

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

NOVEMBER 2021

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Ground broken for Frederick Health facility

Frederick Health and Mount Saint Mary's University broke ground October 15 for a new all-service health care center to serve the northern part of the County. The Mount and Frederick Health first entered a strategic health care partnership in 2018 to allow for expansion and improvement of health and wellness services for students and its 24 NCAA Division I athletic teams.

"We have been very pleased with our partnership, which has become even stronger during the pandemic and was a major factor in our ability to have students living and learning on campus last year," Mount St. Mary's President Timothy Trainor said.

Collaboration and communication between the management and leadership teams and leadership of the two organizations has evolved since then, proving vital to enabling students to be on campus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As part of our commitment to our students' and the local community's health and well-being, the partnership has evolved to

further improve services to our students and help bring needed health care services to northern Frederick County through this healthcare facility," Trainor said.

"The construction of the new Emmitsburg facility is yet another way of increasing access to the award-winning care provided by Frederick Health. These kinds of improvements help our neighbors and community grow healthier together," Tom Kleinhanzl, President and CEO of Frederick Health said.

"If we've learned anything from COVID it's that good health is fundamental to a good quality of life," Jan Gardner, Frederick County Executive said.

Located right off Route 15 and Old Emmitsburg Road, on land that was formally the Mount's ruby field, the access to the facility will be convenient, offering quality care accessible for everyone in the Northern part of the County as well as serving as the university's new student health center.

The facility will provide a wide range of healthcare services focus-



Representatives from Mount St. Mary's, Frederick Health, and local government break ground on the North County Health Center.

ing on prevention, treatment, and the overall wellness of the community including urgent care, primary care, lab services, sports medicine, physical therapy, and more.

"This is going to be such a help for us. It's important for families to have access to healthcare in this area," said Sister Martha Beaudoin, Executive Director of the Seton Center Outreach Office and the Seton Family Store. Beaudoin noted the facility will fulfill the much-needed pediatric care of the community as well as address elderly needs as "it is service without having to travel," she said.

The new facility is directly in line with both Frederick Health's and the Mount's mission statement to assist and provide care for others.

"Bringing care to residents of the northern part of Frederick County is extremely important. As our county continues to grow, we must ensure that all Frederick County residents can receive quality medical treatment... It is wonderful to keep residents local, it will have a positive impact on everyone," Kleinhanzl said.

A ribbon cutting to open the new facility's services to the community is expected next spring or early summer.

Fairfield Fire and EMS celebrates centennial

On October 10th, the Fairfield Fire and EMS Company welcomed the community for an open house in celebration of its 100th anniversary. The station's museum was also open, giving attendees a glimpse into 100 years of Fairfield firefighting history.

The open house included fire safety demonstrations, up-close looks at fire equipment and station tours, and a coloring contest for kindergarten through fourth grade. The coloring contest had 61 participants and the Fairfield and Fountaindale Fire Department chauffeured the winners to school in fire engines the next Friday.

When asked the purpose of the Open House, Fire Chief Bill Jacobs said simply: "So people can see what we do." Jacob's credits 100 years of dedication with an amazing team of volunteers committed to helping the community in any way they can.

Jacob also credits a great junior fire program that engenders an appreciation for volunteerism in the community at a young age. A fair number of members who started as junior members continue to serve, according to Membership Secretary Diana Ratliff.

In celebration of the anniversary, Fairfield's first motorized fire engine from 1928 was on display,

renovated and on loan from Larry Spangler of Hanover. The 1928 chemical wagon contained extinguishing tanks and utilized fire hydrants to fight fires, according to Jacobs. The restoration and gold leafing were accomplished by Spangler Signs of Hanover. It took about six years of restoration to bring the vehicle back to its former glory of vibrant fire engine red, according to Spangler.

"We're so lucky to find it restored," Jacobs said.

The Fairfield Fire company usually holds open houses in the Fall and Spring, but last year's had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of the pandemic, the company has still been hosting community events such as offering drive through chicken dinners out of the station's kitchen, Ratliff said. "It's about neighbors helping their neighbors."

Fairfield Fire and EMS has 264 members and prides itself on having positions for anyone, no matter their interest. "There are many different aspects of volunteering that don't necessarily involve fighting fires," Jacobs said. "Support is always needed for fundraising and with other behind the scenes aspects that keep the department running for the community, including Emergency Medical



Fire Chief Bill Jacobs looks over Fairfield's first motorized fire engine from 1928.

Technicians, fire police, recruitment, computer support, kitchen help and much more. "

"It's about people wanting to serve and protect their community," Jacobs said. "Everyone in the Company is excited to celebrate 100 years of achievement with the community and we are all dedicated to ensuring the company is around for another 100 years."

Members of Fountaindale Fire Company, who are preparing to celebrate their 75th anniversary on Nov. 7th were also in attendance. Fountaindale's anniversary open house will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with celebratory remarks, light refreshments, along with t-shirts and challenge coins for sale. "We serve a good bunch of people," Chief Dave Martin said.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Funding found for system upgrades

The town will receive a total of \$3,150,859 as part of the American Rescue Plan Act to combat COVID-19 pandemic hardships, according to a briefing provided to the Town Council by Town Manager Cathy Willets.

Allowable usages for the money include investing in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure that support public health expenditures and effect negative economic impacts.

“Due to the state of the water budget,” the majority of the American Rescue Plan money will go towards the purchase and installation of a new water clarifier and a replacement for the Creamery Road sewer pump station,” Willets said. She said the funding for the two infrastructure projects was “desperately needed.”

The current Creamery Road Sewer Pump Station is showing its age, at 55 years old, it has already exceeded its 50-year life expectancy. The station does a preliminary screening of items

flushed down toilets, like diapers and handy wipes, before pumping sewage to the sewage treatment plant.

The water clarifier is needed as the town’s reservoir, Rainbow Lake, experiences “high turbidity from algae in warm seasons,” according to Willets. The clarifier will remove a vast majority of algae before the water reaches the water treatment plant’s filters, thereby reducing the need to frequently shut the facility down to clean them.

The estimated cost for the pump station replacement is \$3,657,000 and the water clarifier is \$2,360,000.

The estimated cost of the water clarifier increased from the original estimate of \$1.5 million to \$2,360,000 due to issues found during the preliminary engineering and environmental reviews, according to Willets.

To pay for the new pump station, the town received a loan from the United States Depart-

ment of Agriculture (USDA) for \$1,987,000. In addition, the USDA provided additional grants totaling \$866,000, leaving the town with a budget shortfall of \$807,000 for the pump station.

To help pay for the water clarifier, the town received a \$1 million grant from the State of Maryland, leaving a project budget shortfall of \$1,360,000 for the water clarifier.

To complete the two projects the town needed to find a total of \$2,167,000 more in funding. The answer came in the American Rescue Plan Act.

On July 26, the town received \$1,575,429 from the American Rescue Plan Act, with the additional \$1,575,429 to be awarded within the next 12 months. “The monies [from the American Rescue Plan Act] will be used to cover shortfalls from both projects,” she said.

Willets did not indicate what she would recommend the remaining \$983,859 from the American Rescue Plan Act should be applied too.

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Mount addresses off-campus student conduct

The late-night antics of several Mount Saint Mary’s students is causing more disturbances in town as of late, according to Deputy First Class Jason Ahalt. The university and the town are working together to educate students about being good neighbors and ensure that they take responsibility for their actions.

“After parties” of several student athletes living in and around town are a result of “maturity issues,” Ahalt said. The after parties have resulted in destruction of town

property and disorderly conduct issues.

Ahalt said that the students have been spoken to and provided a day of community service to clean up some of the issues they created.

“The majority of the students that live in the town ... are perfectly fine,” he said.

Ahalt said it must be reiterated to students, “We appreciate you; we want you here, we want you to have a good time, we want you to get an education, but you’re a

guest.

“You only live here half the year for four years, these people live here their whole lives,” he said.

The University’s Office of Student Life and Mayor Don Briggs are individually visiting houses occupied by students to welcome them as well as remind them of Mount conduct expectations and potential consequences for off-campus students, discuss frustrations of residents and provide simple educational strategies on how to be good neighbors and responsible citizens, according to Vice President for Student Life Bernard Franklin.

In a meeting with all student-athletes at the beginning of the year, the Athletics Department addresses the expectations of student-athletes who live off campus, and coaches reinforce this message throughout the year. Fewer than 10% of student athletes live off campus. Violation of

laws, whether convicted or not, or of University policy, whether the incident occurs on or off campus, breaches the University’s student code of conduct.

Commissioner Frank Davis suggested providing overtime to patrolling deputies the first few days of the semester, “to let their presence be known.”

“There’s great value in hav-

ing the students here but at the same time we have to understand thresholds of behavior,” said Council President Tim O’Donnell. He concurred with Ahalt’s recommendation to host a meeting with students prior to semesters to establish expectations of the town.

In spite of the rocky start for the new school year, Ahalt said he felt like “we’re headed in the right direction.”

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Original Fairfield school bell goes on display

Fairfield Borough welcomed a new 100-year-old addition to Borough Hall as a historic bell is being brought out of hibernation and into the light of the borough.

The bell was uncovered several months ago from the Village Hall basement and has undergone restoration before taking its place on display in front of the building.

Although the origin of the bell was a little shaky, the prevailing opinion has been it is the bell for the schoolhouse, which the cur-

rent borough office used to be.

"So many people have told me, 'I used to go to school here,'" Patricia Smith, Council President said.

According to Susan Wagle Borough Secretary and Treasurer, the stand was designed and fabricated by Chase Hagan of Premier Metalworks of East Berlin, PA, who also cleaned the bell and coordinated with another firm to have it powder coated. The pedestal base was constructed by Gary L. Rebert Mason Contractor, of Orrtanna, PA.

The bell was installed in September and is currently displayed on the east side in front of Village Hall in front of the flagpole.

At the council's August meeting, vote placement of the bell display for either the east or west side in front of Village Hall resulted in an even 3-3 split.

Proponents of the west side of the lawn, Council President Pro Tem Camille Cline, and Council members Dean Thomas, and Sally Thomas, expressed concern that placement on

the east side of the lawn would result in a cluttered aesthetic.

Smith, Council Vice President Phyllis Gilbert, and council member Nate McNeill voted for the east side, looking to avoid the west side's tree roots and the water supply line to the Village Hall, as well as favoring the bell illuminated along with the flag.

Mayor Robert Stanley broke the tie, voting to place the display on the east side of the front sidewalk.

Costs for the restoration included approximately \$ 1,200 for the bell and

\$1,982 for the Masonry stand.

David Sites was a benefactor of the bell's restoration, whose ancestor was Charles A. Landis, the first mayor of Fairfield.

Work is still underway to present a custom-made dedication plaque and research is being conducted regarding schoolhouse and schoolmaster dates.

A formal dedication ceremony is anticipated to welcome the bell to its new home in front of Village Hall for all to see, Smith said.

"We're looking forward to using it during special events like memorials, and holidays," Smith said.

ACHS seeks project funding assistance

Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) presented to the Carroll Valley Council, at its October meeting, seeking support for its capital campaign project.

ACHS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving millions of local treasures and sharing the remarkable story of one of America's most famous communities, according to executive director Andrew Dalton.

ACHS is building a Beyond the Battle Museum and Education Center to further expand its outreach

and offer a one-of-a-kind experience through three centuries of local stories.

The new facility will pay tribute to the community through a program center and museum to highlight local history of Adams County, not just the Battle of Gettysburg, Dalton said.

Showcasing the unique items preserved by the organization, Dalton showed the council an original photograph of the Steelman Marker dedication, a monument located in Liberty Township to the first European trader

west of the Susquehanna River. "Photographs like it, and millions of other irreplaceable items such as records, artifacts and other collections are at risk of being lost forever without the new facility," Dalton said

The organization's current headquarters is located on the Lutheran Seminary campus. This facility location lacks essentials such as fire protection and climate control, which poses a risk to the millions of historic items contained by the society. The new 29,000 square-foot facility will

be located just north of Gettysburg on Biglerville Road.

The Beyond the Battle Museum and Education Center will also be a community center where people can attend programs, classes and events. Local schools will receive free admission, "We have so many great things right here in our backyard to educate kids about," he said.

Although the society would be honored for any amount to aid the campaign, ACHS was asking munic-

ipalities to consider allocating a small portion of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding toward the project.

COVID-19 relief funding such as ARPA can be utilized toward improving tourism and hospitality infrastructure, according to Dalton.

The society was requesting five percent of the borough's total allocation, which is \$20,000 over a period of five years, according to Dalton.

The capital campaign has already raised over \$5 million for the \$6-7 million dollar estimated project with the vast majority of it acquired locally.

News Briefs . . .

Fountaindale Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate 75 years of serving the community November 7th. The celebratory open house will be held at the Fountaindale Fire Hall from 1 to 4 p.m. at 1340 Old Waynesboro Pike. The celebration will feature tours around the station and vehicles as well as chances to connect with local fire department members. A program featuring anniversary remarks and the history of the department will begin at 2 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served as well as commemorative anniversary T-shirts and challenge coins will be available for purchase.

If it's ever been a dream to climb aboard a fire engine, now's the chance as fire apparatuses and equipment will be on display. Anyone interested in fire fighting stories or who wants to

learn about becoming a fire fighter is encouraged to chat up members of the department devoted to serving the surrounding area.

Although firefighting technology and equipment has updated since, the passion in the men and women of Fountaindale to be ready to serve their community at a moment's notice is as strong as ever. "We're glad to be here," Fire Chief Dave Martin said.

As more local fire departments face difficulty maintaining volunteers, Fountaindale is proud of its 75 years of continual dedication and looks forward to sharing its milestone with the community. "It's good people and a good community that supports us," Martin said.

Information about volunteering will be readily available throughout the day. More information about Fountaindale can be found by calling 717-794-2021.

This I Remember' returns

Fairfield Area Historical Society held its second 'This I Remember' on Oct. 21 at the Fountaindale Fire Hall.

What started as a Civil War Sesquicentennial centennial committee has morphed into the historical society said President Camille Cline.

The mission of society is to preserve the historical heritage of the surrounding community. The society acquires and catalogs artifacts and information with local historical significance of the boroughs of Fairfield and Carroll Valley as well as the townships of Hamiltonban and Liberty.

Driving home this mission, members of the community packed Fountaindale Fire Hall and encouraged to share pleasant memories, not only about the surrounding area but memories of life in general. "Things that were very special to you, at one time or another," Cline said.

Throughout the evening partici-

pants reminisced about old schoolhouses and stores, playing in local creeks, railroad tunnels, family farm jobs, and high school nicknames.

The society is always looking for new members and history buffs of all kinds to join in their meeting as both attendees as well as presenters. "I am always willing to learn and listen. We want this society to be more than just about the Civil War," Cline said.

The society's newsletter comes out every two months and includes interesting local facts, colonial lifestyles, and recipes. More information about the Fairfield Area Historical Society can be found at www.fairfieldpahistoricalsociety.org.

Adams County Giving Spree Begins

Hosted by the Adams County Community Foundation, the Giving Spree is the county's largest nonprofit fundraiser and provides donors opportunities to learn about and support local

groups. Thanks to a slew of dedicated community sponsors, nonprofits pay nothing to participate in the Giving Spree and only reap the benefits of local generosity.

"All participating nonprofits commit to using the money donated through the Giving Spree to serve the people of Adams County," according to Ralph Serpe, President and CEO of the Adams County Community Foundation.

The 2021 Giving Spree has more than 90 nonprofits of all shapes and sizes participating including the Strawberry Hill Foundation and Fairfield Alumni Scholarship Fund. Strawberry Hill seeks the community's assistance in reaching its goal this season of \$25,000. Giving Spree results will be announced in December.

More information about the Adams County Giving Spree can be found by calling 717-337-0060 or by visiting ACCFGivingSpree.org.



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THURMONT NEWS

Popular Thurmont Postmaster retires

After over twenty years of postal service, Thurmont's Postmaster James Adams has hung up his cap and moved on to other opportunities at the end of this month.

Adams had dedicated his service to the community and ensuring mail and packages are efficiently and accurately distributed while ensuring remarkable customer service to everyone he meets.

After graduating from the University of Maryland in 1998 with a B.S in psychology, Adams became a temporary rural postal carrier and

never looked back.

Adams' responsibilities included overseeing rural and city postal carriers, a mail verifying distribution center, a busy retail operation, and the operations of Rocky Ridge and Sabillasville post offices.

Postmaster at the Thurmont location for 11 years, Adams credited outstanding mentorship that encouraged him to strive through his post office career and aim for management.

The cornerstone of Adams' management style had been to develop

the same level of mentorship in all of his employees and maintain a family-like atmosphere with communication.

"It's a team effort, it's what we're all about. I like to think they share my passion in serving our customers," he said.

A humble individual, Adams was grateful for his entire divisions and wholeheartedly praised his teams as the lifeblood of the area post offices.

"We have a great level of communication and I have empow-

ered them to assist me and do their job correctly each and every day," Adams said. "The Post Office is made of two aspects, customer service, and processing and distribution, and both departments work hard to ensure each step of the process gets careful and dedicated attention from skilled and reliable associates."

Adams' favorite aspect of post office work had always been the interaction with the customers. Adams received a tremendous amount of gratification through helping others

and resolving issues and overcoming obstacles, this satisfaction when he and his teams are able to resolve an issue makes it all worth it.

"We work hard to provide outstanding customer service each day. Some days are easier than others," he said. "We are all called to love and be of service to others."

Adams looked forward to spending his retirement with his family including his five grandchildren. "I have thoroughly enjoyed everything I have accomplished throughout my postal career. I'm at that point in my life where I'm ready for the next chapter," he said.

Thurmont election results bring experience

Incumbent Commissioner Wayne Hooper and incumbent Mayor John Kinnaird were re-elected to the Thurmont Council along with former commissioner Bill Blakeslee as commissioner.

Seven candidates were nominated at September Nominating Convention for two open commissioner seats held by Commissioners Martin Burns and Wayne Hooper, as well as the Mayor position up for grabs. The commissioner candidates also included Christopher Stouter, Sabrina Massett, Mickey Blank, Olen Gunn, and Janice Guillory. Commissioner Burns did not seek

reappointment saying, "Everyone knows when it's time to step back and give someone else the opportunity."

Kinnaird ran unopposed against 19 write-in candidate votes, winning with 506 votes. This year will mark Kinnaird's eighth year as mayor.

"I appreciate that I am given the opportunity and that the residents have invested their trust in my leadership to serve as Mayor of Thurmont," he said.

Kinnaird's goal has always been to bring "Civility and transparency to the town," and seeks to see that continue. Kinnaird aims to make building Thurmont Boulevard to ease traffic on Moser

Road a top priority, he said.

Hooper received 310 votes and has been a commissioner for 32 years. "I never looked at the job as a personal thing, it's the five of us together to do the best thing for the people," he said. Hooper plans to follow up on federal government funding for a variety of projects and programs currently underway in the township, including the Parks and Recreation Department, sewer, and infrastructure to various buildings, to "let citizens get what they need for quality of life."

An important issue "Is to keep the cost of living in this town low. Right

now, we have some of the lowest costs for any municipality in the state," he said, adding it was imperative the council maintain conservative spending in order to keep taxes low.

Blakeslee received 287 votes. A Thurmont resident for nearly 50 years, Blakeslee has an extensive background in civic and government activities including previously serving as town commissioner, former chief administrative officer, as well as operating on the Planning and Zoning Board, the Parks Commission and coaching youth sports. "I feel like I have the experience necessary

to be an asset to the town," he said.

Blakeslee aims to focus on economic development "We have to help business improve their facades," he said, encouraging everyone to support local business, "Go to them, make them prosperous, it helps us all out. I think the most important thing is maintaining the wonderful lifestyle we have here," by continuing low costs of living, while growing to support businesses, Blakeslee said.

A total of 562 ballots were cast, which is 12.6% of registered Thurmont voters. Massett received 181 votes, Gunn received 111, Stouter 101, Guillory 50, and Blank received 24 votes as well as two votes for write-in commissioner candidates.

News Briefs . . .

Gateway To The Cure 5K Takes Off With A Swarm

This year's Gateway to the Cure 5K seventh annual Covered Bridge 5K Fun Run/Walk ran straight to the bank raising money for cancer research.

The 5K brought dozens out showing their unwavering support for the community and the cause through all manner of pink shirts, wigs, shoes, tutus and more.

Despite the autumn chill, more participants than ever before, including avid runners, strollers, and four-legged friends, readied to move through town in support of Thurmont's annual community campaign to raise money for local breast cancer research.

Local youth track and cross-country coach John Steiner has been organizing the active event for its entire seven years

and his heartfelt dedication to the cause and event have driven it forward every year, Grinder said.

Recognizing an imperative cause when they see it, the Thurmont community has been front and center supporting the Gateway to the Cure since it began in 2014 to spread awareness about breast cancer and its research.

Proceeds from all Gateway to the Cure events throughout the month October are donated to the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund and together businesses, residents, and visitors of Thurmont have donated over \$98,000 since the inception of the initiate back in 2014. A check of the total funds collected during this year's campaign will be presented to the town council later in the month.

Town To Acquire New Accounting Software

At their October 5th meeting, the Town Council awarded a contract to Tyler Technologies to provide the town with new accounting software that would facilitate customer transactions remotely.

The new accounting software will integrate all town financial functions seamlessly and provides a central database for financial information in a one stop software application.

The town is currently using four different programs to accomplish this, according to Joyce. Upgrading the current software to today's standards would cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000 and would require the town to purchase a new server. This option would leave the town with the current problem of having to manage four different systems that don't talk to each other, resulting in a risk of some important financial

detail being lost in translation between systems.

The cost of the project includes installation of the fund accounting software, data conversion from the town's current software, as well as maintenance, support, and necessary training.

Medical Center To Receive ADA Ramps

A project to bring all-accessible entrances to the Catoctin Medical Center is now one step closer to completion following approval by the Town Council to submit an application for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund the project.

The funding would be utilized toward American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps for the front and rear entrances of the Catoctin Medical Center. The current rear entrance ramp is steeper than the ADA allowance as the

requirements were not mandatory for the ramp's initial construction in 1977.

The proposed project will remove the current rear ramp and replace it with one that is ADA compliant and install a ramp to the front of the building.

The estimated cost of the project and cost requested through the funding is \$151,425 with no cost to the town.

As the ramp project is beyond the budget of the nonprofit medical center, town staff and the center's Board of Directors have worked together to find where the funding could be applied for ADA compliance and help patients, according to Humerick.

Mayor Kinnaird thanked Humerick for his hard work in establishing the application for grant possibilities. "We sit up here and read a piece of paper and it gets done but the truth of the matter is you put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into every one of these programs," Kinnaird said.

 <p>JIM BEAM GINGER HIGHBALL 4 PAK</p>	 <p>BRAMBLE MULE COCKTAIL Ready to Drink 4 PAK</p>	 <p>FULTON'S HARVEST PUMPKIN PIE 750 ML LIQUEUR</p>	 <p>SAUVIGNON Monkey Bay BLANC 750 ML 1.5 L</p>
 <p>PUMPKIN BEER IS IN HOUSE!</p>	 <p>NEW! FORDHAM LEE DISTILLERY BLUEBERRY SWIRL CREAM WHISKEY</p>	 <p><i>Yuengling</i> CHOCOLATE PORTER 6 PAK</p>	<p>WE HAVE A NICE SELECTION OF BOURBON WHISKEY!</p>
 <p>Evan Williams SPICED CIDER 750 ML</p>	 <p><i>Paul's Pit Stop</i> DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR Website: m.paulspitstop.net 150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg 301-447-6262 Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>		 <p>ADAMS COUNTY WINERY <i>Dancing Pumpkin</i> WINE 750 ML</p>

TANEYTOWN NEWS

FY 2021 financial audit approved

At their October 19 meeting, the Taneytown City Council was presented with the results of the City's 2021 Fiscal year draft audit. The audit was approved and presented by Michele Mills, Engagement Principal and Addie Blickenstaff, Senior Auditor.

The audit found no material weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and no instances of non-compliance according to Mills. "If we had detected any of those things,

you would be hearing from us because we are required to communicate that to you," Mills said.

The responsibilities of the auditors include ensuring the city's financial statements are free of misstatement materials and expressing opinions on those financial statements based on findings.

Taneytown's audit was compliant with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which requires two sets

of financial statements including government wide and fund level.

Total Revenues were \$10,545,267 and expenses were \$8,417,431, up 17% and 10% from fiscal year 2020 respectively.

The presentation also detailed the status of the City's utility fund, which saw an 28% increase in revenue, while only incurring a 11% increase in expenses, for net surplus of \$2,249,545.

The City's assets as of June 30th, were \$45,137,946 which is

up 12.2%, from last year, while liabilities decreased by 5.4% to \$15,261,719.

Expenditures include general government activities, such as staff pay, rent, public safety, public works, parks and recreation, and economic development, while utility fund expenditures cover the cost of operating the water and sewer services for the city.

Taneytown has substantially more development and "heavy debt" compared to other municipalities audited by DeLeon and Stang, Mills said. The city is cov-

ering approximately 80% of its total cost "Which is probably far better than many other municipalities," as some choose not to budget for depreciation, according to Mills.

The council and the auditors praised City Treasurer Barri Avalone and her team for their outstanding work throughout the year regarding finances.

"They were very well prepared, everything went as scheduled, and while that seems obvious, it doesn't always happen that way," Mills said.

Utility sheds in Meade's Crossing approved

At the October City Council meeting, the council approved amendments to the Community Village Zone to allow utility sheds in Meade's Crossing.

Amendment to the Community Village Zone and amendment to the Development Rights and Responsibilities (DRRA) now allows utility sheds up to 120 square feet for single-family homes. Sheds will still not be allowed on townhome lots.

At its March workshop the Town Council opted to pursue regulatory changes that would allow

utility sheds in Community Village developments, specifically for Meade's Crossing, under certain circumstances. In addition to allowing sheds, the amendment designates that the development's Homeowners Association (HOA) as having the regulatory power to govern the specifications, which they determine to be allowable.

The Community Village Zone ordinance was modified by adding language to the effect that sheds were not allowed "unless otherwise specified in a development rights

and responsibilities agreement adopted and applying to the applicable parcel" to that section.

The council decided to find a means of allowing sheds in a Community Village, as a result of a request presented by Steve Smith, representing Meade's Crossing, who was seeking a means that would allow sheds to be constructed on single-family home-properties within the development.

Smith had noted that, while the HOA provides for lawn care for the townhomes present, it does not

provide the same for the single-family home, resulting in those in single-family homes having to store their lawn care and other outdoor accessories out-of-doors.

Smith was subsequently joined by other development residents requesting a change to the ordinance, according to Councilman Joe Vigliotti.

Councilman LeRoy Hand was not in favor of the shed allowance and defended the initial Community Village standards saying the allowance of sheds up to 120 square feet would take away from the orig-

inal vision of the neighborhood and its focus on local control. While regular neighborhoods have larger parcels and thus easier to have sheds, Hand said the land parcel shapes and topography at Meade's Crossing were not conducive to sheds.

Mayor Bradley Wantz agreed saying it had been initially stated up front that the development homes were not permitted sheds. While an HOA can create regulations which are stricter than that of town regulations, an HOA cannot generate rules that are less strict than the towns, or which contradict a municipal regulation, according to Mayor Bradley Wantz.

News Briefs . . .

Harvest Fest brings out crowds

As the leaves change color, the 10th annual Taneytown Harvest Fest returned to Memorial Park Oct. 9. Presenting fun for the whole family, the festival showcased an afternoon of all things autumn including music, food, activities, and more.

Offering free admission, all ages were invited to ring in the autumn season and partake in fall celebrations including craft vendors, games, a straw bale maze, as well as a bounce house, a petting zoo, face painting, and pony rides for kids.

This year, the venue saw 28 craft and artisan vendors as well as a variety of food trucks. The festival also included a beer garden sponsored by Flood Zone Brewery, offering their handcrafted autumn themed ale.

Despite taking place the same weekend as Thurmont's Catoclin Colorfest, Taneytown Harvest Fest brought in large crowds from outside of the community.

"We had great attendance and heard a lot of positive feedback from the community," Lorena Vaccare, Parks and Recreation Director said.

A city celebration to ring in the autumn season, the Taneytown Harvest Fest was created to bring people in from the greater community by retired Director of Economic Development Nancy McCormick, according to Vaccare.

"It is an event in the city that people look forward to every year," she said.

Like all large Taneytown events, the Harvest Fest was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Vaccare anticipated people would appreciate the ability to safely be a part of the community again.

"We've seen a jump in the number of people interested in our programs. People were so happy to get out and celebrate again," she said.

City Defers Decision to Transfer of Land

The City Council opted to table discussion on relinquishing a small parcel of grass along Paper Alley in order for the council to obtain more information.

Paper Alley is a strip of ground off of Carroll Heights that when the subdivision plat was created, was to be deeded to the city, which never happened, according to City Manager James Wieprecht.

Now an adjacent property owner looks to acquire the strip of grass to add to his yard. Because the land was

never officially deeded to the city, the strip is still owned by the individuals who originally subdivided the land. A contract for the purchase of the strip of land by the adjoining property owner has been signed, but has been put on hold until the question of City ownership can be resolved.

The city has no interest in the parcel, according to Wieprecht, but to relinquish the piece, the city must make a formal acknowledgement declaring it surplus property and waive any interest in the property.

Selling tiny sections of surplus land within town limits, "comes up rather often," City Attorney Jay Gullo said. Nevertheless, the council had mixed feelings on relinquishing title and so tabled discussion on the topic for another month to give the council time to consider the request.

Skid loader purchase approved

At its October meeting, Taneytown City Council approved the purchase of a new skid loader.

The Public Works Department has been "Salivating over skid steer loaders for several weeks now trying to determine which one they would like," Mayor Bradley Wantz said.

The city's current skid loader has been having performance issues and "it's basically a bit undersized for what we need it to do," City Manager James Wieprecht said.

Eager for a new unit, extensive research has been carried out by the public works, including bringing several potential units on site to be tested out. A JCB Skid Loader was selected at a cost of \$90,545. The city will trade in its existing skid loader, a 2007 John Deere which has a trade

in value of \$23,000, making the net cost \$67,545.

The boom arm on the new skid loader will allow personnel access to areas the equipment can't ordinarily be driven into. For example. The City has an agreement with the Northwest Middle School to keep the stream area in front of the middle school mowed, "we can rarely get in there to do it," Wieprecht said. "With a piece of equipment like this, we can extend the boom arm and get farther into that area, even when it's not dry enough to drive the mower or the skid steer in there," he said.

The Public Works Department's existing mower deck will actually be more functional with a higher flow hydraulic system of a newer skid loader, according to Wieprecht.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Michael Blue

For those who do not know me, allow me to introduce myself. I am Frederick County Council Vice President Michael Blue. I am also the district five council member and I have the distinct privilege of representing the northern part of Frederick County.

I have been asked to do regular updates of county government issues. In the spirit of open and transparent government, I have fully embraced that request.

In my first article, I would like to offer my insights in regard to the recent County purchase of the 800 Oak Street property in the City of Frederick. I supported that purchase from County surplus funds. I believe the purchase is essential and there are many benefits to the taxpayers of Frederick County. I would like to take

this opportunity to highlight a few of those benefits.

The purchase of the Oak Street property, according to a memo received from the County's Chief Administrative Officer, will create potential savings that will benefit County taxpayers.

The first benefit I'd like to highlight is to the 9-1-1 Call Center. A new 9-1-1 Call Center is currently projected for fiscal year (FY) 2027. The Oak Street property presently has significant telecommunication infrastructure and fiber onsite. The 9-1-1 Call Center is currently located in the Law Enforcement Center (LEC). By moving the 9-1-1 Call Center to Oak Street we would avoid five or more years of construction cost inflation that is currently running at 9% per year. The County could eliminate

\$23M in Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds from FY27 and beyond. The majority of this cost is related to constructing a new building and the cost of cabling another site. Once the 9-1-1 Call Center is moved to Oak Street, the LEC will gain critically needed expansion space. This has been projected to give the County cost savings of \$17M to \$23M or more.

The second benefit concerns the Division of Public Works located on Pine Avenue. A \$5M CIP project to rehab this shop will no longer be needed which allows the lot to be sold as surplus. A conservative value of that land is \$2M with the potential to be much higher due to the housing and commercial development of that area. The range of cost savings and land sell revenue has estimated at \$5M to \$7M or more.

