

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 14, NO. 3

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

MARCH 2022

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Lawsuits disrupt candidates' primary plans

Lawsuits resulting from the gerrymandering of state delegate district boundaries have thrown a monkey wrench in the plans of many who had hopes to run in the upcoming June primary.

Ordinarily, candidacy papers must be submitted by February, however, due to court challenges to the congressional and legislative maps, candidacy deadlines for all races have been extended by a month to March 22 according to the Frederick County Board of Elections.

In December, the Democratic controlled Maryland Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission released a proposed legislative redistricting plan designed to shore up vulnerable Democrats and create a opportunities for Democrats to pick up more seats — despite already holding supermajorities in both the House of Delegates and Senate.

Under the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission maps, Fredrick County, which currently encompasses one district sending three Republican Delegates to Annapolis, will find itself divided, with the Democratic southern part of the County now its own district and the northern part of the

County, comprising Emmitsburg & Thurmont, combined into a Washington County centered district.

In response, Maryland Republican Governor Larry Hogan created the multi-partisan Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw up non-gerrymandered congressional and legislative maps. Under Hogan's plan, all of northern Frederick County would be made into a single Delegate District, mirroring the new County Council District 5, which encompasses Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Woodsboro and Walkersville.

Normally at this time, candidates would be out campaigning in earnest for the June primary, but with the uncertainty at the outcome of the lawsuit on legislative boundaries, and the possibility that the extended deadline will bring out additional candidates, many announced and potential candidates are scratching their heads as to what to do next. Candidates are torn between the need to start campaigning or to hold back and save money until such time as they know who will be their respective opponents.

While the State races are in chaos, Frederick County government races are beginning to



Brad Young's entry into the County Council-At-Large race was welcomed by Democrats who hope to retain the seat currently occupied by Kai Hagen.

take shape. Yet unless something changes, there will be little incentive for many to get out and vote come June.

The only real 'horserace' this year is on the Democratic side of the County Executive race, where Daryl Boffman, Jessica Fitzwater and Kia Hagen are vying for the slot to take on the sole Republican candidate Michael Hough, who, without an opponent, will automatically advance to the general election.

In the race for the two County Council-at-Large seats, Phil Dacey & Dylan Diggs are the sole candidates on the Republican ticket, with Renee Knapp and Brad Young

on the Democratic Ticket. Unless someone else joins these races, all four will also automatically advance to the general election in November.

In the County Council District Five race, Julianne Lufkin is running unopposed on the Democratic slate, while the current Councilman Michael Blue is being challenged by a high school student in the Republican Primary.

In just about every other race, from Sheriff to Clerk of Court, there is only one candidate per party for each race. Only the school board primary offers any opportunity for excitement ... more on that next month.

Historical Society works to expand membership

Although slowed by the pandemic, the Fairfield Area Historical Society is up and running. The Society started as a Civil War Sesquicentennial committee and morphed into the historical society known today in 2015.

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. Membership benefits include supervised access to the collection of the Society at no charge, as well as discounts on products and activities sponsored by the society.

The most exciting aspect of working with the society, FAHS President Camille Cline says, are looking at the deeds that the society has collected. Some of them date all the way back to properties from the mid 1800's, "it's amazing to see how today's property lines changed over time, and discover names that have long disappeared into history."

The society is always looking for new members and history buffs of all kinds to join in their crusade and lead as program present-

ers. "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 is active in the community and has commissioned professional town studies and aims to hold four publicly engaging programs a year. The first of which will be the hosting of the 'Victorian Historian,' Adam Shefts, March 17, at the Fairfield town Hall.

Shefts leads participants in a grandiose escapade portraying glimpses of the Victorian days of the late nineteenth century. Partake in a one-of-a-kind journey into the unique, fascinating, and sometimes shocking facts, stories, and happenings to come out of America's Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Daily events and happenings showcased by the Historian occurred country-wide during the Victorian era including spirit communication seances and could very likely have happened right in Fairfield, society President Camille Cline said.

Shefts' passion for American history spans the Civil War through



If the Fairfield Historical Society has its way, residents will soon have stories that go along with pictures like this.

the sinking of the Titanic so most topics range between the 1860s and 1912, though some subject matter may occasionally pre-date the 1860s. Categories covered by Shefts include everything from common trends, natural disasters, to criminal masterminds of the era.

If you've ever wondered about the amount of arsenic dolled by

fashionable Victorian women, criminal masterminds, or regular superstitions taken to heart during that era, then Sheft's presentation will be right up your alley.

More information about the FAHS and membership can be found at www.fairfieldpahistoricalociety.org and by calling 717- 642-5640.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Town revenues better than expected

Commissioners were told their February Town Council meeting that the town had brought in \$371,917 more in revenue than went out last year in expenses.

The surplus, according to Town Manager Cathy Willets, was a result of very conservative spending in 2021 by the town because of the uncertainty with COVID-19.

“We basically cut 25 percent out of the budget, fortunately the town was not hit this hard, and we did have excess revenues,” she said.

The council approved a transfer of \$21,400 from the surplus to cover costs for items in the General Fund budget, including \$6,000 to cover department legal fees, and \$400 to the Main Street America affiliate program.

\$15,000 was transferred to the town’s workman’s compensation program and \$10,000 to the pension fund to cover increases in costs in these state run programs.

The council also approved transfers from the surplus into capital projects, including \$97,144 which is to be allocated to storm-

water management, including permit restoration requirements, and reducing flooding at Cedar Avenue. \$30,000 will be appropriated toward everything related to water and sewer infrastructure as well as stormwater facilities.

\$25,000 will be transferred for a new Public Works Department air compressor. Willets noted the current compressor is used frequently by the department and it is difficult to get parts for since it is 30 years old. \$8,373 is to be allocated into funds for needed curbs, sidewalks, and road repair.

\$25,000 will be transferred for tree projects, such as addressing safety issues of dead trees in various town parks.

Approximately \$81,500 will be appropriated to the town’s match reserve to pay for the town’s ballpark restroom and concession stand project. The total project is estimated at \$320,000 with a 25 percent match from Project Open Space.

\$28,500 will be allocated toward finishing the historic walking tour and putting up one way signs at the

Emergency Management Institute (and one at the former Saint Joseph’s Academy. \$15,300 will be applied toward completing holiday decoration displays throughout town.

Willets also recommended the Council approve the purchase of a new electronic message board to replace the old sign outside the town building.

In an effort to continuously look to get the news out to citizens without access to the internet and keep in touch with the community, the new electric sign will post reminders as well as up to date alerts. As opposed to manually changing letters on the current sign, “It’s an interactive sign we can control from here,” Willets said.

The sign has been approved by the county and the electronic system will be accessible for officials to post notices such as Amber Alerts and weather warnings. “We can share a lot more than we’ve been able to [in the past],” she said.

Because the estimated price is expected to be over \$50,000 the purchase of the signboard will come back to the council for final approval.

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News Briefs . . .

Ballpark Bleacher Construction Approved

At its February 7 meeting, the Town Council approved contractors for new town ballfield bleachers.

The projects are funded by the Local Parks and Playgrounds Infrastructure grants, with no match requirements from the town, according to Town Manager Cathy Willets.

For the concrete pouring section of the project, the town received a whopping 25 bids, “I think that’s a record,” Willets said.

Frederick County Paving was approved to pour eight concrete slabs for the total of \$14,325. Three slabs will be at Eugene Myers Community Park and five for Memorial Park.

Green Sites Incorporated was approved to construct and install a total of seven bleachers, three for Eugene Myers Community Park and four for Memorial Park for the amount of \$42,600.

Both companies have worked with the town before.

One bleacher already in place, at Memorial Park, will remain, Willets said.

The total grant amount awarded was an estimate of \$17,400 for the concrete pour and \$55,900 for the bleachers.

In other park business, HMF Paving was approved to pave the gravel area in Memorial Park for the amount of \$28,980.

As all park projects came under budget; the town will seek state approval to utilize the left-over funding for additional projects, Willets said.

Town Employee Hires Approved

The Town Council approved two new office hires as well as the return of a familiar office face.

The position of Town Clerk was approved for Julie Scott. The Town’s hiring staff was impressed with Scott’s credentials and Wil-

let called her qualifications “outstanding.”

Sabrina King was approved for the Office Coordinator position with Mayor Don Briggs noting her excellent customer service experience.

“Welcome new staff, we look forward to working with you,” Council President Tim O’Donnell said.

Bringing her grant expertise with her, previous Town Clerk Madeline Shaw will return as a part-time Grant Administrator.

This is a new position created, as no applicants had grant experience, managing the magnitude of town grants is a fundamental aspect of the office.

A tremendous amount of work goes into each grant to ensure funding, “And the requirements for each agency are different,” she said.

Shaw is anticipated to work approximately 16-hours a week and no more than 20 hours a week, depending on what is needed.

The position includes grant writ-

ing, managing reports, submitting Requests For Proposals (RFP), advertising, and all aspects of grant management that do not fall to other staff.

Shaw has an 82 percent success rate with grants with her most recent approval with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding the Paul Street and North Seton water line, Willets said.

The council and staff considered Shaw in the position as a “win-win” for the entire community.

New Deputy Welcomed

At its February 7 meeting, the Town Council welcomed new Frederick County Sheriff’s Deputy First Class Paul Graves to the community.

Graves is a five-year law enforcement veteran who previously served with the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office.

Graves’ introduction follows Deputy Ben Whitehouse’s opportunity to become a detective with the department’s criminal investigative unit.

“I’m excited to be out here. I know I have big shoes to fill, but I’m excited to learn Emmitsburg and get to know everyone around here,” Graves said.

“If you see me out, try to say hi, I’m not scary. I know I’m a big guy, but I’m friendly,” he said.

Pool Management Company Returns

The Town Council approved a three-year contract with RSV Pools Incorporated as the town’s pool management company for the 2022-2024 pool seasons.

RSV Pools has managed the town pool for several years and the contract is similar to that utilized as previously.

The three-year contract was approved for \$65,952 for the year 2022, \$67,848 for the year 2023, and \$70,980 for the year 2024.

Personnel and chemical prices have gone up, as well as minimum wage, supplies, and unemployment insurance costs have all risen. Chemicals have also become difficult to obtain as they are coming from other countries.

The RSV Pools Inc. is responsible for the entire management for the pool, with the town supplying cleaning supplies, paper towels and toilet paper.

Preparations begin in April to get the facility ship-shape, and the pool is set to open to the public Memorial Day weekend.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Proposed zoning ordinance adoption postponed

Carroll Valley Borough Council postponed updating its proposed zoning ordinance following public comment Tuesday.

An overview of the proposed zoning amendment was presented by Robert Thaeler, Principal Planner of the Adams County Office of Planning and Development.

The proposed ordinance is similar to the current ordinance created in 1976, but includes updates

to administrative content and standard terms, Thaeler said.

"It's an updated zoning ordinance that is intended to replace the one you have now in an attempt to modernize and get currently appropriate administrative and standards in place, but in a way that maintains a lot for the character of the borough that we currently have," Thaeler said.

The proposed zoning ordinance

establishes districts including residential districts, commercial districts, and a community core district. The ordinance also establishes guidelines, requirements, and standards for the zoning districts.

Amendments to update the zoning ordinance have been in the works for years through the council and the planning commission but were put on hold due to

COVID-19, he said.

If adopted, the proposed zoning ordinance would replace the current one, that has been in place since 1976.

At public comment, information was provided regarding the proposed ordinance's zoning layout and requests to change it.

Within the current zoning ordinance, the area in question of Jingle Road has been listed as a

commercial zoning district, while in the new proposed ordinance, it is listed as residential, according to landowner Jale Dalton.

Town Manager Dave Hazlett said there was no reason to exclude the property and considered the zoning change an "oversight."

The council will review the requests and another public hearing will be held at the council's next meeting March 15.

Residents raise concerns over lack of amenities

At its February 22 meeting, Fairfield Borough Council heard resident input as development and infrastructure requests were brought to attention Tuesday.

Kelli Maze of West Main Street expressed frustration at the lack of grocery and gas station options in Fairfield. Although "extremely enchanted by the quaint little town," when she moved to Fairfield in 2013, Maze has now become concerned with lack of economic development.

Noting especially for the number of older folks in town, groceries and gas should be more readily accessible.

"I know this town has a lot of retired people who depend on those services, and it concerns me that we don't have them," she said.

Coming from Frederick County, Maze said she was used to a more populated area with economic development liaisons. "There's just a whole bunch of little things I think would make it a little better, and that's all you need, a little better," Maze said.

Maze also brought up issues with infrastructure at the end of Stevens Street, noting water that freezes on the roadway.

Council President Patricia Smith

noted it has been an ongoing frustration faced by the rest of the town as well. "You really do run into roadblocks when you're dealing with private property, there's only so much we can do," she said.

Borough solicitor Matthew Battersby recommended having the storm drain culvert at Stevens Street reviewed by the borough engineer and identified if its exact location was in the borough or Hamiltonban Township.

New business and roadway infrastructure often takes a considerable amount of red tape to cut through,

councilmember Nate McNeill said.

In other business, the council announced that patrons of the Fairfield Borough community mailbox, located at Fourth and East Main Street, won't have to scrounge in the dark anymore with the installation of a new solar lamp post coming soon.

The community cluster mailbox provides for free mail delivery for several borough locations including Water, Main, and Centennial Street. The area is so poorly lit that residents claim flashlights were needed after hours to find boxes. The total installation price for the new

lights was \$711, according to Councilmember Dean Thomas.

The Fairfield Borough Council also renewed the borough's annual Civil War Trails sponsorship. An interpretive sign located in front of the Mansion House restaurant on Main St. provides visitors a glimpse into history as a part of over 1,400 historic stops across six states. The borough pays \$200 yearly as a member of Civil War Trails.

The Council also approved the spending of \$420 for the purchase of a new truck cargo carrier and ramp, contingent on maintenance department confirmation that it is the right size.

News Briefs . . .

Hamiltonban Seeks to Fill Seats on Commissions

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors is seeking volunteers to serve on the township's Planning & Zoning Commission, and an alternate is needed for the Zoning Hearing Board. If you would like to serve your community, please contact the Township office at 717-642-8509. You must be a citizen member of the Township.

The Planning & Zoning Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. The duties are to make recommendations to the governing body regarding zoning ordinance, subdivision and land development ordinance, official map, provisions for planned residential development, and such other ordinances and regulations governing the development of land, hold public hearings and meetings, building code and housing code recommendations and proposed amendments, environmental study, capital improvements program, water survey, renewable energy sources, comprehensive plan and planning, make recommendations to governmental, civic and private agencies and individuals as to the effectiveness of the proposals of such agencies and individuals and submits their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

An alternate is needed for the Zoning Hearing Board which meets as needed. The Zoning Hearing Board may hold proceedings to variances, special exception and conditional uses which would be by application, and appeals from the determination of the Zoning Officer. The Zoning Hearing Board is to help assure fair and equitable application and administration of the zoning ordinance. A Zoning Hearing Board must limit its scope of activities to those permitted by the Municipali-

ties Planning Code and by the township's zoning ordinance.

We know people have busy schedules, but you will reap rewards by the service you provide which benefits the Hamiltonban Township community.

Community Assists Animal Cruelty Case

Community assistance helped police investigate a felony under the "Aggravated Cruelty to Animals" law that happened in late December, according to Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman.

Police pursued these leads, resulting in the charge of a 17-year-old juvenile for the offense that will proceed to the Adams County Juvenile Court, he said.

The citizen who helped in the identification donated all of the reward money back to the SPCA, Hileman said.

CV Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held in the council meeting room March 24 from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. An appointment is recommended, and a form of ID is required.

Appointments can be made at

<http://717giveblood.org> or by calling 1-800-771-0051.

Fire Department Shrimp Dinner

Fairfield Fire and EMS seafood dinner will be held March 18 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The menu includes a crab cake, a half-pound of steamed shrimp, a side, and a drink for twenty dollars. Small games of chance will also be available for additional costs. The event is BYOB.

Tickets and more information can be found by calling 717-642-8842 or at the website at <https://www.fairfieldfire-ems.com/>.

The department is also actively looking for volunteers of all kinds to assist the station serving the community.

Any assistance, from office work, fundraising, to hopping on the fire engine, to surrounding volunteer fire departments, including Fountaindale, is greatly required.

"They do a good job for us, and they are vital to our community," Council Board President Richard Mathews said.

COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Approved

At its February 1 meeting, the Liberty Township Board of Supervisors adopted

a resolution to provide COVID-19 related paid-time off.

In compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, the township provided a resolution authorizing paid leave for scheduled employees unable to work due to COVID-19.

Utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funding, township employees are eligible for up to two weeks of full pay if they have COVID-19 symptoms and for 2/3 regular pay

for employees in quarantine or caring for a child due to COVID-19 related matters.

The resolution does not take away from an employee's sick or vacation paid time-off until after two-weeks, after which employees will have to utilize regular forms of paid or unpaid leave.

The maximum leave amounts do not reset with the new calendar year and covers the period of March 3, 2021, through December 31, 2024.

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THURMONT NEWS

Petition for church annexation takes next steps

At its February 8th meeting, the annexation request for Thurmont United Methodist Church to be brought into town entered its next phase following the Town Council's approval of the request.

Located at 13880 Long Road, just east of town, the Church is looking to expand with the ever-growing needs of the community. The church has been working on a new strategic plan for the last several years to grow

the church, including increasing the population of the congregation and making the church more relevant to the town by providing a daycare center and before and after school care.

Head Trustee and Finance Chair of Thurmont United Methodist Church, Steven Vaughn presented an overview of the church's intentions with the annexation.

In order to incorporate a daycare center, the church facility

built in 1988 needs infrastructure updates including a sprinkler system. The church currently utilizes a well water supply and a septic system, which raises issues for necessities such as sprinkler systems. If annexed into the town, the church will have access to town water, which will provide both sufficient water pressure and flow necessary for the fire sprinkle system.

The church would also require construction of exit signs and

plumbing upgrades to bring it up to standards.

Vaughn presented a map of the facility and the surrounding land to the council. The Church envisions utilizing the facility's existing ten classrooms and social hall for childcare.

"I commend your church for reaching out to the community to better serve the community and children, whether parishioners of your church or not. That's awesome," Commissioner Bill Beuher said.

The church committee is currently working through the process to have all renovations completed as soon as possible and are hoping to have them underway this calendar year.

The town and the church have discussed plans together the last few months and have an excellent partnership, Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick said.

The request will next move to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review.

Master Deck Builders cuts ribbon

Main Street Thurmont welcomed deck building company Master Deck Builders, with a ribbon cutting ceremony February 5th.

As the name suggests, Master Deck Builders are experts in all aspects of deck construction, repair, removal, remodeling, and more! The company provides one of a kind custom deck building and repair services to the community.

Proprietor and master builder Larry Stambaugh has been in busi-

ness for over 35 years and had previously worked exclusively out of his home office in Rocky Ridge.

Stambaugh is excited to finally be able to bring his passion to a brick-and-mortar store in Thurmont. "It didn't feel like home anymore, I needed a separate area to grow the business," he said.

Stambaugh credited Thurmont's welcoming atmosphere for helping make the decision for him to set up shop in town.

Despite material shortages

thousands of projects nationwide, Stambaugh is confident in his and his team's skills to speak for themselves and the team already has three or four big projects lined up for the upcoming season.

Stambaugh's favorite aspect of deck building is providing nothing less than complete customer satisfaction. "It's about seeing the finished project and standing back and marveling," he said.

Often the most challenging and time-consuming, but none-

theless satisfying projects involve repairs and rehabilitations to aging wood and "making it look beautiful again," he said. "The best part is when you complete a project, and you step back and take a photo."

Stambaugh says customers have been even brought to tears because they love the quality of work performed by him and his team. "In the end, it's all worth it," he said.

Everyone is invited to come into the location as a "please touch museum" and cycle through past project albums to see all the choices of products including flooring col-

ors and railing models for that perfect deck.

The team is ready to tackle any project large or small and now is an excellent time to get started planning home improvement projects.

"Whether it's tearing out an old deck, remodeling a current deck or customizing a brand-new deck, the team at Master Deck Builders has the resources and expertise to personalize a deck to your taste", said Stambaugh proudly.

To learn more about Master Deck Builders, call them at 240-405-4066.

News Briefs . . .

Bench To Honor Town Employee
At its January 25 meeting, the Town Council approved dedicating a memorial bench on the trolley trail to Jeff Kilby, a wastewater treatment plant operator, who passed away in 2021.

The decision came following a request the council received from one of Kilby's municipal coworkers.

Kilby has been recognized in the past by the council for going above and beyond his job requirements and his outstanding work ethic, performing his duties with enthusiasm and being an all-around wonderful person to know. Work for the dedication is expected to begin as soon as possible.

New Farmers Market Signs Approved

The Town Council approved the

purchase and installation of five new farmers market signs.

"The farmers market has always been an amazing program for us, and I'm always tickled pink when the season starts," said Mayor John Kinnaird.

The current market signs were gifted from the state Highway administration and have been up for many years, and are beginning to show their age, said Kinnard. "It's time to replace them".

The new signs will cost approximately \$4,000, including installation plus one year of maintenance to be performed by the state.

The project falls in the realm of economic development through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding said Town Manager Jim Humerick

"These signs will draw added

attention to the farmers market," Kinnard added.

Council Mulls Rise in Colorfest Parking Fees

At its February 1 meeting, the Town Council discussed the pros and cons of raising Colorfest parking fees. The council considered increasing the fees charged to park in the community during the festival as the most painless way to increase revenue without changing vendor permit fees.

Currently, the town collects two dollars per car as part of their parking agreements. Under the current process, organizations parking cars charge \$10 and pay the town \$2, keeping \$8 per car, or they can charge less, but the town still collects \$2 per car.

Income from the parking fees helps the town cover bus transportation, sanitations, and secu-

rity for the entire event. In 2021, Colorfest parking brought in \$12,207 in parking fees, in 2019, it brought in \$15,960, and in 2018 parking brought in \$12,558, Kinnaird said he had no problem with the town's loss generated in 2021 because the event is about helping nonprofits raise money.

Faced with a \$3,000 deficit this season, Commissioner Bill Blakeslee recommended increasing the parking fee to 15 dollars with \$5 coming to the town and \$10 staying to the vendor. Blakeslee said raising the parking fee by \$5 would potentially lessen the confusion of dealing with one-dollar bills.

Commissioner Wayne Hooper noted \$10 is inexpensive compared to what other events tend to charge. The Council made no decisions and more discussion regarding Colorfest parking is expected at a later date.

Green Fest Returns

Environmental stewardship returns as a community festival this April with the Thurmont Green Fest. The event is sponsored by the Thurmont Green Team and the Thurmont Regional Library and will be held April 9 at the Thurmont Regional Library.

The no-waste event is dedicated to promoting green living in the community and will offer nature crafts and games as well as educational opportunities including learning how to plant trees, garden, compost and more.

Participants can also expect information about electronic recycling and native pollinators to ensure a sustainable Gateway to the Mountains. Food will be available from the Thurmont Lions Club. For more information about the Green Fest, call 301-600-7200.

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 <p>CUTWATER Ready To Drink COCKTAILS Variety of flavors 4 PAK CANS</p>	 <p>FORDHAM LEE DISTILLERY Blueberry Swirl Snickerdoodle Cream Cherry Cream CREAM WHISKEY</p>	 <p>BUD LIGHT HARD SODA VARIETY 12 PAK</p>	 <p>LOYAL READY TO DRINK VODKA COCKTAIL 4 FLAVORS - 4 PAK</p>
 <p>Captain Morgan CHERRY VANILLA SPICED RUM 750 ML</p>	<p>Paul's Pit Stop 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>ROGUE BEER 6 PAK CANS</p>

TANEYTOWN NEWS

City pursues chemical lawsuit

Following recommendations from the City's attorney Jay Gullo, at its February 14th meeting, the Taneytown City Council approved a legal service agreement with the law offices of Barron and Bud to join a class action lawsuit involving chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFA) found in manufactured products, such as firefighting foam.

Elements of PFA have been discovered leached into the groundwater, City Attorney Jay Gullo said.

"These substances were placed in these materials by the manufacturers, and they knew at the time they were forever chemicals," he said.

The suit has been around since 2020 and many municipalities have gotten involved. "The good news is we're not the worst in the state," he said. "It is an existing condition that has existed for some time, we're just getting aware of the situation," he said.

Taneytown has had a successful working relationship with Baron

and Bud in a prior class action lawsuit. The firm helped the City win about \$400,000 in a lawsuit regarding MTBE chemicals in gasoline products that leached into and affected groundwater nationwide.

Gullo will act on the city's behalf with Baron and Bud to ensure that the City gets the most benefit at settlement as possible. Like in any class action lawsuit, if the suit is won, Baron and Bud will get 25 percent of the settlement awarded to the City. If the suit is

lost, the City will not incur any charges from Baron and Bud.

As the Environmental Protection Agency gets its hands around the issue, they will define standards of acceptable quantities of PFAs in drinking water, at which time the City may or may not have to take action.

"The city is likely facing unknown costs down the road" because we don't know what the level of contamination will eventually be, or how we will clean it up, and what that cost will be, Gullo said.

Although trace elements have

been found in Taneytown water, there is no need for residents to boil water yet. "I think at this point since we don't have any red flags in front of our faces, we're going to have to trust there is no current health hazard," Mayor Bradley Wantz said.

The council unanimously approved coming onboard with the lawsuit, noting especially if there are mitigation efforts down the line, there will be funding in place to take care of it.

Gullo said he will brief the council on any updates regarding the matter as the lawsuit unfolds.

Service contracts awarded

At its February 14 meeting, the Taneytown City Council approved the awarding of a number of city service contracts.

The city's five-year solid waste and recycling service contract was again awarded to Ecology Services, the city's current solid waste and recycling service company. Ecology Service's winning bid was for \$1,541,729.

Prior to renewing the contract Mayor Bradley Wantz acknowledged the City has received several complaints from res-

idents regarding the performance of the company, but said he believed "if we're comfortable with the price presented and the fact that they have remedied a lot of the issues as they've come up," we should continue with them.

Wantz said a complaint tracking system is being developed through the Public Works and IT Departments to track and resolve future complaints, not only against Ecology Services, but for other issues related to City staff and contractor performance.

The City, Wantz said, is also working to be more proactive in issuing penalties as necessary, and the public works director would also be available to address council concerns related to performance issues should the need arise.

Wantz said the City and Ecology Services are committed to working together to improve solid waste and recycling service performance. "I think we've got a good plan together at this point...I always like to hope with a fair shake, things can improve."

In addition to the solid waste and recycling service contract, the City Council also awarded a three-year office cleaning services contract to MultiCorp in the amount of \$17,185/year.

The City's street sweeping contract was awarded to Riley Sweeping. Under the contract, the company will be paid \$198/mile for sweeping the City's roads.

The City's biosolids hauling and disposal was awarded to Synagro Central in the amount of \$49.10 / ton for land application or \$190/ton for landfill disposal. The City's biosolids primarily come from the City's

wastewater treatment facility.

The city also awarded a contract to Mid-Atlantic Asphalt for the Memorial Park tennis and basketball court improvements in the amount of \$84,870. The project includes installing new acrylic surfaces on the tennis courts, including adapting one for pickleball, and the basketball court. The project is completely funded through a Maryland Department of the Environment's Program Open Space grant. Mid-Atlantic will be scheduling the work as the weather warms up enough to perform the asphalt and acrylic surfacing.

Council approves budget transfers

The Taneytown City Council approved a budget amendment to transfer money between various accounts in the general funding account to balance out unplanned revenues and expenses.

On the plus side, the City has seen an increase in income from the assessed property values tax to the tune of \$83,782, said City Manager James Wieprecht. The City also realized a \$12,000 gain from the Police Impact Fee.

Wieprecht recommended spending \$14,400 of the

unplanned income on a police department salary adjustment. "That is to hopefully aid in officer retention," he said.

In addition, Wieprecht recommended \$12,000 be spent for an architect schematic for renovations to the police department building. The current building only has one restroom and is crowded for the number of employees.

The schematic will identify the current layout of the building and suggest where it is structurally best to add features and make renova-

tions. "As the force has grown, it is getting a little bit tight," Wieprecht said. Following the concept design, the Council will be provided with a cost estimate for potential renovation/expansion of the building.

As the population of the city continues to grow, updated police facilities are important to address resident needs along with roads, Mayor Pro-tem Joe Vigliotti said.

Councilmember Diane Foster noted other city buildings need improvements, including the pub-

lic works department. "Overall facilities are lacking in the city," agreed Mayor Wantz, noting that the annex is not being used for its intended purposes and is not the most ideal space to have employees.

Research is currently underway for a "pole building like structure with an office attached," for the public works department.

Other budget adjustments included a one-time charge of \$67,000 to purchase a new skid

loader to replace the old one.

Despite not originally being in the budget for this year, the City Council also approved the demolition of the unused Festival Park building. The demolition was expedited due to vandalism.

The budget was also adjusted to account for \$27,000 in Maryland Department of the Environment fines stemming for permit violations at the City's wastewater treatment facility.

News Briefs . . .

Toy Auction

Everyone is welcome to the Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company's for a day filled with blasts to the past.

The Fire Company will host a toy auction at the fairgrounds March 12 starting at 9 a.m.

Consignments for auction will be listed available on the department website including farm toys and farm memorabilia.

Food will be available all day starting with breakfast sandwiches at 7:30 a.m.

More information and to view items listed for auction, visit www.tvfc5.org.

All Welcome To All You Can Eat Shrimp

All you can eat enthusiasts are invited to Taneytown Fire Department for a shrimp feed March 19.

the feed will include all you can eat shrimp, fried chicken, macaroni salad, beer, and much more.

Doors to the activities building on the carnival grounds open at three and will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tickets person are \$30 in advanced and \$35 at the door and discounted tickets are available for children.

Ticket information can be found by calling organizers at 240-285-0680 or 301-780-3987.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Michael Blue

Greetings from Winchester Hall! Spring is just right around the corner and soon we will see beautiful green fields. I might be biased but I truly believe County Council District 5 to be the most scenic of the council districts. We have great farms and agricultural attractions as well as flourishing small towns.

I along with Council Member Jerry Donald am sponsoring two Adminis-

tration bills to help our local ag community (Bill 22-03 and Bill 22-04).

Bill 22-03 is titled Amendments Chapter 1-19 of the Frederick County Code (Zoning Ordinance) – Update Certain Definitions to Agriculture Uses. This legislation amends chapter 1-19 of the Frederick County Code (Zoning Ordinance) to update certain definitions related to agricultural uses and to change qualifying criteria.

Bill 22-04 is titled Amending Chapter 1-6 of the Frederick Code (Building Code) to create a new exception for, and to define, a farm stand. The proposed amendment to the building code will add a definition of a farm stand as well as to provide an exception for farm stands from certain provisions of the bill. The bill will define a farm stand as a structure that does not exceed 600 square feet. It may be used to process, treat, or pack-

age agricultural products, the majority of which are produced on the farm. A farm stand may not be used as a place of human habitation or employment, nor used or occupied by the public. It will be exempt from permits to state that farm stands that meet the outlined requirements that will be exempt from obtaining a building permit. The provision does not exempt the owner from obtaining the required zoning certificate.

As you are reading this you more than likely have heard that I am run-

ning for re-election to serve and represent the people of the 5th County Council District. It has been an honor to have been elected by the people of northern Frederick County to serve you. I have never forgotten the great distinction and privilege that you have afforded to me. I humbly look forward to continuing my service to you over the next four years.

You can call my office at 301-600-1034, or email me at MBlue@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

County Councilman Phil Dacey

The Frederick County Council has several issues before it currently. We are working on creating the police accountability board that is required by state law, there is an issue for eclectic vehicles for new residential construction, and we recently voted on a county subsidy for the City of Frederick to purchase the land for a Marriott Hotel downtown on Carroll Creek.

First, the City of Frederick requested \$2.5 million from the county general fund to allow the City to purchase land on Carroll Creek in downtown Frederick which would then be utilized

to build a hotel conference center to be operated by Marriott. The county's general fund dollars are the same dollars that are used by the Sheriff's Department, funding schools through the Board of Education, and repairing roadways. I did not agree with using these taxpayer dollars as a gift to what will be a profitable enterprise. However, this budget item passed by a vote of 5-2 with myself and Council Member McKay voting against. It will now be up to the City of Frederick to purchase the land and work with the developer to get the hotel started.

The County Council heard a bill that would require all newly constructed homes with dedicated parking to include the electrical wiring for charging an electric vehicle. There are many people who think that electric vehicles, including vehicle charging, are the future of transportation. While this may be true, I do not believe that we should force this option on housing for people who may not want or may never own an electric vehicle. I believe that customers should be given a way to opt-out and not be required to pay for this construction. There was testimony that this electric charging

station could cost between \$900 - \$1,200. That is significant money for something that you might not want or use. Simply making this optional is a better approach.

Finally, the County Council began discussions on passing a Police Accountability Board (PAB). Last year the state legislature required every county to have an independent board to review police misconduct. I did not agree with the Annapolis legislation, as I fear it has the potential to hurt our law enforcement community. Until a person has been in a pressured life and death situation, we should not judge others who are putting their lives on the line every day in service of their community.

We saw this with the tragic, senseless shooting of two Frederick City police officers who were protecting our community from a criminal with a handgun.

Nevertheless, we are required by law to create a board that will review police misconduct complaints. We are debating the membership and the type of procedures for this PAB to investigate citizen complaints against police. We need to ensure that this Board does not become a tool for witch hunts against those who serve our community. We owe police our respect and gratitude, and we need to make sure they feel that this Board and our community is fair to them.

Mayors

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

In light of the recent decline in COVID-19 cases in Frederick County, County Executive Gardner has rescinded the facemask order for public places. Many businesses and restaurants may still require you to wear a mask in their establishment. Please honor these requests, they are in place to protect their employees and you the customer.

