

In addition to their success of reducing the corporate tax rate or eliminating the taxes altogether, the conservatives, and others, added cor-

porate welfare, otherwise known as corporate subsidies. Corporate subsidies have been around for years. General Motors, Boeing, and Intel have all been recipients of billions of dollars of subsidies. The fossil fuel industry receives around \$20 billion in subsidies each year. The CATO Institute, a very conservative organization, estimates that “the US Government spends around \$100 Billion annually on corporate welfare.”

The question should be, how tax breaks result in no taxes for billionaires and corporations, and at the same time, the corporations are entitled to subsidies. The answer is simple, tax breaks for friends and family, called wealthy people and corporations, that result in contributions to campaigns. The conservatives are willing to compromise on spending with the democrats, providing the tax rates do not change. Compromising tax rates might reduce contributions to their campaigns.

Recently, conservatives complained that an additional \$300 per week for unemployment was making people lazy. One hundred billion in corporate welfare is not on the table, corporate tax rates are not on the table, but your \$300 unemployment check is on the table. There is a difference between the 100 billion and the \$300; the difference being that you will pay taxes on the unemployment check.

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

American Mind

Debt? Inflation? The Big Muddy

Mark Greathouse

Back in 1967, folks were treated to Pete Seeger’s “Waist Deep in the Big Muddy,” a song of war protest. Perhaps today, it’s fitting to apply to our nation’s fiscal crisis. As one of its famous lines goes, “We were neck deep in the Big Muddy and the big fool said to push on.”

Our national debt is just greater than \$28 trillion. If you could manage to count one number aloud per second, it would take you nearly 32,000 years to count to one trillion. Say 999,642,327,459 in one second. Gotcha! Hey, it’ll take 896,000 years to count to 28 trillion. Now, what does our national debt have to do with inflation? With a viable economy?

What’s inflation besides putting air in your car tires. From a financial perspective, inflation is defined as a persistent increase in the level of consumer prices or a persistent decline in the purchasing power of money. In effect, inflation as applied to economics is a regressive income tax on citizens, whereby they exchange reduced purchasing power for profligate government spending. The prices of goods go up without commensurate increase in value.

Inflation has a sordid history and hyperinflation even worse. In 1947 following WWII, the amount of money in the German economy—currency plus demand deposits—was five times its 1936 level. During the German hyperinflation the number of German marks in circulation increased

by a factor of 7.32×10^9 . The inflation rate in Venezuela reached 10,000,000 percent by the end of 2019. Venezuela’s economy had begun to experience hyperinflation during the first year of Nicolás Maduro’s presidency as mostly caused by heavy money-printing and deficit spending. A loaf of bread cost 124,000 Bolivars, a dozen eggs 228,000 Bolivars, and it cost a single person 78,000,000 Bolivars a month to eke out an existence.

Hyperinflations tend to self-perpetuate, as the public tries to spend the money it receives as quickly as possible in order to avoid the inflation tax, while the government responds to higher inflation with higher taxes and even higher rates of issuing money. As a government commits to financing its expenditures by issuing money and begins to raise the money supply by perhaps 10 percent per month, the inflation rate increases commensurately. The government sees that it can no longer buy as much with the money it is issuing and responds by raising money growth even further. Thus, the vicious hyperinflation cycle begins and initiates an ongoing tug-of-war between the public and the government. Government prints and borrows more money, and citizens receive ever less value. The government also reacts by implementing an age-old punitive solution called taxes toward controlling and even masking inflation. Businesses feed those increased taxes into the prices at which they sell their goods and services. Consumers find they can’t buy as much and turn

to the government money trough for relief rather than do without. With decreased demand comes decreased production and resultant scarcity and rationing of goods.

The debt portion of the U.S. government money machine is huge. Most folks don’t know that most U.S. debt is held by our own government. It holds \$21 trillion mostly as T-bills, notes, and bonds. Foreign nations hold a measly \$6.8 trillion, with Japan \$1.29 trillion, China \$1.07 trillion, and the UK \$430 billion. Oh, the interest on all that debt is \$3.9 trillion. Ouch! That’s like a bad credit card. And you can bet our foreign creditors are none too happy when our dollar is devalued by inflation.

Let’s add to this decidedly ugly picture. Currently, the United States annually takes in \$3.5 trillion in revenue and spends \$6.8 trillion. How long could the typical citizen operate their household spending twice as much as they take in? Our currency is called “fiat money,” inconvertible paper money made legal tender by government decree. It’s not pegged to anything solid like gold. Inconveniently, the U.S. Government cannot declare bankruptcy.

Two important questions arise. Who gains by taking us down the financial insolvency route, and how do we bring an end to this route to fiscal disaster? I feel as though my finger is on the hair-triggers of a double-barreled shotgun... 10 gauge.

Who gains? It’s complicated, but the simple answer is that there are folks among us who thrive on control and are willing to do just about anything to maintain their exercise thereof. What form of government depends exclusively on full control of its citizens?

Answer: Communism and its weak sister, socialism. Think not? How about the ongoing leftist attacks on private property, religion, family, education, and small business?

The politically “progressive” (misnomer) left would have us believe that taxing the wealthy would solve the revenue problem. That wouldn’t put a dent in it. Plus, it disincentivizes the wealthy from investing in new products and businesses that would create jobs by penalizing their success. Businesses respond by moving operations out of country.

How many folks know that revenues from income taxes actually increased under President Trump’s reduced tax rates for all Americans? You wouldn’t hear that on CNN or MSNBC and barely heard it on FOX. The tax increases proposed by President Biden to pay for wanton spending on social and energy programs will tank the economy. While he insists that no one earning under \$400,000 will see increased taxes, that’s a total lie. The middle- and low-income wage earners will be deeply affected by the hidden taxations of job losses and inflation. The vested interests of the Federal Reserve, politicians, and media claim inflation is at 2 percent, when true inflation stands at around 6 percent. Say good-bye to your buying power.

So, how do we get the national debt and thereby inflation with its lost buying power under control? I suggest five possible actions to rein it in: First, we could use phone calls and emails to hold Federal and state politicians’ feet to the fire to stop their profligate spending. Second, we could educate politicians to keep their grubby paws out of the national money trough

that they nose up to like pigs to slop. Educate? Anyone optimistic? Third, we could elect new, fiscally-conservative legislators who follow-through on promises to not spend in excess of tax revenues. Promises made versus promises kept? Fourth, we could have a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution to ensure that our Federal government is held to fiscal account. Efforts by the House to obtain the necessary majority to convene a Constitutional Convention have been DOA. A downside to such an amendment is that it doesn’t take into account fiscal emergencies like wars or pandemics. Fifth, we could ramp up the economy to take in vastly greater revenues and thus be able to collect more tax revenue. Frankly, my common sense says this fifth action holds the most promise. Unfortunately, it isn’t going to happen under President Biden’s watch.

Our nation must follow fiscal fundamentals. Until recent tax cuts, deregulation, and trade deals supplied a quick-fix band-aid, economic growth had been below historic standards. The current Administration has reversed those initiatives mostly out of spite over the previous President, substituting the socialist, government-driven economic sleight-of-hand of the political leftists while we citizens pay resulting inflationary prices whether at the gas pump, hardware store, or grocery. We need capitalism on steroids, a vibrant growing economy to dig out of our inflationary debt crunch. Meanwhile, we listen to the big fools and keep crossing the Big Muddy.

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

The Bulwark

Amend the Electoral Count Act

Mona Charen

Democrats in Congress have crafted an election bill, H.R. 1, that is poorly matched to the moment. The legislation attempts to accomplish more than is currently feasible, while failing to address some of the clearest threats to democracy, especially the prospect that state officials will seek to overturn the will of voters.

H.R. 1 is a mashup of sound ideas (requiring a paper record of each vote) with outdated and arguably unconstitutional measures—banning so-called “dark money” at a time when small dollar donations are more important; and limiting speech, which the ACLU, among others, opposes.

Some are now saying the Democrats should turn to the John Lewis Act as a response to Republican efforts to curtail voting rights in the states. But the Lewis Act is off point too.

Look, Republican efforts to limit early and absentee voting are destructive because they ratify the Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen. Every law that limits voting access is a message to voters saying, “This is necessary because the Democrats cheated.” So these laws deserve the strongest condemnation, and Democrats would be justified in running ads reminding voters that Republicans were acting in bad faith.

But not all of the measures in these laws are objectionable. Requiring an ID strikes many people as simple common sense. An Economist/YouGov poll in April found that 64 percent of Americans agreed with the statement: “Photo ID should be required to vote in person.” Among African Americans, 60 percent agreed. Democrats should not die on this hill.

Moreover, the far more pressing emergency is the Republican party’s loosening attachment to democratic procedures and to truth itself. As we saw in the aftermath of 2020, 147 Republican office holders were willing to decertify the Electoral College count. A few brave local Republican officials resisted tremendous pressure to alter or misreport the results of elections in their states. They demonstrated integrity. For their trouble, instead of being lauded and celebrated as heroes of democracy, they have been censured by GOP committees across the country as the legend of the Big Lie has seized the minds of rank-and-file Republicans.

The Republican party is barreling toward disregarding the actual vote count in a presidential contest. The John Lewis Act does not address this. It would permit the Justice Department to police voting rules that disproportionately affect minority voters in some states, but it is miles away from dealing with a problem like refusing to certify the Electoral College results.

There is something Democrats can do at the federal level to respond

to the threat: They can amend the Electoral Count Act of 1887. Republicans would be unlikely to filibuster this law, so Democrats can pass it with a simple majority vote.

This law, blissfully ignored for most of its history with the exception of a couple of law review articles, was passed following the contentious Hayes/Tilden election in 1876—a contest that was so close it threatened to tear the country apart just 11 years after Appomattox. The law is, by many accounts, a “morass of ambiguity.” That’s too kind. Here is a sample of the brilliant draftsmanship:

“If more than one return or paper purporting to be a return from a State shall have been received by the President of the Senate, those votes, and those only, shall be counted which shall have been regularly given by the electors who are shown by the determination mentioned in section 5 of this title to have been appointed, if the determination in said section provided for shall have been made, or by such successors or substitutes, in case of a vacancy in the board of electors so ascertained, as have been appointed to fill such vacancy in the mode provided by the laws of the State; but in case there shall arise the question which of two or more of such State authorities determining what electors have been appointed, as mentioned in section 5 of this title, is the lawful tribunal of such State, the votes regularly given of those electors, and those only, of such State shall be counted whose title as electors the two Houses, acting separately, shall concurrently decide is

supported by the decision of such State so authorized by its law; [Hang in there, we’re almost done] and in such case of more than one return or paper purporting to be a return from a State, if there shall have been no such determination of the question in the State aforesaid, then those votes, and those only, shall be counted which the two Houses shall concurrently decide were cast by lawful electors appointed in accordance with the laws of the State, unless the two Houses, acting separately, shall concurrently decide such votes not to be the lawful votes of the legally appointed electors of such State.”

Unless I missed a period somewhere, that is one sentence. Laws should not be written to obscure but to clarify.

The law directs governors to certify their states’ results and the slate of electors chosen by the voters. But it also specifies that in a case of a “failed election” (not defined), in which the voters have not made a choice, the state legislature can step in to appoint electors.

As the votes were being counted in 2020, Republican influencers like radio host Mark Levin were suggesting that state legislatures had a “constitutional duty” to reverse the will of the voters and name their own slate of Trump electors. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis urged Republicans in Pennsylvania and Michigan, both of which have majority Republican legislatures, to phone their representatives so that they could “provide remedies.” When Sen. Lindsey Graham was asked by Sean Hannity about possibly inval-

idating votes, he said, “Everything should be on the table.”

The Electoral Count Act decrees that if one representative and one senator object, in writing, to the counting of any state’s electoral votes, the bodies must adjourn to their chambers to debate the matter. Here is a video of Vice President Biden, sitting as president of the Senate, rejecting objections to the Electoral College count precisely because the House members did not have a Senate co-signer.

As Ed Kilgore has recommended, congress should amend the Electoral Count Act to clarify that only electoral votes certified by individual states will be counted and that the vice-president’s role is purely ceremonial. Further, the threshold for objections to state electoral vote counts should be much higher than two.

I would add that a supermajority should be required to decertify any state’s electoral votes, not just a simple majority as the law now permits. Additionally, the law should be amended to eliminate the “failed election” section that empowers legislatures to substitute their preference for that of the voters. There are armies of law professors who can provide relevant language and good ideas for other changes.

Forget H.R. 1. Forget campaign finance. Don’t persevere on whether poll watchers can distribute water to voters waiting in line. It’s not the vote casting, but the vote counting that needs attention. Now.

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

Down Under

Looking at the whole

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

In order to properly understand the big picture, everyone should fear becoming mentally clouded and obsessed with one small section of truth.

—Xun Kuang

Just over thirty-six years ago one of America’s most influential and capable people died. Born in Arkansas in 1905, J. William Fulbright had a vision of the way America could maintain its position in the world while forging coherent relationships with other nations, yet allowing a reasonable standard of living at home.

He may be little-known today, but his legacy remains the template for these current times, as his brilliant assessments of both politics and power still have much say.

You can find his details in Wikipedia, and they are well worth reading, but I want to bring his vision applied to the current international situation.

One quote, courtesy of ‘Foreign Affairs’, to begin: ‘Remaking U.S. internationalism will require that Americans bridge the old divide between committed globalists and concerned localists.’ That task, as Joe

Biden has often said, is more complicated than leading through the ‘power of example’, especially when that example includes an organised effort to upend electoral democracy.

Better that Americans should start practicing sober self-awareness, something Fulbright claimed was critical to living, and which allowed the development of a path between ‘illiberal nationalists’ on one side, and ‘braying chauvinists’ on the other.

But self-awareness is a rare commodity, especially in presidents, as the role of leader demands only external awareness. Everything is ‘out there’ demanding action, answers, and assumptions. And, until now – at least, since Lincoln and FDR – that is what you have had. When you compare their approach toward international affairs, then look at the stance Biden is taking, you will a similar way of addressing these issues. And these, today, are far more critical than ever before.

But in domestic politics, Biden departs radically from Fulbright, who was a racist, a bigot, a patriot schooled in the superiority of white Anglo-Saxon men. Fulbright redressed all these now unacceptable beliefs with one that has to put him on the top of the tree: He got rid of one of the greatest scourges in American politics: Joe McCarthy.

You remember that the senator

took on the role of cleansing society of Communist sympathisers, (a terrible parallel of the Nazi’s getting rid of Jews), and became paranoid in his cross-dressing fury.

Your new president is not only aware of his own limitations, but of his strengths and ability. He is thus able to see the middle road, the one that threads the tortuous path between left-wing socialists and far right exclusionists. He has so much experience that he is making progress, and one can see the cracks in society slowly closing. From illiberal, paranoid posturing to balanced sanity, Joe is wiping the orange hair from the billboards.

Domestic policies play a vital role in everyday matters, and his newly announced crackdown on crime show how timely and adept he is in this area - but no matter how much things like this matter to citizens, they do not determine a nations future. That is ultimately down to international relations and the perceptions others have of you.

And in that area, a faint light at the end of that dark tunnel has appeared. The cult of personality has gone, and reality has returned. Friends are supported and acknowledged; enemies are told they will be held to account.. A ridiculous and greedy war has ceased, and supposed allies who last year were ignored at best, and denigrated as normal - remember Germany, Europe, England? - are now being consulted.

Before, real enemies were embraced – remember North Korea and Russia were the good guys, China was bad, so had to be controlled by tariffs?

Now, the UN, NATO, are back doing what they were intended to do, while the real baddies are being met and some kind of dialogue begun. The scariest is, of course, Vladimir Putin.

He, and the nation he rules, are very different to you in so many ways: Dictatorship versus democracy, iron fist but no true election.

So, to get a sense of one of the most fundamental of differences, lets explore the differing views of history.

Russia sees history as a living presence, an active reminder of what has happened to the country, its peoples and its leaders. It has an active role in both the picture it paints to the citizens, as reminders of their heritage, and in determining foreign policy. Since 1917 slights and insults have not been forgotten, but stored up as the reason for policy decisions and actions. This may not be obvious to the president at the time, but it is like background colour, a kind of ‘Slavic-motif’ where victories are recounted with glee, defeats brushed off but never forgotten.

Gorbachov was a traitor, America demolished the union by bribery, Stalin was a hero, and Putin is the carrier of the Soviet flame. So he says.

America, on the other hand, tends to see history as something in the

past. It is the present and the future that is more important, and how it can be made to shape the future.

This has caused more problems than anything else in all of your history. Yes, commerce is the life-blood: The strong rule because they are strong, everyone can work to make a living, and it is your own fault if you don’t.

This is, and has always been, the reason America sees itself as great. More than race, justice, or equality, it is power. Real power that brooks no interference.

But this prevents the question ‘why.’ Why 9/11? Why terrorists? Why did we not succeed in Afghanistan? Vietnam?

The answer, of course, is that you did not step back and take a long hard look at yourselves. Missed recognising your weaknesses, seeing possibilities as sure things, relying on military might instead of diplomacy.

These are the things that Joe Biden is bringing to your country. Harmony and détente, reality and a ay forward. He has taken Fulbright’s message and run with it.

The world has become a far better place that it has been for many years. The wrongs and terror that are rampant will not stop, but resistance to dictators is growing. People are willing to die for the freedom of others.

Biden’s legacy will, I believe, be ‘Look at the whole picture.’

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Freedom is an interesting word

Pastor Heath Wilson
Toms Creek United
Methodist Church

We say that our nation was founded on the principles of freedom but the Founding Fathers had mixed views on what they thought freedom would actually look like. They agreed they wanted to be free from the tyranny of the English Monarchy but then views diverged on what that new found freedom would then look like as we formed a nation. The truth is that there are very rarely any countries or communities where freedom means you can do whatever you want. And for many, freedom is being able to do whatever we want. But often, we also believe that with things that we don't like or disagree with, the freedom to do those things should be restricted. Unless someone is promoting total anarchy, all other forms of living or government curtail freedom in some way or another.

While some might complain that our freedoms have slowly been eroding, the truth is that we have always had constraints put on our freedom. Normally when people complain that freedom is being stripped away it is because something that they value is being constrained or taken away. Yet, since our nation was founded, so many areas have been opened up and we have been freed to be able to partake in them. Now some might not like those freedoms because we believe that those freedoms are not conducive with a right way of living. Yet the truth is, in some areas, we have more freedom than when our nation was founded

and in some areas we have less.

This idea of freedom in our nation has been tested with COVID and with all the restrictions and freedoms that were removed for a time. And we as a nation and communities in our nation have struggled with what freedoms should the government be allowed to remove, even if it is only for a short time. The problem is that we often don't look at freedoms holistically and only look at it as our personal freedom being curtailed. By that, I mean we often only look at it from our personal wants and desires for freedom not realizing that everyone has a different view on what freedom does and does not mean.

When we were in the midst of World Wars, the government rationed what people could buy at the store because the supplies were needed for the soldiers to be able to defend freedom. And yes, there were people that were not happy that their freedom to buy as much of what they wanted from the store was curtailed. Yet for the most part, people of the nation complied and realized it was for the greater cause. So when our freedom to go into public places without masks was taken away, it was not the first time that our nation has removed freedoms. Yet, it was met with much greater resistance than ever before as people feel their fundamental freedoms were taken away.

As the church, there were great restrictions put on our ability to meet together and worship. This once again sparked outrage since freedom of religion and freedom to assemble is part of our Bill of Rights. All the time, freedoms need to be weighed against the common

good of our nation. At times we may love the freedoms granted or agree that certain freedoms should be removed, and at other times we might feel that it is a step too far. Yet, that does not necessarily mean that our nation is no longer the home of the free and the brave.

Freedom is incorporated into the church and Christianity. We say that we receive freedom from sin and death because of Jesus. Yet, that freedom does not come with a blank check. Those that receive Christ are freed from the condemnation that comes from their sin. But that freedom comes with a lot of other constraints on what we are free to do in our life. You see, even though a person has received salvation through Christ, they are not free to do whatever they please. The freedom that Christ grants from Satan and eternal punishment also takes away freedoms. Those freedoms are not meant to be a punishment but a way to more fully enjoy life the way God intended it. That means that even though a nation or community might allow people to do certain things or take certain actions, a Christian is not supposed to partake in them.

Christians are supposed to follow God's Word even if the society or nation condones things that the Bible says is not acceptable in God's eyes. So even if a nation gives you the freedom to do it, Christians should not think that it is ok to partake in those things if they are forbidden by God's Word. Interestingly, in Christianity, people will come up with reasons that is ok for them to take an action because they are free to do so in society. And some Christians pick and choose which of God's Word they have to follow and which ones they are free to disregard. Just like in our nation where freedom does not really mean you are free to do anything you desire, the same is true with Christianity.

Freedom comes with responsibilities. Freedom comes with demands on how you are allowed to act. Freedom comes with a price. And us humans, in our brokenness, often only like our definition of freedom and get up in arms when other people with different ideas of freedom advocate for something different. Freedom at its best allows us to do what is good



for us and does no harm to others. Freedom at its best allows us to truly enjoy God's creation.

Freedom at its best means we do not always partake in things just because we are free to do it, but we willingly give up our freedom for the health, safety, and/or humanity of others. Freedom at its best means we freely sacrifice so that others may experience freedom. Freedom at its best means we accept others and allow others to be free to have thoughts, opinions, and beliefs different from our own. Freedom at its best means if something truly harms or hurts someone else, we freely give up partaking in those actions.

Ultimate freedom is God given, and it requires us to give up that which is broken within us and the world and sacrifice it for the sake of ourselves and others. With all our human frailties it is hard to maintain a nation that was founded on the principle of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Benjamin Franklin knew this as he watched as the Founding Fathers fought over what the new nation looked like. No one was fully happy

with what was formed from the Constitutional Convention because it was not exactly what they thought or wanted our newly free nation to be.

There is a story often told that upon exiting the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was approached by a group of citizens asking what sort of government the delegates had created. His answer was: "A republic, if you can keep it." We can only continue to be a republic where freedom is upheld if we are willing to not always get our way, if we at times allow our freedoms to be curtailed knowing it is for the greater good. Just like the freedom that comes through accepting Christ as Saviour comes with constraints on how we live our life. Yet, in both cases it is worth the cost so that we might maintain greater freedom.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

William Penn



William Penn was born on Tower Hill, London, 14th October 1644. His father was Sir William Penn, an admiral who had fought with distinction the fleets of Holland and Spain. His mother was a Dutchwoman, the daughter of a rich Rotterdam merchant. Penn received an excellent education, and whilst at Oxford he was tempted to go and hear one Thomas Loe, a Quaker, preach. Quakerism, in our time the meekest of faiths, was in those days regarded by churchmen and dissenters alike, as an active spirit of evil deserving no mercy or forbearance: there was contamination and disgrace in everything connected with it. Loe's ministry so affected Penn, that he began to think of becoming a Quaker himself. His father heard of the impending metamorphosis with horror, and sent him off to France, to avert the change. The policy was successful. Penn soon forgot the Quaker in the gaiety of Paris, and returned, to his father's delight, a fine gentleman, with all the airs and accomplishments of a courtier.

The terrors of the plague of London in 1665, however, revived the youth's pious tendencies, and again his father tried change of scene, and sent him to Ireland. There he distinguished himself in subduing an insurrection; and it is a curious fact, that the only authentic portrait of the great apostle of peace existing, represents him at this period a young man armed and accoutred as a soldier. It so happened, that the Quakers were growing numerous in the larger Irish cities, and one day Penn strolled into their meeting in Cork. To his surprise, Thomas Loe, from Oxford, arose and spoke from the text, 'There is a faith that overcomes the world, and there is a faith that is overcome by the world.' From that meeting is dated Penn's thorough conversion to Quakerism. His father heard of his relapse with dismay, and ordered him back to London. They had a long and painful discussion, but the young man was immovable; neither the hope of honour nor the prospect of degradation had any effect on his resolution; and the admiral, after exhausting his whole armory of persuasion, ended by turning his son out of doors.

This conduct threw Penn completely over to the Quakers. He began to preach at their meetings, to write numerous pamphlets in defence of their doctrines, to hold public debates with their adver-

saries, and to make propagandist tours over England and the continent, sometimes alone, and sometimes in company with George Fox, Robert Barclay, and others. Of persecution and imprisonment he had his share. A tract, *The Sandy Foundation Shaken*, in which he set forth Unitarian opinions, so excited the bishop of London, that he had him committed to the Tower, where he lay for nearly nine months.

King Charles sent Stillingfleet to talk him out of his errors; but, said Penn, 'The Tower is to me the worst argument in the world.' During this confinement he wrote, *No Cross, no Crown*, the most popular of his works. 'Tell my father, who I know will ask thee,' said he one day to his servant, 'that my prison shall be my grave before I will budge a jot: for I owe my conscience to no mortal man. Actuated by a spirit as patient as it was resolute, Penn and his brethren fairly wore out the malice of their persecutors, so that in sheer despair intolerance abandoned Quakerism to its own devices.

Happily, the admiral had the good sense to reconcile himself to his son. It is said that, in spite of his irritation, he came to admire the steady front William shewed to an adverse and mocking world. The admiral's disappointment

was indeed severe. He stood high in favour with Charles II and the Duke of York, and had his son co-operated with him, there was no telling what eminence they might not have attained. 'Son William,' said the veteran, only a day or two before his death, 'I am weary of the world: I would not live my days over again, if I could command them with a wish; for the snares of life are greater than the fears of death.' Almost the last words he uttered were, 'Son William, if you and your friends keep to your plain way of preaching, and also keep to your plain way of living, you will make an end of priests to the end of the world.'

