

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 16, NO. 8

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

AUGUST 2024

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Rocky Ridge VFC celebrates 75th anniversary

This year marks the 75th anniversary for the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company. The founders of the company set the foundation and now the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generations of those that have gone before continue to provide volunteer services to the ever-increasing community. In 2024, nine of the current members have served with the company for 50 plus years. Bernard Wivell, who is 90 years old, still serves as the treasurer.

The first meeting of the fire company was on May 9, 1949, with Marshall Fishpaw acting as president. Elections of officers at the first meeting were conducted, with Leslie Fox being voted in as president, Floyd Wetzel as secretary, and Luther Stambaugh as treasurer.

The company only had one call in 1951 and that fire destroyed the wooden sliding board in Mt. Tabor Park. In March of 1951, the company began the discussion of buying the Model A Ford engine from Vigilant Hose Company for \$1,000.

In 1953, there were only six calls. For comparison, the company runs approximately 200 calls per year now. Most fire calls at the time were verbal calls. People did not

call 911 like they do today. Calls were taken by members of the fire company and then the members were alerted.

The company's second fire engine was purchased in 1955 for \$1,175. It was a Dodge truck equipped with a 400-gallon booster tank and a 500 GPM, front mount pump that was purchased in 1955. It was during this year that the annual Rocky Ridge carnival began, which you can read more about on page 25!

In October of 1964, the company purchased property on Motters Station Road, just north of the square, and one year later broke ground on the new firehall, which still stands and is the current activities building.

In 1968, the third pumper was purchased, a 1950 Dodge equipped with a 500-gallon booster tank and a 500 GPM pump. In 1969, a fourth piece of equipment was put into service in the spring, a 1955 Dodge tank truck. The first brush truck was purchased in June of 1976 and it is still in service today.

In 1994, the company purchased land from the Rocky Ridge Church of the Brethren and built the current fire station.

Throughout their 75 years,



Rocky Ridge's 1st engine, a Model A Ford, will be on display for all to see at the Company's annual carnival. The community is encouraged to come and show their appreciation for all the efforts of the Company over the past 75 years.

there have been a lot of fundraising events to support the company and to serve the community. The members enjoy giving back to the community in more ways than providing emergency care. The company has a strong supporting auxiliary behind them that helps with all of the company fundraisers. From the beginning, the auxiliary has always donated a portion of their funds to the company each

year to help support its firefighting capabilities.

Just like in 1949, Rocky Ridge VFC is still an all-volunteer company. Although they are small in comparison to other companies in the county, they serve their community and surrounding areas with compassion and dedication.

For more information on the upcoming Rocky Ridge carnival, see related article on page 25.

High as an elephant's eye by the Fourth of July?

For a second year in a row, local farmers and gardeners are casting a wary eye at the sky wondering when meaningful rain may make its appearance.

If history is any indication, this year's weather bears remarkable similarity to the drought of 1924 where precipitation all but stopped in May, and resumed only in late August, too late to save many crops. In

This year, planting season got off to a less-than-auspicious start with a very rainy April. While April rains bring May flowers, the excessive rain of April kept fields too wet to plant, so the planting season for many farmers was delayed. Unlike last year, however, May saw precipitation on 22 of its 30 days. When the ground was finally dry enough for farmers to get into their fields, the rain necessary to germinate the seeds failed to come.

To add insult to injury, many farmers were forced to replant their soybeans which had been drowned out by the April rains, only to see them wither away in July due to the lack of rain and oppressive heat.

Hay fields that had been lush and green in early June, turned almost overnight into brown stubble, and early talk about possibly getting four cuttings on hay was replaced with nervous talk about the possibility that for the first time in many a farmer's memory, there would not even be a second cutting.

Even if a second cutting does take place, many are predicting the quantity will be minimal at best, and the quality poor. As hay is a 'cash crop' that makes up a significant portion of a farmer's income, the lack of a second cutting is hitting them hard, just as it is hitting those who rely upon hay to feed horses and cows. In some areas, hay has almost doubled in price—that is, if one is lucky enough to find someone with excess hay to sell.

The relentless oppressive heat of July only made things worse as it sucked what moisture there was out of the soil.

Eric Glass, who farms over 800 acres just outside of Emmitsburg, however, does have several hundred acres of corn he is keeping a wary eye on. Glass is one of the lucky farmers, he got his corn



Even with the rain storms of last week, for many farmers this year's corn crop will be a total loss.

planted in a timely fashion, and as a result, has the tallest corn in the area. Corn in most fields is only 2 to 3 feet tall at most.

"We really needed rain in July to get the corn growing. That is the time the corn was growing its tassels. After that it 'silks,' which eventually form the ears of the corn," he said. "It's a critical time to get some steady rain. Without rain, the pollination of the 'silk'

will not occur, or if it does, it will do so much later, which will affect the number of ears on each stalk, or at worst, the corn crop will fail outright. Right now, we are looking at least a 50% crop loss on the corn crop." Just as it did 100 years ago this month.

Editor's note: On July 29, a drought watch was declared for the County. See story on page 5.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

FY-25 budget approved

Emmitsburg's FY-25 budget was approved on a vote of four to one. Commissioner Valerie Turnquist voted against the budget based upon concerns regarding financial transparency and the impact of the 2nd of five planned 36% increases in water rates. "My reservations in approving the FY-25 budget have not been fully addressed," she said. "I feel we haven't gone far enough in identifying some items, financial policies, details of Capital projects, and projected costs for the remainder of FY-24."

Turnquist has called for transparency since the beginning of her term as Commissioner. When providing her first report on the Town's finances as new treasurer, she noted a difference of \$3.6 million dollars between the Sewer Fund and the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The discovery was clarified, however Turnquist's good eye showed the Council it needed a less complicated way to organize financial information.

Mayor Frank Davis shared similar goals as Turnquist when he was campaigning: a need for transparency and a desire to remove the high-water rate increases. "We need to be more transparent on letting the residents know how much money the Town has and what it

is spending it on," he said when sworn in. He also wanted to figure out how to do away with the last two rate increases.

In another move at transparency, Davis told the Council that he and Turnquist, along with another staff member, met to discuss the FY-25 budget's outline and, in doing so, discovered missing items in the Town's Charter and ordinance. He assured the Council the missing items would be taken care of.

The multiple water rate increases were another line-item concern that added to Turnquist's objection to the FY-25 budget. The decision was made in May of 2023 for a series of 36% water rate increases to "rebuild" the Water Fund and residents did not receive it well. The depletion of the Water Fund was caused by many issues, including the prior administration's decision to shift the charging of office staff salaries and benefits from the Town's General Fund to the Water Fund. It was also discovered that two other office staff members' benefits were being charged to the Sewer Fund which could cause the Sewer Fund to deplete similarly to the Water Fund.

Turnquist has been avidly against these increases since her campaign days. She said, "I understand the need to increase

the rates, however increases of such a magnitude are not sustainable. Families are struggling to meet basic necessities." She pointed out, "that such a high increase would have a negative impact on low to middle income-based families and seniors on fixed incomes." For these reasons she voted against approving the FY-25 budget.

To jump-start the replenishment of the Water Fund, the Town transferred \$300,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds into the Water Fund in December. Davis told the Council, at an earlier meeting, that the Water Fund increased by almost \$60,000 in the first quarter of FY-24 alone as a result of the first 36% rate increase, which went into effect in July.

Commissioner Amy Pollitt mentioned having a special workshop in September to continue the water rate increase discussion. This was a suggestion from a previous meeting well received by the Council. She explained that they would have a year's worth of data since the 1st increase to review and decide the best step forward for the Town.

Davis also assured the Council that if they are dissatisfied with the budget moving forward, they have the option to amend it. This would allow any mistakes that may be found to be rectified.

Emmitsburg
NEWS-JOURNAL

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Impact & connection fees may rise

July's Town Council meeting saw Commissioner Amy Pollitt, Commissioner Jim Hoover and Commissioner Tim O'Donnell discussing Impact fees, and water and sewer service and connection fees. Because Commissioner Valerie Turnquist and Commissioner Cliff Sweeney were absent from the meeting no decisions would be made, only discussion.

Impact fees are charged to new developments to help pay for the construction of off-site capital improvements that are needed by the new development. Water and Sewer service and connection fees connect a customer to the nearest water or sewer line and are designed to recover all or a por-

tion of the materials and labor cost.

Emmitsburg's fees have not been raised in 15 years and the last time they were discussed was June 2021 and no final decision was made. Currently the water service and connection fees are \$8,200 per residential unit and the sewer connection fees are \$8,000 per residential unit. Impact fees are \$1,200 per unit and all impact fees go to General Fund Capital Improvement Program for improvements.

According to Town Manager Cathy Willets, \$200 from each impact fee goes toward the purchase, installation and upgrade of the local emergency warning system. Otherwise impact fees can only be used for the acquisi-

tion, development and rehabilitation of municipal roads, sidewalks, streetlights and corresponding electric service for parks and recreation areas.

She explained that Emmitsburg water fees are slightly higher than Thurmont's; \$8,200 versus \$7,555. Sewer fees are comparable to neighboring municipalities except for Smithsburg who charges \$10,200; \$2,200 more than Emmitsburg.

In June 2021, The Town did a survey about the impact fees to see how much it was recommended to raise their fees. The survey concluded that the fees should be increased from \$1,200 to \$3,898 per each single-family dwelling and \$2,069 per multi-

family unit. However, nothing was changed at the time.

Hoover said he believed the impact fees should be left alone until a "true and honest answer" was discovered. "What does it cost us versus what does it cost someone else," he asked. He pointed out the Emmitsburg is not comparable to surrounding municipalities like Thurmont and Taneytown. Despite these other Towns being larger they don't have the fire academy or the Daughters of Charity drawing on the water reserves.

Hoover also stated, "I don't want us to be the town that is subsidizing develop-

ment, we need development especially commercial, but it can't be at the expense of the existing residents. We need to increase capacity not just cover utilities."

O'Donnell agreed with Hoover, pointing out the current fees are adequate for today's needs but needed to be raised to address the future needs of the Town.

Willets explained that staff has been working with Aro Consulting and Maryland Rural Water Association to get their opinions on the Town's rates and if they should increase the fees. They are also planning a workshop meeting to discuss the fees when the other Commissioners are in attendance.

Communication board proposed for Myer's Park

Commissioner Amy Pollitt asked the Council to consider adding an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) board at E. Eugene Myers Community Park, an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant playground, at July's Town Council meeting.

The board would display basic core words that everyone uses on a daily basis to supplement and enhance language for individuals who do not have a func-

tional communication system yet.

"Families and Speech Language Pathologists use AAC core boards to support individuals who have difficulty communicating through speech. The AAC board in the park would be similar to the resources that are being used in therapy," Pollitt said.

"They enhance communication by providing a means for non-verbal individuals or those with limited speech to express themselves, ask for help, and

engage with others. This can improve their overall experience and sense of independence. Anyone can use communication boards since they display a word paired with a picture symbol." Pollitt outlined some of the benefits the boards have for communities such as Emmitsburg, including:

Inclusion and Accessibility - AAC boards promote inclusion and accessibility because they ensure that everyone, regardless of their communication

abilities, can participate in social and recreational activities at the park. This inclusivity fosters a welcoming environment for all community members.

Awareness and Acceptance - AAC boards in public spaces raise awareness about different communication needs and promote understanding and acceptance within the community.

Support - By providing AAC boards in public spaces, the town supports families and caregivers who want to

facilitate communication with their loved ones in a public setting.

Safety - Lastly, the boards provide a sense of safety in emergency situations for non-verbal individuals because they can communicate their needs quickly and effectively.

Pollitt outlined a general estimate of \$2,500 for the AAC board; however, the Town and the Parks and Recreation Committee are looking into grant possibilities for the project. One grant that would be a good fit would be the Community Parks and Playground grant, which has a deadline in August.

Pollitt also suggested the local libraries may consider adding an AAC board in their children's areas, which would be significantly less expensive since they won't be exposed to the outside elements. A simple laminated poster could be displayed in a common area.

"At this time no decision was made for or against the AAC board, however, once funding is hopefully obtained, they may be a reality," Pollitt said.

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Carroll Valley removes vice president amidst tension

Without fanfare or prior announcement, the Carroll Valley Borough Council changed its vice president during its July meeting. A motion made by Councilmember Cody Gilbert to vacate the office of vice president, held by Councilmember John Schubring, passed 5-2 without discussion. John Schubring and Councilmember Catherine Schubring cast the opposition votes.

Gilbert's motion was not listed on the agenda and the Council did not vote to amend the agenda. The Pennsylvania Sunshine Act dictates

governing bodies can only add an item to its agenda if it meets one of three exceptions and the majority of council votes to approve the amendment. The Carroll Valley Council did not vote to approve nor amend its agenda.

Councilmembers Richard Mathews, Michael Wight, Bruce Carr, David Lillard, and Gilbert chose Carr as the new vice president. John Schubring voted for Wight; Catherine Schubring chose John Schubring.

The vote to replace John Schubring caps off months of

quiet tension amongst the Council. In May, John Schubring's brown nameplate with white lettering stated his full name sans honorific, matching the rest of the Council's. During the June meeting, John Schubring's conventional nameplate was replaced with a large tent card that doubled the size of everyone else's and he was referred to as "Dr. Schubring" in bold, underlined lettering. In July, the Council had new nameplates with everyone's honorific in front of their full name.

When the secretary took roll call at the beginning of the June meet-

ing, every member of Council said "here" after his or her name was called. When the secretary said, "John Schubring," he responded, "Dr. Schubring is here."

In June, John Schubring asked Police Chief Clifford Weikert about a citizen complaint concerning an "officer tailing an individual." Solicitor Zachary Rice of Salzmann Hughes advised against discussing a complaint in public. John Schubring also unsuccessfully attempted to call an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

At the beginning of the July meeting, John Schubring and Catherine Schubring voted against approving the minutes of the June meeting.

"I would like to see that the minutes reflect that there is no mention of the police report of April 24, 2024," John Schubring said.

At the end of the July meeting, John Schubring requested an executive session to discuss term limits and evaluations of senior staff. Rice said the topic was too broad to discuss in an executive session since it did not involve an individual's performance.

Liberty Township police chief and supervisor resign

Liberty Township residents are experiencing leadership changes within their municipality. During their July meeting, supervisors accepted the resignations of Supervisor Brandon Lowe and Police Chief Don Boehs.

Voters chose Lowe to represent them in 2021. The Republican was the only resident to run for the position in the Primary and General elections. The lifelong Fairfield-area resident replaced longtime Supervisor Bob Jackson.

Lowe attended the July meeting but did not comment on his resignation. Supervisor Chair

Walter "Mickey" Barlow said Lowe plans to move out of the area, making him ineligible to hold the supervisor position.

"Thank you for standing up and taking the position of Liberty Township supervisor," Barlow said. "I wish you the best."

The board then unanimously appointed Chris Hill to replace Lowe. The board did not comment on Hill's qualifications for the job. Pennsylvania's Second Class Township Code states supervisors must fill a vacancy within 30 days. The code does not require them to advertise for

the position.

Supervisors hired Boehs as their chief in December 2022 after Chief Sherri Hansen resigned. Boehs previously worked for the township as a part-time officer, a job he is returning to at a rate of \$23.92 per hour. Barlow said Boehs' resignation as chief was effective June 14. Supervisors did not comment on the reason for his decision.

Boehs moved to Adams County in 2006 when he was hired as chief of the Cumberland Township Police Department. He held that position until Feb-

ruary 2022 and has also worked for the Adams County Sheriff's Office and Gettysburg Borough Police Department. Prior to moving to Adams County, Boehs worked for the Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department in Montgomery County, where he rose to the rank of first sergeant.

Supervisors unanimously named Officer Terry DeWitt the department's officer-in-charge at a rate of \$30 per hour. Barlow said DeWitt will hold the position for at least six months. DeWitt has worked in nearby Washington Township, Frank-

lin County, Gettysburg Borough, and Latimore Township in Adams County. He was first hired by Liberty in March.

During his monthly report, DeWitt told the supervisors he is seeking additional part-time officers to assist the department with patrols. Supervisors plan to hire Officer Ryan Morris, Barlow said.

In other business, the township approved a \$47,216 contract with AAA Paving of Waynesboro to replace pipes on Bullfrog Road. The company's bid was the lowest of four submitted.

FY-24 Borough budget amended

If the planned sales of borough-owned lots are successful, Carroll Valley Borough will add almost half a million dollars to its coffers. Borough Manager Dave Hazlett told the council during its July meeting that the total appraised value of nine lots is \$423,000. Pennsylvania law dictates the borough must sell the lots for at least their appraised value.

Hazlett said the borough paid a total of \$34,630 for the lots. The borough will first attempt to sell the properties through a sealed bid process. The borough will advertise the bid process this summer, Hazlett said.

The lots headed to public auction with public sewer available are: 4 Grouse Trail (0.78 acres), appraised value \$47,000; 22 Sunshine

Trail (0.87 acres), appraised value \$54,000; 19 Sunfish Trail (0.54 acres), appraised value \$45,000; 50 Crossland Trail (0.82 acres), \$40,000; 2 Elm Trail (0.57 acres), appraised value \$45,000; 39 Main Trail (0.46 acres), appraised value \$39,000; 45/47 Crossland Trail (1.36 acres), appraised value \$58,000; and 49/51 Crossland Trail (0.94 acres), appraised value \$51,000.

A lot at 68 Shirley Trail (0.52 acres) cannot connect to the public sewer, but it has passed a perc test Hazlett said. A perc test determines if a lot's soil will absorb water at the necessary rate. If a perc test fails, a septic system cannot be installed on the property. Its appraised value is \$44,000.

If the sales are successful, the council will have another reason

to celebrate financial success. Also during the July meeting, Assistant Borough Manager Gayle Marthers reported that the borough's auditing firm, Boyer & Ritter, awarded the borough the highest possible ranking and stated that the governing body's financial statements are fairly presented and free of material misstatements.

"We have a really good staff, and I am proud of them," Hazlett said. "This is just one document over the

course of the year that highlights how good they are."

In other business, Mayor Ron Harris reported the borough police department will host National Night Out on Aug. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. This annual event is designed to build relationships between emergency responders and the community they serve. Food and ice cream vendors will be on-site and the evening will conclude with a showing of "Paw Patrol" at 7 p.m.

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THURMONT NEWS

Developer introduces two options for Simmers property

The Simmers property has been a controversial topic for the Town of Thurmont over the last few years. Developer Daniel Cross of Cross and Company of Frederick introduced two options for the property's future at a special meeting in June.

The farmland property, owned by Patricia Simmers, is approximately 24.5 acres and is located southeast of the intersection between Apples Church Road, Roddy Road, and Elyer Road and borders Graceham Road. Seven acres are in town and currently zoned R-5, while the other nearly 17 acres lie in the county and are agriculturally zoned.

Thurmont's 2022 Master Plan identified the property in its future growth area as high-density residential. This designation was not new, as it was also deemed this designation in the 2010 Master Plan. Residents, however, have voiced concerns that the high-density residential development did not match the feel of Thurmont's small-town atmosphere. The original plan for the

Simmers property included at least 172 residential units, an assisted-living facility, and a daycare center.

The proposed annexation was first presented to the Town's Planning Commission in January 2021, which found the potential annexation in conformance with Town Code. In September 2022, they voted to annex the 16.7 acres of farmland into town limits and rezone it as high-density residential development. Residents pushed for the decision to be put to a referendum.

In November 2022, leaders of Evasion Thurmont, a group formed following the September vote, submitted a petition with 1,253 signatures to the Town Council, all opposed to the annexation. The petition was successful with the requisite number of signatures to trigger the requirement that the annexation be voted on in a referendum by the residents. In January 2023, residents of Thurmont voted on the Annexation Resolution 2022-03 and the annexation was overturned.

In March 2023, Cross unveiled a new concept plan for a 40-unit inter-generational neighborhood to be built on the seven acres within Town to the Thurmont Economic Development Committee's monthly business network meeting.

The proposed community would include 10 "senior independent living" townhouse dwellings with garages and thirty 3-story, 20-foot wide townhouses with garages. The neighborhood would include a playground, walking trails, a dog park, and common areas.

By eliminating the original plan of 172 units, the \$505,680 that was to be provided to the Town for street infrastructure improvements and \$337,120 that would have been used to expand the Town's water storage and supply capacity were also eliminated.

In June 2024, Cross held a public information meeting with 45 people in attendance, stating, "This is a binary choice. You cannot do option one then option two, it's either one or the other,

not both." He introduced two options to be considered for the future of the seven acres in Town, calling them "Albert Meadows."

Option one mirrored his plan from March a year before and includes 38, two and three story senior independent living villa style townhomes. The remaining 17 acres stays in the County to be used for the required large quantity Storm Water Management facility (serving Albert Meadows only) and for a rear exit to Luther Drive (in Albert Court). The balance remains fallow farm field.

Option two harkens back to Cross's original proposition of 172 single family homes and requires an annexation of the 16 acres in the County into the Town of Thurmont to be combined with the seven acres already in the Town. It would be a community of 102 dwellings on approximately 24 acres: 11 single-family homes, 21 two-story senior townhomes, 70 three-story open market townhomes, and a Senior Assisted Living Facility with an additional 54 small studio apartment units.

According to Cross, the Sewer and Water infrastructure necessary for either option already exists, however Cross & Company will pay for any required enhancements to Sewer and Water infrastructure, if any.

He also pointed out that the two prior traffic studies were for over 177 dwelling units and both demonstrated no traffic problems, so either option should not represent a traffic issue.

The biggest difference between the two options is that under option two, Cross & Company will address (under County approval) the derelict silt pond on the Simmers parcel that is left over from the construction of the Albert Courts Community in 1992. Cross pointed out that if they are not allowed to annex and proceed with option two, then the silt pond will not be addressed even though it violates County and State Storm Water Management regulations.

Cross reiterated that his presentation was informational only and not an official introduction of any plans.

Council reviews "take-home vehicle" policy

Following disagreements over budget amendments, the Thurmont Board of Commissioners and mayor have decided to review the Town's take-home vehicle policy. After a heated discussion at the July 2 meeting, they will discuss the policy at the next meeting.

Commissioner Marty Burns initially raised concerns at the June 18 meeting about reimbursing an electric department staff member \$3,000 for mileage. The staff member had to use his personal vehicle after a Town truck was wrecked and Burns objected to paying for his commute.

At the June 18 meeting, Town Manager Jim Humerick, who was not present at the July 2 meeting, explained that the staff member is entitled to a "take-home" vehicle, justifying the reimbursement of mileage and other related expenses.

Burns brought up the issue again at the July 2 meeting while the Board was reviewing the same budget amendments for the previous fiscal year. He cited an example from his time in the federal government, where he would deduct the mileage for his typical commute to the Pentagon if he were required to commute to another location.

"It is a bad optic and a bad policy to pay our employees to drive to and from their home to get to work," Burns said. "If they have a vehicle and it's take-home, that's a separate topic."

Mayor John Kinnaird continued to disagree with Burns on the issue. "Thank you for your input, Mr. Burns, but to be honest with you, what you do at the Pentagon has nothing to do with what we do here in the Town of Thurmont," he said. "I appreciate your opinion on it, though,

thank you very much."

Burns called the statement disrespectful, reminding Kinnaird that both are government entities. "If you'd like, I can make a motion that we strike the \$3,000 from this, we do not approve it and I make a motion that we strike the take-home car policy out of state," Burns said. "How's that?"

Kinnaird asked for a second, which

Commissioner Bill Blakeslee provided. Burns rescinded the motion, clarifying that he didn't really want to make that motion, but rather wanted to ensure that the Board had a serious discussion about the vehicle and mileage reimbursement policy.

"It makes reasonable sense that if we require our employees to use their personal vehicles at the work site outside of their commuting distance, that is abso-

lutely reasonable," he said. He went on to explain that he believes it does make sense to emulate the federal government's policies since they are both government entities.

Kinnaird accepted Burns' rescission, jokingly asking if he needs a second to rescind the motion. Blakeslee laughed while raising his hand to second the rescission, after explaining that his previous jobs had the same policy as Burns experienced in the federal government.

Budget amendments adopted

The Mayor and Town Council unanimously approved the adoption of budget amendments for FY-24 at the July 2 meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce presented the budget amendments. The board decided to make budget amendments as they happen, rather than waiting months after the funds have been approved. "A lot of times, that makes sense because we're looking for approval to move forward with a purchase or a capital improvement or something, we're looking for where the fund will come from," Joyce said. She went on to explain that she and her team could easily create the budget amendment while they are looking for approval.

Joyce and the commissioners still expect there to be amendments at the end of the year when "things pop up."

Amendments involved the condition of the fences in the parks. Repairs came

under \$7,500 and did not require board approval until the amendments. While the commissioners questioned the need for the repairs, Humerick said he was worried about the condition and safety of the fences and that the repairs were necessary.

The parks department also reallocated money for new mowers after discovering additional ball field mowing was needed. They also reallocated money for Elyer Road Playground improvements.

Under the General Fund, the Town will be increasing funding received from state grants by \$597,719 and increasing miscellaneous grants by \$3,500. The grants coming in are expected to Joyce clarified that these amounts are solely what the Town has received as of June 18, but will be expecting additional grant money coming in. Some of the projects funded by the grants have already been completed, but were discussed to be written into the record.

Joyce also read into the record the streets impact fees and parks impact fees, which were transferred from the Restricted Fund Balance. The amendment records additional interest earned as a result of revising bank accounts' structure. According to Joyce, the Town's new sweep account earned \$388,920 in interest since approved. However, with the new bank account comes additional fees at \$7,000, which Joyce included in the amendment.

The biggest expense was \$91,012 for the Church Street Parcel Purchase and "various expenses" related to the Emmitsburg Road Flood Study, which came from the Unrestricted Fund Balance. The parcel is intended for storm water management.

"The approvals already been done and of course the purchase, it's just a matter of making an actual, official budget amendment," Joyce said.

The finance department reallocated funds when an accountant went from full-time to part-time contract for the next 3-4 months. The difference includes not only a decrease in salary, but the Town will no longer need to pay for retirement and other fees for this employee. The new accounting software will replace this accountant.

The Wastewater Fund also received more revenue than budgeted over the last year. The department's expenses covered unexpected costs, such as a new radiator, plant chemicals, etc.

The Water Fund received \$26,000 more in revenue than budgeted. According to Joyce, the water department had "bad luck in the vehicle department," which led to unexpected expenses, among other expenses added to the amendment.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Delauter bankruptcy leaves City in bind

At the July City Council meeting, City Manager Jim Wieprecht briefed the Council on the bankruptcy case surrounding W.F. Delauter & Son Inc., the contractor that did the water and sewer line replacements on Roberts Mill Road and sewer lines on Fairground Avenue in 2023.

The problem the City is dealing with on Fairground Avenue involves work leading to the paving work over the replaced sewer lines. Initially, the defect was thought to be limited to a small area, but over the winter months and with regular use, the issue was found to be more expansive. According to Wieprecht, the road surface is actually sinking where the sewer replacement was done. According to Wieprecht, the issue appears related to the compaction above the sewer

line, which was the responsibility of Delauter, not a collapse of the new sewer line itself. The City has televised the sewer line to ensure the line itself is intact and functioning properly.

On Roberts Mill Road, issues with the topcoat of blacktop were noted in several portions of the street shortly after completion. With the onset of winter, correcting the problem was deferred to spring when temperatures would allow paving work to resume. Over the winter, it became apparent that the issue wasn't limited to the areas initially identified, but was present throughout the new road surface. The City was having conversations with Delauter and the paving subcontractor, MT Laney, on how to best address the defects when Delauter filed for bankruptcy, at which point

MT Laney stopped the direct dialogue with the City.

According to the City attorney Jay Gullo, the City will have to seek claims on the bonds for both projects. The City has two bonds for each project: a performance bond that ensures the project is finished and a payment bond which is how the contractor gets paid.

Gullo said that what would have been warranty work is now much more complicated because of the bankruptcy. "They [Delauter] have a list of creditors as long as your arm that they owe," said Gallo. "The issues that have come up [the collapsing road surface] are worse than were initially thought."

There was also a "punch-list" of items for the Roberts Mill Road project

that could not be finished until the weather warmed up, such as yard repairs and grass planting, explained Gullo. These were all anticipated, which is why the City held back \$20,000 to finish these items. These items were completed, but before the City could get Delauter back to address the paving issues, Delauter claimed bankruptcy.

Unfortunately, Gallo said, the \$20,000 that the City held back "technically is considered an asset of Delauter and is under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court." This means the City may or may not have to fix the issues at its own expense. "The bottom line is \$20,000 isn't going to be enough to fix all that needs to get fixed," pointed out Gullo. "It's a drop in the bucket."

The paving work was done by a subcontractor, M. T. Laney, who works through Delauter. Gullo explained that the subcontractor says they will not honor anything on the projects until the bankruptcy has been dealt with. To further complicate matters, Laney claims they haven't been paid for all of the work they have done, so they want to file a claim against the payment bond.

Gullo noted that a bonding company can be challenging to work with. "They don't take our side because they don't want to pay out, much like an insurance company," he said.

For now, the City will need to involve its own engineers to get an estimate on how much it will cost to fix the issues and provide proof to the bonding company so that the City can tap in to the funds in the bond.

Grant money available for renovations

During the most recent Main Street Advisory Board meeting, Board Manager Jay Meashey, introduced the Consolidated Building Improvement Program (CBIP), which according to Meashey is actually two grant programs rolled into one. "Instead of maintaining the old façade grant and starting a new interior commercial one, I just rolled both concepts into one program."

The program's purpose is to promote revitalization and adaptive reuse of existing buildings within the City of Taneytown's Sustainable Community geography, as designated by the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD).

The program is an offshoot of the

City's previously underutilized but similar "façade improvement program."

The funding for the program was awarded by the State's Community Legacy Grant Program. Grants will be available to any business or homeowner within the Sustainable Community area – which includes much of the City that was in existence before 1990.

The City will distribute a total sum of \$50,000, according to Meashey, who is also Taneytown's economic development director. There may be an additional \$14,000 if a previous awardee from last year does not complete their project.

All projects approved for funding must be reviewed by the Maryland Historic Trust before any work can

begin on the project. The applicants must follow the guidelines outlined by the historical trust. An example is if the building has wooden window frames that need to be replaced, they cannot be replaced with any material other than wood.

The applications will be reviewed by a three-person committee comprised of Meashey, Vicki Grinder - Thurmont's Main Street Manager, and the City of Westminster's economic development coordinator. Per the City's requirements, two of the reviewers must be unaffiliated with the City of Taneytown and no one may have a financial interest in any property in the Sustainable Community district.

The decision to have outside repre-

sentatives review the grant application ensures that there will be no issues of apparent conflict of interest that occur, like in a similar program in Emmitsburg where a board, appointed by then-Mayor Don Briggs, awarded Briggs a grant for \$25,000 to fix the roof on his personal home.

The grants awarded, according to Meashey, will be awarded to projects that best adhere to the City's economic development priorities, which include putting vacant commercial spaces into use, improving the commercial usability of underutilized commercial spaces, encouraging food and beverage and certain cosmetology businesses, and improving the curb appeal of both commercial and residential buildings.

The projects must be completed by June 30, 2025, and once finished, the applicants can then file a "request for payment" to the City to be reimbursed, up to 50% on exterior renovations and 75% for interior renovations.

At the July Council meeting, Councilman Christopher Tillman commented that the program was only briefly mentioned at the June meeting and was not promoted much after.

Although the details for the program were posted on the City's website, residents and Council members voiced concerns over the short application window, which closed on July 5th. Council members asked that more effort be placed in distributing information about programs like the CBIP to property owners so they could take advantage of the grant money.

Funding options considered for public works building

Details surrounding the funding for the new seven-million-dollar public works building were discussed at July's Planning Commission meeting.

The project, which has been a source of frustration for the public and the Council due to its high price tag, is currently in the design stages. In April, \$331,700 was approved for the plans to be drawn up for the building. They will contact a builder as soon as they find appropriate financing outside of the City's savings account.

City Manager Jim Wieprecht explained how the funding would be sourced based on what fund it comes from, General or Utility. Sewer will

see the smallest amount, at 1.4 million from the Utility Fund, because the building will support less sewer infrastructure than water and streets (sewer will be run primarily out of the wastewater treatment plant). The rest of the monies will be divided between the Water Fund (Utility) and Streets (General), at 2.8 million from each. The City will continue to find grants and may utilize government infrastructure financing programs. Solar panels are part of the current plans, which may aid in the search for grant funding, as well as the possibility of geothermal heating and cooling is also being considered.

"I think seven million dollars is going to be tough for everyone in

the community to swallow. Have we thought about building it in stages?" asked Member Dan Myers. Wieprecht assured him that constructing the new building in portions is an option, however that approach would cost more in construction costs overall.

"We are working towards building something that will accommodate growth of the City and the department for many years to come," said Wieprecht.

The new building will allow all the equipment and supplies to be housed in one building, preventing unnecessary wear and tear on equipment and vandalism. There is also space for the future storage of brine

tanks which the state is pushing to be used instead of salt during winter storms. The tanks must be stored inside otherwise direct sunlight can accelerate deterioration of the equipment. It also replaces the old, dilapidated buildings currently used by the public works employees, which currently suffer from leaks, cramped spaces, and weather damage.

The building is projected to include a designated chlorine storage unit, a wash bay for vehicle care, a mechanical room, a clerk's office for file storage, two additional offices, an IT room for system resiliency, and a 40' by 80' salt bin. Employees will have a resting room to sleep or relax in when on long shifts, such as during snowstorms, a breakroom,

two bathrooms, and a 40-person classroom useful for training sessions. The classroom would also be available to other City departments and for joint training sessions with other jurisdictions.

As for what the City will do with the old public works buildings, three of them are in poor enough condition that they will likely be demolished. Removing the three dilapidated buildings would also open additional space for parking. The other three buildings will be repurposed for Parks and Recreation and athletic association organizations to better store their own equipment and potentially include space for a future baseball batting tunnel to be used during inclement weather.

City Moves Forward With Street Sweeper Purchase

The City Council voted in July to purchase a new street sweeper to save on costs and time in street maintenance. The decision to terminate the existing street sweeping contract has been casually discussed at meetings for many months. The poor performance of the current contracted company has plagued the City for almost a year with poorly swept streets

and no-shows from the sweeper.

City Manager Jim Wieprecht explained that the City was capable of doing the work cheaper than what they are currently paying. He explained that the sweeper should have a minimum 20-year life span and if it was stored inside, it should have a few more years at least. Wieprecht broke the cost-benefit analysis down into a monthly cost for the Council, comparing the amount of curb miles based on a mid-

point Department of Public Works employee's salary. He said it costs \$1,674 a month for the contracted street sweeping company to work, but would cost \$1,270 for the City to do it for themselves. These costs include vehicle maintenance, fuel, and materials costs, and sweeping the streets.