COVID-19 Vaccinations and booster shots are available on Monday evenings from 5 until 7 p.m. at

the Thurmont Regional Library on Moser Road. Covid-19 Tests are available on Friday evenings from 5 until 7 p.m. at the Thurmont Town Office at 615 East Main Street. The tests are free and do not require a doctor's note or an appointment.

Spring is headed our way but there's still plenty of opportunity for winter weather. I just want to remind everyone that if you can get your cars off the street it makes for a better job of clearing snow from our streets. Please do not clear the end of your driveway until our trucks have plowed to the curb. Chances are the plowed snow may block the end of

your driveway and I don't want you to have to clear your driveway more than once if possible. Also, be aware of snowplows as they work to clear the streets. Give all snowplows ample space as they are working or as you drive past them. These trucks are wide!

Speaking of Spring, the Thurmont Farmers Market will be open on Saturday, March 26th at 21 East Main Street in Thurmont. The early indoor market was a big success last year and this year will be no different. The indoor market will be open Saturdays from 9 until noon through May 7th. The indoor market will feature mushrooms, locally

made sauces & rubs, baked goods, organic greens, and much more! Bantam Coffee Roasters will be at every Farmer Market with their trailer serving up freshly roasted coffee, lattes, espresso, and more. The Farmers Market will then move to its new outdoor location in the Thurmont Community Park on Frederick Road. The outdoor market will be open Saturdays from 9 until noon beginning Saturday, May 14th.

Cunningham Falls State Park is a great recreational resource right on our doorstep. There are plenty of trails to hike, streams for fishing, campsites, a beautiful lake for swimming, fishing, and canoeing, the beautiful Cunningham Falls, and tons of history!. Be sure to visit the Maple Syrup Festival at Cunningham Falls State Park! The event will be held from 10 until 2 p.m. on March 12th -13 and March 19th -20th. There will be two boil sites, the fresh syrup will be for sale and there will be hot beverages and lite fare available.

The Thurmont Planning and Zoning Commission has wrapped up the Master Plan Update and Comprehen-

sive Rezoning. Both are now in the hands of the Board of Commissioners and will be the topic of a public hearing in the near future. If you are interested in the Master Plan and Comprehensive Rezoning please watch for the BOC Public Hearing dates.

Please contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns at 301-606-9458 or by email at jkinnaird@thurmont.com. I hope everyone has a very nice March!

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

With masks coming off, spring almost here, and months of talking about the new businesses and major town improvements, here are some things about people.

Over the last year, unimpeded by Covid variations, the Frederick County Health Department partnering with Dr. Portier, has conducted a sample group program of forty patients to enhance selfcare blood pressure care and awareness. Forty (40) "Cuffs", medical parlance for the wide band you put

Continued on next page

Thurmont Community Ambulance Service
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Bingo Starts: 1 p.m.

 **\$25 Per Person**

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

March is here! Temperatures are slowly starting to warm up and soon we'll be setting our clocks forward. It's hard to believe it's already time to register children for summer camps and programs at Frederick County Parks and Recreation. Spring programs are still open, too. This month, our Recreation staff is launching the county's first all-girl flag football league. Women's History Month is the perfect time for the league's players to make history.

Women's History Month is also a time to reflect on the contributions of women throughout Frederick County's history. The first U.S.-born saint was Emmitsburg's own St. Elizabeth Seton. The oldest standing homestead in Frederick County, the Beatty-Cramer house in Ceresville, was established by Susanna Beatty in 1732. Susanna was one of the first women in all of Maryland to own land.

Rural Broadband

Senator Chris Van Hollen came to Thurmont recently to hear about the challenges of broadband access in rural areas. He heard from Mayor John Kinnaird and listened to par-

ents and educators about their experiences, especially when children were in virtual learning during the pandemic. Some families turned to using wi-fi from the parking lot of regional libraries or their closest school.

We know that reliable internet access is a necessity in today's world. People and businesses need a stable, fast and reliable connection to apply for a job, take classes, hold meetings, get driving directions or catch a bus. Broadband connections are essential to the function of our daily lives.

In 2020, the County commissioned a study to identify the problem and challenges so we could develop a strategy and plan a path forward. Building out a system to serve all the pockets of our community – from Sabillasville to Point of Rocks – will take time and money. (See map)

Fortunately, we now have available funding, thanks to our Federal delegation, who have worked to bring us resources to expand the fiber, cables and other infrastructure. Frederick County received a grant last year to help bring broadband to a portion of Rocky Ridge. An application for additional funding is underway. If the appli-

cation is approved, the County will be able to build out broadband infrastructure in the blue areas of this map to connect these areas of the county.

The County is not a broadband provider, so the goal is to have private broadband providers partner with the County to put the infrastructure in place. It may take two years to build out, but there is a solution in the works. Frederick County Government committed \$2 million in federal funds to expand broadband into unserved and underserved parts of our county. We have boosted our libraries' wi-fi range, bought hot spots for students, and begun to implement our broadband plan.

Supporting Our Farmers

I am excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for Frederick County's award-winning Agriculture Innovation Grants. This year, we have dedicated record funding to the program to help farmers who want to diversify their operations. I've set aside \$500,000 in one-time federal funds for the program.

We have worked hard and taken bold action in order to leave a legacy



of agriculture for future generations. We've done that by preserving our best farmland – over 70,000 acres to date! – and helping the industry remain economically viable.

Twice a year, the Agriculture Innovation Grants provide competitive grants of \$50,000 or more to grow or add value to their operations. Applications for the Spring 2022 cycle of grants will be accepted March 1 through March 31. Eligible businesses include crop and livestock producers, value-added producers, agricultural cooperatives, seafood processors, and primary and secondary timber products processors. Funds may be used for

research and development, production buildings, major fixtures, or processing facilities.

In its first year, the program awarded approximately \$500,000 to 24 county agriculture operations, which in turn created 61 full-time positions and 63 part-time positions.

Information on how to apply is available at www.DiscoverFrederickMd.com. If you prefer to use a printed application, contact Katie Stevens, Associate Director of Agriculture Business Development in the county's Office of Economic Development. Katie can be reached at 240-285-2795 or by email at KStevens1@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Continued from previous page

around your bicep and squeeze a rubber ball kits, were distributed to the patients. The intent is to develop patient motivation in using cuffs, provide literature, and a more than "one and done" follow-up support system to keep blood pressure in a healthier range. It is my understanding that the program is still being tweaked before being opened to the public. Preventive medicine at work.

Provisionally with spring comes another restaurant option on the Square. The vacated Stavros space is occupied again. Tuscany Pizzeria held its grand opening on January 21st. To boot with new décor and expanded menu comes the retention of the Stavros pizza recipe. Please give welcome them with a visit.

So who is Father Gene? He is the gentle octogenarian, who walks several miles every day, and has run fifteen marathons. Besides being a very spiritual parish priest at St. Joseph's Church he is an ardent Auburn Tigers fan. In his earlier days he was pastor at Auburn University. His number of ran marathons is impressive and noteworthy posing possibly a challenge to Bridget

McCarthy in marathons, but I do not think so. Way back in the number of marathons he ran is the Marine Marathon in Washington D.C. I ran it in 1980, followed a year later by the one notable initiates of the club Libby ran (an hour faster than me).

So where are we with the Change for Food program, the donations placed in those little jars throughout town retail checkouts? The initiative to raise money for Emmitsburg Food Bank was started ten years ago by Bob and Jean Rosensteel and has been maintained by them and the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA). The latest tabulation is \$54,056 raised. To add to that, the EBPA college scholarship assistance fund, administered by the Frederick County Community Foundation, now exceeds \$27,000. Well done business community.

There is a Catocin High student program known as "Family, Community, and Career Leaders of America" (FCCLA). A school sponsored club whose mission is, "Leading Others to a Better Tomorrow"

and motto is "Caring and Sharing". The goal is, by performing services for the community, students learn and develop leadership skills. Notable initiates of the club include "adopting" area elderly and Thurmont Primary School students for engagement in activities throughout the school year. Well done.

If you want to be nudged in an intellectual way, consider the Mount's Alumni Symposium sponsored by the University's College of Liberal Arts. Now in the third year of fall and spring sessions this may be the one for you. The overseer of the program is Dr. Peter Dorsey. You do not have to be a Mount grad to join in person or by zoom. For 2022 spring session, in January, Drs. Elizabeth and Charles Strauss led a discussion on Catholics and Jews after the Holocaust. Followed in February by Fr. Jim Donohue, "The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke's Gospel". March will be Dr. Carol Hind, "Sanctification of the Ordinary in Mark Salzman's Lying Awake". In April, Dr. John Hershey: Star Wars and the Force of Philosophy. In May Dr. Jack Dud-

ley: "The Everyday Life of the Priesthood, The Short Stories of J.F. Powers". The symposium sessions are held at the Mount Frederick campus one evening

a month. There is a fee that includes reading materials and dinner. Contact the College of Liberal Arts for information on the 2022 fall semester.

MELISSA M. WETZEL
CPA, PC
Certified Public Accountant



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FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Julianna Lufkin (D), County Council - District 5

For those of you who haven't met me, I'm Julianna Lufkin, I'm thirty years old, and this year, I'm running as a Democrat for Frederick County Council in District 5. District 5 stretches from Myersville, where I've lived for almost three years now, to Emmitsburg and Sabillasville, through Walkersville and Woodsboro, all the way down to Union Bridge and Libertytown. District 5 is the largest by area of Frederick County's 5 districts, which means it's more important than ever to have a strong, competent, and compassionate representative on the Council. I hope that you will elect me to be that representative.

I was born and raised here in

Frederick County, and I think it's the best place in the world. Our community is welcoming to new ideas and ways of living, while still holding true to our strong agricultural roots. I've worked for years in my family catering business, building relationships with our local producers and providers. As well as being a caterer, I'm a blacksmith, and I also teach enrichment classes to middle and high school aged kids, that focus on literature and history. In 2019, I was the first woman to graduate from the Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing, from which I hold a certificate in Artistic Blacksmithing.

While attending college in Halifax, Nova Scotia, I and two other

students spearheaded a completely novel initiative. We negotiated with ViaRail (the Canadian equivalent of Amtrak) to incentivize our students to reduce their carbon emissions by taking the train instead of flying. Hours of negotiations and many emails and meetings later, the students, staff, and faculty of the University of King's College had an on-going discount for train fare, as well as four designated trips each year to the most popular hometowns at King's; Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa. On our inaugural trip, we filled a train car. Because of the efforts of myself and two other college students, we successfully reduced the carbon emissions caused by each

student traveling to and from Halifax by 92%!

In future articles, I'll be expanding on some of the planks in my platform, so keep your eyes peeled for information on my plans, one of which is to connect local farmers with our school system, so that funds stay in our communities while ensuring that our children have the wholesome food that they need to succeed. As a caterer who focuses on local and sustainable food, I have more than 15 years' experience in this field, and I think that with my voice added to this movement, which is currently being undertaken by two nonprofits, we could create real change in the lives of our students.

Another plank in my platform

involves extending the public transit in Frederick to reliably include our more rural towns, making sure that our ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), our elderly, and those without driver's licenses are able to work, shop, and live with greater ease. My life experiences, including growing up the child of a hardworking single mother, taught me how precarious it can be to have your income dependent on having a car. I will work to stabilize that for our community.

I have chosen the slogan "Lufkin Listens" so that every constituent of District 5 will know that they can find in me a representative who wants to hear the concerns and questions that matter to them.

Renee Knapp (D), County Council-at-Large

Because of Frederick County's growing population and our proximity to the Washington metropolitan area, drivers continue to face transportation challenges every day. We're all trying to get to work, school, and everywhere else we want to go as efficiently as possible. The rate of population growth that we have seen in Frederick County in the last 40 years has

resulted in many more vehicles on county roads every day. As we begin to move past the pandemic, we see that traffic congestion is returning. Current and future housing developments will add even more cars to the strained system.

Alleviating traffic congestion should not be a partisan issue. As your County Council representative, I will consider all sensi-

ble solutions for making it easier to move people into, out of, and around the county.

My family moved to Middletown, Maryland in the early 1970s. Like many others, my father had a new job and my parents decided to move to Frederick County instead of Montgomery County, which would have been closer. They had grown up in a gray Northeastern city and they fell in love with the beauty of the Middletown Valley. My husband has also commuted for almost 30 years outside of the county to work so that we could raise our family here. Today, 40% of employed county residents commute outside of the county to work. County government has a responsibility to all taxpayers who contribute to the local tax base and spend money to drive the local economy to provide a functional system of roads.

A robust and reliable county-wide public transit system is an important component of reducing

the number of cars on the road. With reliable public transportation, more senior citizens and county residents with disabilities can lead independent lives and have a better quality of life. Frederick County is the largest county in Maryland by area. This makes a countywide rural public transportation system more challenging, but certainly not impossible.

Other regions in the country are also looking for ways to expand rural public transportation. The Austin, Texas metropolitan area is another rapidly growing region. The Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority (CapMetro) of Austin moved from underutilized fixed-route bus routes to on-demand ride requests within smaller zones. The zones are tailored for the needs of the area and have shorter wait times. For example, a smaller bus could serve a zone specifically in the Woodsboro-Walkersville area. That could make it possible for someone living

in that zone who is unable to drive to go shopping independently, go to church, or to have a job.

This model is scaled up by responding to ride request demand. Additional zones can be added, rather than additional stops along a longer, predetermined, and fixed bus route. The city of Austin has moved from a smaller paratransit program, like what we have in Frederick County, to a zone based and flexible public transportation system that is responsive to riders' needs in each area. This model is scalable and could work for the distinct regions and municipalities in the county.

When elected officials put solutions first and work together, even the most complex challenges become more manageable. That is the approach I will bring to the County Council. Feel free to contact me with your thoughts about what you see as priorities for Frederick County. You can find out more about my campaign at www.knapp4countycouncil.com.

JULIANNA LUFKIN
FOR
FREDERICK COUNTY

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Facebook: Julianna Lufkin for Frederick Co.
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Julianna **LUFKIN**

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BY AUTHORITY OF WILLIE WRIGHT, TREASURER

FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Colt Black (R), U.S. Congress

When opportunity arises, one must ask the question whether they should take it or not. And I have always been a fan of taking opportunities as we never know what may happen.

After seeing the latest redistricting maps with respect to the State Delegate race being battled out in court, I looked at the prospects and realities. And what I discovered is that while the redistricting of the Frederick County area for the State Delegate race was going to affect me and my running mates in a negative way; what came was a crystalizing moment of clarity

seeing that district 8 for the US House of Representatives which covers Frederick, northern Montgomery and part of Carroll County remained largely unchanged. Farther more it had been won by Larry Hogan, our current governor and Republican, twice.

So, with this in mind I have switched my election bid from the State House to the U.S. Capitol and am seeking to become your next district 8 US Congressional Representative.

I am looking forward to addressing our issues on a national level and see that the interest of district 8 is

properly represented in Congress.

As it stands currently nationally, we have 3 major issues that seems to be at the top of mind: inflation, crime, and government overreach in multiple facets of our lives.

Inflation is at a 40 year high, and we see it everywhere but especially in the grocery store. Americans are paying 7 percent more for basic food staples now that they did last year. This is concerning for all our friends and neighbors who run the risk of going hungry.

Crime is rampant on our streets, and the far-left groups seeking the defund-

ing and dismantling of law enforcement and replacing them with social workers are creating havoc in our communities. We must work quickly to restore law and order, bolster our police, and protect the rights and lives of all our citizens.

And let's not forget overzealous government, as no one likes government more than government. No more can we allow unelected bureaucrats in Washington D.C. to steer our policies which are better locally controlled. Education is a great example of major overreach over the last year. School boards cowering to special interest groups and unaccountable

faceless bureaucrats at the Department of Education. Parents know best, and when our communities of parents and taxpayers come together to demand change in our schools, they should see results. For too long the Federal government's reign over local matters has permeated our state and local government but the time has come for change.

I am looking forward to working with everyone in our communities to make lasting change to the status quo in Washington D.C. and I am looking forward to you joining me on this journey.

If you'd like to donate to our grassroots campaign or volunteer, please visit coltblackforcongress.com.

Daryl Boffman (D), County Executive

Small Business, Jobs and the Economy are secondary only to education as a part of my campaign platform for moving Frederick County forward as your next County Executive. Our campaign slogan is "One Frederick, United in pursuing prosperity for all," and it is my passion to be the leader who will bring us closer together as one Frederick. We have a vibrant community positioned for premier status as a wonderful place to live, work and prosper; however, we can no longer be complacent with watching so many disparities in our community as highlighted during the pandemic. The disparities are not just based on race; though race is a major factor, gender, age, military veteran status, language, income status, sexual orientation, and health are other factors. Frederick County is fortunate to have nonprofit organizations supporting the human needs in our community. A thriving business community plays a key part in a long range plan for prosperity.

Successful small businesses are the foundation of a strong economy and self-sustaining community. They bring growth and innovation to communities while increasing tax revenue and creating a robust job market. Small business

owners tend to live, work, and serve in the community in which they establish their business. Supporting small business growth and sustainability can provide the tax revenue needed to help fund education and other community needs. Frederick County is missing a fantastic opportunity to develop and grow small businesses here in our community. But for small businesses to thrive they need opportunities to generate revenue. Unfortunately, Frederick County has not made developing a vibrant small business community a priority; as a result, we depend heavily on revenue generated via impact fees assessed to developers and for real estate taxes assessed to homeowners.

As your next County Executive, I will incentivize, support, and celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit. Farmers and Agriculture based organizations are businesses. Frederick County's rich history is synonymous with its successful farming and agriculture foundation. I will continue to nurture and support our farming and agriculture industries. My plans include expanding our business incubator program as we currently only have two supporting all of Frederick County. With community support, we will locate a farming

and agriculture based business incubator program in the Thurmont community to continue creating new and efficient techniques for farming, agriculture, and environmental solutions.

As your County Executive, I will dedicate a portion of my time to collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, and a diverse group of business leaders in developing initiatives that support, celebrate, and sustain small businesses and incentivizes entrepreneurship here in Frederick County. I will develop a business incubator expansion plan to support "Startups" (newly formed small businesses) in other cities, municipalities, and communities. Incubator support for Startups can include training in management, accounting, sales and marketing, and proposal development. In addition, the incubator will provide administrative support Startup can focus more on their products and/or services.

I will also establish a committee of business leaders from various industries to meet monthly and discuss issues impacting the business community and to provide advice regarding business matters. I will open County contracting opportunities to include more small business par-

ticipation. The end goals will be better paying jobs, lower crime rates, greater support for our non-profit organizations, greater participation on our boards and better healthcare options. In addition, the County will

have increased revenue to address growing infrastructure needs, education funding, and community based services. Frederick County residents will have greater opportunity to pursue prosperity in a more vibrant community. One Frederick, in pursuit of prosperity for all.

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For more information visit coltblackforcongress.com

Paid for by Friends of Colt Black for Congress. Grant Johnson, Treasurer

FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is March, and with any luck, we will be over this nasty winter weather. Five years ago, on March 1st, the Adams County Library at Carroll Valley and the Carroll Valley Borough office opened for service in our new building. Time flies. Don't forget that March 4th is Employee Appreciation Day. It is a day to celebrate and recognize employees. Remember to turn your clock forward one hour to mark the beginning of Daylight-Saving Time on March 13th at 2 a.m.

The "Ides of March" is March 15th. It is the day back in 44 B.C. that Julius Caesar was stabbed by Marcus Brutus and other members of the Roman Senate. We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. Watch out for that green beer. If you get a green glow about you, do not drive.

The 2022 men's NCAA tournament for March Madness starts with the first four games in Dayton, Ohio, and continues to 2022 final four in New Orleans. Selection Sunday for the men's tournament is at 6 p.m. E.T. on March 13th on CBS. The tournament ends on Monday, April 4th. The Vernal Equinox will occur on Sunday, March 20th, at 11:33 a.m. Spring starts. Equinox means "equal night." The day and night are approximately equal (12 hours each).

On February 12th had the opportunity to attend Regional Churches Men's Breakfast held at the Lower March Creek Presbyterian Church. As asked, I gave a 40-minute slide presentation on our Local Regional Area's demographics, emergency services, Fairfield Regional Emergency Management Agency, 2020 census, taxes, and the Charitable Programs/Entities available to those neighbors in need. The presentation ended with discussing the value of sharing information across charitable organizations to benefit our populace.

Our local area volunteer fire service is facing a people crisis. They need volunteers. The Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department is seeking junior members ages 14-17. No experience is required. Free training will be provided. The Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department is also looking for volunteers to assist with non-emergency tasks such as helping with bingo, maintaining the department's website, managing fundraisers, preparing food, etc. Please consider getting involved. Share your talent and time with our local fire departments.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) delivered Valentines to the local nursing homes and Meals on Wheels. The ele-

mentary students made the cards and bags for them. NHN announced that their Spring Clothing Giveaway will be held on Saturday, April 9th. The location will be inside Liberty Worship Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop off of the spring/summer clothing will be from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and you can shop for free from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

NHN is looking for volunteers to help with this event through www.signup.com. Each month, NHN gives a little special treat for the Food Pantry recipients, with local churches and organizations volunteering to help support this. Thanks to all those who kindly donated and volunteered to help our neighbors! The point of contact for NHN is Robin Dicken, who can be reached at dickenrobin@gmail.com. If you are interested in participating in a Christian Based Community Activity, Pastor Doug Lichty of the Iron Springs BIC Church located at 855 Iron Springs Road is holding a bi-monthly social activity for seniors 60+. For further information, contact Pastor Doug at 717-977-1739.

Is your house or mailbox number "up" properly and visible so that the police, fire department, or an ambulance can find you? In an emergency, seconds count. It is so

important that the Borough of Carroll Valley Code of Ordinances – Chapter 27 Section 706 states all improved property within the Borough is required to post the official street address in three (3) inch numbers which are luminous (reflective). The number shall be easily read from 20 feet day or night. If there is no mailbox at a residence or does not identify the house, the reflective street address numbers shall be placed on the front of the house. If the home sits back off the road or is not visible due to trees or bushes, a sign shall be erected displaying the proper address.

Does your house meet the code? If not, you can buy a reflective mailbox sign for just \$8 from the Police Department. These signs are 6" x 18" aluminum and covered in green reflective vinyl with white reflective vinyl numbers attached on both sides. They have the same highly visible qualities as PennDOT directional signs. If you are interested in one of these signs, visit the Borough Police Department and ask about ordering one. You can also contact the Police Department Administrative Assistant at pdadmin@carrollvalley.org.

We are in the third month of the new year. Have you checked out your house fire alarms and replaced their batteries when needed. Do you have a carbon

monoxide detector/alarm? If so, have you checked its operation? What about that fire extinguisher? Do have one. When was the last time you checked its operational status? Is that fire extinguisher located near the kitchen area where most fires start. Most importantly, if a fire starts in your home, first and foremost, evacuate your family and call 911 to report the fire. Once these two conditions have been met, and the fire is small, you could attempt to put it out; however, always make sure your back is to an exit so you can escape if need be. If the fire spreads, leave immediately. Allow professional firefighters to handle the fire. Life is more important than material possessions.

The Borough will be holding the following meetings in March: Planning Commission (Monday – March 7th), Public Safety Committee (Monday – March 14th) Borough Council (Tuesday – March 15th), Parks/Recreation Committee (Wednesday – March 23rd) Sewer/Water Authority (Monday – March 28th) and Finance Committee (Tuesday – March 29th). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at Mayor-RonHarris@comcast.net or by cell at 301-606-2021.

Watch the speed while driving on the trails.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

February was a challenging month for the road department with the accumulated snow and ice on the township roadways. We were busy plowing and cindering regularly to keep the roads accessible. There were several issues with driveway water runoff onto the township roads causing hazardous driving conditions.

Standing water on McGlaughlin Road freezing, thawing, and refreezing has caused an area of 300 feet by 20 feet of broken roadway to form and has

also compromised the base of the road. Water runoff from driveways on to township roads is an ongoing concern across the township. We will continue to work with property owners to address the problem, and we are confident that through cooperation, we can resolve the issues. We recently received over 20 tons of salt to replenish what we have been used so far this winter. Hopefully, we will not have to use much more of our stockpile. The Township plans to begin using Magnesium Chloride as part of our mix to address

ice at temperatures where salt is ineffective.

I recently met with the National Bridge Inspection Standards bridge inspector to discuss the bridge on Old Waynesboro Road. This summer we plan to repair major and minor issues of concern on that bridge. Our G-11 Permit from the State has been approved to allow access to the stream to perform the maintenance.

The decking on the bridge needs replaced, the concrete side walls need repaired, and the under part of the bridge is starting to

show serious wear on the foundation. We will be working in the creek and putting stone deflectors on the east side of the bridge. I will be meeting with our District 8 PennDOT representative to finalize our road projects for 2022 to include work on McGlaughlin, Bullfrog, and Sanders Roads. Roadside mowing is expected to begin again in April. Ditch cleaning and canopy opening is also planned for the coming months.

The township continues to encourage all employees to participate in continuing educa-

tional classes. At the beginning of the month, I completed an LTAP class which is funded by the state for the road department. I will be completing an additional LTAP course in March. Additionally, the roadcrew is scheduled to go to PSATS in Harrisburg to complete a Flagger Force training class.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the township and we will address them as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your continued support. Remember our Monthly Board of Supervisor meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. Have a magnificent March!

County Notes . . .

2022 Adams County

Conservation District tree sale
The Adams County Conservation District is excited to announce that in 2022 we are partnering with the Watershed Alliance of Adams County and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Keystone

10 Million Trees Partnership to supply over 7,500 freenative trees and shrubs to Adams County residents. The only stipulation to request free trees and shrubs is that you be willing to share where your trees will be planted and include before and after pho-

tos of your planting.

To request your free trees and shrubs through our online order form visit www.forms.gle/ntn-L2kCUn8woszZp6.

The order deadline is March 23rd and the pick-up dates are April 7th, 8th, 9th at the Adams County Conservation District Pole Building, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg.

Trees and shrubs will come in a variety of sizes. Most will be

approximately 1-2 feet tall, and be either bare root packed in wet newspaper, or potted in a 3" x 3" x 9" or 1 gallon pot. A five-foot tree shelter and a two-foot shrub shelter, stake, zip-ties and bird-netting will be supplied with each tree and shrub.

We make every effort to fulfill requested species and amounts; however, due to availability and ordering stipulations we can not guarantee exact requests. If a selec-

tion is sold out, orders are placed on a first-ordered basis or partially filled. Once we receive our order confirmations from the nurseries, we will email your confirmed species list and pick-up details in the last week in March. Planting labor must be organized by the person requesting the trees and shrubs. Planting projects should be completed by May 31st.

This year's native tree species being given away include: American Beech, American Plum, Balsam Fir, Basswood, Black Cherry, Eastern Hemlock, Eastern Redbud, Eastern White Pine, Flowering Dogwood, Paw Paw, Persimmon, Pin Oak, Red Maple,

Red Oak, River Birch, Scarlet Oak, Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak, Sweet Gum, Syc-

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

Every ten years a census is completed to assess population changes everyone living in America. The census helps the federal, state, and local governments determine funding allocations and determine where to focus resources based upon these shifting demographics. Another important aspect of the census is that immediately following the census states are required to redistrict specific political maps, specifically congressional, state senate, and state house maps.

In Pennsylvania, as in many states, the redistricting process has become mired down in partisan politics. Most of this flies under the public's radar, but I would argue that fixing the redistricting process should be of the utmost importance. Our current politicized process breeds partisan political extremism, creates unrepresentative districts and leads to voter apathy. If you think we should address these problems, then I encourage you to read on.

Our American election system is predicated on the idea of one person, one vote. On the national scale this is why we have congressional and state districts that change size to maintain a reasonably consistent population. As people move, pass away, add members to the family, so

to must districts realign to account for these changes. Let's use congressional districts as an example.

There are 435 seats in the US House of Representative and they are divided up proportionally among all of the states based upon population. The current size of a single US House district is about 711,000 residents per district. As the US population shifts, so too does the number of seats each state has.

In 1990 Pennsylvania had 21 seats, in 2000 based upon population growth in other states that number dropped to 19 seats, in 2010 to 18, and based upon the 2020 census we will drop to 17 seats this year. It is easy to see how the change in the number of seats in Pennsylvania will require a change in the district maps. It is also understandable to see why current representatives would like to have a say in drawing districts. Understandable, but a little self-serving and prone to corruption.

Now comes the hard part. How to divide these new districts fairly (Spoiler alert: they don't)? Now begins the shady side of the process, where political party leaders use every tool at their disposal to draw district lines to favor their party's candidates. This is called gerrymandering and if you want to

see some radical examples throughout the US, just google "gerrymandered districts". The best way to describe gerrymandering is that it is the process where representatives choose their voters, instead of voters choosing their representatives.

The two basic examples of this practice are nicknamed cracking and packing. I will do my best to describe these, but its much easier to do this with pictures. I suggest looking these two concepts up, as it becomes much clearer when you can see the way lines are moved. Let's take the Harrisburg Suburbs as an example of cracking. The city of Harrisburg and the surrounding suburbs generally vote for Democrats, whereas the rural areas surrounding Harrisburg do not. There are three congressional districts in the Harrisburg area.

If Harrisburg and it's suburbs are drawn as one of these three districts and the other two remain more rural, then most likely there would be one democrat and two republicans elected from the three areas. However, if you crack the democratic population up and put a little bit of each in the rural areas, it is more likely that three republicans could win. For those in Maryland reading this, the example is reversed by cracking rural republicans

and adding them to majority democratic urban areas.

Packing is the other tool used to manipulate districts. Same principle, but in reserve. Imagine an area with three districts where the total party affiliation is lobsided to one party, so much so that their candidates could easily win two or three of the seats. In this case map makers may try to "pack" one party into one district. Simply draw the lines to make that overall majority become a very large majority on one district, but a slight minority in the other two. Now the election could swing from three seats for one party and zero for the other, to one seat for the "majority" party and two for the "minority" party.

The end result is the same. Through manipulating the drawing of specific districts voters are put where the elected representatives want them. Once these safe districts are determined, the inevitable result is more extreme candidates running and winning office. So much so, I would argue that some representatives represent a minority of their voters, not the majority as our founders intended. By establishing safe districts the most important election becomes the primary and not the general election.

Primary voters tend to be more passionate voters. For democrats primary voters tend further to the left and for republicans further to the right. The turn out is also much lower than a general elections, thus making these more extreme voters carry more weight. In order to win a primary it is normal for democratic candidates to move left and republican candidates to move right.

Now fast forward to the general election and voters often have to choose either a far right or a far left candidate. Ask yourself how many Democrats you know that would vote for a far right candidate or how many republicans would vote for a far left candidate. I hear all the time that people want a moderate. Well moderates have a hard time making it through primaries in most districts. While a moderate republican or democratic voter may vote across party lines for a moderate candidate, the odds are that candidate lost in the primary election.

If we want to end the polarization taking over all levels of government, we must come up with a better solution on drawing election maps. To learn more I highly suggest checking out Fair Districts PA at www.fairdistrictspa.com. They have been fighting this fight for years and could use your support.

continued from previous page

more, Tulip Poplar, White Oak, and White Spruce.

This year's native Shrubs species being given away include: American Hazelnut, Arrowwood, Black Chokeberry, Blackhaw Viburnum, Buttonbush, Elderberry, Highbush Blueberry, Nannyberry, Pussy Willow, Red Chokeberry, Red-Osier, Dogwood, Serviceberry, Silky Dogwood, Spicebush, Sweet Pepper Bush, Winterberry, Witch Hazel.

If you'd like to be on our e-mail distribution list, please call Sarah Spencer at 717-334-0636 or email sspencer@adamscounty.us.

Adams County Community Foundation Names Philanthropic Advisor

The Adams County Community Foundation has announced that Theresa DiLoreto, CFRE has joined its staff as Philanthropic Advisor. Theresa will serve as the Community Foundation's liaison with legal and financial advisors, connecting them with the Community Foundation's options for incorporating philanthropy into clients' lifetime and estate plans.

Community Foundation President and CEO Ralph Serpe says, "In our experience, most clients want their attorney, wealth manager or other advisor to bring up

the topic of charitable giving, and the Community Foundation is here to support those conversations. Advisors should think of Theresa and the Community Foundation staff as a charitable planning resource."

Theresa has a broad and deep familiarity with our community and its charitable sector. Prior to joining the Community Foundation, Theresa served as Assistant Director of Donor Relations for SpiritTrust Lutheran and Mar-

keting and Public Relations Coordinator at South Central Community Action Programs, among other positions.

"Helping people to connect with and support our community is what I love doing," said Theresa. "This role at the Community Foundation gives me a new perspective on that mission. I look forward to serving professional advisors who want to support their clients' charitable goals. The Community Founda-

tion can help with philanthropic planning, adding value to an advisor's practice and their client relationships."

Theresa will reach out to Adams County professional advisors and those based elsewhere who serve clients in Adams County. To schedule a call, meeting, or presentation, advisors may contact Theresa DiLoreto, CFRE, Philanthropic Advisor at TDiLoreto@adamscountycf.org or 717-321-3212.



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Voting and our history

Shannon Bohrer

While it is 2022, I can't help but think that we are repeating the previous several years. Covid is still here, partly because some people don't believe in science, while others see covid through a political lens. The political divisions are still here, partly because one party is still espousing the "big lie" of a stolen election. We are still dealing with the January 6th insurrection, you guessed it, because of the "big lie." Tourists did not assault and injure over 140 officers. I never saw the movie "Groundhog Day," but I feel that we are in a similar perpetual cycle, reliving the same problems and issues, with few - if any agreeable solutions. While we have numerous issues that divide us, many of them viewed from a political perspective, the one point that has been pushed to the forefront is voting rights.