Another all-important County facility will be a new library. The CIP has a project for a West Frederick library/design. No construction cost has been defined yet because the County does not have the land. Opening a library inside the Oak Street building will get the County past the land problem and will avoid construction costs. The current CIP has two libraries which include construction costs of \$7.5M and \$10M respectively. The Oak Street library avoids \$8M in construction costs. Existing State library funding programs can be used for building renovation costs inside the Oak Street Building. The range of cost savings to the taxpayer would be \$6M to \$8M.

Finally, we have other opportunities to relieve overcrowding conditions in various County divisions and deliver services to our citizens more efficiently. As the next CIP is devel-

oped, more projects will be evaluated on their merits and decisions will be made as to feasibility and timing. Some of the services that could see savings are: Citizens Services - \$2M to \$3M; Senior Services and Health Department - \$5M to \$10M; Winchester Hall - \$1M; Excess Oak Street Property - \$9M or more as land appreciates in value.

In closing, for those who know me, I have prided myself as a fiscal conservative. As a small business man, father and grandfather, I value smaller and leaner government. The less money the government spends allows the people and businesses more money to spend for themselves. I look at this purchase that we authorized to be both responsible and fiscally prudent.

If anyone has any questions or comments please contact me at MBlue@FrederickCountyMD.gov or 301-600-1034.

County Councilman Phil Dacey

A few big topics from the Frederick County Council were debated this last month. Mainly, the debate centers around what to do with a large budget surplus in Frederick County.

Frederick County is in good fiscal health. County property taxes and even more so the income tax have generated a substantial surplus. Currently, there is around a \$74 million surplus on a budget of over \$700 million. By the way, this does not include an additional \$50 million from the federal government in Covid relief funds (for which we have not allocated yet).

Philosophically, I don't view this as

a government windfall. Rather, it is almost entirely accounted for due to income and property taxes generated by the citizens. It is an overpayment of 10% in taxes to the county from the taxpayers. To me, it should not be treated as money for the government to spend, but rather money to return back to the taxpayers.

However, in the month of October, the County Council learned that Frederick County had been negotiating to make a rather large purchase. The County approached the seller of the old State Farm building off of Route 15 and Route 40 near the Red Horse with interest to purchase the building. In

fact, the County made an offer of \$20 million to purchase the building. The building did need some immediate repairs (including roof) which added about \$12 million. This was reportedly the biggest purchase the county has ever made.

Ultimately, the County Council heard many ideas about what to do with this building once it was in the county's hands, but no concrete plan of which Divisions to move in, how this will benefit the taxpayers, or an analysis of why purchasing this old building would be better than a needs analysis taking into account telework and evaluating what exactly the county needs

to own. Is it a better deal for taxpayers to wait to purchase office space or even lease?

I voted against this \$32 million expenditure for many of these reasons. Ultimately, this surplus money should include an open, transparent dialogue with the community, not a rush to purchase a 60 year old building without a concrete plan to be able to explain to the public what the space will become.

Nevertheless, the building was purchased by Frederick County with this surplus money as my Council members disagreed with my position. However, that still leaves the County with an over \$40 million surplus. Council Member

Blue has rightfully proposed a tax rebate which I am a proponent of. His plan calls for the return of \$7.4 million to the taxpayers -- about 10% of the surplus by giving a \$175 to each house that is valued at less than around \$328,000. This would result in about half of Frederick County households receiving a payment and half receiving nothing.

I am challenging the Council to at least double the \$7.4 million to be returned to the taxpayers. Every household has contributed to the surplus, so every household should get a tax rebate. Each property owner should get a check for \$175. I believe we must return this surplus to the taxpayers before more of it is spent.

Mayors

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird Thurmont is holding elections for Mayor and two Commissioners the day after I wrote this article. I look forward to serving with the newly elected Commissioners as we work together to make Thurmont the best it can be!

Colorfest has come and gone for another year and considering we missed last year it was a great success. I hope all our non-profits did well this year. All our churches, Civic groups, Scouts,

Guardian Hose Company, Thurmont Ambulance Company, and others depend on Colorfest for a large portion of their annual income. Next year things should be back to normal and Colorfest will be back again.

The Skate Board Park is now open and is an extremely popular place! I want to thank the members of the Thurmont Skate Park Commission for their hard work helping this become a reality. A special thanks to Stacie Zelenka and Kiersten Dugan for their amazing guidance in getting

the park up and running. Finally, thanks to everyone that helped by making donations, the Thurmont Board of Commissioners for their full support of the project and to Jim Humerick staying on top of everything while this dream came to life!

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving! I encourage everyone to consider making a donation to the Thurmont or Emmitsburg Food Bank so our less fortunate family, friends, and neighbors can enjoy a happy Thanksgiving dinner.

Christmas in Thurmont is coming up fast, keep your eyes open for more information about our Christmas Tree lighting, the Annual Train display, the Christmas Decorating contest, and other fun holiday events.

Please remember that every Friday evening from 5 until 7 p.m. the Frederick County Health Department is offering COVID-19 Vaccinations and testing at the Town Office. They are setup in the parking lot and typically have the Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. If you are eligible, they

will also administer boosters.

If you have any questions, comments, complaints or complements I can be contacted by phone at 301-606-9458 or via email at jkinnaird@thurmont.com.

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Brigg Bundle up it is here. There was no break in the weather to accommodate a resurgent Indian summer, so was it protracted summer or second spring? Then, finally the feel of fall swept in for an early

continued on next page



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

Cool autumn weather means Thanksgiving time is near. What are you thankful for this year? I am thankful for family, friends, and the caring people who call Frederick County home.

I am also grateful that we live in a community with a rich agricultural history, where food and fiber are produced. The Frederick County's Farm Bureau celebrated their 100th anniversary during their recent banquet in New Midway. Agriculture has changed greatly through the years. One local farmer told me that when he started on his family farm, he worked behind horses. Now the tractors on his farm are equipped with GPS.

Innovation and value-added products are how agriculture will thrive in the years ahead. In order to leave a legacy of agriculture for future generations, we need to keep the industry viable and preserve large swaths of farmland. Frederick County has committed to preserving 100,000 acres of farmland. We are more than two-thirds of the way to our goal!

As part of Frederick County's effort to preserve farmland, this year we introduced the Agriculture Innovation Grants program. The competitive grants are awarded twice a year through the County's Office

of Economic Development. Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer and I recently announced \$198,000 in grants to 10 recipients in the latest grant cycle.

Many of the latest recipients are located in the northern part of Frederick County. Catoclin Breeze Winery in Thurmont will use its funding to conduct a soil study so they can determine the most sustainable variety of grapes to grow. Deer Run Farm in Emmitsburg will purchase a no-till planter drill that other farms will be able to rent. Grossnickle Farms in Walkersville will install well and septic so they can open an on-farm market. Timber is also an agricultural product, and two of the latest recipients – Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber in Thurmont and Off the Grid Farm in Woodsboro – plan to use their grants for sawmill operations. The projects are anticipated to create 26 full-time and 25 part-time positions.

Frederick County's agriculture community has embraced this new grant program. These funds help to ensure the county's distinctive agricultural identity for future generations. Funding comes from dedicated revenues generated by the county's recordation fee. Applications for the next round will be

accepted in January. If you want to learn more about the program, you can contact Katie Stevens, Associate Director of Agriculture Business Development, at 301-600-3037.

Legislative package

Each year, my administration collects suggestions for new pieces of legislation from the public, government agencies, civic organizations and local officials. I then hold a public hearing to hear reactions to the proposals and gather any new suggestions. The way Frederick County develops our legislative priorities is unique in Maryland. I believe that the extensive public input process is an example of good government. Later this month, I will present the County's final legislative package to our Delegation for their consideration when the General Assembly meets in 2022. I am requesting four pieces of legislation in this year's package.

The first bill was requested by the Town of Emmitsburg. It would keep the state's longstanding forest banking program in place until 2024 so that existing forested land can continue to be preserved. Last year, the program was effectively halted while the State conducts a review. Forest banking has preserved

more than 2,500 acres of forest in Frederick County. Scores of property owners who began the process to preserve environmentally sensitive areas in Frederick County are currently unable to finalize their plans because of last year's changes. The proposed bill also would allow local governments more time to use the money that has been deposited in their Forest Conservation Fund.

The second bill in the County's legislative package would redirect \$15 of the fee charged for performing marriage ceremonies by the Circuit Court to Heritage Frederick, which maintains marriage records for numerous places of worship. The marriage ceremony fee is different than the marriage license fee, which helps to fund the nonprofit Heartly House.

The third piece of legislation would help cemeteries maintain contact with owners of burial lots. In cases where a lot has been abandoned for 75 or more years, ownership would return to the cemetery.

The final bill was requested by County Council Member Steve McKay to change how vacancies on Frederick County's Board of Education are filled. Currently, the county's Charter requires the County

Executive to appoint a replacement, with the County Council's confirmation. Council Member McKay's bill would appoint the next highest vote-getter in an election to fill a vacancy during election years. Outside of election years, the County Executive would continue to fill a vacancy by appointment. The same legislation has been introduced twice before, but because the last two sessions were cut short as a result of Covid, the bill did not have time to win final approval.

You can find copies of all these bills at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Legislative.

COVID-19

As the holidays approach, I encourage people to stay vigilant in the battle against the COVID-19 virus. Frederick County continues to see high rates of transmission. We are faring worse than the statewide average. This fall, we have seen two to three dozen people every day who have been hospitalized with the virus at Frederick Health Hospital. At the time I wrote this column, we had lost 11 neighbors to Covid during the month of October. Please do your part to keep everyone safe and well.

continued from previous page

morning walk in late October. It is time. Time to close out gardens and restock compost bins with fallen leaves.

I was honored to attend and speak at the groundbreaking for the Frederick Health - Mount Care Facility. The facility will serve not only Mount students but also residents of northern Frederick County. The facility will be located on the University land at the corner of Annandale Road and Old Emmitsburg Road across from the School Security office. Much needed and an important part of enhancing the town and northern Frederick County social infrastructure. In addition to primary care, blood testing, special testing like for mammary exams, will now be available more conveniently in our "neck of the woods".

Based on Maryland Department of Planning reports census data from 2010 to 2020 reflected the population of Frederick County increased 16.4%. Our northern County Council District 5 will be redistricted to include precincts from a more populated adjoining district. We live in the largest district that also is the least populated. The goal of the County election board was, "to bring the proportion of the county's population within each council district to as close to 20 percent as possible. The proposal would bump the District 5 proportion from less than 18 percent to more than 19 percent and decrease the District 2 proportion from more than 21 percent to 19.5 percent — changing it from the most populous

district to the second least populous". With the addition of more populous precincts comes a tint of blue. A good spark? We will see.

So, what is this MS4 that keeps coming up at town meetings? Well welcome to the governmental proclivity for it sometimes feels like bloated self-defining program acronyms. MS4 is not a British spy intelligence agency, MS4 is "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System". Fundamentally it addresses the concern of protecting the cornucopia the Chesapeake Bay affords us. President Obama through executive order elevated the necessity to protect the Bay. All of Maryland excepting a small sliver of western Garrett County is included with parts of six states and the District of

Columbia in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

"MS4 Permit is a permit administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to carry out the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program implemented by the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The NPDES program aims to restore and protect the US waterways. To meet these requirements, MDE issues MS4 permits with the aim to reduce and eliminate pollution because of rainfall runoff. Frederick County is in its fourth generation of the NPDES - MS4 permitting going back to 1997." End of story with big fines out there the town compliance paperwork is huge, and our response has been to annex property for planting thousands of trees.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Based on the results of the October 19th Joint Council and Finance Committee Workshop review of the Carroll Valley draft 2022 Budget prepared by our borough manager, Dave Hazlett, the current Borough tax rate will remain at 2.45 mills or .00245 of the assessed value of land and buildings – meaning No Tax Increase. The next steps – Council approves the advertisement of the budget for public review at the November meeting and, if no changes, the tax ordinance will be signed at the December meeting.

On Saturday, October 16th, the stats on the E-Recycling were 68 participants: Carroll Valley Borough – 24; Fairfield Borough – 15; Freedom Township – 1; Hamiltonban Township – 10; Highland Township – 5; and Liberty Township – 13. This year we turn back the clocks and say goodbye to Daylight Saving Time in the early hours (2 am) of Sunday, November 7th. This also means an extra hour of sleep for me, and at my age, I want all the sleep I can get, even if the rest of the nation wants to use that extra hour to go online and shop! This is also an excellent time to check your home fire alarms. The November Library Pro-

gram schedule follows Nov 1 (Monday, 6:30) – KPets, Nov 11 (Thursday, 6:30) – Still Life Drawing Harvest Theme, Nov 15 (Monday, 6:30) – Teen Craft Night, Nov 18 (Thursday, 6:30) Thanksgiving Craft and the November story walk-in Carroll Valley Park is based on a storybook titled “Thanks For Nothing” by Ryan T. Higgins.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) recently held their Winter Clothing Giveaway and had many donations, and about 50 families came out to shop for free clothing. Thank you to the 20 volunteers for their help throughout the day and approximately 50 families that shopped! Thank you to those who also volunteered and donated for the fall craft for the nursing homes and Meals on Wheels! NHN is planning for the holiday and will be asking for donations for goodie bags for the local nursing homes and Meals on Wheels. There will be postings on www.signup.com if you would like to donate. Also, NHN is working on coordinating families that need a little help with the holidays with organizations or individuals that would like to help make their holiday brighter in

December. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Dicken at 717-642-6578 or email at dickenrobin@gmail.com.

I have received several questions about texting, cell phone, and seat belt usage while in a motor vehicle. And, since many of our residents commute down to Maryland, what are the differences. In Pennsylvania, texting is prohibited while driving and is considered a primary offense (the officer can pull you over if they see you do it). Texting means using an Interactive Wireless Communication Device to send, read or write a text-based message. At present, it is not illegal to make or receive a cell phone call while driving. As far as seat belts are concerned, if you are driving or sitting in the front seat of a car, you must wear your seat belt. If you are driving with anyone under 18 years old in the vehicle, they must always wear a seat belt both in the front and back seat. Failure to do so is considered a primary offense.

Pennsylvania vehicle law also requires your child to be placed in an appropriate car seat. In Maryland, texting is also prohibited while driving and is considered a primary offense. However, in Maryland, you must use

a hands-free device to make or receive a cell phone call. The state also bans all learner permits and provisional license holders younger than 18 from cell phone usage when driving. Whether sitting in the front seat or back seat, all occupants of the vehicle must wear a seat belt. Again, failure to do so is considered a primary offense. I hope this helps you in your travels. Please follow the law and be careful when you are on the road.

Around this time of year, the question always comes up whether someone can hunt in Carroll Valley. To clarify the rules, Carroll Valley cannot by law change state law regarding hunting; however, current state rules make legal hunting in Carroll Valley difficult. Pennsylvania has what are called “Safety Zones”. In a safety zone, it is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving game, even without a firearm or bow, within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. For comparison, think of a safety zone as about one and a half

football field. Hunting on hospital and institutional grounds, and in cemeteries, is also prohibited.

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle whose occupants are releasing pheasants. The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, nursery schools or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. For further information, refer to www.pgc.state.pa.us.

As Carroll Valley has grown over the years, it is more and more difficult to find a location outside these safety zones. Should you think someone is hunting too close to a residence, you can call the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Dispatch Center in Huntington at 814-643-1831 and an officer will check for violations. If you see persons hunting from vehicles or after dark, call County Dispatch at 717-334-8101 or 9-1-1 to get the quickest response.” I wish you, your family, and friends a Happy Thanksgiving! If you have any questions, call 301-606-2021 or email me at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Fall weather has finally set in and we are beginning to plan for the winter months in Liberty Township. Fifty tons of salt were delivered in October and forty more tons will be delivered throughout the winter season. Anti-skid has been ordered, and plow truck prep will begin this month. The Township will most definitely be prepared for whatever Old Man Winter brings our way! Another storm came through which brought down more trees and caused additional flooding on Wenschhof Road and Friend's Creek Road. This ongoing flooding prompted us to order road closure flood signs for those two roads. Please remember not to attempt to cross high waters when road closed

signs are posted. We do not want anyone to be put into danger.

Road work was completed on McGlaughlin Road. Additionally, we obtained pricing for the 2022 budget to resurface McGlaughlin Road and Sanders Road. The cost of road work is increasing, but we are hopeful that we will be able to budget accordingly and complete the road projects slated for 2022. Liberty teamed up with Hamiltonban Township to open canopies in both municipalities. In Hamiltonban, canopies were opened on Mt. Hope Road and Gum Springs Road. In Liberty Township the canopies were opened on McGlaughlin Road and on Bullfrog Road from the Hamiltonban line all the way to the Freedom

line. This should allow the sun to help thaw those roads in the wintertime.

The Board is considering asking residents if they are interested in receiving an annual membership for ambulance services from AREMS for a fee that would be negotiated directly by the Township. Residents would be contacted by mail towards the end of this year and a response from the community would be appreciated. Additionally, we would like to remind all residents to comply with current ordinances and install reflective address signs at their homes. Fire and Rescue Services are having difficulties locating addresses in different parts of our township. Reflective signs can be

purchased through Fountaindale Fire Company for a small fee.

Please remember that a one-year extension was granted to the deadline for septic pumping and inspection and the due date was October 31. If you have not pumped your septic tank, please do so immediately with a registered hauler as non-compliance is a DEP violation of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.

Dr. Bart Hogan has stepped down from his position on the Zoning Hearing Board after serving the township for many years. Jim Holler was sworn in this past week as his replacement. Mr. Holler will be joining Cindy Arentz and Donna Powers on the Zoning Hearing Board. The Township

also appointed Luther Ridge to the Planning Commission in October. We welcome the new members, and we thank them in advance for their willingness to volunteer their time and support their community.

2022 budget planning is underway, and a public budget meeting will be held on November 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the municipal building. Come into the township and we will do our very best to assist you and answer any questions you may have. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you. I hope everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving. Remember that you can always be thankful for something. Even in the direst times we have a lot to be thankful for. We live in a country that seems to be struggling, but we are still a blessed nation. Happy Thanksgiving!

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Jim Martin

With great relief the Adams County Commissioners have just completed the bulk of the 2021 assessment appeals. In Adams County the commissioners personally conduct appeal hearings. In many counties the commissioners appoint appeal hearing boards to conduct the hearings; Adams County has an auxiliary appeal board for periods of numerous appeals and to guarantee we meet the legal deadline to complete the appeal hearings. We feel there is value in the commissioners doing the hearings personally. It keeps us in close touch with the current real estate environment, and we also avoid hiring additional help. Our years of experience strengthen the appeal process.

The appeals can be filed for various reasons, assessed values, errors in tax records, catastrophic loss, or exemptions. A good percentage of the appellants this year did get relief. However, I believe more appellants could have found relief with better documentation, possibly including a professional appraisal. Appeals must be filed annually by August 1 or the next business day if the courthouse is closed on August 1. Preparation for an appeal should be taken seriously so that critical information is entered into the appeal hearing. Sufficient information is needed for the board to make a complete decision. If a property owner does not agree with the hearing determination, that decision can be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, but that requires a filing fee. That filing takes place in the protonotary's office.

This year .2% of Adams County property owners filed appeals. That is a significantly lower number than past years; each year we have been in office the number has decreased. In the past we had to use multiple appeal boards to hear all appeals by the legal deadline. For the past two years we have done the appeals virtually and it has gone very well, enabling us to hear more appeals in a shorter time period. Virtual hearings could be the adopted method for the future. We wish to thank the appellants, their counsels and appraisers for adapting to the virtual hearings. I must admit, I was pleasantly surprised by how efficient the process has become.

The county is soon to provide a new site for corona virus testing. This will be done through a joint agreement with Adams County and WellSpan. By the time this article is published we hope to have the testing center in operation.

The center will be located at the Adams County Emergency Services Complex on Greenmyer Lane, off Granite Station Road. The plan is to have a drive through testing operation. Drivers will enter the large truck bay, get tested, and exit the opposite side of the bay. Final details should appear on the county website and in the Gettysburg Times.

If you take a walk on West High Street in Gettysburg, you will find staff occupying the Mercy House Recovery Center. The operation is waiting to receive dorm furniture that is needed to house the recovery participants. The program is not as simple as walk in and occupy a bed. Program participants must obtain a full-time first shift job that will help pay their room rent and, more importantly, lead them to self-sufficiency. The participants must also be available for counseling and treatment programs in the evening. The residents are expected to share kitchen duties and keep their living area neat and clean. If residents fail to comply with these and other house rules, they will have to leave the program. This structure is what won my support for the program, especially when I saw it implemented in a Lancaster recovery house.

On November 2, a general election took place. Without sufficient election workers, judges, inspectors, clerks, and general helpers, elections would not happen. Many thanks to those workers who are engaged from sunup to sundown performing their duties that facilitate the election. Some workers' duties are not completed until they have delivered their ballots and election documents to the courthouse, sometimes as late as 11 p.m.. Another reason we are grateful is that they are willing to do the work for minimal pay. We are also grateful for the polling places that are provided essentially as a public service. Their normal use is generally disrupted for at least three days to get equipment in and out of the polling site. The remuneration is modest and a relief to the county's election budget which has exploded due to the volume of mail-in ballots and additional administration required.

Speaking of the county budget, I am expecting that the level of inflation we have been experiencing will not recede but will have a huge negative impact on our general fund budget. The two components that concern me the most are utilities and wages. The economic policies and decisions of the present White House administration sent stable fuel prices in an upward spiral. Most county buildings including the prison are heated with natural gas which is projected to increase more than 20%. That will mean tens of thousands of dollars more for heating in addition to the greater expense to fuel county vehicles.

Combining the fuel increase with the pressure on wages, that has been created by White House policy, I predict our county budget will begin to hemorrhage. Some may say to use the America Recovery Act funds (COVID-19 relief money) to balance the budget. That is not a permitted use of the funds, however, the county can legally be reimbursed for lost revenue to address expenses. Since we are developing our 2022 budget, the impact of reimbursement funds will be analyzed in the budget process along with the recently updated Treasury guidance received October 22. The interest income from the Recovery Act funds can be used without restriction and this will definitely aid us in our budgeting process. At this point in time our goal is to have our preliminary budget complete just before or after Thanksgiving.

While I have this opportunity, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Thanksgiving.

While I have this opportunity, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Thanksgiving.

County Notes...

Apply Now for Heating, Rental Assistance Grants

Eligible residents who struggle to pay their home heating bills can now apply for assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants. It also provides crisis grants to help in the event of an emergency or if a resident is in danger of losing his or her heat due to broken equipment, lack of fuel or termination of utility service.

The income eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP are set at 150% of the federal poverty income level. For a household of four, the income limit is \$39,750. Due to the availability of funds through the federal American Rescue Plan Act, there will be an increase in the minimum LIHEAP cash grant from \$200 to \$500 and an increase in

the maximum cash grant from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The maximum LIHEAP crisis grant will increase from \$600 to \$1,200. LIHEAP is distributed directly to a household's utility company or home heating fuel provider.

Residents may apply for LIHEAP online or by contacting the County Assistance Office in their county of residence. Click here for additional information. The program runs through May 6, 2022. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is also available in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties to help eligible tenants cover the cost of overdue or upcoming utility and rental payments.

Pennsylvanians who are responsible for paying rent or utilities on a residential property, and have one or more people within the household who has experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic that puts them at risk of homelessness or a utility shutoff,

could be eligible for up to 18 months of ERAP assistance. More information is available at dhs.pa.gov/erap.

Help Protect PA Wildlife – Report Poachers

If you are out hunting, fishing, bird-watching or hiking and witness poaching or other suspicious or illegal activity involving wildlife, the Pennsylvania Game Commission urges you to call its toll-free hotline and report it. Operation Game Thief (OGT) can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 1-888-PGC-8001 or fill out an online form here. Be sure to share as many details as possible, includ-

ing the location, date and time of the occurrence; a description of the person(s) involved, their mode of travel and the species affected. Monetary rewards may be offered in some cases. More information about the program is available online at pgc.pa.gov.

No Minimum Deposit for PA's 529 Tuition Account Program

Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity announced this week that the minimum contribution to open a PA 529 College and Career Savings Program account has been eliminated. Once a PA 529 account is opened, future contributions can be as small as \$1. Contributions can

be made to PA 529 accounts online via electronic bank transfer, through the mail by check or money order, or by automatic contribution from a bank or paycheck. PA 529 account owners receive generous tax advantages and the savings have no impact on state financial aid. The accounts can be used to pay for tuition, including fees, equipment, books, room and board and other qualified higher education expenses. PA 529 account owners can choose to save with the PA 529 Investment Plan (IP) or the PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan (GSP). To learn more visit pa529.com, email pa529@ptreasury.gov or call 800-440-4000.

Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company
Country Ham Sandwich Sale!
Friday, November 5th
\$5 Per Sandwich
French Fries \$2
 Got a hankering for our famous country ham sandwiches? Pick one, two or three up from 4 - 7 p.m. in the basement of the activities building! 13527 Motters Station Road, Rocky Ridge

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Happy Thanksgiving
 Give Thanks for our blessings & all our loved ones!

PENDING 29 Water St., Fairfield, PA Lovely 1 story home on corner lot. 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 car garage, breezeway. \$229,900	***PENDING*** 31 Water St., Fairfield, PA 2 BR, 1 BA, 1.5 story home. SOLD AS IS! \$119,900	**SOLD** 10 Cypress Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Gorgeous colonial on a beautiful corner lot setting, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, sunny, spacious rooms, move in condition. \$389,000	**SOLD** 22 Deer Tr., Fairfield, PA Beautiful 1 level 3 BR, 2 BA home. Lg. covered deck, wood floors and open floor plan. Fireplace, HVAC, Full basement, covered deck, close to skiing & golf resort. \$303,000
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****ACTIVE LOTS****

62 Fruitwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - Beautiful High sitting ac., conventional perk, well w/ 15 GPM, ready for your home!..... \$39,500	10 Valley View Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 0.46 ac., perc appr., parks, & paths ... \$26,500
4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 0.86 ac., perc. approved, by Ski Liberty..... \$27,900	55 Fawn Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 1.04 ac., double lot, well, skiing... \$34,000
4 Fir Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 0.79 ac., perc approved, near Gettysburg..... \$14,000	0 Tapeworm Ln., Carroll Valley, PA 11.9 ac., unperced lot, 2 smaller parcels appr. for drip irrigation available. \$59,500
3 Spring Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 0.66 ac., perc appr., corner lot, wooded..... \$24,900	Iron Springs Lane, Carroll Valley, PA 1.95 ac., perc appr., skiing, golf. \$39,500
15 Brown Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - Low price Low perc rate, near skiing & golf. \$21,000	

NEW LISTING COMING SOON!
20 Deer Tr., Carroll Valley
 3 BR, 2 FULL BA
\$194,500

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

The weather and your roof

Shannon Bohrer

Are weather-related disasters occurring more frequently? According to the experts, they are, and with stronger winds, more rain, and more heat, resulting in greater damages to property. What happens if your roof is damaged in a storm, and you cannot afford to make the repairs. If the repairs are not made, the next storm will damage more than the roof. The conundrum is that if you cannot afford the repairs, you also cannot afford – not to fix the roof.

The recent Hurricane Ida is a good example. The damage spanned numerous states, resulting in the loss of homes, electricity, flooding, and loss of life, that of course, is typical with hurricanes. However, with this hurricane, the damages spanned from Louisiana to New England. The storm came ashore in Louisiana, yet 29 people died in New Jersey 16 people died in New York. The disaster was not localized; if anything, the storm demonstrated how unprepared the county is for larger hurricanes that are predicted to become the norm. One month after the hurricane hit, 40,000 people in Mississippi and 17,000 people in Louisiana were still without electricity. The estimated cost from this one event could exceed

95 billion dollars. If the estimates are correct, it would be the 7th costliest hurricane in the last twenty years.

The North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies “found that the three highest-volume rainfall events in the U.S. in the last 70 years have occurred since 2016: Hurricane Harvey in Texas/Louisiana in 2017, Hurricane Florence in North Carolina in 2018, and a March 2016 storm in Louisiana.”

When hurricane Ida hit New York, one couple said this was the third time they experienced extensive damage to their home from flooding. Thankfully they had flood insurance; however, the couple said they are getting older, and they are getting tired of rebuilding. When being interviewed on the evening news, the reporter asks, “are you going to move?” The wife responded they would like to sell, but nobody will buy the home. Many people are in that position, they can’t sell, and they cannot afford to walk away.

Of course, natural disasters are not limited to hurricanes. On the opposite coast, we seem to have a pandemic of wildfires. Close to 44,000 fires have damaged and destroyed over 5 million acres, and many fires continue to burn. Since several fires are still burning, it is unknown if

2021 can make the top five years for acreage burned. Since 1960 the top five years for wildfires occurred between 2006 and 2020. The top fire was in 2015 when 10.13 million acres burned. Maybe it should not be surprising that the top five fire seasons were all in the last 15 years. Of course, the fire season has now been extended. It is predicted this year that some fires will eventually go out – when enough snowfalls.

While flood insurance is optional and should cover flood damage, providing you have it, fires insurance is mandatory with a mortgage. So, if someone has a mortgage, they have fire insurance. Well, they are supposed to have the insurance. The problem is that fire insurance premiums in California have gone up and continues to climb. In 2017, it was reported that, in some fire-prone areas, the fire insurance was around \$800 a year, and in some areas, it climbed to over \$5,000 a year.

As insurance rates climb, more and more people in fire-prone areas are stuck, not unlike the people that live in flood-prone areas. In 2021, in some fire-prone areas, fire insurance quotes range from \$8,000 to as high as \$19,000. People in this situation that cannot pay the premiums are stuck unless they can sell.

The fire insurance problems continued to grow when it was recently

reported that insurers would not renew any fire insurance policies for thousands of homes. I cannot fathom the idea of not being able to ensure my home or how the mortgage companies will resolve this issue. If you have no mortgage, then you are not required to have fire insurance; however, if you want to sell, the new buyers might want to have the insurance. In an odd way, the insurance needed to sell a home is not a problem. Who would buy a home in a state known to have wildfires, where you can’t get fire insurance?

However, all may not be lost. If you live in a home where you cannot obtain insurance, and you don’t want to sell it, and it does not burn down, everything is OK, at least temporarily. But, for most people, living in a fire-prone area and not being able to purchase fire insurance is not unlike people that expect to lose their roof in a future storm. In both cases, you can see a disaster coming; you don’t have a date.

We often hear about the changing weather and how the rising global temperatures have changed our weather. The experts have also said that while the weather is changing, what we are experiencing is only the beginning of the change. July 2021 was the hottest month on record globally, so it was the hottest month on record – so far.

This past summer, temperatures in Portland went to 115 degrees Fahrenheit.

While 115 seems high, in British Columbia, the temperature went to 121 degrees. Many people might think extremes happen, but what if this is only the beginning and these temperatures become the norm. The experts tell us that Global warming is real, the earth is getting hotter, and the oceans are rising.

Locally, in Annapolis, Maryland, the city dock in the historic downtown area has a history of flooding, and in 2019 the dock flooded 65 times. The city of Annapolis is suing major oil companies, citing a Union of Concerned Scientists (USC) report, “Encroaching Tides.” According to the report, the production of oil, coal, and gas are the major contributors to climate-driven damages, and the fossil fuel companies knew for decades that the harm existed.

The city of Annapolis is creating mitigation plans, like sea walls, to deal with the problems of flooding. They are suing for 45 million from the oil companies to build the sea walls. It is unclear if sea walls will work. According to the same USC report, unless there is a reduction in carbon emission, “Annapolis is likely to face as many as 350 days of tide flooding by 2040.” That is only 19 years away. Maybe the city dock could become an underwater attraction?

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

American Mind

What Morality? Yours? Mine?

Mark Greathouse

Politicians these days deliver epic lies for political gain to feed contrived portfolios of divisiveness and hate. Sadly, the lies and the hatred have metastasized into the general population. Moral? Amoral? Immoral? As John F. Kennedy said, “The greatest enemy of the truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived, and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive, and realistic.” Lies? Myths? Truths or half-truths? Where has our nation’s moral bedrock gone and how do we recover it?

Morality’s Latin root is *mores*, meaning character or virtuous conduct. Morality connects with integrity, an uncompromising adherence to the lofty values, beliefs, and principles that an individual or group of individuals claim to hold. And I daresay, morality is inextricably linked with and forms the foundation of ethics or ethos, a set of principles or rules of conduct. What holds this fragile combination together? The “glue” is conscience (conscientia and scire meaning to know with). Conscience is the knowledge of good or bad, right or wrong. Where do you find that knowledge? Parents? Peers? Culture? Religion?

