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

NOVEMBER 2020

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Towns enact water restriction use limitations

As a potentially prolonged period of abnormally dry weather appears to be creeping across Western Maryland and throughout Frederick County, Northwestern Carroll County, and in Adams County, Emmitsburg has become the first municipality in the News-Journal's coverage area to declare mandatory water restrictions.

The regional water tables have been sustaining a triple threat: diminishing, existing on-hand water reserves; lack of sufficient rain to replenish existing water supplies; and now, an encroaching period of dry weather ... an event frequently followed by drought.

In Frederick County, concerns over a potentially developing drought situation led the Emmitsburg commissioners to vote at their October meeting, in a 4-1 decision - to immediately implement Phase II (mandated) water restrictions. Commissioner Joe Ritz voted against the move, stating he was optimistic that the dry conditions would change for the better. Voluntary Phase I had previously been declared at the July meeting.

Town Manager Cathy Willets stated at the town meeting, "I met with the water and sewer superintendent today and we went over

the numbers, and it's not getting any better, and there's no significant rain in the future ... We need long, soaking rains. We need a foot of snow that's going to melt slowly into the earth ... things like that ... to replenish."

Phase Two water restrictions, which are mandatory, entail prohibitions on the general outdoor use of water, including filling or replenishing swimming pools, car washing, and washing housing, sidewalks or other public ways, or watering lawns, gardens or shrubs. Additionally, restaurants and taverns may not serve water unless it is specifically requested by a patron.

Penalties for non-compliance for non-large volume users include a warning for a first offense, a \$50 fine for a second offense, and a \$75 fine per offense for subsequent violations.

Penalties for non-compliance for large-volume users - those that use 10,000 gallons of water or more per day - include a warning for a first offense, and, for subsequent violations, a fine equal to two-times the cost of the water over a set, allowable amount, not to exceed \$1,000 per day.

Regarding Taneytown, City Manager Jim Wieprecht told the



Nothing highlights the effect of the drought more than the lack of water in local streams, which in many places have stopped running altogether.

News-Journal, "We've enacted our Phase One level of water restrictions, which are voluntary - basically just asking residents to make efforts to conserve water both indoors and out. Our well-levels have remained pretty stable since we enacted the voluntary restrictions, so we haven't moved to mandatory restrictions at this point."

Currently, Thurmont has no water restrictions in place.

Most of Adams County is presently under an "abnormally dry" condition, part of the same weather pattern slowly overtaking Frederick County, but, unlike Frederick County, the top-third of Adams is also under a moderate drought declaration.

Thus far, nothing has changed regarding the status of the southwestern municipalities' water restrictions since July, when Carroll Valley Borough enacted voluntary water restrictions.

The Fairfield Municipal Authority (FMA), which serves Fairfield and some properties located in Hamiltonban Township, has not imposed any water-use restrictions, while residents in Liberty Township rely on private wells, and therefore are not affected by the water restrictions. Hamiltonban Township not served by the FMA are serviced by a large multi-municipal operation that has not imposed any water restrictions on that township.

FASD indoor games attendance approved

The Fairfield Area School District (FASD) school board approved at their October 12 meeting to increase the number of players' family members and friends that will be allowed to attend school games during the current COVID-19 restrictions.

The increase in allowable spectator attendance was effective immediately upon passage by the board. Of particular focus was the approval allowing an increase in the number of families and friends permitted to attend games being held indoors, which, up to the board meeting, which had previously been zero.

Discussing permitted capacity in the high school gym, FASD Athletic Director Crystal Heller said that the pre-COVID capacity was over 700, but that as the result of having to maintain social distancing, that number was dramatically reduced to a maximum of 51 individual spectators, employing the use of the larger bleachers.

In presenting the proposal to increase the numbers of attendees from zero - which centered especially on indoor volleyball, Heller told the board, "We would like

to increase (spectator attendance) from zero, that volleyball currently has, to three passes per athlete, to make them the same as all other fall sports."

The athletic director pointed out that the school has two volleyball teams, one being the junior varsity team, consisting of 11 girls, and the other being the senior varsity team, consisting of ten girls. "So, it would be 33 (spectators allowed) in the gym for the first game and, we'd clear it (the bleachers), and then 30 (spectators) for the second game," which are the same measures employed in managing spectators for the boys' and girls' soccer games.

Sharon Sass, Fairfield, told the board, "We (family members) haven't been to any (volleyball) games for our seniors," and really appreciated the change, noting that there were only three home games left in the school year.

She said allowing family members to attend the last of the fall season's volleyball games "would really mean a lot, especially for our seniors," Sass said, adding, "(We're all) kind of heart-broken - This is their (seniors) last season,"



After an absence of six months the cheer of crowds will again be heard by players within the Fairfield gym.

and that it would mean a lot for them to "have some parents in the stands for the last couple of home games."

Meanwhile Frederick County been granted state-approval to begin school team sports.

Brad Young, President of the County Board of Education, told the News-Journal, "The state approved a new plan yesterday (October 26) that we can adopt

which (sport) would start the winter season in December, with competitions in January. The board will have to vote on it." He stated that the winter season would be followed by fall season, and then the spring season.

Regarding spectator attendance, the Young stated, "There will be restrictions on how many can attend, but those are not set yet. It will be very limited."

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Briggs & Ritz sworn-in

Emmitsburg's newly re-elected mayor and re-elected commissioner were sworn-in at the commissioners' October meeting, and reorganized board duties.

Mayor Briggs prevailed in the September 29 town election against challengers ... former town Mayor James Hoover, and Commissioner Clifford Sweeney. Of the 398 ballots cast, Briggs garnered 230 votes, while Hoover received 110 votes, and Sweeney received 58.

Commissioner Joseph Ritz was re-elected to his uncontested position with a vote of 331.

Mayor Briggs was sworn-in by Sandra Dalton, clerk of the Circuit Court for Frederick County, while the mayor conducted the swearing-in of Commissioner Ritz. Commissioner Ritz stated, "Thanks again. I'm looking forward to serving the community for another three years."

Briggs said, "I'm pretty humble to be elected for a fourth term. I ran against two, true gentlemen opponents, where only the issues were discussed, much different from the decorum of exchanges between our presidential candidates. This speaks so highly of our town and what we expect."

The commissioners also approved the appointment of Wayne Slaughter to the Board of Appeals.

Additionally, the mayor presented his recommendations for board and liaison assignments. "We like to rotate chairs. We want everybody to get a shot of everything. These are only one-year appointments," he stated.

Briggs recommended that Commissioner Sweeney step-down as president of the board and, instead, serve as vice-president, and thanked the commissioner for his serving as the president. Sweeney has served as the

president of the board for the past two years. In his place, the mayor recommended that Commissioner Timothy O'Donnell assume the position as the board's president.

The mayor further requested that Sweeney also serve as liaison to Citizens Advisory Committee, replacing Commissioner Burns.

Briggs also recommended Commissioner Burns to serve as treasurer, and that Commissioner Frank Davis continue for another year as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Committee, adding, "Keep this baseball thing going and make it great again here."

The mayor suggested Commissioner Ritz continue on as liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission, noting, "It's got a good click to it right now and you are all doing very well right now."

The commissioners approved the mayor's recommendation by consensus. The appointments became effective as of the end of the town meeting.

Pollution incident unresolved

The investigation into a pollution incident that occurred in October off North Seton Avenue has been closed, after investigators were unable to determine who the responsible party or parties might have been.

The illegal dumping occurred just north of the town limits on October 9 behind Rube's Crab House on North Seton Ave., according to an incident report filed with the state Department of the Environment (MDE) by Angelia Miller, a project manager with the county Office of Sustainability & Environmental Resources (SER). Miller further

stated in the incident report that the estimated amount of septic spill was 250-300 gallons.

Jay Apperson, deputy director, MDE Office of Communications, stated that being the incident occurred behind the crab house, the restaurant was absolved of any responsibility, which was further reinforced by Shannon Moore, manager, Sustainability and Environmental Resources, Office of the County Executive, who stated, "There is no evidence to connect this spill to the business."

Apperson also said that the "Frederick County Illicit Discharge Detec-

tion and Elimination (IDDE) Program investigated jointly with the Town of Emmitsburg wastewater superintendent."

"IDDE staff and Frederick County fire department did testing to conclude that the discharge was septage," he said, while Cathy Willets, town manager, said, "The majority of the sewage had already seeped into the ground so it was recommended by staff, county and MDE to spread lime on the site," in order to disperse the spillage, and to prevent it from spreading.

Evidence, other than the septic material itself, was found at the



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News-Briefs . . .

Town 'chicken ordinance' expires

Emmitsburg Town Planner Zach Gulden informed the commissioners at their October meeting that the municipal "chicken ordinance" had run its course.

Gulden stated that the "chicken ordinance" - which had been passed an amendment to the Animal Ordinance in 2013 - had expired: and some other issues needed to be updated.

The Animal Ordinance had been amended in 2013 ... "In an effort to allow the raising of a limited number of hens on a hobby/local food basis," and to establish spatial and "performance standards" in raising chickens.

A 12-year-old resident, Adam Leverette, was credited with introducing the issue, which led to the successful passage of the "chicken ordinance."

Gulden said the "chicken ordinance" would likely be brought before the commissioners in December or January if the town manager and the mayor wish to pursue it.

"We're also going to look at some dangerous dog situations and some other things (relating to the Animal Ordinance)," the town planner noted.

Hotel sign appears. . . but no sign of hotel

Commissioner Burns noted at the commissioners' October meeting

that a sign had been posted on Silo Hill Parkway in front of the Sleep Inn hotel, advertising that it would be the location of a four-story hotel with pad-sites for other businesses. "I know a lot of people were commenting on it," Burns said.

Mayor Briggs said, "It's a little progressive (the project has no approvals)," further noting, that as far as the town has been involved, it had been to work out taps connection fees last fall. "That's as far as we got." He said the applicant did state he envisioned an "extended-stay" hotel, but that "nothing has been approved."

Briggs said, "It's a 'coming soon' sign and we can't stop them from doing it."

Commissioner Clifford Sweeney said, "I hope it does come. We've made

scene in the form of a blue, rubber hose, which investigators stated they believed had been used to discharge the septage from whatever it had been transported in.

Flat Run, although located near the spill site, was not impacted. Moore stated, "This spill did not make its way to a waterway, (but) it was headed in the direction of a culvert that would connect to Flat Run."

Moore further said, "We do not have

an indication of who deposited this material. The County Council passed legislation in the past year that allows us to issue civil citations and penalties when we know the responsible entity. In this case, we do not," adding, "It (the investigation) is concluded without a responsible party having been determined."

Apperson said the crab house management indicated they plan to install a security camera to monitor the area around their property.

a lot of changes so they could bring the business and the hotel here, and it'll be a shame if they don't bring the hotel here. We could use the business."

Town Planner Gulden previously stated in June that the proposal involved the construction of an as-yet-unnamed, 80-room hotel, but that he still has not heard anything from the proposed developer, for months.

Town approves COVID-related relief funds

The Town approved in a 4-0-1 (Commissioner T.J. Burns abstaining) vote to authorize town staff to initiate a second opportunity for small business to apply for COVID-related relief funds. Commissioner Burns, in abstaining, stating his reason for doing so was due

to his family owning business in town.

The board had previously set-aside \$30,000 for small business grants for COVID-19 relief, but as of August only 13 businesses who had requested assistance were granted \$1,000 each, leaving \$17,000 uncommitted. The commissioners voted in September, to consider giving the \$17,000 to the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association.

The commissioners also agreed with a recommendation proposed by Town Manager Cathy Willets to further reduce the minimum requirements that a business must meet in order to qualify for the funds, such as lowering the threshold on the number of employees a business must have, and reducing the amount of financial loss suffered, due to the virus.

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Police grapple with tracking crimes

Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman told the Borough Council at their October 13 meeting that the theft of political election signs from private property has been on the increase.

"The biggest theme we have (the past month) is, 'No one likes election signs ... It's worse than ever,'" he said, further noting, "It's (been) across the political spectrum. It doesn't seem to be particularly one side getting their signs torn up more than the other."

The chief stated that in one instance someone knocked down an election flag being flown outside of a house, and even broke the flag-holder.

Hileman said that one arrest was made in September of a suspect for theft of election signs, and who even allegedly had "fake registration plates

on his car ... I guess to conceal his identity as he was stealing election signs." The chief said the suspect is now facing an upcoming court-hearing. "So, if you're out there stealing election signs, know that you can be prosecuted and it won't be pleasant," he noted.

The chief stated that wood carvings valued at about \$800 have been recovered, that had been stolen from the woodcarver who works outside of the Frontier BBQ. The officer did not provide any additional information except to say the investigation of the theft is still ongoing.

Additionally, a number of juveniles were identified who were allegedly harassing a resident, Hileman said, noting that the matter was resolved "non-judicially."

In other police business, the chief reported that newly-hired Officer Eric Peiffer had participated in the borough police field-training program "in order to test his academy training, acclimate him to the department, and train him in department methods and procedures." Corporal Clifford J. Weikert acted as his field-training officer.

Additionally, Hileman said the new officer attended classes specifically regarding the use of speed-timing devices, and the administration of Naloxone, a lifesaving, opioid-reversal drug.

Hileman also unveiled the new police report, as per revisions previously sought by members of the council. The council had previously established an ad-hoc committee comprised of council, borough staff, Mayor

Ron Harris, and the police chief.

Although some council members suggested a need for additional information to be provided, the new format was generally well-received. The new system simply includes more details on previously reported incidents, along with some new informational categories relating to police activities.

Council President Richard Mathews, "I like this better than what we had before," however, he added that he would like to see a breakdown of 9-1-1 calls.

Vice-president Robert Verderaime said, "I just want to say ... what Dave Hazlett put together for us to consider, was extremely well-done. It certainly helped me to be able to organize some of that material ... some of which I will accept, (and) some of which I will not, but the effort you

put into it is self-evident by looking at the material you all got."

In related local police matters, the theft of mail from mailboxes that has been occurring in Liberty Township remains under investigation, according to township police. Chief Sherri Hansen reported at the October meeting of the township supervisors that the theft of mail from mailboxes has not only been occurring in Liberty Township, but also in neighboring municipalities ... and into Maryland.

Chief Hansen said that she has not received any mail theft complaints in two or three weeks, but that the thefts have "been lingering," and that any complaints that she does receive are passed on to the postal inspector, Pennsylvania State Police, and Carroll Valley Police, especially due to the incidences occurring in a relatively wide range of municipalities.

Hamiltonban pursues infrastructure improvements

Hamiltonban Township supervisors continued to pursue implementing improvements to township infrastructure and services at their October 6 meeting.

Regarding township roadways, the road-master, Ray Herr, reported that all of the line painting of municipal roadways has been completed at a cost of \$19,000.

The enhanced roadway improvements included painting the center-lines yellow, and, where visibility problems exist, painting "white fog-lines" along shoulders so that drivers can keep track of where the shoulders are located.

Additionally, "top bars" were painted on roads approaching 'Stop' signs, and warnings were painted at the approaches to railroad crossings.

Also, property owners along Moritz Road have been sent letters from township Solicitor Matthew Battersby informing them of the township's intent to re-align a 1,500-foot section of the road and widening the road with shoulders. The improvements are planned to occur in spring next year.

Adams Electric (AE) and Centurylink have also been contacted. The electric company will have to move three poles and is presently in the process of receiving landowner approval to do so. Cen-

turylink will connect their service to AE's poles once the poles are relocated.

Once the poll-relocation and Centurylink work is completed, the township will commence with the road improvements themselves. The municipality has already surveyed the road section involved to locate the actual center-line repository to executing the improvements.

The township will also be renting a chipper and lift for 30 days for \$4,325. The road crew is planning to trim trees along Cold Spring Road, part of an annual effort to keep the overhanging tree branches from loading with ice and snow and falling onto the roadway,

causing problems and calls for removal.

The lift will allow crews to reach the tree branches and the chipper is to grind the limbs removed.

The supervisors also approved the purchase of two boxes of delineators (a fiberglass reflective "stick") which will be used along roadways to delineate culvert edges and the angles of turns in the roadway for purposes of guiding snow removal crews, especially during significant snows which can conceal such features.

Generally, red delineators are employed to denote turning angles, while white ones are used to denote the edges of culverts and pipes. Generally,

delineators cost around \$4 - \$10 each, depending on the vendor.

The supervisors also discussed the use of volunteer 'flaggers' ... individuals who guide traffic around construction or repair areas. It was noted that one resident, Lee Baker, has offered to perform the duties. The township may, at some point, considering contracting for a flagger.

The board discussed the liability of using a non-employee for flagging and determined that the individual would be covered in accordance with township policy (The township covers any volunteer or hired individual with insurance).

Liberty Township approves library funding

The Liberty Township supervisors approved a \$1,500 donation to be included for the county library in their pending 2021 budget at their October budget workshop, although reducing the amount of the donation was suggested.

The proposed 2021 budget, which is still being generated, included a line item stating that \$1,541 would be donated to the Adams County Library, an amount that has been donated annually for more than a decade.

However, Supervisor Bobby Keilholtz noted that a donation in that amount had been made to the library for over ten years, amounting to a total of at least some \$15,000. "I've really thought about this a great deal. I don't want to turn my back on the public library, but I have my doubts in certain areas about usage and that sort of thing to our township people."

Keilholtz said he would be in favor of donating an amount from the routine \$1,541 to a reduced amount of \$500 to the library. The donation would equate the amount to be given to the SPCA in the proposed budget. The supervisor further stated, "My interest is in trying to forgo any (potential) tax increases."

Laura Goss, executive director, Adams County Library System, briefly explained the history of the library system, which ultimately resulted in the

establishment of the Carroll Valley Branch (CVB), noting that, in 1997 the library system consisted of the Gettysburg Library, a branch in New Oxford, and the bookmobile, and has since expanded to include the CVB, amongst others.

To serve as home to a branch, each municipality agrees to provide the space for the library, and the library system provides for all the equipment and contents.

Goss stated that, unlike the other libraries in the system, CVB is supported by all of the municipalities served by the Fairfield Area School District, the dollar amount determined by the population percentage of each (the school district itself contributes nothing). The library system pays \$1,000 a month for the use of space within the Carroll Valley Municipal Building.

Liberty Township represents 15-percent of the CV library's ser-

vice-area, although only 11-percent of Liberty residents claim the CVB as their primary library. The request for funding for that branch is \$1.25 per-capita, with all supporting municipalities assessed the same per-capita rate. The per-capita rate is based on

the rent paid to Carroll Valley for the facility. Goss stated that other revenue sources provide the rest of the system-funding, Goss said.

All three supervisors ultimately agreed to approve the \$1,541 contribution and may reconsider the possibility of reducing their contribution during the preparation of the future 2022 budget.



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THURMONT NEWS

Speed-surveillance camera revenue drops

Thurmont's Town Council was briefed at their October 13 meeting on the status of the Police Department's employment of a speed-surveillance camera, including revenue generated, numbers of citations issued including unpaid citations, and options for collection.

Police Sergeant David Armstrong noted that the program was initiated in September 2019 and that the number of drivers cited is probably significantly low, since COVID-19 closed the schools, thereby dramatically reducing the flow of vehicles on Main Street

(which has apparently been the focus of the speed-surveillance operation).

Sergeant Armstrong stated that since the inception of the speed-surveillance effort up to present time, police have issued 393 citations, of which 317 have been paid. The number of fines paid to date total \$12,680. If all of the citations that were issued would be paid, the amount would total \$15,720, there being \$3,040 unpaid fines still outstanding.

Some of the unpaid fines date back to October 2019. There are 40 citations that have gone unpaid for more than

over 120 days since issuance.

A citation, issued if the speed a driver is traveling at a speed in excess of 12 mph over the speed-limit, is \$40. The fine does not increase incrementally, relative to the difference of the driver's speed ... over the posted speed limit. Sergeant Armstrong stated there were instances of drivers traveling 73 mph in a zone posted for 35 (one was caught doing 80 mph) - but the fine remained the same - \$40.

Asked by Mayor John Kinnarid as to what recourse the police have to compel payment on the outstanding citations,

Armstrong replied, "In Maryland, we can submit to the MVA (Motor Vehicle Administration) and request that their tags be flagged. That's one option we have. Another option is we can submit to a collection agency and let them attempt to collect the fines from it."

The enforcement process is non-judicial (does not go through the state judicial system), in that it is a civil fine sent to the owner of the vehicle. There is no motor vehicle record of the citation and no points are issued against a driver's license.

If the MVA flags a registration plate,

the vehicle owner cannot renew the vehicle's registration until outstanding fines are paid.

The officer stated, as far as cost involved for using the cameras for speed-surveillance, when a speeding car activates the surveillance camera, a photograph is sent to Optotrafic, who then identifies the vehicle's registration plate and owner. There is a \$12 charge for each look-up. Armstrong indicated that, given the revenue generated, the Optotrafic fee is very cost-effective.

All revenues generated by the usage of the use of the speed-surveillance camera must be used only for public safety.

Nuisance tree/limb removals addressed

The Thurmont mayor and Town Council unanimously approved amendments to the property maintenance regulations pertaining to limbs overhanging sidewalks and roads, and trees that may pose a threat to public ways, easements, or right-of-way, at their October 6 meeting.

The proposed changes were initially reviewed at the board's September 29 meeting based on a presented by police Lieutenant Allen Droneburg.

During the introduction of the proposed changes at the September 29 meeting, Lieutenant Droneburg said, "From time to time, we need to

amend the ordinances for clarity for citizens, as well as give us some (additional) enforcement authority."

Among the changes, additions, or amendments proposed include adding shrubbery to regulations which had previously only applied to trees.

Cutting low-hanging tree limbs so that they remain at nine-feet above a sidewalk remains unchanged, but the changes mandate that tree limbs overhanging streets cannot be lower than 15 feet above a street, which assures clearance for trucks which may be as much as 13.6 feet in height. Also included in amendments is the provi-

sion that homeowners would be notified of low-hanging limbs that violate the regulations, in writing and would be given up to seven days to trim the offending growth.

Droneburg said that another area in which the department receives complaints of dead trees includes complaints such as neighbors complaining about a dead trees on neighboring properties hanging over the fence-lines over onto adjacent properties, or over a neighboring shed or home.

As a result, wording was added that allows the town to order the removal of dead or diseased trees on public or pri-

vate property "when such tree constitutes a hazard to life and property ... or harbors insects or disease, which constitutes a potential threat to other trees within the town."

However, Commissioner Marty Burns appealed to the board to not try to regulate issues involving disputes between adjacent property-owners and concern itself instead with trees on private property that may pose a potential threat to public assets.

Commissioner Burns stated he objected to such regulatory measures because, he said, in his opinion, "I don't like these ... I think it's government-

tal over-reach, especially when you're talking about private property," adding that this should be a civil issue between two people. "I see so many different ways this could be interpreted, (or) not interpreted ... I think we're going to get inundated" with arbitrary complaints filed by private property owners regarding neighboring private properties.

As a result, the board ultimately concurred, and agreed to modify the provisions to exclude matters which are of a civil nature between neighboring properties, and allow the provisions to apply only to instances such as when "any tree on private property (is) encroaching on public property, rights-of-way, or easements."

News-Briefs . . .

Police commission members named
The Thurmont commissioners appointed Cathy Maddox to the municipal Police Commission at the board's October 6 meeting.

Maddox has been a civilian employee of the Montgomery County Police Department for the past 22-years. She is responsible for management of the daily operations at the Fourth District Station, including supervising front-desk staff, processing and storing of evidence, and other duties.

She also formerly worked at the Mount Rainier Police Department as a dispatcher and parking enforcement officer. Maddox also serves as the host for 100 riders with the Police Unity Tour on their route to Washington D.C. to honor officers who have fallen in the line-of-duty.

Police Commission members Greg Seymore and Shawn Martiak, whose seats were expiring, were re-appointed

to the commission at the October 20 meeting of the town commissioners.

Flag-replacement donations sought
Commissioner Hamrick asked commissioners at their October 13 meeting that the residents consider donating money to help pay for new American flags, for replacing those that are worn, faded or damaged.

Anyone interested in contributing can mail a check to the "Commissioners of Thurmont," denoting "flag donation" in the appropriate space on the check. The town has received a shipment of flags costing \$3,400.

The flags will be displayed during a number of events during the course of each year.

Hamrick stated that the flags that the town is attempting to replace are six years old, and many are faded, frayed, or otherwise worn, and will be flown for the last time on Veter-

an's Day ... before being retired. The old flags will be properly disposed of as per established etiquette.

Town offering free COVID-19 tests
Commissioner Marty Burns stated at the commissioners' October 13 meeting that he is surprised that more residents have not taken advantage of the free COVID-19 tests being offered by the town.

"For the life of me, I don't understand why every resident hasn't stood up in line there and gotten testing. It's free. It doesn't require a doctor's note. It doesn't cost you a dime," Burns said. "I've been tested. Why? Because it was free, and it was offered to me. The health department is doing this."

"I've gone out there and there's nobody in line anymore," the commissioner said, "For those who lose a loved one, this is real. Those that aren't affected by it (the pandemic) think it is overblown (exaggerated) ... it doesn't matter - go get tested."

The free tests are being administered every other Friday, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Town Office. Check the town's Facebook page for posted dates or contact the Town Office for specific dates.

Multi-restaurant event slated
Commissioner Wes Hamrick informed the town commissioners at their October 13 meeting that Thurmont will be featuring a "restaurant week," featuring several local eateries during November.

Hamrick said the event, "TOGO BOGO Restaurant," will be held from November 13 through November 20 and will feature locally owned restaurants.

Participating restaurants include Bollinger's Family Restaurant, Celebrations Catering, Fratelli's NY Pizza, Rocky's NY Pizza & Italian Restaurant, Thurmont Bar & Grill, Thurmont Kountry Kitchen, and Roy Rogers.

Hamrick stated that advertising cards are available at the restaurants, the Town Office, and throughout town, listing the

various eateries' menu specials.

Gateway golf event successful
Commissioner Bill Buehrer commented at the commissioners' October 13 meeting on the success of this year's Gateway to the Cure Golf Classic

Buehrer said, "We had a phenomenal Gateway to the Cure golf outing," adding that there were 72 golfers participating, whereas last year there were only 40 ... I heard nothing but compliments by the participants. We got blessed with good weather."

The commissioner also acknowledged Economic Development Manager Vicky Grinder and Missy Zook Grimes for their efforts in organizing the event. "These two girls knocked it out of the park," he said.

The Second Annual Golf Classic was held on October 9 at the Maple Run Golf Club. Because golf is inherently a social-distancing type activity, the ongoing pandemic did not have any adverse impact on the ability to hold the event.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

City considers allowing private septic/wells

Although the creation of private septic systems and private wells is presently not permitted in Taneytown, the municipality will begin developing a process by which a property owner can apply for an exemption in the future that might allow them.

Attorney Jack Gullo and City Manager James Wieceprecht were directed by the council at the board's October work-session to proceed with the drafting of rules that would allow the town to consider permitting private septic systems and wells. No timeframe for the creation of a draft was established.

Consideration to create an exemp-

tion process was triggered by the town recently receiving such a request from a property owner. The topic was introduced at the work-session of the council by Mayor Wantz, who noted that the applicant requested permission to install the private improvements on property that lies within the city limits - which is not permitted under the Town Code. He also noted that the property involved has not been inhabited or habitable for some time.

Attorney Gullo stated, "While our charter or code has provision for this (requesting exceptions from the Town Code), it doesn't have a pro-

cess for it, so it doesn't have a way for people to say 'Hey, I want you to grant me an exception.'"

The attorney said the town has been "pretty good" in granting exceptions in various other instances, such as for park events. However, he said, "But this (exceptions relating to septic waste and water) is of a pretty serious nature, because there needs to be a demonstration about what they're actually proposing ... and how it could affect the area, the environment, the aquifer. It's going to be more than just 'Hey, is this okay,' and have a presentation in front of you."

Gullo said, in the case of septic and water issues, "We have to make decisions based on the health, safety, welfare issue," suggesting that a waiver request be handled in a manner similar to the means by which a board of appeals might process a waiver or exception.

Also, unlike other more routine-type exceptions, the attorney said, the town staff should be entitled to the receipt of supporting impact-type studies, to be provided by applicants. These could include hydrology studies as well as information regarding adjoining properties,

locations of other wells, and proof that the proposed improvements will not have a health detriment.

Gullo stated that if an applicant didn't want to undergo the expense of having some of the studies done, then that would be something that town staff would have to take into account, but under no circumstances should the town consider doing the work (paying for studies) for the applicant.

Because the discussions centered on the conceptual need for a regulatory and exception-requesting process, the name/names or the applicants whose request triggered the review of the Town Code were not revealed.

2020 financial audit presented

Taneytown's audit of Fiscal Year 2020 indicated that the city remains heading financially in the right direction, including increases in property tax revenues due to continued development, and a budget which under-estimated incoming revenue and over-estimated expenditures.

Representatives for accounting firm Deleon and Stang presented the council with a synopsis of the results of the FY 2020 audit at the council's October 7 work-session. Taneytown's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

The half-hour long "briefing" was presented by Michelle Mills, certified public accountant, and Addie Blickenstaff, senior auditor, the lead auditor on this year's audit, both of Deleon and Stang. Some highlights included a review of the FY 2020 budget (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020)

Blickenstaff reported that the council had established the anticipated revenues for the fiscal year in the amount of \$4,062,047. The revenues generated actually resulted as being in the amount of \$4,266,507, \$204,460 which is more than

expected. Anticipated expenditures were projected to amount to \$6,484,358.

According to the audit, property taxes revealed the largest increase in revenue among the revenue sources. In FY 2019, the city received \$2,459,323 in taxes. In FY 2020, the amount was \$2,537,032, due to continued development. Income tax revenues actually dropped from \$732,740 to \$708,285. Licenses and permits saw a small increase from \$110,996 to \$113,675. Inter-governmental revenues dropped from \$741,074 to

\$725,925. Service charges increased from \$81,651 to \$88,458.

Regarding expenditures, the actual expenditures for FY 2020 turned out as being \$4,507,177 (it was projected at \$6,484,358), resulting in a quasi-savings of \$1,977,181 (the surplus was actually the result of projects that were budgeted ... but were not initiated before the conclusion of the fiscal year).

General government expenditures increased from \$846,264 (FY 2019) to \$887,151 (FY 2020), while public safety spending decreased from \$1,540,173 to \$1,496,217. Public works spending increased from \$1,071,948 to \$1,535,171, due to major contributing factors associated

with the O'Brien Avenue Bridge project. Recreation and culture decreased from \$573,647 to \$315,181. The number generated during FY 2019 was due to the Stumptown Road purchase. Economic development spending remained slightly changed from the \$114,772 spent in FY 2019, to \$113,321 spent in FY 2020. Debt-service, which stood at \$163,166 for FY 2019, dropped to \$160,136 for FY 2020.

Blickenstaff stated the utility fund also gained ground following FY 2019. Operating revenues increased from \$3,523,663 to \$4,339,069 (due to beneficial assessments that were conducted). Operating expenses increased from \$2,558,143 to \$2,660,359.

News-Briefs . . .

City notes end of free recycling service

Taneytown will soon be charged for recycling pick-ups and pay a 'penalty' if recycling is found mixed with other trash.

City Manager James Wieceprecht noted during the City Council's October meeting that the municipality's recycling tipping fee will go from zero dollars to \$30 per ton effective January 1. The tipping fee for solid waste disposal will be \$65 per ton.

However he said, also beginning January 1, if any non-recyclables are found to have been mixed-in with the recyclables, the city will be billed as if the entire pick-up was solid waste, at \$65 per ton, thus forfeiting the \$30 per ton rate in the process (or, otherwise, paying a \$35 penalty - for all intent and purposes - for the mixed load).

Regarding the recycling service going from zero to \$30 dollars per ton, Wieceprecht stated, "That's what we have to look forward to. We were aware of it early enough to adjust our budget for that tipping fee for recycling."

Why the sudden charge for recycling? Mayor Bradley Wantz stated he was told, "There's simply no market for recycling anymore. It used to be they could get paid for recycling materials."

City Hall door latch problematic

Just when the damages to the Taneytown City Hall were expected to have been completed, a problematic front door-latch has defied coopera-

tion in the effort.

City Manager Wieceprecht said the contractor working on the door-latch issue seemed to have become embroiled with "what must be the most complicated door-latch in the world." While the door-latch is now working, the door cannot be used until the security company comes back to tie-in the latch to the alarm system. "So right now, until we have that (the security work), the front door is essentially not usable for the public," he stated, adding, "We are so close."

The maligned latch represents the last of the \$51,735.99 restoration and remodeling effort that was implemented in the wake of an incident in which Rodney Davis drove

his truck into the front of the building, reportedly after having become angered that the city had cut his water-service off in August 2019.

Davis ultimately pleaded guilty and was sentenced on September 1 of this year to 13 years in prison, with all but 18 months suspended.

The Town Hall was officially re-opened to the public on October 19 following a final safety inspection executed during the prior week.

Roberts Mill Run work down to plantings

Stormwater runoff control measures are expected to be completed at the Roberts Mills Run project by November, the Taneytown manager told the council at their October workshop.

City Manager Wieceprecht said that plantings remain to be completed at a wet pond, but that the work is imminent. The planting would be placed around the perimeter of the wet pond, which is part of the site's storm-water management plans.

Wieceprecht stated that the county awarded the contract to do the planting to Hill Lawn Service, Inc., and that the planting materials have been ordered. As of the work ses-

sion, he said staff is just waiting for the lawn service to do the work, and that the storm management work "is very close to being completed."

The bridge over Roberts Mill Run was recently completed, which, in effect, united a development that had been divided by the creek.

Construction of the new bridge included work on the curbing, gutters, and paving at the bridge, along with improvements to the approaches to the bridge.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Phil Dacey

I hope everyone is staying safe and well in Frederick County and beyond during this extended health crisis. The County Council has been dealing with several important issues, but I want to start by talking about something about which the Council doesn't have direct control but which is the most pressing issue that I am hearing from constituents on -- how to send our students back to the classroom for in person learning safely.

As I write this article in October, I want to put a stake in the ground to say that it is time to plan for our students to safely return to school. This is not an issue for which the County Council has direct authority. Frederick County has an independent, elected Board of Education. However, the elected school board has failed to take a

leadership stance on this. The inertia of virtual school and doing nothing is easier than leadership, but it is leadership that we need in Frederick County.

Our surrounding jurisdictions, private schools, and most of the country have returned or have definitive plans to return to in-person education. They are conducting classes safely, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) criteria with masks and distancing. Governor Hogan, who has been as good on the pandemic as any leader in the country has strongly urged that it is time to return to school.

We hear from folks that our leaders should follow the science. We have data. The national data indicates that in-person schooling is not a major contributor to spreading COVID. A study of

over 200,000 students in 47 states revealed an infection rate of 1.3 student infections per 1,000 students and 2.2 infections per 1,000 staff. Rates of infection were consistently lower than the surrounding community rates indicating that students in schools are not driving the spread of the virus. We cannot wait until the infection risk is zero.

For the near term, it is likely that this virus will continue to be within the population. It is something that we will have to learn to live with and take practical measures to mitigate its spread. Sadly, after waiting 8 months, it does not appear that this virus will disappear or dramatically decline. Our Board of Education should put forward a definitive plan to get our students back in classrooms. The cost of virtual education is

not zero. It has a human toll and is not a substitute for in-person learning. Our school system was recently ranked in the top 5% of the state and it is vital to remain a top tier public school system. It is unacceptable to just wait for conditions to improve. Of course there are unanswered questions and challenges, but it is the job of the Board of Education to face those challenges and overcome the obstacles to get our children safely back in school.

This is the most pressing issue currently in Frederick County. The Governor has said its time. The State School Board has said its time. The CDC itself has said its time. In Frederick County, only the Board of Education has the power. It is time to contact the Board of Education to let them know that it is time to overcome the challenges and set a date for safe in school return for our students.

There were other issues that the Council acted on over the past month. The County Council took up the first veto override of charter government that would have exempted in-law suites from the \$7,500 punitive impact fee. There were four votes to override, but an override does require 5 votes so the veto was upheld. This means that in-law suites with a kitchen that are more than 801 square feet or more will be subject to a \$7,500 county tax.