The Council unanimously approved the purchase price of \$238,805 for the Dulevo Mechanical Vac-Assisted Street Sweeper.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilwoman Renee Knapp

After several weeks and a few amendments, the Frederick County Council voted to pass the FY-25 budget that was submitted to us by County Executive Fitzwater. This budget makes important investments in Education, Public Safety, and Economic Development, while preserving Frederick County's AAA bond rating through responsible financial management.

Prior to passing the budget, the County Council passed amendments that resulted in \$442,242 being cut from the original proposed budget. The Charter gives the County Council the ability to assign funds that are cut from the budget to the school system budget that is overseen by the Board of Education. The Council passed an amendment, introduced by Council President Young, to provide Frederick County Public Schools with this additional funding. I voted to approve this transfer.

As part of the FY-25 budget, the Council also voted for a \$0.05 increase to the property tax rate. This action will generate approximately \$21.5 million annually, and these funds will be dedicated

exclusively for school construction projects that don't address growing school capacity. Frederick County has 33 school facilities that are over 30 years old. Projects to update, replace, and refurbish our aging educational infrastructure have continually been delayed, accommodating the fast growth in newer areas of development.

Families with children attending older schools should not have to keep waiting for years for buildings and technology that are comparable to those in other areas in the county. Before this funding was approved, there was no source of dedicated funding for these types of projects, and they would have to compete with projects addressing capacity. At the same time, the State has not increased the pool of school construction and renovation funding in over a decade. As the fastest growing county in Maryland, this hits Frederick County especially hard.

Previously, the property tax rate had been unchanged since 2014 when the property tax rate was combined with the Urban Fire Tax rate to establish one real property

tax rate. Before this, the real property tax rate had not been raised since 2001, and although we have experienced significant population growth, we are one of only five counties that has not increased our property tax rate during that time.

Moving forward, Frederick County will have to increase its commercial tax base. Otherwise, residential taxpayers will have to keep shouldering most of the bill for our school system, county services, and necessary infrastructure. Many residents who have lived here for decades don't want any new residential and/or commercial development at all. However, in Frederick County, we have a purposefully constrained housing supply in a highly desirable area that is close to a desirable and expanding job market. That has resulted in large increases in home values and assessments resulting in an increasing tax burden on residents that will become unsustainable for many and cause some to have to move elsewhere.

The County Council has responsibility to look at questions of growth and zoning with a focus on how our choices affect property tax assessments and the commercial to residential tax base ratio. If we stay on the same course, Frederick County will continue backing into the future instead of planning for successful growth, and we risk becoming a place where fewer people can afford to live.

This is a special county to live in and I don't want to see that happen to anyone. Although it's not always a popular position to take, I will continue to look for ways to support sensible growth for businesses and industries who want to locate in Frederick County, and for ways to close the housing supply gap at the middle to lower points on the affordability spectrum.

Please feel free to share your thoughts on this topic or anything else by emailing me at rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov.

Regional Drought Watch Declared by Council of Governments

On Monday, July 29th, the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) put into effect a drought watch for the region, including Frederick County. This precautionary measure comes as the region continues to experience unusually dry conditions that are expected to persist despite recent rainfall. Residents are urged to take voluntary measures to conserve water and reduce demand on the region's water supply systems.

This is the first drought watch issued in the region since 2010. A drought watch is the level in the regional drought response plan before drought warning, which is when water restrictions could become mandatory. While there is currently an adequate supply of water in the Potomac River and back-up reservoirs, implementing voluntary water conservation practices will help reduce water demand and environmental needs of the river.

"As officials continue to closely monitor drought conditions in the region, it is important for the public to use water wisely," said Clark Mercer, COG executive director, adding that "with a few simple measures, we can all aid in water conservation efforts and help ensure an adequate water supply for our region."

Residents and businesses are encouraged to use water wisely as part of their daily routines to optimize the

use of water resources, especially if dry conditions persist. Residents who rely on wells without a backup water supply should take particular care to use water wisely.

Here are some simple tips residents can use to limit indoor and outdoor water use:

- Monitor watering lawns, plants and shrubs
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways (instead of using a hose)
- Avoid washing your car, or instead use a commercial car wash that recycles water
- Fix any plumbing leaks – especially toilets and faucets
- Reduce shower length to under 5 minutes
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth
- Wash fewer but fuller loads of dishes and clothes

While the region is currently at a low to moderate risk for wildfires, fire safety and protection is a concern due to dry conditions. Residents should use extra caution when smoking outside, using outdoor grills or engaging in other activities that involve flammable materials.

The area is well prepared to withstand a drought thanks to three water supply reservoirs constructed in the 1980s to provide water during droughts. These reservoirs are currently full and will be utilized if needed.

"Due to years of planning and preparation, our water supply infrastructure is well-equipped to handle drought. Nevertheless, it makes sense for all of us to use water wisely and not waste this precious resource," stated Michael Nardolilli, the Executive Director of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB).

Frederick County is not seeing any drought watch impacts on operations at this present time. Officials continue to closely monitor drought conditions in the region, including both the Potomac and groundwater levels. Water conservation is encouraged as a precautionary effort while the situation continues to be assessed. For additional water conservation tips, visit COG's Wise Water Use Campaign website.

**TOWN OF EMMITSBURG
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TUESDAY
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7 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

The last day to register to vote with Frederick County is August 30.

Registration applications can be obtained at the Town Office located at 300A South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, Maryland or by visiting www.elections.maryland.gov.

Candidates must file written application for candidacy and their Financial Disclosures with the Town Clerk no later than August 30 at 4 p.m.

All candidates will be posted on the Town bulletin board in alphabetical order.

The write-in deadline is September 23 at noon.

Three commissioner seats are up for election.

For more information visit www.emmitsburgmd.gov or call the Town Office at 301-600-6300.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

With the first day of school a few short weeks away, it's a good time to look at how our growing community is tackling the issue of school overcrowding.

Because Frederick County is such a great place to live, more families are moving here. That means we need more classroom space. At the same time, many of our older schools need updates. My Administration is looking at ways to address both challenges at the same time.

For the first time in Frederick County's history, I established a dedicated, ongoing source of funding to help the County address the needs of our existing and aging schools more quickly.

And just last week, I announced several steps to bring us closer to solving the school construction challenges. These steps will add new capacity sooner than anticipated, create extra space at our most overcrowded school, and add more sites for future schools.

How we got here

Growth has been an issue here for

many years. Between 2011-2014 – more than 10 years ago – 44 residential housing developments were approved. You see the new houses being built, and there are several of these developments that are still being built out.

Because of this, over the last 10 years the County has constructed new schools and expanded others. More than 5,000 seats have been added to accommodate the increase in students who come from these new homes.

My Administration has been working hard with Frederick County Public Schools to find even more space. Last September, I announced the purchase of a 100-acre site in the Monrovia area. We expect that site will be home to the County's 11th high school. And in April, I added a new Brunswick High School to the County's Capital Improvement Plan.

We also need space at the elementary level. I am happy to report we have identified a property near Mussetter Road and MD Rt. 144, in the Greenview neighborhood of New Market. This will be the location for Elemen-

tary School #41, an 881-seat elementary school.

Paying for Construction

My FY-25 budget includes over \$680M in for school construction projects. With the County's support, I also put in place an ongoing, dedicated revenue stream to help with our aging school buildings. This new funding, along with existing fees developers pay to build new capacity, will help us address school construction needs.

The cost to build a school is a shared responsibility between the State and the County. The Board of Education sets the priority for the order schools are built. Elementary School #41 was the top priority in this year's BOE request. While the State Interagency Commission on School Construction approved the location for the school, they did not approve any funding or give local planning approval this year. Local planning approval is the State's assurance that they will share in the cost to build a school.

Creative Solutions

Frederick County can no longer wait for the State. Oakdale Elementary School is projected to be over 170% of its capacity when it reopens for the new school year later this month.

I have a plan to lessen the impact of school overcrowding and new residential growth. This plan includes three new components.

First, I will commit \$3 million to begin the design of School #41. The money will come from fees the developers have already paid to the County in the form of school mitigation fees. I want to be clear – this is 100% developer-funded and not taxpayer dollars. The County Council would need to approve this as a supplemental budget. By starting the design work now, the school could open a year sooner than planned, in August 2027, assuming the State grants planning approval for construction to begin in FY-26.

The second step will help relieve crowding at Oakdale Elementary until the new school is built. There isn't enough space at Oakdale for the portable classrooms that are needed. So I directed staff to work with the school

system on a creative solution. Next to the school is land where a library will be built in four years. For the next few years, until Elementary School #41 is built, that site can be used for field space for Oakdale students. That allows FCPS to use land next to the main building for extra indoor space for core uses, like a cafeteria or gymnasium. This plan would still allow the library to open on time.

Finally, we know Oakdale isn't the only school facing overcrowding. The County and FCPS are always anticipating future needs. School sites are extremely hard to find, and they are growing more expensive. So I am excited that we have purchased almost 20 acres of land on Gas House Pike for a future school. The land was paid for by developers, not taxpayers. It's a real win!

We aren't stopping there. Two other developers are in the process of donating land for school sites, one for a middle school in Gordon Mills, and the other for an elementary school on the Casey property. My staff and FCPS are working together every day to find the best solutions for our students, our families, and our community.

County Councilman Brad Young

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we welcome participation. The Council is currently on summer recess. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 20.

On July 16, the Council passed Bill 24-10 by 7-0 vote. This bill, sponsored by Council Member M.C. Keegan-Ayer, provides new design criteria for Commercial Solar Facilities in the Agricultural Zoning District.

Amended Bill 24-09, sponsored by Council Member Mason Carter, was withdrawn on July 23. The full text of our bills can be found on our website and are also linked to each corresponding agenda.

The Council has two bills that will advance through our legislative process after the summer recess. Bill 24-11, sponsored by Renee Knapp on behalf of the County Executive, Establishes a Historic Preservation Tax Credit. Bill 24-12, sponsored by Council Member Steve McKay, creates a new section in Frederick County Code that

defines the conditions upon which a temporary residential growth moratorium may be declared, as well as the conditions upon which such moratorium would end. Both of these bills are scheduled for a public hearing on August 27, 2024, at 7pm. We welcome public participation at all public hearings. For the most up to date agendas and bill schedules, please visit our website.

On a final note, there is great concern regarding the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project and the impact it may have on the community. Recently the Council became aware of a proposed large-scale power line project and has been reviewing the details alongside with the public.

As this project moves through the process the Council will closely follow and monitor this state project. We also strongly encourage the public to diligently review and participate in the process.

I want to share with everyone the following links for information on the project as well as ways to make the citizens voices heard.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give

comment in person, leave a voice-mail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/council to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

As a reminder, the Council will be taking its summer recess in the coming weeks and will not be meeting on July 30, August 6, or August 13.

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

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Public Information Meeting

Mount St. Mary's University will file an application with the USDA Rural Development for financial assistance to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. A public information meeting for comments will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13 at Mount St. Mary's University's Gelles Conference Room at McGowan Student Center to discuss the proposed project and to provide the opportunity for public comment.

FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Carroll Valley's Celebration was successful, with over 4,000 attendees fed by 24 food vendors. The Reagan Years band entertained the crowd with the sounds of the 1980s music. The band's talented musicians with remarkably diverse vocal abilities replicated the MTV era's pop, rock, and new wave hits. Unfortunately, after two rain storms later in the evening, the fireworks were postponed to the rain date of Saturday, July 6th.

Many people were involved: Dave Hazlett, Gayle Marthers, Amanda Bell, Jayden Bell, Sarah Ginn, Brad Sanders, Makenzie Taylor, Toni Saylor, Doug Laptook, Boy Scouts, the Borough's Municipal Services crew, the Borough Council, the Carroll Valley Police Department, and Constable Steven Beans. Also, appreciation goes to the Liberty Mountain Resort for paying for half of the fireworks, the use of their parking lots, three golf carts, and barricades used in the stage area. Others involved was the Fairfield Fire Department watching over the fireworks with their Brush Truck on Liberty Mountain.

Last but not least, a special thanks to Jeff Richards of JDR Unlimited, the Metal Roof Specialist, for displaying the 40-foot United States flag from atop his 13-story ladder truck. To see and enjoy the pictures go to ronspictures.net.

On Tuesday, August 6th, from 5 to 8, the Carroll Valley Police Department will hold a National Night Out (NNO) for the community. NNO aims to enhance the relationship and communication between the community and the police officers serving the Carroll Valley residents. The event is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local and crime programs, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. Attending? Need a bite to eat? Then stop by the Cracken Catering food truck for some food. Finish off with an ice cream treat from Antietam Dairy.

After food, be sure to visit the gathering to collect information from the following Carroll Valley Borough and Liberty Township

Police officers, Fish and Boat Commission, Adams Regional EMS, Collaborating For Youth, Adams County Children and Youth Services, Members 1st Credit Union, Growing Patch, and Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The Fairfield Fire Department and the Fountaindale Fire Department plan to attend.

Through the evening, Chase, the German Shepherd from the movie Paw Patrol, will be walking among the crowd. Be sure to get a picture. Mighty Movie, a 2023 Canada animated superhero comedy, starts at 7 (approximately runtime for 90 minutes).

Tuesday morning, from 10 to noon on August 8th, Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors is hosting "Games with Grands" at Hamiltonban Township Community Park, 4020 Bullfrog Road. Grandparents and grandchildren can play games together and with others in the pavilion. Bring some games.

St. Mary's Church, 256 Tract Road, will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner in the parish hall

on Sunday, August 18th, from 3 to 6. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12, and under 6 eat free. All are welcome; no reservations are needed. For additional information, call 717-642-8815.

August is usually the month that many of us go on vacation. But please do not overlook ensuring your home is safe when you are away. There are several things you should consider doing to protect your home. According to the FBI, more than half of home burglaries happen during the day. Here are a few tips: (1) Lock your doors and windows if you leave your house; (2) Do not share the details of your vacation with everyone and, especially on social media, like Facebook when you are on vacation – remember, if you are there, I know where you are not; (3) Make the house look as if someone is home by using light timers throughout the house; (4) Go to the Post Office and delay mail delivery; (5) Contract with a security company and when selecting one, check out their references by going to www.bbb.org; and (6) Contact the Carroll Valley Police Department to be placed on their

house checklist. And, by the way, have a great, safe, and relaxing vacation.

On September 22nd, Carroll Valley Borough will hold a party celebrating our municipality's 50th anniversary. More party information will be printed in the September edition of the Emmitsburg Journal.

Please mark your calendar to attend. Right now, I am asking residents to contribute to "Fifty Years of Memories through pictures." The selected images submitted by our neighbors will be hung on the walls of the Borough Hall on September 22nd for October. After the anniversary, the pictures will be placed in a Borough Photo album.

The album will be categorized in the Adams County Library System and available for other system users – carrying out the history of Carroll Valley. Note that you will not lose your photo during the process because a copy of your image will be used. If you want more information, call me at 301-606-2021. My email address is MayorRonHarris@comcast.net or Gayle@carrollvalley.org.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Happy August! There has been a lot going on within Liberty Township in July. Our John Deere tractor with mower attachment has been out for almost two months due to an accident that damaged the mower. The mower was returned on July 22 and is back out mowing. The Road Department also had a few issues with our backhoe. Parts were ordered for it, and repairs have been made. The backhoe being down has delayed some roadwork we had planned.

The Road Department is glad to have its equipment back in working order so that we may finish the projects. Requests for proposals went out for the Old Waynesboro Road bridge to address needed restoration brought to our attention by our state inspector. The full depth reclamation for 2,400 feet of Bullfrog Road is scheduled to start on August 12. During construction, Bullfrog Road will be closed between Pumping Station Road and Rt. 116 (Fairfield Road) during

the day when they are working on this road.

Please expect a minimum of 3 days of detours and delays, with the potential of up to a week. They plan to finish the project around August 16. Hopefully, this road will be up to standard for the next 25 years. The pipe replacements on Bullfrog Road started on July 24 and with the goal of completion prior to the full depth reclamation. We appreciate your understanding with detours and delays surrounding the

road work to get Bullfrog Road to be a long-lasting road.

School taxes went out on July first, the Liberty Township Tax Collector will have hours on August 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29 in the evening from 5:30-7 at the Township Office. If you are able, take advantage of the 2% discount period on your taxes. You can either drop it off building or in person, put it in our drop box on the front of the Township building, or mail them.

Please be mindful of school buses

and kids walking to and from bus stops as the school year starts on August 24 in Fairfield Area School District. The district will be welcoming back its students for the 2024-2025 year. Good luck to the first-time students within the district! As the year starts, please remember to support all the home athletic matches, including football, soccer, cross country, and other Fall sports. I hope all students within Liberty Township and neighboring municipalities have a great, safe, and fun school year!

continued on next page



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| <p>Give us a call if you want to buy or sell!</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">****PENDING****</p> <p>4 Tiger Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</p> <p>Unique 2 ac. parcel, wooded, w/ slope for a great view. Close to Liberty Ski/Golf Resort. 215' Toms Creek access for fishing. Close to Historic Gettysburg battle field. Camping permitted for 3 consecutive nights. Check w/ Liberty Township..... \$25,000</p> |



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

The heat of Summer is well upon us and for many locals that means a beach vacation. For most of us those beaches are found along the Chesapeake Bay. What many of us don't know is that the Chesapeake Bay is America's most productive estuary. To me, that production takes the form of some of my favorite food, crabs, rockfish, and raw oysters. I love living so close to some of the best seafood in the world. The challenge in living so close to the Chesapeake Bay means that we have a responsibility to limit our pollution to the Bay.

This is no small task. The Bay isn't just the largest American estuary, it is the collection point of over 180,000 miles of creeks, streams, and rivers from Virginia, DC, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and even New York State. Over 18 million people live in the Bay watershed, and we all have some work to do to keep the Bay clean. In 2014 the aforementioned states, DC, and private partners created a watershed agreement with goals and outcomes intended to Save the Bay. Now it is 2024 and the time to reassess the goals is upon us. Here is a quick update on what we have achieved and what more needs to be done.

Through a multi-state collaborative effort the 2014 watershed agreement outlined 31 initial outcomes to measure the impacts of pollution reduction efforts implemented throughout the watershed. As of today, 18 outcomes are completed or are on course, 11 are off course and won't be reached and 2 are still being assessed. Here

continued from previous page

Carroll Valley Borough's Police Department is hosting their National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6 from 5 to 8 at the Carroll Valley Borough Office. Antietam Dairy and Cracken Catering will be there selling food and ice cream. Gettysburg Borough will also be hosting their National Night Out on August 6 from 4 to 8:30 at the Gettysburg Recreation Park. There will be obstacle courses, face painting, and more. Cumberland Township will be hosting their National Night Out on August 6, from 4-7 at the site of the old Gettysburg Country Club on the corner of Route 30 and Old Mill Rd. (730 Chambersburg Road).

Hollabaugh Bros will be hosting their 34th Annual Peach Festival on August 10 and 11 from noon to 4. This is a great event to support a local orchard and enjoy delicious peaches. There will be live music, face painting, and more for the whole family to enjoy.

Liberty Township is still actively looking to hire a full-time Police Officer and we are looking to hire part-time Police Officers. The Road Department is looking for part-time help. Please apply for any of these positions if you are interested.

are a few partnership achievements from the past 10 years.

The partnership identified planting 900 acres of forest buffer along waterways to reduce pollutants reaching the Bay. While that goal will not be met, every year the partnership has increased the amount of buffer planted. 2023 represented the most trees planted, so progress is being streamlined. Here is Adams County, our Conservation District takes the lead with local partners in an annual native tree sale. This is partially funded from Bay cleanup funds. If you drive south on Route 15, it is easy to see large areas of new tree plantings along the highway. The same is true throughout the watershed.

As of 2022 the Chesapeake Bay Program partners have protected nearly 1.64 million acres of land throughout the watershed. All totaled in the watershed approximately 9.1 million acres have been conserved. This represents 22% of the land in the watershed. The lands that are most critical to preserve are those closest to waterways. This highlights one of our largest challenges, as people love to live near water. Where we can, we should conserve corridors around our waterways. Where we cannot, we must find ways to ameliorate the impacts of growth on our waterways.

As I mentioned earlier, blue crabs and to a lesser degree oysters, are iconic symbols of the

Chesapeake Bay. They are also good indicators of bay health. While there is always some natural variation in female blue crab, ever since 2014 these populations have stayed above a healthy population threshold. Likewise, since 2014 eleven oyster tributaries have been restored. The goal was ten tributaries.

Oysters are especially important for Bay health, as they are natural water filters that can purify 50 gallons (about a bathtub) of water a day. While oysters are eating small algae and other organic material, they are pulling sediment out of the water. Talk about a great two-for-one, they purify the water AND they taste delicious. Our efforts have stopped the decline in crab and oyster populations and in the case of both we are seeing improvement. So, next time you order a crabcake, remember to thank a conservationist.

Now for the largest challenge moving forward. The 2014 watershed agreement only lasts until the end of 2024, so what do we do now? This year Gov. Josh Shapiro appointed me to a small advisory committee helping the Bay. I am one of six Pennsylvania members on the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to the Executive Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Programs. What a mouthful of government speak! The executive committee is comprised of the governors of six states, the Mayor of DC, and the

heads of a few large state, federal and community stakeholders.

There are other advisory committees, informing the Executive Committee about the science of the bay and soon there will be a committee focused solely on the agricultural community. LGAC is the conduit for communication between local governments and the larger partners. Imagine trying to develop programs that impact five very different states, especially when the benefits for the Bay may not directly benefit many of the local jurisdictions.

Nobody wants to see unfunded uncoordinated ineffective federal mandates pushed down to local government. We have too much of that already. Instead, we want to see that local priorities are respected and balanced with our duty to clean up our own pollution for the greater good.

While a completely bottom up approach would be chaos for an area this large, top down demands often meet with resistance at the local level. Both approaches have major weaknesses, so LGAC tries to balance these approaches and assist in better communication between partners and local governments. For the 2025 and Beyond plan to work we must improve communication between governmental units and we must show residents that saving the bay is in their own self-interest.

Beyond bureaucratic hurdles there is another very practi-

cal issue: money. There is never enough government funding to solve all of our problems, but with the right amount applied strategically we can stretch those dollars. Part of this strategy must include communicating to the 18 million residents of the watershed, that they have a part in the solutions. Our health is directly connected to the health of the bay. While scientific research has been the guiding force behind Bay initiatives, we must now shift to a more social science methodology. We need to make the connection between the bay and the individual. This isn't just a "everything is connected" moment. This is understanding that the water we drink today is about to make its way to the bay. Or that our rain gutters and parking lots are direct corridors to the bay.

What we put into our sewers or our waterways have direct impacts on the bay. While the natural sciences tell us what practices to avoid or to implement, we need to move beyond this. If we are to save the Bay we need measurable studies to show residents why it matters. We need to show that funding now will net results more cost effectively than continuing to damage our waterways and trying to fix it later. Kicking the can down the creek, is not an option.

If you have any questions or would like more information on how you can help, do not hesitate to reach out to me mqually@adamscountypa.gov

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Unprecedented?

Shannon Bohrer

The word “unprecedented” has been used frequently since 2015. When running for office, the former president disparaged John McCain, disrespected a Gold Star family, and bragged about molesting women. The press would describe his behaviors and words each time as “unprecedented.” The press also believed each deed would prohibit him from being elected. The press was wrong.

After being elected, his abnormal behavior became the norm. During his entire time in office, the word “unprecedented” was commonly used to describe his actions. His words and actions, friendships with dictators and authoritarian leaders, while verbally disapproving of our allies, were puzzling. His attempted interference with Ukrainian politics, to interfere with our election, and his attempts to stay in power were routinely described as unprecedented. News reporters often said the word unprecedented was an overused term, yet it accurately described the administration. They were wrong again.

After losing the election in 2019, and before leaving office, the former president created schemes, many of which were illegal, to stay in office. Reporters continued to describe his behavior as unprecedented. It could be helpful if the press stopped using the word unprecedented, yet they

continue to say it best describes his actions and words. While many of the words and actions during his administration, and since then, were immoral, unprincipled, unscrupulous, deceitful, and just plain dishonest, the word unprecedented does not always apply.

The actions of planning to overthrow the government, subverting Democracy, and having a ruler that reflects fascism occurred before and occurred here on January 6, 2020. The idea that we should be a Christian nation, eliminating other faiths and religions, has occurred before. Of course, the idea that white Anglo-Saxon males should rule not just our country but the world has also occurred before. The reported interference from foreign governments, which occurred in the last two elections and is predicted to reappear, has also happened before. While many politicians deny foreign influence, that has also occurred before. Additionally, as before, we have politicians that are supportive of these undertakings. Therefore, the words and actions they use - are not totally unprecedented.

In the 1930s, when Hitler was in the initial stages of becoming a fascist leader, he had many admirers and groups in his country. They believed the United States needed a strong leader, not unlike Hitler. An American fascist organization, the German American Bund, was founded in 1936. Their objective was to create an American Nazi party, like the

German Nazi Party. The Bund's even duplicated Hitler's youth camps, creating twenty youth training centers. Camp Siegfried, on Long Island, hosted 40,000 people in one year. The Bunds revered Hitler and believed that the Jews were responsible for the world's problems.

In February 1939, the Bunds held a rally at Madison Square Garden in New York. The group's leader, Fritz Kuhn, was well known for praising Hitler and the degrading of Jews, which was their unofficial platform. The leaders at the event described it as a “mass demonstration for the Americanism.” Banner and signs included “Wake up America! Smash Jewish Communism and Stop Jewish Domination of Christian Americans.” Part of Kuhn's address was for the “government [to] be returned to the American People Who Founded it.” It was reported that twenty-two thousand people attended the rally. The hall was decorated with Nazi swastikas, and attendees openly performed gave Nazi salutes, many while wearing Nazi uniforms.

An influential individual who despised Jews and believed in fascism was Father Coughlin. A catholic priest, born in Canada but living in Michigan. Father Coughlin was known as the “Radio Priest” because he had a weekly radio program that reached an estimated thirty million people, about a quarter of the population then.

Father Coughlin preached more politics than religion. He began as a supporter of President Roosevelt but later accused him of being Jewish and collaborating with Jewish

bankers. He established the National Union for Social Justice, which called for reforms, including the nationalization of industries and railroads. Sounds like socialism.

He praised Hitler and fascism on his radio programs.” He said, “When we get through with the Jews in America, they'll think the treatment they received in Germany was Nothing.” He believed democracy was doomed and fascism would replace it. Oddly, while he spoke highly of Hitler and Mussolini, he distanced himself from the German American Bund. He also insisted he was not an antisemite.

In 1938, a House Committee on Un-American Activities was created to investigate disloyal and subversion activities in the U.S. It was reported that the German Library of Information, titled “The Facts in Review,” was responsible for mailing pro-German weekly digest to nearly 100,000 Americans teachers, elected officials, priest, and others. “The Facts in Review” explained why Germany was a victim and why Hitler was right to disregard treaties and invade other countries. The Committee stated that the German Government was targeting the American Public with propaganda, trying to influence our government and our elections, not unlike Russia and China today.

The politics of today, along with private organizations attempting to influence our government and our elections, is not unprecedented. Project 2025, the Republican plan for governing the country, outlines imparting Christian values into the government and society. The plan called for more executive power,

resembling an authoritarian government, not unlike an autocracy. There would be no separation of church and state. Of course, to implement the plan, at least parts of our constitution would be suspended. Many of the authors in the plan are former government employees.

As William Falkner once said, “The past is never dead, It's not even past.”

Even the hatred of Jews still exists. In today's environment, there continue to be antisemite sentiments ostensibly related to the conditions in Palestine. There is certainly some mistrust with the Israeli government as to how the war in Palestine is being waged. However, why do we not see protests against Putin, for an estimated 500,000 casualties (killed and injured) Ukrainians? President of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, has killed and injured over one1,000,000 Syrians, both Muslim and Christian, and no one has protested.

As in the 1930's, we are at another inflection point, where a large segment of our society is not interested in maintaining a democracy, instead they believe an autocracy would be a better form of government. In a Democracy, the majority does not have a right to take away the rights of the minority, nor does the minority have a right to take away the rights of the majority.

It could be said that in our history, these are not ordinary times, but they are not “unprecedented.”

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

The Bulwark

Seven lessons from Joe Biden's candidacy

Jonathan Last

1. The Democratic Party is a healthy institution.

On the night of June 27, the various power centers within the Democratic Party began a difficult conversation: Was Joe Biden still capable of running a vigorous campaign?

Over three weeks the party reached a diffuse—if not unanimous—consensus: He was not. This consensus was the product of all levels of the party: Elder statesmen such as Nancy Pelosi, elected Democrats analyzing their own future prospects, donors making decisions about spending, and the main body of public opinion among Democratic voters.

Once this consensus was reached, the various power centers began a dialogue with the party's leader, President Biden. The party expressed its choice. Biden pushed back. The party took up the question again and, after due consideration, held firm.

Joe Biden then stepped aside for the good of the nation. This is how healthy institutions are supposed to work.

At The Bulwark there has been a lot of drama over the last three weeks. We told you what we really thought, even though it meant making some people mad. Our mission is to have honest and real conversations. Because that's what healthy institutions do.

2. The process which elevated Kamala Harris was sensible.

The Democratic party made another institutional decision in parallel with the Biden question: It vetted Kamala Harris.

This subroutine executed in the background, but it was active. Democratic voters began to consider her as the nominee and polling showed that they were comfortable with her. Party elders evaluated her fitness. Donors and elected Democrats took her measure. The fact that no anti-Harris groundswell—or even boomlet—emerged is proof that the party decided that Harris was an acceptable nominee.

After Biden blessed Harris on Sunday afternoon, the party coalesced around her in much the way it did Biden after the New Hampshire primary in 2020. The Democratic party will enter the election more unified than it had been pre-debate.

3. Kamala Harris can run as an insurgent, but with the advantages of an incumbent.

The largest advantage of incumbency is that a candidate does not have to take base-pleasing positions during a primary campaign that can hurt him during a general election.

Because of the extraordinary nature of her ascendance, Harris possesses this advantage. She will carry nearly every advantage of incumbency and yet she can credibly position herself as

this election's change agent.

4. Trump is holding the age bomb.

The Trump campaign spent two years creating a political bomb concerning old age. They assumed that they could plant this bomb at the feet of Joe Biden.

Trump is now the one holding the age bomb. He is not only a full generation older than Harris—everything about him looks geriatric by comparison. From his gait to his bronzed-over pallor; from the way he rambles and gets lost in sentences to his inability to keep facts straight.

Every split screen now makes Trump look old and decrepit by comparison.

5. There was enormous pent-up demand among Democrats for a younger leader.

In the first 24 hours, Kamala Harris raised over \$100 million from small-dollar donors. Sit with that for a moment. \$100 million.

That's more money than any Democrat has ever raised in a single day. It's twice as much as Trump raised following his felony conviction. If this doesn't snap your head back, it should. Because it's as good a proxy as you'll find for excitement.

It will be several days until we have polling with a more detailed view of Harris's support from Democratic voters, but it is already clear that she will perform much better than Biden has within her party.

Here's my advice: You should be open to the idea that Harris could

ride a wave of excitement and passion that absolutely no one was seeing until Biden stepped aside. I'm talking Obama '08-levels of energy.

It's not a given. But it's in the realm of the possible. Keep your eyes peeled for it.

6. The Republican party is a failed state.

At the debate, Donald Trump also demonstrated (again) that he is unfit for office. He rambled and lied incoherently. He is a convicted felon. A jury found him guilty of sexual assault. He has said he wants to be a “dictator” and that he wants to “terminate” parts of the Constitution. He selected as his running mate a man who advised disobeying orders from the Supreme Court and forcing a constitutional crisis.

Until last week there was nothing stopping the Republican party from forcing Trump off the ticket. The party elders and elected officials could have demanded that Trump step aside. Republican voters could have said that they had no confidence in his ability to govern. Donors could have closed their wallets.

But the plain fact is that not one single Republican called on Trump to step aside. Not one. Why? Because the various precincts of the Republican party understand that they hold no power—at all—over Trump. They could not ask him to withdraw from the race. Even broaching the subject would be grounds for excommunication from the party.

The Democratic party is a functioning institution, with checks and balances; constituencies and power

structures. Like any institution, it is amorphous and its decision making is mostly organic.

The Republican party is an autocracy where the only thing that matters is the will of the leader. All power flows through him. All decisions are made by him. There are no competing power centers—only vassal states overseen by his noblemen.

7. Harris is an underdog.

One of the reasons the last three weeks have been so difficult is because Democrats were not choosing between a “good” outcome and a “bad” outcome. Those sorts of choices are easy.

Instead, Democrats were tasked with deciding between least-bad options. Humans rebel against the idea of “least-bad.” When faced with choices, we want to believe that at least one of them is “good.”

When the first real Harris-vs.-Trump polling comes out next week we'll see how big of a hole she's in. But unlike Biden, Harris has the ability to spend the next three months on offense, all day, every day. If she can deliver the goods, she has a puncher's chance.

Nothing about Joe Biden's presidency was inevitable. Not his candidacy. Not his victory over Trump. Not his withdrawal from reelection. At nearly every turn, Biden did the right thing for America. His legacy is assured. He will be remembered as one of the great modern presidents.

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

The Liberal Patriot

Teaching what it means to be an American

Richard Kahlenberg

The U.S. is celebrating its 248th birthday at a moment when people across the political spectrum agree that the country's experiment in liberal democracy is in deep trouble.

A decade ago, it would have been unthinkable that the Republican candidate for president would be someone who had tried to thwart the peaceful transfer of power and speaks of suspending the Constitution. The threat to liberal democracy on the left is less stark, fueled by the power of culture, rather than the power of the state. But it too is chilling. More than half of very liberal college students say it's acceptable to block fellow students from hearing speakers. College campuses have become deeply corrosive cultures, in which eight in ten students surveyed feel they can't speak their minds. Illiberalism on the left rises as people become more educated.

It is especially worrisome that the willingness to give up on democracy is much greater among young people than those who are older. Whereas only 5 percent of those over 65 said, "Democracy is no longer a viable system, and America should explore alternative forms of government," a shocking 31 percent of youth ages 18-29 agreed.

A central driver is the loss of a common American identity. White identity politics on the right is more openly embraced than at any time since the presidential candidacy of George Wallace. And racial identity politics on the left, driven by once-fringe academic theories such as Critical Race Theory, have moved into the mainstream in teacher education schools left leaning

nonprofits, and even portions of corporate America. When policy fights are seen as proxies for identity wars, those disputes become existential, which justifies cutting corners on democratic norms. White voters on the right who worry that they are losing majority control of the country are more likely to excuse authoritarian actions. Likewise, left-wing activists shout down speakers not on issues related to taxes or labor law reform but invariably on matters that touch on racial, ethnic, or gender identity.