What’s the nature of our immorality? Well, there’s selfishness, as today’s moral relativism is rooted in moral values having become a matter of personal opinion or private judgment rather than some-

thing grounded in objective truth. Mostly, it’s about immediate gratification; the “I, me, mine” thinking of narcissistic hedonism. But, feasting on ourselves is a sparse meal. Then again, the cause could be the end justifies the means thinking, especially whereby our most crucial life longings will never be met. Unmet longings weaken people’s resolve to behave morally, as they become easily sucked into immoral behaviors for which they have no solid defense. They are easily duped into ideologies masquerading as facts. It’s regrettable yet beneficial that immoral behavior is like scar tissue; it’s always there and never forgotten. And I suggest that ignoring immorality is like solving a car problem by simply disconnecting the “check engine” light.

Do you think you can create your own morals? On what basis, what foundation would you base your self-developed morals? How do you decide what is moral or immoral, right or wrong? Are you actually that wise? Morals aren’t DIY.

French historian Alexis De Tocqueville’s observed of the early United States, “Freedom requires virtue, virtue requires faiths, faiths require freedom, which requires virtue, and so on ad infinitum.” But-tress that against George Orwell’s dire satire in his dystopian 1984, “War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.” Why, a person might think Orwell was talking about today’s America. It doesn’t take a mental giant to trans-

pose Orwell’s fictional satire to the mouths of today’s politicians.

Lies are a huge manifestation of immorality. Russian collusion! Successful Afghanistan withdrawal! No border crisis! Urban riots merely harmless protests! Etcetera. Mark Twain said, “Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason.” There are roughly half a dozen primary reasons politicians especially are able to sustain their lies: narcissism, blind loyalty of followers, truth avoidance or fear, commitment to the lie (despite contrary proofs), built-in cognitive biases or perceptions, and repetition such that the lie is perceived as truth.

Lying’s not confined to politicians. There’s academia, news media, fact checkers, and more. Heed Socrates’s words in Plato’s *The Phaedrus* as it mirrors today’s new media, “you give your disciples not truth, but only the semblance of truth; they will be hearers of many things and will have learned nothing; they will appear to be omniscient and will generally know nothing; they will be tiresome company, having the show of wisdom without the reality.”

Morality is essential to our success in all aspects of life as individuals and as a nation. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge said, “If we are too weak to take charge of our own morality, we shall not be strong enough to take charge of our own liberty.” Alas, we are but human beings; temptations surround us. Immoral behaviors range from the sublime to the horrifying: cheating on tests, stealing office supplies, hacking computers, plagiarizing, spying, bribing, murdering? It can

be a very long list. Notably, morality is a finite passage with limitations, whereas immorality has seemingly infinite options for utterly destructive outcomes. Are capitalism or socialism immoral? No. Any perceived immorality is grounded in how those economic/political ends are achieved...lies...slander...murder...censorship...victimization...division...you get the picture. Can our nation hold up under it all?

We live in a nation where many folks are being indoctrinated to lower their life expectations, to be unconcerned with winning or losing, to not aspire to rise from their condition, to not be exceptional, and to hand life’s playing field over to those who would level it for them. They begrudge their existence and are easily persuaded to join radical organizations using most any means fair or foul to supposedly achieve the unachievable: utopia.

Thankfully, most folks strive to be better versions of themselves. We haven’t seen many popular courses featuring self-ruination. Yet, we seem immersed in an increasingly divisive culture in which folks elect moral scoundrels to political office and then scream in protest when they lie and turn out to be our moral judges, juries, and executioners. The answer to resolving the issue of achieving a high moral standard in America lies within each and every one of us.

I suggest that whether you’re a person of Christian faith or not, great biblical advice can be found in Matthew 7:24-27 where we are advised to build our house (e.g., morality) on rock rather than shifting sands that are easily washed

away by life’s temptations. Do you build your morals on shifting sands or solid rock? Are you without fault? Do you violate prevailing morality? Referencing Matthew 23:25-26: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.” Think metaphorically of the cup and dish as your morality.

Morality is often a byproduct of our perceived self-worth. Imagine life like a financial balance sheet with assets on one side and liabilities on the other. Assets minus liabilities equals worth or value. Assets include positives (faith, means (career/business), security, etc.). Liabilities include destructive character traits (pride, greed, lust, fear, etc.) and addictions (substance abuse, physical abuse, debt, pornography, gambling, etc.). Self worth equals liabilities subtracted from assets to determine your value to yourself and the world around you. The more assets and fewer liabilities you have, the greater your perceived value. Higher value increases the likelihood that you ascribe to a correspondingly high set of morals. Do your assets exceed your liabilities? Do you consider yourself a moral person? By what standard?

Thus, we ask “what morality?” Yours? Theirs? God’s? Choose wisely between the moral and the immoral.

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

The Bulwark

Facebook: It's worse than you thought

Jonathan Last

People are starting to dig through the trove of documents known as the "Facebook Papers" and what they are finding is both shocking and totally unsurprising.

Facebook has a business interest in pushing American users toward radicalizing content: In summer 2019, a new Facebook user named Carol Smith signed up for the platform, describing herself as a politically conservative mother from Wilmington, North Carolina. Smith's account indicated an interest in politics, parenting and Christianity and followed a few of her favorite brands, including Fox News and then-President Donald Trump.

Though Smith had never expressed interest in conspiracy theories, in just two days Facebook was recommending she join groups dedicated to QAnon, a sprawling and baseless conspiracy theory and movement that claimed Trump was secretly saving the world from a cabal of pedophiles and Satanists.

Smith didn't follow the recommended QAnon groups, but whatever algorithm Facebook was using to determine how she should engage with the platform pushed ahead just the same. Within one week, Smith's feed was full of groups and pages that had violated Facebook's own rules, including those against hate speech and disinformation.

Smith wasn't a real person. A researcher employed by Facebook invented the account, along with those of other fictitious "test users" in 2019 and 2020, as part of an experiment in study-

ing the platform's role in misinforming and polarizing users through its recommendations systems. That researcher said Smith's Facebook experience was "a barrage of extreme, conspiratorial, and graphic content."

Much of what is spreading on Facebook is not organic content, but organized disinformation: Meet SUMAs: a smattering of accounts run by a single person using their real identity, known internally at Facebook as Single User Multiple Accounts. And a significant swath of them spread so many divisive political posts that they've mushroomed into a massive source of the platform's toxic politics, according to internal company documents and interviews with former employees. Company research from 2018 said accounts that could be SUMAs were reaching about 11 million viewers daily, or about 14 percent of the total U.S. political audience.

Are you shocked? You should be shocked. This is bad. Very bad. Very, super-double bad. But also, you should not be surprised.

Here's the obvious, not-even-hiding in plain sight explanation: Growth. A publicly traded company whose income relies on increasing growth did everything possible to increase growth, irrespective of the external consequences to the world around it.

This isn't even a dog-bites-man story. It's a sky-is-blue, water-is-wet, story. Facebook literally told us this was their prime directive. In a 2018 memo the Facebook CTO sent to employees explained what Facebook's guiding principle was. I'm going to excerpt the memo heavily:

"We connect people. That can be good if they make it positive. Maybe someone finds love. Maybe it even saves the life of someone on the brink of suicide. So we connect more people.

"That can be bad if they make it negative. Maybe it costs a life by exposing someone to bullies. Maybe someone dies in a terrorist attack coordinated on our tools. And still we connect people.

"The ugly truth is that we believe in connecting people so deeply that anything that allows us to connect more people more often is *de facto* good. That isn't something we are doing for ourselves, or for our stock price. It is literally just what we do. We connect people. Period.

"That's why all the work we do in growth is justified. All the questionable contact importing practice... The best products don't win. The ones everyone use win."

Should We Fix Facebook?

Lots of people get nervous about regulating a business that deals in information in ways they wouldn't give a second-thought to with a business that made or sold, car seats, or gasoline, or handguns.

If Facebook was a coal mine and it was making a lot of money by selling coal, but there was toxic run-off from the mine impacting neighboring public or private properties or waterways, there would be a host of regulations brought to bear against it.

That's because in the physical world we recognized that economic transactions have externalities which can't be captured organically by market forces. So we use government regulation to price in those externalities. Or to impose some societal constraints on transactions which create consequences for third par-



ties.

Why shouldn't that be true of an information business? Why don't we see these downstream effects of Facebook's business as the equivalent of toxic runoff from a coal mine?

The answer is time: Society did not always believe that coal mines were responsible for their toxic runoff. In fact, part of the reason we had coal barons is that capital owners were able to get rich precisely because the externalities of their businesses were not priced in. They were getting free lunches.

But over time, society developed a pretty solid consensus that a business can't just do whatever it wants. Information technology is not materially different just because it deals in 1's and 0's.

So yes, if Facebook can be made to price-in the cost of its external effects, then we should do it. And if it cannot, then we should regulate it.

There is precedence for it...

Amateurs played a crucial role in the development of radio technology, and most used their sets responsibly. But some, in a foreshadowing of the internet, were bent on mischief and mayhem.

Shielded by anonymity, they would transmit rumors and lies, slurs and slanders.

The nuisance became a crisis on April 15, 1912, when the Titanic sank. Efforts to rescue the passengers were hindered by a barrage of amateur radio messages. The messages clogged the airwaves, making it hard for official transmissions to get through. Worse, some of the amateurs sent out what we would today call fake news, including a widely circulated rumor that the Titanic remained seaworthy and was being towed to a nearby port for repairs...

Although European countries had begun imposing government controls on wireless traffic as early as 1903, radio had been left largely unregulated in the United States. The public and the press, dazzled by the magical new technology, feared that bureaucratic meddling would stifle progress.

The Titanic tragedy changed everything... Four months later, Congress passed the Radio Act of 1912.

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

Down Under

Unintended consequences

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

If we believe a thing to be bad... it is our duty to prevent it and damn the consequences.

—Lord Milner, 1909

Well, the revelations of money laundering, fake off-shore accounts and 'legal' criminality are emerging in the hundreds. First was the second edition of the Panama papers, once more published by a group of investigative journalists. Second was the 2021 list of corrupt countries.

Both these lists are fascinating and alarming, the first detailing individual and corporate deals to minimize tax. The second applies to countries, the leaders of some also being on the first list.

These are sad lessons that come, in part, from the rebranding of 'money' from a promissory note that promised it could be exchanged for other goods, to an item that could be traded in its own right, as though it was made of the real thing. That reality went a long time ago, when the gold standard was dropped. What took its place was the promise of future profit. That fitted in nicely to the Great American Invention of money as god. As the leading nation in manufacturing, high profits, and conservative laws and values, this was a stronghold

that no one else could enter, except by invitation.

With the aid of people like Milton Freedman and Ayn Rand, the slogan 'greed is good' became the unofficial one of the rich. When the rich found ways of electing their man as president, things were set for the shift. That is, a reverse Robin Hood plan: Take from the poor and give to the rich.

That culminated in the sheriff being elected, only to find that he was the sheriff for himself and no one else. In disarray, they split, and today you have the first person who deserves the title of President for a long time.

That has not stopped the R&CP (rich and powerful) from doing what they do best: hiding their wealth where it won't be found by the taxman. So, the Panama papers are one step towards shining a spotlight onto some very murky places. You may well know someone on there, as Americans seem to love the site. If you are one, you won't be reading this.

Now to the index of corruption. This is a British group that began he research and site some ten years ago. They are not the purveyors of false information, and are used by journalists, tax offices and international police forces around the world. The figures below are for 2021.

Before you read the next paragraph, close your eyes and try to think who might head the least corrupt country. There are two — one

you may pick, but the other?

In joint first place is Denmark and New Zealand. These are followed by Norway, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany. Well, where is the U.S.A.?

While you ponder that, the U. K, Canada and Australia are all at eleven. You and Chile are twenty-five, China seventy-eight, India eighty-six. So, how about Russia? One Hundred and Twenty-Nine, the same as Mali, Malawi, Gabon and others.

Now consider, if you will, the countries that have presidents. Looking at this list the fact becomes obvious — presidents mean more corruption. They get the post because they promise stability, freedom, and justice. They rarely give any of them, because, being human, they are also self-serving. They know how to cosy up to the powerful people, who in turn reward them by support.

Think of Marcos in the Philippines, Guardo in Venezuela as recently as 2019, and the list goes on. It has nothing to do with Democracy or religion, ethnicity or beliefs, because without the system of oversight by a monarch, there is trouble. They also know they have won their position because they deserve to.

Presidents are influenced by vested interests, pressure groups, and rarely try reform, because left-leaning presidents are a rarity. Democracy has become a small 'd' affair, citizens have reduced rights and freedoms, and all too often the right to vote is a sham.

One reason for this is the belief that, because they have the top job, they deserved it. Their unshakable belief in

their own power makes them blind to equality. Their middle name is Hubris.

So, why did you decide to ditch the British system and go with a Republic? Back when you were a growing asset, a burgeoning colony, Britain had just finished fighting France for control of North America. They won, as you know, but their coffers were nearly empty. Their tax-gatherers were the East-India Company, who had grown to be the preeminent trading organisation in the world. The chief source of money was India and the United States, so parliament decided that a tax on goods would do the trick. At that time, your manufacturing industry was tiny, so they stared with everything to do with paper. That was not nearly enough, so they added hardware. This wasn't enough, so they made the fatal decision to add a tax to tea.

That allowed the burgeoning independence movement to grow, and only those whose prosperity was tied to the trade in British goods opposed it. The war of independence followed, and became the catalyst for your rise to supremacy. Great industrialists, explorers, and developers came, putting their names into the history books, but the one thing that you didn't get was the safety valve that is part of the British system.

That means that every piece of legislation has to be approved, and signed, by the Monarch, which is something courtesy of Oliver Cromwell. In most cases, that is a rubber stamp, but it has always meant that individual power-plays are never allowed. Your system worked, because your Presidents

had a firm foundation of the meaning of Democracy, were honourable and accountable. That started to erode after the Second World War, when a move for the far right.

But then, America is unique in another way: You are the only country in the world who worships money. That has nothing to do with having a President, it is the inheritance of the first settlers and the riches they found. Great industrialists emerged, oil was found at exactly the right time, industry galloped ahead, the poor went up the slippery slope, a new middle class was created, and what could go wrong?

Power, they say, corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Nixon was your flag-bearer it this, culminating in Trump.

He had only one aim in becoming President — self-glory and profit. What a horrible outcome of greed. People are only human, they say, but given the opportunity, bad people become outright crooks. And looking down the list of your presidents, it is all too clear which party they belonged to. The rich are different. They care less about those that are not. They are blue-bloods and vote blue.

Now for some good news: here in Victoria, Australia, we have thrown off the label of the 'lock-down' state. Tomorrow and tomorrow we dine, we travel, grin and catch up. Maybe even get back to the office.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Thanks. Giving.

Fr. Timothy Barkley
Pastor, St. James Orthodox
Christian Church

“Thanksgiving” (the word, not the holiday) is “a public acknowledgment or celebration of divine goodness” (Merriam-Webster), “the giving of thanks to God, especially in a religious ceremony” (Collins Dictionary).

Thanksgiving, or giving thanks, thus has several components: (a) a public or shared expression (b) to God (c) of thanks (d) for goodness received. And many sources point to the fact that giving thanks impels healthy people to spread the blessing. It's not just an affect — it's an action.

It's not just a private feeling. It's something we do together, as our communal expression of thanks for what we have received. This is one of the things that makes the plight of shut-ins so pathetic (pathos-inducing) on holidays. We know that we should be gathering together to give thanks, and yet these folks are shut out because they're shut in.

And it's not just oozy, vague gratitude; we give thanks to God, as a person, for blessings we have received. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)

While thankfulness like gratitude can be a general attitude, the giving of thanks is properly directed to a particular person for particular blessings. Since every gift is from God, our thanks is properly directed first to him, and then to the ones who choose to be vehicles of his goodness to us.

Imagine leaning out the window

and just yelling “thanks!” to the morning breeze. Even people who believe that the cosmos or the earth are the source of our blessedness personalize them. They're not just thanking atoms. Thanks is given to individuals, not to things or principles.

The goodness we have received is both general and specific. Everything is a gift, but that means that every thing ... every single thing ... is a gift. If “everything” is the sum of an infinitude of discrete things for each of which we are thankful, our gratitude fills our hearts and minds, and we give thanks to the one who gives us every good gift.

Many folks incorporate an expression of gratitude for blessings received into their celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday. In our family the patriarch decreed that we would each be ready to say one thing for which we were thankful, and it had to be a particular thing, not a generality like “family.” Since there were about 30 of us, that was a lot of thanks-giving.

In a post-modern capitalist society, it's hard to find things to be thankful for. We earn our resources, and we are conditioned to believe that the physical world in which we live is the product of natural forces having nothing to do with gift. Even if we believe in a creator-god, it stretches our mental fibers to see our next inhale as a gift from the deity, to be so conscious of being blessed that we are grateful with and for every breath.

We don't give thanks for things we've earned. We might say “thanks!” to the boss when she hands us our paycheck, but we're not really expressing gratitude. After all, we've earned that little slip of paper and the wealth

it represents. “Thank you” in that context is a “polite fiction,” not an expression of gratitude. The job from which our paycheck derives is likewise something we've earned by loyalty and hard work. It's not a gift from a benevolent employer.

Even our health is something we can feel entitled to. We've eaten right, and exercised, and taken our supplements and meds, so we're entitled to be healthy. If we're not, we can find ourselves complaining about the unfairness of it all.

And we don't generally give thanks for the natural state of things, a condition we moderns have been conditioned to believe to be a result of blind, impersonal cosmic accident. Most of us would have trouble making ourselves feel thankful for the continuation of the precise mixture of atmospheric gases that makes life as we know it possible. We might decry how people mess it up, but the norm is just ... normal. Most of us don't express gratitude for gravity. It's just there, and we don't contemplate what would happen if it suddenly stopped working, or started working differently, and thus feel grateful for its predictably-maintained state.

And maybe that's a good place to start. If the world and all it contains, including its human inhabitants, is nothing but an accident, then what's there to give thanks for? And who should we give thanks to? Even the concept of thanksgiving is absurd in such a context; and whether we hug or hurt our fellow humans, whether we protect or pollute our home planet become indistinguishable expressions of our private urges from time to time. We can make up reasons, but ultimately unless we want something from the other or want

to avoid consequences of the other's displeasure (assuming we fear the other or the collective other), we act like we want to act. Witness the trash on the side of the road.

But if there is a God who created it all, and who planted humans in the earth bearing the divine image and gave them the newly-minted world to cultivate and share, then all is gift and in its original state, good. Even our existence is gift, and our giving of thanks never ends. Our desire to thank the good God who gave us this good gift is never satisfied. When I was a kid,



one of my jobs was to distribute the clean laundry. When I put Dad's stuff on his dresser, I always saw and pondered his hand-written note to himself: “The attitude of gratitude is not dutiful, but beautiful.”

If all is gift and an expression of the creative love and desire of the giver, then we the recipients express our reciprocal love to the giver of the gift by properly stewarding ourselves, one another and our earthly home. And because love is life-giving and life-bearing, receiving love brings forth love and shares love.

A consciousness of blessings received should motivate us to act, to share blessings, to deepen our relationship with the giver of all gifts, to make others aware of the possibility of that relationship and the goodness we receive from it.

It's more than just a catalogue of goods received and a calculated response. When we are blessed, we should find that our hearts are warmed, that we are grateful to the givers of the blessings, that we want to draw near and share life

with them, whether the divine giver or a human agent of the divine goodness.

And when we stumble in our attempts to cope with the magnitude and plenitude of the gift, when we fall prey to baser motivations to claim the gift for ourselves to the exclusion of others, the giver nonetheless hastens to receive and restore us when we choose to turn back and press in to the relation of love, in a process called “repentance.” And in that restoration we find a deepening of the love for the giver and a desire to share the possibility of restoration of relation in love with those around us, that they, too might well up in gratitude and give thanks.

“Oh, that we would give thanks to the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to humans.” (Psalm 107:8, 15, 31).

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Halley's Comet of 1682



November 15th - Halley's Comet, so called, has been the means of dispelling many popular illusions concerning the influence of those mysterious bodies on worldly affairs. Before it had been ascertained that comets are periodical in their appearance, there was unbounded scope for speculation on the nature of this influence.

The excellence of the celebrated vintage of 1811 was attributed to the great comet which appeared in that year; as was also the abundance of crops. Nay, the number of twins born in the same year, and the fact that a shoemaker's wife in Whitechapel had four children at a birth, were in like manner laid to the charge of the comet; likewise were the facts that wasps were few, and that flies became blind that year.

The Great Plague of London was attributed by some to a comet which appeared in the spring of that year. As there was a comet in 1668, and in the same year a remarkable epidemic among cats in Westphalia, some of the wisecracks of that day connected the two phenomena together as probable cause and effect.

When Lima and Callao were destroyed by an earthquake in 1746, the disaster was imputed to a small comet in the absence of any more probable delinquent. A church clock, destroyed by a meteoric stone; an unusually large flock of wild pigeons in America; the disasters which were experienced by the Christians at the hands of the Turks in 1456; a fit of

sneezing that became very prevalent in some parts of Germany; the deaths of eminent persons in various countries—all were believed to have been either produced or presaged by comets which appeared in certain years.

That of two things which occurred nearly at the same time, one is the cause of the other, is a very popular and easy mode of philosophizing. M. Arago adduces, in illustration of this point, the anecdote told by Bayle, of a lady who never looked out of the window of her apartment which was situated in the greatest thoroughfare of Paris. When she saw the street filled with carriages, she imagined that her appearance at the window was the cause of the crowd!

The reason why Halley's comet, or rather Halley's remarkable prediction concerning the comet, has had some influence in lessening these vague speculations, is because a regular and periodical occurrence of any event takes away from it much of a capricious or uncertain character.

After Flamsteed had written down his careful observations on the comet of 1680, Sir Isaac Newton was able to determine what kind of curve it marked out in the heavens; and then Dr. Halley proceeded to investigate, in a very elaborate way, whether any two recorded comets were really two successive appearances of the same celestial body. He found reason to believe that the comets of 1531, 1607, and 1682 were in fact

one and the same comet, which takes about seventy-six years to perform its remarkable journey round the sun. After making corrections for a few disturbing causes, he boldly declared his belief that that comet would appear again late in 1758 or early in 1759; and, with a pardonable self-respect, he appealed to posterity not to lose sight of the fact, that if the comet should really return about that period, the prediction of such a result was due to an Englishman.

As the period approached, the great French mathematicians Clairaut, D'Alembert, and Lalande calculated the probable disturbance which the planets would produce on such a comet; and they agreed that the month of April 1759 would be the probable time of re-appearance, or rather, of the perihelion of the comet—that is, its nearest approach to the sun.

The comet was espied on the 25th December 1758, and passed its perihelion on March 13th, 1759. This would have been a great triumph to Halley, if he could have lived to see it. All Europe agreed that this particular comet should be called Halley's Comet, in honour of the man who had so boldly and successfully predicted its periodicity. Then, as time passed on, arose the question—"Will this comet re-appear after another interval of about seventy-six years, say in 1835?" In 1812, Damoiseau calculated that the comet ought to re-appear at perihelion on 4th November in that year. In 1829, Pontécoulant, another great mathematician, explained his reasons for selecting the 14th of November as a more probable date.

Two learned Germans, Rosenberger and Lehmann, also investigated the same intricate problem; the one named the 11th of November, the other the 26th, as the day of perihelion. At last, when the year 1835 arrived, all the astronomers in Europe were pointing their telescopes towards the heavens, under the belief that the comet would begin to be visible some time in August. They were right.

On the 5th of August MM. Dumouchel and De Vico, at the observatory of Rome, detected the comet; it became visible to the naked eye towards the end of September, attained its greatest brilliancy about the middle of October, and passed its perihelion on 15th November—

within one single day of the time calculated by Pontécoulant!

All this is very wonderful to persons unskilled in astronomical mathematics; but so certain do savans now feel about it, that they decide that the recorded comets of 1378, 1456, 1531, 1607, 1682, 1759, and 1835 were only so many successive appearances of Halley's comet, at intervals of about seventy-six years apart. There is not the slightest doubt among them that Halley's comet will appear again in or about the year 1911, although possibly not one of our present astronomers will be alive in that year.

By thus substituting regularity for uncertainty, Halley's labours on the subject of comets have effectually reformed popular notions concerning those wondrous visitants.

Thanksgiving day in America

November 24 - The great social and religious festival of New England, from which it has spread to most of the states of the American republic, is a legacy of the Puritans. They abolished Christmas as a relic of popery, or of prelacy, which they held in nearly equal detestation, and passed laws to punish its observance; but, wanting some day to replace it, the colonial assemblies, and, later, the governors of the states, appointed every year some day in autumn, generally toward the end of

November, as a day of solemn prayer and thanksgiving for the blessings of the year, and especially the bounties of the harvest.

Thanksgiving day is always celebrated on Thursday, and the same day is chosen in most of the states. The governor's proclamation appointing the day, is read in all the churches, and there are appropriate sermons and religious exercises. Families, widely scattered, meet at the bountiful thanksgiving dinners of roast turkeys, plum pudding, and mince and pumpkin pies. The evenings are devoted by the young people to rustic games and amusements.

The subjects of the thanksgiving-sermons are not infrequently of a political character, and in the chief towns of the union, those of the most popular preachers are generally published in the newspapers. The thanksgiving festival, though widely celebrated, is not so universally respected as formerly, as the influx of Roman Catholics and Episcopalians has brought Christmas again into vogue, which is also kept by the Unitarians with considerable solemnity. As a peculiar American festival it will, however, long be cherished by the descendants of the Puritans.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers's 1864 masterpiece: *The Book of Days*, visit thebookofdays.com.



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ECOLOGY

For the love of leaves

Amanda Markle
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

There are so many reasons to love autumn; cozy sweaters, hot beverages, pumpkin-spiced everything. It's a great season to be outdoors. Cooler temperatures and crisp air set the mood for long hikes and backyard bonfires, and autumnal harvests of apples and pumpkins make for picture-perfect family outings (matching flannel optional). For those of us living in a temperate climate, the months of October and November are some of the most visually stunning nature has to offer. As days grow shorter and shadows lengthen, the sunlight itself seems to have extra magic to it; the golden hour on autumn evenings feels extra golden. Adding to the splendor is the most classic hallmark of the season; fall foliage.

The reds, yellows, oranges, and purples that make for such a stunning show come fall are always within tree leaves, but most of the year they are drowned out by the green of chlorophyll. Leaves are food-making factories for trees, and they are dependent on sunlight. As daylight hours dwindle, chlorophyll begins to break down, and the green pigments fade away, allowing other pigments to shine. Some scientists believe this revelation of colors is not simply a byproduct of chlorophyll breaking down but is actively advantageous for the tree. Researchers studying tree physiology theorize that the way leaves change their colors

may have developed over time to help prepare the tree for the winter months.

Anthocyanins, a type of flavonoid, are found in high concentrations in changing leaves, especially ones that are strongly red-colored. Anthocyanins are antioxidants and may help regulate the aging process. The anthocyanins can also help the tree in retaining nitrogen. As chlorophyll breaks down, the anthocyanins act as a sort of sunscreen, protecting the now vulnerable chloroplasts and making it easier for trees to reabsorb nitrogen. Evolutionary biologists think the changing colors may hold strategic benefits for the tree as well. Theories include that the changing colors may confuse and deter animals that typically eat green leaves, or perhaps make it more difficult for pests to camouflage from predators within the leaves. Others believe that the brightly colored leaves may signal the availability of ripe fruit, helping to attract birds and other animals that aid with seed dispersal.

The hue and intensity of autumn leaf colors are dependent upon several factors, including temperature, rainfall, and daylight hours. Cloudy and overcast skies might not be what most people imagine as their ideal fall day, but they are great for bringing out more intense colors in the foliage. These arboreal performances have legions of fans that eagerly await the changing colors each fall. Public opinion surveys consistently find fall to be the most popular favorite season,



Dead leaves make excellent winter insulation for garden beds and overwintering plants, and as they decompose, they add valuable nutrients to the soil.

and when people are asked what aspect of the season they most look forward to, the changing color of the leaves routinely earns the top spot. Every autumn, local news stations eagerly report on which areas are reaching peak color, and leaf peepers flock to the choicest viewing destinations.

All good things must come to an end, however. As the season progresses, leaves dry out, become brittle, and fall. The process is less passive than one might think. Trees play an active role in shedding their foliage each fall. At the point where the stem joins the tree branch, trees develop a special layer of cells called abscission cells. These cells gradually sever the leaves from the tree and push the leaves off. The point of separation when the leaves finally do fall is sealed off, helping to protect the remaining branch. Some trees do keep their leaves all year round, but it's a risky venture. A rough warm snap during the winter can trick leaves into food-production mode, drawing water up into their narrow veins. If temperatures quickly drop, and that water freezes, the leaf will die and be useless to the tree come spring. For most trees, it is safer to shed their leaves entirely each fall and invest in growing new ones when longer daylight hours return.

The initial fall of autumn leaves has its charms; many people love the crunch and swish of dry leaves

underfoot and jumping in leaf piles has been a favorite pastime of children and dogs for generations. But for many, the multitude of dead leaves on the ground quickly become old, both literally and figuratively. The rainy weather that often comes with the season can make leaves heavy, slippery, and smelly. Raking up and bagging up leaves can seem like a never-ending task and finding ways to dispose of them can be a challenge. While they may not be the most attractive landscaping option, the best thing to do with all those fallen leaves may be to leave them be.

Dead leaves make excellent winter insulation for garden beds and overwintering plants, and as they decompose, they add valuable nutrients to the soil. If an entire lawn covered in decaying leaves seems too much for you (or your neighbors) to aesthetically handle, mowing over dead leaves can help speed up the process of their breakdown. Leaves can also be composted or piled up under bushes and in less noticeable corners of garden beds. It's almost shocking the number of leaves that can break down over the course of a single winter; a pile two feet high will likely be gone entirely, or simply need one last mowing over by the time the next planting season arrives.

A thick layer of decomposing leaves, or leaf litter, isn't only beneficial for your garden; it's also

essential for wildlife. Many animals rely on leaf litter for camouflage, nesting materials, food, and shelter. The moisture retained by decaying leaves makes it a perfect environment for amphibians like toads and salamanders. Insects thrive in leaf litter; it's particularly important for one of summer's most popular natural spectacles (and the official Pennsylvania state insect)- the firefly. Fireflies spend most of their lives as larvae living in leaf litter; hunting and devouring earthworms and other insects they find there. If you want the enchanting glow of the adult form to grace your backyard on summer evenings, one of the best things you can do is leave leaf litter on your property to act as a firefly nursery the rest of the year.

Early November will be the peak season for fall foliage in many parts of Maryland and southern Pennsylvania. Observing and appreciating the changing landscape is a great reason to get outdoors before temperatures start to drop. When the leaves fall and begin to pile up, remember that even though they may be a landscaping nuisance, dead and decaying leaves play an important role in our ecosystem and have many benefits to the environment year-round. No matter the season, there are so many reasons to love leaves!

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IN THE COUNTRY

Shifting seasons

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Seasons come and go. Warm summer sun and verdant greens fade into the vibrant reds and oranges of fall. White snow capped fields yield to bright ephemeral spring flowers. With seasonal changes organisms have evolved different ways to survive. Animals have three options when confronting this prospect: adapt, hibernate, or migrate.

The first way to survive the winter months is to just adapt. These animals will have to make serious changes and work even harder during these tough winter times to survive. Deer and rabbits forage underneath snow cover to find food. If the temperature drops significantly deer will gather close together in dense tree stands using body warmth to wait out the cold. Shrews, which during the summer months eat primarily berries, mushrooms, and insects, will hunt exclusively for prey during the winter. Beavers and squirrels will store up food during the summer and fall months to snack on throughout the long cold winter. Most animals add an additional layer of fat that helps to insulate the body against the cold. Many animals will shed their fur or molt their feathers and grow a thicker winter coat to assist in insulating body heat. Some animals, like the mountain hare, will even change the color of their coat. By changing the color of their coats from brown to white they can now camouflage in the snow to avoid getting preyed upon by others. Many animals choose to forgo winter altogether as weather can be harsh and food is scarce.

