

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

OCTOBER 2021

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Ground broken for Thurmont skateboard park

On September 8, the Thurmont Skatepark Committee and supporters broke ground for the future Thurmont's official skatepark in the East End Park.

The Skatepark Committee was created in hopes of establishing a safe designated skating area in town. The committee, made up mostly of Catoclin High School students, has met with awe-inspiring council and community support from the get-go.

In just a few short months, the Thurmont Skatepark has gone from an idea to officially underway. "This is the fastest project we've ever seen come to fruition," Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird said, marveling over the 50 by 80-foot area soon to be filled with skaters and skating obstacles galore.

Kinnaird said he and the other council members were blown away by the dedication of the skatepark committee, who initially brought forward the proposed project in April and wasted no time in gathering signatures of support, raising sponsorships, and holding fundraisers.

Committee member Patrick Dugan told the council back in April, "Our town has lots of nice

parks. . . but the one thing we do not have is a skatepark." He added, "I feel it would also help with our economy because people would come from all around to skateboard and they would eat lunch at the businesses, and people would also come here and say "This is a place I might want to live because they have a skateboard park and it's good for teenagers."

Stacie Zelenka, whose son Maceo is on the committee, often considered herself more excited for the project than the teens. "I can already see what this project has done for our community, bridging the gap and bringing the entire community together, including older citizens, teens, the police department, and government officials."

"Many members of the community who the committee didn't necessarily think would be supportive of the project, namely senior residents, really got on board and have been doing anything they can to help," Zelenka said.

"We didn't think the community would be so involved in the opportunity to build a skatepark with us. As kids, we want to explore everything."



Skatepark committee: Josh Boyle, Patrick Dugan, Alan Chmiel, Maceo Zelenka, Sgt. Dave Armstrong, Norman Montoya-Sorto, Sean Whitworth, Stacie Zelenka, & Kirsten Dugan

Norman Montoya-Sorto, 16, said.

The committee took field trips to other town skateparks to get ideas of what the Thurmont Skatepark should look like and to understand the process it needed to go through to be built, Zelenka said.

Council member and liaison to the Skatepark Committee Wayne Hooper was amazed by the teens and how they "put their money where their mouth was" in raising over \$17,000 to fully fund the park. The ambition and dedication that individual members of the committee put in will stick with them their whole life."

The committee thanked the

dauntless support of countless members of the community, without whom the dream could not have become a reality, including Thurmont Police Department Sergeant David Armstrong and Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick.

The committee anticipates the skatepark's grand opening celebration in just a few short months.

While the skatepark construction has been funded, the committee is still raising funds for lights, bleachers, and trees for shade. Donations can be sent to The Town of Thurmont (memo Skatepark) and the Thurmont Skatepark gofundme page will be active through October.

Crowds return to celebrate 40th Pippinfest

Pippinfest supporters returned to Fairfield in droves Sept. 25 and 26 to celebrate Pippinfest's 40th anniversary. Unable to celebrate in 2020 due to COVID-19, the committee for the two-day festival was more than ready to see the crowds return according to Pippinfest Committee volunteer Linda Sites.

Saturday Main Street was a plethora of yard sales, craft, and food vendors from all over the region. Sunday made sure to stand out as well with live performances and entertainment for all ages including car shows, an apple dessert competition, and a display of timeless Pippinfest Pottery. The festival's 2021 Limited Edition Pippinfest 40th Anniversary Plate was once again provided by Jack Handshaw of Hobbit House Pottery. A sprawling quilt show, and demonstration organized by Stitch 'N Peace was held in Village Hall both days.

Youngster were ensured activities and entertainment both days as well through the Kids' Corner including pony rides, inflatables, a petting zoo, a climbing wall, dime pitch, and hands-on play for toddlers with bird seed ensured activities and entertainment for youngsters. A self-guided walking tour of 1860 Fairfield was sponsored by the Fairfield Area Historical Society and

carriage rides were also available.

"I am pleased with the turn out," Sites said.

First time Pippinfest vendor Tracy Shaffer of Honey So Good Apiary was encouraged by a local college roommate to come out to the festival and was delighted by the welcoming atmosphere of the community. "It's just been a constant stream of people to talk about bees with," she said.

Fairfield Area Historical Society's booth provided facts about the borough along with local books commissioned for sale and provided glimpses at historical events through past newspapers. "We are also always looking for new members," President Camille Cline said.

A community staple now four decades in the running, Pippinfest is more than the community's local apple festival, it is a celebration that brings people into the community, fosters an environment of fun for everyone, and brings neighbors together, said Sites.

Founded in 1980 by David Thomas, Pippinfest was initiated to provide opportunities for local clubs and non-profit organizations to raise funds and to provide a community-wide celebration of the annual apple harvest.



After being cooped up for 18 months, the public came out in droves for this year's Pippinfest.

"I didn't think in 40 years we'd be here doing this still... our budget back then was \$100," Thomas said. "It involves a lot of community effort, it's important for the local people to support a local project," he said.

In honor of the budding festival forty years ago, Thomas, former owner of the Fairfield Inn, planted a pippin apple tree behind the inn. In 2018, as the original tree was showing signs of aging, a second pippin tree was planted behind what is

now known as the Mansion House, according to Sites.

Seemingly in honor of the festival's 40th anniversary, this year the young tree has begun bearing fruit and was dedicated with gratitude to Thomas, Sites said.

Thomas credits the success of the festival with the unwavering support of the community and that the pride for Fairfield propels members of the committee to be involved. "It's their town, people need to have pride," he said.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Revised Town charter adopted

The Emmitsburg Town Council voted 4-1 to adopt an updated town charter that included decreasing the residency requirements for both mayor and commissioner candidates at their September 7 meeting.

Residency requirements for mayor and commissioner eligibility was reduced to just a 30 days' residency for both positions from the current one-year for commissioner and two years for mayor.

The old residency requirements had the potential to set the town up for litigation as "the one-year residency requirement is likely unconstitutional," according to town attorney Clark Adams.

When presented to the commissioners, the new charter proposed setting the residency requirements to three months for mayor and 30 days for commissioner.

Although Commissioner Joe Ritz preferred the residency requirement to remain at one year and two years for commissioner and mayor respec-

tively, he suggested they both be changed to 30 days for consistency. "If we're going to change both of them, we might as well make them the same," he said.

"I only brought it up for consistency's sake, I do not agree with it," Ritz said, arguing neither three months, nor 30 days was enough time for an elected official to know the town and the people whom they represented.

Commissioner Frank Davis echoed Ritz' concerns, stating he was worried it would open the council to being run by officials who were unfamiliar with the town. "I'm not against new people being involved in town government, but it takes you six months to find the reservoir," Davis joked.

In commenting on the change, Council President Tim O'Donnell said, "It's imperative upon the constituency to engage...I think this is going to put a new emphasis on people participating in elections."

Other changes in the new char-

ter included replacing text with more modern verbiage, such as including gender nonspecific pronouns, cleaning up inconsistencies and grammatical errors, as well as updating or striking information that is no longer applicable or out of date, such as the description of the town boundaries and references to the old town police department.

The new charter also removed some of the more 'interesting' expectations required of commissioners dating back to the early 1900s, such as the: regulating the cleaning of chimneys; prohibiting the running-at-large of animals in the streets; licensing and regulating public forms of transportation; regulating the speed and travel of all animals & bicycles and designating over what streets they may be driven.

When the final vote on adopting the new charter were cast, only Ritz objected, stating that his objection was based solely upon the change in residency requirements.

Ground broken for Rutter's store

Ground has official been broken for the Rutter's gas station/convenience store to be located on the east side of Rt. 15 on Taneytown Pike.

At the Sept. 13 groundbreaking ceremony, Chris Hartman, Rutter's Director of Fuels and Forecourt, said

"We're excited to get started and be part of the community." Hartman, an 11th generation member of the Rutter's family, has been in the forefront of bringing the convenience store to Emmitsburg.

"A major interstate like Route 15 is something we look for and recognize has a lack of certain services we could provide," Hartman said.

The convenience store project has been in the works for about two years, according to Tim Bieber, Site Development Project Manager. While the project is still awaiting some permits, construction for the 8,500 square feet, 15-acre store is expected to begin in October and doors are anticipated to be open "mid to late next

year," Bieber said.

The new store is expected to bring in 50 jobs, plus business for construction industries, vendors, and other companies, according to Hartman. "We want to grow in a good area that needs us. It's been a long time coming but we're almost there," Hartman said.

The Rutter's family has owned the same York County dairy farm since 1921, established by Hartman's great-grandfather and his brother. In 1968 the family branched out and began establish-



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Voters return incumbents to Town Council

The 269 residents turned out on September 28 to return Commissioners Tim O'Donnell and Cliff Sweeney to the Town Council. O'Donnell was to top vote getter with 182 votes with Sweeney receiving 174 votes. Buckman received 98 votes and Benvenji 63.

O'Donnell has served on the Town Council since 2009 and currently serves as the Council President. O'Donnell

said he was running to continue serving the community and aims to prioritize the safe opening of businesses following COVID-19 guidelines. O'Donnell also wanted to see "measurable growth" through-out the town by continuing to improve parks and preserving local trails. "I don't want to lose the quality of life that makes Emmitsburg known for as a small town," he said. A focus on systematic ways to improve the town sewer

and wastewater treatment are also high on O'Donnell's priorities. "My judgment is in accord with what the community wants," he said.

Current Council Vice President Sweeney has been on the Town Council for 23 years now, (having briefly been unseated in the 2004 election) and is not only the longest serving commissioner on the current Town Council, but the longest serving council member

in the town's history.

"Every year I learn something new that I haven't tried. I enjoy being on the council and making Emmitsburg a better place," Sweeney said. Sweeney aims to bring back community involvement activities such as Little League, noting many families must travel out of town to participate in sports and activities.

Sweeney's goals are that he doesn't want to see Emmitsburg continue to be a "bedroom community, one that residents only sleep in while they live and work in the cities. A focus should be placed on bringing in new businesses

and developments and upgrading the sewer system to expand the town."

O'Donnell, and Sweeney will be sworn-in and reassume their position on the Town Council on October 7.

The voter turnout this year is a decrease from the 2020 election for mayor and one commissioner that saw a total of 398 total ballots cast. In the 2020 election, Commissioner Joseph Ritz ran unopposed for his seat and received 331 votes and Mayor Donald Briggs was elected Mayor with 398 votes in a contested election against former Mayor James Hoover and Sweeney. (Sweeney only garnered support of 58 residents to be Mayor.)



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Strawberry Hill appoints new Executive Director

The board of Strawberry Hill appointed Daniel Brannen as its new Executive Director September 7, replacing Kara Ferraro who resigned in August.

In a letter to supporters of Strawberry Hill, the Foundation President Matthew Teeter said, "I want to thank our outgoing Executive Director, Kara Ferraro, for her dedicated service to Strawberry Hill, particularly over the last year and a half as we have navigated these uncertain times. We are sorry to see Kara move on, but we wish her well as she begins her next chapter."

Ferraro was hired in a 2018 reorganization of the Foundation that was undertaken as a result of financial difficulties with the Foundation's endowment, which was preventing the organization from meeting the original vision of the donated land. In 1994, Frances Froelicher bequeathed the original 519 acres to the Fairfield community to create an environmental education center. At one time Strawberry Hill included as much as 609 acres.

Following her appointment, Ferraro oversaw the transfer of 560 acres to the Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Proceeds from the sale bolstered the organization's endowment to \$1.4 million. Strawberry Hill survives exclusively on funds derived from the Foundation's endowment, membership and program fees, donations, as well as a mixture of state, federal, and private grants, and volunteer commitments.

Under Ferraro's leadership, the Strawberry Hill Education Committee was re-established, utilizing community members to offer monthly guided hikes and a variety

of enticing nature activities.

"We are excited to have Dan join our organization as we continue to move forward through and from the pandemic. Kara has left Strawberry Hill in a strong position as we look to further expand on our environmental education programming. Dan's love of the environment and past success in developing organizations will bode well for our future. These are exciting times at Strawberry Hill," Teeter said.

Brannen, who has called Adams County home for 14 years, holds a B.S. in Zoology from Miami Uni-

versity, a M.S. in Urban Affairs from Hunter College, and is a graduate of Leadership Greater Washington. Brannen has over 30 years of experience as a seasoned nonprofit executive, and has training as a nonprofit Standards for Excellence consultant. Brannen marks the third Executive Director in less than five years.

Today, along with educating the community about ecology and the local environment, Strawberry Hill is actively working to protect the Swamp Creek Watershed, as well as numerous local wetlands, and bodies of water.

Fairfield Bell gets ready for display

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

The bell was recently uncovered from the Village Hall basement and is has undergone restoration before being displayed in front of the building.

Although the origin of the bell is a little shaky, the prevailing opinion is it is the bell for the schoolhouse,

which the current borough office used to be.

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

No defining identity marks have been found yet, but more characteristic information about the bell is anticipated after its return from renovation, she said.

Restoration and stand fabrication have been done by Premier Met-

works and the footer for the bell pedestal display was dug by Rebert's Masonry.

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

Proponents of the west side of the lawn, Council President Pro Tem Camille Cline, and Council members Dean Thomas, and Sally

Thomas, expressed concern that placement on the east side of the lawn would result in a cluttered aesthetic.

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

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

Consideration will also be placed on moving the Village Hall sign to create more open area on the east side.

Discussion is currently underway about the bell's display plaque language.

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

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

News Briefs . . .

Police apply for information sharing grant

Police incident logs are one step to becoming easier as the Carroll Valley Police Department gets Borough Council approval to apply for a special grant Sept. 14.

The U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Assistance Grant will provide for innovative policing strategies with a focus on information sharing, Carroll Valley Police Department Chief Richard Hileman said. The grant is overseen by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and all police agencies in Adams County were encouraged to apply, he said.

The grant would allow a crash reporting and notification module to be added to the police department's records management application. This module would allow for more streamlined information sharing between the surrounding police departments. The module would automate the manual functions required at the scene of an incident and would expedite procedures as well as facilitate more data with less duplication, he said.

Module updates will make it easier to modify the crash notification system utilized by all surrounding police departments, Hileman said. The grant is for up to \$60,000 with no match required, he said.

High-speed broadband update
Carroll Valley Borough Manager Dave Hazlett briefed the Borough Council on an agreement with Comcast to move forward with the high-speed broadband project to provide broadband to the D-Section of Carroll Valley.

The D-section of Carroll Valley is unserved by broadband

and currently only utilizes DSL brought in by the telephone company, Assistant Borough Manager Gayle Mathers said.

The crucial need for reliable internet for work and school really became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project would utilize pandemic relief funding.

The next steps of the project are being discussed to see if Liberty Township is required to be part of the broadband agreement, Hazlett said.

Fairfield fire company prepares for 100th anniversary

Fairfield Fire and EMS welcomes the community for an open house in celebration of its 100th anniversary Oct. 10.

Since 1921, Fairfield Fire and EMS has served the surrounding area and looks forward to bringing

in the community to learn about the station's history and meet the emergency responders that make up that commitment for themselves, according to Bill Jacobs, Fairfield's Fire Chief.

All ages are invited to come out to the Fairfield Fire Station for light refreshments, fire safety demonstrations, as well as up-close looks at fire equipment and station tours. "So people can see what we do," Bill Jacobs, fire chief said.

There will be a coloring contest for kindergarten through fourth grade, with winners from each grade getting to ride in the fire truck. Also in attendance will be Fountaindale Fire Company, celebrating their 75th anniversary, as well as Adams Regional EMS, local police departments, and Life Net Air helicopter.

Looking to provide a day that is connective as well as educational, information will be available about

volunteering, including the station's junior firefighter program. There are many different aspects of volunteering that don't necessarily need to be fighting fires. Support is always needed fundraising and with other behind the scenes aspects that keep the department running for the community.

Fairfield Fire Station used to have open houses yearly, both in the Fall and Spring, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year's was cancelled. The station is excited to now be able to celebrate such a milestone with the community that they are so dedicated to serving, Jacobs said.



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THURMONT NEWS

Seven to vie for two open Town Council seats

At the September 28 Nominating Convention seven candidates were nominated to run for two open seats on the Town Council. Mayor Kinnaird will run unopposed.

The Town Hall was packed with residents showing their support for candidates vying to throw their hat in the ring for election.

"It's really exciting to have this large group running and taking part in town government," Commissioner Wayne Hooper said.

Seven candidates were nominated for the two commissioner seats currently held by Commissioners Martin Burns and Wayne Hooper.

The commissioner candidates include Bill Blakeslee, Christopher Stouter, Sabrina Massett, Mickey Blank, Olen Gunn, Janice Guillory, as well as Hooper, the only returning incumbent.

However the big news of the night was the decision of incumbent Commissioner Burns not to seek reap-

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

Burns was elected Mayor in 2001 and served 3 terms. In 2013 he was elected to the Town Council where he has been instrumental in the success of town projects including the railroad bridge, downtown lights and paying off the new police department building. "We've done a lot together, it's never been all me," he said.

Burns said he is most grateful to the residents for giving him the opportunity to serve the community and despite his argumentative nature, believing in his unwavering ethics. "They gave me a pass, knowing in my heart of hearts, I have the best interest of the whole town."

Current Mayor John Kinnaird was the only candidate nominated for Mayor and so will run unopposed in the election. This year will mark Kinnaird's eighth year as mayor.

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

A candidate forum hosted by the Lions Club will be held Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.

The election will be held on Oct. 26th at the Guardian Hose Activities Building. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Absentee ballot will be available starting Oct. 8. To obtain an absentee ballot contact the town office at 301-271-7313.

Town readies for 57th annual Colorfest

Heralding in the autumn season, Colorfest is always held the first full weekend in October, and this year is no exception as visitors are expected to once again flock to the streets of Thurmont for more than 225-juried arts and craft vendors.

One of the community's most popular and heavily attended annual events. Colorfest features street vendors, food, yard sales and more, attracting upwards of as many as 100,000 attendees.

Colorfest is the single biggest fundraising opportunity for many local

churches, civic organizations, nonprofits, and scholarships in the area. The festival can bring in as much as \$20,000 in fundraising, as well as priceless awareness to the town, according to Carol Robertson, Colorfest President.

Colorfest was not held last year due to the pandemic, but Robertson hopes visitors and vendors alike will be eager to meet and celebrate once again. "We expect a large crowd of people who are anxious to get out," she said.

Colorfest has been a tradition in the town since 1963, when Catocin Moun-

tain Park naturalist Duncan Burchard organized nature walks through the area, attracting 60 people each year. Over the years, the event expanded to include art exhibits, church dinners, and yard sales. By 1971, 30,000 people were attending the event.

Recently recognized as one of the top 35 arts and craft shows in the U.S., Colorfest takes its status as one-of-a-kind festival very seriously. Vendors must authenticate their work and be of a unique style, according to Robertson.

Known for its dedication to the indi-

viduality of its vendors, officials continually verify vendor wares are authentic and handcrafted. "Artists like to be a part of Colorfest because of what we do... They are not allowed to just taking anything out of a box and sell it," she said.

As the festival's popularity increased, so did the cost of holding the event for the town. In 2016, in an effort to stem losses to the town from the annual fall event, the Town Council voted to increase Colorfest permits fees as well as make cuts to

town services supporting the event.

At the town's recent Aug. 31st meeting, the Town Council approved renewing all previous Colorfest support services contracts, including May's Security Service, Rill's Bus Service, and Key Sanitation.

"As with everything else, the prices are going up," Mayor John Kinnaird said.

Although organization and supply expenses have risen, visitor admittance is still free, and patrons can still expect the same captivating event. For more information about Colorfest, visit www.colorfest.org.

Golf champs return winnings

Throughout its eight years, this season's Gateway To The Cure brought a new meaning to community solidarity, according to Town Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder.

Despite challenges and cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Thurmont's third annual Gateway To The Cure Golf Classic proved that community dedication to and generosity was still as strong as ever.

The annual tournament held at Sept. 10 included 50 golfers which is about typical for the tournament, but what surprised Grinder was when the prizes were handed out. "Every single winner donated their winnings back," she said.

The tournament consists of traditional monetary prizes for first, second, and third place, plus bonus competitions including longest drive, closets to the pin and the 'Pink Ball Challenge'.

Grinder marveled at the generosity of the community that has gone above and beyond to exemplify support of cancer research and cancer victim support programs via The Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund.

"it was amazing," she said, with emphasis and pride swelling in her voice. "The weather was perfect as well, no humidity, it was a perfect day." The tournament also raised money from the 20-hole sponsors and nine 'Pink Ball' top tier sponsors.

The Gateway To The Cure Campaign began in 2014 to spread awareness about breast cancer in support of the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund and town's residents, businesses, and nonprofits have jumped into the campaign enthusiastically since the beginning.

Although the Zumbathon was cancelled due to COVID concerns, Gateway To The Cure events are still going strong,

including the upcoming seventh annual Covered Bridge 5K Fun Run/Walk at Eyer Road Park Oct. 24.

Iconic pink light bulbs and other merchandise is still available for sale around town and businesses will continue to run Gateway To The Cure themed specials throughout the month of October, Grinder said.

In 2020, the town of Thurmont presented the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund, a check for \$15,000, despite the complications of the pandemic. To date, the town of Thurmont has donated more than \$98,000 over more than seven years of fund-raising to the cancer fund.

The Thurmont commissioners are expected to present a check for the 2021 donations at the Nov. 23rd town meeting. More information about Thurmont's Gateway To The Cure can be found at www.thurmontmainstreet.com.

Public Election Notice

Notice is hereby given that an Election for the Town of Thurmont will be held October 26 at the Guardian Hose Company Activity's Building located at 123 E. Main Street in Thurmont.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Persons in line at the time of closing shall be permitted to vote. Absentee Ballot Applications for the Election will be available on October 8, and the last day to make application for an Absentee Ballot is October 19.

The election is for Mayor and two (2) Commissioner seats. Those running for office are the following:

Mayor: John Kinnaird

Commissioner:

Bill Blakeslee

Mickey Blank

Janice Guillory

Olen Gunn

Wayne Hooper

Sabrina Massett

Christopher Stouter

For more information contact the Town office at 301-271-7313.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Application begun for Community Development Block Grant

On September 13, the City Council approved an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) pending the city attorney's review and public comment.

CDBGs began in 1974 and is one of the most flexible federal programs available to the city, according to Economic development director Jay Meashey.

The city has received CDBG funding four times before in 1994, 1995, 1996, and 2002, he said.

The CDB grant funding is admin-

istered nationally by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to benefit those who have low to moderate income (LMI), he said.

The funding of the CDB grant must be applied to activities that benefit low- and moderate-income people particularly "housing and water related infrastructure," eliminating slums, and addressing urgent issues to health and safety, Meashey said.

No matter what objective a project aims to achieve, "overall, CDBG has to benefit low- and moder-

ate-income individuals," he said.