As a result, an eerie consensus has emerged on the hard left and hard right that long-standing liberal democratic norms should be bent or broken to advance various ideological causes. In a multiracial democracy, people should be judged as individuals, while race essentialists feel confident that knowing the racial or ethnic identity of participants in a dispute is a pretty good guide to who is right.

The hard right speaks of "alterative facts" and the hard left about "my truth." The right questions the expertise of the "deep state," and openly relies on nepotism to fill positions of public trust, while parts of the left see selection based on merit as a smokescreen for white supremacy and claim someone saying the most qualified person should get the job is committing a "microaggression."

Critical race theorists, so deeply pessimistic about the permanence of racism, are no more enthusiastic about school integration than skeptics on the political right. Anti-racists, who think all racial and ethnic disparities are the result of racism, take a distrustful view of the academic success of Asians and Jews, while extremists on the right consider these groups less fully American than white Christians.

The hard right labels the press the

"enemy of the people" while campus activists protesting the war in Gaza hold signs calling for "death to mainstream media." Both extremes would ban books, some for offending the sensibilities of whites, others because they represent "cultural appropriation." On issues of academic freedom, the right calls for stripping professors of their tenure protections, while the left insists on loyalty oaths in the form of DEI statements.

What is to be done?

The fundamental purpose of public schools is to teach kids what it means to be an American, the shared history and values that derive from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. By doing so public schools accomplished two miraculous objectives: they helped sustain a system self-governance, grounded in individual rights, for over two centuries; and they instilled a shared national ethos and identity that provided the glue necessary to hold together people whose ancestors came from all corners of the world.

In recent decades, K-12 schools and colleges have moved dramatically away from this vision. Out of an understandable but false sense of security, they have placed far more emphasis on economic competitiveness than democratic citizenship. Teacher education programs, out of a genuine concern about racial achievement gaps, also took a wrong turn on issues of social cohesion. Rather than teaching a common American identity, they encouraged young teachers to believe that racism is pervasive and unceasing, so public schools needed to strengthen student racial identities to steel them against inevitable discrimination. These education schools emphasized the terrible history of slavery and segregation, and left out the redemption part of the story.

In red states, conservatives capitalized on the cultural disconnect between public schools and the general public to advance privatization efforts with more



success in the last few years than in the previous fifty. Tragically, these schemes, which send students of different religions to different types of schools, only Balkanize the country further.

It is time to teach students what it means to be American today. For young people who might understandably be frustrated with America, embarrassed by its leaders, it is important to devote more time to teaching them the tremendous contributions America has made to the world as a beacon of liberty. Policymakers should provide more time, resources, and accountability for students to learn their civic inheritance and shared American history. All states should require civics in high school and require students to pass a rigorous exam in order to graduate.

Schools should teach that America is exceptional—not because Americans are better people than others—but because we have set up a system of rights that, over time, have become available to people who come to this country from all parts of the world. To get at the core of American identity, students should ask: if a foreign country invaded the United States, what monuments and artifacts would be most important to try to preserve because they go to the essence of what it means to be an American?

For me personally, the most important monuments to our nation's values start with the National Archives, home of the essential documents of our liberal democracy—the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Emancipation Proclamation. I would also include the Statue of Liberty, symbolizing America's openness to legal immigrants from across the world no matter their racial or ethnic origin.

The stakes of teaching American identity are enormous. Human beings have a natural yearning to identify with groups that pursue a larger purpose. If educators don't help students develop a reflective patriotism, extremists will offer false alternatives centered around race or ethnic identities.

The good news is that the public supports a better path. Instilling a renewed sense of American identity could inspire a "patriotism dividend," a strong sense of national community that has provided the precondition for all this country's great movements for social change over time. Best of all, it could help put America on better footing to sustain its grand experiment in liberal democratic governance for another 250 years.

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

Good Day Neighbor

Circular debates

Dorothea Mordan

Friends of mine, a married couple, had an argument about immigration. It was a testy back and forth, one spouse fiercely opposed to any form of illegal immigration. The other spouse argued as passionately for asylum. Both used common rationales. They come wanting our resources, they come for help, they take up space, there are too many of them.

Until one spouse asks the other, "What would it take for you to leave me and the kids here to go to another country to find work? How bad would our lives have to be? Answer that question for yourself. Do you think people want to walk thousands of miles to America?"

The argument ended there. The circle had spun around the symptoms and repercussions of a problem, not the cause. Circular arguments about immigration are often about loss suffered by the host country. Immigrants actually give us in the USA more of our first world conveniences. A rising workforce supports a wide economy.

Are we arguing about how to solve a problem, or is it about convenience?

Any solution is best applied to the root cause of a problem. The reasons people emigrate include poverty and/or safety. One factor in safety is gang related violence in the world of illegal, addictive drugs. We could take more care of our own citizens before they become part of the drug trafficking equation. As an economic partner to foreign countries, the USA can use investment power to create economic strength outside our borders.

Poverty is a tangible problem for which we as a society can find solutions. We can advocate for solutions to poverty. Choose wisely when electing leaders. They are our friends and neighbors who can put in place or impede solutions.

A recent episode, The Roots of Poverty in America, on the podcast Throughline (7/11/24) explains some of the revolving door of poverty. One circular argument is that poverty and welfare create a revolving door of dependence on monthly support. Conventions in our financial system create barriers to rising out of poverty. The working poor have the threat of fees for handling the bit of money they receive from minimum wage jobs. Financial exploitation from overdraft fees, check-cashing fees, payday

loan fees - accumulating some \$61 million in fines and fees every day. This is money that could lift families above the poverty line.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or TANF is a federal funding program to aid Americans living below the poverty line. For Maryland Benefits <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1277>. Many states withhold money from citizens, for a variety of reasons. Some state have a reserve of hundreds of millions of dollars. This money could be used to change the bottom tier of our economy.

Government subsidies are available in every income bracket. For lower incomes there is the earned income tax credit. Homeowners with a mortgage can take a tax deduction for the interest paid on their mortgage. Wealthier homeowners with a second home, can take a tax deduction for the interest on the mortgage on their second home. Second homes include boats, RVs, and vacation houses.

Do subsidies of mortgage interest, tax deductions create a revolving door of support for wealthy people? Does this create a revolving door of dependence on acquiring more stuff?

The point is that we can solve poverty, and we can solve some underlying causes of drug addiction. We could disrupt the supply and demand for illegal

drugs. This can happen when we commit to solving problems, not continuing circular arguments. To be committed to solving a problem means learning the root causes. To learn the difference between a circular argument and the components of a real life situation, one has to be willing to look at them from different perspectives.

An example of a circular argument:

"If the king said it then it is true, and it is true because the king said it." — Douglas Neil Walton

Another circular debate scenario in our contemporary public square, aka the internet: If my opponent says it, it must not be true.

Get off the circle at the local level, step into our library, and find a different perspective. At the library each of us can pursue a topic for a better understanding of how we are connected to the world around us. Start at the local level at our Walkersville Library.

Read and research on your own or meet as a group in one of the study rooms. Get out of circular arguments and get your mind into circulation. Having conversations is a huge step towards understanding our community. Please come to the conversation informed, rather than accumulating repetitive details on the news, in your headphones, on your smart phone, on bumper stickers, graffiti, yard signs.

These are endless ways we communicate without really talking to each other.

Support our library with the Friends of the library group. Go to FCPL.org and search Friends of the Library: Walkersville Branch Library.

Find community activities on the Walkersville Library Events Calendar. Story hour for kids, Youth Summer Lunch, and Discovery Days, to name a few. Go to frederick.librarycalendar.com/events/. Search the Library Branch List to find your closest FCPL Branch Library.

You know the adage "For want of a nail...the war was lost." How about, "For want of a book perspective was lost. For want of perspective the solution was lost."

Reframe an argument, look at a topic from multiple points of view, and take a broader look at who is part of your community. There are circular arguments all over the place this election cycle. Topics that are calculated to raise fears, fears of others. Being circles doesn't make them steering wheels. They can't bring direction to our lives.

2024 is the Year of the Vote. Please make yours count.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Be an encourager

Stephen Turner
Trinity Thurmont Church

*"Oh, give me a home, where the buffalo roam,
And the deer and the antelope play.
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day."*
-Dr. Brewster Higley, 1876

"Home On the Range" is the great American homage to the peaceful, prairie life. Today, you and I might get the clear skies, maybe even pristine scenery. But not hearing discouraging words? Good luck with that one.

Hopefully you are blessed to be surrounded by voices of encouragement. If so, thank our Lord that you are. But many of us live where we hear a constant drum-beat of discouraging words—endless quarrels at home, endless criticism at work.

"Discouraging words" – they quench our joy, steal our energy,

and bring us down. Discouragement chips away even at our Faith in God. Pretty soon we're thinking: "What I'm doing doesn't matter"; "I don't matter"; and/or, "God doesn't care about me"

And so we give up – maybe gradually, but we slowly let go of our dreams, our goals, our Faith in God. And it doesn't always take a discouraging word. Whatever we're trying to accomplish, be it through our work, our church, raising our children, taking care of loved ones – the drudgery and tedium of day-to-day life in today's world can be mind numbing and spirit draining. Our ceaseless cares can chip away at our trust in God. Gradually our Faith weakens, and bit by bit God gets crowded out of our heart.

If you're facing discouraging words, then Psalm 139 is written for you; "You saw me being formed, as I took shape in my mother's body...All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old."

God gave us life. He formed us and He sustains us. Our Creator sits across all time, knowing your life from His creation of the world through eternity. He planned when you would be born, knows your circumstances, and He will welcome you home. You matter to Him and what you are working to accomplish in your life matters to Him. He wants you to persevere, and to know it was by His grace, His power, His love, that you did so. His love for us sent His only begotten Son Jesus into our world, so that, by Christ's atonement on the cross, we might be saved, restored and renewed in our relationship with our Creator.

"You are all around me, in front and in back, and have put your hand on me."
-Ps1 39:5

Picture God's hand on your shoulder. Our Creator God is close –really close and always there, 24/7. David the Psalmist writes, "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there, O Lord, Your Hand guides me, Your right hand upholds me"-Ps139:9-10 NKJV." What beautiful and reassuring words. Bottom line - there is nowhere we can go that we are apart from God and His love for us.

"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God. How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand."
-Ps 139:17-18 NKJV

This is mind blowing. The master of the universe thinks about you and His thoughts about you are too many to count. The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah wrote, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" – Jer 29:11 NCV. And Paul reminds us, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" - Romans 8:31.

Reading God's word is pure encouragement. It brings peace,



joy, and a strengthened heart that is able to persevere. You and I are planted in God's garden as seeds. We will bear fruit if we keep going. And by keeping going, we honor our Creator God and heaven knows what a harvest we will bring.

The great thing is, once you are re-encouraged by the Spirit of God, you receive overflowing life, - "rivers of living water", such that we now become encouragers to others. Remember - giving encouragement is to share the overflow of God's love that He has put into your heart. When you encourage someone, you are shedding God's love into this world.

So here's to the "encouragers" -those who take the time to encourage the children, the elderly, the sick, our neighbors around us, all of us. I don't know about you, but the memories I cherish are those of people who encouraged me along the way.

The story is told of a famous concert pianist, Jan Paderewski, who one night was preparing to go on stage in front of a large audience, and sitting in the audience was a mother and her young son. The mother hoped that hearing the famous pianist would inspire her son to practice and so she brought him to hear the performance. Unbeknown to his mom, as young boys are wont to do, her son had sneaked out of his seat, walked onto the stage, sat down on the piano bench of the giant concert grand.....and began to play chopsticks. Angry voices could be heard muttering in the audience: "Who'd

let a kid like that in here"... "Someone get him off the stage"

By then, Paderewski, who was still backstage, saw what was going on. He rushed onto the stage and, without saying a word, carefully reached his arms around the boy's hands that were still on the piano keys, and Paderewski began to play accompaniment to the boy's chopsticks, creating a beautiful, melodic duet. All the time he is playing, Paderewski is whispering into the boy's ear, "keep going....don't stop...keep playing, you're doing great....don't quit".

May we do likewise. Be encouraged by God's promises of His unconditional love for you, His presence in, and His great purpose for, your life. Your life touches and will touch many other lives. Be assured, God is using you to write a masterpiece.

Be an encourager....and keep going...you're doing great....don't stop!

Trinity United Church of Christ traces its roots to the early German immigrants seeking religious freedom who settled near the Monocacy River in the 1700's. Trinity Reformed Church was dedicated in 1880 at 101 East Main Street in Thurmont. In 1901, the building was expanded to include the present-day sanctuary with its beautiful stained-glass windows. Each member brings talents and strength to the congregation. We know our need to be nourished by scripture and spiritual growth. We are an open, welcoming church.

To learn more about Trinity UCC, visit them on-line at www.trinityuccthurmont.org or better yet, join them for Sunday service.

Grace "Rocky Hill" Lutheran Church
Join us for Sunday Service at 11 a.m.!
10825 Coppermine Road, Woodsboro
301-845-6733 - gracerockyhilllutheran.com

Strawberry Festival
Saturday, August 3
Featuring: 5.5 Men

Delicious fried chicken platters, sandwiches, homemade soups, cakes, ice cream with strawberries and more.
Yard sale building will be open. Admission is free.
Food service begins @ 3:30 p.m. Music starts @ 4 p.m.

Join Us for an Exciting Reptile Ranger Adventure!

Fun for all ages!
Program by Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks/Maryland DNR.
Saturday, August 17th
Program starts at 10 a.m.

Apples United Church of Christ
7908 Apples Church Rd.
Thurmont
301-606-2169

All Are Welcome
Service every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

Served With Grace Free Dinner
August 5 at 5:30 to 7 p.m.
All Welcome

Graceham Moravian Church
301-271-2379
8231A Rocky Ridge Rd, Thurmont
Facebook Live - You Tube
admin@gracehammoravian.org

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John Talcott
Senior Pastor
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Children's Ministry

'The tenth of August'



The 10th of August 1792 is memorable in modern European history, as the day which saw the abolition of the ancient monarchy of France in the person of the unfortunate Louis XVI. The measures entered upon by prince and people for constitutionalising this monarchy had been confounded by a mutual distrust which was almost inevitable. When the leading reformers, and the populace which gave them their strength, found at length that Austria and Prussia were to break in upon them with a reaction, they grew desperate; and the position of the king became seriously dangerous. In our day, such attempts at intervention are discouraged, for we know how apt they are to produce fatal effects. In 1792, there was no such wisdom in the world.

It was at the end of July that the celebrated manifesto announcing the plans of Austria and Prussia reached Paris. The people broke out in fury at the idea of such insulting menaces. Louis himself was in dismay at this manifesto, for it went far beyond anything that he had himself wished or expected. But his people would not believe him. An indescribable madness seized the nation; and 'Death to the aristocrats!' was everywhere the cry.

During the night between the 9th and 10th of August, the tocsin sounded all over Paris, and the rabble were invited to scenes of violence by the more unscrupulous leaders—against the wish of many who would even have gone so far as to dethrone the king.

The danger to the royal family being now imminent, numbers of loyal men hastened to the Tuileries with an offer of their swords and lives. There were also at the palace several hundred Swiss Guards, national guards, and gens d'armes. The commandant, Mandat, placed detachments to guard the approaches to the palace as best he could. When, at six o'clock in the morning, the insurgent mob, armed with cannon as well as other weapons, came near the Tuileries, the unfortunate Louis found that none of his troops were trustworthy save the Swiss Guards: the rest betrayed their trust at the critical moment. A day of horror then commenced.

The lives of the unhappy royal family were placed in such peril, that they were compelled to take refuge within the walls of the Legislative Assembly, hostile as that assembly

was to the king, Louis, his queen, and their children walked the short distance from the palace-doors to the assembly-doors; but even in this short distance the king had to bear the jeers and hisses of the populace; while the queen, who was an object of intense national hatred, was met with a torrent of loathsome epithets.

All through the remainder of that distressing day, the royal family remained ignobly cooped up in a reporter's box at the Legislative Assembly, where, without being seen, they had to listen to speeches and resolutions levelled against kingly power in all its forms; for the assembly, though at this moment protecting the king, was on the eve of dethroning him. Meanwhile blood was flowing at the Tuileries. None of the troops remained faithful to the royal cause except the Swiss Guards, who defended the palace with undaunted resolution, and laid more than a thousand of the insurgents in the dust. A young man, destined to world-wide notoriety, Napoleon Bonaparte, who was in the crowd, declared that the Swiss Guards would have gained the day had they been well commanded. But a fatal indecision ruined all.

The poor king was persuaded to send an order to them, commanding them to desist from firing upon 'his faithful people,' as the insurgents were called. The end soon arrived. The rabble forced an entrance into the palace and the Swiss Guards were butchered almost to a man. This terrible day inaugurated the French Revolution. The king and queen were never again free.

Napoleon Bonaparte August 15

After all that has been said and written on the subject of Napoleon Bonaparte, the conclusion is forced upon us, that he had few of the elements in his composition which go to make up the character of a true hero. Of unbounded ambition, perfectly unscrupulous as to the means by which he might accomplish his ends, and tinged throughout by an utter selfishness and regardlessness of others, we can deem him no more entitled to a real and intelligent admiration, than a previous occupant of the French throne, Louis XIV, brilliant in many respects though the reigns of both these men undoubtedly were.

That the first Napoleon was in many ways a benefactor to France,

cannot reasonably be denied. By his military and administrative abilities he raised himself to supreme power at a time when the country was emerging from the lawlessness and terrorism to which she had been subjected after the death of Louis XVI. The divided and profligate government of the Directorate had succeeded the anarchy and violence of the leaders of the Convention. Some powerful hand was required as a dictator to hold the reins of state, and arrange in a harmonious and well-adjusted train the various jarring and unstable systems of government.

Regardless of the warnings addressed to him by the most sagacious of his counsellors, contemptuously defiant of the coalitions formed to impede his progress, and careless, lastly, of the odium which his tyrannical sway in the end excited among his own subjects, he found himself at length left utterly destitute of resources, and obliged to submit to such terms as his enemies chose to impose. His career presents one of the most melancholy and impressive lessons that history affords. And yet how eagerly would a large portion of the French nation revert to a policy which, in his hands, overwhelmed it only with vexation and disaster!

Napoleon's character may be contemplated in three phases—as a statesman, as a commander, and as a private individual. In the first of these capacities, he displayed, as regards France, much that was worthy of commendation in point of political and social reform. A vig-

orous administration of the laws, a simplification of legal ordinances and forms, a wise and tolerating system in religious matters, many important and judicious sanitary measures, the embellishment of the capital, and patronage afforded to art and science, must all be allowed to have been distinguishing attributes of his sway.

But how little did he understand the art of conciliating and securing the allegiance of the countries which he had conquered! A total ignoring of all national predilections and tendencies seems to have been here habitually practiced by him, and nowhere was this more conspicuous than in his treatment of Germany. That system of centralization, by which he sought to render Paris the capital of a vast empire, at the expense of the dignity and treasures of other cities and kingdoms, might flatter very sensibly the national vanity of France, but was certain, at the same time, to exasperate the degraded and plundered countries beyond all hopes of forgiveness.

The military genius of Bonaparte has been, and still is, a fruitful theme for discussion. In the early part of his career, he achieved such successes as rendered his name a terror to Europe, and gained for him a prestige which a series of continuous and overwhelming defeats in the latter period of his history was unable to destroy. But in the game of war, results alone can form the criterion, and the victories of Marengo, of Austerlitz, and of Wagram can scarcely be admitted in compensation for the

blunders of the Russian campaign and the overthrow at Waterloo.

One qualification, however, of a great general, the capacity of recognising and rewarding merit, in whatever position it might be found, was eminently conspicuous in Napoleon. Favouritism, and the influence of rank or fortune, were almost entirely unknown in his army. Few of his generals could boast much of family descent, and the circumstance that bravery and military talent were certain to receive their due reward in promotion or otherwise, gave every man a personal interest in the triumph of the emperor's arms.

An inquiry into the personal character of Bonaparte exhibits him perhaps in a still less favourable sight than that in, which we have hitherto been considering him. Of a cold-blooded and impassible temperament, and engrossed exclusively by the master-passion, ambition, he betrayed no tendencies towards any of those aberrations by which the characters of so many other great men have been stained. But the very cause that kept his moral purity inviolate, rendered him totally insensible to the promptings of love and affection when his interest seemed to require that they should be disregarded. The insensibility with which he appears to have regarded the sacrifice of myriads of Frenchmen to his lust for power, leads us to form a very low estimate of the kindness or goodness of his heart.

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

HELP Save Frederick's HISTORIC Clock Tower

Without the help of the community, Frederick's oldest spire and town clock tower will be removed and capped at its base. ERUCC has raised half of the \$1 million that is needed for the spire's preservation. Play a role of historic proportion with your gift of any amount. Every dollar counts in this race against time!

Donate now via The Community Foundation of Frederick County
www.frederickcountygives.org/give

Or learn more at: www.saveourspires.org
A project of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ



ECOLOGY

Snail teeth and other nature oddities

Anne Gageby
Director of Environmental Education
Strawberry Hill Foundation

I recently saw a meme with an image of a snail superimposed with fake teeth. The picture was meant to be funny and clownish. A moment of silliness as I doom-scrolled the internet. As I studied the grinning snail a question popped into my mind: do snails have teeth?

It turns out they do though their teeth are quite different from ours. Snails' mouths contain a radula, a membrane similar to a tongue. The radula is covered in thousands of tiny teeth and used to scrape away at their food. Snail teeth are extremely durable though they do get worn down by eating. Like sharks, snails replace their teeth regularly. This was an interesting discovery considering snails' diets consist of plant matter and fungi. Not exactly the type of meal that wears down teeth. It turns out my understanding of snails was incorrect.

Most land snails are generalist feeders, meaning they eat a wide variety of organic and inorganic material beyond fungi and green and decaying plants. They consume animal carcasses and scat, rotting wood, empty snail shells, and even certain rocks such as limestone. Snails and their shell-less relatives, slugs, are technically classified as decomposers though their role is significantly smaller than other decomposers like worms and fungi.

Some snail species will even feed on others of their kind. The assassin snail is well-known for feeding on smaller snails no matter their species. Though they generally avoid single-handedly attacking larger snails, the assassin snail has been known to gang up on larger snails and make a meal out of them. The notion of a snail's existence as gentle is just a mirage. It's a snail-eat-snail world after all, and those teeth are designed for destruction.

Mother Nature is full of wonderful contradictions and oddities that keep nature enthusiasts on their toes. A personal favorite of mine is jewelweed. This lovely plant grows all over Strawberry Hill's campus and is a destination for hummingbirds as well as pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. Its beautiful orange flowers provide a delightful pop of color against a sea of green in summer and fall. But the most fascinating aspect of this plant is its hydrophobic leaves. Water droplets bead on top of the leaves and sparkle with a jewel-like appearance. While this is quite fascinating and beautiful to witness, it's contradictory because jewelweed occurs in moist areas such as floodplain forests, marshes, and bogs. In other words, it only grows in wetlands. A water-based plant with hydrophobic leaves is a conundrum, for sure.

Another fun puzzle is the hydrophobic nature of water skippers. These aquatic insects are known for their ability to "walk" on water and the dimples their feet make on the

water's surface. Water skippers are found in creeks, ponds, rivers, and marshes and yet have hydrophobic bodies that make them uniquely adapted to their watery habitat.

Scientists have been studying the reason behind water skippers' buoyancy to better understand and hopefully replicate this phenomenon. By using the latest technology, they've discovered that water skippers have microscopic hairs covering their bodies. These hairs repel water and capture air creating a perfect adaptation for flotation and quick movement across the water's surface. This adaptation takes advantage of a very basic scientific concept: the surface tension of water. You see, water behaves differently on the surface. Water molecules are highly attracted to each other, and they stick together. This cohesion creates a dense molecular membrane at the surface level. Water skippers walk on this membrane, avoiding breaking the surface tension of the water. It's a pretty cool adaptation that allows water skippers to exist in aquatic environments while not actually living in the water.

Another oddity that boggles the mind is the dragonfly. They're dainty and lovely summer insects that shimmer with an ethereal iridescence. They're also the most efficient and effective hunters in the world. Dragonflies have an estimated 95% success rate and can consume hundreds of insects per day, including mosquitoes and other biting insects. In a world of apex predators with powerful claws and terrifying teeth such as wolves, lions, and tigers, dragonflies are, by comparison, tiny and seemingly delicate. The smallest dragonfly's wingspan is less than an inch and even the largest only spans about six inches. Size is a deceptive ruler by which to measure a hunter's ability, however. Dragonflies are beautiful and deadly.

There are more than 5,000 species of dragonflies and related damselflies worldwide. Both belong to the order Odonata, meaning "the toothed one." Dragonflies and damselflies have powerful serrated mandibles that can crush prey. And yet that's not their most impressive adaptation. Dragonfly wing muscles are attached to a hinge at the base of each wing. Most insects' four wings are coupled and can only move as part of their pair, but dragonflies' four wings can move independently. This gives dragonflies the ability to fly in all directions – even backward. This adaptation allows them to change their speed and direction faster than most insects. Many dragonfly species even make their kills mid-flight.

Dragonflies' flight isn't the only key to their hunting success rate, however. Recent studies have discovered dragonflies' brains have the ability to predict their prey's movements by anticipating the prey's trajectory. Think of a human watching a ball thrown in the air.



Snails can have up to 20,000 teeth, though, most of these species have between 2,000 and 14,000. Imagine, 120 rows of 100 teeth each!

We're able to track the ball's location and anticipate where it will land by using a complex system of visual calculations. Until recently, it was believed this ability only existed in mammals. It turns out that dragonflies can do something similar. No wonder they're able to snatch a meal mid-flight. All of these adaptations have made dragonflies the world's deadliest hunter. Fortunately for humans, they're a fraction of our size and prefer mosquitoes to people.

Nature is full of incredible contradictions and puzzling truths. I love hearing about new discoveries that put a question mark on my previous notions and fill in the gaps in my knowledge. The world outside is truly fascinating and ever-changing. It makes me wonder what oddities we have yet to discover.

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

Stream Link to plant native plants along Carroll Creek

Local tree planting nonprofit organization, Stream Link Education (SLE), is pleased to announce its recent grant award from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) on behalf of the Land and Cultural Preservation Fund. The Trust awarded SLE \$22,077 to plant two ecological gardens full of native plants along Carroll Creek in Baker Park and to educate the community on the 15 species in the garden. The grant supports education about the native plants and their importance to declining populations of native birds and insects like butterflies and bees. The gardens will be planted in the Fall of 2024 along the intersection of College Avenue and Carroll Parkway, on the south, sloped side of the creek.

This native plant installation will have incredible advantages for the Frederick community. In line with multiple recommendations from resources such as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Action Plan, the Tree Canopy Assessment of Frederick City, and Mobilize Frederick's Climate Response and Resilience report, SLE is improving Frederick's urban environment through this project. Native plants provide all sorts of environmental benefits, from reducing runoff and protecting creeks and water supplies, to providing habitat for thousands of insects that feed our bird and wildlife populations. Jenny Willoughby, Sustainability Manager for the City of Frederick, shares that "native gardens are so important to our birds, insects, and

other critters and we hope these gardens showcase what residents can do in their own yards."

Adding deep rooted native vegetation along Carroll Creek is a small start to help make Frederick more resilient to the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change. Israel Orellana, Frederick City Parks & Recreation Assistant Horticulturist, says he is "optimistic to the growing change within our community to reintroduce native vegetation to our public and private lands to not only beautify our landscapes but regenerate our native ecology."

SLE is contributing to education and growth by inviting community members to learn more about native plants from volunteering during the installation or reading the educational signage. SLE has exclusively worked as a tree planting organization for nearly a decade, but is enthusiastic to dive further into rewilding efforts after its initial pilot meadow project in December 2023. Since 2014, SLE has planted over 38,800 trees with the help of more than 4,900 volunteers.

SLE is eager to invite the Frederick community to lend a hand in October 2024 to install these native plants. Refer to SLE's website, www.streamlinkeducation.org, for more information closer to the fall, or email SLE Program Director, Kylie Baker.

(kylie.streamlink@gmail.com) to be added to a mailing list for updates. Contact Kylie with any questions or concerns. See you in the field!




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IN THE COUNTRY

Butterfly blitz

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

When you conjure up images of a butterfly you may think of one listlessly flapping its wings and gently gliding through the air, or perhaps it's resting elegantly on a surface nearby. Chances are though the archetype you imagine is one with orange wings and black stripes. That butterfly would be the Monarch Butterfly. This proverbial king of the butterflies once reigned supreme, but troubled times rest at the throne for this regal insect. The Monarch Butterfly has an incredible life cycle and journey every year, and has proven its chops to the natural world through and through.

Monarchs will begin their annual life cycle in their overwintering sites in central Mexico. They spend their winters hibernating in fir forests. In February they'll awaken and shake off that groggy feeling and immediately begin to seek out a suitable mate. Shortly thereafter they'll begin their wayward journey to points north. Some will fly as far north as Canada and the adjacent border states. This will be the first of four generations in a calendar year. Sometime in March or April these butterflies will lay their eggs on milkweed plants in the northern latitudes they've journeyed towards. It will only take a few days for these eggs to hatch and this will begin the second generation.

This newly hatched caterpillar will spend approximately the next two weeks doing nothing but eating milkweed plants and seeking out more milkweeds to eat. Over the course of this time the toxins from the milkweeds will accumulate in the caterpillar causing them to taste foul to would be predators. After this 14 day gluttony binge the corpulent caterpillar will be ready to enter its next stage of development – the chrysalis stage! The caterpillar will attach itself to the plant leaf or stem using silk and transform into a chrysalis. From the outside things seem pretty lackluster, dull, or even stagnant. On the inside, however, there is a whole lot of change going on. Over the next 10 days rapid growth and development is underway! At the end a newly changed insect will emerge as a beautiful butterfly.

This second generation, born in May or June, will begin the process anew and will live its short life over a period of about two to six weeks. The third generation will be born in July or August and will go through the same life cycle and stages as the previous generation, while the fourth will be born in September or October. The fourth generation of the year is unique compared to the previous generations. This final generation will live considerably longer than the second and third generations. While the second and third live only a few short weeks, this last generation will become the first generation for the next year. Unlike the previous generations that die off after about two months this one can live for six to eight months. This generation is responsible for retracing the route south that their great-great grandparents followed north. They instinctively know to begin moving south when the weather begins to cool, and many even find the very same forests and trees that were used by their very own progenitors. The migratory instinct is poorly understood at the moment. There are a few theories about how it most likely works though.

Scientists believe that Monarch Butterflies, like turtles and birds, possess an inherited geomagnetic compass. This compass relies on the magnetic field generated by the earth which works like a built in GPS to tell them where to go. It is also reported that within their antennae there is a special protein that reacts with UV light emitted from the sun. When the sunlight reaches a certain wavelength it sets off an internal alarm clock that tells them it's time to move south. It's at this point that their internal GPS, aided by the earth's magnetic field, guides them to the overwintering sites that have been used by generations of ancestors before them.

There is some trouble in the kingdom though. All indicators point to steep population decline. Monarchs historically covered approximately 50 acres worth of fir forests at wintering sites in Mexico. Based on recent research conducted during 2011-2012 winter by the WWF-Telcel Alliance and the Mexican National Commission of Protected Areas it

appears a total of nine colonies occupied about seven acres of total forest. A similar study conducted over the 2012-2013 winter showed a sharp decrease of Monarchs occupying just less than 3 acres of total forest. These are drastic decreases, and there are several factors contributing to these heavy losses.

Habitat loss is the leading contributing factor in the sharp drop in population. Milkweed is exclusively what the Monarch caterpillar feeds on. Increased use of pesticides at farms, along roadsides, and at home has taken its toll. Milkweed tends to grow on roadsides, fields, and prairies. Development over decades has destroyed much of this valuable land. The use of new genetically modified crops allows farmers to use new pesticides that have destroyed millions of acres of milkweed.

Another issue causing problems is a plant known as the Black Swallow-Wort. The introduction of this non-native European plant is taking its toll. This plant is a relative of the milkweed, and has similar features which attract Monarchs to lay their eggs on this plant. However, even though it is in the same family it is actually toxic for monarch caterpillars and poison these newly hatched larvae. They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but this imposter is wreaking havoc on an already unstable population. These two compounding factors, along with some natural disasters along migratory routes have attributed to the spiraling population size for this royal butterfly.

The alarming rate that this butterfly is disappearing has raised some to action, and you too can rally to the cause. Monarch Watch, based out of the University of Kansas, is a nonprofit education, conservation, and research program that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. They host a citizen scientist project that allows interested people to sign up for population monitoring. They also provide tiny little stickers that are placed on the wings of the butterfly (when done correctly will not cause any harm or detriment to the bug). These stickers allow researchers in Mexico to see where these butterflies are migrating from, and they



The alarming rate at which Monarchs are disappearing has raised many to action. You too can rally to the cause by joining Monarch Watch, a nonprofit education & conservation program focused on a Monarch's life cycle.

will update a website so you can see if your butterflies made it all the way there!

Milkweeds are the host plant for the Monarch butterfly and occur naturally throughout the continent. Planting more of these in our area and yards will greatly increase the likelihood of regional success. By planting areas of milkweeds you can create "way stations" that will provide necessary resources for their long term survival. These habitats can be planted in home gardens, schools, along roadways, and any where there is open and available land. The greater number of way stations that are created and maintained the greater the chance of survival Monarch Butterflies will have.

For most people the quintessential image when we conjure up a butterfly in our heads is the Monarch. With a little help from us it may be able to continue to flutter and fly through the sky, but that will require some leg work from us. Seek out opportunities at state and local parks to get involved and learn about projects that can have a positive impact on our natural world. This king of the butterflies needs some help to restore the throne, and with some small tangible gestures we just may be able to do so.

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

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SCIENCE MATTERS

When a black hole feeds on its solar system

Boyce Rensberger

The beautiful expanse of the night sky, with its silent stars and timeless constellations, can deceive us into thinking the universe is a realm of peaceful persistence. But hidden amid the celestial wonders are scenes of unimaginable violence.

We've all heard of supernovas, those events in which a star explodes and briefly blasts out more energy than an entire galaxy. That involves just one star. A very different kind of violence is happening in some galaxies. It involves the black hole that lives at the center of each galaxy. It's called the galactic nucleus. In about 10 percent of galaxies, the nucleus is on a rampage, pulling in huge regions of the solar system orbiting it. The rest are like our Milky Way with its well-behaved black hole resting quietly, its gravitational force peacefully holding together the hundreds of billions of stars in its orbit. That includes, of course, our favorite star, the sun.