Because of the big lie that the last election was rigged, various states have proposed new voting laws with the pretext of ensuring voting integrity. Over 250 new laws have been proposed to limit early voting, mail-in voting, reductions in drop boxes, and even eliminating polling locations. Some states are giving the state delegates authority over local elections. Several states have purged voter rolls and proposed that in

Presidential elections, either elected individuals or appointed state employees could have the authority to appoint electors that the public did not vote for. The new laws have been proposed in 43 states, with many of them already enacted.

In many ways, some of the problems we have are not new; they have just been recycled or repeated from history. Our history on the topic of equality and voting has been a controversial issue ever since our country was established. The preamble to the Declaration of Independence, says "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." All men were literally white male property owners; the equality did not apply to the poor, the enslaved people, or women.

As a nation, we have sporadically moved in the direction of equality. In the 1828 election, for the first time, white men that were not property owners were allowed to vote. After the civil war, the 15th amendment was ratified that allowed black men to vote. However, after the amendment was passed, many states enacted laws that enforced racial segregation and hampered and discouraged minority voting. While the laws said we were

all equal, except females, voting by black men was strongly discouraged by state laws and other actions, including intimidation, beatings, and even hangings.

Legally, the 15th amendment allowed minorities to vote, as long as the minority was a male. Females, white or black, could not vote until 1920, when the 19th amendment passed. As a nation, we are 246 years old, and yet women have only been allowed to vote for 102 years. It was after 1920 that women were allowed to vote. The black females often faced the same "Jim Crow" laws that discouraged black males from voting. The "Jim Crow" type laws continued into the 20th century, significantly inhibiting voting through poll taxes, voting restrictions, and limited polling places.

The central idea of a democracy is the right to vote, and because our history on voting rights was so horrendous, in 1965, the government passed the voting rights act. The simple idea was that everyone should have access to the voting booth was finally codified into law 189 years after the Declaration of Independence. However, in 2013, the supreme court limited some of the oversight laws related to the voting rights act and, while doing so, told congress that it was their responsibility to update the voting laws. That has not happened.

The new proposals of restrictive voting laws are being justified, under the pretext of ensuring fair elections, even though the last election was deemed one of the most secure and fair in our history. The reality is that many of the new proposed laws are designed to disenfranchise voters, repeating our history. One example is the State of Georgia, which reduced drop box locations in and around Atlanta. Since the supreme court struck down the enforcement actions in the Voting Rights Act in 2013, Georgia has added 2 million more voters to its rolls and simultaneously reduced its polling locations by 10 percent. On the final day of the last Georgia primary, the average wait time to vote was only 6 minutes, at the polling location where 90 percent of the voters were white. If the polling location was 90 percent or more black, the average wait time was 51 minutes. These wait times were before Georgia enacted the newer and more restrictive voting laws.

Our history of equity, voting, and racism is well known, and those problems continue. Going backward with newer restrictive voting laws is not the direction of a real democracy. After the election of our first black president, we witnessed some new hate groups, some with the agenda of revolution, because they did not agree with the direction of the country. Since his election, and especially after his re-election, the anger and hate groups flour-

ished. It has been widely reported that by the year 2040, white people in this country will no longer enjoy being the majority. While many might say otherwise, apparently, a large number of white Americans don't like the idea of being a minority.

When you have a significant segment of society that does not think all men and women are created equal, and they create conditions that allow the minority to rule over the majority, then democracy is in peril. When one party tells you not to trust the government, it becomes easier to believe the lie that Trump won. With the new voting laws that inhibit voting, will the republican party still tell their members that the election was fixed - if they lose -again? If the Democrats lose the next election, will they say the election was fixed because of voter suppression? What happens when both sides tell you not to trust the government?

If democracy is dependent upon the citizen's belief that their votes count in a fair and accessible election, what happens when that belief is questioned? Could the proposed and enacted new voting laws have the capacity to put our democracy in peril? I am reminded of what William Faulkner once said, "The past isn't dead. It's not even past."

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

Tumbleweeds

Gun ownership is a protected right

Mark Greathouse

Welcome to "Tumbleweeds," an opinion column drawing upon the history of America's Old West to put many of today's pressing issues into historical perspective. Tumbleweeds tumble randomly across the prairies causing concerns to whatever destination they reach. Issues can be like tumbleweeds, as folks fail to heed the lessons of history and those lessons pop up randomly as crises and cause all manner of havoc. A 1930 ballad associates the tumbleweed with freedom, "See them tumbling down, pledging their love to the ground, lonely but free I'll be found, drifting along with the tumbling tumbleweeds." Follow "Tumbleweeds," as lonely but free we'll be found on today's issues.

The Earp brothers strode down the dusty Tombstone, Arizona Street to the OK Corral, headed to a gunfight that became indelibly imprinted in American lore. Jack McCall walked up behind "Wild Bill" Hickock in Deadwood, South Dakota and shot him in the back of the head. McCall was tried and hanged. Perpetuated in dime-store novels, the gunplay of the Old West is often hijacked by the anti-gun establishment to support their political slant. Ironically, those Old West killings are too often mimicked today...gang violence...ambushes...revenge...robberies...all perpetrated by lawbreakers. Most folks of frontier America owned

and carried firearms. There were no licenses, no background checks, and no permissions. The vast majority were used by necessity, including protection from varmints like rattlesnakes, coyotes, and javelina; hunting for food and cover; and self-defense from savages and outlaws. My Texas rancher cousin has found it necessary to shoot rattlesnakes, and a friend in Arizona shot a rattler to protect her dog. Like an Old West throwback, ranchers, clergy, and even mothers living near the U.S.-Mexican border increasingly carry guns these days as defense against desperate criminal elements that cross illegally.

Death, especially violent death, is sad by any measure. Death delivering tools range from knives to poison to guns to nooses to drugs to bombs to...well, you get the picture.

Statistics are a cold-hearted reality that wraps itself around death. Per the FBI, roughly 32,000 folks die by guns annually. An especially sad two-thirds of those are suicides. Fifteen percent are by law enforcement in the line of duty against threats to public and police safety. Three percent are by accidental discharge, such as the recent Alec Baldwin movie set incident. The rest are through criminal activity.

Excepting the recent pandemic-era spike in deadly shootings, this means that roughly 5,100 deaths each year are attributable to lawbreakers. That's horrific. A quarter of those are concentrated in four cities with hyper-strict gun control laws: Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit, and Washington, DC. Clearly, the criminals are not exactly

upstanding law-abiding citizens. Folks still think that lawbreakers will abide by strict gun control laws. That's excruciatingly ludicrous.

There are 15 mostly highly-restrictive Federal gun regulations currently on the books in U.S. Code, Title 18. Enforcement can be spotty. And there are literally thousands more local laws and regulations, also often with less-than-optimal enforcement. It's sort of like Old West towns that required visitors to park their guns with the local sheriff but had a rough time enforcing it. Like frontier desperadoes, today's lawbreakers also ignore gun laws. Ever-greater restrictions on law-abiding gun owners obviously don't keep the bad guys from getting and using firearms. In the 1850s, ranchers weren't worried about a 911 response time to a Comanche attack. But the gang that invades your home today can count on 911 responses of 3 to 15 minutes, assuming the defenseless homeowner can even make the call.

Old West gun owners practiced shooting, as the gun brought them food, shelter, clothing, and more. Wasting shot and powder wasn't practical. Firearms were kept clean and safety was practiced. Often more than one shot was required to kill game or defend against bandits or savages. For example, the Lewis and Clark Expedition found that a single ball from a 1795 Springfield musket often wasn't effective in bringing down a grizzly. Given how fast an angry wounded bear could run, speedy reloading became important. It wasn't until decades after Lewis & Clark that more practical weapons came on the scene, and they were often cumbersome. The famous Sharps 45/70 rifle that Tom Selleck used in

his role for the film "Quigley Down Under" weighed a hefty 13 pounds. Of course, the Sharps became famous, sadly, as the buffalo gun used to kill millions of the beasts...often for sheer sport. It was also a popular sharpshooter rifle during the War Between the States, and it's where the term "sharpshooter" comes from. Firearms technology continued to improve dependability, accuracy, and weight through several wars and response to the demands of hunters. Today, we have the semi-automatic AR-15 sport rifle. The "AR" stands for Armalite Rifle, not "assault rifle" as mostly-unknowing anti-gun ideologues would have folks believe. An assault rifle is distinguished as being a fully-automatic weapon designed to kill enemies in battle. In any case, we can only imagine what an AR-15 might have done for Wyatt Earp at the OK Corral.

As I said earlier, the rifle was as essential to explorers, trappers, and hunters of the Old West as the bow and arrow was to a Sioux or Comanche hunter. These folks were not vegetarians by any stretch of the imagination. Personally, I'm not a hunter but appreciate and respect those that do. I participate in an annual hunt on a cousin's Texas ranch in which wounded military veterans have the opportunity to hunt and target shoot. All safety protocols are followed and the meat from the wildlife is welcomed by a local foodbank. Safety is important. It wasn't always followed in the Old West, but those folks didn't have the National Rifle Association offering safety courses. Likely few folks know that Meriwether Lewis was accidentally shot in the buttocks during the famed expedition in 1806. Ouch!

Some knowledgeable people believe that the 2nd Amendment was not intended to apply to the right of individual gun ownership. That same Constitution guarantees them the free expression of that opinion, as knowledgeable folks with opposite views have interpreted the 2nd Amendment in the context of the era in which it was specified in the Bill of Rights. In 1787, when the Constitution was approved, lots of Americans owned firearms for hunting, sport, and self-defense. Yes, there were lawbreakers in 1787 that went well beyond the bounds of civility. In any case and despite protestations of the "Constitution-benders" of today, the 2nd Amendment was aimed at ensuring citizen ownership of firearms. Our Founders anticipated that there'd be ideologues looking to deprive folks of their rights, so embedded them in our governing document.

So, why do people advocate for "gun control?" Well folks, it's about that second word: control. Don't for a minute think they give a particular squat about saving lives. There's great truth to, "when you take away law-abiding folks' guns, only criminals will have them."

There's far more to controlling gun violence than protests, laws, and slogans can resolve. America must fight the underlying gun violence causes by instilling moral values, respect, love, and faith through family, community, church, business, and government. Guns have but two enemies: rust and anti-gun ideologues. Like my Old West ancestors, I prefer the freedom, the right, to own a gun.

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

Country First

Leader of the Free World

David Marshall

Since the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War there has always been an overwhelming sense of mutual distrust and hostility between the United States and the former Soviet Union. From that period of time, the president of the United States took on the title as “leader of the free world”. The term free world distinguishes the United States and Western European countries from communist Soviet Union and its allies. But the “leader of the free world” also refers to the United States as a nation along with its ideals, values and vision for democracy for which it believes. Democracy is a vision which reflects equality among all, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the right to pursue happiness. Leadership depends on the ability to make people want to be part of the vision. The key to mobilizing others is inspiration. If you can inspire, then you can mobilize. This is true leadership, whether it is from a person or a nation. In the 1980’s, Ronald Reagan inspired the American people with a message of optimism. Barack Obama would later do it with a message of hope. Leaders who cannot inspire others often resort to manipulation. Whenever you manipulate people, you are no longer a true leader – you have become a dictator. With Russia invading Ukraine in order to “keep the peace”, the world has just seen a dictator in action. One day after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered troops into separatist-held parts of eastern Ukraine,

the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs was straight forward about Russia’s long-term objective. “His ultimate goal is to destroy Ukraine. He’s not interested in parts of Ukraine. He is not interested in even keeping the entire country under his control,” Kubela said of Putin. Putin “wants the idea of Ukrainian statehood to fail. This is his objective.”

Vladimir Putin is scared to death of democracy. He hates the fact that NATO was founded to provide defense of democracies on both sides of the Atlantic and provide an effective opposition to any power that seeks to dominate Europe. As with any dictator, there is always propaganda and misinformation. Putin forcefully asserts that NATO captured post-communist nations and threatened Russia’s borders. This is far from the truth. NATO’s expansion over the past 20 years was a voluntary process initiated by each aspirant nation. It’s military position and force is neither a threat to Russian statehood nor a danger to its territorial integrity. Putin’s true fears about NATO is not centered on any expected military aggression from the West, but rather the optimism and hope which democracy offers. The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and left in its place 15 independent states. Putin has a personal goal of restoring Russia’s level of power and reining in those nations who previously turned away from Moscow. These goals become more difficult when former Soviet republics like Ukraine and members of the former Warsaw Pact aspire to become free democracies. Putin has demanded that

NATO not expand to Ukraine or any former Soviet states.

As with any dictator, there is always fear and intimidation. Unlike NATO and the European Union (EU), Russia’s alliances are not on a voluntary basis but consist of nations trapped in a relationship based on blackmail, bribery, terror and threats. In seeking genuine national independence from Moscow, several nations have turned to the West. The Ukrainian Parliament adopted legislation in 2017 reinstating NATO membership as the country’s objective, with amendments later added to the Constitution. Time is running out with Ukraine moving closer to the West and away from Russia. If Ukraine successfully transforms into a democratic, unified and prosperous state that achieves EU accession along with NATO membership, the credibility of Russia’s ruling dictatorship would be on the line. Having an independent, democratic, economically stable and internationally integrated Ukraine symbolizes everything that threatens Putin’s hold on power. This type of Ukrainian model would expose the Russian model as a failure. It would inspire other regions including Russia’s citizens to seek greater control over their own destiny by opposing the current regime in Moscow. Putin and those who support him knows this as a very real threat. Leaders inspire and dictators intimidate.

What is happening in Ukraine is not only about Ukraine. America as leader of the free world is being challenged. If the West fails in Ukraine, is it hard to believe that Putin’s next target could be a NATO member? The United States, as a leader, has the added responsibility during any major international cri-



sis to actually lead. “Politics stops at the water’s edge” suggests that American politicians should always present a united front to other countries despite internal disagreements at home. It was first suggested by Republican Senator Arthur Vandenberg and was widely adopted under the Truman administration. Vandenberg was recognized for abandoning his isolationist views of American foreign policy in favor of a more international view. As a result, he worked in a bipartisan manner in building support for things such as the creation of NATO. He was a true patriot. The Ukraine crisis requires a united front with our allies in showing that the West is willing to defend what it stands for. Russia will do anything possible to undermine unity among NATO members. But the united front on the international stage should never be undermined internally here at home by attempting to score political points.

There are pro-Russian Americans who have no problem repeating Vladimir Putin’s talking points in justifying aggression against Ukraine. There are those who will gladly argue the case against providing aid to Ukraine. Former President Donald Trump often spoke fondly of the Russian President

even when it was not in the best interest of the western alliance. He went as far as to describe Putin’s justification for invading Ukraine as “savvy” and “genius”. As a result, we have Americans who are pro-Russian out of loyalty to the former president. Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri criticized President Joe Biden for ordering troops to Europe as Russia prepared for the invasion of Ukraine. He also called for the U.S. to block Ukraine from joining NATO. The Russian dictator, without a doubt, would be pleased by the senator’s remarks. Fortunately, most Americans don’t like bullies, foreign or domestic. To be pro-Russian is to be anti-democracy. Eventually, Putin may be unpleasantly surprised by the resolve shown by people worldwide who believe in democracy and don’t want to lose it.

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

Down Under

Three-legged race

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

Author’s Note: This was the article, but I was wrong. Russia and China have been getting closer over the years, and it is now apparent that their pact to carve up the world has been activated.

The North and West for Putin, the south and east for Xi.

In other words, dictatorship v democracy, freedom v bonds.

That’s how it’s looking at the moment, but the Russian people are poor, angry, and could rebel.

I still believe that Putin’s days are numbered, that the sanctions will work, and there will be no real war. The economic results may well do more harm than all the guns, and although it’s no time to be cynical, it’s still true that the planet will go on, no matter whether we do or not.

There’s only one answer to dictators – demonstrating that our freedom is real, our values ethical, and our care for our fellows is strong.

Lindsay

Most four-legged animals can get around quite well on three legs, but when three people get tied together, the only thing they can do is go around in circles.

And that is what we are seeing in the world today. The U.S, China and the EU are in lockstep, trying to maintain their balance, hiding their anxiety, and looking for a mis-step. If it were only them, something like a new world order might emerge, but they are saddled with two other players who are also doing the dance. Russia and Australia.

The first three are tied by trade and distrust, and not much more. The other two are tied by anxiety and trade, but in this case only as suppliers. In Russia’s case, it is gas; in Australia’s, it is iron ore and coal.

Australia is caught between America and China, which is a bit perilous, but is no worse than crossing against the lights, but Russia has a bargaining chip that Mr. Putin has slammed on the table and made his demands. ‘Hands off Ukraine’ – or I’ll stop sending gas to Europe.

Consternation, because cutting off gas to Europe would send their economies into a tailspin.

But guess what! Vladimir Putin has won!

The Ukraine will not become a member of NATO. All the threats, troops, planes and armaments – all for just that one main purpose, with several others waiting in the wings.

Poor Vladimir. His reputation as the ‘strong man of the east’ had suf-

fered. His promise to the people of Russia and the few remaining bits of a once great empire that the USSR would come back in all its glory was a mirage stolen from Donald – or was it the other way round.

All he had left was this one territory. He’d managed to get Crimea back, which was possible because it had been part of Russia since 1773, but Ukraine had been, (apart from being invaded and occupied by any country that could invade), independent.

The old 37 autonomous regions in Russia, created over some years to give the west the idea that Russia was tolerant of different ethnicity and language, but were part of the whole, have long gone. But Putin’s worry was not about land, it was about loss of face and keeping the dream alive.

All of democratic Europe is part of NATO, with one exception, the Ukraine.

This country declared it wanted to be part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and it was the last of all the European countries to do so. The importance of this is that if one of the members is attacked, it will be defended by the rest. The west wanted Ukraine in NATO because this would give them an unbroken line from north to south, putting Putin under intense diplomatic pressure. The Ukraine wanted it too because they don’t trust their eastern neighbour.

The threat he used is the only one he has: embargo. Allowing Ukraine

into NATO means no gas to the west.

So, consternation, as he underlined the point by surrounding the Ukraine with the military, the armaments and paraphernalia of war.

The west snarled and said, ‘that’s what you think.’

The impasse lasted for a few days until the crack appeared.

‘Well, maybe not NATO yet.’ Someone in government briefly flashed a torch. Phew.

That was not the only reason, of course. Their huge manufacturing ability, cars and armaments, wheat, the latter a main export to America, are not enough to keep the economy afloat.

As a way to show how dire this is, here’s some recent and interesting stats on the Gross Domestic Product per capita of the one hundred and fifty countries that are listed. That is, the amount, in dollars each citizen receives on average each year.

The world average is \$18,300. Russia is in 57th spot, at \$27,000 per person. Where is the USA, I hear you ask. 13th with the first part at \$60,000.

Top of the pops is Qatar with \$128,000 per person, which is 750% higher than the average. Australia is at 21st at \$49,000, 287% of the average; China is at 79 at \$17,000, 98% of the average; and, Europe is 18th, at \$54,000.

At the heart of this dispute is the inter-dependence of Europe and Russia.

Russia supplies 16% of Europe’s energy needs, and receives between

16% and 20% of its income from those exports. Germany in particular at risk, as they have now closed all their nuclear fuel plants, and a reduced supply would mean higher prices would impact on industry.

So, Russia and Europe are in lockstep on energy, just as Australia is in lockstep with China on iron ore and coal.

We and they are wedged in the corners of the three-legged race.

And the three main players are aiming for more than survival, they want superiority – or, in the case of Europe, equality. At the heart of this is their economic survival.

America’s total debt, as of 2021, was \$28.9 trillion, of which China owns \$1.06 trillion in the form of U.S. bonds. Not much, you think, but if it decided to dump them, the resultant interest rate rises would make the emerging hike (you know, the one that’s any-day-now) look like a reduction.

How much of China does America own? So far as Mr. Google knows, nothing.

Also, as of 2021, American imports from China were \$506 billion, it’s exports \$152 billion, leaving a gap of \$355.3 billion.

Russia and China embrace, America rules the exchange rate, and I hand it to Vladimir – he has taken our minds off climate and COVID.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Prodigious love

Fr. Timothy Barkley
St. James Orthodox
Christian Church

Today in the Orthodox Church we read Christ's parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32): A father had two sons. The younger demanded his share of the family wealth – "give me what is coming to me!" – and the father divided his fortune, then and there, giving half to each son. The younger son then departed to a "far country" where he "wasted his possessions in riotous living." During an ensuing famine, he found himself working for a local farmer, feeding pigs, and so hungry he was contemplating eating pig food.

And then "he came to himself." He recalled that his father's hired servants were better provided for. He said to himself, "I will arise and go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be your son. Make me one of your hired servants.'"

He started the trek home. And "while he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compas-

sion, and ran" and embraced him, and kissed him. The son began his litany, "Father, I have sinned ... I am not worthy ... make me ..." But his father cut him off, and in love restored him to the family, putting the family signet ring on his finger, clothing him in family finery and throwing a celebration.

The elder brother, who had remained at home tending to his share of the family wealth, was bitter, and refused to enter in to the joy of his brother's return. The father remonstrated with him, "it was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

Jesus doesn't psychoanalyze the younger son, but he does give a few hints as to his mental and spiritual state. In the culture of the day, the son WAS the father, the image of the father, and was expected to live accordingly. Yet somehow this son found the image of the father to be oppressive and constricting.

He despised his father and his family to the point of demanding his inheritance before his father was even

deceased. Given free will and the ability and means to act as he chose, he "wasted" his father's gifts in prodigality, "devouring" his father's life work with "harlots." He freely received everything from his father, no strings attached, and he despised it. Unconstrained, he mutilated the image of his father to the point that he was unrecognizable.

The father, in contrast, is loving and gracious. He does not oppress or constrain his younger son, or seek to control him. He gives him absolute freedom of action and means to act. He accepts his son's choice and allows him to proceed as he determines best.

And he yearns for his son. The image of the father who sees the son "while he was still a great way off" is that of a father watching at the door, wearing out his eyes looking down that dusty road for his beloved. And when he sees him, he runs to him, not even waiting for the son's arrival. Far from demanding an accounting of his son's actions, he smothered apologies with embraces, and overwhelms self-effacing speeches with restored sonship.

The elder son, quite the contrary, despises his younger brother. He refuses to have anything to do with him. There is no welcome. The eldest actually has the temerity to blame his father for the younger son's actions and finds fault with his father for his loving restoration of the younger son, thus ironically placing himself outside the family and despising his father exactly as his younger brother had done. And yet the father receives him as well, not reacting to the slight and slur, but urging his elder son to find a place of restorative love.

One son despised his father and left; the other remained, and found himself despising his father. But the first repented – changed his way of life, returned to the father's house and accepted his father's love. The second, the elder brother, in the end turned from his father's love and rejected it.

As Jesus told this parable, the Pharisees in the audience "derided him." The Pharisees trusted their own good works. There was no place in their mind for the love of a forgiving God or repentance of "publicans and sinners." People like that were justly judged and needed to be driven out, not welcomed home. And Jesus, who came to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance, revealed their hearts: "an abomination in the sight of God." (Lk. 16:15)

The Pharisees believed that universal faithful observance of the law, the Torah,



would induce, even obligate, God to return to his people. It would bring about a restoration of the Kingdom of Israel. But Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is more like a family with a loving father than a nation with laws. Yes, there is a king and a kingdom, but the king is our father, and he loves us.

When the younger son returned, the elder son was "in the field." We don't know, but we can fairly surmise that they at least managed their father's agricultural endeavors, if not actually working the land. This brings to mind another duo who were charged with tending a garden, and who were mesmerized by the thought of the participatory knowledge of evil. They fell prey to the delusion that their father was a controlling and evil tyrant who wanted to keep them from what was best for them, a monster who didn't want them to be able to choose for themselves.

Just as the prodigal was free to flee the father's house and indulge in prodigality, the primal pair were free to turn from love toward evil. And just as the prodigal was free to return to father-love, so we scions of the first parents are sought out by our father who yearns to enfold us in his paternal embrace.

But let's not be like the older brother, trusting in our own standing. Everything we have received, we have received from our father, and the only right attitude is one of gratitude and acceptance. If our brother who

has wandered from the fold returns, we accept him and embrace him. After all, the angels in heaven rejoice over sinners who return. Let's celebrate with them.

And if we find that we ourselves have wandered, let's turn our footsteps homeward. Lent is a season of repentance, in little ways and large, of coming home to the father's house, of learning to accept his embrace and not feel stifled by it, of learning to accept our brothers and sisters without judging them or their past.

When we return to the father's house, we live by his rules, because they are healthy and healing medications for our condition. We listen for his voice and heed it, because he is our father and he loves us: not a controlling tyrant, but a loving parent who seeks our good.

Because if he were a controlling tyrant, we would never have received our inheritance, we would never have been free to leave and expend it as we would, and we wouldn't be welcomed on our return home. But he is our loving father, who makes us free, respects our choices, and celebrates our return home. Let's turn our footsteps homeward.

To learn more about St. James Orthodox Christian Church in Taneytown, visit them on-line at www.stjamesorthodox-church.org, call them at 443-821-7246, or better yet, join them for Sunday service!

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**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

The Lenten season will begin at Trinity United Methodist Church on Ash Wednesday, March 2, with a "drive-thru" imposition of ashes. The drive-thru will take place at the rear parking lot on Lincoln Avenue from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

An evening service will be held at the church at 6:30 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE BOOK OF DAYS



John C. Calhoun

March 31

John C. Calhoun

Amongst the statesmen of powerful intellect who arose in America in the age succeeding Independence, a prominent place is due to Mr. Calhoun, who occupied the position of Secretary of War during the whole presidency of Mr. Monroe (1817-25), and was himself Vice-President of the States during the ensuing six years.

It was in 1831, during Jackson's presidency, and while Mr. Calhoun was senator for South Carolina, that that state and others threatened to secede from the Union, on account of the system of protection adopted in the interest of the manufacturers of the Northern States. Mr. Calhoun was the earnest and powerful advocate of Free Trade and of State Rights and State Sovereignty. South Carolina actually passed an Act of Nullification, or a refusal to pay the duties of a highly protective tariff, and the dissolution of the Union and war were imminent, when a compromise, proposed by Mr. Clay, was agreed to, a lower tariff adopted, and the danger for the time averted. A speech pronounced by Mr. Calhoun at this period, contained the following passage:

'We are told that the Union must be preserved. And how is it proposed to preserve the Union? By force! Does any man in his senses believe that this beautiful structure, —this harmonious aggregate of States, pro-

duced by the joint consent of all,—can be preserved by force? Its very introduction will be certain destruction to the Federal Union. No, no! You cannot keep the States united in their constitutional and federal bonds by force. Force may, indeed, hold the parts together; but such union would be the bond between the master and slave—a union of exaction on one side, and of unqualified obedience on the other. It is madness to suppose that the Union can be preserved by force. Disguise it as you may, the contest is one between power and liberty.'

In 1843, Mr. Calhoun became Secretary of State under the administration of Mr. Tyler, who, by the death of General Harrison, had become President. In 1845 he returned to the Senate, of which he remained a member until his death.

Mr. Calhoun is considered by many as the greatest of American statesmen. Loved, admired, trusted, and almost idolized in South Carolina and throughout the Southern States, he was necessarily less popular in the north. His free-trade principles were opposed to northern interests; his defense of State rights, and the right of nullification and secession, were opposed to the territorial passion of the north; while his opinions on the necessity, and even philanthropy of negro slavery, were such as only local feelings have ever been able to sanction. But while Mr. Calhoun's political opinions found little favour, except in his own sec-

tion, his commanding talents, and the purity of his public and private character, made him everywhere respected. His influence in his native state was unbounded, and he, more than any other man, moulded the public opinion of the Southern States, and prepared them for the steps which they took at the election of Mr. Lincoln.

March 10

Honeycombs in timber

Among the many interesting facts concerning bees which attract the attention not only of naturalists, but of other persons acquainted with country life, is the existence of honeycombs in timber. The little workers select their dwellings in accordance with instincts which are yet but little understood: penetrating through or into solid substances by means apparently very inadequate to the work to be done. M. Réaumur proposed the name of carpenter-bees to denote those which work in wood, to distinguish them from the mason-bees that work in stone, and the mining-bees that work underground. Mr. Rennie says:

'We have frequently witnessed the operations of these ingenious little workers, who are particularly partial to posts, palings, and the wood-work of houses which has become soft by beginning to decay. Wood actually decayed, or affected by dry rot, they seem to reject as unfit for their purpose: but they make no objections to any hole previously drilled, provided it be not too large.'

It is always, so far as is known, a female bee that thus engages in carpentry. Mr. Rennie describes one which he saw actually at work:

'She chiseled a place in a piece of wood, for the nest, with her jaws; she gnawed the wood, little bits at a time, and flew away to deposit each separate fragment at a distance. When the hole was thus made, she set out on repeated journeys to bring pollen and clay: she visited every flower near at hand fitted to yield pollen, and brought home a load of it on her thighs: and alternated these journeys with others which resulted in bringing back little pellets of clay. After several days' labour, she had

brought in pollen enough to serve as food for the future generation, and clay enough to close up the door of her dwelling.'

Many carpenter-bees dig perpendicular galleries of great depth in upright posts and palings. Réaumur describes a particular kind, called by him the violet carpenter-bee (on account of the beautiful colour of the wings), which usually selects an upright piece of wood, into which she bores obliquely for about an inch, and then, changing the direction, works perpendicularly for twelve or fifteen inches, and half an inch in breadth. She sometimes scoops out three or four such channels in one piece of wood. Each channel is then partitioned into cells about an inch in depth; the partitions being made in a singular way from the sawdust or rather gnawings of the wood.

The depositing of the eggs, the storing of them with pollen, and the building up of the partitions, proceed in regular order, thus. The bee first deposits an egg at the bottom of the excavation: then covers it with a thick layer of paste made of pollen and honey: and then makes over or upon this a wooden cover, by arranging concentric rings of little chips or gnawings, till she has formed a hard flooring about as thick as a crown-piece, exhibiting concentric rings like those of a tree, and cemented by glue of her own making.

She deposits an egg on this flooring or partition, then another layer of soft food for another of her children, and then builds another partition—and so on, for a series of perhaps ten or twelve in height. Few things are more wonderful in their way than this: for the little worker has no tools but two sharp teeth to help her; she bores a tunnel ten or twelve times her own length quite smooth at the side: and makes ten or twelve floors to her house by a beautiful kind of joinery.

This labour occupies several weeks. The egg first deposited develops into a grub, a pupa, and a perfect bee earlier than the others: and the mother makes a side door out of the bottom cell for the elder children to work their way out when old enough; they can penetrate the partitions between the cells, but not the hard wood of a piece of timber.

March 13

Discovery of the planet Uranus

It was on the evening of the 13th of March, 1781, that William Herschel, while examining some small stars in the constellation Gemini, marked one that was new to him; he applied different telescopes to it in turn, and found the results different from those observable with fixed stars. Was it a comet? He watched it night after night, with a view of solving this question; and he soon found that the body was moving among the stars. He continued his observations till the 19th of April, when he communicated to the Royal Society an account of all he had yet ascertained concerning the strange visitor. The attention of astronomers both at home and abroad was excited; and calculations were made to determine the orbit of the supposed comet.

None of these calculations, however, accorded with the observed motion; and there arose a farther question, 'Is it a planet?' This question set the computers again at work; and they soon agreed that a new planet really had been discovered in the heavens. It was at first supposed that the orbit was circular; but Laplace, in 1783, demonstrated that, as in the case of all the other planets, it is elliptical. It then became duly recognized as the outermost of the members of the solar system, and so remained until the recent days when the planet Neptune was discovered.

The discoverer, wishing to pay a compliment to the monarch who so liberally supported him, gave the name of the Georgium Sides, or Georgian Star, to the new planet; other English astronomers, wishing to compliment the discoverer himself, suggested the name of Herschel; but Continental astronomers proposed that the old mythological system should be followed; and this plan was adopted, the name Uranus, suggested by Bode, being now accepted by all the scientific world as a designation for the seventh planet.

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ECOLOGY

Small scale maple sugaring

Amanda Markle
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

I am drowning in sap. It fills my freezer and my fridge. I have partially frozen 5-gallon buckets in various stages of thaw surrounding my desk. My stockpots, soup pots, canning jars, and muffin tins are all filled with sap, and it just keeps coming. My shoulders ache from carrying buckets through the woods, and all my clothes smell like smoke. I have thermometers, hydrometers, and refractometers sitting next to my computer where I frantically research how to use them all properly. It's maple sugaring season and I am in way over my head.

A year ago, the extent of my maple syrup knowledge was that it made my son's 3-pancake-a-day habit very expensive. I started working at Strawberry Hill last April, soon after the sugaring season ended. When I asked other staff members about the process, my inquiries were met with vague warnings to prepare for long days, but I assumed that by the time the next sugaring season came around I would be prepared. I was not prepared.

The process of making maple syrup is both incredibly simple and incredibly labor-intensive. All you need to make maple syrup is a maple tree, the right climate, and a heat source. Once you have

those three things, it's just a matter of waiting for the right temperatures, getting the sap out of the tree, and boiling it long enough to turn it into syrup. It's a process that's been done for hundreds of years, starting with Native Americans who ingeniously figured out how to concentrate sap into sugar without the aid of metal cookware, freezing the sap to concentrate the sugar content, and utilizing a variety of carefully buffered heat sources.

European colonists learned the process from the indigenous peoples and began using maple sugar as a replacement for the cane sugar, which had to be imported from the West Indies and came with a steep price tag. Around the time of the American Civil War, cane sugar became more readily available, and the production of maple sugar shifted to be more focused on producing maple syrup—though the demand for maple sugar peaked during this same period in some areas where abolitionists urged people to avoid using cane sugar produced by slave labor in one of the earliest known examples of a political boycott. Processing techniques shifted during this era to utilize shallow metal sheet pans for boiling, which greatly decreased the amount of time and energy required to boil the sap down to syrup, but collecting, storing, and

processing maple sap was still a huge undertaking.