While CDB funding is typically aimed toward entitlement communities, such as the principal city in a metropolitan area, or major urban county, this year, HUD gave about 8 million dollars to Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development to give to non-entitlement communities like Taneytown.

The maximum grant the state of Maryland will provide an applicant is \$800,000, Meashey said.

The federal government collects annual income data including house-

hold size to calculate LMI, he said. Taneytown is part of the Baltimore metropolitan statistical area, which is to the city's benefit when calculating LMI, according to Meashey.

The threshold for low and moderate income varies by location, but typically low income is measured as earning less than 50% of an area's median income, while moderate income is between 50% and 80%, he said.

Citywide, Taneytown is not fifty percent LMI, according to Meashey, "Which speaks well for our residents," he said.

While there is no definitive project the funding will go toward, if the grant is approved, activities eligible within Taneytown include developing a storm water management area plan, installation of storm drain inlets, and addressing standing water issues in individual neighborhoods, Meashey said.

The city is in a crunch for the grant's specific application deadline of Oct. 8., but even if city can not get the application submitted by the deadline the city would still qualify for a five-year window to apply again, according to City Manager James Wieprecht.

Groundwater impacting sewer system efficiency

Brian Lubenow, Taneytown's city Engineer, presented updates to the Public Works Department's compliance with the wastewater treatment plant and with the sewer collection system to the City Council on September 8.

Taneytown's wastewater treatment plant was originally built in 2000 and was upgraded in 2016 for enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) through funding by the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) bay restoration program, according to Lubenow.

The project was done under a con-

sent agreement with the state, and penalties were issued when the project fell behind schedule and "exceeded the consent agreement limits," with fines reaching around \$80,000, he said. Eventually the penalties were brought down to \$27,000 and paid off, closing the consent agreement with the state, he said.

Issues at the treatment plant continue however with "annual exceedances of total nitrogen and total phosphorus ever since the plant was completed," he said.

There are annual load limits placed on the plant which 'float' or change

depending on the water flow the plant received. The more water that makes its way to the plant, the harder it is to treat it, which means more nutrient are released to the environment. While the total releases limits do increase with the increased flow, the state does have a maximum, which the plant can't exceed, according to Lubenow.

Permitted flow is 1.1 million gallons per day (MGD) and the average daily flow is 1.0 MGD. On a dry day the plant averages is 0.4 (MGD). However on rainy days, especially heavy rain days, the plant can see

upwards to 7.5 MGD, he said.

The biggest challenges faced by the plant in consistently meeting the nutrient removal limits is controlling the influx of groundwater, often called 'wild water,' into the sewer system.

The major source of the influx of groundwater in through the older portions of the city's sewer collection system, which are made of old terracotta piping which is more susceptible to cracking, and leaking, according to Lubenow.

A survey is currently underway to review all the city's manholes and

confirm where the terracotta piping is, he said. The survey is approximately 80% complete. Once done, the city will be able to determine which sections are leaking the most and put in place a plan to address those sections. However the projects will require "significant capital expenditures" that will need to be approved by the City Council

By reducing infiltration of wildwater, while at the same time, improving the waste water planet's capacity to handle higher flows, the plant should be able to meet Maryland's nutrient removal requirements said Lubenow.

News Briefs . . .

Event – wedding venue proposed for old Havillah Inn

The new owners of the old Havillah Inn on the Taneytown Pike, just west of town, have proposed to turn the facility into a event – wedding venue.

The rustic building, which sits atop a hill along Taneytown Pike, opened for business as a seafood restaurant in 1975, and was named 'Havilah' the Gaelic word for "rolling hills and hollows," by its owner, Joe Fitzgerald, and was a popular stop of both locals and travelers.

However that all changed in 1991 when the restaurant was sold. It took less than four years for the new owners to fail. Other entrepreneurs have tried their hands at making a go at it, under the names: Bear Creek Inn, Gunner's Grill, The Broken Spoken, and most recently – Easy Does it.

Five failures apparently was a good enough indicator for its new owners to try something different. At the Sept. 27 Planning and Zoning Commission, the owners were granted a variance for an all-weather tent to be installed to allow for outdoor weddings and events.

No questions were raised by the commissioners regarding possible noise issues, an issue which has plagued other outdoor wedding venues which have moved into areas deemed 'residential' in nature.

City Manager James Wieprecht said that noise levels from weddings and events would be regulated by the City's noise ordinance.

Council tables sheds for now

The City Council tabled discussion on allowing sheds in Meade's Crossing at their September meeting until a related ordinance is passed.

The ordinance provides the enabling language for a Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) to allow the sheds, according to City Manager James Wieprecht.

Within a community village, individual storage sheds are prohibited, and the pending Community Village Zone ordinance would add "unless otherwise specified in a development rights and responsibilities agreement adopted

and applying to the applicable parcel" to that section. Until that ordinance is passed, there's nothing enabling a DRRA to make the allowance for sheds, he said.

"We need to have the enabling language passed first," Wieprecht said.

The council rendered a consensus at its March workshop to pursue regulatory changes that would allow sheds in Community Village developments, specifically for Meade's Crossing, under certain circumstances.

The council decided the solution would be to amend the development's DRRA to allow sheds and to designate the development's Homeowners Association (HOA) as having the regulatory power to govern the specifica-

tions, which they determine to be allowable.

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

An additional governing entity that has the power to impose further rules and restrictions is a development's HOA. However, while an HOA can create regulations which are stricter than that of town regulations, an HOA cannot generate rules that are less strict than the towns, or which contradict a municipal regula-

tion, according to Mayor Bradley Wantz said.

Smith had noted that, while the HOA provides for lawn care for the townhomes present, it does not provide the same for the single-family home, resulting in those in single-family homes having to store their lawncare and other outdoor accessories out-of-doors.

The council is anticipating the enabling ordinance and the development's DRRA to proceed with discussion and adoption in October.

The DRRA amendment resolution would permit sheds up to 120 square feet or single-family homes but would still not allow sheds on townhome lots. Considering no sheds are currently allowed in Community Village, "Anything is an improvement," Wantz said.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Kia Hagen

Virtually everyone who receives the News Journal lives in County Council District 5. That is unlikely to change. But the lines that describe and separate the five council districts are about to change...at least a little. Before 2014, Frederick County residents voted for five county commissioners, who served as both the executive and legislative branches of county government. All five commissioners were elected at-large. There were no districts.

That changed with the 2014 election. In 2012, the county voted to switch from the commissioner form of government to charter government.

The structure for charter government wasn't something that was pulled off a shelf in Annapolis, and presented to voters here for consideration. Our charter was drafted by an appointed Frederick County Charter Board, which met for months, reviewed other county charters, consulted with experts, and discussed, debated and decided on many different elements where Maryland law provided a spectrum of options.

There were discussions about the balance of authority between the executive and council, how many council members to have, should council member be full time or part time, how much council members should be paid, and whether they should all be elected at-large, or all represent separate districts, or a combination of both. There were discussions about having five or seven or nine council members, whether one or two or three should be at-large members, etc.

In the end they decided the charter would have seven council members, with two at-large members and five elected by separate districts. The commission then had to draw a map for the new districts. The commission considered different proposals before settling on the map we have today.

But, because the county's population shifts and grows the lines need to be re-evaluated after the census every ten years, and redrawn as necessary to continue to meet the basic requirement that districts be "substantially equal in population."

Having districts means that, for the first time, partisan, political gerrymandering is possible in our county. The current process provides some safeguards to reduce the opportunity for partisan gerrymandering, but definitely does not eliminate the possibility, if there is a majority of the county council willing to do so.

The charter also includes a process for redistricting (or redrawing the new district boundaries) every ten years. The Frederick County Democratic Central Committee and the Frederick County Republican Central Committee each select three people to be on a nine-member Redistricting Commission. The County Council selects the other three members of the commission, from county residents and registered voters who are unaffiliated with a political party for at least two years prior to appointment.

Remember that a highly partisan council majority could draw a map that gave one party or the other a significant and unrepresentative

advantage in three or four of the five districts. Nothing in the charter or state law effectively prevents it.

The members of the Redistricting Commission were selected and approved a few months ago. The map making process, however, was delayed because the final census numbers were released late this year.

The commission is meeting now, and is charged with presenting a new map to the county council by November 15. Their map will be a recommendation. The county council could approve the map, or make any changes supported by a majority of the council, as long as the changes generally conform to the county charter, which states: "Any Council District established in accordance with this section shall be compact, contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interests as a result of geography, occupation, history, or existing political boundaries."

Those variables are not specifically defined, however, and a long history elsewhere has made it clear that those "requirements" are more soft guidelines than strict or legal mandates.

Nothing in the charter makes it necessary to use the current district lines as a starting point for the new districts. The commission could tweak the existing maps, moving some precincts from one district to another in response to population changes, or, though it is unlikely, they could create five very different districts.

When the charter writing board developed the map we have now, the county had a plurality of registered Republicans. That was a factor in the decision to create three council districts that had a plurality of Republican voters. Today the county has a plurality of registered Democrats. Will that affect the decision making process of the commission, or for that matter, the county council?

Personally, though I find gerrymandering abhorrent, it has been done in other places...by both major parties...to the increasing detriment of fair elections and good government.

I encourage you to pay attention to the potential issues that exist in the process of drawing council districts.

Learn more here: www.frederickcountymd.gov/8182/Redistricting-Commission.

County Councilman Phil Dacey

This past month the Frederick County Council had an important briefing about Governor Hogan's plan to expand I-270, a briefing on the small area plan for the future of the Sugarloaf area, and we began discussions about a potential, one-time tax credit. I hope everyone had an opportunity to visit the Great Frederick Fair. It was certainly a welcome sight to see the Fairgrounds packed with families after a 24 month hiatus.

First, we all know that traffic in Frederick County has been and will con-

tinue to be a major problem affecting the quality of life for all of our residents. Route 15 and Interstate 270 in Frederick County need to be expanded. They have been over capacity for decades. Governor Hogan has proposed a comprehensive solution that does not require additional government revenue (no new taxes). Adding privately managed lanes will not only allow residents to bypass all traffic when necessary, but studies show that managed lanes make the 'free lanes' move 20% faster.

If you have been to Virginia, you have

likely seen these managed lanes as they are building them quickly. In Maryland, we are on track to begin this expansion with a key hurdle having been passed with the beginning of an environmental study. Additionally, for the first time, the Maryland Department of Transportation has included in its Transportation Plan money for the engineering phase for expansion of Route 15 through Frederick. This is a key priority for all of Frederick County as this route now gets backed up and has reduced speeds on every day of the week.

The Planning Commission will be hearing the plan to preserve the Sugarloaf small area soon. The Council had a briefing on this and there is general agreement that this is a part of the county where preservation of agriculture and open spaces should be prioritized. Sugarloaf is a special area of the county that we will need to actively work to keep from being developed.

There has been a proposal by the County Executive to purchase the former State Farm building in Frederick that can be seen from Route 15 near the split to 340. This will be long term proposal as this building comes with hun-

dreds of thousands of square feet and 9 acres. We will learn more about this proposal over the coming months.

Finally, the Council has just started the discussion about a potential tax credit. I am pleased that there is recognition that county residents have been paying an increasing tax burden. I have been alerting residents that tax assessments have dramatically increased over the past year. This means that tax bills will also be increasing as every property is reassessed over a three year period. I hope that we can expand on the modest tax credit proposal to provide more meaningful tax relief for Frederick County residents.

Mayors...

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs
The 40th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will again be held on the FEMA campus October 2nd - 3rd. Attendance will be lim-

ited to guests, presenters, and family members of firemen honored this year. It is so good to have this tribute back especially on the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

On Saturday, September 11th, I attended a 9/11 commemoration on the FEMA campus, marking

the 20-year anniversary of that horrific day. As time goes on, a natural tendency is to forget those who died that day. Though Emmitsburg is nestled in a rural setting 220 miles from New York City, our community that day was affected, and intimately. Five Mount alumni died that day at the Twin Towers. They were Jim Murphy, C'93, Elizabeth Claire "Beth" Logler, C'91, Anthony Edward Gallagher, C'83, Kevin James Murphy, C'83, Andy Alamo, C'86. These were wonderful people who we may have run into at the grocery store, at a gas station or ate next to at a restaurant. The Mount has honored them with a memorial on campus beside Patriot Hall. Also, the American Heroes Scholarship Fund was established at the Mount in 2004 by student friends of those who lost their lives that day.

Groundbreaking for the proposed Frederick Health - Emmitsburg at Mount St. Marys urgent care facility will be held on October 15th.

Irishtown Road update: The sewer line for the proposed homes along Irishtown Road is going in place a month ahead of schedule. Completion is now projected to be on or about October 31st. Soon there will be the long-awaited two-way traffic access to Brookfield Drive off Irishtown Road. It is being said that several of the pro-

posed homes along Irishtown Road are already under contract.

New business update: Confirmed, Federated Stone is relocating to Emmitsburg. The fifty-year-old family owned business will break ground next spring (2022) on a 50,000-sf building to be located off Creamery Road (eastside of US 15).

October 31st, the Halloween parade is on. Check town web site for further details on time, location route and after parade festivities.

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

Thurmont will be holding elections for Mayor and two Commissioner positions on Tuesday, October 26th. I encourage you to participate if you are a registered voter. The election will be held at the Guardian Hose Company Activities Building at 123 East Main Street. Voting will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. This is your chance to help decide who will guide our community in the coming years. On a personal note I will be running for Mayor again. It has been my pleasure to be Mayor and I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our community.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has finalized the Draft Master Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Plan. The P&Z will be hosting a public hearing to intro-

duce the plan. Please take some time to review the plan and attend the public hearing, the draft plan is available on the town website. Once the hearing is completed the P&Z will make any final tweaks based on public input before sending it to the Board Of Commissioners. The BOC will then review the plan and hold a separate public hearing before considering the adoption of the Master Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Plan. This document is intended to serve as a guide for Thurmont's growth and development and as such requires our attention.

Colorfest is coming the weekend of Oct 9th & 10th. If you are having a yard sale on Saturday or Sunday, a permit is required. Permits are available at the Town Office, call 301-271-7313 for more information. As of today we are planning for a typical Colorfest and I hope we have a great turnout of vendors and guests. Colorfest weekend offers many of our non-profits and service organizations their largest fundraising opportunity of the year. I hope the weather cooperates and that every one has an enjoyable Colorfest weekend!

If you have any questions or comments I can be reached at john@thurmont.com or by phone at 301-606-9458.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

Autumn has ushered in crisp, cool weather. Before long, beautiful colors will paint our mountainsides. One of my favorite parts of fall is the opportunity to recognize the exceptional men and women who grow the food and fiber for all of us. Each year, we kick off the Great Frederick Fair with an award ceremony for our agriculture industry. This September, we honored winners from 2020 and 2021. Congratulations to Farm Families of the Year, the Richard Pry Family of Needwood Farm (2021) and Lambert Farms (2020). Ag Businesses of the Year are Shrivens Meats for 2021 and Eddie Mercer for 2020. Jamie Derr (2021) and Taylor and Brandon Huffman (2020) earned Young Farmers of the Year, and our Ag Advocates of the Year are Laura Ramsburg (2021) and Kelli Wilson (2020). Kudos to all for the important work you do every day!

Keeping agriculture economically viable is a priority for my administration. We have increased funding for land preservation, boosted marketing through our Homegrown Frederick publication and website, and examined options for value-added production to support Frederick County's agricultural industry.

This year, we also started an exciting grant program to help farm-

ers diversify their operations. These grants help farmers to enter new markets and develop new ideas and opportunities for revenue. Our Agriculture Innovation Grants have been extremely popular, based on the number of applications we received for the second round. I am pleased to share with you that the new grant program has earned a Maryland Sustainable Growth Award for Preservation and Conservation from the Maryland Department of Planning. The award recognizes outstanding efforts to save Maryland's farm and forest land, promote environmentally sound farming practices, and support a sustainable future for farms.

We will soon be announcing the next round of grant winners for our award-winning program, so stay tuned!

Preservation Award

Agriculture Innovation Grants support our Livable Frederick goal of preserving the things that make Frederick County special. Our commitment to preserving land and historic resources is making a difference.

I was humbled to learn that I was being honored for my administration's focus on preservation. Preservation Maryland's Nicholas Redding presented a 2021 Preservation Champion

Award to me last month at the historic Loys Station covered bridge. Preserving and protecting the resources that make Frederick County unique helps future generations to appreciate what makes our community special. This award recognizes our efforts to accelerate agriculture preservation, as well as our new Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program.

Moving Frederick County Forward

Frederick County is fortunate to have a one-time opportunity to assist taxpayers and secure a bright future for our community. The opportunity was created because of our conservative budgeting, our strong fiscal management, and better-than-expected revenues. We recently announced two initiatives made possible by the one-time fund balance.

First, County Council Vice President Michael Blue proposed putting some of the revenue back into the pockets of homeowners who need it most. I support his plan to create a one-time \$175 property tax credit for owner-occupied houses that are assessed at or below the County's median home value, which is \$328,512. The refund is twice as generous for homeowners than lowering the tax rate to the constant yield amount. If approved

by the County Council, checks will be mailed to all eligible homeowners. The County has made \$16 million in rental assistance available during the pandemic, and \$17 million in grants to businesses. The one-time tax credit is the first time that homeowners have been eligible for assistance.

The second initiative allows the County to take advantage of an opportunity to purchase a large commercial property in the City of Frederick to consolidate county services. We are looking at a variety of options for the building, located at 800 Oak Street. Potential uses include a Next Generation 9-1-1 call center, a library, a senior center, and a warehouse.

The County has been leasing a portion of the 209,184-square-foot building since April to conduct vaccination clinics. The property includes 9.5 acres of vacant land that provides additional opportunities for expansion or for priorities such as affordable housing. Buying the 26-acre site will allow the County to consolidate operations, improve efficiency, dispose of valuable surplus land, eliminate current costs, avoid future costs, and speed up delivery of other Capital Projects. As a result, we will be able to offset a majority of the building's \$20 million purchase price, making the County's net

cost approximately \$7.5 million. My goal is to incorporate energy efficiencies and alternative energy sources, like solar panels, so that the building will be a net-zero energy user.

These two proposals allow us to balance the needs of our community. We are supporting taxpayers through a tax credit, and at the same time providing more efficient services to the people who live and work in Frederick County. At the end of the day, it's all about making life better for our community.

COVID-19

We are continuing to see high transmission of COVID-19 in Frederick County. Frederick Health Hospital has treated between 24-34 in-patients with the virus each day over the past month. As many as half of all the Intensive Care Unit beds have been filled with COVID patients in September.

Our best tool to stop the spread is to vaccinate as many people as possible. It is up to all of us to protect our children, who are not yet eligible for vaccines. Even vaccinated people should wear masks inside public places, according to public health experts. Please keep your guard up.

Stay safe and stay well!

County Notes . . .

One-Time Funds Create Opportunity for Homeowners' Tax Credit

Conservative budgeting, strong fiscal management and better-than-expected revenues has created a one-time opportunity to use fund balance for two initiatives to assist taxpayers and secure a bright future for Frederick County. County Council Vice President Michael Blue has proposed a one-time property tax credit to owner-occupied houses that are assessed at or below the County's median home value. County Executive Jan Garden proposed seizing the opportunity to purchase a large commercial property on Oak Street in the City of Frederick to consolidate county services. Potential uses for the site include a Next Generation 9-1-1 call center, a library, a senior center, and a warehouse.

The property tax credit proposed by Vice President Blue would return \$175 to each residential or dual-use property valued at \$328,512 or less. The refund generates twice the savings for homeowners than if the tax rate had been set at the constant yield amount, which for the average-price house would have meant a savings of only \$88. If approved by the County Council, checks will be mailed to all eligible homeowners. State law does not permit a one-time property tax credit to be issued to business properties.

"I am proud to introduce a resolution to use \$7.5 million to put back in the pockets of homeowners who need it most," Vice President Blue said. "Frederick County has provided assistance to renters, and \$17 million in grants to businesses during the pandemic. This tax rebate will help homeowners and put money back into our local economy."

County Facilities to Remain Open by Appointment Only until Nov. 1

Cases of COVID-19 remain high in Frederick County, leading to 11 deaths in the past month and stressing local healthcare systems. Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner called on residents to stay diligent by getting vaccinated against the coronavirus and wearing masks in indoor public places upon CDC Guidelines.

"We are at risk of overwhelming our healthcare system," Executive Gardner said. "All of us need to do our part to protect our loved ones and the most vulnerable members of our community. Please get vaccinated and wear a mask when you are inside with others."

There are 31 people with COVID-

19 currently hospitalized at Frederick Health Hospital. Six patients are in the intensive care unit. Outbreaks have been recorded at local nursing homes, public and private schools, and at the Adult Detention Center. Frederick County has a higher positivity rate than the state as a whole. As of this morning, the local positivity rate stands at 4.6%. The seven-day average of new cases is 17.45 cases per 100,000 people. For comparison, Maryland's positivity is 4.38% and its case rate is 20.09. Local statistics are updated each weekday at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CovidStats.

Because Frederick County is experiencing high rates of community transmission, County facilities will remain closed to the public, except by appointment, until Nov. 1. Masks must continue to be worn in all County buildings, including County Public Libraries.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On September 11th, a 60-minute 20th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony was held at the Fairfield Regional 9/11 Memorial located on the grounds of St. Mary's Church. Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Roman Catholic Bishop of Harrisburg, provided the blessing and closing prayer. Mayor Bob Stanley of Fairfield Borough led the approximately 150 people in attendance through the 9/11 program. Highlights included a welcome by Anthony Venzin (memorial's creator), the singing of the national anthem by Cassie Hoch, songs sung by the Fairfield Choir under the direction of Patsy Mills and St. Mary's Choir under the direction of Christine Carpenter, the flag ceremony during which I had the honor to read the timeline of the 9/11 highlights of that horrible morning as the state flags (New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia) were raised under the leadership of Scoutmaster Jamie Gaskin with the assist of the Knights of Columbus.

The program ended with State Representative Dan Moul delivering an inspiring speech that contained the following thought – "This tragedy transformed our nation. It brought together

people from all races, ages, genders and classes into one diverse but strongly united group – Americans!" Many people were involved in the planning of this 20th Anniversary. I want to thank everyone. On the committee were: Mayor Bob Stanley (co-chair), Charlene Balistrere (Secretary), Christine Carpenter, Reverend Peter DiTomasso, Jamie Gaskin, Supervisor Bob Gordon, Alex Hayes, Supervisor Bob Jackson, Chris Kimple, Patsy Mills, Rob Olyphant, Vince Perticone, Maryland Senator Frank Shore (Retired) and Anthony Venzin.