But here's the surprising part: Based

on a complex body of research that I won't go into here, astrophysicists have seen evidence that the rampaging black holes, which they call active galactic nuclei, or AGNs, turn themselves on and off over intervals of time ranging from 10,000 years to 10 million years. During the few decades since astronomers discovered evidence of this, however, they had never actually seen a black hole emerge from its slumber and begin feeding on nearby matter. Now they have done so.

For the first time, scientists believe they have witnessed the birth of an AGN, and it happened while they were watching. Or, at least, while their telescopes were watching and recording the pictures. When researchers saw hints of this, they went back into the archive of images, and found the "before" images to compare with current "after" pictures.

After lining up the images, what scientists saw was the quiet heart of a distant galaxy, 300 million light years away, explode into action. It began pulling in vast quantities of gas and



The Milky Way, our home galaxy, with a laser pointing toward the galactic center from a telescope at the European Southern Observatory high in the Chilean Andes. The center is hidden within clouds of dust and stars.

dust that had been quietly orbiting the black hole. As these particles of matter fall into the black hole, they move so fast and rub together with so much friction that they turn white hot and even hotter, emitting the full spectrum of electromagnetic energy. For a few years, these monsters become the brightest steady light source in the universe. Once the particles cross the "event horizon," the bits of matter disappear as they add their mass to that of the black hole. The hole itself is, of course, black, emitting no light. It is an infinitesimal point containing the mass (and gravitational force) of everything that ever fell into it.

The first clue to this event came from a telescope called the Zwicky Transient Facility at the Palomar Observatory near San Diego, California. (Fritz Zwicky was an astronomer at nearby Cal Tech who first suggested the existence of dark matter.) This is a conventional telescope built in 1948 but recently modified to produce instant digital images. The new upgrades, including computer-controlled pointing, allow it to sweep and swivel to see and photograph the entire northern hemisphere night sky every night. Computers compare each night's

output with the previous night's to see if anything has changed.

Then the researchers cross matched those findings with a catalog of 2.4 million quiet galaxies maintained by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. That's a huge program involving some 300 scientists at 25 universities around the world who combine their data into the world's biggest and most detailed map of the universe. The survey found one that showed the biggest change from its first sighting in 2003 and the group's new observation in 2022. The change suggested it was a rapidly developing AGN.

"We could not see the activation of the black hole in real time," team member Paula Sánchez Saez of the European Southern Observatory told the journal *Science*. "We just know that the galaxy was not active 18 years ago, and now it is active."

But that's still not capturing the beginning of the process.

Then the researchers noticed that in 2019 the Zwicky computers had spotted one particular galactic nucleus, some 300 million light years away, that showed the first hint of brightening. That was one cataloged as SDSS1335+0728. The first follow-up observations didn't show

much change, but in 2022, it could be seen brightening suddenly and spectacularly. It showed all the signs of becoming an AGN. They estimated its mass at roughly one million times greater than that of our sun.

But had the black hole actually been totally dormant before researchers saw those early signs of brightening? That question sent them deeper into the astronomy archives, looking for even older pictures to see if they showed this galaxy as normal, lacking an active nucleus. Sure enough, they found their galaxy, and it looked as normal as the Milky Way. They were able to gather data on it in all the usual electromagnetic spectra from x-rays and ultraviolet to optical and infrared.

That's something like having a sick adult human with totally mysterious symptoms but also having access to all that person's lab records going back to prenatal time. With that data, it might be possible to trace findings and phenomena over the course of a lifetime.

Philip Best, an astronomer at the University of Edinburgh, told *Science* that it was only a matter of time before researchers saw an AGN in its formative years.

"It's interesting that we are now beginning to identify these objects," says Best, who was not involved in this research. He says, "studying how the nature of the active nucleus changes across its lifetime can help to reveal the physical processes that lead to the fueling of the AGN."

With that new knowledge, he says, it might be possible to say whether the black hole at the center of our own Milky Way might one day rise up and begin swallowing its galaxy.

If you made it this far in the column, you may be an astronomy nerd. If so, you would enjoy NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day. It's at apod.nasa.gov. Have a look.

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

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Loving chaos

Jack Deatherage

Well into the third week of July the Cedar Avenue Community Garden is a mashup of successes, “meh”s and “what was I thinking’s. Mostly the latter. The cool spring slowed the growth of the tomato seedlings but caused explosive growth among the cabbages and kale. The soon to follow heatwave and drought all but stopped the cabbage growth as the tomatoes exploded into their own. Of the directly sown seeds the ‘Scarlet’ runner beans took off in the cool weather as if they had some place to be- like the top of the trellises the town provided them. The winged beans, planted at the same time as the runners, only began serious growth and trellis climbing once the temperature got above 80 degrees and stayed there.

I haven’t found a single bean pod among the runner bean vines. That type of bean does not like our hot, humid summers and rarely sets pods though it does bloom well and the flowers attract bumblebees and hummingbirds. The winged bean on the other hand has, in past years, set pods freely in the worst summer’s heat. The yard-long beans the library kids sowed in straw bales are also covering their trellis and setting pods while most everything else we planted in straw is stunted or has simply died due to my failure to prep the bales properly.

The DW’s early taters were a good week earlier than we expected. She’s left her mid to late season spuds in the ground a bit longer even though their tops have collapsed and are drying. I suspect it’s been too hot for even the madwoman weed puller to dig potatoes. Not that the heat has stopped her pulling weeds as well as uprooting the row of ‘Masai’ bush beans that were another disappointment this year.

First Sister, not used to the chaos that is my and the DW’s life, has declared she’ll not put anymore money into the community garden. She’s got well over \$1,500 invested in the garden this year. She’ll continue to help with the watering, mowing and weeding though. Her focus has shifted to our back yard. She’s talking about getting someone in to level out the lumps, bumps, dips and trips

I’ve spent thirty some years creating so she can walk the length of the yard without twisting an ankle or worse. The DW is in agreement with her. I’m dreading the effort this is going to require of me, but I’m already pricing the garden beds and plotting how we’ll garden the yard- small bites, taken over our remaining years.

Of course, we’re debating over the community garden. The women don’t have my enthusiasm for the project and think we should just lift the metal beds and bring them home. I’m all for building a home garden based on what I’ve learned building the community garden, but I’m not giving up on the Cedar Ave garden now that the worst of getting it started is behind us. Bolstering the women’s argument are two of my mentors (more like all my mentors) telling me, “The moment you walk away from the community garden it’s done. No one else will step up to take over the project. Hell, you know this town. The apathy here...”

I’m cool with that. Every community gardener I’ve talked to outside of this place is dealing with the same issues I am- mostly apathy. Though my vision is for the entire lot to eventually become a garden, I can work what we have done so far, by myself if needs be. Besides, I figure working the garden by myself for the next few years will likely see me dropping with a massive heart attack and that will be fitting enough an end. If I’m dead, I don’t care if no one else takes up the project and the towns work crew returns the garden to a vacant lot.

Motivation to continue the community garden comes from diverse sources. Oddly, praise from grownups mostly leaves me confused- the garden is a pale imitation, years away from looking like the one in my head. However, preschool children, gigglingly chasing baby rabbits in and out of the garden beds, fill me with hope that someone will eventually take up the garden. Also, hearing that I’ve inadvertently answered some new gardener’s questions about trellises, grow bags, straw bale gardening, the use of metal raised beds, means as much to me as someone getting excited about the flavor of a tomato they’d not heard of before. Hell, seeing the look on

the DW’s face when I squeezed a snapdragon blossom and it’s “mouth” popped open was worth the thousands of dollars we’ve spent on gardens since we decided we could tolerate each other until death do we part. Though she may yet live long enough to regret that last bit. Assuming she isn’t there now. Discovering Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillars on the dill also makes all the effort worth my while- the women found four this morning.

Because the universe (Father Chaos) is always trying to supply me with what I need, whether I know I need it or not, I was presented with two young men, who, were I to get all Old Testament-ishy, I might call angels. Seminar-ians Gabriel and Juan, dressed in black cassocks, stood in the heat-sink that is the front of our house and explained their part in the Roman Catholic Church’s efforts to reintroduce that religion to our community. Twas as a fine discussion of religion and philosophy between an ignorant pagan and educated RCs as I used to have with Bill Seto, the philosopher down the hill.

Anyhow, I came away from the conversation thinking, if the seminar-ians were willing to endure the awful heat and my blather to save my soul, the least I can do is continue the garden project if it brings only one person to work the garden.

Father Chaos wasn’t done presenting me with possibilities though. A week from beginning



To protect all his hard work from the ravages of startling, Jack has decided to serve as the community garden’s scarecrow - which should scare just about everyone!

my seventieth year I’m all philosophical, a thing I’m ill equipped to tackle. I don’t know if this sudden need to think things through comes from adding Withania somnifera, Panax ginseng and Astragalus root extract to my regular doses of Ginkgo biloba, or if the Wuhan flu brain fog has finally lifted. Whatever is going on I’m grateful for it as I’ve next year’s gardens to plot and several books on building soil health and moisture retention to read and contemplate.

The day after I submitted the July “Village Idiot” column to this News-jJurnal a paper license renewal form from the MVA appeared in our PO box- a thing

I was told would not happen! “You have to renew online or at an MVA computer kiosk.” As the DW and First Sister had noticed my returning ability to focus on routine tasks they insisted I submit the form and continue the only task they need me around for. And there I was all ready to become a passenger again. Ah well. I wasn’t wild about having to beg rides anyhow.

Hear the laughing gods? Yeah, my cogent time is limited. I got to get to studying the soil health books!

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Why meadows?

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

When googling a definition of a meadow, several definitions come up. 1. A grassland; 2. A wild area with no trees or shrubs; 3. Land with herbaceous plant material, grasses and wildflowers.

There are other definitions that delineate a field vs a meadow, what meadows mean in other countries, and whether they are in lowlands or uplands. But for the purposes of this article, I will refer to a meadow as having herbaceous plant material.

Why are meadows being suggested for residential communities? What is the advantage of a meadow? Meadows provide quite a few ecological improvements. But let's start with where we are now in our neighborhoods ecologically.

The idea of a development, or the suburbs, started in 1946 with the planning of the first suburb, called Levittown. This suburb is on Long Island, New York and still in existence today. It was the answer to soldiers and their families as they returned from WWII. When the war ended, these communities provided a home for their families to live and own. These

homes looked the same, side by side, on a small piece of land. Although these homes have changed greatly over the years, this first planned suburban community is much like many of our developments today.

These communities were a necessary answer. Not only for providing a place to live, but economically it caused a boom in building – from building supplies to labor. However, the result of the hard surfaces created by roofs, sidewalks, parking lots, roads, etc. caused erosion, pollution, and reduction in insect, plant and animal population. We know today that the increase in development has caused these issues to increase.

We can't stop development. It is a necessary means to providing places for us to live, shop, eat, and work. However, we can control how we manage this development. We can decrease the amount of soil erosion that happens as a result of development, we can capture water, so it doesn't run across hard surfaces, picking up pollutants and dumping those pollutants into our creeks and streams, and ultimately the bay. And one way is through meadows.

We've learned that monoculture, or one dominant species, does not



While meadows may upset neighbors who place more value on finely trimmed lawns, they will receive high praise from native pollinators.

provide a habitat for multiple critters (birds, bugs, mammals, etc.). Turf is a monoculture, and one that is not native to the US. But if we transition parts of our lawn to multiple species of plants, we can create areas for these critters. And if we connect our diverse plantings with our neighbors, then suddenly we have connected corridors for the critters to eat, nest and have their young.

We've learned that not only is the monoculture plant life contributing to the decline in insect life, but also increased pollution. Because the root systems of turf grass are shallow, the water runs off quickly, picking up pollutants along the way. The deep roots of our native plants allow a path for water to penetrate through the soil. This causes erosion and sediment in the creeks and rivers, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Not to mention the air pollution that results in lawn equipment used on a weekly, sometimes bi-weekly basis, needed to manage lawns.

How can we reduce air and water pollution, increase insect diversity, provide homes for the birds, and have a balanced ecosystem? Start by transitioning the lawn. Introduce native plants into your landscape. Reduce the amount of turf grass, reduce pesticides. Re-forest part of your yard by planting native trees and shrubs and introducing native flowering perennials. Create meadows, even if its just a 6'x6' area. That's a great start.

If you decide to move forward with

a meadow, how does one go about it? There are a few steps to take for a successful meadow.

First, you must get rid of the existing plant material. This can be done a few ways:

Use an herbicide. Spray a non-selective herbicide, mixing according to the label, over the area you wish to transition. This is the quickest way to get rid of existing plant material. However, the use of herbicides is not always the best option, depending on the location of the proposed meadow planting.

Use plastic tarps over the area, weighted down by stones, bricks, or whatever you may have on hand. This will take a season to control the weeds and looks ugly but is an organic option. The plastic will need to be removed after the plant material is dead and before the new plantings are installed.

Use cardboard, covered in mulch or compost. This, too, will take a season but looks clean and tidy, and is organic. Caution – use cardboard that is not shiny. Take all tape, plastic, and staples off the cardboard. This cardboard will breakdown in the soil, so no need to remove it after the weeds are gone.

Step two: Determine what to plant. Plant selection will be determined by soil type, drainage and sun/shade of the area. Taking a soil test will help in plant selection.

Step three: Seeds vs Plants. Depending on the size of the area and the depth of your pockets will help

determine what choice you make.

Starting from seeds: After choosing and ordering your mix, broadcasting the seeds with a spreader of some type is probably the easiest way to sow the seeds. If the area is small, then sprinkling the seeds by hand may be an option. Many resources recommend gently raking the ground prior to broadcasting to increase seed to soil contact. After the seed has been spread on the ground, tamping the seeds to ensure that contact is a good idea. This can be done with a roller, or if a smaller area, just walking over the seeds will work too.

After seeding, many sources recommend using a light layer of clean straw to help keep the seed in place. Then lastly, water it in.

The best timing for native perennials and grasses is to seed in the fall. Many of our native seeds require cold stratification which, when planted in the fall, would allow for the winter to provide that. If planting in the spring, it would be a good idea to add some annual seeds to cover the soil until the perennial seeds germinate. Or, put the seeds in the freezer for two months before planting.

The second method is to start with plants. The soil preparation will all be the same – steps one and two should be followed. This is, by far, more expensive. But if it is just a small area that is getting transitioned, then this may be a good way to go. This allows for immediate impact. This also provides the opportunity to place the

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plants in grouping for more impact.

Plants can be purchased as “plugs”, small plants grown in trays. These are less expensive than buying quart-sized or gallon container plants. If using plugs, purchase early in the season to allow the plant to get a good root system before the heat and dryness of the summer. There are many nurseries on-line that sell plant plugs and ship them to you. And most nurseries and garden centers sell quart and gallon container plants.

Many nurseries sell native plants, but often they are cultivars of the native species. Be sure to do research to check if the cultivar provides food and nectar needed for the insects. Some cultivars do not, like the double flowering coneflowers, for example.

After planting, whether seeds or plants, be sure to keep everything watered. Mulch your newly planted plants.

Maintenance of a meadow is easy, and much less time is needed in managing a meadow as opposed to a lawn. Mow once per year in the spring. This allows the seed heads to remain for the winter birds, and the overwintering insects to hatch out. However, know that the first and second year will require more care than the third and after. It takes three years for a native

herbaceous meadow to get established. Weeding will need to be on the chore list. After it's established, by year three, then just the occasional scouting for invasive plants is needed. Also know that as a meadow matures, it will change. Some species will die out due to competition, or they just don't like the soil or location. But other plants will come in that will do well and possibly change the look of the meadow.

When considering a meadow in your yard, be sure to know your community's weed laws or ordinances. Often this is the biggest hindrance in a development. Let the HOA or township know what you are trying to do. Often once those making decisions know and understand your goal, change can take place.

Plant with intention. A small strip of grass surrounding a meadow, or a stone edge, or even a fence, will delineate a controlled area from a less controlled area, making it look intentional.

Consider transitioning your lawn to a meadow. Start a trend in your neighborhood. Small or large, color, insect activity, and enjoyment will increase with a diversity in plants.

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

Small Town Gardener

A deeper dive on drought

Marianne Willburn

A late spring, early summer drought in many parts of the Mid-Atlantic crushed a lot of dreams this year.

In Lovettsville, Virginia, just over the Potomac River from Frederick County, Maryland, we ticked up to ‘severe drought’ status at the time of sending this off to my hard-working editor, Mike Hillman. (Who is managing thirsty horses as well as newspapers and plants!).

‘Severe’ is better than ‘extreme,’ and not as good as ‘moderate,’ but most of us are just referring to it as the summer we decided to give up and pray for the onset of winter.

And as it's the election year – possibly The Sweet Meteor of Death too.

High temperatures in the region for weeks have also contributed to many hissy-fits in the garden. If you have friends or relatives who work outside professionally, it may be best to avoid them until you see the first Pumpkin Latte in your Instagram feed.

Curious to see if what I was feeling matched what was actually happening, I got up close and personal this week with the U.S. Drought Portal at www.drought.gov to get some stats on this drought and our historical episodes of drought. The website is managed by NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and is a treasure trove of information and easily accessible stats. It was a fascinating dive – no pun intended.

As a native born Californian, I've been snickering over definitions of drought on the East Coast for years; but the fact is, we plant for the conditions we usually have. As they so wisely write on the site “Drought in

Maine looks very different than drought in New Mexico.”

Making Sense of Terms

Drought is more complicated than ‘Has it rained, and how much?’ That's meteorological drought, and the number we instinctively look up while surveying our crispy hostas, but a better definition of drought is the imbalance between water supply (precipitation) and water demand (evapotranspiration). On a very basic level, as temperatures increase, so does demand.

In terms of meteorological drought and rainfall, the words ‘normal’ and ‘abnormal’ are also difficult terms to wrestle with as a layperson. The latter is not only a matter of scientific fact (how many hundredths of an inch we are deviating from mean precipitation, i.e. ‘normal’), but an instant pejorative.

‘Abnormal’ feels frightening and foreboding, even if we realize somewhere in the back of our minds that we are dealing with precipitation averages — and averages need ranges to be calculated in the first place.

The Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) was developed in the early nineties to more accurately quantify that number for various regions over specific time periods using data going back to 1895. This gives us rankings such as “driest (or wettest) on record” or the words “record breaking” — which are eagerly pounced upon by news platforms looking for stories to keep us up at night, but it is not without its weaknesses as it is a indexed measurement of precipitation only.

Swimming Through Statistics

You can break a record by one one-hundredths of an inch that stretches back to records set 100 years ago – or merely 5. Which is not to downplay how valuable these data are, but to help us accurately and calmly navigate them.

For instance, June was our driest June in the state of Virginia since precipitation was first recorded in

1895. Conversely, May only ranked 105th driest in the same 129 years. The driest May happened in 1911. The driest April in 1942. And in the period between January and our driest June ever, the state of Virginia is actually up in measurable rainfall by seven tenths of an inch.

That doesn't make us feel better about our hostas of course, because it's also not the whole story.

What these data can't show you is all the other variables such as “rainfall, streamflow, groundwater levels, regional climate, soil moisture, water storage in reservoirs, ecological conditions, municipal water restrictions, and the time of year” (according to NIDIS). These are evaluated on a weekly basis to come up with the US Drought Monitor Map.

That's an incredibly handy tool to more accurately assess what we're dealing with; but sadly, that number crunching only goes back 24 years to 2000 when scientists got together and began to gather the same data in the same way across agreed upon geographical points.

Patterns of Drought Encourage Adaptable Plants – And Gardeners

Beyond statistics (which you can very quickly find yourself clicking through for hours) I very much appreciate the neutral but specific language that much of this site employs.

“Drought is a normal climate pattern that has occurred in varying degrees of length, severity, and size throughout history,” says the NIDIS, and boy they're not kidding. Examining the handily graphed SPI data for Virginia going back to 1895, it looks as if our major issues of precipitation often have more to do with too much rain than too little.

Regardless, it was a very good dive, and I heartily recommend you have a look for your state. You can view 24 years of the Drought Monitor Map, or 129 of the SPI. Or you can even look at Paleoclimate data reconstructed from tree ring studies.

I did not come away feeling happy about crispy hostas and crispier tempers, but more capable of putting it all into historical perspective. That energizes me to be adaptable and plant for new patterns, rather than give up the ghost and shake my fist at the sky.

I'll save that for the election.

Marianne is the author of Tropical Plants and How To Love Them, and Big Dreams, Small Garden. She gardens from her home in Lovettsville, VA.

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PETS

Chunky

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

He doesn't understand what has happened to him. Just a few days ago, he and Mom were at home and she was knitting something for the church bazaar next week and he was purring and chasing the end of her yarn and now he's here.

At an animal shelter.

Mom was always so good with her hands. She would knit and crochet all kinds of wonderful scarves and blankets and wash cloths. She even made him a bed one time that he used for years. It was so soft!

The family loved the presents she would give them every Christmas because they knew it came from her and it meant something.

The last few years, Mom complained about her arthritis and how she wasn't as nimble as she used to be, but it didn't stop her from working on her creations.

Mom was acting a little funny the last few days and a neighbor had come to take her to the doctor to see what was going on, but she never came home.

When the neighbor came back, Mom wasn't with her and he ended up in his carrier and that night, he was in a cage at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter.

He's an 8-year-old gray tabby cat and he's a little shy because he doesn't really understand what's going on. He really just wants to go back home and watch Mom knit while he sits on



Chunky

the couch above her.

It was his favorite spot, you see.

He could watch Mom and maybe jump at the yarn from time to time as it came out of the spool and the couch was situated right across from the window in the living room, so he could also keep an eye on what was going on outside.

You never knew when a bird might fly by and he wanted to make sure to witness that.

But now, all he can see are the cats across from him in the other cages.

They talk to him at night, some of them. They tell him how long they've been here and what they've seen and how the kittens are the ones everyone is drawn to and how the older cats often get overlooked.

They tell him the best part of the day

is the staff who works here. The older cats tell him that the staff loves every cat in the building and after that first night, he realizes they're right.

When his cage gets cleaned each day, the staff talk to him and pet him and make sure he doesn't feel all that alone. At night, they make sure he has a full water dish and that his litter is clean before they all go home and he usually gets a kiss on his head.

It's almost like being with Mom.

Almost.

He's moved over into the adoption area and he sees families come in and the volunteers play with him and he hopes that maybe one day, someone might consider adopting him.

He knows what happened to his mom. He heard the staff talking about how she had passed away and he had to come here because no one else could take him. He misses her every day and hopes that she'll be waiting for him when he can see her again.

Until then, he'll watch for that person — the other cats say it's a special person — who sees what his Mom saw in him and takes that chance.

His name is Chunky. He's in the cat adoption area at CVAS right now.

Could he be waiting for you?

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



Roscoe is a 5-year-old mixed breed dog who came into the shelter as a stray. He is a bit on the shy side, but once he has time to adjust becomes a really nice guy. He may require his potential adopters to meet him several times before he goes home with them to establish a relationship. He loves getting treats! Roscoe enjoys going out to the play yard. Due to Roscoe's shyness with new people and no past history, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with the shelter staff. Roscoe would love to find his loving forever home soon!



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



Carter is a happy guy who loves to run and play! He is a 1-year-old Lab/terrier mix who really enjoys treats. Carter does know to sit, but we have yet to find any other commands that he may know at this point. At 57 pounds, he is a big guy and may be too much for smaller children. He would love to find his forever home soon.



Abby was surrendered to the shelter when her owner could no longer care for her. She is a 2-year-old gray girl who is super sweet. Just look at those eyes! Abby would love to find a home where she could have a warm spot for her afternoon nap. Do you have a place like that?

For more information about Roscoe, Aries, Carter, Abby, or Chunky call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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



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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

PETS

Underestimating the little things

Shawn Snyder

Sometimes very little things can make a big difference. For animals that arrive at the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center, those little things can be toys, a place to hide, or a kind voice. To pets who have never been exposed to a large population of other pets, the shelter can be scary. Pets who have never been away from home must now acclimate to the shelter's schedule. The shelter has protocols in place to minimize some of the stressors we know are inherent in any animal shelter. Those protocols include some very little—but very significant—measures.

At the point of animal intake, shelter staff collect information about the pet regarding food, litter, familiarity with other animals, experience with people of different age groups and other basics. Having information on preferred food, routines, and previous veterinary care allows us to house them appropriately—keeping staff and other animals safe as needed. While it may seem we are at a bit of a disadvantage with stray animals, we are still able to employ observations made at the point of intake regarding overall health, temperament, and potential likes and dislikes.



Mentos

When it is safe and appropriate to do so, pets are vaccinated and preventatives are applied to protect their health and the health of other shelter residents. Flea prevention may seem like one of those small, possibly unnecessary measures. However, for an animal

that has experienced discomfort from scratching and a secondary infection as a result, a few drops of a product containing fipronil or selamectin (active ingredients in flea/tick prevention) can make their life significantly better almost immediately.

Once an animal is housed at the shelter, staff continue to diligently observe and document patterns of overall behavior and health. Animals are provided bedding, toys, good nutrition, and a clean environment. Shy or frightened animals are provided covered kennels, or other types of “hideaways” that allow them a choice of when to interact with the people caring for them.

Respecting an animal's body language may seem like a little thing, but it is one thing that can facilitate trust, as it did with Mentos. When he arrived at FCAC, Mentos was offered a privacy box. He was scared and overwhelmed by all the busyness at the shelter. He is a bit shy at first, but warms up quickly with patience and understanding—qualities we are seeking in finding the right family for him.



Joyce arrived at the shelter with her kittens and will be one of many momma cats that patiently wait their turn to be adopted. Not much is known about her past since she arrived as a stray. At the shelter, she has been friendly and affectionate, therefore, shelter staff has recommended her for families with kids of any age. Joyce's adoption fee of \$97.50 includes spaying, microchipping, routine vaccinations/preventatives, a veterinarian wellness visit, and a Frederick County cat license.



Kitty is a handsome guy with long, white whiskers. He was living primarily outdoors and it appears he was suffering from a flea allergy. Shelter staff treated him and now he feels more comfortable and less itchy. Kitty is very social and can often be found at the front of his cage, politely asking for attention. Kitty's easy-going personality will make him a great fit for almost any family.



Scampi is a one-year-old terrier mix, who was found as a stray. Scampi is a young, energetic, and friendly guy. When he first arrived, he was a bit apprehensive but who can blame him? The shelter can overwhelm any new arrival pet. He has acclimated to the shelter routine and his behavior report indicates that he reacts favorably to other dogs and he leans in when being pet.



Miriam is a staff and volunteer favorite! She currently enjoys being the shelter's front desk dog and has been given the privilege because of her good manners and laidback personality. Miriam can be overwhelmed by loud noises and/or quick movement. She will need a family that is patient and willing to show her the world isn't a scary place. At six-years-old, Miriam enjoys leisurely walks and relaxing on a comfortable bed.

For more information about Scampi, Joyce, Kitty, Mentos, or Miriam, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Residents Encouraged to Provide Feedback on Transmission Line Project

Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and Frederick County Council President Brad Young urge residents to provide feedback on a proposed high-voltage electrical transmission line, which would run through Frederick County, to the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) and the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSEG proposed the line, known as the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project.

“We are listening to residents who have concerns about this project and its potential impact on our community,” said County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. “It is critical for residents to make their voices heard at this – and every – stage of the process, and we urge concerned residents to weigh in with the Public Service Commission and PSEG.”

The PSC announced on Friday that it established a dedicated email account for the project: piedmontcomments.psc@maryland.gov. The PSC reviews applications for authority to build high-voltage transmission lines. PSEG has not yet applied, and there is no case pending before the PSC. If PSEG applies, all comments received at the newly created email account will be added

to the public comments file, so the PSC has the benefit of the public’s views. The PSC will also hold public hearings in the areas where the project is proposed to be constructed.

The PSEG conducted a pre-application public engagement process, which included town hall meetings in Frederick, Carroll, and Baltimore Counties. PSEG developed a website with information about the project, which residents can access information about the project at www.corporate.pseg.com, and is conducting a survey, which residents can access here

Program Helps Seniors Find Services, Resources

Frederick County’s Division of Aging and Independence has launched a new program to help vulnerable seniors stay in their homes. In its first few months, the Service Coordination for Seniors Program connected more than 100 residents to resources and services. The results-based approach provides seniors with a trusted person who can develop individualized plans to address what matters most to clients. The new program will be highlighted next month at a national conference on aging.

“Service Coordination for Seniors is already making a difference in our community,” County

Executive Jessica Fitzwater said. “By meeting people where they are, our staff is helping seniors connect with vital services. One person didn’t realize he qualified for a veteran’s pension, and another found an apartment they could afford. By working together, we are creating a higher quality of life for our seniors.”

Service Coordination for Seniors focuses on the individual. The senior is assigned a service specialist, who will work one-on-one with the person to develop a plan for their specific needs. The specialist assesses the person’s risk of falling, their sense of loneliness and isolation, and other factors that may impact their health. A support plan is designed, services with various agencies and community partners are lined up, and tasks may be managed on behalf of the senior. Needs may be long-term or immediate. In a third of all cases seen so far, urgent needs such as housing, nutrition, health care, and transportation have been identified.

During the program’s soft launch, 116 Frederick County residents aged 60 or older joined. More than 1 in 9 are veterans. Half report income below the federal poverty level. To date, these 116 residents have been provided a combined 1,286 units of service. To learn more, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Aging or call

the Division of Aging and Independence at 301-600-1234.

Funds Available to Help Improve Road Safety in Towns, Cities

Frederick County Government is committed to reducing deaths and serious injuries on area roads. That is why the County has set aside approximately \$225,000 to support road safety projects in Frederick County’s towns and cities. The technical assistance awards are being made available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program, which was funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. To be eligible, projects must support the initiatives and goals of the Frederick County Towards Zero Deaths Action Plan.

“Safe, accessible transportation is crucial to our quality of life,” Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater said. “I am grateful to our federal delegation for helping to secure this grant for our community. This award program will directly support our municipalities, making roads safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, so we can realize our goal of zero deaths on our roadways.”

Frederick County’s Division of Planning and Permitting will administer the award program using SS4A funds. Eligible activities for technical assistance awards

include, but are not limited to:

Conceptual design for transportation improvement projects that will help create safer roads for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers, such as dedicated bike lanes or trails, or high-visibility crosswalks and signage.

Quick-build transportation improvement project such as planters, temporary speed humps, paint and plastic posts, and street art to experiment with temporary roadway design changes.

Improved roadway signage or pedestrian signage; mid-block crosswalk installations and/or high-visibility crosswalk markings.

Project planning and development activities, such as an assessment of the municipality’s sidewalk network or feasibility studies for trails or dedicated bicycle lanes.

The Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program was established to support regional and local efforts to prevent roadway deaths. The goal of the program is to help local governments better understand the safety challenges in their communities and make their streets, roads, and highways safer for all.

For more information contact Mark Mishler, Transportation Engineering Supervisor Division of Planning and Permitting at 301-600-6742.



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Frederick Health offers complete care to Emmitsburg

Joshua Faust

Think about what you want in healthcare, especially when it comes to caring for you and your family. Most of us crave a seamless experience, a one-stop destination where there's no need to hop from place to place for appointments, tests, or other healthcare needs. A Complete Care Center offers just that - the care you need, when you need it, at a location close to you.

The growing emphasis on convenience in healthcare helps improve access to care. That's why Frederick Health has built several Complete Care Centers around the county, including Emmitsburg. Each location provides five essential services: Primary Care, Urgent Care, Laboratory, Imaging, and Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab. They are staffed by expert providers who respect your background, individual needs, and treatment goals. The Emmitsburg location also offers Oncology & Hematology (cancer) services several times a month.

"These coordinated, Complete Care Centers really are the future of healthcare and definitely the future of Frederick Health," says Amy Arnold, Frederick Health Practice Manager of the Complete Care Centers, including Emmitsburg.

As part of its commitment to improving access to care, Frederick Health opened its Emmitsburg location in late 2022. The healthcare system, which is the largest in Frederick County, aims to establish full-service healthcare centers in alignment with Healthy People 2030. This program serves as a roadmap for US public health efforts and policy development. A national focus is on improving health by helping people get timely, high-quality healthcare services.

"Access means a lot to the people of Frederick County, especially northern Frederick County. Nobody likes waiting to get the care they need, and these centers help address and improve access to expert care," added Arnold.

Locally, this vision is supported by a team of expert providers who are on board with creating easy access to healthcare providers, comprehensive services, and friendly care right in Emmitsburg.

"Introducing core healthcare services and working to establish healthy behaviors has a real impact on residents," added Arnold. "By bringing the care closer to their community, we are making it easier to stay healthy."

While the Emmitsburg Complete Care Center offers several services, Primary Care is often considered the most important in establishing healthy behaviors. Primary care doctors usually treat a wide range of conditions, so many stay with their providers through many stages in life. This helps build a personal, long-term relationship and can often help diagnose future medical problems.

"If you don't have a Primary Care provider, we can help you find one, often the very next day," Arnold explains. "The Frederick Health

Emmitsburg location can also help you to get your labs, X-rays, and physical therapy if needed, all at one stop."

This level of connected care is unique in Frederick County, with no other provider or health system offering a similar service. That means building a network of facilities to match the area's growth. Part of that growth is expanding the Frederick Health team. Natalie Lowrey, a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), joined the Frederick Health team in July 2023 and began treating adult and pediatric patients in Emmitsburg.

When she joined the Frederick Health team, Lowrey became one of the first providers in the system to incorporate online scheduling through her profile by visiting www.frederickhealth.org/BookLowrey

Lowrey, a Frederick County native, emphasizes her deep connection to the community.

"The individuals I'm caring for are my neighbors, and ensuring they have access to the incredible services we provide is my top priority," she says.

Rural areas, like much of north-

ern Frederick County, are statistically more likely to have to travel long distances to access healthcare services, particularly Primary Care services. This can be a significant burden in terms of travel time, cost, and time away from the workplace. In addition, these communities often have more elderly residents who have chronic conditions requiring multiple visits or an increased need for care. That's why Frederick Health determined Emmitsburg needed a Complete Care Center.

"Expanding treatment options in northern Frederick County is a priority for Frederick Health," she says. "We understand that driving 15-20 minutes can be a significant challenge for our patients. Frederick Health Emmitsburg is our way of bringing healthcare closer to our patients, ensuring their needs are met easily and conveniently."

As Frederick Health continues to find ways to meet the changing needs of the community, it is expanding the services offered at these centers. Dr. Patrick Mansky, a cancer expert,



is available every other Tuesday at the location.