Commercial maple sugaring took off thanks to technological advancements starting in the 1970s. During this modern maple sugaring renaissance, sugarmakers were finally able to perfect a system of connecting tapped trees to plastic tubing that would run sap to a central processing location, eliminating the need to collect and haul heavy sap from individual and often hard to access trees. Vacuum pumps improved the process even more, and processing times were decreased exponentially through the use of reverse osmosis systems that remove a large amount of water from maple sap before it ever reaches a heat source. Commercial grade evaporators can trap and recycle heat lost in the process of boiling sap, decreasing the amount of energy required to produce syrup.

All these advancements make it possible for us to buy real maple syrup from a store at a (somewhat) reasonable price, but away from the commercial producers, a community of back-yard and hobbyist sugar makers still thrives. Many are now using upgraded evaporator pans, plastic tubing, and even homemade reverse osmosis rigs, but even so, producing maple syrup on a small scale is a laborious process that yields a relatively small reward. Sugarmakers must



While maple sugaring has become big business, with the right tools and access to a healthy maple tree, you can do it at home.

watch the weather carefully so they tap at just the right moment. Too cold and you can damage the tree—wait too long and you miss out on the best sap flows. Once the buds break, the sap's chemical composition changes and any syrup produced using it will taste terrible. Sugarmakers must learn and utilize responsible tapping practices—a maple tree, on average, needs to be 45 years old before it's large enough to start tapping. Properly cared-for trees can be tapped for 100 years or more, but if you damage your trees by overtapping or not giving them space to heal from year to year, it's going to be a long wait for any new ones you plant to be ready for maple sugaring. Sap storage can be a huge challenge for the backyard sugarmaker. Sap spoils quickly if not kept cold. A dozen tapped trees and a warm spell can easily leave you scrambling to find freezer space for upwards of 20 gallons of sap in a single day. Once you are ready to process, there are endless techniques, calculations, and expensive pieces of equipment you can use to make sure you are boiling reaches exactly the right temperature to make syrup.

I'm now about halfway through my first maple sugaring season producing as a hobbyist and environmental educator, and I am exhausted. The process, start to finish, is so much more time-consuming and physically taxing than I had expected it to be. Is it worth all these long hours and all this hard work to make what will eventually become just a few gallons of syrup? Absolutely. Maple syrup produced in your backyard is worlds apart from what you buy in the store.

The flavor will be unique to your individual process, affected by climate, soil type, what stage of the sugaring season your sap comes from, and your processing techniques. All that effort to collect, haul, and store your sap makes it taste that much sweeter once you've boiled away 97% of it.

The sense of accomplishment that's come with producing our small batch of syrup would itself make the process worthwhile, but the best part of this epic sugaring saga has been the sense of community it's built. Maple sugaring is best done as a group activity. Many hands helping to carry sap and stoke fires make the work a lot easier. Trying to keep all that sap cold has encouraged us to get to know our neighbors (and their fridge capacity) better. Long hours of processing leads to long talks and time to spend together working towards a common goal. We've connected with so many people who have stepped up to give advice and share stories of their own experiences backyard sugaring, a tradition that's often been passed down from generation to generation. Now we get to share the tradition with the hundreds of people who will be coming to Strawberry Hill over the next few weeks to learn about maple sugaring. Hopefully, at least a few of them will go on to try their hand at sugaring in their own backyards. The community will continue to grow, and every hard-earned ounce of maple syrup they produce will be worth its weight in gold.

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IN THE COUNTRY

How to prevent an alien invasion

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

Soon the seasons will begin to change, and the weather will become more favorable. Warmer weather and spring showers will cause the plants to bloom. For those of us with a green thumb this is the time of year when we start planning our gardens. Most of us choose what to put in our gardens based on popular trends, appearance, and ease of care. While these are important factors when choosing flowers or plants there are more important factors to consider when selecting what or what not to plant. Before purchasing and planting you should be asking yourself one thing before everything else: Is it native?

The importance of selecting native plants over non-native plants is paramount. Non-native, or exotic, plants often become invasive species. Now you might be getting confused by throwing all these terms around, so I'll attempt to clarify. Native species are plants, animals, or any organism found in an ecosystem that is supposed to be there. Exotic or non-native species are any plants, animals, or organisms that are found in a given ecosystem that are not supposed to be there. For instance, I'm sure by now you're familiar with those pesky little brown stink bugs that can be found literally everywhere in our area these days. Prior to about 2008 you couldn't find them in Maryland. They weren't even documented to be in the United States prior to 1998. With this example we can clearly identify that these Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs are exotic or non-native. They originally hail from Japan, and are most certainly not supposed to be here. As a result of their introduction and rapid expansion they are now considered invasive.

For a species to be invasive it must aggressively invade and establish itself in an ecosystem at the expense of other species. Invasive species thrive while others suffer. Invasive aren't necessarily always exotic. Even natives can be considered invasive, certain kinds of weeds for example. The problem with invasive species is that they can cause ecological and/or economic damage on a large scale. When dealing with non-native species they can quickly become invasive because they have been pulled out of their natural ecosystem where natural checks and balances like predators or diseases can help keep population numbers in check. When those bars are removed damage caused by these species can be dramatic. In order to help curb this issue we can combat it before it even becomes a problem.

There are many natural advantages to planting native species over exotic ones. For starters because they are native they will generally be much easier to care for. They evolved to live right here for these exact conditions, and will require little attention. They've spent thousands of years figuring out how to best survive right here, and are uniquely capable of flourishing on their own. They can handle variable weather conditions, and outside of drought conditions should not need to be watered. Natives are heart-

ier and can last for two to four seasons depending on the species allowing for longer enjoyment. Native plants usually don't require the use of pesticides or fertilizers either. Birds, bugs, and other wildlife have all developed a relationship and dependence on native plants.

Native flowers, trees, shrubs, and other plants all provide valuable food and habitat for our local wildlife. By planting things they recognize and depend on you can help cultivate a thriving habitat to observe nature up close and personal. You can even try to cater to the wildlife you wish to see. If you want to see specific birds or butterflies do a little research to find out the types of native plants they like best. If you can plant what they like you will be more likely to attract those species. For example, in the spring and fall many birds will seek out insects hiding in the leaves and bark of oak trees or poplars. Once the summer has set in they switch their diet to fruits and berries. Monarch Butterflies rely almost solely on Milkweed for nutrition during reproduction and migration times. It's all about catering to the needs of the animals or insects you would like most to see. Do a quick internet search to identify the types of habitat and food that a specific species will need.

Any experienced or novice gardener should know there are other important factors to consider ensuring you have a successful garden. Once you've selected the type of flower, shrub, tree, or plant you wish to plant consider where and how you place it. Light conditions are very,

very, very important. A shade loving plant will just not survive in the hot summer sun, so pay close attention to the location you place your plants for their specific needs. Also, consider the proximity the plant is with other surrounding plants. You want to ensure that when they all reach full growth maturity they will have plenty of room. While densely packed plants may help prevent the growth of weeds, it will also hinder the growth of some or all of your new plants too! Lastly, be sure to know when the best time to plant your new plant is. Generally, after the last frost of the spring season is likely to occur is a good time to begin that endeavor.

By planting only native species you will be doing your part to significantly reduce the chances of and prevent the spread of exotic or invasive species. Many of the invasive plant species in the southern United States were originally introduced and used for gardening and landscaping purposes. Continuing to introduce exotic species into local areas will only further the spread of newer invasive species. Valuable habitat is lost daily to development. By planting only native plants you can provide wildlife an oasis with necessary food and shelter.

To learn more about local native plants visit the Maryland Native Plant Society at www.mdflora.org or the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society at www.panativeplantsociety.org.

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



For years I used to enjoy watching the purple loosestrife at the bottom of my fields, until my wife pointed out how it was crowding out all native plants upon which the native bees depend.

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REAL SCIENCE

Trust the science? It depends

Boyce Rensberger

The COVID-19 pandemic has given many of us a lesson in how science works. And to be honest, it is not always pretty. The apparent flip-flops in advice from “experts” in science plus the changing interpretations of what is happening and what to do have perplexed many people. The confusion has led some to think that “science” is not so trustworthy after all.

To scientists, by contrast, all those changes reflect a situation that is quite familiar in the early stages of research into any new phenomenon.

Still, it looks bad to a public unfamiliar with the ways of the scientific community, especially when they hear authority figures telling us to “trust the science.” That glib slogan assumes that science is one monolithic, infallible,

and unchanging thing. It’s not, and the slogan is naïve.

The truth is that many people are conflating two rather different kinds of science. “Two” is an oversimplification, but bear with me. There is textbook science and there is what I’ll call cutting-edge science.

Textbook science is what many of us were fed in school—lots of facts and names. Photosynthesis. Proton. Darwin. Stratosphere. Covalent. And dozens more. That’s knowledge that came from science, and it’s well supported by powerful evidence. What scientists actually do, however, is engage in an often-fumbling process of trying to understand how the world works in greater detail than is in the textbooks. That’s where the cutting edge is—in that fumbling process.

Science textbooks are great (and worthy of trust), but they sit on

the shelf while the scientist spends days at the laboratory bench trying to make a balky experiment yield results that make sense. Or she pores over spreadsheets of numbers that don’t fit the expected pattern. Or he tries to design a better experiment. Or in fields of science where experiments are rarely possible, as in astronomy or in public health, the researcher plans more extensive observations, perhaps using a newly invented instrument, or looks for some other source of evidence that might answer the question. In all cases, of course, progress must be made within a limited budget.

The cutting edge always slices into the unknown, into darkness. It is not always clear at first what that cut has exposed. In fact, you can often tell that a report of a finding is based on good science if the report states clearly that it is uncertain. An honest scientist who has found something new that seems important will almost always say it is “probably” true. A pretender will claim certainty.

There are very few new findings in cutting-edge science that can be stated honestly with absolute certainty. The closest that researchers usually get is to express a high degree of confidence that something is true. In many cases, there are ways of calculating the degree of certainty in numbers. This may be most familiar to nonscientists when public opinion pollsters state their margin of error. But scientists usually can reach a high level of confidence only after rigorously testing their hypothesis. Or if experiments are not possible, confidence comes only after repeated observations point to the same conclusion.

When cutting-edge science reaches a high degree of confidence in a finding—ideally when several different researchers have come to the same conclusion—the finding goes into the textbook, and the scientists move on,



Science isn’t easy and isn’t always pretty. But the peer review process does work, and over time, facts and the truth always win out.

cutting deeper into the unknown, raising new uncertainties.

So it has been with the COVID pandemic.

Early on Tony Fauci, a pillar of science on infectious diseases, says people don’t need to wear masks. Then he “flip-flops” and urges masks.

The FDA gives Emergency Use Authorization to hydroxychloroquine and later revokes it.

Science says the vaccine protects you. Later science says there are breakthrough infections, and you need to wear a mask anyway.

Science says two shots of the vaccine does the trick. Later science says you need a third jab.

Every one of these apparent reversals of what “science says” is explainable by the simple fact that the early pronouncements were based on very little information. We were at the cutting edge of the COVID phenomenon, and as time went on, more data corrected the earlier statements. If you go back and look at what Fauci and other real scientists said, you will find phrasing intended to express a level of uncertainty.

The reversal on mask wearing was different; scientists feared that so many people would buy masks

that there wouldn’t be enough for medical workers. The facts changed, and so did the advice. Big time.

Even serious science published in peer-reviewed journals can be wrong. One of the (dirty?) little secrets of science is that that most peer-reviewed and published scientific findings are wrong or, at best, so uncertain as not to be convincing. That’s not libeling anything; it’s simply recognizing that the cutting edge always slices into the unknown.

It’s also important to remember that scientists use many different methods that yield many different sorts of evidence, some of which are closer to the truth than others. Medical researchers, for example, speak of “levels of evidence” ranging from reports of individual cases (weakest level) to observational studies (moderately persuasive) to interventional studies such as the “gold standard” of randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials (very convincing, if properly done).

The observational method is what was used to find out how well the vaccines work. You vaccinate a lot of people and simply wait and see how many of them get infected. Then you compare that with the infection rate of a comparable number of unvaccinated people. That is what took so much time.

An interventional study would have vaccinated some number of people and then deliberately tried to infect them with doses of the COVID virus. That would have given an answer much sooner, but the method is considered unethical.

The bottom line in all this is that science is perhaps the greatest invention of civilization but that those of us who are not scientists need to be aware of how it works. We should trust the method—not to achieve certainty right off the bat but to get us as close to the truth as is humanly possible at the moment.

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

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

The pencil

Jack Deatherage Jr.

Half way through the longest month of the year- March -I'm mostly recovered from my late November bout of COVID. Hoping to never share that virus's latest mutations with anyone else, I have gone back to masking when around others and generally avoiding everyone I can. The self-imposed isolation, the winter chill and the garden on hold until sometime in April have combined to send me searching for some new interest to get into. An online ad for a pencil caught my flitting attention. Fascinating tool, a pencil. Not too heavy, or unwieldy. Easy to misplace if needs be.

In the hands of a street artist (somewhere in France), the image of my someday mom- from a photo my someday dad carried in his wallet in 1950 -was recreated using a pencil. So the story was told to me when I first saw the sketch in the early 1960s. (My stick figures from that time, which no one saved, were also drawn with a pencil. Which is a shame, as I'd like to compare them to the stick figures I draw now.)

In the hands of an author; a pencil can create fantastic worlds, attempt to explain the human condition, entertain, or inform millions of people over centuries. In my hands? The point breaks off within a bare two inches of scribbling. Not that anything I might scratch on paper with a pencil would last any longer than my stick figure drawings from the early 1960s- with the exception of some preliminary architectural designs I left in Mister Massett's Industrial Arts class at the end of the eleventh grade. For some reason he hung on to those penciled sketches. Probably as a "what the hell was this kid thinking" kind of thing?

I suppose I could get busy rearranging the dust, cat and dog hair that mostly hasn't been disturbed during the last ten, maybe fifteen years? Maybe I should sort through the stuff we brought home from the DW's mom's house so we can get to the crap we previously brought in from my mom's apartment? Then I could at least see some of the piles of boxes containing leather working tools from the factory, jewelry making tools, spools of rattail satin, patterns, fishing tackle, books, pamphlets and newsletters stacked haphazardly in any room there's space enough to cram them. Or maybe I could start in the dog room-com-garden room- if I can get around the 100-gallon stock

tank with last summer's goldfish in it? But honestly, I'd rather contemplate the pencil.

As with many things in my life I have a love/hate relationship with the pencil. I recall doodling with a first grader's fat red pencil when Sister Rosemary whacked me across the fingers with a metal edged wooden ruler to refocus my wandering attention onto whatever boring topic she was blathering on about. Odd how I don't recall the topic, but still remember the boredom, the ruler, the pain and the embarrassment. Sister wasn't fond of my inability to perfectly copy the letters of the alphabet according to the examples in my writing lessons either. I was never able to develop a comfortable grasp of the pencil, or later a pen. The gods may know why, but I haven't a clue.

By the time I reached poor Mrs. Wenschoff's senior year English class I'd given up on ever writing legibly. She once remarked I had the second worst penmanship she'd seen from a student. I assume she meant in that particular class, though I'd have tried harder for "the worst" if she'd meant in the entire student body.

Sadly, escaping school didn't get me out of having to use pencils and pens. Job applications in those days weren't done online. So my printing hand had to remain legible until most everything switched over to online forms. Gods, was that a relief! Or it was until I decided to record my bread recipes.

I started out with a pen, but quickly realized I needed the ability to erase my scribbles, or learn to decipher the few useful scratchings among all the strike-outs. Back to the pencil boy! Back to the frustration of breaking the points!

Eventually I realized the pencils I used in I.A. class seldom broke on me. So I tooken to root among the odds and ends tucked away on the bookshelves and found some higher quality pencils- drafting pencils I forgot I had. It doesn't take me long to realize the pencil sharpener I'm using easily breaks the graphite if I push too hard in my hurry to shave a point. I force myself to slow down.

A friend once told me about therapeutic practices he engaged in while recovering his sanity, sort of, in a couple of mental institutions. Simple, repetitive tasks that required mental focus until the body's muscles were able to do the job with only minimal supervision from the mind. A form of regenerative meditation? Cool! I'm healing my COVID fogged mind, sort of.

Two things immediately enter my

head; the fragrance of freshly shaved graphite and wood- which brings memories of grade school, and the concept of mastery. I focus on mastery as there's nothing I can do about school. Any fool can master sharpening a pencil! Indeed, I occasionally have. However, that's not the mastering I'm interested in. Mastering myself is the goal. I spend half a pencil trying to shave the perfect point that doesn't snap off within two inches of my scribbling.

Soon needing more pencils, I go online. I'm not surprised to find a treasure trove of pencil related articles. I am startled by the number and styles of sharpeners though! But more interesting, and likely to part me from some money, are the sites that sell pencils. Gods! The offerings and pitches for such an apparently simple object! My adult attention deficit disorder is sidelined for hours as I study the various tools for communicating my thoughts to my future self, once I learn to write legibly. But more importantly, I could sit and sharpen pencils all day as I seek the perfect point! And so many pencils to choose from!

Glory to the gods what led me to the Musgrave Pencil Company's "Tennessee Red" (trademarked) pencil! Not only is it superior to the cheaper No. 2s I have, but it's built from Eastern Red Cedar so its fragrance won't trigger unpleasant memories of school. \$13 a dozen, plus shipping.



Jack's mom - Thelma (Cool) Deatherage.

While I'm showing the pencil sites to the DW she mutters "Gods! Why can't you just stay focused on building the garden?"

"Oh look!" I point to a new website. "Fountain pens! I could learn to write in cursive!"

Did I hear a sob?

"Have you looked up sites that sell straitjackets?" The DW grumbles.

That question confuses me. The DW has seldom shown interest in

straitjackets, but I suppose she could be suffering with COVID brain fog as well? Or maybe women wearing straitjackets is a current fad? And if it isn't, maybe it should be?

"Yeesh! Dial back the Balor evil eye woman! We'll be needing another gallon of skin care lotion if you scorch me again!"

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

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Debbie Luquette
Adams County Master Gardener

I recently attended a lecture focusing on the use of native plants in a suburban home landscape. I was conversing with the lecturer afterwards about various uses of beneficial native trees and shrubs in suburban landscaping. When we choose to plant native trees, shrubs and perennials around homes it provides good quality food for insects, birds and small mammals, as well as healthier soil. But what else can they do for a gardening homeowner?

Natives are often less fussy about their care. They need less fertilizer, though annual applications of compost add fertility and maintain soil health. And you don't want to apply insecticides and fungicides to them, except in the unlikely case of a severe outbreak of a pest or disease. But let's not forget they are not completely self-maintaining. Sometimes a particular plant may like your growing conditions too much and need some management; bee balm and mountain mint are rambunctious examples in my yard.

The conversation turned to the possibility of an edible landscape using native fruit and nut trees. Persimmons, pawpaws, pecans, blueberries and serviceberries are a few of the natives that can become the centerpiece of an edible landscape, a planting that provides food for the gardener. And this is not a definitive list. These gardens

can be small with one or two centerpiece trees, or large enough to provide fruit all season if you have the space. These plantings don't have to be native; including familiar trees like apples or peaches in the mix is certainly acceptable. These gardens also include smaller shrubs and perennials that provide food for the gardener as well as beneficial insects and songbirds. Since you are the gardener, you can decide what grows in your garden.

The lecturer then asked if what we were talking about was permaculture. What I described was an example of polyculture. Permaculture is more of a philosophy or a lifestyle that includes polyculture food production. Permaculture started when Australian biologist Bill Mollison saw how nature sustainably managed the use of energy (sunlight) and available resources (soil elements, water, and air) and used this knowledge to build and maintain farms as self-sustaining plant and animal communities.

Permaculture is recognized as a system in which the land owner enters the natural balance of their place without becoming a disturbance in that place. Permaculturists try to live in a place, using the resources of that place, and maintain that area's natural balance as much as possible. Often, it is a community effort where tasks and products are shared among families. It doesn't seem entirely possible in my mind, even if it's a communal effort. It takes a lot of work and knowledge – and choc-

olate doesn't grow in this climate. Where permaculture is a lifestyle, polyculture gardens and agroforestry are techniques.

But it is possible to take our gardening up a notch or two. Edible landscapes are polycultures that take us a lot closer to the goal of living on our land alongside our wild plant and animal neighbors. The concept of a self-maintaining food system is not new, or even original. It's been going on for millennia, and small communities of indigenous growers who are keepers of this agricultural wisdom are scattered worldwide in pockets of territory largely hidden from modern society.

All over the world, agriculture was perfected by indigenous communities, each different in their unique geographical homelands. Each group fine-tuned their techniques, along with their seed stock, trees and shrubs to the location they inhabited. They understood how soil and growing conditions can differ between differing plots of land and the variance of weather conditions between them.

In south central PA we can look north to New York to see how the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Federation) and their agricultural traditions are examples of permaculture. Over generations, they saved seed from the tastiest, most productive, and most reliable plants. These indigenous farmers weren't averse to trying new varieties of food plants either, considering corn, beans and winter squashes – the Three Sisters – are not native to this area. These food sources arrived here through trade routes that brought them from Mexico and Central America.

From what I've read of their agroforestry, these people favored local fruits and nuts but didn't refine their agricultural effort to the



Edible landscapes are polycultures that take us a lot closer to the goal of living on our land alongside our wild plant and animal neighbors.

extent they did for annual crops. They maintained areas of fruits like pawpaws, persimmon, and various berries to supplement their Three Sisters diet. Nuts, especially chestnuts, provided additional protein, plant oils and starch. Leaves, flowers, roots, bark from various species of trees and herbaceous plants provided flavorings. These agroforestry areas and the surrounding unmanaged forests were also their pharmacy. Hunting and fishing also provided high quality fresh and preserved food, too. Let's not forget maple syrup, their principle sweetener.

My yard includes native and non-native shrubs and trees which were primarily planted for the food they produce. It started six years ago and last fall we had our first pawpaws. Even if I consider only the pawpaws, it was satisfying to eat this delicious fruit. But these trees also provide compostable leaves in the fall, and potentially host the larvae of the beautiful zebra swallowtail butterfly. And the seeds I've scattered may become new pawpaws. What turns a solitary nut or fruit tree into a polyculture garden is expanding the

area around the tree with other food plants. My pawpaw garden includes blueberries, herbs, perennial onions and pollinator friendly perennials. (The blueberries are off to the side. Remember they need acid soil and that needs to be maintained differently.)

The inclusion of food producing trees, shrubs and herbs to your yard expands its potential for producing fresh, nutritious food for you. Judicious choices include herbs and perennials which also provide food for pollinators and beneficial insects, thereby expanding the ecological value of your piece of suburban landscape. This could be the start of a new generation of living with nature.

As mentioned, permaculture is a lifestyle, polyculture gardens and agroforestry are techniques. There are lots of benefits to growing polycultures and I don't know many reasons not to. There are guides available in which the author suggests various plants that work well together for the author. While I can say that there are plant pairs that are tried and true, like basil and tomatoes, there are others that generally work well – but not always. Keep a record of your successes and examine your disappointments.

What are some of the benefits of companions for your veggies? Legumes can feed their neighbors, like beans sharing the nitrogen they take from the air, convert to nitrate, and share with nearby corn. Sunflowers can support a vine of decorative mini-gourds. Companion plants can attract beneficial insects. They might confuse or deter pest insects. Some pairs just look pretty together. Sometimes one partner dies back or is cut down when the partner is planted, as in the case of cover crops. But, your companions may not always work the same way as they did in the book or article you are using as a guide.

Most of the time, the reason a particular grouping of plants didn't work well for me is because I hadn't considered all the characteristics of the plants I put together. For instance, I tried growing bush beans with potatoes, thinking that beans would help potatoes because they help corn by fixing and sharing nitrogen. I grew one row of potatoes with quick maturing bush green

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beans next to it. I got some good potatoes, but I uprooted the beans when I harvested the potatoes.

In another experiment, wide spreading cabbage leaves smothered their neighboring onions. This only works if I leave more room between cabbage plants for onions. Winter squashes planted beneath pole beans are a good match but remember to train the squash vines out of the way so you can pick the beans!

The companions I enjoy most are flowers planted between vegetables. Some flowers are attractive to pollinators, giving native bees a boost. Some beneficial insects eat flower nectar as adults, but their larvae need to eat insects. Plant nectar-producing flowers, then look for ladybugs feeding on the blossoms – and spending time among your vegetables searching for aphids where they will lay their eggs. Flowers of the carrot family (examples: dill and coriander) and sunflower family are good choices. Did the nasturtiums keep the squash bugs away from my zucchini as suggested? Not entirely, but the red and orange nasturtiums were pretty next to the large yellow flowers on the zukes.

Can a tall plant support a vine? Yes! That's part of the Three Sisters story. Corn, beans and vining squashes planted together support each other in a specific polyculture arrangement. Corn grows straight and tall, but it needs fertility. Pole beans are nitrogen fixers but they need support. Squashes need room to sprawl, and their large leaves take up lots of space. The three complement each other well. There are several stories about how this arrange-

ment developed, but whatever the origin and however many generations it took to breed compatible plants and find the best arrangement, it is a marvel of Indigenous ingenuity.

Cover crops are another plant combination opportunity a gardener can try. During the growing season, as one crop finishes, I like to plant a cover crop to fill the space and enhance soil health. The choice depends on what's next for that piece of ground. Early maturing broccoli and kale can be removed and replaced with short-lived buckwheat. Once the buckwheat flowers, it's cut to prevent reseeding. It can sit on the soil to compost in place or removed to the composter to make room for fall carrots, beets and lettuce.

Gardening is an outlet for my "let's see what happens if . . ." tendency, and polyculture lends itself to experimentation. Those Indigenous gardeners saved their best seeds, tried various planting arrangements and kept their learning alive in the stories they told on long winter nights. Our lives are not so intimately tied to a successful harvest as theirs, so what was necessity to them becomes experimentation to me. But I believe as the summers become hotter, perhaps drier or stormier, and we deal with more pests who aren't playing by the last decades' rules, we gardeners can find ways to be creative, successful and enjoy our time in the soil. Companion planting can be pleasurable and useful, too.

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

Small Town Gardener

Growing a beautiful vegetable garden...

Marianne Willburn

Beautiful vegetables? What is she talking about? Aren't all vegetables beautiful?

For those who live and breathe a garden life and not just a garden life-style, the answer is of course yes. Even flopping potato vines are attractive when you know that there are forty pounds of soon-to-be buttered lusciousness a few inches under that browning foliage; and there never was a happier gardener than I last summer when I harvested my solitary Tadafi eggplant off of flea beetle-bitten plants. Vegetables are beautiful, period.

Still, it has to be said that some have an advantage in the looks department. If you're wishing to create a bit of ornamental in the midst of your edible this year, why not look out for varieties that not only taste good, but make your vegetable beds look like works of art?

Some of these choices come with names you should look out for – particularly if you're buying seed – but others will delight you without the benefit of a christening. So I've given you a few general categories with specific varieties I grow picked out in bold.

Basil - If you're getting bored with your basil, why not try something a little different? Purple Ruffles basil gives you all the flavor, but adds a note of dark foliage to the garden and is an AAS Winner. Pesto Perpetuo is a bit fiddly to harvest, but wow, what a stunner in variegated leaves of white and green – with no flowers to trim! A bit of AAS winner Siam Queen in your garden will elevate your curries and add dark stems, purple flowers and vigor to your herb bed. And finally, new last year to basil were Emerald Towers and Thai Towers. Seriously structural plants that look just like they sound.

Cabbage - Cabbage grown well is a vegetable with such presence that any variety is impressive. But if you want to bump things up a notch, grab a couple six packs of red cabbage this year from your

local nursery or garden center. Selection is usually poor, but I have found over the years that a six-pack of Bonnie's anonymous red goes above and beyond during the season. If you're growing from seed for the fall, try Mammoth Red Rock or Koda from Baker Creek Seeds.

Cardon - Again, if you're not growing from seed, you don't have a lot of choices in the nurseries, but thankfully, you don't really need them to grow an outstanding ornamental edible like cardoon. Cardoons are one of the top foliage plants in my garden. The silvery soft but jagged grey leaves will take up a fair bit of space, and overwinter in a mild year. Particularly favored in Europe, cardoon stems are a treat when lightly braised with butter and dill. This is not a seed you'll easily find in the stores, but it is worth a quick trip online to Baker Creek Seeds. I grow Gobbo Di Nizzia.

Chard - For many, Bright Lights is the gold standard in gorgeous. The multi-hued stems of Bright Lights give it the versatility to wow at the front of a bed or in an ornamental container with other vegetables or flowers, and those stems keep their color all the way to the plate. Others to try: Peppermint Stick and Neon Glow.

Okra - Okra is an inherently beautiful vegetable with tall stalks topped by hibiscus-like flowers throughout summer, but Candle Fire Okra is just outstanding. Dusky yellow-red flowers, red stems and pods. Seriously, other okras pale in comparison. An AAS Winner.

Peppers - Those wonderful sweet mini-peppers in stores are not just beautiful in a basket or bag, but gorgeous decorating a summer-time pepper plant like it was an Arizona Christmas tree. I really like Renee's Baby Belle salad peppers in a mix of yellow and red, but last year also loved Burpee's Tangerine Dream and Lemon Dream in the form of a Take 2 Director's Cut Combo plant.

Pole Beans - When it comes to beans, 'beautiful' makes sense. Picking is the work of a moment when you're grabbing yellow and purple string beans out of green vines. Try

Purple Pod and Roc D'Or from Renee's Seeds and your bean-picking kids will thank you. Sadly, these beans lose most of their color in cooking, but luckily, none of their flavor. And for something unique, easy to pick and easy to prepare, try Chinese Red Noodle Beans from Baker Creek. They even keep their color in the pan!

Pumpkins - If you are one of those odd people who actually grow pumpkins to eat and can, we've got something in common. But I still love me a bit of autumn décor and I'm sure you do too. Why not grow unusual, beautiful pumpkins that aren't so warty and tough it doesn't seem worth it to roast them? Orange and green speckled Pepitas and ghostly Super Moon will elevate your pie pumpkin patch, and Pepitas produces hull-less seeds – a win/win! They're both – you guessed it - AAS Winners.

Runner Beans - An easy way to pump bright, vining color into your garden, and get flat, Italian style beans in the process. Scarlet Runner Beans are a favorite of English gardeners for good reason – they're prolific and will decorate anything from a pergola to an ugly garden shed. Don't let them sit on the vine too long however, they get tough quickly. Most varieties are excellent and easy – I grow Magic Beanstalk from Renee's.

Tomatoes - For a clever little patio tomato that has the strength of a strong ornamental plant and a good-sized fruit, I'd choose Renee's Super Bush, but if you want beauty in your indeterminate varieties, I'd suggest Midnight Snack and Chef's Choice Orange in the garden and on the plate. Both of these are vigorous – both of them are again, AAS Winners. Sensing a pattern?

Here's to a beautiful, extremely edible, garden this year!

Marianne is the author of Tropical Plants and How to Love Them and Big Dreams, Small Garden. You can read and follow at www.smalltowngardener.com.

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PETS

Cats and windows!

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

I'm worried about my cats. Not for a medical reason. They appear to be healthy. I'm worried they may be too smart.

Like other cats, they love looking out the windows. They see things even I don't realize are out there. It can be more than a little creepy from time to time.

I've been known to say to them, "How did you even see that?"

One of my youngest, Chirper (named for the sounds she makes when she wants your attention) has taken to jumping to the window behind the television. She has to move curtains to be able to see out and she does this, pretty much every day.

I tell her if she ever knocks the TV over, we're going to have serious problems — so far, so good, but if you hear a strange scream one day, you might want to add this possibility to the list. I'm just saying. I don't even care where you live. You'll hear it. Trust me.

I like to think when my cats sit at the window and stare at the world outside it's akin to me watching television. This could be a product of my overactive imagination or it could possibly be because of my

addiction to television. Either way, I think of them being incredibly entertained by nature and all the goings-on in the backyard.

Just the other day, Chirper hopped up in her favorite spot and I could see her tail below the curtains swishing away, telltale trilling accompanying the swaying. She had obviously spied a critter or bird.

Then she did something I'm fairly certain her brother, Loki, taught her.

She jumped off the windowsill and scurried to the kitchen and out into the other room to get to the window where she could follow the progress of whatever was outside.

So Loki does the exact same thing. He will follow whatever is outside from window to window. It freaked me out then and it continues to freak me out. I'm really starting to wonder how much cats not only think, but understand our world.

Here's the thing. If windows really are televisions to cats, then they would think they were watching a screen and would likely remain in place, knowing that all they could possibly witness is what's happening within their eyesight — because that's how televisions work. We all know they're

not actually a part of reality (yes, even I get that, Mother!).

Although, true story if I may digress for a minute. I worked in the Wax Museum in Gettysburg when I was a kid going through college. We showed Gettysburg, the movie on a small TV in one of the rooms in the building in an effort to sell the (then) VCR tapes of the film.

I'll never forget the day a young boy came in with his family. I don't think the group owned a television because that little boy looked at that TV like it was something out of the Twilight Zone. When his father picked him up to get a better view, he reached a little hand out and touched the screen — almost as though he expected the tiny people to be inside the box — like a puppet show or something.

I was reminded of that little boy watching my cats run around to follow whatever creature was on the sidewalk — they figured something real was in their "television."

Taking this creepy experience with my felines one step further, you get that this means my cats in some way, shape or form have to understand they are inside the house and what they're seeing outside the window actually surrounds said house, right?

Because in order to know enough that whatever is moving up the

sidewalk will also be able to be seen in a window in the front room, they need to somehow realize the house is the boundary for the outside. In other words, the window isn't just a television screen. In fact, it's a transparent view to things beyond the walls of our home and all that exists outside those dividers.