Special thanks are given to the Fairfield School Choir, St. Mary's Church Choir, and American Troop 76 of Fairfield, and Knights of Columbus, thank you all! The following browser addresses can be used to access the video and the pictures taken: video at www.communitymedia.net/9-11-memorial-service-2021 and pictures at www.ronspictures.net (click on 9/11 20th Anniversary Memorial Service album). October 3rd thru 9th is National Fire Prevention Week. The 2021 National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) theme for National Fire Prevention Week is "Learn the

Sounds of Fire Safety." Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. One-quarter of home fire deaths were caused by fires that started in the bedroom. Three out of five home fire deaths happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. One-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, more than half never practiced it. These statistics collected by NFPA indicate several things for you to think about. First and foremost, make sure you have working smoke alarms. Check them. Be sure that you installed a smoke alarm in each bedroom as well as throughout the house. Finally, do you have an escape plan? How to get out from the second floor if need be. Please take care.

On Sunday afternoon, October 10th, the Fairfield Fire & EMS, celebrating 100 years of service in the community, is holding an Open House from 1 until 3 p.m. There will be demonstrations, fire truck rides, and a visit from Life Net Helicopter.

Movie In the Park is scheduled for October 15th at 7:30 p.m. The movie will be a Disney film titled "Hocus Pocus." The story begins in 1693 about three sisters who were executed in Salem for their "unforgivable witchcraft." A great movie to see for Halloween. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, food, and have an evening picnic while enjoying the movie.

2021's last E-Waste Recycling will be held on October 16th from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Ranch Trail Park, 14 Ranch Trail. Acceptable turn-ins are computers, monitors, laptops, peripherals, TVs (TVs must be removed from any cabinet in which they were contained), printers, keyboards, copiers, scanners, cell phones, stereo equipment, telephones, modems, and routers. This event is for current Park's Garbage Service customers in the boroughs of Carroll Valley, Fairfield, and the townships of Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, and Liberty. For additional information, email gayle@carrollvalley.org or call 717-642-8269.

Have you ever heard of GaGa? No not Lady GaGa the American singer, songwriter, and actress. I am referring to GaGa Ball game. This game is believed to have started in Israel in 1950s. Ga means "hit" or "touch" in Hebrew. The game is play in a hexa-

gon or octagon fenced area called the pit. The players stand against the sides of the pit. Players yell Ga as the dodgeball bounces and the ball is in play after the second bounce. Players can hit the ball with one but cannot pick up and throw it. If the ball touches a player anywhere on or below the waist, that player is eliminated. The last player standing (not touched) is the winner and the game starts over again. Brody Holz has chosen to build a GaGa pit in the Carroll Commons Park for his project to become an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. He needs to raise \$3,000 to purchase the material to build the GaGa pit. If you are interested in supporting him, go to Facebook, search for Carroll Valley Parks & Recreation and donate to the GaGa Pit project.

Halloween will be held on October 31st in both Fairfield and Carroll Valley Boroughs from 6 to 8 p.m.. Carroll Valley is holding its "Trunk or Treat" affair. Decorate your trunk, love to see the participants in costume. Sign-up to be a "Trunk" to hand out candy. See Facebook for details – Parks & Recreation and the click the link to sign up. Please slow down. If you have any questions contact me at 301-606-2021 or email at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Keep well!

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

It was a busy month in Liberty Township. We dealt with severe flooding from Hurricane Ida on numerous roads causing road closures. An area of Friends Creek Road was washed out and approximately 65 tons of stone were used to reshape and reform the road. Wenschhof, McGlaughlin, Bullfrog, Pecher, and Sanders Road, also experienced flooding issues. Please be advised that although these closures are an inconvenience, they are done strictly for safety reasons. This past month has not been any different from the other months as we continue to clear fallen trees along the roads during storms. We've had quite a few trees come down on Stoops, McGlaughlin, and Liberty Hall Roads. The cable company has been contacted to address the issue of

a tree caught up in the cable wire on Liberty Hall Road.

I appreciate your patience as we close roads to allow roadwork to be completed. This past year, Irish town, Brent, and the lower half of Old Waynesboro Road, all had base repair, and tar, chip, and sealant applied. In the next three to five years, we plan to apply a two-inch wear course and pave those roads to extend the life of the roads for 15-20 years. Base repair on McGlaughlin Road was completed recently and blacktop is planned for 2022. Additional roadwork will be determined as we work on our 2022 budget. The long-range goal for our township is to bring our roads up to par with black top and get away from tar and chipping. We are waiting to receive a permit from DEP to sched-

ule the bridge repair work on the Old Waynesboro Road bridge. Our 2022 budget discussion will continue through November with the budget adoption due by December 31, 2021. It is a difficult task to keep our budget trim while performing the necessary maintenance and improvements needed by the township.

Mowing was completed in September, and tree trimming is scheduled for October along Bullfrog Road from Girl Scout Road to McGlaughlin Road. The goal is to cut back the branches hanging over roadway to allow the sun to help keep ice from forming on the roads. If time permits, we will open the McGlaughlin Road canopy as well. Our goal is to open the canopies on all township roads to provide safer

travel during freezing weather.

As we move into the winter months, you will see the road crew out performing pipe and ditch inspections. Additionally, our priority is to fix potholes before the winter weather arrives. Soon we will begin our winter preparations by ordering salt and anti-skid, as well as getting the plow trucks ready for any significant snow. I anticipate having a full crew to help keep our roadways clear this winter.

A special meeting was held during the month of September for the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association. The airport has asked for township support of their grant application for improvements at the airport. Residents had an opportunity to have input and comments at the meeting. No negative comments were made

during the meeting and the Supervisors were inclined to support the grant application for the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association.

We had a great response to our offer of free millings/debris from our recent road improvements. For those who did not receive any milling/debris this time, please know that your name has been placed on a list and we will contact you when we have more available.

The Liberty Township Police Department continues to do a tremendous job. Please contact Chief Hansen at 717-642-6103 if you are interested in elderly checks and you live in a municipality that is served by our Police Department. I most certainly appreciate our township staff and everything they do for the township and its residents. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you. Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

The requirement for everyone to wear a mask indoors at the Adams County Facilities was reinstated at the end of July. Why did this change take place? For a little background, on May 28, Adams County Court of Common Pleas entered Supervisory Order -SO-30 stating that CDC guidelines will be adhered to in judicial facilities. At that time, CDC guidelines did not require vaccinated individuals to wear a mask indoors. On July 27, the CDC changed their recommendations, stating that fully vaccinated people are to wear a mask in public indoor settings that are located in geographic areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission, which applied to Adams County.

It is understandable that people may be frustrated/disappointed with the change. Please keep in mind that the action is in keeping with the guidance of the medical/science communities to assure we are doing our best to protect each other and our community. We have greatly valued everyone's flexibility and understanding during these everchanging times. Please be aware that these protocols could change if the CDC changes their recommendations and/or Adams County moves below the substantial transmission level.

In some other County operational notes, the Courthouse and County offices remain open for business with the following operational exceptions: The Sheriff's office requires appointments for License to Carry Permits and fingerprinting, the Prothonotary's office requires appointments for passports, the District Attorney's office requires appointments, public viewing of Court proceedings is still

via virtual viewing at the Human Services Building by contacting the Court Administrator at 717-337-9846 at least 24 hours prior to the hearing, and the Prison and 2nd floor of the Department of Emergency Services are closed to the public.

With the November election looming, election legislation is a priority for Pennsylvania Counties. Counties are the experts in administering elections. The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania continues to urge prompt action by the General Assembly to prioritize a few simple changes to the law that will help counties continue to meet their goal of delivering fair, free elections for Pennsylvania citizens.

Specifically, counties are calling for expanded pre-canvassing and moving the mail-in ballot application deadline back. With any additional changes, counties will also need sufficient resources to support both one-time and ongoing operational needs, and sufficient time for new requirements to be successfully administered and applied, including, for instance, time to acquire equipment and train election staff and poll workers as counties also balance their existing elections obligations.

The Adams County Transportation Planning Organization and the Adams County Office of Planning and Development are currently updating Adams County's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This federally mandated plan, titled ONWARD2050, envisions the needs and goals of Adams County's transportation system over the next 30 years! As part of the pub-

lic engagement component of the plan, a survey has been developed to gather vital feedback from ALL users of the transportation system...that includes everyone who lives, works, and travels in Adams County! The online survey can be accessed at the following link: <https://arcg.is/c/TujK>.

A website has also been developed to provide additional information about the LRTP development process. Users can access the survey, provide feedback using the public comment map, learn about the history of Adams County's transportation system, explore interactive maps, and more through the website: <https://lrtp-1-adamsgis.hub.arcgis.com/> Your feedback matters! The survey will likely run through September, although a definite closing date has not yet been determined. Please let Adams County Planning know if you have any questions or would like any additional information. Contact them at 717-337-9824.

Adams County is excited to announce its partnership with Kenyon Energy for the installation of a roof-mounted solar array on top of the Human Services Building. The practical and code requirements to reinforce the aging roof on the Human Services Building gave the County the perfect opportunity to take its first step towards embracing renewable energy. Kenyon and its partners have been leaders in affordable solar energy for over a decade, installing solar projects for commercial giants like Walmart, Tesla, and Pepsi, along with local municipalities including Shippensburg Borough.

Under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Kenyon, the

County will pay nothing for the installation and maintenance of the roof-mounted solar array and will receive solar-generated energy at a competitive rate (\$0.09/kwh with a 2% annual escalator over a 25-year period). The power generated from the roof-mounted array will substantially reduce the building's carbon footprint. The solar array is a 446 kW DC fixed tilt system with Tier 1 Talesun solar panels, sized to produce all of the energy required from the Human Services Building each year (approximately 600,000 kWh). It is anticipated that the array will be installed in late fall of , upon completing the reinforcement of the roof. This project will harness the same clean solar energy that has helped to make Adams County a premier agricultural environment for generations and will help to preserve the environment for generations to come.

Act 79 went into effect on April 10, 2019. This law includes improvements to Pennsylvania's Protection From Abuse Act and deals primarily with increased safety provisions related to firearms in both Protection From Abuse (23 PA.C.S.) and misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence (18 PA. C.S) to help prevent domestic violence. This has caused the seizure and secure storage of weapons to increase dramatically. To meet the demand, the Adams County Sheriff's and Building/Maintenance collaborated to expand gun storage in the Sheriff's Office. The project has been completed professionally and expeditiously by Building & Maintenance. This is one more example of various County departments collaborating to provide enhanced service to residents.

Adams County Ordinance #3 of 2013, states that on an annual basis as of July 1, the Tax Services Department will calculate the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) based upon the previous year's sales ratio studies. The results will guide the Board of Commissioners in determining whether to engage a reassessment task force to examine the need for a new county-wide reassessment.

A COD greater than 20.0 would trigger this action. For the 2020 sales dataset, the COD has been calculated at 12.68. That is considered a strong COD and will not trigger such a task force and is well within the acceptable guidelines of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). The State, through the Tax Equalization Division (TED) of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), has announced Adams County's Common Level Ratio to be 96.3%. This means that a property which is valued at \$100,000 today should be assessed at \$96,300. The ratio will be used in this coming year's assessment appeals. Last year's COD was 10.68% and Common Level ratio was 104.5%.

Fall is upon us and that means wonderful Adams County Fall produce and Fall Festivals throughout Adams County. Don't forget that after a 1-year hiatus, the very popular National Apple Harvest will be held at the South Mountain Fairgrounds in Arendtsville on October 2-3 & 9-10. Hours are 8-6 on Saturday and 8-5 on Sunday. Go to www.appleharvest.com No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

County Notes...

Hurricane Ida Drives Home Importance of Preparedness

Hurricane Ida recently dumped heavy rain and left a path of destruction across Pennsylvania, reminding us of the need to always have an emergency plan in place in the event of an unforeseen emergency. September is National Preparedness Month, which aims to increase the overall number of individuals, families and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, businesses, schools and places of worship. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) recommends the following emergency preparedness tips:

- Take a basic first aid or CPR class.
- Create a family emergency plan so loved ones know who to contact and where to go in an emergency.

- Have a small kit of emergency supplies in your home and car.
- Know how to turn off utilities safely in your home.
- Review insurance policies and coverage to ensure it is adequate for the hazards you may face.
- Purchase flood insurance.
- Build up an emergency fund.

More information about how to prepare for an emergency is available on the Ready PA website - www.ready.pa.gov.

It's Safe2Say Something

With schools now back in session, it's important to remind students, parents, teachers and community members about the Safe2Say Something program, which was established to offer an anonymous resource to report behavior perceived to be threatening to an indi-

vidual or a school entity. In addition to potential threats, the program has also received reports relating to bully-

ing, anxiety, depression and suicide. For more information or to submit a report, call 1-844-Saf2Say or visit

safe2saypa.org. You can also download the "SafeToSay Something PA" app.

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<p>**SOLD**</p> <p>42 Spring Trail Fairfield, PA</p> <p>Lovely 2 BR, 1 BA, 1 level rancher, many improvements, new flooring, new bathroom & siding on cul-de-sac. \$175,000</p>	<p>**SOLD**</p> <p>15 Rebecca Trail Fairfield, PA</p> <p>Beautiful 3 BR, 3 BA home with finished lower level for a great family room! Above ground pool with huge deck. \$350,000</p>	<p>**SOLD**</p> <p>108 Toms Creek Tr., Fairfield, PA</p> <p>Very unusual, very private. Hard to describe but full of potential. 2 BR, 1 BA cabin. No permits for work done. Check with Carroll Valley Borough. \$110,000</p>	<p>**SOLD**</p> <p>22 Deer Tr., Fairfield, PA</p> <p>Beautiful 1 level 3 BR, 2 BA home. Lg. covered deck, wood floors and open floor plan. Fireplace, HVAC, Full basement, covered deck, close to skiing & golf resort. \$303,000</p>
** ACTIVE LOTS **			
<p>62 Fruitwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - Beautiful High sitting ac., conventional perk, well w/ 15 GPM, ready for your home!.....\$39,500</p> <p>4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 0.86 ac., perc. approved, by Ski Liberty.....\$27,900</p> <p>4 Fir Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 0.79 ac., perc. approved, near Gettysburg.....\$14,000</p> <p>3 Spring Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 0.66 ac., perc. appr., corner lot, wooded.....\$24,900</p> <p>15 Brown Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - Low price Low perc rate, near skiing & golf. \$21,000</p>	<p>10 Valley View Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 0.46 ac., perc. appr., parks, & paths...\$26,500</p> <p>Iron Springs Lane, Carroll Valley, PA 5.31 ac., perc. appr., skiing, golf. \$65,000</p> <p>Iron Springs Lane, Carroll Valley, PA 1.95 ac., perc. appr., skiing, golf. \$39,500</p> <p>55 Fawn Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 1.04 ac., double lot, well, skiing. \$34,000</p> <p>0 Tapeworm Ln., Carroll Valley, PA 11.9 ac., unperced lot, 2 smaller parcels appr. for drip irrigation available. \$59,500</p>	<p>** ACTIVE **</p> <p>31 Water St., Fairfield, PA 2 BR, 1 BA, 1.5 story home. \$119,900</p> <p>SOLD AS IS!</p>	<p>** ACTIVE **</p> <p>29 Water St., Fairfield, PA Lovely 1 story home on corner lot. 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 car garage, breezeway. \$229,900</p>

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

The pandemic and a lifeboat

Shannon Bohrer

As we continue to experience the pandemic, we seem to be separated into two distinct camps, one with intractable differences related to the belief in medical science. The other believes in science. Normally, having two different views is not a problem, but not believing in medical science in our current health crises literally has deadly consequences. I am reminded of the opening lines in the book, *A Tale of Two Cities*, “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom; it was the age of foolishness...” Charles Dickens wrote those words in 1859, and for many people, they reflect our current situation.

While our differences existed before, since COVID-19-19, our differentiations have stretched our medical resources, including our hospitals. One side believed that COVID-19 was a pandemic, and we needed to isolate and wear a mask. The other side said it was no more dangerous than the flu and that wearing a mask was subjugation that would lead to tyranny. Even when the infections exploded and hospitals were full of COVID-19 patients, and record numbers of people were dying, facts and sci-

ence were dismissed as conspiracy theories or fake news.

Under normal circumstances, the two political parties are at odds over proposed legislation, tax laws, international trade, etc. The problem is that we are not under normal circumstances; with COVID-19, our circumstances are anything but normal. As hospitals reach their capacity, again, a continuing concern is what happens when there is no more room? Our current situation is akin to the ethical lifeboat question. If the lifeboat has limited capacity, who is allowed to enter?

Hospitals in numerous states are filling up with unvaccinated COVID-19 patients. While this is being written, a few states have no more room in their ICUs (Intensive Care Unit). They have turned emergency rooms into ICUs and turned parking lots into emergency rooms. Even before the new COVID-19 strain, there were documented deaths, not from COVID-19, but because of a lack of medical care. Our hospitals are normally busy with many of our other ills, like heart attacks and accidents. We are now in another wave, with the new variant, what some have called the pandemic of the unvaccinated.

We know that that the hospitals are experiencing saturation levels.

Should hospitals take into consideration those that have been vaccinated ahead of those that refuse to be vaccinated? What happens when a hospital has no more ICU beds? Are the patients lined up in a waiting room? What if there is a bad accident and medical treatment is needed immediately? Would a hospital take someone in serious condition that is in an ICU and move them to make room for someone – who is in worse condition? Who decides the worst condition, and who will be responsible for making the decisions?

One answer to the problem would be to build more hospitals and train more medical staff. Since that is not possible – at least in the short term, we need other solutions to alleviate our overburdened medical system.

I would suggest that the people who don't believe in science and will not get vaccinated should have their own alternative medical facilities. When they feel ill or catch COVID-19 they should be taken to their alternative care facility. Buildings for alternate medical facilities can be easily found since we have an overabundance of office space.

An obvious problem will seem to be that if you have additional facilities, you need additional medical personal. That potential problem is solvable. Since the patients don't believe in science, the caretakers

would not have to be medically trained. Not utilizing medically trained workers would also help to alleviate the staffing in our already overburdened medical systems.

The solution to staffing the alternative facilities is simple. Viewing the news of school board meetings debating the mandatory use of masks, you will observe many people that are experts on the freedoms we have, which include the freedom not to wear a mask. Since these individuals appear to be experts in their field of mask vs. freedom, they could be hired as caretakers. This solves several problems. The school boards meetings should be more civil, and if the children of these parents get sick, they will have a place to take their unmasked child. After all, if you don't believe in a mask, you probably don't want your child around another child that wears a mask. That could negatively influence your child - if they observe what you deem as poor behavior.

As to the treatment and medical supplies, the alternative hospitals could be fully stocked without affecting the existing hospitals. Since masks will not be needed, the existing hospitals can keep their personal protective equipment (PPEs). As to medications, the alternative hospitals can be initially stocked with bleach and strong lights. Strong lights are supposed to fight the virus, but we have not figured out how to put the lights

in the body yet. I am sure that some of the masking experts from the school board meetings can find a solution. Other early medications included chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine. While these are known medicines for humans, just not for the virus, some forms of chloroquine are used to clean fish tanks. Since a few people have died from taking chloroquine, it should be labeled. One of the newest treatments is ivermectin, which kills worms in farm animals. This medicine has the capability of having dosing issues. We use ivermectin to worm horses, so a full tube would have to be divided, I guess, by the weight of the patient.

I feel that many of you, while reading this, are thinking that this suggestion is crazy, and I agree with you. However, how crazy is it when emergency rooms turn away critically ill patients? In our current situation, we know people have died because of a lack of emergency medical care – because of an overloaded system. Some hospitals that are out of ICU beds, or lifeboat space, are shipping or attempting to ship critically ill patients to other facilities. I say attempt - because many times, there are no openings at other hospitals. Is this our age of wisdom and foolishness?

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

American Mind

Where have all the leaders gone?

Mark Greathouse

Wander back to 1962 when the folk trio Peter, Paul, and Mary released “Where Have All the Flowers Gone.” It was a protest of the Viet Nam War. Permit me to take liberties with the lyrics and contribute a stanza on the important topic of leadership in our nation. “Where have all the leaders gone, long time passing? Where have all the leaders gone, long time ago? Where have all the leaders gone? Gone to politicians everyone. Oh, when will they ever learn? Oh, when will they ever learn?” Were I to follow that knockoff stanza, it would lament today's leadership having metaphorically, “Gone to graveyards everyone.”

We have a decided lack of leadership in our nation today. History's landscape offers a rich panoply of accomplished leaders. From biblical leaders like Moses, David, and Solomon to the likes of Alexander, Julius Caesar, and Genghis Khan and to the more recent George Washington, Winston Churchill, and Ronald Reagan, the successes and foibles of countless leaders have often become the stuff of legends.

So, what is leadership? Leadership is the process of influencing individuals and groups to set and achieve goals. Leaders are not born. Leadership is a learned skill set, and we've mostly made a mess of teaching those skills.

Why is leadership so important, especially for today? The answer may

lie in the seeming absence of leadership. Our culture has been inexorably moving from truth to trend, pursuit of values to pursuit of wealth, and from excellence to expedience. In an era when success hinges on innovation and adaptability for optimum outcomes, there's a dearth of leadership talent. There's plenty of “spray-on charisma” masquerading as leadership, but true leadership is lacking.

Recall the scene in the film “Patton” where the General addresses his troops. Do you recall the key quote, “Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory.” Patton was a student of warfare, but it was the qualities of leadership that he learned and exhibited that drove men to follow the him.

What will return our nation to its well-earned lead role on the world stage is servant leaders. Servant leaders embody a paradoxical blend of competence, confidence, and humility. None of our current national-level politicians could remotely be said to have those characteristics. Leaders are a special breed. There are distinct differences between leading and managing. Leaders are channels for change, whereas managers are deliverers of order and process. In addition to providing inspirational vision and strategic thinking, leaders communicate in such a way as to provide a resource conduit. Leaders are motivators.

Leadership can be characterized as

having a visionary mindset. Jonathon Swift noted in 1726, “Vision is the art of seeing things invisible.” Management scientists have identified more than 600 terms associated with desirable leadership characteristics. Terms like visionary, confident, optimist, listener, inspiring, and hundreds more combine in various patterns to describe the ultimate leader. On the flip side, there are many undesirable leadership traits such as braggart, narcissist, ego-centric, tunnel-visioned, and mendacious.

Okay, so what? Why servant leadership? Well, it works! The Chinese sage Lao Tzu in 604-531 BC remarked, “The sage never strives himself for the great; and thereby the great is achieved.” Some may fear that such a person might be seen as weak. Weak? I contend that it takes far greater strength to be a servant leader.