"Whether it's Primary Care or something more complex like Oncology, the goal is to broaden our offerings in these locations. We aim to enhance accessibility and ensure a comprehensive range of healthcare services are available to meet the needs of residents in northern Frederick County," says Arnold.

Beyond that, Frederick Health is looking to expand with future sites to best serve their community's well-being.

"Every individual deserves good health and to collaborate with someone who understands their unique health needs," says Lowrey.

To learn more about each location or make an appointment, visit www.frederickhealth.org/GetCare.

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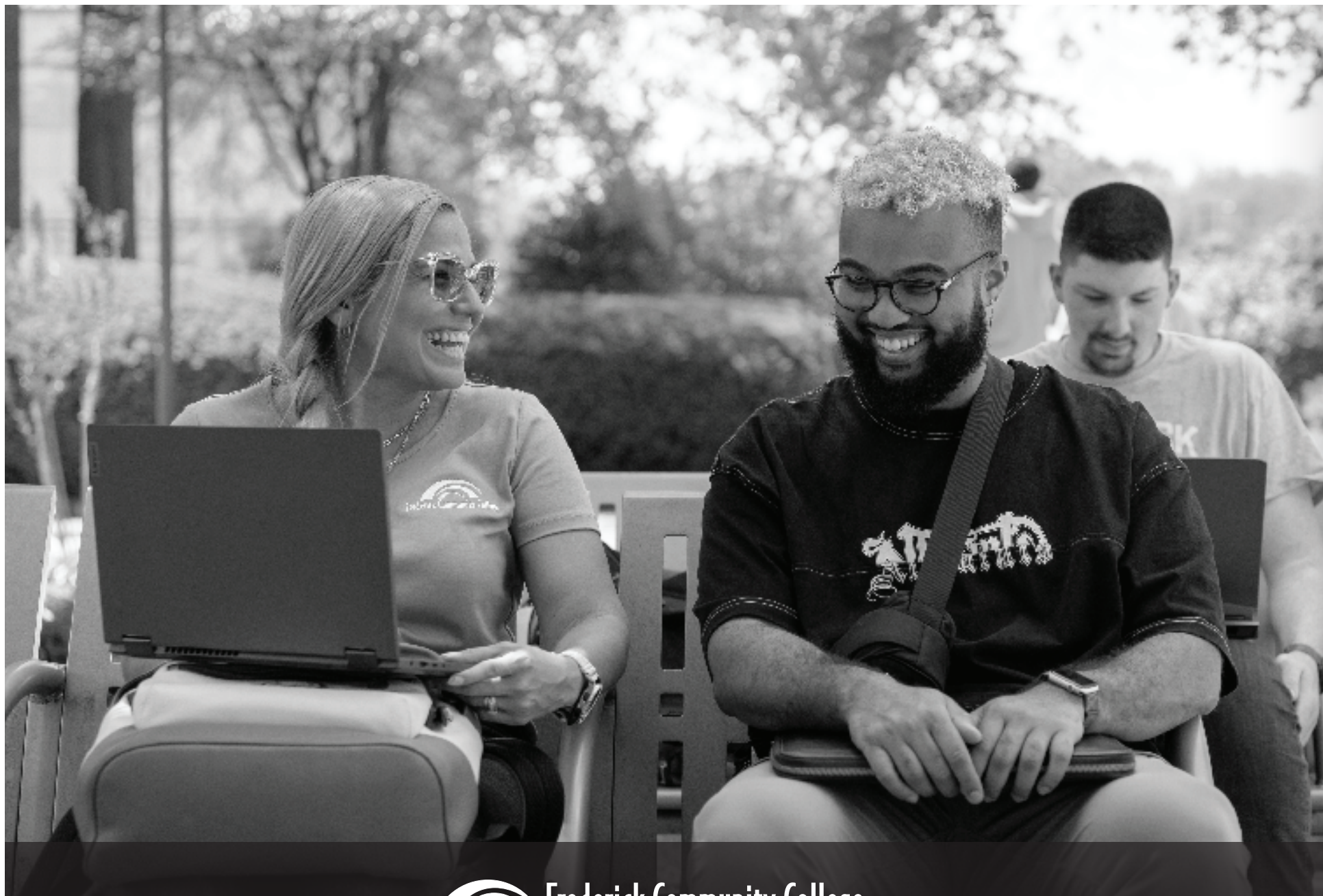


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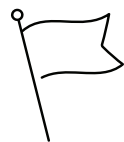
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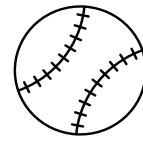
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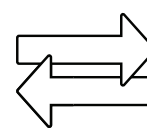
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Family fun at the Rocky Ridge VFC carnival

Kathryn Franke
MSMU Class of 2013

What do you get when you combine family, friends, good food, games, lots of fire engines, and fun? The Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company carnival!

I had the pleasure of attending this small-town event and I was amazed at just how community-oriented it was. The carnival was held at Mount Tabor Park, the location of the renowned "Big Slide" for all of you who have taken a ride on that before. If you haven't gone down "Big Slide" before, you really should add that to your to-do list!

While I was at the carnival, I could sense the feeling of excitement and the sense of tradition that this event brought forth in the community. The Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company has been organizing this carnival for years, and it is obvious that the community looks forward to it every year. But this is no typical carnival. It's not just a day...it goes on all week long! Who says fun has to be contained to just a single day? Rocky Ridge knows that there is just far too much fun to be had for it to be a fleeting daylong event. So, they make it an entire week of fun for the family.

As soon as I turned into the parking lot (the very full parking lot!), I saw dozens of people lining the street, lawn chairs in tote, anxiously awaiting the parade that was to happen later in the evening. Their excitement was so evident because they were staking claim along the road with their chairs over an hour before the parade was even scheduled to start! But after seeing the parade, I can see why they did this. The parade was an amazing experience and it was definitely good to have a front-row, up-close view.

As I heard the sirens off in the distance and the parade staff began to block off the road, I could sense the anticipation of the audience because we all knew the parade was about to begin. People from ages 7 to 70 took part in the parade. And who could forget the vintage cars or candy thrown out to all the children lining the streets watching in awe as the parade passed them by?

Countless fire stations were in attendance as well. Firefighters from Rocky Ridge, Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Graceham, New Midway, Woodsboro, Walkersville, Greenmount, Lewistown, and Carroll County, Maryland were all a part of this incredible parade. Who would have thought a small-town parade would have participants from so many different places?

Well, Rocky Ridge is a small town with big plans. And they certainly carry out those plans!

Aside from the parade, there were so many fun activities for people of every age group. There was, of course, the "Big Slide" and there were also many games, like Krazy Ball, Dime Pitch, Doug's Turtle Race, Ring Toss, Fish Pond, and good ol' BINGO. There was a money wheel and also a stand to purchase raffle tickets. To top it all off, the carnival boasted a hayride for the carnival-goers to take.

And what is a carnival without amazing food and live music? The Rocky Ridge carnival offered a wide variety of foods that would satisfy any palette and there was a fantastic lineup of bands throughout the entire week of the carnival. Monday was the cake auction and throughout the rest of the week, bands brought the carnival to life with their music.

Linda Northrup, someone who really helps make this annual carnival a reality, mentioned how much she loves this hometown



Adult carnival goers line the street to applaud representatives of local fire companies during the parade of fire trucks. Kids, of course, line up to grab candy thrown by firemen in the trucks.

tradition. She explained, "We are a close-knit community and this unique carnival really shows the fellowship that is present throughout our town."

This carnival is not only a way to bring the Rocky Ridge community together, but it is also a way to meet new people in the area or even people from a bit farther away who heard about just how wonderful this carnival is.

Tyler Gray of Hanover, Pennsylvania made his way to the carnival this year and he too really enjoyed the strong sense of community at the event. "The food was great, the atmosphere was homey, and the people were very welcoming," he

said. Tyler is not from the immediate area, but when he came to visit, he immediately felt like he was a part of their community.

For those of you who have already made it a tradition to attend the Rocky Ridge carnival, I am now right there with you! I will definitely be attending this event for years to come. For those of you who haven't experienced it yet, I strongly recommend that you attend the carnival and see for yourself just how community-oriented and welcoming it is. You will have an amazing time with family and friends and you will surely meet many incredible people from Rocky Ridge, the surrounding areas, and perhaps even farther away.

Rocky Ridge is a small town, but we at the Emmitsburg News-Journal want to give a voice to it and encourage our readers to explore the town and its events. As a newspaper, we have a strong appreciation for towns and events like this one. They represent the very thing that we hope to convey to our readers: a strong sense of community.

This year's carnival will run from August 12 through the 17th. For more information about the Rocky Ridge carnival, visit www.rockyridgevfc.com.

For more information about the Rocky Ridge Carnival, visit www.rockyridgevfc.com.

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HISTORY

The Contralto

Rev. Charles Maloy, C. M.
St. Joseph's Parish, Emmitsburg

Chapter 4

Continued from last month

The run with Bob had by no means satisfied, Buster and when his master came out about three in the afternoon he was wailing. Spying a cat in the graveyard the collie manifested his exuberance of spirit by giving chase, the feline fortunately putting a fence between itself and danger. He took his defeat gracefully, trotting along in search of new adventure. Their way led past the church tower out of which came Uncle Bennett locking the door behind him.

"Just been up winding the clock, Professor." "Yes, is that one of your duties?"

"Hardest job in town, all on account of people who think they got standard time," with sarcastic emphasis.

"Isn't your clock correct?"

"Ain't one in the state does better; I set it by my sun-dial and the Hagerstown Almanac, and I know it's always right. Now, you see according to the Almanac this month, the sun is five minutes late—"

"Yes," interrupted the other, not wishing to show his ignorance of Astronomy.

"And," continued the old fellow with warmth, "that's just what that clock says. The yaps around this town are always talking standard time, what they get by telegraph from Washinton, and telling me I'm fast or slow. When we got that clock there was the damndest resurrection of old turnips you ever seen, and Davy Ruff had to get Tate Hoke to help him polish 'em up. Since, they're all toting dog-chains and small-sized alarm clocks."

"I should think a few minutes one

way or the other would not make much difference to the people of this village; time is the only thing of which they appear to have plenty to spend."

"Gosh!" exclaimed Bennett, expectorating from his toothless gums, "gosh! that's a good one. 'Minds me of what I told the Rector when we were dickering about having that clock. He wanted glass dials, but they was mighty expensive, so I says, 'What do you need glass dials for? There ain't nobody awake after dark in this town who wants to know the time.' So I made them wooden ones and they're all right."

Moving along, the Professor thought he had found a pragmatist who had never heard of William James. "Is there a florist in the village?" he inquired. "A florist, a fellow that sells flowers?"

"Yes, a greenhouse, where I could purchase a bouquet."

"Gosh! no, don't have no call for cultivated flowers hereabouts. If you want a bouquet though, we have plenty in our back yard, come right in and help yourself."

"Thank you very much, but that would be an imposition."

"Imposition fiddlesticks! Come right in," and before he could offer effectual resistance, he found himself in Uncle Bennett's yard. He used his best judgment in the selection, while the old man expressed regret that the season was too late for the prettiest blooms. Managing to gather a bouquet, which was a credit to his artistic sense and with profuse words of gratitude to the carpenter, who reiterated his invitations to call again, he left the garden.

Walking down the street he felt much as a small boy contemplating a misdemeanor. Self-consciousness caused him to blush as though he were doing something shameful, and his toes cramped up in his shoes giving his

walk a peculiar gait. He laughed in an effort to compose himself, at his regard for the opinion of Emmitsburg, but his self-control cultivated for years would not come back, and when he rang the bell at the Tyson home he was decidedly flustered. Inquiring of the maid for the young lady, he and the dog were ushered in with that easy familiarity which characterizes the servants in a village house.

"Miss Marion will be glad to see you, sir, and your pretty dog," she said leading the way to a piazza facing the west. Here he found the girl seated in conversation with an elderly man. She beamed with pleasure at his approach, answered lightly his inquiries about her injury, thanked him for his flowers, and presented her companion, Mr. Halm, a retired musician, who had chosen Emmitsburg as the haven of his declining years.

"We were just talking about you, Professor," said Halm as they took their seats. "Miss Marion was telling me of yesterday's accident and the romantic ending."

"Romance tintured with painful reality as life generally is," he answered with uneasy formality and the remark sounded banal to his own ears.

"Let us hope that the painful element is past and the romantic is only beginning," continued Halm, with the freedom of an old acquaintance, while the two young people studiously avoided each other's gaze. Formality could not long resist his chatter, he ranged from baseball to music without the least apology except what might be contained in his invariable introduction, "What I was going to say was." In the midst of remarks about flowers he interjected: "What I was going to say was, Professor, did you ever hear Miss Marion sing?"

"I have never had that pleasure."

"Then, my dear," addressing the girl, "you must give him the pleasure immediately. Stay right where you



Can you imagine a time when the streets of the town were empty with the exception of a single horse and buggy?

are, I shall accompany you from the library."

Soon the notes of a piano floated out of the windows, and Halm's voice inquiring what it should be, suggesting several classic selections much to the consternation of the younger man whose limits in music were fully realized by himself. The girl negated each choice of the musician, finally saying: "Please play Nevin's lullaby: 'Mighty Lak a Rose.'"

"Good!" broke from the Professor involuntarily, and the piano sounding the opening bars, the young lady's rich contralto softly crooned the weird strains of the masterpiece, for such it is. The soft drawl of the colored race was reproduced in the girl's enunciation of the words, and visions of southern camps and steamboat wharves rose before the Professor's fancy. The short, all too short, lullaby was ended before he came back to present surroundings. Halm stood at the window enjoying his triumph while the young man with perfect simplicity arose and offered his hand to the singer adding words of congratulation.

"Don't you sing, Professor?" she asked.

"Sing, I? no, though I love music."

"There are strange stories about a knight-errant singing up in the mountains."

"I yell some old college songs with the Admiral and Buster there, for an audience; they are very gentle critics."

He was too well aware of his lack of musical development to risk comparison with the voice he had just heard, and also too young not to fear making a ridiculous impression. He was spared further argument, for Mr. Halm recalling that his wife had sent him for medicine an hour before made a hasty exit. He showed a slight inclination to follow the retreating musician, but Marion pleaded a little that he stay, as it was rather boring for her to sit alone. Harry required no urging and took a seat nearer to her.

"Do you read much, Miss Tyson?"

"Yes, but one tires of it."

"I have a rather interesting novel at the rectory, 'The Fighting Chance.' You have read it?"

"Yes, but I cannot say I found it altogether admirable."

"There was a personal appeal in it for me."

"A friend of mine, Miss Seabold, called it the 'Kissing Bug,' rather appropriate, ne c'est pas?"

"That was not the element which struck me," he said a little taken aback by her use of the French interrogative.

"You love music?" switched the young woman, perfectly conscious that she had startled him.

"When I can understand it, but my capacity to appreciate is decidedly limited."

"Do you attend the operas at home?"

"Not unless I be compelled to do so, which happens now and then."

"I have heard a few while at school and on rare visits to New York, but have never had a full season of it, I long for an opportunity to hear all the classics."

"I am sure you would enjoy them, but their beauties are lost on me. I like Faust because of the opening march to Sieble's return; we had a parody to the air in college entitled, 'Oh Byes! Have Yez Ever Met McGlynn?' I always associate the Toreador Song, from Carmen, with the jail scene in the 'Man from Mexico,' while Il Trovatore recalls Gilmore's Band. As for Wagner I take him as penitential discipline, though I find myself interestedly watching the man with the bass drum and cymbals, gambling on how soon he is going to fetch 'em another wallop, and when he does I feel like shouting bravo."

"You are teasing," said the girl, laughing heartily, "and you are positively irreverent towards the great masters."

"Honor bright!" he protested, "and believe me, I am no less intelligent than the majority in Metropolitan audiences."

"Why do they go, then?"

"The women that they may see and be seen, the men because they must. I once accepted an invitation to an all-star production of Lea Huguénots, and before the first act was over every man in the party was across the street in a Rathskellar listening to an orchestra discourse ragtime."

Both were now thoroughly at their ease and conversation flowed freely, Miss Tyson marveling at his ready

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HISTORY



The old Emmitsburg Chronicle newspaper building.

Marion's ride, had done, and several of the females declared he was fallen in with the society gang.

Behind Peter's closed door Dr. Brawner and Whitmore wondered what he had done with the whiskey he purchased at Jim's.

Chapter 5

For a generation the "Fourth Estate" had been represented in and around Emmitsburg by the family, who gave to the waiting world their scant views of men and things through the medium of the "Chronicle." Advances in journalism had come without affecting the make-up of the paper, most of its copy being "boilerplate" bought in the city by the pound and "edited with a handsaw." Home affairs provided scarce half a column, consisting in general of announcement of the arrival of increases in the various families, or notices calling attention to sales advertised in other portions of the paper. Pride of editorship could not bring bread and butter to the mouths of the rising young Troxels, hence when Mr. Galt, from Washington, made an offer for the plant, the proprietor willingly accepted.

The face of the Chronicle changed from the very first day of the new ownership. No more stereo-typed stuff appeared, while home news occupied a full page. A contest for a piano which was awarded to the most popular young woman, said popularity being based upon the number of new subscribers, caused the circulation to increase enormously. The largest business building in the village was now dedicated to the publishing office of the paper, being fitted up with modern machinery in place of the old hand-presses. The editorial room being the best equipped in the county, the editor was justly proud of it.

Into this was ushered the Professor when he called in response to Mr. Higbee's invitation. The editor received him warmly and was soon in medias

res on the matter of Emmitsburg reform. The first point of his animadversion was the attitude of the institutions towards the people. He was for emulating other newspapermen who by exposition and criticism had been able to bring about much needed changes. The power of the press should be brought to bear on the "Barons," a healthy public opinion created and the people taught their rights.

"Look at Flynn's position in the matter of the baseball game; that shows how they view any effort to elevate the townfolk out of the slough of absolute dependence into which a century of systematic pauperism has plunged them."

"Featina lente, which being interpreted means: 'Keep your shirt on.' Is it good business for you to antagonize them openly?"

"Business be hanged!" exclaimed Galt, falling under the spell of Harry's lack of conventionality, "do you suppose for one moment that I have buried myself at this water-tank for business reasons? I'm here because I must be here."

"At a water-tank?" with a lift of the eyebrows. "Precisely."

"Me too, Mr. Galt, shake," and their hands met in friendly clasp, their eyes in a steady stare of companionship for a moment, then both laughed. The

Editor said, "Well, to business, what is your programme?"

"Had we only ourselves to think of," mused Harry aloud, "it would be a glorious fight. To think of two reformed souses or not yet reformed, taking up the cudgels for this oppressed people would be a new sensation indeed, a sort of moral compensation, a bringing of good out of evil. But we must make haste slowly. What should we do were the 'Barons' to dump them all on our hands? We have no work to put them at, there would be a lot of misery before we got things straightened out. 'The lethargy of the ages,' to quote the Rector, 'has sapped the life of these poor devils and rendered them unfit for a fight.' They would curse us, and crawl back to lick the hands that scourge them."

"You seem to have sized up the situation pretty thoroughly for a newcomer," said Galt with admiration.

"An amateur sociologist could size up the situation in a day, it's the remedy that puzzles me. One thing I am certain of and that is we must educate these people, teach them that twelve dollars per month is not charity, not even justice; until they know they have souls to develop in this world as well as to save for the hereafter, we can hope to do little."

continued next month

command of slang, finding this hard to reconcile with the traditional opinion anent pedagogues. She was not aware that the American teacher today is a master of every accomplishment which will bring him nearer to the heart of his pupil, and slang is magna pars in this.

Tea was served faithfully in the better class houses and Mrs. Tyson partook of it with Marion and her visitor as they sat on the piazza. Here shortly they were joined by Miss Seabold who dropped in to make inquiries about her injured friend. She was the opposite to Marion in every physical aspect. Tall, willowy, languid, with blue eyes and an abundance of light hair, there was a moiety of the southern drawl which made her conversation harmonize with her manner. Nature could not have

made two beautiful creatures with less overlapping of charms and less material basis for jealousy.

Marion dark, flashing black eyes, athletic figure, slightly nervous in her manner of talking.

They were friends from natural impulse and from the common ground of being out of tune with their environment. They served as subjects of comparative study to the egoistic Professor, who felt perfectly safe in his armor of experience and resolution. Many another young man has trod the same way with the same assurance only to find that the primrose path leads to but one terminus.

As they strolled home in the descending dusk, Miss Seabold and the Professor attracted almost as much attention as the scene of the day before,



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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

August 1

Mount Tabor Park Opened At Rocky Ridge

The new Mount Tabor Park in Rocky Ridge opened officially on Sunday evening, July 20, with Dr. Tombaugh preaching the opening sermon in the large, open air, breezy auditorium to almost 500 people.

Services will continue to be held in the outdoor pavilion every Sunday night up until the first Sunday night in September. Arrangements have been made for Mount Tabor's annual Sunday school and community picnic to be held in the park on Saturday, August 9.

The park offers swings, seesaw, slide boards, and sand pits for the entrainment of the children.

Barn Destroyed By Fire On Eve Of Sale Of Farm

Less than 24 hours before settlement was to have been made for the purchase of his farm, lightning struck the barn of Harry Riley, 2 miles east of Fairfield, Thursday afternoon, destroying the structure together with this year's crops of wheat and hay.

Mr. Riley had entered into a contract for the sale of the farm to George Beck, and settlement was to have been made at 10 o'clock today. Mr. Riley said the sale of the farm now was doubtful. In addition to the barn, which was destroyed, the wagon shed, and the chicken house also burnt down.

The bolt which set fire to the barn, came at the end of a severe electrical storm, which passed over that section of the County a short time before. Rain had stopped falling just as the lightning struck. In a few minutes, the barn was in flames. There were scarcely enough time to remove but two horses and several cows from the burning structure.

The structure was filled to the rafters with unthrashed wheat, and a large quantity of hay, both constituting the entire crop of three products from the farm. A binder, wagon bed, corn drill, several plows, and a quantity of harnesses and the wagon shed, were also consumed by the flames. The hog pen was saved, but the chicken house burned, and five chickens were killed.

Neighbors of the Rileys, quickly gathered and more than 75 of them formed a bucket brigade. A call was also put in

for the Fairfield Fire Company and firefighters responded from the town with their chemical tanks. The Riley home was never in danger from the blaze, because there was practically no wind stirring at the time.

Weather And Crop Conditions

This was the third successive dry and sunshiny week in a row, and was favorable for harvesting and thrashing of grains, cultivation, haymaking, and harvesting tomatoes, potatoes, early fruits, etc.

Farmers have about all completed harvesting, and thrashing has begun. Some report fair yields, while other say, the grain is not turning out so good. Early oats seem to be good, while late oats have been hurt by the dry weather.

Corn, generally, is rather common, and if strike weather conditions continue, will be a poor crop. The growth varies generally, owing to the wide range and dates of planting. The early corn planted is tasseling and silking.

Due to the lack of rain, gardens are suffering and vegetables will be scarce. The tomato crop like all others, have been badly affected by weather conditions; early plants have made a fine growth. Early potatoes however are a complete failure.

Pastures and grasses are showing the effects of the long dry spell. They are now but poor to fair. Picking of early apples is now generally in progress. Early peaches and early pears are ripening; picking of those fruits have begun in some localities.

Taneytown Fire Company Buys New Fire Engine

The Taneytown Fire Company placed an order for the latest model LaFrance fire engine truck, type number 75, with double chemical tanks, and 500 gallons of water a minute discharge capacity. The price is \$10,800 and delivery is to be made in about 60 days.

With this equipment, Taneytown and the surrounding community will be vastly safer from fires, and calls can be more easily answered. The advantage of the engine are mainly the chemical tanks that are very effective for small fires, and for saving interior losses due to water; relief to firemen from pulling the hose reels, often long distances; being

able to make available the water in wells and streams; availability to reach the east end section of town, where pressure from the standpipes is not sufficient - with the engine supplementing the plug pressure and to create a stronger stream of water to put on a fire.

Fire At Thurmont

A building in Thurmont, owned by the Central Trust Company, and occupied by Francis Wetzel, a butcher, adjoining the side of the Trust Company's new bank building, now under construction, was damaged by fire early Saturday morning. Fireman responded promptly, and extinguished the blaze, which was confined to the one building.

The fire was discovered by neighbors on the opposite side of the street, who were awakened by smoke pouring from the building, and an alarm was sounded. It is thought that the fire was caused by defective electrical wiring. The flames started in the rear of the meat room on the first floor, and decimated Mr. Wetzel's meat stock and fixtures. The interior of the building was considerably burned. The building is a two-story frame structure situated in the center of town.

August 8

Drought Broken


The drought of the past month was broken early Sunday morning, by a heavy general rain. The downfall was followed by cool, clearing weather. The rain had the effect of breaking the drought and flushing mountain streams from which local water supply is derived.

The drought was beginning to effect crops and vegetation. Corn was particularly in need of moisture and pasture fields were drying up. The precipitation was slightly more than half an inch. The rainfall was steady and soaked into the ground. The fall was the heaviest for the past two months, and covered all sections of the County.

High School Site Purchased

A public meeting last Friday night ratified a committee's purchase of the Calvin Fringer property for the new Taneytown high school site.

The 4-acre property, located at the end of George Street, fronting 186 feet of that street, is an "L" shape lot, also giving it a frontage on the mill Road. The purchase price was \$1,500.



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Mr. Fringer value the land as high as \$2,500, but for the school location, he agreed to accept \$1,500.

The State School Board had inspected the lot, and the one owned by Harry Spangler, and had agreed to accept either one, but finally rejected the latter on account of it being slightly smaller than 4 acres. The Fringer lot was adjudged to be the only satisfactory lot available, hence its purchase was ratified.

The lot has the advantage of lying high, with good drainage, fairly level,

and away from street, noise and dust, but somewhat off to the side, as far as publicity is concerned. Aside from the latter consideration, the lot is ideal and every respect.

It is thought that the various "Boards" have now been satisfied, and that work on building the new school will commence perhaps in a month or six weeks, and the building be ready for occupancy about March 1. It is also thought that the various schools will be open in temporary quarters, the location of which has not yet been determined, at their regu-

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

lar time in September.

While the plans for the new school building have not yet been received, but it is understood that the building will be brick, two stories, with a large assembly hall on the first floor, and so arranged that the classrooms and hallways can be thrown together when necessary. The local committee is waiting for full information, and final adoption of plans before proceeding, actively with the canvassing for funds.

Bitten By Copperhead

Miss Madeline Lightner, 15, was bitten in two places on the forefinger of her right hand by a copperhead, Tuesday morning, while picking huckleberries in the mountains near her home. Madeline, accompany by her mother, had been at work for some time in the mountains, near her home, where snakes of all kinds are known to exist.

The young girl had just moved from one huckleberry bush to another, and had thrust her hand into the bush to pick some berries, when the copperhead struck twice in rapid succession. Both bites were close together on the forefinger of the right hand. So quickly did the snake strike that the girl wasn't able to withdraw her hand.

The girl screamed, and her mother, who was picking berries nearby, went to her daughter's side. She saw the copperhead in the bushes and killed it.

The victim was taken to her home and Dr. Henderson of Fairfield was summoned. Upon his arrival, he cauterized both wounds and gave the girl other medical treatments.

Dr. Henderson said he would not know for several days how serious the condition might become. He said if her system is able to throw off the snake's poison, no serious complications would be experienced.

Oiling Of Roads In County Almost Ended

The oiling crews of the State Road Commission have started to work on the Emmitsburg State Road. This will be the last highway in the County to be oiled this year, with the exception of one and a half miles of the Woodsboro Pike near Walkersville.

When these highways have been treated, the work of oiling roads in Carroll County will be started. It is expected that the oiling of all roads in this district will be completed by the end of next week.

August 15

Encouraged Not to Marry Boyfriend

Miss Elizabeth Carpenter was given a shower at the home of Mrs. Harry Reindollare on Thursday evening; about 25 of her friends were there. Miss Carpenter, who is in a 'family way,' was encouraged by all her friends not to marry her deadbeat boyfriend, 'Clyde,' one of the leading boozers in the community. Everyone insisted that she would be better off with just one dependent child, vice two, which would be the case if she married that imbecilic boozier.

Many of her friends said a 20-year-old blind dog with three legs does more work in a day than "Clyde" has done all his life.

"Clyde" is currently in the 'lock-up' after he was found passed out in the gutter on Main Street last week, for the sixth time in the past two months.

Band Concert Given

Upwards of 1,500 people packed the Emmitsburg Square, Thursday evening, to listen to a concert given by the band from the Loysville Orphanage Home, Loysville, Pennsylvania.

The concert was given under the hospices of the Emmitsburg Lutheran Church. The band is a 45-piece organization. The large audience encored most of the numbers rendered. The members of the band were entertained at the home of the people of Emmitsburg. The band has given a number of concerts in Frederick County and is growing in popularity.

The Mars Foolishness

For two weeks past a large amount of newspaper space has been covered with speculation as to what might be discovered by astronomers due to the near approach of the Earth and the planet Mars.

"Signaling" between the two planets has been named as, a possibility, and all sorts of fantastic speculation indulged, as if Mars was inhabited by beings as intelligent as on the Earth, and were themselves watching the approach of the Earth with the intent of attacking us — some are even predicting a "war of the worlds," causing some to dig shelters in which to hide from the attack to come.

Considering the fact that nobody knows whether there is either animal or vegetable life on the planet, all of the speculations are mere idle play with the imagination, and such an occurrence as "Signaling" goes quite beyond the bounds of half-sensible intellectual license.

And, suppose there should be life of some kind in there, and some sort of Martians, what would be the information amount to? Largely another new thing to read and talk about for a little while, but nothing to capitalize for future benefit.

Gypsies

Gypsy bands are reported to be more than ever a nuisance this summer, and numerous thefts have been reported, and various other troubles with town authorities. The best plan is to watch them closely, and order them to move on.

If Gypsies weren't bad enough, various kinds of "doctors" are reported traveling through the country, with appliances for sale, reported to cure afflictions, and who do not hesitate, when the opportunity seems favorable, to choose forceful methods to make sales. All such cases should be promptly reported to the authorities. Women and old people, who are alone, are said to be especially the victims of such fakes.

August 22

Feds Warn Of Counterfeit \$20 Bills

The Treasury Department has sent out a warning about the circulation of a counterfeit \$20 bill of crude workmanship has been detected. It is a bank note of the National Commercial Bank And Trust Company Of Albany, New York, bearing charter number 1,301, bank

number 26,594 and Treasury number H26079611.

Officials say the bill looks more like an advertising dodger than money, and should be instantly detected by anyone at all familiar with our currency. More detailed description is, therefore, deemed unnecessary, says the notice.

Youth Falls Off Wagon

Falling from his seat on a wagon, which tilted, Bernard Trussler, 20, of near Fountaindale, was injured when a wheel of the wagon passed over his stomach. The accident occurred at the Elevated Orchard Company at Jack's Mountain, where the young man is employed. Fortunately the wagon was empty at the time, or the youth's injuries may have been more serious. Fellow workmen rushed to the young man's assistance and took him to the office of doctor Henderson in Fairfield, where an examination was made. According to the physician, the young man's injuries are not serious.

Six-Year-Old Girl Struck By Auto

Mary Aughinbaugh, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clem Aughinbaugh, living on the Fairfield Road, was knocked down and injured by an automobile, driven by Benjamin Whitmore of Emmitsburg, Friday afternoon.

Mary had gone across the street in front of her home to get the mail. According to our witnesses of the accident, Mr. Whitmore was driving at a moderate rate of speed and attempted to stop his car when he saw that the little girl had become confused when he sounded a warning as she started a dart across the road.

The fender of Mr. Whitmore's machine struck the little girl, throwing her to the road. The motorist stopped his car and rendered assistance, and later brought the child to the Gettysburg hospital.

The little girl had lacerations and contusions about the body, but no bones were broken and it is thought improbable that she sustained internal injuries.

Radio And Baseball

Radio is a subject of such worldwide interest at the present time that experiments being carried out by Wired Radio Inc., in conjunction with the Satan Island Edison Company are of unusual interest.

How to cover the cost of providing suitable radio concerts to listeners, has been a problem. It is agreed that baseball did not reach a high degree of development until it was "fenced in," so that an admission fee could be charged which would provide for the best talent. The "fencing in" of baseball has not interfered with the progress of amateur baseball, but on the contrary, has developed an interest which has made all kinds of baseball more popular.

It is reasonable to suppose the same principle would apply to radio, and that the highest degree of entertainment can only be provided by "fencing in" radio, so that high-grade broadcasting can be supported. Briefly, that is what Wired Radio Inc. is seeking to perfect.

Wired radio, which will be sent over electrical light wires, will not be a competitor of space radio for which no method has yet appeared of space radio on a paid basis. There is room for such types of radio to grow side-by-side, performing their different functions in the respective ways.

Attachments are being worked out in conjunction with wired radio, which can be attached to the regular vacuum table space set. Thus, by throwing the switch, the space set owner can intercept programs, transmitted over lighting, wires or programs sent through the air.

August 29

Improvements At Mount St. Mary's

Extensive improvements have been made to the grounds of Mount St. Mary's College. The plot of ground immediately in front of the new Mimin building has undergone a transformation within a short space of time. Many trees, some of them huge specimens of nature works, have been cut down. A ravine that formerly ran the length of this plot has been filled in by use of a huge steam shovel.

While no definitive plans have yet been given out, it is understood that part of the improve ground will serve as a playground and athletic field for the younger boys. The Football and baseball fields will be moved there from the old field across the pike.

Work has already been started on tennis courts east of the gymnasium. The ground is being cleared rapidly, and it is planned to put in some of the best courts in this section of the country.

The old Junior yard will appear this year with a coat of grass, as grass seed is being planted. A semi-circular terrace effect has been completed at the south entrance of the Mimin building. The road that ran in front of the new building will be moved forward about 22 feet and the terrace will be extended out from the gymnasium to the end of the Mimin building.

Livestock Show

The livestock show, in connection with the third annual picnic of the Emmitsburg Farm Bureau, Wednesday, was one of the best that he had ever judged, said Robert Carmichael, stock specialist of the University of Maryland.

Both swine and dairy cattle were on exhibition. A feature was the exhibit where Poland China hogs by members of the Emmitsburg and Thurmont pig clubs.

In announcing the prizewinners, Mr. Carmichael stated that while care had been taken in feeding the hogs, there was room for improvement in several, and that the animals that did not show up so well in this contest, with proper care and feeding, could excel the prizewinners. A large crowd attended the picnic, not withstanding the threatening weather.