Further issues that the County Council has been working on include implementation of the state mandate for office building recycling (for office buildings of a certain size), dividing the largest county division (without adding positions) into a Water and Sewer Division and a Solid Waste Division, and the beginning of planning for the future of the Sugarloaf Mountain area. Stay well.

County Notes. . .

County Executive Unveils Legislative Priorities

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner announced her legislative priorities for the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly. She will request two pieces of legislation, one to increase transpar-

ency and fairness for homebuyers in Frederick County and the other to protect some county employees from identity theft.

"My proposals ensure transparency and protect consumers, as well as our hard-working public servants," Executive Gardner said Friday.

Executive Gardner's first bill would prohibit builders and developers in Frederick County from adding fees for water and sewer hookups and other infrastructure costs as special assessments separate from the purchase price of the house. The practice of placing liens on homes to pay for these costs over many years can surprise purchasers at settlement

by adding thousands of dollars onto the final purchase price.

Her second proposed piece of legislation would prohibit disclosure of some personal financial information for some Frederick County employees. The measure is in response to data mining companies selling this information, which puts employees at risk of identity theft. The bill still allows for transparency and ensures the public's right to know how tax dollars are being spent by providing a salary range, rather than the exact salary, of most public employees. Exact salaries would still be disclosed for division directors and those employees who are hired directly by the County Executive and the County Council.

Program will provide funds to restore or rehabilitate historically significant houses, barns and sites in rural areas of Frederick County. The Agricultural Innovation Grant Program will help farmers diversify their operations to stay profitable.

"The goal of these grants is to leave a legacy for future generations of a vibrant agricultural community and to preserve our rich history," Executive Gardner said. "As we preserve farmland through our ag-preservation programs, it is equally important that we help keep agricultural operations profitable. These grants accomplish that goal. Frederick County has done an outstanding job preserving our rich history in our urban core. The Rural Preservation Grants will help us preserve our history in our rural areas, including historic bank barns, homes and other structures."

The Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program will offer grants of up to \$50,000 to individual property owners and nonprofit organizations to stabilize, rehabilitate, restore or preserve the exterior of a historic property. To qualify, properties must be listed on the County Register of Historic Places or on the National Register of Historic Places,

continued on next page.

New Grant Programs Support Rural Historic Preservation, Agricultural Innovation

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner unveiled two new initiatives that are designed to preserve the County's rich history and to keep agriculture a viable and profitable industry for future generations. Both are competitive grant programs that support goals of the award-winning Livable Frederick master plan. The Rural Historic Preservation Grant

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Now is a good time to ask ourselves what we are thankful for. I am thankful for my family and the wonderful people who call Frederick County home.

I am also thankful for all the men and women who serve in our nation's Armed Forces. November 11th is Veterans Day. Most years, we mark the occasion with large ceremonies, with handshakes and hugs to show our appreciation. This year, to keep our veterans safe, things may look a bit different but the sentiment remains the same.

My father served during the Korean War and my father-in-law served in World War II, so I personally appreciate the immense commitment these men, women and their families have made for all of us. Veterans deserve our support. They work every day to preserve our freedoms. That's why I was pleased to establish a Veterans Advisory Council for Frederick County. The Council connects our veterans to information and

resources so they can further their education, find employment, and receive services. The Veterans Advisory Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. You can watch their meetings on FCG TV cable channels 19 or 1085.

Preserving History and Agriculture

Frederick County is a special place. Our history and our agricultural roots help to create that special sense of place that is uniquely Frederick. When the community came together to develop a shared vision for our award-winning Livable Frederick master plan, it was clear that we value historical and cultural resources.

As you will read in this month's County Notes, I have announced two new grant programs that will allow us to protect what we value about Frederick County: the Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program and the Agricultural Innovation Grant Program. The goal is to

leave a legacy for future generations of a vibrant agricultural community and to preserve our rich history.

Frederick County has done an outstanding job of preserving our rich history in our urban core. The Rural Preservation Grants will help us preserve our history in our rural areas, including historic bank barns, homes and other structures. The Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program will offer grants of up to \$50,000 to individual property owners and nonprofit organizations to stabilize, rehabilitate, restore or preserve the exterior of a historic property. To qualify, properties must be listed on the County Register of Historic Places or on the National Register of Historic Places, or be designated as a contributing resource in a historic district. A property also qualifies if the Maryland Historical Trust determines the site is eligible for National Register designation. Applications for Rural Historic Preservation Grants will be accepted once a year.

As we preserve farmland through our ag preservation programs, it is equally important that we help keep agricultural operations profitable. The Agricultural Innovation Grant Program accomplishes that goal. The program will award grants of \$5,000 or more to help farmers expand or diversify their business operations. Funds may be used for research and development, production buildings, major fixtures, or processing facilities. Applications will be accepted twice a year.

Review committees will be established for both programs to score applications based on established metrics and then recommend awards to the County Executive. Funding for the grants will come from the county's recordation fee, which is charged on certain real estate transactions.

COVID-19

Frederick County has seen concerning trends recently in the number of new Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations. We are starting to see numbers similar to what we experienced in June. In order

to keep our economy open, it is critical that all of us do our part. Stay home as much as possible. When you go out, avoid crowds. Wear a face covering over your mouth and nose, and wash your hands frequently. It's also a good idea to get a flu shot. We want to avoid putting too much strain on our already overworked doctors, nurses, and other health care workers. Working together, we can slow the spread of the coronavirus until there is a vaccine available for everyone.

Election

The General Election is under way. You can vote in-person at Catoctin High School or any of Frederick County's eight early voting centers between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. On Election Day, which is Tuesday, November 3rd, you can cast your ballot at one of 14 centers, including Catoctin High. The full list of election sites can be found at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Elections. Make your voice heard!

Stay safe and stay healthy!

continued from previous page.

or be designated as a contributing resource in a historic district. A property also qualifies if the Maryland Historical Trust determines the site is eligible for National Register designation. Applications will be accepted once a year. Details are available online at FrederickCountyMD.gov/Executive.

The Agricultural Innovation Grant Program will award grants of \$5,000 or more to help farmers expand or diversify their business operations to remain profitable and viable. Funds may be used for research and development, production buildings, major fixtures, or processing facilities. Applications will be accepted twice a year, in January and July. To be eligible, applicants must be a crop or livestock producer, a value-added producer, an agricultural cooperative, a seafood processor, or a primary or secondary timber products processor. Information on the program is available online at FrederickCountyMD.gov/Executive.

Review committees will be established for both programs to score applications based on established metrics and then recommend awards to the County Executive. Funding

for the grants will come from dedicated revenue from the county's recordation fee, which is charged on certain real estate transactions.

County's Largest Division Reorganized

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner announces the reorganization of the County's largest division, Utilities and Solid Waste Management, into two separate divisions. Executive Gardner has appointed Mark Schweitzer as Director of the Division of Water and Sewer Utilities and Phillip Harris as Director of the Division of Solid Waste and Recycling. The County Council confirmed both appointments this afternoon. The creation of the divisions is effective immediately.

"Both of these divisions handle complex and highly regulated operations," Executive Gardner said. "Mark and Phil bring decades of experience in their respective fields, and I am confident each will excel in their new roles."

The Division of Water and Sewer Utilities operates 13 water treatment plants, the largest of which is the New Design Road plant that treats 25 million gallons per day (MGD). The division also operates 12 wastewater

treatment plants, including the 15-MGD Ballenger-McKinney wastewater treatment plant. The \$66 million annual operating budget is operated as an enterprise fund, separate from the County's General Fund. The division oversees \$759 million in assets.

Frederick County's \$33 million solid waste and recycling operations have grown significantly over the past 20 years. The Division of Solid Waste and Recycling maintains \$83 million in assets. The division oversees active and legacy landfill operations; a waste transfer station that

handles 260,000 tons annually; natural wood waste and composting operations; a 2MW solar array; and recycling operations.

Mr. Schweitzer has been Acting Director of the Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management since the March 2020 retirement of Director Kevin Demosky. Schweitzer began his career with Frederick County Government in 1991 as a senior laboratory technician. He advanced within the division, serving as laboratory supervisor and department head of Regulatory

Compliance, before being named deputy director in 2016. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Mr. Harris's tenure at Frederick County Government began in 1998 as the recycling crew leader. He went on to become the recycling program specialist and then manager before being named department head of Solid Waste Management in 2003. Harris earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Frostburg State University.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Election Day is November 3rd, and it is the last day for Adams County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. They must be received by 8:00 pm. The Adams County Secure Ballot Drop Box is in the lobby of the Adams County Courthouse at 117 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, PA. If you want to see a sample ballot so you are better prepared and for more information, go to adamscounty.us.

The Elections and Voters Registration telephone number is 717-337-9832. Carroll Valley's polling place is located at the Borough building located at 5685 Fairfield Road. Your vote counts! The Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors is having a winter clothing giveaway on November 7th for families in our community at Carroll Valley Borough Pavilion, 5685 Fairfield Road. You can drop off your clean, gently used winter clothing donations from 9 a.m. to noon and can shop (for free) from noon to 3 p.m.

Clothing is for all sizes from infant to adults. Please no shoes.

The coming together of area veterans to remember our days in service to protect our country will not occur this year due to the COVID-19 and following the CDC guidelines. Sadly, the Fairfield Area School District will not be able to hold their Veterans Day Breakfast. However, on November 12th, the day after Veterans Day, a Veterans Appreciation Day is scheduled to be held at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center. Veterans will get free admission to the Film, Cyclorama & Museum experience.

Guests will have the opportunity to see the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting in a special "lights up" program which will feature a talk while in the full light of the painting. Those attending will start with an "A New Birth of Freedom" film presentation followed by the "Lights Up Cyclorama" program. U.S. military veterans should be prepared to show proof of veteran

status to obtain tickets. Veterans Appreciation Day hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The last film and cyclorama show will begin at 3 p.m. Thanks go to the U. S. National Park Service and the Gettysburg Foundation for the invitation. For further information call 717-334-1114.

The Carroll Valley Branch of the Adams County Library has decided to have a Thanksgiving story walk around the Carroll Valley Commons in November. The Halloween story walk is forecasted to come down on November 4th and replaced with Nick Bruel's "Bad Kitty – Does NOT Like THANKSGIVING!" story. These "Story Walks" are great for our community, especially for our children. They encourage our young to read, to enjoy our park, and help to distract them from the stress that we all are experiencing during this time of COVID-19. Kudos go to the Carroll Valley Library staff – Sherrie DeMartino and Crystal Durbin.

On October 17th, the E-Recycling event was held in the Fairfield Fire & EMS Department's parking lot. As reported by Susan Wagle, Fairfield Borough Secretary, 58 vehicles brought materials to fill a 1½ 20-yard container. The municipality vehicle representation was Carroll Valley-32, Fairfield-5, Freedom-3, Hamiltonban-8, Highland-2, and Liberty-8. Appreciation goes to Susan Wagle, her daughter, and the four employees from the Fairfield Borough helped resident unload their electric equipment.

With the help of our Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman, Corporal Cliff Weikert, Police Officer Chris Roosen from Liberty Township, Beth Shipley, and Stephanie Black, approximately 152 pounds of unused, expired, and unwanted drugs were collected as part of DEA's National Prescription Drug Take-Back-Initiative on October 25th in front of the Carroll Valley Borough Building. Thank you all for your participation in this initiative. As the DEA Administrator points out "With

See page 23 for From the Desk of Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

four out of five new heroin users starting with prescription medications" you have made a positive difference in your community.

If it is not COVID-19, then it is the flu. There are no set dates for the beginning and end of the flu season. However, according to the CDC data for the 2019-2020 flu season, cases began to rise in the middle of November and wind down in mid-March. You may want to consider getting the flu shot. In our area, call WellSpan Pharmacy in Fairfield at 717-642-8812 or your health care provider to ensure they have the appropriate flu shot for your age group. And while you are at it, consult with your health care provider about receiving the pneumonia vaccine. Keep well! Wishing you and your family a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. Please watch out for those holiday drivers over the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Rich Sterner (D), candidate for State Senate

Are you satisfied with what the Pennsylvania State Senate is doing for you? If your answer is, "No!" then the only way to change what happens in the PA Senate is to change the senators who make up the PA Senate. And while we're at it, let's change the party that controls the PA Senate, too. Vote for me, Rich Sterner, Democratic Candidate for PA Senate District 33. Let me explain why ...

Do you realize Republicans have controlled the PA Senate every year since 1994? I had to laugh when I saw the sign on Rt. 15 that said, "Had Enough? Vote Republican." Really? In addition to the Senate, Republicans have controlled the PA House of Representatives most of those same years, and for 11 of the years since 1994, they have controlled the Governor's office, Senate and House! Voting Republican is not voting for change.

Republican control of the Senate has gotten us nowhere? Despite their dominance, we continue to debate the same issues year after

year with no resolution. Rising property taxes, crumbling infrastructure, underfunding of schools, and out-of-control health care costs are just a few of the issues that have been discussed for years but remain problematic. Clearly the Republicans cannot get the job done.

I am running for State Senate to be a fresh, new voice for you. For me, this is not about making politics a career. It's about getting something done about these nagging problems for all Pennsylvanians and especially the residents of District 33. What makes me a better choice than our current Senator? Let's start by looking at the response to COVID-19.

Throughout this pandemic, I have advocated that we need to follow the guidance of our nation's respected doctors and scientists. Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birks have been reliable advocates for what the country needs to do to work our way through this pandemic. Social distancing, avoiding crowds, washing your hands and wearing a mask

have been the four pillars of combating this virus.

Senator Mastriano doesn't want to hear it. He has buried his head in the sand and tried to pretend that these measure are both ineffective and unnecessary. He doesn't believe the science that proves these measure are effective, he sponsors and attends rallies without adherence to these guidelines, and he fights Governor Wolf's attempts to manage this pandemic and put as few people at risk of exposure as possible.

I will not bury my head in the sand and pretend problems don't exist. I will seek solutions to our health care issues, work toward fair and equitable funding for our public schools, propose measures that will put a stop to rising property taxes, and pursue ways to rebuild and improve both our economy and our infrastructure.

In doing so, I will not only refer to facts, but also seek the truth. Unlike my opponent, who bases his decisions only on the facts

that are convenient to advance his agenda and his career, I will look at all of the facts and seek the truth as the basis of my decisions.

I believe in the power of science. In everything from fracking, to climate change, to alternative energy, to economics and to medicine, I will consult with experts who pursue these issues for a living, study peer-tested research, and use the best information available to me to make the decision that I believe to be the right decision and one that will have the most long-term benefits for my constituents.

I will work every day to make decisions that I believe to be in your best interest. I will represent all of the people of District 33, not just those who agree with me. My door will be open to all of my constituents, and I will both listen and seek understanding. When I disagree with you, I will explain why, but I will not dismiss or ignore your point of view. I will take responsibility for my decisions, accept criti-

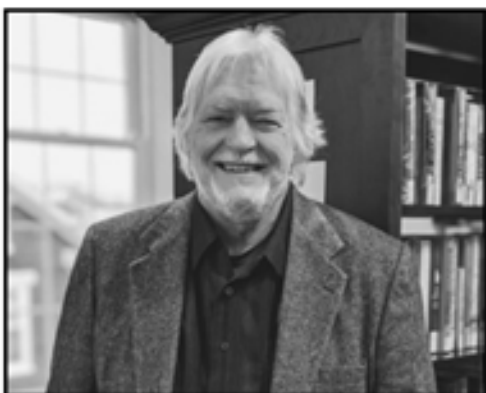
cism, and even admit when I make a mistake.

My opponent, by contrast, is responsive only to his adoring supporters. He deletes posts to his social media pages that are unfavorable to his positions (something I have never done), and he block individuals who challenge his statements. He does not care to hear from those who disagree with him. He and his staff are known to have been disrespectful, dismissive, and condescending to constituents who have contacted his office.

I will do better than that. Throughout my career, whether in food service, as a teacher, as a school principal, or as a school board member, I have demonstrated my ability to listen to others, understand their point of view, and treat people with respect, even when we disagree. I pledge to be real and honest with my constituents in a way that is uncharacteristic of most politicians. I am committed to your well-being, and I will work every day see that you get the service you deserve from state government.

Rich Sterner Leadership, Integrity, Compassion, and Honor

Senate District 33
Democratic Candidate



He will listen to and represent ALL residents of Senate District 33!

Rich Sterner will work towards: Better and more cohesive COVID-19 response, Affordable Healthcare for everyone, and Property Tax Reform while maintaining local control of education.

Learn more about Rich Sterner at www.sternerforpa.com

**Vote for Rich Sterner
On November 3rd!**

Paid for by the Sterner for PA Campaign

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

Todd Rowley (D), candidate for U.S. Congress

Spent nearly 30 years in public service as a law enforcement officer, having the honor and privilege of serving over 24 years as an FBI Special Agent defending our Constitution and protecting the American people. The oath I took was to protect and defend our Constitution, which never included any allegiance to any individual; but rather an allegiance and commitment to seeking the truth, justice, and equality for fellow citizens. I chose a life in public service as a law enforcement officer because I wanted to help people. The majority of the brave men and women serving in law enforcement have this same motivation and desire.

The "law and order" the president speaks of today does not reflect the principles of the rule of law I had the responsibility and duty of upholding and that has guided our democracy for nearly 250 years. To be an advocate of law and order, one must first respect our laws and secondly, respect the brave men and women who the cit-

izens have entrusted with the responsibility of providing law and order in our society. Over the past nearly four years, we have observed repeatedly the president demean and belittle our law enforcement agencies and intelligence community, and personnel.

The president seems to believe his mantra of "law and order" can be used to pit law enforcement against the citizenry to achieve a desired political outcome. Our law enforcement and intelligence community must remain apolitical, independent and non-partisan, and never used by any political party in power against opponents or the American people. We cannot forget that the brave men and women serving in law enforcement are fellow citizens - fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters who face many challenges and place themselves in harm's way to protect and serve their communities.

Our fundamental constitutionally protected rights - the freedom of speech

and peaceful assembly, and the right to bear arms - freedoms of which neither can be allowed to intimidate fellow Americans or weaken our trust in law and order. There is no justification for looting, arson, and the destruction property - violence perpetrated no matter the extremist group responsible. Just as there is no justification for firearms to be used to intimidate fellow citizens in our open, public places.

As Americans, just as we must support fellow citizens - African Americans and communities of color - by recognizing their struggle for racial and social justice, we must also support our law enforcement. Despite the rhetoric we hear, this does not

have to be an either-or proposition. I believe in my fellow citizens in PA-13 that we can support the struggle for justice and equality in our society, as well as law enforcement.

As we have seen recently with the arrests of American citizens plotting an act of domestic terrorism targeting a sitting governor and law enforcement, the president's rhetoric does have tremendous influence. Having law and order in our country is a good thing. But when it is used as a political wedge to cause fear and divide us, it only weakens us as a country and erodes the principles of our democracy.

I believe the hardworking fami-

lies of Adams County deserve truthful, competent leadership that seeks to make us safer, not fearful; that unites us, not divides us.

Todd Rowley is the Democratic Nominee for Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. Prior to his 24-year career as an FBI Special Agent, Todd served as a State Trooper/Flight Paramedic with the Maryland State Police. He was born in Cumberland, MD and raised on a farm in Meyersdale, Somerset County PA. He and his family currently reside in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County.

To learn more about Todd, visit his campaign website at www.toddrowleyforcongress.com.

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Happy Thanksgiving
Give thanks today and always!

PENDING  10 Pinehurst Tr., Fairfield, PA Beautiful, well built, 3BR, 3 BA, pool, with attached garage, fireplace, full finished basement, perfect for easy lifestyle! \$409,900	**UNDER CONTRACT**  Boy Scout Rd., New Oxford, PA 5 BR, 1 BA getaway on 1.85 acres. PRICE REDUCED TO \$70,000	**UNDER CONTRACT**  2244 Cold Spring Rd., Orrtanna, PA Lovely refurbished 3BR, 2BA home. Meticulously maintained. \$235,000
***** LOTS ***** 5 Spur Tr., Fairfield, PA - Peaceful cul-de-sac, close to Gettysburg Public sewer..... \$39,900 47 Meadowlark Tr., Fairfield, PA 0.46 ac. wooded lot on quiet street, low perc rate, close to golf & skiing..... \$27,500	***** LOTS ***** 10 Valley View Tr., Fairfield, PA - 0.46 ac., perc appr., Beautiful surroundings near parks, lake & walking paths. \$26,500 5600 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield, PA - 1.78 ac., 487 foot road frontage..... \$350,000	***** LOTS ***** 53 & 55 Mason Dixon Tr., Fairfield, PA - on historic Mason Dixon line \$19,900 1 Spring Tr., Fairfield, PA - 3.4 ac., beautiful property, 15 min to Gettysburg. Close to skiing & golf..... \$89,900



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U.S. Congress PA-13

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Todd grew up on a farm in southwest PA and is a member of the PA Farm Bureau; a life of public service as an EMS and Law Enforcement Officer - a State Trooper/Flight Paramedic and FBI Special Agent.

Todd will fight for justice and equality for ALL citizens of Adams County & PA-13

- Protect Social Security & Medicare
- Access to affordable, quality health care for every American
- Support our farmers and agriculture industry
- Protect existing manufacturing and energy jobs
- Defend organized labor and protect workers' rights
- Ensure that every child receives a high-quality education and teachers receive fair wages and benefits
- Advocate for electoral and campaign finance reform including term limits
- Protect 2nd Amendment Rights and support common sense firearms safety policies
- Lead by working across the aisle - finding common ground and compromise for the common good

"A Voice of Unity, Decency and Truth for ALL Citizens of Adams County"
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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

What would you do?

Shannon Bohrer

On March 13, in Louisville Kentucky, three plainclothes police officers, entered a private residence just before 1 a.m. and shot and killed 26-year-old Breonna Taylor. Ms. Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, believed they were being robbed so he called the police to report a crime, reporting that someone was breaking in the residence. He also used his legal and registered handgun to shoot at the intruders, which were the police. The officers, being shot at, returned fire, which resulted in the shooting and death of Ms. Taylor.

The officers were reportedly serving a 'no-knock' warrant, they were in plain cloths and they were looking to arrest an individual that was already incarcerated. It was reported that the police believed that Ms. Taylor was the girlfriend of the suspect, the one that was already in custody. No drugs or other contraband was found in the residence.

Ms. Taylor's death resulted in demonstrations in Louisville and around the country. The city police department was slow to release information, saying it was an ongoing investigation. Even when information was released much of what was reported as not accurate.

A grand Jury was convened to investigate the shooting. On September 23, the Kentucky Attorney Gen-

eral Daniel Cameron said the grand jury found that the officers were "justified in returning deadly fire", because they were being fired upon. If someone shoots at you, you can return fire. The officers were there legally, serving a warrant. One officer that fired rounds that entered a neighboring apartment, was charged with a crime, unrelated to the shooting of Ms. Taylor.

This is a very controversial case that will continue to be reexamined and re-investigated. It took over seven months for a grand jury ruling and we still do not have all the facts. Some of the facts we do have are disconcerting. Initially the police said they identified themselves before entering the residence. This was refuted by neighbors and Mr. Walker. Only then did the police say they were executing a "no-knock" warrant, which would allow the officers to enter without identifying themselves. Later, they said that even with the no knock warrant, they identified themselves. "The [initial] police report stated that Taylor had no injuries, even though she died from gunshot wounds. It also stated that no forced entry occurred, even though the officers had used a battering ram." When questioned about the discrepancies, the "police department said that technical errors led to a malformed report."

When the actions of police officers' results in a death, and even when it does not, it should be expected that the investigation(s), official reports, and

any press releases – be factual and accurate. When government statements are misleading, because pertinent facts are missing, or when alternative facts like "no injuries" or "no forced" entry occurred, what is the public to believe? Police reports and statements should not be a multiple-choice question, with multiple answers.

The Attorney Generals press briefing on the grand jury results, included information that one witness said the police did identify themselves. Independent investigations by the press and private investigators concluded that eleven other witnesses said - they heard nothing. According to Mr. Walker, when the incident occurred, Breonna was startled with the noise and called out to the officers, (saying something like, who is there?). She called out several times but received no response.

This case is contentious, because most people support the police, and the same people support the right of citizens to protect their home. The grand jury decision(s) did not resolve the issues but created more controversies, and questions. The idea that the police exist to protect and serve does not align with this outcome, where a citizen that committed no crime was killed.

Since the shooting, there have been proposed revisions to police policy, like banning no knock warrants. While banning no knock warrants seems appropriate, that does not eliminate the conditions that contributed to Ms. Taylor's death. It is very possible that both

the officers and Breonna called out but were not heard. Under stressful conditions, which included the noise from a battering ram, people can be so focused on what they see that they experience auditory exclusion. The exclusion is a temporary loss of hearing, often associated with high stress events.

The obvious facts not being addressed are the three officers, not in uniform, serving a search warrant at a private residence after midnight. While the officers had the legal right to be there (providing the warrant was legally obtained) the officers placed themselves in a position to be misidentified. We do not know if the same results would have occurred if the officers were in uniform, but we can say that the probability of identical results would be greatly reduced.

Officers have the legal right to use deadly force when an officer or citizen is in immediate danger and the danger could result in the loss of life. While these circumstances exist, there have been instances when officers have placed themselves in danger and their right to use deadly force has been questioned. An example would be when an officer intentionally steps in front of a moving vehicle, then shoots at the vehicle, saying that his/her life was in danger. Under normal circumstances, officers are prohibited from placing themselves in front of the vehicle; thereby creating the danger that allows them to use deadly force.

If you are home around one a.m., you hear noises outside your front door (people trying to gain entry) what would be an appropriate response? If

you had a video doorbell and you saw three men, not in any uniforms and all displaying firearms, trying to enter your residence - what would you do? Under these described circumstances, if one shoots and kills a person trying to enter their home, would they be charged with homicide? If Mr. Walker had shot and killed all three officers, would he have been charged? Under this scenario if Mr. Walker did shoot and kill all three officers and he was not charged, would the public protest?

This case may be over, but the circumstances and facts that created it are not. The fourth amendment says that "The right of the people to be secure in their person, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." If officers executing a search warrant do so not in uniforms, but in plain clothing, after midnight, is that reasonable?

Passing a law that forbids no-knock warrants is only addressing a symptom of the problem. How the government upholds and protects your rights under the fourth amendment, without putting someone in circumstances that could result in injury or death, for both the citizens and the police, is the question.

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

American Mind

Let your voice be heard

Mark Greathouse

There's an old adage in the advertising business about how businesses that fail to advertise give the marketplace away to those that do. Permit me to present a parallel. Citizens who fail to vote give their voice in government away to those who do. Think on that.

Having voted in every election since I was old enough to vote (that's been a lot of elections!), I'm incredulous when I hear of some middle-aged person announcing that they're going to vote for the first time in their life. What could they have been thinking? Oh yeah, they weren't thinking at all.

News media pundits, social media, and politicians are all screaming about how critically important the 2020 elections are to our nation's future. Hello? Every election is critically important. But yes, this one turns out to be especially important at local, state, and national levels. At stake are major national issues with long-term impact such as the composition of the Supreme Court, the nature of keeping and bearing arms, freedom of speech, state rights, taxes, environment, federal budget largesse, and unbridled power of social media oligarchs. Important state and local issues include taxation, nature of law enforcement, education choice, and reining in government retirement plans.

What should be our biggest concern? Communism. We dare not

forget Soviet First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev's promise in 1956, "We will bury you." And never lose sight of Josef Stalin's starvation of millions of Ukrainians and still more millions in murderous gulags across Russia. Since about the time of the Bolshevik Revolution and the deception of many Americans by Vladimir Lenin's "Potemkin Villages," the United States has been struggling with the metastasizing creep of socialism into our own government (aka, Communism). For the uninitiated, a Potemkin village is a fake settlement that was originally the creation of Russian minister Grigori Alexandrovich Potemkin and later adopted by Lenin and Stalin to serve their purposes in illustrating the supposed great "success" of their Union of Soviet Socialist Republics system. International visitors were shuttled to the Potemkin villages, so they wouldn't see the squalid failures of Communism throughout the Soviet countryside.

To hear many of today's university professors teach today, one might think that they too have been sucked in by Potemkin villages...real and imagined. Many of President Franklin Roosevelt's key advisors were duped by Potemkin villages into recommending communist-style New Deal solutions to the Great Depression. John Dewey, the "father" of our public education system, was a victim of the Potemkin villages. President Barack Obama's mentor, card-carrying Communist Party USA member

Frank Marshall Davis, was duped by the Potemkin village scheme. Bernie Sanders was a 'dupee.' Many Hollywood A-listers also fell for the Potemkin Village trap over the years.

Now we're laserizing in on why it's so important to vote...on why your one little vote looms very large. The United States is in the midst of what the intelligence community terms a 'color revolution.' It has nothing to do with skin pigment. A color revolution has four components: an active counter-state (think bureaucratic deep-state swamp and bought-and-paid-for politicians, judges, and lobbyists), a compliant media (think 90+ percent leftist leaning, as supported by big-tech social media oligarchs), influential foreign opposition (think China, Iran, Russia), and violent protests in the streets (hmmm...Antifa, skinheads, etc.). The latter is the "kinetic" aspect that directly gets the attention of otherwise complacent citizens.

An example of a color revolution was the Muslim Brotherhood takeover in Egypt a few years back. The Muslim Brotherhood was a Sunni Islamist movement that at one time was considered the largest political force in Egypt. Following the 2011 Egyptian Revolution, the Muslim Brotherhood enjoyed a compliant Egyptian media, active internal counter-state, and riots in the streets; plus leveraged the foreign influence of the United States which delivered the coups de gras as then President Obama convinced Egyptian President Hosni Mubarek to step down. The Muslim Brotherhood won nearly all the seats in Parliament. However, their chosen President Moham-

mad Morsi was overthrown within a year thanks to mass protests. In the ensuing counter-revolt hundreds of members were killed, and hundreds, including Morsi and most of the Muslim Brotherhood's leadership, were imprisoned. Among the general Egyptian population, a "huge hostility" arose against the Muslim Brotherhood and, by September 2013, an Egyptian court banned the Brotherhood and its associations.

So, you're likely thinking "come on, this color revolution thing can't happen here. This is America!" Wrong. It's been going on for several decades. A color revolution has been happening right under our noses. They've recently begun to get bolder as the tentacles of a compliant media and the bureaucratic counter-state have grown and billionaires have felt bold enough to throw money at creating riots in the streets of major cities. (Oops. I should have used 'unrest' rather than 'riots' as advised in the latest Associated Press Style Manual. We apparently must cow-tow to the proponents of Orwell's Newspeak and the tender feelings of the cancel culturalists.) All of those aforementioned issues of the judiciary, guns, education, and more are inextricably linked to this color revolution.

Bottom line, you the voter must make decisions. Breaking down key issues into manageable bites, determining which are most important to you, and then deciding which candidates support your views is a viable step toward your vote having meaning. It requires homework. Politically, it's up to voters to decide whether they want ever-more-powerful cen-

tral-government controlling their lives as touted by the color revolutionaries or do they want the rights and freedoms protected by our Constitution. What about free stuff from the government? Hello, it's not free!

Is a dynamically-growing economy important? Should the Supreme Court adjudicate or legislate? Can we keep our guns? Should we have school choice? Do we want a metastasizing central government controlling our lives? Which candidates can be trusted to deliver on their promises? Decisions, decisions, decisions.

Now, whether you believe the counter-state's color revolution threat is real or not, you need to haul yourself out to the polls and vote on November 3. Uh-oh. There's all this mail-in ballot crap to contend with. The not-so-reassuring recent testimony of FBI Director Wray aside about the supposed absence of voter fraud, I strongly urge you to not hide under his rock. Serious instances of ballot harvesting, non-citizen voting, fake voter addresses, deceased voters, trashed ballots, and more have already been uncovered. Indictments are already underway. You need to be able to trust that your vote will count, once and only once. Either request an official absentee ballot or – preferably – vote in person. It's far too easy, as exacerbated by downright lazy thinking, ignorance, fear, or mind-bending confusion, to not vote. It does take initiative. Let your voice be heard. Do vote. You do make a difference.

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

The Bulwark

God save the Electoral College

William Kristol

Joe Biden is likely to receive more votes for president than anyone who has ever run. Probably by a very large margin.

In a well-functioning electoral system, the guy who receives the most votes, ever, should win the election. Period.

And if Biden wins the Electoral College—as he is likely to—then hopefully most of the talk about abolishing the EC will go away. But if Biden were to somehow lose the Electoral College while setting a record for vote getting, it would probably spell eventual doom for the EC.

And that would be a bad thing. Because America is better off with the Electoral College.

I know. This is not a popular position. But let's talk about it.

A good electoral system should accomplish a bunch of different jobs, of which “reflecting the will of the majority” is only the first.

And our Electoral College is pretty good at these other functions. By changing the national plebiscite into a series of state-level elections, the EC:

- Blunts the dangers of majoritarianism.
- Attenuates tensions among different regions by giving sparsely populated states a voice.
- Magnifies the importance of political parties.
- Which in turn gives more power to party elites.
- Which in turn makes it harder for the presidency to be captured either by a wealthy interloper or a populist demagogue. (Harder, but obviously not impossible.)

- Encourages the party system to remain binary—which prevents the fracturing of interests into a parliamentary-style kaleidoscope.
- There are plenty of reasons why the Electoral College might be a suboptimal mechanism in a smaller or more homogenous country. But at the scale of 330 million people—who are divided along large rifts in geography, race, income, religion, and ideology—the EC turns out to be quite useful in keeping our ship of state on an even keel.

Which—yes, I understand—is a funny thing to say while you're standing on the sloped deck of a sinking Titanic. But we'll get to that.

Here is a thing to keep in mind when people propose doing away with the Electoral College: Things can always be worse.

I said up top that “reflecting the will of the majority” is the first job of an electoral system and clearly, the EC has not done this well recently. Two of the last five elections have seen the minority vote getter win the Electoral College.

This is suboptimal.

So yes, doing away with the Electoral College might increase the sense of fairness about the presidency and, as a consequence, could provide some increase in the legitimacy of the officeholder. That's not nothing.

But there would be downsides, too.

The obvious one is that abolishing the EC would make it even easier for a billionaire with no ties to any party to get elected president. (I hope our recent experience obviates the need to explain why this should be regarded as a very bad outcome.)

Another is that, by opening the door for a multitude of candidates, eliminating the EC would make it possible for a truly factional candidate to win election with only a small plurality. Maybe you like the idea of Hillary Clinton winning the White House because she got 48 percent of the vote. How would you like it if Jerry Falwell, Jr. was elected president with 30 percent of the vote in a field of 5 mid-major candidates?

Because minus the Electoral College, that sort of outcome is most definitely on the table.

And what happens to the political parties? At the very least, more of them would form. This may sound like a good outcome, but I'm skeptical. These new parties would become even more centralized around the personality of their leaders. And the elites at the legacy parties would find it even harder to perform gate-keeping functions.

Once upon a time, people thought it was bad that the Democratic and Republican parties made their decisions in smoke-filled back rooms, out of sight of the voters. But take a look at the general quality of political candidates over the last couple generations. By comparison, those anti-populist smoke-filled rooms did a pretty good job.

Be honest: Over the last four years, how much would you have given to go back to a world where The Party Decides?

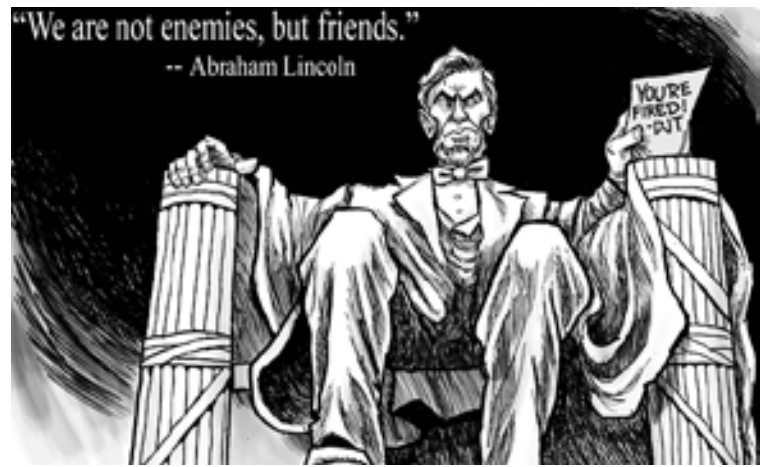
This Isn't an EC Problem. It's a Republican Problem.