Penn, by his learning and logic, did more than any man, excepting Barclay, author of the *Apology*, to shape Quaker sentiment into formal theology; but the service by which the world will remember him, was his settlement of Pennsylvania. His father had bequeathed him a claim on the government of £16,000 for arrears of pay and cash advanced to the navy. Penn very well knew that such a sum was irrecoverable from Charles II; he had long dreamed of founding a colony where peace and righteousness might dwell together; and he decided to compound his debt for a tract of country in North America.

The block of land he selected lay to the north of the Catholic province of Maryland, owned by Lord Baltimore; its length was nearly 300 miles, its width about 160, and its area little less than the whole of England. Objections were raised; but Charles was only too glad to get rid of a debt on such easy terms. At the council, where the charter was granted, Penn stood in the royal presence, it is said, with his hat on. The king thereupon took off his; at which Penn observed, 'Friend Charles, why dost thou not keep on thy hat?' to which his majesty replied, laughing: 'It is the custom of this place for only one person to remain covered at a time.' The name which Penn had fixed on for his province was New Wales; but Secretary Blathwayte, a Welshman, objected to have the Quaker-country called after his land. He then proposed Sylvania, and to this the king added Penn, in honour of the admiral.

The fine country thus secured became the resort of large numbers of Quakers, who, to their desire for the free profession of their faith, united a spirit of

enterprise; and very quickly Pennsylvania rose to high importance among the American plantations. Its political constitution was drawn up by Penn, aided by Algernon Sidney, on extreme democratic principles. Perfect toleration to all sects was accorded. 'Whoever is right,' Penn used to say, 'the persecutor must be wrong.' The world thought him a visionary; but his resolution to treat the Indians as friends, and not as vermin to be extirpated, seemed that of a madman. So far as he could prevent, no instrument of war was allowed to appear in Pennsylvania. He met the Indians, spoke kindly to them, promised to pay a fair price for whatever land he and his friends might occupy, and assured them of his goodwill. If offences should unhappily arise, a jury of six Indians and six Englishmen should decide upon them.

The Indians met Penn in his own spirit. No oaths, no seals, no official mummeries were used; the treaty was ratified on both sides with a yea, yea—the only one, says Voltaire, that the world has known, never sworn to, and never broken.' A strong evidence of Penn's sagacity is the fact, that not one drop of Quaker blood was ever shed by an Indian; and forty years elapsed from the date of the treaty, ere a red man was slain by a white in Pennsylvania. The murder was an atrocious one, but the Indians themselves prayed that the murderer's life might be spared. It was spared; but he died in a very short time, and they then said, the Great Spirit had avenged their brother.

It will be thought that Penn made a capital bargain, in the purchase of Pennsylvania for £16,000; but in his lifetime, he drew little but trouble from his investment. The settlers withheld his dues, disobeyed his orders, and invaded his rights; and he was kept in constant disquiet by intrigues for the nullification of his charter. Distracted by these cares, he left his English property to the care of a steward, who plundered him mercilessly; and his later years were saddened with severe pecuniary distress. He was twice married, and in both cases to admirable women. His eldest son, a promising youth, he lost just as he verged on manhood; and a second son, by riotous living, brought himself to an early grave, trying Penn's

fatherly heart with many sorrows. Multiplied afflictions did not, however, sour his noble nature, nor weaken his settled faith in truth and goodness.

Penn's intimacy with James II exposed him, in his own day, to much suspicion, which yet survives. It ought to be remembered, that Admiral Penn and James were friends; that the admiral, at death, consigned his son William to his guardianship; and that between James and his ward there sprung up feelings apparently amounting to affection. While James was king, Penn sometimes visited him daily, and persuaded him to acts of clemency, otherwise unattainable. Penn scorned as a Quaker, James hated as a Catholic, could sympathise as brothers in adversity. Penn, by nature, was kindly; and abounding in that charity which thinketh no evil; and taking the worst view of James's character, it is in nowise surprising that Penn should have been the victim of his duplicity. It is well known that rogues could do little mischief, if it were not so easy to make good men their tools.

There was very little of that asceticism about Penn which is thought to belong to—at least early—Quakerism. The furniture of his houses was equal in ornament and comfort to that of any gentleman of his time. His table abounded in every real luxury. He was fond of fine horses, and had a passion for boating. The ladies of his household dressed like gentlewomen—wore caps and buckles, silk gowns and golden ornaments. Penn had no less than four wigs in America, all purchased the same year, at a cost of nearly £20. To innocent dances and country fairs he not only made no objection, but patronised them with his own and his family's presence.

William Penn, after a lingering illness of three or four years, in which his mind suffered, but not painfully, died at Ruscombe on the 30th July 1718, and was buried at the secluded village of Jordans, in Buckinghamshire. No stone marks the spot, although many a pilgrim visits the grave.

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

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ECOLOGY

Finding harmony between technology & nature

Amanda Markle
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

For many of us, getting out in nature is a chance to escape technology. After sitting in front of a computer or fielding phone notifications for hours on end, the last thing we want to do on a hike is look at another screen. Spending time outdoors can be a great way to disconnect from technology and reconnect with ourselves, friends, and family.

Technology, however, is the ultimate invasive species. It creeps its way into every aspect of our lives, whether we want it to or not, and the great outdoors is no exception. As our use and dependence on technology grows, countless apps, websites, and gadgets are wheeling their way into our time outdoors, hoping to grab our attention for a few more moments each day. Is technology destined to overrun and destroy the purity of our time in nature or can the two co-exist, perhaps even enhancing the experiences we have with each?

Nature and technology have a complicated history. Human developments have impacted the natural world since

long before recorded history began. As technological advances have grown exponentially, so have their ramifications on the environment and the ways we interact with it. The advent of wireless technology and smartphones quite literally unleashed a torrent of technology that was once restricted to our homes and offices out into the wild.

The spots where our cell service does not reach are rapidly becoming few and far between, and the pull of an unending source of information, entertainment, and social engagement can be hard to resist compared to the relative quiet and solitude of the outdoors. At times it seems that nature just cannot compete with all this content that has been specifically designed to hold our attention longer, make us click more, and keep our eyes glued to the screen.

The urge to stay digitally connected is strong, but it is also a recent development in human history. Far more ingrained in our psyches exists an urge to connect with nature. Social psychologist Erich Fromm first coined a term to describe this innate need to connect with other living things and a preference for being

surrounded by nature: biophilia. Biophilia is thought to be driven by human evolution, with the notion that by being drawn to life, we are more likely to sustain life. Biophilia has been hypothesized as the driving force for everything from why some humans are so passionate about wildlife rehabilitation, to why we prefer high ceilings in our architecture. The physical and psychological benefits of closeness with nature are measurable; studies have shown that being in a room with a window can lower heart rates and stress levels, and even speed up recovery rates in hospital patients.

This intrinsic urge to be close with the natural world may initially appear to be in opposition to the pull of technology, but it does not have to be. Purists may argue that our time in nature is best kept completely separated from technology, that any introduction of modernity will only diminish our ability to connect to the wild. Yet, for those of us willing to consider finding a balance between the two, bringing technology into nature, and more of nature into our technology, can renew our interests and deepen our connection and understanding of both.

Paired with more traditional methods of navigation and good common sense, technology can make getting outside easier than ever before and increases our safety while out on the trail. Resources like the app AllTrails can help us discover lesser-known trails and hiking destinations everywhere we go. GPS and satellite navigation are obvious examples, but tools like first-aid apps and safety tips made with specific trails and areas in mind can make exploring new places a much less intimidating experience. Solo hikers may feel more confi-



dent venturing out knowing that someone back home can track where they are and that they can easily contact help in case of an emergency. Being able to load our phones with maps, guides, and other resources reduces what we need to carry in both weight and cost, increasing accessibility. Being able to see real-time updates on trail conditions, connect with others with more expertise, and seek out "trail angels" who guide and assist travelers has allowed more people to tackle long-distance hikes.

Safety is not the only way technology can benefit us in the wild. Used strategically, our phones and tablets can be an incredible educational tool. While the ideal situation would be to always have an expert guide with you, or perhaps unlimited time to study and gain your own expertise, that is not feasible for most of us. Apps like Seek, through iNaturalist, can be an easy way to educate yourself about the flora and fauna you find on the trail. This app identifies plants and animals with a simple snap of a photo. The app Star Walk 2 can be your vir-

tual guide to the celestial world during nighttime adventures, perfect for those of us who have a hard time identifying anything more than the Big Dipper and Orion's Belt. These educational apps can be great fun, too. One very timely example is the Cicada Safari app, which sends users on a mission to find and photograph cicadas in their area, giving them points for their findings and allowing them to compete with other "Cicada Scouts." All this data collected is then used by researchers at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati to study periodical cicada emergences. Even less educational game-based apps can serve a purpose. Apps like Pokémon Go may not teach you anything about real-life animals, but for someone with no experience or interest in the outdoors, it may be just the encouragement they need to start venturing out more often.

Finding ways to bring more nature into our technology has its benefits as well. Social media can be notoriously contentious. A great way to improve the mood of your news feed is to intentionally seek out more accounts from nature centers, parks, and environmental scientists. Studies have shown that even looking at a picture of nature can reduce our stress levels, so a post from an avid hiker's latest adventure or an update from your favorite state park may be just the break you need when scrolling through the more argumentative posts that can plague social media.

There is truly a virtual space for every interest. These online forums can help connect you with experts willing to share their knowledge and people who share your same passions, sometimes even providing opportunities for real-life meet-ups. A Twitter account will allow you access to updates and information directly from scientists in any environmental field you can imagine and help you discover niche scientific research and discoveries that would never make the national news.

The human need for a connection with nature may be engrained into our genomes, but technology continues to root itself in every aspect of our lives and is not likely to slow down anytime soon. By being thoughtful and intentional about the ways we bring them together, we cannot only maintain a healthy balance between the two, but we may even be able to enhance our experiences and understanding of each.

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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IN THE COUNTRY

Bats

Tom Anderson
Frederick County Forestry Board

Bats may seem a scary symbol of Halloween. They help a lot in controlling insect populations. A little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) for example is estimated to eat up to 600 mosquitoes an hour and the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) twice that volume of insects. Consider that our local mosquito problem has recently gotten worse with the influx of the Asian Tiger Mosquito, and bats can be viewed more positively.

University of Maryland surveys at parks in Frederick County found several species of bats in our midst. In addition to the little brown bat and big brown bat, the eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), and eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus Subflavus*) are also prevalent. Several other bat species may be seen in this area in lesser numbers, including the eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*), northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), and the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*).

Little brown bats are about 3 to 4 1/2 inches in length, with a wingspan of about 8 to 10 inches. Their flight is often low and changes direction frequently at speeds of about 20 mph. Little brown bats like to roost in hollow trees, caves and buildings. Big brown bats are about 4 to 5 inches in length, with a 12 to 13 inch wingspan. They fly generally straight at 20 to 30 feet above ground with speeds to about 40 mph. Both the little and big brown bats hibernate in the winter.

One of smallest bats in our area, Eastern pipistrelle, is about 3 to 3 1/2 inches in length with awing span of about 8 to 10 inches. Also known as the tricolor bat, it roosts in rock crevices and sometimes buildings, overwintering in caves. The Eastern small-footed bat is slightly smaller than the Eastern pipistrelle, and both species like to forage flying low and slow over streams or water at forest edge. These smaller bats have life spans averaging 6 to 12 year, shorter than the larger bats, which have approximately 20-year life spans.

Eastern red bats have a reddish coat, and are approximately 4 to 5 inches in length with a wingspan of 11 to 13 inches. The Eastern red bat is one of the few bat species with differences in coloration between the sexes. Males are orange-red and females are a chestnut buff color. They roost mainly in trees about 8 ft off the ground, foraging for insects within about 1/2 mile of their roosts. Eastern red bats migrate south over winter to warmer locations, remaining active. A single litter of up to 5 young is born in late spring.

The Northern myotis or Northern long-eared bat is approximately 3 to 4 inches long, with a wingspan of 9 to 10 inches. Like the other bats in our area, it uses

echolocation or sound waves to locate insects in flight, but with its large ears, this bat can also effectively find insects that are stationary. The sound waves bats use (in the 25 kilohertz to 115 kilohertz range) are higher than the approximately 20 kilohertz frequency that humans hear. The Northern myotis likes to roost in caves and does not migrate a great distance to overwinter. It typically hibernates in mines and caves during the colder months. Like other cave hibernating bat species, Northern myotis numbers have been greatly reduced by the white nose syndrome.

The hoary bat, the largest in our area is about 5 to 6 inches in length, with a wingspan of about 14 1/2 to 16 1/2 inches. It migrates further south to overwinter, returning in the spring and is known to fly long distances. The hoary bat has a swift, erratic flight pattern, cruising at about 20 mph, but due to its strength can approach 60 mph. The hoary bat gets its name from its white or silver-tipped back and chest fur. Its throat is yellowish with lighter colored fur under the wings and belly. The hoary bat liked densely wooded areas and roosts in trees. It is less susceptible to the white nose syndrome, as it typically is a more solitary bat that hibernates in hollow trees and outbuildings. It has similar size and coloration to the little brown bat, although the Indiana bat has pink lips whereas the little brown bat has dark lips. The Indiana bat prefers roosting in forested habitats during its active spring, summer and early fall months.

Unfortunately for bat species that hibernate in cave or mines and in large colonies, the White Nose Syndrome has become a deadly pathogen that has greatly reduced bat numbers in the last 7 to 10 years in the Eastern and Central US. The disease is named for the white fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, which infects the skin, especially the muzzle area, of hibernating bats. This irritation is believed to cause increased activity in the bats, which causes them to use up stored fat reserves, at a time when they should be dormant during hibernation.

Western Maryland is in a central part of the Eastern US most infested with this fungus. Estimates by the US Geological Survey and US Fish and Wildlife service are that an 80% decline in hibernating bat populations has occurred. The hibernating species in general have smaller litters, often single births per year, which puts them at a disadvantage for recovery of the populations.

Recent emphasis on developing man-made bat habits for hibernation is to try to influence some of the at risk species to find alternative hibernation sites to the damp cave areas which provide a host for the white nose fungus. The impact on agriculture from increased insect damage is estimated in the billions, due to this decline in bats which consume large quantities of insects.

The Baltimore Oriole
The Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) is a medium-sized bird,



The brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) is estimated to eat up to 600 mosquitoes an hour, making any property that hosts one almost mosquito-free!

bright orange and black with distinct white stripes on its wings. The male oriole is larger and has brighter coloration than its female counterpart. The Baltimore oriole has a sturdy build and a long tail.

Baltimore orioles prefer open woodlands and can often times be spotted in parks, forest edges, orchards, around swamps, rivers, or old fields. These birds prefer large deciduous trees such as maple, elm, and cottonwood and normally are found in the upper reaches of the trees. Orioles are mostly solitary birds except during the mating season. The female oriole makes a hanging gourd-shaped nest on the end of a branch and lays about 4 eggs. After the eggs hatch, both birds feed the young until they can fly in about 12 - 14 days. Orioles do not develop their bright plumage until after their second year.

These birds have a diverse diet which includes insects, dark colored fruits, and nectar. Baltimore

orioles are one of the main predators of forest tent caterpillars and fall webworms, and they may prevent trees from being defoliated by these insects. Orioles are readily attracted to feeders designed for them. The Baltimore oriole migrates to warmer climates in the southern states, Central America and the northern part of South America.

Baltimore oriole numbers declined in the 1960's but they seemed to rebound somewhat following the 1980's. At present Baltimore oriole populations are considered to be stable. Certain pesticides and habitat destruction appear to be a major source or mortality of orioles in their wintering grounds while predation by hawks, owls, grackles, and squirrels contributes to oriole mortality in their northern homes.

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REAL SCIENCE

Hard water

Michael Rosenthal

I've written more than once before about water-related topics, but there is always something new to discuss. Many references are made daily to "hard water". Hard water refers to the amount of magnesium and calcium dissolved in the water in question. A recent Washington Post article written by Helen Carefoot had an interesting and useful discussion of the problems caused by and the effects of hard water, and it prompted me to choose the topic of hard water this month.

First of all, magnesium and calcium are elements in the 2A column of the periodic table of the elements. Magnesium has 12 protons and 12 electrons while calcium has 20 protons and 20 electrons. Each has two valence electrons which leads to their compounds commonly dissolving in water as +2 cations. The good news is that hard water is not a health hazard, but large quantities of these elements in your water can be troublesome. These elements form compounds that can clog up water pipes, and leave sink and toilet stains that are an aesthetic drawback. Hard water can also lead to dishes that are unsightly due to limestone buildup.

The United States Geological Survey considers that water with 0 to 60 milligrams per liter of calcium carbonate as soft water, 61 to 120 milligrams as moderately hard water, and 121 to 180 mil-

ligrams as hard water. One of the most obvious effects of hard water is buildup of deposits in the pipes leading to lesser water flow. Water can be "softened" by removing the magnesium and calcium minerals and replacing them with sodium ions, which are chemical ions that are much more soluble. Hardness is more common in well water. My family lived once in a home supported with well water. I found that kind of scary, because you never knew what might seep into your well.

An alternative solution, albeit expensive, is to buy bottled water for drinking and cooking. The whole-home systems are what are called ion exchange systems that replace the calcium and magnesium in the water with sodium. The sodium is not present in large enough quantity to make the water taste salty. Filters will remove insoluble minerals from the water, but the water remains hard because calcium and magnesium are quite soluble. There is one positive thing about water that is a little hard. It has more taste. The goal is to find a balance that allows for taste but does not build up in and damage the water system. Hard water can also cause stains in sinks and toilet bowls, which is an eyesore. Distilled white vinegar will dissolve these stains without doing damage. There are commercial products one can purchase that will accomplish this.

If you are interested in learning more about local water quality, specifically the water at Mt.



Other than the fact ice is in fact 'hard water', this image has nothing to do with Mike's article, but given the heat, we figured it would be a nice reminder that before you know it, winter will be here.

St. Mary's University, look at the excellent 2020 Mt. St. Mary's University Treated Water Quality Report in the June 2021 issue of this newspaper.

The report was prepared by Maryland Environmental Service, an agency of the State of Maryland who operates the treatment facility.

I wrote previously about the potential development of power generation by offshore wind turbines on the east coast. Construction of such energy sources is harder on the west coast because of deeper coastal waters and the use of these waters by the U.S. military for training and maneuvers. However, under our new federal administration, plans are

now developing for such areas in the Pacific. One area is a 3999 square mile patch of the Pacific Ocean northwest of Morro Bay on the California Central Coast.

The second area of attention is what is known as the Humboldt Call Area in Northern California near the Oregon border. Together these areas can potentially produce 4.6 gigawatts of electricity, together powering 1.6 million homes. These projects have been in mind locally for many years, but the Trump Administration did not move the projects forward. Proponents say that this project would have no significant negative impact, but would produce "clean, green energy benefiting diverse communities all up and down the state of California."

Unlike the planned East Coast turbines that will be affixed to the seafloor, the deeper waters would best support floating turbines. The first of this kind began producing energy off the coast of Scotland in 2017. Cooperation from the military is now forthcoming, as they recognize the need for energy production that takes the climate crisis into account. Initially the military was concerned that these structures would interfere with military needs.

There are now two pilot offshore wind farms operating, one in Rhode Island, and one in Virginia, about which we previously wrote. Offshore wind farms require facing a lot of issues that, I believe, are resolvable, and that construction of these farms represents a major step in our conversion to the production of clean energy.

A lot of controversy has risen over facial recognition, about which we wrote in this column recently. The Washington Post in a recent editorial urges us to develop rules now that would make it efficient and effective. I fully agree. The Post urges that a moratorium should be imposed on facial recognition until guardrails can be developed that would prevent abuse by error. The editorial points out that errors are easily made without very careful use. The Post is a believer in the potential of the technology, but it proposed that the technology should be regulated, and worries that without proper refinement, the wrong people will be sought by errors in identification.

Cicada season is here, and many articles have been written about them. At my house, I have seen very few cicadas, mostly dead on the sidewalks. Willie the Poodle sniffs them but hasn't tried to eat any. I hear them in the woods next to the house, but I really haven't seen as many as I remember in the Hudson Valley of New York when we lived there on the Bard College campus.

Maybe I'm just not looking in the right places.

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

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Turning 67

Jack Deatherage

Gran'paw Cool was 67 years old when I first remember him. He always had a hoe in hand when he was moving from the house to the garden, or tractor shed, or chicken coop, or outhouse, or his watermelon patch across the farmyard behind the Quonset hut. His movements were usually slow and deliberate, especially when navigating the concrete steps that led from the yard down the bank to the road and the mail box.

The only time I can remember him walking fast was the day he came after me and Cousin Ronnie as we were eating one of the watermelons he grew for his market garden customers. Gran'paw was 70 then, waving the hoe over his head as he threatened to beat us good for stealing his melons! (Fourteen year old Ronnie outran 6 year old me. I outran Gran'paw.)

Two things brought Gran'paw Cool to mind this spring. I'm shy of turning 67 (Mother of the laughing gods!) and beginning to think carrying a hoe around might not be a bad idea. How that old man dealt with the pain he must have been in until he died at age 92 - without me, or any of my brothers and sisters ever hearing him mention it - is amazing.

As far as I know, he didn't drink alcohol so that relief wasn't there. Nor did I ever hear he swallowed more than aspirin for pain, and I can't say I ever saw him do that. I'd like to claim I'm of a similar attitudinal construction, but I'm a whiny baby in comparison. And though I no longer drink alcohol for pleasure, or pain relief, I keep a couple of bottles of 189 proof against the day I can't take the pain any longer.

Tomatoes are the other thing that has me thinking of the old man. He grew the best tasting tomatoes I've ever eaten. Rows upon rows of the red fruits laid out on plywood; waiting for customers, or Grandmother's canning jars, or a small boy's grubby hands. I ate those sun warmed, sweet, tart, juicy fruits until I ruined my appetite for supper. Given as much as I loved Grandmother Cool's meals, I loved those tomatoes more! With the possible exception of her sausages! But thinking of those skillet-black skinned marvels only leads me to despair! Their like cannot be had today.

So I'm left with tomatoes on my mind. If 67-year-old Gran'paw could grow such tomatoes, soon

to be 67 years old monkey-man should be able to do so as well. And I have sources for the varieties Gran'paw probably grew that weren't around in his day. Amy Goldman's book 'The Heirloom Tomato.' Miss Amy not only lists varieties, she includes flavor profiles, sugar content (Brix values), average fruit weights and personal observations along with brief histories - including the breeders and dates of introduction to the public. I'm looking for tomatoes released prior to the mid 1960s, that have a "good to excellent" flavor rating, and range between 4 oz, and a pound and a half - weight wise.

The one problem I have with the tomato book is it's 'sources' section. Not only is it confusing - small print and it possibly has a few typos - some of the sources are either out of business, or no longer carry the cultivars she listed. (Cultivars being dropped over time is not unexpected, but finding seed catalogs have gone belly up is a tad depressing.) But the interwebs come to the rescue! Or add to the DW's burden of dealing with my garden wants.

Anyhow, Tomato Fest has seeds of over 600 heirloom tomatoes for sale! Using Miss Amy's critiques, and alternative cultivar names, I can find every tomato I'm thinking of trialing, and dozens more that she doesn't mention!

A quick note to the mad-eyed DW: I have almost everything I need for next year's tomato trials so I won't be spending \$500 on buckets and potting mixes! With the exception of a small (collapsible) greenhouse, an elevated rain barrel, at least four 50' hoses, a drip irrigation kit that can handle 30 grow buckets, at least two more 150-gallon stock tanks to hold rain water and a small submersible pump to move tank water into the rain barrel which gravity will then feed water through the drip system to the grow buckets at the bottom of the yard - we're good to go. Oh, and four weed trees need removed from the yard. Probably shouldn't cost more than several thousand dollars - all told?

I've the entire summer to study what's going on with the growing method I'm trialing this year. So far the tomatoes planted in the plastic buckets are faring better than those in the cloth buckets. Which may have several factors involved in the difference. Cloth doesn't hold the water. Though I've recently seen plastic saucers for sale that keep some of the water and fertiliz-

ers from just running through the cloth and into the ground. Tack the cost of those onto the thousands of dollars the DW doesn't want to spend-ever.

I also have to consider the potting soils. The two types I'm using are very different- the cloth buckets are holding a new mix that doesn't hold water well. The cloth buckets are also likely 3-gallon capacities rather than the 5-gallon the seller claimed. Tomatoes need at least 5 gallon buckets from all I've read. Which reminds me- I need to buy a book on cloth bag growing. And, while it's unlikely I ever think of the simplest solution- perhaps the tomatoes that get more sun are doing better and I just need to move some buckets out of the partial shade they're in?

I hesitate to turn my mind to a possible harvest of more tomatoes than I can get rid of this season. There have been years when I accidentally grew more fruit than I could consume. Though such seasons are so rare I long ago gave away my canning jars. Buying freezer bags is the least expensive option given the freezer only has a few bags of bones and flour in it. Still, I'd like to relearn how to can tomatoes as Mom used to do it. Which would require a food mill we don't have. (Quick glance in the DW's direction and it's freezer bags all the way! This year anyhow.)

Unwanted, practical voices keep



Jack's grandparents: Alice (Topper) Cool and George Cool

intruding in my thoughts. "Stay focused on the garden you currently have monkey-man. Given the way your clan is moving on to the next turn of the Wheel you might not have a garden to turn 68 in."