And they need to understand that something does, indeed, exist beyond our dwelling.

That takes some level of actual rational thought, doesn't it? Shouldn't it worry me — maybe more than a little — that my cats are capable of that? I mean observing the world and maybe reacting to what you see is one thing, but recognizing the dimensions of your existence could be a step further than they should be capable of, right?

I mean, can you imagine if they could actually speak? Or write? Or type? Or have opposable thumbs?

The reality shows alone would be worth millions!

It makes me second guess the motives of Loki when he sat on top of me the other day and hovered, quite vulture-like (I'm not going to lie), and seemed to stare me down.

Maybe the reason they're not capable of the aforementioned abilities is because the world is simply not able to withstand that kind of power in such an overwhelmingly conniving being.

Could there be a universe in the quantum realm (thank you, Avengers) that is ruled by cats? And if there is, would we really want to go there? Could we hope to be anything other than participants in human slave colonies?

Life with cats. If there's one thing I've learned over the years...it's never dull and they will always surprise you — especially those in my feline group.

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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



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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



Hamilton is a 3-year-old brown tabby boy with white who came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about him. He can be a little reserved and will need someone who understands it might take time for him to adjust to a new environment. He loves to get scratches, though, and will warm up once he knows he can trust you. Do you have the right spot for Hamilton?



L.S. apparently wants to compete in the affectionate head-boop Olympics. This 1-year-old, orange-and-white boy loves people so much, he bumps his head into yours. He came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about him, but man is he a nice cat. L.S. would love to get out of a cage and into a loving home.

For more information about Hamilton and LS 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.

A brighter Horizon



Bethany Davidson
FCAC Humane Educator

and many of us have even said some variation of it ourselves. It's also a sentiment that Frederick County Animal Control's longest resident, Horizon, understands. Although the one-year-old torbie loves people, she isn't a big fan of

"I like animals more than people." This phrase is seen and heard frequently. It can be found on t-shirts, stickers, and memes

her own species either.

Horizon first arrived at the shelter on March 14, 2021 as a stray. Fairly quickly staff discovered that the feline was sweet and curious and that she despised other cats. By mid-May we found the young feline a pair of experienced adopters who only wanted one pet. We thought she was set, but unfortunately this wasn't Horizon's forever home and she back two weeks later.

While FCAC staff never wish for an animal to be brought back to the facility, Horizon's return has come with helpful information that will hopefully ensure better placement in the future. We now know that Horizon doesn't just not want to be friends with other cats, she doesn't even want to look at them. There are techniques such as counter conditioning that can be used to work on such issues but as an indoor only cat, it's not necessary. Horizon just needs to be an only pet. She is ideally suited for apartment or condo living where she doesn't have to worry about neighborhood cats hanging around outside her windows.

Disliking other cats is a big part of who Horizon is, but there are also many other wonderful traits that will make her a great addition to a cat savvy family. She is quick to greet visitors and even quicker to crawl up onto a lap where she loves to soak up pets and nap. She is silly and quirky and has a fondness for playing with hair and pouncing on catnip bubbles. She can be a little sassy. She is a torbie after all, but is great at communicating through body language. In fact, when she wants to be left alone, Horizon simply walks away and hops onto her favorite cat tree.

Horizon may be FCAC's longest resident, but she isn't alone in wanting to have her family's attentions all to herself. The shelter frequently has both cats and dogs available for adoption who prefer to be an only pet or live without cats, dogs or small animals. For more information on Horizon or any of the shelter's only pet adoptables, email animalcontrol@frederickcountymd.gov.



Boomer came into the shelter because his owner could no longer care for him. He's a 9-year-old bulldog mix who is a happy-go-lucky guy that seems to love everyone he meets. Boomer does tend to drool a bit, so his new owner will have to understand that trait of the bulldog in him. He weighs 65 pounds and enjoys getting back scratches. Per his previous owner Boomer may be too much for small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Boomer would love to find his forever home where he can spend his golden years.



Milton was surrendered to the shelter because someone in the home was allergic to him. He's a 4-year-old, neutered lop-eared rabbit who is a spunky guy. He will need someone who is familiar with rabbit care and behavior. Milton LOVES bananas and also enjoys roaming around and taking naps. Do you have the right spot for Milton?

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

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HEALTH

Frederick Health adds innovative treatment clinic

Josh Faust
Frederick Health

With headlines over the past two and a half years dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is easy for some people to forget, ignore, or leave untreated other healthcare ailments. As Frederick County continues to see the latest Omicron surge recede from historical levels, local healthcare providers are encouraging residents to get the care that they need, especially if they have been putting off treatment and screenings.

Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in Frederick County, recently opened a new Prostate Cancer Multi-Disciplinary Clinic located at the James M Stockman Cancer Institute in Frederick. This innovative

and comprehensive approach to treating newly diagnosed prostate cancer patients pulls together an expert team of providers from several different medical areas.

As a result of this clinic, patients will now be able to see all their providers and specialists on the same day, at the same location - no need to schedule multiple appointments or travel out of the area.

This kind of service can be life-changing says Dr. Heather Chalfin, a fellowship-trained Urologic Oncologist Surgeon with the Frederick Health Medical Group.

"This new multi-disciplinary clinic will improve not only the coordination and treatment for the patients, but also the overall patient experience. Putting patients at the forefront of their own treatment plans, working for

and with the patients, is pivotal," said Dr. Chalfin, who supervises this new clinic.

"Ensuring that patients can attend all of their appointments in a single day helps ease the burden of an already stressful time," continued Dr. Chalfin. "This exciting approach is just another example of Frederick Health offering innovative, award-winning care to the community that we serve."

According to national statistics, about one in eight men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. Typically, prostate cancer develops in older men, but it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in American men behind only lung cancer. Prostate cancer is a serious disease, but most men diagnosed with prostate cancer, if the disease is caught

early and handled proactively, can be treated successfully.

As Americans begin to seek treatment for other non-COVID related issues, medical groups across the nation are advocating for greater public awareness and ways to make the patient experience easier. Other healthcare systems have developed similar programs focused on a variety of cancer treatments and diagnoses. Dr. Chalfin herself participated in similar clinics with Johns Hopkins and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) before joining Frederick Health.

"This new clinic is providing patients with access to the highest quality of care and that greatly improves outcomes," added Dr. Chalfin.

Scheduling even routine medical appointments and checkups

can be daunting. Cancer treatment appointments, typically, are no different. But ensuring that the individual patients have someone there, talking them through the experience, is vital to both the success and viability of the program. To better assist with scheduling appointments at this new clinic, additional staff has been brought onboard, including a dedicated nurse navigator. This dedicated nurse navigator will help steer patients through the scheduled process to ensure that all their needs are being met. The nurse navigator will explain and offer all treatment options in the same clinic visit and serve as a primary point of contact for the patient.

Another evolving facet of cancer care is the scientifically advanced field of genetic testing. As research has shown, individual patients respond to different treatment methods and medications differently. The Precision Medicine & Genetics team at Frederick Health looks at every patient's unique genetic makeup to determine if there are certain factors that may contribute to how a patient is treated. This unique, customized treatment plan, with options tailored to patients, is yet another perk of the treatment says Patricia Rice, Clinical Director of the Frederick Health Precision Medicine & Genetics department.

"By having the ability to genetically test for a hereditary predisposition to prostate cancer. This allows us to determine its aggressiveness and assist the medical providers on the best treatment plan for you."

By moving away from the "one size fits all" approach with cancer treatment, Frederick Health is focusing on individuals as people, not just as a patient.

"Every individual is unique, and every cancer is unique. Your treatment options should reflect your treatment needs," said Rice.

By working with the Precision Medicine & Genetics team, as well as the Prostate Cancer Multi-Disciplinary Clinic, patients will also be able to ask questions, seek guidance on what treatment works best for their needs, develop a unique treatment plan, and obtain a second opinion on their current treatment plan.

Frederick Health already operates a similar Breast Cancer Multi-Disciplinary Clinic and Dr. Chalfin hopes that the new approach to treating prostate cancer will be used in other cancer treatment lines.

Chalfin is optimistic about what she has seen so far.

"Our patients are receiving treatment options not normally offered and these options will be here within their community, and they've been very receptive," she added. "We're right here."

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Health

Tuscany's Pizzeria opens in Emmitsburg

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

There is an ambiance, a character that comes with an old-fashioned sit-in Italian Restaurant. It is the sort of thing we haven't had in a long time, since before COVID, and as far as I can remember, the old pizza joints and family-owned restaurants have been struggling for a while. How wonderful it is then, to see Tuscany's Pizzeria opening up in our Historic Emmitsburg! After a two-hour conversation with the guys, and some of the best pizza I've had in my life, I can tell you, there are few places more worth your time than Tuscany's.

The new place is in the same spot that Stavros Pizza used to be, on 2 E Main St. The restaurant is a dream come true for four immigrant brothers, Cesar, Enrique, Yosthin, and Kelvin Martinez. If anyone had heard that the American dream was dead, think again! The brothers are originally from El Salvador, but don't let that fool you—my friend Lorenzo, whose father is from Italy, and I had no idea that these men were not from Italy until they told us. Everything from the accents and ambiance to the perfect pizza cries out from Italy like you were really there. Even the music is perfect, which is actually why they named the place, Tuscany's, after the birthplace of one of their favorite singers, Andrea Bocelli.

They moved to Hagerstown some ten years ago, financed by their parents. Their cousin was a student at Mount St. Mary's at the time, and visiting her, they took a tour of the Grotto. The Grotto, the statue of Our Lady, and Holy Mass are what convinced them that Emmitsburg should be their home. They couldn't imagine a better place to settle down and start their new life.

You will be hard-pressed to find more wholesome guys than these. Caesar Martinez, the owner, says, "We wanted to give people a place you could go sit and enjoy, a place where nobody is going to be rushing you, where you can't hear the clanking of pots and pans from the kitchen, where you can enjoy the atmosphere. It's a new adventure for all of us." The passion for cooking and making people happy was emanating off of them as they spoke. Kelvin, a brother, says "We opened up because that was a goal. For us, this is a dream come true. Our family is doing the same business, food service, restaurant, and we get into it. We realized that working with our family, in the end, we don't even realize that we were working for somebody. We were just enjoying ourselves. That makes you feel better at the end of the night."

Enrique, the younger brother, says that "It is a dream come true. We always wanted to open our own business, so when we saw the opportunity, we said let's try it! If we work hard, good, if not, at least nobody can say that we didn't try.

Even if it doesn't work out sometimes, we can still be trying. You got to try your shot!" They compared life to a sport, where you are perpetually trying to score, and that this opportunity to start Tuscany's is their chance to score.

The sincerity in their voices was so imminently refreshing. Being at college, and in the professional world, it seems that most human beings have a mindset of, "what can I get out of life?" Yet, these men are thinking principally of what they can give. Beyond the free pizza they gave Lorenzo and I, they gave us a wonderful conversation that lasted two hours but felt only like forty-five minutes. A night I was dreading, simply because of the stress of daily life and anxieties surrounding work, turned out to be a night I'd gladly repeat.

This authentic altruism of theirs, in their own words, can come only from their relationship with Jesus and

their Catholic Faith. They felt that life is meant to be lived out as perpetually giving of oneself, of being like Christ on the Cross for the world—to be lived out in everything, especially their work. They even had their new restaurant blessed by a Catholic Priest. Father Bill Allegretto, of St. Joseph's Church, who prayed the blessing, said "I've always believed in having the Lord's blessings on the places we live, work, go to school and many other areas where the human family lives and celebrate their lives and gifts. We can always ask the Lord to touch those who are in our circle of family members, friends, as well as those who are suffering, grieving, the vulnerable, and abandoned. In blessing the restaurant and those who will work there, I prayed that they know the Lord's presence, that they will be protected, that he will help prosper the work of their hands and they become integral members of the



Brothers Enrique, Cesar, Yosthin, and Kelvin Martinez being blessed by Father Bill Allegretto.

Emmitsburg community."

I cannot imagine that last part of the prayer not happening. They are a natural fit, wonderful men, and they make terrific pizza! And I promise, their altruism extends even to the prices on their menu. There is little chance of getting ripped off here. As

Kelvin Martinez put it, "If the food is not right, if the ingredients are not fresh, if the food does not taste good, then we will not serve it."

As I said before, this is a place you want to check out, if only to meet the new addition to the Emmitsburg community!



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HISTORY

Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department celebrates 75 years

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

In any town, a sense of community is greatly desired to progress and ultimately thrive as a society. For Fountaindale, a small township in Pennsylvania, this goal is no different. In November 2021, the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its 75th anniversary, honoring an ordinal milestone in the company's history. However, for there to be a continuously successful future of fighting fires and serving the public, it is important to reflect upon the past of the department.

Organized on November 25th, 1946, and later incorporated on May 3rd, 1947, the Fountaindale Fire Department was established. The initial incorporators were J.E. Seiford, Francis Benchoff, Charles Shindledecker, Earl W. Shindledecker, Albert Warren, Ed Weaver, Ellis Hardman, and Ray Fitz. Just one month after the department was incorporated on June 6th, 1947, the company bought their first piece of apparatus, a 1942 Mack fire truck, which carried 500 gallons of water and was housed, along with other apparatus, at the former Nagle's Garage. Earl and Melva Shindledecker owned and operated Nagle's Garage, and in 1975, the new station was built on land donated by the Shindledeckers.

The members had contracted with Morton Buildings to construct a 42 x 60 engine house on this very

property, with the open house ceremony being held on July 13th, 1975. While there is no old apparatus remaining at the fire department, David Martin, fire chief of the Fountaindale Fire Department, owns the department's 1942 Mack firetruck and hopes to restore it soon. "I was fortunate enough to purchase our first firetruck that we operated," Chief Martin says about the 1942 Mack pumper from the Bel Air Fire Company in Maryland, which was in operation until the early 80's. "I still own this truck and it is stored locally." Martin has been chief of the fire department for the last 40 years and has been a member for 44 years.

Over the 75 years of the Fountaindale Fire Department, the types of emergencies as well as technology used has greatly changed in order to respond to the needs of society. Sarah Ginn, department secretary and lieutenant of the fire department, says that being involved in the fire company "is an everchanging service and takes dedication to make sure the responders and community remain safe." The number of calls has increased throughout the years as well, and Fountaindale takes great pride in partnering with surrounding fire departments of Franklin County in Pennsylvania and sections of Washington and Frederick Counties in Maryland.

Additionally, training requirements for members have changed in response to the times. In any fire department, technology changes

daily. "There is always a new product being designed to be used by firefighters," Lieutenant Ginn says. "From the way we receive emergency alerts to the thermal imaging camera on our self-contained breathing apparatus, the technology is constantly changing. Also, with new technology comes a higher price tag." For 75 years, the fire department has seen several changes in responding to citizens. One of the most memorable events was in 1998, when a forest fire spanning over 90 acres spread wildly through Jack's Mountain in Adams County, which required not only Fountaindale but also surrounding fire departments to assist and contain the fire. Emergencies like these show the "strong mutual aid relationship with our neighboring departments," says Chief Martin. "They come to our aid, and we provide aid to them when needed."

Before the beginning of Adams County's central telephone system, Mr. and Mrs. Shindledecker would take emergency calls at the garage or at their residence just across the street. Chief Martin says, "While the types of calls we respond to have changed greatly over the years, some basic calls for structure fire, wildland fires, and vehicle fires remain unchanged." In order to acclimate to the changing world, the Fountaindale Fire Department has added hazardous material calls, medical assists, automatic alarms, vehicle rescues, traffic controls, and other types of calls. Fire trucks have grown in size and are equipped with appropriate safety features.

For example, the pumps have a higher capacity of gallons per minute they can flow, and the trucks have automatic transmissions, more power, better visibility, anti-lock brakes, seat belts, and overall better lighting. In addition, the emergency responders do not ride the rear step anymore to ensure their own safety. In areas like Fountaindale where there are virtually no fire hydrants, water supply is much more effective due to larger water capacity tankers that are able to transport more water with the ability to dump water into portable tanks for an engine to draft out of. In order to make vehicle entrapment



Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department's 1942 Mack being driven by Earl "Polly" Shindledecker at a local parade in the '80s.

more effective, rescue equipment with hydraulic capability is provided to cut, spread, and push metal. Saws and fans make ventilation of structure both easier and faster, as well as task-specific, improved hand tools.

Chief Martin says, "Not only on the operations side of the fire service, but also on the administrative side with the computer technology and media capabilities, the work becomes less time-consuming with lots of information available at our fingertips." Training classes are utilized for the firefighters to learn and make sense of the department's technological advancements. "A firefighter spends more of his time in training and fundraising than ever before," says Chief Martin. "It's harder to get members to want to spend that much time to learn the job." It is because of reasons like these why it is a struggle for the Fountaindale Fire Department to recruit new members.

The community of Fountaindale plays a large role in the success and functioning of the fire department. Members used to congregate at the department, playing cards and exchanging conversation. The social life of the fire department, however, has changed over the years. Members used to be able to leave their own work and jobs at the well-known sound of the fire whistle. Now, "the social life of the department has changed because everyone is so limited on any extra time they have," says Lieutenant Ginn.

Because the Fountaindale Fire

Department runs on a volunteer-based system, citizens must balance family life and their own job before choosing to reach out and serve the community. Chief Martin adds, "While not an everyday happening, we do enjoy gatherings for our fundraisers, meetings, and banquets," which is one thing that has not changed much over the years. It is a struggle for the fire department, as the number of volunteers continually decreases as demand for members increases. Beginning fundraisers for the fire department once included gun drives, bake sales, weekly public auctions at the station, raffles, dinners, and shooting matches. Now, their funding comes from dinner drawings, monthly bingo, raffles, small games of chance, drive-thru dinners at Fairfield Fire Station, and an annual letter drive. Overall, community support is vital in maintaining the fire department. Chief Martin says, "Today we have about 70 members, of which about 40 are still active in some way."

The Fountaindale Fire Department is strongly family-oriented, relying on values of community and companionship to ultimately serve the public. Generations of firefighters have served for the past 75 years; after all, the fire service area responds to over 600 homes, and it is because of the local community's continuous support that these values of community are so strong. Chief Martin says, "The community has supported us very well which enables a small rural department like ours to continue

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HISTORY



Members of the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department came together on November 7, 2021 for a group photo to mark the company's 75th anniversary.

providing this service. Together we work like a brotherhood with each of our members and the community.”

Families of the Fountaindale Fire Department not only participate in activities of the departments, but also encourage members of the fire department in any way possible. In fact, when asked what is most worth recording about the fire department, Chief Martin proudly responds, “everyone has stories to tell about their experience...there are fun times with lots of laughter, times of frustration when [members] think maybe they could have done something different to make the outcome better, times of sadness for [those] who lose their home and possessions, those who injured in vehicle accidents... But nothing is harder to deal with emotionally than when children are involved.”

Despite the hard times, the laughter, the tears, and the small yet monumental moments of appreciation for their service, “It is all worth it when a child looks up at us and smiles and says thank you, or when an adult thanks us for giving our best effort to help them out.” Chief Martin expresses his great gratitude for all members of the fire department as well as the surrounding community of Fountaindale.

Ultimately, volunteerism is an

important value to the Fountaindale Fire Department and is what keeps the department alive today.

The station is run by volunteers, fulfilling their ultimate mission to provide emergency fire and rescue protection to the community. Isaac Lowe, an active junior firefighter at the Fountaindale Fire Department, is one of them. Lowe became an active member at age 14 but began volunteering with the fire department as early as age 12, when he helped serve food at a gun drawing. Lowe was drawn into serving with Fountaindale ever since he was a child. “I would attend activities like meeting Santa Claus and [going to] gun drawings,” says Lowe. “All of the members were very friendly and made you feel like part of their fire family.” On a daily basis, junior members do a multitude of tasks.

Lowe helps with social events like setting up for events, bingo, feeds, drawings, and recruiting new members. He also cleans equipment and attends training meetings. “Additionally, like firefighters, I put my communities’ needs above my own,” Lowe says. “When there is a fire call, you have to be willing to go at a drop of a dime and go serve. It doesn’t matter if it is a holiday, if you are about to sit down for a meal, or if you are

getting ready to go out with family and friends.” Lowe lists that some core values of the fire department include integrity, trustworthiness, flexibility, dedication, and being a team player.

To fulfill these values, you must help in any way you can. However, what he enjoys most about volunteering with Fountaindale is serving the community. At a week-long fire camp held at the Adams County Junior Firefighter Academy, Lowe had the opportunity to enhance his ability to serve the community by working with instructors who provide individualized, hands-on experience that he can transfer to the Fountaindale Fire Department. Having received the Most Improved Cadet award, Lowe notes that “even though I did

not have much experience, I went and was not afraid to try new skills and was willing to help others.”

Chief Martin also stresses that, “Those who volunteer their time to help their community have the satisfaction of giving back to the residents and visitors of our area.” Fountaindale owns a Facebook page that shares fundraising events and incidents to keep the community active and involved. The department is actively looking for additional members, and anyone wishing to join should contact 717-729-1998 for an application. “We have a junior firefighter program available for youth ages 14-17,” says Lieutenant Ginn. “We provide all the training needed to become a certified firefighter.”

Lowe – who started out serving

at age 14 and has spent his youth participating with the fire department – says, “When you join a fire department, not only are you becoming part of a helpful organization, but you are also gaining friends who feel like family. There is not a single person at our fire department that I couldn’t count on if I need anything.”

The volunteers of Fountaindale have made it possible for the fire department to celebrate 75 years, and in order to reach more milestones and continue to serve the public, the fire department relies on the community’s help. “If you’ve ever wondered what it would be like to help with your local volunteer fire department, now is the time,” reminds Lieutenant Ginn. “Help is needed now more than ever.”

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Sterling Galt – Medal of Honor winner

David Bule

For the past several weeks, all the major news networks have focused on the impending invasion of Russia into Ukraine. Watching the coverage, one must think back to the early years before the Spanish-American War and the media's role in America's involvement.

The Spanish-American War is often referred to as the first "media war." During the 1890s, journalism that sensationalized, sometimes even manufactured, dramatic events was a powerful force that helped propel the United States into war with Spain. Led by newspaper owners William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, journalism of the 1890s used melodrama, romance, and hyperbole to sell millions of newspapers.

From Cuba, Hearst's star reporters wrote stories designed to tug at the heartstrings of Americans. Horrific tales described the situation in Cuba—female prisoners, executions, valiant rebels fighting, and starving women and children figured in many of the stories that filled the newspapers. But it was the sinking of the battleship Maine in Havana Har-

bor that gave Hearst his big story—war. After the sinking of Maine, the Hearst newspapers, with no evidence, unequivocally blamed the Spanish, and soon U.S. public opinion demanded intervention.

Today, historians point to the Spanish-American War as the first press-driven war. Although it may be an exaggeration to claim that Hearst and the other journalists started the war, it is fair to say that the press fueled the public's passion for war. Without sensational headlines and stories about Cuban affairs, the mood for Cuban intervention may have been very different. At the dawn of the twentieth century, the United States emerged as a world power, and the U.S. press proved its influence.

The Spanish-American War was over in one year, 1898. Still, after American troops drove the Spanish from the Philippines, they began a struggle with Filipino insurgents anxious to throw out the conquering Americans and rule themselves. The resulting Philippine Insurrection lasted from 1899 until 1902, and a soldier from Taneytown, Sterling Archibald Galt, participated in it. Not only did he participate, but he also earned the Medal of Honor

for his "Distinguished Bravery and Conspicuous Gallantry in Action against Insurgents."

Galt, born in Taneytown in 1866, came from a Scots Irish family. In 1880 he lived with his parents, Henry and Anna Eliza (Annan) Galt, on their Taneytown farm. By 1889 he lived in North Dakota, joining a state military unit in his early 20s. Nine years later, that unit became the 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry, and Private Galt was shipped to The Philippines. After a year of fighting, most of the regiment returned to the U.S., but Galt liked army life. So, as a sergeant major, he remained in the Philippines with the 36th Infantry, in U.S. Volunteers.

In Baliuag, Philippines, William H. Young chose Galt and several dozen other "specially qualified enlisted men" from the 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 2nd Oregon Volunteers, and 4th U.S. Cavalry. One historian wrote of the Scouts: "Always in front of the main column, the Scouts bore the brunt of the advance, reconnoitering and maintaining contact with the enemy." Young's men were designated to serve as Major General Henry Lawton's eyes and ears in the remote region east of the Candaba Swamp.

Though suffering high casualties early on, this free-wheeling outfit first gained fame at San Miguel de Mayumo in Bulacan Province, Luzon Island. Acting as the eyes and ears, they moved ahead of the central column of American troops through the swamps and



The photo was taken of Young's Scouts on May 25, 1899, at the end of Lawton's San Isidro campaign, and includes 17 of the original 25 members. A rough-looking bunch, only a few have been identified. Two rifles are leaned in the window frame behind the men, more than likely representing William Henry Young and James Harrington, who had died before the photograph was taken. Sterling Galt is the third from the left.

jungles of Luzon Island. While under fire on November 9, 1899, Galt swam across the rain-swollen Pampanga River, holding a rope in his teeth. Upon reaching the other shore, he tied the rope to a tree and guided several hundred men nearly surrounded by the enemy through the water to safety. For that action, the United States awarded him the Medal of Honor in 1902. Tragically, he contracted malaria during those years in the tropics, which led to a medical discharge in 1901 and return to the U.S.

Sometime in 1902, Galt, now 36 years old and living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, met Minnie Ashbrook, who would become his wife. He listed his occupation as "sales agent on their Ohio marriage license." He and Minnie were married in May 1903 and headed to Missouri. How dramatically his

life had changed in two years!

By 1908 the couple lived in Harrisonville, a town now part of greater Kansas City, Missouri. What took them there is unknown, but at the age of 42, Sterling Archibald Galt succumbed to nephritis and was buried in Harrisonville's Orient Cemetery. Unfortunately, the couple left no children to listen to stories of their father's heroic actions, and much of Galt's life remains shrouded in mystery.

Many years later, the Cass County, Missouri, Genealogical Society, the Cass County Historical Society, and the Harrisonville Honor Guard organized a special Memorial Day service at Orient Cemetery to honor him and shared his full Medal of Honor citation.

To read past articles on Taneytown history, visit the History section of Taneytown.net.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

March 3

Fire Plugs Frozen

Members of the Emmitsburg fire department were given a rude surprise during a recent response to a fire when they attached their hoses to the fire plug only to discover that the water in the fire plug was frozen solid. Upon notification, the Taneytown fire department checked its fire hydrants in the town, and also discovered most of them frozen solid.

Emmitsburg & Thurmont Women Get Right To Vote

In spite of the well-reasoned objections from the men of Emmitsburg, the Maryland Senate passed a bill that will give the women of Emmitsburg the right to vote in municipal elections. In another bill ignoring the very negative impact on domestic tranquility, the House of Delegates passed a bill allowing the women of Thurmont to vote in town elections as well. Some men however looked on the positive side, indicating that women, being feeble minded, would turn to men for direction as to who to vote for — “I’ve now got two votes,” said one man, “if the other party can’t keep their women in line, we’ll win every election for now on!”

Hitching Post Shortage

The hitching post shortage in local towns is growing worse instead of better, and some action should be taken to provide accommodations for teams. Perhaps there are some vacant lot that might be used, if official inquiry was made. The businessman of the towns, in cooperation with the authorities, should work to solve this question.

Milks Cow in 87th Year

Miss Amanda Wolf has returned home after visiting nearly 2 weeks with Charles Hahn and family. While there she milked a cow and would have rode a horse if they had had a sidesaddle, this being the pleasure of her younger days. She is in her 87th year, and is remarkably active.

March 10

Moonshine Kills Man

After drinking moonshine whiskey Saturday night, Frank Stroup, about 47 years old, was found dead early Monday morning about 200 yards from his home. Stroup, had apparently taken several drinks of moonshine Saturday night. He was last seen around 11:30 on his way home carrying a basket containing provisions. Half an hour later two young men saw Stroup lying on the ground apparently unconscious. Thinking he had been drinking they took charge of his basket and about \$11 in his pocket for safekeeping. Around 7 o'clock Monday morning a man passing the spot so Stroup's body stretched out and upon examination found that he was dead.

Stroup, it was said, had got hold of some moonshine liquor Saturday and indulged rather freely. It is supposed after buying his provisions he started home, when the concoction he had drank took affect. It is not know where he obtain the whiskey.

In order to ensure their 'hooch' supply was safe, members of the Former-Former Boozers Association held a emergency meeting to sample all members 'product' to verify its drinkability. Due to the quantity needing to be 'sampled,' local churches 'excused' members from participating in Sunday services due to the necessity of needing to 'recover' from this important societal duty.

Building Home

Mr. Charles Putman, of Thurmont, purchase a building lot located on Walnut St. and last Thursday began work on the foundation. The concrete wall for the dwelling is 28' x 32' is about to be completed. Lumber and other material is being furnish by Mr. William Cover of Keymar, and is being delivered by large trucks. Mr. Cover also furnishes carpenters to do the work. Their work will be pushed vigorously as Mr. Putman must now move and has nowhere to go except with friends.

Two Horses Drowned

Harvey Trout lost two horses to drowning Saturday morning. Elmer Eyley, his hired man, narrowly escaped death in the accident. Trout decided to take a two-horse wagon to the Monocacy River and give it a thorough washing. Eyley hitch the horses to the wagons and drove to the river. Either was on one of the horses and Trout on the wagon seat.

The team and wagon were backed into the river at a place called 'Sweet Hole'. They backed in some distance when one of the horses took fright and commenced rearing, and was soon in deep water, pulling its mate in with it. Both horses were harnessed tight and were unable to get loose and were drown. Eyley was thrown between the struggling horses. His head was caught and nothing but his feet was visible above the water for sometime. Trout, being unable to swim, could not go to his rescue. Eyley managed to free himself and swam to the shore. He suffered no serious injury from the accident.

A six-horse team was required to pull the two horses and wagon from the river. The horses were between three and four years old, were heavy draft horses and valued at \$200 each.

March 17

Daylight Savings Again?

Personally, daylight savings does not interest us. We do not need the clock to be turned ahead an hour in order to fool us as to the right time to go to work; we can get to work earlier in the morning, if necessary, without requiring the clock to perjure itself; so, if the residence of the cities will feel better, work better, and find more time for play, by monkeying with the clock, let them have their silly ways about it.

But, if this daylight savings foolishness, is extended to railroads, or in any way interferes with farmers' plans or hours for work, or with the preferences of any other classes who stand by sun time, then we are opposed to this display of personal liberty stuff we've watched the whole country get warped up in

We inclined to believe that the daylight saving is a step towards more

time for no work; and that its advocates are ready to go to the limit in that direction. Someday, the state may be asked to pension everybody, at about one dollar an hour, and throw in a lot of extras in order to get them to be satisfied, yet never make them work a day in their lives.

Special Moving Pictures

A special picture, six reels, will be shown at the Gem Theater on Monday evening, April 3. This is an American Legion war romance entitled "Lafayette, We Come", and is shown under the auspices of the Edgar Eyley Post Number 56 of the American Legion. Plenty of good music will be in attendance - an orchestra, and a male quartet. Don't forget to keep the date! at the Gem, see a good picture, your good music, and help in the success of our local post.

March 24

Martins Return Early

Charles Morrell, of Fairfield, reports the arrival of the Purple Martins to his boxes on Tuesday. This is just one week earlier than usual, never before in the 10 or 12 years he has been observing them have they appear before the third or sometimes fourth of April. Always one pair comes a few days in advance, then after staying a day or so, leave to return, the following day with the entire flock. Mr. Morrell says his pair is the same that has been the advance guard for three years. He identifies them with by the particular markings on their wings. There are four other colonies of Martin's in Fairfield but none of the others have returned as yet.

Emmitsburg Coronet Band To Re-Organize

The Emmitsburg Coronet Band will make an effort to reorganize this week. Every large town should have a band; but, it is some job to keep one going successfully, and usually requires a lot of time, and hard work, on the part of the few, but it never "pays" them financially.

Slight Fire

Fire was discovered Wednesday morning in the engine room of George Late's Meat Market. It was confined to a pile of cement sacks over watch a piece of wet carpet have been thrown. The sacks are piled against a brick

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L. B. NICODEMUS
Graceham, Md.

wall about 2 feet from a board petition. The wall had become quite hot although no flames had yet been seen.

March 31

Farmer Still Missing

So far as it is known nothing has been heard from Blaine Hoffman, the young Creagerstown farmer who disappeared from his home some months ago. Hoffman's family is running his farm at Creagerstown. Hoffman was a member of the church of God but was not an elder in the church as we stated when it was first became known that he had disappeared. He was married about 14 years.

Pay For Work On County Roads

The board of County Commissioners have agreed to rate they will pay for work on county roads. For road machines and for horses and man driver, 60 cents/hour; for road machines and five horses and man driver, 65 cents/hour; for road

machines and six horses and man driver, 70 cents/hour; for a wagon with four horses and a man driver, 67 cents/hour; for a wagon, two horses in a man driver, 40 cents/hour; for a cart, one horse and a man driver, 35 cents/hour; for a plow or scoop, two horses and a man driver 40 cents/hour; for an able body man, 20 cents/hour. The Board did not establish the pay for women workers, according to one Board member, because it was illegal to hire 'working women,' not to mention the impossibility of getting women to work without wasting time gossiping.

Finger Cut Off

Last Friday afternoon, about five minutes before quitting time, Mr. Ross Eigenbrode, lost a portion of the little finger on his left hand. While joining a piece of lumber, he permitted the little finger to stray into forbidden paths and the joiner relieves him of a joint.

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



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**HAPPY
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COOKING

What's so special about March?