The elephant in the room is that while the Electoral College does a good job of protecting against the tyranny of the majority, it has, twice over the last 20 years, enabled a tyranny of the minority.

Which is kind of a big deal.

But is this the fault of the Electoral College, or the Republican party?

Since 1988, Republicans have



won a plurality of the presidential vote exactly once.

There is no way to look at that fact and see the GOP as anything other than a regional party experiencing long-term decline.

And because of our Electoral College system, even a strong regional party is going to sometimes win the presidency as a rebuke to the majority party.

That actually doesn't bother me. One-party rule generally leads to bad outcomes. It's good to have an alternative available as a vehicle for voters to express dissatisfaction with the ruling party, should they make mistakes.

Here is the problem:

Prior to 2016, all of the Republican nominees for president at least pretended that they were national candidates. They ostensibly ran with the hope of winning a plurality, or even a majority, of the vote. Their intent was to be president for all 50 states and all 330 million Americans.

Ask yourself this: When is the last time a presidential nominee did not even make a pretense of trying to win the popular vote?

The answer is: Never. (Or at least not since Reconstruction.)

Donald Trump is the first nominee to take it as given that should he win the presidency it will be with a minority

share of the vote. He is the first nominee to campaign in such a way as to explicitly rely on using the Electoral College as a means of imposing a tyranny of the majority.

This is different. And it is dangerous.

There is a difference between George W. Bush campaigning across the country and lucking into a hanging chad in Florida and Donald Trump giving the finger to 52 percent of the country while trying to cobble together 270 Electoral votes from “his people.”

One of those situations is an unfortunate accident which still allowed the winner to unify the country. The other is a devious attempt to game the system, turn Americans against one another, and delegitimize the system.

The problem that Donald Trump exposed with the Electoral College is the same as problems he exposed with the Republican party, and the Senate, and the Hatch Act, and the media and the Constitution:

All of these mechanisms of self-government rely on the honor system.

And none of them have been equal to the task of managing a dishonorable demagogue who has an eye on soft authoritarianism.

William Kristol is editor-at-large of The Bulwark.

Down Under

Hall of mirrors

Lindsay Coker

But what's reality? Who has its clue?

—(Byron, Jon Juan)

As I write this the firestorms in Colorado are again making headlines. Such fires have increased exponentially over the past 50 years across the western side of your country, and in the last two years they have burnt a staggering 10,326 square miles, just two thousand less than the whole of Maryland.

You do not need reminding of this, as media coverage has been wide and persistent, nor do you need reminding it has happened as a direct result of climate change. Deniers of this are the same group that thinks COVID-19 will be eradicated soon, that a vaccine will be available by the end of the year, and that business must carry on as usual — or they will miss out on a fraction more profit.

On the opposite side, (and unlike these purveyors of stupidity), my heart goes out to everyone who has suffered, whether from death, injury of loss. And to everyone everywhere who have experienced the trauma and hell

of things like that.

I grew up in country Victoria, and when I was nine we set out for Melbourne in an old A-model Ford. We'd heard on the radio that a large bushfire was heading toward Melbourne, and had to leave straight away. My uncle drove, my father beside him, my mother and cousin each side of me on the back seat.

It was not long before we saw the smoke, the red sky and the flames of a huge bushfire that was roaring, raging, and gaining on us. I could hear my father saying, “Faster, faster,” but it seemed to me we were only managing to stay about a hundred yards ahead of the flames. The car was doing 50, it would go no faster, and I remember my mother praying that we would survive.

Some eighty years later my strongest memory is the noise. From the first ‘whoosh’ of hot, burning air rushing past, to the increasing roar, then the explosions. Cannon fire, machine-guns banging as the tops of trees exploded. Smoke, the dark brown sky, and all I could think of was that it was the eucalyptus oil that was causing the explosions.

How long this went for I don't remember, but we arrived at a small town, the road swung right, the fire

went left, the car stopped and we got out, shaking and gulping air. I was not frightened; terror was for the old, this was adventure.

No one was to blame, as this was nature at work, as it has been from time immemorial. This was reality, implacable and neutral. This was what everyone has faced, from our forebears slowly adjusting their lives to meet new challenges, to today's congested civilizations, where technology and science has led us to believe that nature is tamed, cities can be built in hurricane zones, cures for most diseases have and will be found, we can be crowded together safely.

Signs of nature fighting back were ignored and disbelieved, but today no one can pretend this is true. Rising sea levels, tundra melting, the Antarctic like an ice cream on the pavement and now the greatest scourge the world has ever experienced.

It seems obvious to anyone who has not got their nose stuck in their iPhone that something has to change, and change quickly. How long can preventative measures be ignored? How long can the imbecilic attitude of Trump and his gang be tolerated?

You are all facing the slippery slope of deregulated capitalism, of a president whose persona is one of peacock preening, manic and irresponsible statements, and fear of losing one second of profit taking.

That he has reduced the presidency to one of disrepute, bribery, and corruption — his hidden tax returns will reveal that — of admiring dictators and of disrespect for everyone who does not toe his line is worse than any dictator has ever done. He has not had his perceived enemies tortured and shot, has not built death camps, but what he has done has achieved the same result. The elite prosper, the rest can go hang.

So here's the thing: Do you want to stay looking in this hall of mirrors where everything is distorted, where reality is twisted into incomprehensible shapes, or do you want to elect someone who may just pull you back from the brink?

This may be an impossible task, but one thing is sure: He will restore dignity to the office and will attempt to undo some of the most blatant perversions of the financial system ever achieved. He will also let his respect for women and men of all races, their opinion, strengths, and wisdom be seen and encouraged. Information will not be by tweet, but by responsible journalism.

The death of thousands of your fellows each day from COVID-19 will be made to fall by legislation that mandates the wearing of masks — governors who refuse should, in my opinion, be put in the stocks — as well as the enforced closure of areas where people cluster such as sporting, gaming, hotels, restaurants, &c..

Joe Biden can and will win the war against the virus, (although it will take far longer than anyone will admit, possibly three years until a vaccine that works and is safe is available), and will lay the groundwork for having reality checks built into the system.

He, like every other leader, can do nothing about climate change. That is here to stay, and all the goals such as the Paris accord are not achievable. The best anyone can do is prepare their nation for dealing with it by building suitable shelters, investing in protein substitutes, and pooling resources.

He will also reintroduce diplomacy as a means of dealing with perceived enemies, as the usefulness of actual warfare in any form is long past. You don't believe this? ICBMs are ready to be used by North Korea, probably Iran, and a world destroyed this way is simply quicker and nastier.

So, in a few days time you have the choice of stepping back from the brink or jumping into the void. My experience of being a kid being chased by a bushfire and finding a haven is similar to the choice before you.

Go for safety, vote Biden. It is not just your future that is at stake; it is the world's.

Lindsay, waving the flag of support here in Melbourne, Australia.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Experiencing anything but 'normal'

Pastor Brenda Walter
Fairfield Mennonite Church

For the past several months we have all been experiencing anything but "normal". As the Pandemic of COVID-19 became more evident, life as we knew it suddenly changed. We closed the building to services and meeting in mid March, anticipating this would only last a few weeks. A weekly message went out via email. Not being able to be physically present with someone has been difficult for all of us. "Visits" were mostly through telephone calls, texts and emails. Our first social gathering was a drive-by birthday celebration the end of April. The plan was to honk, yell on the way past the house and leave. Starved for each others' company we soon parked, and staying distanced, began sharing with one another. That was a glorious 15 minutes! Soon after I started Pastoral visits by meeting folks, safely distancing, in their driveway or on their porch/patio.

Beginning May 31, we ventured meeting outside. Wearing face-masks, we sat our folding chairs at least 6 feet apart under the huge plane tree that has become our new sanctuary. Focus was difficult due to traffic noises yet we learned to simply wait when traffic noise got too loud or St. Mary's church bells rang their call to worship. I learned to listen for those bells; more times than not, the ringing coincided with our prayer time!

Feeling more safe outdoors,

more people began coming. We also learned to pull our face mask away from our face when talking to better hear each other. Not being allowed to sing, we have missed the music. However, being outdoors has allowed us to re-discover the poetic beauty of words when voiced together as choral readings.

Now that fall has arrived, few folks are ready to move indoors or consider Zoom services. Joyce Shutt, our Pastor Emeritus, captured the essence of our outdoor worship:

"Something special has happened over the summer and fall. It's been elusive, but authentic. We discovered a new closeness, a renewed sense of worship. Sitting under the plane tree's leafy cathedral ceiling while responding to the cold, heat, humidity, and misty rain has helped us gain a greater awareness of God as Creator and Sustainer. When we worship inside, we humans assume control. Come rain or shine, the show goes on. But outside? Outside we are not in control. Gathering becomes dependent on the weather. Even so, we have not missed one Sunday. Twice the rain held off just long enough for us to finish our service.

During July and August's wilting heat, the moment we'd set up our chairs in the shade of that precious plane tree, a reassuring breeze would spring out of nowhere. In September and October the breeze became so strong that the dancing leaves drowned out our words, almost as if to say,

"Stop. Listen. Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10a, NRSV)

Fairfield Mennonite is a Church with a Message of Peace. Following the George Floyd murder and events following, we felt we could support the cry for justice and peace by having a weekly protest in front of the Church. Other community members soon joined the group. Each week from June through October, filled with hope for a better tomorrow, we held up our signs: "Black Lives Matter", "No Racism", "Justice 4 All", "Equality and Love for All", "God loves everyone." Early June we had not thought about the heat and did not come prepared with water bottles. A woman in a van went past and soon returned, pulling to the side of the street. Admittedly, I braced for an angry confrontation. I could not have been more wrong. This kind woman had purchased enough water bottles for each of us! Our group took this as a sign to keep meeting weekly.

For the most part we have had affirmations of horn honking, thank-yous, thumbs up, may I take a photo?" and even an "I love you guys." These positives kept us going. Since we were all "older", one in the group called us "Geriatrics for Justice", the name stuck.

Later, we were donated the sign, "This Battle (referring to The Civil War) Was Fought Because Black Lives Matter" This sign brought increased negative comments like, "No, only white lives matter and All lives matter." We did not have the opportunity to explain that yes, all lives do matter; but not until those with red, yellow, black and brown skin matter, also. Mostly the negatives were guys revving engines and speeding past. A gentleman stopped east of us, revved his motor, then hit the gas coming next to the curve in front of us. We were rattled, yet stood firm. Other scary confrontations have happened and we took a week off to process and rethink the protest. However, Jesus teaches us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your



St. John's Lutheran Church of Creagerstown Thanksgiving Dinner cancelled

For the safety and wellbeing of the wonderful supporting public, members, and friends, future events including the Nov 26 Thanksgiving Dinner will not be held.

We appreciate the community's faithful support and look forward to a time when our congregation can welcome you

to St. John's events.

Join St. John's Sunday mornings on line for worship at 9:30 a.m. Zoom on a device at www.zoom.us/j/94420647571 or by phone: 301-715-8592 - Meeting ID: 94420647571##

Blessings,
St. John's Lutheran Church congregation

soul, and with all your mind.' and 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37,39.

We are now pondering what to do next.

Fairfield Mennonite also houses/coordinates the Fairfield Food Pantry. The Pantry has been able to continue to serve the residents of Fairfield, Carroll Valley, Orrtanna and Cashtown the third Friday of each month. Before the pandemic, several of our older folks would arrive up to an hour early. When asked why, the response was, "To socialize, this is the only time we get to see each other."

Since March, the Pantry has become a "drive-by" service. Folks are asked to stay in their car and to wear a mask. After registration they pull up to the pantry and pop the trunk. A masked volunteer then loads their groceries into their car. This minimizes physical contact. Sadly, it also limits their ability to socialize with each other.

You can help! Become aware of your neighbors, especially those who live alone. Take the step to become acquainted with him/her/them. A start would be to fill out a greeting card, perhaps include your phone number, and leave it at the door you see them use regularly. A family, or school, project could be filling out cards to drop at your local pantry to be included in their food bags.

Thank you to our wonderful communities for generously supporting the local Pantries and Food Programs. We do work together to meet the needs in our communities and could not do it without you! Whatever you (do) for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you (do) for me." (Jesus, Matthew 25:40) NRSV

Community Contacts:

Fairfield Food Pantry - donations may be dropped off in the rear entryway at Fairfield Mennonite Church, 201 West Main Street, Fairfield.

Ruth's Harvest- food items can be dropped in entryway at St John Lutheran Church, 13 East Main Street, Fairfield.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors - www.facebook.com/fairfieldnhn.

Project Linus Adams County - blankets may be dropped in entryway at Fairfield Mennonite Church - 717-968-1513.

Emmitsburg Food Bank - 717-642-6963.

Thurmont Food Bank - www.thurmontfoodbank.com, 240-288-1865.

Tom's Creek United Methodist Church

Join Us for Sunday Worship Nov. 1 at 9 a.m.

Service will be held in the church sanctuary located at 10926 Simmons Rd, Emmitsburg

Watch the service on the Church's Facebook Livestream
For more information go to tomscreekumc.com

Carry Out / To Go Fundraiser
Saturday, Nov. 7 - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (or until sold out)

Roasted Pig, Smoked Turkey & Roast Beef Sandwiches **\$8**
Meals with Cowboy Beans, Cole Slaw & Cracker Pudding. **\$15**

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John Talcott
Senior Pastor
Dana Talcott
Children's Ministry

Graceham Moravian Church

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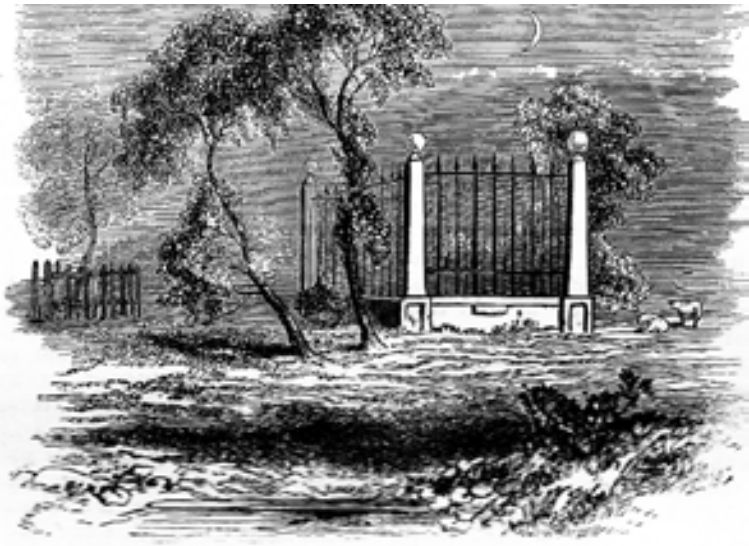
Online Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

The service is live on Facebook and YouTube
Join from our website www.gracehammoravian.org
In love and care, masks and social distancing are required for 9 a.m. services.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Robin Hood



ROBIN HOOD'S GRAVE

November 22, 1247

Much controversy has prevailed with respect to this celebrated outlaw and the difficulty, or rather impossibility, of now obtaining any information regarding his history that can be relied on as authentic will, in all likelihood, render him ever a subject for debate and discussion among antiquaries. The utmost attainment that can reasonably be expected in such a matter, is the being enabled, through a judicious consideration and sifting of collateral evidence, to draw some credible inference, or establish some well grounded probability.

The commonly received belief regarding Robin Hood is that he was the captain of a band of robbers or outlaws, who inhabited the forest of Sherwood, in Nottinghamshire, and also the woodlands of Barnsdale, in the adjoining West Riding of Yorkshire. They supported themselves by levying toll on wealthy travelers, more especially ecclesiastics, and also by hunting the deer and wild animals of the forest.

Great generosity is ascribed to Robin, who is represented as preying only on the wealthy and avaricious, whilst he carefully eschewed all attacks on poor people or women, and was ever ready to succour depressed innocence and worth by his purse as well as his sword and bow. He is recorded to have cherished a special enmity towards the sheriff of Nottinghamshire, whom, on one occasion, under the guise of a butcher, and pretending that he had some horned cattle to dispose of, he entrapped into the forest of Sherwood, and only released on the payment of a swinging ransom.

Bishops and rich ecclesiastics were the objects of his especial dislike and exactions, but he was, nevertheless, a religiously disposed man, and never failed regularly to hear mass or perform his orisons. He even retained in his band a

domestic chaplain, who has descended to posterity by the appellation of Friar Tuck, and been immortalised in Ivanhoe. The lieutenant of this renowned captain was a tall stalwart fellow called John Little, but whose name, for the sake of the ludicrous contrast it presented, was transposed into Little John. Other noted members of the band were William Scadlock, George a Green, and Much the miller's son. A mistress has also been assigned to Robin Hood, under the epithet of 'Maid Marian,' who followed him to the greenwood, and shared his dangers and toils.

The same popular accounts represent this gay outlaw as living in the period extending from the reign of Henry II, through those of Richard I and John, to that of Henry III. We are informed that he was born at Locksley, in the county of Nottingham, about 1160; that from having dissipated his inheritance through carelessness and extravagance, he was induced to adopt the life of an outlaw in the forests; and that after having, with the band which he had collected around him, successfully conducted his predatory operations for a long course of years, and set all law and magistrates at defiance, he at last, in his eighty seventh year, felt the infirmities of age coming upon him and was induced to enter the convent of Kirklees, in Yorkshire, to procure medical assistance. The prioress, who is described as a relation by some, an aunt of his own, was

led, either through personal enmity or the instigation of another, to cause the death of Robin Hood, an object which she accomplished by opening a vein or artery, and allowing him to bleed to death. The date assigned to this event is November 1247.

It is stated that when Robin perceived the treachery which had been practiced on him, he summoned all his remaining strength, and blew a loud blast on his bugle horn. The well known call reached the ears of his trusty lieutenant, Little John, who forthwith hastened from the adjoining forest, and arriving at the priory, forced his way into the chamber where his dying chieftain lay. The latter, according to the story in the ballad, makes the following request:

*'Give me my bent bow in my hand,
And an arrow I'll let free,
And where that arrow is taken up,
There let my grave digged be.'*

The bow being then put into his hands by Little John, Robin discharged it through the open casement, and the arrow alighted on a spot where, according to popular tradition, he was shortly afterwards buried. A stone, carved with a florid cross and an obliterated inscription, marks the place of sepulture, and the whole has been in recent times surrounded by an enclosure, as shewn in the accompanying engraving.

This probably genuine memorial of Robin Hood is situated on the extreme edge of Kirklees Park, not far from Huddersfield. The site which it occupies is bold and picturesque, commanding an extensive view of what was formerly forest land, and which still displays clumps of gnarled oaks, scattered up and down, mingled with furze and scrub.

Finally, we are informed by several old ballads, and also by some writers of a later age, that this prince of robbers was no other than the Earl of Huntingdon, who, from misfortunes or his own mismanagement, had been compelled to adopt a predatory life.

The above statements, with many additions and variations by way of embellishment, are all set forth in the numerous ballads which profess to record the exploits of Robin Hood and his merry men. A collection of these, under the title of A Lytell Geste history of

Robyn Hood, come from a manuscript apparently of the latter end of the fourteenth century, one of the earliest English printers, about 1495. It forms the most satisfactory and reliable evidence that we possess of the life and deeds of the sylvan hero, and comprises one or two circumstances which, as we shall shortly see, go far to substantiate the fact of the actual existence of Robin Hood.

The Lytell Geste is divided into eight parts or fyttes, as they are called; the seventh of which, and part of the eighth, narrate an adventure of Robin with 'King Edward,' who, at the end of the sixth fytt, is styled 'Edwarde our comly kynge.' The only monarch of that name, whom we can consistently believe to be here referred to, is the lighthearted and unfortunate Edward II, who is described as having immediately before made a progress through Lancashire. His father, Edward I, never was in Lancashire after he became king; and Edward III, if he was ever in that county at all, was certainly never there during the earlier years of his reign, whilst, as regards the subsequent years of his government, we have indisputable evidence that Robin Hood had by that time become a historical personage, or at all events an existence of the past.

But with respect to Edward II, contemporary proof is furnished that in the autumn of the year 1323, and not long after the defeat and death of his great enemy and kinsman, the Earl of Lancaster, he made a progress through the counties of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Nottingham. Here a coincidence occurs between a historical fact and the incidents related in the ballad.

According to these last, King Edward having arrived at Nottingham resolves forthwith on the extermination of Robin Hood and his band, to whose depredations he imputes the great diminution that had lately taken place in the numbers of the deer in the royal forests. A forester undertakes to guide him to the haunts of the outlaw, and Edward and his train, disguised like monks, certainly rather an unkingly masquerade, but Edward II had little kingliness about him set out for the place, and on

the way thither are suddenly encountered by Robin and his men, to whom the pseudo abbot represents that he has only with him £40. The half of this he is obliged to give up, but is courteously permitted to retain the remaining moiety.

After transacting this little matter of business, Robin invites the abbot and his party to dine with him an invitation doubtless not to be resisted in the circumstances. After dinner, a shooting match commences, and in course of this the real rank of the pretended abbot is discovered, and Robin, falling down on his knees, craves forgiveness for himself and retainers. The king grants it, but on condition that the outlaw chief shall quit his present mode of life, and accompany his sovereign to court, where he is promised a place in the royal household. To this he readily consents, and accompanies the king first to Nottingham, and afterwards to London, where, for nearly a year, he 'dwelled in the kynge's court.'

Now it is at least a singular coincidence, that in the records of the household expenses of Edward II, preserved in Exchequer, the name of Robyn node occurs several times as a 'vadlet' or porter of the chamber in the period from the 25th of April to the 22nd of November 1324, but no mention of him occurs either previous to the former or subsequent to the latter of these dates. This was the very time during which, according to the ballad, Robin Hood lived at court.

We are informed that Robin, after having remained in the king's service for about a twelvemonth, became wearied of the court, and longed for the free and joyous life of Sherwood Forest. The king consents to let him go, but only for a short period, a condition which Robin thoroughly disregards after regaining his liberty. Rapturously welcomed by his old associates and reinstated as their leader, he continues for twenty two years to lead the life of a robber chief, and dies at last through treachery in Kirklees Priory, as already mentioned.

To read the full version of Robert Chambers' 'Robin Hood' visit The Book of Days on Emmitsburg.net.

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I would like to thank all my clients for your ongoing support, patience and understanding as we muster our

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I appreciate every one of you!
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ECOLOGY

Black Bears

Elizabeth Ryan
Strawberry Hill
Nature Preserve

The black bear *Ursus americanus* (literally meaning ‘American bear’) is one of those woodland mammals that many hear about, but never see. I am one of those people. I have worked at Strawberry Hill for eight years and have never been lucky enough to see one. I always seem to just miss them. Many hikers and runners have come across black bears in our woods.

Last summer during summer camp, the counselors had just left the woods with the kids to take them back to the pavilion for lunch. As soon as they sat down to eat, someone pulled up in their vehicle to tell us they were a little behind us on the hike and saw two male black bears fighting. Good thing we had just missed it! However, I got super excited and so did the counselors. This situation has happened so many times to me.

Now, I have seen plenty of evidence of the bears. I have seen scat and I have seen prints. Several times I have gotten to work to see our garbage bins (which are quite heavy when filled) knocked over and trash strewn all over the place.

Black bears are found in forests all over North America, from across Canada to the forests of the East Coast and West Coast. Black bears vary in size, ranging from 140-400 pounds. There has even been some recorded to be 800 pounds! They stand around 30 inches at the shoul-

der. Males are called boars, females are sows, and the young are called cubs. Males are generally larger than the females.

Black bears (as their name suggests) are primarily black in color, however some can be a cinnamon color as well. *Ursus americanus* is a great climber and swimmer. They can run at up to 30 miles per hour in short distances. They are most active at dusk and dawn and are solitary creatures except when the mothers have cubs. They prefer the shelter of the forest and like to avoid areas that are open.

Because humans are encroaching on the normal habitat of this animal, bears are known to get into garbage cans, bird feeders, honeybee hives, and even grills. Sometimes, they become such a nuisance that the Game Commission has to come in and move them to a safer location.

They have a highly developed sense of smell. This is how they find their foods. They are omnivores—meaning that they feed on plant matter and meat. They love to eat wild berries and nuts as well as leaves, grasses, insects, amphibians, fish, carrion, and small mammals. Sometimes, adult black bears will prey on newborn white-tailed deer fawns during their first few days of life.

In the fall, the bears are active, foraging for food to fatten up for the winter ahead. They normally begin to hibernate in mid to late November with the pregnant females going down for their winter’s nap first. Bears will create dens in rock fissures or caves, a hollowed tree, or any other crevice they can find. Females will normally give birth in their den. While bears do sleep during the winter, they also will

leave and defend their den.

In Pennsylvania, the average black bear range is about 8- 20 square miles. They will mark their territory by clawing trees or rubbing their bodies against trees.

The mating season for bears in Pennsylvania is in June to July. Females normally produce their first litter of cubs around 3 years of age where they raise their young themselves—without the help of a male. Then, they give birth in January in their winter dens. Most bears produce a litter of one to five cubs with three being the most common. Cubs are generally weaned at about seven months of age. They stick with their mother until they are a year old.

In Pennsylvania, bear hunting is allowed in order to control their population. “According to a 2015 estimate, there are around 20,000 black bears calling Pennsylvania woodlands home. In fact, the bear population has been on the increase for decades, and with habitat loss and an increase in development bears and people are coming into contact more frequently.” - Justin Kocis, WITF

Those that live in “bear country” can do a few things to protect themselves and their possessions. As long as food is available to them, they will keep coming back and continue to be bolder around people. Secure any food sources. Don’t put out your trash until the morning of your local collection day. Clean your grill and dispose of any grease (some place not outside that will attract the bears). Bring all bird feeders (including hummingbird feeders) inside at night. Don’t leave



Black Bear cubs grow very quickly and they weigh about 80 pounds by the time they are one year old. Young bears between the ages of one and two years old are called yearlings. Young bears stay with their mother for about one and a half years.

any pet food outside at night. Leash your dog at all times. If you keep beehives, it is best to put an electric fence around them. Years ago at Strawberry Hill, we attempted to keep bee hives in our meadow at the quarry. Every night, the beehive would be knocked down and have claw marks in them. Needless to say, having beehives around did not last long.

If you ever do come in close contact with a bear, one of the best things you can do is make loud noises to try and scare it away. Also, make yourself look as big as possible. Wave your arms or jacket. Then, back away slowly, while still facing the bear. Do not be afraid if it stands on its hind legs. It is not a sign of aggression, but instead a way to smell you. Most of the time, the black bear will simply walk away from you.

One day, I hope to witness the black bear in its natural habitat, and

I have no doubt that I will.

Strawberry Hill is open everyday dawn to dusk. Over the past seven months, Strawberry Hill has been a haven, an escape, a gathering place. More than 3,000 visitors have found reprieve and sought solace in nature. If you have not had the chance, join us on a private, guided hike with a naturalist. Learn more about Strawberry Hill online at Strawberryhill.org or by calling 717-642-5840.

The November 5th Giving Spree is right around the corner. Visit AdamsCountyCF.org to view the 2020 Giving Spree Resource Book designed to showcase Adams County nonprofits and how your gift supports our important work. Thank you for helping make Adams County a better place to live, work, and recreate.

To read past Ecology articles, visit Emmitsburg.net.



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Land Conservancy preserves 159-acre farm in Highland Township

Marti Shaw
Land Conservancy of
Adams County

The Land Conservancy of Adams County has preserved 172 properties in its 25-year history, and every one of them has its own unique character. The nonprofit land trust’s latest preservation project—Dan Brown’s 159-acre farm in Highland Township—is no exception.

Brown’s farm has been a priority for protection for many years. With approximately a third of a mile of Marsh Creek passing through a wooded section of the property, it plays an important role in protecting one of the major sources of Adams County’s drinking water. The forestland surrounding the creek, as well as the open pastures beyond, help to filter sediment and pollutants carried by rainwater heading toward the creek.

The property also includes important agricultural land and has a quarter of a mile of frontage on the Fairfield Road, providing passersby with ample views of its fields and pastures. This farm sits on the northern end of a cluster of preserved properties stretching down Scott Road along Marsh Creek and then to farms along Pumping Station Road—a block of preserved land that



is now over 1,100 acres in size.

The stone house and barn on the property were built around 1800 and witnessed Robert E. Lee’s retreat south after his defeat at the Battle of Gettysburg. In fact, the barn was one of many in the area to serve as a field hospital for the battle’s wounded.

Brown enjoys his farm because it gives him the open space he needs to engage in some of his favorite pastimes, which include foxhunting and aviation—both of which require plentiful open space.

Brown came into aviation at an early stage, following in his father’s footsteps. Brown’s family moved to Adams County in 1966, and to their Highland Township farm in 1982. Brown’s father worked in Baltimore and flew to work every day, avoiding the morning and afternoon rush

hours. Brown has fond memories of taking family vacations in the plane rather than a station wagon and taking Saturday morning flights to eat breakfast in Frederick.

Brown recognizes the uniqueness of his farm, and he wants it preserved “to keep it from becoming a housing development” after he moves on. He pointed out that his farm and the Weikert farm across the road make up the only stretch on the Fairfield Road between Gettysburg and Fairfield that has farms on both sides of the road.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is a fully accredited, member-supported, nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving the rural lands and character of Adams County, Pennsylvania. For more information, visit PreserveAdams.org.

IN THE COUNTRY

G is for Glacier

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Being described as the “Crown of the Continent” seems like a bold claim, until you visit Glacier National Park. Frequently, National Parks are described as having a magic like quality, and this one truly exhibits an enchanted experience. The park features an immaculately pristine landscape of turquoise lakes and rivers, rugged mountains, sheer cliffs, colorful alpine meadows, and dense pine forests. Complete with virtually all of the native plants and animals that historically existed here from before European exploration and settlement, this park boasts an absolutely incredible array of natural, cultural, and historical wonders.

Nestled in the Rockies of Northwestern Montana, Glacier is one of only two National Parks with an international border crossing, the other is Big Bend National Park in Texas. Known as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the mutual port of entry allows visitors to discover the National Park on both the Canadian and American side of the border. However, the area is in need of only personal discovery as Glacier National Park has been the traditional home of the Salish-Kootenai and Blackfoot tribes for over 10,000 years. The rugged landscape of the park offered shelter from the harsh winters of the surrounding plains. During summers the bounty of plants and animals made a sustainable way of life possible for millennia.

Europeans first entered the area during a series of explorations beginning in 1850. George Bird Grinnell, a noted geologist, conservationist, and eventual editor of Forest and Stream (which later became Field and Stream) made a series of survey trips through the area. With each subsequent expedition, he fell a little more in love with the land. By the early 20th century he, along with the lobbying efforts of the Great Northern Railway, championed the creation of a National Park. Their influence led to success and Glacier National Park was officially legislated into existence on May 11, 1910.

Glacier National Park bears its name from the many glaciers found there and their influence on the landscape. Words and photos fail to capture the uncompromising and imposing grandeur of the mountains as their majestic peaks soar into the sky above. During the last major ice age, vast amounts of snow packed and compressed itself into glaciers and ice sheets. As these massive forces bore their weight across the landscape, they carved out valleys and channels. As they retreated, deep canyons walls, rising several thousand feet, remained. Over the course of thousands of years and repeated cycles of glacial advance and retreat, ice chipped away at

the imposing rock carting off colorful pieces and scattering them across the park.

Lakes and rivers throughout the park are decorated with the many varieties of weathered stones deposited from the erosion. The rainbow palette of stones provide the bedding of many bodies of water throughout the park and together seems almost like a fairytale combined with the turquoise blue hue of water they are contained in. The water gets the enchanted blue-green color from glacial silt. As the rocks underneath the glacier are grinding against the surface, tiny particulate matter or silt is picked up by the snow and ice. When the water starts flowing from spring melts, this silt is very light and stays suspended in the water. As the sunlight reflects off this sediment it gives off its stunning turquoise hue.

Despite the name, Glacier National Park, the glaciers themselves are in trouble. During early exploration, detailed maps and assessments were conducted. At the creation of the park, in 1910 there were approximately 80 glaciers. Today there are 37 left, only 25 of which are considered active. Each year as the winter and summer cycles occur, the building and melting processes happen. When the melting process outpaces the growing the glaciers inevitably shrink, and the glacier is no longer considered active. Best estimates project that the remaining glaciers will be inactive or completely gone by 2030. The effects of this loss are still not fully understood as this local ecosystem depends on the slow trickle of glacial melt. Even far flung areas will feel the ripple as this water eventually flows out to the Pacific and Arctic oceans and the Gulf of Mexico.

The opportunity for outdoor recreation is abundant in Glacier



Towering rock walls carved by glaciers. Mountain slopes covered in orange, fuchsia, and bright yellow alpine flowers. Snow-covered peaks in every direction and turquoise lakes seemingly tucked between every mountain ridge. It's also the first park in the world that is shared by two countries, the US and Canada, making it a Unesco World Heritage site. It's no wonder why Glacier National Park is nicknamed the 'Crown of the Continent.'

National Park. This notion was not lost on the Great Northern Railroad as they pushed for the park's creation and encouraged tourism. An ad campaign described the park as the “American Alps,” and accordingly throughout the park they built charming ski chalets, many of which are still available today. The train may not run to the park anymore, but with the shoelace express hikers can explore over 700 miles of trails within the park. However, most visitors never even leave their cars. The famous Going-to-the-Sun Road is an engineering landmark. The road traverses 50 mountainous miles soaring nearly 7,000 feet up providing sweeping panoramic views of the valleys below.

The wildlife viewing opportunities are nearly as endless as the trails. With over 71 species of mammals, you can find moun-

tain lions, lynx, bears, and more. The mountain goat is the official park symbol, but other hooved animals like bighorn sheep, elk, moose, and deer are all common too. 260 species of birds migrate or reside here throughout the year as well. Pristine wilderness conditions have left dense ancient forests and alpine meadows undisturbed providing a snapshot into northern Rocky Mountain habitat over thousands of years.

If the altitude doesn't take your

breath away the glacier-scoured landscape certainly will. Glacier National Park is remarkably accessible to visitors of all ages and abilities through guided tours or self-exploration. The wide variety of altitudes, habitat, landscape, geology, flora, and fauna truly earn Glacier National Park the title of “The Crown of the Continent.”

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REAL SCIENCE

2020 Nobel and Ig Noble Awards

Michael Rosenthal

The 2020 Nobel Prizes in Chemistry and Physics have been awarded. The chemistry prize has gone to Jennifer A. Doudna, a biochemist at the University of California at Berkeley and to Emmanuelle Charpentier, a French microbiologist who serves as a director at the Max Planck Unit for the Study of Pathogens. Their work is the development of a gene-editing tool that can change the DNA of plants and animals with great precision. This technique has a very important role in cancer therapy and in curing inherited diseases. Goran K. Hansson, secretary general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences describes their work as “rewriting the code of life.” Their work was completed in 2012, so the award was somewhat of a surprise to them. The explanation of the technique is somewhat complex, especially for me, who avoided taking a biology course in high school in favor of chemistry and physics, so I urge the curious among you readers to seek out a more detailed explanation.

The human cell contains about 6 billion chemical units of DNA (so I’m told!). Named CRISPR, the technique can find and modify just one! The technique can find, find and delete, or find and replace just one unit at a time. Thus using this technique one can change the genetic information in any cell in any organism!

The technique has broad applications, from transforming the patterns of butterfly wings, mutating ants,

and for medical therapy for maladies such as sickle cell disease. Luis Echegoyen, president of the American Chemical Society (of which I am a longtime member), says: “It’s going to change the world and how we treat diseases.”

I’m sure you readers wonder how many women have won Nobel Prizes in chemistry. Since 1901, 112 prizes have been awarded in chemistry to 186 people. Seven of these winners have now been women. The Nobel is not only a great honor. Charpentier and Doudna will split an award of 10 million Swedish kronor. That adds up to about \$560,000 each!