Hibernation is an evolutionary adaptation that helps mammals and reptiles survive winter. During hibernation metabolic rates essentially come to a grinding halt. Heart rate can drop to as little as 3% of normal rate. For example, a chipmunk will go from 200 to 5 heartbeats per minute during hibernation. Breathing can slow to half (or more) of the usual rate, with some species stopping breathing entirely. Every living thing burns energy all the time simply by being alive. It takes energy to walk, sleep, breathe, and even to think! Mammals spend a lot of their energy just regulating body temperature. We eat to get enough energy to do all these things. During the winter plants stop producing fruit and food is all around a lot harder to come by. So, in order to conserve energy reptiles and some mammals will hibernate.

Hibernation isn't very similar to sleep. Animals virtually lose all consciousness and are nearly impossible to wake up. When they do eventually come out of hibernation they often exhibit signs of sleep deprivation, and may need to dedicate a substantial portion of time to sleep. The primary difference between sleep and hibernation basically boils down to what the body is doing. During sleep there are minor physiological changes to the body, it's mostly mental change. It's also very easy to wake up from sleep, whereas hibernation it's nearly impossible making these animals suscepti-

ble to predation. During hibernation brain activity is actually very similar compared with normal active brain activity. Hibernation just brings animals to the lowest possible metabolic rates they can stand so they require nearly no energy. Animals are given natural cues to start hibernating when the days get shorter and colder. This is the same time that other animals, mostly birds, begin travelling south.

When the weather turns migratory animals pack up shop and relocate to more suitable environments for a few months. The longest migration belongs to the Arctic Tern, which spends summers breeding in the Arctic and over-winters in Antarctica, encompassing the globe for a whopping 25,000 mile round trip journey! The switch that flips indicating when a bird should head south is initiated by a few factors. Shortening daylight hours, cooler temperatures, dwindling food supplies, and genetic factors are all cues that tell a bird when it's time to go. Migratory birds can cover thousands of miles during a single trip. They seem to intuitively know the way to go. Even first year birds who have never made the trip before can manage on their own. Biologists have wondered how that can be, and the best research indicates that they utilize landmarks, the sun and stars, and the Earth's magnetic field.

How do these plants and animals know when to do this? That's where a type of ecology, known as phenology, comes in. Phenology is the study of changes in seasonal timing, it literally means the study of appearance.

Animals take their cues from the food availability, sun, and weather pattern changes. This is the mechanism that tells them what to do and when. Other animals like hibernators and long distance migrators are on a cyclical clock that cues them into when it's time to wake up or move along. In either instance, decades long research indicates that for some species these annual events are occurring earlier and earlier every year. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report in 2007 showing that spring is arriving by about 2.3 to 5.2 days earlier per decade in the last 30 years. The findings show that the seasonal timing that ushers in plants and animals is accelerating across the globe. These new arrival times for plants and animals aren't always syncing up potentially leading to complex problems down the road.

Plants are putting out buds earlier every year, insect populations are emerging sooner than they historically should, and many birds are advancing the timing of their annual migrations. While they all seem to be reacting to climate change by advancing these seasonal behaviors, they are not doing so at the same rate. By falling out of sync food sources are not readily available for these insects or animals at critical times, like breeding or migrating seasons. The Great Tit, a European songbird, relies on caterpillar availability each spring to feed its young. These caterpillars have emerged earlier with warmer temperatures, but the Great Tit hasn't advanced their egg-laying causing a mismatch between the two species. As a result, the hatchlings are missing



The Great Tit relies on caterpillar availability each spring to feed its young. These caterpillars have emerged earlier with warmer temperatures, but the Great Tit hasn't advanced their egg-laying, causing a mismatch between the two species.

peak food availability and less hatchlings are surviving to leave the nest.

Changes like this are prevailing trend across the globe. It signals potential problems for more than just wildlife, as it could dramatically impact human food production. Pollinators are needed when agricultural plants begin flowering. Fisheries depend on annual migrations that affect production and livelihoods. Unfortunately, the impacts of changing climates are already being experienced far and wide. By observing appearances of these cyclical events we can get a pretty clear picture of what's going on in the world around us. Phenology can help researchers, policy makers, and people be better

decision makers and agents of positive change. Citizen science participation can help researchers and policy makers. By helping track phenology and submitting findings individuals can help collect data that will help shape information and policy. Interested parties can explore options through Project BudBurst (budburst.org) by monitoring and observing plants, transcribing old weather logs through Old Weather (oldweather.org), or monitoring ice conditions through IceWatch USA (nature-abounds.org/icewatch_usa.html).

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

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REAL SCIENCE

Dog behavior

Michael Rosenthal

I have been a lover of dogs since I was a child. My first dog was a mixed breed puppy that we named Butch that my father brought home from a pet store at a purchase price of five dollars! I grew up in a middle class neighborhood in Youngstown, Ohio (nicknamed Crimetown USA!), where many families had dogs. Some ran loose, and some were confined to the house or yard. Two dogs that I remember most were Jamar (named for the family children Jack and Maryann) who lived next door and Taffy, a yellow cocker spaniel that lived directly across the street from us.

As an adult I and my family have attended many dog shows and learned about the many dog breeds. My wife grew up in Chicago, and her mother bred, raised and showed schipperkes, a Belgian Barge Dog. A number of champions came out of that breeding, though one of them tried to bite me once. With all due respect, it is not my favorite dog breed.

If you attend dog shows, such as the very visitor friendly shows held regularly at the Howard County Fairgrounds, you will be particularly made aware of the differences in size, coat, and temperament among the various dog breeds. We have owned a number of purebred breeds in our adult life, currently sharing our home with a wonderful standard poodle named Willie Nelson.

Dogs are amazing diverse in looks and in behavior. Newfoundlands are shaggy and bearish, while Chihuahuas are tiny and "yippy". Milly is a Chihuahua

who holds the Guinness World Record for World's Shortest Dog!

OK, so where's the science? Neurological scientists in Georgia have done MRI scans on 62 dogs of 33 breeds, and found well-defined differences in their brains. They made maps of six neural networks linked to specific functions, such as sense of smell or movement. Some of this is due to selective breeding in order to provide dogs for specific behavior, such as hunting, herding, and guarding. Recall the presence of such dogs in the coverage of the search for missing people in the news recently. Willie is lying beside me as I write this, making sure my description of dog behavior is accurate.

Our canine companion, Willie Poodle, has appointed himself as a watchdog. He guards the front door, and viewing through a window, he barks like crazy at everyone who passes by. His guardian behavior however is confined to barking. When I took him on leash to the mail truck, he put his paws up to the door to say hello to our mailperson.

The distinction between working dogs and family members is not that distinctive. Though some breeds and some individual dogs (like people!) are more suited to a specific working task, all breeds can be socialized to be a member of a human family. Like people, some are more affectionate and adaptable than others!

Studies of behavior such as this may shed light on how brains, including humans, work in general. Studies include attention to the variations in behavior between members of a single breed. This doesn't surprise me!

Look at the variations in behavior even within a family with the same parents.

As I'm sure you readers know, just because something is in print doesn't mean it is accurate. One of the publications that I read regularly is Worst Pills, Best Pills News. It is published by the Health Research Group at Public Citizen, a national nonprofit advocacy organization "that fights for government openness and accountability, safe and affordable health care, clean energy, access to the civil justice system, fair trade product safety and strong regulatory policy". I recommend it to you. It has a lot of useful information.

As a trained and experienced scientist, I have taken more than a personal interest in vaccination against COVID-19. I am absolutely convinced that vaccination is safe, effective, and important. I recommend that if you need further encouragement to vaccinate, speak to your physician.

The space program moves on. Can you imagine a space trip for fun on your vacation? I grew up reading science fiction, and I still have a basement full of sf books and magazines. I really believe that period was a prelude and influence to my young adult decision to become a scientist. Unlike my many college friends who envied my good grades in chemistry, which are necessary for medical school acceptance, I wanted to be a scientist, not a physician. So now, I pick up the newspaper and see such things as recently stated in the Washington Post, "NASA looks to moon, Mars, as it reorganizes". And then who would have then imagined that people would be traveling into space for recreational purposes!



There is no better way to learn about dog behavior than having one as a member of your family, such as DASH.

Dash came into the shelter as a stray after being found in Caledonia State Park. When he arrived Dash had a severe case of fleas and a skin infection caused by the fleas, along with an ear infection. He's doing a lot better now on all counts. Dash is a 2-year-old terrier mix who is quite active and playful. He knows how to sit, but will need training with other commands. He is a smart boy that loves to please his people and is food motivated so potential adopters should keep this in mind for training. Dash may be too much for small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Do you have the right spot for Dash?

To learn more about Dash visit her at 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.

NASA is now looking beyond trips to the International Space Station, and is reorganizing to put emphasis on trips to deep space. They are considering a plan to build a permanent presence on the moon, and eventually to build a permanent presence on Mars. To pursue

these and other goals, a new directorate, to be known as Exploration Systems Development, will oversee these efforts in which NASA pushes new frontiers. This new directorate would include a partnership with a growing commercial space industry.

NASA has an initiative called the Artemis moon program in which astronauts would travel to the surface of the moon, but the 2024 goal is not likely to be achieved on time. The first stage, Artemis I, would orbit the moon without astronauts aboard. The second flight, Artemis II, would be a crewed mission around the moon in late 2023 or early 2024. No concrete plans have been put forth yet to land astronauts onto the moon's surface. The very fact that these plans are developing is amazing to me. It's the science fiction novel of the 1950s becoming reality.

Here is one more space item that was recently reported in The Kiplinger Letter, another publication I highly recommend. New large satellites in high orbit, they say, are coming soon from Hughes and from Viasat to boost internet service speed and capacity in the United States and around the world, hopefully in 2022.

And finally, an item of high excitement has been reported in the Town of Emmitsburg Fall Newsletter. Backyard chickens and honeybee apiaries will be allowed with permits, and with specific guidelines for the enclosures, rules for waste storage removal, required animal care guidelines, and more. Details should be available at www.emmitsburgmd.gov. I will be sticking with Willie, my wonderful standard poodle, though I am sure he'd enjoy chasing some chickens in our backyard.

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

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The Vulgarians

Jack Deatherage

Dad grew up with radio as I grew up with television. So his leaning forward and turning off the radio was a big deal. Settling back into the pickup truck seat he grumbled, “You don’t have much talent when you have to swear to sell a song.”

Forty-five years later I don’t recall the song, but the word that offended him was “damn”. It wasn’t like he never said the word, or wasn’t aware that I used it to season nearly every other sentence that came out of my arrogant young mouth. Nope, his problem was the word had gained enough public acceptance to be heard in a popular song on the radio. In Dad’s mind, a line had been crossed. Civil men did not deliberately say “damn” in the hearing of women and children, let alone broadcast it around the world in a song. Vulgar words were confined to vulgar men. I can’t imagine what Dad would say about the profanity vulgar people (no longer just men) unthinkingly utter now.

The veneer of civility has been peeling as long as I can remember. Cable TV, live streaming and online video blogging have stripped the veneer completely and hurled it into the abyss. I suppose it should come as no great shock to find a banner/flag for sale on Amazon proclaiming “[expletive deleted] Joe Biden and [expletive deleted] you for voting for him”. Still, seeing such a banner proudly displayed anywhere around Emmitsburg is depressing. (Amazon also sells a less vulgar version of “[expletive deleted] Joe Biden...” banner- “Let’s Go Brandon” hats, tees and hoodies are available for those who are “in the know”.)

What possesses the people around this place to display such a rude vulgarity where passersby can easily see it? Postmodernism, Moral relativism, Nihilism, Tribalism? Taint from all of them?

Most isms make my head hurt, but tribalism I can grasp. Tribalism- “... discriminatory behavior or attitudes towards out-groups, based on in-group loyalty” is the obvious dominantism of the masses now, and likely always has been the driving, unspokenism of mankind. (We ain’t all that far removed from our tribal ape cousins- bonobos and chimpanzees.) Which irritates me no end because a white Nationalist and a Ku Kluxer told me decades ago that I’d one day be forced to choose a tribe, or suffer the consequences.

The struggle to lift oneself out of the primordial muck that composes Man’s basic nature is difficult enough,

or maybe that’s just me? Why would anyone choose to wallow in tribalism and give up the effort to be more than just another feces slinging primate?

Robert A. Heinlein, once upon a time and recently a major influence on my thinking, wrote, “A dying culture invariably exhibits personal rudeness. Bad manners. Lack of consideration for others in minor matters. A loss of politeness, of gentle manners, is more significant than is a riot.”

How so? Well, as best as I can puzzle it out- if we can’t control our behavior toward others in every day, mundane interactions (saying “please” and “thank you” at the most basic level) how can we possibly debate and consider the ideas that motive the actions of others around us in any way other than tribalism?

Multiple factions of both left and right ideologies marched, fought each other, murdered, rioted, burned and looted sections of towns and cities across the country in 2020 and into 2021. Their reasoning?

“This is how I see the world! If you see it other than my way, you aren’t in my tribe! You are my enemy! You will submit or be destroyed!”

Gods! How they laugh at us small-minded apes as we strut and pontificate about how we’ve evolved into something special. If the bonobos and chimpanzees were capable of observing us and understanding what we are I suspect they’d give up on their evolutionary path and head back to the slime pits we all crawled out of.

Heinlein also wrote, “For me, politeness is a sine qua non of civilization.”

Of course I had to look up “sine qua non”. I mean, who understands Latin these days, or maybe I’m the only ignorant left? Anyhow, Sine qua non- an essential condition; a thing that is absolutely necessary.

Ha! I can piece all that together and come up with an idiot’s version- If we can’t suppress our animal instincts, we’ll cease being men and women, and civilization collapses, yet again. (It ain’t like history isn’t replete with such events. Our current attempt to add to the list of dead civilizations is a testament to humanity’s capacity for endlessly amusing the laughing gods. Evolved? My hairy [expletive deleted]!)

I wonder if the rank and file tribalists understand how their leaders profit and live quite well at the expense of the tribe? Do they actually believe their tribe can possibly maintain the engine that keeps Western Civ humming along without the expertise of those “others” not of the tribe? Or is the goal one of controlling the “other” and

forcing them to serve the tribe? (I’m really struggling to see how humanity has evolved into anything unique in all the years of knowable history.)

Marx, Lenin, Hitler and Mao cobbled together lessons learned from past generations of tribalists and attempted to create their versions of Utopia. Today’s Utopians haven’t come up with anything new either, other than repackaging their predecessors’ tired old tropes with today’s gaudy trappings. And the bonobos and chimpanzees... urr... people, are once again desperately clawing for their piece of Utopia.

What’s a tired, balding, gray bearded, potbellied, six-eyed macaque supposed to do while the culture collapses?

Well, exploding into enraged rants about ideological extremes, hurling vulgar [expletive deleted]s as loudly as I can, stomping and foaming incoherently hasn’t changed a single mind, and definitely has chased more than one person away- leaving me not only a village idiot, but a lunatic as well.

As one of the vulgar, the occasionally rude, obviously self-centered asses that lumbers- often uncaringly -through life, I sometimes struggle to remain marginally civil. Mostly I accomplish this by avoiding people, limiting personal contact to those I have no reason to be anything other than polite to when I encounter them at store cash registers, library kiosks, post office counters or in passing on the street. I’ve even managed to be civil with the



town staff and elected office holders- something I doubted I’d ever be capable of after my dealings with the elect and staff of 20 and more years ago.

I like to think I’ve regained a sense of civility- a state that I occupied before entering high school and had shed- in large part -by the time I was freed from that torment.

Deep breath. Calm. A little “Ooomm. Mommy take me home” mantra.

Given how forgetful and lazy I am, most likely the best I can hope for is to keep my vulgar mouth shut in pub-

lic. That might keep Dad from rolling over in his grave as often as I’m sure he does given all my other failures to evolve from knuckle dragging apedom to humanhood.

Vulgar- characteristic of or belonging to the masses
Rude- offensively impolite or ill-mannered
Civil- courteous and polite
—Robert A. Heinlein, “Friday”

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

A project for Fall

Diane Diffenderfer
Penn State Master Gardener

Gardeners love to talk about their gardens. The range of topics is never-ending—the best bean for canning, the most flavorful tomato, how to manage the array of pests that challenge a relaxing morning in the garden and best practices for enhancing soil texture, structure, and fertility. Applying manure to a vegetable garden impacts all facets of soil health: texture, structure, and fertility. Adding manures now is a great project to take on this fall.

Soil texture is the term used to describe the percentage of sand, silt, and clay in the soil. From a particulate perspective, sand is the largest particle, and clay is the smallest. The soil triangle provides a graphic representation of the combinations. While the texture cannot be changed, adding organic material

such as manure will alter soil structure. From an agronomist perspective, soil structure refers to how soil components aggregate to form air and water spaces within the soil. Air and water are critical for good root, and therefore plant, development.

Two often used examples of how manure impacts soil are: for texture, adding manure (organic matter) to a sandy soil will increase the soil's ability to absorb and retain moisture. Adding manure to a clay-based soil will increase the soil drainage by creating those same spaces. When considering soil amendments, remember adding organic matter (manure) cannot change the soil texture as the percentages of sand, silt, and clay remain the same; however, the soil structure can be altered by adding manure to the soil. While this article refers primarily to using manure in a garden where edibles grow, the texture and structure

properties are the same in any type of garden where soil is present.

Applying manure is not a new technique for growing crops. Although manure is commonly thought to make soil more productive, it is not technically fertilizer. Research conducted by Amy Bogaard, an archaeobotanist at the University of Oxford, reported in this article Fertilizer History P1, published by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources that the benefits of manure to plant growth were observed almost 8,000 years ago! If you enjoy an interesting science read, have a look at the article. The dating description process provides an interesting insight into projects where an archaeobotanist is a key investigator/researcher.

What are the effects of adding manure to a home garden? Remember, manure is not a fertilizer. There is no guaranteed analysis with manure, as there is with packaged fertilizer. For instance, 10-10-10 fertilizer is guaranteed to provide equal amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. This is important to know because nutrient requirements differ by plant type (for example tomato vs. cucumber) and within a plant depending upon the stage of growth. As an example, a tomato setting fruit requires less nitrogen, because vegetative growth should yield to fruit set and phosphorus and potassium are directly involved in fruit set. If you would like an analysis of the manure you are adding to your gar-



Fall is an excellent time to add compost to one's gardens, not to mention, make room in the bins for fall leaves!

den soil, Penn State University Soil Analysis Lab does offer manure testing. Please see this link for information regarding the test and analysis: Agricultural Analytical Services Lab Manure Testing.

Today, gardeners can obtain a variety of manures from local farmers and lawn and garden stores. Some grocery stores even offer bagged manure. In addition to numerous commercial and private outlets for getting manure, there is also a broad choice of types of manure. Manure from farm animals such as cows, horses, sheep, goats, llamas, and chickens is commonly used in vegetable gardens. Local farmers may be more than willing to offer manure free of charge because it reduces the amount of manure the farmer must safely manage. Horse and cow manure often are loaded with weed seeds that can be neutralized by composting at a temperature of 140°. Goat and sheep manures

have the advantage of being naturally pelletized. Pelletized manure is easier to handle and often easier to spread in a home garden but should be used in accordance with the guidelines included in the following paragraphs.

According to several references, pig manure should not be used in a garden where edibles are grown. The same is true for dog, cat, and human waste due to the possible presence of parasites.

Many gardeners have ready access to chicken manure. Chicken manure is often referred to as "hot" due to high nitrogen content. Coop bedding added to the chicken guano may dilute the concentration of nitrogen in the manure. High nitrogen content may burn tender seedlings, so it should be composted prior to use in a home garden.

Over the years, news stories have documented people becoming ill and, in some cases dying, as a result of eating produce infected by parasites and/or bacteria. Most notably are the incidents involving E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria contaminated vegetables. According to the University of New Hampshire article entitled Guidelines for Using Animal Manures and Manure-Based Composts in the Garden, "To ensure that pathogens have been killed, the compost pile must reach a high temperature (between 113° and 140°) for a sustained period of time (several weeks)." The article further states, "The compost must also be turned regularly and carefully monitored so that all the manure has been exposed to sufficient temperature. In home compost piles and in unmanaged manure piles, this rarely happens. Aged manure is not the same as composted manure, and is not safe to assume that pathogens in an aged manure pile have been destroyed. However, if the pile has reached an internal temperature of 140°, weed seeds will be no longer be viable."

According to the paper written by Steven Ingham, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Safely Using Manure in the Garden, the issue of manure contamination of edibles was addressed by the USDA National Organic Program. While the guidelines set forth by the USDA National Organic Program are for certified organic vegetable growers, these guidelines are viewed as best practices and followed by non-certified organic growers as well. The guidelines explained below, are simple, straightforward, and can be observed by home gardeners without issue.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

In an effort to reduce health risks when using manure in home gardens, the USDA National Organic Program suggests waiting 120 days from application to harvest for edibles that grow in or touch the soil. For other crops, the recommended wait time is 90 days from application to harvest for these edibles.

Summary Points:

Adding manure to the home vegetable garden can increase soil organic matter and may alter soil structure. Adding manure to soil will not change soil texture. Fall is the most common time of year for adding manure to a vegetable garden. The manure may be spread atop the soil or incorporated into the garden soil.

Pig, dog, cat, and human waste should never be used in a vegetable garden. Cow, horse, chicken/poul-

try, sheep, goat, and llama manure are acceptable types of manure appropriate for use in vegetable gardens.

There are differences in using raw, aged, and composted manure in a garden. Manure may be composted in a variety of means, for the home gardener, this is usually hot or cold composting. Large amounts of agricultural manure is sometimes composted in windrows. The method of composting is a personal one and the literature is flush with options.

The USDA National Organic Program has created guidelines for certified, organic growers. These guidelines may also be integrated into manure management and composting programs used by home gardeners.

To read other gardening articles visit the Gardening section of Emmitsburg.net

Small Town Gardener

Houseplant madness

Marianne Willburn

In a corner of my office, under a table sporting a large philodendron and other miscellaneous greenery, there has sat a large, gifted stack of '70's era Horticulture magazines waiting quietly for a rainy day and the resident gardener who curiously finds enjoyment in such things. Yesterday was that day.

I propped myself against a bookcase, sliced up a plateful of cold, sweet, red Anjou pears and dug in to the first issue on the pile – May 1974 – all the while conscious of the juice dripping from my chin and fingers, yet unwilling to sacrifice one pleasure for the other.

The issue in my hands was no modern periodical filled with text snippets plated digestibly on graphic-rich pages. It was article heavy, and ad light – the text small, the illustrations sparse. I was expected to read.

Horticulture had been in print for 70 years by 1974 – much of it as a plant society journal. They knew their audience and their audience wanted expertise and experience. James Crockett on the greenhouse, Viki Ferrenea on wildflowers, Dr. Chester Cross with some eyebrow-raising comments on the DDT controversy.

I finished my pear, finished the magazine, and picked up the next one – January 1977, but here I got no further than the editorial, penned by Paul Trachtman, formerly of Time/Life.

Between pages touting the brand new 'Super Sweet 100' tomato hybrid and tea roses for 96 cents, Trachtman expressed his concerns over the societal changes that an increasingly urbanized population was forcing upon us – in particular, the relationship we were losing with the seasons, with our flora and fauna, and with the natural world in general. But there was hope, he thought...

"There are many signs that people are now trying to get back to the nature of the life process. The resurgence of house plants and indoor gardening is one attempt to recapture what has been taken away, to regain the beat of biological development. Our own rhythms are intimately connected with plants."

I dug a little further. A search through earlier issues gleaned more articles, more enthusiasm...more déjà vu. Houseplant-focused ads proclaimed the life-changing attributes of innovative shelves, lights, and hangers. A special insert in October 1978 highlighted the subject of indoor plants through the words of contributors, and discussed everything from designing your new indoor garden to forcing bulbs in winter. More than a century had passed since the Victorians had popularized indoor plants – and there was much to be said.

In 1977 I was too busy riding my brother's Green Machine without a helmet to care much about houseplants, and too young to read about them if I had; but in 2021, Trachtman's editorial was fascinating to a GenX garden writer who had been observing the current craze with a mixture of pleasure, amusement, and concern.

Pleasure, for like Trachtman, I believe that greening our indoor spaces connects us to our vibrant, living earth in an increasingly mechanized and digitized society. The elevation of this activity in mainstream culture should be lauded.

Amusement, because like sex, the youngest of our adult generations have apparently only recently invented it.

Concern, for like all trends, it is likely to lose its thrust and fervent followers. Will we be left with a greener world, or merely landfills bursting with plastic pots in once-trending colors?

Consider that swinging pendulum. In 1977, houseplants were cool, baby. Even the most staid suburbanite had a philodendron sitting in the corner of the living room – often the receptacle for half-drunk glasses of Gallo's not-so-finest after a dinner party. My rural mother had over forty houseplants, and more than half of them deserved euthanasia.

James Crockett's book *The Indoor Garden* sold well that next year, boosted no doubt by his nationally acclaimed PBS television series *The Victory Garden*. It seemed that Trachtman and his party could rightfully feel encouraged that the tide was turning – even if they weren't thrilled with the accompanying gadgetry of color-changing water meters and talking plant stands that also wanted in on the action.

Yet a mere decade later, houseplants and self-sufficiency were out, big hair and neon were in, and we collectively embraced acronyms that made life more comfortable, like VCRs and SUVs.

Plastic bagged pre-washed salads

led us into the 1990's and by the end of the decade when Millennials began to emerge into a world of Playstation and playdates, the only one you knew who still kept a houseful of houseplants was your weird aunt who always was a bit of a hippie anyway – and didn't she also give birth to your cousins on the living room floor? Eww.

Who wanted a scabby philodendron hanging from a scabbier length of macramé? That was so 1977.

As if.

Fast forward two decades. Suddenly your aunt's dusty variegated monstera is on Amazon for hundreds of dollars. Ikea is selling dracaena. Hipsters have air plants around their necks and a woke generation is proclaiming the oxygenating virtues of sansevieria in between mouthfuls of avocado toast.

How high will we swing this time? For how long?

Trends can be valuable certainly. They introduce people to concepts that they may not have considered, and increase accessibility to those who have. But for the trend junkies who allow themselves to be led, and never develop a strong philosophy behind the trends they embrace, there is no lasting impact. A philodendron has no more value than a pair of Princess Reeboks. A greener world is no better than a grayer one. With white accents.

I certainly want gardeners to enjoy their new urban jungles. I hope they revel in the oxygen high and preach the green gospel to others. But when the influencers stop 'gramming images of their Midtown Manhattan rainforests and have moved on to the heightened convenience of a 'natural look' petroleum-based sansevieria, because Omg, it is everything and so easy care, I also hope the new indoor gardener has gone deeper.

Creating a greener world is not just about now. This moment. This movement. This generation. It wasn't about 1977 and how well green went with orange shag carpets.

It's about having a lasting impact on the generations to come, regardless of what's popular and regardless of what's pretty. And that comes from believing deeply in the green life you're living and sharing it for that sake. I'm thankful there were those in my life who shared it with me.

It's a trend worth preserving. Keep the philodendron. Be that weird relative.

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of *Tropical Plants and How To Love Them* and *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com.

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PETS

Life just doesn't feel that empty anymore

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

The rat race. That's what he's heard it called and when he's in the car for the two hours it takes to get to and from work, in stop-and-go traffic, he figures the description is pretty apt.

He'd done it. Worked his way up the corporate ladder, made his parents proud, kept up with the Joneses, created a life for himself. He'd bought a nice house, furnished it well, and keeps himself in decent shape.

Sure, he sometimes works 50 to 60 hours a week, but he figures it's a relatively simple burden to bear to have the life that he does.

These are the mantras he tells himself as he unlocks the door to his home – sometimes well after the sun has already set, even in the summer time.

He looks around at his granite countertops, recessed lighting, leather sectional sofa, and nearly wall-to-wall entertainment system and he tells himself it's worth it.

And if occasionally he notices his own footsteps seem to echo on the floors as the only sound in the house, he ignores the small pang of solitude and doesn't even think the word loneliness.

His life goes along in an orderly fashion, just like he planned, until one evening when he arrives home and, as he's jiggling the keys in his hand, he hears an odd sound. It's an almost human-like cry, quite soft, and it seems to be coming from the neatly trimmed bushes – maintained by a company that does the work when he's not even home – just off the front porch.

Curiosity more than anything makes him stop and peer over the railing. He's not at all prepared for the sight of a small, gray kitten with striking green eyes looking up at him through the branches of his shrubbery.

His first thought, he has to admit is, a cat? Really? His family had a few dogs while he and his siblings were growing up and he really doesn't have anything against cats, it's just, he's a dude and has an image to uphold and plus, he's never really spent time with a feline.

Still, he schools his voice into a bit of a soothing murmur and asks, "Hey there. Are you okay?"

The kitten immediately steps out of the bush, tail high in the air – almost happy-looking – with a trilling meow for accompaniment.

Something shimmies in his chest, producing a warm sensa-

tion and he smiles. It's dumb, but it feels kind of nice to have something respond to his presence in that way.

Against his better judgment, he makes the trip to the store for cat food and bowls and tells himself it's just so the poor thing doesn't starve. The old blanket he finds in the back of his closet, he convinces himself is just for warmth.

And if he maybe, in his head, calls the kitten Chevy after his dad's favorite 1967 Chevrolet Impala, it's only in his head, never out loud. And if he comes to think of the spot by the porch as Chevy's place, it doesn't mean anything.

If sometimes on his ride home, he stops off at the store for a cat toy, it's just so Chevy's got something to relieve boredom. And if in the middle of the day, at work, he finds himself smiling at the thought of Chevy's greeting when he arrives home, it's just because it's become so commonplace.

He gets a little worried the evening that Chevy races past his feet and gets into the house before him. He tries to stop the squirt, but the kitten walks around as though the house has never been off limits.

He spends the next hour chasing the kitten from room to



Polo (Brown Tabby) and Milo (Orange Tabby) are best friends looking for a home together. Polo is confident and greets visitors at the front of the cage while Milo is more reserved but does enjoy petting. Both boys are young, active and enjoy exploring new spaces as well as playing with toys. Sadly, Polo and Milo's owner moved and decided they could not go along.

For more information about Polo, and Milo call the Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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room, with meows and mischievous feline looks for company. He laughs outright when Chevy discovers the full-length mirror and jumps at least a foot in the air at the reflected image.

A few minutes later, he sighs to himself, retrieves his keys and goes to the store to get a litterbox and litter.

He becomes ridiculously well-versed with things like cat trees and scratching posts and catnip toys and even the concept of spaying and neutering. He'd never set foot inside a vet's office before, but the girls at the front desk start to recognize him after a while.

Three months after the fateful evening he'd discovered a vagabond transient beside his front door, Chevy's sleeping on the pillow next to his head and batting

him awake with her soft paws – never claws – for breakfast each morning. He barely needs an alarm clock anymore.

And when the footsteps that join his on the stairs are four-legged, his house and his life, though both well-earned, don't feel quite as empty anymore.

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

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

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How to give cats pills



Dr. Jon Bramson, DVM
Catoctin Veterinary Hospital

So your veterinarian prescribes oral medication for your cat. Now what? How do you get it into your cat?

First of all, the best time to prepare your cat to receive medication is when they are a kitten. However, adult cats can be trained to accept medication too. Hide the medication inside a soft treat like a Greenies Pill Pocket or in some canned food. Get all of your cats to take a treat at the same time and train them to come when you call "treat." That way it becomes routine to them. Get cats used to taking a Pill Pocket with the top closed pretending that there is a pill inside. Chicken-flavored seems to be preferred.

Alternative methods include grinding the pill up and putting the contents in a novel canned food. This should be put in a different bowl and different location from those used routinely. This is to prevent a cat from discontinuing to eat its regular food. Other options for hiding pills are treats with a soft center, pill paste, squeeze cheese, cheese in a can, Velveeta cheese, Bonito Flakes(tuna).

If your cat won't take the treats or medication in canned food, give it a high value reward after pilling such as praise, petting, or a favorite toy.

the skin on the inside of the ear flap. No fussing with your cat's mouth! Some common medications for this are prednisolone and methimazole (to treat hyperthyroidism).

If multiple medications are required or the medicine tastes bitter, ask your veterinarian about placing them in gel caps. Make sure the capsule is washed down with water or food. I like to coat the pill or capsule with some cat hair ball remedy or butter to get it to slide down more easily.

If you have to "pill" your cat, regular positive reinforcement is important. Never chase your cat or try to snatch it out of the litter box or when it's eating. Instead, follow the cat's routine and find it where it is resting. Give your cat rewards when your cat comes to you and after you have administered the medication. Calmly approach your cat from the side or from behind because approach from the front is threatening. Some cats like to be in your lap and other cats like to have their owners sitting on the floor with them. Another method is to swaddle your cat in a blanket especially if your cat likes to paw medication away.