Sonya Verlaque

March marks the first day of spring and because of this was originally the first month of the year on the Roman calendar. Named after Mars the Roman god of war the month has been called many things, including Hlyd monath by the Anglo-Saxons translating to "Stormy month." Certainly March in Maryland can be both stormy and rugged, changing and wild, and doesn't always feel like the beginning of spring. Stuck between winter holidays and warmer April days, March can seem somewhat lost.

Arguably the biggest party of the year, Mardi Gras, also falls on March 1st this year. It is hard to imagine a Fat Tuesday without a beautiful King Cake. This desert was brought over by the French in 1870, and was historically served on epiphany. This is an enriched bread dough, be sure to plan in rise time in time for party time.

King Cake

Ingredients - For dough

1/2 cup whole milk
1 tbp honey or sugar
2 1/4 tss (1 package) active dry yeast
1/2 cup unsalted butter, cubed
2 large eggs
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp cloves
1/4 tsp almond extract

3 to 3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

Ingredients - For filling

4 tbs unsalted butter, cubed
2/3 cup (145g) packed dark brown sugar
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp salt

Ingredients - For the glaze and color sugar coating

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
2 to 3 tbs milk
1 tsp vanilla
Purple, green and yellow colored sugar

Directions: In a small saucepan on low heat add the milk and honey and stir constantly until the milk is warm and the honey has dissolved. Remove the milk from heat. Using a food thermometer, monitor the cooling and when it is between 85-100F add in the yeast and mix gently. Set aside for it to bloom, you will notice small bubbles start to form. If bubbles do not form, discard and start over with new yeast. Melt the butter in a small bowl, either in the microwave or saucepan then let it cool some (it will be added to the yeast). Into a large bowl add the milk mixture and yeast, and then butter. Add the eggs, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and almond extract. Beat together with a whisk to just bring together. If using a stand mixer, change to the dough

hook and add 3 cups flour and set the stand mixer to low until the flour has absorbed into the liquid. Increase the speed to medium and mix until a rough dough forms and pulls away from the sides of the bowl.

Knead the dough with the hook for 5 minutes until a smooth supple dough forms. The dough will be fairly soft, and a little tacky but not sticky. If the dough seems too wet as you knead it, add a little more flour, 1 tbs at a time. The dough should be pliable and not so sticky that you can't handle it. Stretch and form the dough into a smooth ball and place in a light oil bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let sit in a warm place until it has doubled in size. Just as the dough is almost done rising, melt the butter in a sauce pan and remove from heat, add brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and a pinch of salt. Stir until a paste forms. Cover and set aside.

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicon-baking pad. Once the dough has doubled, turn it out onto a clean work surface. Use a rolling pin to roll the dough into a large rectangle, about 10-inches by 24-inches wide. Spread a thin layer of cinnamon sugar filling over the dough, leaving 1 inch at the top of the rectangle bare (the long side). Starting at the long side, roll the dough up to form a long log. Seal and place the seal at the bottom. Cut the log lengthwise, splitting the log in half. Twist the two halves together, with the cut side showing. Move the twisted rope to the prepared baking sheet and form a ring. Tuck the ends of the dough under each other to help seal the ring together. Cover loosely with plastic and leave it in a warm place to rise until puffy and almost double in size.

After 30 minutes, preheat the oven to 350°F, when the second rise is done, brush with your egg wash and



bake in the oven 25 to 35 minutes, or until the top is golden brown. If you have an instant-read thermometer, it should be done at 195°F to 200°F. Cool the bread some on the pan and then move to a wire rack to cool to room temperature. To make the glaze, sift powdered sugar into a medium-sized bowl. Add 2 tbs of milk and the vanilla. Stir until the ingredients are fully incorporated and a glaze forms, it will be thick and opaque but still pourable. Spoon the glaze all over the cake and sprinkle the colored sugar over the cake.

Mushroom and spinach quiche

National Pi day, on March 14, celebrates the mathematical constant representing the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. By using the Greek Letter Pi, Welsh Mathematician, William Jones, made for a great future pun. Quiche is a savory custard based pie that is very versatile.

Ingredients - Flakey Pie crust:

4 cups all purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp salt
1 cup butter, cold, cubed
1/2 cup ice cold water
1 large egg

Directions: In a mixer or food processor combine the flour and salt, and add the cold cubed butter and blend until a paste forms. Meanwhile, in a separate bowl combine the egg and water. After the flour paste forms, at the egg

and water mixture gradually to the flour while mixing on low speed. This will look rather shaggy or ragged when fully combined. Rochester tightly plastic wrap and refrigerate for one hour. After refrigeration, place the dough on a lightly floured work surface. Gather it by pressing it together, it may be crumbly but this is ok. Portion out one-third, line a pie pan with parchment. Roll out the dough to 1/8" thickness and fill with dried beans or pie weights and bake at 350F for 15 minutes, until light golden brown. Remove weights and let cool. The rest of your pie dough can be rewrapped in plastic and stored in the refrigerator for up to 5 days, or frozen.

Ingredients - Filling:

1 cup sliced baby Bella mushrooms
2/3 cup spinach
2 tbs butter
3/4 cup milk
3/4 cup heavy cream
3 large eggs
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ground pepper
1 cup grated gruyere cheese

Directions: Preheat your oven to 350F. Sauté the mushrooms in butter until browned and remove, and then add the spinach and cook until wilted. Drain the spinach and chocolate leaves. Set this aside to cool with that mushrooms. Combine the milk and cream in sauce pan and bring to simmer. 20 eggs Salt and pepper in a separate bowl and stir with a whisk. Ladle about one third of the hot milk mixture into the eggs while whisking constantly to temper the eggs, you will be able to feel the temperature change on the bowl. Then add in the rest of the hot milk mixture, and stir to incorporate. Place your prepared pie crust on a sheet pan, and spread the spinach and mushroom mixture, and sprinkle with the cheese. Place the pie on the sheet pan in the oven for 45 minutes until the custard is just set. You can serve this warmth, average temperature or chilled from the refrigerator. If its chilled, you can basically walk around eating a slice of quiche just like a slice of cold pizza pie.

Sonya is a student at Frederick Community College's Hospitality, Culinary & Tourism Institute!

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

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MOMS' TIME OUT

The best laid plans...

Mary Angel

Savor those wonderful days when your child is young and playing pretend. Enjoy every moment of them pretending to be a movie star, chef, or fire fighter. Encourage their amazing creativity as they walk a runway, arrest a "bad guy", or paint a masterpiece. When kids are young their imaginations can take them to places they have never seen, or let them be someone they can only dream of. As your kids get older there will be many times when they know exactly what they want to be when they grow up, and then there will be other times when they don't have a clue.

I have certainly told you enough times about how different my children are. From a very young age my oldest knew he wanted to be an actor. We found a local dinner theater that offered a summer camp and enrolled him immediately. He "LOVED" it! The camp lasted for two weeks and ended with a meal and a show, obviously. Later, in high school he would immediately get involved in the theater program and actually started marching band with an acting roll. We encouraged him to pursue every aspect of a career in the performing arts. By his junior year he was enrolled in the video production program at the career and technology center, so he could learn some of the behind the scenes careers that were available in theater. When the theater club offered a trip to the Hippodrome, followed by a backstage interview opportunity with the cast of the play, we jumped at the chance for our son to hear about theater life from someone who was living it. This was a pivotal point in his life; this was when he decided he would like to have another career to pay the bills in the slow times while he was getting started.

Our two girls are a bit more complicated and undecided when it comes to a career path. The older one is getting her cosmetology license while in high school and then going to college to pursue something? She has absolutely no idea what and is all over the place with ideas. One day she wanted to be a teacher, the next a cyber security officer, and then on a day when she forgets how much she hates needles and blood, a nurse. Luckily she has time. We have told her to take every obscure class in the book her freshman year so she can narrow down the field. The closer she gets to her high school graduation the more neurotic she gets. We keep telling her she doesn't have to have her whole life planned out, just have a plan for the next step and keep swimming. The younger one is just a freshman in high school and truly doesn't have a clue or a direction for her life. It wasn't too long ago when she would tell me she was going to live with me forever (I miss hearing that). We are continuing to find various interesting and exciting experiences for her. She also gets to hear many of the conversations with her sister about making the most of the high school years and freshman year of college in trying new careers, interests, and hobbies.

My second son has, by far, been my most unfocused child of any of them. He has always been all about having fun

and enjoying life, while not working too hard. Don't get me wrong, he has always gotten decent grades, but not for lack of procrastination. He was the child who would sometimes do his assignments and then forget to turn them in. There were classes that he would have an "F" in until the teacher would say, "Any assignments turned in by Friday will get full credit" and he would hand in a ream of paper (slight exaggeration). Honestly, he might have had many more straight A's if not for his lackadaisical mind set. He was never concerned about his future or what he would be when he grew up. It wasn't until he was a sophomore in high school that he came home one day and announced he thought he might want to be a teacher. My husband and I were not surprised because he had always been amazing with kids and had helped out with VBS at our church every year. We were shocked when he followed up with the fact that he wanted to teach high school. You see he had such amazing teachers in high school (thanks to Mr. Smith, Mrs. Bell, and Mr. Kimble)

that he wanted to be just like them. He wanted to be that positive influence in a child's life when they needed it most. From that moment on he was hyper focused, while still being a bit of a procrastinator.

When he got to community college his procrastination started to get better, then we had him tested and found out that he had a reading disability, which allowed him extra time on tests and the ability to test in a testing center; that made a huge difference. Fast forward to junior year and he starts his student teaching. After only a few days he comes home upset. He musters up all of his nerve and says, "Mom, I think you were right." I immediately grinned ear to ear and asked proudly, "About what, exactly." He proceeded to explain that the high school students were so disrespectful to the teacher that he was heartbroken. We reminisced about his high school experience and the fact that his class would never have done that to a teacher and how much things have changed in a short period of time. He wasn't sure high school was the right direction for him and he was thinking



about switching to elementary education. I was thrilled because, again, he had always been amazing with small kids. We talked some more about how wonderful it was that he had come to this realization before he graduated and that college is the time to figure these things out. Eventually he calmed down and said he would look into switching his major.

This is how our kids figure out "what they want to be when they grow

up". It is our jobs to expose them to amazing and wonderful new paths and let them discern what interests them and what doesn't. No matter how old they are it is never too late to try something new. That actually goes for you too, moms!

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

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

FASD reduces COVID quarantine requirements

At its February meeting, the Fairfield Area School Board (FASD) approved reducing the COVID exposure quarantine timeframe from 14 days to 10 days. The revisions are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made in January, according to Superintendent Thomas Haupt. The rest of the district's health and safety plan remains the same.

FASD's COVID-19 layered mitigation efforts were also presented by Haupt. The procedure updates align with CDC guidelines as well as the district's vision to empower students for success and its mission to always put students first, he said.

At the elementary school level, plexiglass has gone back into use for one fourth grade classroom and the library, as well as the daily sanitization of school buses has also returned.

At the middle school and high school levels, the cafeteria social

distancing policy is enforced to the best it can be, with tables seating six instead of typically eight or ten. Students also wipe down Chromebooks before each use.

Throughout the districts, air filters are in use and students are continually reminded to use hand-sanitizer as they enter buildings.

"I think we have good practices in place, we certainly have layered mitigation practices in place, and I think in good alignment of what the CDC is recommending even with their update as of January 13," Haupt said.

A snapshot of COVID-19 cases within the district, were presented by district school nurse Kristi Ebaugh. As of February 14th, the FASD has seen 178 positive cases in the last six weeks alone, with January and February having been the hardest hit months, she said.

From August 26 to December 24, the district saw only 101 cases, while 68 percent of the total 271 cases occurred in January and the first two weeks of February,

according to Ebaugh. The average number of COVID-19 cases prior to winter break was six, she said.

On a positive note, she added, the last two weeks of February 4 and February 11, have only seen ten cases. "It's still higher than our average, but definitely moving in the right direction," she said.

Instead of showing absences and quarantine numbers, moving forward the district's website dashboard will reflect current positive cases, 14-day totals, and the total number of cases for the year.

Board Vice president Jack Liller requested a ballpark average of COVID-19 related absences be available to the board. Ebaugh replied stating this can be tricky, as often reasons for absences are not identified until much later, but they can look into calculating a separate report. Approximately 10 percent of the 52 elementary absences on Monday were known COVID-19 related, she said.

Parental exceptions to mask requirements is a courtesy the

Fort Ritchie's Semi-Annual Bass Fishing Tournament

Friends, families, and anglers of all ages will line the shores of Lake Royer on Saturday, April 23, for Fort Ritchie Community Center's Semi-Annual Bass Fishing Tournament from 7 – 11:30 a.m.

The heat is on to catch the longest Largemouth Bass in this family friendly event. Your registration gives you the chance to win door prizes, raffles, and even cash prizes! The cost to participate is \$25 per adult and \$10 for youth. This is a catch and release tournament, and a Maryland Fishing license is required. For

full rules and regulations, and to sign up, visit www.thefrc.org or call 301-241-5085. The tournament proceeds will support community outreach programs at the Fort Ritchie Community Center. For more information or to register for upcoming events, please visit www.thefrc.org.

Fort Ritchie Community Center was established to improve lives of those living in its surrounding communities. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, contributions made to the Community Center are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

district allows and Ebaugh asked parents to continue to stress the importance, to especially younger students, that there may be times they still have to wear a mask after exposure. "We have a duty and an obligation to follow the guidelines

as they are sent to us," she said.

At public comment, voices continued to speak out against the mask mandate and one student requested an anonymous poll be sent out to survey student opinions.

Frederick County Public Schools

Brad Young
Frederick County School Board

Many had been asking when we can unmask in Frederick County Public Schools. We were under a mandate by the State Board of Education to

require masks. The State Board gave potential off ramping guidelines to us in early December. Local school districts would have the option to remove masks if 80 percent of students and staff at a single school are fully vaccinated or if 80 percent of the district's

community population is fully vaccinated. We do not have data as to who is vaccinated and who is not so we cannot use the individual school option.

There was confusion about the countywide number and whether that is of the total population

of which Frederick County currently stands at about 70.2% or of the percentage of those eligible to be vaccinated in which we are above 80%. The difference between the two is primarily those under the age of 5 who are not eligible currently. The State Board of Education give us that clarity on February 22nd. The FCPS Board met on Wednesday February 23rd and heard 3 hours of public comment and then voted 6-1 to repeal the mask mandate. On Friday February 25th, the CDC updated guidelines which also allowed us to no longer require masks on buses either.

The result is that masks are no longer required in FCPS. We still encourage those staff and students who want to wear masks to do so for their protection, that is great.

The Board of Education for Frederick County recently approved a contract with HAZARD, YOUNG & ATTEA to conduct a search for a new Superintendent. I want to disclose that the firm is out of Illinois and the Young is not related to me. The search firm is in the process of interviewing many stakeholder groups including the Board to build a Leadership profile for our potential applicants.

There will be an online survey, which you can access off the main FCPS webpage at www.fcps.org. The survey will be open through March the 4th. The Board will hold its first round of interviews April 7th through 9th and the second round April 12th through 14th. It is the hope that if a selection is made and a contract is signed that the Board will announce the new Superintendent around April 15th. The next Superintendent will begin the position on July 1st.

I would like to congratulate the FCPS Washington Post Principal of the year Bernie Quesada. Bernie is currently principal of Middletown High School but many of you will remember him from his days as principal at Catoctin High. He is an outstanding principal, and the honor is well deserved! I would also like to congratulate the FCPS Washington Post teacher of the year Donna Karajeh. Donna is a Language Arts teacher at West Frederick Middle School. She also taught at Middletown Middle School. We are very proud of both of them!

The Board of Education of Frederick County listened to dedicated Frederick County Public Schools employees, heard repeatedly just how challenging this past year has been and we were thrilled to announce a \$1,300 employee retention incentive for all eligible employees. These funds came from Federal COVID-19 relief funds and through the generosity of our county government.

Gov. Thomas Johnson High School junior Lucas Tassarollo has been elected the next Student Member to the Board of Education of Frederick County (SMOB). His one-year term officially begins July 1. Until then, he will shadow current SMOB Sam Starrs from Oakdale High. Congratulations to Sam who just broke a state record for pole vaulting! We are always excited to work with our talented student members of the Board who contribute so much! Frederick County middle and high school students participated in an online voting process to elect the 2022-2023 student Board member. This was the 11th year the student member was elected by online voting.



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SCHOOL NEWS

‘The Slate’ for Board of Education

Nancy Allen, Olivia Angolia, Mark Joannides and Cindy Rose are the members of the Education Not Indoctrination Slate running for the Board of Education. People ask “why” a slate? It takes a consensus of four people, casting four votes to change or create any school policy.

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) currently has policies in place that remove or ignore parental authority. Nancy, Olivia, Mark and Cindy want to restore parental rights, accountability, transparency, safety, security, academic value and joy, to the classroom. They acknowledge there are real systemic problems in need of change.

Four seats are open on the Board of Education for the 2022 election cycle. Nancy, Olivia, Mark and Cindy want your votes so they can fill those seats.

They have contracted with the parents, students and staff of FCPS to bring accountability, transparency and joy back to public education. They are ready to roll up their sleeves, make the hard decisions and

get to work as a united team on day one. They are four votes that parents, students and FCPS staff can count on to do the right thing.

Nancy Allen has a varied and strong skill set that includes management and leadership in the areas of human resources, daily business operations, events, grants, contracts and compliance with local, state and federal laws and regulations. Since 2005 Nancy has been employed with a professional membership association and serves as the Director of Operations and Contracts.

Olivia Angolia has resided in Frederick County for 20 years, and is a former student and graduate of FCPS. After graduating, she has spent her time working primarily in business management and entrepreneurship. One of the reasons that she is running for the BOE is because she and her husband hope to send their future children to Frederick County Public Schools.

Mark Joannides has been self-employed, a resident of Frederick County, and married for thirty-plus

years. He and his wife Beth have raised four children. When elected, Mark will bring his strong leadership and communication skills, as well as a passion for developing a strong work ethic among today’s youth. Mark wants to see FCPS students reach their maximum potential, whether that be through a high school diploma, a college degree, a trade school, and/or self-employment. He brings practical experience when it comes to setting goals and maximizing dollars spent. Mark can “think out of the box” because he has had to. He knows how to lead, and yet, understands the value of working as a team.

Cindy Rose lives in Knoxville with her husband and two of her five children. Cindy is no stranger to taking on FCPSs, she’s advocated for and won, air-conditioned buses for our medically fragile special education students, gotten politically infused resources removed from the classroom. Her lawsuit against the County, inspired the BoE to recognize in school policy the right of parents

Thurmont High School Alumni Association Scholarship

Attention graduating seniors related to a graduate from Thurmont High School or Catoctin High School up through the class of 1974. Are you looking for a scholarship? Did you check the Community Foundation of Frederick County website at www.cffredco.org for the scholarships offered by the Thurmont High School Alumni

Association? Applications are being accepted from March 1 through March 31, only. Also, remind your parents, grandparents, and their friends that the Thurmont High School Alumni banquet will be held on Saturday, June 11 at the Thurmont Event Complex. Any questions call 301-418-1760 or email vmnoff@gmail.com.

and students to refuse participation in State of Maryland assessments which are under the direction and control of special interest groups.

Complete biographies, goals and the Contract for Parents, Students and Teachers can be found on their website eni2022.org.

Frederick County Library

March brings about change, both in the seasons and in the library. The last two years have presented FCPL and our community with many challenges. March of 2020 brought about a halt to all library services in the building and FCPL adjusted our services to a digital platform. March of 2021 allowed FCPL to provide modified services from curbside pick-up to expanded Wi-Fi and more. FCPL looks forward to returning to standard operating hours, additional services, and programs as we enter March.

After a two-year hiatus, the Celtic Concert returns featuring House of Hamill on Thursday, March 31, 2022, 7-9 p.m.! The Celtic Concert has become a well-loved tradition in the northern county and is free. The concert is held in the Marion Burk Knott Auditorium on the beautiful Mount Saint Mary’s campus. While the concert is free, tickets are required

and can be picked up at both the Emmitsburg Branch Library and the Thurmont Regional Library during regular opening hours starting Saturday, March 5. There is a limit of four tickets per person while supplies last. Along with the Celtic Concert, outdoor programming will return as weather permits. Please visit FCPL.org/participate for additional information on the Celtic Concert and outdoor programming.

Spring also ushers in tax season. VITA volunteers will be accepting appointments for tax preparation during the first week of March. Upon calling for an appointment, VITA will ask questions regarding 2021 income, filing status, and other tax factors to determine eligibility. Please call 301-471-5757 to make an appointment. Public computers, Wi-Fi, printing, and copying are available at all FCPL branches for additional tax preparation resources.

Our normal operating hours have returned to provide more access to

FCPL materials and resources. Thurmont Regional Library is now open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 -5 p.m. Emmitsburg Branch Library is open Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Staff at both branches are wishing the community a healthy and warm spring and we look forward to seeing you in the library!

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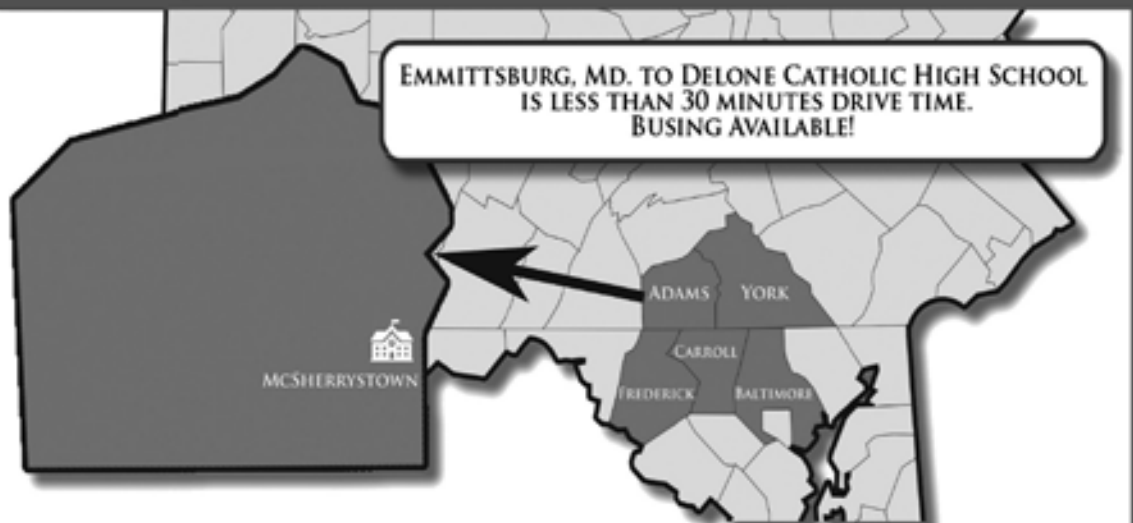
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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

In anticipation of the birthday of Robert Frost, we asked our writers to reflect on the content and tone of some of the legendary American poet's greatest works.

Freshman

No Difference

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

Philip Gerber claimed that “For thousands Robert Frost remains the only recent poet worth reading and the only one who matters.” The Road Not Taken, by Robert Frost, seems to have defined a generation of Americans seeking originality. My heterodox opinion on the piece, then, might offend some, and hopefully refresh others. The Road Not Taken is actually not about how the speaker made the correct choice in taking a different road than the rest of men; rather it is about how it made no difference.

The poem is worth its own read and many more, so I will not simply summarize it, and let you read it yourself.

The Paris Review has deemed The Road Not Taken “the most misread poem in America,” roughly for the same reason I will articulate now. The first line is as follows: “two roads diverged in a yellow wood.” It must be noticed that both paths which he is contemplating going down are in the exact same forest! He admits that both paths are “just as fair.” The

only difference the entire time was that he took the path that had been less traveled. And contemplating, he remarks:

*Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Both paths, in truth, he says,
were trod the same, and both paths, in truth, had not been trod.
The last iconic line is this:
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

The piece is perpetually touted as a triumph of self-assertion over the difficulties of life, like unto Frank Sinatra’s line, “I faced it all, and I stood tall, and did it my way.” Yet, Frost’s remark that, “somewhere ages and ages hence” he shall have said that his taking the road less traveled had made all

the difference, is simply a prediction, not his conviction. He feels that at the end of his life, he shall comfort himself with the same consolation that all men comfort themselves near death, that he at least lived his very own life, that he carved it out for himself, that he did it his way. But the roads were in fact the same. It is true, he took a road no other had traveled. Yet is this not true of all human beings? Who can say that he has lived another man’s life? We all are unique, and that uniqueness has little to do with our making it so. No one is actually capable of controlling how their life will turn out. Even should one be a member of the unlucky few who got to live life exactly as they wanted, with all the extravagancies of self-satisfaction, they still have to pay the debt that all men pay. Though they may console themselves with the ignorant view that they did it all themselves, they still die at the end of it all. And what happens to his accomplishments? In all likelihood, they will be forgotten eventually and will be worth nothing.

This should not be depressing. To point out the meaninglessness of human assertion for its own sake is noble, and necessary, so that we don’t preoccupy ourselves with useless efforts all

our days, thinking that they were worth it. Flannery O’Connor, the great American author, devoted much of her career to exactly this idea. She said, “Everybody who has read [my work] thinks I’m a hillbilly nihilist, whereas. . . I’m a hillbilly Thomist.”

The nihilist looks at life and says that it is meaningless. The scholastic philosophy of Thomism, on the other hand, while agreeing that it doesn’t exactly make a difference whether you decided how your life turned out or not, it affirms the dignity, the importance of choosing the right thing regardless. It is not about the end product of your life, whether you asserted yourself, conquered suffering, or lived your ideal life. It is about the person you became along the way.

This is not to relegate all of human choice to meaninglessness; in fact, it is to posit that all human choice is imminently meaningful, whether one accomplishes what they wanted or not! The “at least I did it my way” outlook throws the life of the slave in the gutter. It has nothing to do with the consequences of a life lived. Rather, to be as human as possible, to live virtuously, to live only for the good of others, to be interiorly free – this is the goal of life. Frederick Douglas, the great aboli-

tionist, and prolific author, spoke of the moment when his whole interior changed. Essentially, when he began to understand what I am now saying: “However long I might remain a slave in form, the day had passed forever when I could be a slave in fact.” The form our lives take on can change for so many reasons, many of which are out of our control. We can take any path we’d like; no matter what, we end up at the same place, either being free in the essence of who we are or having only our meaningless accomplishments to boast of. It must be noted that this quote is about a moment Douglas lived four years before he actually was freed from chattel slavery. This interior freedom, therefore, is meant for all human beings, whether they are living the path they chose for themselves or not.

Only Frost knows what he really meant in The Road Not Taken. He doesn’t offer us any solutions, only not to pursue difference for difference’s sake. What I am convinced of, though, is that we still can seek to be the most virtuous we can, no matter where the path of life takes us. That is an interior freedom offered to all human beings, and that makes all the difference.

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

Launching too soon

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

I never climbed trees as a child. I wanted to – don’t get me wrong. There was an oak tree in the backyard of my old home, and I always dreamed of climbing it: the arching branches extending into thin twigs; the sturdy trunk keeping me stable through wavering winds; the lush green leaves like stars of their own sky. But for some inexplicable reason, I never got around to it. Now that oak tree, along with the rest of my childhood home, belongs to someone else. It only exists as a memory to me.

When reflecting upon Robert Frost’s birthday on March 26th, I chose a poem at random: “Birches.” Upon reading the first three lines, I had already felt saddened in some way. Here, the narrator notes that whenever he sees a tree, he hopes that at some point in time, a boy has swung on the wooden branches, has enjoyed the beauty and spontaneity that a tree has to offer, even if it is just a tree. For some reason, the imagery of this poem stuck with me. Frost beautifully strings sentences together to reveal delicate imagery of birch trees “loaded with ice a sunny winter morning after a rain” (6-7). Here, he depicts how birch trees are normally coated in ice from a snowstorm, how we assume these trees are bent and wilted because they are frozen. Frost gets lost in this descrip-

tion before returning to the idea of this boy. He writes, regarding the birch tree branches, “I should prefer to have some boy bend them / As he went out and in to fetch the cows – / Some boy too far from town to learn baseball / Whose only play was what he found himself, / Summer or winter, and could play alone” (23-27). Reading this imagery of a made-up story about a boy, I couldn’t help but ask the question: Why was the narrator envisioning this? What affinity does he have to the image of a young boy swinging on bent tree branches, rather than the reality that nature has made them that way?

This is because later in the poem, we find out that the narrator used to be one of those boys. He would escape to a world that only a tall and wavering birch tree could provide, a world of arching branches and lush green leaves. The narrator dreams of this childlike experience “when I’m weary of considerations / And life is too much like a pathless wood” (43-44). It is a simple thing, he concludes, to be a climber of tree, to be able to both escape the world and bask in the beauty that the earth holds.

There is one line, however, that truly resonated with me, leaving my heart longing for something I couldn’t describe. When this young boy that the narrator envisions climbs the birch tree, it is said that “He learned all there was / To learn about not launching out too soon” (32-33). One could interpret this literally, arguing that the boy had learned to control climbing the tree, so he did not fall. I, however, imagined a little child swinging back

and forth on branches, staring up at the stretch of blue that was the sky, knowing full well that this was youth, that this was ephemeral and would never be lived again.

As a sophomore in college, had I fully launched into adulthood? There surely wasn’t any more opportunity for me to climb the oak tree wildly and freely in the backyard of my old house. I was too busy with six classes, two jobs, and a bunch of extracurriculars. In short, I was spending much of my time preparing for a future when there was not only a wondrous past I could reflect on, but also a beautiful present unraveling before me. Frost’s intentions in this poem are to speculate on the innocence and magic of childhood, but reading it in my college dorm, I couldn’t help but feel anxious – anxious that I never had that experience of climbing on trees, anxious that I felt lost in the mindless rhythm of growing up, anxious that maybe all the birch trees in my life had been weighed down by ice, not by swinging children.

By using this natural imagery and this imaginative story of a little boy, however, Frost reaches beyond the surface to convey that we will always have that spontaneous spirit within us. Even if we are too old to climb on trees, can’t we still look at birches as if another child has swung on the drooping limbs?

Maybe it’s a good thing that my family sold my childhood home. After reading Frost’s poem, I still wish I had climbed that tree, felt the magic of escaping to a world and dangling from arched branches.

Although Frost writes about the wonder of a whimsical childhood, he even more conveys how important it is to apply this joyful and loving perspective to the realities of adulthood. Perhaps, as a college sophomore, this is what I need to focus on. Perhaps I can still see birch trees and imagine the branches are bent because a child has swung on them. Perhaps I can climb a tree myself at the ripe age of twenty and see the world through lenses of innocence and wonder, gazing up and watching the patterns of raindrop-shaped leaves shape the sky. As Frost beautifully says, “Earth’s the right place for love / I don’t know where it’s likely to go better” (52-53). Even though our

lives may currently seem treacherous, and even though adulthood is discouraging, there is no better place to celebrate love and beauty than in the present itself. I hope we can all pretend that sunrises are canvases of violet and gold painting the sky, pretend that the moon rises because it loves the stars, and pretend that children have swung on the bent branches of birches. After all, there is never such a thing as launching too soon, for it is simply enough if we can launch at all, and do so while preserving our inner child at heart.

To read other articles by Claire Doll visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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ON THE POETRY OF ROBERT FROST

Junior

There will be time

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

“October is a fine and dangerous season in America.” This is not a Robert Frost quote, but one of Thomas Merton’s from his autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain*. However, I think it mimics Robert Frost’s poem “October” quite well. Frost centers his poem around how quickly the seasons change, asking the wind to stop blowing the leaves down and to let them fall slowly one by one. Merton shares this sentiment, especially during his college years. October (and autumn itself) brings ambition and excitement as students are inspired by every ounce of the collegiate atmosphere, whether it be classes or a clean notebook waiting to be filled. While Merton sees this restlessness in a more positive light, as it helps him to be dedicated to his studies as a young adult, Frost fears what this restlessness and change may bring.

When I read *The Seven Storey Mountain* a few years ago, I was immediately struck by this passage (which, albeit is very trivial in the

terms of the entire book). Merton put into words this energy that I have felt every autumn, doubly so since starting college. Every change in season brings new energy and each is distinctive in how it feels. I write this on a warm February day, which makes everyone anxious for when spring truly comes around. Spring brings freedom from indoor cocoons and the desire to explore community once again. You cannot tie students down to their textbooks even if you wanted to. I think the change from spring to summer is less obvious, yet suddenly you’re there. Summer is hot and energetic, but the exhaustion from heat also comes from adrenaline and working up a day’s sweat. The change to winter, especially with Christmas starting off the season, is the feeling of love and beauty. We wish for snow, a warm cup of coffee, and a hug from our loved ones. It is introspective, causing you to cherish the things immediately around you that will carry you through the harsh icy months ahead.

But fall is hard to put a finger on. It is not the beginning of the semester, as we’ve already been at school for more than a month. But it almost feels as if it is. Students are enjoying equal amounts of the outdoors, with scenic autumnal hikes, and the aca-

demical interior, with very few seats in the library vacant. Whereas spring’s blossoming makes it hard to focus with Mother Nature distracting you through the window, fall propels you into study. It’s hard to put a finger on why that is. With beautiful foliage changing before our eyes, especially with the scenic backdrop of the Mount, shouldn’t we long to be soaking in the few moments of autumnal beauty we get each year?

But in that way, it is dangerous like Merton states. Frost, in the same way, has valid fear for it going too fast. Autumn is restless. I think that is the only way to describe it. We dip into colder temperatures, the leaves begin to change colors, and the wind starts to nip a little when it blows. Then suddenly, the branches are bare, and sidewalks are covered with decomposing leaves without the bright hues we loved temporarily. Perhaps this Fall feeling of sudden change and temporariness is what propels students into academia. We know we are on the verge of something new, such as a semester of courses to broaden our horizons, and we’re excited to get into it. But yet, we know that it will end and change, just as fall will turn to winter. These months of study will disappear into grades and job appli-

cations after graduation. Watching my three older siblings grow up, my mom always repeated the mantra, “High school is the greatest four years of your life, but college is the fastest four years of your life.” It is true that college is faster paced than I imagined, and I’m not sure if there is anything else with that same hyperactive atmosphere. So, perhaps, Merton is simply noticing the fastest month of the fastest years of a person’s life.