With the DW's desperately hysterical laughter mingling with that

of the laughing gods, I set about planning next year's garden - on a much smaller, and less expensive course than I had in mind as I began this column.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Key summer pests in the landscape and garden

Penn State Extension Educators
Annette McCoy, Connie
Schmotzer, and Mary Ann Ryan

As summer arrives, we notice interesting as well as annoying insect and disease problems in our gardens and landscapes. While many visiting insects are beneficial, some are not. Identifying and understanding these insect life cycles will help us to maintain a healthy and beautiful garden.

Bagworms

If you have needled evergreens, chances are you have encountered this nasty pest. Bagworms feed on needles and leaves and can be very damaging, especially to evergreens. Start looking now for bagworms on your evergreens, locusts, sycamores and oaks. These bags resemble cocoons hanging from branches of trees. They are 1 to 2 inch long "bags" made of silk, leaves and twigs attached to branches with a silken thread.

Scouting is especially important if you had bagworm damage last year. Many of these bags contained eggs that hatched at the end of May. At this time of year, the eggs have already hatched, so start scouting throughout June for the small (1/8-1/2") recently hatched caterpillars.

After this insect hatches, it crawls out of the bag and produces a tiny silken thread that will hang from the bag. This allows the tiny worm to be moved by the wind from plant to plant. It begins to feed and feed, and as it does so, builds the bag around itself. It continues to feed through August,

at which point it pupates and turns into a moth around early September. The male will leave the bag and fly till it finds a female. The female remains in the bag until a male finds her. After mating, the male dies. The female will lay her eggs then die in the bag. The eggs will overwinter in those bags — perfect time to pick off and control next year's population!

However, at this time of year chemical control is very effective. Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a naturally occurring microorganism that produces a toxin that paralyzes the insect's digestive system, is successful at this stage. As the young caterpillars eat the leaves and ingest the Bt, they stop feeding and die several days later. Bt is selective. It kills just caterpillars. Other insects like beetles, bees or soft-bodied insects are not affected by this pesticide.

Other pesticides that are effective are Carbaryl, also known as Sevin, and Malathion. Unlike Bt, these pesticides are not selective in the insects that they kill. Beneficial insects as well as the bagworms will die from the application of these insecticides. As always, read the label before applying any pesticide.

Lacebugs on Broad-Leaved Evergreens

If you have azaleas or pieris, you have no doubt encountered these damaging insects. They insert their mouth parts into a leaf's lower surface and suck out the plant juices, leaving many small white or yellow spots where the juices have been removed. In severe infestations the leaves will appear stippled and washed out.

Scout for this insect by looking on the underside of the leaves. You may see black or dark red varnish-like spots made by their excrement or you may see the insects themselves, small, 1/16 to 1/8" nymphs or adults.

Prevention is often the best control for this pest. Most lacebugs seem to prefer sunny sites. If your shade loving azalea or rhododendron is in full sun and has recurrent lacebug problems, consider moving it to the shade. In the proper location it will be more pest free.

Using a hard, jet stream of water from a hose will dislodge young nymphs in mid May just after hatch. They have been living as eggs throughout the winter in the leaf tissue of the plant. At this time of year, however, you are limited to a more aggressive control.

Predators such as lacewings and assassin bugs help to naturally control lacebugs. You can conserve these allies by avoiding the use of broad-spectrum insecticides that kill a wide range of insects and linger on the plant. Begin looking for lacebugs in May and throughout the summer. Insecticidal soap is a useful tool, but you need to make sure you spray the underside of the leaves where the insects are feeding. You may need to make additional applications. At this point, getting the population under control early will prevent damage and avoid the need for more toxic chemicals. Keep scouting throughout summer to make sure plants don't become re-infested. Other options of control are carbaryl (Sevin), or Malathion. As the summer progresses, these damaging insects can have as many as three generations, the second hatching in mid to late July.

Japanese Beetles

You've seen them, the metallic green beetles that show up on in your landscape every July. Later in summer



By the time this paper gets into your hands, the scourge that are Japanese Beetles will be back.

you know them as white grubs that turn your lawn into a brown, rollup carpet. These are two of the stages of the Japanese beetle.

Knowing a little about your enemy helps in the battle. After skeletonizing your favorite plants last July the females laid eggs in the ground. These eggs hatched and the young grubs began feeding on plant roots. They fed and grew until they went deeper into the soil to overwinter. This April the grubs returned to the surface where they continued their development to the pupal stage. In late June, they will be back as those familiar metallic beetles.

When dealing with these colorful beetles, prevention is always better than reaching for the spray can. Keep in mind that though Japanese beetles feed on over 300 species of plants, 50 are preferred food. Adult beetles are attracted to plants in full sun, especially members of the rose family, which includes ornamental apples, cherries and plums. Norway and Japanese maples are also favorites. Minimizing these plants in your landscape will help reduce the beetles. The larvae (grubs), favor cool season grasses such as bluegrass, ryegrass and tall fescue. Replacing some lawn with tree, shrub and flower beds of less favored species may help.

This summer, when you see the first Japanese beetles emerging from the ground and landing on your plants, take action. Because beetles are pretty sluggish early in the morning, you can easily shake them off the plants into a bucket of soapy water. Not only will you prevent damage from this first wave, you will also keep them from using their pheromones to call in reinforcements. This hand-to-hand combat may seem yucky, but it has an added benefit over the standard treatment chemical sprays. Broad spectrum insecticides such as carbaryl (Sevin) and pyrethroids kill beneficial insects and may result in outbreaks of other pests.

This brings us to beetle traps. Though it may make you feel good to fill up bags with beetle carcasses, traps can draw beetles from all over your neighborhood and beyond. Research shows that only a fraction of them end up in the traps while the rest feed on your plants.

The other front on which you can attack Japanese beetles is the grub stage. Here are a couple of tips:

Don't water your lawn in mid/late summer. Moisture helps the survival of the eggs and young grubs.

If you had grub damage last year, you may want to consider control in the problem areas. A non-chemical control is to introduce nematodes into the soil when the grubs are small. Chemical control for those problem areas include imidacloprid and halofenozide applied in June and early July. And don't be too quick to chase away the skunks that frequent your lawn in September. They work at night, do a great job eating the grubs, and the divots they leave behind are easily repaired.

Squash Borer

This common pest on cucurbits - melons, squash, pumpkins and cucumbers, can be a huge problem in our gardens. Causing wilting in the vine, the larvae of this borer will be feeding on the inside of the vine, where we can't see it. When this symptom is found, there is no good control except to pull the plant and discard of it, getting rid of the damaging larvae.

The squash vine borer overwinters as a fully grown larva in cocoons in the soil. It pupates in the spring and the adult (a moth) emerges in June. Moths are active during the daytime and in the evening they rest on leaves. This is different than the behavior of most moths, which are active at

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Small Town Gardener

Have a tropical love affair...

Marianne Willburn

There's something tropical in the air right now. Whether fueled by the houseplant craze, or a COVID-quarantined population desperate to create a sense of vacation in their back yards, an abundance of tropical and subtropical flora is appearing in garden centers nationwide and tempting respectable, temperate gardeners to have a little fling this year. In her new book, *Tropical Plants and How to Love Them*, regular ENJ columnist Marianne Willburn seeks to demystify the genre, and guides temperate gardeners to create their own exciting tropical adventure with boundaries they can live with. This month, she shares some thoughts about her new book with us.

Gone are the days of a few underwatered canna relegated to the far back of your local garden center. This summer when you start your hunt for cool new accents to add to your garden, you're far more likely to find canna front and center and joined by other tropical and subtropical stars such as cordylines, mandevillas, hibiscus, elephant ears, bananas, palms, dracaena and various flowering ginger.

As a temperate gardener gardening in a cold climate, I've been working with these and other tropical plants for the past decade. I adore the excitement and drama they can bring to a summer and fall garden. There's simply nothing like it, and there's no better way to get visitors engaged with your gardening efforts than by surprising them with the unusual textural accents of a nine-foot banana!

I wish I'd started working with tropical plants sooner, but I assumed they'd be hard to grow, hard to overwinter and hard to work into temperate design schemes.

I was wrong. And that's precisely why I wrote *Tropical Plants and How to Love Them* to make these plants accessible to a new generation of gardeners.

Go on. Have a tropical love affair...

Have you found yourself drawn to the bold, unusual foliage and flowers of tropical plants? Are you excited by the thought of dipping your brush into a tropical palette and having some fun, but you find yourself unsure as to what they need from you and what you're able to give?

To help readers consider this gorgeous genre of plants and how to match the best plants with the life they lead, I have used five memorable relationship categories that reflect the care needed for many common and uncommon tropical plants:

The Summer Romance – Tropical plants you fall in love with and enjoy during the growing season, but kiss good-bye when summer ends.

The Long Term Commitment – Tropical plants that make your outdoors spaces shine in summer, and double as gorgeous houseplants over the winter months.

The Best Friend – Tropical plants that don't need a greenhouse, living room, or pampering to overwinter in a dormant state.

The High Maintenance Partner – Tropical plants that expect a lot. But we do it for them because we love them. For now.

Friends with Benefits – Tropical plants that enhance our gardens while also providing edible or medicinal value.

Why Relationships?

Tropical and subtropical plants add a great deal to our gardens, but as most of them are tender, temperate gardeners must decide what to do with them at the end of the growing season.

Toss them? Store them? Pamper them? Use them as houseplants? Everyone can have a Summer Romance with a gorgeous plant, but if you want to take things to a new level, you need to know the easiest way to do it – so I used relationship categories to help readers navigate which plants need the most (and the least) care.

You'll get wickedly helpful instructions for doing the least amount of work possible to get

these stunning plants through the winter – sometimes completely out of sight! You'll also get lists of tropicals to raise from seed; lists of tropicals that can be used for easy cuttings; and, for those who don't want to fool with seeds, cuttings, digging, or storing, a detailed list of the best 'Mocktrops' – hardy plants that only look like you've been schlepping them in and out to create a lush, tropical-looking garden.

Designing with Tropical Plants

But growing tropical plants as a temperate gardener is only part of the story. How do you use them successfully so they enhance your garden, instead of awkwardly standing out or looking out of place? The book features hundreds of photos to help you design with these plants like a pro – along with design advice for containers, water features, garden beds, patios and decks. You'll also find a section to help those who are navigating trickier climates with drier summers – or cooler ones.

Thorough plant profiles for 60 genera are also included, with hundreds of new and classic cultivars to help you find the best tropical plants for your garden and your life.

Spritz up a stay-cation

After a long and crazy year, we're all feeling ready for a vacation – but we may not be able to take for one a little while longer. Tropical plants can come to the rescue by bringing that same sense of relaxation, ambiance and sophistication to our balconies, our patios, our gardens and our living rooms. They can provide a restful and atmospheric backdrop to outside gatherings with friends we've missed.

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of the new book Tropical Plants and How To Love Them. She blogs at SmallTownGardener and GardenRant.

night. The moths fly slowly in zig-zags around plants, and lay eggs singly on stems; eggs are usually found on the main stem near the base, but are also found on leafstalks or on the undersides of leaves. Moths are active for about one month.

Eggs hatch in 9 to 14 days. Larvae enter the stem at the plant base within a few hours after hatching from the eggs. Larvae feed inside the stem for 4 to 6 weeks. Fully grown larvae leave the stems and crawl into the soil to pupate. There is usually one generation per year, but a partial or complete second generation is possible.

Insecticides become almost impractical for the home garden, as timing is everything. An insecticide is effective only when applied at the time that eggs are hatching, which is very difficult to see or determine. A preventive treatment regime is to apply an insecticide, like Sevin or Malathion, when vines begin to run, and re-apply every 7 to 10 days for 3 to 5 weeks. The application should be directed to the base of plants, at crowns and runners. When it comes to the squash borer, often times it's just better to harvest what you can salvage and discard the plant to get rid of the borer.

These common pests, while may be a detriment to our crops and plants, are not the end of our gardening career. Diversification of crops and plants will help reduce the amount of problems in our landscapes and gardens and proper management will lead to healthy gardens. Enjoy every minute of gardening, whether it's pulling weeds, understanding the life cycle of an insect, or reaping the harvest of your hard work.

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

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PETS

Thank you

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
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Yes, you. You have done so much for me and mean the world to me.

Thank you for taking me in. For seeing something in me that no one else did. For taking a chance on a pretty sad-looking creature and looking past the outside. I know I was a mess, but somehow you saw only potential.

Thank you for providing for me. For giving me good food and proper vet care and making sure my life is a healthy one.

Thank you for going slow with me. It's been a tough couple of years, shuffled from place to place, sometimes being out on the streets. I don't trust easily. I've kind of been taught not to. Not everyone is like you. Some people lose patience with me really fast.

Some are so mean, I don't like to think about it.

Somehow I think you know that I've been through a lot and you give me time. Even when I backslide – and I do backslide. I get mad at myself when I do, but it's just. It's sometimes so difficult to believe that you really won't hurt me – especially when so many others already have.

Thank you for showing me that I can

trust you every, single day. Sometimes I don't know how you do it. I didn't know there were humans who could be nice all the time. I promise, each day I believe it a little more.

Thank you for those moments in the evenings, when you're home from work and we've both eaten and you let me just...lean against you for a little while. I've never had that before. It's only ever been me. By myself. No one else.

Heck, I don't know who my four-legged parents are or where they went. I've been alone for as long as I can remember.

Those moments when you let me rest my head on your shoulder mean a lot. More than you'll probably ever know.

I sometimes think they mean a lot to you, too.

Thank you for seeing my broken parts and knowing not to push too hard or use them against me. Thank you so much for not using them against me.

Thank you for somehow understanding that even though those parts are there – and some of them are pretty jagged – I can still be whole. There are still times when I'm almost normal. I'm not completely useless or unworthy.

You're the only person who has ever seen that in me.

Thank you for never yelling or hitting or raising your voice to me.

Thank you for not being mean.

Thank you for always, always thinking of me when someone comes in the house or you have friends over or there are kids around or there's a thunderstorm or fireworks or an ambulance or fire truck goes by on the street.

Thank you for realizing I have no idea what the sounds in the house mean yet – why does the refrigerator door make that noise if you leave it open too long? It's so weird.

And the doorbell. Wow. Isn't there any way to know when that's going to ring?

And that thing that cleans the carpet? Is that really necessary? And are you sure it's actually cleaning anything and not just a monster that roars for nothing?

Thank you for those special treats you found for me – and the toys you always buy. I'm trying to learn how to play with them.

It's fun when I can make you laugh. I think the sound of your joy might be fixing the cracks in my heart a little. It's a pretty exhilarating sensation. I didn't think those spots would ever get fixed, but with you, a lot of things feel like they're healing.

Thank you for the special tone in your voice when you whisper, "snuggle time, baby," and let me crawl into your lap and you open your arms and heart to me. We have a real connection, no matter what anyone else says or thinks.

Thank you for giving me the chance that no one else did.

Thank you for being kind and compassionate and generous.

Thank you for being you.

And thank you to whatever deity or being or entity brought you into my life. I never knew the world could be this way.

With you, I found out that it could.

You showed me what I didn't think would ever be possible and that is the greatest gift in this world.

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



Cressida came into the shelter as a stray and she was very pregnant. We got her into foster care and until she and her babies were ready to find a home. Cressida is a sweet, 3-year-old tortie who is a bit on the shy side and will need someone that understands that she will need some time to adjust to a new environment and may hide until she feels safe. Once she feels confident, Cressida loves attention and enjoys chin scratches. Can you help this mama out?



Rummy came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about him, but he is one nice cat. He's about 3 years old and really likes taking snoozes in his soft bed. Could Rummy be your new best friend?



Jasper is a 4-year-old Terrier/Dachshund/Yorkie mix who came into the shelter because his owner could no longer care for him. Look at that cute little face! Jasper is a sweet guy looking for a second chance. Could you give him one?

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

petco foundation

Arthritis in dogs and cats



Dr John Bramson, DVM
Catoclin Veterinary Clinic

Dogs and cats get arthritis too just like humans. There are two types. Primary results from wear and tear on joints related to aging. Secondary is the result of trauma or a congenital defect like hip dysplasia or elbow dysplasia where the joint doesn't form correctly, which leads to joint damage. Arthritis, osteoarthritis (OA), and degenerative joint disease (DJD) all mean the same thing. There is degeneration of the joints, which leads to swelling, thickened joints, excess fluid in the joint and pain. There is decreased range of motion and muscle weakness and atrophy (loss of muscle mass), which can be seen and felt. The disease can be managed but not cured.

Symptoms

Dogs show more obvious signs. Commonly, lameness or stiffness are

seen especially after laying down or sleeping.

Cats are very good at hiding signs. There may be subtle signs such as being less playful, laying down more, and not jumping up on things. They may take the stairs more slowly and deliberately by bunny hopping up or pulling themselves up with the front limbs or going down stairs sideways one step at a time and often taking breaks along the way.

Arthritis causes pain and effects a cat's emotional state as well as physical well-being. Things to be aware of are a cat's energy level, comfort level, and how happy they seem to be. Note any personality or sociability changes. Observe litter box habits. Reluctance to go into the box, difficulty getting in, and having accidents outside of it can warrant cutting down the entrance for easier access.

Zoetis Petcare has a Cat Osteoarthritis Pain Checklist to fill-out which you

can then share with your veterinarian. OA can effect dogs and cats of any age. It has been documented in greater than 60% of cats 6 years of age and older. One study showed that 90% of cats over 12 years old had signs on radiographs of OA. About 25% of dogs are diagnosed with OA in their lifetimes, and 60% of dogs have evidence of it on xrays.

Diagnosis

This is based on the history, physical exam findings, imaging (like xrays) and medication trial response.

Physical Exam

Findings in Dogs
Lameness, favoring at least one limb, is most common. It may be seen once in awhile, get progressively worse, or persist. After rest, there is more stiffness. With use and warm up of the joint, it may improve in function. It can also get worse with over-exertion.

Physical Exam Findings in Cats

Lameness is not so obvious. You can see decreased activity, behavior change such as being irritable (i.e. not allowing brushing of the coat anymore), decreased self-grooming with unkempt hair, and difficulty maneuvering in and out of the litter box.

Part 2 will cover treatment next month.

Cuddles Cat Rescue opens in Thurmont



The Town of Thurmont welcomed Cuddles Cat Rescue to their new location at 3 East Main Street, Thurmont on June 19. Pictured L-R are:Joan, Linda, Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird, Thurmont Commissioners Wayne

Hooper & Bill Buehrer. Center L-R: President Michelle Shaw, & Founder, Karen Kinnaird. The right on sidewalk: L-R: Dawn & Kim. For more information on Cuddles Cat Rescue go to: <http://www.cuddlescatrescue.com>.

Ursus americanus

Linda Shea
FCAC Director

Recent sighting of Black Bears in our area have spurred calls to local law enforcement and, of course, the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center. Depending on one's experience and knowledge of wildlife, reactions upon seeing a Black Bear range from joyous and excited to worried and fearful. All of those reactions are understandable. However, a healthy respect of wild animals and taking reasonable, humane steps to deter them may help reduce unnecessary anxiety.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), "Maryland has a breeding population of black bears in the four westernmost counties (Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick)." Like most wildlife, bears will leave when they see a human—provided they have an escape route. If cornered or too distracted to recognize a viable exit, they may become protective or scared and exhibit body language (like woofing or slapping the ground) that serves as a warning. Leaving the area, giving the bear space, and removing distractions (like pets) may prompt the bear to be on its way.

To avoid unwanted and uncomfortable interaction with a black bear, make sure you take preventa-

tive measures to make your home less intriguing. Like many species of wildlife, bears are opportunistic and will return to favorite feeding spots that have easy access to cuisine of any type. Don't leave out food and make sure trash cans are secured properly and as tip-proof as possible by using bungee cords or other means. Bears can even be attracted to used grills and food in bird feeders. DNR recommends removing bird feeders in the spring or, "during summer, remove seed, suet and hummingbird feeders at night." If you weren't already aware, it is illegal in Maryland to feed bears.

Bears are part of Frederick County's wildlife population and the best thing we can do as a community is to learn how to coexist safely and take measures to prevent avoidable problems. For more comprehensive information on Black Bears, visit DNR's website Black Bear Fact Sheet (maryland.gov) and be sure to navigate through their information on Black Bear Management and Living with Black Bears. For nuisance wildlife, call DNR at 877-463-6497. To report a Bear-related emergency call 1-410-260-8888. To adopt two Syrian hamsters that weigh considerably less than a Black Bear (and eat much, much less), contact the shelter to inquire about Jake and Bernard.

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Stephani Rickerd & Aslan

PETS

Stupid dog, stupid birds...



at told about when we were kittens and our mom's wanted to put the fear of God into us.

But Neilex was nothing like that. When it was cold out, we would snuggle up together and share each other's warmth. As the old saying goes – "age makes allies of us all."

Which brings me to part one of this story – 'stupid dog.'

Neilex sadly died two years ago. A couple of months later a Jack Russell puppy named Jake joined the family. Jake was the exact opposite of Neilex. While Neilex was happy to simply lay in the sun with Troy, Will and I, Jake is always in our faces. Jake just doesn't understand personal space. For example, when I'm using a stall for 'personal business', he just has to come in and watch.

Now as an X-Tom, I'm good at defending myself, but Will never got street tough, so when Jake comes running at us, I stand my ground and growl, so Jake gives me a wide berth, but Will runs, which make Jake's day! As a result, Will spent the better part of last summer, fall and winter hiding in the tack room in the barn, which didn't do much for his figure (he put on a few more pounds than he will admit).

So this spring I took Will under my paw and showed him how to wallop Jake when he got too close.



Stupid dog. Like all Jack Russells, Jake needs something to chase, so recently he's taken up chasing birds. Yes, birds! Stupid dog.

"Q"

For anyone who has read my past articles, you know I have a pretty good gig going on. I am an x-feral Tom Cat who now has his own guy, a warm room to sleep in, a never empty foods bowl, and an endless supply of Temptations treats, so my complaints may fall on unsympathetic ears. But after being top cat on the farm for 4 years now, I feel I have earned the right to complain just a little bit.

When I first claimed the farm as 'mine', I had to share it with Will, the other barn cat who didn't take too kindly to me moving in, and Troy and Neilex, the farm's dogs. It took a while for Will to come to

terms with the fact that I was the new top cat, but he has since come to accept that and we are now best friends. As for Troy and Neilex, it was me that had to overcome my fear of dogs.

Troy and Neilex made it easy for me to like dogs. Troy grew up surrounded by cats, so she learned at an early age "don't chase the cats," so she never gave me the time of day. To the contrary, I soon discovered that whenever I found myself in a fight with an intruder, Troy was quickly at my side to defend me. Her appearance always drove away the intruder, making my life easier. Neilex, on the other hand, was old, and just didn't care about me, which was funny, as he was a Jack Russell, the dogs all cats

So now, instead of Jake chasing us, I'm chasing him! Funny, you would think that being chased by a street wise X-Tom Cat would put the fear of God in you, but Jake seems to enjoy it. He even turns around for more whenever I grow tired on chasing him. But at least he's no longer chasing Will.

But like all Jack Russells Jake needs something to chase, so recently he's taken up chasing birds. Yes birds! Stupid dog. From the moment he comes out of the house, to the moment he goes in for the evening, Jake is always on the lookout for a bird to chase. He doesn't care if it's a vulture high in the air, or an airplane – if it's in the air, he will case it! Stupid dog.

With summer coming, and the heat that I know will follow, I thought he might eventually get tired of it, but then the Barn Swallows returned, and that was too much for Jake. Usually we have only one nesting pair, but this year, we have three sets in the barn, so they are constantly flying in and out of the barn.

Needless to say, the presence of the Barn Swallows short-circuited Jake's one synaptic nerve and I swear he's lost his mind! He will run in circles for hours chasing the Swallows as the swoop for insects in the field until he finally falls down totally exhausted and out of breath. I keep telling him to 'chill out' but he says he can't because, as he says:



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Stupid birds. This year we have three, yes three Barn Swallow nests in the barn. So "Q" and Will are constantly 'dive-bombed' while they walk through the barn.

"that's what Jack Russel's do." If I didn't know better, I swear the Barn Swallows are playing with what pass for a brain.

Which brings me to part two of the story – stupid birds!

As I just said, this year we have three sets of nesting Barn Swallows, so there is a lot of activity in the barn aisle. Now as the tack room is in the barn, I naturally have to walk down the aisle to get outside, which upsets the Barn Swallows. Every time I leave my room, I get dive bombed by them, and dive bombed, and dive bombed. All the while screeching: "Alert! Alert! Alert!" They only stop harassing me once I'm clear of the barn.

Now I do a pretty good job of ignoring them, but Will is a wee-

nie, and every time he gets dive bombed, he runs for the tack room and the safety of his food bowl!

Yes, I understand the desire of the Barn Swallows to protect their nest, but let's be clear, the nests are up on the ceiling, and try as I might, I can't even get close to them, so they have nothing to fear from me. Yet just because I 'explored' once how to get to their nest, they think they have to constantly dive bomb me. Well I've got news for those stupid birds – I'm a cat, and if I was motivated, (which I'm not) I would leap into the air and snag one of them and show them who was the boss.

But even if I was motivated, I couldn't leap because I have to wear a stupid bib my people put on me

every time the stupid Barn Swallows show up. The big really knocks my timing off. So when I do leap, I just don't get the height is used to, nor the speed. Stupid bib.

So instead of being feared by the Barn Swallows, I get tormented by them, just like Jake used to torment Will. They are taking all the fun out of being a barn cat in the summer! Stupid birds. I hope Jake gets one someday, but then again, it's Jake ...