Massaging the head, muzzle and chin can be pleasing. Do this where your cat likes it then move your non-dominant hand to come over

the top of the head with your forefinger behind one upper canine tooth and your thumb behind the opposite upper canine. With your dominant hand, grasp the pill between the thumb and forefinger. Use a free finger on the same hand to open the mouth and push the pill on the back of the tongue. Then massage the neck to ensure swallowing.

If using your hand to administer medication is not a viable option (i.e.

too dangerous), then you can try a pill gun also known as a pill syringe. Place the pill on the back of the tongue then rub the neck to stimulate swallowing and to prevent spitting of the pill back out.

Whatever you do, exercise caution to avoid any bites or scratches. Cat bites in particular can lead to bad infections.

How to Give Your Dog a pill: wrap it in cheese.



Lyla came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her. She is a 2-year-old lilac point Siamese mix who wants very much to be the only kitty in the house. Lyla loves to play with feather toys and stretching out in a sunny spot. Do you have the right place for this sweet girl?



Susie A. was brought into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her. She does have a microchip and the owner was called, but never came forward to claim her. Susie is 6 years old and weighs 20 pounds. She has been on a diet since she arrived at the shelter. She has difficulty jumping because of the weight and will need someone who will continue her diet and keep her active. She does like to chase the laser pointer and attack the mouse toys at the end of the chase. Susie would love to have a home where she can be close to you and get all the ear rubs that she could possibly want!



Sadie came into the shelter on October 26, 2020, so she's been at the shelter for almost a year. That's too long to live in a cage. She was surrendered with 24 other cats because her owner could no longer care for them. Sadie is a 6-year-old calico girl looking for her second chance. Could you be who she needs?

For more information about Lyla, Susie, and Sadie 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.

Only do this when the medication is given to reinforce taking it.

Furthermore, there are compounding pharmacies who can formulate the medicine into a chewable treat, a flavored liquid, or a tablet that melts in the mouth. Even another compounding option is transdermal pens. The medicine comes out of pen-like dosing syringe. Then it is applied to

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HEALTH NOTES

Frederick Health encourages vaccines as winter approaches

With the arrival of the flu season in October and with the COVID-19 pandemic still prevalent throughout the community, local healthcare providers are working overtime to get residents vaccinated against both. As both of these issues are considered serious respiratory illnesses, it is more important than ever for people to get their flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine. This time of the year, residents are also encouraged to get their Shingles and Pneumonia vaccines. Preventative measures are the best way to decrease the risk serious illness and to keep others healthy.

In the United States, the influenza or “the flu” season typically begins in early to mid-October and runs through spring. Research has shown that the beginning of the season and the end of the season typically show the most flu cases. Locally, Frederick Health began

its flu outreach campaigns in early September, encouraging residents to seek out their annual flu shot.

“We have flu shots, and the staff to give them, ready and waiting,” said Dr. Kathy Weishaar, Chief Medical Officer at Frederick Health.

While the numbers of hospitalized flu patients varies each season, evidence shows that getting the flu shot can significantly reduce severity and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. This is especially important given that health care systems across the state are also treating COVID patients and bed space is limited.

Recently the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) stated that Americans could get both their flu shot and their COVID-19 at the same time.

With possibly two very serious, very contagious respiratory viruses moving through the com-

munity at the same time, it presents a: “challenging situation,” Weishaar added.

“Getting people vaccinated against both the flu and COVID-19 is really a top priority. However, with COVID-19 now in the mix, I think more people will be inclined to get their flu shot.” continued Weishaar.

As the country approaches the two-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination efforts are paying off. By the end of October, roughly 59% of all Americans were fully vaccinated. The numbers in Maryland are even higher, with almost 68% of Marylanders being fully vaccinated. However, the nationally yearly average for flu shot vaccinations as remained low, hovering anywhere from 50-60% of the population, depending on the year and population group.

One challenge with increas-

ing flu shot vaccination rates is a general apathy that getting the flu is just a fact of life. However, it’s more complicated than just getting sick.

“Everyone gets the flu at some point,” continued Weishaar. “But some people get sicker than others. Just like with COVID-19, protecting those that are more vulnerable is crucial. By getting your flu shot, you’re protecting not only those around you, but also making sure that healthcare systems can focus on those that are seriously ill.”

One thing working in Frederick Health’s favor is a built-in messaging campaign. For years, healthcare providers have focused their messaging efforts on older adults and the immunocompromised due to their increased risk of serious illness or death as a result of contracting the flu. When COVID-19 vaccination efforts

began in late 2020, those messages were already out in the community paying dividends.

According to Kelsey Felice-Shupe, Director of Marketing and Communications at Frederick Health, this proactive messaging has yielded some significant results.

“Frederick Health has seen a lot of success when it comes to COVID-19 messaging, especially in hard to reach communities. We are using some of those same tactics in our messaging on the flu vaccine and seeing positive results.”

To help battle against the threat of both infections, the CDC has urged local healthcare agencies to use all resources at their disposal. To assist with messaging efforts, the CDC has allocated nearly \$150 million dollars to local governments to promote flu vaccinations initiatives. While these renewed efforts are helping to combat vaccine misinformation and hesitancy, the messaging efforts must be simple and clear.

“Making sure that residents of Frederick County understand that the flu and COVID-19 are caused by different viruses and need different vaccines is critical to our messaging efforts. It’s important for residents to get vaccinated against both.” Felice-Shupe added.

While local healthcare providers are working to get the vaccines out to the community, they are also increasing access and locations. Frederick Health is offering the vaccine at their Primary Care, Urgent Care, and several other locations. Residents can also get the flu shot at most local pharmacies or at clinics managed by the Frederick County Health Department. This year’s approach, while impacted by the presence of COVID-19, has nonetheless been a team effort.

Felice-Shupe said that she’s seen a significant increase among community partners and healthcare systems when it comes to messaging on the flu vaccine. With Frederick Health and Mount St. Mary’s University breaking ground on a new, cutting-edge healthcare facility in Emmitsburg in October, access to that care is now more readily available for local residents.

“The vaccination efforts have certainly taken a team. By making sure that residents have easy access to vaccines, regardless of where they live in Frederick County, we are hoping to keep transmission rates low.”

Regardless of where residents get their flu or COVID-19 vaccine, the important thing is that they get them. As with any sort of immunization campaign, the more people that get the shots, the more effective they are at fighting off serious illness. If you are a Frederick Health patient and would like to schedule a flu shot, please www.frederickhealth.org/flu.



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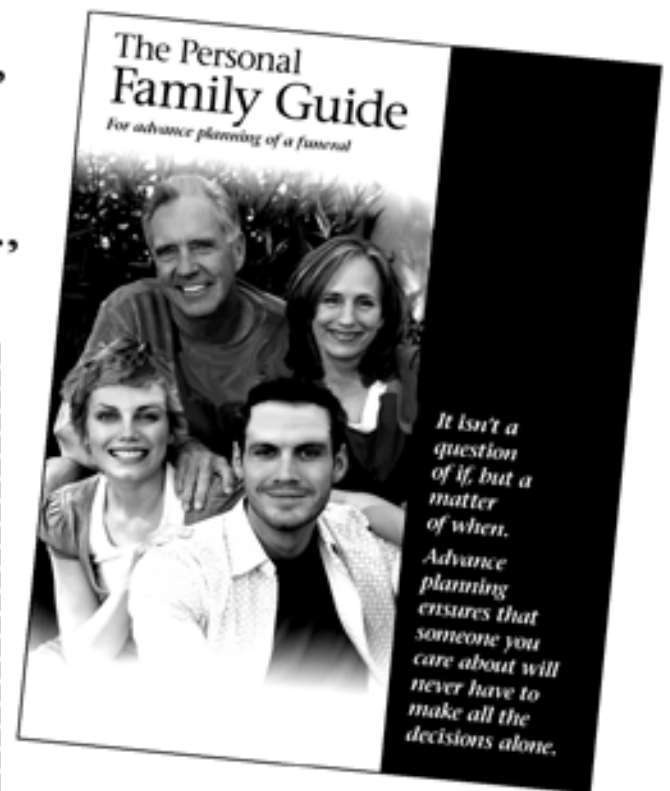
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Fairfield's 14th Annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour

Sarah Muir
MSMU Class of 2018

Are you ready for the 14th Annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour this year? That's right, the time has come for the Fairfield area art event of the season taking place the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 20-21, from 10 - 5 p.m..

Eleven artists in five studio locations will showcase original paintings, pottery, sculpture, furniture, woodworking, photography, printmaking, pastels, fabric arts, enamels, and jewelry. Experience the creative spaces where these artists bring their work into being and have the opportunity to buy directly from the studio floor.

This multimedia experience allows you to view the beauty of the southwestern Adams County countryside while getting a taste of what the local art community can offer and supporting local artists. An added bonus is all of the tour sites are in or adjacent to historic homes.

Here's a look at the artists showcased in the tour!

At Eden Farm in Fairfield, Geoff Grant, a fine art photographer whose soft and painterly styles include landscapes, candid portraits, architecture, and street photography. "I love landscape work, especially atmospheric work...I also do candid portraits of people when I travel to capture them in their surroundings, especially to showcase different cultures so that you have an understanding of the person and the place." Prints, both black and white and color, will be on display and for purchase during the tour. Geoff is familiar face in the local arts community and has been in several shows, including Frederick's the Delaplaine and NOMA galleries, and the ACAC in Gettysburg. In addition, he has participated in the Foothills Studio

Tour for approximately eight years.

When asked why you should come to experience this event for yourself, Geoff said, "It's a lovely drive in the Fairfield/Cashtown area, and you get to see some terrific homes at the same time." He also commented on the importance of this event to the local art community, "Local artists often have a sense of place, and while they are showing in other venues, like at Adams County Art Council or local galleries, this is a great opportunity to see their work in their home."

Showing along with Grant at Eden Farm, is J h Ricci, an extremely talented fiber artist. Her creations of sculptural vessels, wearable fiber art & tapestries will be on display that weekend. Recognized nationally for her art, she has won numerous awards. J h is self-taught in hand bead-weaving and recycled paper techniques. In addition, she creates unique jewelry and paintings in oils and acrylics. J h sells her work at a national level and teaches at various local art education centers.

A longtime artist and contributor to the Foothills Studio Tour, Jack Handshaw of Fairfield, will be returning this year and bringing his 35 years of experience with him. As a potter, his works are done in all clay forms, focusing on reduction-fired glazed porcelains, though he has recently returned to raku. During the tour, he will be offering redware. His one-of-a-kind porcelains and other unique ceramic items will be for sale on the studio tour.

Sharon Pierce McCullough and Michael McCullough are showing together in Cashtown. Sharon is a painter and sculptor of abstract and minimalist work. In addition, she is an internationally recognized artist, children's book author, and illustrator. Michael is a visual artist of abstract paintings whose work



Foothills Artists: Geoff Grant, Ann Ruppert, Jack Handshaw, Rod Stabler, Judy Pyle, Geoffrey Thulin, Anne Finucane, Michael McCullough, Joh Ricci, Sharon Pierce McCullough

has been featured in various galleries and museums. In addition, his work is held in national and international collections.

Ann Ruppert is another artist returning to the studio tour. At her studio at Windborne Farm, her jewelry designs and other artwork including pastels, oils, watercolor, and colored pencils) will be available for viewing. Her artwork focuses on nature in all its forms and will be for sale during the tour.

Joining Ruppert at Windborne Farm, is Rod Stabler, a fifth-generation woodworker, and retired cabinet maker, will showcase his skill in one-of-a-kind hand-turned bowls and vases composed of unusual and colorful woods. Stabler and Ruppert collaborate on many pieces as well.

Guest artist, Laurie McKelvie, is also showing with Ruppert. Her artworks capture the light and color of the world around her using pastels. Others artists appearing at Windborne Farm included Anne Finucane and Judy Pyle.

Finucane's medium involves printmaking and other fine art. She is a longtime organizer for arts organizations in the Chambers-

burg area, and her work has been accepted into juried exhibitions throughout Maryland and even in New York City. In addition, she has been honored with one-person shows throughout Franklin County.

Judy Pyle creates fine jewelry in hand-fabricated silver, and torch-fired enamels on copper and fine silver. During the studio tour, you'll be able to see her new enamel pieces that are wearable sculptures. A life-long art educator and a practicing artist, her most recent small sculptures — enameled items and other found objects — have been juried into national exhibits.

Geoffrey Thulin, a painter specializing in bold animal imagery, landscapes, and abstracts work will be on display at his Blue Orchard Studio. He works primarily in watercolor and gouache. This year he has been working on a series of zodiac paintings, all of which will be on display. He has been a veteran of the tour for 6 years. When asked for a comment on the importance of this event both for the artist participating and the community, Thulin remarked, "I have been thrilled to be part of the Foothills Artists Studio Tour since

2015, and it has become a highlight of my year.

"Being an artist can be and often is a solitary pursuit. To be part of a vibrant and evolving group of artists feels more like a collaboration, and that is very important, at both a personal and societal level, especially in our present times. Organizing an engaging art tour is a creative endeavor that we enjoy pursuing together. Not only are the Foothills Artists a group of good artists, they are a group of good people. In addition, the tour is, and always has been, a great opportunity to meet new people and to greet older friends."

The tour is self-guided and may be completed in any order. The website, www.foothillsartists.net, includes a map of each studio's location and street address and links to each artist's individual website. It also contains photos of the artist's current works and biographies.

The Foothills Artists ask that visitors please wear face masks inside the studios and homes. For those interested in making purchases, checks, and cash are welcome. Credit cards are accepted by most, but not all, artists.

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 Sharon Pierce McCullough - 1720 Hilltown Rd., Cashtown
 Geoff Grant and Joh Ricci - Eden Farm, 378 Topper Rd., Fairfield
 Michael McCullough - 1720 Hilltown Rd., Cashtown ~ Geoffrey Thulin - 1013 Old Rt. 30, Cashtown
 Ann Ruppert, Rod Stabler, Judy Pyle, Anne Finucane and Laurie McKelvie
 - Windborne Farm Studio, 489 Crum Rd., Fairfield

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 Photography ~ Jewelry ~ Fiber Art ~ Printmaking ~ Pastels

Foothills Artists

For details including map with street addresses visit:
www.foothillsartists.net

HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

Chapter 40: Outstanding Citizens

William C. Birely, son of Victor M. Birely, has followed in his father's footsteps. He entered the investment business in 1947 with Folger, Nolan, Inc., where he was vice president until 1952. He was also a general partner of Rouse, Brewer & Becker from 1952 to 1955. William has served as a member of the Montgomery County Council and the Montgomery County Board of Appeals.

A native of Thurmont, and a vice president and director of the Thurmont Bank, William C. Birely lives in Ashton and is prominent in investment, civic, and fraternal activities. He was president of the Montgomery County Young Republicans Club in 1948 and was a Republican Precinct Chairman for 16 years and Republican District Chairman from 1957 to 1962. He was elected as a delegate to the Maryland State Republican Conventions in 1952, 1956, and 1960.

In the fall of 1967, Mason & Company, Inc. announced that they had acquired a portion of the assets of Birely & Company and most of the members of the Birely staff joined with Mason. As a result of this transaction the scope of the brokerage services in the Washington area have been broadened considerably.

In addition to stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, Mason & Company, Inc. offers assistance in portfolio reviews, investment banking, and regional distribution of underwriting. Today Mason & Company is an integral part of the Washington business community and maintains the same high standards of service that was a major factor in the success of Birely & Company.

Nola Jane Birely

Miss Nola Jane Birely, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Birely, represented the District of Columbia at the "Miss United States" beauty pageant in Norfolk, Virginia in the fall of 1965. The Birelys will long remember the pageant for Nola won the title of "Miss United States."

She attended the University of Maryland and was a student of the

Patricia Stevens Career College of Washington. Although she is not a native of Thurmont, Nola Jane Birely enjoys visiting friends and relatives in the community. She has a deep love for Thurmont and rightfully so, for it is the native home of her father and grandfather.

Mrs. Charles H. Clarke

Mrs. Charles H. Clarke, known to her many friends as "Mother Clarke", is now in her twenty-fifth year of collecting small gifts to distribute to the sick and wounded veterans in area hospitals.

It all began years ago, when she and her late husband operated a tavern in Thurmont. She would hand out coffee and doughnuts to soldiers as they passed through the town in large convoys. She was a friend to all service men and during the war won their respect and admiration for the many little favors she did for them. Her home was a "home-away-from-home" for the servicemen. She contributed much to their morale. When the war ended, she continued this service and today she still begs and borrows to carry on this personal service for "my boys in uniform."

Through the years "Mother Clarke" has received many awards and citations for her work including a medal from Francis Cardinal Spellman, who also had an interest in service men.

Each year, as the Christmas season approaches, "Mother Clarke" begins writing letters to area merchants and manufacturers, seeking small items to hand out to "her boys" at Christmas.

"Mother Clarke", now 72 years of age, enjoys this sort of thing, and strongly believes there is a special need, especially among the sick and wounded soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

She will long be remembered for her many acts of kindness shown to the service men, and since the Vietnam war has grown more intense in recent months, she is kept busy, visiting the hospital wards and providing the veteran with little pleasures that only a "mother" would think of. Her work, which she considers a mere pleasure, has won for her the respect and admiration of the entire community as well as thousands of service men throughout the country.

Mrs. Clarke now lives in Baltimore, but still enjoys her visits to Thurmont, where her interest in the service men had its beginning some twenty-five years ago.

Rodman Myers

Early in 1968, Rodman Myers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Myers, was named as Maryland's "Outstanding Young Farmer" of the year.

Rodman started his farming career by working for his father at "Sonny's Dairy Farm" after graduating from Thurmont High School. After nine years of working at home, he decided to go into farming for himself and presently owns some 240 acres of rich farmland just north of the community. He has made many improvements and has modernized many farming methods with automatic equipment.

In 1961, Rodman and his wife Jean were honored as "State Young Couple of the Year" by the Maryland State Grange. Rodman is a member of the Farm Bureau, A. S. C. local committee, Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers' Association, Thurmont Adult Agricultural Class, Frederick County and National Holstein Assoc., Frederick County Breeders' Cooperative, the Future Farmers of America, St. John's Lutheran Church and many other organizations.

Rodman Myers well deserves the title of "Outstanding Young Farmer" and through the years he has gained wide recognition for his interest in and his devotion to the many farming activities that make up his daily life.

Mrs. William McPherson McGill

In 1934, Mrs. William McPherson McGill was appointed by the late Governor Albert C. Ritchie, as a member of the Maryland Tercentenary Commission. This was indeed quite an honor for Mrs. McGill, as she was the only woman appointed to serve on this thirty-member commission, created by the governor in connection with the 300th Anniversary of the State of Maryland.

Again in 1964 this same citizen received another award, having been selected as Maryland's "Mother of the Year" by the Moth-



Downtown Thurmont at the turn of the last century. Truly the Gateway to the Mountains.

ers Committee of Maryland.

Mrs. McGill was first nominated for this award by the Women's Democratic League of Frederick County. The final selection was made by Arlene Moreland who was Maryland State Chairman of the American Mothers Committee. She represented Maryland in New

York, where she was the guest of Governor J. Millard Tawes and competed for national honors.

Mrs. McGill is a charter member of the United Democratic Clubs of Maryland. She has been active in historical work and is a member of the Frederick County Historical Society, having served at one time as Historian. Her youngest son Francis, who has studied opera for a number of years, recently won the acclaim of opera critics in Europe as well as in the United States. He is presently appearing in Germany's operatic circuit and his performances have been rated as "most outstanding."

Frederick Graf Whelan 3rd

On June 8, 1965, Frederick Graf Whelan 3rd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Graf Whelan Jr. and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William McGill, received the Presidential Medallion from President Johnson. Frederick was among several presidential scholars who were appointed by the President of the United States on the recommendation of a special commission. The program was established to give distinction and encouragement to what President Johnson has called "the most precious resource of the United States ... the brain power of its young people."

This award is based on the intellectual attainment and potential for

future accomplishment. Ludlow H. Baldwin, headmaster of Gilman School, where Whelan attended, described the youth as "a great boy, talented in many areas."

Young Whelan led his class academically for the three years previous to June 1965. He was a class officer, editor of the school newspaper, a member of the glee club and has won many prizes for mathematics, and an essay on government and music.

"He uses his great talent in a moral way. On Saturday mornings he tutors educationally deprived boys," says a Gilman school official and both his parents and grandparents are proud of this young lad who is now in college and making a name for himself. His mother, the former Caroline McGill, is a native of Thurmont and contributed much to the success of the girl's basketball championship of 1935 and 1936, when she was a student at Thurmont High School.

Franklin F. Wilders

In 1947 Franklin F. Wilders graduated from Thurmont High School unaware of what the next few months would bring which would change the course of life considerably. He tried out for the school baseball team in his sophomore year in the three years that followed, he became an outstanding pitcher, winning many games for the high school team. He was looked upon as the greatest left-handed pitcher in Frederick county.

During the summer of 1947 he joined the town team and it was then that things began to happen to your Wilders. His pitching ability came to the attention of major league scouts who were looking for young players. By September "lefty" as he was

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HISTORY

known to his teammates, was under the watchful eyes of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Their scouts attended every game Wilders played and when the season closed he found himself with a signed contract and was a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers farm team.

In the Spring of 1948 young Wilders found himself in spring training at Vero Beach, Florida, after which he joined the Appalachian League and later the Mountain State League. He began his career playing class "D" baseball but soon graduated to class "B" and by 1950 he was moved into class "A." Shortly after moving into class "A" baseball, Wilders joined the Piedmont League. Still very much a part of the Brooklyn Dodgers. In the fall of 1950 Wilders learned that the New York Yankees were interested in his pitching and before the year ended they had purchased his contract from the Dodgers. Wilders seemed destined to becoming a major league star.

His baseball career, however, was interrupted in December 1950 when he entered the Service and changed from a baseball uniform to Air Force blues. During his three-year hitch in the Air Force. He still managed to get in some baseball and never lost his touch in pitching. In 1954 he returned to civilian life and exchanged his Air

Force blues for his old Yankee uniform.

His baseball career came to an end shortly after returning from the Service, when wilders suffered a severe case of bursitis which greatly affected his pitching ability.

After hanging up his baseball uniform, wilders never lost interest in the game for it was in his blood and he followed the standings of the clubs with great interest. During this time Wilders became interested in crossword puzzles as a hobby and this too has brought him fame and fortune. In 1963 he won a \$1,300 jackpot prize

in a crossword puzzle contest sponsored by the Baltimore Sunday American. To make matters even better, Frank won an extra \$130 for sending his entry in on a postal card, which brought his total winnings to \$1,430.

Other Outstanding Citizens

The citizens featured in this chapter are but a few of many, who have achieved notable success and have received wide recognition for their endeavor.

Each citizen who has in anyway contributed to the success of this volume should be recognized as an outstanding citizen, for they have been most helpful in preserving the rich history of Thurmont for future generations. Thurmont is proud of its many citizens, for each one has a deep respect and love for his fellowman. May their lives,

like the lives of great men, serve to remind us that we can make our lives sublime, and in departing, leave behind us, footprints in the sands of time.

Patricia Ann Warthen



Patricia Ann Warthen, 85, of Emmitsburg passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, Friday, October 22. Born March 17, 1936, in New Oxford, she was the daughter of late Leo J. Funk and Anna Genevieve Bisker Funk; beloved wife of the late Robert Allen Warthen, her husband of 33 years; devoted mother of Wanda Estelle Akiyama and her husband Don-

ald, Denise Warthen McCarthy and her husband Kirk, Robert Douglas Warthen and his wife Sue, and Daniel Allen Warthen and his wife Catherine; loving grandmother of Benjamin Akiyama, Emily Akiyama, Andrew Warthen, Amanda Warthen, Justin Warthen, Peter Warthen, and Sara Warthen; caring great grandmother of Houston; cherished sister of Anthony Funk and Ronald Funk; and also survived by numerous other family members. She was predeceased by her siblings Margaret Eyer and Gerald Funk.

In addition to being a wonderful homemaker and raising her family, she worked as a purchasing agent for the Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg. She was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Sodality at the church. In her spare time, she enjoyed cooking with her grandchildren, hanging with friends at the Emmitsburg Senior Center, crocheting, playing cards, and reading. She was a true Selfless Soul!

Her funeral was held October 28 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Emmitsburg with her pastor, the Rev. William M. Allegretto, C.M. officiating. Interment was in the New St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Emmitsburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be offered in Mrs. Warthen's name to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 47 DePaul Street, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Online condolences may be offered at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

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Both Justin and James remained in contact over the years and in 2021 an opportunity came that would help benefit them both. A relocation for Justin and his wife, Anne, drew their family out-of-state to North Platte, Nebraska. With this move and by the grace of God, it became a priority for Justin to transfer ownership of the funeral home to an experienced professional. He had just the right trusted friend in mind.

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

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

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Cemeteries tell Taneytown's story

David Buie

Taneytown was first settled by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who were either natives of the northern part of Ireland or descendants of those who came to Pennsylvania very early in the settlement of the colonies. They bore names like Gwynn, McKaleb, McKellip, Galt, Birnie, and others, and became active in formation of Piney Creek Presbyterian Church which stands today along the road connecting Taneytown to Harney.

Colonel John K. Longwell, a native of Adams County, "emigrated" to Maryland as a young man and married into one of those pioneer families, the McKalebs. In other words, to be definite, his wife was Sarah McKaleb. The late Edward McPherson, statesman and historian, knew Colonel Longwell quite well and thought highly of his ability both as an editor and "concerned citizen." Mr. McPherson, in his historical and genealogical writings, often consulted Colonel Longwell and gave his old friend and neighbor full credit for his help in "untying many a knotty tangle." The McKalebs and Longwells attended Piney Creek Presbyterian Church, and many were buried in its graveyard.

One can only speculate on what brought the Longwell and McKaleb families together, but a walk through the cemetery at the church reveals many family connections.

The first two graves in the plot at Piney Creek are those of the Longwell family. The Longwells originally settled in what is now Adams County and Colonel John K. Longwell wrote several interesting sketches about the good people of Gettysburg—of his day and generation.

"In memory of John K. Longwell, born October 18, 1810, died April 8, 1896."

"In memory of Sarah McKaleb, wife of John K. Longwell, born January 16, 1814, died December 1, 1898."

"Sacred to the memory of Margaret Ann Ege, wife of Andrew G. Ege, Esq., and daughter of Major John McKaleb, died January 22, 1851, aged 38 years, 2 months, and 26 days." (The young bride for whom the elegant mansion "Antrim" was built. She and her sister, Sarah McKaleb Longwell are buried beside each other in Piney Creek Cemetery.)

"In memory of Sallie Longwell, daughter of John K. and Sallie McKaleb Longwell, born February 10, 1845, died June 22, 1905."

"In memory of Jennie Longwell, daughter of John K. and Sallie McKaleb Longwell, died September 11, 1854, aged 12 years."

"Sacred to the memory of Joseph Augustus Longwell, son of John K. and Sallie McKaleb Longwell, died September 6, 1854, aged 6 years." (Brother of Jennie Longwell. The siblings died within a week of each other. Such incidents were comparatively common in the nineteenth century.)

"In memory of John E. McKaleb Longwell, son of John K. and Sallie McKaleb Longwell, died June 18, 1830, aged 10 years." (A third child of John and Sarah Longwell who died relatively young.)

"In memory of Sarah J. Longwell, who died January 5, 1882, aged 66 years."

"In memory of Margaret Longwell, died August 7, 1879, aged 62 years."

"Sacred to the memory of William Thomson, died July 4, 1800, aged 89 years." (From the information on his tombstone, William Thomson was born in 1711. He lived through several critical periods of history and took an active part, according to tradition, in at least one of the early struggles in which this country was involved. He was reputedly a frontier ranger during the French and Indian War, although no record has substantiated this. Just how the Thomsons are related to the McKalebs is not known, but since they are interred in the same plot at Piney Creek, some degree of relationship must have existed.)

"In memory of John McKillip, died March 19, 1834, aged 80 years." (A sea captain who arrived in Taney-



The headstone of Captain John McKillip

town in 1780 and left many offspring. There is reason to believe that at an earlier date, the name "McKaleb" might have been spelled "McKellip/McKellip." Both versions are found in the cemetery, which lends substance and foundation to what would otherwise be only a surmise. According to a reliable tradition, John McKellip took part in the American Revolution and is remembered as a patriot.

"In memory of Ann McKillip, wife of John McKillip, died December 14, 1827, aged 64 years." (Genealogy is filled with "surmise" and traditions. To the exact degree, memories and relationships are sometimes lost over the years, and it is often assumed that "such was the case," or "it must have been that way." The Thomson and the McKillip/McKellip family tradition points to intermarriage —Ann

McKillip, the wife of John McKillip, was a daughter of William Thomson. This may well be true, for several factors seem to bear it out, not the least of which is the location of the graves in the family plot.)

"In memory of John McKellip, son of John and Mary McKellip, died July 1803, aged 15 months."

"Sacred to the memory of Sarah Jane McKellip, daughter of James and Mary A. McKellip, born September 6, 1843, died March 8, 1844."

"In memory of James McKellip, died May 4, 1859, aged 55 years."

The cemeteries of Taneytown tell the story of the history of the town. It is up to us, as citizens, to preserve the stories found there before it is too late!

David Buie is a Taneytown resident who has a passion for Carroll County and its place in history.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

November 3

Lightning Strike

On Tuesday morning, lightning struck the telephone wire connected to Dr. Brawner's house and ran down the ground wire, tearing a number of bricks from John Jackson's pavement, and broke several panes of glass. Dr. Brawner, was in his office at the time, and received a slight shock.

George Gingell Killed In Mill Accident

George Gingell, of Zora, was killed on Tuesday morning while oiling the machinery at his mill. It is not known just how it happened but in some way he was caught in the shaft and was found by H. C. Harner, who had gone to the mill for feed. One of the largest assemblies of persons for a funeral in Southwestern Adams County gathered at Elias Lutheran Church, demonstrating the high opinion in which all who knew him, held Mr. Gingell. He was an enterprising businessman and widely known as having been in the milling business for more than a quarter of a century. He was the proprietor of the Bell and Liberty Mills in Zora. He was considered by the residents as a leader in anything for the betterment of the community.

Mischievous Young Men

On Tuesday night a few young men were inclined to be mischievous. They set fire to a corn fodder shock, in Mr. Rock's field in Harney and burned it up. The shock contained 25 bundles and would have fed a horse or a cow for some time. We are greatly surprised to think that the parties concerned would stoop so low as to destroy a man's property, without any cause.

New Engine For Power Plant

A new oil-burning engine for the Thurmont power plant is being placed into position. The transfer of the engine from the railroad to the powerhouse was a well-executed piece of work. It weighs 10 tons, and it was taken from the car, loaded on a truck, hauled to the powerhouse and placed on the ground in three hours without the slightest mess up or near accident.

Sentence Suspended

At a hearing before the Justice of the Peace in Thurmont, Frank McAllister, of near Foxville, who was charged with assault and battery on three young men; two brothers named McAfee, and a young man name Willard, was found not guilty and the charges dismissed. The three young men were found guilty of trespassing on the McAllister property and where paroled on their good behavior. The judge directed that the boys keep away from the McAllister property and any future misconduct on their part would result in their arrest and a good horse whipping.

The alleged assault took place about two weeks ago, during which one of the McAfee boys received a load of birdshot in his left leg and side from the gun fired by McAlester. The latter charge that the young man came to his house and after frightening his wife acted in a suspicious matter about his premises. He said he fired two shots

from his gun to frighten them away. The last shot took effect in the left leg and side of one the McAfee boy. It is said that about 26 small shots were taken from the side and leg of the victim. The young men disclaimed any intention of frightening Mrs. McAllister and declared that they were about to leave the premises when McAllister appeared with his gun and fired at them. After the first shot one of the McAfee boys took refuge behind a shock of corn, a part of his body however was exposed and he received a portion of the charge from the gun.

November 10

Pigs For Sale

For sale: Big type registered Duroc pigs. The sire of these pigs was selected by the Adams County Farm Agent, as herd boar for the Boys' Pig Club, Fairfield. Their dam, Princess Auburn, a granddaughter of the United States champion, is a far sight prettier than my wife, who is making me sleep in the pigsty, which is why I'm getting rid of the pigs as they are keeping me up all night, (although they do smell better than my wife). Contact Walter Kugler, Fairfield.

Home Burns

Last Saturday evening, a very short time after the family had left for Thurmont, the home of Mr. John Wireman, of Catocin Furnace was totally destroyed by fire. Mr. Wireman says that there was absolutely no fire about the house when he left and is unable in any way to account for it.