We may intuitively understand why servant leadership is a good thing. Researcher Jim Collins in the October 2013 “Inc.” magazine, noted that as a result of his extensive research coupled with a real-life experience conducting leadership seminars at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, success, growth, and service were key to leadership. He found that building a culture an engaged leader required spending time in service to a cause or purpose entailing passionate dedication and willing suffering and sacrifice; the need to maintain an environment of huge – even audacious – challenges to push people hard and cause growth; and striving for communal success reinforcing the idea that we succeed only by helping each other.

So where are these qualities of servant leadership among the politicians supposedly leading our nation. Developing leaders in a narcissistic culture is daunting. Leaders tend to be bred from followers, as you must learn to follow and serve before you can hope to lead. Thus, to develop leaders, an environment needs to be created whereby opportunities to both follow and lead are available. The idea of servant leadership really must be embedded in the nation's vision, mission, and core values; an embedding driven by the electorate.

Servant leaders build communities of followers. They foster communities of relationships, using characteristics like respect, dignity, trust, and worth to build a loyalty that serves as the glue to bind the communities. Research shows that loyalty is freely given by voters in direct proportion to the perception of the degree to which leaders care about them.

The relationships that build communities are the outcomes of the best beliefs in optimal outcomes through relational synergy. Sustaining communities of relationships requires a systematic approach to ensure consistency. Effective servant leaders are adept at connecting human feelings and hard systems focused toward common goals. Systems are logical, self-consistent, unified, interacting, interconnected parts arranged in a harmonious, mutually supportive, hierarchical order with all parts related to the whole. The leader interconnects the human side of the relationship equation in a methodical fashion toward constant improvement. Without a system to support leadership, the nation is surely destined

to fail. Famed poet Anne Bradstreet in 1664 advised, “Authority without wisdom is like a heavy axe without an edge, fitter to bruise than polish.”

Most of us would equate power with authority, and rightly so. History, however, is littered with tales of the powerful who were not fit to lead. In the case of the servant leader, power is not so much about might as it is developing and sharing a sense of purpose or meaning that creates value measured in significance toward uniting people behind that purpose. In today's often divisive political/cultural climate of canceling, doxing, nancing, boycotting, etc., the task seems intimidating.

Real leadership is the power that makes others powerful. In delegating that power, a trust is bestowed, and followers become the custodians of that trust. The true servant leader has the authority that empowers everyone in the organization as united within a core set of beliefs, values, and purposes.

Leadership is bestowed by the consent of those who are governed. No amount of vested authority can substitute for the trust that followers place in their leader who has, in turn, empowered those followers. You can bark orders and issue mandates all day long, but that won't make you a leader. It takes a mindset coupled with a skill set that develops over time. It takes a person of strong moral character to be an effective servant leader. Thus, I repeat, “Where have all the leaders gone, long time passing?”

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

The Bulwark

Whatever happened to national honor?

Shay Khatiri

Our foreign policy decisions aren't just about our friends and enemies—they're also about who we are.

U.S. President Joe Biden removes his mask to speak from the Treaty Room in the White House about the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan on April 14, 2021 in Washington, DC. President Biden announced his plans to pull all remaining U.S. troops out of Afghanistan by September 11, 2021 in a final step towards ending America's longest war.

If it is true that imitation is the highest form of flattery, then Donald Trump and Mike Pompeo must be blushing. Whereas some may have thought Trump was a fluke, the Biden administration is continuing some of his worst instincts and habits on the world stage. The debacle in Afghanistan has demonstrated that a large number, perhaps a majority, of senior politicians—including at least the last two administrations—don't care about national honor correctly understood. But a great country, especially a hegemon, cannot function without honor.

Trump had no concept of national honor because he had no understanding about honor as a concept. He couldn't grasp the notion that any entity, including a country, would be dedicated to an immaterial purpose, something other than money and security;

that the United States should conduct according to certain rules. Nor could he appreciate that hegemonic power comes with global responsibility. Floundering in his ignorance, he did not want to dishonor America. He wanted to restore it, hence his "Make America Great Again" slogan. Characteristically crude and vicious, he wanted to do it crudely and viciously. He understood national honor closer to how Saddam Hussein or Augusto Pinochet would define it than Abraham Lincoln or Theodore Roosevelt would. Honor to him was the ego that stems from wealth and power, not goodness.

President Biden, who said in his inaugural address, "this is a great nation, and we are a good people," signaled a return to national honor. He was, if unintentionally, paraphrasing an erroneous quotation of de Tocqueville (erroneous because he never said it, not because it is false) which previous presidents have repeated: "America is great because America is good." This, for the United States, if not for all countries, is a key element of national honor rightly defined.

Yet Biden's actions seem to have been driven by a different understanding. Even if the withdrawal from Afghanistan were necessary, even if it were overdue, there was nothing good about its execution. There is nothing good about the fact that, weeks after the last American forces and diplomats departed, Americans are still fleeing Afghan-

istan on Qatari flights (except the mere fact that they got out). There is nothing good about the fact that unknown patriotic and loyal Afghans and their families will now be at the mercy of the merciless Taliban.

It's not good for them and it's not good for us.

The world spent the four years of the Trump administration wondering if America is still good enough to be great. For many of these countries—for Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Israel, Kosovo, Ukraine, and the Baltics—this is a question of life and death. But should they be paying more attention than we are?

Within nine months, one president sent an insurrection to the Capitol, formally and finally breaking any pretence of loyalty to democracy and the rule of law, and the other cleared the way for an insurrection of terrorists to descend on the presidential Arg in Kabul. The Afghan leaders we left behind—the ones who rushed to the frontlines to build their country and help our uniformed and civilian service members on the guarantee that we would not leave their fates to the Taliban—now face exactly the fate we promised they would be spared from, and which they worked so hard to avoid.

Thucydides observed that states go to war over "rational fear, honor, and profit." We went to war in Afghanistan out of fear, but we lost our honor.

Ronald Reagan, one of the presidents who liked to use the apocryphal Tocqueville quote, said during his 1992 Republican National Convention address, "my fondest hope for each one of you—and especially



for the young people here—is that you will love your country, not for her power or wealth, but for her selflessness and her idealism."

His successor, the current incumbent of the office, said of taking Afghan refugees in 2010, "f**k that, we don't have to worry about that. We did [not take refugees from] in Vietnam. Nixon and Kissinger got away with it." Biden was wrong on multiple counts.

When Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese, Nixon had already won reelection and resigned in disgrace. His immediate successor, Gerald Ford, was in such a position, and signed a bill funding refugee programs for Vietnamese and Cambodians. Then-Sen. Joe Biden was one of 92 senators who, the same month, voted for a resolution "to welcome the latest refugees to our shores."

But Biden's remark also reveals a deeper misunderstanding: The cynicism that made Nixon think he could get away with dishonor brought down his presidency and disgraced him. Kissinger complained in his book, *Diplomacy*,

that, even before Watergate, Nixon's directions were frequently slowed down or stopped by his subordinates because they were too amoral or immoral for the honorable people of America to stomach. Nixon's cynicism and selfishness didn't lose Vietnam, but it did lose Nixon. Once a proud man with a stellar story, his turpitude besmirched the country and he died in disgrace.

During his inaugural address, Joe Biden said, "to overcome these challenges—to restore the soul and to secure the future of America—requires more than words." He was right. It requires honor. It requires the courage and commitment to act in accordance with principles, rather than just to speak them. How long can we keep dishonoring ourselves before we become dishonorable?

Shay Khatiri studied Strategic Studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

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

Down Under

The trap

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

O infinite virtue! Com'st thou smiling from the world's great snare uncaught?

—Shakespeare, Antony and Cleopatra

Australia has just stepped into the trap that was presented to them by the United States. Not that choice was actually possible, so we have now taken the first steps to become America's fifty second state. Almost. Is this good? Frankly, no, not for either country. Not many our citizens will get anything out of it, none of our major industries, agriculture, tertiary industries, none of these. None of your citizens either, but the big gains are for your armaments industry. The part that builds submarines, anyway.

But for once it's not about this, it's not aimed at increasing wealth or growth, it's about America's realisation that China must be stopped. You, the strongest nation, has been weakened over the past decades, and for a while, when Trump was at the helm, it was on the way to becoming a second-rate power. The new adminis-

tration has a clear-eyed notion of what is needed, and that is to confront China. Not with sanctions and trade wars, rhetoric or bluster, but with a barrier of defensive positions around the Pacific. The message this has sent to China is clear: 'You think you can expand into the Pacific, become dominant in the rest of Asia?'

'No! We put you on notice. You want to become number one, but that will not happen. Apart from the sheer stupidity of it, you could never win. You do not have the resources, because it will not be a short sharp victory, it will break you, and possibly us, but we will not let it happen.'

And I am sure China knows this. It is a game of brinkmanship, something China has never tried before. Their experience in foreign relations is limited, and they possibly have no instinctive understanding of America's underlying values. They see the blatant capitalism, the arrogance and high-handed subversion of other countries, as well as the warlike approach to getting what they want, but that is not the real value of your country. Yes, you put yourselves first, the same as everywhere, but you are not paranoid or in need of greater respect.

In fact, your strength is not one that China can ever have, being

now welded to their idea of Chinese capitalism – with not a trace of Democracy. You may say that Democracy is dead, but if you do, please compare what you have to China. They have negative amounts of it, and while they didn't need it to herd their billions of citizens, no dictatorship can beat a democracy because, despite its shortcomings, it has the ability to freewheel, to allow dissenting voices to be heard.

It seems likely that this 'ring of steel' may be all it takes, because the actuality is, I am told, about 20 years away. Which may seem like a long time, but it constrains China in its thinking. And that has to be the aim, for the present.

Now that is all well and good, but there are many more dice in this game. One thing that America has perhaps not understood about the current Australian government is just how inept they are at foreign relationships, communications and assertiveness; even that isn't important, because we have wedged ourselves into a potentially economic disaster. In case you have forgotten, China is our biggest trading partner, but for just one item: Iron ore. Ours is the best, and the closest, and while China was expanding its use of iron, that is now being wound back as its house building is nearing completion. Back in October 2018 it was \$70 per ton, in July this year it reached \$225, and now

is \$115 and falling. Our whole economic strategy has been predicated on the price staying high, and while it is still very profitable, the record surpluses are likely to be a thing of the past, and we may well be unable to meet our interest on our huge debts, even at 0.01%.

Nonetheless, the hyperbole is already emerging, praising our guy for his foresight in getting American and Britain to 'persuade' you to sell us its atomic subs so they will cooperate in his plan to contain China. This has done something extraordinary – for the first time in ages, we are laughing, tears running down our cheeks. Well, if you tell lies, they had better be big, but this? When grilled Scomo (our PM), assured us they would have no atomic weapons, and cost something above 50 billion. Whoopee!

Now the reality: America, with Britain tagging along, know that the only way to prevent China's eastward expansion is to stop their warships leaving the South China sea and getting into the deep waters of the Pacific. And the best way to do that is with atomic submarines. They can operate far longer without refuelling, have the latest and updating technology, and they need them here.

This seems to have taken China by surprise, as they have based their strategy on probabilities. The future is much more dynamic than they envisaged, and to date

have been speechless.

Well, that is the politics, but the people are puzzled. We had a contract with France for nine diesel subs, with guaranteed fit-outs here. The new ones will have no work done here, (although that has not been announced, and won't be – but is the opinion of certain people who study these things), but what we will get, free of charge, are many more American troops, bases and therefore domestic spending, all in the underpopulated, jungly North. In fact, we will become a huge new addition to American quasi-states: Having to smile as we do what we are told, with no voting rights.

Will America bail us out of our approaching economic catastrophe? Expletive NO! Will our employment grow? Hardly.

I haven't mentioned our neighbours; Indonesia is horrified at the thought of atomics nearby, an atomic war now being more likely. New Zealand has had a ban on and shipborne atomics for years.

Poor France. They are apoplectic. No notice, just an announcement. Their ambassadors have gone from here and the US, but the good old Aussie saying, 'She'll be right, mate,' was today's message.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Journey on the road of life together

Pastor Heath Wilson
Tom's Creek United
Methodist Church

I love fall! I mean I really love fall. I love that the days often don't get too hot or too cold. I love that it doesn't snow and it is normally a season with less rain than spring. I love the changing of the color of the leaves and I love the sound of leaves crunching when I walk on them. I just love how the air smells in fall. Now, I know some of you like other seasons better and right now are saying the negative things you don't like about fall and what you love about your favorite season.

By the way you measure seasons, some of you think I am downright mad for suggesting that fall is the best season. Well guess what, that is ok by me. God made the seasons different so we could enjoy the changing seasons and appreciate our favorite season afresh when it comes around again on the calendar. and God made each of us unique, special, glorious, amazing, one of a kind creations. We don't have to like the same things and we don't have to agree on many things.

Our shared humanity with the same Divine Creator should allow us to still accept and love one another. We don't have to fight just because we don't look the same, vote the same, pray the same, love the same seasons, etc. But somehow we have allowed differences of view and opinion to divide us and sometimes treat those who disagree with us with hostility, and at times hatred.

The truth is, many of the things over which we see division are no

more important than our opinion on which season is our favorite season. Yet, we raise up these divisions as the markings over whether or not we will associate with certain people. If they do not meet our litmus test on some issue we avoid them and sometimes even push them away. Why?

One of the Hallmarks of our American society has been our freedom to have differing views. The reason there was a separation of church and state in our founding documents was never because the founders of our nation didn't believe in God. They wanted to make sure there was not a state chosen and run church because they wanted to give people freedom to worship the way they felt was right.

Now, many of them had very strong views on God and religion and a good many of them were Christian but they did not want to force that upon everyone in the newly formed nation. They were wise beyond their years because they realized what was truly important and essential in forming a new nation and they were willing to put aside their personal beliefs in order to create a stronger union.

I am a United Methodist pastor who was earlier in life an agnostic/atheist. I married a Catholic in the Catholic Church (although I did not go to or join the Catholic Church). Our wedding party included a Jewish Best Man and Muslim Maid of Honor. My wife and I are both now ordained in the United Methodist Church and we still keep in contact

with people of different views

and religions than our own. I have been blessed by sharing my life with many different people with many different views on religion, politics, and favorite seasons.

I once had a chance to converse with an atheist organist who played the organ for an Episcopal Church. My neighbor at the time ran a Snow-Cone stand on his property and the atheist organist was a good friend who would often come over and talk with him when the stand was open. I would go over week after week and have conversations with the atheist organist who at times would say to me "You don't really believe X, Y, or Z do you?" And I would explain why I do believe and have faith in X, Y, or Z. As we talked through the years, he told me that he came to respect me as I was honest and not hostile to him and his beliefs. He told me that along the way I had planted seeds in his mind about God and the need for Jesus Christ in our lives.

Yes, it is a call for those that have faith in Jesus to proclaim it but it is not our job to beat someone over the head and try to force them to believe what we believe. I never have to give up my beliefs just because I am spending time with someone who disagrees with me or discussing tough issues with people, and it is not my job to change their opinion, but I can try to learn about how God has shaped them to see things and share with them how God has helped me to see things. Along the way we often learn and grow if we are not afraid to actually listen to one another.

I know at times we get stuck battling for what we believe, and sometimes those battles are necessary, but it is never necessary for us to get to the point where we harm others physically or verbally! And yes, that includes on social media, where many believe their opinion on things is so superior that they think it is acceptable to insult the other instead of having real and respectful conversation and dialogue. If you truly believe that your beliefs on something are superior, then let the information you share speak for itself.

There is no need to raise your voice, there is no need to demean



the other, there is no need to treat the other person as less human or inferior. Let us be willing to truly enter into meaningful dialogue, and yes friendships, with those with whom we disagree. We often find it is in these relationships where true change happens and that as humans, we grow to understand that God gave them valu-

able insights into life too. With that being said, I urge you to enjoy this Fall season which is superior to all other seasons in almost every way imaginable.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Edgar Allan Poe



On Oct 7, 1849, Edgar Allan Poe, an eccentric American poet died. It may seem absurd to say that he belonged by birth to the aristocracy, in a country where no aristocracy is recognised. Still, it is a fact that Poe was an aristocrat, and it is also true, that no people are more proud of the advantages of birth and breeding, than citizens of the United States, especially those who belong to the southern division of those states.

Poe was a Southerner in manners and feelings, as well as by birth; and there is little doubt, that the greater part of the infamy which was heaped upon him after his death, was owing to the fact that as a man of taste he despised, and as an aristocrat, treated with contempt, a tradesman in literature, who lived by making books of biographies, generally laudatory of living literary persons. This man took his revenge when the opportunity came, as any one may kick a dead lion with impunity. Many have echoed, no doubt honestly, the evil fame which was made for the poor poet by this man, whom he had despised and insulted during his life.

Poe's grandfather was a soldier in the war of the American revolution, and a friend of Lafayette. His father was a student at law. He fell in love with an English actress, named Arnold, and married her. They both died young, and at nearly the same time, leaving three orphan children. Edgar was adopted and educated by John Allan, a wealthy merchant of Virginia. At the early age of five years he was brought to England, and was sent to school near London, till he was ten years old.

Poe's life was a series of eccentric adventures. The reason of this is to be found in his temperament, or physical constitution. He lived, from the cradle to the grave, on the verge of madness, when he was not absolutely mad. A half-glass of wine intoxicated him to insanity. His brain was large, almost to deformity, in the region where phrenologists place the imaginative faculties. Under the influence of slight stimulus, such as would have been inappreciable by a person otherwise constituted, Poe was led on to commit acts, the consequences of which were often distressing, and might at any moment have been fatal, as was finally the case.

At an early age he entered college at Charlottesville, Virginia, but he was expelled for dissipation. He also entered the military school at West Point, New York, but he left in a year. During the excitement in favour of the independence of Greece, he started for that country; but he was next found at St. Petersburg, where he fell into distress, as was his fortune almost everywhere, and some friends sent him home.

Soon after his return, he published a volume of poems, entitled *At Aaruauf, Tamerlane*, and *Minor Poems*. These were written from the age of sixteen to eighteen years.

At one time he enlisted as a soldier, but he soon deserted. He had much partiality for active exercise, and very little for discipline, though he was exceedingly methodical and orderly in all the details of life. He was remarkable for aquatic and gymnastic performances. He was able to leap further than most men, and he once swam

seven miles and a half against the tide.

In 1835, Poe was employed to write for the *Southern Literary Messenger*, and about this time he married his cousin, Virginia Clemm, who, at the time of their union, was about fourteen years old. After this, we find him engaged on *Benton's Gentleman's Magazine*, at two pounds a week. This engagement was of brief continuance, and he next was connected with *Graham's Magazine*, and wrote *Some Strange Stories*, nearly all of which seem tinged with a sort of semi-insanity. We next find him engaged with Mr. Briggs, in establishing the *Broadway Journal*. This was soon discontinued. About 1844, he wrote *The Raven*, which has enjoyed a more extended reputation than any other production of his pen.

After the appearance of the *Raven* in trans-atlantic periodicals, Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote to Poe, that "The *Raven* had excited a fit horror in England." He was delighted with the compliment. Indeed this sort of impression appeared to be an object of ambition with him. Poe always seemed to consider *The Raven* as his master-piece, and he was fond of reciting it in company, in a sort of sing song tone, which was very unpleasant to some.

It would be difficult to calculate the amount of fame that Poe might have earned, if he could have lived, and written one year in undisturbed sanity. After the fame of *The Raven* had brought his name upon every lip, he was invited to lecture before the Boston Athenaeum—the highest honour the Athens of America could bestow on the poet. He went before an elegant and most intellectual Boston audience, and instead of giving a lecture, he repeated a juvenile poem that had been published! His friends had no doubt of the cause, or occasion of this strange proceeding, but the audience were indignant. Poe declared that "it was an intentional insult to the genius of the frog pond, a small pond on Boston Common 'a further evidence of the madness that he often induced, by taking stimulants, though he knew his fearful liability. After this, his irregularities became so much the rule of his life, that Mrs. Clemm, who acted the part of a good genius to the poet and his young wife, her daughter, took a cottage at Fordham, near New York.

Here she devoted herself to the care of both with tender and unceasing assiduity. Mrs. Poe was dying of consumption. Poe was plunged in a deep

melancholy, which did not admit of his writing anything. They were in a state of almost utter destitution, and the malady of the poet was constantly aggravated by witnessing the suffering of his fading, lily-like wife, to whom he was tenderly attached. Friends came to their help the moment their condition was known, and it was subsequently brought against Poe, that he took a bribe at this time for a favourable review, which he afterwards wrote of a miserable book of poems. In speaking of this violation of his literary conscience, after he had somewhat recovered the tone of his mind, he said, "The author gave me a hundred dollars, when my poor Virginia was dying, and we were starving, and required me to write a review of that book. What could I do?"

Let those who have judged him harshly for this, and other sins of his life, place themselves in his condition. When sober and sane, Poe was a gentleman of pure taste and elegant manners, whose conversation was always interesting, and often instructive. He had great personal beauty, and the aristocratic manner and bearing of a southern gentleman, and a descendant of the Cavaliers. In 1848, Poe published *Eureka*, which he first gave as a lecture. It is impossible to give a characteristic description of this and other literary performances by Poe. The same sort of extravagance pervades all, and those

who knew him most intimately, and were best qualified to judge, believed that he lived and wrote with a shade of madness in all that he did—and yet few men were more methodical and orderly in their habits than Poe. His handwriting was delicately beautiful, and at the same time clear and plain. His study was the perfection of order and neatness. But his fearful proclivities might change all this in a moment. The world cannot believe that half a glass of wine could make a man lose all self-control, and hurry him on to madness, and its fearful consequences. But there is abundant proof that this was true of Poe.

After the death of his wife, Poe gradually recovered from the deep melancholy which had palsied all his mental power during the last portion of her life, and engaged again in literary occupation. Subsequently, he entered into correspondence with a lady of fine genius and high position, with a view to marriage. But here, again, his destiny was against him. The marriage was broken off, and soon after Poe died of delirium tremens, at the age of thirty-eight; that critical period at which it seems natural for an irregular life, combined with excessive brain-work, to bring its victims to an end.

To read other selections from the *Book Of Days* visit www.thebookofdays.com.



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ECOLOGY

The Franklin Tree

Amanda Markle
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

When you visit Strawberry Hill, you may notice a small tree surrounded by a short rock wall, tucked in between the Nature Classroom and the pavilion. Strawberry Hill is fortunate enough to be home to a great diversity of trees, but to the keen observer, this one stands out. The only one of its kind on our campus, with glossy, oblong leaves and gray bark, this tree saves its most surprising and spectacular feature for late summer and early fall when large and wonderfully fragrant flowers appear, sending local pollinators into a frenzy.

As autumn progresses, the blooms fall away, and its leaves turn a bright red-orange. Identifying this tree can be a challenge—it's missing from many regional field guides, and identification apps struggle to classify it as anything more specific than a dicot. For the amateur dendrologist willing to put in a little more research, a fascinating story awaits, one of a truly unique tree rescued from the brink of total extinction by a pair of botanists in the 18th century—the story of the Franklin Tree.