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics has also been awarded. Andrea Ghez, a professor at UCLA became only the fourth woman to win the Nobel Prize in Physics, the first winner being the legendary Marie Curie who won in 1903 and who won again in Chemistry in 1911. Ghez’s contribution is the discovery that stars at the center of our galaxy are hurtling through space around a supermassive black hole. Ghez shared half the prize with a German astrophysicist, Reinhard Genzel, who observed the acceleration of stars in the galactic center. The other half of the Physics Prize went to Roger Penrose, a British mathematical physicist who discovered that the existence of black holes is an implication of Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity, in which gravity is associated with the curvature of space and time.

Three women therefore have earned Nobel Prizes in Chemistry and Physics this year, another major

step forward in the recognition of women in major scientific fields.

We have written before about the Ig Nobel Prizes, the 2020 awards being recognized in September. Here are a few of the awards:

Physics: To Ivan Maksymov and Andriy Pototsky for determining, experimentally, what happens to the shape of a living earthworm when one vibrates the earthworm at high frequency.

Entomology: To Richard Vetter, for collecting evidence that many entomologists (scientists who study insects) are afraid of spiders, which are not really insects.

Medicine: To Nienke Vulink, Damian Denys, and Arnold Van Loon, for diagnosing a long- unrecognized medical condition: Misophononia, the distress at other people making chewing sounds.

Psychology: To Miranda Giacomini and Nicolas Rule, for devising a method to identify narcissists by examining their eyebrows.

A recent obituary in The Washington Post reported the death of Mario Molina, who shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for demonstrating the threat to the ozone layer posed by chlorofluorocarbons, also known as CFCs. Dr. Molina was a fresh PhD from the University of California at Berkeley when he joined the laboratory of F. Sherwood Rowland at The University of California at Irvine as a post-doctoral fellow in 1973.

Chlorofluorocarbons are very chemically inert, that is they have little reactivity, and though they were



Alfred Nobel bequeathed his estate for annual prizes “to those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind.” Nobel Prizes are awarded in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and of course, Peace.

accumulating in the atmosphere, they were therefore thought to have no significant environmental impact. They were widely used – in air conditioners, in refrigerators as a coolant, in spray paint and deodorant sprays, and in other aerosol uses.

Their research revealed that these substances placed great risk to the ozone layer, which absorbs ultraviolet rays. Ultraviolet rays have enough energy to cause skin cancer and severely damage the natural environment. At high altitudes these chemicals broke down and released chlorine atoms, which are very good at destroying ozone molecules. The ozone layer is a thin segment of the atmosphere that absorbs ultraviolet radiation, which is high enough in energy to damage the natural environment and cause skin cancer in humans. Not surprisingly these scientists and their findings were not popular with the business world! However, eventually international action and cooperation did curb the use of these chemicals, and the action was ratified by all (!) members of the United Nations. Dr. Molina was a prominent voice during his entire career in promoting his findings on the danger of chlorofluorocarbons to the environment.

Those who deny chemically induced climate change either have a personal (often financial) motive, or they were poor students of chemistry. I taught first year college chemistry 19 years in a row at Bard College in New York, and I worked hard to include practical applications and effects such as this one in my course

materials. I believe a good science program always should include relevance to the world around us.

Hard work is continuing to develop a vaccine to protect us from COVID-19. Nine companies that are working to develop a vaccine have signed a pledge “to uphold the integrity of the scientific process” while they develop the vaccine. They have also pledged to “make safety a top priority”. Many people have worried that the current administration would promote a too-early approval of a vaccine for political reasons. There have been so many groundless claims against vaccines in the past, and there are people who would readily join the anti-vaccines outcry. It is thus critical that an effective and safe vaccine be developed, not just a quick vaccine.

The government has already spent some \$10 billion on COVID-19 vaccine development. Isn’t it a shame how science gets mixed up with politics. It always reminds me of the time when I was invited to run for political office in the town of Red Hook, New York, where I taught chemistry, and conducted water chemistry research in a stream that ran through campus into the Hudson River at Bard College, and I had many community environmental and community activities. I chaired the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council for seven years. I said “no thank you”...and some forty years later I still feel the same way.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Enough!

Jack Deatherage

I sometimes wonder what causes the things that go on inside my head. Occasionally I'll pick up layman's books on the workings of the human brain and marvel at what I don't know. I gather that everything is chemicals and electricity being shunted about on channels through various connectors interacting in a myriad of little understood ways. That happens in a normal brain, whatever a normal brain is.

It's nearly six years old the first time I saw something that shouldn't have been. A crumpled blanket, piled on my bedroom floor, moved for no apparent reason. At the time, I was sure a TV show I'd recently watched had put the idea of inanimate objects moving by themselves into my head. I'd discovered the power of suggestion! A power unrelated to Mom's suggestions, perhaps orders (such concepts are confusing), which usually involved me picking up crumpled blankets and making up my bed.

Years later I caused some of my high school biology class to question my sanity by stating I'd seen algae in a drop of water we were viewing through a microscope. No one else saw anything but a clear white field. I was adamant about what I saw and they were just as certain I was crazy! Turned out we all were correct. I was seeing "eye floaters" that I generally didn't notice unless I happened to be looking at a blank white surface. When you first notice those things at age five it's easy to forget they are there by the time you turn fifteen.

Something not so easily forgotten, and more difficult to explain, is the huge orange spider that I've encountered eye-to-eye three times from 1972 until maybe a decade ago. When I suggest huge I'm thinking easily a body the size of a tennis ball, legs sized to match. And orange as any dyed orange shipped to Marysland from Florida. No markings of any sort- just this monster of a spider hanging inches from my face.

I'd begun to imbibe alcohol occasionally in the early 1970s. Maybe a few beers, some wine, or some whiskey every few weeks. I'd heard heavy drinkers could have hallucinations so I never discounted that possibility even though I'd not yet become anything close to the drunk I'd eventually achieve. Was exposure to the irregular binges of

alcohol I consumed in those days enough to get me to see the spider as clearly as the tree limb and leaves it descended from on sober, bright sunny days?

I'm inclined to think so given I've scoured the internet trying to find a spider- anywhere on this planet that looks like the one I've seen! I've found none! Which leaves me pondering my reaction to the one I saw.

I'm slightly arachnophobic. I tend to react to spiders the way I do to snakes- a startled jerk, then a more calm moment wherein I plan my next move. The orange spiders hanging just inches from my face never triggered the startled jerk a real spider of much smaller size would have.

The only other person I know of who saw a similar spider was a heavy drug user. The guy was willing to swallow anything that would alter his reality and/or produce hallucinations! I can't say I feel better for not being alone in having seen the eight legged creature. Though other drug users I've talked to tell me the hallucinations they deliberately sought out were always just that, hallucinations. Nothing to be frightened by. However, they expected to see hallucinations! Could my subconscious, which seems to have conjured the dangler have also told my body not to react to the wriggling figment?

Damned if I know. But other possible hallucinations have scared me nearly witless. Perhaps because other people were with me at those times and I feared for their safety? (The laughing gods likely know the truth of that, but they's too busy laughing to pass it along to me.)

I'm told simple dehydration can also cause people to see things that ain't. I know of one such incident that happened to a friend who was wasting away from a cancer. He would sit in his wheelchair, calmly watching spiders bigger than his hand crawl up the room's walls and scurry across the ceiling. He wasn't on any kind of pain meds which seem to frequently cause hallucinations after prolonged use.

Mom took lycra for neuropathy, but gave it up when she began seeing strangers standing over her when she was trying to sleep. One of her brothers was taking Oxycodone for pain caused by a cancer he eventually died of. He told me he had carried on an hour's long conversation with a priest who wasn't in the room with him. Oh the joys of living long enough to have need of modern medical assistance.

About five years ago the Mad One and Cousin Luke went off to Russia and left us several bottles of distilled spirits. In my early explorations of alcoholic beverages I learnt to avoid such distillations as they went to my head too quickly and often set me on destructive paths that were amusing to my drinking companions, but hurt like a devil the next day. As I'd grown disinterested in the lighter alcohols I sipped with meals I began to consider the spirits- a raki from Turkey flavored with anise, a quince brandy from Croatia and a bottom shelf London dry gin. To my horror all three were delightful!

I happily switched from sipping store bought wines and homemade mead to distilled alcohols- usually bourbons, though I tried several rums and vodkas. The expression "demon rum" quickly came to mind when I began having bad dreams under even a finger of the stuff. Sleep also became restless under a finger or two of bourbon.

With the advent of the Communist China flu I switched to 190 proof grain alcohol because I could sterilize masks and hands while sipping enough to numb an ache that has been growing in one of my knees. A decent vodka also eases that pain and leaves me without the slightest hangover the next morning. However. I think the hallucinations may be starting up again.



Argiope aurantia, commonly known as the yellow garden spider, are non-aggressive, but may bite if disturbed or harassed. The venom is harmless to non-allergic humans, roughly equivalent to a bumblebee sting in intensity. They build their webs in areas adjacent to open sunny fields where they stay concealed and protected from the wind.

Recently, while driving to a friend's farm to see if they'd begun cutting their corn, I noticed a male African lion casually walking over a rise in a mown and baled hay field. Two things stopped me from getting out of the car and pursuing the beast- If it was a real lion I might become its dinner. If it was a hallucination I was going to start questioning my sanity, again.

Given that I wasn't as startled by the lion as I should have been, I'm leaning

toward it being a hallucination. After calling the nearest place likely to have lost a lion and being told they hadn't had one on the property in years, and no one has reported missing cattle or pets, I'm raising a finger of vodka, instead of the usual two, to the conjured lion. I'd sooner see lions that ain't, than spiders- whether they are or not.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

This is for the birds!

**Kay Hinkle and
Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County
Master Gardeners**

November marks the beginning of the holiday season. Thanksgiving is right around the corner, which means Christmas isn't far behind. For the loved one of a backyard birder, this is a great time to consider the birds for gift giving! Even though it is still November, this information just may give you a few ideas for that birder person in your life.

Idea #1: Feeders. Watching birds in the winter is enjoyable and fun to do. During the dreary days, we can lift our spirits by watching the little creatures flitting around the feeders and seed heads of perennials, and in and out of evergreen trees and shrubs. Many styles of feeders are available, from tubes and platforms to nets and hoppers. The more variety of feeders you provide, the more variety of visitors you will have. Tube feeders typically attract finches, while the platform feeders will attract larger birds like cardinals and blue jays and the netting can be filled with suet for the woodpeckers.

Many types of birds visit in any given period of time. Woodpeckers (red-bellied and downy), chickadees, juncos, white-throated sparrows, house finches, cardinals and tufted titmice grace us with their presence. An assortment of feeders and feed will attract a larger variety

of our flying friends.

Idea #2: Plant Life. When planning for winter visitors, plant things that have seed heads that can remain through the winter months. Common perennials such as black-eyed susans, coneflowers, and asters will provide seeds. When cleaning up the gardens, avoid cutting back perennials for this reason.

Evergreen shrubs and trees, like inkberry holly, American holly and white pines will provide shelter for the birds. Deciduous shrubs like viburnums, winterberry holly and sumac provide berries.

Gift certificates to your favorite garden center is a welcome gift to the birder and gardener. It will give your birder person an opportunity to choose some of these bird perennials, shrubs and trees to plant in the spring for the birds to enjoy.

Idea #3: Supplemental Food. We can supplement this natural food source by providing additional seed through bird feeders. Just as there are a variety of feeders, so goes the types of feed. Millet, sunflowers, corn and peanut butter can all be a food source for birds. The most versatile seed is the black oil sunflower seed. This seed can be mixed with peanut butter and put into suet feeders to attract woodpeckers; it can be used in hoppers as well as platform feeders for the cardinals, chickadees and titmice.

The least useful is millet. Typically when buying a bird feed



Watching birds in the winter is enjoyable and fun to do. During the dreary days, we can lift our spirits by watching the little creatures flitting around the feeders. Many styles of feeders are available, from tubes and platforms to nets and hoppers. The more variety of feeders you provide, the more variety of visitors you will have.

mix, the millet is what the birds will scratch to the ground and discard. It's mostly just a filler to add weight for the bag. Niger (thistle seed) is used in the tube feeders for the finches. These are tiny seeds and are typically on the pricier side, but the birds just love it!

Idea #4: Water. For best bird activity and bird health, not only should you provide a food source and shelter, but you should also provide water. A heated birdbath can provide that. There are many types of birdbaths and heaters on the market. Small fishponds, or just a clean dish of shallow water set out each morning can provide this source of water as well.

Idea #5: Nesting boxes. As you know, spring brings birds of all kinds back to Pennsylvania. They readily nest in areas where a steady

supply of food, water and shelter exists. Construction of a single nest can require thousands of individual 'search-and-carry' missions for nesting birds. Over the next few months, consider saving some of the following that might normally be discarded: string or yarn in 3-4 inch pieces, animal or human hair, strips of soft cloth, feathers, dryer lint, pine needles or shredded paper.

An increase in development and removal of damaged and dead trees has left many cavity-nesting birds with fewer natural places to raise their young. In addition, invasive birds such as the European starling and the house sparrow compete with native bird species for the use of remaining cavities. Some birds, like woodpeckers, are equipped to create

their own cavities. Others are virtually homeless with fewer nesting cavities available... which leads me to the holiday shopping tips I promised earlier.

We all know that blue birds like to use nesting boxes designed specifically for their use – when they can beat the sparrows to it, of course! Chickadees and wrens like nesting boxes as well and there are various types available commercially. Each box contains different features and is targeted to a particular bird species. Visit a specialty store in the area to choose the right one for you or the loved one on your Christmas gift list.

Constructing a nesting box can be quite simple for the handy man or woman. Basic features include: natural untreated wood, lumber that is at least 3/4 inches thick to provide insulation, a sloping roof to keep rain out, drainage holes to keep the interior dry and provide ventilation, and rough or grooved interior walls to help fledglings exit. Instructions for building your own nesting box are available on-line and at the library.

The habitat available to you will be the primary factor determining the type of bird you can attract. Place birdhouses in locations where the target bird is likely to reside – avoid any areas where pesticides may be used. The box can be mounted on a tree or a pole. Make sure the box is attached securely enough to withstand severe weather and wind.

Take into consideration the direction the box is facing and how much direct sun it receives. Many birds reject boxes that face due west because the box may stay too hot. Before placing your box, research habitat, nest height and direction preferences for the species.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener

When everyone is watching

Marianne Willburn

Designing a garden is a humbling experience, period. But when your design is instantly on display because you are planting an entrance or a driveway, it's a worrying experience. And, if you know that someday in the near future, gardeners will visit, scan your efforts and possibly pronounce them lacking, the process is just plain terrifying. Hell, I've even got non-gardeners who are more than happy to voice their thoughts at a possible lack of creative vision. The pressure is killing me.

For months I have been struggling with the bed at the top of my driveway, hovering between glimpses of the sublime and discouragement. If I had access to the type and size of plant material to which I'd like to have access, I'd have to find a very different subject for my column this month. However, constrained as I am by budget, time and energy, a design that might be the work of a moment to the Ms. Stewarts of this world is a teensy bit harder for the likes of me. To elaborate:

Budget: Consists of Lowe's 75% death racks and one-off specimens of rarer plants for which I lusted, but which had to be purchased in the singular.

Time: Ha! Running out of warm weather is nothing next to running out of daylight is nothing next to running out of underwear because you didn't get a chance to run a load of laundry. Every hour counts around here.

Energy: Yeah. I'm not twenty. Though I like to think of most things in my life as a challenge, the reality is, unless I know I'm going to meet and exceed my goals, it takes everything I have to try. It's the whole Mozart/Salieri thing, and I know way too many Mozarts that might be coming over next spring to tut tut over my tulips.

I want color! I want texture! I want an excess of joy! Bottom line, I want an entrance that says: The woman who lives here must have

paid someone thousands of dollars to create this masterpiece. Except she didn't so she must be a genius. Vanity, thy name is Marianne.

There are many things to consider when designing – color, texture, height and perspective to name only a few – but just because I understand this doesn't make things any easier. As of this morning, I'm on my third re-planting of this all-consuming project. I think I may have cracked it, but we'll see next spring when Amadeus comes calling.

Here are a few considerations if you're dealing with a difficult space, a non-existent budget, and a need to be brilliant in all things. I have nothing but awe for the garden designers and architects who can create beauty with a few scribbles of their magic pens. But I'm not one of them and chance are, neither are you. Good design might take us a little more time – but it's achievable.

Don't be afraid to move plants

And move them again. My gardening sister does not consider herself a garden designer, just a really good mover. Consequently, the gorgeous pathway and entrance to her deck has undergone more than four major renovations but makes her look like she's got a gift. She does: The gift of a good back.

You're going to lose time this way, and some plants really resent you for moving them around, but without the benefit of academic or designer experience, learning from your mistakes is a great teaching tool.

If something is bothering you about the design, chances are it's not right

We all doubt ourselves, but most of us know what the problem is, even if we don't know how to solve it. If you don't

trust your own instincts, trust those of a gardening friend. Ask them to look at the design and tell you what the flaws are. If you're on the same page, it's time to rip something out and try again. Asking for some ideas may only cost you a glass of wine and some munchies. Oh, and your pride [see 'vanity' above]. It's worth it.

Don't get discouraged.

Hitting what you perceive to be your own limits of creativity is a humbling experience, but despite my previous flippancy, it is precisely the catalyst you need to push you to the next level. Put down your shovel and come back to your project with fresh eyes and fresh energy.

Take chances

You are not growing as a gardener and a designer if you are sticking with the same ideas, the same arrangements and the same accolades. Yes there's going to be someone who doesn't like your design, but you must consider their designs and decide whether they are worth listening to.

Use perennials all the time? Consider evergreens. Conifers boring the hell out of your landscape? Try a weeping variety. Too much busyness? Simplify and make a statement with punchy repetitive themes. The point is to get better.

And yes, you can do so on a budget. Even expensive beauties eventually end up on death racks. I know, I bought all of them this fall.

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of the new book Tropical Plants and How To Love Them. You can read more at www.smalltown-gardener.com.



Backyards that provide fresh, clean, liquid water during winter tend to host more avian visitors than do frozen yards. In winter, water is as big an attraction as feeders. To keep water from freezing, consider adding an immersion-style water heater. You can help birds stay dry and drink more easily by adding several stones to the bath or placing a few sticks on top that the animals can use as perches.

should be made available in mid to late March. Don't be discouraged if birds don't find the box in the first season as sometimes it takes a few years for birds to find a new box.

Once the nesting box has been utilized, it is important to keep it clean for the next brood. Some birds will not inhabit a box with a used nest. Removing debris cuts down on the possibility of parasites for the next brood of fledglings. Some birders scrub the box with a 10% solution of chlorine bleach to ensure that any presence of disease does not linger.

And finally, extra energy is consumed in migration, mating and construction of their nests. Ample suet is a food source you

can provide. Feeding suet should be a year-round habit for birders, as it is a welcome source of energy all year long. Don't stop feeding suet to your wild birds when the weather warms. In addition, try tossing a few dried, crushed eggshells in the feeder. Nesting birds will appreciate the extra source of calcium as they begin to lay their eggs.

So there you have it – an early list of bird tips to keep you busy over the holidays if shopping, and over the winter if gathering scraps or building bird boxes or feeding the birds.

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

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PETS

Finally safe forever



Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

Every once in a while, I get reminded of what we really do at CVAS. I'm talking about the true, "this is it" goal of this animal shelter. We have tough, difficult and overwhelming times, but at the end of the day, it's what we're all about.

Naturally, this time, the reminder came exactly when I needed to hear it. Coincidence? I no longer think there are coincidences. After all, there are no accidents.

I spoke to an adopter via Facebook. She was helping me with a fundraiser that we were having online. During the typed conversation, she said something to me that rang so incredibly true to me, I felt it in my heart.

And I wanted to share it with you.

It begins last year with a pup named Gussie.

Gussie is a Chihuahua/terrier mix, so he's a little squirt. Not much bigger "than a loaf of bread" as one of the DJs I visit likes to call them.

Gussie was a pistol, to say the least. Cute as the day is long, but he had that terrier attitude in spades. He tended to choose the people he was okay with and if you weren't on the list, you needed to give Gussie a pretty berth.

He came into the shelter in March of 2019 and we weren't sure who on earth we were going to find to adopt this little package of pep and vigor.

Gussie stayed in our isolation area because his attitude wasn't terribly conducive to the adoption kennels – you were never really sure what Gussie would do and that kind of temperament didn't bode well for a constant influx of visitors.

We talked about Gussie and put him up on the websites we have for our adoptable animals and kind of crossed our fingers that the right person was out there.

The right person arrived in the summer of 2019. A gentleman asked about him and even after being told what we've seen in the little firebrand, he still wanted to meet him.

We try to be as upfront as we possibly can about the babies in our kennels. Yes, we want to find them homes, but we want potential adopters to be aware of what they may experience once they get the little bundles of fur home. What we've noticed, we tell people.

So, the gentleman had a pretty good idea of what he was walking into – and Gussie didn't disappoint.

Man, did Gussie set up a racket when he first saw this fellow. Barking and growling and going nowhere near him.

The man must have seen something in Gussie, because he didn't let that deter him. At all. In fact, he came back to visit time and time again (nine times total), bringing treats and giving Gussie the kind of attention and dedication that I hadn't seen in a long, long while.

The man's persistence and endurance was quite a sight to behold. He was going to get that little stinker to like him, no matter what.

And it worked. He eventually adopted Gussie and Gussie even has a canine sister in his house named Molly. The two are inseparable and make sure to protect one another.

The whole family is doing incredibly well and had a birthday party for Gussie that resulted in photos where that dog absolutely looks like the cat that ate the canary. I've never seen a more satisfied look on a canine's face before.

It's as adorable as it is hilarious.

In the neighborhood, Gussie is known as the Mayor of Ricklyn Drive. When I heard that, I actually laughed out loud.

So in the Facebook conversation, they said they can do anything with Gussie. There's no worry about his "attitude" that we had seen in the beginning.

They said they know he feels finally safe forever.

And that's the one that got me. I teared up a little and got that shiver down my spine that makes me realize the universe is talking to me. I knew I had better listen.

"Finally safe forever" is what we work toward at CVAS. We often don't know where our animals come from or what their background has been. Sometimes we wish they could tell us, but sometimes I think we're better off not knowing.

The goal of our adoptions is to give our animals that feeling – the innate knowledge that they are where they belong and that they will never be abandoned again.

Gussie found it. So did a lot of the babies we adopt.

You can see it in the photos we receive from our adopters. I don't know how to fully explain it – and maybe it's one of those things that isn't meant to be described with words – but you can tell from the expression in the animal's eyes that they are home and they know it.

It's heartwarming to witness that sentiment and know you had even a little part in bringing it into being.

"Finally safe forever" is what we're after at CVAS and if you think you



Johanna came into the shelter with her two kittens as a stray in April 2019. They were in pretty rough shape. It looked like they had urine scalding on their paws. Her babies have since found a home, but mama Johanna is still with us. This 4-year-old tortie girl has a great personality and loves to play, but for some reason, keeps getting overlooked. Do you have a home for this sweet girl?



Roland is a 1-year-old male rat who was found in a box near the Chambersburg Mall. He was found with three other male rats and they all get along, but do not have to be adopted together. We don't know a lot about these boys and we're looking for someone who understands rat care and behavior to take Roland home. Can you help him out?

For more information about Johanna or Roland 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.

can give that to a four-legged friend, check out our babies at cvas-pets.org.

I promise you, like Gussie's family, you'll be glad you did.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg, Pa., and can be reached at cvas-comm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply dona-

tions. 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, Pa. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.

To read other article by Jennifer Vanderau visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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Recognizing an emergency

Kimberly Brokaw DVM
Walkersville Vet Clinic

You don't have to pass a test in order to buy a horse. You can find them for free on the internet or buy one at auction or through private treaty. This leads to a lot of new horse owners that don't know how to properly take care of horses or recognize the signs of their common ailments. Luckily most horse owners don't have land with a barn, so instead board their horse with a knowledgeable caretaker. So while the owner may not have a clue as to how to care for a horse or even the brand or type of feed their horse is eating, the barn manager will know and is usually the first to notice if something is off with the horse.

If you're going to take a more hands-off approach to horse ownership it is imperative that you find a reputable barn with a skilled manager. Good questions to ask are how many horses have died in the last few years at your facility. Unless they run a retirement or rescue facility the answer should be 1 maybe 2. Same goes for laceration repairs that have required a vet. The well-run boarding facilities that I work for rarely call me out for emergencies despite having 15-50 horses at the facilities. They know the importance of prevention, and while accidents and illness happens, if you're having the vet out more than a few

times per year for emergencies then your preventive care needs to be re-evaluated.

One of my clients moved her family out to the country a few years ago. It was their first time owning land and she and her kids were happily acquiring animals for their farm. They started with chickens and then she and a few of her friends went to the local auction one day and all bought horses and brought them back to the farm. They were all first time horse owners so figured they could learn together about how to take of the horses.

"Boots" was one of the horses purchased that evening. He was an older quarter horse with bad knee arthritis. So while he was lame and couldn't do much more than walk, he was a very kind horse and perfect for what the family needed. They had no intentions of doing a lot with him and their main goal was to have a horse that they could safely brush and groom. Boots was perfect for that job. After they bought Boots, he and the other horses acquired at the auction came down with respiratory disease so I was called out to the farm to meet all the new horses. I told them that respiratory illness was very common in auction horses but luckily this was not strangles or flu and should clear up quickly. I also told them that Boots was too lame to ride but that they could give him

some anti-inflammatory meds so that he'd at least be comfortable in the field. Once Boots and his field mates were healthy, another appointment was scheduled to give all the horses their vaccines.

As Boots was their first horse, the owners slowly got to learn about how the saying 'healthy as a horse' is some sick joke as horses are far from healthy. They got to experience a hoof abscess and a rather dramatic choke where their daughter called crying thinking Boots was vomiting and dying as he was throwing himself on the ground while food and saliva poured out his mouth and nose. Unlike dogs, horses don't vomit. Instead the food had become lodged in Boots' esophagus and that's why it was coming out his nose in saliva coated chunks.

So as Boots' owners had now experienced respiratory disease, a hoof abscess, and choke, colic or a laceration was destined to be next on the list. It ended up being colic. Unfortunately though Boots' owners didn't recognize that he was colicing. When they came out to check him that night and found him down in the field, they assumed that his arthritis

was acting up and that's why he was laying down. They were able to get him up but he went back down a few moments later. They got him up again and when he lay down again, they assumed that Boots was just tired and went in the house and went to bed.

The next morning when they went out to feed breakfast, Boots was still down only now he was worse and couldn't even stand up. They called me to come out and said that his arthritis was bad and he couldn't get up. When I got to the farm I found Boots down in the field.

His owners were with him and said that even though it wasn't that cold (it was September), he was shivering so they'd put a blanket on him. Boots was minimally responsive and just laying there. His gums were purple. When I lifted off the blanket I could see where Boots had rubbed off most of his skin on his face, shoulders, hips, and legs. His heart rate was elevated and his gut sounds were absent. Boots had not gotten stuck down do to arthritis. He'd been colicing all night. He was laying down because his stomach hurt and as the night had progressed he'd gotten increasing painful and had rubbed off his flesh as

he'd rolled and thrashed trying to find a position that was comfortable. At this point the only humane thing to do was to euthanize Boots. His owners were devastated. They hadn't realized that his situation was serious until that morning. Colic had never even entered their mind and they felt terrible that they'd left their horse in pain all night long.

While horse ownership is usually a rewarding experience it is essential to educate yourself about how to take care of your horse and the most common illnesses horses get. Join a local trail-riding club, Pony Club, 4-H or other horse organizations. Many groups have veterinarians, farriers and other horse professionals come in to give talks about horse care. Having a good relationship with a vet is also important. If something is wrong with your horse you can always call or text your vet. My clinic has a vet on call 24/7 for large animal emergencies. You can always call and sometimes we can even walk you through what to do to help your horse and you may not even need an emergency vet call. We can also tell you when this is something that should not wait until morning and you need a vet out there now.

Winter, Snow, and Ice

Linda Shea
Frederick County
Animal Control

The current conditions at the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center include Winter, Snow, and Ice. Not the cold, wet, sometimes unpleasant stuff. The double-coated kind that howl harmoniously and have piercing blue eyes. Winter, Snow, and Ice are included in our current Siberian Husky-type dog collection.

In general, Siberian Husky-type dogs are physically strong as well as strong willed. They have a sled-dog mentality. If you are looking for a dog that will happily play fetch or cuddle with the resident feline, these are not the dogs for you. Sled-dog mentality means they are hardwired to pull sleds, in other words, run away from you. In addition, they often have a strong prey drive, making smaller pets fair game and will spend hours chasing and harassing (or worse) cats.

Dogs like Winter, Snow, and Ice need to have something to do all day. They are not made from the same recipe as a Shih Tzu. Siberian-types are designed to move, play, exercise and be physically challenged. They have great endurance. Being bored for most dogs leads to destructive behav-

ior. Making a more active breed type part of your family includes understanding their workout needs and providing safe ways to incorporate their instincts. You can modify behavior, but instinct is something completely different.

Also completely different are the grooming needs of a Siberian-type. While they are undeniably beautiful, that lovely coat will soon be shedding on furniture, carpeting, and flooring. Two to three times a year, these dogs will "blow" coat, meaning extra fur everywhere. Before making any of these dogs part of your family, you need to realistically assess how tolerant you are of fur...and how fond you are of vacuuming your entire house on a daily basis.

Winter is a six-month-old female, purchased from an online ad. Snow is a seven-month-old male from the same owner. They was surrendered because their owner is moving out of state. Ice is a two-year-old neutered male, surrendered for being an escape artist, the ability to jump a 4-foot fence, chewing furniture, and, according to his previous owner, "needs to be with a more active family." If you are interested in any of these dogs, and have the time and resources to provide a good home as well as an understanding of their inherent traits, contact the shelter for information on virtual adoption.

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THE YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

The importance of routines

Sarah Simmons

Over the past year, I've learned a lot about horses. But one of the most important and unexpected things I've noticed about horses is that they need a routine, just like I do. And their routine changes from morning till night and also with the seasons, just like mine do.

On the days that Emma and I ride early, I get to help with the horses' morning schedule. They get up early like all the other barn animals do. Mike has two cats that sleep in the barn, Will and Q, and two dogs, Troy and Jake that come out first thing in the morning with Mike.

When Mike, Emma, and I first walk into the barn in the mornings, it's very quiet. The barn is cool and dark with light coming in from the windows. Everything is very still. The barn smells like molasses and sweet hay.

The morning routine starts with a warm hello and lots of pets for the cats. They sleep in the tack room so I let them out as soon as I walk into the barn. Will is up early and greets me by rubbing against my ankles. I pick him up and put him on my shoulder, like a baby. It may seem like a strange way to hold a cat, but that's what he likes. And if I don't hold him just the right way, he jumps down and saunters off. I'm in the doghouse with him. Q is the 'boss of the barn' and he is sometimes a bit slow to wake up. He likes to lay in his bed while I tell him

good morning and give him his first pets of the day. He purrs quietly, like he is completely content. But that doesn't last long. Q and Will are hungry so it's time to feed them. Will's food bowl is on the floor and 'the boss's' bowl is on the counter. They eat leisurely like well-fed cats, not the cats that have to catch mice for their food. Yes, Will and Q like to chase mice, but they do that just for fun.

After the cats are taken care of, it's time to get the horses going. The horses have a very routine turnout schedule that they expect. When the weather is nice, they spend their days in the field or in the large turn out shed they like to hang out in. In the winter, they come in at night, where the well-insulated barn keeps them warm. Even on the most brutal of winter days, the barn is warm enough to go about my work in a simple sweater. In the summer, the horses come inside during the day, where they not only avoid the heat of the day, but the bit of flies.

As the dogs look on, Emma and I put food in their buckets. If we drop any, Jake the Jack Russell pup is quick to clean up our spills. He's good to have around. We carry the buckets out to the run in shed, where the horses are already there waiting for us. They know it's breakfast time.

It's important to remember the order of feeding. Kit always gets fed first, then Scotty, and finally Wesley. The horses themselves established this routine long before Emma and I started rid-

ing with Mike. Each horse has an established place that they eat just like I always sit in the same chair at our breakfast table. Kit eats first because he's the leader of the horses, which of course means his feed bucket is closest to the gate. Next comes Scotty who is next in the pecking order, and finally Wesley. If we change the order in which the horses are fed, all chaos breaks lose!

We always ride at night, that's the routine, and the horses know it, so when they see us, they avoid us because they know they are going to work. Before we can ride, we need to groom them. Grooming takes about 10 to 15 minutes for each horse. We brush the horse's coat first, then the mane and tail. Finally, we take care of the horses' hooves. The hooves are really important to keep clean because if a stone get stuck in the hooves it can cause sore places and make it painful for the horse to walk.

After I groom my horse it's time to put on his tack, that is, the saddle and bridle. It takes a while for me to get my horse ready to ride. I put on the saddle first, the quilt, saddle pad, saddle gel pad, and then the saddle, breastplate, and girth. Yes, that's a lot of tack, but as I've learned, each has important purpose in making sure the saddle feels comfortable on their back.

Next I put on the bridle. This is the tricky part for Emma and me. I'm not sure if we're just not good at it or if our horses are very very stubborn. Emma almost always has to get Mike to put on her bridle and I can get mine on by myself about half of the time. The problem we both have is getting the bit in the horse's mouth. But Mike says that we just have to keep practicing. When I get the tack on my horse, I'm finally ready to ride.

After ridding the horses always get a bath or are sponged down. This can be a fun time with the horses. I think Scotty and Wesley enjoy the bath, but I don't think Kit really likes his baths. He tolerates it and seems happy when it's over. Like a lot of boys. In the



Sarah, Kit and Wesley ready for the evening feeding routine. Routines make happy horses, and happy horses make happy riders.

summer I cool them off with cold water. In the winter, I use warm water. When I give them a bath, it's from nose to tail and everything in between. When dry, they get another good grooming.

About a year ago, Mike and his wife got a new puppy, Jake. He's one of the most amazing dogs I've even known. He's so fun-loving. When I'm giving the horses a bath, Jake loves playing in the water. He snaps at the water coming out of the hose, and follows the stream from the hose no matter where I point it. When I'm finished, he runs out into the field, rolls around in the dirt, and then comes back into the barn looking like the dirtiest dog you've ever seen. And of course, he shakes the mud off and onto whoever is nearby.

After I've finished the horses' baths, I dry them off and if it's cold weather I put on a blanket. If it's hot weather I put on their flysheet to keep them from getting fly bites. Next it's time for the horses' medicine. Right now, Kit and Wesley get medicine. Mike gets it ready and Emma and I help him give the medicine to the horses. This is good practice since I might want to be a vet one day. Then the horses get to go back to the field for some playtime before they eat dinner.

And finally, it's time for the horses to get their evening feed. I measure out their food and notice the strong molasses smell of the feed. I used to not like it, but now it's not so bad because it reminds me of the horses. Emma and I take the food out to the shel-

ter. And sure enough, just like at breakfast, all three are waiting for us. They're moving around excitedly, pushing against each other and against the fence. Just as I did for breakfast, the horses are fed in a particular order, Kit then Scotty then Wesley. I really like the sound the horses make when they eat. It's a quiet but happy munching sound. Because Wesley eats fast, he finishes first and sometimes tries to sneak a bite of the other horses' food. But I lead him away and try to keep him occupied until Scotty and Kit are finished.

Before Emma and I go home, Q and Will also need their dinners. So we feed them, pet them, and tell them good night. Then Mike puts them in the tack room for the evening. They're warm and snug in their comfortable beds.

It's the same routine, day after day. Everyone knows it and as long as we stick to it, everyone is happy. Routines make happy horses, and as I've learned, happy horses are much easier to ride.

Now we're done for the day. It's evening and getting dark and it's time for us to go home and get our own dinner. I walk back through the barn to go to the car to go home. When Mike turns off the lights and the barn is quiet, it's such a peaceful place. I love it. And I wonder to myself when I will be able to come back again. Soon I hope, very very soon... maybe tomorrow.

To read previous articles by Sarah, visit the author's section of emmitsburg.net.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Finalize financial issues in the year's final months

Ryan Fox

Someone who just woke up after being asleep since January 1 might think that the stock market has had a typical year. They would have missed a 30 percent decline followed by a significant rebound.

We are headed into the final stretch of a truly remarkable year when so much has been out of our personal control.