However, Frost sees it too. Instead of relishing in it, he asks the season (and the reader) to slow down. He doesn’t remark the season as being full of new opportunities but of holding inevitable death. In the last quatrain of the poem, he highlights how the change to colder temperatures will bring death to crops, specifically grapes. He asks us to pause, if not for us, for the grapes that are not ready to die. The poem’s meaning mimics Frost’s own life; in a time period where urbanization was up-and-coming, Frost retreated to the countryside, devoted to a pastoral life of beauty and literature. In a similar way, so did Merton, who became a contemplative monk after his fast-paced college experience.

I find it so interesting that Frost and Merton both chose October to

signify this season. Somehow, September is too summery, and November is too wintery, and I have to agree with both of them. American Octobers are a uniquely separate month, with restlessness infused in its existence. I cannot help but wonder if it is because it sits between two distinct seasons and makes up its own distinct season itself. Summer and winter are extremes, but fall doesn’t truly belong to either. Yet spring feels like a natural transition into summer, with the world awakening from hibernation. Fall is one rapid change after another with a period in between that we don’t truly get to experience before it disappears again. I wonder if it is this quick death, growth, and subsequent death that gives October its restlessness.

Regardless, October seems to have always been, and will continue to be, a month of high energy, drive, and rapid growth before decay. Frost and Merton recorded this on paper, which I have only pondered about in my head without the right vocabulary. I have to assume that other Americans feel it too and can add to this discussion of the dangerous month of October.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

Gold made green

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

*Nature’s first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf’s a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*

Forgive me for succumbing to the temptation that my colleagues overcame, but I think the brevity and power of this short Frost poem allow for its words to mark the pages of our town paper.

As the number of days before commencement slowly shrinks below my threshold for comfort, this poem surely articulates my current perception of the past, the present, and the occasionally anxious tension between the two. These days, my conception of time largely rests on two extremes: beginning and end. For that reason, I’ll only focus on how Frost begins this poem and how he ends it.

Frost implies at the outset that nature’s original position can be thought of only within a framework of the present. He does not say that nature’s original color was gold, but that its first green is gold. There are two differences here: first in the realm of identity and second in the realm of temporal position. In this line, gold does not fall within the broad category of “color,” but within the narrower category of a specific color. Frost is taking advantage here of an American East Coast imagination that raises the color green to one’s mind when one hears the word “nature.” Gold, then, is

not just a color abstractly conceived, but a color from the past in relation to a color in the present.

Frost is not Nietzsche, though, and gold is not dead. Instead of relegating gold to that which existed in the past and must be intentionally remembered in order to maintain its desire for life, gold is, not was, the first green. Gold exists, very tangibly, in and with the green. Their identities are distinct, but the relation between them is intimate and mutually vivifying. One cannot be heard without remembering the other. With his use of the present tense in this line, Frost was so delightfully generous to the nostalgic and to those who hold pleasant memories from the past in their hearts.

The final line is concerning, though. Even though we learned of the relationship that exists between the sacred gold and the profane green, he says that “nothing gold can stay.” It seems to me that this line says something more about the nature of the gold itself than anything else. Understood in this way, gold is necessarily temporary. It exists only within the strict confines of time. Some might say that gold, or anything metaphorically referred to as gold, derives its value from its inherent limitations. Gold is not anything to anyone at any time. Instead, it is specific, personal, and fleeting.

At the same time, no matter how many times I read through the poem, I never get the impression that there is something wrong with the temporary life of gold. Frost seems to say that gold is good, but that its goodness rests in its relatively short life. If the presence of gold were not short-lived, then all we would know is the green. This final verse serves as an implicit invocation to gratitude for that which might be experi-

enced for only a short time.

We can also find hope in the dynamic relationship between past and present when we look at the internal structure of the poem. A more sophisticated poetry analyst than I might be able to gather more data for this claim, but it seems to me that this poem in particular can be viewed as a mirror. The first letters of both the first and last lines begin with the letter ‘n’; the first quatrain holds an internal mirror with the second and third lines beginning with “her”; and the second quatrain holds a mirror with the sixth and seventh lines beginning with “so”. When thought of as a mirror, we could consider the possibility that Frost is conveying truths that imitate one another with the use of different words. The words are not saying the same thing (it’s worth considering whether two words can “say” the same thing in the first place). Instead, Frost plays with metaphors and word choice to narrow in his perception of reality toward a close proximity with reality itself.

If this poem can be thought of as a mirror, then we should be comforted by the relationship between the first and last lines. Even though nature’s first green is gold, nothing gold can stay. Even though nothing gold can stay, nature’s first green is gold. When these positions are interchanged, I think of the momentary life of gold in relation to and as a manifestation of the eternal life of God. Because we are finite and only God is infinite, that with which we must engage on the natural level must also be finite. In addition, because creation is good and we especially are very good, it must also be the case that finite things can be good, in spite of or even because of their finitude.

For this reason, the gold that

we remember and cherish can be thought of as tokens of God’s eternal presence. Even if we get weighed down by our own restrictions and inabilities, we can remember that nature’s first green is gold and that nothing gold can stay. These lines are so precise in their meaning and yet are so distant from a moralistic dogmatism. They’re not written for comfort yet are comforting. They’re not written to disturb yet are disturbing.

As these final months and weeks

of college draw to a close, I expect to be drawn back and forth between this comfort and disturbance. In these moments of alternating assurance and questioning, I hope that I and my fellow graduates continue to walk forward on and toward the green while still remembering its close friendship with the gold.

To read other articles by Harry Scherer, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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HOME DECOR

Ditch the winter blues and think spring

Jessica Crawford
Cotton & Co.

As they say, it's time to 'think Spring' and we are so ready. Our daffodils are starting to pop up and reappear, waking up and emerging through the earth. I think that March is one of my favorite months of the year, because it feels like a month of hope and growth and new beginnings and things to come. While there's still a little bit of Winter left to endure or enjoy, depending on your own feelings about the chilly season, little signs of Spring are definitely beginning to manifest.

Easter is a little later than usual this year, so it's a great time to start decorating for Spring, and really get to enjoy the length of the Spring season. We've been busy transforming the shop from Christmas to Winter to Spring in the New Year here. While we like to hold onto the winter, cozy vibes through the end of February at Cotton & Co, by March, we are ready to bring on all things bright, and fresh and new.

Many of our vendors bring in holiday specific Easter décor while many of them more neutral seasonal inspiration. We have a few vendors that specialize in vintage holiday, (@LoveysVintageGoods and @dragonflymemco for example) and for each holiday they have curated an inventory of true, authentic vintage, seasonal décor. I personally love the vintage seasonal postcards, as they all tell an individual, unique story and are a great pop of vintage holiday to any vignette.

Many members of our team of talented vendors incorporate a more holiday neutral, yet Spring inspired vibe and items into their spaces. We have a wide selection of faux florals available storewide. And we're not talking about the crummy kind from the 80's and 90's. We're talking the high end, ultra-realistic, who-would-even-know-they're-everlasting kind. We even have a vendor that hand-dyes, hand-paints and hand-arranges everlasting wood flowers (@blkthumbsociety). She keeps her inventory seasonal and always has fresh styles available in one of a

kind arrangements, or single-stems so you can build your own at home. I am a huge proponent for live plants in a home, there are endless benefits to that. However, there is also a time and a place for high quality faux florals too. And we've got you covered.

Our wood sign vendor (@DulcisHome) has a large selection of handmade, seasonal signs available at all times too. While she always carries year-round inventory, I have to say, Spring is her time to shine. She and her husband design and build nearly all of their inventory. One of her most popular lines are her Framed Floral Wall Art, available in many designs and sizes. She's great at designing new products, so her inventory is constantly evolving and changing. We love her birth flower line too. These are great pieces of art to bring home this time of year, since they immediately brighten a space and make it feel more and more like Spring is on its way. And since they're available in multiple sizes, they really can be incorporated into any room. In addition to her floral signs, she has a vast selection of funky, trendy and unique pots and planters available year-round.

When I revamp my spaces in the shop for Spring, I generally tend to think adding pops of green and color. I personally do not gener-



Hand-built and designed floral wall art.

ally add Easter specific décor, but more so inventory that just feels lighter and brighter than the décor we generally choose to decorate with in the winter months. I also love adding vintage elements that reflect the season. The best part about shopping for vintage and antique items, is that you never really know what you're going to find. I love making a tablescape for Spring and incorporating vintage pots and planters into it. I'm personally partial to the vintage ceramic blue and green McCoy and USA planters. I have a decent sized personal collection of them at

my home, enough to put a few on display in every room. I also love vintage terra cotta pots. You know the ones with the crusty patina and mineral deposits on them that can only be formed from age and grit and use.

We live in an old farmhouse in Carroll County and our home is a good balance of old and new. Buying vintage and antique is the ultimate form of recycling. Not to mention, I just love surrounding myself with pieces in my home that have a history and story. Being able to add vintage elements all over the house, that reflect the seasons, makes my heart happy. I'm also a complete sucker for a vintage or vintage inspired botanical print. I have a ton of these in my personal home collection too. I love the delicate beauty and detail of these prints. We have a wall collage in the home of vintage botanical and bird prints, that we found in our attic when we purchased the farmhouse, that I framed in a collection of mismatched but coordinating frames. Several vendors around the shop have these for sale in their spaces if you're into that kind of thing too.

Over the years, I've collected a lot of vintage outdoor pieces too, which are fun for decorating the garden with. I have a few vintage chick feeders, watering cans, concrete planters and garden statues water coolers, etc... and they're fun for decorating the front garden or porch, especially when you pop a flower into them. It's a little early for flowers just yet, but soon enough!

Whatever your year-round seasonal wants and needs are, we've got what you need to make any and all seasons special. Need help designing a space or making a concept come to life? Our talented team of vendors and employees are always happy to assist. Stop by the shop and say hello. We're open weekly, Friday through Sunday. And don't forget to follow us on social media @CottonAndCoVintageBoutique (Facebook and Instagram) for regular updates and event info.

To read past Home Decorn articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

TLL kicks off season

Ryan Tokar

It's hard to believe another season of Thurmont Little League (TLL) is already under way. It may still be a bit chilly outside, but the season is off to a hot start. The registration period for baseball and our brand-new softball program closed on February 13th and evaluations for the Majors and Minors divisions were held on Saturday Feb 19th. Afterwards the drafts were held and teams were assigned so that practices could officially kick off. Our Majors level teams will be hard at work preparing for the annual Garel Hauver Tournament in Brunswick in late March which officially kicks off the season. The rest of the league will begin play on TLL's official Opening Day, Saturday April 2nd.

Opening Day is always an exciting event for our league. Family and friends come out to watch all the players be announced and to see some take the field for the very first time. This year, there will once again be split ceremonies to help accommodate parking and keep crowds to a minimum with the Covid-19 protocols for large gatherings still in place. The T-ball and Instructional teams will have their ceremony in the morning, while Minors and Majors will take place in the afternoon. There will be delicious treats on site from the TLL concession stand and this year there will be several food trucks such as The Sauced Savage, Glamourview Creamery and Kona

Ice. The popular TLL Photo Booth will make its return for all those social media opportunities, and we are expecting visits from local celebrities such as Safety Pup and The Oriole Bird! Other vendors onsite will include local fire and ambulance crews, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Pivot Physical Therapy and Crucible Performance.

Another extremely big draw during the opening day ceremonies are the raffle baskets. Tickets will be on sale to win a variety of awesome prizes. Baskets include gift cards and other donated items from a variety of local establishments such as Kountry Kitchen, Mountain Gate, Wait, What? Sauce Company, McCutcheon's, The Frederick Keys and more. We will also be having a 50-50 and a table of Spirit Wear and TLL discount cards for sale. Mark your calendar today, you won't want to miss out on this awesome event!

As always, we are looking for volunteers for the upcoming season. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to us at www.thurmontlittleleague.com. The biggest need is for volunteer umpires. If you are a high school or college student looking for community service hours or semi-retired with time on your hands, we will provide all the necessary training. The league be holding its annual umpire clinic on Sunday, March 6th from 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the TLL complex. We can't wait for everything this season has in store for our players and families!



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Drawing to be held **Saturday, May 28**
Live on Facebook at noon

NO PAYOUT LESS THAN \$500!

1 - \$5000	17 - \$500	33 - \$500	49 - \$500
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5 - \$1000	21 - \$2000	37 - \$500	53 - \$500
6 - \$500	22 - \$500	38 - \$500	54 - \$500
7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$1000
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$1000	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$1000	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$1000
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$1000	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$1000	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
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Grand Prize Drawing #65 - \$15,000

Early Bird Drawing

Purchase and submit your ticket by April 15 for chance to win a \$1,500 cash prize!
(2 winners - \$1,500 each)



\$100 Per Ticket

To purchase tickets contact any VHC member or by stop by the fire hall. To purchase tickets electronically visit www.vhc6.com. Tickets can also be purchased by sending a check to: Vigilant Hose Company, Attn: Spring Fling Committee, PO 171, Emmitsburg, Md. 21727. For more information call Bill at 717-642-9717 or Chris at 301-447-3081.

LOCAL ARTS

Annual Youth Recyclable Art Contest

Kelly Stone
Adams County Arts Council

The Adams County Arts Council is excited to announce our 2022 Annual Youth Recyclable Art Contest and Exhibit. Students can enter works of art made entirely of recycled and repurposed materials for a chance to win awards and cash prizes. The contest is sponsored by OPEN MINDS, McDonald's, the Gettysburg Recycling Committee, and the Gettysburg Green Gathering.

The contest is open to youth in grades K-12, and we encourage

participation from local public/private/charter schools, homeschooled students, Scout troop members, and other youth groups and organizations. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place entries in each age group (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12). Cash prizes for overall Best in Show, and the People's Choice Award will also be awarded. Voting for the People's Choice Award is open to the public and will run from April 1st to the 22nd.

New this year, we will have our Repurposed Art Awards. This

award will be given to entries that not only recycle items into a piece of art, but also into another everyday object such as a chair or a bowl. First, second, and third place in this category will be judged overall and given a cash prize. Judging for all categories will be done by local community members in the arts and conservation fields.

In addition to the contest, we will also be offering a recyclable demonstration and Q&A with local artist and educator Levato Shaw during our First Friday Opening Exhibit on April 1st. Shaw will be creating a birdbath from a TV satellite dish,

and audience members will have the opportunity to watch her work live and ask questions regarding her process and recyclable art.

Students may register through our online form or print out a physical copy from our website. Online pre-registration is encouraged by March 18th, however, not required. We will accept registrations up until our art drop-off dates on March 28th and 29th. The exhibit will be on display at the Arts Education Center, 125 S Washington St., Gettysburg from April 1st to April 21st. The opening reception and judging will be on April 1st at 5 pm. Voting

for the People's Choice Awards will be open throughout the entirety of the display. Please stop by during our regular hours or call for evening/weekend availability. The final awards ceremony will occur on April 21st at 6 pm.

For more information, contest guidelines, and judging criteria, please give us a call at 717-334-5006 or email events@adamsarts.org.

The mission of the Adams County Arts Council is to cultivate an arts-rich community. To see our full list of programs, make donations or learn more about this program, visit our website at www.adamsarts.org.

Spring into theatre arts workshops

Chad-Alan Carr
Gettysburg Community Theatre

Gettysburg Community Theatre, the non-profit 501c3 organization located at 49 York Street in historic downtown Gettysburg, is now in its 14th year of offering theatre arts classes/workshops/camps, as well as performance and volunteer opportunities for all ages and abilities.

"Theatre Arts Workshops are a great way for beginners to learn some basics of acting, singing, and dancing", says GCT Founding Executive/Artistic Director, Chad-

Alan Carr, "but even those that have done many shows will also have a great time learning from our professional faculty."

No previous experience required for these workshops March 8-May 24, which will meet 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays for 2nd-5th Grade and 7 - 8 p.m. Tuesdays for 6th-12th Grade. With different workshops and instructors each week, students will tackle fundamental skills for the stage in a fun and supportive environment. From Acting to Singing, Shakespeare to Improv, Broadway Dance and more. Students will practice basics of vocal produc-

tion and discover how to express character through song. Connect your vocal skills to critical dramatic intention by focusing on songs as monologues and how the singer acts the song.

Through improvisation and short scenes, students will use those skills to take risks, make strong character choices, and develop character relationships. Students will also delve into theatre dance experience to strengthen dance vocabulary, technique, and performance skills with iconic choreographic styles from standout Broadway musicals. Tuition is only \$100 per student for

entire Spring Session, and financial need-based Scholarships are available. The GCT Education & Outreach Programs for 2022 are made possible in part by a grant from The Robert C. Hoffman Trust. Registration is open now online at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org

Tickets to in person LIVE performances are available with GCT including their upcoming performances of Improv Comedy Show 7 p.m. March 4th, The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare (abridged) revised weekends March 11-20, and Disney's Winnie The Pooh KIDS weekends April 1-10. Tickets can be ordered online or by calling 717-334-

2692 and leaving a message.

Since GCT is a small 80 seat theatre, it is highly recommended that tickets be ordered in advance online. There are no limits on streaming tickets though for upcoming streaming performances of Simply Cinderella, Jack And The Beanstalk, Kids On Broadway, Snow White Lite, The Last Five Years, and Working. Auditions, class registration, and volunteer opportunities can also be found online.

GCT Mission is to inspire creativity and confidence, provide cultural enrichment, and instill a love of the theatre arts in people of ALL ages and abilities through quality education and performance.

Majestic presents Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis

Improv comedy legend Colin Mochrie of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* teams up with master hypnotist Asad Mecci to present HYPROV: Improv Under Hypnosis at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater Friday, March 18.

"HYPROV is like nothing you've ever seen before," remarked Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director Jeffrey Gabel. "I guarantee people will be talking about this show for years to come."

The show begins with Mecci

welcoming twenty volunteers on stage to be hypnotized. He whittles them down to four or five of the most susceptible and then brings Mochrie out to improvise with them - while they are under hypnosis. In the hands of two experts, and solely crafted from the audience's uninhibited unconscious mind, each show is an entirely original and completely unforgettable theatrical experience.

"When we tried this for the first time onstage, I was absolutely petrified. Then I thought, 'let's just see where this takes us,'" said Mochrie. "Adding in the element of hypnosis to improv really allows people to let their guard down and have fun in a scene."

They're certainly the most interesting stage partners I've ever had!"

Thirty volunteers are needed

to fill 20 seats on stage. Those interested in participating as a volunteer must sign up in advance and must present proof of full COVID-19 vaccination to interact on stage. Information on how to sign up is available on the Majestic's website. Vaccination is not required for attendees not on stage.

America's Got Talent Finalist On Stage At The Majestic

Experience thrilling and mysterious shadow silhouettes rendered live in *Catapult: Magic Shadows* at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater on Sunday, March 6 at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 6 at 3 p.m. This show is made possible by WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital's Healing HeARTS Healthy Family Series.

"Catapult is one of the most magical stage shows I've ever

seen," enthused Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director Jeffrey Gabel. "The moving shadow silhouettes will delight children of all ages."

An America's Got Talent finalist from Season 8, *Catapult* is a magical production that features incredible dancers who work behind a screen to create shadow silhouettes of shapes from the world around us. With the arc of an arm, the point of a toe or the twist of a torso, *Catapult's* dancers stretch their bodies, and your imaginations, telling stories with humor and pathos by transforming magically from one shape to another. See Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* spring to life, be amazed as you watch their bodies transform into a mountain, an elephant, a dragon even a helicopter, and travel the world from Paris to Beijing in under 10 minutes!

Animated by the dancers' shadows, every cinematic scene in *Magic Shadows* is a kaleidoscope of colorful storytelling that will awe and astound you. A great show for the whole family - full of laughs, emotions and miraculous transformations. You will leave this show dazed and happy, and you will never look at your own shadow the same way again!

Tickets for both shows are available at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Gettysburg College's
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**CATAPULT:
Magic Shadows!**
Sunday, March 6
3 p.m.
Tickets:
\$49, \$42, \$38

An America's Got Talent finalist, *Catapult* is a magical production featuring incredible dancers who work behind a screen to create shadow silhouettes of shapes from the world around us. Watch amazed as their bodies transform into a mountain, an elephant, a dragon! Be dazed and delighted! You'll never look at your shadow the same way again!

**HYPROV
IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS**
Friday, March 18
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$63, \$58, \$53

Colin Mochrie from *Whose Line is it Anyway?* and master hypnotist Asad Mecci. A mind-blowing, jaw-dropping, side-splitting show where 20 volunteers from the audience are hypnotized on stage.

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MOUNT ARTS

Unique events and hopeful history

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

The spring semester is in full swing, and there is a lot going on in the Mount Arts Department this Spring!

The Faux-Fat Tuesday Concert on February 22nd was a Mardi Gras performance put on by the Wind Ensemble, Lab Band, and an alumni jazz band. The event included New Orleans style jazz live-streamed into the cafeteria for the students to listen to. You could see heads nodding to the beat of the music through the whole building!

Jazz and Blues are such an important part of our collective American musical identity since they are one of our only unique contributions to music as a whole. There is an expressiveness in the blues which is inherent to the genre as the blues scale is a standard pentatonic scale (a five-note scale found in music of all cultures) with particular dissonant notes along the way that create the tension iconic to the style. These tensions connote suffering and their resolution is consolation for those in pain. It is for this reason that instruments such as the trumpet, saxophone, and electric guitar are synonymous with blues music; they are instruments with a lot of grit. It is the same sort of grit in Louis Armstrong's voice that is in his trumpet.

The work of award-winning artist Kyle Hackett is on display in the Williams Art Gallery in Delaplaine Theatre until March 11, where there will be a reception from 5:00 to 6:30pm. His paintings explore race, class, and social standing through approaches to self-representation and the constructed image. Hackett's work is featured in a number of prominent collections in Maryland, and the pieces on display use a number of unconventional canvas materials. We are pleased to display his work.

I am extraordinarily excited about this performance. On March 14th, the Dr. Douglas James Guitar Trio will be performing in Knott Auditorium at 7:30pm. Douglass James has appeared across the United States and Mexico; this is certainly an event music lovers will not want to miss. His specialty is in 18th-19th century Italian Romantic period music for the guitar and various other instruments from that time, and he has recorded three critically acclaimed CDs. As a guitarist and lover of the Romantic period of Classical music, having listened to some of his performances, I can attest to his expertise in interpreting and flawlessly playing the music as it was intended to be played.

The guitar as we know it today started as a regional instrument in Spain in the 15th and 16th centuries. The father of modern classical guitar is a Spaniard named Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909) and most of modern classical guitar technique and practice is owed to him. It is interesting then to note that the music Douglas James is playing, by people like Mauro Giuliani (1781-

1829), predates Tarrega by almost a hundred years. It is very important for the arts to preserve this type of music. The expressiveness of both the guitar and the Romantic period is peculiarly similar to that of blues and jazz, and it is not surprising, therefore, that those genres are primarily the other place one finds solo guitar. Even Rock and Roll has maintained this expressiveness, but it goes all the way back to Mauro Giuliani. Giuliani was a world-traveling virtuosic guitarist, and he was one of the first guitarists to achieve widespread renown in Europe. He was even acquainted with Beethoven; it goes to show you just how far the guitar has come from a regional instrument to being acknowledged by Europe's upper crust. The guitar at this time even had a huge presence in Russia. For example, Andrey Sychra (1773-1850) is known as the patriarch, and possibly the inventor of the seven-stringed guitar.

The classical guitar is a unique instrument for a number of reasons. For one, unlike the stringed instruments traditionally used in an orchestra, the guitar has six strings which allow for strumming and plucking multiple strings at once, which creates chords. This makes it more capable of holding its own as a solo instrument since it can fill in the harmonic gaps underpinning the melody, much like a piano and less like a violin. The guitar also has frets, the space between two metal pieces on the neck of a stringed instrument. The frets on the guitar allow for fast and easy move-

ment across the instrument. It is like a piano in these ways, but like the other stringed instruments, it is capable of vibrato in the melody and has a similar timbre. All these factors make the guitar ideal for solo use. The frets also make it much easier to learn to play the guitar than other stringed instruments, because one does not have to memorize the exact position one's finger has to be in in order to play the note on pitch. This is one of the factors that has made the guitar so accessible to beginners.

However, for all the guitar's merits, the classical guitar has never had the opportunity to be played in an orchestral setting due to its soft volume. There are barely even any duets written for the guitar and another stringed instrument because a single cello will always overpower a single classical guitar. My hope is that now with the advent and widespread use of microphones, we shall see classical guitar concertos and quartets where the guitar is incorporated in with other stringed instruments. This is being done on a small scale in contemporary settings, and there have been some beautiful arrangements of previously written music, but I hope that there will soon be a whole new grandiose classical and Romantic repertoire for the classical guitar.

March 17th-19th, Mount Theatre will be performing its main stage production for the Spring Semester, *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson, one of America's most-produced playwrights. The play is about the true story of Henrietta Leavitt, a young woman from Massachu-



Besides the human voice, there are few instruments as expressive as the guitar.

setts who goes to work at the Harvard Observatory at the turn of the 20th century as a "computer;" she looks at images from the telescope and counts stars. Till the day she died, because she was a woman, she was never allowed to touch the great telescope; nevertheless, she is one of the most accomplished astronomers in American history. Henrietta discovered pulsars, stars that blink, and based on this, she figured out how to measure how often the blinking occurred, leading her to more precisely calculate distances between stars. This increased the distance that they could measure, and all of a sudden, the universe was much, much bigger. Edwin Hubble, after whom the famous Hubble Space Telescope is named, credits Henrietta for much of his work, including his evidence for the existence of other

galaxies. The play contrasts Henrietta's devotion to her career and to her family, and includes some witty humor and romance.

From April 7th-9th, Sophia Vargas is doing a lecture presentation on Hispanic plays and playwrights in modern contemporary theatre. It is a research project, not a traditional performance. The Fine Arts Department has been having students do a senior project as a capstone to their major for decades, something which the Honors Program has since adopted for all of its students.

There is a lot more happening in April at the Mount in the Arts, so stay tuned!

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

CHS boys indoor track team wins state title

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

As Catoctin High School winter sports transition into their post-season, each winter team has made their mark on county and state leaderboards. Introducing a new MPSSAA Class 1A State Championship victory to the Catoctin community is the CHS boys indoor track team. Not only is this head coach David Lillard's first state title at CHS, but it's also the program's first-ever. Keep reading for a run-down on the team's results at the regional and state championship meets.

The CHS boys and girls indoor track teams both earned their qualification for states after their impressive performances at the MPSSAA 1A West Region Championships on Feb. 5. The boys qualified in 10 of 13 events, and the girls qualified for four. The boys won second place overall among 10 competing schools with 95 points -- only six points away from the regional championship title. CHS junior Brody Buffington took first place in the 55-meter dash with 6.48 seconds. Buffington also qualified for states in the 300-meter run, finishing in first place with a personal record of 36 seconds. In third place, sophomore Furious Trammel also set a personal record with 38.19 seconds. Trammel finished in fourth place in the 500-meter run with one minute, 14.98 seconds. Junior Alex

Contreras had a time of 4:48.80, placing him first in the 1600-meter run. He also set a personal record of 10:20.48 in the 3200-meter run that landed him in second place. Senior Garrett Sullivan finished second in the high jump, with a distance of five feet, seven inches. In shot put, senior Wyatt Davis qualified for states with a distance of 40 feet, 0.5 inches, placing him in third. Although it didn't make states, freshman Ethan Robeson's results in the shot put finals currently makes him "the best freshman thrower in Catoctin history," as coach Lillard announced. In seventh place, Robeson finished with a personal record of 37-08.00.

Each of the CHS boys' relay teams also qualified for states with their results at regionals. The 4x200-meter relay team, which consisted of Buffington, Layne Stull (senior), Josh Glass (senior), and Dylan Wangness (senior), took first place with a time of one minute, 39.81 seconds. A team of Contreras, Trammel, Sullivan, and Dennis Lease (freshman) participated in the 4x400-meter relay, coming in third with 3:50.61. Finally, the 4x800-meter relay team of Lease, Danial Hoyle (freshman), Chris Sanchez (junior), and Gabriel Riling (junior) took third place with a time of 9:27.18.

The girls team participated alongside the boys, sharing much of the well-earned glory. The girls team placed fourth overall among

12 schools with 47 points. CHS senior Jenna Zentz placed second in the 500-meter run with a personal record of one minute, 22.52 seconds. Sophomore Jenna Conley took fourth place in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:51.85. Conley also placed third in the 3200-meter run with 12:53.28. The coordination between teammates -- and all underclassmen -- Kylie Foster (freshman), Alayna Kelly (freshman), Laura Kelly (freshman), and Hope Brown (sophomore) in the 4x800-meter relay secured them a spot at states, coming in second with 11:16.95. Furthering their success, the girls team set personal records in almost every event. As coach Lillard always says, "Stronger than yesterday always pays off."

Ready to build off of their momentum, the CHS teams traveled to the Baltimore Armory to attend the MPSSAA 1A State Championships on Feb. 22 alongside 24 other qualified high school teams. Representing the girls' indoor track team in the 500-meter run, Zentz came in third with a time of one minute, 26.35 seconds. Conley finished in sixth place in both the 1600-meter run (6:20.67) as well as the 3200-meter run (13:32.29). The 4x800-meter relay team, then consisting of Foster, Alayna Kelly, Laura Kelly, and Conley, finished in fifth (11:27.28). Overall, the girls placed 10th in the state with 47 points. Representing the boys, Buffington won first place in both the 55-meter dash with 6.56 seconds as well as the 300-meter run (37.76). Trammel took second place after Buffington in the 300-meter run (38.52), and finished in fifth for the 500-meter run with a personal record (1:14.94). Contreras also set a personal record in placing fifth for the 1600-meter run (4:48.79), and took third in the 3200-meter run (10:47.68). Sullivan came in third place for shot put with a distance of five feet, six inches, and Davis placed fourth in shot put with 41 feet, two inches. The team fin-



CHS boys indoor track team poses with their 1st place State's trophy.

ished the 4x200-meter relay in fifth place (1:43.21), the 4x400-meter relay in first place (3:53.60), and the 4x800-meter relay in fourth place (9:38.70). The boys team claimed their first-ever Maryland state championship with 72 points.

Although this was the boys' first state championship victory, it wasn't coach Lillard's. Prior to joining the Catoctin athletic department, he had gathered numerous state titles in his 20 years of coaching at Oakdale as well as Urbana, whose girls team also won states this past month. It only makes sense that he would lead the Cougars to this championship in his second year at Catoctin. The Cougars continue to lead the county in various ways, gathering more and more recognition on county leaderboards. The community hopes to see many return for CHS track and field in the upcoming spring with the state title only increasing their motivation and success.

CHS girls basketball team makes #1 in Class 1A

After a well-fought regular season of 19-1 overall, the CHS girls basketball team carries into the playoffs as

the top team in the state. The team claimed their Gambrill Division championship title on Feb. 15 after defeating Williamsport High School (17-2), whose only previous loss had been to the Cougars back in January. The Cougars' victory lay primarily in their strong defense. CHS led 14-13 by the end of the second quarter, and the lead alternated between the teams in the second half. Senior Emily Williams' made two foul shots with three seconds remaining, claiming the Cougars' victory by a margin of one point: 37-36. This triumph assured their qualification to compete at the CMC Championships the following week.

The team's last game of the regular season was on Feb. 17 against Walkersville High School (8-12) at a home game. Senior Emma Wivell contributed 21 points and 12 rebounds, freshman Taylor Smith gave 15 points, senior Emily Williams had 12 points, and freshman Grace Williams had eight rebounds. The Cougars prevailed 51-34. This sealed the team's regular season record of 19-1, and the team's seed as no. 1 in the Class 1A league in the state of Maryland.

As Gambrill Division champions, the Cougars proceeded to compete for the CMC Championship title against undefeated Urbana High School (21-0) on Feb. 22. The Cougars led 12-4 early in the first quarter, and their opponents cut the deficit to 15-13 by the second quarter. Urbana pulled ahead with 30-23 by the half, and 36-30 by the fourth quarter. By the end, the Cougars had fallen to the Spires Division champions 55-54. As expressed on the Catoctin Girls Basketball Facebook account, "Urbana's size and length proved to be too much on this night." This loss did not take away from the girls' hard-earned sense of accomplishment. After all, they remain the top Class 1A team in the state, and their eyes are still set on their ultimate goal: the state championship. "We will use this game to help us prepare for a state championship run in the playoffs," read the team's Facebook post. Playoffs are scheduled to begin March 1 at home.

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History in the making

Sam Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

There are many milestones for coaches that resonate and stand out to them in their career. 50 wins. 100 wins. 500 wins. However, there is a particular milestone that every coach will remember their entire lives, which is their first win. That very feeling washed over Mount St. Mary's head women's water polo coach, Alyssa Diacono, on Jan. 30. Her team bested the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) Keydets in their season opener. After two long years, the program finally broke the ice for their first ever win.

When Mount St. Mary's announced the addition of men's and women's water polo to the varsity docket in 2020, scores of people were incredibly excited for the heights this program could reach. Like any new program at the Division-I level, there is always a certain level of hesitation. Adding new programs is a giant risk, whether it be from an athletic success or economic standpoint.

In their inaugural season, Mount St. Mary's never found themselves in the win column, as they finished the 2021 campaign with an 0-15 record. However, before taking the job, the decorated former player turned coach knew that it would be a challenge and an uphill battle to build a consistent, winning program environment. The second-year coach has been able to answer the call in an emphatic fashion on both the men's and women's side of the pool.