Unfortunately things will only go down hill for the next few months. Once the Barn Swallows babies start to fledge, the dive bombing will turn into kamikaze runs. The Barn Swallows will show Will and I no mercy, and Jack will lose what is left of his already puny mind running up and down the aisle after them. Then they will have a second brood, with the help of their kids and we'll have Barn Swallows are far as my eyes can see. Pandemonium will take over the barn. The barn will echo with Jake barking and the Swallows' screeching: "Alert! Alert! Alert!"

Fall can't come soon enough. I need the rest that comes from peace and quiet.

Maybe Will has it right. Just sleep by the food bowl and get fat ... But I'm an X-Tom, and as Jake would say "being outside is what I do."

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



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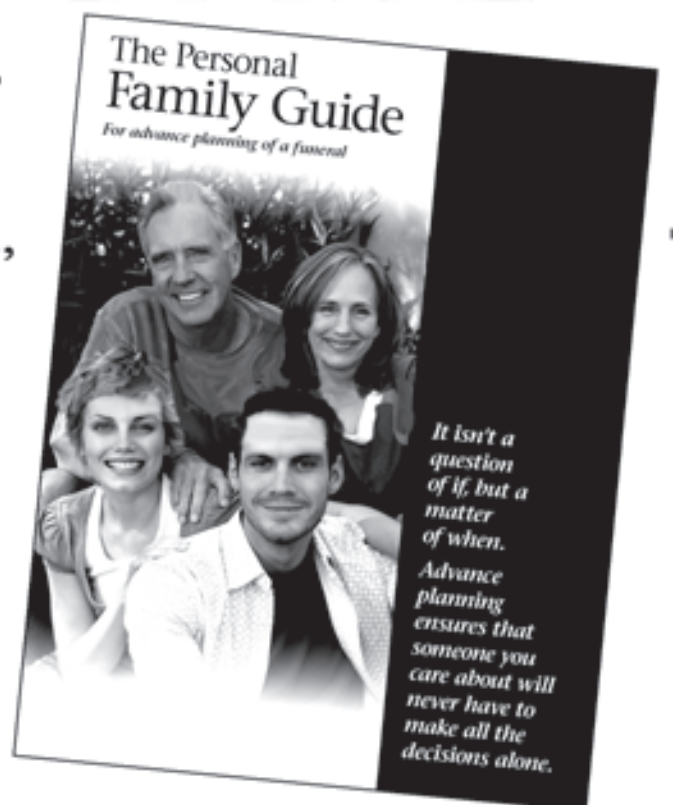


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HEALTH NOTES

Ensure your heart is in the right hands

**Kelsey Shupe
Frederick Health**

Never Ignore the Symptoms of a Heart Attack

If you think you may be experiencing a heart attack, you may feel:

- Tightness, a squeezing sensation, pain, or pressure in the chest that doesn't go away after a few minutes or stops and then returns
- Pain or discomfort in your arms, neck, jaw, back, or stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Lightheadedness
- Nausea
- A cold sweat

Don't delay—stop what you're doing and call 911 if you have any of these symptoms.

Especially if you have an under-

lying heart condition, the signs and symptoms of a heart attack can be worse than COVID-19—and ignoring these symptoms could be deadly. Mortality rates for people with heart disease and underlying conditions are higher for those who contracted COVID-19: 10.5% for people with cardiovascular disease compared to 0.4% risk of death for the general public.

Your heart deserves the best—especially during COVID-19—and managing heart conditions and appointments with your doctor is more important than ever. It's the first step to staying healthy and safe and reducing your risk of long-term health problems. This includes heart attack, stroke, and heart damage. The sooner you receive care, the greater your chance of survival and recovery.

In 2008, Frederick Health started the Interventional Cardi-

ology program, bringing life-saving heart care to the Frederick Community. Before the Interventional Cardiology program, patients would have to drive out of the county, which would result in delayed treatment time and decreased likelihood of survival.

Listen to Your Heart

Frederick Health is a safe place to get heart care and continues to treat patients and carry out procedures. They have visitation guidelines and safety precautions in place, so all patients and families are safe during the pandemic. We follow all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state regulations.

If you're at risk for heart problems and are concerned about COVID-19, there are a few things you can do to be prepared in case of an emergency.

Add emergency numbers to

your phone or post them where you can find them easily.

If you live alone, consider a wearable medical alert device.

Always keep a two-week supply of all your medications in the house while the pandemic is still happening.

Don't delay regular doctor visits, which can help you stay healthier in general and help your doctor spot warning signs of heart trouble.

Work with your doctor to manage heart attack risk factors such as high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, and smoking.

Continue wearing a mask around others.

Get Life-Saving Heart Care at Frederick Health

This year, Frederick Health marked an incredible milestone by providing Coronary Intervention for the 2,000th patient experienc-

ing STEMI (ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction).

A STEMI is a very serious heart attack when one of the heart's major arteries is blocked and can be a life-threatening event. From the patient's arrival at the hospital until the heart's blocked artery is opened should be just 90 minutes, so the entire team must work together very quickly. Time is crucial; the longer the heart muscle is without oxygen due to the blocked artery, the worse the outcomes can be.

Michael, 66, of Frederick County was surprised to find out he was having a heart attack. He had been experiencing problems with his throat for a few months, but one evening it got worse. He had to call 911.

His symptoms were atypical—he didn't have any chest pain or usual heart attack warning signs.

But as soon as he got to Frederick Health, doctors recognized what was happening. Within an hour—less than the recommended 90-minute window—he was treated for a blockage.

"Upon arriving at the Emergency Room and telling them what was going on, the staff recognized my symptoms as a heart attack," Michael says. "They zoomed me right upstairs and did the procedure. As soon as they did that, I felt relief and could tell the difference almost immediately. The level of care I received was great."

The success of the program and outcomes like Michael's are a true team effort. It begins with an EMS or ED provider recognizing a STEMI on a patient's electrocardiogram (ECG) and activating the Code Heart Team as early as possible, often before the patient arrives at the hospital.

The Code Heart Team in the Cardiac Catheterization & Electrophysiology Lab at Frederick Health is made up of a dedicated group of interventional cardiologists, nurses, and cardiovascular technologists trained in the treatment and care of these critically ill patients. This team is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year, with the expectation to arrive at the hospital within 30 minutes of an emergency.

After the procedure, critical care providers and nurses in the ICU care for the patient. When stabilized, the patient moves to a dedicated heart floor with specially trained nurses for continued care and discharge to home.

This program is designated as a MIEMSS Coronary Intervention Center. It is an American Heart Association Mission Lifeline Award winner for Heart Attack Care and just one of the thousands of procedures performed by Frederick Health's team of highly trained heart care experts.

Get life-saving heart care today at Frederick Health. Visit FrederickHealth.org/HeartCare or call 240-566-3300.

Don't ignore the signs of a heart attack. Call 911 immediately.



Chest tightness, squeezing, pain, or pressure



Shortness of breath



Pain or discomfort in the arms, neck, jaw, back, or stomach



Nausea



Lightheadedness



Cold sweat

Get life-saving heart care today.

**FrederickHealth.org/HeartCare
240-566-3300**



Frederick Health

99th Annual South Mountain Fair is just around the corner!

The best part of the summer season is fast approaching, and is right around the corner. Yes, I'm talking about fair season! Are you ready for the throttling of tractors, the smell of corn dogs and kids screaming gleefully on the Tilt-A-Whirl? Well, buckle up, because Adams County's 99th Annual South Mountain Fair will not disappoint! This year the fair will open on July 27 and will run through July 31.

The South Mountain Fair provides a chance for children to be acknowledged for their personal efforts ranging from hobby interests to animal husbandry, for local and national merchants to show off their wares, and for community members from far and wide to come together for an evening full of great food, entertainment, and lots of fun.

According to the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, there are more than 3,200 fairs held in North America every year, but for Adams County, the most important one is the Annual South Mountain Fair. Historically the fair began in 1922 and continued each year until 1930, when it was cancelled because of a drought. The annual event picked up once again the following year in 1931 and continued until 1941, when it was

again cancelled, this time due to a polio epidemic, then World War II, according to the South Mountain Fair Association. The fair was resumed in 1948 and has been held every year since then with the exception of last year, when it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In early spring of last year, the Fair Board of Directors were monitoring the pandemic closely to determine if it was going to be possible to run the Fair. They were hopeful that they would be able to, but by the middle of May 2020 they realized that it was not going to be possible to safely hold the 2020 Fair. The carnival ride company told them that they were cancelling because there was just no way they could keep up with all of the sanitizing of the rides that would be required. The Board made the very difficult decision that the 2020 Fair was not going to happen, so the cancellation was announced.

There were a lot of things that went into making that difficult decision last May. The ride company cancelling, 4H not being allowed to participate and the general safety of exhibitors and attendees are just a few of the things they had to consider. In addition, all of the events that normally rent the fairgrounds throughout the year were cancelled so there would be no income to pay the bills for the fairgrounds or the Fair. Yet the Fair Board still had to maintain the property and buildings and pay the bills whether there was income or not.

Fast forward to 2021. While still monitoring the pandemic rules and regulations, in early Spring it appeared that things were getting better so the Board proceeded to plan to have the Fair in 2021. In early May it was decided to charge ahead. The entertainment that was scheduled to perform in 2020 was moved to 2021, premium books were printed and all of the normal events that rent the grounds throughout the year were once again scheduled. The pandemic appeared to be under control, with many getting the vaccine and everyone was excited to be getting back to something resembling normal again. The Board members are looking forward to having a successful Fair this year and hope that everyone comes to have a fun time, meet old friends and make new ones, enjoy the rides and livestock shows and eat some great fair food.

Admission for the fair is \$7 for adults and is free for all children under 36" in height. All entertainment and carnival rides are included in the admission price and children under 36" in height may ride the carnival rides for free. Parking is provided to the public for free. Livestock exhibitions scheduled to be held during the fair include swine and poultry competitions on July 27, goat and sheep competitions on July 28, beef, calf and steer competitions on July 29th, and dairy cattle competitions on July 30. The annual junior livestock sale will be held on the last day of the fair, July 31, at 4 p.m.

Exhibit buildings will be open every day for the public. Exhibits include: a photography exhibit; baked goods, wine, vegetables, and fruit exhibits; crafts and art pieces of all kinds; as well as 4H projects. Additionally, plenty of entertainment has been scheduled for this year's fair - on July 28 at 7:30 p.m., breakout country artist John King, out of a little mountain town in Georgia will perform, and Austin Rife, a local singer-songwriter, will perform on July 29th. On July 30th, the fair will host its annual Fair Showdown where eight country singers will compete on our stage to become the winner of the 2021 South Mountain Fair Showdown. Twenty-two year old Nathan Merovich will wrap up the entertainment on July 31st with favorite coun-

try hits from today and yesterday along with some of his own originals.

South Mountain Fair Secretary Joanne Irvin said that many other fair favorites will return this year, including a baked goods auction on July 27 with part of the proceeds going to a local charity, a draft and miniature horse pulling contest on July 28, a fireworks display on July 29, and a parade of antique farm equipment on July 31. As always, the fair organizers are really hoping for a nice clear week with low humidity. "They've got a really great group of volunteers who spend countless hours setting up the main exhibit building and display the hundreds of exhibits that are entered in the fair. Even when the number of entries is lower, the volunteers make the displays look great."

Irvin also mentioned that the organization of this year's fair is going well so far. Most of the commercial vendors will be returning and quite a few new vendors will also be coming on board. As always there will be a variety of food vendors and most of the crowd favorites will be coming back again this year.

For more information and a complete schedule, visit www.southmountain-fair.com.

South Mountain Fair Information

99th Annual Fair - July 27 - July 31

Admission: \$7.00 - Under 36" Tall - Free!

Unlimited carnival rides are included in the admission! Children under 36 inches tall ride FREE!

All entertainment is also included in the price of admission!

Tuesday through Friday 4-10 p.m.; Saturday 1-10 p.m.

Located along Rte 234, Arendtsville, PA • Phone 717.677.9663

Website: www.southmountainfair.com

Anyone using a free admission pass can purchase a carnival ride wristband at the gate for a small fee.



FREE
PARKING

Sunday, July 25

1 p.m. - South Mountain Fair Rabbit and Cavy Show
2 - 4 p.m. - Registration of Open Exhibits (See 4-H Schedule)

Monday, July 26

4 - 7 p.m. Registration of Open Exhibits (See 4-H Schedule)

Tuesday, July 27

4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open
5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open
7 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Swine Judging Show Arena
7:30 p.m. - FOOD AUCTION to benefit an Adams County Charity

Wednesday, July 28

3 p.m. - Open Goat Judging, Show Arena
4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open
4 p.m. - Open Sheep Judging, Show Arena
5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open
6 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Goat Judging Show Arena
6:30 p.m. - DRAFT & MINIATURE HORSE PULLING CONTEST Rear Arena
7 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Sheep Judging Show Arena
7:30 p.m. - JOHN KING - Auditorium - FREE

Thursday, July 29

4 p.m. - Fair and Exhibit Buildings Open
5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open
4 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Dairy Feeder Calf Judging Show Arena
4:30 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Dairy Beef Finished Steer Judging, Show Arena

5 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Steer Judging, Show Arena

6 - 9 p.m. - MECHANICAL BULL RIDE - \$5

6:30 p.m. - CHAIN CARVING SHOW

7 p.m. - Open Beef Judging, Show Arena

7 p.m. - AUSTIN RIFE - Auditorium - FREE

8 p.m. - CHAINSAW CARVING SHOW

9:30 p.m. - FIREWORKS DISPLAY - Visible from entire fairgrounds

Friday, July 30

4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open
5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open
5 p.m. - Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Dairy Judging, Show Arena

6 p.m. - Dairy Showmanship Judging, Show Arena

6 - 9 p.m. - MECHANICAL BULL RIDE - \$5

6:30 p.m. - CHAINSAW CARVING SHOW

6:30 p.m. - Dairy Cattle Judging, (Color, Breeds and Holstein), Show Arena

7 p.m. - SOUTH MOUNTAIN FAIR SHOWDOWN - Auditorium - FREE

8 p.m. - CHAINSAW CARVING SHOW

Saturday, July 31

1 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open
4 p.m. - Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Sale (Pending Participation of Adams Co. Extension Personnel)
4:30 p.m. - Parade Of Antique Farm Equipment
2 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (with afternoon break for dinner)
7 p.m. - NATHAN MEROVICH - Auditorium - FREE
10 p.m. - Exhibit Buildings Close (ONLY LIVESTOCK MAY BE REMOVED)



Route 234, Adams County,
1 Mile West of Arendtsville,
8 Miles West of Gettysburg

Sunday, August 1

2 - 4 p.m.

Fairgrounds open to remove all entries for remaining departments.

HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman

Chapter 35 Historic Wallpaper Decorates White House

One hundred and thirty-one years ago, William Jones, a prosperous Thurmont tannery operator, purchased a pattern of fashion-able scenic wallpaper from France to decorate the front hall of his big stone house on East Main Street. Known as "Scenic America," the pattern imitated the sweeping panoramic paintings of early American history, and was hand-printed from 1,674 wood blocks on fine linen rag paper.

The purchase amounted to about 50 francs or \$10, and consisted of thirty-two strips, each 18 inches wide. The paper made the ocean voyage wrapped in tin foil tubes to protect it from the dampness. Since 1836, the property of William Jones changed hands many times, but the wallpaper remained in the hallway, adding a touch of French elegance and representing a Frenchman's conception of early Nineteenth Century America. As each new owner acquired the property, he must have found it difficult to part with the sce-

nic wallpaper, and so it hung in the hallway for 125 years.

In the Spring of 1961, Mrs. William J. Stoner, owner of the property, had sale and the historic wallpaper together with the house it-self, was abandoned to a wrecking crew. The new owner, planning to build a super market on the site, had ordered the demolition crew to complete the job as soon as possible.

It was during the demolition of the old stone house that Peter Hill, a young Washingtonian, appeared on the scene. The paper in the dark and dusty hallway intrigued him and led him to contact the wrecking crew. The foreman of the crew advised Mr. Hill that some lady was also interested in the wallpaper and had offered him \$100, but had given up the idea for fear that she could not re-move it within the three-day deadline posed by the demolition crew. Mr. Hill offered the foreman \$50.00 and the deal was closed. This was a considerable sum to gamble on such old wallpaper, for Hill's financial circumstances were not very strong. He immediately returned to Washington to gather tools for the task of removing the paper from the walls.

Armed with a putty knife, a razor blade, and an insecticide sprayer

filled with water, he went to work. Plaster and dust from the crumbling house showered around him as he worked. He soon realized that the tempera paint with which the paper had been printed had been mixed with glue at the Zuber factory where it was made. When he sprayed water on the paper it only re-activated the glue and soaked the paper. Had it not been that the paper having been on the walls for such a long time and no longer adhering strongly to the plaster, the job might have been very difficult indeed. By pulling gently Hill was able to remove three strips as a single piece.

Between 5 and 6:30 P.M. that first afternoon, Hill managed to remove 13 running feet. In order to minimize the damage to the paper, he thought it best to remove it strip by strip. He used the razor blade to separate the strips and the putty knife served as a means of keeping the paper taut. The job went well until he reached a section of about six square feet, which was found to be sticking tightly to the plaster. It appeared that this section might have at one time been loose and was re-glued.

Mr. Hill worked patiently, cutting away small, neat scraps, laying them in order in a small carton. When the job was completed, he found that only a few square inches had been lost. He took the paper to a friend of his at the Smithsonian and found it to be a very rare pattern. His friend urged him to interest the White House in it. Several days later Hill took his paper to the office of the



The wallpaper in the 'Diplomacy' reception room in the White House once graced the Stoner property in Thurmont.

White House curator, who in turn called Mrs. Kennedy in to see it. The First Lady was delighted by it and settled on the Diplomatic Reception Room, a large gracious salon, as its resting place.

The National Society of Interior Designers purchased the paper from Mr. Hill for \$12,500 and presented it to the White House as a gift.

Mr. Hill had removed some 48 running feet from the Stoner home, which made up one complete pattern but was insufficient to cover the large reception room. After a brief search, Mrs. John Pearce, White House curator, found 25 feet of the same paper in a New York antique shop. The National Society of Interior Designers agreed to finance the project and a New York firm was engaged to restore and hang the panorama.

The restoration involved the repairing of certain holes and tears. The color of the pattern was unfaded, a result of the marvelous inks used by the manufacturer. It might be well to mention here that the manufacturer, Jean Zuber, was honored by King Louis Philippe in 1834 when he was presented with the Legion of Honor. It was in this same year that "Scenic America" was first printed.

French scenic wallpaper was designed to be used above a wainscoting, as it is in the White House, and was purposely made with a deep expanse of background, part of which could be cut off to accommodate a low-ceilinged room. The firm restoring the paper ran into a small problem in the lofty reception room. This was solved on one portion of the paper by painting in a few inches of blue sky.

The richly colored paper adds much to a roomful of graceful Federal furniture, which was donated by the National Society of Interior Designers during the Eisenhower Administration. A beige oval rug in the style of Aubusson has a border in yellow, blue and green which incorporates the symbols of all the states. Crystal light fixtures, brass accessories, and sunny yellow silk damask upholstery are fresh notes against the white woodwork.

Tourists to the White House, have on occasions, voiced their disappointment for not being able to see this historic wallpa-

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HISTORY

per. The reason, of course, is that the ground floor has never been open to the public on the regular sightseeing schedule. The Diplomatic Reception Room is used too much by the President and the First Lady, for it to become a "public room." So who gets to see the "Scenic America" wallpaper, which once graced the walls of the Stoner property in Thurmont?

Only those few important people who have friends on Capitol Hill or in the government. Special tours are arranged through the offices of Congressmen, Senators

and Cabinet members. All guests at state dinners at the White House get to see what has been dubbed "the wallpaper room." This is a good name too, for it is the only room at the White House, which is papered.

The accompanying photos, perhaps the only ones ever taken, show some of the scenes of the historic wallpaper as it appeared on the walls of the Stoner home shortly before it was removed. Credit for these photos belong to photographer William Riffle, who wishes now, that he had

taken the wallpaper itself, rather than just pictures of it.

Chapter 36 The Master of Philips Delight

On February 1, 1955, Frederick County's last one-room school closed its doors and became a part of recorded history.

Hidden high in the Catoctin Mountains, Philip's Delight School will always be remembered, for, if nothing else, its efficient master, William McGill.

By modern standards, Philip's Delight School would not have amounted to much, but to the children who attended its seven grades, it was considered one of the finest in the country. The parents of these children were jealously proud of it, in spite of its dull, weather-beaten appearance. For twenty-three years Mr. McGill taught at Philip's Delight and enjoyed every minute of it.

In 1955, Mr. McGill was transferred to a two-room school at Catoctin Furnace and the parents of the children of Philip's De-light voiced a strong protest when they learned of the school's closing. The imminent departure of Mr. McGill was apparently the main reason for the parents' agitation. The effectiveness of his teaching, won for him the respect of pupil and parent alike. His 40 years in the teaching profession well qualified him for the title to which he was often referred — "Master of Philip's Delight."

Mr. McGill, the son of an Episcopal minister, was born at Catoctin Furnace and has spent most of his life in the Catoctin hills. As a boy he attended St. Paul's School in Baltimore and completed his high school years at Thurmont. Although he never attended college, he studied during the summers at Johns Hopkins University and Western Maryland College.

It was a familiar sight for the citizens of Thurmont to see Mr. McGill on his way to the little mountain school. He traveled the six-mile stretch mostly on a bicycle. In bad weather he either walked or went by automobile. At one time he used a county-owned station wagon, and before arriving at Philip's Delight, would pick up a number of teenagers (his former pupils without exception) and bring them down the mountain to the Thurmont High School, re-turning later in the after-

Francis 'Polly' Medvid



was often seen and heard calling Bingo for St. Joseph's Catholic Church family picnics. His other interests included crossword puzzles, word finds, and watching old TV Westerns.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Dorothy Medvid; daughter Connie Hummel and husband Bill, daughter Brenda Northrup, son Michael Medvid, daughter Virginia Ott and husband Philip Ott, Jr., and son Edward Medvid and wife Brenda; granddaughter Donna Cochran and husband Jeff, grandson Brandon Northrup and significant other Kayla Schetrompf, granddaughter Brittany Custer and husband Paul Custer Jr., grandsons David Northrup, Christian Medvid, John Medvid and Philip Ott; granddaughter Catie Medvid; great-grandchildren: Addison, Ashleigh, Chloe, Daniel, Krista, Miley, Nova, Rusty, and Wyatt; and nephew Michael Landsperger. He was preceded in death by his sister Virginia Warfield, his son Tracy Medvid, and grandson Sean Ott.

Francis Joseph 'Polly' Medvid of Emmitsburg, passed away on Saturday, June 5, at the age of 82. Polly was born on November 19, 1938 in Boston to Stanley Medvid and Anna Ring. He was raised by foster parents, Frank and Ruth Stull in Thurmont,

Polly was a dedicated employee of Knouse Foods in Orrtanna for over 40 years. He worked as a fork-lift operator in the warehouse freezer until his retirement in 2007. Polly was also a member of the Safety Committee and helped the warehouse win many safety awards. He was a member of UFCW Local 1776, including serving as Secretary-Treasurer.

Polly was a lifelong Baltimore Orioles fan. He also enjoyed watching NASCAR. His favorite driver was Dale Earnhardt Sr. Polly was an active volunteer with Mother Seton School, helping with monthly Bingo Nights, Horse Race Nights, dances, and Emmitsburg Carnivals. He

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 12 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Arrangements have been entrusted to Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home in Emmitsburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church at the above address. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

noon to drive them home again. The one-room school, such as Philip's Delight and teachers like McGill, played a major role in our educational system and their contributions to community life should in no way be taken lightly. Mr. McGill was a strong believer in the fundamentals. He stressed locations; he believed in giving his undivided attention to each pupil, and he taught the fundamentals of

religion. His philosophy of making the process of getting an education a great deal of fun, is perhaps one of the major reasons for his success. Although the little one-room school is now a part of the rich past, its alumni swell with pride as they relate many wonderful stories of their school days and of their teacher, William McGill, the "Master of Philip's Delight."

Chapter 37 next month



William McGill, school master of Philip's Delight School, Frederick County's last one-room school.



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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

The history of Taneytown

David Buie

The 1790 census, the first attempt by the new federal government to count the country's population, probably offers a relatively accurate picture of Taneytown's residents 28 years after the its founding. The document lists 64 heads of household broken down as follows: 86 free white males age 16 or upwards, including heads of households; 78 free white males under 16; 146 free white females including heads of households; 3 other free persons; and 16 slaves. Adding up those numbers, the population of Taneytown stood at more than 300 individuals. Only the names of heads of household appear whether male or female. Every other individual, free or enslaved, is merely a number in a column based upon his/her age and race.

Taneytown was mainly a free population, with only seven households including slaves. Barnabas McSherry, who kept the old stone tavern, had four. Benjamin Price, former captain in the 3rd Regiment of the Maryland Line, had three as well as John Usher Charlton (who later moved to Frederick) and Adam Stump. Perhaps white indentured servants are included in the above number.

The town's earliest available tax assessment dates to 1798 and shows forty-one individual property owners. Thirty-five of the town lots were built on by that date and 37 were vacant. The most

valuable properties were owned by Thomas Adams (lot #27), Ann Adams (lot #24), John Trucks (lot #5), Eli Bentley (half of lot #2), Adam Good (lots #8 and #21), and John Hughes (lots #78/#80 and half of lot #2).