Whether asleep at the wheel all year or engaged in the challenges of 2020, the rest of the year should include time for finalizing some financial issues.

For those who handle their own investments, consider looking at your overall asset allocation between stocks and bonds. Rebalancing into stocks when markets fall is one of my favorite strate-

gies. But when markets rebound so quickly, rebalancing a little out of stocks might make sense in order to cut down on a little risk. But do this because of strategy not emotions. Please do not let election fears trigger a massive shift in portfolio strategy. More money is lost over fear-driven investment decisions than is ever made.

Next, maybe a few trips were canceled this year and some funds are available to max out that IRA or 401k before year end. Now is a good time to determine how much can be invested into these types of tax-deferred retirement accounts.

The Christmas season is fast approaching and now is the time to budget for gift purchasing so that the start of 2021 doesn't ring in with high interest credit card debt. Financially planning for the holiday season costs

is as important as ordering sooner versus later. With supply chain disruptions, coupled with shipping and delivery challenges, and for those who do the majority of shopping online, last-minute shopping is not a friendly experience in 2020. One solution is to buy local. We have many local businesses that would truly benefit from your patronage.

Estate planning is often a New Year's resolution which falls down the list as the year progresses. If you and your spouse do not have updated wills and powers of attorney documents (including a living will), call your local attorney and get a time booked to meet. Wrapping estate planning documents up before Christmas is a gift for your family to truly know your wishes in the future.

Finally, perhaps a milestone birth-

day is coming up soon.

Age 50? Congrats – you now qualify for a catch-up contribution to IRAs and other retirement accounts.

Age 55? If you have a 401k at a firm where you no longer work, you may be able to take funds out without a 10 percent early withdrawal penalty.

At 59 ½ we reach the earliest typical time when IRA funds can be withdrawn penalty free.

Age 62 is the earliest for most people to start Social Security and age 70 is the latest, but with so many variables, this can be a challenge to figure out.

A good start? Go to SSA.gov, set up an account, and look at your statement – take 30 minutes to review it and I'd bet a nickel that some degree of clarity emerges. We

cannot forget age 65, when signing up for Medicare is required.

So much of this year has been out of our control, yet so much is also within our control.

These tips are meant to help provide some advice. But remember that all advice here is just general. True financial advice should be customized based on your needs and what is absolutely in your best interest.

Ryan Fox is partner/owner in Huston-Fox Financial Advisory Services, a fee-only fiduciary advisory firm, in Gettysburg, Hanover, and York. 717 398-2040 or Ryan@hustonfox.com.

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From the Desk of Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

The Liberty Township Police Department currently has three part-time employees. We are hoping to add a fourth part-time officer to the roster by the end of November. The Board of Supervisors recently approved the purchase of body cams for the Police Department. Freedom Township recently accepted a proposal for police services with Liberty Township and an agreement is forthcoming. We look forward to the opportunity to serve the Freedom Township residents. We commend our Township Chief and part-time employees for their hard work and dedication to improving the safety of Liberty Township residents.

Winter preparations have begun in the Township and we will be prepared for the first snow fall. We added a fourth person to the road department for the winter season on an as needed basis through the summer.

Liberty Township is working on completing the ordinance codification. The codification will be easily accessible online,

for all residents to utilize. We have noticed a lot of activity throughout the township with building and excavating. Please be sure to contact the Township before beginning any work at your property to see if permits are required.

A Well Ordinance was adopted in September requiring permits for new wells. An Open Burn Ordinance and amendment of the Liberty Township Driveway and Street Excavation Ordinance will be presented for adoption at the November 4 monthly board meeting. The Liberty Township Board of Supervisors voted to extend the septic pumping requirements for all residents

until 2021. All residents living within Liberty Township who have a septic system should have received a pumping letter notification.

The Township building parking lot has been blacktopped and lined. There is plenty of space in the front of the building for parking and overflow parking is available in the rear of the building. A friendly reminder that the Township does have a drop box located at the front of the township building for township business including permit applications and tax payments.

The Liberty Township Board of Supervisors invite you to join us the first Tuesday of every

month at 7:30 p.m. for our monthly township meetings held at the Liberty Township Municipal Building. Please be advised that all meetings are recorded and streamed live on YouTube.

Remember to VOTE on November 3! The Liberty Township building will be open to

voters from 7a.m. - 8 p.m. The Township business office will be closed on November 3. Happy Thanksgiving! Stay Safe & God Bless!

Sincerely,
Walter "Mickey" Barlow
Board of Supervisors Chairman



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HEALTH NOTES

It's time to get your Flu Shot

Heidi Winkler
Frederick Memorial Hospital

Now more than ever, it's especially important to protect yourself this flu season. As we face both COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season, the best way to continue staying safe is to wear a mask, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and get your flu shot.

Getting a flu shot every fall is the most important step in protecting yourself and your loved ones from the flu. While the shot's effectiveness varies from year to year, it still prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor visits annually. The CDC reported that in 2018-2019, flu shots prevented an estimated 2.3 million flu-related medical visits, 58,000 flu-related hospitalizations, and 3,500 flu-related deaths.

Flu shots work by causing antibodies to develop in the body approximately two weeks after a shot is given. These antibodies protect against infection with the viruses found in the shot.

Your seasonal flu shot protects against the influenza viruses that researchers indicate are the most common during the upcoming flu season.

Drive-Through Flu Shots Available

Here at Frederick Health, we want you to have safe, easy access to the healthcare you need. That's why we're offering drive-through flu shots at the Frederick Health Village tent (1 Frederick Health Way) from 3-5 p.m., seven days a week. This service is open to everyone 19 and older, and you don't need a doctor's order to receive your shot.

This year, Frederick Health is offering Flublok, a type of flu shot that can be safely given to those allergic to the standard flu shot. The cost for the shot is \$97, typically covered by insurance or self-pay.

Frederick Health Medical Group is offering flu shots by appointment only at our Primary Care locations for established patients and during regular scheduled visits. Flu shots are also

available at our Frederick and Urbana Urgent Care locations.

Flu Season is Here

You can catch the flu any time of the year, but flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter. According to the CDC, flu activity tends to increase in October and peak between December and February. However, the duration, timing, and severity of each flu season can vary. Regardless, everyone 6 months of age and older should get their flu shot by the end of October.

If you have chronic health conditions such as heart or lung disease, you have an increased risk of flu-related complications. Flu shots have been associated with lower rates of some cardiac events among people with heart disease. It can also reduce worsening symptoms and hospitalizations among those with chronic lung disease.

Additionally, getting a flu shot helps reduce the risk of flu-associated respiratory infection in preg-



nant women by about 50 percent. A number of studies have shown that in addition to protecting pregnant women, a flu shot given during pregnancy can protect the baby from flu for several months after birth.

Getting a flu shot doesn't only protect yourself; it also protects others around you—including those who are more vulnerable to flu complications such as older people, babies and young children, and those with certain chronic health condi-

tions. Despite this, only about half of Americans get an annual flu shot. Many more lives could be protected from the flu if more people got their shot. Especially because we are in the midst of a devastating pandemic, it's important to take any extra precautions you can to protect your immune system.

Don't wait to get your flu shot. Take advantage of our convenient drive-through tent or call 240-566-HERE to make an appointment today



Because we
want you healthy,
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In times like these, we need to rely on each other more than ever. That's why it's important that you take care of yourself. We're here to evaluate and treat your healthcare needs, and help you access exceptional care, safely and easily. It's as simple as reaching out to us.

We're right here. [FrederickHealth.org/GetCare](https://www.FrederickHealth.org/GetCare)
240-566-HERE (4373)

 Frederick
Health
Medical Group

Free flu vaccinations for underinsured children

The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) encourages all Frederick County residents to get a flu vaccination this season. Flu vaccine is readily available in our community, so the Health Department's focus will continue to be prioritizing children who are uninsured or who do not have a medical home. The Health Department will be offering flu vaccinations free of charge to children 6 months to 18 years of age who do not have health insurance, have health insurance that does not cover the cost of immunizations, or who are unable to get the vaccinated by their healthcare provider.

Important information for Parents or 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.

With COVID-19 and the flu coexisting this fall, it is more important than ever to take all precautions to keep you and your family healthy. Our healthcare workers have gone above and beyond to keep our community safe over the past six months. We are entering a pivotal season and it will take all of us doing our part to get through it together. Getting your flu vaccine is the best way to prevent getting the flu and possible complications from flu. Symptoms of the flu usually start suddenly and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, muscle aches, headache, and fatigue.

An appointment is required to obtain a flu vaccine. Only the injectable (the shot) is available. The free vaccine is provided by the Maryland Department of Health. Appointments are available on Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Call 301-600-3342 and ask to speak with an Immunization Nurse to schedule an appointment.

Fire Companies miss opportunities to recognize milestones

Edison Hatter

During the summer months this year, the Harney Volunteer Fire Company received a major addition to their company: a brand new 2020 Pierce Fire Truck. The brand new Engine will replace an old Engine that the company has had since 1996. "Our goal is to get 25 years of use out of an Engine," Harney Fire Chief Don Yingling Jr. said, "and we did just that with the old Engine." Yingling Jr. went on to explain that the new Engine has the capacity to carry 1,500 gallons of water, more than the 1,000 gallons the old Engine could carry. "This is important for us," Yingling Jr. said, "since most of our calls are in rural areas where there might not be readily available access to fire pumps."

Additionally, the new Engine comes equipped with a compressed air foam system, which Yingling Jr. said is important as it allows the Engine to have more fire-fighting ability. Another benefit of the new Engine is that the layout and functionality is similar to that of the old Engine, so Yingling Jr. said he doesn't expect there to be much of a training curve while adjusting to the new Engine. The new Engine has already been involved in fighting at least two fires and Yingling Jr. said that he was quite pleased with the performance of the new Engine. The company worked with Emmitsburg-based dealer Bob Rosensteel, who aided the company with design and build specifications.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the company was not able to hold a proper community celebration for the new Engine. Last spring, the Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Company received a new Engine and held a community celebration to welcome the new Engine to the company. The ceremony included a traditional "Housing of the new Engine", during which members of the company and special guests pushed the new Engine into the

quarters, signifying its official entry into the fleet.

While Yingling Jr. said that his priority wasn't a ceremony, but rather "getting the new Engine into service as quickly as possible", it nonetheless would have been nice for the Harney community to have been able to properly celebrate the new addition to the Fire Company's fleet.

Elsewhere in the local area, the Graceham Fire Company has also felt a significant impact from the pandemic to an important event: their 60th anniversary celebration. 2020 marks sixty years since the incorporation of the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company, but all in-person celebrations have been put on hold. This included the annual awards banquet, which was cancelled. Instead, awards have been handed out to members without the usual recognition and pomp and circumstance. However, Val Kilby of the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company said that the sadder event for the company was the cancellation of the county-level awards banquet. "An elderly member who was nominated for a hall of fame award would have been able to receive it in person," Kilby said, "had COVID not destroyed this year. Unfortunately, that member passed away (non-COVID related) before the award could be given to him."

In addition to Graceham, the Fairfield Fire & EMS also saw the cancellation of their awards banquet, which was scheduled for the second week of March. Fortunately, awards were given out at the most recent in-person meeting in early October, but it still didn't come with the same formality and recognition as usual.

While some companies saw their 2019 Awards Banquets cancelled, the bigger issue looming is the upcoming 2020 Awards Banquets season. The earliest ceremonies usually begin in November, with the last ones wrapping up in March. No one from any department seemed particularly optimistic about the prospect of holding a 2020 Awards Banquet in-per-



The Emmitsburg News-Journal congratulates the Harney Volunteer Fire Company in their acquisition of their new state-of-the art Engine 111. This is an impressive feat for this small, but dedicated fire company. But for those that know the membership, it's not an unexpected feat. While the pandemic prevented them from holding the usual 'pushing' in ceremony for the new engine, we hope they do so when the 'all clear' is sounded - they deserve the celebration.

son in the standard format. "Our banquet is scheduled for January currently," Yingling Jr. said of Harney's planned celebration, "and while nothing is official yet, I find it unlikely we will be able to hold this event as scheduled."

Yet another casualty of COVID-19 was the cancellation of all carnivals in the area. Fortunately for the many departments, some of the funds were able to be recouped via federal and state acts. Yingling Jr. explained that the CARES Act enabled the Harney department to recoup some of their losses from the carnival, while the Fairfield Department also received funds from a grant to cover some of their losses. Nonetheless, the funds received from the state and federal governments did not cover all of the losses incurred from the cancellation of the carnivals.

Elsewhere, carnivals were also cancelled in Rocky Ridge, Taneytown, and Thurmont (both the Fire Company's and Ambulance Company's carnivals). The biggest loss of all due to the cancellations of the carnivals was felt by the local communities and families. Carnivals are an important tradition to local communities and something families and young children look forward to each spring and summer. That was unfortunately taken away this year and those memories can never be replaced; families and young children will just have to wait until 2021 for carnivals to return.

Also included in the cancellations was the annual Emmitsburg

Spring Fling. The Vigilant Hose Company took diligent efforts to try to hold the event, including delaying the event to the fall and rebranding it as the 'Fall Bash'. Unfortunately, despite waiting as long as possible and after considering every option, the event had to be fully cancelled for 2020.

Financially, the Frederick County Government was able to provide emergency relief funds to the Vigilant Hose Company to help offset some losses, but once again, this does not make up for the loss felt by the community. "The Spring Fling has been a very good fundraiser for us over the years," Spokesperson of the Vigilant Hose Company Tim Clarke said, "but far more disappointing is the loss to the community. The Spring Fling has always been an event that allows for members of the community to reconnect with old friends and school mates throughout the Emmitsburg and Thurmont area. This event is always a fun event from that perspective and we are very proud of being able to provide the location for the community connection. We are hopeful we can offer this event again in 2021 and we think the community will be looking forward to it as well."

Besides carnivals, many other fundraising events have had to either cancelled or modified to accommodate COVID restrictions. Bingos, which are put on by most local fire departments, have had to be cancelled due to

COVID restrictions for many months. Some locations, such as the Thurmont Ambulance Company and the Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Company have been able to safely resume bingos.

However, in other locations, such as in Fairfield, bingos have still not been able to resume. "There has not been bingo in Fairfield since mid March," Sarah Ginn of the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department said, "under the current restrictions in Pennsylvania, bingo has not restarted at this time for Fairfield. We have had to create other fundraising ideas to make up for the loss of bingo income. To-go dinners are currently being sold (drive-up style) every Thursday at Fairfield Fire & EMS from 4:30-7:00 p.m. More details and menus available on our Facebook pages."

Other locations where bingo has yet to resume have also had to come up with creative ways to fundraise. In Harney, the Fire Department has sold gun calendars and raffle tickets to win various prizes. Likewise, the Fairfield department has also conducted several lottery drawings to fundraise. Graceham has held some small in-person fundraisers, such as apple dumpling sales, quarter actions, and yard sales. While many local fire departments are doing their best to survive the COVID-19 pandemic, they still need the support of their local communities to help them get through this rough time.

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HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman
Originally published in 1969

Chapter 21

Hammaker Brothers, Inc.

Hammaker Brothers, Inc., a local firm specializing in memorials of character, was first established in 1874 by Frank Hammaker. In 1884 ownership of the firm was transferred to his brother, Peter Hammaker. Upon the death of Peter in 1925, two nephews, Frank E. and Ernest Hammaker purchased the business and operated it under the name of Hammaker Brothers. At this time, the business boasted two employees and was indeed a far cry from the present organization, which in recent years has employed as many as twenty-five persons. In 1947 the firm was incorporated and Ernest P. Hammaker became President.

Thurmont can be justly proud of this firm, which has gained wide recognition and through the years has erected several monuments of outstanding workmanship.

There stands on the Gettysburg Battlefield a beautiful and inspiring monument, dedicated to the valor of the Alabamians who fought at Gettysburg 100 years ago in the bitter struggle between the North and the South. Tribute has been fittingly paid by the State of Alabama in this monument, erected at the position which these troops occupied in their struggle to gain control of Little Round Top. The woman, the central figure,

symbolizes the Spirit of the Confederacy and the two warriors represent the spirit and the determination of all her men.

The Alabama Monument, erected by a Thurmont firm, Hammaker Brothers, Inc., was officially dedicated on November 12, 1933. The overall length is 27 feet 4 inches. The height is 12 feet 6 inches, and the depth, including the walk is 15 feet 3 inches.

The bronze figures are heroic size, the central figure being 12 feet high. The symbolism of the monument is very inspiring. The lady represents the Spirit of the Confederacy. Her hand rests on the shoulder of a young wounded man, naturally being one of the first in the conflict. The young man is passing the cartridge bag over to an older man who is going to take over in the battle. The Spirit of the Confederacy is pointing toward Little Round Top, the objective of the Alabama troops.

In order that this monument could be erected on the exact spot which the Alabama troops occupied during the conflict, a portion of the stone wall was broken.

The inscription on the monument, as you can see in the accompanying photograph, is "ALABAMIANS!" On the sub-base appear the words — "YOUR NAMES ARE INSCRIBED ON FAME'S IMMORTAL SCROLL."

Thurmont is justly proud to have had a part in the erection of this monument. It was origi-

nally designed with granite only coming under the woman's shoulders. However, the people of Alabama had the monument raised in the back in order to include the inscription "ALABAMIANS!" at the top.

The Alabama monument, paying tribute to the valor of the Alabamians is indeed a fine example of the work done by this local firm. Hammaker Brothers, now in its 93rd year, takes pride in the fact that their facilities for executing good work are unexcelled and their fine reputation has been built upon honest service to its many customers and to the community, which it serves.

Chapter 22: Further Progress

Water Company

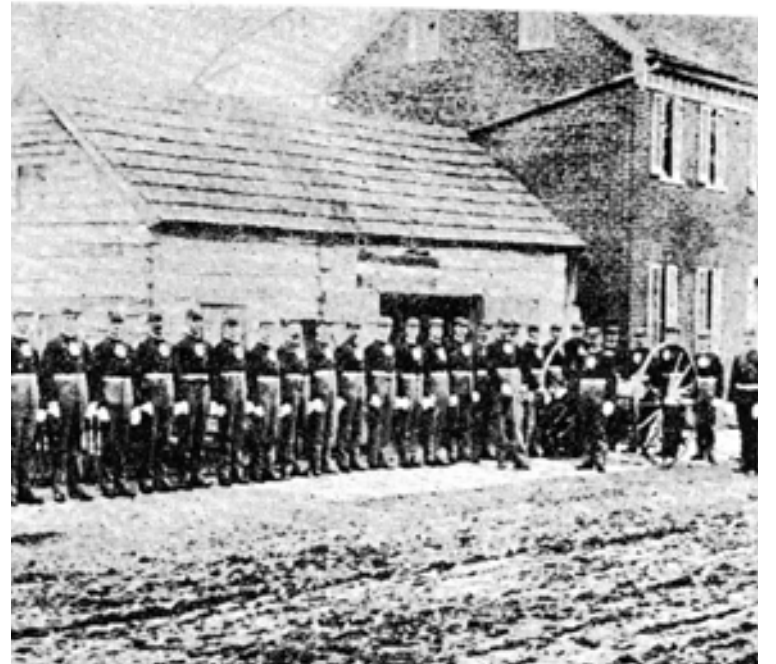
As Mechanicstown grew, the need for water facilities was soon felt and in 1887 the Mechanicstown Water Company was formed. Water mains were then laid throughout the town, bringing the pure water from the head-springs of High Run into the homes of the towns-people. This organization was owned privately until in recent years the Commissioners of Thurmont voted to purchase it. They felt that the Town of Thurmont could provide better facilities and maintain it at a lower cost.

Although the Town of Thurmont now owns and operates the Mechanicstown Water Company, its name has not been changed and thus still links Thurmont with its historic past.

Fire Company

On June 27, 1887, shortly after water from High Run was cut into the water mains, the citizens of Mechanicstown organized their own fire company known as the Guardian Hose Company. Those responsible for forming the organization were M. E. Leatherman, James C. Mackley, Charles E. Cassell, S. M. Birely, John F. D. Miller, Frank Stokes and H. C. Anders.

The first officers of the company were: M. E. Leatherman, President, S. M. Birely, Treasurer, James C. Mackley, Vice President, Frank Stokes, Chief Hoseman, Charles



The Guardian Hose Fireman's Drill Team of 1888

E. Cassell, Secretary, H. C. Anders, Chief Pipeman

In those days there were no modern pieces of equipment like we have today. The original pieces of apparatus were two heavy hose reels, which the men dragged through the streets to the fire.

Today the Guardian Hose Company's equipment includes the following: two 500-gallon pumpers, two 750-gallon pumpers, one 800-gallon tank truck with a 350-gallon pumper. In addition to the tank truck, two of the pumpers carry 400 gallons of water with them, and a third one carries 500 gallons of water.

Misfortune befell the Guardian Hose Company on July 2nd, 1907 when the old Stocksdale warehouse was destroyed by fire and the company's records were lost. As a result of this loss, the company was then reorganized.

Early disastrous fires in the area included one that almost wiped out the village of Creagerstown, one which leveled the Root Brothers' Cannery, and the Stocksdale Warehouse. These fires, which caused considerable damage, occurred many years ago and was attributed to insufficient water. Today, this condition does not exist, and the town is well protected.

The original Fire Hall was located in the basement of the old Town Hall that was built in 1890. In 1949, the old Town Hall was torn down and a new and modern fire house was built on the same site and dedicated on July 22, 1951.

Membership of the Guardian Hose Company totals 135. The average number of calls per year ranges from 60 to 70 and the average number of men responding to each fire alarm is 18. From the very beginning of the organization in 1887, the Guardian Hose Company has had 8 Presidents, 16 Vice-Presidents, 16 Secretaries, and only 6 Fire Chiefs. The Fire Chiefs were Edward L. Root, John M. Creeger, Roy Creeger, Omer J. Dubel, George Black, and the present Chief, Harry O. Miller.

The Guardian Hose Company is a member of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and the Frederick County Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Back in 1888, just a year after the organization was founded, the firemen of Mechanicstown had one of the finest drill teams in the area. This team was composed of two drummer boys, Victory Cramer and Harry Cover. Members were Edward L. Root, Calvin C. Fox, Charles Black, William Sefton, Martin Foreman, Edwin Gernand, John Cover, William Black, Alfred Weller, Charles R. Eyler, Sr., Samuel B. Bennett, J. Irvin Mackley, Martin Buzzard, James Stokes, Edward Zeck, Harry Gaugh, M. Luther Creager, McClellan Baltzell, J. Wesley Creeger, Morris L. Rouzer, Henry W. Henshaw, John A. Stull, Charles H. Osier, George W. Wireman, Charles M. Mackley, Elmer E. Black, Charles M. Root, Robert E. Creeger, Henry Bennett, and Frank Stokes.

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HISTORY



Thurmont National Bank building on the south-west corner of the square.

Thurmont Bank

With all the industries in the community during the early days, the firm of Birely and Osier was organized in 1889 by Samuel M. Birely and Van B. Osier. They began in a small building on Main Street, and for twelve years conducted a general banking business upon safe and conservative methods. The present bank building was built in 1891. Mr. Osier died in 1901 and following his death, Mr. Birely took in several associates and the banking business was then chartered as the Thurmont National Bank with a capital of \$25,000. Although the bank today is not a National Bank, it goes by the name of Thurmont Bank. In October 1967, the directors of the Thurmont Bank broke ground for a new Drive-In and Walk-In facility which is to be located on the corner of East Main Street and Apple's Church Road.

The Directors feel that this facility has been needed for quite sometime and will help to relieve the congestion which occurs on pay days at the central location. In December 1964, the Thurmont Bank opened their first branch bank at Cascade just adjacent to the entrance to Fort Ritchie.

Electric Company

Now that the community had running water, an active Fire Department and a bank, the citizens began to feel that the town was large enough to support its own electric power company. In 1908, the business men of the community joined

together and organized the Electric Light and Power Company. Their first move was to install an electric plant to furnish light and power for the town. To accomplish this they floated a \$25,000 bond issue to build a dam on Hunting Creek to furnish power and a plant to generate the electricity. A large wooden pipeline was laid from the dam, located on Route 77 West of town, to the electric plant, located on the site of the present Town Office Building.

This plant operated successfully for fifteen years, but due to the growing demands for current and a shortage of water in dry seasons, it soon became necessary for the community to purchase their current from the Potomac Edison Company. The local plant later proved entirely inadequate and was finally abandoned and all of the electric current is now purchased from the Potomac Edison Company.

The first telephone in the com-

munity appeared around 1906 and the first telephone exchange was established on December 29, 1906 at the home of Rev. Martin on West Main Street. The first local operators were his two daughters, Mary and Ollie Martin.

Later the exchange was set up in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Firor on Church Street. In 1948 the operators included Mrs. Luther Buhman, Mrs. Maude Pendergast, Pearl Portner, Mrs. Audrey Riffle, Mrs. Pauline Firor, and Mrs. Jean Riffle. Thomas B. Stone was Manager and Harold Creeger, Assistant Manager.

As the town increased in size and the demand for more telephones was met, the C. & P. Telephone Company began to modernize their facilities in the County. Thurmont was then changed to dial system and a small building was erected on Frederick Road to house the dial equipment.

Continued next month.

Richard Herring



Richard D. 'Dick' Herring, 89, of Emmitsburg Rd., Gettysburg, died Monday, October 5, at Genesis Healthcare Gettysburg Center.

Dick was the widower of Dorothy L. 'Dottie' Appler Herring who died September 27, 1997. He was the son of the late John Herring and Beulah Copenhagen Herring.

Dick was a 1949 graduate of Gettysburg High School and a Veteran of the Korean War, where he was a Sergeant First Class in Field Command to the 45th Thunderbirds, Battery C, in the United States Army. He was an office manager for Keystone Cabinets and retired a bookkeeper at the Gettysburg Foundry.

Dick and Dottie were member of Elias Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. They didn't have any children, and Dick was an only child, thus leaving him at the end of his family tree. He will be remembered by his cousins and friends, Betty Myers, John Buchheister, Samuel Topper, Pastor Jon Greenstone and his friends of Elias Lutheran Church. Dick was a member of the Gettysburg Moose. Dick and Dottie took lots of interest in their church and touched the lives of many people with their kindness and gentle touch.

Funeral services were held October 9th at Elias Lutheran Church with Pastor Jon Greenstone officiating. Burial, with full military honors being presented by the Adams County Allied Veterans, was at the Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg. Online condolences may be made at monahanfuneral-home.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to Elias Lutheran Church, 100 W. North St., Emmitsburg, Md. 21727.

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Taneytown & the Battle of Gettysburg

David Buie

In last month's column, I addressed the most frequently asked question regarding Taneytown's involvement in the Battle of Gettysburg as well as a lesser-known occupation by the Union Army. This month, I will discuss how Taneytown was affected once the battle began, the town's reverence after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and how the city commemorated the one-hundredth year following General Meade establishing his headquarters in Taneytown.

As troops began to deploy towards Gettysburg, at Meade's headquarters established at Shunk's Farm, newspaper correspondents arrived. "Whitelaw Reid, the reporter for the Cincinnati Gazette, had been in Frederick on the morning of July 1, 1863, when he learned that Meade had moved his headquarters to Taneytown, he expected that Meade had detected a concentration of the enemy to the northwest and therefore a battle

was imminent. L. L. Crouse, the reporter for the New York Times, had taken the wrong road while out scouting for a story and came upon the Confederate columns advancing through Cashtown Gap upon Gettysburg, thinking that this information was vital to the Union forces he at once rode to see General Reynolds.

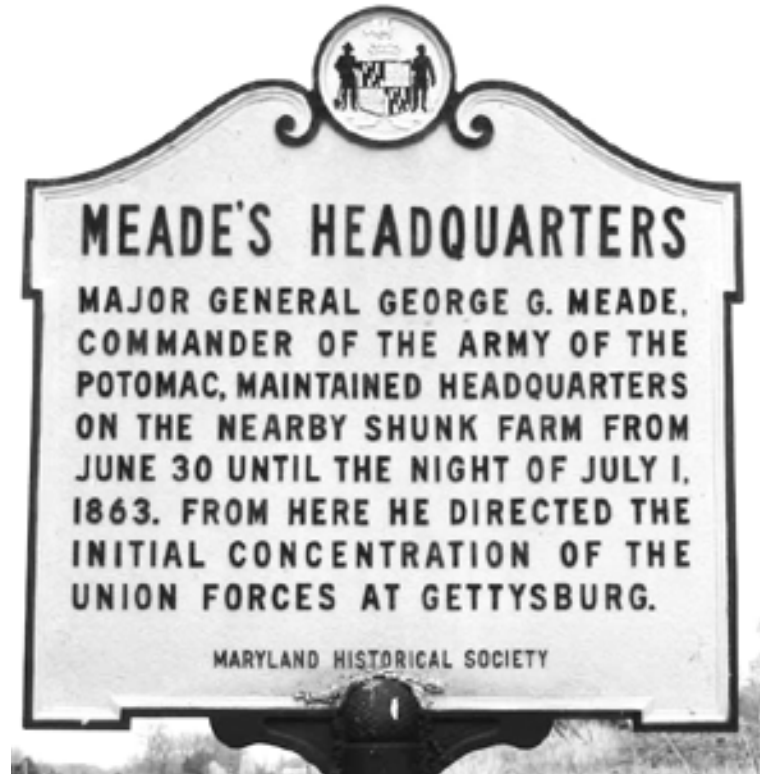
Reynolds had been killed on July 1 at Gettysburg. With the story of Reynolds's death and of the Confederates advancing into Gettysburg, Crouse headed for Taneytown." As the story of General Reynolds death spread through Taneytown, there was sorrow in the hearts of all the soldiers, even the "hardened" ones. Correspondents seated on tavern porches, possibly the porch of the Old Stone Tavern, or the Adam Good Tavern or even Sauble's Inn, began to prepare dispatches to be sent by special messenger the Frederick telegraph office to be sent to the prospective newspapers.

"Meade at once went into action, by ordering General Hancock to turn his command over

to General Gibbon and proceed at once to Gettysburg to take control of the forces there and inform Meade of the situation. Hancock left Taneytown in an ambulance to study a map of the area in which he was about to fight. Upon nearing Gettysburg, he ordered his swiftest horse brought up and proceeded on to Gettysburg on horseback. Hancock's first message to General Meade was carried about 4:00 p.m. July 1, by Major William G. Mitchell, his aide-de-camp, who arrived in Taneytown about 6:00 p.m.

"At that time, Meade gave up the idea for the Pipe Creek campaign and decided to fight at Gettysburg. A signal station was set up in the bell tower of the Trinity Lutheran Church, and messages were sent to the tower of the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg and later the Culp's Hill station. This process took from 7 to 11 minutes; signalmen were stationed on the high points between Taneytown and Gettysburg to relay the message." All was in confusion and fear in Taneytown, and the surrounding countryside as the men and wagons of the Union army left the area. One can imagine the streets and fields' condition after thousands of men, wagons, and animals tramp over them for days. "The 9th Massachusetts of McGilvery's Reserve Artillery Brigade suffered the loss of a cannoner and a team of horses in an explosion of a caisson on the rough and rocky road to Gettysburg." On July 1, at 10:00 p.m., General Meade moved his headquarters to Gettysburg, and Taneytown was left to recover its quiet and solitary nature. All that remained was the sound of the guns booming out death on the fields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

On April 15, 1865, Taneytown would again be united during this decade, with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. While many mourned his death, many did not. As Martha Hodes recounts in her book "Mourning Lincoln," some Northerners who thought Lincoln too dictatorial and



some Radical Republicans who thought him too lenient toward the Confederacy welcomed news of his assassination. After a meeting of Radical Republicans hours after the shooting, Indiana Congressman George Julian recorded in his diary that the "universal feeling among radical men here is that his death is a godsend." Michigan Senator Zachariah Chandler wrote to his wife that God had permitted Lincoln to live only "as long as he was useful and then substituted a better man (Johnson) to finish the work." However, in Taneytown, as in other loyal Union communities, the churches, particularly the Lutheran Church, were draped in mourning for President Lincoln. It is also noted that special services were held in his memory.

One hundred years later, Taneytown's citizens remembered General Meade and the Union Army soldiers who encamped on the nearby farms with the dedication of a commemorative plaque. The plaque was placed near the area where General Meade established his headquarters on the Benjamin Shunk Farm. The program was arranged by the Federation of Republican Woman

and was chaired by Mrs. Virginia Sanders. The dedication was opened with an invocation by Rev. Howard Miller of Trinity Lutheran Church. The plaque was donated by the Director of the Maryland Historical Society. Neal Powell, a Taneytown City Council member hosted the dedication, and Taneytown Mayor Raymond Perry accepted the plaque on behalf of the City of Taneytown.

Robert and Richard Reindollar did the unveiling of the plaques. Robert and Richard are the great grandsons of Rev. Levi T. Williams. Rev. Williams met Meade and invited him to the parsonage upon Meade's arrival in town.

The plaque can still be seen today and is located on the Francis Scott Key Highway (Maryland Route 194) one mile north of Taneytown Pike (Route 140).

David Buie is a graduate of the University of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins University. He is an active member of the Taneytown Heritage and Museum Association.

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

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

November 5

First Hunting Accident

Ira Stoops, a Fairfield barber, was the first hunting accident victim on the rabbit season when he was shot by an unknown hunter, at McGinley's Hill, near Fairfield. Mr. Stoops was peppered with shot from his head to his feet, his injuries however are not considered severe. Mr. Stoops was one of the many hunters in the field when a rabbit jumped out near him. Although he called to the others hunters not to shoot, one of the men fired, and Mr. Stoops fell. The man who fired the shot, and those with him, ran. They were later found and brought back to the scene of the accident but refused to say which one had fired. Each refused to give his name.

Emmitsburg Source of County Hooch

It is the complaint of local magistrates that more charges of intoxication are being brought before them than ever before, and that in most instances, the person charged with overindulgence is more sick than drunk. Drunks the police pick up are almost invariably found senseless on streets or roads, and once revived insist that they could not have been intoxicated, as they had so little to drink. It is the quality, not quantity, which mows them down like grain, for the Emmitsburg area is full of mountain liquor, which in many instances is a little better than outright poison.

Since prohibition became a fact, the mountain upon which Emmitsburg backs up too has become a haven for stills brewing illicit liquor. Moonshiners have found their output are always in demand and by efficient arrangement's they can dispose of as much as they want through middleman and distributors. But enough of the liquor stays in Emmitsburg area to afford is populous all that it requires. There is hardly a house or a farm where drinks cannot be had to the full extent of the purchaser's capacity to pay.

November 12

Caught Beneath Tractor, Killed

Grant Springer, of near Emmitsburg, died almost instantly Saturday afternoon when he lost control of his threshing machine and it overturned. After the accident he walked uphill with blood streaming from his nose, mouth, and ears. His brother, Columbus, who was nearby, ran, caught, and held him while the injured man died in his arms.

Springer had just finished threshing for his brother on the latter's farm near Emmitsburg, and was returning with his tractor. As he started going downhill, the machine got beyond his control, presumably because of the breaking of the steering wheel. The engine upset, righted itself, and then went into a gutter and against the bank.

It is believe that Springer was

struck across the breast by the steering wheel when it broke, and when the engine was upset he was thrown beneath it. The bones of his breast were broken and crushed and forced against his heart. The deceased was 26 years old and well known. He had quite a reputation as a machinist and had been operating the latest farm equipment for some years. His sudden death was quite a shock to his many friends.

Shot At Insulators

Curtis Powell and Ralph Harmon, both of Thurmont, were given a hearing before the Justice of the Peace, on the charges of shooting at high tension insulators on the transmission lines of the Hagerstown and Frederick Railway Company. The railway company has been experience a great amount of trouble for sometime owing to power line insulator being destroyed by gunfire, resulting in service interruptions. Instead of sentencing the offenders to the penitentiary, he held the case open for further action as the record of both youths being clear to the time of this charge.

Apple Packing Criticized In County

Adam's County apple growers must use greater care and honesty in packing their apples if they hope to continue to sell them. Wholesalers have begun to refuse to handle Adams County packed apples unless they have been packed by a grower whose reputation is known to the wholesale trade. This condition has been brought about by the fact that in the past, growers have been prone to pack their apples carelessly, putting the best apples on the top of the barrel, and packing the middle and bottom of the package entirely with undesirable apples. As a correct measure, the County is developing apple packing and grading regulations. It is believe that these regulations will do much towards securing a permanent place for Adam's County apples nationwide.