Another Motorcycle Collision

While Charles Ohler and family were going home from church in their auto, last Sunday morning, a motorcyclist going at rapid speed ran around and in front of their car to make a turn to the Gettysburg Road, and in doing so caught the left front wheel of the car, breaking it off, and causing the Ohler car to swerve to the left against a telephone pole, when it was further badly damaged.

The motorcyclist proceeded on his way without stopping, but was pursued by Mr. Ohler and Mervin Ashenfelter on a motorcycle, who overtook him east of Harney. He first denied that he was the person wanted, but finally admitted it, giving what is claimed was an assumed name and a home address in Hanover and promise to come to Taneytown, on Monday, to make up the damages to Mr. Ohler's car. As yet, he has not made his appearance, and no arrest has been made. It is a common report that the young man is well known in Taneytown.

November 17

Early Vote In County Light

Fair weather throughout Adams County brought a good number of voters to the polls, more than that showed up at the primaries. Women were especially prominent at the polls throughout the county and especially in Fairfield, where the number of women exceeded the men voters 534. According to one woman in Fair-

field, the lack of men turning out was a direct result of bogus flyers put up by women promoting the opening of a new still on Jack's Mountain, offering free drinks to all well-wishers. By the time husbands had realized they had once again been outwitted by the more formidable female brain, voting had closed and candidates supportive of suffrage and prohibition where well on their way to victory.

Emmitsburg To Drill For Oil

Confident that the indications are that beneath the surface of the land on his place an area of coal, oil and gas is located, Edward Fitzgerald, who lives at 'Havillah,' along the Gettysburg Road just be on the corporate limits of Emmitsburg, has organized the Havillah Coal, Oil and Gas Company which will commence at once, according to Mr. Fitzgerald, to drill a well expect to bring the hidden resources to the surface. He stated that a number of local parties, including himself, who are impressed with the possibilities suggestions by finding traces of coal and oil on his farm, have become stockholders in the new company, the charter for which has been written and the necessary paper work for a corporation drawn up. No stock is being offered to the public at this time said Mr. Fitzgerald, but he indicated that later on the company might let a few people in on the project.

To Speak On Chinese Heathens

On Saturday evening Miss Mary Firor, who has been a missionary in China since 1916 and who is now home on furlough, will speak in the Reformed Church, Thurmont on her experiences in China and dealing with the needs of the heathens in that country. Everyone is invited to come.

November 24

Cataract Removed

William Zentz, has returned from the Baltimore Eye, Ear and Throat hospital where he has been for two weeks. Mr. Zentz had had trouble with his eye for sometime but apparently not serious. A cataract began to form and a few weeks ago he became blind in that eye. An examination at the hospital showed one eye considerably harder than the other. The eye was then treated until it became softened enough to operate, when the

Children Cry for Fletcher's

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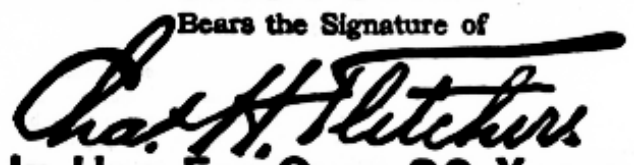
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cataract was removed. A strong magnet was applied to the cataract after its removal and a piece of steel the size of the head of a pin was found to have been embedded there in. Mr. Zentz has no idea when the steel entered his eye, as he has no remembrance of any time suffering any inconveniences. The operation has relieved his troubles as he can now see well enough to get around; and with the aid of glasses he can read fine print, and in time expects to have normal use of his eyes.

Rumored Bus Line

There is a rumor of a new line between Emmitsburg and Gettysburg to connect with the bus line from Gettysburg to Harrisburg and it is understood plans have been made for permit from the public service commission to operate such a line. The idea seems to please the Emmitsburg people as placing them within a two-hour ride of Harrisburg.

Child Scalded

Ralph Shearrer, infant son of Mr. and

Mrs. Charles Shearrer of Thurmont, was badly burned on Saturday. Mrs. Shearrer had just killed a chicken and sent one of her little girls into the house for the kettle of hot water. Little Ralph's older brother took the kettle and was taking it to his mother, swinging it as he went. Some of the water was spilled, striking Ralph about the face, the chest and legs. The injuries about his chest were most serious. He is getting along very well.

Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day, in Taneytown, was extremely quiet as the weather was on its bad behavior the entire day. The union service in the Presbyterian Church, in the morning, was well attended; as was also the wedding of Howard Roop and Miss. Clara Hockensmith, in the Lutheran Church, in the afternoon; and the supper in Saint Joseph's Hall, in the evening.

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



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COOKING

Our daily bread

Kathy Jo Serfass
Hollabaugh Brothers Farm Market

There's nothing quite like the aroma of freshly baked bread. And what would Thanksgiving dinner be without stuffing or rolls? I have to admit that, as I've gotten older, I have become much fonder of different kinds of breads and more adventurous in trying my hand at baking them. There is something very relaxing about kneading a bread by hand, and once you've started down this slippery slope, you'll find yourself trying out all sorts of recipes and adding various types of herbs and seasonings.

Bread is arguably the most universal of all foods. Every country in the world has some type of bread as part of its traditions. Often, we think of the agricultural revolution as having begun with the advent of bread-making. However, people have been making some form of bread for at least the last 23,000 years. Of course, the first breads were unleavened and used wild forms of grains. By 12,000 years ago, grains were being domesticated, grown, and harvested.

Today, many types of bread are made by using yeast as a leavening agent. There are different kinds of yeast that can be used for baking including active dry yeast, instant yeast, fresh yeast, and even osmotolerant yeast. Just don't use nutritional yeast, as it has been deactivated. The following recipes include some that use prepared pizza dough, no yeast, instant yeast, and active dry yeast. Try your hand at any or all of them and enjoy the smell of freshly baked

bread in your own home.

Pull-Apart Stuffing Rolls (just in time for Thanksgiving)

Ingredients

4 tablespoons butter, divided
8 ounces breakfast sausage, removed from casings
1 small onion, finely chopped (about ¾ cup)
1 rib of celery, finely chopped (about ½ cup)
4 medium cloves of garlic, finely chopped
¼ cup minced fresh sage leaves
¼ cup minced fresh parsley leaves
Salt and pepper to taste
1 pound of store-bought pizza dough
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

Preparation Instructions: Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add sausage and mash to break up into fine pieces. Cook, stirring frequently, until a few bits of pink remain, about 8 minutes. Add onion, celery, garlic, and sage and cook, stirring frequently, until vegetables are softened, about 10 minutes. Add parsley and season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer contents to a large bowl and set aside until completely cool. While filling cools, make knots with the dough. On a lightly floured surface, divide the dough into 2 even pieces. Working with one piece at a time, roll or stretch into an oblong strip about 8 inches long and 4 inches wide. With a knife, cut crosswise into 12 strips. Repeat with other half of the dough.

Tie each strip into a knot and transfer to bowl with sausage mixture. Toss and fold with your hands until every knot is thoroughly coated in sausage mixture. Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking dish with 1 tablespoon butter. Transfer knots to baking dish in a single layer. Drizzle with olive oil, cover tightly with plastic, and set aside until doubled in size, about 4 hours. Preheat oven to 425 F. Unwrap rolls and transfer to center rack of oven. Bake until golden brown and crisp, about 25-30 minutes. When rolls are almost ready, melt remaining tablespoon of butter in the microwave or on stovetop. Remove rolls from oven and immediately brush on butter. Serve and enjoy.

Rosemary Buttermilk Quick Bread

Note: a quick bread uses baking powder and/or baking soda as a leavening agent. No yeast or kneading is required.

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
2-3 teaspoons garlic powder
¾ cup fresh shredded parmesan cheese
1 cup buttermilk
¼ cup canola oil
1 large egg
1 heaping teaspoon fresh chopped rosemary

Preparation Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, garlic powder, and parmesan cheese. Whisk together and set aside. In a small bowl, combine buttermilk, egg, and canola oil. Whisk briefly until fluffy. Pour the mixture into the bowl containing flour/parmesan cheese mixture. Fold together with a spatula until flour is completely mixed in. Gently fold in fresh rosemary. Batter will be very moist and shaggy. Pour into a 1.5-quart loaf pan that has been sprayed well with non-stick spray. Sprinkle lightly with chopped rosemary. Bake for 45 minutes. Loaf is done when a knife inserted in center comes out clean and outside is golden. Cool for 10 minutes and remove from loaf pan. Slice and serve warm.

Bread Rolls with Green Onions

Ingredients

½ cup milk, at room temperature (plus 1 tablespoon for egg



wash)
¼ cup butter, softened at room temperature
2 large eggs, divided
1 teaspoon instant yeast
2 teaspoons granulated sugar
1 teaspoon salt
2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
¼ cup green onions, finely chopped
1 tablespoon salt flakes (for topping)
1 tablespoon white sesame seeds (for topping)

Preparation Instructions: In a large bowl, add milk, butter, one egg, yeast, sugar, and salt together. Mix well with a spatula to combine, about one minute. The butter might be a little crumbly in the mixture. Add flour and stir well to combine until there are no dry flour particles visible in the bowl. Add chopped green onions and slowly fold into dough. Make sure green onions are dry before folding them in. Transfer dough onto a clean and lightly greased surface. Push dough down and outward using the palms of your hands. Fold dough in half toward you and press down. Repeat this motion by pushing dough down and outward, and then fold over towards you. Continue kneading and folding dough until it is smooth and not sticky. This should take less than 5 minutes. The kneading is done if, when giving the dough a firm poke with your finger, the indentation bounces back. Next, roll the ball of dough into a log and divide it into 15 equal pieces with a knife. Cover the dough with a damp cloth or cling wrap to prevent drying out. Take one piece at a time, and shape into a smooth ball. Flatten ball,

fold over, and press all edges into the center. Turn it over and cup the dough in your palm, making circular motions. Roll each piece into a smooth ball. Arrange the dough balls on a parchment-lined baking tray. Cover tray with aluminum foil. Let the rolls rest and rise for one hour. The rolls should almost double in size. Preheat oven to 375 F. In a small bowl, whisk together remaining egg and 1 tablespoon milk. Apply egg wash on each roll and sprinkle with salt flakes and sesame seeds. Apply egg wash a second time. Bake for 20 minutes or until tops are golden brown in color. Let rolls cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes before serving.

Homemade Artisan Bread

Ingredients

3 ¼ cups bread flour, plus more for hands and pan (you can use all-purpose flour, but bread flour will make a stronger, chewier, better-tasting bread)
2 teaspoons active dry yeast (you can also use instant yeast)
2 teaspoons coarse salt
1 and ½ cups lukewarm water

Preparation Instructions: To give the yeast a head start, dissolve it in lukewarm water and let it sit until frothy, about 10 minutes. In a large un-greased mixing bowl, add the flour, yeast, and salt and gently mix together with a rubber spatula or wooden spoon. Shape into a ball as best as you can. Cover the dough tightly with plastic wrap and set on counter at room temperature. Allow to rise for several hours, until the dough has almost doubled in size. Lightly dust a large nonstick baking sheet with flour or cornmeal. Gently work the dough into a smooth ball, stretching the surface and tucking the ends underneath. (Don't overwork the dough; this process should only take about 30 seconds.) Put the dough ball onto the prepared baking sheet and let it rest at room temperature, uncovered, for 40 minutes. Preheat oven to 450 F. Score the loaf with 3 slashes. Place the baking sheet on the center rack and bake for 25-30 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

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

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MOMS' TIME OUT

It takes a village!

Mary Angel

Have you ever heard the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child"? For those of you who haven't heard this phrase, it simply means that it is important to have help raising a child. This could be family, friends, a church, or any group that supports you in your efforts to raise your children. When did I learn it takes a village to raise a child? Actually I learned that from the word "go." Then, every time I forget it, something happens to remind me.

When I gave birth to my first child it was a tough go for all three of us. I was going through my first delivery of a baby that I would soon find out was built like Charlie Brown (picture a large head and a small body). My husband was watching me in a lot of pain and our first baby struggling to come into the world. Last, but certainly not least, was our big-headed son trying not to come into the world while the doctors tried everything in their power to convince him to appear. When it was finally over I ended up with a beautiful baby boy and nerve damage in my leg. This meant that unless I locked my knee when I stood, I would quickly end up on the floor.

When we were getting ready to leave the hospital, both the Grandmas offered to come stay with us while we learned to be parents for the first time. My husband graciously declined, then on the car ride home he explained how ridiculous the offer was to him. He was actually almost arrogant as he questioned how difficult it could really be to take care of a newborn that doesn't move from the spot you sit him. At two in the morning our little bundle of joy let out with a cry that led us to believe he was in pain; we soon discovered that new born babies over-exaggerate their desire to be fed. While my husband went to the bathroom, I got the baby to feed him. Unfortunately, someone who is new to nerve damage apparently forgets they have that problem when they are suddenly awakened at 2 in the morning. As I got the baby from the bassinet and turned to walk to the bed, I fell to the floor with a loud bang. My husband came running, but he couldn't see us because I had fallen on the far side of the bed. I immediately responded to his screams of, "where are you" with my hysterical response of, "The baby is fine and we are over here!"

After he got us both back in bed, he questioned, "What the hell was the hospital thinking letting us bring this baby home?" and "What were we thinking?" First thing in the morning, he called both moms and explained what had happened. He set up a schedule so that we were not alone any evenings for the next few weeks. I was also forbidden from standing, walking, or anything else, except sitting with the baby. We thought caring for a newborn would mean a little less sleep, but we soon discovered that teamwork makes the dream work (a nod to my girls).

Throughout their young years, as I kept having child after child after child, and my husband started to travel for work, I once again realized that

child rearing didn't have to be a solo concert. Four children age eight and under, and I was alone frequently. This is when I discovered the joy of having other moms to do life with. Having other moms who have got your back can give you support when you need it, empathy when you are struggling, and a cheer squad when you have a triumph. Without my mom squad (yes, my kids hate when I say this) I am not sure I would have made it through all of the ups and downs.

As my kids grow up the village grows and changes. At the beginning my village was simply my husband and then the grandparents and I couldn't have survived without them. Then, my village grew to include preschool moms. When my kids hit their teenage years I still had the grandparents and the preschool moms, but I added some teachers and a new best friend.

The reasons I needed support were different, but somehow the same. When the kids were little, sometimes I just needed a girls' night out with some adult conversation. There were also many times when what I needed from my village was advice. How to get the kids to do their homework, to helping them with a homework

problem, to relationship issues; these were just a few of the school aged issues that my village guided me through. Other times, the village was there to support the kids, not me. As blessed as I am that my kids talk to me about almost everything, sometimes they just needed to get another perspective. They would often say, "You have to say I am smart or pretty or funny, you're my mom". Whenever they questioned my bias they knew they had a "village" to turn to for an unbiased evaluation. They also knew that there was a "village" if they simply needed more help than their mom could give them with their homework.

Whether you just need friends and family to give you a night out and adult conversation, or advice on how to parent a teenage girl, make sure you have a village to support you. Also, remember that a village can take any form; friends, family, teachers, pastor, youth leader, bible study group, co-workers, even my dog when the kids are in bed and my husband is at work and I just need someone to talk to. Don't forget to thank your village!

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



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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

FASD appoints new superintendent

Months of searching concluded as October's Fairfield Area School District (FASD) board meeting named Thomas Haupt the new Superintendent. Haupt was unanimously approved at a special board meeting, replacing Michael Adamek who has served as superintendent for the past three years.

School district officials were anxious to appoint an interim superintendent be until February or until Haupt's current contact agreement as Superintendent at the Millersburg Area School District ends (he has must provide a 60-to-90-day notice).

Until Haupt can assume his role, the Board unanimous named Dr. Larry Redding as interim superintendent to ensure "continuity of

direction and some assistance in decision making," according to Dr. Larry Redding.

Redding said he looked forward to coordinating efforts and working with the entire staff to "Keep the district both oars in the water, moving forward," he said. Redding retired as the Gettysburg Area School District superintendent in 2017 where he was superintendent for 12 years.

October also saw the retirement of Fairfield Elementary Principal Barbara Richwine who served the school district for over 15 years. "Education is a very rewarding experience. If people feel the calling to come into this type of service, I encourage them to do so," she said.

Richwine credited the entire school district family as amazing aspects of her years of service. "I found a lot of joy in my teaching career. It's all for the students," she said.

As a school principal, and as any member of the school district staff from teachers, to building aids, to custodians, "You do a little bit of everything, we wear many hats. It's truly a team effort, and Fairfield does show that spirit," Richwine said. Richwine now looks forward to spending time with her family.

Colleen Rebert was approved in July to be Richwine successor. Rebert previously taught at Biglerville Elementary in Upper Adams School District.

Emmitsburg Community Chorus to perform at Basilica

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus rings in its latest season with a free performance at the historic Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 28. Under the direction of Peggy Flickinger, the 18-voice group includes members from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The concert features several classic holiday favorites, such as Carol of the Bells, Jingle Bells, and Silent Night, as well a range of other seasonal selections. Selections include Come and See What's Hap-

penin' in the Barn; Come On, Ring Those Bells; Glad Noel; God's Gift of Love; He Is Here; I Wish You Christmas; Noel; Prepare Ye the Way; The Promised One; Ring Out the Bells; Ring Those Christmas Bells; Rockin' in Bethlehem; and Unto Us a Son Is Born.

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus was founded in 1966. Thanks to a grant from the Frederick Arts Council, all concerts are free and open to the public. Freewill offerings will be accepted at the Basilica concert.

Library events

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

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

on Monday and Friday.

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

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

Musical Thursday with Dave -

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

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

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

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

Frederick County Public Library

Nov. ushers in many changes both in and out of the library! Outdoors brings falling leaves, shorter days, and cooler temperatures; inside brings the launching of our new integrated library system (ILS) and catalog! The new system, called Carl X, will provide better functionality and a more intuitive, user-friendly experience. The new system features recommendations similar to Netflix's open source software for more personalized suggestions. It also allows patrons to opt in for text messages alerting them of holds and overdue notifications. FCPS uses the system as well, so students are already experienced in navigating the catalog. FCPL will migrate to Carl X over the Thanksgiving weekend and all library branches will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25 through Sunday,

Nov. 28, to allow for the change.

Nov. is National Family Literacy Month and what better way to celebrate than reading. Reading to and with children encourages a life-long love of reading. Taking time to read 20 minutes a day exposes children to 1.8 million words per year, greatly increasing their success at learning and school. Gather the family and visit the library for an outdoor storytime; check out new titles and old favorites, and find a cozy place to read!

While the weather may be cooler and crisper, outdoor programming continues to flourish at the Northern County libraries. Visit Thurmont Regional Library for our grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Library Loop Nature Trail on Saturday, Nov. 20, 10:30 a.m. The event kicks off with comments from local, elected officials followed by guided tours of the Library Loop and Trolley Trail. Additional outdoor programs on the deck or alongside the Nature Trail at TRL include:

- Nov. 2, 9, 16; Baby Storytime; 10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 2, 9, 16, In Touch with Nature Series Along the Library Nature Trail, (Elementary); 11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 3, 10, 17, Toddler Storytime; 10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 3, 10, 17, Toddler Nature Art (Birth-5); 11:15 a.m.
- Nov. 4, Preschool Storytime with AARCH; 10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 18, Preschool Storytime, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Emmitsburg Branch hosts a family storytime on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 on the front lawn.

Nov. offers us opportunities to give thanks and gratitude towards our family, friends, neighbors. Library staff in the Northern County branches are grateful for our role in sparking excitement and building bridges to connect our community to their educational, informational, and entertainment needs. Thank you to all of our past and present Veterans and have a safe, and wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday.

- Nov. 1, Owl Pellet Dissection on the Deck for Teens; 11 a.m.

Get Ready For Winter Driving



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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Schools

Karen Yoho
Frederick County School Board

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), our state association, held its annual conference last month and many of our board members were able to attend. It is always good to network with our colleagues around the state and compare notes. I know that our members have expressed pride in how FCPS is seen around the state. Other school systems frequently tap into our personnel because of their exemplary reputations and knowledgebase. Former board member, Joy Schaefer, joined us one evening as she received MABE's Distinguished School Board Service Award, a well-deserved honor.

At our October 13th meeting, the board voted to reduce quarantine measures after learning that the state health department was issuing recommendations as opposed to requirements. Dr. Brookmyer of the Frederick County Health Department was there to answer our questions. We learned that only 2% of our students are proving to test positive for Covid-19. This means that many students are out of school unnecessarily. Board President Mason made a motion that would now require quarantine and contact tracing only for unmasked students exposed to someone for 15-minutes cumulative time who later tested positives.

The example Dr. Alban gave was of a middle school student who would have seven classes and lunch. This would provide contact with twenty or more students a day, each one needing to be traced, usually by an administrator. Our new motion would greatly decrease the

number of close contacts since it is most often only lunch when students are unmasked during a regular school day. Several Maryland school systems had already made this modification and the number of students they now needed to quarantine had drastically reduced. While most communications we've received on this matter are in support, a few parents have expressed concern. We can assure them that if we start to see the number of infections rise, we will call an emergency meeting to reinstate our previous protocols. Our primary goal is to keep students in school in the safest manner possible.

Recently, we've received a few comments or emails stating that we are not listening to parents. Those that give public comment during our televised/streamed meetings are the ones people are most aware of. However, the most popular form of communication is email and the public would not be privy to those communications most of the time. Additionally, besides parents, we hear from many staff members, as well as students and a community members here or there. When we hear from our Student Member of the Board (SMOB), he or she has taken the opportunity to survey other students. It is our job to listen to as many sources as possible and then do what each of us feels is in the best interest of our students.

October 11-15 was National School Lunch Week. It was also a week with a teacher workday and conferences. So, the following week, board members were invited to help serve lunch for a day. Mr. Young visited Walkersville High and I went to Lincoln Elementary. The two hours of time I was there was a whirlwind of activity with lit-

tle downtime. I also didn't have to help with preparation or clean up. We are so indebted to our food nutrition service employees. One of the people I worked beside had been a bus driver for 21 years but had now chosen to work in a school cafeteria so she could be home when her granddaughter gets out of school. She also convinced her own daughter to become one of her co-workers. We greatly appreciate their service to FCPS. We are also in need of both bus drivers and food nutrition workers, as well as substitute teachers and special education teachers. Anyone who has watched the news recently is aware of these shortages around the country. If you or someone you know is interested in working for FCPS, please have them go to our website or call 301-644-5000.

Sabillasville Elementary will be on upcoming agendas for a variety of reasons. With concern over dwindling enrollment numbers, it has for years been up for discussion concerning closing the school. A group of intrepid SES parents have worked diligently to put together an application to become a charter school. That is issue one. They received conditional approval on September 8 for the Sabillasville Environmental Public Charter School (SEPCS). Two major conditions for this are to have 161 students enrolled by December (this is the minimum number of students needed for financial feasibility), and, as with any charter school, that they obtain a facility.

Of course, they would prefer to keep the school in its present location with the students who currently attend. This is where it starts to get complicated. The concept of a conversion charter

would make this transition easy and smooth. The problem is it is not clear that we have the legal ability to grant this option. This is issue two. After receiving advice from an education attorney, our board is due to discuss this at the Oct. 27 meeting, which will occur after submission of this article. We then plan to have the SEPCS as a conversion charter on the November 10 agenda to give the public time to comment on this matter before we vote on it that evening. There are several other potential issues that may or may not surface depending on how the dominos fall, so I will leave it there for now and include updates as they occur.

The main thing is for those interested in this topic to stay alert for the next few months and be prepared to give the board input.

November board meetings are on our usual second Wednesday, Nov. 10, but our other monthly meeting will be moved to the Monday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 22. Report cards will be issued on the 5th. Winter sports begin on the 15th. To those that celebrate, may you have a fun and festive Diwali, a Thanksgiving filled with family and great food, and a happy Hanukkah! And here's hoping we all survive the time change on November 7th.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our writers to reflect on the Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Days, which ended World War One.

Freshman

True pacifism has never been tried

Jack Daly
MSMU Class of 2025

The scenes of World War One need no introduction. The images of the British Tommies climbing from their trenches to near certain death on the muddy, shelled-out fields of Flanders are indelibly etched into the Western mind. It was, of course, the most devastating event the world had yet seen, and the peace for which so many longed did not follow. As the anniversary of the war's end quickly approaches, it would be wise for Americans to remember our past and future conflicts that manifest in wars, such as the one from over a century ago, and how they will remain a part of human history, so long as there is human history.

During the First World War, many people, especially among the Allies, adopted a millenarian outlook on the conflict. It was a call to action, which at last pulled the European elite from the prevailing ennui. One of these excited intellectuals was British author H. G. Wells, who is responsible for perhaps the biggest misnomer in history. Hoping to invigorate national morale, he

famously dubbed the struggle, "The war that will end all other wars." This title gained a popularity that Wells could have never imagined, even being repeated by U.S. President, and progressive visionary Woodrow Wilson as he outlined his plan for a lasting peace. It was an expression of the hope that civilization could emerge from the war changed, and free of that age old horror.

Change certainly came, and brought with it the machine gun, artillery bombardment, and poison gas, as well as the old hardships attendant to war: cold, disease, and hunger. But the most dramatic change was the change in the soldiers' attitudes. The Roman poet Horace had said, "It is sweet and fitting to die for the homeland," but when the poet Wilfred Owen reflected on the suffering and death of a comrade, the antique motto was no more than "The Old Lie." To men like Owen, the tradition of exalting those who had served heroically was simply how the foolish perpetuated the deaths of the naïve.

The post-war intelligentsia reflected this exasperation in their new, and not all together glorious, ways of thinking about life and art. They had no will to fight, and could see no reason for fighting. It was insisted that peace had been achieved. Violence dragged on in Central Europe; they must have

not gotten the memo. Millions died in the USSR. Surely peace would continue. Storm clouds gathered in Italy and Germany. Never again should there be a battle like Verdun, like the Somme!

It goes without saying that war is a temperamental subject, and so, feeling that the opinion of a callow writer might be inadequate for a topic of such gravitas, I reached out to a couple of Mount-community members I know who are directly tied to the matter.

My great-uncle, Fr. Jerome Daly is a graduate of the seminary on campus, but before his call to the priesthood, he served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Vietnam War. Like the First World War, Vietnam has become known for the various social movements that surrounded it which called for peace, even on the enemy's terms, and the reimagining of society.

Fr. Daly, however, is of a different persuasion than the anti-war protesters, saying that he views his time in the military, "very well." In response to my asking for his outlook on war, he replied that it is necessary: "as a last resort, when diplomacy fails, as it often does." He said further that the public's tendency to swing between isolationism, and calls for action following attacks is nothing new, and that

while everyone has a right to their opinions, combat is something that the civilian population generally does not understand. Speaking on the prospect of future conflicts, he remarked that war is not inevitable but takes morals to avoid.

The Mount also has a robust Reserve Officer Training Corps program, through which many students train diligently as they are shaped into new officers. Among them is Lorenzo DiVentura, who I had the pleasure of sitting down with in order to discuss the perspective of those in his station.

When I asked what had drawn him to the military, Lorenzo stated that it was something he's always wanted to do, a sentiment not unlike the throb of the heart ancient poets sang of, which calls a young man to war. Speaking of the likelihood of conflict in the near future, the cadet said that he "can't help but see it on the horizon," and yet even in light of recent complications, he is confident in the country's ability to wage war as the geopolitical focus shifts to "peer threats."

Though war has remained, the nation can take heart in the knowledge that the character of the American fighting man has remained just as well. In both conversations I had, there was a remarkable similarity. Both the men cited international

struggles as being an incurable part of human nature, something which can be traced back to the fall of man, from Eden. There remains a strong determined idea that war, with all its horrors, can be used to keep evil in check.

Today, people are still craving change, for the old devil, war, has remained in all his new and adapted ferocity. Many today would still insist that peace is simple. They say that if we stop fighting, our enemies will stop fighting, that no one actually wants to go to war, and so if we only sufficiently curb our aggression, peace is guaranteed. Even as reports of the terror and barbaric cruelty unleashed in Afghanistan after our withdrawal surfaced, countless believed peace had finally been secured, as though we are the only country that has ambitions, and the others merely react to the upsets we cause in the world.

Winston Churchill aptly summarized the folly of present-day pacifists when he said of those in his own day seeking to appease the ambitions of Adolf Hitler: "You were given the choice between war and dishonor. You chose dishonor and you will have war."

To read other articles by Jack Daly, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

Once a hopeful world

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Sit at my school desk, gripping my glittery mechanical pencil as my social studies teacher asks one of the most common philosophical questions one could ask (too philosophical for a fifth grader, in my opinion). In her high-pitched voice, she says, "If you had one wish, what would it be?"

It was a gut feeling, my answer to this question. I wrote the two words down in the corner of my notebook: "world peace." While other students responded with material things, things only they would benefit from, I contemplated the hopeful idea of harmony among countries, of wars ending and a feeling of kinship binding humanity together. After all, growing up in a post 9/11 world, I viewed violence as images flickering on a TV screen in my kitchen as I ate dinner, and I viewed war as something constantly threaded throughout our past and present. Because of this, I inevitably, and sadly enough, viewed "world peace" as a utopia, as hopeless, and as my teacher said, a wish.

But there was once a time that humanity hoped for, and somewhat attained, a warless world. When given the opportunity to research Armistice Day, the 11th of November in 1918 when an agreement was reached to stop fighting between Germany and the Allies in World War One, I couldn't help but find the idea of it so funny. It was funny in a sad way, in the kind of way you laugh about something

tragic in order to lighten the mood, or in the kind of way your heart recognizes and lets in that familiar feeling of terror you know all too well. Maybe I found it amusing because World War One was supposed to be "the war that ended all wars," as if for the rest of time, our world would be united by peace, would be a harmonious humanity founded upon accord. Perhaps if those troops who praised the ending of World War One were to see our society today, see the bloodshed of the second World War, see the tension of the Cold War, see the terrorist attacks threatening our own nation, they'd be shocked that their dream of a warless utopia would remain only that – a dream. Or maybe I found it amusing because I have normalized war. Much like our innate characteristics of curiosity, belonging, and empathy, conflict and rivalry have been equally universalized as something that humans simply do.

Yet is it natural for humans to have conflict? Many would respond with yes, stating how our differences are responsible for both the beautiful diversity as well as the disagreements of our world. Upon researching more information about Armistice Day, I learned how rather than a surrender, it was more of a negotiation, a method of attaining peace and ending war. How simple it must be, I thought, to come to terms like this. How simple must it be to place our differences aside and pursue such hilarious spirits of joy and hope that war is truly over. In my own opinion, conflict is natural; war is how we choose to manage conflict, and violence is often the way we pursue this.

As Plato says, "People regard the

same things, some as just and others as unjust – about these they dispute; and so there arise wars and fights among them." Solely from a philosophical perspective, it is important to recognize that everything existing externally from us is the same; it is the way we perceive these things, if they are just or unjust, good or bad, that brings about war. To be able to acknowledge these differences and still arrive at a peaceful agreement is profound, but to assume that World War One would be the "war to end all wars" is hopeful and, from a present-day perspective, naïve. I can imagine the sorrow that would be felt later on when World War Two and other conflicts arose. I can imagine the hurt, the failed promise of peace, the little children who were scarred with the everlastingness of war, like today's children, who see these images of violence and instinctively know it as such.

November 11th is now Veteran's Day. We celebrate the bravery, the courage, the boldness of those who are so willing to serve our country in the wars we choose to fight. Perhaps we have given up any hope that Armistice Day had to offer, and perhaps we have accepted a violent world so much that we have changed the 11th of November to support those who continuously fight our wars. Or maybe, perhaps it is all in our humanity, the nature of conflict. Perhaps Plato is right as to why wars occur, and perhaps world peace is truly just a pipe dream.

So why would my fifth-grade schoolteacher give me an assignment that encouraged me to wish for world peace? Why would she inspire my spirits, lend me hope

that harmony and grace among others are possible? Asking this means we ask anyone why they dream. If I could go back in time and live through those joyous spirits present on November 11th, 1918 – if I could experience that abounding relief, that intensity of optimism – I would ask the soldiers why they dreamed for world peace. I would ask why they faithfully believed World War One would be the last war we'd ever fight. I would ask how the armistice ended their misery, how they lived with such joy in times where it was desperately needed. And I would ask them how to live with that hope constantly, how I can look at our world today – our world of violence and war in Afghanistan and threats of

terrorism and political turmoil – and know deep down that everything will be okay.