Almost all of these buildings were likely made of wood or stone. Stories of bricks imported from England are doubtful given the transport costs from Maryland's tidewater, but a deed of 1768 mentions that Peter Hoofman had a brickyard on the north side of Baltimore Street. In 1785, his son Adam, by then a potter in Frederick, sold the brickyard to John McAllistor. Very likely the yard continued to operate because one appears at that location (near the old railroad crossing) on the 1877 Carroll County atlas.

The Historical Society of Carroll County's library files contain a variety of valuable information supplied by Louis Dielman, a noted historian from New Windsor. Several of his findings appeared in a March 1939 issue of The Carroll Record. The first appeared under the headline: "Taneytown Data in 1802, Names of Citizens Given as of that Date." Another communication from Dielman, who spent years researching at Baltimore's Peabody Institute, is of interest to anyone curious about Taneytown's antiquity. He wrote, "I have recently secured a long run of the Frederick-Town Herald, from the beginning in 1802 to 1832."

He was always willing to share with the newspaper "such items as I think may be of antiquarian interest, which you may print or discard at your pleasure." He was especially curious about the location of "Millersburg" because of the "races" he saw mentioned in an advertisement as having been held there "near Little Pipe Creek bridge." In return Dielman hoped to gather clues from readers of The Carroll Record and wondered if anyone could shed light on "Millersburg" and the "races."

We have Louis Dielman to thank for the following clipping from the Frederick-Town Herald which he contributed to The Carroll Record.

"Mr. Thomson in the Hornet of the 21st. inst. published by Mr. Bartgis of Frederick Town it is stated, that a publication signed by U. Bruce respecting the resolution introduced into the last session of Assembly, calculated to bring to account those who held public money in their hands under a law of 73 and 74, intended for the improvement of roads &c., &c., had been stuck up at some of the taverns of Taney Town. We the subscribers inhabitants of Taney Town, do hereby certify that no such publication as the one signed U. Bruce and published in the Hornet, was stuck up at or in any of the public houses in Taney Town, and we do declare the said assertion to be an absolute falsehood. Taney Town, Sept. 27th, 1802.



For over 30 years, New Windsor native Louis Henry Dielman (1864-1959) accumulated roughly 200,000 Maryland obituaries, which he clipped from newspapers and journals, copied from books and gravestones in cemeteries across the state. He also gathered biographies, relevant pictures, letters, and descriptive passages on Marylanders from all occupations. Historians have called the Index "perhaps the most valuable single reference source on Maryland history that exists."

Signed : George Grove, Christian Houk, Joseph Little, Joseph Taney, Jr., John Harritt, John Sawyer, William Kelly, Jacob Myers, Henry Swope, Amos England, John Black, Ludwick Sharrer, Jacob Cress, Joseph Shunk, Adam Good, Peter Shunk, Jos. Sim Smith, John Shunk, John Coskerlee, John Burk, Thomas Gibson, Hugh Thompson, John Hughes, John Shoner, John M'Kellip, James Wood, Philip Creamer, Casper Snarr, Eli Bentley, William Walker, Joseph M'Kaleb, John Fisher, John M'Kaleb."

Note that the name Eli Bentley, the famous clock-maker of Taneytown, appeared in the above list and confirmed he resided there in 1802. That had been something in question until Dielman found that old copy of the Frederick paper. Equally helpful to historians are the 33 names of men from the Taneytown area at the turn of the nineteenth century.

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

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 1

Car Catches Fire

The car of Robert Reindollar, Fairfield, was damaged by fire Friday afternoon when a spark from his cigar ignited it. Reindollar was apparently trying to start his autocar, which had run out of gas, by pouring some homemade 'hooch' into the carburetor. The fumes from the 'hooch' were apparently more flammable than the gas and ignited when Reindollar 'rolled' the cigar in his mouth to 'tip' the ashes, a few of which fell onto the carburetor. The flames were extinguished before serious damage could be done to the car, but not before Reindollar lost the majority of his beard.

Serious Accident At Barn Raising

Thomas Fuss, while assisting in raising a new barn on the farm of his father, Henry Fuss, was seriously injured by being caught by a portion of the building that fell, during construction, catching Mr. Fuss and crushing him to the ground. It is reported that he received a broken or very badly injured spine, a broken arm and numerous painful injuries.

July 8

Escapes With Whiskey Cargo

An autocar loaded with moonshine whiskey bound for Hagerstown, was stopped on the Mountain just outside of Thurmont, Thursday night, by police. After the driver and passenger in the car put under arrest, the driver was directed to follow the police car into town, but the police had no sooner started down the mountain when the driver of the 'hooch' car turned about and stepped on the gas and tore away at 60-miles an hour, escaping with a loaded car. A little later the moonshine was transferred to another machine and the car containing no whiskey was caught at the Virginia line and brought back. The driver was fined \$60 for speeding and resisting arrest. Meantime, the confederate who met him along the way escaped with the cargo of liquor.

Cool Weather Not In Sight

The weatherman says there are no indications of a break in the long heat spell. Throughout the area, 90° or higher has been the record practically every day for

about four weeks, a record never before equaled in Weather Bureau records. In many sections a corresponding drought has accompanied the heat. All the rain that has fallen has been very local. The crops, as yet, have not been seriously injured. Potatoes and tomatoes have suffered the most.

July 15

Horse Thief Taken Home

Oscar House, who was arrested a few days ago on suspicion of stealing a mare and buggy which he had offered for sale to several people in the vicinity of Fairfield, was taken back to his hometown, by his father, who pulled him out of the 'caboose' by his right ear. The mare and buggy is the property of a young House's father. Young House, who is only 20-years-old, stated that he took the horse and buggy because his father owed him some money for working. Sheriff Hartman pointed out to the youth that his father cannot be in debt to a 20-year-old son and that if he was his son, he would give him a good horse whipping.

Community Park at Rocky Ridge

About two years ago a community movement was inaugurated at Rocky Ridge by the Mount Tabor Union Church when a five-acre park by the Emmitsburg Railroad station was purchased from Howard Bevarde. The park was beautified by cutting out the underbrush and by making walks in driveways until now it is one of the finest, if not the finest in Western Maryland. The original cost of the park was \$800. Last year a commodious tabernacle was built on the ground at a cost of \$700 - as well as a refreshment booth costing \$130, and this summer a artesian well was dug and pump installed at the cost of \$100. The park will be lighted by electricity as soon as current is brought to the Ridge, which everyone hopes will be accomplished before the end of the summer.

July 22

Annan-Horner To Become State Bank

Announcement has been made recently that the banking firm of Annan-Horner, Emmitsburg has filed an application with the Maryland State Banking Commissioner for

a charter as a State Bank. This firm is one of the oldest and most prominent financial institutions in the county, having been established in 1882. It has heretofore been owned by members of the Annan, and Horner families, but, believing that a community controlled institution could render better services to the people of that section, the action for a State Bank Corporation has been taken.

The name of the new institution will be the Annan-Horner State Bank, which will have a capital of \$50,000 and a surplus of \$25,000. The stock is now being offered to the people of Emmitsburg and vicinity. The par value of the stock is \$10 per share and the subscription price is \$15, the extra five dollars being used for the establishment of a surplus fund. The exact date when the doors of the new institution will be open is depending upon the action of the State Banking Commission, but it is believe that it will be within two months.

Cattle & Sheep Poisoned

Harry Eyler and Robert McNair, cattle dealers, lost 24 head of cattle from poison last week. They had engaged four men to drive a herd of 30 from Greencastle to Waynesboro. The road parallels the tracks of the H & P Railroad for nearly the entire distance, on which had been placed a preparation to kill the weeds. Mr. Eyler says that more or expected to die.

Last week, fourteen sheep belonging to Mr. Wasache sealed their doom when they strayed from their usual grazing land to the roadbed of the H & P's electric line just outside of Thurmont. The day before the roadbed had been given the same treatment to kill the weeds. The sheep were seen coming upon the track by Mr. Porter, who is employed on the farm by Mr. Wasache. Within not more than five minutes they were driven back into their field, but evidently had all the time that was necessary, and the fourteen died.

Camp Fire Girls Visit

Camp Fire Girls camping on a farm near Creagerstown, hiked to Thurmont "to see the town." Their customs consisted of blouse, bloomers and rolled stockings and they attracted a great deal of attention. They visited the Clarion office to see how a paper was printed and some of them were very much elated over their ability to 'read printing up-side-down.'



July 29

Hollinger Barn Burns

The large barn on the farm of John Hollinger, just west of Emmitsburg, was destroyed by fire. The origin of the fire is unknown. Beside the barn, about 20 tons of hay, farming implements, and about 400 chickens and a calf were burned. Seven horses and cows, by hard work were driven from the barn. A large cornfield was badly damaged. The total loss is estimated at \$5,000. Thanks to the quick work of neighbors, under the direction of Traffic Officer Ben Topper, several buildings near the barn were saved. The farm was formally known as Stonehurst and was the property of Bishop John Murphy, of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, who had made it his country home until two years ago, when he sold it to Mr. Hollinger.

On Thursday night a fire of unknown origin destroyed the old abandoned house of the Lewis property just north of Thurmont. Rumors of 'moonshiners' are connected with the case of the fire, but nothing is known for sure.

Has Life Crushed Out

Harvey Ashbaugh, a truck driver for the Wayward Baking Company

of Waynesboro, and son-in-law of Charles Knott, of Thurmont, had his neck broken; head and breast bone crushed and several ribs fractured, in an elevator accident, and in doing so, meeting a horrible death. Mr. Ashbaugh, 24-years-old, had just finished loading his truck with bread for his daily route to Emmitsburg and Thurmont, and went to the electric elevator in the main building, intending to go to the washroom on the second floor before starting on his route.

It is supposed that Mr. Ashbaugh was standing too near the front of the elevator platform when it began his ascent and his head struck the framework above the doorway of the shaft and knocked him down, his head hanging over the edge. As the elevator advanced to the top of the 1st floor, his body was pulled out of the elevator by his head. With his body squeezed in a space less than a foot wide, his life was crushed out before the elevator stalled a few feet below the second floor. The electric motor was still buzzing trying to pull the elevator higher when the accident was discovered and it was shut off.

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

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COOKING

Blueberries – they're not just for dessert

Kathy Jo Serfass
Hollabaugh Brothers Farm Market

July is blueberry time, and blueberries, unlike most of our commercially grown fruits, are native to North America. As early as 15,000 years ago, Native Americans were using blueberries as flavorings in food as well as for medicinal purposes. Another valuable characteristic of blueberries is that they could also be dried and stored for winter. As Europeans arrived, the Native Americans passed along the knowledge and uses of this fruit to the settlers. When hiking at this time of year, finding ripe, low bush blueberries is a real treat, just as I imagine it was to those early foragers.

The varieties of high bush blueberries, which are grown commercially, didn't appear on the scene until the early 1900s. The story of how blueberries were cultivated began in the 1890s with Elizabeth White, the daughter of a New Jersey cranberry farmer. Despite being told that blueberries could not be domesticated, White was convinced that they could become a commercial crop. At the same time, Frank Coville, a botanist for the USDA, was researching how to cultivate blueberries and discovered that they need acidic soil to thrive. White heard about Coville's research and contacted him, offering acreage on her farm for experimentation. The perfect timing of White's dream and Coville's research laid the foundation for modern blueberry varieties and the commercial success of this fruit.

Fast-forward to the 1990s, and the tremendous health benefits of blueberries were being discovered that have since led to this native fruit being touted as a superfood high in vitamins K and C as well as iron and manganese. The blue color of the skin is due to a pigment, anthocyanin, which has antioxidant properties. My 95-year-old grandmother can attest to their health benefits. She eats them on oatmeal every day. While we think of using blueberries in pies and other bakery products, they can also be used in more savory dishes to add a touch of sweetness and flavor. Come out to the farm at Hollabaugh's and pick your own blueberries to enjoy on their own, on ice cream, in pies, or in one or more of the following recipes.

Blueberry Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

Ingredients

1 Tbs butter, softened
 4 slices whole wheat bread
 1 Tbs honey
 ½ cup blueberries
 6 thin apple slices
 2-3 ounces white cheddar cheese or American cheese, thinly sliced

Preparation directions:

Heat oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly butter one side of each bread slice. Place bread on work surface, buttered side down. Drizzle honey over two of the slices. Top with blueberries. Add a slice of cheese, then apple slices. Top with remaining cheese. Then top with the remain-

ing slices of bread, buttered side up. In a heavy oven proof skillet over medium heat, cook sandwiches until golden brown on the bottom. Turn sandwiches over and transfer skillet to oven. Bake about 5 minutes or until golden brown and cheese is melted. Remove from oven and enjoy.

Blueberry and Provolone Stuffed Chicken

Ingredients:

1 cup blueberries
 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
 8 thin slices provolone cheese
 32 fresh basil leaves
 3 Tbs unsalted butter, divided
 1 Tbs vegetable oil
 3 cups sliced mushrooms
 1 ½ cups low sodium chicken broth
 ½ cup white wine
 1 tsp red wine vinegar
 1 Tbs. fresh basil, chopped
 1 Tbs chopped parsley
 Salt and pepper to taste
 *Kitchen twine

Preparation directions:

Halve chicken breasts horizontally, keeping the long side of the chicken breast attached. Open halves like a book and pound breasts until ¼ inch thick. Season all sides with salt and pepper. Place each breast on a work surface, cut side up. Add about ¼ cup blueberries on top of chicken and top with 2 slices of provolone cheese and 8 basil leaves, maintaining a 1-inch border on the chicken. Roll the chicken breasts up lengthwise and tie with kitchen twine. Repeat with remaining chicken breasts.

Pre-heat oven on 350 degrees F. Heat the oil plus 1 tablespoon of butter in a large ovenproof skillet. Add the chicken and cook until brown on all sides, about 8-10 minutes. Transfer to oven and bake about 7-8 minutes, until an instant thermometer reads 165 degrees F when inserted into the middle. Transfer chicken to plates and let rest for 10 minutes.

While the chicken is resting, scrape any melted cheese from the skillet and discard. Set the skillet over medium high heat and add 1 tablespoon butter. Add mushrooms and cook, turning occasionally until mushrooms are golden brown, about 5 minutes. Add in white wine and cook for about 60 seconds. Add broth and vinegar and simmer until liquid is thickened and reduced, about 10-12 minutes. Stir in remaining tablespoon of butter and herbs. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Cut off and discard twine from stuffed chicken breasts. Cut chicken into slices and drizzle mushroom sauce over top. Serve and enjoy.

Blueberry, Prosciutto, and Goat Cheese Flatbread

Ingredients:

2 Tbs olive oil
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1 Tbs finely chopped fresh thyme



½ pound whole wheat pizza dough
 ½ cup fresh blueberries
 4 thin sliced Prosciutto Parma
 ¼ cup crumbled goat cheese
 1 Tbs honey

Preparation directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Place rack in lowest possible position. In a small bowl, stir together olive oil, garlic, and thyme; set aside. On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough into a 6 X 10-inch oval, about ¼ inch thick. Brush with olive oil mixture. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. While crust is baking, lightly mash blueberries using the back of a wooden spoon in a small bowl. Spread over crust. Top with prosciutto and goat cheese and drizzle with honey. Bake for an additional 10 minutes to crisp the prosciutto and melt cheese.

Blueberry Buckle

Ingredients:

For Crumble Topping

½ cup all-purpose flour
 1/3 cup granulated sugar
 4 Tbs melted butter
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 Pinch of kosher salt

For Cake

2 cups all-purpose flour
 2 tsp baking powder
 ½ tsp salt
 4 Tbs butter, softened
 ½ cup granulated sugar
 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
 1 large egg
 2 tsp vanilla extract
 1 cup buttermilk
 2 cups fresh blueberries

Preparation directions:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease 8-inch square pan with nonstick cooking spray and line with parchment paper. In a medium bowl, stir to combine all crumble ingredients. Set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. In a medium bowl, beat to combine butter, sugar, egg, and vanilla. Alternate adding buttermilk and dry ingredients until both are used. Gently fold in blueberries until just combined and transfer to prepared baking

pan. Add crumble mix to top of batter in an even layer. Bake until done, about 45 minutes. Let cool at least 15 minutes before serving.

Upcoming Events

66th Annual Blueberry Festival. Saturday and Sunday, July 10th and 11th from noon - 4:30. Our Festival this year will feature live music from Fidler & McCauslin Duo from 1 - 4 p.m. on Saturday and FlipSide from 1 - 4 p.m. on Sunday. Strawberry Hill will be bringing their animal ambassadors on Sunday from 2 - 3 p.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 blueberry treats. A free blueberry craft will also be available for the kids and of course, there will no end to blueberry themed products available for purchase. Pick your own blueberries will also be available and guided wagon rides of our farm are available for purchase.

Family Cooking Class. Saturday, July 17th 1:30 - 3 p.m. What is red, white, blue, and delicious? How about a triple berry angel food cake roll! July is the time for harvesting blueberries and raspberries, and what better way to enjoy them than in a delicious dessert. 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! Cost is \$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.

Kids' Night Farm Olympics. Friday, July 23rd 6 - 8 p.m. While the world celebrates a postponed Summer Olympic Games, we'll have our own farm-themed events for kids to try out. Then enjoy a nice cool down with a free kids' ice cream. Cost is \$5 per child. This includes a free small ice cream for the child. Admission runs from 6 - 7 p.m.. No registration required.

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

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MOM'S TIME OUT

A little experiment



Mary Angel

As many of you know my daughter has struggled with ain her teen years. I have slowly but surely been tracking her changes in mood. Of, course as a teenage girl, her mood changes at certain times of the month. Monthly mood swings were not what I was looking for. I wanted to know what external factors might be affecting her mood and possibly determine which factors might be the worst culprits. So, I started paying closer attention. Needless to say, she is a teenage girl, and I am a working mom, so this experiment would not be sanctioned by any reputable science journal.

As I started to track her mood swings there was a pattern, and it was definitely tied to an external factor. This particular factor is one I have discussed at length in many other articles I have written. This would be those tiny little computers that are constantly in the hands of our teenagers. This led me to ask my daughter to help me with an experiment. My proposal was not that she give up her lifeline, her appendage, but rather delete some of the apps that were encased in the dreaded device. She agreed, admitting that it might be part of the problem.

The first app to go was Snapchat (the one I call the NO accountability app). This is the app where individuals feel they can say any sort of hurtful thing with no consequence because it disappears, never to be seen again (or so they think). Along with this app were a couple of other less devious apps, like Instagram. The deal was for 30 days, 30 days without these apps (and no sneaking onto her siblings' phones to keep up streaks or check messages or whatever the appropriate lingo would be). She was all in, but slightly skeptical that there would be a noticeable change.

The first week was a little rocky, as she felt disconnected from her

but still enjoyable when we would catch a glimpse, was her pausing to jump in on conversations. Before the experiment that device was always center stage. If you wanted to have a conversation with her you either had to ask her to put it down or wait in line for her to check and see if someone left her unopened.

All of her siblings commented, on separate private conversation, that she was like the old Molly and a lot of fun to hang out with. We all also realized that she was not short tempered with us, and I noticed that I was finding it unnecessary to send her to her room for sass and language issues. I was, at this point, surprised at how noticeable all of the changes were and contemplated telling her that those apps would not be returning to her phone.

I had not noticed these kinds of behavioral changes in the boys when they were given smart phones. I began to wonder why the different children were having such different experiences. My uneducated, yet knee deep in the situation, opinion was that it was twofold. First there was the fact that the boys were older when they moved from a "dumb" phone to a smart phone, and second, Molly was an impressionable, hormonal girl. Please don't misunderstand what I am saying. I am not saying that she is an emotional girl who can't handle the stress. What I am saying is that the boys didn't care what people thought; they were very confident in who they were.

My daughter on the other hand was less confident (maybe because she was bullied when she was young). What I discovered in all of this is that when she wasn't relying on her self-worth being determined by whether someone opened her snap or by some mean girls (and oh boy can they be mean) telling her how ugly she is or how much no one likes her, then she has an opportunity to breathe. She can take a minute to look in the mirror and like what she sees.

By the fourth week she was simply put...happy. She would say good morning to me and give me a little kiss on the cheek. Her skin was clearer, and she had started exercising again. She was constantly asking to go to a friend's house or have a friend

over and her and her sister were riding bikes and going for walks almost daily. In a sentence...my daughter was back. She still had her moments, after all she was still a teenager, but overall, she was a joy to be around.

Suddenly week four was over and I was dreading the conversation. I knew she was a healthy human being without the apps, especially Snapchat, but now I had to convince her of that. My other option was to put my foot down and tell her she wasn't going to be permitted to get the apps back. I took a deep breath and asked

her to talk to me about the experiment. She said, "Mom, I don't think I want Snapchat back." You could have knocked me over with a feather. She continued, "I haven't been nearly as stressed or depressed since I got rid of it. Actually, I don't miss it at all."

I am not saying this will solve all of the problems of the teenage years, but if it can just make for a healthier and happier teen, isn't it worth it?

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



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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

FCC offering summer sessions for kids and teens

Frederick Community College is offering a variety of in-person and online summer programs for kids and teenagers aged six to 15 years old.

"We are excited to get kids and teens back at FCC or learning online in these interactive and fun summer sessions," said Karen Freeman, program manager for FCC Youth and Community Education. "We know many parents are looking for educational opportunities for their chil-

dren this summer. Whether they want that learning to be done in person or online, FCC is here to help."

For in-person sessions, class sizes are limited and state and local guidelines around COVID-19 precautions will be followed.

Registration is now open for all summer youth offerings. To see the full summer schedule including course descriptions, or to register for sessions, click here.

Kids and Teens on Campus: In-person weekly sessions between June 28 and August 13, 9 a.m. to noon. Kids and Teens on Campus offer a variety of face-to-face morning sessions for ages 6 to 15 on the FCC main campus. These sessions provide kids and teens with hands-on learning experiences focusing on science and technology, Lego and robotics, creative arts, culinary delights, health and fitness, literary and cultural adventures, and more.

Summers at Monroe: In-person weekly sessions between June 28 and July 30, 9 a.m. to noon. Unique baking and cooking sessions for students ages 11 to 16 are led by executive chefs in a professional teaching kitchen at the FCC Monroe Center. Sessions include breakfast and brunch, international flair, cookie craze, appetizers and snacks, and delectable desserts.

Online Adventures: Online weekly sessions, June 28 to August 13, var-

ious session times. Discover a variety of programs designed to engage and inspire kids wherever they are this summer. With morning and afternoon programs available for ages 7 and up, topics include culinary and creative arts, science and technology, cultural adventures, business, and more.

For more information on these summer programs, visit www.frederick.augusoft.net.

Fairfield School District plans fall reopening

The Fairfield Area School District (FASD) School Board commented on the past school year under COVID-19 restrictions and other end-of-school-year business at their June work-session, including announcement of plans to have students return to attend in-person in the coming school year.

Regarding FASD's struggles during the COVID pandemic, Middle School Principal

Patricia Weber stated, "This past year has been shadowed with challenges that we can only hope our

student and community will never again experience," adding, "At times it was difficult to find silver linings."

However, Weber said some positive experiences were gained by school staff members. For example, she cited various Middle School teachers who wrote down their personal experiences teaching which had occurred under the COVID pandemic. She did not identify specific teachers.

One teacher wrote that she became better at developing multiple ways of teaching students with

different learning styles and abilities, and had prompted her to create better resources, become more patient and focused, and that the hybrid experience helped her grow as an educator, and to evaluate lessons with a more critical eye.

Another wrote, "It (holding virtual classes) has taught me to appreciate seeing students face-to-face even more, and not take it for granted. The pandemic has served to reinforce my love for my job... In retrospect, I feel that adaptability and flexibility were my greatest insights gained over the past year."

The Middle School Principal further stated that the administration is reviewing the 2021-2022 Health & Safety Plan for the re-opening of the school district for the coming fall. The plan will be presented to the public at a future schoolboard meeting.

Additionally, Weber stated that the district is planning on having students attend in-person five days a week during the 2021-2022 school year.

The district's end-of-2020-2021 school year COVID number

remained low. Only two coronavirus cases were confirmed in the district, those being in the secondary school grade levels. The district reported that 100 individuals were in quarantine among the secondary school grade levels and 16 were quarantined in elementary school. COVID tests on five individuals were pending completion.

The board also approved pay increases for staff effective July 1. Hourly and salaried support staff were granted a two percent pay increase. Also granted a two percent pay increase were entry-level support staff and substitute support staff.

Library events

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library
The Blue Ridge Summit Free Library is nestled in the southeast corner of Franklin County, serving patrons in PA. & MD.

The Blue Ridge Summit Free Library was organized and opened in September 1922 by the late Miss Mary Norwood. For twenty-six years it was housed in a room on the second floor of the Parish House of the Church of the Transfiguration on Summit Avenue, Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania.

The library is now housed in what was a train station of the Western Maryland Railroad. The station was built in 1891. From 1872 to 1957, the station pro-

vided passenger service to Blue Ridge Summit. In 1958, the railroad presented the deed to the station and one and one-half acres of land to Mrs. Robert Hearne, President of the Board of Directors of the library, with the following statement:

"In the tradition of the good neighbor, the Western Maryland family deeds to all the families of the Blue Ridge Summit this familiar community meeting place to be used as a free public library, thus continuing in a cultural sense, the close relationship between the railroad and the people".

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.

Special Events

July 17 - Ice Cream Social and Book Sale. Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Activities: Book Sale, geocaching, giant bubble making and sidewalk chal, Bookmobile. Food: donuts from Krystal's Cakes and Confections, Antietam Dairy Ice Cream truck, chicken BBQ, hot dogs. For

more information e-mail: brsmtnboard@gmail.com

July 17 - Whistle 5K Run/Walk. Time: 8 a.m., rain or shine. To register: Preregister by July 6th at the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library, or by requesting the registration form by email: brsmtnboard@gmail.com.; For more information call Roger Klink at 717-860-0824.