Heading into the 2022 season, the team was fresh off a winless campaign and the morale of the team could only go higher. Diacono is still ecstatic on how the season began: "The first win of the season was a big accomplishment and I am so proud of the team. Although we didn't win an inaugural season, the work that the current sophomores put in last year gave us the foundation to build this year and that is not forgotten," according to the coach.

Conference competition is a vastly different landscape for the Mountaineers' water polo program.

Unlike the rest of Mount St. Mary's varsity programs that compete in the Northeast Conference (NEC), water polo competes in the highly-competitive Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA). Due to her wide-ranging connections, Diacono has been able to build the schedule to benefit her team in conference. This is an incredibly beneficial aspect for coach Diacono, as "for such a young team, experience is everything. So being able to play among the best consistently is great. The goal is to go into conference play and be able to set the tone and tempo the game, which we have been working on in our non-conference games," she said.

One of the biggest components that is a driving force for their recent success has been the trio-threat that Mount St. Mary's has in net. The development of Samantha Bright, Hannah Keyser, and Sibley Kuder has been critical down the stretch, as the team is nearly a third of the way through their schedule. With the development of the three goalies, the head coach has been holding them in high regard, saying, "Goalies are the backbone of the defense, so we take great pride in training our goalies. The goal is to focus on what each goalie needs rather than a one size fits all approach. We focus on each of their strengths and utilize those to best fit our system."

Longevity is a feature that is also being stressed with the goalies as they progress in their collegiate careers. All three are true freshmen, with Bright being the starting goalie during the season.

Although the goalies have made massive strides from a season ago, they are not the only ones that have been able to improve their game. This uptick in individual success has been seen across the board. This is a feature that has Diacono and assistant Justin Vink really excited for. This widespread development is something that the head coach spoke quite often about. However, the coaching staff stressed that despite the individual strides, it is about the team for the most part, and "as a collective, the team continues to rise to each occasion.



Mount St. Mary's secures first win in program history vs. VMI on Jan. 30

The season is still young and there is plenty of time for more breakthroughs. Any individual recognition is backed by a collective team effort." The coaches have also stressed the strength of Becca Valentine as she establishes herself as a strong center forward, "and generates goals and draws exclusions."

As the 2022 season reaches near the midway portion of the docket, it has become an appropriate time to reflect on what the key differences have been. There are roughly two or three that stick out like a sore thumb. First and foremost, the aforementioned heightening of teams on the schedule. This has allowed for more to look forward to, not only as a coaching staff and team, but as a fanbase as well. Secondly, the level of comfortability at the Division-I level has seen a significant raise compared to a season ago. Through every crevice of this team, there appears to be a better readiness and understanding of how to scout an array of fellow Division-I opponents, and that is thanks in part to the experience that the coaching staff brings in.

Speaking on the topic of a harder schedule, Coach Diacono believes there are a few games that anyone in and around the women's water polo program should keep an eye on. "There are three dates I'd circle: Feb. 25 is our home opener vs. Princeton. Mar. 20 we host the University of Michigan and Brown University. Apr. 8 is our senior game against

St. Francis Brooklyn. I encourage everyone to come out and catch a game—the atmosphere on the pool deck is absolutely electric," she said.

In a program that is in just their second season, the campus-wide support would suggest that this team has been around the Mount St. Mary's community for at least a decade. Having the backing of academic administrators and athletic administrators, spearheaded by athletic director Lynne Robinson and fellow Mount coaches, is monumental. This growth from the team is something that has been seen both in the pool and around the campus community, which is something that gives Diacono hope: "It's a great time to be a part of the water polo program at the Mount. The genuine support from the school, the community, and our amazing parents make it possible. The phrase, 'it takes a village' certainly rings true. Also, a big shout out to the players.

It's not always easy to be a part of a new program, but they are making the best out of this opportunity. The future is bright," she said.

Mount St. Mary's currently sits at 4-9 on the season and are in the midst of a four-game losing streak. However, there are plenty of opportunities to build on this momentum, especially against nationally ranked programs Bucknell, Harvard, Michigan, and Princeton.

Mount St. Mary's opened their 2022 home slate Friday, Feb. 25 as they welcomed the Princeton Tigers in their CWPA opener. Friday's game against the Tigers marks the beginning of a four-game swing of CWPA games that could help Mount St. Mary's thread the needle and ascend to the top-tier of the conference rankings.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Change doesn't have to be hard

Jefferson Breland

Spring is upon us. It is a time of change. It is all around us. Seeds are sprouting after months of waiting for the warmth and light of the Sun to reach the levels necessary for them to emerge. Birds are returning from their Winter homes. Animals are preparing to do what many animals do in the Spring. The possibilities of life are emerging in the Springtime after a Winter's slumber. In the human realm, these possibilities are sometimes planted early in January as New Year's resolutions.

I would like to see a show of hands of people who made resolutions this year?

Now, I would like to see a show of hands of who has NOT (no judgment here) kept any or all of those resolutions. Now, who of you among us are still honoring all of your resolutions? Okay, good on you. You can leave. The rest of us, stay, let's talk.

Resolutions are a great idea... in theory. In my experience (of my own declarations of intent and those that have been shared with me by friends, family, and patients) resolutions tend to be grand gestures of transformation, proclamations of self-betterment, and major shifts of behavior that are made without a real foundation or design (perhaps even the real intention) to see them through the full 365 days of the year.

Quite frankly, I find resolving to change a part of our life in such a

Big way such as losing weight, eating healthier, exercising more, sleeping more, being more financially aware, learning a new skill, spending more time with friends and family, etc., puts too much pressure on oneself and can be a part of a cycle of disappointment, which may even reinforce the behavior one is attempting to shift when one doesn't continue with them.

These Big shifts may not seem like "capital B" big shifts. I think many of them are BIG. I say BIG because how we have been living, eating, blobbing, sleeping, spending, learning, relating to others, etc. have been serving us somehow. These reasons are often invisible to us. And we wouldn't be doing them, especially if they are not "good" for us without some benefit, some how.

I am not a therapist, so I will not go deeper into the psychology of the above paragraph. And I have enough common sense to understand that I don't need to know the "why" of doing things that aren't "good" for me. I don't even need to know why they aren't "good" for me. It could be my intuition informing my desire to change. I simply need to know I want to change.

The key word here is change. Any change, no matter how simple or complicated has challenges on several fronts.

These can be "environmental." The grocery stores in my area may not sell the food I want to start eating. I may not have a car to drive to a gym. I may have noisy neighbors or roommates or

spouse/partner who snores that effects my sleep. I may not have the money for a gym membership or yoga classes. My friends and family might not want me to change. These are just a few examples of potential 'external' barriers to begin change or keep my desired shifts going.

There are also 'internal' challenges to change.

Emotions can have a role. The fear of change is a real challenge. Here are a few examples: "Who am I if I do things differently than I have always done them?" "How will people relate to me if I look different or behave differently?" "Who am I if I discover I can do what I want? How else have I been limiting myself?"

We also have stories about ourselves and past events. "I am a nervous eater." "I am not athletic." "No one in my family is musical." "I am clumsy." "I come from a long line of overweight people." "I am not a good student, I can't learn."

Both the stories we tell and the emotions we have about ourselves and the world around us are based on beliefs. Some of them come from our experience, others come from what other people say to us. We learned them as "truths." It is just the way it is.

These affect what we think is possible and effect the way we move in the world. These thoughts and behaviors become habitual patterns in our lives that then become invisible to us, unless we examine them from time to time. Is this belief true? Really true? What changes



when I shift that thought? How would I feel if I didn't have a second helping at dinner? What if I allowed myself to feel okay when I make mistakes? Will the world come to an end?

In the presence of our habitual behaviors and thinking patterns, our brains produce a specific set of chemicals called neurotransmitters. Over time, our bodies become accustomed to the presence of these neurotransmitters. Then, when we change our behaviors or thoughts, our brains produce a different combination of neurotransmitters and our bodies respond to this new combination of chemicals and say, "Hey! These are NOT what I am used to. Something must be wrong." So then, the body responds with symptoms like headaches, stomach pain, fatigue, nausea, light-headedness, and dizziness in an attempt to create the more familiar neurotransmitter cocktail. Our minds may then conspire with the body's protests and convince us to go back to the old ways of doing and thinking.

The trick here is to stay with the discomfort (in a safe way). Here we can use our minds to trick our bodies and minds. The discomfort will go away as the body becomes accustomed to the new behaviors and thoughts.

This is why I believe if we want to make changes in our life it is best to make small, sustainable

shifts. If you want to begin exercising, start by walking, not running. It is tough to put the shoes on and get out the door if you have overdone it the day before.

If you want to reduce sugar intake, allow yourself to have a little bit one day a week.

If you want to learn to play the piano, begin to practice only 15 minutes a day and increase the time gradually as you feel more comfortable at the keyboard. Marin Alsop, a conductor and former artistic director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra suggests practicing no more than 45 minutes a day in order to begin to develop one's skill and continue to feel enthusiastic about learning an instrument.

Marin's advice points to the idea of designing change so that it remains fresh and exciting. When the new way of being or doing seems like 'work' we are less likely to continue. If we can instill a sense of fun or play into even the most challenging of resolutions, we might just hang in there a little longer.

Change can be hard and it doesn't have to be a knock-down-drag-out struggle. Spring, near as I can tell, always follows winter. Is it always a smooth transition?

Maybe, maybe not. That depends on the story you tell about it.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Exercise can boost your endorphins and mood

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

The past few months have been filled with upsetting news of illness to several people in my life. The old saying of “when it rains, it pours” has really been the case lately. Talking with friends, family and the people affected can be a good way to work through the feelings and concerns you may be having. Going for a walk, run or ride on your bike will raise your endorphin level and boost your mood.



Some people like to go to the gym and pump iron to release tension while others can feel better with less exertion. Whatever works for you and is something you enjoy, so you keep doing it, is worth setting aside time for. Everyone knows exercise can improve high blood pressure, lower cholesterol and improve flexibility but not everyone thinks of improving emotional and mental feelings with a good workout.

Many doctors have prescribed exercise, both cardio and weight training, to help patients with depression or other diagnosis. Our body has many ways to heal itself and often we think of medication before self help. I always recom-

mend seeing your doctor for a professional diagnosis but it won't hurt to talk to the doctor about anything you can do on your own that may help. Today medical doctors are working together with professionals in alternative medicines to treat the complete patient. Medication is often needed to treat a disease but alternatives treatments like acupuncture, meditation and even exercise can ease the symptoms.

I recently heard a news report stating that doctors have found exercise is helpful for people during cancer treatments. Of course, everyone is different and you need to consult with your doctor for your specific situation but it may be help-

ful check into the new recommendations. People have learned that keeping active can sometimes keep their spirits up and having a positive attitude always seems to help when you are facing any hardship. Having someone to talk to usually gives you a release and may even give you a better outlook on the situation you are facing. Finding a partner to take a brisk walk with while you talk about what is troubling you may be the answer for some. Walking by yourself and having the time alone may be just what others need.

I think the most important thing is sharing your concerns with someone or being there to listen to someone's thoughts is how most of us

Frederick County Board of Health Mask Regulation No Longer In Effect

As of February 12 the COVID-19 case rate in Frederick County has fallen below 20 per 100,000 population. This was the threshold set in Frederick County Board of Health Regulation 02-2021, so effective immediately Regulation 02-2021 is no longer in effect. Any future mask regulation would require a new Board of Health regulation.

All county residents are encouraged to continue taking steps to reduce the spread of illness in our community, such as getting vaccinated and boosted, avoiding crowds, keeping your distance, wash-

ing your hands, and getting tested when needed. CDC recommends that masks be worn indoors in public by everyone two years and older (including people up to date on vaccinations) in areas of substantial or high community transmission. Frederick County remains in high transmission at this time.

The Board of Health comprises the County Executive and the County Council. The County Health Officer serves as the Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board. Information on the Board is available at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BoardofHealth.

can get through life's challenges. A true friend is one that will put your needs first and present ideas to help you through whatever you are facing. This is the time you find out

who your real friends are and believe me, they will be there for you no matter what. Remember, Keep Moving, we now know how much it can help.



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of March

Professor Wayne Wooten

For March 2022, the moon is new on March 2nd, and first quarter on March 10. The Full Moon, the Worm Moon, is on March 18th. The Vernal Equinox begins spring on March 20th at 11:33 a.m.. The last quarter moon is on March 25th. The waning crescent moon is just right of a spectacular triangle of Mars (closest to moon), brilliant Venus, and fainter Saturn just below Venus on March 27th. The Moon will be just below Saturn on March 28th, and just below Jupiter in the dawn on March 30th. Some great photo ops for early risers.

Mercury has a close conjunction (0.7 degree) above Saturn in the dawn on March 2nd, then disappears behind the Sun. Bright Venus passes above Mars in the second week of March, then reaches greatest elongation, 47 degrees west of the Sun, on March 20th. In the final week of March, Venus passes above Saturn, joined by the crescent moon as noted above the last days of the month. Jupiter is just coming out from the Sun's glare by month's end, and will lie to the upper right of the old moon in the dawn on March 30th.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. South of Cassiopeia is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclips-



Our future? M-82 shows the tidal disruption caused by a recent collision with its larger neighbor, M-81. The same thing will happen in 3.75 billion years when the larger Andromeda Galaxy collides with our Milky Way.

ing 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. At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group.

East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky in the northwest. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way

here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini; it is directly above us as darkness falls in early March. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. How bright does Betelgeuse appear to you tonight? In 2019-20, this famed supergiant had expanded and cooled, forming a dust envelope that has darkened much of its southern hemisphere to less than a quarter its normal brightness in visible light. Now the dust has dissipated, and it is back close to its normal brightness as the alpha star of Orion again.

Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest

sights in a telescope and among the youngest known stars.

In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky as darkness falls. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from. When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, look for the bowl of the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Here it sits unmoving 30 degrees high in on our northern sky locally. Us your binoculars and sweep from the third through the first star of the bowl of the dig dipper to the west to find two blurry galaxies, M-81, a large spiral, and smaller thin edge on irregular M-82, tidally disrupted by a recent collision with its larger neighbor.

M-81 shows fine spiral arms of young blue stars and reddish stellar nurseries. Note the dark dust running through the center of M-82, one of the strongest radio and infrared sources in the entire sky. Also note its warped shape, top tilted toward M-81.

If you take the pointers of the Big Dipper's bowl to the south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". The folk wisdom that "March comes in like a Lion" probably refers to the head of Leo rising just after sunset in early March below it).

The constellation Cancer lies midway between the Gemini to the west and Regulus east of it. Almost directly overhead when darkness falls at month's end, look under dark skies for a faint blur of light in the middle of the four stars that make up the crab's body. This is the Praespe, or Beehive, cluster, M-44, familiar to the ancients. Its blurry appearance lead Charles Messier to include it in his catalog of things that look at first like comets, but do not move and are far away among the stars and galaxies. Now check it out with binoculars, and resolve it into dozens of stars, hence the "Beehive" title.

If you follow the handle of the Big Dipper to the south, by 9 PM you will be able to "arc to Arcturus", the brightest star of Spring and distinctly orange in color. Its color is an indication of its uniqueness. Its large speed and direction through the Milky Way suggests it was not formed with our Galaxy, but is a recent capture from the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a smaller satellite galaxy now being assimilated by our huge spiral galaxy. Many of its lost stars, like Arcturus, follow a band across the sky at about a 70-degree angle to our galactic plane. Arcturus is at the tail of kite shaped Bootes, the celestial bear driver chasing the two bears from his flocks.

Spike south then to Spica in Virgo. Here appearance to the Greeks marked the time to plant, for they associated Virgo with Persephone, daughter of Ceres of the Harvest, returning from six months underground with Pluto to now bless the growth and greening of the upperworld. So when Spica rises now at sunset in the SE, it is time to plant your peas! Likewise, when Persephone goes back down to Hades and disappears in the sun's glare in September SW skies, it is time to get your corn in the crib! This cycle goes back to the birth of agriculture and our civilization.

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And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.
 —Old Irish Blessing

2, 3) with Severe Thunderstorms in the Mid-Atlantic Region on the 30th.

Full Moon: March's Full Moon for will occur on the 18th. It has been called Worm Moon by many tribes of Native Americans because of the abundance of earthworms beginning to appear because of the softening of frozen soil from the warming temperatures. It has also been called Sap Moon because sap would begin to rise and run during this time of year.

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Snow, wind (1, 2, 3); fair, breezy and colder (4). Dry, turning warmer (5, 6, 7, 8, 9) with showers, then windy and colder, with flurries, snow showers in the west (10); dry turning milder (11, 12, 13, 14, 1, 16, 17) with more showers, wet snow in the west, then turning sharply warmer (18, 19, 20). Again, dry very mild (21.22.23) with again more showers, then breezy, colder with flurries (24); cold early, late day showers (25) turning milder with scattered rain showers (26, 27, 28, 29); rain, thunderstorms in the east with wet snow and wind in the west (30, 31).

Special Notes: Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13th. Don't forget to reset all of your clocks and watches when you 'spring' ahead an hour at 2 a.m. EST. The Vernal Equinox will occur Sunday, March 20th, which is considered the first day of Spring! The Almanack suggests that you "Go fly a kite" during this very windy month. Check out some of these classic designs you can make at home at www.my-best-kite.com/how-to-build-kites.html.

Holidays: Shrove Tuesday falls on March 1st, Ash Wednesday is observed on March 2nd, and the First Sunday

in Lent is March 6th. And in honor of St. Patrick on Thursday, March 17th, wear something green and festive!

The Garden: Get started early if the weather allows. Test your soil for pH to see if any amendments are necessary. A general rule of thumb is to add 4 lbs. of lime per 100 sq. ft. of garden for every pH point below 6.5, or 1 lb. of sulfur per 100 sq. ft. for every pH point above 7.5. It's time to start tomatoes, lettuce, and many other vegetable seeds indoors. And do try to plant your peas on St. Patrick's Day!

The Farm: Best days for planting root crops (18, 19, 20); weeding and stirring the soil (9, 10); planting above-ground crops (11, 12, 13); harvesting all crops (23, 24, 27, 28); setting hens and incubators (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25); slaughtering/butchering meat (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9); transplanting (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9); harvesting and storing grain (1, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 0, 31); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"It is often true that the more one learns, the more one realizes how little one knows"

COMPUTER Q&A

Does your computer need maintenance?

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Repair

Most people won't go for an extended time without getting their vehicle maintained. While it may not be quite obvious to maintain your computer if you aren't the most tech-savvy and haven't had maintenance you should consider it! As you use technology, devices become bogged down and inundated with updates, pop-ups, and other annoyances that if fixed, would reduce stress and increase productivity! It's not that the physical devices are no longer working properly, it's more so like changing the oil in your car, it will continue to run when it's low or dirty but it won't run well and bigger problems could arise that may be avoidable with regular care. We've included information about a few of the things that we at Jester's Computer Services recommend you maintain and are included in our clean-up service which we offer for a discounted price every March and September.

Unwanted Programs whether installed intentionally or not are often set to run at startup which can hinder performance. If you allow children on your computer, you may not know what the programs are that they have installed or whether if that software could cause harm to your device. Sometimes you can just uninstall the program but other times it may take a skilled technician to locate and remove malicious software. Many of these programs run in the background using up your computer's resources which can also affect your internet connection data usage and speeds.

Updates are important to keep your device running smoothly. Updates help to ensure that any security risks that have been found and resolved are applied to your device. If your programs are out of date they may not function properly and sometimes they can even negatively affect the performance of your computer. Many dislike updates because the result can sometimes include change however, you have to weigh it out which is worse, a little change, or keeping your device at risk? During our Clean-up, we update both your operating system and popular software to the latest versions.

Hardware, or your device's physical equipment, can wear out over time. Most commonly we see hard drives (where all your personal data is stored) fail after 5-7 years but they can certainly break down sooner. When you have your computer maintained, good technicians will check your hard drive to see if any corruption is found and if necessary, recommend a replacement before any data is lost.

Temporary files that can include files you opened but did not save, old update files that no longer have a use and temporary files created while browsing the web. None of the aforementioned include your personal data files and are simply

taking up storage space on your hard drive. Data files won't slow your computer down but they do take up storage space and when a hard drive becomes too full the operating system will stop functioning properly.

Registry errors can be caused when you install and then uninstall a program or perform software updates. Since both happen regularly, these errors are unavoidable. You may not even notice that there is a problem but once the errors are resolved, background operations can run more smoothly resulting in a better user experience. Even with yearly maintenance most computers we see accumulate over a thousand or more registry errors, just another example of why regular maintenance is a good idea.

Malicious software that is installed on your device may not be obvious to the average user. While viruses and potentially unwanted programs can appear unexpectedly on your computer, often users unknowingly allow them in. An active antivirus no matter how good, won't always prevent a user from installing software that could have legitimate purposes

but that most would consider an unwanted or malicious program. At Jester's Computer in addition to our technicians removing any viruses or malicious software we provide educational materials to help you prevent common issues and, for those than need more help, we offer one-on-one remote support for both computers and mobile devices.

Pop-ups, errors & conflicts that you encounter can often be resolved by regular maintenance as well. Often, we remember how simple computers used to be while ignoring how frequently we use and rely on our devices today. Since most of the things we use computers for also incorporate using the internet, maintenance is more vital than ever before.

If you haven't had your computer maintained in the last year, Jester's Computers would love to support your technology needs! All September long you can take advantage of our clean-up special which provides a \$20 discount off our regular \$99 price. To reach us find us online at www.jesterscomputers.com on Facebook or by calling us at 717-642-6611. We are open 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Fri-



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If you find yourself with technology questions or are looking for computer repair or support, contact Jester's Computer Services located in Fairfield. You can reach us at (717) 642-6611 on our website www.jesterscomputers.com.

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IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY...

Paddy and Mick were walking along a street in London. Paddy looked in one of the shop windows and saw a sign that caught his eye. The sign read, "Suits £5.00 each, Shirts £2.00 each, trousers £2.50 per pair".

Paddy said to his pal, "Mick look at the prices! We could buy a whole lot of dose and when we get back to Ireland we could make a fortune. Now when we go in you stay quiet, okay? Let me do all da talking cause if they hear our accents, they might think were thickos from Ireland and try to rip us off. I'll put on my best English accent.

Roight y'are Paddy, I'll keep me mouth shut, so I will. You do all da business said Mick.

They go in and Paddy said in a posh voice, "Hello my good man. I'll take 50 suits at £5.00 each, 100 shirts at £2.00 each, and 50 pairs of trousers at £2.50 each. I'll back up me truck ready to load em on, so I will."

The owner of the shop said quietly, "You're from Ireland, aren't you?"

"Well yes," said a surprised Paddy. "What gave it away?"

The owner replied, "This is a dry-cleaners".

Paddy was in New York

He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, "Okay, pedestrians." Then he'd allow the traffic to pass.

He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk.

After the cop had shouted, "Pedestrians!" for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, "Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?"

An Irishman moved into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry. He walks into the local pub, orders three pints of Guinness . . .

. . . takes them to a table and proceeds to drink them taking his time. He repeats this two times and then leaves the pub.

A few nights later he returns to the pub, orders three pints of Guinness, takes them to a table and drinks them taking his time. He repeats this two times and leaves the pub. He continues this for several weeks. Soon the entire town is talking about the "Three Pint Man."

Finally, one day the pub owner on behalf of the entire town broaches the subject to the man. "I don't mean to pry, but folks are quite curious why you order three pints each time you come in."

The man replied, "I have two brothers - one in America and one in Australia. When we parted ways we all promised that each time we had a drink, we would order an extra two pints as a way of keeping up with each other."

The pub owner and the entire town thought this was wonderful and were pleased that the brothers meant so much to each other. "The Three Pint Man" became a celebrity not only to the town but to the surrounding area.

One day the man came into the pub and orders only two pints of Guinness. The pub owner poured them with a heavy heart knowing in his soul that something dreadful must have happened. The news spreads around town and people are offering prays for the "Three Pint Man."

This went on for a few weeks and the pub owner says to the man, "I want to offer our condolences due to death of your brother. We are all heart broken. You know the two pints and all."

The man ponders this for a few minutes and replies, "You will be glad to hear that my brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, meself, have decided to give up Guinness for Lent."

Three dead bodies turn up at the mortuary, all with very big smiles on their faces.

The coroner calls the police to tell them what has happened.

'First body: Pierre Dubois, Frenchman, 60, died of heart failure while making love to his 20-year old mistress. Hence the enormous smile, Inspector', says the Coroner.

'Second body: Hamish Campbell, Scotsman, 25, won £50,000 on the lottery, spent it all on whisky. Died of alcohol poisoning, hence the smile.'

The Inspector asked, 'What about the third body?'

'Ah,' says the coroner, 'this is the most unusual one. Paddy Murphy, Irish, 30, struck by lightning.'

'Why is he smiling then?' inquires the Inspector.

'He thought he was having his picture taken.'

Two Irishmen, Patrick & Michael, were adrift in a lifeboat fol-

lowing a dramatic escape from a burning freighter.

While rummaging through the boat's provisions, Patrick stumbled across an old lamp. Secretly hoping that a genie would appear, he rubbed the lamp vigorously. To the amazement of Patrick, a genie came forth.

This particular genie, however, stated that he could only deliver one wish, not the standard three. Without giving much thought to the matter, Patrick blurted out, "Make the entire ocean into Guinness Beer!"

The genie clapped his hands with a deafening crash, and immediately the entire sea turned into the finest brew ever sampled by mortals. Simultaneously, the genie vanished.

Only the gentle lapping of Guinness on the hull broke the stillness as the two men considered their circumstances. Michael looked disgustedly at Patrick whose wish had been granted. After a long, tension-filled moment, he spoke: "Nice going Patrick! Now we're going to have to pee in the boat."

Two Irish truck drivers are barreling along when they come up to a low bridge.

A sign says, "Clearance: 11'2". So they get out, measure their truck, and realize that it's 11'6".

The first guy looks at the second GUY and says, "I don't see any cops around... let's go for it!"

Paddy's pregnant sister was in a terrible car accident and went into a deep coma.

After being in the coma for nearly six months, she wakes up and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby.

The doctor replies, 'Ma'am, you had twins.... a boy and a girl.'

The babies are fine, however, they were poorly at birth and had to be christened immediately so our brother Paddy came in and named them.

The woman thinks to herself, 'Oh suffering Jesus, no, not me brother, he's a freaking clueless idiot...'

Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, 'Well, what's my daughter's name?'

'Denise' says the doctor. The new mother is somewhat relieved, 'Wow, that's a beautiful name, I guess I was wrong about my brother', she thought.... 'I really like Denise'

Then she asks, 'What's the boy's name?'

The doctor replies 'Denephev'

Two Irishmen walk into a pet shop in Dingle...
...they walk over to the bird section and Gerry says to Paddy, 'Dat's dem.'



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... IRISH HUMOR

The owner comes over and asks if he can help them. 'Yeah, we'll take four of dem dere little budgies in dat cage up dere,' says Gerry. The owner puts the budgies in a cardboard box. Paddy and Gerry pay for the birds, leave the shop and get into Gerry's truck to drive to the top of the Connor Pass. At the Connor Pass, Gerry looks down at the 1000 foot drop and says, 'Dis looks like a grand place.'

He takes two birds out of the box, puts one on each shoulder and jumps off the cliff. Paddy watches as the budgies fly off and Gerry falls all the way to the bottom, killing himself stone dead.

Looking down at the remains of his best pal, Paddy shakes his head and says, 'Forget dat. Dis budgie jumping is too dangerous for me!'

THERE'S MORE....

Moment's later, Seamus arrives up at Connor Pass. He's been to the pet shop too and walks up to the edge of the cliff carrying another cardboard box in one hand and a shotgun in the other.

'Hi, Paddy, watch dis,' Seamus says.

He takes a parrot from the box and lets him fly free. He then throws himself over the edge of the cliff with the gun. Paddy watches as half way down, Seamus takes the gun and shoots the parrot. Seamus continues to plummet down and down until he hits the bottom and breaks every bone in his body.

Paddy shakes his head and says, 'And I'm never trying dat parrot-shooting either!'

IT IS NOT OVER YET..

Paddy is just getting over the shock of losing two friends when Sean appears. He's also been to the pet shop and is carrying a cardboard box out of which he pulls a chicken. Sean then takes the chicken by its legs and hurls himself off the cliff and disappears down and down until he hits a rock and breaks his spine.

Once more Paddy shakes his head. 'Forget dat, lads. First dere was Gerry with his budgie jumping, den Seamus parrotshooting... And now Sean and his stuped hengliding!'

A bus load of Irish tourists arrives at Runnymede.

They gather around the guide who says, "This is the spot where the barons forced King John to sign the Magna Carta."

A fellow at the front of the crowd asks, "When did that happen?" "1215," answers the guide.

The man looks at his watch and says, "Damn! Just missed it by a half hour!"

Pat and Mike came to this country together some years ago ... They married sisters and have lived in the same block, and visited the same bar together all this time. Pat becomes ill, and is taken to the hospital, where he is visited by Mike, who upon entering the room remarks how good Pat looks. Pat is having none of that and tells Mike that he is sure that he, Pat is dying and will not last much longer.

Pat then asks if Mike he will do one last thing for him when he "is dead and gone" Mike agrees.

Pat says, "when I'm gone and buried, and the priest has had his say, will you take a wee shot of Dugans Dew, which we've drunk together since coming over from the old country, and pore it over me grave stone so I can quench me thirst in me trials and tribulations.

Mike, taken back, gives his friend a long, loving look and says; "Pat 'tis the least I can do as close as we've been, but I've just one question.

Pat, with a weakening voice; "Oh, I knew there would be one!" Mike; "do you mind if I pass it through me kidneys first?"

There was a poor old Irish cobbler... whose shop was next door to a very upscale French restaurant. Every day at lunch time, Mike, the Irish gent, would go out the back of his shop and eat his soda bread and maybe a kipper or piece of Irish blue cheese while smelling the wonderful odors coming from the restaurant's kitchen.

One morning, the Irishman was surprised to receive an invoice in the mail from the adjoining restaurant for "enjoyment of food"

Mystified, he marched right over to the restaurant to point out that he had not bought a thing from them.

The manager said, "You're enjoying our food, so you should pay us for it." The Irishman refused to pay and the restaurant took him to court.

At the hearing, the judge asked the restaurant to present their side of the case. The manager said, "Every day, this man comes and sits outside our kitchen and smells our food while eating his. It is clear that we are providing added value to his poor food and we deserve to be compensated for it."

The judge turned to Mike and said, "What do you have to say to

that?" The old Irishman didn't say a thing but smiled and stuck his hand in his pocket and rattled the few coins he had inside.

The judge asked him, "What is the meaning of that?" The Irishman replied with a mile wide grin, - "I'm paying for the smell of his food with the sound of my money."

An Irish priest is transferred to Texas... It was a fine spring day in his new Texas mission parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the local police station.

The conversation went like this: 'Good morning, This is Sergeant Jones. How might I help you?' 'And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Brigid's.

There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple o' yer lads to take care of the matter?'

Sergeant Jones, considering himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, 'Well now father, it was always my impression that you people took care of last rites!'

There was dead silence on the line for a long moment. Father O'Malley then replied: 'Aye, tis certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin.'

An Irishman had been drinking at a pub all night. The bartender finally said that the bar is closing. So the Irishman stood up to leave fell flat on his face. He tried to stand one more time; same result. He figured he'll crawl outside and get some fresh air and maybe that will sober him up. Once outside, he stood up and fell on his face again.

So he decided to crawl the four blocks home. When he arrived at the door he stood up and fell flat on his face. He crawled through the door and into his bedroom. When he reached his bed he tried one more time to stand up. This time he managed to pull himself upright, but he quickly fell right into the bed and is sound asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow.

He was awakened the next morning to his wife standing over him, shouting, "So you've been drinking again!" Putting on an innocent look, and intent on bluffing it out he said, "What makes you say that?"

"The pub just called; you left your wheelchair there again."



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 17th!





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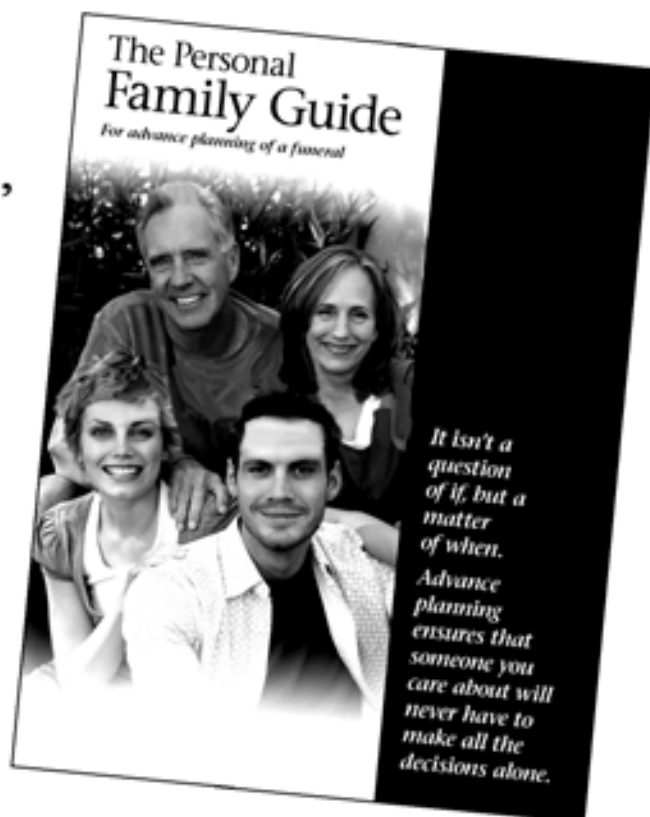
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