The Franklin Tree (*Franklinia alatamaha*) is native to the Alatamaha River Valley in what is now the state of Georgia, but the men who found it there and ultimately saved it from disappearance have their roots in Pennsylvania. John Bartram, born in 1699, was a Quaker farmer living near Philadelphia. Though he had no formal higher education, John was well-read and took it upon himself to study and research the native plants of North America. His curiosity drove him to travel the eastern American colonies, searching for and meticulously docu-

menting the plants he found there.

John would bring home specimens that particularly piqued his interest, devoting a small portion of his farm to cultivating these finds. As his collection grew, he made contacts with gardeners and botanists in Europe, and his hobby soon grew into a thriving business. Every fall, John would send his "Bartram Boxes", full of seeds and interesting specimens he found on his travels, across the Atlantic. His efforts were instrumental in introducing dozens of native North American trees and flowers to the European continent, including rhododendron and magnolia; botanical historians even credit him as the first documented cultivator of the Venus flytrap. His efforts and skill eventually earned him the post of King's Botanist for North America, a position that came with a salary of £50 per year.

In 1739 John's son William was born, and John's interest in botany and natural history passed to the next generation. As an adult, William became heavily involved in maintaining and adding to his father's botanical garden. He joined his father for many expeditions, searching for new specimens and documenting his travels and exploration in his book *Bartram's Travels*. In October of 1776, John and William traveled south and were exploring the Alatamaha River Valley, when they came upon a small area of what John referred to in his journal as "several very curious shrubs."

Being late in the season, they failed to collect any seeds during that expedition. The younger Bartram returned to the area several times over the next few years and was eventually able to return to the spot and collect viable seeds. William brought seeds back to his father in Philadelphia in 1777; John died later

that year. Four years later, in 1781, William succeeded in growing flowering plants from the seeds he had collected. After studying the tree for several years, William decided to name the species after the river valley from which it came, and his father's close friend, Benjamin Franklin, and the Franklin Tree officially joined the ranks of documented native North American plants.

John and William's discovery, and William's later successful cultivation of this "curious shrub" came just in time. The Bartrams only ever found the Franklin Tree in an area of just a few acres. William later wrote, "We never saw it any other place, nor have I ever seen it growing wild, in all my travels, from Pennsylvania to Point Coupe, on the banks of the Mississippi."

By 1790, the Franklin Tree had gone extinct in the wild. The reasoning for the Franklin Tree's fate has been debated; some believe that the small patch found in what is now Georgia was the last holdover of a much larger population that had thrived in the cooler climates of the north but was decimated by glaciation. Others believe that only a small population of Franklin Trees ever existed, and what was once there was driven to extinction by over-collection by early botanists or wiped out by a natural disaster. Another theory is that the cultivation



Thanks to John Bartram, the beautiful 'Franklin Tree' was saved from extinction and one can now be seen at Strawberry Hill.

of cotton plants in the American South introduced fungal disease that eventually led to the Franklin Tree's demise. Whatever the reason, within a decade of William's first successful cultivation, *Franklinia alatamaha* had disappeared in the wild. All Franklin Trees currently known in existence are decedents of the ones grown in the Bartram botanical garden.

In addition to its beauty and rarity, the Franklin Tree stands out for several other reasons. It blooms far later in the season than is typical for North American trees, sometimes even maintaining its blooms until the first frost, creating a stunning visual of its large white flowers against the backdrop of its bright red autumn leaves. The Franklin Tree is a member of the tea family and is

prized for its fragrant flowers, which are often compared to orange blossom or honeysuckle. Franklin Trees, unlike almost any other flowering plant, have a prolonged zygomatic dormancy.

Pollination occurs when the plant blooms in late summer and early fall, and soon after double fertilization takes place, a complex mechanism itself found only in angiosperms. In double fertilization, one sperm cell fertilizes an egg cell to form a zygote, while the other forms an endosperm by fusing with two polar nuclei. The development of the Franklin Tree is unique in that once fertilized, the zygote becomes dormant immediately, delaying development until the following summer, while the endosperm may develop for up to 3 months before pausing during the winter months, and restarting in the summer.

The Franklin Tree now only exists as a cultivated species. It can be notoriously difficult to grow, preferring highly acidic, sandy soil, and easily succumbing to excessive moisture, drought, or any disturbance of its roots. Franklin Trees seem to fare better in cooler climates, lending credence to the theory that before the last ice age its typical range was further north than the small grove discovered by the Bartrams. Indeed, rising average temperatures continue to shrink the Franklin Tree's range. For those dedicated, and perhaps lucky enough to successfully grow one, possession of a Franklin Tree grants you membership into an exclusive club. Several efforts have been made to document all living Franklin Trees in America; a 1999 census counted 1,896. Each living Franklin Tree is a direct line to the fascinating story of a unique and beautiful tree, rescued from oblivion in the nick of time.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Signs and smells of Autumn

Bill Meredith

"Don't waste time worrying that insects will inherit the earth. They already own it."

—Tom Eisner.

According to the calendar on my desk, fall began on September 23 this year. There was a time when this would have bothered me greatly, because when I was five or six years old someone... probably my grandmother... had told me fall always started on the 21st. It was a hard lesson to learn that, as the Apostle Paul might have said under different circumstances, when I was a child I understood as a child, but when I became a man I had to realize that a lot of what I had learned earlier was wrong. In that particular case, I didn't have to wait until I was a man; it was probably in 4th grade that my teacher, Mr. Jefferson, taught us there are two times each year, one in March and one in September, when the sun is directly over the equator. These dates, he said, are called Equinoxes, and because it takes 365 ¼ days for the earth to go around the sun, they may occur as early as the 20th or as late as the 23rd of the month. He also told us that on the date of the equinox the day and night are the same length, which, several years later, I also had to learn is not exactly correct, because... well, take my word for it. It gets complicated.

The U. S. Naval Observatory assures me that, whether I understand it or not, Fall arrived on schedule. I knew it was coming. Katydid started singing several weeks ago to warn us that it was only six weeks until frost would come, and along the roadsides things started turning yellow in spite of all the rain. Soybeans began to ripen, and Spanish needles and goldenrod came into bloom. Seeing the goldenrod always reminds me of another factoid that I had to re-learn. As a child I was told it caused my hay fever, but when I got to college and studied botany I learned that goldenrod has large pollen grains which are too heavy to float in the air; most hay fever symptoms in the fall are caused by ragweed, which produces wind-borne pollen in inconspicuous green flowers that bloom at the same time as ragweed.

Although I knew fall was coming, I wasn't ready for it. I planted two rows of potatoes in the garden last spring, and most of the vines were still living when September began. Then, after a hot summer, it suddenly got cooler, and the vines died. After Hurricane Irene went by and the soil dried out a bit, I got one row of the potatoes out of the ground; but we had nearly a week of rain before I could dig the other row. The result was that about one out of four of the remaining potatoes rotted.

That brought back memories. During the Depression years when I was growing up, potatoes were a staple in our diet; it was a rare supper that did not include them. We always planted several long rows of them along the edge of the corn-

field. When September came, we had a horse-drawn plow with a wide, flat blade which brought them out of the ground, and the whole family then picked them up and loaded them into burlap feed-sacks. My sister, my two brothers and I each had the experience of poking a finger into a rotten potato, and we each had the same expression on our faces when it happened... extreme and utter disgust.

The nose is connected to the part of the brain that controls memory more firmly than any of the other senses, and it brings back scenes from childhood. Some of them are pleasant; when I smell chocolate milk, I can still see Miss Hill passing out half-pint boxes of it in the first grade. The oil they used to use on the floors of public buildings is rarely encountered nowadays, but in the days when it was used it always recalled the two-room schoolhouse where I got the first eight years of my formal education. Apple blossoms, new-mown hay, freshly plowed soil, shavings from a solid walnut board, and a thousand other scents bring their unique bouts of nostalgia. But then there is the other end of the scale of smell, where you find things like skunks, rotten eggs, roadkill, or soured milk... odors that should be listed on a scale of disgustingness. Unfortunately, I was not able to find "disgustingness" in my dictionary; apparently it is not a legitimate word in English. That is a shame, for if there were such a word, the smell of rotten potatoes would be at the top of the list of examples of it.

In recent years fall has added a new odor to the disgustingness cate-

gory. Not long ago, the marmolated stink bug, a native of Asia, moved into the Emmitsburg area, where it found things to its liking. Its population exploded a couple of years back, and it decimated local orchards; then, according to my wife, last fall the entire lot of them crawled into our house through unimaginably small crevices and spent the winter with us. Most of them slept during the day, but at night they would try to entertain us by performing aerobic stunts, flying exuberantly around every light in the house and occasionally crash landing in our plates at dinner. They seemed to lead a hazardous lifestyle. I heard my wife tell a friend that for a while in the late winter she was sweeping up a gallon or more of dead carcasses each morning. I have to admit that she has been known to exaggerate, but in truth there were a lot of them. The late Tom Eisner, who used to teach animal behavior at Cornell University, must have been thinking of stink bugs when he quipped that insects have already taken over the world.

When spring came the survivors moved back outside and disappeared, but they did not neglect their reproductive responsibilities; last week when I was mowing the lawn I brushed against a branch of shrubbery and a cloud of stink bugs fell out of it. They were of all sizes, from barely visible nymphs to fully developed adults. Their scent glands were fully loaded, and they are out there, waiting. I didn't have the heart to tell my wife, but I think she knows. Yesterday when I went out to play golf, a stink



You know Fall is just around the corner when the Woolly Bears make their appearance. According to folklore, the amount of black on the Woolly Bear in autumn varies proportionately with the severity of the coming winter. The longer the Woolly Bear's black bands, the longer, colder, snowier, and more severe the winter will be.

bug had crawled into my hat and hid under the inner sweat band, and it got crushed when I put the hat on. By the time I got it out of there both the hat and my hair were fairly saturated with its assorted body fluids, and the smell was still there four hours later when I

got home. Maybe it's just that I'm getting old, but fall doesn't seem as pleasant as it used to be.

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

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REAL SCIENCE

Energy production progress

Michael Rosenthal

A recent announcement by the current federal administration has outlined a plan to modify the production of energy by the middle of the century to produce close to half of the nation's electricity from solar panels. This plan would move us in the right direction to address climate change issues. Solar panels currently produce only 3 percent of the nation's electricity. That amount is far below the potential. When we purchased the house in which we live in 2004, I hoped that it would make it easy to include solar panels. The builders did not make that offer, and I did not have enough confidence at the time to proceed with such a plan. When dog walking with Willie, our standard poodle, I do note that some other homes nearby in our development have installed solar panels.

We could and should do much better than the 3% of electricity we generate by solar panels. The administration proposal suggests raising solar panel usage to 45% of power generation in the next thirty years, by doubling installed solar power every year for the next four years and then doubling it again by 2030. This would make a serious impact on greenhouse gas emissions, moving toward 100 % of the country's energy coming from clean energy sources.

It will politically not be an easy thing to do. The Department of Energy projects that this could be done and could provide 40 percent of the country's electricity by 2035, employing 1.5 million people, without increasing energy prices. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm made the following statement.

"Achieving this bright future requires a massive and equitable deployment of renewable energy and strong decarbonization policies – exactly what is laid out in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and in President Biden's Build Back Better agenda."

Coupling this with nuclear power, in my mind, builds a better future for energy production in the United States. We of course must continue to seek a safer nuclear waste disposal policy. In my mind, we must continue to work vigorously to eliminate the production of energy by fossil fuels.

Related to this, the world's biggest plant to capture carbon dioxide from the air has opened in Iceland. The plant is located on a barren lava plateau in southwest Iceland, and it increases the global capacity for carbon capture by more than 40 percent. Removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is a major factor in making the world carbon neutral. It won't be an easy thing to do. It will be necessary to remove almost a billion metric tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere every year through direct air capture technology. The plant in Iceland will capture 4,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. This project is thought to be a blueprint for future efforts.

The procedure is very original. Human-sized fans are built into boxes that are the size of standard 40-foot shipping containers. They draw carbon dioxide out of the air and catch it in sponge-like filters. The filters are then blasted with heat, freeing the CO₂ gas, which is then mixed with water and pumped into deep underground basalt caverns, where it cools over time and turns into dark-gray

stone. There are other ways to dispose of the carbon dioxide, including use as a fuel component when mixed with hydrogen gas. Why Iceland? Because the tiny island has ample supplies of climate-friendly geothermal energy as well as the appropriate underground geology for carbon capture. Though the costs of producing energy by this methodology are high, prices are expected to eventually fall. This initiative is clearly an important step in the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Potomac Edison has released its summary of the sources of its energy from January 1 through December 31, 2020. The largest source of energy in this period was gas, producing 39.84% of the energy in this region, followed by 34.49% nuclear. Coal still produced 19.44% and oil produced 0.16%. Renewable energy was a total of only 6.03%, a mixture of captured methane (0.30%), hydroelectric (1.29%), solar (0.48%), solid waste (0.52%), wind (3.30%), and wood or other biomass (0.15%). The summary also notes air emissions, which included small amounts of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, but still a very large amount of carbon dioxide, 791.5 pounds per megawatt-hour of electricity generated. Such notices are required by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

We've written before about plastic pollution, which remains a very serious problem in the world's oceans. I haven't seen a switch to paper bags in the places I frequent, and I don't have the feeling that anywhere nearly as much as should be done is being done to reduce plastic pol-



The old saying of "think globally, act locally" is applicable to stopping Global Warming. Homeowners can do their part by installing solar panels, which will more than pay for themselves in the long run.

lution. There are always it seems secondary stories that result from major environmental effects. Here is a recent example reported in the Washington Post that caught my eye. One of the chemicals which are found in the oceans where plastic waste is dumped is a plastic additive, oleamide.

A team of scientists in England examined a batch of 40 hermit crabs found in the waters off the Yorkshire coast to see how they reacted to the chemical, and they found that oleamide elevated the respiration rate of the crabs. It was already known to be a sex pheromone for shrimp. This is another example of how the dumping of chemicals can have unplanned effects on the environment, and thus why we should discourage and

outlaw the dumping of chemical waste. The problem with plastic pollution is one of the most serious ocean pollution problems. Scientists project that at the current rate of plastic dumping there will result in more plastic than fish in the world's oceans by 2050!

More than 8 million metric tons of plastics are dumped annually into the world's oceans, and the World Wildlife Fund estimated that at least 90 percent of birds have plastic in their stomachs. Ask for paper bags at the supermarket!

Finally, here is an example of how good science can breed bad science. There is a drug named ivermectin which is an anti-parasitic medication. Somehow, it has emerged, without any scientific basis, as a treatment for covid-19. During one week in August, more than 88,000 prescriptions were written, up from 3,600 prescriptions. Its known use is that of a deworming medication prescribed previously for horses and cows! In spring 2020 an Australian study found it killed the virus in a lab setting. It is a very effective drug in treating parasites in humans and animals, so important that two scientists won the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work on it.

Somehow, many people have embraced the drug as a coronavirus vaccine, although there is absolutely no evidence that this is so. Even some doctors have promoted it, but there is no proven benefit to taking this drug. Why are there significant numbers of people who believe in this drug as a treatment for COVID-19 when there is no proven scientific evidence it is so? Well, it has become an alternative for anti-vaccine promoters who want an excuse to avoid the vaccine, which they fear.

The major reason that I took on the writing of Real Science was to help dispel false information that claims to be science. This is another example, and it is one that has great consequences if it prevents people from seeking appropriate medical treatment. I have no doubt in my mind whatsoever – get vaccinated, and seek counsel and take the advice of a competent physician on all medical matters before taking action on them, in this case, the vaccine.

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Death of the space opera

Jack Deatherage

"Fourteen billion miles away from Earth, the Voyager's instruments picked up a droning sound that may be caused by plasma (ionized gas) in the vast emptiness of interstellar space. Launched in 1977, the Voyager 1 space probe - along with its twin Voyager 2 - has been traveling farther and farther into space for over 44 years. It has now breached the edge of our solar system, exiting the heliosphere, the bubble-like region of space influenced by the sun. Now, the spacecraft is moving through the "interstellar medium," where it recorded the peculiar sound."

-Hard Science -May 11, 2021

Well hell. It was hard science that killed space operas and dampened my interest in science fiction in general. I'd burnt out on high school math in 1971 when I was introduced to an imaginary number- the square root of negative one- $\sqrt{-1}$. The following year I sat, often dozing, through trigonometry and physics while contemplating whether I'd walk all the way home from Catoctin High School or manage to hitch a ride when I left that prison at noon. I earned solid Fs in both subjects because that's the grade one gets after signing a name to the test papers and turning them in blank.

By the time Voyager was riding a flame into space I'd begun reading sword & sorcery, Westerns and adventure novels, rather than straining my brain trying to plough the new science fiction stories that focused more on science than fiction. I wandered off into the Hyborian Age, knowing I'd never walk where Conan the barbarian had anymore than I'd live on the Moon- Hyboria didn't exist outside of Robert Howard's and my imagination. Nor would I likely see Larry McMurtry's Lonesome Dove, Texas, or follow the Berrybenders journey up the Missouri River. However, I would spend all of 45 minutes aback a horse, and learn to clean and inspect its hooves. (The DW always double-checked to be sure I hadn't missed anything.) All thoughts of living in a Moon colony, or on Mars, or traveling to other stars while sleeping in a cryogenic pod fell away as "hard

science" showed me such possibilities would never occur in my lifetime- perhaps not in anyone's lifetime.

Planetary romance stories told of adventures on other planets, came to a disheartening end when Mars Rover reported none of Ray Bradbury's Martian cities, or the chance of any form of life more evolved than bacteria. Which is not to deem all those stories I once lost myself in as now irrelevant! Space travel, other planets and aliens were merely backdrops where the genre's great authors worked out their thoughts on the human condition- which seems to have changed little in the knowable 6,000 years we apes have pondered life, the universe and everything. (Of course I've laughed my way through some Douglas Adams. And why not? He was good at rubbing our noses in our ridiculousness.)

For a decade or two (Gods! I never thought I'd live long enough to think in terms of decades) I drifted as lost in the world of fictional literature as Earthship Ark did in Harlan Ellison's "The Starlost" - a made for television show that ended up as off track as the people in the generational colony spacecraft the show was about. (If Ellison had written the story in novel form I'd have a copy to reread today. Leave it to TV Land to wreck a good story.)

Well aware that the bulk of my reading was escapist literature, and discovering the various genres were moving into current social situations that were of little or no interest to me, I began reading monthly magazines. Hunting, fishing, gardening, news weeklies (those were a waste of time and money), writing (I still hadn't realized I didn't have the mind, or talent for that) and various other topics I vaguely remember were devoured as income allowed.

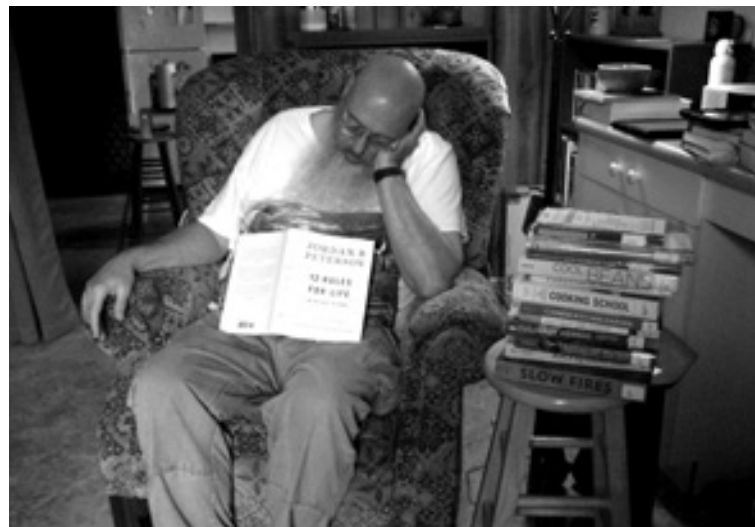
I don't recall when I first walked into the Emmitsburg branch of the county library and asked for a patron card. The last time I'd been in a library was when the town maintained one on West Main Street- I think that space is now part of the Ott House. Anyhow, my library searches were mostly nonfiction at that time: gardening, fishing, hunting, small scale farming, dog breeding, fish keeping, houseplants, carpentry, art, entrepreneurship, newsletter publishing, small business startup-

subjects I blew through as I searched for something- anything I could stay focused on for more than a week or a month, maybe a year. A major subject that held my attention for more than a year was "how to become a millionaire".

Oddly, I understood the basics of accumulating a million dollars. But I lacked the wherewithal to do it. Which was actually a relief. Beings I's lazy and becoming a millionaire requires way more effort and sticktoitiveness than I can muster. Besides, I had already begun turning my attention to college lectures on philosophy of religion- not that I understood much of that.

Eventually I wandered back into fiction, mostly because I didn't have the attention span and/or income to pursue any of the how-to subjects I'd pondered. Murder mysteries- until they became too graphic, adventure stories- until they became formulaic, and finally, fantasy- magicians, witches, werewolves, vampires, the Fae folk and their ilk. Historical romance (not the romantic love sub-genre) slipped in there somehow. Currently, I'm reading S.J. Parris' Giordano Bruno series to break up my reading of Kevin Hearne's The Iron Druid Chronicles.

Recently I've discovered Dr. Jordan Peterson's "12 Rules for



Ok I give, anyone got any idea for a photo caption for this? Maybe 'Jack in one of his more productive moments'?

Life: An Antidote to Chaos". I'm intrigued. Chaos is one of the gods I can prove to my satisfaction. Chaos has also been what goes on in my head as far back as I can remember- that time when I was three years old and was trampled by my Great-uncle John's turkey flock when I opened the coop door for a closer look at the birds. (The god Chaos got a good laugh out of that adventure and has seldom stopped laughing since.)

Being told I have to obey rules has never set well with me, but living in chaos hasn't done well by me either so I bought Peterson's book and began hurting my head trying to plough his writing style and word usage- Gods have mercy! I need to refer to a dictionary at least three times for every paragraph! And my general habit of dozing off

after four pages of any book isn't making the reading of Peterson any easier! Thankfully I found an unabridged audio version and have managed to grasp some of his argument via that, in spite of dozing off 5 minutes into each lecture.

"Rule 1- Stand up straight with your shoulders back"

My immediate reaction is - bite me! I've been ignoring that rule since the first grade! To my detriment. So having bought the book, and needing to come to grips with the chaos in my head, I decide to soldier on with having my nose rubbed in my arrogant stupidity.

I'll tell a man, I regret the loss of the space opera, and the oblivion of alcohol.