Farmers Urged To Save Old Corn

The spring of 1924 was unusually backward in many sections, the growing conditions were not good, with the result that the bulk of the corn is extremely late throughout the corn belt in the region. It is so late that most of the crop will be unfit for seed, unless frost holds off longer than usual. County agriculture agents are calling attention to this fact in order to prevent, if possible, a serious seed corn situation in the spring.

The higher prices for corn in the last few weeks are drawing much of the old crop from the farms. Farmers not having enough seed corn for 1925 left over from last year supply should save the best of the bulk crib corn from which to obtain seed, if necessary. If this year's corn is killed by frost before it is mature, this old corn will provide a source from which seed corn can be selected for planting in the spring.

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CARROLL VALLEY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

A look back at Liberty Mountain Resort

Kathy Megyeri

Driving through Carroll Valley, Pennsylvania, it's nearly impossible to miss Liberty Mountain Resort. Just off Route 116, the resort's golf course and ski slopes stand out as prominent features. For nearly 60 years, it has been a cornerstone of the local community.

In the mid-1960s, developers Charlie and Anita Rist bought large tracts of land in Carroll Valley, intending to subdivide and develop single-family homes. Over time, their vision evolved into Charnita, a resort community spanning approximately 6,000 acres with Alpine skiing, a golf course, horseback riding trails, a lake for waterskiing, and even a proposed airport.

Wally Shank, a past resort general manager whose career began there as a teenager, recalls the early days of skiing at Charnita. According to Wally, "Charnita in its beginning wasn't family-oriented – nor was it intended to be. It was a nightclub with skiing. The cafeteria closed at 8 p.m. and the live band started playing. Even though skiing went till 10 p.m., you had to be 21 or older to go upstairs."

Slope grooming in those early days was a far cry from modern standards. Wally remembers, "The slopes were groomed twice a week – if Dick Brown thought they needed it."

The resort's business model evolved significantly over its history. In the early 1970s, efforts were made to diversify by offering summer activities like an Alpine Slide and grass

skiing. However, by the mid-1970s, Charnita experienced a downturn, leading to the ski area being repossessed by a bank in 1974. Irv Naylor of Ski Roundtop Inc., later renamed Snow Time Inc., purchased the ski area and renamed it Ski Liberty.

For the next 15 years, Ski Liberty refocused on winter sports by expanding skiable terrain and improving snowmaking, grooming, and lift services. In the late 1990s, the name was changed again to Liberty Mountain Resort.

A concerted effort was then made to enhance the resort's offerings and provide more year-round employment by adding snow tubing in 2003 and targeting weddings, conferences, and golf groups. Additional facilities were deemed necessary, leading to the purchase and annexation of Carroll Valley Golf Resort in 2010. As business demand outpaced existing facilities, the Carroll Valley clubhouse was replaced with the Highland Lodge in 2015. In 2018, the resort was sold to Peak Resorts Inc. Two years later, it was purchased by Vail Resorts.

Liberty Mountain Resort has had its share of notable visitors, including President Bill Clinton, First Lady Michelle Obama, tennis star Serena Williams, extreme skier Glen Plake, and Grammy-winning musician Allison Krauss. Resort employees who have gained notoriety include local resident Nate Sheehan, who competed in snowboarding at the Winter X-Games. Additionally, five individuals – Irv Naylor, Eric Flynn, Harold Plum-

mer, and Dick and Leslie White – have been inducted into the Pennsylvania Snowsports Hall of Fame.

The history of Liberty Mountain Resort highlights its significant impact on the local community and beyond. Thousands have worked at the resort, and tens of thousands of school children have been introduced to winter sports here. Liberty Mountain Resort has been a place to belong, forge lasting friendships, and become a "second family" for countless people.

Reflections Of A Carroll Valley Pioneer

Ken Lundberg, 84, has resided in Carroll Valley for 42 years. One of our early settlers attracted by the relatively affordable housing compared to Northern Maryland, Ken made the decision to make Carroll Valley his full-time home in 1982. With the benefits of Carroll Valley far outweighing the long drive, he commuted 62 miles to IBM in Bethesda, for about 20 years, where he excelled in database development. His, like most homes in Carroll Valley in the early 80's, was thought of as a "cabin" by the city dwellers now flocking to our area. Since 1982, Ken has significantly expanded his "cabin" and vividly recalls the area having only three homes and a population of 600 when he first arrived. And Ken has been on the front lines of our community to witness these changes firsthand as a long-time volunteer and official.

Ken has witnessed the evolution of Carroll Valley from weekend retreat second homes in the early years to the thriving community of full-time homes of today. Initially, the movement away from weekend cabins to full-time residences leaned heavily towards retired persons seeking the retirement earnings tax breaks in Pennsylvania, but in recent years has seen that trend move toward homeowners of all demographic categories, with a greater influx of younger



Liberty Mountain back in the early days.

families choosing Carroll Valley to raise their families. Ken believes this is the case due to the cost of living, helping Carroll Valley evolve into one of the wealthiest areas in South Central, Pennsylvania, where one can purchase a rather palatial home in a country setting for a fraction of the cost just across the Mason-Dixon Line. And to Ken, the topography here is what makes it most attractive, with our trees, mountains and rolling hills. Ken admits that he loves it here because he's been able to escape the stress and headaches of city/suburban living.

For most of his 42 years in Carroll Valley, Ken has been active in the community. He's the current chair of the Public Sewer Advisory Committee, responsible for an awarded grant of \$800,000 to replace our aging sewer plant and provide connections for about 150 additional homes. He understands that responsible, controlled growth can be achieved and is essential to the continued vitality of the community. Ken has also served on the roads committee that facilitated paved roadways, was part of the planning group for the new state-of-the-art Borough office complex, served on the Civil Service Committee that set the requirements for the hiring of our police force, and has previously held a seat on the Borough Council for several years. Ken realized early on that he could positively impact this community and has since been ready to help in any

capacity asked of him.

Because Ken has invested so much time and energy in the community and has such fond memories of the people he's served with over the years, he plans to stay here as long as possible. He knows that Carroll Valley will continue to evolve and appreciates the younger folks who have an interest in it and are stepping up to become involved in civic affairs.

His advice to those considering making Carroll Valley their home is simple: understand everything available here. "One doesn't have to travel far to benefit from good public education, recreational facilities, and scenic views," says Ken. He particularly values his fellow civic volunteers, such as the garden club members who had been instrumental in beautifying the Borough for many years before the club disbanded.

To him, this 50th-anniversary celebration marks the very successful implementation of a vision our pioneering residents had to make the Borough a stellar place even after the Charnita resort failed, and he's especially grateful to the residents who had the foresight to imagine all that Carroll Valley could become. Thus, he'd like to include a picture of Carroll Valley in the proposed time capsule, so that "future residents will know just what a friendly and inclusive community Carroll Valley was in 2024."

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

The remarkable legacy of Dr. Clotworthy Birnie

David Buie

Dr. Clotworthy Birnie, born in 1765 and deceased in 1845, left an indelible mark on the American and Irish historical narrative. His final resting place is the Piney Creek Reformed Presbyterian Church Cemetery, symbolizing his profound ties to the community he diligently served.

Birnie's rich heritage set the stage for his remarkable life. He was the nephew of Dr. Upton Scott, a prominent Irish physician who emigrated to Maryland in 1754 with Horatio Sharpe, the newly appointed colonial governor. Dr. Scott quickly ascended Annapolis's social ladder through his medical prowess and his marriage to wealthy heiress Elizabeth Ross. This union, coupled with his shrewd dealings, cemented his wealth and influence.

By 1810, an aging Dr. Upton Scott needed help managing his vast landholdings in Maryland. He turned to his nephew Clotworthy Birnie, a prosperous 45-year-old merchant in Belfast. Despite never setting foot in America, Birnie agreed to relocate his family across the Atlantic to manage over three thousand acres of farmland in the Taneytown area.

The move from bustling Belfast to rural Maryland was a transformative experience for Clotworthy Birnie. The quiet, demanding rural life replaced his previous urban existence. He integrated into a community of middling farmers where German speakers were more common than Gaelic ones and adapted to a life spent mostly outdoors. Despite these cultural and environmental shifts, Birnie and his family thrived, embedding themselves into the local fabric. However, it was not without its challenges. The differences in language and lifestyle, the physical demands of rural life, and the need to establish a new social network were all hurdles that Birnie had to overcome.

Birnie's journey from Ireland to America mirrors a broader narrative of immigration and adaptation. His story is one of resilience, adaptability, and commitment to

family and community. Dr. Upton Scott's extensive landholdings were well-managed through his diligent efforts, and Birnie's descendants continued to contribute significantly to the region's development.

To fully appreciate Clotworthy Birnie's story, one must consider the arduous journey he and his family undertook. Birnie engaged the President, a small American vessel, to transport his family and their belongings from Belfast to Baltimore. A recruitment broadside for additional passengers is part of the Birnie Papers, although the diary does not specify how many people made the voyage beyond the ten family members and the crew. The President departed Belfast harbor on May 6, and by the evening of May 7, they saw the 'last light of the Irish Land,' never to return. This journey, marked by resilience and adaptability, was the beginning of their new life in America.

Their Atlantic crossing, lasting about six weeks, was relatively uneventful despite occasional heavy storms and seasickness. The diary details the weather, wind direction, and ship's speed, illustrating Birnie's active engagement in the journey. By June 15, they sighted land, and on June 21, the President anchored in Baltimore harbor. The family settled in a rented house on Green Street for \$60 a month.

Birnie wasted no time; by June 25, he was going to Annapolis to meet Dr. Upton Scott. His brief stay in Annapolis was productive, as he established connections with influential figures like Colonel Henry Maynadier and his aunt, Elizabeth Scott. These relationships proved valuable throughout his life.

Throughout July, the Birnie family prepared for their move to Taneytown. They acquired necessary items and transported their belongings over forty miles of dirt roads. Birnie's diary entries from the first eighteen months in Taneytown reveal his impressions of local towns, business and social contacts, and agricultural efforts. He recorded the challenges of rural life, including acquiring enslaved people and hired hands, planting crops, and building a new home.

Birnie's meticulous documentation of his agricultural endeavors demonstrates his commitment to scientific farming methods. He noted the effects of rain on crops, compared treated and untreated rows, and maintained sharecropping arrangements with neighbors. These methods, which were ahead of their time, significantly contributed to the family's success in their new environment. The diary reflects the hard work and adaptation required to succeed in their new environment.

The family's first year and a half in America was filled with significant achievements. By the end of 1810, Birnie had accumulated livestock, built relationships with local residents, and laid the groundwork for their agricultural enterprise. Despite some labor troubles and the harsh winter, the family persevered. They managed to establish a stable living situation, build a network of support, and make significant progress in their agricultural endeavors. These achievements are a testament to their resilience and dedication in the face of the challenges of immigration.

As the seasons changed, Birnie continued to adapt and expand his farming operations. He gained more livestock, cultivated various crops, and built a new home. The diary records the labor of enslaved people and hired hands, reflecting the complexities of maintaining a large farm.

Despite occasional setbacks, Birnie's determination ensured the family's success. By the end of 1811, they had nearly completed their new house and harvested the crops, promising a stable future. Birnie's detailed diary entries glimpse an



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C. BIRNIE,
 Who intends going with his Family, and will take care to make the Passengers as comfortable as possible.
 BELFAST, March 14.

Broadside from 1810 soliciting passengers to accompany the Birnies to Baltimore.

immigrant family's daily life and struggles to establish themselves in a new land.

Dr. Clotworthy Birnie's life is a testament to resilience, adaptability, and dedication. His journey from Ireland to America, his contributions to the community, and his enduring legacy are integral parts of Maryland's his-

torical narrative. His story highlights the enduring connections between Ireland and America, underscoring the immigrant experience's richness and complexity.

To read past editions of Taneytown History, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COOKING

August and everything after

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

I love the Counting Crows. Maybe it reminds me of driving around Baltimore in my friends beat up manual transmission civic in high school, on our way to sports practice or to work our shift at Chuck E Cheese but their debut album, August and Everything After was always near the front of the CD case we kept in her car. Sometimes August feels like the stale end of summer, but I think it starts the beginning of the best part of the year. Herb gardens rocking out, fall harvest is just around the corner, but the sidewalk chalk and freezer pops are still hanging Round Here.

French Potato Salad

This is a great potato salad that does not use dairy and is served at room temperature, so you don't have to worry about storage and chilling if you are taking it outdoors to the pool or a picnic. It also stores in the fridge and as the dressing settles into the potatoes tastes even better the next day. I just served this recently to a bunch of friends and they thought it was a nice, lighter version for summer. You can also use any herbs that you have fresh available really, just make sure all herbs are chopped well so you don't feel like you are eating leaves with your potatoes.

Ingredients

1.5 lbs small potatoes (red/gold)
1 tbsp salt
3 tbsp olive oil
3 tbsp champagne vinegar
1 tbsp dijon mustard
1 tbsp grainy mustard
1/4 tsp pepper
1 shallot, peeled & sliced
2 tbsp fresh dill, minced
2 tbsp fresh flat leaf parsley, chopped
2 tbsp basil, chiffonade

Preparation directions: Bring a large stock pot of water boil, and while waiting to boil chop the potatoes into quarters or bite sized pieces. When boiling, place the potatoes in the pot and cook for 20-25 min until for tender. Strain and place in a bowl with a towel covering it so the potatoes can steam. In the mean time, place the olive oil, champagne vinegar, mustards, and pepper into and whisk or blend until it forms an emulsion. Add herbs and shallots and stir, then pour over the potatoes and toss, and let sit. This can be served warm or at room temperature, or stored in an airtight container for up to 3 days, if it lasts that long.

Gnocchi alla Romana

This is gnot your normal gnocchi! Its baked as flat discs and is crispy, cheesy and delicious. This recipe

is from the James Beard winning chef, David Leite and is from Rome. Made with coarse ground semolina instead of potatoes. It makes a great base for a ragu or marinara for dipping.

1 quart (4 cups) whole milk
2 to 3 tsp salt
7 ounces (just over 1 cup) semolina flour
1 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 tbsp butter
1/2 cup bread crumbs

Preparation directions: To make the semolina gnocchi, heat the milk and salt in a medium saucepan set over medium heat. When the milk starts to simmer, slowly sprinkle the semolina flour over the surface, whisking constantly to make sure that lumps do not form. Once all the semolina has been added, reduce the heat to medium-low. Continue to whisk for 7 to 10 more minutes, until the gnocchi-to-be mixture becomes thick and velvety. The mixture may thicken considerably after just a few minutes, but try to continue to cook it for the full 7 to 10 minutes. This is to make it tender and a nice smooth texture.

Remove the pan from the heat and stir in 1/2 cup of the Parmesan, the eggs, and the butter. Turn the mixture onto a rimmed baking sheet, spreading it evenly into a 1/2 inch thickness. Set aside in the fridge, if there's room, or set aside at room temperature until cool and firm, about an hour. Preheat the oven to 400° F (200°C). Using



a circle cookie cutter or the mouth of a glass that's about 2 inches wide, cut the cooled semolina into gnocchi. Dip the cutter or glass into water between each press to prevent the dough from sticking. Place the cut gnocchi on a parchment-paper-lined baking sheet, making sure to leave at least 1/2 inch between them so that their edges can caramelize.

Sprinkle the remaining 1/2 cup Parmesan and the bread crumbs on top of the semolina gnocchi. If you don't want them thickly coated, don't use all of the cheese and crumbs. Bake until the semolina gnocchi are golden brown, slightly puffed, and crisp around the edges, 30 to 40 minutes. Serve hot.

Slow Cooker Ragu

To serve with your polenta we may need a nice beef ragu, however no one wants to have the stove or oven on all day in August. This is made in a crockpot so you can

get on with your day and have dinner ready later in the day. This also freezes really well, and can be rewarmed easily for meal prepping or if it makes too much for your household in one sitting.

Ingredients

3-4 lbs beef roast the cheapest cut, or even stewing meat so its pre-cubed
2 tbsp olive oil
2-3 sprigs each fresh rosemary and fresh thyme stems discarded and finely chopped
1 small red onion peeled and finely chopped
4 garlic cloves peeled and finely chopped
1 carrot peeled and finely chopped
1 celery stick finely chopped
1 1/2 cups red wine such as Chianti
3, 14 oz cans chopped tomatoes crushed tomatoes
1 tsp salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preparation directions: Chop onion, carrot and celery, mince garlic and chop rosemary and thyme and put everything on the bottom of a crock pot. Cut roast into 2-3 inch cubes and brown them in olive oil in a frying pan over high heat in stages, don't overcrowd the meat so it browns nicely. Add it to the vegetables. Taking the frying pan off the heat, pour wine into the pan and use wooden spoon to loosen all the delicious bits from the bottom of the pan, that's where much of the flavor is concentrated.

Pour the wine into the crock pot along with canned tomatoes. Sprinkle barley all over, which will add texture and more flavor to your ragu, not to mention fibre and nutrients. Add a teaspoon of salt and freshly ground pepper. Cook on low for 10-12 hours.

In the last hour take the lid off and shred the beef with two forks, add one more tablespoon of fresh rosemary and thyme and a splash of water or wine if the meat is too dry. Cook for one hour longer. At the end of cooking time stir in butter for more flavor and to add a gloss to your ragu.

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Your child is ready to date...

Mary Angel

... but are you?
 Kids grow up so fast, and as much as we would like it, we can't slow that process down. They go from diapers to training wheels and baby dolls to dating in the blink of an eye. Some stages we might want to speed up, like the colic stage in my house, but most of them we drag our feet. There is no stage quite like dating for me. So, your child is ready to date, but are you?

For each family the age when a child is permitted to date is different. Many of us will make the joke of "not before your 30th birthday" or "when pigs fly", but those aren't actually realistic. For us we said high school but found out years later that our oldest daughter had her first "date" in first grade. We found this out when she was joking with her sister in high school and said they had never officially broken up so they must still be dating and then they had a big laugh. I am not sure I would count the first-grade dating as official dating, but it does beg the question of when should they start.

I have several friends that have left it up to their kids. This hasn't worked out the best for them, as we live in a world of easy access to all things sexual. Commercials, internet pop-ups, even songs on the radio tell our kids that it is just sex, and okay at any age. I am not a prude, but I do believe sex is meant for marriage. I believe that sex is not just a physical act, but an emotional giving away of a little part of your soul. The reason we decided on high school as our minimum dating age is also because once your kids start dating, they will continue to date and continue to push their boundaries. I do not mean this in a defiant way. Think about it, if you try something spicy to eat and it is good and you like the heat, the next time maybe you will try something a little spicier and then even more spicy. Dating can be the same kind of thing, that is where the base analogy came from. Once they make it to first base, after a while they might not think it as big a deal to go to second base, and so on.

Now, I have said our dating age was high school, but once again that doesn't always mean that is reality. I walked into my son's room when he was in middle school, and he was in tears texting someone. It turns out he had fallen in love with a girl who had dumped him moments before I walked into his room that day. When I figured out that he had been dumped, even though he was not allowed to date, I asked the name of the girl. He said her name was Emma. For the

life of me I couldn't remember any girls his age named Emma. So of course, I asked her last name, only to be told, "I don't know", with a confused look on his face. It turns out that he had met the girl on an online kid's game and never gotten her last name. After looking at the text I noticed she said he didn't love her and he responded with, "I'd take a bullet for you." I, with out thinking, burst out laughing and told him, "Never take a bullet for anyone until you get their last name." He started laughing as well and we talked about the internet and meeting people on games and safety. It was an odd start to a conversation, but a much needed one.

Then there was our oldest daughter! She has always been our wild child; always pushing the envelope. She fell madly in love when she was in eighth grade. He seemed like the sweetest most innocent boy, and this would be the first date for both of them. So, we broke our rule and said yes to them dating. It was truly a train wreck. He turned out to be manipulative and had many issues too inappropriate for this story, and she developed habits that were unacceptable in our house. It has caused her to develop a savior complex and choose guys who don't treat her well, but she is going to "help" them. As a mom, I have spent many a night crying over her heartache and pain. She is currently dating

someone who has a lot to work on, but so does she. Since she is over eighteen, I have crossed my fingers and said many prayers.

My youngest has no interest in dating, although she is of an age that we would definitely allow it. She has only liked two guys in her life and one of them was at camp and she hasn't seen him since. Maybe it also has something to do with watching her siblings go through some crazy stuff that has deterred her at the present time. She also says she wants to live with me forever, and I am not sure that is very realistic. Eventually she will meet someone and fall in love and hopefully it will be the one, since she says she is only going to date her husband. That would be pretty amazing, but not necessarily likely.

My kids have run the gambit with dating. From being dumped because they wouldn't put out to breaking up because they should have just been friends, they have experienced it all. Sometimes it has ended with tears and moping for months, others have ended with a beautiful friendship. Sometimes they have felt they dodged a bullet and the there are times when they have been sure they lost their one true love. Every time they come to me and talk it through, and I can't tell you how heart breaking and wonderful that is at the same time. It is true what they say, as a mom, you feel every heartbreak



your kids go through.

I pray every day that my children will meet someone that makes them happy, that they can walk through life with and will support them through the bad times and rejoice with them through the good times. I am hopeful that will happen sooner than later for them all, but as all parents, I want them to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. Afterall, life is a roller coaster, not a merry-go-round. It has ups and downs, with all the excitement, exhilaration, and nau-

sea you would expect (as for me the roller coaster also includes tears). You just have to learn to embrace the excitement and learn to brace yourself through the nausea. Good luck when your kids start to date. You'll never be ready, but treat it like the roller coaster it is, grab the bar in front of you, scream, when need be, and hold on for dear life!

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our writers to pick and write about one of August's National Days

Sophomore

National Park Service Founders Day

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

This prompt gave me a lot to think about. This prompt challenged me to do something I first thought was simple until I began writing. That is, to explain to you the importance of our National Parks.

August 25th is National Park Service Founders Day. Wow, that's a mouthful. On this day in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed what is now called the Organic Act, establishing the National Park Service. As part of the Department of Interior, the National Park Service protects 400 areas in 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia, totaling 84 million acres.

Many of us are not as eager as we should be when visiting national parks, but most of that comes from a lack of knowledge regarding national parks. There are many national parks in our area that I encourage everyone to visit. Some of those parks are

Antietam Battlefield, Catocin Mountain, Harper's Ferry, Fort McHenry, the Chesapeake Bay, Flight 93, Valley Forge, and Gettysburg. Not only does visiting national parks give us more knowledge about our nation's history, but we can also appreciate the soft beauties within our nation.

Unpopular opinion, I would rather visit a national park than a beach any day. That said, I've visited so many beaches in my life that I am probably just burnt out on them. It's the same routine each time. Set up chairs, put sunscreen on, and sit uncomfortably in your falling-apart chair until an appropriate amount of time has passed before you can leave and call it a "beach day". No, thank you. Every national park is different and has so many activities to offer. From sightseeing to tours, museums, hiking, swimming, and kayaking, there is always something new to try and to see. Who wouldn't be excited about that? The beach was always my mom's thing, however, camping and exploring was always my dad's thing. Safe to say my preferences mirror that of my father's when it comes to things to do.

That said, what do I love most about national parks? Reflecting on this loaded question, it comes down

to the memories I have with my dad. Ever since I was little, my dad would take me camping, and show me all kinds of things my mom would never have done. Not because she didn't want to, but simply because it wasn't her thing. Dad and I used to, and still do, visit Gettysburg every chance we got. Whether it's just to have lunch or walk the battlefield, our passion for knowledge and history drives us to learn more and continue visiting our national parks.

Last summer, I remember going to Gettysburg with my dad to do a bus tour (yet again) and visit some museums. That was easily one of the best days I had that summer. We left bright and early in the morning and didn't leave until close to dinner time. I not only learned so much about something I was passionate about, but I got to geek and nerd out with my dad and my aunt without feeling foolish for doing so. We toured the battlefield, visited museums, had lunch, and visited a bunch of shops, one of which I bought a really nice sweatshirt in. The most amazing part of that day was driving home and realizing how close I was to Gettysburg. I remember thinking to myself, "I could do this all again".

Later that same summer, I moved into college early as part of a bridge program where we all visited Harper's Ferry. I've never taken so many pictures in my life, and I don't believe my dad received so many text messages in his life. Sorry, dad.

To this day I keep trying to get my dad to go to Harper's Ferry with me. I absolutely loved learning everything about Harper's Ferry and, contrary to most, I loved writing the essay we had to write on John Brown from all the information we learned at Harper's Ferry. I don't think I've ever been more excited to write an essay, and everyone I talked to knew that.

My third National Park story takes place in the Shenandoah Valley when my family and I visited the Luray Caverns. I have to admit, I was a little skeptical about it since we'd be going underground in a very fragile area. However, once we got down far enough, I was able to appreciate the pure and utter beauty of the caverns. It's amazing to think that something so astounding actually exists; looking up at the sparkling rock crystals wondering how on earth they don't fall to the ground. Truly amazing.

I believe that National Park Service Founders Day should be celebrated a

little more, and definitely deserves more recognition. The memories that are made within parks all over the country are worth so much to families. Not to mention the lasting impact your visit will have on each member of your family.

The conservation of our National Parks should be advertised so much more than it is. In the past several visits I've made to Gettysburg, I was very happy to see how crowded the parking lots were at the visitor's center and around the battlefield. The idea that people are interested in learning about our nation's history excites me, and I want nothing more than to be a part of it.

This prompt gave me the opportunity to express to you the importance of our national parks and their conservation, as well as my passion for them. I hope that on August 25th you might visit one of our amazing national parks and participate in the fun activities each of them has to offer. I promise they are so much more exciting than they appear. I hope my article will impact you enough to at least check them out. Happy National Park Service Founders Day.

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

Junior

National Book Lovers Day

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

There are typically 365 days in a year—aside from leap years of course. This means that there are hundreds and hundreds of National days in a year to celebrate! If you happened to read my article last August, you would have read about National Sister Day, which takes place on August 4th each year. As someone with multiple sisters, it is a day I hold close to my heart. However, there is another day in August that I find to be worth celebrating as well: National Book Lovers Day on August 9th!

Now, not to say that it is obvious that I would be a fan of such a day but, in all fairness, I am an English major and a writer so books are basically a life-line for me. I find that books are crucial to our existence though, they just hold so much knowledge! The best part about books is that they don't just carry knowledge, but rather that they open a door to totally new worlds for the readers. There is romance, action, horror, fantasy, history, and so much more. Each genre is a new and different world for the reader to explore.

Since the day is centered on book lovers and not just books in general, I want to focus on book lovers personally! I asked friends, family, and peers to tell me about their favorite books and why they mean so much to each person! The answers that I received from each person allows you to open your mind to different books and genres. There were so many books and authors that I hadn't known of that I can now look into. After reading this

article, maybe my fellow book lovers can add a few new options to their reading lists!

The first person I interviewed was my boyfriend Ayden, who is like me and enjoys reading a good book in his down time. Ayden's favorite book is "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie. The novel follows the 'misadventures' of a young teenage boy named Arnold Spirit Jr.—who typically goes by just 'Junior'—as he makes the decision to leave the Spokane Indian Reservation. Ayden read this book while he was still in high school as well and found it to be helpful in adjusting to the changes brought with being a teenager. This is one of his favorite books because it was super easy for him to relate to and connect with. Finding novels that have characters which remind you of yourself is always a comforting experience because there may be aspects of the book where you and this character could relate due to being in a bad place, but the character emphasizes that there is in fact a light at the end of the tunnel and that the problems can be solved. Ayden said he would recommend this novel to "any high schooler who is struggling. It's a great book about a kid who finds himself in all the sticky situations but figured out how to solve his problems to the best of his abilities. It's also really cool to see how life on a reservation differs from life off of a reservation and the cultural differences that are emphasized."

My second interview is going to be much more familiar to my readers of the Emmitsburg News Journal as it is from our recent Graduate writer Claire Doll! Claire has two books that she finds to be incredibly noteworthy: "The Bell Jar" by Sylvia Plath and

"Writers and Lovers" by Lily King. These novels both "fall generally into the genre of women's fiction and portrays the struggles of women becoming someone in the world while faced with internal and external pressures," which is exactly what makes Claire like them as much as she does. Claire made sure to emphasize Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar" specifically as a great novel to read as Sylvia Plath is one of her icons and she finds her to be such a lovely writer, which I cannot help but to agree with! Claire stated that both of these novels "have to do with the protagonists as writer while they also face challenges with mental health and societal status!" With all of that in mind I personally can't wait to dive into these novels! "I used to like romance novels, but I've fallen in love with women's fiction as a whole as a 22-year-old college grad just trying to figure things out." Personally, I relate with Claire on this because as a 20-year-old woman, it's hard to figure out where I fit in the world and what my purpose will be. The entire genre of women's fiction again is a form of comfort because it is so relatable.

Finally, I would like to tell you about one of my own favorite novels. This is the first book I can think of when someone asks me for a book recommendation because it is just absolutely riveting! "Where The Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens is—in my opinion—a work of art. Ironically, I hated it at first but after pushing through the first few chapters, I couldn't put it down. This novel became my pool and beach read for the summer, and even after finishing it I take it with me for travel to reread. The book is a mix of jumping from the past to the present in attempts to solve a suspected murder, so it embraces the theme of a coming-of-age narrative whilst also being a haunting and thrilling mystery novel. I loved this novel so much

because it kept me on my toes, I didn't want to put it down because you never knew what would happen next. The whole book takes you by surprise, with every twist and turn that comes in each chapter. The story is incredibly chaotic all of the way through, yet towards the end it becomes more peaceful, which is a nice change of pace. I think this is

a novel so good that everyone should read it! Hopefully this will give you the opportunity to expand your reading lists this year and embrace being a book lover! Be sure to celebrate your love for books on August 9th this year!

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



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LITTLE KNOWN AUGUST NATIONAL DAYS

Senior

National Respect for Parents Day

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

When I was little I quickly noticed that the best feeling in the world was knowing my father carried me to bed when I fell asleep in the car or on the couch. As I got a little older, and the end of a movie would approach, I would either force myself asleep or pretend I was, so that he would have to carry me. The older I got however, I started noticing that he would wake me gently so I could walk myself to my bed. This was a rude awakening as I realized I was too big to be carried. Sometimes I would just stay asleep on the couch so I wouldn't have to feel the difference between being carried to bed and walking myself. I know that I will be chasing that feeling for the rest of my life. The feeling of safety, warmth, love, and lightness. Not only was I able to feel light because my father is the strongest person I've ever met (physically and mentally), but because I never needed

to be weighed down by fear or despair. My father was there. To carry me, to protect me, to love me. I grew up with many brothers, but my dad never let me be alone. He showed me that playing in the mud was fun, jumping into the pool wasn't scary, and he lifted me up and ran when I was too little to play baseball in the backyard so that I could be a winner. My dad showed me how to appreciate nature, how to have a sense of adventure, and how to have reverence for the Lord. He gave me his artistic ability. My dad is so talented, even his doodles are impressive. He also created a complex, amazing, summer long treasure hunt that had us reading coordinates, running all over town, finding hidden messages, solving puzzles, even canoeing down a river, to get to the treasure. He made challenges that played to each of my sibling's and I's strengths, and made it inclusive for every age from 20 to 4. He has such a great imagination. He has given me so many wonderful memories. He has instilled in me his sense of humor, his taste in music, and so much more. Because of him, I am both goofy and contemplative.

My Dad has shown me the kind of man I am worthy of, the kind of

man who is strong and makes sacrifices, who provides and protects, who is the head of the household, but also isn't afraid to randomly start dancing in the living room, venture into the woods, or tell a hilarious joke. He is the first man I've ever loved and the first man who ever loved me. There is nothing I wouldn't do for him. I love making him laugh and making him proud.

My mother is a saint. She gives more, and puts more goodness out into the world than anyone I've ever met. She is the epitome of true beauty and grace. My mom has brought eight children into this world, and has raised each one with abundant love and faith. Not only does she nurture us, teach us, heal us, provide for us, and make a home for us, but she teaches full-time, drives us everywhere, prays for us every day, maintains friendships, volunteers, devotes time to children with special needs, and so much more. The list of my mother's capabilities is endless. She does so much that she has to reheat a cup of tea 4 times before drinking it hours later, because she doesn't have the time to sit and drink it the

first time she makes it. My mother has tremendous faith and compassion. She has been through a lot and yet her faith and reliability has never faltered. When I was young I used to think about how she made motherhood look so easy. She could balance everything perfectly, and make even the most mundane things into something exciting. When she had to take all of us with her to the grocery store, she made it into a scavenger hunt for us. She would also pull out all the stops to make our childhood amazing. When my little siblings couldn't do the "Heights Olympics", which was a thing our elementary school did before summer, because of Covid, she organized it right in our backyard. She would make us fun themed breakfasts like snowman pancakes or green eggs and ham, she would show us fun crafts, she would host fun parties, and she would sing us songs when we were babies. One of my favorite things my mom has done is make scrapbooks. She put so much effort into these beautiful handmade books full of photos from our childhood and you can see just how much she loves us and how

motherly she is. I will always cherish those scrapbooks.

Now that I am older, I love having conversations with my mom, planning trips, supporting her like she has always supported me, and laughing with her. My mother has become my friend and it makes me so happy.

August 1st is National Respect for Parents Day. Take a moment to thank your parents for everything they've done for you. They have poured their heart, soul, blood, sweat, tears, their everything into you so that you can have a wonderful life. It may be hard to see it sometimes but you are cherished by them. And if you are a parent, thank you for doing your best. You've taken on a tremendous responsibility and you are doing great. Your child is the most precious thing you'll ever have, and you are the most important part of their life. You are the key to their success. Thank you for looking out for them. It may be hard to see it sometimes, but we are grateful.

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

Graduate

Global Sleep Under the Stars Night Day

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

I grew up ten minutes from Baltimore City. My whole life I have looked into the night sky to see just bits and pieces of stars: scattered, twinkling pinpricks of light, floating in the almost-black sky. I say "almost black" because the night sky was never completely dark where I lived. I later learned that this was a result of light pollution, which casts a tinge of unwanted light into the night sky, painting it a grayish black. Skyglow. Growing up, I never saw the full, black night sky.

But until I moved to a more rural home, or until I began college at the Mount, I thought this was normal. I thought that stars were minimal in their appearance, and the sky at night would never be the inky black that we were told it'd be, and I should be thankful to live near a city. I fell asleep to the hum of the highway at night, car engines and tires against pavement and the symphony of vehicles that would crescendo into dawn. I fell asleep to real, human, alive noise. We checked local traffic by looking into the backyard window, and at night we counted few stars.

This is not to say I am not thankful for my childhood spent under a tainted night sky. My fondest memories include midnight swims where the pool water glowed electric, and mornings at the Baltimore farmers market (with the most delicious fried oyster mushrooms), and sunsets that melted into faraway city skyscrapers.