Detour Bridge Opens

Frederick County Commissioners stated that the public roads of the County are in fairly good condition at this time. A great deal of repair work had been done during the summer and that while more is needed in places, most can wait until next spring. The roads that need attention most have been looked after and considerable repair work was also done to culverts and small bridges. Several bridges over the Monocacy River were repaired, including the construction of a new bridge over Double Creek in Detour which has been completed and opened to traffic.

November 19

Mill at Zora Burns to Ground

To purchase a 90-year-old mill only six months ago, to refit it with \$7,000 worth of brand new machinery, and then to lose the entire establishment together with the garage,



Zora, as it appeared in the early 1900s. Too small to have their own fire company, Zora had to depend upon those in neighboring communities to put out fires like that at the Liberty Rolling Mills.

touring car and truck was the misfortune of V. H. Beam of Zora.

Fire, which is believed to have started from a stove's flue, broke out at the east end of Mr. Beam's mill known as the Liberty Rolling Mill of Zora, near the junction of the Gettysburg-Waynesboro Road and the Emmitsburg-Waynesboro Pike. The Liberty Rolling Mills, the most prestigious establishment of its kind in that section of Adams County, was built about 90 years ago.

In a short time the fire gained tremendous headway. As soon as the alarm had spread over the countryside, people from Emmitsburg, Fairfield and surrounding sections arrived on the scene in droves. Due to the fact that the flames were burning beneath the thin surface of the roof and the old shingle surface it was exceedingly difficult to fight them. Coupled with this was a high wind, which helped materially to fan the flames to great heights.

Approximately 2,100 bushels of grain were contained in the building besides the \$7,000 worth of new equipment which had been installed exactly one month and one day before the breaking out of the fire. In addition, Mr. Beam lost his touring car, truck and all the contents of the garage. In total the fire cost Mr. Beam an estimated \$20,000, of which only \$7,000 was covered by insurance.

Ice Damage To Trees Is Great

Losses to Adams County fruit growers totaling many thousands of dol-

ars have been caused by ice, which broke the limbs of apple and peach trees as a result of rain followed by freezing temperatures. One fruit grower stated after a survey of all the damage has been taken throughout the county, he believed the losses would mount to near \$50,000. For a few growers, where the low temperatures allowed the ice to remain longer on the trees, losses were almost total.

Knitting Mill Closes

The knitting mill in Emmitsburg closed last week due to the scarcity of material.

November 26

Pig Club Round Up

The nine Doroc-Jersey gilts belonging to the boys in the Fairfield Breeding Club were judged Tuesday afternoon at the farm of Harry Brown, of Fairfield. Charles Rummhugger, of State College, did the judging of the pigs and gave a short talk to those present on a particular features looked for in a good pig. The first prize was won by Floyd Brown, the second third fourth and fifth prizes were one by Paul Strasbaugh, William Neely, Charles Landis, and Dwight Strasbaugh. All the boys will carry their pigs over as breeding sows for the next year's program in club work.

Fined for Intoxication

State troopers, driving along the Harney Road early Sunday morn-

ing, noticed an automobile coming towards them in a zigzag course. Investigation found that the occupants, Howard and Clement Bechtel, who live in Taneytown, who were returning from the weekly meeting of the Former-Former Boozers Association, were thoroughly intoxicated. So much so, they were unable to remember their own names until the following morning.

The pair was ordered to pay a fine of \$10.25 apiece for driving an automobile while under the influence of liquor. The pair offered to pay their fine in hooch, but after extensive deliberation, the offer was refused by the Justice of the Peace when his wife got word he was considering it. The pair was only released after their toughly annoyed wives showed up to pay the fine.

Major Castle Dies

Major George Castle, Commander of the Government Stores in Frederick during the raid a general Jubal early, when the Confederate officer extracted ransom of \$200,000 to save the town from destruction by fire, died Thursday night at his Thurmont home. He was 79 years old. Major Castle enlisted at the outbreak of the war. In 1862 he was promoted to Captain, in 1865 he was raise to Major. He was wounded during the Battle of the Wilderness.

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



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COOKING

Pizza and hotdogs

Rheta Thola
Hollabaugh Brother's Orchard

For many Americans, November is almost synonymous with Thanksgiving. Even though not everyone approaches this holiday the same way, it is usually viewed as a time of happiness and familial closeness. But for some families it is also a time of dread. Sometimes it is very hard to be thankful when you feel that you have very little to be thankful for. But the beauty of this holiday is that this is what this holiday is all about! The pilgrims had a long period of time that they did without. They left family and homes. They lost money, sometimes all that they had. They dealt with sickness and fear and struggled to find reasons to be thankful. And then, after that long dark tunnel, there was Thanksgiving.

Each year for Thanksgiving I love making a big meal and multiple courses and special drinks. I like to set aside 2 days (minimum) to prep and bake food. The phrase "go big or go home" accurately describes how I approach cooking the Thanksgiving meal. But one of my favorite Thanksgiving meals I have ever made was pizza and hotdogs.

It was a year when car repairs and home repairs and almost every other type of repair was slamming the bank account week after week and month after month. As Thanksgiving was approaching my husband and I both knew that we could not have Thanksgiving dinner like "normal." But I still wanted to make sure that it was special in some way. Looking in our freezer, we had a few frozen pizzas from my daughter's school fundraiser and a package of frozen hotdogs. That would be our Thanksgiving meal that year.

Memories are made in the best and the worst times and everyone will make memories this Thanksgiving. Some of us will have events happening that are beyond our control. You may be personally affected by sickness or poverty this Thanksgiving season. You may have more vehicle repair bills than you know what to do with. You may have a house fire and be living out of boxes or not even be able to be in your house. You may experience this as the first year you cannot share a Thanksgiving meal with your mother or father or even your child. There is nothing like a holiday to remind you what you have lost and what you must do without.

This Thanksgiving may be your long dark tunnel like that first winter that the pilgrims experienced. It may be your year for pizza and hotdogs as you try to recover from a very chaotic year. Or it may be your year for Bacon Apple Brussel Sprouts and a Turkey with Apple Pecan Dressing as you celebrate your blessings despite everything that was thrown your way. Regardless, you will make memories this year that will stick with you. If you find at least one thing to be thankful for, you will remember it years to come.

Apple Pecan Dressing

Ingredients

- 1-lb. loaf sweet batard, torn into 1/2-inch pieces
- 8 Tbs. unsalted butter
- 2 yellow onions, cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 4 celery stalks, cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 2 apples, peeled, cored and cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 1 Tbs. sugar
- 1 cup apple juice



- 1 cup pecans, toasted and roughly chopped
- 2 Tbs. chopped fresh thyme
- 1 Tbs. chopped fresh sage
- 2 1/2 tsp. salt, plus more, to taste
- 1 tsp. freshly ground pepper, plus more, to taste
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock, warmed

Preparation: Spread the bread out on a baking sheet and let dry overnight. Transfer to a large bowl. Preheat oven to 375°F. Butter a deep casserole or baking dish. In a large fry pan over medium heat, melt 4 Tbs. of the butter. Add the onions and celery and sauté, stirring occasionally, until tender and golden, 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer to the bowl with the bread. Melt the remaining 4 Tbs. butter in the pan and add the apples. Sprinkle with the sugar and cook, stirring occasionally, until the apples are tender and beginning to brown, 5 to 6 minutes. Add 3 Tbs. of the apple juice and simmer, stirring to scrape up the browned bits, until the liquid is reduced to a syrup,

about 4 minutes. Transfer the apples to the bowl with the bread. Pour the remaining apple juice into the pan, set over medium heat and simmer until reduced by one-third. Pour the apple juice over the bread mixture. Add the pecans, thyme, sage, the 2 1/2 tsp. salt, the 1 tsp. pepper and 2 cups of the stock to the bowl and stir gently to mix. Let stand, stirring occasionally, until the stock is absorbed, about 5 minutes. If the dressing seems dry, add more stock as needed. Adjust the seasonings with salt and pepper. Transfer the dressing to the prepared baking dish and bake until browned and crispy, about 50 minutes. Serves 10 to 12.

Goat Cheese Honeycrisp Apple Appetizers

Ingredients

- 3-4 ounces goat cheese
- 2 honey crisp apples, thinly sliced
- Honey to drizzle
- 1/4 cup glazed walnuts or pecans
- Fresh rosemary, finely chopped
- 1 package large crackers

Preparation: Lay crackers on a platter. Evenly distribute goat cheese on top of each cracker.

Layer thinly sliced apple on top of the cheese. Drizzle the cheese mixture with honey. Lightly sprinkle the nuts and rosemary on top (they will stick to the honey). Enjoy!

Bacon Apple Brussel Sprouts

Ingredients

- 8 oz. thick-cut bacon
- 2 tbsp. bacon grease
- 1 large yellow onion sliced
- 1 lb. Brussels sprouts rinsed, cut in half lengthwise
- 1 large Honeycrisp apple peeled, diced
- 2 tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 tbsp. butter
- salt & pepper to taste

Preparation: In a large saucepan over medium heat, cook the bacon until browned and crisp. Reserve 3 tbsp. bacon grease in the pan and discard the remainder. Set aside bacon to drain on paper towels. Crumble into pieces. Add the onion and Brussels sprouts to the pan. Cover with a lid and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown and soft, 12-15 minutes. Add the apple, brown sugar, and butter. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 2-3 minutes, or until apple is golden and soft. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Parmesan Butternut Squash Gratin

Ingredients

- 1 (2 1/2 lb) butternut squash, ends trimmed, peeled, halved and seeded then sliced into 1/2-inch thick slices
- 5 Tbsp salted butter
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup plain panko breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup finely grated parmesan
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp dried sage
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

Preparation: Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray a 13 by 9-inch baking dish with cooking spray then arrange squash in pan, slightly overlapping them. In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat, then reduce heat to low, add garlic and cook 1 minute. Remove from heat. In a mixing bowl toss together breadcrumbs, parmesan, thyme, sage and season lightly with salt and pepper. Drizzle 2 Tbsp of the butter garlic mixture over panko mixture then toss to evenly coat. Brush remaining butter and garlic mixture over squash in baking dish, then season squash with salt and pepper. Sprinkle bread crumb mixture evenly over top. Bake in preheated oven 35 - 40 minutes until tender, then if topping is not browned increase heat to 425 and bake 5 minutes longer. Sprinkle with fresh parsley and serve warm.

Upcoming Events

Kids' Thanksgiving Event – November 14th 10 – 11:30 a.m. Cost \$10. Pre-registration required.

Family Cooking Class: Pumpkin Roll – November 14th 1:30 – 3 p.m. Cost \$15. Pre-registration required.

Adventures, Experiments and Other Exploits2 – November 21st 9 – 10:30 a.m. Cost \$15. Pre-registration required.

Mini Maker: Pumpkins – November 23rd 10 – 11 a.m. Cost \$7. Pre-registration required.

Left Behind Mom and Tots Coffee Hour – November 27th 10 – 11 a.m. Free. No registration required.

Small Business Saturday – November 28th 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Free. No registration required.

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MOMS TIME OUT

Something to be thankful for

Mary Angel

Thanksgiving. I can't believe we are in November already. It seems like only yesterday that we all got the word that we were on lockdown and the crazy world we live in got a little bit crazier. It was months of getting closer and closer with our family, maybe even too close. There were definitely times when I thought I would smack someone if I didn't get a little space and others when I couldn't imagine why we hadn't implemented a required family time from the kids each week. Now, suddenly it is November.

Some people might be asking, with the way the world is, what they have to be thankful for. I would start by pointing out the little appendages that lead you to read this article and me to write it. Then maybe I would roll into family and friends. If you were one of my children I would point out the roof over your head and the food on the table. Those two always evoke an eye roll from the kids. I might then break out the pictures of my kids doing school work, for the last two months, in their pajamas. If none of that worked I would stop buying snacks, ice cream, and rice (weird I know, but a family favorite) and then, when asked what was going on, reply with a tender, "Oh, were you thankful for those things?", followed by another eye roll no doubt. There are so many things we take for granted in our lives that would be considered a blessing by other people.

If you really are having a hard time coming up with something, ask your kids. Be careful though, because you never know what they will say. There was an entire television show based on kids saying the craziest things. Over the years, some of my best full belly laughs have been from things the kids have said. On the other hand, their comments have also caused many tears of joy. I thought I might

share some of the funny conversations so that everyone could be thankful for laughter. Don't stop here though. Reminisce with your friends and family this holiday season (even over Zoom) about some of the off the wall things your kids have said. Be forewarned, the following stories may make you wet your pants or even worse crack a smile!

One day, when my husband and I were in the middle of a conversation, he said, "We are going to need a limo." My then 8 year old daughter walked into the room only catching a tiny bit of the conversation and interjected, "WAIT, I can get you an elephant, I know a guy!" We all rolled. To this day I am still not sure where that came from or who the guy was that had those kinds of connections. Another memory with both of my daughters is when we were gearing up for their sixth and ninth birthdays and I asked them what they would like. The youngest replied with, "an indoor pool and a bunny that poops chocolate!" Needless to say she was probably disappointed on her birthday. The soon-to-be nine year old shot just as high and with her response of, "A real pony and a new pair of butt cheeks!" Again, probably a disappointing birthday, but some great memories.

The boys haven't left us without our fair share of shocking and funny moments. The first one that comes to mind is when we moved into our current house and finally felt like the boys were old enough to stay home alone. When we returned home they were both crouched behind the couch that they had pulled away from the wall. They thought they heard a noise and concluded that someone was breaking into the house. Instead of calling us or their grandma who lived right next door, they came up with a full proof plan. They began by pulling the couch out from the wall, grabbing two butter knives (because they weren't allowed to play with



Hopefully, one day we will all look back and reflect upon the fact the pandemic gave us more time to spend with our families. Time that we would have flittered away on meaningless tasks. Be thankful for time with loved ones, for both are fleeting.

real knives was their explanation for that choice), and arming themselves with their plastic lightsabers. They laugh every time the story is brought up. I only wish I had a picture of them crouched behind the sofa. Three summers ago, when my son younger son came running into the house to tell me there were tadpoles on the pool cover I, of course, asked how many. The very eloquent 16 year old response was, "A crap ton!" To this day I still have no idea how many that is. My

last memory to share is from that same son, who can always make me laugh no matter how bad my day is. He asked, "On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being playing patty cake with the devil and 10 being playing hopscotch with Jesus, how much fun did you have today?" I was laughing so hard I couldn't even answer the question.

In a crazy year like this, where people are arguing over whether they should have to wear a tiny piece of fabric on their face, where

people are stealing from and killing one another, where the elections in this great country look more like a bad reality television show than a debate, and where so many people are finding it difficult to find joy, I hope you all can be thankful for so many things this year; I hope laughter and family are at the top of your list.

To read past editions of *1Moms Time out*, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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FREDERICK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Sue Johnson

I am passionate about public education, a proven leader, an experienced professor (23 years at Frederick Community College), and a parent of an FCPS elementary student. My guiding principles as a professional and community member, which I hope to bring to the Board, include a strong work ethic, accountability, clear communication, and transparency.

My overall vision is excellence in public education for all students. I respect and celebrate the uniqueness and individuality of our FCPS students, teachers, staff members, and administrators. I believe in recruiting and retaining high quality and effective employees. I value the experiences of

those in the trenches working at FCPS and the families whose children attend our schools. Their input is vital in decision making.

I also care deeply about the people of Frederick County. I have been a volunteer firefighter, EMT, and Swiftwater Rescue Technician for over a decade with two fire companies in the County, and, with my family, am active in the Jefferson Ruritan Club.

The most immediate issue of interest to our County's citizens is the reopening of schools. As an educator myself, I understand the incredible demands placed on our talented teachers during this time. As a parent, I understand the challenges of supervising children who

are distance learning. Our families and our teachers are exhausted. Everyone is working hard and doing their best, but we need to plan for the next stage, and we must involve the teachers and families impacted by these decisions in the process of developing such a plan.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Brunswick Little League and the League Safety Officer, I helped write the League's Return to Play Plan for COVID-19 which successfully allowed our young athletes to return to the field in a safe manner. If elected to the Board of Education, I will take that same effort, desire and grit to safely get kids on community sports fields and apply it toward getting our FCPS students back into classrooms, sports fields, and extra-curricular activities.

Our teachers should be applauded

for their incredible efforts to provide virtual education for our students. I have been involved in distance learning for over two decades. I know from experience that doing distance learning well is no easy feat; everyone needs to understand that and recognize the work that our teachers, administrators, and support staff have done to get to this point. It will take hard work, open communication, and research to return our students to classrooms. I am ready to help be part of that solution.

Recently, a few voters have asked whether I have endorsements. I do have an impressive list that includes six elected officials currently in office in Frederick County and in our state legislature. My list includes numerous former office holders including Frederick County Commissioners,

state legislators, and members of the Frederick County Board of Education. Beyond elected positions, my list includes directors of the Great Frederick Fair, Frederick County Farm Bureau, and Frederick County Agricultural Society as well as prominent business owners across the county. These individuals represent the spectrum of political views. Those endorsements are great, don't get me wrong, but it is time for the citizens of Frederick County to speak. You are what is most important! Do your research and vote! Now, more than ever, we need strong leaders who have the skills and knowledge to chart the course of public education in Frederick County and I hope to represent you by earning your vote on November 3.

Libraries help with at-home learning

Samantha Jones

Frederick County Public Libraries (FCPL) launched an array of new resources to assist families with their new learning environment. The "Learning from Home" initiative includes brand new virtual programming, digital and physical resources, and services meant to help those learning and teaching from home.

"As soon as we knew students would be learning virtually this fall, we went to work on finding new ways to support our community. It was important that the library continue to be a hub of learning, and I

think the tools we have gathered will really help families feel more confident with the schooling journey they are on," said Deb Spurrier, Children's Services Supervisor at Thurmont Regional Library. "Learning from Home" takes the best of our library resources and enhances them for digital and at-home use to support our community in a whole new way."

The cornerstone of the initiative is Brainfuse HelpNow, an online platform with homework help, writing assistance, and test prep for distance learning that is aligned with Maryland state standards for all students. HelpNow offers live tutoring in English and Spanish from

2 p.m. - 11 p.m. every day. One of the most popular elements on the platform is their Writing Lab which allows students to upload their papers for expert assistance and feedback.

Coming soon, FCPL will also launch a live chat service on their website, for customers to communicate directly with library staff to ask questions, gain research assistance, and more.

"This will be a vital element to the Learning from Home initiative because it will allow access to the robust experience and excellent customer service that is synonymous with our FCPL team," said Spurrier. "No matter the age, our community is continually seeking new

knowledge, and our live chat will allow us to assist our community in that quest in a fresh way."

FCPL also creates virtual programs which highlight science and nature to extend classroom learning in engaging new ways and video tutorials to walk students and caregivers through online library resources.

For parents of younger children, they also offer Smart Start Kits which provide educational enrichment for pre-kindergarten through first grade with a hands-on, screen-free approach that encourages learning through play. These kits provide all the necessary tools for an after-

noon of activities with manipulatives recommended by early learning professionals, games to reinforce skills, and a tip sheet for caregivers.

"Whether you are looking for fun screen-free activities to keep your toddler busy or are stumped on your child's latest algebra homework, the library is still here for you and your family," said Rorie Cox-Steib, Children's Services Supervisor at C. Burr Artz Library.

All programs and resources are free, and students can access them with their existing library cards or by using their FCPS student ID number which grants them access to the library's Student Success Card. For a full list of their online resources, visit fcpl.org/learning.

Library notes

Kim Quick

Frederick County Library

As we enter November and give thoughts to what we are grateful for, Frederick County Public Libraries continue to be grateful that we are able to connect with you! While our buildings currently remain closed, library staff are still working hard to

continue to serve our communities. You are able now able to chat with a librarian through Monday through Saturday, 10am - 5 pm, for many of your library needs such as book suggestions or account help. Tutoring, a writing lab, and resume and career help are available through BrainFuse. Parents and caregivers be sure to check our Learn From Home

section for additional support and resources while adjusting to learning from home.

As the days get shorter and chillier, November becomes a time for more indoor pursuits. Reading, baking, or trying a new hobby all come to mind during November. Frederick County Public Libraries provides endless amounts of opportunities to learn a new skill through books and digital resources. Borrow a cookbook and

try a new recipe, check out a book for a new DIY skill. Need recommendations? Make sure to use our Personalized Picks and tell us what you would like to learn, do, or read! Visit FCPL.org or give us a call.

Browsing the shelves we know is very much missed, so our response is to bring several of our newest titles to the drive-through window area at Thurmont Regional Library. If something catches your interest, pull up to the drive-through window, ring the bell, and we will get your book for you!

Our library staff love helping you with your informational, educational, and reading needs. Please visit FCPL.org and use Contact Us Now, our live chat service, or call Thurmont Regional Library, Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Emmitsburg Branch Library on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10am- 5pm. Curbside pickup continues with expanded pick up hours until 4:45 p.m. While our buildings remain closed, we are thankful to connect with you through these services and wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

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FREDERICK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Rae Gallagher

Since March of this year, most of the conversations about our educational system focused on the pandemic – emergency responses, creating new virtual learning environments, refining virtual learning, addressing connectivity and access issues, and mitigating the impact of isolation and disconnection on the mental health of our students. Conversations evolved to address new health metrics introduced by the Governor and Superintendent Salmon days before the start of the school year, sports conditioning and competition, and how to safely and effectively expand FCPS small in-person groups into a sustainable hybrid model that will be successful for both students and educators.

But at some point – hopefully sooner rather than later – our country, our state, and Frederick County will move beyond the immediacy of health and safety concerns in our communities and schools to more broadly addressing the needed progress within the FCPS school system. One of the first potential

challenges the next Board of Education is likely to face coming out of the pandemic is the possibility of cuts to K-12 education funding following the negative economic effects of COVID-19.

Given that Frederick County's per pupil funding consistently ranks at the bottom of the state in terms of spending, any further cuts to education will result in the loss of valuable programs designed to meet the varied needs of students. As the country begins to recover from the effects of the pandemic over the next several years, our school system will examine crucial questions. What learning losses are students facing from the period of time when they were out of the school building? How can we continue to offer technology-based learning opportunities to reach students who thrived in the online environment? What additional programs can be offered to mitigate widening achievement gaps? What additional support will schools need to be prepared to provide to students who

were faced with isolation, grappled with anxiety about the deadly virus, and are navigating an environment rife with uncertainty about the future?

It is likely that students will re-enter school buildings with even more variability in their academic skills and knowledge than under normal circumstances; educators will need to continue to differentiate instruction, provide opportunities for individualized learning plans and structure, and ensure cross-collaboration between grade levels and subjects. However, one of the most critical aspects of returning to school buildings will rest on understanding the impact of COVID and how to best support the social and emotional needs of students and staff.

During the pandemic, our students and communities faced greater food insecurities, loss of family members and friends due to coronavirus, fear and isolation, and loss of family income. The Board must account for the reality that the COVID-19 crisis more greatly impacts our most vulnerable and typically underserved communities – and ensure that resource allocation and pro-

gramming is directed to meet not just the learning and academic needs of our students, but also mental health services, restorative practices, programming for students with limited English proficiency, wraparound services, expanded Pre-K for three- and four-year-olds, and targeted special education interventions.

Beyond these immediate needs of education in the aftermath of COVID-19, if elected to continue serving on the Board of Education, I will place a high priority on expanding access to in-school and after-school programming and targeted intervention for students who are not meeting college and career readiness standards. FCPS should focus on expanding access to high-quality career and technical (CTE) programming by offering additional pathways to post-secondary success for students who may not plan to enter college immediately following high school.

Additional funding for the 26 programs currently in place within FCPS and their immediate expansion throughout FCPS ranging from Con-

struction Technology Programs like Carpentry to Mechanical Programs like Collision Repair or Service Programs like Cosmetology will be required. We should also consider opportunities for career exploration and hands-on, career-focused experiential learning for middle school students. Our schools must acknowledge that every child is not college-bound and make efforts to remove the perceived stigma of pursuing alternative post-secondary options, including employment in high-demand industries with pathways to high wages and good benefits. By increasing access to a variety of CTE programming, internships, apprenticeships, and work-based educational experiences, all students will face greater options for post-secondary success.

In the current everyday, we are living moment to moment, working to keep our heads above water, but there will be a time when we must look forward to building the education system for our children's futures. I hope to be a part of that conversation as a member of the Board of Education and would be proud to earn your vote this November.

Jason Johnson

I am running to ensure that going forward Frederick County Public Schools will excel at inspiring its learners, not only to meet the challenges posed by educational standards, but those posed by the world. As a member of the Board of Education, I will seek to initiate and support programs that place our students in positions of state, national and global leadership. I will support our educators in teaching our students how to problem-solve in order to express

their gifts in a way that prepares them for success in a world with demands we have yet to encounter.

For over 15 years, I have served as an educational leader in and out of the classroom.

During my tenure as a Science Educator with FCPS, I pioneered the county's participation in the Science Olympiad program. I had the privilege of leading a host of students to recognition as state and national

award winners. Later, I became the Science Olympiad Director for Frederick County, where I supported and trained teachers, provided rigorous opportunities for growth to students and brought national prominence to FCPS.

Currently, I facilitate student growth in the classroom, teaching Computer Science. My position connects me directly to what students and teachers face on a daily basis. This unique perspective will inform my decision-making and ensure that I remain relevant. As a member of the Board of Educa-

tion, I will not fail in putting all of my experience to work for the students, parents and educators of Frederick County.

I will promote and support policies that enthusiastically connect our students to their education. Our students need to know that the skills they are learning each day have real world value that connect to the activities, causes and professions they value. Our students need to hear this message from not only their educators, but from the community! I will champion policies that interconnect businesses, uni-

versities, and professional groups with our students so that they are in position to make an impact on the world, now. Our students should be exposed to mentors who are success stories in their field, to internships, conventions and fairs that place them at the forefront of modern achievement.

As a member of the Board of Education, I will actively engage the students of Frederick County Public Schools to take their place as leaders in the nation and the world.

I thank you in advance for your support.

David Bass

I want to thank the Emmitsburg News-Journal for offering candidates this platform. This has of course been a unique election cycle in an unprecedented year. I hope that you and your family are doing well and staying healthy.

I'd like to tell you a little more about my background. I have spent much of my life connecting with and advocating together with students with special needs. This advocacy is personal. My younger brother is on the autism spectrum. And this advocacy is professional. I have worked as a special education teacher and a habilitation specialist for people with developmental disabilities. These experiences have shown me the necessity of strong special education programs. On the Board, I will advocate on behalf of the families who must send their children to other counties or homeschool them due to inadequate county programs. By taking best practices from other districts, we can strengthen the programs in FCPS to meet all our children's needs.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, the Board has the difficult task of evaluating when and how students should return to school. It is a goal of mine to safely bring students to school

in-person under the hybrid model developed by FCPS. I am disappointed that the current Board was not more proactive in exploring such plans over the summer. While FCPS produced a detailed, 200-page proposal for their hybrid learning model, I believe there are two issues that must be addressed before we can begin welcoming students back into our school buildings.

For one, not every school nursing position is currently filled. Additionally, we need a more robust plan for contact tracing when there is a COVID-19 case in a school. I believe the Board needed to work with far more urgency to ensure that the hybrid-learning plan that FCPS staff developed could be implemented. Of course, I write this in

the context of COVID-19 positivity rate staying fairly consistent. Since July, our COVID-19 test positivity rate has stayed between 2-3%. Certainly the county should stay under a 5% test positivity rate in order for FCPS to proceed with the hybrid model.

A final piece of my platform that I want to tell you about is engaging directly with Frederick County residents through community conversations. If elected, I plan to hold conversations at libraries and schools throughout the county to hear directly from families on their experiences with FCPS. I believe that open, empathetic listening is needed now more than ever. It will help inform my perspective on all issues that come to the Board of Education.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked writers to write a creative piece about life during a pandemic from the perspective of either a 10-year-old or an 85-year-old.

Freshman

COVID vocab lessons

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2024

March 17, 2020, Dear Diary, “Quarantine” is a hard word to pronounce when I read it. It’s even harder for me to try to spell. I’d never heard of it until now, as I am told that today is “the last day of school.” But, it is March. Something is not quite right about that to me. No more going to school? Why is summer beginning so soon? // Now I’m at home, and I’ve been handed a computer—the classroom site is called “Zoom.” I can remember that. That’s a fun name. // (Initially, I was excited about the change. No more going to school!) // Wait a second, you want me to watch this screen all day? What about my friends? When do I get to see them? // I am told I might not see them for a few weeks.

March 22 // Well, if quarantine is only for a few weeks, I guess I can handle that. I am ten years old now, after all. I’m a big girl. This could be a lot of fun, actually. I’ll try to make the most of it. // On Zoom,

I’m a little distracted by the digital panel of my classmates. I don’t really know what my teacher is talking about—are my friends’ kitchens as messy as mine? I was curious to see if any of them are having class in their kitchens like me. Mom caught me being distracted. She told me to pay attention. So, I tried to—and then I fell asleep.

April 17 // It’s been several weeks since I’ve started to do all my school through Zoom. I am antsy. I am bored. I am tired of looking at this screen. I want to leave my house! The word adults use to describe the situation now is “pandemic.” What does “pandemic” mean, anyway? It sounds scientific. How many people are sick? Can I do anything about it? Mom tells me that my dad is doing something about it, and is helping people through it. Nurses like dad are “essential,” I’m told. I’m proud of dad.

April 27 // It’s been more than a month since the quarantine started. I feel very lonely now. Dad spends most of his time at work. He’s “essential”, so he has to be at the hospital longer than usual. He spends a lot of time sleeping when he is home. I miss when I got to see

him more often. My only sibling is one younger brother, who sleeps a lot. He’s a baby, and doesn’t know we’re in a “lockdown”. I am jealous of the girls in my class who have big sisters. I want someone to paint my nails with, someone to bake cookies with, someone to play dress-up with when I don’t have to do school. My friend Bailey showed me her beautiful new pink nails over Zoom before our class started—she said her older sister painted them with her this weekend. I miss when I could go to Bailey’s house and paint my nails with her.

April 30 // Mom says my creativity is getting stifled by this lockdown and my imagination should still get to grow. So, she got me a book, and now we’re reading Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. I like the story so far, but most of all, I like just getting to read together.

May 5 // I got something in the mail today! My Science teacher made all her students homemade masks, and mailed them to us. I didn’t know she liked sewing, and I think it’s very kind of her to make them for us, but I’m also confused. Halloween is a long time away. Why are we supposed to dress like ninjas

right now, wearing masks? Masks used to be only something we talked about when talking about ninjas and superheroes, and now I hear about them all the time. I don’t like only being able to see half of people’s faces when they wear them—I like to be able to see my mom’s smile when we go out in public.

May 19 // Why can’t I get on the bus to go see my friends yet? Why can’t I have them over for sleepovers anymore? When can I go to the mall with my mom again for our Mom-Daughter outings? I’m tired of hearing about “social distancing” and “national emergency” on the TV. I ask mom to turn off the news and instead play a board game with me. “Board game,” I told her, “because I—AM—BORED.” She finally turns the TV off, and plays with me. I am so relieved.

May 29 // It has been about three months of quarantine. Three months of Zoom. I don’t like that name anymore. I want to see my friends. Isn’t summertime supposed to be fun? I want to look forward to it—but some people are saying there will be nothing to do. Is it safe to see my friends again? While the answer stays no, I settle for reading Narnia

with my mom, and playing board games. Mom encourages me to try reading more on my own when she’s busy with my little brother; she said reading will improve my vocabulary. Personally, I feel like COVID has added a lot of new words and terms to my vocabulary—it’s been like taking a whole class all by itself. // It is now the middle of the summer. School might be opening up again in the fall—I hope so. All of my world feels like it’s been upside-down. At times my new world feels confusing, lonely, and boring. When I told this to my mom, she taught me a new word to think about: optimism. That is a long word for me to remember, but I definitely try to, just for mom. I like what it means. She wants me to be o-p-t-i-m-i-s-t-i-c about everything, even when I’m frustrated. She tells me to look on the bright side of things, and to be joyful, and hopeful. I like these words more than the ones COVID has introduced to me. I think I am going to put them at the top of my vocabulary list.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

Letter from a Virginia senior home

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

It has been seven months since I have left this building. My son-in-law comes to pick up my mail every few weeks, but he doesn’t come past the front door. I’m usually asleep while he’s here so I haven’t spoken to him. No one comes to visit me; no one can.

When the weather is nice, we go outside. There is a path around the building that goes through the parking lot and the garden out back. My wheelchair usually gets stuck since the path isn’t paved. The girl at the front desk sits with me outside some days and we just watch the cars drive by. There are always lots of ambulances and police cars. Sometimes, they do stop here. It’s never a good visit.

The building was shut down in March when the rest of the state did. Social gatherings were limited, only medical trips were allowed, and tables were spaced apart in the dining room. At first, it was only supposed to be for a few weeks. Then it became a month. Then two months. It hasn’t stopped.

Every day is the same. First, I wake up and wheel downstairs for breakfast. On the days that she forgets, I ask the girl at the front desk to put CNN on for me in the library. Usually, I fall asleep and wake up to a nurse checking on me. Every couple of days, a man from outside comes in to look at my knee. It still hurts because it still has shrapnel in it. It keeps me up at night.

We found a new normal. The

nurses wear masks but we don’t have to. I hate them. I can’t hear what they say. I don’t know what’s going on anymore. I feel like we aren’t speaking the same language. The girl at the front desk stands in as a translator; for some reason, I can understand her even with the mask. This frustrates the nurses and they leave to help another resident. The girl just laughs with me and wheels me back to watch CNN before going to her desk.

We started doing social events again. I can look forward to movies and book club again, instead of sitting alone watching CNN. But it isn’t the same. My son-in-law and daughter wouldn’t visit me much, but other residents would have visitors. Kids would run up and down the hallways to hug their grandparents. There would be laughter. There would be reasons to laugh.

The rhythm became bearable. A lot of the residents were still angry about being stuck inside, but they slowly came to accept it. We would sip our tea, read our books, and talk about what headlines we saw in the newspaper. Richard liked to show me the comic section. Peggy would talk about what shows she would watch that night.

The building had been shut down and we were cut off from the rest of the world, but it was only as a precaution. Unlike other senior complexes, we had no traces of the virus. We considered ourselves lucky. The staff started talking about opening back up. Families could visit, but they had to sit on the outside of the screen porch while we sat inside. It wasn’t perfect, but it was a start. Things were looking up.

Mid-June, we got out first case. The case count kept climbing and within a week, we were stuck in our

rooms. Staff would come in, dressed head to toe in blue fabric as protection. Whether it was protecting us or them, I’m not sure. It felt alien; they had plastic shields over their faces and goggles that made their eyes look small. The blue latex gloves made their hands puff up and look swollen. It was hard to recognize which nurse was checking on me since their faces were covered with masks.

But most of the day, I spent alone. Instead of watching CNN in the library, I was tucked into my room. Reading the newspaper was now something I did by myself, with no Peggy or Richard there to discuss it. The only time I saw people was when the meals were delivered or when I needed care, and even those interactions were distant. It was lonely. It wasn’t just my knee that kept me up at night anymore.

The girl at the front desk kept some sense of normalcy. Every day, she would deliver my mail to my room and wave at me from the doorway. Before the building got the virus, she would sit and watch CNN with me whenever she had a few minutes to spare. She was always busy working with the nurses and coordinating socially distanced visits for families. But she was young. Hearing her laugh made years melt away. It wasn’t anything specific she did, it was just the youth in the room that would calm everyone. We could wax poetic about life and what we’d learned, and she’d soak it all up. The other nurses were older and were tired of listening to our ramblings. But she had only started working with us in April and hadn’t grown weary yet. Richard would tell her about his time in Vietnam, I would talk about my time in Korea. When it got close to the end of summer, we knew she would be

leaving us. While the rest of us were stuck inside, the girl had places to be. A full life ahead of her. A college degree to complete. A family to start. To say I was happy for her was an understatement; but I was also incredibly jealous. If I had the chance to start over, what would I change? Probably not much. Maybe some small choice I made back in Korea set this entire pandemic in motion. Maybe if I had moved to Alaska like

I had always talked about, I wouldn’t have suffered in quarantine alone. Maybe there is nothing I can do to change things, and no one had the power to shift the course of this century. Maybe if we could change it, we wouldn’t. It might not be worth it. I would at least take the shrapnel out of my knee.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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THE PANDEMIC THROUGH THE LENS OF A ...