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

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For many years I grew herbs just to enjoy how they looked and smelled, not really knowing what to do with the plants, except the occasional oregano or parsley in various Italian sauces and dishes. Since that time so many years ago, I've taken a journey that has brought much knowledge about plants, mostly what they offer for

our own good health. Growing and harvesting your herbs is one of the joys of life and its easy.

Different herbs are harvested at different times. A few references are mentioned at the end of this article so you can check your herbs' harvesting times. Some herbs are best harvested before they flower (lemon balm, rosemary, thyme, oregano, sage), others while they're in full bloom (lavender, anise hyssop, butterfly weed, dandelion, skullcap), and others for their roots (marshmallow, purple cone flower or Echinacea, dandelion, valerian), berries (elderberry, hawthorn, chaste berry), or bark (slippery elm, oak, elder). So it all depends.

When you do harvest, at the peak of harvest time, do so in the morning, preferably on a fairly sunny day and after the dew has dried. Once you pick whichever



Growing and harvesting your own herbs is one of the joys of life and it's easy.

parts you are harvesting (leaf, flower, root, berry, bark), immediately move the harvested plants out of direct sunlight. The heat of the sun will quickly wilt your herbs and strip the plants of their essential oils, so important for flavor and health. Move the picked plants to a shady area or indoors, where you can gently wash the roots (very gently) and perhaps gently wash other parts of the plants.

I generally don't wash leaves and flowers that I'm drying, because I never harvest any plant that's been sprayed, and the plant is generally clean. If you do wash,

then you may need to wait for the plant to completely dry before you begin the drying process, depending on which drying method you choose. In cold-winter areas the last harvest should be six to eight weeks before the first hard freeze to give perennials time to harden off new growth. At your final harvest, cut annuals to the ground and cut back perennials to about two thirds of their height.

Herbs can be gathered in bunches, tied with string or twine, and hung upside down to let the plant dry with appropriate air circulation. This is a nice way to dry herbs with flowers, as you can use

these as dried flower bouquets, which is very pretty. Alternatively, you can use your refrigerator to dry herbs. Simply place small bundles of freshly harvested herbs in paper bags, label them, and place the partially closed bags on a shelf. The fridge-drying process is slow-about two weeks, depending upon the thickness of the leaves-but may be worth the wait. In the cool environment and relative darkness of the refrigerator, herb leaves retain valuable essential oils and more chlorophyll. You can completely dry the herbs in the fridge and then use them from the bag as needed.

Other methods include using a dehydrator, putting the herbs on a tray in an oven with just the pilot light on (although this is risky because you may forget and pre-heat the oven to bake, and then 'poof', there go all your wonderful herbs!), or placing on screens in a dry, airy place (always out of direct sunlight). A method I prefer for its ease is placing the herbs in a paper bag loosely so air can circulate (this means not stuffing the bag to the brim with your herbs) and gently folding the top, and after labeling the date harvested and the plant harvested, I place in the trunk of my car. An open back trunk is not a good idea - best to use a trunk with a closed top, so no sunlight will enter. You want to use a trunk that does not let in any moisture.

Whatever method used, check every 1-3 days to be sure no mold is developing and to occasionally stir or turn the herbs as appropriate. The goal is to let the plant dry evenly and this requires air to be able to circulate around the plants. Depending on the climate and humidity, drying can take from a few days to two weeks. A fully dried herb will crackle and crumble when rubbed between your fingers. If the leaves are not crisp, they still contain some moisture. When the herbs are crumbly and dry, they are ready to be stored and labeled.

Leave small or needlelike leaves like those of thyme and rosemary on their stems, but remove large leaves from stalks. The rosemary stems can be used as skewers. When left

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on the stem, you can use the leaves when needed for cooking or for teas or other uses. Other plants can be placed very gently in a storage container (crumbling the leaves releases the essential oils so try not to crumble the leaves too much). You can store your dried herbs in clean, dark-glass jars or clear jars with tight-fitting lids stored in a dark place. I use mason jars - this way I can see directly what I have and I enjoy looking at my dried herbs. A properly dried herb will retain the same color as the fresh plant - flowers, leaves, berries will all be a similar color. If leaves or flowers or berries turn brown, then they've been damaged and are not of any use.

Once you have harvested, stored

and labeled your herbs, you can use for 1-2 years if kept stored away from direct sunlight, like a pantry or cupboard at room or cooler temperature, without added moisture. The dried herbs can be used in teas, tinctures, cooking, salves, and all kinds of herbal remedies. You will have the knowledge when you use your herbs that you grew your own to benefit you and your family. It's an amazing feeling of accomplishment and altruism - you've grown food and medicine from the earth and are providing for others.

Good health and luck with the coming harvest!

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

Small Town Gardener

Five planting tips for Fall

Marianne Willburn

You, like me, may feel you are just getting over the spring planting season. I've still got a few (well, more than a few) things sitting around in pots, and very little time to do more than water them.

But, autumn is upon us. And the promise of new plants and new ideas in the landscape can make the thought of actually planting those plants and executing those ideas do-able. The shift into cooler weather makes it almost exciting.

Staying organized is the key here and the best way to stay organized - as any coupon queen would tell you - is to have a good idea of what you want, where you're going to plant it and when it's all going to happen. If you go out without a list, it's not going to end well.

Even if you love every single one of those impulse-buy beauties, incorporating them into your landscape is going to take a lot of shuffling. By the time you're done you'll need the winter to sleep off your shopping hangover.

Here are a few ways of dealing with the planting season so you feel calm, make good choices and really get what you want. By all means yield to impulse every once and awhile - just don't navigate the entire journey that way.

Critically examine your time restraints

Are you travelling this fall? Having a new addition put on? Expecting a baby? We tend to think we're going to have more time than we do. When we don't, we feel inadequate and that's not a good place to be. Instead, be truthful with yourself from the beginning using your previous experience. As a whole I am always amazed how busy things seem to get before Thanksgiving - the time I'm

sure I will have in the autumn is often over before I know it. I now buy plants with that in mind.

Only take on one or two areas or beds in your garden

Doing so concentrates your efforts and gives you a better sense of satisfaction in the end. If you've got beds torn up everywhere, the chances are you're going to run out of energy and time before the cold winds begin to blow. Better that you plant or rearrange one area well than six areas poorly.

Grab some cheap stake flags and mark where things are to be moved or planted

In the shade beds that lead up to my front door, I've got a lot of rearranging to do. Before I can plant 'Morning Light' miscanthus, I've got to move a 'Bluebird' hydrangea. Before I can move a 'Little Honey' hydrangea, I've got to evict a chindo viburnum. My mind grows ever more addled these days and I need help remembering the fabulous new design I came up with over a glass of wine last week. Sinking some brightly colored stake flags in key places keeps things straight. Their florescent tops can be marked with a Sharpie, they cost pennies per flag, and they are completely re-usable.

If you're looking for something very specific and uncommon, plan now for a spring purchase instead.

Many of our local independent garden centers that buy-in their

stock are willing to special order plants, but they need a bit of lead time, and October isn't remotely enough. If you've got something specific in mind it's a good idea to start asking around our local nurseries to order for the spring.

Get a load (or bags) of compost delivered in preparation for hole digging and/or mulching.

If you've got heavy soil, amending that soil with some form of organic material will increase water retention and make it a bit easier for your plants to establish themselves - though we usually only think about this when we start digging. Having it on hand makes it that much easier to do the right thing when the mood to dig strikes. A big pile of compost can also provide cover for container shrubs and trees you really shouldn't plant in the fall in our climate but may have picked up on clearance, such as camellias or crepe myrtles.

Preparation, organization and honesty. We're not going to be perfect, but we might as well try to make it easier on ourselves.

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

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PETS

She is there ... the greatest gift of all

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

It had been one of those days. The kind you wish had a rewind button. The kind where Murphy's Law seemed to be gospel – one wrong thing after the other.

When I got home, ready to crash, she was there. Brown eyes, wagging tail and a whole lot of love.

She helped me, made me smile for the first time that day.

**

The engagement ring glittered on my finger. My heart was just about bursting out of my chest. The entire evening was the most romantic of my life.

When I got home, thinking of all the family members I had to call, she was there. Brown eyes, wagging tail and a whole lot of love.

She was the first to celebrate with me.

**

The car needed so much work. I couldn't believe one, simple inspection could cost that much. It took forever. I had waited most of the day. With everything that had been done, the car should be able to orbit the moon.

When I got home, the house

was empty, except for her. Brown eyes, wagging tail and a whole lot of love.

She reminded me that while a car is necessary for transportation, there are much more important things in this life.

**

I couldn't believe I had gotten the job. The interview went so well, they offered me the position on the spot. On the spot. Is that even done anymore?

When I got home, still bubbling, a little dizzy and utterly astounded, she was there. Brown eyes, wagging tail and a whole lot of love.

She jumped up and down with me.

**

The fight was a big one. The slamming of the door seemed to echo through the house. My chest hurt. I sensed a finality that made me kind of nauseous. This wasn't good.

When I turned away from the closed door, she was there, a little tremulous this time, but still with brown eyes, slightly wagging tail and a whole lot of love.

Just when I needed it. She let me hug her a lot that night.

**

The homemade dinner tasted amazing. It was so thought-

ful. Especially after our rough patch. It gave me comfort. It gave me hope. It had been made for me – everything I liked on a plate.

I smiled as I walked out of the kitchen – I wasn't allowed to do the dishes, either – and in the living room, she was there. Brown eyes, wagging tail and a whole lot of love.

She seemed to sense the hope, too.

**

Divorce papers are awful. I thought it would work. I thought we would work. It just didn't. The papers I signed were just black ink on a white sheet saying it wasn't meant to be. So clinical. So sterile. Everything pared down to words on a page. A callous summation of something that should have been lifelong.

When I got home from the lawyer's office, she was there. Brown eyes, wagging tail and a whole lot of love.

She didn't even flinch when I burst into tears and cried on her fur.

**

It was a kid's movie. A cartoon. I had been spending most evenings binge-watching whatever I happened to land on and tonight, it was a kid's movie. Ridiculous.



Sasha Fierce is the sweetest girl you will ever meet! She is a 4-year-old Shepherd mix who came into the shelter as a stray and when she first got here, she was quite scared. She gets attached to her people quickly and doesn't want to leave their side. Sasha has a habit of jumping up when she's excited, but she can be timid around new people. Because of this, she will have to meet with her potential adopters several times to establish a relationship with them. Could Sasha Fierce be the one for you?

For more information about Sasah 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.

But I had hit play anyway. The bright colors appealed to me for some reason.

And when the imaginary friend from childhood whispered, "Take her to the moon for me," I was stunned at the level of pain in my chest. The sob made it past my throat without my permission and I buried my head in the pillow.

When I looked up, she was there, face next to mine, brown eyes, wagging tail and a whole lot of love.

She licked my tears away.

**

I'm sitting on the front porch a few weeks later watching the sunset.

She's beside me on the swing. Doesn't seem to mind the motion. I inhale deeply, turn to my right and her brown eyes are there. Where they've always been. With me. There for me. Never wavering.

She blinks and I realize in that instant, this, the two of us, is what it's really all about.

She has never once left my side, through the good times and the bad. She's my best friend, my loyal

companion and together, I know without a doubt we'll both be just fine.

I ask her if she would like to go for a walk. Her brown eyes sparkle, her tail wags and I see a whole lot of love.

As we wander through the neighborhood that night, our steps are light, in sync. I think we both realize that as long as we're together, there's nothing we can't face.

No matter what happens tomorrow or the next day or the day after that, we've got each other and that's the greatest gift of all.

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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Beware of Xylitol

Dr. Jon Bramson
Catoctin Veterinary Clinic

Xylitol is an artificial sugar substitute found in many products. Some of these are not even edible. It is a sugar alcohol also known as birch sugar or wood sugar. Ingestion by dogs, can put them in grave danger. The problem is that there are benefits to humans making it present in many different products. It provides sweetness with 40% less calories than sugar. It helps keep the mouth clean with its antibacterial properties and it reduces periodontal disease. It also may help with osteoporosis, preventing ear and throat infections, and may reduce the risk of uterine fibroids, endometriosis, and breast cancer. People can handle this compound, but dogs do not.

Check for xylitol in: many sugar-free gums such as Trident, Orbit, and Ice Breakers, some Peanut butters and nut butters, sugar-free candies, baked goods such as muffins, pies, and cakes, sugar-free desserts such as "skinny" ice cream, children's and Adult chewable vitamins such as Gummies, toothpaste, mouthwash and breath mints, cough syrup and over the counter medications, diet supplements, hair care products, & baby wipes

Xylitol has been found to be useful in preventing dental plaque on teeth. That is why sugar-free gum is recommended by dentists. Also there are mouthwashes and oral rinses containing this compound for human use. There are even veterinary oral care products with low levels of xylitol to prevent intoxication.

Lower levels of poisoning cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) which affects the brain and nervous system. A dog's pancreas over-reacts to xylitol and releases an excessive amount of insulin (3-7 times more) versus the response to regular sugar. The insulin transports sugar out of the blood stream into cells and the blood sugar level drops drastically. This leads to weakness, disorientation, tremors and possibly seizures.

Higher levels of xylitol poisoning lead to liver cell damage even liver cell death which is called hepatic necrosis. The mechanism of how this happens is unknown. Signs take longer to appear. They may be temporary, but complete, acute liver failure can result leading to death. Liver failure can lead to internal

bleeding with an inability to clot blood.

A small dog can be poisoned by a single stick of gum. Symptoms can appear within 30 min. and can last for more than 12 hours. However, xylitol may be slowly absorbed, so that any symptoms may not show for 12 hours. Typically, vomiting occurs first, then incoordination, collapse and seizures.

If there is only hypoglycemia and rapid treatment, the prognosis is good. If hepatic necrosis develops, the prognosis is guarded.

Prompt action is necessary for the best chance of recovery. Vomiting needs to be induced to get as much of the xylitol out of the body as fast as possible. IV fluids are recommended along with glucose (sugar) supplementation. The liver needs to be monitored with blood tests for 2-3 days.

Interestingly, there have not been reports of xylitol toxicity in cats. Toxicity in cats is unknown. They don't generally have a sweet tooth unlike dogs, so they don't usually seek out and ingest the products listed above like dogs do. However, ferrets are susceptible to toxicity. They can get a low blood sugar which leads to seizures.

Preventive Measures

To ensure your pets are not exposed to xylitol:

- Check for xylitol listed in labels on products labelled sugar-free or low sugar
- If a product has xylitol, keep it where your pet can't get to it. Check your purse, pockets, countertops and prevent easy access.
- Only use pet toothpaste for your pets and never human toothpaste.
- If you use a nut butter as a treat or to hide medication, check the label to avoid xylitol.

Because of the oral health benefits of xylitol, there are pet mouthwashes and oral rinses that have low levels of the compound. As long as recommended dosages are followed, there should not be a problem. These products get mixed in the drinking water. If there are multiple dogs in the house, the dosing should be done for the smallest dog present.

Always seek veterinary attention for a suspected xylitol oral intoxication and call one of the poison control centers. ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 888-426-4435 provides a 24 hour service. The cost is \$65, but if your pet has any type of microchip registered with HomeAgain (1-888-HomeAgain), there is no charge.



Dorito was brought into the shelter after being found fending for himself outside. He's a 3-year-old albino, American mix rabbit. He does not mind being held and loves to explore! Dorito has been neutered and was a great patient when it came time for his pain medication afterwards. He would love to find his forever home where he will not have to worry about being dumped and left to fend for himself ever again!



Fawn is a sweet, brown American mix rabbit who came into the shelter as a stray. We think she's about 1 year old and has the cutest little white spot on her nose. If you understand rabbit care, check out Fawn and see if she might be the right one for you.



Walt arrived at the shelter with his sisters when they were very small kittens. He is the only boy in the group. He was raised in foster care with his siblings until they were ready to find their forever homes. Walt is a sweet little, 4-month-old guy that loves attention and enjoys playing with the teaser toys! Do you have a forever home for Walt?

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

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YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

Farm life is full of surprises

Sarah Simmons

Since it has been such a hot summer, we haven't been able to ride as much as we would like, but it's important to keep the health of the horses in mind. When Mike said it was cool enough for us to ride one evening, My sister Emma and I were ecstatic. We were so very ready to get on our horses again. It had been at least a couple of weeks since we had ridden. Outfitted in our best riding clothes, we set off for Mike's farm. All the way there, Emma and I chatted about the horses, how much we missed them, and how great it would feel to ride again. My mother often uses the phrase, "best laid plans" to mean sometimes things come up that you don't expect. And that was what was in store for us when we got to Mike's farm.

When we arrived, Mike was out riding Scotty, so we decided to wait for him in the barn. While we were waiting, we heard a sound that we often heard at the farm, a cat meowing. Since Mike and his wife Audrey have several cats, indoor ones and barn ones, we didn't think anything about hearing this very usual noise. But even though the sound was familiar, there was something different about it. I asked Emma what she thought, and she too said that the cat sounded different from Mike's two barn cats, Will and Q. So, we began to investigate. And we soon discovered that the screen door leading from the barn to the potting shed and workshop was closed. Now, this door is rarely closed during the day since it allows the cats and dogs to

come and go from the barn to the yard. We knew something was different. And we were soon to discover exactly what was going on.

As soon as we peered through the screen door into the potting shed, we saw something we did not expect to see, a tiny, furry, ginger and white colored little ball of fur. A ball of fur that meowed. It was a kitten! As he looked up at us, he was so cute!

At that point, Audrey walked into the barn and said, "Oh, you've found him. He's only been with us for a day, and he's the loudest little kitten I've ever seen." As Emma and I sat down on the floor to play with him, Audrey told us the tale of how she discovered the little guy.

She said that the previous evening she was out for her usual walk down the road and she heard the familiar sound of a kitten. She looked around and soon caught a glimpse of a little furry creature. She told us that she found him standing close to the road, which is not a safe place for a kitten. So she reached out for him. And she noted that she was a little surprised that he walked right up to her with no hesitation. Audrey said that it was clear he had been around people and had likely either wandered away from home or had been let loose to fend for himself. She took him home and showed Mike her find. They both then went back to where she found him and looked for other kittens and went to several nearby houses to see if anyone was missing a kitten. And they went back the next day and looked again for other kittens. But this little guy was the only one and no one in the

neighborhood had lost a kitten. So, Audrey and Mike spent some time thinking about what to do. Since they already had several cats, they felt they just couldn't keep another one. Audrey said that they decided to find a good home for the kitten instead.

Since it was already late and since Audrey has a lot of experience with animals, especially cats and horses, she checked him over to make sure he was not injured. Then she gave him water and food. She told us that he was so thirsty. He drank and drank all the water she put out for him.

Just as Audrey was finishing her story of how she found the kitten, Mike walked into the barn from his ride and said, "I see you found the kitten. Want to take him home with you?" Well, you can guess what our Mom said. We already have two big dogs, two cats, 12 fish, and 2 snails. But being kids who love animals, we still had some hope and gave our Mom our very very best pleading look and asked quietly, "Can we please keep him?" Our Mom seemed unmoved. She long ago developed the Mom response to such questions: "No. I already have enough to take care of, the dogs, the cats, the fish, Daddy, and you two girls. I can't do anymore." She seemed firm. But Emma and I are tenacious. Without even saying a word to each other, we used our twin telepathy and quickly devised a plan. We went back to the kitten, sat on the floor again, and called her over and asked if she would take a photo of us and the kitten so we could always remember him. And we knew that being a photographer, she just couldn't resist a good picture. So she got out her iPhone and started snapping away. Part One of our plan was successful.

Now, Part Two of the plan should be obvious to any girl. We squeezed out a few tears as she was taking



Talk about a lucky kitten!!!! Two little girls to call his own. Life doesn't get much better than that.

pictures. She looked up from her iPhone at us and said in her gentlest Mom voice, "It'll be alright. Audrey will find a good home for the little kitten." Then she walked away to talk with Audrey. We don't know exactly what they said, but we did hear the word, "shelter" being mentioned. Bingo. We know our Mom doesn't like the idea of little animals in shelters because they don't always make it out. On to Part Three of the plan. I asked, "Maybe we can ask Daddy?" Now this was the critical point. If our Mom said "No, let's not bother Daddy", then our plan had hit a big bump in the road. But if she agreed to call our Dad, Game On. We saw the wheels in her head spinning as she thought about her next move. Then she said, "Ok, I'll give him a call." We looked over at Audrey and she smiled. She knew what was going on. She's a smart lady.

We heard Mom talking on the phone to our Dad and they seemed to talk for a long time. So we went back to playing with the kitten. Then we saw her go over to Audrey and Mike and talk with them. Emma and I held our twin breath. "Please, please, please", we prayed. "Please let us keep this little kitten, dear Lord."

Then she walked toward us, but we couldn't read her face. She is great at keeping a straight face. I can still remember her exact words. Her face turned into a big smile and she said,

"You can keep him! Heaven help me, you can keep him. But he's your responsibility."

Fortunately, Audrey had already made a run to the store and bought kitten food and some toys and she had a carrier we could use to take him home with us. Audrey was so kind and told us what we needed to do to take care of him. She knows so much about kittens. She told us to make sure he has enough water all the time. And introduce him to our other cats slowly. She reminded us to keep him separated from them for a few days or so until they get to know one another. "Don't rush it," she said, "take your time. Make sure they become friends." And most importantly, she told us to give him lots and lots of love. "That's what kittens need most," Audrey said. As we drove home that evening, Emma and I were so so so happy. Another kitten. There's nothing in the world that's as wonderful as a little kitten. That evening we decided to call him, "Vespet," since Audrey found him one evening and we got to take him home in the evening.

Oh, and by the way, we never did ride that day. We can always ride later, but we only had one chance at keeping the kitten. And it paid off.

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



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A kindle of 17



Linda Shea
Frederick County Animal Shelter

While many people refer to a collection of kittens as a litter, the formal term is "kindle." Earl was brought to the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center with siblings, a very colorful kindle of black, grey, and orange combinations. He was born in Myersville; surrendered as a result being a part of too many animals. Right now, Earl lives among 16 other kittens with similar back-stories that are

available for adoption at the shelter. Our feline population of adoptable cats and kittens is currently 49.

Depending on your experience with cats, forty-nine may not sound like a lot or may sound like an overwhelming number. However, as an open admission shelter, we take in stride the population of animals in need that fluctuates from day-to-day. Open admission means we take in animals that need us--stray animals found within Frederick County or unwanted animals from owners who live in Frederick County. County tax dollars fund our shelter's ability to function effectively, which is why we only accept animals from Frederick County. County tax dollars also fund medical care for animals like Earl, who may require care beyond routine vaccines and preventatives.

Earl arrived on August 9 with a very noticeable medical need: his left eye had sustained an injury that was prone to develop glaucoma. Due to the severity of the

old injury, it was recommended that Earl's left eye be removed. On August 30, we sent Earl to a local veterinary hospital to be neutered and have his left eye removed (enucleated). Since that time, he has recovered well and currently shares a cage with one of the kittens he arrived with. His behavior is what you would expect of a 4-month-old kitten—he is playful, inquisitive, and overall fun to watch.