So, why Global Sleep Under the Stars Night? After all, I've never even camped until I was 19, and the thought of more than fifteen scattered stars in the night sky seemed

unthinkable, almost fiction.

When I moved to northern Carroll County after my high school graduation, and then to Mount St. Mary's in August 2020, I realized the importance of space—not even outer space, but real, physical space surrounding me. Or, in better terms, the emptiness encircling me. Landscapes and corn fields and mountains. And deep into the night, when all traces of light vanished, there they were: stars. Lots of them. Constellations, even, trailing across the sky like baby's breath dotting grass. Stars linking and connecting and sparkling—definitely more than fifteen of them—pressed against the black sky.

In college I would grow to be more outdoorsy—from camping trips in Shenandoah backcountry and Assateague Island to midnight drives in Emmitsburg and beyond—I learned just how breathtaking the dark can be.

True darkness is when there is no difference between closing your eyes and opening them. My mind goes to the ultimate form of darkness before the earth as we know it was created: "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, let there be light: and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). Can you imagine—no stars, no moon or sun? Total and complete darkness, everywhere and nowhere, in your waking and sleeping and dreaming states?

While chilling, true darkness can also be beautiful. A Forbes article titled "The Death of Night" focuses on the downfall of light pollution and the irreversible effects. "Light pollution and its trademark 'skyglow' is getting worse. Much worse. It's getting so serious that stars, beautiful open clusters and even distant galaxies in the night sky there were visible just a decade ago are now impossible

to see," writes author Jamie Carter.

This isn't talked about enough. Sources of overlighting—streetlights, floodlights, factory lights, and even indoor lights—all contribute to light pollution. In fact, cities are easily viewable from the International Space Station at night, revealing even from outer space that humans are present.

Do we really need to be that known to the universe?

Remote regions such as Siberia, the Sahara, and the Amazon are blanketed in total darkness, while the night skies in countries like Singapore, Qatar, and Kuwait are soaked in artificial light. In America we are somewhere in between, depending on location. In Emmitsburg I fondly recall stargazing at night, finding galaxies in the dark night sky, as if I had grown up picking out stars all along.

August 8th is Global Sleep Under the Stars Night. I'm not suggesting you pitch a tent in the backyard or book a camping trip in the middle of nowhere. Rather, I urge you to stay up late that night—take a walk or sit on the porch—and look up. Go on a drive and find constellations, trace them with your finger, park and turn your headlights off. Gaze until the darkness grows normal, until the difference between closing your eyes and opening them are sparkling pinpricks of light against outer space. Do you understand that there are galaxies and other worlds out there, millions of stars and planets? That the universe is far too incomprehensible, but rather something to be marveled? And have you ever recalled something more beautiful?

I chose this day—or night—because I never got to sleep under the stars when I was younger. I wouldn't trade my childhood for anything, and I mean it, but my discovery and fascination of stars has truly shaped me as a person. I have grown to not only love the sky but also cherish it. I desire to preserve the sky for my chil-

dren, for future generations who are already at risk for a more artificially brightened world.

While light is associated with symbols of knowledge and truth and goodness, you cannot have light without the absence of light. Darkness is not all that it's interpreted to be; in fact, the unknowing, the mystery, the lingering fear is natural, and

what shapes our experiences. God used the very fabric of darkness to create day and night. Without darkness we would have never revealed the galaxies embedded in the deep universe, the stars trailing their twinkling dust in a forever black sky.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

Mondays – Children’s Story Time from 4 to 5. Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 to minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesdays – Coffee Club from 3 to 4, mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen’s Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 to 6, just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturdays to Join us at 10:30 for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on August 20. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet August 19 at 5.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.felspa.org or call 717 to 792 to 2240.

Frederick County Library

Don’t miss the first week of August at the Emmitsburg Library – it is going to be a big one packed with exciting events for all ages!

For Kids – The first Saturday, August 3rd, brings Painting in the Garden at 10:30 Meet us at the community garden to create a unique watercolor painting! All supplies provided. Other garden activities this month are Wednesdays, August 14 & 28 at 10:30.

For All Ages – We are hosting an Intergenerational BINGO! Morning on Monday, August 5th from 11 to 11:45 with prizes donated from the Seton Center Store and more. Beat the heat with an indoor movie (Kung Fu Panda 4) on Tuesday, August 13th at 1.

Tweens and teens will continue to explore the arts with a program on Creating Your Own Out to of to this to World Graphic Novel with author Jonathan Roth, RPG Nights on Tuesday and Tween Fiber Arts programs on August 8 and 22nd at 5:30.

A special Gentle Stretching Yoga Style program for Adults is set for Wednesday, August 7th from 10:30 to noon.

There is something for everyone

at the Emmitsburg Library this summer!

Visit the library website at to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301 600 to 6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301-600-7212.

Emmitsburg Branch Library

Mondays, Family Storytime at 10:30.

Saturday, August 3, Painting in the Garden at 10:30.

Monday, Aug. 5, Intergenerational BINGO! With Prizes at 11.

Tuesday, Aug. 6, Creating Your Own Out to of to this to World Graphic Novel at 1.

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 13, 27: RPG Game Night (Teens), from 4:30 to 6:30.

Tuesday, Aug. 6: Adult Drop In Tech Café, from 5:30 to 7:30.

Wednesday, Aug. 7: Intro to Gentle Stretching Yoga to Style for Adults, from 10:30 to noon.

Thursday, Aug. 8: TEEN Studio: Zen Out Pizza Party (Ages 13 to 18), at 1

Thursday, Aug. 8 & 22: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop, from 5:30 to 6:30.

Thursday, Aug. 8: Read to a Therapy Dog WAGS for Hope, at 6.

Tuesday, Aug. 13: Kung Fu Panda 4 to Movie Afternoon!, from 1 to 3.

Tuesday, Aug. 14 & 28: Little Gardeners, from 10:30 to 11:30.

Thurmont Regional Library

Mondays, Preschool Storytime at 10:30 .

Tuesdays, Baby Storytime at 10:30.

Wednesdays, Toddler Storytime at 10:30.

Thursdays. Teen Open Craft Hour at 1.

Health Department’s Back-To-School Vaccination Clinics

The Frederick County Health Department will be hosting Back to School vaccination clinics from August 6th to September 11th for children who do not have health insurance, have health insurance that does not cover the cost of immunizations, or who are unable to get vaccinated by their healthcare provider. Vaccinations will be free for these children and appointments are required. Call 301-600-1733 to request an appointment or schedule online.

Children who have health insurance that covers vaccinations are encouraged to see their healthcare provider.

Maryland State Law requires all students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12 to receive age-appropriate immunizations. The Maryland vaccination requirements for the 2024-2025 school year are available here.

School vaccination requirements help protect children by making sure they are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Children who are not vaccinated can spread diseases to others, particularly to those who are too young to be vaccinated, or people with weakened immune

systems, such as those with cancer. The school must have proof of immunizations before allowing a student to begin school. Students who have not received the required vaccinations may be unable to attend school until proof of vaccination is provided, according to Maryland requirements.

Important information for Parents/Guardians:

Children 17 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

If parent or guardian will not be bringing their child, they must send a written note giving the individual bringing the child authorization to have the child vaccinated.

All vaccinated children are required to remain at the clinic for observation after vaccination.

Only one parent or guardian may accompany children who have an appointment. Additional persons will not be admitted.

Please DO NOT come to the vaccination clinic if child or parent/guardian has any symptoms or are waiting for COVID-19 results.

For more information, visit Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Immunization.

Friday, Aug. 2, Back to School with Bluey at 1.

Sunday, Aug. 4, Music on the Deck: The Honey Dew Drops at 2.

Monday, Aug. 5, Teen Melted Crayon Art, at 6.

Tuesday, Aug. 6, STEM Adventure with the Science Guys! at 6:30.

Saturday, Aug. 10, R.E.A.D.* with Wags for Hope at 11:30.

Monday, Aug. 12, Teen Journal

Creation at 6.

Wednesday, Aug. 14, A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly, at 7.

Thursday, Aug. 15, Offsite: Digital Learning at the Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E Main St, at 10.

Saturday, Aug. 14, Pet Parade with Dr. Bramson, at 11:30 .

Monday, Aug. 26, GO Team Therapy Dogs at 6.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Rae Gallagher
Board of Education

Despite the end of the school year in June, FCPS students, teachers, and buildings remain busy this summer.

During the July Board of Education meeting, Dr. Dyson unveiled the State of the System, highlighting both the successes and challenges faced by FCPS this year. The video shared individual student successes and showcased student voices as well as teachers and staff.

During the 2023-24 school year, FCPS expanded our full-day pre-K from 49 classrooms to 81 classrooms, serving over 1,300 students in pre-Kindergarten, which is a number that is growing every day.

Additionally, we opened a new

Judy Center at Tuscarora Elementary School. Our FCPS graduation rate remained steady at 93.1%, higher than the overall state graduation rate and number one in school districts with over 30,000 students enrolled. In addition, 24 FCPS student earned both a High School Diploma and an associate's degree in the Early College Program.

Dr. Dyson shared the expansion of our comprehensive literacy plan, grounded on the Science of Reading that has already been shared across the system. Additionally, she detailed plans for the upcoming school year, including the release of a new strategic plan; a mathematics comprehensive plan; and an employee code of conduct.

In student news, three of the six newly elected 2024-25 Maryland

State FFA (Future Farmers of America) are Frederick County Public Schools graduates – including Frederick High School graduate Abigail Effland, Catoctin High School graduate Ella Burrier, and Brunswick High School graduate Mia McGuffin.

In July, several students from Urbana and Middletown High Schools competed in the 2024 Future Business Leaders of America conference and received national recognition including Rayn Taskeen (Urbana HS), Logan Bohn (Middletown HS), Jackson Fanning (Urbana High School), Fateen Jawahardeen (Urbana HS), and Oliver Chase (Middletown HS).

As FCPS gears up for the 2024-25 school year, the system will begin the rollout of the new SchoolMessenger platform to contact parents and caregivers through email, phone, and text. Each school building has a new phone number that has been

Taneytown's Parks & Recreation Calendar Of Events

Summer Scavenger Hunt – Through August 31, any Taneytown Park.

Family Movie Nights In The Park – Memorial Park, all movies begin at 8:30, free admission/no registration required. August 10 - The Never Ending Story, rain date August 17; and on August 24 will be showing - Despicable Me 3, rain date August 31.

Reading In The Parks Contest – August 4 to 10, any Taneytown Park. Free/no registration required. Contestants post pictures of themselves or

family members reading in Taneytown parks on the Taneytown Parks & Recreation Facebook page.

Adult Tennis Clinics – Tuesdays, August 20th through September 24th, Memorial Park.

Please Call Parks & Recreation Department at 410-751-1100 for more information. Visit Taneytown.org to stay up to date about events, park projects, and other helpful information!

updated during the summer and can be located on the FCPS website. The United Way of Frederick County and FCPS are partnering again the annual Stuff the Bus community collection drive, which collects school supplies for thousands of local students. These supplies will be delivered directly to schools and school staff will distribute them to families in need.

Mark your calendars for August 21st – the first day of school for students! The Board of Education will resume quarterly community listening sessions in October, starting with October 16 at Oakdale High School; February 19th at Brunswick High School; and April 9th at Governor Thomas Johnson High School. Each listening session is open to all members of the public.

FASD Offers Mental Health Resource

Fairfield Area School District is helping families who need mental health care receive assistance. The district recently partnered with Care Solace, which helps people find mental health care providers and substance abuse treatment centers.

According to a post on the district website, Care Solace's Companion team is available to community members 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Care Solace's services are provided for free to district residents.

Care Solace can be contacted by calling 888-515-0595 or visiting caresolace.com/fasd.

The Care Solace team will ask callers a few questions to assess the best path to care, match them with a provider, book the appointment, and follow-up to evaluate the quality of the connection. While Care Solace's services are free, the connections they help citizens make are likely to charge for their services. All providers accept medical insurance and have sliding-scale pay options for the uninsured, the website says.

"The pandemic has been hard on a lot of families. It has taken away some of the security and consistency we experienced in the world pre-COVID,"

the district website states. "As adults, we have the ability to use higher-level thinking to help us realistically look at situations, understand what is in our control, and then make well thought out decisions. For children whose brains are not fully developed until their mid-20s, this does not happen as seamlessly."

Aaron Taylor, assistant to the superintendent for curriculum, special education, and student services, told the board of education in June that the district would begin looking out for struggling students and better prepare them to reach out for help when life gets challenging. The district will also begin looking more closely for signs that indicate a student may be struggling, such as poor attendance. Taylor is meeting with Adams County district justices to discuss truancy, he said.

"Students don't typically walk in the door and tell us that they need help," he said. The district also wants to implement a growth mindset curriculum for kindergarten through eighth-grade students. The program will focus on the importance of positive relationships, social skills, developing and reaching goals, and dealing with failure.

ARTS

Music, Gettysburg! line up for the Dog Days of August

Music Gettysburg! has a stellar line up for the Dog Days of August, beginning with Dearest Home, a favorite of Music Gettysburg! who will kick off the August season with an outdoor concert of authentic Civil War era music on August 4th.

Expressive vocals with rich harmonies interweave with sprightly dance tunes, as Dearest Home recreates traditional American music—U.S. Civil War era and Appalachian music, especially from the Samuel Bayard Folk Song Collection, with favorites from Jean Ritchie, the Carter Family, and Appalachia's stellar fiddlers.

Passion, skill, and resonant, next-of-kin matching of voices bring their music to life in lovingly crafted arrangements: authenticity and originality in perfect bal-

ance. And like the band itself, their programming unites the generations. Expect to hear fiddle, concertina, whistles, guitar, mountain dulcimer, bass,

keyboards, percussion, autoharp, and banjo. Be ready to join the band in singing, clapping, and even dancing.

On August 11, the Carlisle Brass Band will perform. The Carlisle Brass Band performs both traditional and modern brass band literature. Organized as a British brass band, the band performs 15-20 public concerts annually. Since its creation in 1998, the band has performed at numerous local music festivals, holiday ceremonies and multiple Army War College graduations.

And on August 18th, Cormorant's

Fancy will be performing. Cormorant's Fancy is known for their song and dance traditions of the Ireland and the Celtic Nations. Cormorant's Fancy wings across generations and oceans with traditional and contemporary music of Ireland, along with Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, and North America. Passion for their heritage pulses in every note! Driving reels, sprightly jigs, haunting airs, beautiful ballads, spirited songs and good-humored sing-alongs feature fancy-full harmonies and soaring instrumentals that blend vocals, concertina, fiddle, penny whistle, guitar, keyboards and bodhrán.

All concerts are free and open to the public, will take place at the performance platform in Schmucker Grove, just north



Dearest Home offers the opportunity to hear authentic Civil War era music.

of Springs Avenue on the United Lutheran Seminary campus. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs, and a picnic dinner. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will move next door to the ULS chapel.

Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, national, regional and local musical artists for the

greater south central Pennsylvania region. The United Lutheran Seminary Chapel is at 147 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg.

For more information about this and other concerts sponsored by Music, Gettysburg! please call 717-339-1334 or visit at www.music-gettysburg.org.

Majestic presents 1964 'The Best Beatles Tribute On Earth'

Jessica Rudy

Travel back in time to experience the mania that the Beatles created when they famously toured North America for the first time with 1964 the Tribute on stage at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater on Friday, August 9 at 7:30 p.m. 1964 returns to the Majestic stage after a sold-out performance in 2012 that left audiences

pleading for more.

The concert kicks off the Majestic's 2024-2025 season, and tickets are on sale now at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg.

"1964 shows the audience what it was like to attend a Beatles concert in the early sixties and generates the same feeling of happiness that is still generated by the music of The Beatles," says group co-founder Mark

Benson. "We get so much positive energy back from our audiences, it reassures us that for now, we are where we are supposed to be."

1964 The Tribute has been thrilling audiences around the globe by taking them on a journey through an unforgettable moment in music history—an early 1960s live Beatles concert with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles and onstage banter. Mark Ben-

son, Mac Ruffing, Tom Work, and Bobby Potter embody John, Paul, George, and Ringo thanks to decades of research, dedication to their craft, and love for the music.

Rolling Stone magazine has called 1964 the Tribute "the best Beatles tribute on Earth" and music industry leaders have called the show "magical" and "uncanny."

Tickets for 1964 The Tribute start

at \$45 and are available now at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

The Majestic Theater at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center is owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a gathering place for its campus and community to celebrate the arts together.

Adams Arts Council's 'The People Project'

The Adams County Arts Council is proud to announce The People Project 2024: At Home in Adams County, which includes a storytelling and performance event on Saturday, October 19 at 7 pm in the Majestic Theater's Cinema One; creation of public art, which will be unveiled at the October 19 event and then displayed on the façade of ACAC's Arts Education Center; and an exhibition of art created by local

artists in ACAC's Reception Hall for the month of November.

The performance event will feature storytellers, dancers, artists, and musicians sharing their contributions on this year's theme, "At Home in Adams County." In partnership with SCCAP's @Home Adams County program, the Project aims to share a variety of experiences from a diverse group of Adams County residents through stories, music, dance,

and visual art on what "home" means to them.

Participants and attendants of the 2022 People Project may remember the collaborative stained-glass piece created throughout the year at multiple events by more than 150 members of our community. For 2024, ACAC is thrilled to have contracted with mural artist and Littlestown native Sarah Jacobs to coordinate, conceptualize, and create five large

panels that will adorn the façade of the Arts Education Center following the performance event on October 19 and remain on display throughout 2025. Sarah will spend the summer interviewing project participants, community members, and community groups including LIU summer students and senior centers to incorporate their stories, ideas, and brushstrokes into the finished panels.

To date, eight storytellers are confirmed to participate in the Octo-

ber 19 event as well as three dancers/dance groups and two musicians. Space is still available for musicians or storytellers who would like to be part of the event. Those interested in sharing a story or performing at the event should reach out to Lisa Cadigan atl-cadigan@adamsarts.org by July 19. Visual artists who are interested in displaying and/or selling their art in the November exhibition or groups who would like to be included in the five-panel community painting with Sarah Jacobs should contact Kylie Stone at events@adamsarts.org for more information.

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MOUNT ARTS

A cultural narrative through Greek historical art

Emelie Beckman
MSMU Class of 2026

This summer my family and I traveled to Greece for my dad's 50th birthday. We are not new to international travel, but rather the opposite. Even as a mere 10-year-old I am pretty sure my parents had dragged me to more countries than the usual person sees in a lifetime. It has always been imperative for my parents to travel so once they got kids, instead of settling down and planning their travels to suit our needs as kids, we got to tag along. Hence, I spent many of my childhood summers in new places, exploring new cultures and art.

Since we live in Europe, traveling has become a bit easier than it is in America. Flights do not cover the entire length of a day, they don't cost you an absolute fortune, although a small fortune, and for many fellow EU countries, like Greece, we don't even have to bring our passports.

Traveling

We started our travels on a Friday afternoon, rushing through the rumbling airport trying to get to our gate in time after I decided to get coffee 5 minutes before boarding started. If you ask my parents, they will probably tell you that we almost missed our flight, but we had plenty of time. We arrived in Crete, a big Greek island in the Mediterranean Ocean, in the late evening. Stepping out of the plane doors we were greeted by that brick wall of humid warmth that for me encapsulates summer adventure. We then hopped on a bus where there was a clear shortage of seats, and after 35 minutes we arrived at our hotel in the small sea loch of a town called Agia Pelagia. The temperature was moist and humid, the hotel overlooked a small collection of houses standing on a tipping slope running down to the shore and the ocean was the most beautifully turquoise. Surrounding the beach they stood guarding, stony yellow mountains with speckles of green bushes on them. Crete is a unique place since it has no trees. It is said that all trees were cut down by the Phoenicians, who inhabited Crete around 1500 BC, to be used to make boats.

Much of Greek historical art and culture can be divided into two time periods and two people, the ancient Minoan civilization, and the one all have heard of, the ancient Greeks, and much of the cultural art scene I got to discover while here had to do with these two peoples.

The Ancient Minoans

Firstly, the ancient Minoans were the first recorded civilization in Greece and the first literate one in Europe. They existed between 2200 to 1450 BC and resided on Crete. Hence, due to their huge significance and local ties, much of Cretan history and tourism is based on the Minoans.

During my time here my family visited Knossos, the ruins of the world-famous ancient Minoan palace and heart of the Minoan civilization. The ruins are located in the outer corners of the major city of Heraklion and cover roughly an area of 150,000 sq ft. Although the remains are today more rubble-like, with only the base level walls remaining and some underground levels, the palace was at its time five stories high. For reference, in my country Sweden, peo-

ple at that time lived in small huts and had no formal organized society outside of their farms. The Minoans engaged in elaborate trade and sophisticated teachings of art and culture. Their art, which can be seen at the palace site of Knossos and in the historical museum of Heraklion, consists of vibrantly colorful mosaics and pottery. The walls of Knossos, which some had been retrieved and retold, were decorated with elaborate pieces of mosaics displaying everything from natural elements such as dolphins to historical moments such as in the famous piece *Toreador Fresco*. The piece, with its vibrant reds, blues and oranges, represents a Minoan bull leaping celebration. The image depicts two women standing on opposite sides of a robust charging bull, all while a man is performing an elegant gymnastic movement, either a handstand or a front handspring, over the bull's back. The piece and its warm color scheme create a celebratory picture, one of great celebration but also courage and skill. Although the image would in most cases appear almost threatening and scary, the *Toreador Fresco* encapsulates the celebratory feeling that came with these traditions.

The Ancient Greeks

The other major influential culture behind Greek history is of course the world-renowned ancient Greeks, who came after the Minoans. Known for their philosophy, mathematics and democracy, the ancient Greeks are by many considered the forefathers of

modern western civilization. When looking back at the art from the time of the ancient Greeks one can observe how much of their art was either created to honor important political and philosophical figures or to depict scenes out of ancient Greek philosophy. Now, one does not need to be a major nerd to know some basic Greek gods. Zeus, the ancient Greek god of thunder and the sky, also the king of the gods, should be known to most. During my stay in Crete, I got to visit the cave which is said for hundreds of years to have been his birthplace. The cave entrance was like a black hole in a bottomless pit in the ground. It truly was something special with how the entrance was not of one that one sees in movies, a sort of hole into a mountain wall. This one, located at the top of a mountain, was rather more like a hole in the ground. Once having descended down the implemented tourist stairs I reached the bottom of the cave. Here I was standing in a chilly and dreary forest of stalagmites and stalactites, accompanied by seldom sounds of dripping water. Spaced out in the cave were some small pools of green murky water where in I saw small golden coins. The euros had been thrown into the water by people from all over the world who, whether they believed this to be the birthplace of Zeus or not, wished for luck and prosperity.

Pottery

The more modernly known art form associated with Greece is their pot-



Greece is known worldwide for its pottery.

tery. An art form used by both the Minoans and ancient Greeks, pottery has been practiced here for hundreds and even thousands of years and I got to try it. It wasn't my first time doing pottery since I took the first ceramics class offered at The Mount, so the experience was a bit basic. But in the small village called Psychro, me and my brother were guided through using the pottery wheel by an eccentric Greek man. He helped us center our piece, and then we got to pick, form and decorate our designs. The

session ended with our teacher forcing us to take a theatrical and humiliating picture dressed up as Greek gods with various forms of pottery props.

Until Next Time

For my next article, I will be back at The Mount again, looking forward to the upcoming school year and what it will bring us in the form of arts.

To read other articles by Emelie Beckman visit the Authors section of *Emmitsburg.net*.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Honoring the class of 2024

Richelle Zheng
CHS Class of 2025

Catoctin High School is beyond proud of their hardworking and passionate students from the class of 2024 who graduated on May 21st at Mount St. Mary's. It was a bittersweet ceremony as the seniors flipped to a new chapter of their lives. Among all of the incredible 2024 graduates, athletes, Meghan Gray, Emma Magers, and Furious Trammel all demonstrated their dedication inside the classroom and outside on the field.

First, we have Meghan Gray, who grew up playing softball since the age of six and led the Catoctin softball team as the varsity starting catcher for all four years of high school. Not only does she play softball, she has also experimented with other sports such as field hockey, which she played as a sophomore, and indoor track her senior year. Gray's athleticism led her to be a varsity starter in all of these sports she has played throughout her high school years. Moreover, Gray takes time outside of school to play for the EC Bullets-Cornett, a travel softball team. Gray's excellence is not limited to just sports as she also shines in her academics and other associated activities. She was part of four honors societies, including the

National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Spanish Honor Society. On top of that, she involved herself in many other clubs, such as the class clubs throughout all of her years in high school, and in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), from her sophomore to senior year. Furthermore, Gray challenged herself throughout her high school career by taking dual enrollment classes through Frederick Community College (FCC), which has earned her numerous college credits in math, English, history, public communications, and business.

Besides allocating time outside of school for sports, Gray also worked at Food Lion, and served her community by coaching younger girls in softball. As Gray juggled all of these activities she managed to place in the top five percent of her class with a GPA of 4.7. Of course, Gray's efforts were recognized. She received numerous awards throughout her high school career such as the Physical Education Award, 2024 Blue Lodge Scholarship Award, as well as a Catoctin Colorfest Scholarship. Additionally, she received an athletic scholarship from the University of Maryland and a scholarship from the Thurmont High School Alumni Association.

Gray plans on continuing on her softball journey at the University of Maryland-College Park. In addition to softball, she wants to keep working hard in the classroom during her undergraduate years at UMD as a kinesiology major, in order to pursue her goal of becoming an occupational therapist. All of these accomplishments made by Gray did not happen without any support. Gray thanks her parents for continuously pushing her to be her best. She also credits three teachers who have made a lasting impact on her: Angelique Merkson, Tyler Ausherman, and Steve Cree. Gray described Mrs. Merkson as "...the teacher I could go to if I ever needed help with my English work or navigating a situation with my friends." She is also grateful for Mr. Ausherman as he, "...pushed me to be the best student I could be during senior year when I wanted to stop putting in effort." She also mentions that "He held me accountable and never gave up on my learning." Lastly, she recognizes Mr. Cree, who is a favorite among many students at Catoctin High School. "Mr. Cree is the teacher that anyone can go to with truly anything. He helps students including myself through their best and worst times." Gray has provided some advice she would like to give incoming high school students.

She suggests that they should make sure to stay on top of their work and to manage their time wisely. She also advises students to always ask for help when they need it. Finally, Gray hopes to have made an impact on Catoctin and to never be forgotten. She hopes that she can be a role model to her lower classmen. Gray also commented "I hope that one day I can be used as a positive example on how to act at school and be respectful."

Emma Magers is another student who has served as a role model for many students at Catoctin, especially those on the soccer team. Magers was born to be a soccer player and started playing at the age of three. She has played soccer all four years of high school and was the captain of the team during her senior year. In addition to soccer, Magers also participated in track and field since her freshman year. Other than sports, Magers was heavily involved in her community. She was part of Future Farmers of America (FFA) throughout high school and an officer in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) for two years. Moreover, she gave back to her community by frequently volunteering and working at Springfield Manor. With her volunteering, she received the Senator Van Hollen Public Service Award for obtaining over 500 community service hours! Magers was able to leave her high school career with a 4.5 GPA while balancing all of her various extracurriculars and school.

Although Magers has not decided if she wants to continue her journey in sports, she plans to major in early education at Salisbury University to chase after her dream of becoming a kindergarten teacher. However, Magers did not come this far without help as she credits her parents for always supporting her and pushing her to do her best. In addition, Magers has offered some advice for the incoming freshman which is "To do your best and be yourself." Magers also added, "I hope to have left a legacy in the child development program," of which she put an abundance of time into as she strives toward her future career of being a teacher.

Lastly, Furious Trammel who was a well-known track and field star has inspired many of the underclassmen with his athletic achievements. He has run track for three years and plans to continue to show off his talents at Hagerstown Community College (HCC). Not only was Trammel the captain for the track team, he was also a part of Catoctin's Student Voices and served his community by working at Goodwill and volunteering. The Human Relations Committee of Frederick County rewarded him for his involvement in the community and he also received the MLK Jr. Award as well. With that, his goals for the



Meaghan Gray will be going to the University of Maryland - College Park to continue her softball career!

future are to graduate college, travel, and qualify for the 2028 Olympics in Las Vegas.

Although it was extremely difficult to choose who to dedicate this article to, the 2024 graduates are definitely an inspiration to the underclassmen at Catoctin High School, including myself. It has been a pleasure to work alongside them as they are now off to do even greater and better things.

Track Athletes Compete at Nationals

With the weather getting warmer and students heading off to vacation, two dedicated athletes, Gavin Scheetz and Furious Trammel, continued their training in order to prepare for the New Balance Outdoor Nationals and Adidas Outdoor Nationals.

The New Balance Outdoor Nationals was a four day event that took place from June 13 to June 16. The event was held at the University of Pennsylvania. Trammel competed in the 400-meters championship finals. He ran a time of 47.62 seconds and placed eleventh out of the 89 runners who participated in this event. Gavin Scheetz, a rising senior, represented Catoctin in two events at the Adidas Outdoor Nationals, which took place at North Carolina A&T State University from June 14 to June 16. Scheetz demonstrated his talent for running as he ran in the 110-meter hurdles, national elite preliminary finals event. He competed against 65 other runners from all over the country, and finished with a time of 16.02 seconds. In addition, Scheetz ran the 400-meter hurdles, national elite finals event, against 71 other athletes. He was able to set a new personal record for himself in this event with a time of 1:00.34 minutes!

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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For exhibit entry list & activities information, visit our website
ThurmontEmmitsburgCommunityShow.com

Friday 5:30 to 9 p.m.

5:30 p.m. - Community Show open to the public

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46th Annual Community Organizations Flag Ceremony
2024-2025 Catoctin FFA Ambassador Announcement

7:30 p.m. - Baked Goods Auction, Auditorium ~ Buyers are welcome! ~

8 p.m. - All Baked Goods Grand Champions & Reserve Champions will be sold!

Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

9:30 a.m. - K-9 Police Dog Demonstration - Front Lawn

10 a.m. - Pet Show Registration & 10:30 a.m. - Pet Show - Front Lawn

10 - 3 p.m. - Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Goat Snuggling & Cuddling - Upper Parking Lot
Face Painting, Beekeeping Display - Hallway by Upper Parking Lot
Farm Machinery Display, Sow & Piglets - Ag Center

1 p.m. - Elower - Sicilia Productions Dance Show - Auditorium

1:30 p.m. - Thurmont Academy of Self Defense Martial Arts Demo - Auxiliary Gym

3 - 6:30 p.m. - Roast Turkey & Ham Buffet by Kountry Kitchen in the Cafeteria

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Elvis Tribute Artist Taylor Brown - 50's & 60's Music - Auditorium

6:30 p.m. - Past Winners Gathering of Ridenour Lamb & Scholarship - Ag Center

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Face Painting, Beekeeping Display - Hallway by Upper Parking Lot
Farm Machinery Display, Sow & Piglets - Ag Center

11 a.m. - Decorated Animal Contest - Ag Center

11 - 2 p.m. - Broasted Chicken & Pulled Pork BBQ Buffet by Kountry Kitchen in the Cafeteria

Noon - Barnyard Olympics Children's Activity (Ages 5 - 13) - Front Lawn

12:15 - 1:15 p.m. - 5.5 Men Band Performance - Auditorium

1 p.m. - 39th Annual Catoctin Mtn. Log Sawing Contest - Ag Center

1 p.m. - 43rd Annual Robert Kaas Horseshoe Pitching Contest

1:45 - 2:45 p.m. - 5.5 Men Band Performance - Auditorium

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MOUNT SPORTS

Ugandan baseball players pursue their dreams in Frederick

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

In an often American-centric view of our country's national pastime, we often forget how much of a global game baseball truly is. The likes of which are only rivaled by sports such as soccer, basketball, or rugby. With foreign stars such as Shohei Ohtani and Elly De La Cruz, we often think that foreign players need to have a breakout roll at the very highest level to have any accreditation. But in fact, there are many players and stories that define the globalization of the game. Liam Hendriks, an Australian relief pitcher for the Boston Red Sox who defeated cancer and returned to play in the MLB, the Czech National Team who were the darlings of the 2023 World Baseball Classic, representing a country that would not come to mind as a baseball powerhouse, and the countless Latin American players from countries like the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Curacao are many examples of the game's global reach. But two players ball players in Frederick have showcased that no matter where you come from, there may always be a chance for those who wish to challenge the game.

Dennis Kasumba and Sempa Shawali Sherican are two players, a catcher and pitcher respectively, for the Frederick Keys who have traveled quite a long way to pursue their baseball dream and develop their skills as players. The two are originally from Gayaza, a village in the Wakiso District of the East African country of Uganda. The pair are the first Ugandans to ever play organized baseball in the United States and are amongst a burgeoning, yet niche community of baseball players and fans in their home country. Their roles in the team have been more than just developmental, as they have played vital roles for the Keys in this year's MLB

Draft League campaign.

Kasumba, a catcher by trade, is no stranger to Frederick or the city's baseball team. He was a member of last year's team, made up of college players and NCAA eligible players looking to either be drafted or signed by Major League organizations. Before arriving in America, Kasumba was somewhat of an internet celebrity, posting many of his training videos on Instagram using bricks, tires, and other non-conventional baseball training methods at his disposal. He even had a segment of a ESPN documentary, filmed last year, about him. After his first season of seeing collegiate level baseball in the U.S., Dennis took back gloves, bats, catcher's gear, and other equipment not readily available in his home country back to the growing baseball community. In this year's edition of the Draft League, Kasumba was used in more of a proactive role, being a designated hitter. He was used in limited at-bats last year, working a walk in his first game but failing to record a hit. Even though Dennis has remained hitless through this season, he is putting more hard-hit balls in the infield, showing even more progression in his swing.

Sherican is a newcomer to the Keys as this is his first season with the team in the United States. Added to the pitching staff, he, in his first season, has been used a lot more than Kasumba in his first season with the team, being an active arm out of the bullpen and getting valuable experience against quality batters. Although his ERA would not be well regarded by an experienced baseball eye, with him having it close to 20.00, it has to be remembered that Sherican has never seen the types of batters that he has faced in the Draft league as compared to Uganda. It is also worth noting that he has been charged with five earned runs and has issued four walks while striking out two batters in 2.1 innings of work across the season. His



The two friends from Gayaza, Uganda have made their way to Frederick, Maryland to pursue their baseball dreams.

role has widely been developmental, but Sherican has contributed enough in a pitching staff that is made up of close to 20 pitchers.