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.

continued on next page

Two-Day Event!
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SCHOOL NEWS

FCPS ponders fall reopening plans

Edison Hatter

While the 2020-21 school year officially ended last month, preparations for the upcoming 2021-22 school year are already well underway. A major recent announcement was the plan to return students to classrooms five days per week again next school year. However, there will remain a virtual online learning option for students and families not yet comfortable with returning to a pre-COVID learning environment. While students and families were asked to make a decision for the upcoming school year regarding their choice for in-person or virtual learning last month, the school system will continue to attempt to work with families who may change their minds in the coming weeks leading up to the start of the next school year.

Some specifics are still being worked out, including the topic of masks. Governor Larry

Hogan's lifting of the mask mandate in May 2021 did not include schools, where mask wearing remains a state-wide requirement for now. This policy could be revisited by the Governor and his administration prior to the start of the upcoming school year. Social distancing will not be maintained or mandated next year as it is simply not possible to maintain with students returning to classrooms full time next year. Many classrooms are expected to return to having 25 or more students next year. At this time, vaccinations will not be required for students, based on current guidance from the Maryland Department of Health.

There are two new principal appointments in the Catoctin feeder system for the upcoming school year. John Veronie will take the reins at Sabillasville Elementary and Karl Williams will take over at Thurmont Elementary. Veronie comes to Sabillasville from Carroll Manor

Elementary, where he served as an assistant principal. Outgoing Principal Kathleen Krietz will be transferring to the Blended Virtual program. Williams comes to Thurmont from Hillcrest Elementary, where he served as principal for five years. Outgoing Principal Debra O'Donnell is retiring.

Finally, with approximately eight months left until the filing deadline for the 2022 Frederick County Board of Education election, there are still no candidates who have officially filed with the Board of Elections yet. Current President Jay Mason, Current Vice President Karen Yoho, Former President Brad Young, and Former Vice President Liz Barrett all have terms that will expire in December 2022. Mia Martinez of Brunswick High School just saw her term as Student Member of the Board expire on July 1. Next year's Student Member of the Board will be rising-senior Sam Starrs of Oakdale High School.

New Horizons Academy

Joined by several community partners, Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner announced the expansion of a program to support local students who are experiencing homelessness.

Started in 2016, the five-week program is coordinated through the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership, known as SHIP of Frederick County. This year's program will serve 75 Frederick County Public Schools students from six high schools, and for the first time will include rising ninth-graders.

"We live in a community that cares and has taken action to help our students," Executive Gardner said. "SHIP and their community partners are giving students the tools they need to succeed in school and in life. They are truly making a difference in the lives of these youth."

Through the New Horizons Academy, students will

take courses at Frederick High School. Peer mentors, comprised of New Horizons alumni, will provide support to students throughout the academy. The project serves students from Catoctin, Governor Thomas Johnson, Tuscarora, Frederick and Walkersville High Schools, and now Brunswick High will also participate. The expansion is funded, in part, by a \$42,500 Community Partnership Grant from Frederick County.

The objective of the program is to provide support and resources to help these students remain on track to graduate on time. More than 800 students in Frederick County Public Schools have faced the challenges of homelessness, many without an adult caregiver.

For more information about New Horizons, contact SHIP of Frederick at 240-415-8971 or via e-mail at info@ShipFrederick.com.

continued from previous page

Frederick County Public Library
Hello Summer and hello again from all the staff at the Emmitsburg Branch and Thurmont Regional Library. We are happy to have our buildings open to the community and look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones! We are open at reduced capacity, and to keep all of our patrons safe, masks are required for anyone over age 5.

Our hours have been expanded to better serve the community and all are invited to come in for task based library services such as browsing books, computer based appointments, printing and copying. Meeting rooms and study rooms are not yet available. The Emmitsburg Branch Library is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. through 8 p.m. Thurmont Regional Library is open Monday, Wednesday,

Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In addition to being open, we are now a fine free library system! This means overdue items will not accrue any fines and all accounts have been wiped clean for a fresh start! Going fine free alleviates the fear for some families of using the library and provides greater access to all. Though fines won't be charged, accounts be will blocked for items not returned or renewed within 21 days, and charged a replacement fee. Once the materials are returned or replacement costs paid, accounts will become unblocked and materials can be checked out again.

Summer weather also brings outside storytime to the library! Emmitsburg will host storytime on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Memorial Park, located at 11 Chesapeake Avenue, behind the town post office. Thurmont Regional Library will have storytime on the

deck on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. Bring a blanket to sit on at each location and enjoy music, movement, and fun! Check FCPL.org or call Emmitsburg, 301-600-6329, or Thurmont, 301-600-7200, for weather cancellations.

Make sure to sign up for our summer reading challenge and "Rediscover the Magic" right here in Frederick County! The challenge goes all summer long and encourages all ages to read, explore, and earn points to win prizes! Reading will keep students engaged throughout the summer and help keep skills sharp for the new school

year. Sign up online at FCPL.org/ summer or visit any library branch.

In conjunction with the summer challenge, check out the Call to Adventure Author Events Week featuring: Monday, July 12, Elizabeth Lim, 2-3 p.m.; Tuesday, July 13, Abi Elphinstone, 10-11 a.m.; Michelle Ruiz Keil, 4-5 p.m.; Wednesday, July 14, Michelle Harrison, 9-10 a.m.; Erin Craig, 2-3 p.m.; Thursday, July 15, Chantel Acevedo, 10-11 a.m.; Friday, July 16, Ame Dyckman 2-3 p.m. More information and additional virtual programming can be found at FCPL.org.

The relaxing days of summer, long weekends, and vacations provide ample opportunity for pleasure reading or catching up on favorite movies. Come visit and borrow books and DVD's before heading out of town or staying in to beat the heat. Audiobooks pass the time on long car rides or doing chores around the yard. Your library card also gives you access to digital resources anytime, day or night, to music, movies, books and so much more! We are here for you reading, watching, educational, and entertainment needs and cannot wait to see you in the library!

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our writers to reflect upon the lives of one of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Sophomore

**Thomas McKean,
American man**

**McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2024**

I like to think of myself as a fantastic multitasker, a pretty decent writer, and a patriot. I come from a big family, have moved to various states throughout my childhood, and I like wearing big hats like the ones you see at the Kentucky Derby.

Initially, I had no idea I had so much in common with Thomas McKean, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; his last name even starts with the first four letters of my first name. And like me, McKean was a patriot, a writer, and someone who spent a lot of time on the road.

McKean did not just have one occupation in the world of politics and law; he was a lawyer, judge, governor of Pennsylvania, jurist, statesman, Governor of Delaware, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, and also served as a colonel in the Revolutionary War.

Born in 1734 in Pennsylvania, Thomas McKean was one of seven siblings (just like me!). When McKean was sixteen, he had the opportu-

nity to study law in Delaware with his cousin. Six years later, he became Deputy Attorney General to County Sussex, and the next year was admitted to the bar of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and appointed Clerk of the Assembly of Delaware. In 1762, he became a member of the Delaware Assembly, on which he served until 1779.

According to the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, "by the time he reached his majority Thomas McKean was over six feet tall. Frequently he was seen wearing a large cocked hat, fashionable at the time, and was never without his gold-headed cane. It is said that he had a quick temper and a vigorous personality. He had a thin face, hawk's nose and his eyes would be described by some as 'hot'. Some wondered at his popularity with his clients as he was known for a 'loft and often tactless manner that antagonized many people.' He tended to be, what some might describe as a loner, seldom mixing with others, except on public occasions." I find it ironic that he had such an active political life, and yet didn't seem to be much of a "people person."

Shortly after becoming a member of the Delaware Assembly, McKean married Mary Borden. They had six children together, named Joseph,

Robert, Elizabeth, Letitia, Mary, and Anne. Following the death of his wife in 1773, McKean remarried in 1774 to Sarah Armitage. They had five children together, the firstborn who was not named, then Thomas Jr., Sarah, Sophia, and Mary. After marrying Sarah, McKean wanted to involve himself more in the independence that America was striving toward, and moved from Delaware to Pennsylvania to be a member of the Continental Congress. During this time he simultaneously was a part of Delaware and Pennsylvanian politics, and played a role in writing both of their state constitutions.

McKean was a staunch supporter of independence from the British. He directly fought in the war, leading as a colonel and embellishing his patriotism to a literal, quite visible level. He was an eloquent speaker and writer, and played a role in wording the official Declaration of Independence. He signed it when it was finally finished—and then had to live a life on the run with his large family from the British. He is said to have moved five times in three months to escape their reaches. He was later able to settle down to continue his law work and finally retired from the public circle in 1812.

Thomas McKean has largely been

forgotten by the celebrators of the Fourth of July. He's hardly a part of enthusiastic conversations—if he's a part of them at all—about the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. But that doesn't mean he didn't accomplish anything. That doesn't mean he never played a role in his community, and in his country, to make it a better place for its citizens. In truth, McKean had a huge impact on the Declaration itself, fought for American independence, and impacted the Delaware and Pennsylvanian Constitutions. He dedicated so much of his life to integrity, patriotism, independence, eloquence in speech, and living for just causes.

Maybe, in some ways, I'll be like him. I've already got a head-start on some of the similarities, like writing, liking hats, multitasking, patriotism, and caring deeply for my community. And like McKean, it's unlikely that my writings will ever be "famous", or widely known. I can't say for sure, but maybe my name will be around two hundred years from now, perhaps in a newspaper highlighted by some college kid like me who's doing a story on twenty-first century Catholic theologians (that's what I'm striving to be, anyhow). It's unlikely my name will be big and famous and recognizable by anybody and everybody. And it's also very, very unlikely that, even if

I do some great deed right now, I'll get my image carved onto a mountain-side, like Washington did and McKean didn't. These things tend to happen much more often than we think—good people doing great things, and never getting recognition for it the way others have received.

I wonder a reader of this article is famous and widely known, like Washington, or if they are more like me and McKean, well-intentioned, caring for our communities, multitasking to get all our daily work done, and wanting to use our talents well with the time we have, even if we don't get major recognition for it. If you're more like the former, that's pretty cool to have you reading my work, and thank you for doing so. And if you're the latter, then I'm quite honored to have you reading my work. Your efforts in this country to make it a better place for all never go truly unnoticed. Keep doing those things for your neighbors—the small, the little, the "insignificant" but kind and caring things. After all, America is composed of a million "insignificant" moments that all amount to certain kinds of greatness—it is the greatness of our souls, our character, and our nation.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Junior

Party of fifty-six

**Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023**

Washington, D.C. is my favorite place to visit, and I frequented it often as a kid. Even now that my college is so close to its limits, I have walked the length of the National Mall, climbed the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and stood at the base of the Washington Monument more times than I can count. I've picnicked in front of the Capitol building, jumped from state to state in the World War II memorial, and dipped my toes in the reflecting pool. Yet, I did not know of the existence of the Signers Island or the memorial dedicated to each of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. This shows how expansive our history is, even as a young country. No matter how deep you delve, you can always dive deeper.

Thomas Nelson Jr.'s name might not incite a feeling of patriotism and respect in a young American's heart like the names of the other Founding Fathers, but it should. When George Washington and Thomas Jefferson rose to higher positions of power during the Independence Movement, it was Thomas Nelson who was left in charge of safeguarding the Virginia colony. During the war, Virginia was the scene of much of the fighting action, with British invasion causing a perpetual state of emergency until after the Battle of Yorktown. But by filling Washington's seat in the Continental Congress and succeeding Jefferson as Governor of Virginia, Nelson led the Virginia militia in defense of his home territory and towards the independence he knew the colonies deserved. When he joined Washington and Rochambeau in Yorktown, his

hometown, for the last stand against the British, General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson Manor and was using it as the British headquarters. Legend states that Nelson gave the order for the militia to fire on his own home, offering money to the soldier who hit it first.

Leading the soon-to-be Commonwealth and fighting in the war took more from Nelson than just his home. Shortly after the war had ended, Nelson resigned as governor due to poor health. He was left in serious debt, having taken out personal loans to pay for the war effort that were never repaid by the state. He died poor at fifty years old in Hanover, Virginia with eleven children and little of his legacy being taught today. When he died, he was buried in an unmarked grave so that those he owed debts to would not be able to hold his body as collateral. This man dedicated his life and death to the country he believed in that still exists today because of the efforts and sacrifices he made. He doesn't have much in terms of memorialization: a community college, a county in Virginia, a high school in Kentucky. That is nothing compared to the accolades and legacies attributed to the few Founders who have received the most acclaim. But the list of honors and dedications does not define the person. He committed the same treason and risked the same punishments as Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and Madison. Had the revolution been lost, they would have died the same deaths.

When these men put their John Hancock's on that document, it was a feat deserving of commendation. A memorial with their names and the colonies they represented does not do justice to the force behind their action. Simply signing their name on a piece of parchment was a radical action.

Because of the changing tides of international relations within our lifetimes, we

are disconnected from the original independence movement. I traveled to the United Kingdom during high school and I watched the royal weddings of Prince William and Prince Harry just like everyone else. But a war was fought so that those royals were not our royals, for that kingdom to not be our kingdom. Would Washington be proud of the country he helped create if he saw the way Americans are up British tabloid news? More importantly, would Nelson?

It can be hard for us to imagine why the signers felt so strongly about this one, small document. We did not experience the tyranny that is described in its ink. In a tribute given at Nelson's funeral, the speaker repeated "liberty" and "freedom" as ideals and virtues that Nelson valued above all else. So did the other fifty-five signers. It was for our liberty and freedom that Nelson signed his name, served as governor, and fired upon his own house. You may not know him, but the funeral orator felt that you should: "His life was gentle: and the elements so mixed in him, that nature might stand up and say to all the world—this was a man." Another word frequently mentioned in the tribute is "patriot". I wish that word was not monopolized by a football franchise but utilized for that American identity that those signers wielded it for.

In a world of globalization, we love learning about other cultures. We love feeling connected to the seven billion souls that reside on this planet. We travel abroad. We try different cuisines. We watch foreign films and shows. America has always been a melting pot, and proud of it, but that makes it difficult to define what the American culture truly is. These men sacrificed their livelihoods and committed treason so that we could be American. Our role in the revolution is to define what that word truly means. I am not a French-American. I'm not a

Catholic-American. I'm an American. For me, that is enough.

Two hundred years isn't a very long time, especially compared to European empires with buildings still standing that are older than our Constitution. Yet the youth of our country does not speak to the current successes and the potential greatness that resides within our borders. Look at what we've done since the

signing of the Declaration. Watch what we do next.

Thomas Nelson Jr. is one of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence. He has long since been forgotten. But I will never forget him.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE MEN WHO ...

Senior

The influence of restraint

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

Of the 56 signatories of the Declaration of Independence, one that is largely forgotten in typical historical remembrance is Edward Rutledge. Born in South Carolina, Rutledge would go on to serve his country as a voice of moderation inspired by his Oxford-trained legal mind. At the age of 26, Rutledge was the youngest signer of the Declaration.

The young aristocrat gained his position on the national political stage with one of his first legal cases. According to the South Carolina Encyclopedia, Rutledge was involved in a case in 1773 that “involved a successful habeas corpus petition that freed a printer jailed for contempt by the upper house of assembly.” Rutledge’s involvement in this legal recourse regarding unlawful detention was pragmatically beneficial for his political career. The next year, he was elected to the Continental Congress.

From the perspective of historians, Rutledge is known for his intellectual development on the issue of national independence. At first, according to the state’s encyclopedia, he began his

tenure hoping “to achieve a settlement with Britain that would preserve colonial rights within the British Empire.” The start of the war and the more openly antagonistic relationship that was developing between the colonies and the British motivated Rutledge to become more radical on the issue.

Even after his interior assent to the profound act of eventually declaring independence, Rutledge became a voice in the Congress for careful, moderate restraint in lieu of quick, revolutionary extremes. Rutledge thought that “the colonies should first agree on a confederation and secure foreign aid” before implicating the entire people in the rebellious act. This move for moderation was overridden by the zealous impulse of the people made clear by the political trends in the Continental Congress. “For the sake of unanimity,” Rutledge encouraged his Carolinian confreres to move forward with the official declaration from British rule.

This concession to the majority indicates that Rutledge was capable of putting the national interest before his own. In order to preserve the rhetorical force of the Continental Congress, Rutledge dismissed his former adherence to potentially unachievable ideals in favor of a patriotic alliance with the radical act that he knew had to take place for the civic health of his people. Critics of Rutledge might suggest that

he merely took the advice of Rousseau and submitted to the general will of the Congress. While my knowledge of Rutledge is admittedly limited, I would suggest that his prudential shift from ideal to practice indicates a sort of learning curve for the maturing statesman. As a representative of his constituents, he was charged with securing the good of the colonies, not the fulfillment of his every desire.

After this indication of political maturity, Rutledge oscillated between the legislature and the battlefields. He served in the state legislature, the Congress, and as a captain in the Charleston Artillery. While serving in this military role, Rutledge found himself as a prisoner of war on parole when the British captured Charleston in 1780. That same year, Rutledge was arrested and held prisoner in St. Augustine, Florida as the result of a false accusation that he and some of his partners were planning a resistance against the British. In an unfortunate irony, his capture and time in prison was made possible in part because of the lack of foreign aid in the States before the colonies officially declared independence from the Crown. Because the moderation that Rutledge sought was not heeded, the British were more capable of gaining ground on colonial soil.

In July of 1781, Rutledge was released by exchange and worked for

thirteen years in the South Carolina House of Representatives. During that time, he tirelessly worked for the economic recovery of the state and on the typical political and monetary issues relevant to those statesmen charged with building a new state and nation from the ground up.

Over the years, he became known for his ability to concede with his political opponents and for his love of the nation. George Washington asked him twice to serve on the Supreme Court and also asked that he serve as the secretary of state and as the minister to France. In all of these occasions, Rutledge’s family responsibilities precluded him from taking such an active role on the national stage. He was content with serving the people of South Carolina and confirming the sort of principles that he and his compatriots fought for in the legislature and on the battlefield. His national influence materialized through the personal relationships that he had developed over the years, gaining the trust of Carolinians and their citizens across the nation. All of these anecdotes make clear to me that Rutledge was a master of strategy and that he had a keen eye for political pragmatism.

Throughout his years in the legislature, Rutledge developed a “mistrust of unbridled republicanism,” which according to the National Park

Service “reinforced his conservatism and brought him into the Federalist Party.” Rutledge was clear about his intellectual convictions but measured and calculated in the practical implementation of those convictions. He found in the Federalist Party a political coalition that sought to conserve some of the conservative principles that inspired the Founders and the government that they formed. It is worth noting that the more time Rutledge spent in political service, the less attentive he became to the republican impulse of the people; depending on what one tends to emphasize, this observation could serve as either a confirmation or repudiation of the democratic-republican system that was instituted by the Founders. After his alliance to this party, he was elected governor of South Carolina in 1798 and died after suffering a stroke in early 1800.

Even though his name is typically not uttered in the average elementary history class, Edward Rutledge deserves recognition as a master statesman and a skilled political thinker. While his memory has not been preserved with popular recognition, his legacy has been secured because of the impact of restraint.

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

Graduate

Honest John

Angela Guiao
MSMU Class of 2021

On August 2, 1776, 56 men gathered together and signed the Declaration of Independence, declaring the 13 American colonies separate from Great Britain. Among those 56 men were some of the most influential figures of the time: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin. Although, there were a great number of men whose job was equally as important. In fact, there is one man in particular who deserves to be recognized. He was a farmer and an influential politician who held office for the great state of New Jersey: Honest John, also known as John Hart.

John Hart was born in the early 1700’s, though historians are not sure where and when exactly he was born. His father, Captain Edward Hart, was a Justice of the Peace, but also a farmer, local militia leader, and public accessor.

John found success in farming. In 1740, he bought 193 acres of land in his hometown of Hopewell, New Jersey. He officially became one of the largest landowners in Hopewell a few years later, in the 1770’s, when he bought over 600 acres of more land. He also co-purchased a mill with his brother and another mill with his son-in-law. In 1747, John donated some of his land to the Baptists as funding for a new church and cemetery, and it is currently where he and his wife lay to rest.

The first time John Hart was elected to public service was in

1750 when he joined the Hunterdon County New Jersey Board of Chosen Freeholders. Soon after, in 1755, he became the Justice of the Peace. John Hart represented Hunterdon, Morris, and Sussex counties on the Colonial Assembly from 1761 to 1771. And afterwards, he was elected to the Court of Common Pleas in 1768. This was followed by several more appointments, including the New Jersey Committee of Correspondence, the Committee of Safety, and the New Jersey Provincial congress. But it was when he was appointed to sign the Bill of Credit notes that issued money from New Jersey that he earned the name Honest John, as he had signed each note by himself for a grand total of 25,000.

In 1776, New Jersey decided to replace the delegation in the First Continental Congress, as most of those appointed to it were opposed to independence from Britain. John Hart was one of the those chosen to replace the original delegation, creating the Second Continental Congress. He was able to join just in time for the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Afterwards, John Hart was chosen as the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly. Eventually, he also acted as the Treasurer of the Council of Safety, President of the Joint Meetings of the New Jersey Congress, and the Commissioner of the State Loan Office.

In 1776, John Hart’s wife, Deborah Scudder passed away, leaving him behind along with their twelve children. They originally had thirteen children, but one of their daughters passed away at birth. It is said that when John courted his

wife, he would ride his horse about 30 miles round trip in order to see her. They eventually got married in 1739. Deborah Scudder is said to be the great-granddaughter of John Scudder, one of the original pilgrims to arrive on the James ship in 1635 from England.

In the same year that John’s wife passed away, the British took over New Jersey. This forced John into hiding. His status as Speaker of the Assembly made him a desired target. He hid anywhere he could, including the woods, caves, and the Sourwood mountains. He was eventually able to return home when the Americans won the battle in Trenton on December 26.

From June 22, 1778 to June 24, 1778, General George Washington, the first President of the United States, and the Continental Army camped at John Hart’s farm. Washington had accepted an invitation that John sent a few days before the Battle of Monmouth, an important battle that ended in a victory. 12,000 men camped on his land, and it was said George Washington even joined him for dinner.

On May 11, 1779, John Hart passed away. He died of kidney stones from which he suffered for a very long time before finally being laid to rest. Despite his success on his farm, he died with a great amount of debt and his land was sold much less than it was worth. His obituary was published on May 19, 1779 in the New Jersey Gazette where they stated, “The universal approbation of his character and conduct among all ranks of people, is the best testimony of his worth, and as it must make his death regretted and lamented, will

ensure lasting respect to his memory.” A fellow signer named Benjamin Rush said of John when he passed, “[John was] a plain, honest, well-meaning Jersey farmer, with but little education, but with good sense and virtue enough to pursue the true interests of his country”.

John Hart is the perfect representation of the American people at the time. He had little education, like most men of the time, but loved his country. While he was not very skilled at writing, he was well read and ambitious. He worked hard for everything he had, and he proved himself worthy enough to stand alongside the likes of our founding fathers. Without him, the Declaration of Independence would not have passed, and America would

never had grown into the country that it is today.

While it is easy to focus only on the famous signers of the Declaration, we must not forget the lives led and stories of all the signers that made our independence a reality. Honest John believed in the strength of America. He believed in the greatness of our country and trusted that we would be able to stand on our own two feet. He devoted his life to serving our government and our people, and despite his lack of formal education, he had a deep understanding of our nation’s laws and regulations. He was an inspiring man, and his story should not be forgotten.

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

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HOME DECOR

Summertime - refresh and recharge

Jess Crawford
Cotton & Co, Keymar

Summertime in retail is generally a slower season, but it's a great excuse for us to do some seasonal cleaning, and rearranging of the shop. We're gearing up for some exciting changes and additions over at Cotton & Co, in Keymar, this Summer. Some of which have already begun, and some are in the works through the rest of 2021. We love a reason to reinvent and refresh.

We've recently expanded our women's clothing and accessories selection, thanks to our vendor Molly's Meanderings. She owns a brick and mortar shop in downtown Frederick, but also supplies our shop with a beautiful sampling of the products she carries at her own store. She recently expanded her presence into a larger space by bringing in fresh, new product lines, seasonal attire, a few fragrance lines, and an incredible array of trendy and classic accessories and handbags. Her products are great for a treat-yourself-situation or as gifts.

We've also reinvented and moved our children's space. Our customers are young and old, we offer items in the shop for all ages, including the littlest ones. We're going to be focusing on supporting and displaying wares from multiple artisans in the com-

munity that produce handmade children's goods. You'll find that space now located on our first floor, near the street-front. It will be evolving and expanding over the Summer months as we bring in new merchandise and child-centric consignors.

Our second story has gone through an over-haul as well. We've done some space rearranging, and some of our vendors have swapped spaces to enlarge their presence. Our handmade macrame vendor, The Knotty Hippie, has doubled her space and product line in the shop. She'll be putting her Summertime focus into handmade plant hangers. These are perfect for indoor houseplants, which are a massive trend right now. And also covered porches, patios and all-seasons room. Her style tends to be naturalistic, using earth-tone colors that complement the bright, natural, lush green of a houseplant.