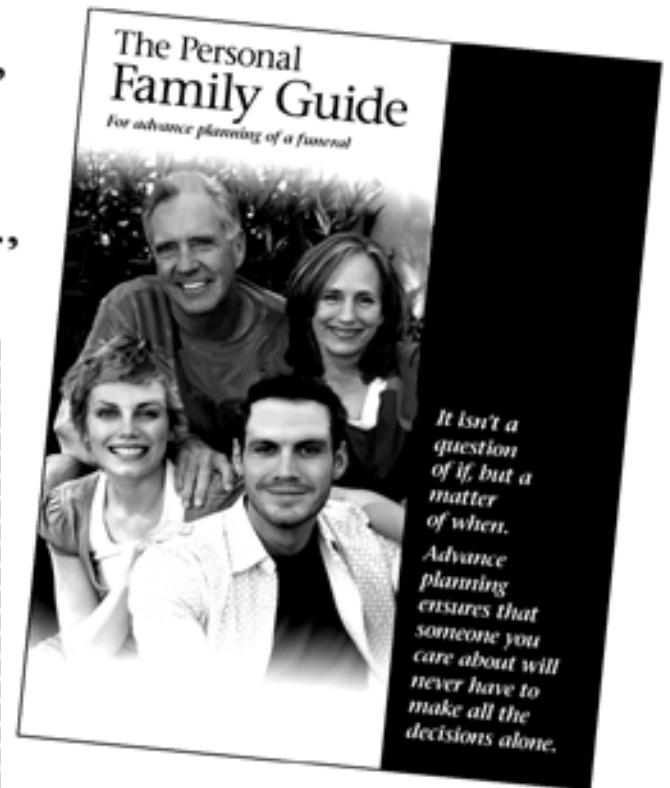
While we enjoy kittens just as much as anyone, we would rather see more adult cats spayed and neutered to prevent unwanted kittens like Earl, Billie Jean, and (at the moment) the 14 other kittens currently looking for forever homes. Fortunately for Earl, we were able to provide him care above and beyond what many people expect from a municipal animal shelter. However, we value the animals in our care and do what we can when we can. We also value our generous community that allows to help kittens like Earl. For information on adopting Earl, please contact the shelter.

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HEALTH NOTES

Frederick Health recognized for award-winning care

Josh Faust
Frederick Health

Frederick Health continues to earn high marks including awards from national and international rating agencies. Working against a pandemic, facing high patient numbers and increased demands on staff, the hospital system, which is the largest provider of medical care in the county, continues to find ways to ensure quality patient care is at the heart of every service provided to the Frederick community.

These accreditations and awards are not limited to the hospital campus within the City of Frederick, but also include the exceptional care provided throughout Frederick County. As part of the efforts to bring award-winning care to all Frederick County residents, Frederick Health is expanding its presence in the northern part of the county. In a partner-

ship with Mount St. Mary's University, the healthcare provider will be constructing a new facility in Emmitsburg.

This facility, which is tentatively scheduled to open in the spring of 2022, was developed and constructed in conjunction with Mount Saint Mary's, an institution with more than 200 years of history in the area. This new facility will offer treatment to not only residents of northern Frederick County, but also to university students and faculty. Construction of a new facility in the northern part of Frederick County has been a goal for several years.

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

In addition to expanding and constructing new facilities, Frederick Health Hospital has once again been named one of the 100 best hospitals in America, according to Healthgrades, a national healthcare system ranking service. These designations are earned in conjunction with patient satisfaction surveys, treatment metrics, and clinical outcomes.

"These awards are a testament to the care and the dedication of our team, especially given the obstacles that all healthcare systems have faced over the last 18 months," added Kleinhanzl.

In addition to expanding their service network, Frederick Health has been granted recognized by numerous groups or agencies including: BlueCross and BlueShield Association, American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Leapfrog Group "A" Safety Rating, The American Heart Association, The American Stroke

Association, MAGNET Designation, Aetna Institute of Quality, Chest Pain Center, & Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses. Many healthcare systems look to patient satisfaction numbers as their primary metric. However, at Frederick Health, the approach is more all-encompassing, focusing not only on quality clinical care, but also what matters most to the patient and their loved ones. That approach sets Frederick Health apart from many healthcare providers.

"At the top of any quality review should be the satisfaction of the patient with their healthcare experience," says Doctor Kathy Weishaar, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer of Frederick Health.

Frederick Health designs services, treatment protocols, programs, and initiatives following the patient-family centered care model. The Institute for Fam-

ily Centered Care defines patient and family centered care as "an innovate approach to planning, delivery, and evaluation of health care that is grounded on mutually beneficial partnerships among patients, families, and providers." This model is determined by outcomes to be achieved throughout the patient journey. Preventative treatment and comprehensive care are pillars of this approach.

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association has recently honored Frederick Health with five nationally recognized awards. Heart and stroke related illness remain some of the deadliest conditions facing Americans. Frederick Health is pleased to have been awarded for their commitment to service in both areas. These awards were granted by implementing specific quality care improvement measures outlined by the association and are given for excellent service in treating heart attacks, strokes, and diabetes.

"Frederick Health is honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our dedication to helping our patients have the best possible chance of survival after a stroke or heart attack," said April Fogle, Program Coordinator.

"Our teams have put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis to improve outcomes for patients," continued Fogle.

The criteria for these awards also includes metrics on education, outreach, and the overall prevention of strokes, diabetes, and heart attacks.

With the importance of screening and prevention in mind, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and residents are reminded of the importance in taking steps to help prevent Breast Cancer. Pre-screening appointments and regular follow ups with Primary Care providers are critical steps in diagnosis and treating these unique needs. Frederick Health is committed to identifying and addressing the unique health and wellness needs of all women. As part of those efforts, Frederick Health has also been recognized for its outstanding contributions to women's health having been named the 2021 the Women's Choice Award Winner for Best Mammogram Center, Best Breast Care, and Best Comprehensive Breast Center.

"Our core mission is to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community. Offering award-winning, patient-family centered care is how we show the community that we are delivering on that promise," said Weishaar.

To learn more about the award-winning care provided by Frederick Health, visit frederickhealth.org/awardwinningcare.

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National Apple Harvest Festival celebrates its 57th year

The National Apple Harvest Festival is celebrating its 57th old-fashioned family event in October over the weekends of the 2 & 3 and the 9 & 10, at The South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville, in the heart of Apple Country USA. The event is from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays rain or shine. October, proclaimed National Apple Month, is when the Upper Adams County community celebrates apple season with an apple festival.

The festival's roots date back to October 14, 1961, when The Adams County Fruit Growers Association held an Apple Harvest Holiday to celebrate the apple harvest. After the fruit growers decided not to run the holiday again, The Upper Adams Jaycees—a new chapter in need of a fundraiser—organized and sponsored the very first Apple Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 10, 1965. Admission was free. The Jaycees earned a profit of \$297 that first year and voted to try it again.

In 1967, the event grew from one day to three days. Saturday's admission was \$.25 and Sunday's was \$.50. The first Apple Harvest Ball was held in 1968 at the Holiday-Inn Gettysburg. In 1969, the first Miss Apple Queen USA Contest was selected at the ball held in conjunction with the festival. The tours of the processing and fruit packing plants, that were proven crowd pleasers, were discontinued in 1970 because the plants could no longer handle the crowds.

The festival's 10th Anniversary was held in 1974 and had become so popular that all the cars could no longer be parked on the South Mountain Fairgrounds. And, with the profits from the festival, the Jaycees voted to build a community park. Then in 1975, it became a two-weekend event held the first two full weekends in October. The name was changed to the National Apple Harvest Festival in 1977 in honor of the National Apple Queen Contest it sponsored from 1969 to 1986.

The Upper Adams Community area benefits most by the community park that was begun by the Jaycees in 1975 funded from profits of the fes-

tival. The 92-acre Oaks Community Park, located outside of Biglerville on Route 394, is open to the public April 1 to November 1 each year. The park features an amphitheater, six baseball/softball fields, five rental pavilions, a catch-and-release fishing pond, a soccer complex, a dog park, a three-mile walking trail, and a covered bridge. In 1989, the Jaycees built an office complex at the entrance to the park that houses offices for Oaks Community Park, The National Apple Harvest Festival, and The Upper Adams Jaycees.

The Upper Adams Jaycees use profits from the festival for all types of community, member and individual projects. A fifteen-member board of directors of current Jaycees and Exhausted Jaycees (no longer can be a member of the organization when they turn 40) guide the festival each year. The board meets every month and is responsible for improvements to the festival.

Of course, what would an apple festival be without apple-delicious products? Apple bread, an apple butter boil, a cold cider press, cider slushies, hot cider, apple desserts, daiquiris (nonalcoholic), fritters, jellies, pizza, sausage, sauce, candies, apple syrups and pancakes, sliced caramel apples, apple ice cream, and fresh Adams County apples can be found here, there, and everywhere as one strolls the grounds. Besides Apples, there are various other delicious foods available. As you step onto the fairgrounds, smell chicken barbecuing, the pit beef and pulled pork, sweet potato and regular French fries, homemade soups and sandwiches, homemade scrapple, and "fair" food.

With admission, entertainment is included on six stages—Apple Auditorium, Appleseed, Bluegrass Hollow, Cider Barrel, Cortland Circle, and Rockin' Apple—with music of all genres included—Bluegrass, Country, Rock and Roll, and Celtic. In the Exhibition Area view the Native American Dancers and listen and learn at Van Wagner's Tall Timber "Lumber Heritage" Program.

Take a hayride, stop at Kid Country—storytelling, apple pie eating contests, and a petting zoo. Enjoy the Orchard Tours, craft demonstration

area, and shop at over 200 arts and crafts vendors. Don't miss the operating steam engine and shingle mill, listen to the hit 'n miss engines, and enjoy the antique autos! Check out the National Apple Harvest Festival Gallery with displays of old-fashioned apple production equipment and past festival memorabilia. The Pennsylvania Apple Queen Contest will be held Sunday, October 10, at 11:30 a.m. with the Coronation at 2:30 p.m. in the Apple Auditorium.

For more information including the full four-day schedule, food vendors, and to buy tickets online, visit www.appleharvest.com or call 717-677-9413. General admission is \$10, \$9 for Senior Citizens 60 and older, \$9 for Military and Veterans with proper ID, and free for children under 12. Parking and shuttle services are included. Please keep all pets at home as they are not allowed on festival grounds.



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HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

Chapter 39: Outstanding Points of Interest

Crow's Nest Campground

Crow's Nest Campground is situated on 54 acres of land which has been the site of several businesses through the years. Included among these were Stern's Tannery, Lynn's Pottery and a popular country boarding house in the early 1900's.

Crow's Nest Lodge is one of the first privately operated campgrounds ever to be established in Maryland. In 1958 it began with six campsites and today it has over 100, with future plans calling for additional ones. Camping families are provided with large campsites bordering Hunting Creek and on a wooded slope overlooking the beautiful Frank Bentz Memorial Pond. This pond is stocked with trout and is open to the public for fishing. A spring-fed pond provides swimming for the campers. Badminton, volleyball and horse-shoe courts are maintained for camper recreation. Over 10 miles of scenic foot trails wind through the adjoining Catoctin Mountains to panoramic overlooks on the higher elevations. These provide

hiking trips, rock collecting and nature study for those who enjoy this type of recreation.

The central location of Crow's Nest Lodge in an area of especial historical significance, offers the camper an opportunity to visit such points of interest as Gettysburg, Harper's Ferry, Antietam Battle-field, Washington, D. C., Baltimore and Frederick; all of which are within easy driving distance.

Ole Mink Farm Campground

With the rapidly growing popularity of family camping there came an inevitable demand for a different type of camping area, one which combined the best in wilderness camping with the comforts and recreational facilities of a resort. Most of today's camping families appreciate the "little extras" which enable them to enjoy outdoor living to its fullest. At the "Ole Mink Farm", the natural beauty of the wilderness has been preserved, yet no expense has been spared to provide these camping comforts. Here, tucked away high in the beautiful Catoctin Mountains one will enjoy wilderness camping with all the

conveniences of a modern resort.

Each campsite is provided with sturdy eight-foot tables and a permanent fireplace of brick or field stone. Water is piped to outlets throughout the area. At the Headquarters Building there are toilets, lavatories, and showers. An oil-fired hot water system provides continuous hot water for the lavatories and showers. There is a large recreation room with ping pong and pool tables, as well as a juke box to provide music. A camp store provides the campers shopping needs. Outside there is a children's play area as well as courts for horse-shoes, badminton and tether-ball. Swimming is provided in a large spring fed, filtered pond with a children's beach. Hiking and exploring for the rugged type is also available. Excellent fishing in nearby streams and ponds has made the "Ole Mink Farm" a popular resort for sportsmen.

Chapter 40: Outstanding Citizens

Thurmont is justly proud of its citizens and takes great pride in the fact that a number of them have attained great success in many and varied fields of endeavor. Each success has brought with it many re-warding experiences and wide recognition, not only for the individual, but for the community as well. This chapter does not necessarily cover all of the outstanding citizens of Thurmont, for there are many, but is designed to give



Crow's Nest Campground as it looked in 1900.

the reader an insight to the degree or measure of success attained by those mentioned here.

Robert C. Tyson

Robert C. Tyson, son of Robert Alexander and Effie May (Fleming) Tyson, was born in Thurmont, Md. on August 13, 1905. He attended Thurmont High School and Mercersburg Academy. In 1923 he graduated from Mercersburg Academy and entered Princeton University, where he majored in economics and graduated in 1927. Following graduation, he was associated with Remington Rand, Inc., and from January 1, 1929, with Price Waterhouse & Co. In 1932, Mr. Tyson became a Certified Public Accountant of the State of New York.

On June 1, 1939, he joined United States Steel as assistant audit supervisor. Rising successively to general accountant and assistant comptroller, he was elected comptroller of the corpo-

ration on February 29, 1950. He was elected a vice president on January 11, 1951, and vice chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Board of Directors and Finance Committee on November 25, 1952. Upon the retirement of Enders M. Voorhees on May 8, 1956, Mr. Tyson was elected by the Board of Directors as chairman of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Tyson is a member of the American Iron and Steel Institute; the Financial Executives Institute; member and director of the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, Inc.; member of Visiting Committee, Board of Overseers, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Cambridge, Mass.; member of the advisory board, Hoover Institution, Stanford, California; member of the board of directors, executive committee and vice chairman of the Commerce and Industry Association of New York; vice president, New York Chamber of Commerce; chairman of the Tax Foundation; trustee, Princeton University; trustee of Lahey Clinic Foundation, Inc., Boston, Mass.; director of the Boy's Clubs of America; member, Board of Regents and Finance Committee of Mercersburg Academy; member, Board of Directors, Board of Overseers, and Executive Committee of Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia; member, Board of Trustees, Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, Vice Chairman of Board of Directors and member of Board of Trustees, Voorhees Technical Institute.

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HISTORY

He serves on the Boards of Directors of the Chemical Bank New York Trust Company and Uniroyal, Inc.

Mr. Tyson holds the honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Stamford University. He is the recipient of the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation.

Club affiliations include The Links, Links Golf Club, Princeton Club of New York, National Golf Links, Union League Club, Duquesne Club of Pittsburg, Rolling Rock Club, Pennsylvania, Connequot River Club, New York, Laurel Valley Golf Club, Pennsylvania and Pine Valley Golf Club, New Jersey.

Mr. Tyson is married to the former Lucy Bannar of Norfolk, Virginia. They have one daughter, Mrs. Ralph E. Lawrence of Norfolk, Virginia, and one grandson, Robert Tyson Lawrence. Mr. and Mrs. Tyson reside at 888 Park Avenue, New York, New York.

Robert Tyson has indeed attained notable success in the business world and Thurmont is very proud to claim him as one of its native sons.

Victor M. Birely

Victor M. Birely was born in Thurmont, Maryland on June 24, 1895, the son of Samuel M. and Belva Cramer Birely. His father was a pioneer banker and one of Frederick County's leading businessmen. Having organized several banks as well as conducting a number of industrial enterprises. The name Samuel M. Birely may be found in other chapters of this volume, for he was active in civic affairs and contributed much to the early history of Thurmont.

Victor M. Birely, like Robert C. Tyson, attended public schools in Thurmont and Mercersburg Academy. From 1923 to 1932, he conducted an investment business in Baltimore, Maryland, which in later years was transferred to Washington, D. C. where he has remained active in the investment securities business.

Mr. Birely has won wide recognition for his interest in Republican politics and in 1932, despite the general Democratic trend and

ultimate landslide of that party, as well as the bad weather that prevailed on Election Day, the Thurmont district went heavily for Herbert Hoover and the Republican ticket. This was due largely to the well-organized Republican machine in this district, under the able leadership of Victor M. Birely, who was chairman of the Republican Central Committee for the Thurmont district.

Victor M. Birely has always been a student of Lincolniana and is considered a leading authority on the life of Abraham Lincoln. He was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a member of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission 1958-1961.

Mr. Birely is a member of the Lincoln Group of D. C. (Governor and Past President), Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania, Columbia Historical Society, Sons of American Revolution and the Huguenot Society. He is treasurer of the U. S. Capitol Historical Society, a non-profit organization that published "We The People", a story of the capitol, having sold to date over 1,500,000 copies in this and other countries. The late President Kennedy was an Honorary Trustee, and President Johnson is presently an Honorary Trustee. Mr. Birely is a member of the National Press Club and is a member of the Lutheran faith and an active Mason.

In 1955, Mr. Birely and his son William, together with Kenneth R. Robertson organized Birely & Company, a well-known investment firm. This firm, organized by securities men with many years of experience in the investment business, opened its main office in the Commerce Building and later another branch office in Arlington, Virginia. In 1964 this same firm opened still another branch office in Montgomery County as a convenience to investors living or working in the suburbs.

William C. Birely

William C. Birely, son of Victor M. Birely, has followed in his father's footsteps. He entered the investment business in 1947 with Folger, Nolan, Inc., where he was vice president until 1952. He was

also a general partner of Rouse, Brewer & Becker from 1952 to 1955. William has served as a member of the Montgomery County Council and the Montgomery County Board of Appeals.

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

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

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

Nola Jane Birely

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

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

continued next month

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

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

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

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Lawrence Everhart

David Buie

Just outside of Taneytown were individuals who influenced the town, Sergeant Lawrence Everhart was certainly one of those individuals interacting through associations made while enlisted in Captain Good's "Flying Camp".

His large monument in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Middletown bears witness to the position of honor this long-time resident held among his fellow citizens. Inscribed on the base of that monument are these words. "Sergeant Laurence Everhart Ordained a Minister of the Gospel in the M.E. Church by Bishop Asbury Born May 6, 1755, Died August 6, 1840, in his 86th year A veteran of the Revolution, the rescuer of Colonel Washington at the Battle of Cowpens. He assisted at the most remarkable battles of the war, and in the Battle of Brandywine, when Lafayette was wounded, he and Sgt. Wallace rescued him from his difficult situation and carried him about two miles to a friend's house. He served from the beginning to the end of the Revolution. He was generous and just in all his relations of life."

While the inscription on his monument bears witness to his military heroism, it tells only part of his story. Johannes Lorentz Eberhardt is probably the most accurate rendering of his

given name. He appears in the records at the conference archives as Lorenz (Lawrence) Everhart. However, as noted above, his tombstone identifies him as Laurence Everhart. The oldest of 14 children, he was born to Christian Eberhardt (1727-1808) and Maria Sybilla Geier Eberhardt (1731-1812).

At 21 and the American colonies declaring their independence from England, he enlisted as a private on August 1, 1776, in the "Flying Camp" commanded by Captain Jacob Good. Although there is little documentation of his service under Good, we know that the military life must have agreed with him since he re-enlisted after he completed his term of service. Leaving Good's command before his first enlistment, military records and stories from fellow soldiers indicate that Everhart was captured, escaped, and wounded several times before returning to civilian life.

At 6'3" and a muscular build, Everhart was an imposing figure; numerous stories attest to his bravery before the enemy. According to colleagues, he was offered promotions but refused them due to his lack of formal education and military training. While he participated in several prominent battles and was present at the surrender at Yorktown, the two incidents recounted on his tombstone are the ones most noteworthy.

On September 11, 1777, Battle of Brandywine, Everhart rescued a wounded Marquis de Lafayette and, with the help of another, carried him two miles to a safe house. This marked the beginning of a life-long friendship with the General. When Lafayette visited Frederick during his triumphant 1824 tour of America, Everhart was among the dignitaries that welcomed him and led the parade through the city – and Everhart was reportedly given the second most important seat at the banquet held in Lafayette's honor.

Everhart's actions at the January 17, 1781, Battle of Cowpens are not fully documented credited with saving the life of Colonel Washington (George Washington's cousin). According to accounts, Everhart was wounded, captured, and treated by the British, finding his way back into the battle. Hurt a second time, Everhart disabled a British soldier who was in the act of striking Washington and was wounded a yet third time before the encounter concluded. This incident, which involved Colonel William Washington and not General George Washington, is the source of the incorrect stories claiming that Everhart was an aide to the future President and once rescued him in battle. While Everhart did meet George Washington at least twice during the war, he never served directly under him or fought with him in military action.

Everhart identified with the newly organized United Brethren denomination after the war, which was very active in the Middletown area. However, the precise circumstances of his conversion and initial contacts with Rev. Philip William Otterbein (founder of the United Brethren Church) have not been preserved.

Everhart attended the annual conference in 1805 and is listed as a preacher, although there is no formal record of his



license or ordination. He was an active participant in the United Brethren conference of 1806, met at his home in Middletown. During his years with the United Brethren, Everhart proceeded as a local pastor and never accepted an assignment as an itinerant. When he attended the conference held at Geeting's meeting house in 1812, he was asked to supply Henry Spayth's circuit in "Pennsylvania and Maryland" during November while Spayth ministered in Virginia.

Everhart's United Brethren Pennsylvania Conference service record indicates that his ministerial membership ceased in 1812, giving no details, and there is no formal notation of such in the conference minutes. However, it does appear that after that date, Everhart labored exclusively with the Methodists – also in a local relationship and not as an itinerant. Since only a very few Methodist preachers could preach in German, Everhart's dual linguistic abilities made him a precious asset to that denomination. While no official documentation survives regarding Everhart's ministry as a local pastor, it is clear that he actively pursued all open doors.

Harry Foreman's "History of Little Cove, Franklin County, Pennsylvania" states that the present United Methodist congregation in Franklin County began when "one Lawrence Everhart, missionary, organized a Methodist class in 1816."