As that innocent little fifth grader gripping her glittery pencil, I knew nothing about Armistice Day, but I could still imagine the hope of peace blossoming in the world. This is because sitting at my desk, I felt that same feeling while writing down my wish for the world. Perhaps one day, we will attain this. But for now, November 11th is a day of remembrance, honor, and respect for those who are brave and courageous enough to fight our continuous wars.

To read other articles by Claire Doll visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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VETERANS' DAY

Junior

In vain

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

I like war. I'm actually a practical pacifist and by nature drawn to the mitigations of conflicts, but in reality, I enjoy studying war from a historical and humanitarian perspective. War is nothing but conflict and conflict is nothing more than a misunderstanding or disorder of human needs and desires. I realize this description describes heavy emotional events and seems to minimize them to a mere disagreement; that is not my intention. The gravity of war, the bleak human condition it envelops, and the violent suffering of victims and survivors should never be understated. But it is this fact that even the smallest disordering of the human heart and mind can cause such grave suffering that ignites my academic interests.

I should specify that I major in Conflict, Peace, and Social Justice at the Mount so my interest and knowledge of the subject do not manifest immaterially. Seasoned readers of mine will know I bring up my childhood in Richmond

often because it had a strong influence on the way I view war, history, and violence. At the risk of boring those readers, I will mention it again. Perhaps Gettysburg natives will also share this same viewpoint.

I'm not sure what the outside perspective of Richmond, Virginia consists of, but I imagine it may involve the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, removal of statues, Civil Rights protests, and potentially some recent gubernatorial scandals. If it doesn't, and you're a curious mind, I recommend delving into the history and significance of the city. The Civil War has been given a lot of press in recent years for the unjust and racist values it involved, and this should continue. However, we are not taught in our history classes just how devastating this war was as a war itself. More Americans died in the Civil War than in World War I and World War II combined. I would like you to read that statement again. So, when we talk about Armistice Day, or now Veterans Day, on November 11th, my first thought is not of the War to End All Wars or European battlefields. I think of the more than 2% of the nation's population that died in those four years in our own backyard.

I won't engage in a debate on what

brought the nation to war, but we know it involved money, power, state identity, and racism. We all want money, at least enough to live comfortably upon. We all want a degree of power, enough to prevent being taken advantage of or manipulated. We identify, to a degree, with the localities that formed us. We can never fully understand the lived experiences of other people regardless of what their differences are. Yet, I would imagine most of us would not be willing to kill our neighbors to protect these ideals. Moreover, I imagine we wouldn't be willing to die for them.

So why do we? My experience in working in teams and project planning has shown me how hard it can be to get a group of people all moving in the same direction. I cannot get five people to agree on something; the Civil War got more than 600,000 people to agree that these ideals were worth dying for. Is it any wonder that we still feel the effects of this today? War, and what drives humans to it, is a powerful force which turns deadly, destructive, and demolishes everything in its path. I don't wonder why Richmond still harbors the tensions of the Civil War; I just wonder when it will end.

But war isn't always battlefield

combat. Even during peace time, we've always been at war: on terror, on drugs, on poverty, and on crime. I realize that these are structurally different than stereotypical wars, as in the first half of the twentieth century. However, I have never lived in a world where we were not at war.

I refuse to believe that having this term engrained into our society has no impact on us. To be at war means that there is an enemy. To have an enemy means there is someone in opposition to our ideals, an "other" category. An "other" category creates the mindset that this fundamental opposition represents inferiority or superiority. These could be based on money, power, state identity, racism, and other ideals. Do cycles end the same way they began? No, they continue unceasingly.

Consolidating social issues into militaristic battles is not the sole method of mediation. It puts it into terms of failure and success, winning and losing, with a clear end in sight. When you help someone, you have not failed. Saving people from militant destruction, subhuman living conditions, life threatening addictions, and criminal violence is never a failure. There are always losses with war; I would like

to think of social efforts in terms of gains. How many lives can we save instead of losing? How much can we build up instead of breaking down? What more can we give instead of taking away? This is the "war" effort I would like to ascribe to.

I still believe that serving in the military is one of the noblest professions in existence. Veterans deserve our respect and appreciation for all that they sacrifice and stand to protect. This admiration should not be allocated only to the Big Three: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day. Thanking our veterans and soldiers should never end. There is no shame in dying for what you believe in, but martyrdom should not come with further destruction, desolation, and violence. These dead, in all wars past and present, should not have died in vain, with further battles being waged in the same wars they fought.

I dream of a world without terror, drugs, crime, and poverty. I would like a world for all of us free from oppression, violence, and greed. But most of all, I want to live in a world without war.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

So gallantly streaming

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

At the beginning of the fourth stanza of Francis Scott Key's "Star Spangled Banner," the poet references war for the second time in the work. He says, "O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand / Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!"

This powerful line comes at the climax of the ballad. Key mentions the unmentionable, the dreaded topic of violent conflict into which men so often fall. The word is broached, though, in a secure position, within the context of a valiant person looking into the distance and seeing the glorious standard waving among the rubble.

Like all effective works of poetry, the work serves as an extended metaphor. In this case, the flag is a symbol of the endurance of pious patriotism amid the challenges of civic life. Key points to a thing outside of and above himself, his fellow citizens, and even the combined group of people that together make up the social identity of his nation. For Key, the flag represents an enduring hope. Without this hope, the value of the flag would bear no value greater than its fabric.

The flag does not represent a promise or a contract, an absolute assurance of success. If we were sure of our victory or the success of our identity, the flag would not be necessary. It is because of the uncertainty that we fly the flag in the face of danger. In these times of danger, the flag serves as a reminder that the identity of our nation is not merely the sum of its parts and, at the same time, that the perpetuation of our existence rests on its member's participa-

tion with grace. If Key is clear about one thing in his poem, it is the unreliability of human power in our own victory. The flag bears a quasi-divine presence, a reminder of the necessity of providential aid in fulfilling our own promise. Sun Tzu, for example, corroborates the necessity of trust in *The Art of War*. His principled reliance on trust is an acknowledgement of reality; the possibility of death in battle strikes at the core of the uncertainty of its success. In this way, uncertainty in battle seems to be a symptom of the uncertainty of death.

The pregnant symbolism of the flag, though, is only possible through its own matter: seven horizontal red lines, six horizontal white lines, interrupted in the northwest corner by a blue rectangle filled with fifty white stars. According to State Symbols USA, a site dedicated to cataloging the symbolic heritage of the States, the red in the flag symbolizes valor and bravery, the white symbolizes purity and innocence, and the blue symbolizes vigilance, perseverance, and justice. These values are positive descriptions of any virtuous person and, by extension, any virtuous nation. In addition to the descriptive element, though, the flag suggests certain responsibilities that accompany the rights afforded to its citizens. Without these responsibilities, the rights would be insecure and fickle, varying from time to time and place to place.

Different citizens respond to these responsibilities in different ways, in line with their position and status. Those who respond to their nation in the most serious way, in the way that requires the most skin in the game, join the military and sacrifice themselves, their future, and their families for the sake of a greater project. This sacrifice puts some in the situation to offer the ultimate sacri-

fice, a rejection of self that demands honor and gratitude from the entire nation. Some are not called to this same level of service, but instead dedicate themselves to their nation through their civic institutions, families, and work.

For both those who are preparing to give of themselves through military service and those ready to sacrifice themselves through more accessible methods, the three colors of the banner can serve as a tool to remember the what, why, and how of their sacrifice. The red of the flag, the same color as the blood of their forefathers in battle, the "what" of their sacrifice, reminds them that their national offering is valorous and brave. In this sense, they give of themselves in an unrelenting manner, regardless of the consequences of life and limb.

The white, alternating with the courageous and bright red, reminds them of the "why." Those who gave of themselves in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, both World Wars, and all the other military engagements of the past few centuries were fighting in pursuit of the preservation of the purity and innocence of their nation. Our national project is admittedly a young one. The so-called "American experiment" is just that: a test of ideas against the persistent model of reality. Sacrifice in battle is a kind of defense of the innocent uncertainty of the success of the American enterprise. On the level of the person, military courage is a defense of the most cherished members of our nation: our women and children.

Finally, the blue reminds us of the "how" of national service. Our source suggests that the blue in the flag is to symbolize vigilance, perseverance, and justice. If military service does not conduct itself in this manner, where is the merit? In this

way, the blue is the most demanding color of the flag because it requires not just that service take place, but it requires its method. In other words, the blue hid in the corner of the flag reminds the servicemember that he must not just give but give well. In this way, the value of military service is elevated; the military must do the right things for the right reasons.

When we remember Armistice Day on the 11th of this month, we commemorate a group of men who

were relentless in their courageous pursuit of national innocence. This group gazed at the flag with admiration and devotion, seeking its presence and aware of its symbolism. The flag, as Key knew very well, was a reference to the glory of the American nation and the pain of war's separation from it.

To read other articles by Harry Scherer, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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HOME DECOR

Pumping up for the holidays

Jess Crawford
Cotton & Co., Vintage Boutique

And just like that, we're changing gears and switching seasons again. Retail Life! This time of year is a personal favorite of mine. Fall is crisp and energizing, gifting us with all its colorful, earthy glory, just before we shift into the magical, romantic slow season of Winter. And somewhere nestled in between Fall and Winter is the most Wonderful Time of the Year: Christmas.

I love all of the feelings that come with the holiday season. You can feel the hum of happiness and good spirits in the air. The upbeat holiday music in every store. Humanity feels a little calmer, happier, and higher spirited. There's just an overall cheerfulness and contentedness that goes along with the holiday season. For the first weekend of November, we will have completely transformed the store, making it into a holiday wonderland. Filled to the brim with holiday and season décor, gifts and inspiration for the entire season and everyone on your shopping list this year.

We have a ton of events planned for

November and December at the shop, to keep you in the holiday spirit all season long. We'll be jumpstarting the season with a Holiday Kickoff Weekend November 5-7. On November 6, we will be hosting and featuring several local, guest artisans and vendors for a Holiday Pop-up Shop. And Sunday, November 7, we will be hosting a local photographer, Deserving Images Photography, for Holiday Mini Sessions (tickets available through our Facebook page). She will also be back on site for a second date, Sunday November 14. On the fourteenth, a special, jolly guest in a red suit will also be on site and available to be included in holiday family photos.

There will be our annual Holiday Open Houses in both November (19-21) and December (10-12) to keep the festivities going. Most of our shop events feature select storewide sales, special treats and door prizes. In addition to our events, we are also organizing and hosting a variety of classes and special events such as multiple Ladies Nights and extended evening shopping hours. All of these events and more, as well as full details are available on our Facebook

page under our Events tab (@Cotton & Co Vintage Boutique).

If you've been listening to or reading the news, you have likely heard by now that they are predicting a shipping and inventory nightmare this holiday season. Advising consumers to get an early head-start on your holiday shopping this year, and not to leave it until last minute. Take it from someone that ordered their holiday inventory in the early Summer, and has been contending with warehouse issues and shipping time delays for the past eighteen months. They aren't kidding. But have no fear, small businesses have got you covered.

While we order a certain amount of our inventory from a variety of sources, many of our team of vendors also make and create a substantial amount of their artisan-quality inventory. Which means, we will be fully stocked and prepared to conquer this holiday season, with a large assortment of unique, one-of-a-kind, everything-you-need, to rock this holiday season selection of inventory.

When you shop small, and shop local, you are making a difference in your local community and your local, grassroots economy. Your hard-earned wages are supporting other people and families in your community. We always joke, when you buy from a small business, a small business owner does a jig. And that is entirely true. Each and every purchase you make within your community, or supporting a small business, raise one another up. Into a better, stronger community network. You're not padding the pockets of a billionaire



Holiday display from Christmas at Cotton & Co.

or corporation that doesn't appreciate or acknowledge your purchase.

Shopping Small and supporting small business can come in so many forms. Consciously choosing to visit and shop your local stores, through monetary purchases is a pretty obvious avenue to support small business this holiday season. But did you know that there are other ways to support small business, that don't cost you a thing? For instance, follow businesses you like in your community on social media platforms. Engage in their posts. Did you know that when you 'love' or 'wow' a post, event, photo, live feed, etc... that it actually helps to spread that post much farther than just a simple 'like'? Algorithms are so strange, and small businesses are constantly fighting with and against them, to make sure their content reaches their customers and followers. Sharing posts that spark your fancy also helps too. Positively talking about businesses that you adore with family and friends is also a massive tool in helping

small businesses survive and thrive. We have found, through customer polls, that 33% of our customers are directed to us through family and friends and their affirmations and positive recommendations.

I am also a huge advocate for shopping small business online. You can shop online, and still support the little guys. Many businesses use online shopping platforms such as Shopify. And let's not forget websites and apps like Etsy, where there are thousands and thousands of small, mom and pop artisans and businesses, showcasing their wares online. But get your online orders in sooner than later, as shipping and processing times are expected to be monstrous this season.

Our vendors stock the shop in everything you need in every style for both décor and gifts. Something for everyone on your list. I am so proud and constantly amazed by my team of vendors. With their endless talent and dedication. Their never-ceasing flow of creativity. The team has spent months creating, cultivating, curating and preparing inventory to take us through the holiday season. Featuring items that can't be found just anywhere. And a tremendous selection of one-of-a-kind items too. Stop by the shop this holiday season and see what they've all prepared for you. Don't forget to follow our journey on both Facebook (@Cotton & Co Vintage Boutique) and Instagram (@CottonAndCoVintageBoutique). We'll be ready for you this season!

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Mount St. Mary's Water Report Public Notice

Mount St. Mary's University has a long history of providing drinking water to the University community as well as to our neighbors in the Emmitsburg community that complies with state and federal regulations. During recent testing, one of the University's three (3) wells exceeded an EPA Health Advisory Level for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). PFOS and PFOA are part of a family of manmade chemicals that do not appear naturally in the environment but nonetheless are pervasive. Current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes.

Our water is regularly tested and meets all state and federal primary drinking water standards. We are working closely with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Maryland Environmental Service (MES) to reduce the concentrations of PFOA and PFOS found in well 3 and protect our customers from any unnecessary exposure to the compounds. As consumers of the Mount's drinking water, you have the right to know of the quality of water that you are provided, how it may impact you, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

Testing results for the untreated groundwater sample collected from East Campus's well 3 on August 31, 2021, by MDE show the presence of PFOS/PFOA exceeding the EPA Health Advisory Level of 70 parts per trillion (70 ppt). The PFOS/PFOA detections found in well 3 were 72.74 ppt (PFOS= 37.83 ppt; PFOA= 34.91 ppt). On September 21, 2021, two (2) follow-up samples were collected – one unfinished groundwater sample from well 3 and one finished water sample at the MSMU water treatment plant. The follow up PFOS/PFOA concentrations from well 3 were below the EPA Health Advisory and measured 59.11 ppt (PFOS= 31.93 ppt; PFOA= 27.18 ppt). The finished drinking water sample from the treatment plant were also below the EPA Health Advisory with Total PFOS/ PFOS results of 43.48 ppt (PFOS= 22.68 ppt; PFOA = 20.80ppt).

What should I do?

While the water meets state and federal primary drinking water standards for potable use, consumers who have compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, may be at increased risk and should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking this water.

Presently, you do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the University determines the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. The U.S. EPA calculates health advisory levels to offer a margin of protection against adverse health effects to the most sensitive populations: fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed infants. However, chronic exposure to PFOS and PFOA over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., antibody production and immunity), thyroid effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes).

What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are chemicals that are part of a larger group referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These chemicals are manmade and do not occur naturally in the environment. Because these chemicals have been used in a number of consumer products and industrial applications, most people have been exposed to them. The chemical stability of PFOS and PFOA also makes them very persistent in the environment.

What is being done?

The Mount's Physical Plant Department is working closely with MDE and MES to reduce drinking water exposures of PFOS and PFOA for our drinking water consumers. Several methods are currently under evaluation to reduce



and remove PFOS and PFOA from our drinking water sources. Options include drilling a new well or installing additional treatment. The University will continue to monitor levels of PFOS and PFOA in the water system and will confer with MDE based on the results.

If you have any questions, please contact Jay Janney at the Maryland Environmental Service, 259 Najoles Road, Millersville, Maryland 21108, or by phone at (410) 729-8361.

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LOCAL ARTS

Gettysburg Community Theatre's All Together Now!

Gettysburg Community Theatre announced that they will be joining thousands of theatrical organizations around the globe by producing their own local production of Music Theatre International's All Together Now!: A Global Event Celebrating Local Theatre.

Theatrical licensor Music Theatre International (MTI) created this revue for theatres across the globe to use as a local fundraising event performed over the same weekend of November 12, 2021. Gettysburg Community Theatre will perform Performances to take place on November 12 & 13 and November 13 & 14 in person at GCT, as well as live streaming on November 13.

All Together Now! features songs

from MTT's beloved catalogue of musicals including Annie, Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Fiddler on the Roof, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia!, Matilda, My Fair Lady, Once on This Island, Rent, and many more!

MTI's President and CEO, Drew Cohen stated, "MTI's All Together Now! is about bringing people back to the theatre, whether as audience members or cast, crew and musicians. The revue features songs from the world's most iconic musicals, so there is definitely something for everyone to enjoy. Our goal with this worldwide event is for organizations to provide hope, inspiration and excitement to their communities

through the transformative power of musical theatre.

"We are incredibly excited to celebrate the return of live theatre with performances of MTT's All Together Now!," stated Chad-Alan Carr, Founding Executive/Artistic Director of Gettysburg Community Theatre. "The past year has been a challenging time for everyone, particularly non-profit theatres. We look forward to welcoming our patrons back with this truly wonderful musical revue."

The GCT cast of All Together Now includes over 50 local singers from four different counties under the direction of musical directors Jamie Bowman and Carrie Conklin of Gettysburg, and



The cast rehearses music for All Together Now to be performed November 12-14 at Gettysburg Community Theatre.

Jane Johnston of York Springs.

Live in person performance tickets and live streaming performance tick-

ets can be purchased in advance at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org

Way Off Broadway presents 'That Christmas Spirit'

The holidays are just around the corner and this year, The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre will be kicking off the festive season with its production of That Christmas Spirit. Opening November 19th, the show will conclude the theatre's 2021 Season.

In That Christmas Spirit, as college freshman Izzy is planning a fun filled holiday vacation with her friends, plans become upended at the last minute. With nowhere to go, she heads to her favorite aunt's to spend Christmas. Little does

she know, her aunt always volunteers at St. Paul's on Christmas Eve. Tagging along, very begrudgingly, Izzy meets all the colorful characters working at the food kitchen, helping to spread a little holiday cheer to the less fortunate in the neighborhood. As she gets to know the "do-gooders," as she calls them, she learns what Christmas means to each of them and why they feel it's so important to give something back to the community. In the end, the magic of season may even help a cynical

teenager find the true meaning of Christmas.

Bringing the characters in this heartwarming, family-friendly show to life are Jessica Billones as Aunt Celeste, Dino P. Coppa, Sr. as Cap, Miles Malone as Nicholas St. Noel, Sarah Melinda as Gloria, Megan E. West as Merry Ann, and Katharine Ford as Izzy.

That Christmas Spirit was written by Justin M. Kiska, who is also directing the production. The show is the twelfth Christmas production Kiska has written for the

theatre in the last seventeen years. Music direction is being performed by Tina M. Bruley.

Way Off Broadway's holiday presentation of That Christmas Spirit runs from November 19th to December 19th, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month.

For evening performances, guests arrive for dinner at 6 p.m. with the show beginning at 8 p.m. For matinees, guests arrive for

lunch at 12:30 p.m. with the show beginning at 2:15 p.m. Regular priced tickets on a Friday evening or Sunday matinee are \$52 per person; on a Saturday, tickets are \$55 per person.

To learn more That Christmas Spirit, or Way Off Broadway's upcoming 2022 Season, which includes Meshuggah-Nuns!, Hello, Dolly!, Beverly Hillbillies – The Musical, Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, and Countdown to Christmas, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Majestic Theater presents 'Storm Lake' screening

Storm Lake, the new documentary film about an independent newspaper's fight to serve their small Iowa commu-

nity, will be shown at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater on Sunday, November 14 starting at 2 p.m.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Art Cullen and his family fight to unite and inform their rural Iowan farming community through their biweekly newspaper, The Storm Lake Times – even as the paper hangs on by a thread. Twice a week, they work as civic watchdogs to protect their hometown and the legacy

of credible journalism, at large. Storm Lake gives an intimate look at their work keeping the paper alive as local journalism across the country dies out.

Following the film, Tim Lambert, Multimedia News Director and host of Morning Edition at WITF-FM, Harrisburg, will lead a panel discussion with Get-

tsburg Times editors and the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, discussing the role of professional journalists in providing crucial context and news coverage in rural communities in an era of shrinking newsrooms, diminishing resources, and growing misinformation. Lambert covered Gettysburg and Adams County for several years before joining WITF.

"Small town newspapers have been the backbone of local democracy and community life across America for more than 200 years, but they are disappearing at an alarming rate. Our community is so very fortunate that the Gettysburg Times is still publishing six days a week," said Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director. "This special documentary screening and live panel discussion will illuminate the newspaper's value to the vitality of Adams County and the challenges it faces in today's economy."

In addition to the Majestic Theater screening and panel discussion, the film is set to air nationwide as part of the Independent Lens series on WITF-TV/PBS on Monday, November 15.

Tickets are \$9 and are available online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org, by calling 717-337-8200, or by stopping by the Box Office at 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg.

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 December 12 • 2 pm
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The war that defined the music of its era

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

World War I marked the end to 100 years of relative peace in Europe. From its ashes, musicians in the Allied nations emerged aware of a new sense of nationalism, the post-war cultural globalism which ensued, and a personal melancholy from their experiences in the war to end all wars. These four composers represent each allied nation and their shared national experience because of the first World War: George Gershwin from the United States, Sergei Rachmaninoff from Russia, Maurice Ravel from France, and Vaughan Williams from Great Britain. One finds that their music turned out better because of the conflict.

The 1910s and 20s saw the emergence of a new and authentically American sound in the form of jazz, and with it, the world was introduced to George Gershwin. World War I infused the United States with a pre-eminent sense of patriotism. Gershwin's unique sound captured the spirit of the age. His first major composition, *Swanee*, was first published in 1916. Lyrics were added and a version was recorded by Al Jolson in 1920, launching Gershwin into the public eye. In this two-minute piece, one can detect both southern gospel and New York jazz, traditions exclusively American. Gershwin said that "he wanted the song to represent the soul of the country." Pivoting off of euphoria and national pride after the end of the war, in 1924 Gershwin wrote perhaps the most beautiful piece of American classical music ever written: *Rhapsody in Blue*, a swelling symphonic feast of melodic expression and rhythmic invention, a beautiful interplay between virtuosic piano and big band brass, ushered in by one of the most characteristic lines in music, a gorgeous clarinet glissando. *Rhapsody in Blue*, full of color and extraordinarily satisfying harmonic resolutions, was the anthem of the Roaring Twenties, a time of profound celebration. No such celebration was heard in the newly founded Soviet Union, however.

Russia's Sergei Rachmaninoff, considered one of the most proficient pianists ever, revitalized a dying school of traditional Russian classical music at a time when music was being turned on its head. While his contemporary Igor Stravinsky fathered musical modernism, Rachmaninoff composed works reminiscent of his forefathers' romanticism, both men responding to a drastically changing musical landscape. Rachmaninoff's masterfully written 2nd and 3rd concertos, composed in 1900 and 1909 respectively, expressed a nostalgia, depth, and darkness which are so characteristically Russian. Rachmaninoff lost everything when he was forced to flee his homeland after the Bolshevik Revolution. It was during WWI that he first began to write his 4th piano concerto, a piece with all the same romance and melody of his previous successes. It was not until 1926, however, that he published the piece, after finally settling down in the US following years of difficult living while trav-

elling the world. The piece was heavily revised as Rachmaninoff grew more and more dissatisfied with his own music. It is surprisingly less dark than one might expect for an exile, yet the entire piece is plagued with struggle, especially a struggle between beautiful and sometimes frantic piano prodigy and intense and abrupt symphony. It is as though Rachmaninoff, upon being faced with life's crosses and the destruction of everything he held dear, only a short time after the war to end all wars (represented by the symphonic accompaniment), must come to accept his new life, and make of it something beautiful (represented by the piano). He would play the piano for his own concerts, and recordings survive to this day. One such example of his making the most of his new life includes a newfound fascination with American Blues, including our friend George Gershwin. We have no idea what Rachmaninoff's 4th Concerto would have been like if not for the war. He emerged a changed man, a face lined with wrinkles, bags perpetually under his eyes -- not surprising for a man whose entire life was burned down.

After the death of Claude Debussy in 1918, Maurice Ravel was seen as France's greatest living composer. His name is synonymous with impressionism, a musical genre which sought to paint a picture. Ravel joined the artillery corps at 40 years of age and fought on the front lines in WWI. Ravel wrote *Le Tombeau de Couperin* (translated, 'a piece written as a memorial') between 1914 and 1917 for his friends and comrades who died in

the war. The piece is a synthesis of the French Baroque genre and is peculiarly light mannered and reflective. When asked why he wrote such an untroubled piece, he said "the dead are sad enough, in their eternal silence." Still, he was by no means jovial after the war, and many scholars have noted his postbellum melancholy and reduced musical output. Ravel was fond of jazz, and in 1928 took a massive tour of North America, where he was more warmly welcomed than anywhere prior. Maurice Ravel was a notoriously pensive man, and critics have long wondered how such a seemingly emotionless individual could compose such spectacular and elegant music. Perhaps it is as Stephen Zank, a prominent Ravel scholar, believes: the war caused, or at least correlated, with his producing his greatest works.

Ralph Vaughn Williams authored an authentically English school of classical music in the early 20th century. One hears echoes of his music everywhere from *Star Wars* to the songs one sings in church. Because he thought it his duty to serve his country, he enlisted in the military even though he was already 42 years old. He went on to serve in the Battle of the Somme, and eventually was posted as an officer in France. Many of his fellow composers and good friends died in the war. In a letter to Gustav Holst in 1916, Williams wrote, "I sometimes dread coming back to normal life with so many gaps...out of those 7 who joined up together in August 1914 only 3 are left - I sometimes think now that it is wrong to have made friends with people younger than oneself." Upon returning in 1920,



Rachmaninoff: an exile

he composed a crown jewel of English classical music, *The Lark Ascending*, a piece which many have interpreted as being about the war. The piece features ascending pentatonic scales played by a violin, with all the class of the most professional of choirs, and the genuineness of a barn yard fiddle, utilizing melodies characteristic of the British Isles. The song is serene and not much like the old German school of music which the English had been caught up in for years. Williams studied at one point under Ravel, insisting that it had an impact on his composing. Ravel, with his impressionistic arabesques is certainly heard here, but most of all, Williams seems to be sighing after the end of such a conflict

which he had felt so intensely.

Though there is more to be said of other postbellum composers, these few were, along with their music and the whole of society, deeply affected by the first World War. What is interesting is that all these composers produced some of their best music after the war. The pain gave them an opportunity to reflect, and it made their art more beautiful. As we come out of a world-wide pandemic, it is good to keep this in mind: oftentimes, our sufferings produce our greatest beauty.

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Fall sports wrapup

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

The Catoctin community has lots of pride for the high school's fall sports teams as they wrapped up their regular season in the last week of October. A number of CHS teams have advanced to Central Maryland Conference (CMC) Championships and MPSSAA playoff tournaments while athletic seasons began to transition. This fall has consisted of impressive records and new accomplishments, such as a division championship title, one athlete's first place medal among 80 competitors, and a team's first victory in five years.

Earning themselves the title of Gambrell Division Champions, the CHS varsity volleyball team carried nine regular season wins into the last week of October. Preceding two losses, the team won five consecutive matches, starting with the Oct. 7 match against Clear Spring High School. CHS senior Paige Romeril had nine kills, 14 digs, and six blocks, serving as a pillar in their 3-1 victory. The team defeated Walkersville High School 3-1 at their senior night match five days later, at which Romeril led the team with 18 kills. The Frederick News-Post credited her performance at the two matches the following day, naming Romeril "Player of the Week."

After two more victories each resulting in a score of 3-0, the team

defeated host Williamsport High School 3-1 on Oct. 21. This victory secured their spot at the CMC Volleyball Championship with a 9-3 record, beating out candidate Boonsboro High School (8-4) after their defeat against Smithsburg High School the same evening. The championship was held two days later at Governor Thomas Johnson High School, where the Gambrell Division Champions competed against the undefeated Spires Division Champions, North Hagerstown High School. The North Hagerstown Hubs began strong, winning the first set with a score of 25-12. The Cougars took advantage of the Hubs' tumble at the beginning of the next set, but the Hubs eventually pulled ahead with 25-18. The last set, 25-12, resulted in a loss of 3-0 for the Cougars. The CHS team would then proceed to compete at their last two matches of the regular season before MPSSAA volleyball playoffs.

Also representing the Cougars' success of the season is the CHS cross-country team. On Oct. 1, the team took to Urbana High School for the 1-270 Rush Hour Rumble Invitational. CHS sophomore Jenna Conley took fifth place of 40 competitors from five schools in the Varsity Girls 5000 Meter Run with a time of 21 minutes and 27.85 seconds. CHS junior Alex Contreras finished the Varsity Boys 5000 Meter Run with a time of 17:05.29,



The Catoctin High School's Gambrell Division Champion varsity volleyball team.

putting him in first place out of 80 runners from nine schools participating in the event.

The team then attended the Patriot Invitational hosted by Governor Thomas Johnson High School on Oct. 9. Conley (21:41.97) took fifth place out of 63 runners from five schools competing in Women's 5000 Meters Varsity. CHS sophomore Hope Brown (23:29.37) took 21st. In Men's 5000 Meters Varsity, Alex Contreras (17:35.00) took third place out of 88 participants and CHS junior Nikolas Contreras (19:24.43) finished in 25th.

The CMC Championship for cross-country hosted the CHS team on Oct. 15 at Boonsboro High School. Conley (20:32.00) placed 11th of 63 runners in the Varsity Girls 3 Mile Run Finals, which consisted of 10 schools from the Gambrell and Spires Divisions. Her time placed her in second throughout the Gambrell Division, and CHS sophomore Keira Taylor placed 19th with a time of 24:47.1. The girls team placed third of four schools in the Gambrell Division. Alex Contreras (16:48.7) placed third out of 50 in the Varsity Boys 3 Mile Run Finals, consisting of 11 schools from both divisions. His time put him in first place for the Gambrell Division. Nikolas Contreras (18:48.3) finished

in 11th place and Santiago Canadas Fraga took 13th with 18:57.7. The boys team finished in third place out of six schools in the Gambrell Division. The CHS cross-country team would then go on to compete at Linganore High School on Oct. 28 for the Varsity Frederick County Championship, concluding another successful season.

The CHS girls and boys soccer teams both accomplished commendable achievements this year. The girls soccer team has maintained steady progress over the past few years. Last season they scored two wins—one more than the previous year which consisted of their first regular season victory in three years. They returned this season with the same dedication and resilience that earned them an overall record of 5-6-1. The team scored their third win of the season at their senior night Oct. 5, when they defeated St. Maria Goretti Catholic High School 5-0. The next game resulted in another 5-0 victory for the Cougars on Oct. 7 against host Clear Spring High School. Following two losses, the Cougars were hosted by the Saint James School Saints on Oct. 19. CHS seniors Jenna Zentz and Emily Williams had six saves each. The Cougars defeated the Saints 5-1, with two goals each from Zentz and freshman Taylor Smith and one goal

from junior Nicole Andrew. The regular season would then conclude with a draw between the Cougars and the Williamsport High School Wildcats. The Cougars led 1-0 with a goal from Zentz, and ultimately tied 1-1 after double overtime.

The boys soccer team had much to celebrate after their game against Saint James on Oct. 19. After three goals from sophomore Erick Lopez and one from sophomore Matt Offutt, the team entered overtime and broke the tie of 4-4 with a winning goal from Offutt. The 5-4 win was the CHS boys soccer team's first regular season victory in five years, shaping a memorable moment towards the end of high school soccer for the seniors. "Everyone put in 100% and we finally got over the line," senior Nick Miller expressed. The fans immediately responded to the triumph by pouring onto the field to congratulate the team. "The team, the fans, everyone was going crazy," Miller described. "It was euphoric." The team carried this excitement into their final game on Oct. 21 against Williamsport High School. The Cougars led 2-0 in the first half with goals from Offutt and senior Ryan Horning. Offutt scored another goal during the second half when the Wildcats took the lead, resulting in a close CHS loss of 4-3.