We also carry a wide selection of seasonal and year-round favorites from our local, wood-wick, 100% soy, candle maker. Her candles are perfect for home and gifting, and offer a beautiful, subtle crackle ambiance as they gently burn. She was sharing a space with our local potter, but the two businesses decided they were also ready to upgrade and enlarge their presence in the shop. So each has ventured into their own spaces. Our candle maker

is now not only offering her candles in three standard sizes and wax melts. But also specialty ceramic vessels. In addition to the actual candle themselves, she's expanding into accessories, such as gorgeous and unique wax melt warmers to compliment her handmade products. And fancy matches too! Her handmade candles are not only great for your home, but also housewarming, birthday, and just because gifts too!

While upstairs completely transformed in June, we haven't forgotten about our downstairs spaces. These changes will be trickling in over the Summer and into the Fall even. Our earthy inspired jewelry and crystals vendor will be expanding into a larger, more cohesive space. And will be offering more of an herbal apothecary too.

We're also working on a seasonal showroom, that will change themes monthly. Each month, will feature a collaboration from the artisan and vintage vendors storewide, with different themes based on the season and month. We're planning a seaside/coastal showroom for July and fading into a back-to-school showroom for August.

In addition to all of our artisan and specialty vendors storewide, we also have a tremendous vintage selection, from a variety of vendors. They each have their own identity and style and specialize in their own era and look. The vendor team is fantastic at updating their spaces multiple times a month, bringing in new inventory, swapping out seasonal items and overall refreshing their spaces.

Summer is definitely here. It's been absolutely gorgeous too. And we have so much in stock to help you complete those spaces in your home, own outdoor entertaining and parties, gifts for all occasions and celebrations, and just a way to get out of the house for a bit.

And did you know that we offer private shopping events? Reserve the shop for your own private event, bring your friends and family, and reconnect after a year and more of feeling disconnected from our loved ones. Enjoy our outdoor firepit area too! We offer this to parties of ten or more, with a group spending minimum of \$250. They've been such a great way to socialize in a safe manor during the pandemic. Just send a message to us through Instagram or facebook to reserve your pri-



ate shopping event.

And to end on something delicious. Our employee and mailing list manager, Shannon, blogger behind The Untamed Optimist on Instagram, developed and created this delicious Summer Recipe for Hot Corn Dip, utilizing Chipotle Chicken Dust from JO Spice, available for purchase in our Maryland General Store. Enjoy!

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. butter
- 1/2 tbsp. milk
- 1 tbsp. flour
- 2 tbsp. chipotle chicken dust
- 1 tsp. fajita seasoning
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup shredded cheese blend (4-cheese, parmesan, cheddar, Colby jack, etc.)
- 1 cup corn (fresh off the cob or canned)

Instructions: Place the pad of butter in a cast-iron skillet on low heat.

When melted, add corn and let it sit on one side for a minute before stirring. Once the corn has cooked for about 2 minutes, add the flour and stir. It will bond with the butter, so add the milk shortly after and stir to combine. Add the sour cream to the corn mix, along with your seasonings. Once the mixture is smooth, add your cheese blend. It is important to continuously stir while on the heat or it is prone to burning. Take off the heat once the mixture is completely melted and there is no separation between the cheese and sour cream. Pour into a heat-safe dish and serve with chips, crackers, or on toast with crab soup!

This recipe is so versatile as it could be served on toast, crackers, chips, or even baked potato! I love how the bold chipotle flavor pairs with the corn while not being too strong.

To read past Home Decor articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Gettysburg National Park's 2021 Battle Anniversary

Gettysburg National Military Park is pleased to announce Ranger walks, talks, and hikes have resumed. These interpretive programs will offer visitors a chance to learn about the people and places that made history during the Battle of Gettysburg. Hike the fields of Pickett's Charge, explore the rocky summit of Little Round Top, reflect on the words of the Gettysburg Address, and much more. There are a host of new and exciting offerings that will appeal to first time and repeat visitors alike.

Additionally, Gettysburg National Military Park will commemorate the 158th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg with special in-person programming and interpretive experiences throughout the three-day battle anniversary from July 1-3, 2021. These programs include special talks that provide an overview of key battlefield moments, an in-depth Battle Walk that will explore Pickett's Charge, the climactic moment of the battle, and special evening programs at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Additionally, park staff will provide unique and behind the scenes access to some of the iconic buildings on the battlefield landscape.

"After a year of connecting with visitors virtually, we're excited to be back out on the battlefield. The summer season, and especially the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, is a special time for our staff and our visitors. To be able to share

the inspiring, tragic, and relevant stories of the battle and its aftermath. Our professional Park Rangers make the past come to life on this hallowed ground," said Superintendent Steven Sims.

The special July 1-3 Battle Anniversary program schedule will replace the regularly scheduled summer program schedule from July 1-3. All regularly scheduled summer programs resume on July 4. The schedule is subject to change and is weather dependent. Water, headgear, sun protection, insect repellent, and sturdy footwear are highly recommended. All programs are free of charge.

The full Summer schedule and the July 1-3 Battle Anniversary schedule can be found at www.nps.gov/gett.

40th Annual Pippinfest Is A Go!

Pippinfest will celebrate its 40th annual festival the 25th and 26th of September. Planned events for the 40th anniversary celebration include the popular Saturday yard sales and Sunday with music, street entertainment, apple dessert contest and Cruise-In Car Show & Swap Meet. Both days will feature craft and food vendors, quilt show, self-guided walking tours and of course the Kid's Corner complete with pony rides.

Mark your calendars and experience an Old Fashioned Street Festival at its best in the beautiful village of Fairfield. If you are interested in becoming a Pippinfest vendor or would like additional information and updated event schedule, please visit the Pippinfest website

www.pippinfest.com or call 717-642-5640 during weekday business hours.

Frederick County Government to Phase-In Re-Opening

Based on improved health metrics, Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner today announced plans to phase-in the reopening of Frederick County Government buildings. County buildings will open to employees on Tuesday, July 6, as they transition back to office worksites. Beginning Monday, August 2, divisions may begin to offer access to the public as appropriate, such as by appointment. All County buildings will return to normal operations and be fully open to the public beginning September 1

"I am extremely appreciative of the many County employees who worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to deliver services to the public," Executive Gardner said. "At no time did we ever stop work. In countless instances, employees went above and beyond their normal duties to do heroic work to help people in our community. This past year has been difficult and challenging, but it has also produced some of the greatest examples of selfless public service I have ever witnessed."

Because the virus remains in the community and 46% of Frederick County residents are not yet vaccinated, masks will be required to be worn in all public areas of County buildings and in all meetings or gatherings of employees during the transition period. After

September 1, employees and members of the public who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will no longer be required to wear masks.

Annual Open Burn Ban Notification

The Frederick County Health Department reminds county residents that there is an open burning ban in effect each year from June 1st through August 31st. Open burning permits cannot be used during this time period. This ban does not apply to small recreational fires such as campfires, barbecues, or gas grills.

The annual ban, which is required by the Maryland State Air Quality regulations, first went into effect in June 1995. The ban extends throughout the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Region and is designed to reduce the high ozone levels that affect the region during the summer months, allowing for better air quality. The ban is not related to rainfall.

Residents are also reminded that when burning is allowed, an open burning permit is required from the Health Department. Permits can be obtained by mailing an application and \$15 check to the Health Department's Environmental Health Division located at 350 Montevue Lane.

Open burning ban violations or open burning without a permit is subject to a fine of up to \$500 under the Frederick County Code and up to \$25,000 under Maryland State Reg-

ulations. Burning of household trash is not allowed at any time of the year. For additional information, contact the Community Services Office in the Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 301-600-1717.

20th Anniversary of Gettysburg Bike Week

This July, Gettysburg Bike Week will finally get to celebrate two decades of being one of the premiere motorcycle rallies in the country. This anniversary rally, cancelled last year because of COVID-19, will take place at the Allstar Events Complex in Gettysburg. Festivities kick off July 8 and run through July 11.

"We are so ready to put this last year in the rearview," says GBW event coordinator Kelly Shue. "The 2020 rally was supposed to be Gettysburg Bike Week's 20th Anniversary, but we had to cancel because of Covid, so we're doing it now in 2021—and we have a slate of entertainment that's going to knock people's proverbial socks off!"

To help commemorate this auspicious occasion, the 20th Anniversary GBW rally will also feature one of the largest vendor villages and swap meets; the Cycle Source Magazine Bike Show; thrilling mini-bike racing; the fascinating presentation of Steel Horse: Motorcycles in WWII; death-defying antics of the Moto Motion Stunt Show; fun bike games; and much, much more. For more information visit www.gettysburgbikeweek.com



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 <p>Rube's Crab Shack 17308 N. Seton Ave., 301-447-4116</p>	<p>EBPA Businesses are designated in Italics</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">Shop Locally!</p> <p>Sponsored by: Emmitsburg Business & Professional Assoc. www.emmitsburgbusiness.com</p>		 <p>Subway 101 Silo Hill Rd., 301-447-2059</p>

LOCAL ARTS

Scottish folk-rock band kicks off a return to live concerts

Jessica Rudy
Majestic Theater

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater welcomes Scotland's sensational folk-rock band Skerryvore to the stage Friday, September 10. The band's performance marks the opening of the Majestic's 2021-2022 live Celebrity Series and the return of live performance to the historic stage for the first time since March 2020.

"Skerryvore's band members are all master musicians and dynamic performers," explained Majestic Founding Executive Director Jeffrey Gabel. "Their original music harmoniously blends elements of traditional Celtic folk music, country western and rock and roll.

Their concerts are as refreshing as a highland breeze."

Twice winners of Scotland's Traditional Music Live Act of the Year Award (2011 and 2016), Skerryvore create a unique fusion of folk, rock, and pop representing the backgrounds and influences of the band members, who hail from different regions of Scotland. Brothers Daniel (accordion) and Martin Gillespie (pipes, whistles, accordion) are steeped in the Scottish west coast ceilidh tradition of the Isle of Tiree. Joining them are friends Fraser West on drums, and Alec Dalgligh on guitar and vocals, bringing backgrounds in brass and wind bands, and jazz. Add to the mix blues, folk and country and you have Skerryvore.

Tickets for Skerryvore start at \$35 and can be bought at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Free parking and roundtrip shuttle service for the performance is available from Gettysburg College's Constitution Parking Lot. Shuttle starts one hour before each performance and is ADA accessible. Metered parking is available at the Gettysburg Borough Parking Garage in Race Horse Alley as well as along Carlisle Street.

Skerryvore is just the first of several live performances slated at the Majestic this fall, including Tommy Emmanuel, CGP (October 5), Rich Little (October 15)



Scottish folk-rockers Skerryvore are set to light up the Majestic Theater stage September 10.

and Gordon Lightfoot (October 21). Tickets for those shows are already available at the Box Office, online or by phone. The remainder of the 2021-2022 season will be announced in late July.

The Majestic Theater at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center is owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a cultural resource for its campus and community.

Totem Pole Playhouse's summer season

Totem Pole Playhouse, America's beloved summer theatre, located in Caledonia State Park between Gettysburg and Chambersburg, PA, opens their summer season with three outdoor concerts. Attendees are requested to bring non-perishable food items to help replenish two different local food pantries.

Returning to Totem Pole is the audience's favorite, Robbie Limon in Singers & Songwriters from July, 21 - 24 (Wednesday through Saturday). All performances will begin at 8:30 pm. Robbie Limon brings his love

of 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's & 1970's-era songwriters to each performance as well as the style and nuance of the original artists. The result is an eclectic mix of the music of your life that you can sing along to and allow the magic of music let you reminisce. Robbie's performance of these classics spark memories and joy for the audience as they lose themselves in the music. Robbie's own personal experiences, stories & interaction with the audience make this special performance fun for the whole family. St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry of

Corpus Christi Catholic Church of Chambersburg will receive the food collected during Mr. Limon's shows.

The Saturday, July 24th performance of Robbie Limon's Singers and Songwriters is a tribute to the late Edwin "Mister Ed" Gotwalt to benefit Totem Pole Playhouse. Mister Ed was a dear friend and supporter of Totem Pole Playhouse both on and off the stage for over 45 years.

On Friday, August 27th & Saturday, August 28th Todd Meredith & The Rave Ons will present That'll Be The Day, a fresh take on the catalog of

Buddy Holly & The Crickets, That'll Be The Day features all the bands hits as well as some lesser known gems. Buddy is a true music pioneer and is considered by many to be the Father of Rock & Roll. The Crickets were one of the first bands of their kind to begin writing their own hits. Todd Meredith and The Rave-Ons will take you on a musical journey starting with Buddy's early recordings at Decca Records in Nashville, through his breakout hits with Norvajak Studios in Clovis, NM, and ending with the story of his ill-fated final tour. Tickets go on

sale July 1st @ 717-352-2164 or www.totempoleplayhouse.org.

All concerts are \$35 general admission. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on state land.

The playhouse's new Artistic Director, David Caldwell, is excited to open the theatre with these outdoor concerts and to give back to the community through song and helping to fill the shelves of local food pantries following the pandemic.

For more information on all shows or to purchase tickets call 717-352-2164, or visit www.totempoleplayhouse.org.

GCT announces remaining shows of 2021 season

Gettysburg Community Theatre, located at 49 York Street in historic downtown Gettysburg, has reopened for in per-

son public performances after being shuttered for a year.

Now in its 13th season, GCT continues to offer educa-

tional, performance, and volunteer opportunities for all ages and abilities year-round with the announcement of the remaining productions for the 2021 season, many of which are both in person live performances, and pre-recorded streamed performances, when those rights are available. All streaming perfor-

mances 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. Hoffman Trust held by Adams County Community Foundation.

Last week, GCT started their annual summer theatre day

campus, each week with a professional teacher and a different show to learn and perform. Registration is still open online for the in-person youth theatre day camps. Upcoming live in person performance tickets are on sale in advance at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org with tickets also on sale at the door if any seats are available, but since GCT is a very small 80 seat theatre, it is highly recommended that tickets be ordered in advance online. Auditions and volunteer opportunities can also be found online.

The 2021 remaining GCT season includes: June 18 - Jack And The Beanstalk; June 19 - Improv Comedy Night; June 25 - Kids On Broadway; June 25, 26 & 27 - Parallel Lives; July 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18 - Working the musical; July 23 - The Rainbow Fish; July 30 - Snow White; August 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15 - The Carol Burnett Show Live; September 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19 - Steel Magnolias; October 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17 - the Musical Comedy Murders of 1940; November 12, 13, & 14 - All Together Now!; and December 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, & 12 - The Giant Peach Jr.

More information and donation information can be found online at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org.

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25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, PA www.gettysburgmajestic.org

MOUNT ARTS

Freedom through a hammer and tongs

Tristan Anderson
MSMU Class of 2024

Every nation across the world has some characteristic element that defines its citizens as a whole. An abstract tastefulness comes to mind for Italy, and perhaps a firm stoic acceptance for the Japanese of the Far East. As Americans, we are no exception. Our defining cultural element is undoubtedly the idea of freedom. This freedom, often cited but rarely ever defined, is hardly the philosophical freedom that Aristotle suggested represents man's perfection. Neither is it the political freedom that stands for the ability to do whatever an individual desires. On the contrary, it is the independence rooted so deeply in our national mythology that encourages every man to seize the opportunity presented to him and better himself through his own efforts and to shoulder his own responsibility.

In the month when the independence of our nation is traditionally celebrated, it feels fitting to celebrate the expression of this independence on an individual scale. There comes to mind a local man who has charted such an independent route firsthand, much like the examples set by our ancestors. Patrick Gill, blacksmith both out of passion and filling the breadbasket, has learned his craft in a way that a number of others do in modern times. "I had the crazy idea to put metal in a fire, I saw it glow, and the next idea I had was to hit it with a hammer. I looked it up later and it turned out I had reinvented blacksmithing!" Gill explained, chuckling with the enthu-

siasm of a toddler at Christmas. This first accident, if it can be called that, led to a process of refinement. With little access to instruction or apprenticeship, Gill set out alone to become the best blacksmith he could. He mentioned that he "had few experiences with other blacksmiths... I learned the most from videos and books."

This gradual process of self-teaching has led to the establishment of Ridgeway Forge, a homegrown effort to bring an ancient craft not only to the attention of otherwise uninformed customers, but also to invite a different art style into their homes. Using the techniques he learned both from trial and error and research, Gill opened his shop by selling Dutch ovens and bottle openers. The response to his homemade utensils was far greater than expected, with the blacksmith selling over eighty examples relatively quickly. It was a success for the business, and more importantly, a success for Gill, who has only continued to grow Ridgeway Forge. Now with a blog (ridgewayforge.blogspot.com) and an Instagram page (@ridgeway_forge), Gill is working on taking his work further to the public, showing examples of finished products and providing a wealth of information about the art of blacksmithing itself. He mentioned that this expansion has resulted in a new stage for his business and craftsmanship, with Instagram in particular "opening new fields for Ridgeway Forge."

If anything, the growing presence of Gill's business is a reflection of the reality of blacksmithing. More than just a process of creating household items, it

is an art in the purest form. Gill mentioned that "the competition from box stores is immense... but not the same." From the smallest level, factory products are fundamentally different from handmade goods. The work from a mass-produced factory hardly reflects the individual taste, style, and ethic of the craftsman. An equivalent from a larger scale production, on the other hand, is more or less a utilitarian copy with thousands like it unless individualized later. This leads to the fact that, as with any other art, Gill's finished works of metal are a fusion of his own unique, irreplaceable style with elements he learned and adapted from other tradesmen of the craft. Much like the sculptor, the blacksmith adapts to his form without losing the essence of himself within it, making the materials more than clay or metal, but something greater. "I love making tools in a way that you can't find in a hardware store," Gill stated, giving word to the sentiment. In that sense, blacksmithing really is an art, and by extension, Gill is an artist. No dream, however, comes true without hardship, regardless of how our culture portrays it. Gill also struggled at times as he grew into blacksmithing. "Custom iron work is not easy," the blacksmith explained. Perhaps his greatest challenge was a common one that many of us face in our own experiences. "I struggled with comparing myself to others," Gill noted. This kind of pressure is often enough to cause an individual to change their course, even giving up on a lifelong dream. Rather than succumbing to this temptation, Gill was able to find a way to overcome. He

realized the value of his own work, comparing himself to himself alone. "The patience and care it takes to forge... is something I have to offer," he mentioned. During this journey through what one might call troubled waters, Gill worked at new projects and gradually expanded his skills. Rather than losing the individuality of his own experience, the blacksmith refined his skills into a condition of rugged individualism where "nothing is out of reach... there's nothing I cannot do."

The primary benefit Gill mentioned from this growth of his own talents is his ability to inspire others as they inspired him. In fact, the inspiration that drove Gill to pursue this path came from within his own family tree. "My inspiration was my great grandfather, who was a blacksmith in New York City in the '20s," Gill explained, demonstrating the influence of his roots. The example of another blacksmith who was able to dedicate himself entirely to an art, despite generations, was enough to inspire another artist to embrace the call. In a true spirit of generativity, Gill aspires to inspire others as he "was inspired by other success stories." Though the road to this success



For Patrick Gill, being a blacksmith is all about the ability to create something unique.

has been long and full of setbacks, it has led to the fulfillment of his hopes to become a blacksmith by trade and passion. In fact, at the time of printing, Gill mentioned that Ridgeway Forge is "soon to be an LLC," another step both for his venture and for himself.

In this story of a homegrown blacksmith, who discovered his trade by accident and improved his talents through the means of hard work and experience, we see a story of independence reflective of the spirit of our national culture.

To read other articles by Tristan Anderson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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Saturday, August 7

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Catoctin baseball wins Maryland State Championships

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

The Catoctin High School varsity baseball team has stepped up to the plate once again at the Class 1A Baseball Maryland State Championship tournament for the first time since their previous victory in 2013. After two years away from the field, changes to their game plan, and a momentous comeback, the team has finished off the season with their second-ever Maryland state championship title.

Due to the cancellation of 2020 spring sports, the team had not played a high school baseball game since 2019 as freshmen and sophomores. Consequently, of the nine seniors on the team of 20, only four had a year or two of experience on the varsity team prior to this season. The lack of overall experience among the team would not undermine the successful efforts that the players would contribute upon returning this year, completing the season with a record of 10-6. "It

was amazing that our kids had this opportunity to compete," Catoctin varsity baseball coach Mike Franklin expressed. "To win [states] was even better." Franklin has been coaching the team for 22 seasons, and previously led the Catoctin team to compete at the State Championships in 2002, 2003, 2009, and 2013. The team prepared thoroughly for the chance of competing once again since May 19th when the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) Board of Control approved of spring playoff games and state tournaments.

The Cougars appeared to face a redeemable tumble at the start of the season, with a loss of 2-0 against the Frederick High School Cadets at their first game, followed by a close and unexpected defeat of 6-5 against the Urbana High School Hawks. The team would then go on to win three consecutive games with a total of 20 points, allowing their opponents only 5 points. The Cougars completed their regular season with a record of 5-6.



"We were a great pitching team for the whole year," Franklin commented. With an ERA of 1.10, their pitching was perhaps their biggest strength. The team, intent on increasing their average of 1.35 runs per game, determined that their offense reserved the most room for improvement and decided to switch up their strategies in time for playoffs. "We struggled offensively so when we got to the playoffs we adopted an aggressive style of baseball in an effort to not strike out and not pop up." The batter would use a slash hitting approach, which would allow him to make a grounder or a liner. When it proved to refine their performance during the postseason, the team resorted to implementing this technique consistently at every pitch in an inning rather than exclusively after two strikes—as they had regularly done. "We ended up pressuring other defenses and it worked wonderfully," said Franklin. "Pretty incredible for a team that struggled offensively." The team never trailed a single inning at any of the five playoff games. They also scored more runs in the postseason than the entirety of the regular season.

After wrapping up the regular season with their last game on June 2nd, the team travelled a total of over 500 miles on the road to farther fields throughout the postseason. With

every playoff game having been an away game, Franklin thanks the community and fans that travelled and supported the team throughout the season. The playoffs began on June 9th at the varsity region semi-finals, where Catoctin defeated MPSSAA Class 1A No. 1 seed Clear Springs High School Blazers with a score of 6-5. They then advanced to the varsity region finals on June 12th and won 16-4 against the Smithsburg High School Leopards, earning their seventh MPSSAA 1A West Regional Championship title. The Cougars went on to compete at the Class 1A quarterfinals on June 14th against the Patterson Mill High School Huskies. Two consecutive triples by senior Bryson Caballero and sophomore Joey McMannis put Catoctin in the lead at the top of the third inning. The team had two no-hitters, carrying one into the seventh inning. The Cougars won the game 3-1, advancing to the Class 1A semifinals on June 16th. They then faced the Northern Garrett High School Huskies to compete for the spot at the state championships. Five walks, a single, and an error took Catoctin to an instant 4-0 lead at the top of the first inning. McMannis scored a two-run homer, growing the lead by two points at the top of the second inning. McMannis contributed two hits, as did Caballero and senior Dylan Click, both who

doubled. Sophomore Peyton Castellow allowed six hits and two strikeouts in three innings. The Cougars led 11-4 by the seventh inning and emerged triumphant with 13-5 by the end, advancing to the state championships.

The baseball team took their talents to the Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf, Maryland to compete at the Class 1A Baseball Maryland State Championship tournament for the fifth time in Catoctin history. "I'm extremely proud of these players and these coaches," said Franklin. "Our practices were amazing and our focus was laser-like. To watch it all come together and unfold the way it did was amazing." The tournament was held on June 18th against the St. Michaels Middle/High School Saints. Catoctin was already leading 1-0 at the top of the first inning after an RBI from junior Logan Simanski, who would later contribute two more RBIs and two hits. Castellow had two hits, and Caballero contributed a triple, double, and an RBI single. By the top of the third inning, junior Dylan Nicholson widened the lead with a three-run homer—the only home run in four games at the state tournament. With two RBI singles, a safety squeeze and an error, the score raised to 8-2 in the fifth inning. Catoctin racked up eight strikeouts from McMannis, senior JJ Zirkle, and senior Ayden Shadle. Shadle finished it off with a strikeout at a victorious 10-3, which was met with "pure joy and elation," as Franklin described, by the community. The players immediately dove into a pile on the field in jubilee.

"This season has taught me a lot about coaching," Franklin stated. He praised the team for their progress and for "committing to an aggressive style of baseball that we weren't used to." "Never give up on the team even when they're struggling," he added. "There's always a way, you just have to find what that is for you." Though a number of team members have graduated this past month, the several returning players are certain to build off of the many valuable experiences and lessons from this past season.

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Brian Sagendorf: A story of determination and selflessness

Sam Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

Brian Sagendorf is a well-rounded athlete and person. There are multiple adjectives that could be used to describe his historic track & field career. Despite the laundry list, there are a few that stand out. Determined, gritty, and sensational. Punching your ticket to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championships is a true culmination of a multitude of different milestones. Tens of thousands of athletes across the three divisions dream, hope, and work towards achieving that one goal: competing on the national stage. However, a small population actually gets to achieve that lifelong dream. The sheer act of putting yourself on the national stage is a tall task to come by. What sets the NCAA's 90 championships apart from the rest of the sports world's championships is that they are not exclusive to a single sport.

Sagendorf arrived at the doorstep of the Catoctin Mountains in Emmitsburg, Maryland back in the 2015-16 season. A native of Elizabeth, New Jersey, Sagendorf's journey at Mount St. Mary's has not been an easy one by any means. Through a multitude of injuries and setbacks, the now star-studded alum truly left a mark on one of the most historic mid-major programs. What makes him stand out from nearly all of the other field event athletes that have stepped onto Morgan Track is the immediate impact that was made.