With the tide of baseball in the United States accepting more players in the lower leagues of the organized game from abroad, it is often a learning experience for said individuals. But it can also be an exchange of baseball knowledge from other ways of thinking in the game. As the game spread across the world, players from different backgrounds and cultures added their own spin onto the way it was played. One only has to look at the influence of the Negro Leagues in the modern game to see this. When African Americans were locked out of organized white baseball, the players employed their own ways of playing the game. Base path

expedience, hit and runs, tactical bunting, and other, smarter, facets of the game were developed that would eventually become common place in the game as a whole.

Other internationals besides Kasumba and Sherican have found a place in both the Keys organization and other teams around the MLB Draft League. Joe Zhu of Beijing, China and a member of the Minnesota West Community College baseball team is amongst the pitching staff in Frederick. Zhu has helped along in the bullpen, across 7.0 innings, he has struck out six batters while notching a WHIP of 1.71. Another notable international within the Draft League is Trenton's Rintaro Sasaki. The 18-year old Stanford commit hit a record 170 homeruns in the Japanese high school league and is constantly in

touch with Shohei Ohtani, who he knows very from their fathers being friends and attending the same high school.

The affect that playing baseball in the United States has had on both Kasumba and Sherican is immeasurable as they have gotten valuable opportunity, both with training and game time that they simply would not have had in Uganda. In the way that information is naturally shared, the two friends will use this information that they have learned and gathered to not only chase their dreams of one day playing in the major Leagues, but to make the baseball community in the home country better as a whole.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the author's section of emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Emotions and our health

Jefferson Breland

For June's Complementary Corner, I wrote a column entitled, "Your Body Delivers the Mail." In it, I described how your body sends you messages about the state of your being on the body, mind, and spirit levels via symptoms. If you haven't read this column, I suggest you visit the website, www.emmitsburg.net, where you can download past editions of this paper.

I also wrote, what you do with those messages is your business. You can ignore them, and, more than likely, watch your body send you more interesting messages over time that increase in the intensity of their message. By this, I mean, you will experience more severe symptoms unless you address the root cause, not just the symptoms.

For instance, if you are experiencing pain and you take a medication to reduce or eliminate the pain, the pain may still be there. The medication may just mask the symptom, but the root cause of the pain will still be there.

According to Chinese medicine (CM), the root cause of any condition begins as an energetic imbalance. We can call this an imbalance of the "energy body." For the record, our bodies do produce measurable electromagnetic fields in addition to the more common electrical measurements

of the brain, heart, and nervous system.

We can think of this imbalance simply like a light switch.

Something in our body (a gland, DNA, an organ) is affected by an energetic imbalance, and a switch gets turned on or turned off. If the switch is not turned back on or turned off, we are on our way to a greater energetic imbalance which can mean we experience more severe symptoms.

How does this switch get turned on or off?

Well, according to CM, an emotional imbalances are the root cause of 90-95 percent of all disease. This includes diseases that are labeled as genetic by Western medicine.

How can this be?

When we experience an emotion, whether strong or barely noticeable, it creates a shift in our body's energy which is called Qi (pronounced "chee") according to CM.

An example of a strong emotion effecting the body's energy is what is called Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD). PTSD is believed to be caused by someone experiencing a traumatic event which triggers a person's instinctive survival mechanism, the fight, flight, or freeze reaction associated with the sympathetic nervous system.

How this reaction becomes a diagnosis of PTSD is when the

body doesn't reset or regulate itself back to "regular" function through the function of the parasympathetic nervous system.

The traumatic event switches on the sympathetic nervous system for protection. The parasympathetic nervous system is designed to return us to "normal" emotional function.

If a person experiences a more subtly elevated emotional state, one in which a person may not even be aware of the emotion, the prolonged experience of the emotional energy imbalance will gradually have a profound effect on the person.

An example of this sort of emotional energy imbalance is Helen, my mother, and her 200 gallstones.

My mother, bless her heart, had many emotional challenges in her life: the death of her mother when Helen was two-years old, the death of my sister, Kathleen, at age 14, and a lifetime of frustration of being a very intelligent woman and not expressing her full potential in the world.

Very likely, she was also frustrated by my father, Bruce, who had some fundamentally different ideas about how to live. Just sayin'.

According to CM, frustration and anger initially effect the function of the Liver and Gallbladder meridians (energy pathways in our body) and over time will effect

the organs themselves,

Now, my mother knew she was frustrated. I know because she shared her frustration with everyone in the family. What I don't think she knew is that she was constantly frustrated on a very subtle level. We can think of this subtle level of emotion as some sort of state of emotional background noise, it is so constant we forget it is even there.

I believe my mother just thought she was frustrated only when she expressed her frustration as anger. The longterm effect of the background emotional state is that our brains continue to produce neurotransmitters associated with that state and our body becomes accustomed to them.

According to CM, everything in the body is connected. Sound familiar, right? So, this background emotional energy of frustration also affected her digestion (hence the jar of antacids in the cabinet above our stove), the function of her esophagus, her knees, and her skin.

It would take more space than I have here to explain all of the relationships I just mentioned.

If you have questions, call me. I am more than glad to talk about this stuff anytime.

The effect of my mother's lifetime of frustration doesn't end there. The culminating event of my mother's emotional energy imbalance was emergency surgery to remove her gallbladder wherein the doctors discovered approximately 200 gallstones.

According to CM, this is an example of the Qi of the emotional imbalance becoming denser and denser to the point where it takes physical form. This is also an example of Albert Einstein's famous formula $E = MC^2$ in which energy and matter are interchangeable.

The emotional energy transforms in to physical matter, in this case, gallstones. This is also true of kidney stones, tumors both benign and malignant, bone spurs, body fat, atherosclerosis, polyps, among many other bodily accretions.

So what to do with this information? It is only useful, well, if we can use it.

Once we are aware of the power effect our emotions have on our bodies, if we want to improve our health or our future health, I suggest the next step is to become

aware of how our bodies exhibit the earliest signs of the presence of these emotions.

This is such an obvious place to start and you may calling me various names at present for making such a statement. To which I reply, many people are unaware of their emotions and how they manifest in their body, especially in the earliest moments of feeling an emotion.

The moment an emotion, any emotion, arises there is a change in brain chemistry which affects the entire body. Heart rate, breathing, digestion, hormonal activity, muscle function, our senses, our immune systems, blood vessels, everything in our body is affected.

In order to help ourselves become aware of how emotions affect us, we need to use the body's messages as early as we are able.

Not everyone experiences emotions in the same way. So I suggest you do a self-inventory.

Where do you store tension in your body? Are your shoulders tight? Is your neck stiff? Do you grind your teeth or tighten your jaw? Do you experience heartburn or acid reflux?

Many common symptoms such as back pain, indigestion, hip or knee pain, nervousness, and difficulty sleeping are the result of subtle, persistent emotional states we are unaware of.

These subtle emotional states are often the light switch of our body's imbalances. Daily events in our life and our practiced ways of reacting to them create an ongoing message to our body which we normalize with phrases like: "That's just the way life is." "Life is hard."

"Marriage takes work." "Anxiety runs in my family."

Many people move through life reacting to the world around them or their family unaware they have a choice of how to respond.

It is how we choose to respond that will flick the light switch in a healthy or less healthy direction. The power is in your hands.

Stay tune for next month's column in which I will offer some practical tools for making healthier choices.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. He can be reached at 410-336-5876.



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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Maintaining a schedule during the summer!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Maintaining your regular schedule for exercise, sleep, meals and daily activities is important during the summer months. I realize it's vacation time, the kids are out of school and outside activities are different during the summer. It is still important to stick to our regular bedtime, mealtime, wake time and as much of our daily schedule as possible.

Bedtime is very important for kids and adults. Going to bed and rising at the same time each day helps set our bodies clock and can help us to get good, restful sleep. It's fun for the kids to stay up later than normal during the summer because they can sleep in the next morning but it throws our bodies clock off and can disrupt getting a good night's sleep. Not getting our normal sleep can cause moodiness, restlessness, weight gain and

cause other changes in our body. Humans like routine, even though we don't always want to admit that.

Mealtime is another important schedule to maintain during the summer. We may be outside later in the evening because it stays daylight longer. Eating later in the evening may cause our body to have difficulty digesting food at bedtime. Re flux and waking during the night may occur from eating later than we are use to. Sometimes we may even skip a meal if we are not in our regular time schedule.

Our exercise schedule is sometimes disrupted in the summer because of outside yard work, vacations and when the heat makes it uncomfortable to exercise outside. Finding time for exercise is important to keep our blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and weight at a healthy balance.

I know summer is a time to relax and enjoy the sunshine, warm weather and longer days. We can

do all this and still keep on our regular, healthy schedule. It won't be as hard to get back to the daily activities when fall comes around and school starts. It's always an adjustment when the kids have to get back to bedtime because it's a school day. Keeping a normal

daily schedule during the summer will help ease getting back to it when summer has ended.

I know we all change things a little during the summer but maybe try to make it a treat to stay up later during vacation or one weekend day. Most people

don't realize how much we need a daily routine to keep our bodies healthy. Humans are creatures of habit and kids and adults alike need a consistent lifestyle. We all need structure in our lives to keep body and soul in balance.

I hope you all have a great summer! I always tell you to keep moving, you'll be glad you did.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of August

Professor Wayne Wooten

For August 2024, the new moon occurs on August 4th. On the 6th, the very slender waxing crescent passes 2 degrees north of brilliant but very low Venus in twilight. Yes, Venus is at least back in the evening sky now. The moon is first quarter on August 12th, which is also the morning peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower. As the moon sets about midnight, anytime between then and dawn should give you about a meteor a minute coming out of the northeast but visible all over the sky. The radiant in Perseus rises about 10 p.m. The darker the site, the more faint meteors will show up.

The Full Moon, the Green Corn Moon, is on August 19th. On the 21st, the moon passes just north of Saturn. The Moon is last quarter on August 26th, and passes five degrees north of the close pairing of reddish Mars and much brighter Jupiter in the dawn on August 28th.

Mercury and Venus both return to the evening, with Mercury six degrees south of much brighter Venus on the evening of August 7th. Mercury will be soon lost in the sun's glare, but Venus will dominate the western twilight through the rest of 2025. Mars and Jupiter have a close encounter in the dawn on August 14, with Mars passing less than a moon's diameter north of Jupiter. Check them both out when you are watching the Perseids!

Saturn rises just after sunset by August's end, and comes to opposition, rising at sunset on September 8th. In a telescope, note how narrow the rings now appear; it is at equinox next March, with the rings invisible, oriented edge on for us on Earth.



The Perseid meteor shower is active every year from mid-July to late August. The next Perseids shooting star display will peak around the night of August 12th and before dawn on August 13th. Though the moon will be 50% illuminated at the time of Perseids' peak, it will set around midnight, so there will be dark skies until dawn—perfect for meteor hunting!

After that, they appear to reopen, 27 degrees wide by solstice in 2032. Since the rings have a huge surface area, Saturn will appear over twice as bright then as it will this year, with the rings almost gone!

Before we head out to the stars, an update on Comet 2023 A3. It is still easily in range of small scopes in Leo, and sports a nice tail as it closes in on the Sun, but it may be starting to fall apart well before reaching perihelion in September. If so, like many other disappointments (Comet ISON comes to mind), it will dash the dreams of those hoping for a great comet this October. But close observation of it will still add to our understanding of the role these distant dirty snowballs play in making the planet Earth and the critical carbon based organics.

The Big Dipper rides high in the NW at sunset, but falls lower each evening. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude)

high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Bootes. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. It is also our guide to check out T Corona Borealis, the "Blaze Star", just NE of it.

Predicted to appear just to the east (left) of the "C" in Corona Borealis overhead, for several days this recurrent nova is predicted to become almost as bright as Arcturus, but fade in less than a week. Be check-

ing overhead; it is due to flare up by this September!

Spike south from Arcturus to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo. From Spica curve to Corvus the Crow, a four-sided grouping. It is above Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years away from us.

Hercules is overhead, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. It is faintly visible with the naked eye under dark sky conditions, and among the best binoc objects on the map back page.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double. Larger telescopes at 150X reveal each of this pair is another close double, hence its nickname, the "double double"...a fine sight under steady sky conditions.

Below Vega are the two bright stars of the Summer Triangle; Deneb (to the north) and Altair. Deneb is at the top of the Northern Cross, known as Cygnus the Swan to the Romans. It is one of the most luminous stars in our Galaxy, about 50,000 times brighter than our Sun. It sits atop the Cross; at the other end is Albireo, a fine orange and blue double star well resolved at 20X by almost any smaller scope. The eastern wing tip of the Swan takes us to the exquisite "Cygnus Loop", remains of a supernova expanding outward which is now six moon diameters across in the sky

To the south is the southernmost member of the Triangle, Altair, the

brightest star of Aquila the Eagle. If you scan the Milky Way with binocs or a small spotting scope between Altair and Deneb, you will find many nice open star clusters and also a lot of dark nebulae, the dust clouds from which new stars will be born in the future.

To the southeast, Antares is bright in the heart of Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Just above the tail of the Scorpion are two fine naked eye star clusters, M-7 (discovered by Ptolemy and included in his catalog about 200 AD) and M-6, making one of the best binocular views in the sky. Your binoculars are ideally suited to reveal many fine open star clusters and nebulae in this region of our Galaxy. Get a dark sky site, and use the objects listed on the back of the August 2024 Sky-Map printout to guide you to the best deep sky wonders for binoculars and small telescopes.

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. Above it is the Trifid Nebula, M-20, another fine and very colorful stellar nursery. Just east of these young star birthplaces is the fine globular cluster M-22, faintly visible to the naked eye and spectacularly resolved in scopes of 8" or larger aperture. Look just east of the top star in the teapot of Sagittarius with binoculars.

Farmers' Almanac

*"Whilst August yet wears her golden crown,
Ripening fields lush-bright with promise;
Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly passing
Her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn."*

—Michelle L. Thieme (1937-)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Dry, warm and humid (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); rain and thunderstorms followed by cooler temperatures (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); pleasant mornings at first, then dry and turning very hot and humid with scattered late day thunderstorms (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and hot (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); very hot at first, then PM thunderstorms and cooler (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); hot and humid with scattered PM thunderstorms (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees severe thunderstorms in the Mid-Atlantic region (14, 15).

Full Moon: August's full moon will occur on Monday, August 19th. Since August 11th marks the end of the 'Dog Days of Sum-

mer', it has been called it Dog Moon. Other Native American tribes referred to it as Fruit Moon or Ripe Moon because of the many fruits and vegetables that ripen during the month.

Special Notes: The 229th edition of the Almanack will be available for sale at newsstands and at popular retailers throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region in late August, beating the competition once again! When it is officially available, order your copy of The Almanack at www.almanack.com/ order and have it delivered right to your front door!

Holidays: The end of summer is near and Labor Day is a just few weeks. Many are starting school, some for the very first time, and may need special attention. Begin planning now and make a list of the things that need to be done and when they need to be completed. Schedule immunizations and/or physicals, purchase new clothes, and assess school supplies that will be needed with ample lead time to ensure a successful 'first day' for your young students.

The Summer: If you choose to water your lawn, do so only when wilted or discolored. Think about potting herbs you plan to move indoors for the winter. Do not move them in just yet, but get them accustomed to their containers early. Rosemary, thyme, and tarragon are the best candidates. Stop feeding trees and shrubs after mid-August. You do not want to promote new growth that will not have time to fully mature before winter sets in.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (24, 25); weeding and stirring the soil (3, 4, 5); planting above-ground crops (11, 12); harvesting all crops (18, 19); the best days /for setting hens and incubators (12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11); transplanting (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 1, 11); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21); harvesting and storing grains (1, 2, 3, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

J. Gruber's Thought

For Today's Living:

"Great things are not accomplished by idle dreams, but by years of patient study."

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COMPUTER Q&A

Windows 11 privacy concerns & AI features

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

With support for Windows 10 ending in October 2025 many end-users have expressed concerns about upgrading to Windows 11. The preferred settings of Windows 11 are configured to collect what users might consider to be an uncomfortable amount of unnecessary data. This paired with what many consider to be invasive Microsoft ads and AI integrated features has many hesitant to upgrade or use the latest Microsoft Windows operating system. The good news is that Microsoft has recently changed some of the more concerning features which were previously expected to be enabled by default. Many of the settings that are configured during setup to share user data and collect optional diagnostic data can be disabled if you know how to find them and verify that those settings are no longer functioning.

Both Windows 10 and Windows 11 contain settings that some users may find invasive or unnecessary. These settings are independent for each user account on the PC and can be adjusted to minimize privacy concerns. Often during the setup process users find themselves skipping through screens that contain the information about these settings. Once Windows is installed, users will need to navigate through settings to disable options such as location sharing, notifications, annoying tips and suggestions, advertising settings and diagnostics and feedback. Tech-savvy users should be able to locate many of these settings to disable them, less advanced users should either research where to change those settings or seek help from a tech support professional.

Copilot is an AI powered digital assistant that can be found on some compatible Windows 10 devices and Windows 11 devices configured with the required Windows updates installed. Copilot is like ChatGPT in the way that they are both AI assistive technology that use large languages models (LLMs) to accomplish tasks. The main difference between the two is that when enabled Copilot also utilizes information from data found in your documents, calendars, emails, chats and more. Some of the tasks that Copilot can help users do including; automating tasks like summarizing documents or writing emails, creating and editing content, review information and suggest ideas.

Windows 11's new Recall Feature is available only on Copilot+ compatible computers in an update that was scheduled to be released in June*. Recall found itself amid controversy as users began to express concerns that Microsoft was trading users' privacy for "convenience". The idea behind recall is to be able to retrieve past activities and data performed on the device. This is achieved by my screenshots of your screen being taken and stored in a way that allows users to search or "recall" this data later. Not only did

many users find this practice downright creepy, security researchers began to raise concerns about how this data was being stored. Some found it even more concerning that the proclaimed "feature" was originally slated to be turned on after the update was installed and/or during a fresh install of Windows 11 on compatible devices. This backlash Microsoft received for this ultimately prompted changes to how recall is expected to function upon release. Most users don't need to worry about Recall at all, since the AI features required by Copilot+ require extremely new technology that have yet to be released by many manufacturers*. It's also worth noting that none of the current desktop CPUs are compatible with the AI technology on Copilot+ capable devices.

*At the time that this article was written this updated was scheduled

to be released, this update may have been delayed and users interested in this information are encouraged to check updated information for any changes that might have been made to Recall as well as new devices that may have been released supporting this technology.

AI features can be found all around Windows 11, and AI is becoming more and more common, not just in Windows. Google users may have noticed recently while searching that a new AI Overview shows up to highlight common or popular potential good search results. I say potential good search results because back in May google released many improvements to their AI results after providing some shocking answers that were obviously bad advice. Among those results users found obviously false information that suggested that Batman was a cop, provided a recipe

for cooking spaghetti with gasoline, stated that running with scissors has health benefits, that people should eat at least one small rock per day and many more ridiculous answers. Whether we like it or not in a technology fueled world consumers are finding AI more in everyday life in more obvious ways such as website AI chat bots or through backend systems like Walmart's recently announced smart product ordering systems which utilizes an AI customer purchase tracking.

If you are ready for a Windows 11 computer or have recently purchased one and have privacy concerns, we can help at Jester's Computer Services. Visit us on the web at www.jesterscomputer.com or at our new office located at 105 West Main Street Suite 1 in Fairfield where we are open Monday – Friday 9 to 5.

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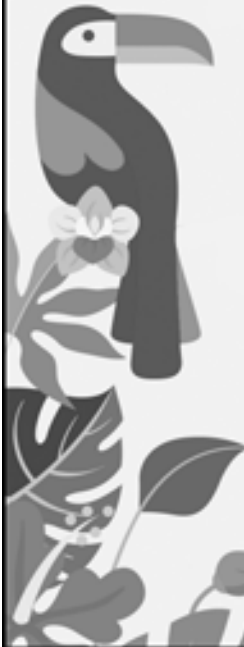


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5-8 p.m.

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- Rosie Cheeks
- Six Wicket Vineyards
- Springfield Manor Winery, Distillery
- Twin Valley Distillery
- Uncle Dirty's Brew Works

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- The Kombucha Lady
- The Pita King

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- Line Dancing Demo



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FIND NEW ROADS™

The Piedmont Reliability Project

Editor's note: We got a heads up on this project from our sister paper – The Brunswick News-Journal, which given the proposed new power line will end Brunswick, they are closely following and reporting on it.

But when we saw the map of the route of the proposed transmission line, we were not going to do a story on it as the route is fairly outside our distribution area. But we opted to run something when we got a heads up that the Taneytown Facebook page was lit up with false claims about the PSEG coming in and ceasing land under the guise of eminent domain.

To address some of the misconceptions about the project we pulled the following information and map off PSEG's website. To address some of the more nuanced questions behind the project and its implications we're also publishing the Brunswick News-Journal's story on the subject.

What is the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project?

The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) is a critical system (grid enhancement (update) that has been awarded to PSEG by PJM, the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) responsible for operating and planning the regional electric grid in all or parts of thirteen states, including Maryland.

The MPRP is a 500,000-volt (500 kV) transmission line designed to respond to growing electric needs in Maryland and the surrounding region. Transmission reliability is key to supporting Maryland's energy future.

The approximately 70-mile proposed transmission route spans three counties, westward from the connection point within the existing Baltimore Gas & Electric transmission line right-of-way in northern Baltimore County, through Carroll County, and into the existing

Doubs 500kV Station in Brunswick, Frederick County.

Due to significant system overloads in the region, PJM determined that system reinforcements are necessary and that a new overhead transmission line is required in the Piedmont Plateau region of Maryland. PJM opened the 2023 competitive window seeking solutions to address this need.

In determining the proposed project route and scope to respond to the PJM competitive window, PSEG evaluated paralleling existing rights-of-way (ROW) in the PJM defined area of concern to the extent feasible. However, existing ROWs can traverse through populated areas and developed neighborhoods, as well as environmentally sensitive areas (i.e. wetlands, waterways) and established parkland, which PSEG attempted to avoid in its initial proposed routing.

Subsequent to being awarded the project in late 2023, PSEG began an in-depth routing analysis to further define the study area and to determine routing alternatives that would refine a viable route that considers and minimizes potential impacts to the built and natural environment.

A preferred route will be selected after critical meetings with interested stakeholders and public information sessions. The project team will consider information gathered from public information sessions, meetings with elected officials and agencies, and comments submitted to the project website. View Route Alternatives.

The project will be subject to the Maryland Public Service Commission's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process. PSEG plans to submit the Maryland CPCN application in the fourth quarter of 2024. The project is

expected to go into service (when the project delivers power) in June 2027.

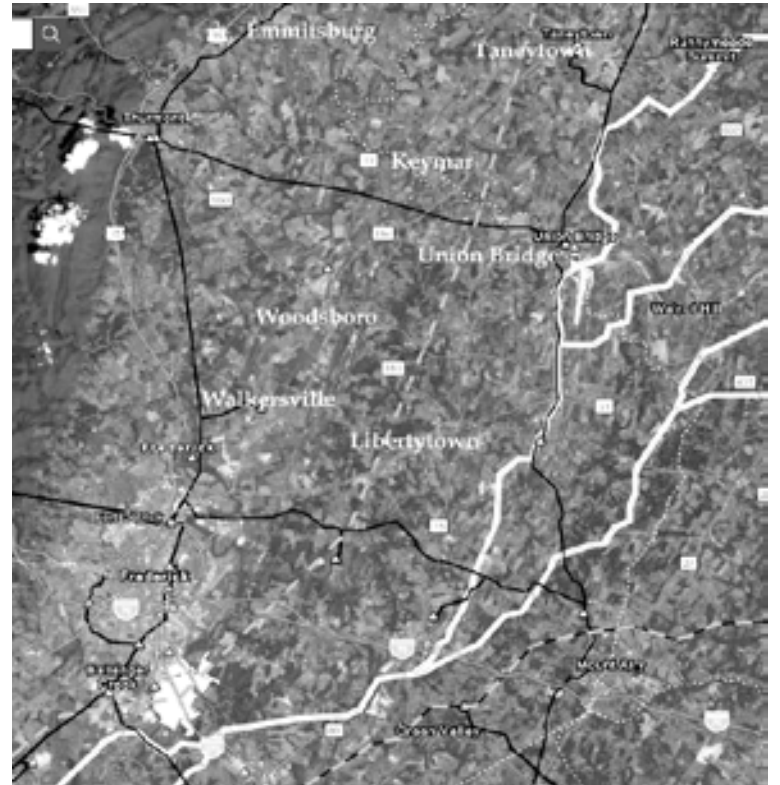
Who is PSEG?

Public Service Enterprise Group is a predominantly regulated infrastructure company focused on a clean energy future with a more than 120-year track record of service. Based in New Jersey, PSEG is an award-winning energy company comprising an electric and gas utility and a nuclear generation business. PSEG has a vision of a future where people use less energy, and it's cleaner, safer and delivered more reliably than ever.

PSEG has a successful history of completing large, cost-effective transmission projects that provide reliable electricity. 500kV transmission is the backbone of the electric grid that provides energy to our homes and businesses. It is not a generator but rather a means to transfer electricity via an electric "superhighway." PSEG has an extensive transmission team that is made up of transmission planners, engineers, permitting and environmental specialists, real estate professionals, outreach professionals and more. The team works together to design and execute transmission projects, while being socially responsible to the communities in which they are built and maintained. PSEG brings its expertise and experience to this project.

Why is the project needed?

According to PJM, the FERC-approved independent regional transmission organization that oversees the flow of electricity in the region, the need for this transmission project is twofold: system reliability amid a higher demand for electricity in the region and generator retirements. PSEG is building a new power line to keep electricity reliable, resilient



The proposed new power line will run well east of Taneytown, Keymar and Woodsboro.

and accessible in Maryland and the surrounding region.

What is PJM and how does it fit into the process?

PJM Interconnection is what is known as a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), an independent organization that is authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to plan the regional transmission grid and coordinate the sale and movement of electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia. One of PJM's primary jobs is to ensure that the electric grid remains safe, reliable and secure.

Planning for the future needs of the regional electric system is an integral part of PJM's role. PJM conducts a Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP) process that regularly identifies what upgrades to the regional transmis-

sion grid are needed to ensure reliability – meaning the uninterrupted flow of electricity at all times.

When needs are identified, PJM, in some circumstances, will open up a competitive "window" to procure regulated transmission solutions to identified needs.

The award of this project to PSEG is one of those solutions.

Do Maryland regulations on siting, permitting and environmental issues apply?

Yes. The final route of the transmission line is subject to the Maryland Public Service Commission's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process. Obtaining feedback from stakeholders and outreach meetings are an important part in this process. The project is also subject to other federal, state, and local environmental and land use permitting requirements.

Power line events draw in big crowds

Julie Gourley
Brunswick News-Journal

The Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company hosted two open house-style public information sessions by the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG), a New Jersey utility, on July 10.

The purpose was to get public input on the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), a new 70-mile, 500 kV (500,000 volt) transmission line running from north of Baltimore through Carroll County and ending at the Doubs power substation near Adamstown.

Citizens from all over Frederick County attended one of the sessions; both were crowded and nearly filled the parking lot.

Five stations were set up to answer people's questions: project overview; engineering and construction; environmental issues; routing methodology and process; and public comments via a survey.

There are ten possible routes between the two endpoints, several of which run through Frederick County. None are close to or in Brunswick, or for readers of our sister publications – Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Taneytown, Woodsboro or Walkersville, although it will skirt Union Bridge

How we got to this point

The Brunswick News-Journal asked a PSEG representative whether upgrading existing power lines and using existing pathways had been considered. The response was that PSEG tried to avoid housing as much as possible, but that doing so is difficult in Frederick County as opposed to Carroll County. She noted that the proposed corridors do follow existing power lines in some segments. She did not know why the current power lines going through Lilypons Water Gardens were not part of the proposed corridor which diverts around Lilypons to the north and west.

This process began in 2022 with PJM Interconnection, the grid operator for all or part of 13 states and Washington, D.C. It is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is responsible for assessing the power needs within its jurisdiction. In 2022, PJM determined that, due to significant system overloads in our region, largely due to existing and proposed data centers, reinforcements were necessary and that a new overhead transmission line was required in the Piedmont Plateau region of Maryland.

In 2023, PJM put out a call for bids from transmission infrastructure developers and awarded the contract to PSEG in August 2023. Following preparations, PSEG held two public

information open houses in each of the three affected counties.

The way ahead

PSEG will select its preferred route by September 2024, then it will apply to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) for a "certificate of public convenience and necessity" or CPCN. A CPCN provides authority to construct or modify a new power generating station or high-voltage transmission line and is required before construction can begin. The PSC holds a public process in which citizens can attend and testify at a public hearing (at least one must be held near the proposed route) or provide written comments separately, or both.

Sometime after the CPCN is approved, PSEG will again conduct public listening sessions in the three counties to gather further input.

Other hurdles to overcome before PSEG can begin constructing the line include obtaining rights-of-way, easements, permissions and surveys. It expects to begin building by PJM's deadline of June 2025 and deliver power by June 2027.

Public reaction

Reactions to what people learned in the two Brunswick sessions were mixed. Some people were upset that PJM and PSEG did not, in their view, do enough

public outreach from the beginning in 2022. They felt "caught off guard" by the progression and complained that this was the first time they learned that power lines were either coming close to or proposed to cross their properties.

Concern about property values and the health effects of high-power voltage were raised. Other people felt strongly that the proposed corridors should follow existing power line corridors as much as possible to avoid disturbing new areas. Still others were sanguine about the MPRP, saying that society needs more and more power—including to support artificial intelligence and the internet—and seemed to accept that the MPRP is inevitable.

What is driving the need for more power?

Although the PSEG officials at the Brunswick meetings did not know specifics about the increased power needs in our area, electricity industry experts have said that the primary reason for the MPRP is to support "data center alley" in Northern Virginia.

The MARL (Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link) proposed transmission lines in Loudoun County and southwestern Frederick County will link up with the MPRP at the Doubs station. This linkage will provide additional power for data center alley in Ashburn as well as for the data centers coming to the Quantum Loophole campus near Adamstown.

Quantum Loophole intends to draw power from Doubs via connecting distribution lines that will carry the lower voltage needed for its data centers. Potomac Edison will provide the distribution lines.

Unlike the MARL, "the PSEG line is not even important enough to be designated in the U.S. Department of Energy's National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) for the mid-Atlantic region," says Jim Ballard, a former electrical engineer with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, saying this is evidence that the need for the MPRP is primarily driven by data centers. "This (MPRP) is only enough new transmission to power 1500 MW of Quantum Loophole's total buildout plan of 5000 MW. Maryland will need three to four times more new transmission infrastructure to achieve the estimated \$41 million of annual state-wide tax benefits" that the Maryland Tech Council estimates will come from the data center industry, according to Ballard.

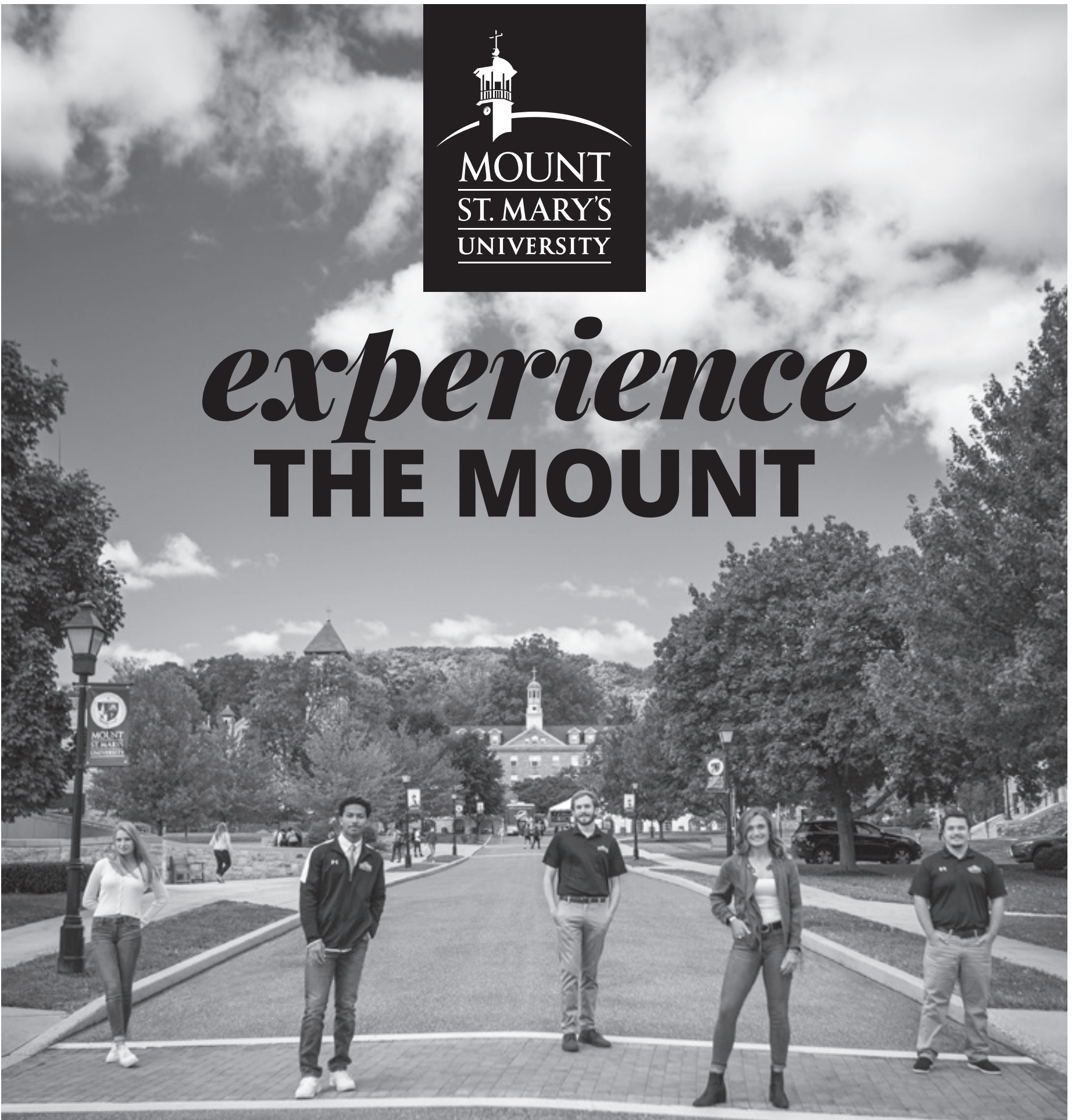
Who pays?

Who will pay for all of this new infrastructure? If the current model holds, we all will pay for it through higher residential electricity bills. How much higher is not yet clear.

Some groups argue that because the new transmission infrastructure is driven primarily by the data center industry, it should pay for most or all of the costs.



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