Junior

You do the best you can

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

It has been seven months since I have held my niece's hands. She used to be able to come visit me every weekday. Seven months since she stepped into my room, hugged me and gave me a kiss. Now, I wonder when she is going to be able to make the 15-minute trip from her family's home to my room.

At first, I was struck by the break in regularity. The hands, the steps, the hugs and kisses. One day, all of this just stopped. For years, this all seemed so ordinary. All your life, you hear about people doing extraordinary things. I don't know if I've ever done anything extraordinary, but it sure does hurt when even the ordinary is ripped from you.

These visits stopped for everyone else who lived in the rooms next to and across from me. I wasn't able to talk with them about it. Everyone has been going through the same thing, but we hardly are able

to acknowledge it with each other.

I should probably stop talking about myself. All considered, we're getting along just fine here. This is probably very difficult for my family back home, those people who are so close and so far from me. I think they like coming in to see me. The ordinary was ripped from them, too.

I've found that this has helped me over the years. If I'm able to think about what other people are going through, it makes what I'm going through less serious. I spend a lot of my time praying that all is well with my nieces and their families, my sister and her friends. I haven't heard anything bad going on. It seems like this is where God wants me now. He wants me praying for everyone and resting. I've worked a lot over my life. I'm getting a lot of rest now, that's for sure.

I have been able, though, to talk with my family over video calls. One of the nurses comes in and puts the screen in front of me and my niece appears, then my other niece, then my sister and then my great-nephew. All one after the other. I haven't been able to see them all together in person for years.

This really is a tough way to live. All sorts of things are happening with my family, but I only get to be told about them and hope and pray that all works out for the best. Children are being born, students graduating from college and my old friends are all either dying or have been dead for a while.

There is something really troubling about all this fast change. When I was growing up, no one walked around with masks. No one had to think about whether someone she was meeting wanted to shake her hand. No one stayed six feet apart from someone at the water cooler. Everyone keeps telling me that we need to keep everyone safe. I'm trying to remember whether we even used that word when I was growing up.

All this fast change doesn't seem good, though. You would think that the people who are willing to accept this change would at least listen to us old people who have been through a thing or two. It seems like all this change in the way people act, talk and dress came so fast without even consulting the people they are trying to protect. Sometimes, I just wish that my niece could come

inside and say hello. She would tell me about her day, what she's worried about, what she's happy about. We'd talk about the same things we talked about the day before, but that's ok. What else do I have to talk about at this age, anyway? Again, a lot of what I do at this point is rest, anyway. I don't think of brand-new things to talk about.

I hope that the young people are still able to live their lives. I don't think I would have been able to deal with all this stuff at their age. Back then, we were playing outside and walking all over the city and not thinking at all about health or safety. Some may have died in the family, but that's just what happens. Someone dies and everyone just keeps on doing the best they can. That's all you really can do, right?

For years, probably decades, I have been saying that "things are all different, yet." That has never been truer than now. For all the time I have been saying that, there has always been someone right there next to me to say, "it's true. It was different when we were growing up." Now, I don't even have that. There's no one sitting next to me to agree with me. That might be the

worst part of all this.

We don't need to finish on a sour note, though. There's all kind of good that we can be looking at. People are still laughing and crying, saying hello and saying goodbye, working all day and sleeping all night. A lot of what we are used to has continued. It seems like there are some people who want us to think that everything has changed permanently and will never come back to normal. When people live in the normal, they want something exciting. When they live in the exciting, they want to go back to normal. I've seen this throughout my life and have gotten tired of seeing all the stunningly green grass on the other side and the dead weeds on my side of the yard. There's usually nothing all that bad about your side of the yard and everyone else's yard has its own problems. I know we're going to get through this, and I'll keep doing the best I can. Keep praying, hoping and not worrying and everything will work out just fine.

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

Senior

Life goes on

Angela Guiao
MSMU Class of 2021

When I woke up this morning, Mom told me I didn't have to get ready for school. Isn't that cool? She doesn't usually let me stay home on a school day but maybe today is a special day. I think today is March-something, but I don't remember if this is Mom's birthday month. Oh well. Maybe she'll let me play videogames.

"Jacob! Theo! Breakfast is ready!" Mom calls from downstairs.

I love the smell of bacon in the morning. It probably is her birthday. She only cooks breakfast on the weekends, usually when Aunt Lisa or Uncle Max comes to visit. I better get up. Ugh. I need to use the bathroom.

"In here!" my older brother Theo snaps from the other side of the bathroom door.

"I gotta pee!" I squeal.

"Sucks for you, loser. Use the bathroom downstairs."

I hate Theo. He got meaner when he turned 13. Mom said it's because he's now a teenager, and he's going through a rebellious phase. I think he's just a jerk. In three years, when I turn thirteen, I won't be as terrible as him.

I quickly use the bathroom downstairs and rush to the dining table. If Theo gets to the table first, he'll definitely eat all the bacon.

"Eat up, honey," Mom says as she pours me a glass of orange juice.

"Is it your birthday today?" I ask between mouthfuls of bacon and eggs.

She laughs, "No honey, it's not my birthday. Why do you ask?"

I chew quickly so that I can swallow my food and drink a few gulps of juice, "Well then, why is there no school today? Today's not

a holiday, right?"

"It's because of the pandemic, stupid," Theo snarls as he whizzes into the dining room. In one fluid motion he grabs the rest of the bacon and drinks the rest of my juice.

"Mom!" I scream.

"Theo, get your own juice," Mom sighs while turning around to grab another glass, "but Theo is correct, honey. It's because of the pandemic."

"Pandemic?" I repeat slowly. I don't think I've ever heard that word before.

Theo laughs, plopping down in his seat, "You don't know what a pandemic is, huh dummy?"

"I do!" I retort, "I just—I need—"

"You don't know what a pandemic is," he snickered, grabbing the new glass of juice Mom set on the table and finishing it in three large gulps.

"Theo!" Mom exclaimed, grabbing the empty glass from him. She gave it a quick rinse and filled it up again, this time placing it down directly in front of me.

"A pandemic, honey, is when there is a large outbreak of a certain disease or virus. In this case, there is a spread of the coronavirus."

"The coronavirus?" I said, "What is the coronavirus?"

"It's like the flu, dummy," said Theo, now chomping on some pancakes. I look at him in disgust. I don't like pancakes.

"It is," Mom says, stacking the now-empty plates, "but I hear it's worse than the flu. This is because we don't have a vaccine. It looks like school will be canceled for the rest of the year."

"The rest of the year!" I shriek, "Why can't we go to school?"

Theo shoots across the table and grabs my glass of juice again. After gulping it down, he says, "Because the coronavirus travels through your spit, dum dum. You can catch it just by being near someone. We can't go to school. In fact, we can't go anywhere

because we don't know who has it. And if we get it, we don't know if we'll survive it," he smiles evilly at me.

"Ouch!" he squeals as Mom suddenly whacks a dishtowel against the back of his head.

"This is nothing to joke about, Theo. There are plenty of people who are currently suffering from the coronavirus right now, and we don't really understand just how serious it can get."

"Sorry," Theo mumbles, rubbing the back of his head.

"What are we gonna do?" I ask, "If we have to stay at home, what are we gonna do?"

"Well for now, just relax," Mom says, "Enjoy your time at home. We all need a little break. We just have to wait and see what happens."

She finishes stacking all the plates, "Theo, come help me wash the dishes," she calls as she heads into the kitchen.

Theo groans before sulking after her.

I rush upstairs to my room. After shutting the door, I open my window and crawl onto the roof of our garage. There is a small spot where the roof lays somewhat flat and makes it perfect for sitting.

The spot has the perfect view of the street we live on, and I can even see most of my neighbors' houses.

The house across the street from us belongs to Mr. Jameson. He's really old, and I think he and his wife are retired. I bet they stay home day-after-day. I wonder what they do so that they don't get bored.

I can't imagine staying home every day and not going to school. What about all my friends? Nicholas was supposed to trade me his Bryce Harper baseball card on Friday. Now, I don't even know when I'm even going to see him again.

I sigh.

"What are you frowning about?" a

voice calls over.

I look down and I see Mr. Jameson walking on the sidewalk, his cane in one hand and pointing at me with the other.

"Oh nothing," I call back, "School's canceled. I don't know what to do anymore."

Mr. Jameson chuckles. He has one of those deep, slow laughs that you'd imagine a mafia boss to have.

"You're going to adjust," he answered as he made his way to

the crosswalk, "Things are going to change, and they'll continue to change even until you get as old as I am. And all you do is adjust. Keep living. Find the good. Adjust."

He gave me a small smile before he headed across the street.

He's right. The coronavirus sucks, and a lot of things are going change.

But no matter what, life goes on.

To read other articles by Angela, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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HOME DECOR

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Jessica Crawford
Owner Cotton & Co,
a.k.a. 'The Mill'

I'm fairly certain I've said this before, but I will say it again. 2020 has somehow been, the longest and shortest year ever, all at the same time. It feels like a decade since the world seemed to come to a screeching halt back in March. But on the same token, it's hard to fathom how we could already possibly and quickly, be approaching the holidays.

And honestly, we all deserve all of the joy and happiness this season. Every ounce possible. It's the most joyful, grateful time of year. We've made it through what is hopefully the most, or some of the most, challenging and isolating times in our lives. I am looking forward to the holidays this year, for sure more

than ever before. I love watching the magic of the season through my children's eyes. Transforming my home into a mini Winter Wonderland. And continuing to teach my little ones, one of the most valuable lessons; the life lesson of learning the art and gift of giving. When you find just the right thing, for just the right person, and you can't wait to watch them peel back the wrapping paper and brighten their day, mood, life. The art of giving is a teaching lesson in generosity, kindness, selflessness and thoughtfulness.

At the shop, the vendors have been preparing for months for this next season. Either by creating or curating inventory, dreaming up designs or refinishing furniture that's perfect for holiday entertaining. By the time this article is published, Cotton & Co will have already been flipped over and trans-

formed for the next season. Brimming with vintage Christmas, ornaments upon ornaments, seasonal décor and greens, and everything you could possibly need for dressing or entertaining this holiday season. And something for everyone on your gift-giving list this year. Our vendors work hard to have items for men, women and children, young and old. With a great balance of vintage, antique and new inventory.

I reached out to my vendors before writing this month's article, and asked them for some of their most favorite holiday decorating tips and tricks. One of my favorite suggestions came from Katt, wood flower artist and owner of Grit & Grace Custom Designs. She specializes in hand dyed and arranged wood flower arrangements. Sometimes she incorporates vintage vessels into her arrangements for added, special, vintage flare. In terms of holiday decorating, she suggests using antiques and inherited pieces in your decorating, as it's a meaningful way to include family members into celebrating the sea-



Looking back to last Christmas, Dulcis Home's Holiday space was decked out in a Modern Farmhouse during Christmas Style

son, that may no longer be with us.

Pam, of Dragonfly Memories, agreed and added that she has always been drawn to vintage and antique mercury glass and Putz houses. Those are those adorable Japanese Paper Houses, also known as Mica Houses. She says that pulling out her heirloom nativity every year brings her joy. Bringing out family heirlooms during the holidays, and mixing it in with new finds, always makes your holiday decorating more special and sen-

timental. Picture Great Aunt Mae's brass candle stick set, on the mantle, intertwined with fresh pine roping and scattered vintage Christmas balls.

Susan, owner behind Lovey's Vintage Goods, had an excellent suggestion for recycling Fall and Thanksgiving décor into the following season. Did you know that a lot of gourds can be dried and preserved. And even those that don't preserve long term, should last several months off the vine, especially if you wipe them down with a 2% bleach solution periodically. She says she loves to take her Fall gourds, and paint them white (acrylic or spray paint would work well) and then sprinkle generously with iridescent glitter. They'll now be ready to use as part of a winter tablescape, or mixed in with Winter greens for a front porch display.

And speaking of Winter Greens, Ashley of So Long Status Quo is a proponent of a little back yard foraging. There are lots of winter greens that can be pruned and clipped and borrowed from nature. Like spruce, holly, arborvitae, nandina and cypress varieties. Lindsay, the owner and artist of Dulcis Home loves incorporating live greens into her holiday displays, and adds that stuffing a vintage vessel, such as an antique milk can, with overflowing live greens, is a great holiday porch statement. Our local wildflower vendor, Third Day Flowers, is planning on providing an inventory of live winter greens, starting shortly. Lindsay also advises grouping smaller decor items for a more collective feel, as well as mixing patterns and solids for a cohesive look. Think buffalo check and a solid throw.

Regardless of your holiday style and gift list, we're ready for you. We have a shop totally stocked and brimming with everything and every style that you need to make this a special holiday season. Something we all need this year. We are kickstarting the holidays officially, the first weekend in November (6-8). We also are hosting a November Open House November 20-22, with a December Open House planned for December 11-13. We'll be adding some additional and extended hours in November and December too. Follow along on Facebook and Instagram for events and photos and holiday inspiration. Join us this holiday season!

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A big round of applause for all of the Gateway To The Cure donating businesses, to all who supported these businesses, participated in the Golf Classic, 5K, Painted & voted for a pumpkin, bid on the silent auction package, purchased Gateway To The Cure merchandise and to all who purchased & turned on a pink light in October. Thanks to your support, Gateway To The Cure is making a difference in Breast Cancer treatment, research, and support in Frederick County via the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Health.

- | | |
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For more information about the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Health go to: www.pinkribbonfrederick.org/about-us



Watch the check presentation to the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund on Tuesday, November 17 at 7 p.m. on cable channel 99 or stream at <http://thurmontgranicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?viewid=2>



Let the Holiday Season begin!

Christmas In Thurmont Events

Shop Small Saturday - November 28

**Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
Mechanicstown Square Park**

Saturday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m.



Decorate a wood train or gingerbread house with paints, markers or crayons. Return your ornament to the Train Display (See Below) or to the Thurmont town office and help decorate our tree. Pick up your wood cutout at the town office Mon. - Fri. anytime after November 23.

Map Stamping for adults: Visit all the businesses on our map, get a stamp on their square & enter for prize drawings. You have from November 28 through December 6 to get your map squares stamped. (Must be returned to the town office by December 9). Winners will be notified by phone and email.



**VISIT WITH SANTA VIRTUALLY!
Sat., Dec. 6**

Santa will be checking in with you from the North Pole!

Details on how to reserve your time space will be coming soon



**3RD ANNUAL
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Sat., Dec. 5, 12, 19 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 9, 16, 23 - 5 to 9 p.m.

Thurmont Plaza, 224 N. Church Street

ARTS

The local winter arts scene

Sarah Muir
MSMU Class of 2019

The Adams County Arts Council's 11th Annual Gingerbread Celebration goes virtual as the Gettysburg holiday tradition returns this year in a new format.

Cash prizes are on the table for the best gingerbread house architect. The cash prize is made possible by a \$1000 anonymous donation. The first prize winner in the School/Nonprofit and Family/Individual/Amateur categories will receive \$500. The second prize in both types is \$200. Businesses compete for the coveted traveling Ginger Trophy. The deadline for entry forms is November 25.

The event will be held online at www.adamsarts.org on December 4-6. The public is invited to view the delicious houses online and select the winners by voting with dollars for their favorite gingerbread creations. Entry forms and more information are available online at www.adamsarts.org, by calling 717-334-5006, or visiting the Arts Education Center, 125 S. Washington St. Gettysburg.

The Gettysburg Majestic Theater closed back in March, and it has made it through the past several months with the community's sup-

port. However, now they have been given an opportunity to launch an online fundraising campaign due to the receipt of a wonderfully generous birthday gift. The J. William Warehime Foundation of Hanover awarded the Majestic a matching grant of \$100,000 to start a dedicated endowment fund for the continuous upgrading of the theater's theatrical equipment.

The Majestic reopened on its 80th anniversary in November 2005 following a renovation costing \$16.5 million. Since then, the Majestic Theater continues to transform the cultural life of Adams County and exists as a cornerstone of downtown Gettysburg's economic vitality. The Majestic Theater Performing Arts Center is owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a cultural treasure for its campus and community. It draws over 45,000 visitors a year from throughout the United States and brings to the flourishing arts community of Adams County acclaimed artists in drama, comedy, music, dance, and film.

"In order to continually attract well-known performers after it's safe to return to live, indoor performances, we must keep up with the latest technological advances," remarked the theater's founding

executive director Jeffrey Gabel, "and as anyone knows who owns a computer or iPhone, they're obsolete after 7 to 10 years."

Thanks to the Warehime Foundation's visionary philanthropy, every contribution made in November to this crowdfunding operation will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000. For more information or to contribute, visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org starting November 1. The campaign will run through Giving Tuesday, December 1.

The Gettysburg Community Theater continues to remain closed. However, the theatre is still providing live streaming of performances. Over the past several months, the GCT has been offering online classes, improv shows, Shakespeare readings, and other online performances streamed to their audience via zoom. There is an upcoming Zoom performance of Shakespeare's A Comedy of Errors on November 20 at 7 p.m. For more information or to donate for a performance: www.gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org

As reported last month, the Totem Pole Playhouse has rescheduled its 2020 season, 70th anniversary, and will be offering the same line-up in 2021.

After their successful reopening starting with Disney & Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins, the Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre is relaunching its 2021 season. With five new shows for the New Year, the dinner theatre is looking forward to delighting audiences with their Broadway-style performances. The Pajama Game (January 8 – March 6) starts the season off, followed by Oliver! (March 19 – June 5), the musical adaptation of one of Charles Dickens' most famous novels. Next summer, we can look forward to Jerry Herman's boisterous, feel-good musical Hello, Dolly! (June 18 – August 28). Fall of 2021 Way Off Broadway will premiere the hilarious new play Clue: On Stage (September 10 – October 30) before finishing out the 2021 season with the original holiday musical That Christmas Spirit (November 19 – December 19).



95 years ago, the Majestic Theater focused on serving the community of Gettysburg, but thanks to the automobile, its now serves all of southern Adams and northern Frederick County.

However, the 2020 holidays are right around the corner, and The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre is thrilled to start the festive season with "A Holiday Who Dunit?"

The Christmas time mystery is thrilling and fun. "No one can argue with the fact that the holidays are an extremely stressful time of the year. So, when someone puts Santa's chief elf "on ice," it's up to the audience to help figure out who's been naughty and who's been nice. From Jack Frost to the Sugar Plum Fairy, everyone is a suspect!" Tickets are \$43 per person with performances on Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7. Doors open both evenings for dinner at 6 p.m.

Way Off Broadway's holiday line-up also includes A Christmas Special Christmas Show, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer – The Musical (November 28 - December 27), and the theatre's 19th Annual Breakfast with Santa (and Mrs. Claus) (December 24).

The Weinberg Center has joined the almost 3,000 independent venues nationwide in the National Independent Venue Association. This organization is a collection of theaters and arts/performance venues that were hit hardest by the pandemic. Their goal is to fight for legislation that will help in keeping afloat these places which were "first to close, last to open" so that they survive the aftermath of this past year.

As a part of the "Save Our Stages" fundraising initiative, the Weinberg Center for the Arts, the Maryland Ensemble Theatre, and the New Spires Arts are bringing a concert to their supporters. These Frederick venues present the bluegrass sensations, The Seldom Scene, Sunday, November 15 at 4 p.m. at Showtime at the Drive-In located at the Frederick Fairgrounds. The Seldom Scene will have the Hogslap String Band open for them at this live drive in concert.

Join the music for this "family-friendly fundraising event featuring two great bluegrass bands who will provide fans the opportunity to hoop and holler in a safe and socially distanced outdoor environment. The Seldom Scene, a band from Bethesda, have been instrumental in starting the progressive bluegrass movement with shows that include bluegrass versions of country music, rock, and even pop. Musical talent, a signature sound, a solid repertoire, and a sheer sense of fun have been The Seldom Scene's recipe for success for more almost 50 years."

As weather cools and the holidays come ever closer, the theaters and arts communities are heating up with new ways to bring entertainment to the surrounding areas. With all these exciting events, it won't be too hard to find ways to make this holiday season festive and fun!

HOLIDAY FUN AT WAY OFF BROADWAY!

Nov. 20 - Dec. 20
Christmas Special Christmas Show

Nov. 28 - Dec. 27
RUDOLPH the Red-Nosed Reindeer Musical

Nov. 6 & 7
A HOLIDAY Who Dunit?

Dec. 24
Breakfast with SANTA (and Mrs. Claus)

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Theatre: persevering through the pandemic

Tristan J. Anderson
MSMU class of 2024

In theatre, it is hardly uncommon, when some sort of interruption enters the fold, to hear an actor or assistant say something along the lines of “the show must go on,” while simultaneously improvising to cover whatever mistake may have happened. There is an element of survivability inherent across all the arts, almost like an innate desire to continue on past the struggles that may serve as obstacles to the progress of it. Without a doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic that has engulfed the nation and world has proved an example of such an obstacle. Although, just as one would expect, the discipline of theatre has managed to persevere and grow during the course of the pandemic. Online plays, social distanced art gallery exhibitions, streamed concerts and musicals, and even events broadcasted from the home of artists have all been used as countermeasures to the situation in which we find ourselves. As always, art survives whatever is thrown at it.

At the Mount, there is no exception to this rule. While there have been an enormous number of difficulties faced by the students and faculty of the arts programs, these challenges have both been methods to further learning and methods to strengthen resolve. “Obviously, the lack of in-person performance is a little bit challenging because the quality of a performance is based on audience reaction and physical reactions to your co-stars,” one student from the class of 2022, Anthony Belske, stated in an interview. Even without such a critical element of performance however, Anthony, along with many other students, participated in the production of a play over Zoom. Called *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*, the fantasy play focusing around quests, fighting, and dragons was a first for the Mount, ushering in a new and previously unexpected development of theatre on campus. Students were invited across campus to tune in through their cell phones

and computers using a Zoom link, a method that may be required for the foreseeable future.

Nonetheless, the event was attended by a significant number of students, albeit in a previously unheard of way. It was perfect for the play itself, as *She Kills Monsters* was, in this form, especially re-written to be performed through digital means with an eye to the current situation. It is a medium that is appearing ever more frequently to compensate for the lack of in-person theatre mandated by the responses to the coronavirus pandemic. Major productions in some of the largest cities across the United States, such as New York and Philadelphia, have introduced scripts written entirely for virtual performance similar to the one performed at the Mount. In fact, according to Doctor Kurt Blaugher, a theatre professor at Mount St. Mary's University, these times are both especially strange and more demanding than before. There are now battles between screen actors' and writers' unions and stage unions over whether or not virtual performances count for one or the other. Along the same lines, many theatre departments, such as that at the Mount, are being forced for the first time to integrate technical crews, filming equipment and a variety of computer applications into work that formerly relied only on raw performance and instinct. “If I said at the beginning of January that I would be buying what I have, I wouldn't believe it,” Dr. Blaugher said in an interview.

Like many other production facilities around the country and world, the response of the Mount has been to, in the words of Dr. Blaugher, focus on “not buying paint or lumber, but instead high-quality recording and filming equipment.” It is not difficult to imagine how this new inclusion of technology could disrupt the delicate process of producing a show, although as a discipline that is naturally collaborative, theatre has managed to integrate the new element well. “Theatre is always collaborative,” the professor opined. “You have actors, directors, designers, who all

have to work together. Theatre will survive because of it.” Of course, with these changes, new processes must also come into the fold. One of these, a situation over which Dr. Blaugher drew some focus, is the shift in directing strategy, a primary source of contention during the pandemic. Most directors enamored with the traditional role are accustomed to providing the final say in the instant; with video and sound review being added to the theatrical process among other things, their role has shifted to a position of vetting amongst a group.

More severe limitations have additionally been placed against the various theatre groups across the country. In most cases, both private and academic productions are forced to wear masks, socially distance and reject in-person audiences even when separated. “You can't show intimacy at six feet apart,” Dr. Blaugher quipped. It is not difficult to imagine what the experience must be like for actors on the stage. To a large degree, visual cues across the face of a performer act as signals to condition movement and actions, and physical actions are required not only to display malice and anger to the audience, but at the same time to express happiness and love. Without such a connection, the plotlines of many plays and musicals are ruined and impossible to produce. As a result, the future for much of the planned performances at the Mount and elsewhere remain undetermined as nearly everything else has during the course of the pandemic. Ideas have been proposed as a result by others in the industry however, suggesting measures such as isolation of the actors and production personnel. At such a point, the question must then be asked whether or not theatre without an audience present and over a camera is still theatre at all and not film. Perhaps the arguments between the unions are not all that unreasonable after all, especially considering the success of the virtually produced *Hamilton* earlier on.

All of the changes orchestrated in the response, however, have encouraged wild speculation throughout



The Delaplaine Fine Arts Center, home to the visual and performing arts at the Mount, sits on the Emmitsburg campus on a foggy morning.

the community as to the nature of the industry after the pandemic has ceased. Sources such as the Philadelphia Enquirer foresee a hybrid theatre in which broadcasting and film accompany each production, while others predict an environment in which virtual production becomes the new normal. It is difficult to reason out what may happen, especially considering the malleability and resistance that characterizes theatre. “People are finding ways to produce in this pandemic... but it's not clear what may happen.” Dr. Blaugher expressed before explaining the state of courses at the Mount. With the college directing classes at the concluding in November and the other theatre classes finishing in the Spring, it is still unclear as to what may happen. There is certainly an anxious air to the dilemma as to

how students can be trained for a discipline that cannot be demonstrated. Without a doubt, methods exist and new ones will be found. As Anthony said, the pandemic has caused issues, but more than that, it has “opened the many wonders and possibilities of online theatre and virtual performances.” Theatre will survive as it always has through other challenges. All that remains to be asked is how the bursts of ingenuity in the industry will continue, and whether the results will be permanent or temporary; only time will tell. Hopefully, the audiences across the globe will have the pleasure of solving the question in person and not at the other end of a camera.

To read other articles by Tristan Anderson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

CHS Indoor Track prepares for upcoming season

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

The stands are still empty and the scoreboards are still dark, but that doesn't mean our athletes are sitting idly by, waiting for the competitive season to begin. These athletes have been working hard in the Return to Play (RTP) Voluntary Conditioning and Skill-based Practices. Catoclin High School Supervisor of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, Keith Bruck, says regarding RTP Voluntary Conditioning and Skill-based Practices, "I am so thankful that our student-athletes have had an opportunity to take part in these. Many of our student-athletes are struggling emotionally with the virtual learning model coupled with the fact that they aren't competing in the sports they love." He adds that, "The RTP practices have provided some sense of normalcy to them. The practices have allowed them to reconnect with their teammates and coaches." Bruck feels that student-athletes are

fortunate in Frederick County. "Many counties haven't had the chance to do what we are doing."

The pandemic has affected everyone in one way or another, and high school sports has certainly not been excluded. Bruck explains that, "Obviously the pandemic has had a huge impact on the sporting world, including our small part of that world. I, as are so many others, am disappointed not to be seeing our student-athletes competing this fall." He adds that, "Hopefully the conditions will allow us to play starting in February, if not sooner." Bruck's statement was based on a Maryland State Board of Education plan to begin high school sports on February 1. However, the board recently voted to move up the start date to December 7. It still remains to be seen whether or not Frederick County Public Schools will approve sports to begin on this date.

Coach David Lillard reports that the boy's indoor track team is feeling positive and excited despite the pandemic. Lillard is the new head coach of

the CHS boy's indoor track, track and field, and cross country teams. He is working alongside Coach Lois Strickland to make this year as enjoyable and successful as possible for the athletes. He says of his team, "They may not be excited about the difficulty of the workout, but they're excited to be hanging out with each other. They're starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel." He reports further that the team is, "starting to see that things are going to get better—that things are going to go back to normal."

That doesn't mean that the pandemic doesn't present the team with new challenges, however. Practices have been as short as an hour and a half, which isn't a lot of time to get everything done. In addition to this, indoor track competitions will be held outdoors this year, making the weather and temperature the biggest challenge facing the runners. "We're used to being inside where it's warm and we're protected from the elements." Lillard explains, "We want to give these kids a chance to race but we can't have a kid there for four or five hours waiting for an event, so we're going to have to kind of deal with that—and with that, we're going to have to give up wins in some events to make that happen." Lillard feels that the team understands that sacrifices like these are what will keep them healthy and successful. They realize the benefit to the community and the team. He shared that, "We wouldn't be sacrificing if there wasn't a purpose or reason to it," and, "With sacrifice, what you lose is what you gain."

When asked what the plans are to get the teams up and running



Thurmont's 2nd Annual Gateway To The Cure Golf Classic was held on October 9 at Maple Run golf Club. It was a picture-perfect day for the tournament with seventy-two golfers in attendance. Lunch and awards were held at Thurmont Community Park. Team Moles from Gateway Orthodontics in Thurmont Took home 1st place and won the Pink Ball Challenge Competition.

once the restrictions are lifted, Lillard replied, "Business as usual. Keeping things as normal as possible now. That way when we are up and running, the kids are just ready to go. Getting them ready, keeping them ready, having them understand the routine." He is hoping everyone will stay positive about the upcoming season. Lillard, who came to Catoclin after coaching at Oakdale High School for 10 years, notes that he is very impressed with the positive attitude the other coaches are instilling in the athletes. "Coach Strickland and I-as coaches, our philosophy is that part of RTP is socialization. If we take that away, then we start to mess with the whole positive attitude."

Strickland is the head coach of the girl's indoor track, track and field, and cross country teams. Last season, I had the opportunity to speak with Strickland, who has been coaching for five years now. Her presence has given the team a sense of stability after years of flux. Although she had never run track before, she became interested

in it when her daughters started running. She began coaching as an assistant at Frederick High School, where she has worked as a front office secretary. She then became the head coach at Walkersville for a year before coming to Catoclin. This is her third year coaching at Catoclin. When we spoke last season, she stated that she very much enjoys seeing the excitement in a student when they run/throw a personal record. Last season, the Cougars steadily improved their times/distance with each competition, as the number of personal records grew with each meet. The indoor track season came to a rewarding end with several athletes placing at States. Seven boys and four girls participated individually in track events, ranging from sprints to distance. The girls placed in 4 events while the boys placed in 6. The boys team ended in 4th place overall while the girls team placed 7th overall in in state.

Strickland stated last season that the fact that there are so many disciplines in indoor track-encompassing sprints, mid-distance, distance, long jump, triple jump, high jump and pole vault-is what she finds most challenging in her position. "It can be difficult to find enough help to cover each area. This variety in events makes indoor track attractive to students, though, since it allows them to use their skills in whichever events they can succeed in. It also allows the multi-sport athlete to focus on skills needed in their particular sport." She said that she feels that many runners find that, while they work hard at practice, being able to find their particular niche in indoor track makes it a fun experience.

Strickland had said that she enjoys sharing her passion for running with the students, and that she feels that running is a necessary lifestyle and activity that anyone can do all throughout their life. To further support the team, Strickland worked hard last year to raise money to purchase cardio equipment for the athletes, who didn't have a cardio room. She felt the kids deserved the equipment, so she decided to get them some. By the end of the year, she had raised enough money to purchase two new ellipticals for the program and had obtained a donation of a treadmill. Strickland has said that there is a lot of talent at Catoclin High School and that she would like to see more students join the team. The team always looks forward to new faces.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Lighting the path

Sam Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

For the better part of seven months, every corner of the world has had their lives greatly impacted due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. That includes our mountain home in Emmitsburg. While most of the world has returned to some sense of normalcy, one aspect still hangs in the balance: collegiate athletics. Great leadership is a component that will allow one to overcome virtually any obstacle. Mount St. Mary's is fortunate enough to have Lynne Robinson spearheading efforts to bring back athletics while keeping the health and safety of athletes at the forefront.

Robinson has been the athletic director of the Mount since 2007 and a part of the athletic department for 41 years. Through her guidance, along with following county and state guidelines, the university has been able to usher in a return to athletics, despite no competition being in sight. Although this return has looked easy on paper, that could not be further from the truth.

In July, the Northeast Conference (NEC) announced the postponement of fall sports for all 10 membered institutions, including Mount St. Mary's. This is a move that came to the disappointment and shock to athletes and no surprise to administrators and coaches. Despite the nearly 500 athletes not being able to compete in their respective sports, that has not deterred them from giving it their best. Practices for almost all 24 varsity sports are in full swing.

The athletic department implemented a multi-step process that would allow sports teams to phase-in their return. Phasing-in began with a limited group of athletes, as most athletes were sectioned off into specific time slots while also having limited or no contact with coaches. When the environment was deemed safe, then full team practices and workouts could begin. To ensure the safety and transparency of all, every student-athlete is required to complete a daily, athlete-specific COVID-19 survey.

What makes the NEC unique is the locational diversity of each school. LIU and Wagner are situated in bustling cities while the Mount and Saint Francis U are nestled in the rural corners of the country. With the Mount being quite secluded, the restart of athletics has been drastically different, for both better and worse. "Maryland is under different health guidelines than New York or Pennsylvania," said Robinson. With many schools having contrasting rules in place, the fight against the coronavirus appears to be from a one-dimensional front. However, the smallness of Emmitsburg is an appealing characteristic, especially during a global pandemic. The university does not have to worry about the booming outside population's affecting on-campus athletes.

Although it may seem to be

smooth sailing against COVID at the Mount, that is quite the contrary. Due to its location, Mount St. Mary's does not have access to the same resources as a school like Wagner. This obstacle has changed the trajectory of returning to normalcy. It could be said that this is yet another challenge for the athletic department.

During a typical academic year, the responsibilities of athletic administrators are extensive, multi-dimensional and time-consuming. One of the biggest tasks every year is scheduling. Typically, accounting for travel is not an area of concern when it comes to building a schedule. In all sports, the Mountaineers will not be playing against teams that require airfare. Both men's and women's basketball, as well as bowling, are the three highest traveling teams, so not having games that require air travel has drastically changed how their seasons will come together. This policy change means that both basketball teams will not travel out to the West Coast and bowling will most likely not have their yearly Las Vegas tournament.

While scheduling remains at the forefront, the connection between the AD and athletes is an aspect she cherishes the most. According to Robinson, "connecting with the athletes has been really hard." Since the beginning of the pandemic, Robinson has continuously shown tremendous spirit toward her athletes. "Usually freshman orientation and the student-athlete kickoff serve as a great opportunity to meet the incoming athletes. Sadly, a lot of the new athletes don't know who I am," she added.

Despite not being allowed to meet with athletes face-to-face, that has not diminished Robinson's level of outreach to the athletes. She has been seen attending various practices and inter-squad scrimmages while following state health guide-

lines, of course. One of the biggest tools being used to maintain a high level of communication is Zoom. "Who knew that Zoom would become so popular? I've spoken with athletes throughout the semester to check-in," said the athletic director.

Across much of Division-I, basketball is one of the biggest revenue-generating sports, next to football. For the Mount, men's and women's basketball are seen as the "money winner" sports. One of the toughest challenges this season has been finalizing all aspects of the 2020-21 season. This has been at the top of the docket in the AD's office.

The 2020-21 season will feature an array of different protocols, as this season is nothing short of historic. Being nearly a month away from the official start to the season, many plans remain tentative. Fortunately, Robinson was able to offer clarification in an Oct. 20 interview. "There will be no fans to start the season, and I see it being like that the entire season. The only people allowed in the arena during game time will be coaches, players, officials and staff," she said.

A major storyline circulating the college basketball world has been whether conferences will play within a "bubble". The same topic has been discussed across the NEC. As of now, there are no plans to implement a bubble. Instead of the traditional early-season tournament, the men's team will participate in a Multi-Team Event (MTE), at a yet to be determined location.

These MTE's, which are typically going to be hosted by "Power Five" schools (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC), have gained a considerable amount of traction in recent months, due to giving mid-major programs, like the Mount, opportunities for resume-building matchups.