For most at the Division-I level, it takes a significant amount of time to mold yourself into the collegiate athlete you are destined to become. Hours, days, and sometimes seasons will go by without seeing any noticeable progress within your athletic journey. However, for the few that are lucky enough to crack the code early on, they are met with metaphorical jewels and riches within the athletic world. Brian did just that, as he qualified for the NCAA East Preliminary meet his freshman outdoor track season in the javelin. The East and West Preliminary is a step below the NCAA Championships.

As a sophomore, he once again punched his ticket to the East Preliminary Round with a breathtaking throw of 64.50 meters. After a seemingly successful first two years at the Mount, something appeared to change in August 2017. A world that was producing endless possibilities for the rising junior had come to a screeching halt. A season-ending, and a career-changing injury had sidelined the growing phenom. Even more tragically, Brian would have to receive the dreaded Tommy John surgery. Anyone familiar with the sports world knows that this particular surgery can lead an athlete towards two different paths: the first being that the athlete comes back better than ever while other athletes never compete again.

For Sagendorf, his body chose the former. However, injury has now been an entity that sticks with him in almost every aspect of his track-and-field career. According to Sagendorf,

"the only game-changing obstacle I had to overcome was my body. Being a javelin thrower, your lower back is constantly hurting. I just wanted to stay healthy and make sure my body would hold up." Understanding the ins and outs of your body, as well as being able to comprehend what works and does not, is a vital component of athletic success.

Following the tide-turning surgery, rather dormant junior and senior seasons were expected. Without any exterior objection, that is exactly what happened.

Although the athlete is a crucial part in athletic success, there are people that are far more important. Coaches. Coaches draft up the practices and workouts and push the athlete to his or her bodily limits, among other things. Despite believing that every Mount St. Mary's coach has played a role in his success, there is one coach that has been paramount in propelling Sagendorf beyond his glory days of his freshman and sophomore campaigns. That would be Coach Jim "Steveo" Stevenson. Stevenson was able to form an unbreakable athlete-coach relationship with Brian because he was a standout Mount St. Mary's alum himself.

This relationship blossomed from an early stage, however, it became unbreakable during Brian's graduate seasons. "Throughout the season(s), Steveo and I had the mindset of no expectations. Let's get in and send it. The way I prepared for [NCAA's] was no different from the first rounds in Florida. We worked out the same and had fun doing it. We created the Mount five within the infield."

Competing at the national level can present a plethora of challenges, especially for mid-major athletes that do not compete at mainstream meets or do not garner enough national recognition. On a yearly basis, the national meet is dominated by the Power Five ranks. For an athlete that emerges out



Brian Sagendorf competes at NCAA Championships

of the Northeast Conference (NEC), regular-season competition rarely, if ever, prepares the athlete to compete against the best, mainly because the level of competition the mid-major athlete is facing in comparison to the Power Five athlete is incomparable. This rings true for Sagendorf. "The competition in the NEC is not a high-level Division-I conference. However, John Dinges of SFU showed up this year and pushed me to show him who the leader is of javelin in the NEC. During the first rounds, I knew I was going to make it to Oregon because I had been there two other times, I knew I belonged".

Within the track-and-field community there is one place that holds so much history and is often referred to as the Mecca of track-and-field: University of Oregon's Hayward Field. Thousands, if not millions of athletes, dream that their career will eventually bring them to a tangible track-and-field heaven. However, few actually achieve that dream. According to Brian, competing at Hayward was a dream come true. Standing in the middle of an Olympic stadium gives you goosebumps. You look around

and see all the Olympians pictured throughout the stadium."

Some of the best athletes have left a legacy within their respective sports, whether it be at the collegiate or professional level. What defines a legacy? Is it the amount of titles won? Or is it the number of times their names are etched into the record books? Whatever the qualification is, Brian Sagendorf, who is the school record holder in the javelin, firmly believes that he has left a legacy at the Mount. "I know I left my legacy. That school record is going to stand for a bit. But records are meant to be broken. The legacy I left behind is you do not have to be the tallest or strongest athlete, you have to put in the work and have the biggest heart while leaving it all out there."

Looking towards the future is

always an exciting aspect of retiring from the collegiate ranks. For Sagendorf, it is all about going by the seam of his pants. "As of right now, I have nothing planned, but I think I am going to an open meet in mid-July. The goal is to hopefully coach and continue throwing," exclaimed Brian.

As for the NCAA Championships, Sagendorf finished 24th overall with a mark of 54.23 meters. His 24th place showing was enough to earn him Honorable Mention All-American honors.

At the end of the day, realizing that you have moved mountains is when you have truly left your mark on a program.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of emmitsburg.net.



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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Love is the best medicine

Jefferson Breland

Ah, July... the second month of summer when I really wish it was November already.

In the Taoist philosophy that informs Chinese medicine, summer is the season of the element or energetic movement of Fire. That makes a certain amount of sense since it can be so bloody hot this time of year. The philosophy also associates certain bodily organs and energetic pathways called meridians with the season. One of these organs/meridians is the heart.

According to Chinese medicine, the Heart is the emperor (the word in Chinese is non-gendered) of the body. It is charged with the responsibility to ensure the other organ/meridians are doing their jobs in order that our spirit and our destiny can shine and manifest in our lives. The emotion associated with Fire and summer is love. This makes sense in our culture because summer is a time when friends and family get together to enjoy the warmth of the weather and each other's company.

The "love angle" got me thinking about why there are so many weddings in June. My sources cite Roman mythology (Greek mythology with the names changed to Latin equivalents) as the reason for June weddings. June is named for Juno, the wife of Jupiter. For those of you keeping score at home, the Greek names are Hera and her husband, Zeus. According to the mythology, Jupiter and Juno were the king and queen of the gods who make their home on Mount Olympus.

Juno is the goddess of marriage and marriage, ironic since her husband is a legendary philanderer to put it kindly. I guess he thought morality didn't apply to him. As such, their relationship was very contentious and would have filled the pages of every tabloid on the planet had they had them. I digress. So June has been thought to be an auspicious month to get hitched not only for the Juno/love/marriage connection, but also, Juno was associated with fertility. Well, that makes sense as well.

So summer is the season of Love. What does this have to do with health and healing? Everything. Studies show that people in relationships live longer. I use the word relationship in order to include all types of significant others in our lives like friends, partners, lovers, spouses, buddies, pals etc. And, there is the whole self-love angle or is it angel...?

It is said by many wise people and songwriters, that the greatest love is the love we have for ourselves. It is also said that we cannot truly love others until we love ourselves. There are people who consider loving themselves to be the most challenging thing in their life. Whether or not this is your circumstance, I offer a work-around. I offer you two ways to trick yourself into feeling the experience of love you have stored in your body.

First, let me introduce you to the Heart Math Institute. Their mission according to their website is "to help people bring their physical, mental and emotional systems into balanced alignment with their heart's intuitive guid-

ance." They "research and develop reliable, scientifically based tools that bridge the connection between heart and mind and deepen people's connection with the hearts of others."

Our hearts emit an electromagnetic energy field that is perceptible by other beings. The Heart Math Institute has developed an exercise called the Quick Coherence Technique. This method of breath and mental focus can calm a person quickly (hence the quick of the title) as well as help a group of people align their emotional energies to a more peaceful state. It is a great way to start a class or a meeting to help the group settle down and be attentive.

Here are the instructions from the Heart Math Institute.

Step 1 - Heart Focused Breathing: Focus your attention in the area of the heart. Imagine your breath is flowing in and out of your heart or chest area, breathing a little slower and deeper than usual. Suggestion: Inhale 5 seconds, exhale 5 seconds (or whatever rhythm is comfortable).

Step 2 - Activate a positive or renewing feeling: Make a sincere attempt to experience a regenerative feeling such as appreciation, compassion or care for someone or something in your life. Suggestion: Try to re-experience the feeling you have for someone you love, a pet, a special place, an accomplishment, etc. or focus on a feeling of calm or ease.

Communication Application

Coherence enables us to hear more clearly and intuitively understand how to respond appropriately and with care to any situation.

By simply remembering this feeling, you activate the healing frequency or energy of love.

I believe any time we connect to our heart's energy it is an act of healing. The more we practicing this connection, we will align with this healing energy more quickly. Who knows, maybe, love could become our first response to everything in life?

Another way we can use love to heal ourselves is memory. I invite you sit quietly for a few minutes. Think back to your childhood. Hopefully, there was a time in your childhood when you were happy and did all sorts of things to have fun, pure fun. Childhood is a time when we more easily connected to our intuition.

An example from my life is my memory of riding in a kid's seat on the back of my mother's bicycle. I remember feeling the wind on my face, the color of the trees on each side of the path we rode, as well as the glee of moving so fast. I also remember the joy and freedom of riding my bike around town when

I was a bit older, out of sight of parental supervision. Other examples might be climbing trees, wedding days, graduations, holding your baby for the first time, reading a favorite book, making art, playing with toys, playing games with friends... really and truly the list is almost endless since each of us may find joy in a different place.

Imagine a moment of pure joy or doing something you became so absorbed by that you lost track of time. Now close your eyes and imagine as many details as possible; the who, what, where, when, how of it. Now connect to the feelings and emotions of the experience. As you remember and imagine these moments, do you notice any feelings or sensations in your body? If you do, and you notice your body relaxing, your breath becoming slower, this is your body's memory of that moment. This is your body's wisdom. This is the energy of love stored in the cells of your body.

You can recreate this feeling of love whenever you need by simply slowing down and remembering these loving, carefree moments no matter how rarely they occurred or how brief they might have been. It is this feeling of love that will help you connect to your body's innate healing capability.

To take your healing to a higher level while in this state of loving memory direct your attention to a part of your body that you would like to heal. This could be an injury, an ailment, or a location of emotional pain. Focus your intention on any part of you that you would like to heal with love. It is vital that you focus on your body's healing, not the diagnosis or any negative connotation around what you want to heal. You might even say, "I am grateful for my healing" or "Love heals everything." It also important you believe you are healing in this present moment and you have faith in your body's self-healing ability.

Rumi, a 13th-century poet, wrote: "Through love, all pain will turn to medicine." I define medicine as anything that helps. So when you choose love as the medicine for healing, you can't go wrong. At the very least, you have more love in your life. I might even shift Rumi's poetry to say, "Through love, miracles happen."

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg and Towson. If you would like to know more about how Jefferson helps people please call him at 410-336-5876, email him at jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com, or visit his website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Balance in many aspects

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Balance is important in many different aspects of our lives. Of course balance is important for walking, climbing stairs and safety in our everyday activities. Learning to balance time, exercise, nutrition and our stress level is also part of overall healthy living.

Strengthening our legs and core are the keys to maintaining good balance. After the age of about thirty-five our balance starts to change and stability becomes less and less each year. I am not saying you will be staggering and falling around. You won't even notice the difference for years but one day when you

step up on the curb or come down a flight of stairs you may feel a little shaky or unsteady sensations in your legs. Getting up from a chair or out of the car may become more challenging. If you are already seeing some of these changes, it's not too late to improve your strength.

Doing some simple leg exercises can bring back the muscle tone and strength you need to insure your balance stays it's best for as long as possible. Even if you haven't noticed any change in your balance, now is the time to start so that you keep the muscle you have and maintain its strength. Maintaining strength is important and not as hard as building it back after losing it. Balance is important to us at all ages but we

don't think about it until we see signs that we are having trouble with walking or falling. Start young and you may never have a problem as you age.

Another balance that is important to our overall health is a good balanced nutrition program. We tell our children to eat all their vegetables and not to eat so many sweets. If we can instill this healthy eating style in them when they are young hopefully they will carry it with them throughout their life. This advice is important for all of us to follow. Eating a balanced diet will help us maintain a healthy weight, help keep cholesterol and blood pressure at good levels and just make you feel good.

Balancing our time is as important as

exercise and nutrition because we need to take time from our busy lives to take care of ourselves. I know you keep hearing that you need to take care of yourself before you can take care of your family and others. This is really a true statement. If you don't keep yourself healthy, happy and strong you won't have the energy or ability to care for others. In fact, they may have to care for you if you end up getting sick or injured. Making a schedule or setting aside time to relax and recharge yourself will give you the energy and assurance that you will be as healthy and strong as possible to keep doing whatever comes your way.

Stress is another challenging part of our lives that we need to balance. Because stress doesn't hurt like a bruise or a cut we don't think of it as damage-

ing our body. We know when something hurts and we remember to work on it until it feels better. Stress is a problem that we can't see and don't always even feel. The doctor asks you if you are stressed and your answer may be, no more than usual. We don't feel stress like we feel pain so we don't think about addressing the problem.

I have mentioned exercise, nutrition, time management and stress relief. These are only a few places that balance is important. Maybe you can pick one and incorporate it into your daily routine. I think you will find it helpful and hopefully you will be able to add the others in as time goes on. Remember to Keep Moving! Health and happiness is something we all deserve and we all need to practice to achieve.

Planning for the inevitable

Doug Propher

Catoctin Advisors is a Thurmont-based consulting business that offers estate readiness planning, estate administration, and budgeting and bill-pay support to survivors. Each month we answer common questions about end-of-life issues.

Q. Is there a simple road map to qualify for Medicaid?

A. In short, no, because every family is going to be hitting this wall with a different part of the head. Medicaid is a very complex subject that deserves more attention than is possible in this venue. Having said that, we can offer a general summary of the Medicaid landscape.

First, Medicaid is a federal and state partnership that provides access to free or low-cost healthcare, usually based on income. For our purposes of organizing the last phase of our lives, we'll

emphasize Medicaid as a vehicle that pays for nursing home care, usually for elderly people; however, the benefit exists for pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, and others, too. In Maryland and Pennsylvania the program is called Medicaid and also known as Medical Assistance.

According to Genworth Financial, in 2020 the median cost of nursing home care was \$8,820 per month for a private room. Assisted living facilities generally are less expensive, averaging around \$4,000 per month nationally, because limited care is offered and residents continue to live independently. Medicaid, operating through state affiliate entities or agencies, is the largest payer for nursing home care in the country. However, there are tests for eligibility, including age, marital status, residency, income, and assets, which determine whether Medicaid assistance can be available to you. Here is

just one example: eligibility is different for married versus widowed applicants and differs again for married couples where only one spouse requires skilled nursing care and the other will stay in the marital home.

It's common that an applicant is deemed ineligible at first but through subsequent acts, the applicant becomes eligible eventually. And, states typically have more than one Medicaid program or option, and each option can have its own eligibility requirements. So, if you are ineligible in one option you may be eligible using a different path. It's more appropriate to think of it as a process – a series of steps and actions – rather than a simple, one-time application. But, once an individual is deemed eligible, Medicaid will pay 100% of their nursing home costs at an approved facility.

One essential aspect of the process, however, is that you get started learn-

ing the rules and organizing your documents and accounts before you need the help. If you wait to start when you need the care, to borrow an old phrase, you'll be behind the eight-ball. That's especially true for circumstances like Alzheimer's and dementia, which can sneak up on you and create a very unfavorable time to be making these decisions or choices. In particular, you're best served by visiting facilities yourself when you can make judgments about their suitability for you. Depending on your financial situation, you also may want and need to get a financial advisor involved in your planning effort. Importantly, take notes whenever you talk with a provider, facility, or eldercare

coach – consider taking another person with you who can be an objective listener for you.

There are additional options for veterans and their surviving spouses. Note that we are not talking about Medicare, which is a separate federal program that facilitates healthcare services for people 65 years and older and some other limited populations. The benefit for nursing care through Medicare is limited.

For more information about Catoctin Advisors, visit our website (www.catoctinadvisors.com) or send email to doug@catoctinadvisors.com. We're happy to help you get organized.



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of July

Professor Wayne Wooten

For July, the last quarter moon occurs on July 1st. The new moon is on July 8th, but no eclipse of the sun this month. Our next local partial solar eclipse is the new moon in October 2023. Venus is overtaking Mars in the western twilight, and the waxing crescent moon joins the show on July 11th, with the thin crescent to the lower right of Venus, and faint Mars only a moon diameter to the left of Venus. The fatter crescent is above Venus on July 12th, with Regulus in Leo just to the left of the Moon. Fine phase to capture earthshine on the moon's dark upper side. The first quarter moon is July 17th. The Full Moon, the Thunder or Hay Moon, is July 23rd. That same night, the moon is just to the right of Saturn two hours after sunset, and just below much brighter Jupiter on July 25th. The moon is again last quarter on July 31st; note this interval from one phase to its next recurrence is the moon's synodic period, of 29.5 days.

Mercury is at greatest western elongation in the dawn sky on July 4th, but disappears into Sun's glare by midmonth. Venus dominates the dusk, and overtakes most, smaller, and much fainter Mars on July 12th, passing only ½ degree (the diameter of the disks of the Sun and Moon to our naked eyes!) on July 12th, the same evening the waxing



The great rift in the Soul Nebula

crescent moon lies to the upper right of the pair. Great photo op! By the end of the month, Mars is getting lost in the sun's glare in the NW twilight, to disappear behind the Sun for several months. Both Jupiter and Saturn rise soon after sunset in the SE, with Saturn coming to opposition on August 1st, and Jupiter about two weeks later. Small scopes can catch Saturn's rings and large moon Titan, and Jupiter's four large moons, all larger than Pluto or our Moon, and its still impressive Great Red spot.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a won-

derful 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 June 30th visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for July; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map.

There is also a video exploring the July sky on the Hubble Space Telescope website at: http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/. Sky & Telescope has highlights at <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/> for observing the sky each week of the month.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion

is in the SW. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy.

This is the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. It lies on the far edge of our own barrel spiral, and may account for the formation of our bar. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. North of Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, is where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years distant.

To the east, Hercules is well up, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars. At the opposite end of the parallelogram of Lyra is M-57, the Ring Nebula.

Northeast of Lyra is Cygnus, the Swan, flying down the Milky Way. Its bright star Deneb, at the top of the "northern cross" is one of the

luminaries of the Galaxy, about 50,000 times more luminous than our Sun and around 3,000 light years distant. Under dark skies, note the "Great Rift", a dark nebula in front of our solar system as we revolve around the core of the Milky Way in the Galactic Year of 250 million of our own years.

To the east, Altair is the third bright star of the summer triangle. It lies in Aquila the Eagle, and is much closer than Deneb; it lies within about 13 light years of our Sun. Use your binocs to pick up many clusters in this rich region of our own Cygnus spiral arm rising now in the east.

To the south, Antares is well up at sunset in Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Scorpius is the brightest constellation in the sky, with 13 stars brighter than the pole star Polaris! Note the fine naked eye clusters M-6 and M-7, just to the left of the Scorpion's tail. Beautiful Saturn now sits well north of the stinger on the scorpion's tail.

Just a little east of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which lies toward the center of the Milky Way. From a dark sky site, you can pick out the fine stellar nursery, M-8, the Lagoon Nebula, like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout. Jupiter and Saturn both lie east of the teapot, on the border with Capricornus.

To read past editions of the Sky at Night, visit emmitsburg.net.

Farmers' Almanac

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves"

—Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Warm and humid with isolated PM thunderstorms (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6); stormy, turning cooler (7, 8, 9). Hot and humid with more isolated PM thunderstorms (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15); very hot with even more PM thunderstorms (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21); fair and mild (22, 23) turning hot and humid (24, 25, 25, 26, 27, 28). Stormy (29, 30, 31).

Full Moon: July's Full Moon will occur on Friday, July 23rd. Native Americans called it Thunder Moon due to the high number of thunderstorms during the month (just like this year!), some quite severe in many areas. It has also been called Hay Moon and Ripe Corn Moon since hay tended to ripen at this time of the year and because of the appearance of young corn on the stalks.

Special Notes: Watch out! Those Dog Days of Summer will be upon us starting Saturday, July 3rd Thursday, Get ready for some hot, hazy, and

humid weather (the dreaded 3 H's) that will continue into mid-August.

Holidays: Independence Day falls on Sunday, July 4th in 2021. After more than year of dealing with COVID-19, this year, we should see life returning to normal! Wide-spread vaccinations and the relaxation of mask and social distancing requirements will allow us to celebrate like before, but remember to do so safely. During all outdoor activities (whether extended or not), use the appropriate level of sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) and apply frequently, especially if swimming or perspiring. If a cookout is on the agenda, avoid any surprises by doing a quick inspection of the grill a few days before the big day. That will you some time to get to the hardware store for that part you need for a last-minute fix or repair. Enjoy!

The Garden: This is the last month to plant these veggies for a fall crop if you are in zone 5: snap beans, peas, cukes, carrots, kohlrabi, summer squash, early sweet corn and green onions, among others. Zone 6 gardeners get a couple more weeks of growing season. Continue to keep the garden adequately watered (that is, if July's fore-

casted wet weather is not enough!). Expect plants to do well with all of the extra rain in July but as the summer continues, be sure to make up for what Mother Nature neglects to provide. Order bulbs now for fall planting, to get the best selection of varieties. Lots of spring-blooming bulbs are deer-resistant. Avoid tulips and crocus, and enjoy carefree alliums, winter aconite, snowdrops, snowflake, Siberian squill, glory-of-the-snow, Puschkinia, Fritillaria, and Anemone blanda.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (4, 5, 31); weeding and stirring the soil (11, 12); planting above-ground crops (9, 10, 18, 19); harvesting all crops (20, 21, 24, 25); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16); transplanting (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27); harvesting and storing grains (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

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COMPUTER Q&A

Windows 11 is coming

Aysè Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Repair

It's been almost 6 years since Microsoft released Windows 10. In what now appears to have been an effort to please users who were disgruntled with the OS's release, Microsoft stated that Windows 10 would be the last OS they would release with two big updates: one in the spring and one in the fall. Microsoft claims that there is a need for Windows 11 since the pandemic has changed the way many of us have come to work and socialize, read on to learn more about what you can expect from Windows 11.

There will be a slew of new features released in Windows 11, which appears to focus primarily on productivity. The User Interface has been redesigned and at a glance looks a whole lot like recent releases of Mac OS. Microsoft even went so far as to remove the traditional start menu all together instead opting for a centered task bar with a start button which once pressed reveals a grid of apps and recent files. You will continue to be able to pin apps to the start menu much like in Windows 10 however new features will allow users to group apps together. This combined with new ways to arrange or "snap" multiple open applications on your screen offer up new exciting ways to be more efficient.

If you miss the Widgets that were a popular feature in Windows Vista, you may be happy to learn that Microsoft is not only integrating Widgets in Windows 11, they are also allowing third-party developers to create Widget content which means there will be a lot more options for end users. In an effort to compete more with other platforms Microsoft has even announced that Android apps found in the Amazon Appstore will also be supported on the new OS.

Users with an activated copy of Windows 10 will be eligible for a free upgrade to Windows 11, just like users of Windows 7 and 8 were able to upgrade to With Windows 10 previously without having to pay for a new Windows license. Users can continue to remain on Windows 10 so long as support for Windows 10 continues which is expected until at least 2025. There is one big issue we have already found with the free upgrade being offered; processor support is severely limited in comparison with Windows 10.

When comparing CPU support with that of the to be released Windows 11 we were disappointed to find a total of just 29 pages of supported processors as opposed to 68 pages for the latest version of Windows 10 (21H1). This could be in part due to the fact that Windows 11 will not support any single-core CPU's which Windows 10 did. Even still, many CPU's that meet the dual-

core requirement for Windows 11 are excluded from the supported hardware list.

If do wish to upgrade and you find your PC meets the minimum system requirements (all of which can be found on Microsoft's website) you can either join the Windows Insider Program to gain early access to Windows 11 or you can wait until you receive the notice to upgrade your device which will be rolled out automatically over a period of time to qualifying devices. New PC's are expected to release with Windows 11 pre-installed later this year. This means if you would like to continue using Windows 10 and are looking to purchase a new computer, you

should consider looking soon.

Eventually we expect that it will become difficult to purchase a new PC with Windows 10 pre-installed. Of course, with ANY new software there will be limited support and kinks to work out. If you are a business user or if you rely heavily on your device, we recommend hanging on to your existing device rather than upgrading or replacing your computer right away. It will take some time for manufacturers to release drivers for hardware that are compatible with Windows 11, this is especially common with printers and scanners.

If you would like to find out if your computer will be compatible with Windows 11, find yourself looking for



a new computer or require computer support or service consider reaching out to us at Jester's Computer services. We are once again open for inside service at 5135 Fairfield Road in Fairfield, PA Monday-Friday from 9 AM until 5 PM with extended hours until 7 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can also visit our website at www.jesterscomputers.com or on Facebook for more information as well as free tips and tricks.

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4TH OF JULY THOUGHTS

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education.

They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes this year while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free, and the Fourth of July has more to it than parades, beer, picnics, and baseball games.

The meaning of the symbols on the Dollar Bill

Take out a one dollar bill and look at it. The one-dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It's not paper money at all... its fabric money. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balance-a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury.

That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know. If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, and ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God could do anything. "IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means: "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet no one knows what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons first, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation.

In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people." Above the Eagle you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace,

JULY

The first full month of **SUMMER!**

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4TH OF JULY THOUGHTS

but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wing, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

Why didn't we know this? You probably don't know it and your children don't know it because no one ever felt it important enough to tell us about it. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let that meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that doesn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all.

Tell your kids and grandkids what a dollar bill really stands for. Because if you don't, nobody else will.

Why the American Flag Is Folded 12 Times

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our

heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies in their eyes, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

The origin of "taps"

We have all heard the haunting melody of "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears

in our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song?

If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing, Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellisombe heard the moans of a soldier who was severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward the encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier.

It was his own son!

The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.

His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was denied since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, which we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals, was born.

For a plethora of interesting items and jokes, visit the humor section of emmitsburg.net.

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