With the regular season coming to a close, winter sports make their way around the corner with registration having begun Oct. 5. The season consists of the following sports: basketball (boys) - coached by Brian Burdette; basketball (girls) - coached by Amy Entwistle; unified bocce - coached by Charmane Nesbitt; cheerleading - coached by Stephanie Munday; indoor track (boys) - coached by Dave Lillard; indoor track (girls) - coached by Lois Strickland; swimming/diving - coached by Will Warram; and wrestling - coached by Rick Reeder.

Winter sports begin Nov. 15, and competitions commence Nov. 29th. Registration for winter sports is open until the starting date. All physical examinations must be dated no earlier than April 1 and, like registration, must be completed prior to Nov. 15. Directions for registration can be found at the Catoctin High School website.

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MOUNT SPORTS

High hopes for Mount St. Mary's basketball

Sam Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

It is almost time to hit the hardwood again, as the 2021-22 NCAA Division-I college basketball season is right on the horizon. For the 358 teams that call the Division-I level home, this season marks a time to return to normalcy. The ability to be able to look forward to no more COVID-19 postponements or cancellations will be a sigh of relief across the sport, including the Mount St. Mary's Mountaineers.

Both the men's and women's squads are coming off historic seasons that brought plenty of cheerful moments to the greater Emmitsburg area. The men's basketball team is coming off a 12-11 campaign, with a 9-7 conference record. However, as any successful team is accustomed to learning, building a winning culture comes from within and happens over the course of plenty of years.

Although the men's basketball team captured the conference tournament crown a season ago, a crucial piece from the 2020-21 team will no longer be repping blue and gold. Standout guard Damian Chong Qui transferred to Purdue-Fort Wayne in the offseason, which will certainly be a massive storyline in 2021-22. However, fourth-year head coach Dan Engelstad has an optimistic approach to his departure: "Our team is going to be spread around much more. We have guys that improved a ton. We have ten or more guys that can get you double-figures in Division-I basketball," he said.

Despite the loss of Chong Qui, there are plenty of other key playmakers that have elevated their game and are ready to take Mount St. Mary's to the next level. Primarily, the likes of Mezie Offurum and Nana Opoku. Opoku, who averaged 10.2PPG and 7.0RPG in 2020-21, will contribute mightily to this team. "This is the biggest team in Mount St. Mary's history. We can match up with anyone. From a defensive standpoint, it helps when you have size and versatility. Becoming a champion [last year] really elevated their confidence," exclaimed Engelstad.

Offurum and fellow big man Malik Jefferson will also be running this offense. Having three big men steer an offense set is a rarity for basketball. Jefferson and Offurum dished out 8.0/7.8 and 9.4/6.2 respectively a season ago. Look for the latter, who is able to generate a fast tempo, eclipsing the double-figure scoring mark.

Building long-term success at the Division-I level requires two things when it comes to recruiting. Firstly, being able to capitalize on domestic and foreign talent is a must, especially the latter avenue. Secondly, cashing in on the rather new transfer portal has become a key aspect of recruiting. Coach Engelstad has evolved into one of the best mid-major recruiters. The incoming

freshmen are already being held in high regard from this coaching staff. "[They are] really talented guys and believe they can impact the program in the early stages of their career," said Engelstad. There is one newcomer that will be grabbing the attention of the Northeast Conference (NEC). His name is Jedy Cordilia, who hails from the Netherlands. According to the coaching staff, "we have been fortunate. Jedy is really talented. He has great hands and feet. He has a bright future at the Mount".

The incoming transfers will play a critical role on this team. Elijah Elliott (via Oklahoma Christian) and Jalen Benjamin (via UAB) bring plenty to the table. All eyes are on Benjamin especially: "Jalen has a great work ethic and is supremely talented. I think Knott Arena will love him. He's got a lot of pop to his game," he said.

This will certainly be a battle tested team early on, as five of the first six contests are away from Emmitsburg. The beginning stages of the schedule feature national heavyweights Kentucky and Villanova, as well as former NEC-rival Robert Morris. According to Engelstad, there is a method to all of his madness: "We hope our guys get a great experience against the best teams in the country. We want to get back to the NCAA Tournament and win games and these will be the teams you play in the Big Dance. It's a good balance."

The Mount's first home game against a Division-I opponent will not be till Nov. 27 against the Naval Academy.

A program amid a coaching change but with plenty of pieces to repeat as conference queens would be the outlook for the Mount's women's basketball team. After leading the Mountaineers to their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1995, Maria Marchesano decided to take her talents back to her hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana to coach Purdue-Fort Wayne. Longtime assistant coach Antonine White will



Mount St. Mary's basketball looks to build on last season's success this November

now head the women's program with a bright future ahead of him.

Much like the men's team, the women's team has lost two key components from the 2020-21 championship team, Bridget Birkhead (via transfer to Radford) and Rebecca Lee to graduation. Birkhead was a crucial component to the offensive framework of this team, as she was second on the team in 3PT %. As for Lee, her size made her an instant threat on the glass and in the paint. For Coach White, he is excited to see who will replace these two: "It's going to be by committee. We will have Kayla and Michaela. Kendall has been working on her shot. Aryna Taylor is a gifted shooter from the outside. We feel good about our post play."

Aryna Taylor and Kendall Breese are two players that will be juggernauts on the offensive side of the floor. Breese posted in near double-figures last season, 13.7PPG and 8.5RPG, respectively. There is real belief that she can eclipse the double-double average this season. "She is very capable of averaging a double-double. She is a great playmaker and can affect the game in a lot of different ways," said White. As for Taylor, the redshirt-senior is due for a breakout season, especially in the eyes of the coaching staff. "I

have been with her the past 4-5 seasons. This is the healthiest I have seen her so far. She's putting in a lot of extra work to her craft," he said.

Fresh off the program's first NCAA Tournament appearance in 26 years, the Mount loaded up their schedule. The Mountaineers will travel to the likes of Clemson, Seton Hall, Ohio State, and of course, the rematch with Maryland. Mount St. Mary's was bounced in the Round of 64 by the Terrapins. The four Power Six opponents combined for a 65-31 record last season. From a mid-major standpoint, the Mount will welcome defending Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) champion Howard on Nov. 23.

All eyes are on the first two conference matchups. Mount St.

Mary's caps off the calendar year with road trips to Fairleigh Dickinson and Wagner. The Knights and Seahawks were the two main challengers to the Mount a season ago.

The men's basketball team will begin their 2021-22 slate on Nov. 9 with a road tilt against nationally ranked Villanova. As for the women's team, they travel to New Jersey on opening day to battle the Seton Hall Pirates.

The first home games for the men's and women's teams will be Nov. 11 and 13, respectively against Division-III foes Washington College and Valley Forge.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Stress, stress, stress, and more stress

Jefferson Brand

The following is my next installation on the topic of unnecessary suffering.

As I have mentioned, generally speaking, unnecessary suffering is caused by a belief that something should be different than it is. This can be an expectation that isn't met. It can be letting someone's words get under our skin. It can be the weather. It can be your cat walking across your computer keyboard and deleting an article you have spent hours writing. Basically, it can be any experience that triggers an emotional response. The rub is that if we shifted our thinking, even a little bit, we could decrease the level of suffering and our lives might be more peaceful and happy.

Stress is everywhere. In our current culture the word "stress" is used in just about any context one can imagine. I did a Google search of the word "stress." Over 6,000,000,000 results suddenly became available to me via my computer screen. Six billion results!!! So much time and energy devoted to stress.

I did some looking into those six billion results and wow, there is tons of information about stress. There are multitudes of definitions, theories, treatments, approaches, understandings, centers, institutes, medicines, cures, exercises, and God knows what. The only common ideas I found are that stress is everywhere and it affects our health in mostly a negative way.

Use of the word stress is so pervasive in our society, it may be hard to believe that the medical use of the

word stress is less than 100 years-old. In the 1920s, Canadian medical researcher Hans Selye observed that the rats he was conducting experiments on were not just effected by the injections he was using. The rats were experiencing the "stress" of the experiments he performed on a psycho-emotional level, so much so that he listed "stress" as the cause of death of some of the rats in a paper he published in 1936.

Quick side note: I find it very curious that much of our modern entertainment (theater, television and movies) is based on conflict/danger, i.e. stressful situations—we seek escape or diversion from the stress of our lives by watching other people experience stress in their fictional lives.

As I said in August's Complementary Corner, I don't like the word stress as our culture uses it. Before the Selye, stress was purely a physics/engineering term used to describe the effect of compression, tension, temperature or the load put on material objects, such as wood, steel, concrete, etc.

Selye defined stress as "the non-specific response of the body to any demand placed upon it." That is a broad definition. Firstly, there is the word, "non-specific;" synonyms include: broad, general, and vague. Secondly, the use of the word "demand;" synonyms include: request, stipulation, ultimatum, dictate, urging, challenging, require(ment). From the very beginning of the medical use of the word, stress could be anything. In my opinion, the word is then too vague (see - non-specific) to be use-

ful. I am surprised Selye didn't call it "Stress Syndrome" to expand its nebulous definition.

Don't get me wrong, the effects of stress are undeniable and have a major impact on our health. I think stress is the major epidemic of our modern times and one of the greatest sources of unnecessary suffering. Our culture's acceptance of stress as a necessary condition of modern living is very unfortunate. The cost of this acceptance is basically immeasurable as it effects almost everyone still breathing on some level.

So, if stress is real and really hurts people, why am I harping on about the origins and definition of the word? That is a valid question.

The point of this article is that we have the ability to decrease the stress in our lives.

When we can get specific about the sources of stress in our life, then we can design ways to reduce that stress. Stress as a medical word is interesting because it is used to describe the effects of life on both the body and mind. For over 2,000 years, Chinese Medicine has described the connection of body, mind, and spirit. In the classic Chinese medical text, The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine, the effect of emotions on the body are clearly stated as the internal causes of disease.

Based on this framework, we can look at how specific emotions can effect the body. Translated into modern medical language, excess fear can cause fatigue, headaches, heart issues, anxiety, digestive issues, decrease immunity, and much more. Excess anger can cause high blood

pressure, headaches, heart issues, digestive issues, decrease immunity, brain fog, and much more. Excess sadness can cause heart issues, anxiety, depression, digestive issues, decreased immunity, fatigue, and much more. Excess worry and grief can cause heart issues... okay, okay, okay. Enough is enough.

We can see a clear and common correlation between our emotions and their effect on the body. Each of these five emotions can be called stress. If we want to decrease the effect of our emotions on our health, we first need to be aware of when the emotions begin and what are the situations that generate these emotions. The point here is not to eliminate emotions. The point is to let emotions flow through us in a healthy way and not allow the energy of the emotion to get stuck in us. When the energy of the emotion gets stuck, we feel the stress of that stuck-ness in our body. The earlier we feel the stuck-ness, the earlier we can release the unbalanced emotional energy in a healthy way. The earlier we release the unbalanced emotional energy, the more "balanced" energy we have for our body to heal itself.

How do we do this? How do you know you are fearful, angry, sad, worried, or grieving?

Here is where the wisdom of our body comes to the rescue. Pay attention to your body. It is your teacher.

Most of us are not practiced at paying attention to our body's messages before pain or other symptoms show up.

For the sake of simplicity, I will offer you a few simple examples to start us off. When does your body tighten up? When do you notice your breathing? When do your shoulders rise up? When do you feel heat on your face? When do you feel exhausted?

The next component of this process is to pay attention to the circumstances or situations you are in when you notice your body's messages. Once you begin to notice the earliest messages your body sends you, you are on your way to reducing your stress and feeling better.

Dear reader, I apologize. I have left you hanging here. I did not do so to create more "stress" in your life. I did it because each of us responds to life differently. There is no single way to reduce "stress." Paying attention to your body's messages is the first step. If you would like to learn more specifically about how to help yourself, please send me an email or give me a call. Be well.

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

Be smart about your health

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Usually for the November article I write about the Thanksgiving Dinner and how to change some of the ingredients to make the meal a little healthier and have less calories. This year I am going to write about how we can be smart about our health and how time changes our ability and way of doing some things. I asked one of my clients for an idea to write about and he gave me two subjects he thought were important, as we get a little older.

The first thing we all have to realize is that we can not stop the years from passing by no matter how hard we try or how much we don't want to age. The second thing is that as our body may get older and our ability to do things may change we need to realize that our mind also matures and we become wiser about how to accomplish the things we need to do in perhaps and easier and more

efficient way.

One of the subjects he suggested I write about is to know when to ask for help. Just because we could unload a ton of stones for the driveway a few years ago doesn't mean we should be doing it now. I know none of us want to admit that we have slowed down a little and can't or shouldn't do as much as we use to. The thing is realizing and asking when we need help and not pushing through and causing an injury.

That large bag of dog food you use to throw over your shoulder before may just be what throws your back out now. The point is, don't be afraid to ask someone to help you. It is much better to ask for a little help now instead of needing help after you have broken a bone or something that puts you out of commission for a while. I was very impressed that a man told me that people should ask for help. Sometimes it is hard for men to admit they need to slow down but I think they are the

smart ones.

The other subject he suggested I write about was getting in shape by walking and strength training before hunting season gets here. Walking in the woods is more strenuous and harder than walking on a clear, flat surface. Getting your heart rate up hiking through the woods puts more strain on your heart, lungs and leg muscles. Going out without some exercise and preparation can be hazardous to your health especially if you have any health issues to start with. Sometimes, unfortunately that's when you discover you have a problem and sometimes it may be too late.

Over exertion hiking through brush or dragging a deer out can be too much for your heart to handle. I realize there is not much time before hunting season starts but maybe you can get in a few hikes. Preparing for the extra walking is a good idea and so is going with a partner. It is always advisable to hunt with someone. Even if



you are not close to them let them know where you are and have a way to contact them if you do get a deer and need help getting it out of the woods and back to the vehicle. I hunt myself and know how your heart can race when you see the big buck in front of you. Getting your heart rate up is good as long as you don't over exert it.

I hope you take this article as a helpful tool to prepare and accept our changing abilities as we age. I know everyone is different and has a variety of abilities at any given

age. I am not saying just because we get older we can not do what we need or like to do, I'm just saying be smart about it and realize and accept there comes a time when we all need to slow down a little and ask for help. Remember to keep moving and that time will hopefully come later rather than sooner.

Have a Happy and Healthy, Safe Thanksgiving and remember to take that walk after dinner to burn some of those pumpkin pie calories.

Planning for the inevitable: FAQs

Douglas Propheeter
Catoctin Advisors

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. I completed a Will and Advanced Medical Directive years ago. Is there any reason to re-do them?

A. Yes! It's important to have a Will and Advance Medical Directive, but it's especially important that you revisit each document periodically to ensure they still convey your current wishes. Quite simply, things change – your Will needs to change with the times. Remember that all of these decisions and actions are intended to make it easier on the people you love who will survive you.

Who is the personal representative you chose 20 years ago? Maybe you named a spouse who, sadly, now is suffering from dementia. Or, perhaps your spouse preceded you in death. It didn't occur to you to change the Will, or you didn't think it would matter since eventually you both would be dead. But, two consequences (at least) can follow. First, beneficiaries who survive you can fight in court over who gets to manage your estate, or, separately, the government will determine who manages your estate and it may not be a person you would have chosen yourself. Sometimes people only name a primary executor rather than a backup as well. What if your primary choice was a best friend or oldest child and now, 20 years later, that person cannot serve for whatever reason? Again, then you have no one to serve.

Likewise, just as with Who, How

you want to designate your assets may have changed over time. A simple example might be that your original Will left bequests for your children. 20 years later, your children have children – do you have a reason to make separate bequests to the grandchildren? How about if one of your children preceded you in death and the old Will names that child as a beneficiary but does not stipulate his children? Similarly, what if 20 years ago you owned a beach house and boat but no longer do? Or, you didn't own anything 20 years ago and now you own a beach house and boat? Does your current Will accurately outline what resources you have and how you want them distributed?

The same issues can arise for your Advanced Medical Directive. This is the document that stipulates your own choices for what care a medical team should provide to you if you

should become incapacitated and subsequently unable to tell the medical staff yourself. If you completed the document when you were 50 years old, just to choose an age at random, your life and priorities would have been different than now, when you are 75 years old. Do you want the same level of treatment and care? And, as with your Will, you might have named a personal representative who is empowered to make medical decisions for you when you can't, but that person moved away or is dead and needs to be changed.

None of these updates necessarily needs to be difficult. If you have a complex situation, then it may be helpful to talk with a lawyer. But, a lawyer isn't required to write your Will – you can do it yourself. There are websites and templates that make it relatively easy.

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 with organizing your estate or finding a lawyer.



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

The new moon is November 4th. The waxing crescent moon passes one degree below Venus on November 7th. On November 10th, the moon passes 4 degrees south of Saturn. The first quarter moon is four degrees south of Jupiter on November 11th. The Full Moon, the Beaver Moon, is on November 19th. It will also be a almost total lunar eclipse, easily visible just after midnight locally.

This should be a very colorful eclipse. It will start with the penumbral eclipse beginning at midnight, and the partial eclipse (much darker umbral bite) at 2:15 a.m. Maximum eclipse is at 4 a.m., with 98% of the full moon on the umbra, and the partial eclipse is all over by 5:50 a.m.. The earth's umbral shadow is not black, but deep red, as evident at the bottom of the moon. But the leading edge of our shadow has a bluish cast due to the ozone layer absorbing some of the red light above 50 miles above our heads, leaving mainly blue to refract around the rim of our atmosphere.

Mercury is behind the Sun this month, but Venus dominates the western evening sky. It was a greatest eastern elongation late in October, and now appears as a waning crescent in the telescope. It will get closer to us, and a more slender but larger crescent, in December. Mars also lies still behind the Sun now. Jupiter and Saturn are well

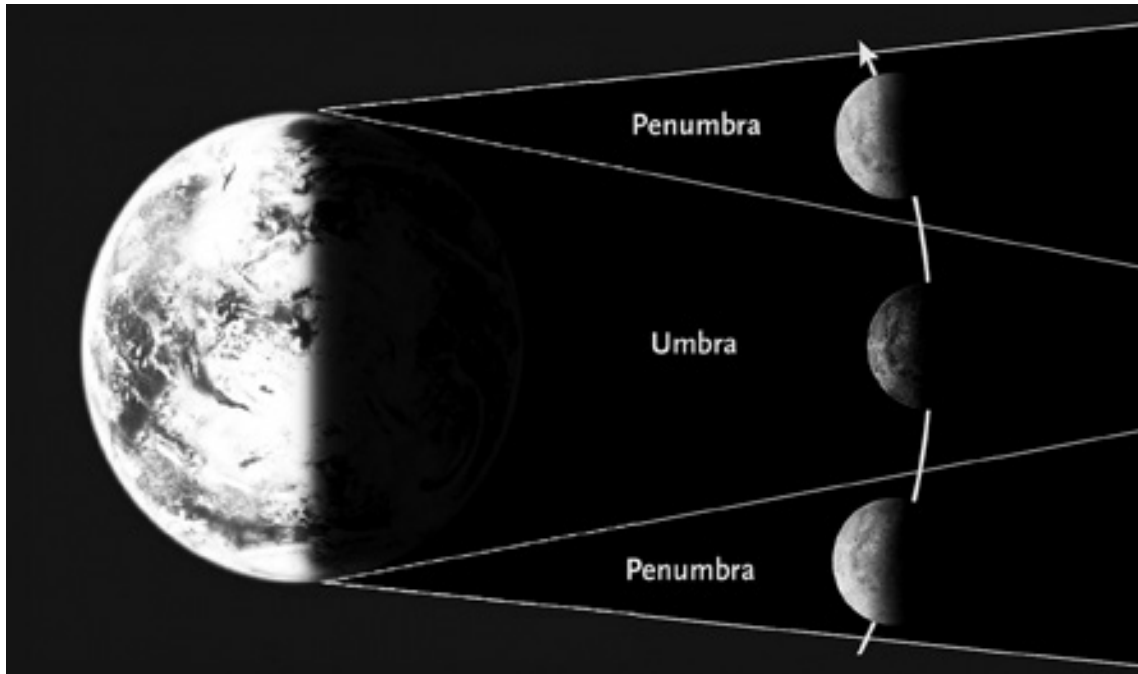


Photo caption: Lunar eclipses are slow-motion events. They usually last 4½ hours. The shading will begin to show on the Moon's left side. As the Moon rises higher and any remaining twilight fades down, the process runs in reverse. This is the part of the eclipse that most Americans will be able to see best. With luck, a careful observer will be able to detect a trace of shading by eye for about an hour — perhaps a little longer — after mid-eclipse.

placed for evening observing now, on opposite sides of Capricornus in the southern sky after sunset.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about October 31st visit the www.sky-maps.com website and download the map for November 2021; 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. Sky & Telescope has highlights of the best events for each week at <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/>.

Setting in the southwest is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy, with Saturn just above the lid of its teapot. The best view of our Galaxy lies overhead now. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky in the northwest. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila

the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. Use binocs and your sky map to spot many clusters here, using the SkyMap download to locate some of the best ones plotted and described on the back.

Overhead the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of it is the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in

the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye.

To the northeast, Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. south. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come. This is probably the best sight in the sky with binoculars, with hundreds of fainter stars joining the famed "Seven Sisters" with 10x50 binocs. To the NE, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 p.m. as November begins along the northeastern horizon. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky, and a beacon of the colorful and bright winter stars to come in December.

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Farmers' Almanac

*"November's sky is chill and drear,
November's leaf is red and sear"*

—Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Fair (1, 2, 3, 4) with showers, thunderstorms (5, 6, 7, 8); windy then colder with hard freeze in the southern part of the region (7, 8), turning fair and mild (9, 10). Breezy, rain, turning cold snow in the west (11, 12) turning fair cold with frost (13, 14); fair turning milder (15, 16, 17, 18) with rain, snow in the west, brisk and colder (19, 20, 21, 22). Breezy, flurries in the west (23) fair and milder (24, 25, 26, 27) again, breezy rain (28) turning fair and colder, flurries in the west (29, 30).

Severe Weather Watch: Thunderstorms, high winds (5, 6, 7); hard freeze (8) heavy snow wind in the western part of the region (11, 12), heavy snow (22).

Full Moon: The Full Moon in November will occur on Saturday, November 18th. With the leaves falling and grasses dying off, it has been referred to as Falling Leaf Moon and Dying Grass Moon. And because of the high

winds sweeping through across The Plains, many in that region called it Big Wind Moon.

Special Notes: Daylight Savings ends for 2021 on Sunday, November 7th at 2 a.m.. Be sure to turn the clocks back an hour before retiring Saturday evening.

Holidays: Veteran's Day falls on Thursday, November 11th. Remember to honor our military service branches and those have served and with their service, continue to protect us today. Thanksgiving is celebrated on Thursday, November 25th. Join with family and friends and reflect on all of those things we have to be thankful for and please, try to carry that appreciation not only throughout the holiday season, but for always! And though not officially recognized as a holiday, Wednesday, November 10th is the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King's actual birthday.

The Garden: Keep all of your plants well-watered going into late fall and winter. Pay particular attention to any plants or shrubs recently planted. Plants that face winter dryness are prone to damage and dieback during the cooler

months. The trick is to water deeply and less often in order to establish self-sufficient plants. As soon as the leaves fall from fruit trees, shade or flowering trees, raspberries and other deciduous plants, they can be sprayed for the first time with a dormant spray. This spraying helps control over-wintering insects and diseases. Apply according to label instructions. Winter heating dries the air out in your home considerably. Help your house plants survive by misting them or placing the pots on a pebble filled tray of water to ensure adequate humidity and moisture.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (2, 3, 29, 30); weeding and stirring the soil (1, 26, 26); harvesting all crops (15, 16); the best days for setting hens and incubators (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10); transplanting (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10); the weaning of small animals and livestock (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14); the harvesting and storing grains (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25).

John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"Before you insist upon being making yourself heard, make sure you have something of importance to say"

COMPUTER Q&A

Mac V.S. PC – What you need to know before you buy

Ayse Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer
Fairfield

We get customers that have been long time Windows users who are told by family or friends to just “get a Mac” whenever their computer has issues. There are benefits to both a Mac and a PC but choosing which one is right for you requires a little background information and knowledge. Read on to find out what you should consider whether you are purchasing a computer for the first time or consider making the switch.

Hardware differences between Mac and PC's

When it comes to hardware you're paying for the Apple name. You can typically purchase a PC computer with the same or better specifications for less cost than that of a Mac. What you won't get with a PC is proprietary hardware that is designed to work specifically with the Mac machines. This means that there are generally less hardware issues and better support resolutions among the Mac machines. The bottom line for hardware is that you will pay more for a Mac and get less value than with a PC but in general you will have less hardware issues with the Mac. Before you switch from a PC to a Mac ensure that any devices you use with your current computer are compatible or make sure you allow your budget to replace those devices.

Software differences between Mac and PC's

Software for Mac's are generally more reliable. This goes back to the fact that there is limited hardware being used for Mac machines and most of the Mac software that you purchase directly through the Apple App Store is high quality although it is still a good idea to read reviews for your current operating system to ensure compatibility. Mac's are also much less likely to obtain any viruses although that doesn't mean your 100% immune and you can still receive fake virus alerts from infected websites via the Safari web browser. Most popular software is available for both Mac's and PC's although you should always verify that any software you rely on is available on the Mac. I recently discovered that although you can install Microsoft Office on a Mac machine you won't be able to install Publisher or Access since they are not available for the Mac OS. Since much of the software on a mac is proprietary along with the proprietary hardware, you are much less likely to see crashes compared to a PC.

On a PC you may find that you have more available to you which can sometimes be a good thing and sometimes not so much. You have a lot more software available to you and while some of the free software options can be desirable you should

be wary of any free software, many times they come bundled with what we call “potentially unwanted programs” that can slow down your machine and cause pop-ups. With any Windows PC virus software is a must and should always be used to keep your machine protected especially if you do any kind of online banking or purchasing over the web. When it comes to external hardware such as printers, webcams etc. you will find that there is more available now for Mac's but there is still a lot more compatible devices for PC's over Mac's.

Using a Mac for the first time

New users will have the easiest time navigating a Mac. One difference

users will notice between a newer Mac and a PC is the requirement to create a password on the Mac. Without setting up or using an existing apple id account you will find yourself limited when using the Mac devices. If you were previously a PC user you will quickly find that some of the normal PC functions are different on a Mac for example scrolling down on the mouse will move your screen up rather than down like on a PC.

Using finder on a Mac can make finding your documents easier for new Mac users. Previous PC users may have some difficulty learning how the Mac File explorer works since some things are hidden by default. In my opinion, the Mac



was very difficult to get use to as a long time PC user. If you are considering making the switch to a Mac I highly recommend that you try out a friends Mac computer or visit your nearest Apple store to try out the computers they have on display before you make the jump.

a mac, or for more assistance resolving computer related issues please contact Jester's Computers located at 5135 Fairfield Road in Fairfield PA. You can reach by calling 717-642-6611 or by visiting us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com We are a small family owned and operated business that has been open since 1998 and we offer reliable, affordable and fast computer repair services and training.

If you need additional support or advice and are considering switching from a Mac to a pc or a PC to

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HUMOR

More totally useless facts ... part whatever ...

An old law in Bellingham, Washington, made it illegal for a woman to take more than three steps backwards while dancing!

The glue on Israeli postage is certified kosher.

The Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from public libraries.

Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a spacesuit damages them.

Bats always turn left when exiting a cave!

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

The Bible does not say there were three wise men; it only says there were three gifts.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

The words 'race car,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewables Vitamins.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.

Drinking two glasses of Gatorade can relieve headache pain almost immediately -- without the unpleasant side effects caused by traditional "pain relievers."

Did you know that Colgate toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns.

Before you head to the drugstore for a high-priced inhaler filled with mysterious chemicals, try chewing on a couple of curiously strong Altoids peppermints. They'll clear up your stuffed nose.

Achy muscles from a bout of the flu? Mix 1 Tablespoon of horseradish in 1 cup of olive oil. Let the mixture sit for 30 minutes, then apply it as a massage oil, for instant relief for aching muscles.

Sore throat? Just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.

Cure urinary tract infections with Alka-Seltzer . Just dissolve two tablets in a glass of water and drink it at the onset of the symptoms. Alka-Seltzer begins eliminating urinary tract infections almost instantly -- even though the product was never been advertised for this use. (Note: Alka-Seltzer Plus Cold Medicine is not the same, and contains aspirin, which can cause stomach bleeding if you have ulcers.)

Honey remedy for skin blemishes... Cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a Band-Aid over it. Honey kills the

bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.

Listerine therapy for toenail fungus... Get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine mouthwash. The powerful antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again.

Easy eyeglass protection... To prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of Maybelline Crystal Clear nail polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.

Coca-Cola cure for rust... Forget those expensive rust removers. Just saturate an abrasive sponge with Coca Cola and scrub the rust stain. The phosphoric acid in the coke is what gets the job done.

Cleaning liquid that doubles as bug killer... If menacing bees, wasps, hornets, or yellow jackets get in your home and you can't find the insecticide, try a spray of Formula 409. Insects drop to the ground instantly.

Smart splinter remover...just pour a drop of Elmer's Glue-All over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. The splinter sticks to the dried glue.

Hunt's tomato paste boil cure....cover the boil with Hunt's tomato paste as a compress. The acids from the tomatoes soothe the pain and bring the boil to a head.

Balm for broken blisters...To disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of Listerine ... a powerful antiseptic.

Heinz vinegar to heal bruises... Soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and apply it to the bruise for 1 hour. The vinegar reduces the blueness and speeds up the healing process.


Kills fleas instantly. Dawn dish washing liquid does the trick. Add a few drops to your dog's bath and shampoo the animal thoroughly. Rinse well to avoid skin irritations. Good-bye fleas.

Rainy day cure for dog odor... Next time your dog comes in from the rain, simply wipe down the animal with Bounce or any dryer sheet, instantly making your dog smell spring-time fresh.

Eliminate ear mites... All it takes is a few drops of Wesson corn oil in your cat's ear. Massage it in, then clean with a cot-

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HUMOR

ton ball. Repeat daily for 3 days. The oil soothes the cat's skin, smothers the mites, and accelerates healing.

Quaker Oats for fast pain relief....It's not for breakfast anymore! Mix 2 cups of Quaker Oats and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.

Interesting True Tombstones!

Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York: Born 1903-Died 1942 Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was.

In a Thurmont, Maryland, cemetery: Here lies an Atheist All dressed up And no place to go.

On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia: Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102. The Good Die Young.

In a London, England cemetery: Here lies Ann Mann, Who lived an old maid But died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767

In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery: Anna Wallace: The children of Israel wanted bread, And the Lord sent them manna. Old clerk Wallace wanted a wife, And the Devil sent him Anna.

In a Ruidoso, New Mexico, cemetery: Here lies Johnny Yeast.. Pardon me For not rising.

In a Uniontown, Pennsylvania, cemetery: Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake. Stepped on the gas Instead of the brake.

In a Silver City, Nevada, cemetery: Here lays The Kid. We planted him raw. He was quick on the trigger But slow on the draw.

A lawyer's epitaph in England: Sir John Strange. Here lies an honest lawyer, And that is Strange.

John Penny's epitaph in the Wimborne, England, cemetery: Reader, if cash thou art In want of any, Dig 6 feet deep; And thou wilt find a Penny.

In a cemetery in Hartscombe, England: On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle Went out of tune.

Anna Hopewell's grave in Enosburg Falls, Vermont: Here lies the body of our Anna - Done to death by a banana. It wasn't the fruit that laid her low, But the skin of the thing that made her go.

On a grave from the 1880s in Nantucket, Massachusetts: Under the sod and under the trees, Lies the body of Jonathan Pease. He is not here, there's only the pod. Pease

shelled out and went to God.

In a cemetery in England: Remember man, as you walk by, As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so shall you be. Remember this and follow me. To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone: To follow you I'll not consent Until I know which way you went.



NOVEMBER

What a wonderful month to enjoy. The leaves will have changed and the Fall colors abound. The harvest is in full swing and the farmers are getting ready for the Winter coming soon. This is a month for family and friends to gather and give thanks. This has been a trying year for sure and we need to get together with folks and enjoy life. We need to step back and take inventory of ourselves. We have many reasons to be thankful. Please enjoy this time before the real chill of Winter sets in. Get out, enjoy the sights, take a ride to nowhere just for fun. We will make sure your vehicle is ready and raring to go.

This Thanksgiving, be sure to look around the table at those in your life, for if were not for them, you would be a different person.

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