Although basketball is the most buzzworthy sport, there are plenty of other varsity programs that pull weight within the athletic depart-



Nothing shows the impact of the pandemic upon Mount sports then the fact we have to run a photo from last year ...

ment. A reasonable concern for lower revenue-generating sports has been budgeting for the near future. So far, it has been business as usual for lower revenue sports. "[The athletic department] we conducted our yearly budget reviews and concluded that we will make adjustments along the way," Robinson explained.

Mount St. Mary's is one of the few mid-major programs in the country that has not had to revamp their athletic department in the past seven months, whether that means cutting athletic programs or salaries.

As the months have passed, it has become increasingly harder to find any sign of optimism in the world, and the same can be said for the sport's world. However, there has been no shortage of good news within the Mount community. Regardless of the pandemic, the

athletic department was able to add an additional program to the varsity sports lineup, men's and women's water polo. The installment of both programs brings the Mount to a comfortable 24 athletic programs, 11 men and 13 women.

There is growing rhetoric around the world of anguish, fear and uncertainty. However, Robinson remains steadfastly optimistic. "This will be the craziest but best semester yet," she exclaimed. While we have changed so drastically and have had our lives uprooted beyond belief, we must remember one thing: always see the light at the end of the tunnel. COVID-19 has taken so much from us, but it has not stolen who we are as Mountaineers. That is an intangible gift that no one can take away from us.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Pointing to myself

Renee Lehman

“I am Pointing to Myself.” This is a famous quote by Thich Nhat Hanh. “Really?” you ask. Everywhere you look and listen, it seems that most people are speaking about the divisiveness, opposition, and disagreement in our country. This disagreement has even led to hostility between people.

I often see that this discord occurs because we as a culture begin from the concept of duality. What do I mean by duality? Duality can be defined as: the division of something conceptually into two opposed or contrasted aspects, or the state of being so divided (Websters dictionary). There it is – two opposed aspects, two contrasted aspects. In our man-made world, we begin from the number TWO. How does this concept show up? It shows up as: You and I are separate from each other. You and I are different from each other. However, this is a man-made construct/law. This is NOT a Natural law/ Universal law.

Universal Law states that everything starts with the number ONE. It is important to declare Oneness. But you may ask, how do you know Oneness? When you think of your body, you may think that the different systems work separately. I mean, you see a different specialist for each system in your body. However, your body’s systems are working as one within your body, 24/7. Let me give you an every-day-life example:

Let us say that you normally walk

3 miles/day for exercise. Then one day you injure your knee. When you walk, you now limp. You cannot complete your normal exercise routine. After several days of walking with a limp, your low back begins to hurt, your bowel movements are not as regular, you are not sleeping as well, and your stress level has increased. One thing changes within your body and everything else changes! Everything in your body is connected to everything else in your body.

Now let us talk about this scientifically. Today, modern quantum physics tells us everything is energy (or Qi). It also talks about a unified field; that, at the deepest level of reality, in the energy field, everything in creation is connected. Separation is an illusion. Who we are, is pure consciousness or Oneness, expressing itself in different forms at different times in our evolution.

David Bohm, PhD, American-born quantum physicist, philosopher and neuropsychologist (one of the most significant theoretical physicists of the 20th century and born in Wilkes-Barre, PA!), said: “In some sense man is a microcosm of the universe; therefore what man is, is a clue to the universe. We are enfolded in the universe.” He also said, “Deep down, the consciousness of mankind is one.”

So, ask yourself the following question: “Where do you come from?” You come from the Oneness. The Oneness that has no beginning or end. It is the potential

of all things; manifests all things; disintegrates all things; is at one with all things. Change is Oneness’s constant. Oneness is the essence of peace and harmony. Therefore, flow in peace and harmony by remembering the Oneness of all things.

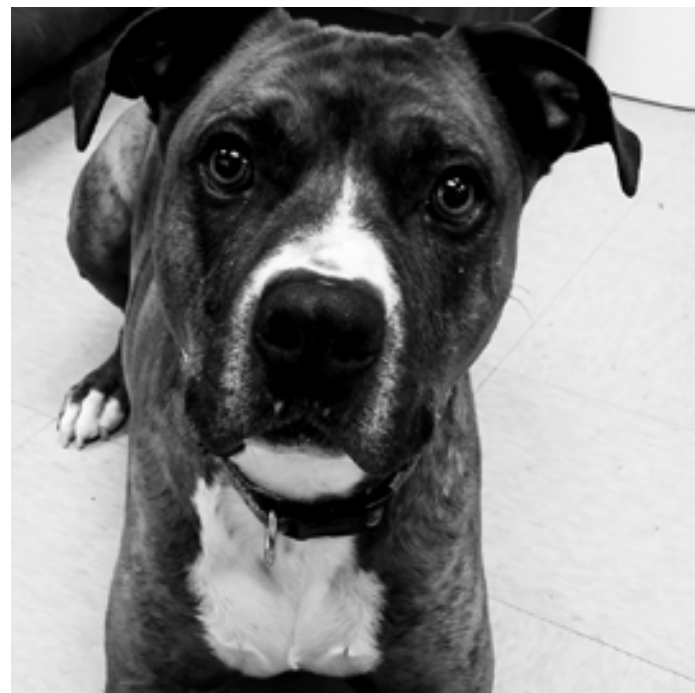
Scientists like Albert Einstein and David Bohm arrived at a similar conclusion through scientific research: Everything is energy, and in the energy field, everything is connected.

If you are still having trouble grasping this concept, it’s easy to understand why. As David Bohm said, “We often find that we cannot easily give up the tendency to hold rigidly to patterns of thought built up over a long time. We are then caught up in what may be called absolute necessity. This kind of thought leaves no room at all intellectually for any other possibility, while emotionally and physically, it means we take a stance in our feelings, in our bodies, and indeed, in our whole culture, of holding back or resisting. This stance implies that under no circumstances whatsoever can we allow ourselves to give up certain things or change them.”

Going back to the conversation about duality, you may ask the question: “What about the Yin Yang symbol discussed in Traditional Chinese Medicine? This looks like the number TWO.”

Yin and Yang ARE two opposite YET complementary energies. Yes, they are opposites, and they are totally interdependent. What does this mean? They cannot exist without each other. They are never separate and isolated. For example: Night is Yin, Day is Yang. You cannot have nighttime without having daytime. Both create a totality, a complete whole, a representation of oneness. So, on a physical level, it may appear, as you and I are separate. However, on the energetic level, we are totally connected, we are interdependent. We are one.

When you are watching some-



Floyd is a 7-year-old boxer. Just look at that face! He came into us as a stray, so we don't know a lot about him, but from what we've seen so far, he doesn't seem to do well with other animals, so he'll need to be the only four-legged baby in the house. Floyd absolutely adores people, though and he knows sit, down and stay. If you have the right place for this sweetheart, please stop out!

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one on TV, when you are conversing with someone, when you see someone who has differing views, consider pointing to them and say, I am Pointing to Myself, because you are!

When this concept of oneness is extended to us and out interactions with each other, consider the following statement attributed to the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu:

*“If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.*

*If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.*

*If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbors.*

If there is to be peace between neighbors,

There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,

There must be peace in the heart.”

“A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”
– Albert Einstein

To read more articles by Renee Lehman, visit the author’s section of emmitsburg.net.

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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Thanksgiving tradition

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

As with some of my previous articles, this one will be a little different because of the situation of the times. Thanksgiving may be your families' biggest holiday when everyone comes together to celebrate. This year many families are choosing not to get together so they can keep safe. Seeing your grandparents or parents are still important to everyone. I would like to share a few ideas that I have heard from my clients and from other sources that may help you with your Thanksgiving this year.

Zoom meetings will be a big thing this year because you can stay in your house and still visit with family and friends. People have been using zoom for a while now if they were unable to travel for the holidays. We are fortunate to have the technology that we have today. I realize not everyone has the capability to use zoom. You can also face time your loved ones if you all have

this feature. Another, more simple and basic way to share your beautiful face with your family is to send them a picture or get out some pictures from past holidays. You can speak to them on the phone and look at the pictures. You can share memories you have of previous holidays and share laughs with them. Laughing is an important thing that we should do each day. It is even more fun to laugh with others, even over the phone.

Having Thanksgiving dinner at your own home instead of traveling to gather together may not be as much fun but may be necessary this year. It is important to make sure your older parents and grandparents are still having Thanksgiving dinner even if they are alone. This can be a sad and depressing time for those who live alone, that's why you should reach out and make plans for the day. Taking dinner to your older family members may be the way to do it this year. If taking dinner is a bit much, maybe you could take dessert to them or have their

favorite dessert delivered from a local store or bakery. Hopefully the weather will be nice and you may be able to sit outside and share dessert with them.

You know I always suggest taking a walk after dinner. Perhaps you can make plans to meet them and take a nice walk outside. Supposedly, if we are outside and keep a safe distance apart we are at a lower risk of spreading germs. Exercise after a big meal is always a good idea and this year may just be the answer to getting together safely. As I mentioned earlier, if the weather is nice and your family members are not able to go for a walk perhaps you can still sit in the yard for a short visit.

I know plans can change quickly but for now the Thanksgiving Day Parade is still going to be shown. I heard they would still have some performances and were going to honor front line workers and have a limited amount of parade participants. Watching the parade is another tradition many families share each year. This year it will still be available, you may just have to watch alone. Again, hopefully the



weather will cooperate and we can all enjoy a great parade.

Another way to show someone you care if you can't visit this year is to send a card or flowers. They can enjoy the flowers on their dinner table and for many days to follow. Seeing the flowers will remind them of you and how much you care for them. The most important thing to do is reach out to family and friends,

especially those who will be alone. A phone call or whatever gesture you can think of to let them know you are thinking of them will make their day and their holiday special.

Thinking of others on this holiday will not only make them happy but will also give you joy. Remember to keep moving, we all need extra support and caring during the upcoming holiday season.

Choosing an Executor for your will

When Doug Propheter's grandmother died a few years ago, there was more than grief among the family members gathered for her memorial. "It was like a bomb of jealousy and anger exploded among the children – my aunts and uncles – that had been building in her last years," he relayed. The basis for the squabble was who was getting what, who already got something, and who was getting left out. "What made it the perfect storm was, my grandmother chose two daughters as her executors but neither wanted the job. And, the Trust and Will documents she left had holes – some things were left out, some property someone already took and wouldn't give back. No one talks to each other anymore."

Now, he's making plans to offer

services intended to eliminate that sort of trouble. Propheter created a new consulting business called Catoctin Advisors and will act as a personal representative and administer estates for clients looking for a neutral, unbiased advocate and agent. Estate administration is the process outlined by government rules that enables a community and government to close the file, so to speak, when a person dies. There are papers to submit in court, accounts to close, assets to transfer or liquidate, debts to resolve, and taxes to pay. "My argument isn't that this stuff is complex and only I can do it; instead, this stuff is an aggravation – and when you're grieving your loss it's a burden. But, it has to be done, so I'll do it and relieve you of the burden," he said.

The focus of his outreach will emphasize seniors, particularly seniors living alone. "There are a lot of elderly people whose spouses already died. Maybe they had no kids or the kids live out of the area." If someone dies without an executor, or what Maryland calls a personal representative, the Court can appoint someone. Propheter is inviting people to name him instead. "I can meet with you now – before you need me – and start coordinating things with you. We'll itemize contacts, accounts, and documents as well as complete a property inventory. Then, when you need me, we'll have a nicely organized estate and everyone gets what you want."

According to Propheter, a business contact shared how his brother-in-law acted as personal representative

for a parent. "He told me the brother-in-law spent over 1,000 hours at the tasks and his health deteriorated noticeably." Not all estates are the same, obviously; some may be small and uncomplicated and the process not challenging. But, for someone living out of the area, working a job, or perhaps raising kids, the commitment of time means other aspects of your life will be on hold until the last piece of paper is filed.

An AARP Bulletin advised that people who don't like details are bad candidates for personal representative. Similarly, it argued that patience, organizational skills, and calmness all make for a better match to the role. "Just because you like your sister or you get along great with your oldest son doesn't make them a good match for the job. They might be, but they also might be a disaster. You only die

once. You owe it to the people who survive you to make it easy on them," Propheter said.

Catoctin Advisors operates out of Thurmont and hopes to serve communities in the northern part of Frederick County as well as the surrounding area. In his last role Propheter was chief administrative officer for an environmental company for three years; before that he was chief executive officer of a non-profit for over a decade. "I wanted to try something new, and I wanted it to be fun. This stuff is how I have fun, believe it or not." The company also will offer support to survivors who need help with a spending plan or bill-pay assistance.

To reach Doug, send email to doug@catoctinadvisors.com or call 410-937-7712.

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment virtual 'Do It Yourself' seminars

Kelly Cambrel

Thursday, November 19,
12:30 p.m.

Monday, November 23,
2 p.m.

The Frederick County Senior Services Division will host several free Medicare Part D open enrollment "Do It Yourself" virtual seminars through the Virtual Senior Center. Enrollment is the time to make changes to your Medicare prescription coverage. Open Enrollment is October 15 – December 7. Any changes you make are effective on January 1, 2021.

Seminars will be held on the following dates:

Saturday, November 7,
9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, November 10,
7 p.m.

Each workshop will be approximately one hour in length. Register via email at VirtualSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.gov. In addition, Medicare Part D educational resources can be found at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/SeniorServices.

Visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/SeniorServices or call 301-600-1234 to learn how the Division engages, empowers, and equips people through community connections to services, programs, and resources.

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ASTRONOMY

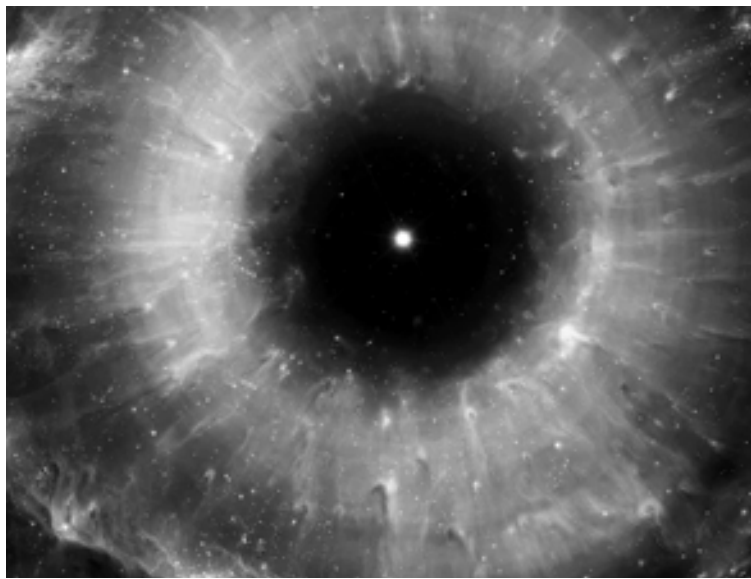
The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

The full moon, the Hunter's Moon, occurs on Halloween. Standard Time returns on November 1st. The last quarter moon is on November 8th. The waning crescent sits three degrees north of Venus on November 12th. It lies two degrees north of Mercury in the dawn on the 13th. The new moon is November 15th, and will not interfere with peak for the Leonid meteor shower on the morning of November 18th. The waxing crescent moon passes two degrees below brighter Jupiter and three degrees below Saturn on November 19th. The moon is first quarter on June 21st. The waxing gibbous moon is five degrees south of fading Mars on November 25th. The Full Moon, the Beaver Moon, is on November 30th.

Mercury and Venus are both in the dawn sky. Mercury can be spotted easily on the morning of Nov. 13th when it lies below the waning crescent moon, with brilliant Venus to the upper right of them. Venus is waxing gibbous, getting fuller in phase but smaller in size as it orbits to the far side of the Sun this winter. It rises three hours before the Sun on November 1st, but only about two hours by month's end.

Mars was at its best a month ago, at opposition when the earth overtook it on October 9th. It is also near perihelion, so closer to the Sun (and us!) than usual. It will not be this close, big, and bright again until



The Eye of God nebula is a bright planetary nebula located about 700 light-years away in the constellation Aquarius. The nebula is probably the closest planetary nebula we can see in the sky, and it shows the future that stars like our Sun go through when they run out of fuel and puff out their outer layers.

2035. It is still 20" of arc across and magnitude -2.1 at the start of the month, but as we pull away from it, but fades to magnitude -1.2 and shrinks to 15" at month's end. It also rises earlier each evening, so is now higher in the sky during evening hours, so get out the scope for memorable views of the red planet.

We are losing Jupiter and Saturn from the evening sky fast. Both lie in the SW evening sky, moving from Sagittarius into Capricornus as closer and brighter Jupiter overtakes more distant Saturn in mid December; around December 19th, both will be in same telescopic field of view, but low in the SW twilight just after sunset. By New Years, both lie behind the Sun.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about October 31st visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for November 2020; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Sky & Telescope has highlights of the best events for each week at www.skyandtelescope.com.

Setting in the southwest is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which

marks the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy, with Saturn just above the lid of its teapot. The best view of our Galaxy lies overhead now. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky in the northwest. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. Use binocs and your sky map to spot many clusters here, using the SkyMap download to locate some of the best ones plotted and described on the back.

Overhead the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of it is the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. North of Fomalhaut, in SW Aquarius is the Helical Nebula, MGC 7293, the closest of the planetary nebulae. Appearing half as big as the full moon, this stellar tombstone is faintly visible with big binocs under very dark, clear moonless skies. At its center is a collapsed white dwarf the size of Earth, but the expelled outer layers now stretch over a light year across, glowing from the ultraviolet radiation of the core star.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her

outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

To the northeast, Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. south. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come. This is probably the best sight in the sky with binoculars, with hundreds of fainter stars joining the famed "Seven Sisters" with 10x50 binocs.

In fact, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 p.m. as November begins along the northeastern horizon. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky, and a beacon of the colorful and bright winter stars to come in December.

To read past editions of the night sky, visit the author section on emmitsburg.net.

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-William Blake (1787-1827)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Showers, breezy, cool, frost/freeze in central region (1). Warmer and dry (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) with periods of rain (8, 9, 10, 11); dry and mild (12, 13) with more rain and wet snow, turning colder, frost/freeze in the east (14, 15, 16). Sunny and chilly (17, 18, 19, 20, 21), turning dry and milder (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28). Rain, windy with snow showers in the west (29, 30).

Full Moon: The Full Moon in November will occur on Monday, November 30th. Due to the colder days and heavy frosts during the month, all of the leaves have fallen and most of the grasses have all died off and thus, has been referred to as Falling Leaf Moon and Dying Grass Moon. And because of the high winds sweeping through many regions this time of year, it was called Big Wind Moon.

Special Notes: Daylight Savings ends for 2020 on Sunday, November 1st so be sure to "fall back" an hour at 2 a.m..

Holidays: The 2020 elections will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd and this year, it will be for The President of The United States. Now more than ever, your vote is needed to help determine the course of America for the next 4 years. If voting by mail, complete your ballot immediately upon receipt and place the properly-completed ballot into a legitimate drop box in your area or mail as early as possible. Wednesday, November 11th is Veteran's Day. Remember to honor our military service branches and those have served and with their service, continue to protect us today. Thanksgiving is celebrated on Thursday, November 26th. Join with family and friends in reflecting on of things we have to be thankful for and try to carry that throughout the holiday season. And though not officially recognized as a holiday, Saturday, November 10th is the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King's actual birthday.

The Garden: Even though lawns rest in winter, they still need all the winter sunlight they can get so don't put away the rake until all of the leaves and pine needles have fallen and you can remove them. Keep mowing if your

lawn is still growing. If you do have to do that one last mow, don't bag those grass clippings. Instead, recycle them back onto the lawn. Contrary to what you might have heard, clippings will not become thatch (a spongy layer found between grass blades and roots). Keep watering until the ground temperature reaches 40 degrees F. Now is the time to start those forced bulbs that were placed in a cool area in August or September.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (1, 12, 13); weeding and stirring the soil (7, 8, 9); planting above-ground crops (22, 23, 24); harvesting all crops (25, 26); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); transplanting (15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); the weaning of small animals and livestock (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24); the harvesting and storing grains (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"There is more to be learned by listening closely and keeping an open mind, even though you often may not agree with the speaker."

COMPUTER Q&A

Computer warranties - what are you getting?

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

Manufacturers typically offer a one-year warranty that will cover repair or replacement of parts that are considered defective. The specific coverage terms can vary while some manufacturers pay to ship for product repairs, some allow hardware upgrades others don't. Accidental damage, acts of nature and damage caused by the consumer are often not covered under a standard warranty although, additional warranty coverage (including accidental damage coverage) is usually available for purchase within 30 days from the reseller or a third-party warranty company such as Asurion.

The Warranty Process can vary from brand to brand but the steps to getting your device repaired are typically the same. Let's say you're having an issue with your HP computer and you contact support for help. The first thing they will do is have you perform some diagnostics on your machine which they will walk you through over the phone. Once the troubleshooting is complete if no hardware issue is found, they will instruct you to reset your computer back to factory settings. The manufacturers' goal is to ensure that the device is working in the condition it was originally shipped. If you change your operating system or change hardware your support options will be limited.

Restoring your system back to factory can usually be done without losing your personal data (documents, pictures etc.) but any settings that have been configured or programs that you have installed since purchasing the computer will be lost in the process. Once the system is restored back to factory if no further issues arise your support case will close. If a hardware issue is determined or continues after the system is restored, then an RMA or return merchandise authorization will be created and you will be directed on how to ship your device back to the manufacturer.

It's important to pay close attention to this part of the process. The manufacturer will provide detailed instructions on how to prepare your device for shipment. The directions should indicate whether they want you to include your power cable, battery or any other accessories. Only what is listed should be returned with the device, any USB receivers, memory cards or CD's should be removed. The manufacturer will not be responsible for any personal data on your device, all important data should be backed up before sending your device for repair. Some manufacturers will provide a prepaid shipping label and a box to send your computer for repair, others will require that you use your own packaging and pay for shipping. Typically, the repair process takes 7-14 business days from receipt. The warranty will spell out if they're allowed to use new or refurbished parts when repairing the device.

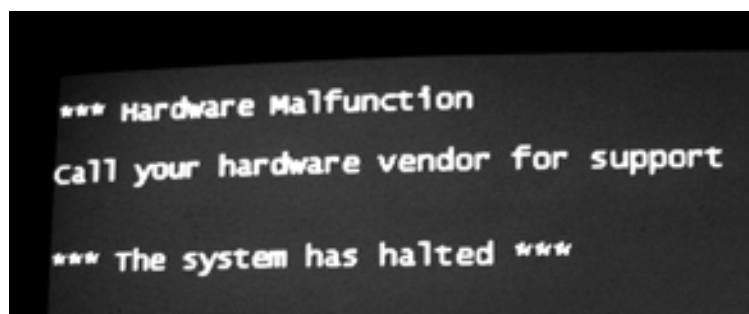
Some things aren't covered under the manufacturers' warranty. If your product is tested and deemed by the manufacturer that the damage was caused due to accidental or user damage, acts of nature or the installation of unau-

thorized parts you will be given a quote for the repair and it will not be covered under warranty. The most common repairs that are not covered by warranty are screen damage and water damage.

Even a brand-new device can have problems out of the box. Manufacturers have quality assurance measures in place to help eliminate the risk of a defective product reaching the consumer but, it's not foolproof by any means. When you power on your device for the first time the software is completing its installation process for the first time. Until the software configuration completes there is no way to know if the device is working properly. While hardware can be tested it's not until the software and hardware are working together that you can

determine if the device is functioning 100%. This is important to understand because your physical product may be working just as it should which would mean that the software is the problem. On more than one occasion we've had clients bring in their new computer to say that it's not working very well only to find that the Windows installation was corrupt or damaged. The software that is installed on a PC that is built in a factory typically is not tested on individual machines.

Consider this, when buying a new PC you should decide how long you want that device to last. Most laptops average 3-5 years without needing a major hardware repair and desktops typically last longer depending on the quality. An extended warranty is rec-



ommended especially if you purchase a laptop due to the increased risk of accidental damage and the need to match machine-specific parts.

At Jester's Computer Services we build Custom Desktop PCs that include a one-year warranty with many of the installed parts carrying longer warranties. One of the benefits of having a custom-built computer is not

only knowing that the parts are typically higher quality, but it's also knowing that the software was personally loaded which can help prevent software issues that might occur in a factory setting. If you need are interested in a custom-built desktop or are looking for quality computer repair and service, find us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com or call us at 717-642-6611.

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HUMOR

The antics of the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former Former Boozers Association. As originally published in the Emmitsburg Chronicle.

1919

January 24 - Boozers Hold Anti-Prohibition Rally

Wailing and whining was heard throughout Emmitsburg upon the news that Nebraska had passed the Prohibition amendment, making it the 36th state to do so, and thereby officially outlawing booze. Members of the Former Former Boozers Association held a rally that night on the square condemning the amendment stating that no woman had the right to take away a man's God given right to lubricate his mind when and where he should choose. The members voted to triple the production of their stills during the upcoming year, before Prohibition takes effect, to ensure a ready supply is available until such time as men put women back into their rightful position and overturn the amendment. Mayor Annan, meanwhile, stated that once prohibition takes place, he would not support any effort by revenueurs to shut down stills of hard workingmen.

March 7 - Dies From Cranking Car

Exerting and cranking his autocar caused Theodore Bollinger's death, according to a coroner's jury. The strain resulted in a violation of the

heart and he died ten minutes later. After three years of being nagged by his wife, Mr. Bollinger finally broke down and traded in his trusty horse Luke, who had served him faithfully for twenty years, for a Ford Run About. Mr. Bollinger had often told friends that his wife's nagging would be the death of him – apparently he was right. As Mrs. Bollinger is herself unable to crank the car, the car was returned to the Emmitsburg Motor Car Company and Luke is once again in his old stall in the Bollinger stable. Public Sale.

March 14 - Waives Hearing

Mrs. Frank Kaiser of Harney, who killed her husband by shooting him through a closed door several weeks ago, has returned to her home this week from the Sykesville sanitarium, and has waived hearing of her case. The case now awaits the action of the Grand Jury, which meets in May.

Public sentiment of women folk in the area is that Mr. Kaiser, a member of the Former Former Boozers Association, had it coming to him, as he was constantly spending money on booze needed for the upkeep of their home, and that no woman should have to put up with that. Mrs. Annan, head of the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Loyal Temperance Legion, said that the shooting of Mr. Kaiser should serve as a wake-up call for the drunks in town to get their act in order. Mayor Annan, when told of his wife's comment as he was headed into the Hotel Slagle's saloon, refused to comment. The

newly formed Emmitsburg Branch of the Loyal Temperance Legion, comprised mostly of wives of members of the Former Former Boozers Association, is dedicated to stopping the flow of booze in Emmitsburg. The Legion will hold twice monthly meetings at the Reformed Church.

April 18 - Boozers Propose Emmitsburg Secede From U.S.

Citing President Wilson's 14-point peace plan, which calls on nations to allow ethnic minorities to secede and form their own nations, members of the Former Former Boozers' Association voted overwhelmingly for Emmitsburg to secede from America. Once independent, the Boozers said they would rescind prohibition, and with it, predicted it would then be a 'wet' island in a sea of 'dry' states, the town would attract right-thinking men from far and wide eager to spend money to taste the sweet 'shine' produced in the local Mountains. "We will be so awash in cash," one boozer said, "that we'll be able to send our nagging wives anywhere they want to go! And the longer they stay away, the better. Emmitsburg will be a man's paradise!" Debate on design of Emmitsburg's new flag was put off until the next meeting to allow the Boozers to get down to some serious drinking.

June 13 - Jury Acquits Harney Woman

On Thursday, the jury acquitted Alice Kaiser of the murder of her husband Frank. The trial was prob-

ably the shortest murder trial ever heard in the state of Maryland. It only took the jury two hours to reach their decision. As the jury read their decision, a hush fell over the courtroom and Mrs. Kaiser's lips were visibly quivering. She was twisting a handkerchief in her fingers. The foreman glanced over the crowd in the courtroom, then looked at the judge and said in even tones: "We find the defendant not guilty as charged." Upon those words, the crowd in the courtroom burst into applause. While Mrs. Kaiser left the building, she walked between a line of people who reached out to congratulate her on successfully getting rid of a useless husband, encouraging other wives to do the same.

August 7 - May War On Tobacco

An extensive campaign has been conducted in New York to learn to what extent, and whether or not there is a movement to make war on the raising, selling and use of tobacco. It is thought that the Woman's Christian Temperance Union is quietly working against tobacco, and it was also thought that they are the same Anti-Saloon League forces that put through the temperance bill. No particular evidence has been found to make the assertion positive. Like it or not, tobacco will be fought sooner or later.

August 14 - Boozers Rally At Proposed Tobacco Restrictions

'Weaser' Shorb was the keynote

speaker at a special meeting of the Former Former Boozers Association at the Hotel Slagle, which was called in response to the ludicrous proposal by self-centered women to restrict a man's accesses to tobacco. To the hoots and howls of the boozers, "Weaser," between coughing fits, credited his life long use of tobacco to the creation of the odor that has allowed him to avoid the pitfalls of marriage. On the more serious side, Dr. Jameson told the Boozers, "smoking was in fact good for men," pointing out that all successful men were smokers. "On the other hand," said Dr. Jameson, "it is apparent that women are incapable of benefiting from smoking." He then went on to challenge the Boozers to name just one woman they knew who smoked who was "not a washed up only nag that looked like death warmed over."

August 14 - Real Farmerettes

Miss Margaret Newman of Waynesboro and Miss Beulah Weldon of New York have taken charge of a farm near Emmitsburg where they will engage in practical farming. These two farmerettes have been associated together in settlement work in New York for the past several years and have now decided to enter a new field of activity.

August 28 - Boozers Revel At Farmerettes

Emmitsburg's new farmerettes were the source of much amusement to members of the Former




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HUMOR

Former Boozers who spent Monday afternoon watching the pair try to start a tractor on their farm. The women eventually called Dan Glass over to help. Dan immediately identified that poor quality gas was the cause. Soliciting 'hooch' from Boozers, he quickly got the tracker running nice and right, telling the women they needed to treat their tractor like a man, always ensuring it had a good steady supply of hooch. On their return to town, Dan admitted the problem really was that the women had failed to turn the starter switch on, but he could not pass up an opportunity to teach some upstart women the importance of hooch in a man's everyday life.

September 26 - Farmerettes Destroy Boozers' Still

A silent vigil was held in Emmitsburg Saturday night when word reached the members of the Former Former Boozers that the still of Jack "stinky" Deathridge had been found by Emmitsburg's new Farmerettes in the woods on their property and destroyed. Word was that the girls had gotten wind of the still by the smell Deathridge would leave as he crossed their property, even when the wind was blowing away from their house. Upon hearing of his stills' demise, Deathridge broke down in tears, claiming the old land owner had allowed him to locate the still on the property and he saw no need to ask some upstart women folk if it was still ok. "No

kin of mine will ever ask a women for permission to do anything, If they do, that rumble you ill feel will be me rolling over in my grave." Said Deatheridge. During the vigil, Boozers drank what remained of the still's 'rotgut' until such time as no one could recall what they were mourning.

October 3 - Boozers' Rocked Romance

The membership of the Former-Former Boozers association were rocked by the revelation that Jack "Stinky" Deatheridge has been in a secret romance with one of Emmitsburg's new lady farmerettes. When confronted by his fellow Boozers, Deatheridge defended the illicit romance by stating that he was simply following his natural God given duty by providing the farmerette what every woman needed - a man to "cook and clean up after." "For without that," Deatheridge said, "women folk waste their limited mental capacity thinking up useless things like prohibition and suffrage." Deatheridge went on to blame the success of the prohibition movement on men who picked up after themselves as opposed to letting their womenfolk do it.

December 12 - Alcohol Burned

A car attached to a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad fast freight, containing a full load of barreled alcohol, caught fire near Thurmont. The consignment was in route from New Orleans to Newark,

New Jersey for foreign shipment. The flames were discovered when the train stopped for refueling. It was detached from the rest of the

train in order to avoid spreading the flames. Upon hearing the news local bars emptied as patrons raced to the scene, with buckets, intent

to reduce the source feeding the fire by carrying away as much booze as they could carry. It is reported a lively time was had by all.

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Please join us on campus for an Open House!

Learn about the Mount's academic programs, admissions and financial aid information, and hear from our panel of students and faculty followed by Q&A.

The day will include a student-led campus tour and lunch at Patriot Dining Hall.

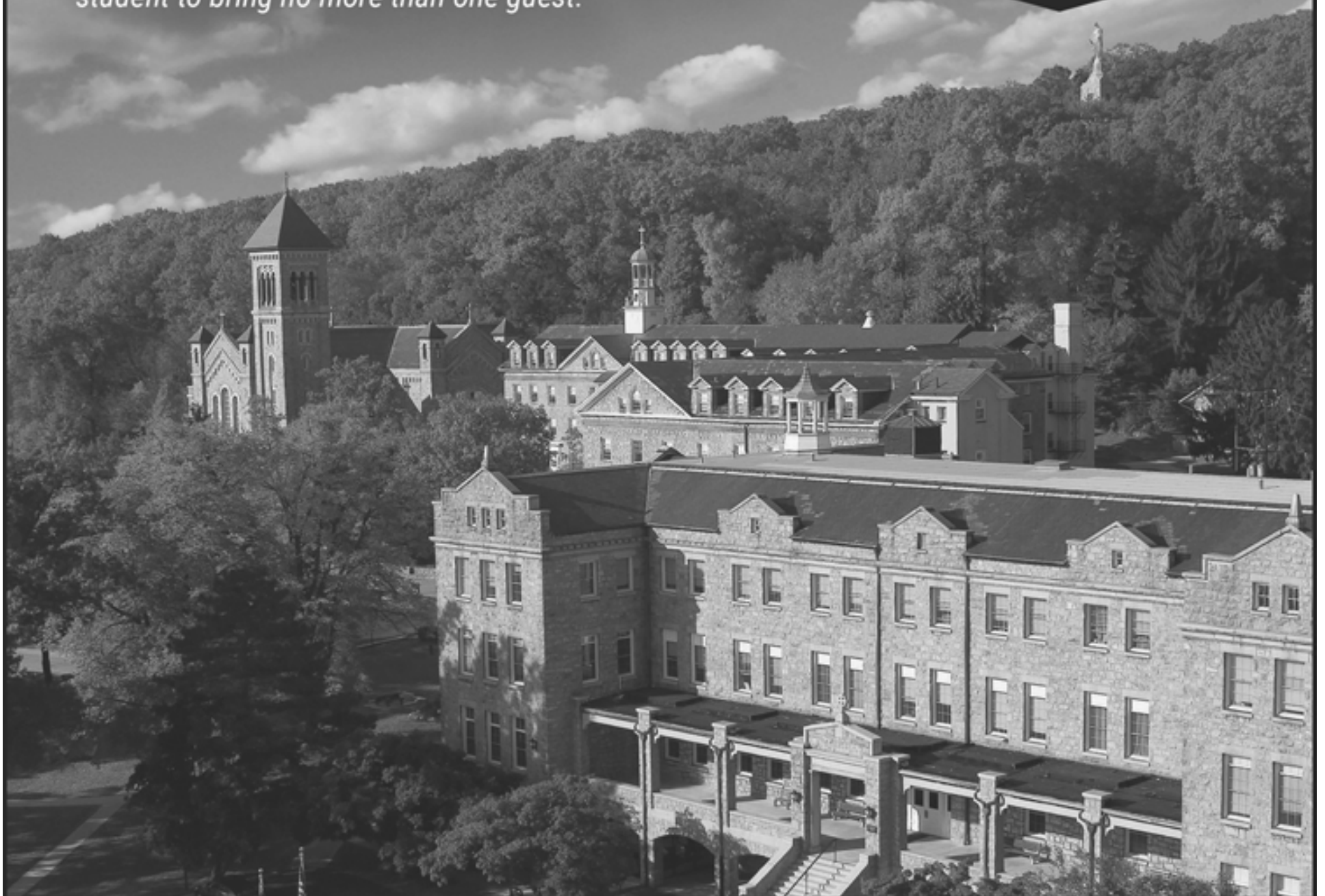
To maintain the health and safety of our visitors and campus community, we are limiting each prospective student to bring no more than one guest.



join us!

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 21**
Open House
11 a.m.

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 5**
Open House
11 a.m.



Learn more about upcoming virtual experiences and small group tours and discussions.

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