In his first official appearance in the Methodist minutes, Everhart is listed in 1817, at the age of 62, as a German missionary in the Carlisle District of the Baltimore Conference. In 1818 and 1819, he was assigned as a missionary in the Monongahela and Pittsburgh districts. In 1820 he was ordained an elder, received into full connection, and designated as a German missionary in the Monongahela District.

Seemingly, Everhart now returned to his home in Middletown for Good, although he undoubtedly continued speaking and ministering as doors opened. One could say that while no longer on active duty, this soldier of the Lord continued as a reserve and in a supporting role until his heavenly muster in 1840.

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

October 6

Victory Garage Sold

The Maryland Motor Machine Company of Frederick has purchased the Victory Garage of Emmitsburg. The property will operate as a first-class garage and service station, with a complete stock of accessories and parts for standard make of car. Additions will be made from time to time in a number of nearby towns and will operate in a chain with the main office at the present location in Frederick. The Garage will be handling Noah and Chevrolet cars, and also transport trucks

Civil War Veteran Dies

Joseph Rose, veteran of the Civil War who lived in Liberty Township near Emmitsburg, died Friday evening due to cancer. The veteran who was 77 years of age is survived by his wife and 11 sons and daughter. Funeral services were held at the Emmitsburg Lutheran Church. Interment was in the church's cemetery.

October 13

Soldiers' Bodies Returned Home

The remains of Private Francis X. Elder, who was killed in France during the late war, arrived in Emmitsburg Thursday evening. The funeral was held on Monday morning and was organized by the local post of the American Legion, which was named in his honor. The Knights of Columbus also took part as he was a member. High mass was held in Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. Interment was in the cemetery adjoining.

Mr. John Toms of Thurmont has received word that the body of his son, Stanley Toms, who was killed in France, will arrive home in the later part of next week.

Thieves Rob Slaughter House

An unknown thief or thieves broke into the slaughterhouse of H. C. Seifert in Fairfield Thursday night and secured two dressed hogs, weighing 150 pounds each, two beef hearts, a beef liver and tongue and made off with their booty. Shortly before 2 o'clock in the morning, Mrs. Seifert heard a car start in the alley in the rear of their home and upon going to the window to investigate, saw a man carrying a hog on his shoulder and placing it in the rear of the car. She immediately aroused her husband, but by the time he got ready to pursue the culprits, they had gotten the machine underway and were headed in the direction of Emmitsburg, a hot bed of thieves.

House Destroyed By Fire

The residence of Mr. Fleet Birely, just west of Sabillasville, on the horseshoe curve of the Western Maryland Railroad was burned to the ground on Thursday afternoon. The fire started in the attic. Mr. Birely, assisted by his neighbors, succeeded in saving every article of furniture and even had time to remove all the doors and window sashes from the house. Just about a year ago, Mr. Birely's house on the same site was destroyed by fire.

Blackbirds

Last Sunday evening from 5:30 until 6 o'clock, one continuous ribbon of blackbirds, 10 feet wide, passed from north to south and came to rest in the fields below town. At times, there would be a break in the line when a portion of the flight darted Earthwards, and the entire line from that point forward performed the same feat which gave it an appearance of a wave. At other times, the same maneuver was carried out sideways. For the half hour that the birds were observed, people estimated close to 1,000 passed every minute.

October 20

Community Club At Emmitsburg

Emmitsburg has taken steps to see that strangers who visit there have a place to go where they may spend the time while in town. A public reading room will be opened on November 1. Well, it will open primarily for the benefit of people visiting the town; it may also be used by the residence of the town. It will be open every afternoon.

Strangers who are in the town may go there to read daily papers and other periodicals and spend a very pleasant afternoon. The privilege will be open to all. The room is located in former saloon of the Hotel Slagle. The opening of this room is credited to the Former-Former Boozers Association. According to Dr. Glass, their President, in the evening, passersby's will be invited to join Boozers in partaking in sampling local 'corn squeezing' in their super-secret hangout behind Dr. Annan's barn. Passerby's will be expected to 'contribute' to participate, which will of course add considerably to the profitability of the organization

Work Begins On New High School

Ground has been broken for the new high school building in Emmitsburg. The movement for a new high school building in the north county town began more than two years ago. The Maryland legislature in its 1920 budget authorized \$50,000 towards the construction of the building. The work was held up temporary when all the bids were rejected as too expensive. The delay caused considerable disillusionment among the patrons of the school. Now that the work has been engaged, there is hope that it will be finished and ready for use by the first of the next season.

Auto Accidents

The handsome Chevrolet Sedan belonging to Mr. Harry Eyler of Thurmont took fire Monday afternoon and was completely wrecked. Mr. Eyler was driving towards Thurmont when he noticed smoke coming from near the engine. He got out to investigate, and when he aligned with the front of the car, the engine burst into flames. Mr. Eyler is at a loss to know what caused the fire. The chassis is the only part that was not damaged to any great extent.

On Sunday, Maurice Bassler, driving a Chevrolet, and another machine were going south on Carroll Street in Thurmont. The other machine, driven by a woman, attempted to pass Bassler, but in doing so, forced him

off the street, causing him to crash through three panels of fence, dropped 18 inches to a vacant lot, and come to a standstill on the lawn of Miss Kate Troxel. The only damage was to the fence. The clueless woman, of course, kept driving, unaware of the accident she had caused.

On Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Maria Roland lost control of her machine while rounding the curve in Lewistown, resulting in the car crashing into a tree on the side of the road. Mrs. Roland was thrown from the car, and in doing so, dislocated her hip as well as suffering other minor injuries. Deputy Shuff said that the number of auto accidents in the county have increased nearly fourfold since the state allowed women the right to drive. "Women," he said, "clearly don't have the mental ability to operate auto-cars and the roads would be a lot safer for men if the state receded their right to drive and women returned to the rightful homemaking duties."

October 27

Farmer Holds Up Roadwork

The work on the proposed new road from Saint Anthony's to Motter Station started on Wednesday morning. Work was supposed to begin last week but was held up when Mr. Daniel Callahan refused to permit the road to be built through his land. According to a statement given out by the road engineer, work could not commence until this obstacle was overcome. With work starting on Wednesday morning, it is unclear what means were to be used in putting the road through, as it is understood that up until yesterday evening Mr. Callahan had not given his consent.

The holdup was not only disappointing to the members of Saint Anthony's in Motter Station communities but also to the contractors who were awarded the job. The contractors have been under a heavy expense every day that the workmen were idle, and they took the contract with the understanding that all the arrangements were completed to go right ahead with the job. It seems it would be asking too much of them to stand the expense of the hold up, when they are in no way concerned and came here with the intention of giving the state good road work.



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PAUL I. PAYNE, Manager

Wife Deserter Still Missing

According to Mrs. Marritt of Thurmont, nothing yet has been heard from Dr. C. W. Davis, formerly of Sacramento, who after kissing his bride of a few days ago, telling her he was going to Hagerstown to take part in a Red Cross play, disappeared.

Dr. Davis took out a license to marry Miss Ella Sinch, sister of Mrs. Marritt. She said the romance started about four months ago at a resort in South Carolina. The missing man is said to own a large estate in Sacramento. He boarded the 10:30 train for Hagerstown, October 6, and has not been heard from since.

According to Mrs. Marritt, who was in Hagerstown looking for Mr. Davis, he is 66 years old. When he disappeared, he wore a black striped suit, derby hat, a diamond stock pin and ring, and had several hundred dollars in his pocket that he had 'borrowed' from Miss Sinch until funds from the

sale of his farm could be wired to Thurmont. Mrs. Marritt learned that there was no Red Cross play to be staged at any Hagerstown theater, and that a man meeting his description had been applying for jobs in that town.

Snow Plows Out For The Winter

The County roads commission is already preparing for a hard winter. It has improved the snow fighting equipment 50% and has distributed snow handling equipment throughout the county to ensure against snow blockades. Weather bulletins predicting snowfall will be dispatched to crews throughout the county in which the prediction is made. It is hoped that quicker action will make it easier to keep mountain sections open which in the past choked up easily.

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



Tony Little & Jane Moore

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COOKING

As American as apple pie

Kathy Jo Serfass
Hollabaugh Brothers Farm Market

Growing up in the fruit belt of Adams County, meant that every fall after school my cousins and I would be picking apples in our uncles' orchards. We had apple blossom and apple harvest festivals, and we ate apples or the products made from them year-round. My favorite, however, was Grandma's apple pie, warm and covered in milk. So, imagine my surprise when I found out that apples are not native to Pennsylvania or Maryland. In fact, they're not even native to North America.

Apples originated in Central Asia, where the ancestor of our apples still grows wild. Apples were domesticated in this region and were brought via the Silk Route to Europe. Early European settlers brought apples to North America, but not for eating, as these early apples were very tart. Instead, they were used to make cider.

Since those early times, selective breeding and hybridization have led to the development of many different varieties of apples for many different uses. Everyone has their favorite kinds for eating, baking, making applesauce, and so on. During the height of apple season, we'll typically have over 20 different varieties of apples in our bins. And this year, we're excited to introduce our very own variety, FyreFly, which is packed with layers of flavor. Stop by the market to try this new apple and stock up on some favorites to enjoy in the following recipes.

Apple, Potato, Cheddar, and Bacon Soup

Ingredients:

3 slices bacon
1 small onion, chopped
2 medium apples, peeled and chopped
1 medium potato, peeled and chopped
3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1 ½ cups unsweetened apple juice
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
2 cups shredded extra-sharp cheddar cheese (about 8 ounces)
Seasoned croutons, for topping
Chopped fresh chives, for topping

Directions: In a large pot, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp, 4-5 minutes per side. Transfer to paper towels to drain, allow to cool, and roughly chop. Pour out all but 2 tablespoons of the drippings from the pot. If you do not have enough fat, use a little butter or a neutral oil to make up the difference. Increase the heat under the pot to medium high. Add the onion, apples, and potato and cook for about 8 minutes until the apples are soft. Stir frequently during cooking. Add the chicken broth, apple juice, ¾ teaspoon salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a simmer and cook until the potato is soft, about 10-12 minutes. Stir in all but 2 tablespoons of the cheddar until melted. Allow the soup to cook for about 5-10 minutes, and then transfer batches of the soup to a blender to puree. Fill the blender halfway, and leave one corner open. Cover with a towel and pulse until smooth. Return to the pot and season with additional salt and pepper. Ladle the soup into bowls and top

with bacon bits, chives, croutons, and more pepper.

Crock Pot Pork, Apple, and Sweet Potato Stew

Ingredients:

1 pound boneless pork shoulder, cut into 1-inch cubes
3 cups peeled, cubed sweet potatoes
2 tart apples, cored and chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
¼ teaspoon pepper
½ teaspoon salt
3 cups apple juice
2 tablespoons cornstarch
¼ cup water

Directions: Layer the sweet potatoes, apples, and onions in a 4 to 5-quart slow cooker. Sprinkle the ingredients with thyme, salt, and pepper. Then top with the pork cubes. Pour apple juice over all. Do not stir. Cover the crockpot and cook on low for 7 to 8 hours or until the meat and veggies are tender. Then, in a small bowl, combine the cornstarch and water and stir with a wire whisk until the mixture is smooth. Stir the cornstarch slurry into the stew. Cover and cook on high for 15 minutes until thickened. Serve immediately.

Apple Blondies

Ingredients:

½ cup butter, melted
1 cup sugar
1 egg
3 cups apples, peeled, cored, and thinly sliced
1 cup flour
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
Frosting:



½ cup butter, softened
½ cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups powdered sugar
3 tablespoons milk

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare an 8-inch baking dish. In a large bowl, whisk together butter, sugar, and egg until the mixture is smooth, light and fluffy. Add flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, and cinnamon. Stir until combined. Fold in apples. Pour into baking dish. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until a tester comes out clean. Cool completely. To prepare the frosting, mix together all of the ingredients until you get a spreadable consistency. Adjust the powdered sugar and milk as necessary. Once the blondies are completely cooled, spread on the frosting.

Apple Glazed Carrots

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup water
½ cup apple cider
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
¾ pounds carrots, slice crosswise into 1/3-inch pieces
2 cups apples, chopped

Directions: Melt butter in a large skillet over low heat. Continue gently cooking the butter until it turns light brown. Remove the pan from heat and allow the butter to cool for a few minutes. Add the water, apple cider, and cinnamon to the browned butter and return skillet to the stovetop over medium heat. Bring the apple cider mixture to a boil, reduce the heat, and allow it to simmer for 2 minutes. Add the carrots, cover the skillet, and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently for 10 minutes. Add a small amount of water to the carrots if necessary. Stir the apples into the skillet and cook for 5 to 7 minutes until the apples and carrots are tender.

Apple Chips

Ingredients:

2 apples, thinly sliced
2 teaspoons granulated sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon

Directions: Preheat oven to 200 F. In a large bowl, toss apples with sugar and cinnamon. Place a metal rack inside a rimmed baking sheet. Lay apple slices on top of the rack, spacing them so that no apple slices overlap. Bake for 2-3 hours, flipping apple slices halfway through, until the slices are dried out but still pliable.

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Winging it

Mary Angel

Any time you do something over and over again, you build skills and confidence and knowledge on that particular subject, right? When you are in math class you practice your basic facts so when you get to high school you can complete algebra problems with both speed and accuracy. That is how the world works. My mom always said practice makes perfect. So, now that I have my fourth child in high school, I am totally prepared for this.

It turns out that all kids are individuals and therefore, I was slightly less prepared than I anticipated. This was my baby, the youngest of my children, my very last high schooler. This cannot be real. I am not worried, though, because I have done this with three other children. Three other times it was the first day of high school. The difference this time is that it was my last one to have a first day of high school. The other difference is that my other daughter was having her very last first day of school ever!

When the boys were little I loved the first day of school, the pictures, the smiles, the excitement, and the little tiny book bags. Not that I didn't cry with each of their first days of school, but they were wonderful milestones. When they had their first day of middle school it was a little different story, more like an after-school special. I dreaded it. There were no more sweet faces with cute smiles and no tiny book bags. There were only teenage hormones and a lot of, "Mom, don't hug me in public," and "Don't embarrass me." My oldest daughter's first day of middle school involved more nerves and just as much, "Don't hug me in public!"

High school started for my boys with a lot of excitement and some nerves. For the most part they started off with a bang and had a great high school run. My oldest daughter had a bit of a rockier start. She struggled to fit in and often times attracted people who had less than her best interest at heart. If you have ever seen the 1956 version of The Bad Seed then you have an idea of the type of friends my daughter would attract. No matter how many times I would suggest that she stick with the friends she had made already, she would insist this new friend was just misunderstood. Her freshman year was a rocky road. My last baby starting high school was unique from all the rest.

This is the one child who would have been completely content homeschooling all through high school. She is my most introverted child, and I am finding out that she might be my most anxious. That meant that her first day of school was wrought with a whole mess of tears. She cried before she left and she cried at bedtime and begged me not to send her back. She was upset me for so many things, not the least of which was that she didn't think she would miss me as much as she did. I loved homeschooling, but

I suppose this is one downfall of spending all of that time together. Not the most positive first day of school. Needless to say, my vision of smiles, and joy, and birds chirping a happy little song, didn't quite come to fruition. The second day wasn't any better, maybe even worse. It still ended with tears and multiple requests to be homeschooled again, but this time she gave me other options in the midst of the shower of tears. If I couldn't homeschool her, could my best friend possibly homeschool her, or if not maybe she could just drop out. I thanked her for putting so much thought into her problem and giving me so many solutions to choose from. Then I made it clear that none of the options were actually possible, especially not dropping out of school.

After a few more days things started to improve a little bit. She didn't cry as much or as hard. Unfortunately there were the dreaded weekends. Every Monday seemed to be a starting over point. Then she got a cold, yes, just a cold. I know this because I had her COVID-19 tested to protect my parents and everyone we encounter. She did, however, miss a couple days of school because she was pretty miserable. Those days were a Monday and a

Tuesday, which made going back on Wednesday worse than returning to work after 9 days off for the ultimate Disney Trip. The bottom line was that we were starting over and she was once again looking for ways to escape the impending torture she was foreseeing.

Tuesday night we had dinner, just the two of us, and talked about all the positives she had experienced so far in school. We talked about what she was worried about and what assignments she was stressing over. After she finished some make-up work, we turned on a funny, sweet movie (Storks) and just chilled. We laughed and joked and just spent time enjoying one another's company. She went to bed in a much better place than she was earlier. I knew the morning would still be rough, but right before she headed to her room I heard her ask her sister to make her go to school and not let her get out of it. At the last minute she added, "Unless I am throwing up or something." I think this is a good sign that she will be okay.

I don't know why I fall into this false sense of security with the fourth child that I know what I am doing. I haven't known what I am doing with any of my kids, so why would it change now? Luckily I have my kids



to remind me that life is oftentimes an opportunity to just wing it and fly by the seat of your pants!

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

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

FASD looks to refinance 2019 bonds

At their September 27 meeting, the Fairfield Area School District (FASD) approved a resolution to seek lower 2019 bond rates. The resolution would refinance the school district's 2019 bond for a lower interest rate to replace higher rates, according to Audrey Bear, Managing Director.

Bond refinancing is not about changing payment dates or amortization schedules, or borrowing additional money, but would allow the school district to take

advantage of lower interest rates.

The broker-dealer would swap locked in higher interest rates with lower interest rates to save money, she said. The principal dollar amount would not change, just with a lower interest rate.

Detailing the school district's existing debt payments, all bond issues currently in place are "all fixed rate, and if you do nothing they will stay in place," she said. Nothing can be done about the money borrowed by the district in 2020 to generate sav-

ings, but 2019 contains the longest set of debt payments, including construction project payments.

Though interest rates in 2019 were impressive seemingly then, the COVID-19 pandemic changed the name of the economy, and the interest rate game is "even better now," she said. A bond rate trend showed that autumn 2020 had "all-time lows for bond rate," and a snapshot of the year has shown rates are still very close to that, Bear said.

The fact that there hasn't been a lot of movement is what was able to create the proposed refinancing opportunity. The 2019 bond issue for refinance consideration is currently tax-exempt bond rates. "We could issue taxable bonds now and generate interest savings for you on refinancing the 2019," Bear said.

Bond purchasers have to pay income tax on interest revenue, so a little more must be paid to investors to compensate for that tax, "The taxable is low enough

that we can refinance the tax-exempt rates from 2019," Bear said.

It is up to the board to decide what benchmark they would like the savings of the funded bonds to be set at. At least 2% is typically worthwhile for lock in rates. The resolution requires a minimum savings target of \$500,000.

The board's unanimous approval gives the go-ahead for the school district solicitor, administration, and bond council to ready paperwork before preparing to lock in interest rates. If all goes according to plan, the ball will be ready to begin rolling in about three weeks.

Library events

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

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

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

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

Musical Thursday with Dave -

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

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

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

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

Emmitsburg - Thurmont Frederick County Libraries

Crisp air, crunchy leaves, and chilly mornings are reminders that Fall is upon us. Fall is the perfect time to re-acquaint yourself with the Emmitsburg Branch Library and the Thurmont Regional Library. Both libraries have resumed normal hours including Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. at the Emmitsburg Library. Thurmont Regional Library is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Both branches have Saturday hours of 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., with Thurmont Regional Library being open Sundays 1 - 5 p.m.

October offers many opportunities for celebration and awareness at the library. FCPL has rich and diverse materials to help honor National Hispanic

Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15). Explore Hispanic and Latinx history, culture, and tradition through FCPL's "Building Bridges" collection at FCPL.org. Learn Spanish with Mango Languages (available at FCPL.org/learn) or travel to a South American country through a travel book.

October is also Dyslexia Awareness Month. About fifteen percent of the United States population has Dyslexia, a learning disorder that is characterized by having difficulty matching the letters on a page with the sounds the letters and letter combinations make. (FCPL has many resources including print and digital material, to help parents and educators better understand Dyslexia as well as other learning disabilities.

Our smallest patrons are important to the library, and they can enjoy reading and books with the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Reading aloud to young children fosters stronger language skills and increases vocabulary, both essential to learning to read. Reading with young children establishes a love of reading and learning at an early age, increasing the level of success children can have when starting school. Register for the free program at FCPL.org/programs-events/1000-books-kindergarten or stop by any FCPL branch

to pick up a paper log and start counting your books!

October would not be complete without Halloween festivities. Come out in your scariest or not so scary costume for a special Costume Storytime on Saturday, October 23 at 10:30 a.m. at Memorial Park in Emmitsburg. Thurmont Regional Library (TRL) and the Friends of the Library are hosting a Trunk or Treat with local area businesses on Thursday, October 28 at 6:30. (Spaces are still available but going fast if your business is interested. Call TRL at 301-600-7200 for more information.)

Outdoor story time continues throughout the fall! Bring a blanket and your energy to Memorial Park in Emmitsburg for Tuesday story times beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Thurmont deck offers more story time fun every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Visit FCPL.org or call TRL for more information. While indoor programming and meeting room spaces are currently on hold until the virus transmission moves into low status, we enjoy connecting with our community through your phone calls, chats, and especially your in person visits! See you in the library!

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SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Karen Yoho
Board of Education

No one would mistake our current FCPS operations for the halcyon pre-pandemic days, but we are dipping a toe back in the pool of normalcy. Fall sports are advancing through their seasons, homecoming dances will be occurring, and the County Band Competition will return on Monday, October 4 at Oakdale High School. Visiting schools you get the sense that the majority of students and staff are relieved to be back.

There is also a great deal of agreement that this is a period of adjustment. A 2nd grade teacher pointed out that her students are young enough that they do not have a strong recollection of what it was like to be physically present in a classroom. It's as if they are just beginning their academic experiences, she related. School staff is taking all of this into account and addressing

it in their instruction and how they schedule their time.

On the flip side, President Mason and I got to witness amazing discourse between high school students as we accompanied the Superintendent on her traditional first day school visits. Teachers are certainly happy to be able to focus on the students in front of them, either in-person or virtually, for those that chose that option, rather than having to divide their attention.

That brings up concurrent teaching. The Board of Education and Frederick County Teachers Association (FCTA) have agreed to a work group to discuss and research best practices. The majority of teachers cringe when the topic is raised, and most parents would join them because they would immediately think it means their child would only be in school two days a week. But there are other instances where it may be utilized in a more advantageous manner. An example

would be to allow students from various high schools to sign up for courses that might not be offered at their home school such as a world language or a higher-level math class, to name a few. We need to take the positives that have come out of the pandemic and keep moving forward to provide the best 21st Century education for all of our students.

While we are on the topic of FCTA and FCPS working together, the teachers finally have a contract. It was signed by all of the parties at the September 22 Board meeting. Not having a contract was demoralizing for the teachers, which we heard from a number of them. No one ever wants negotiations to go on this long, but the two sides worked with a mutually selected mediator who helped bring us all together. One factor that affected the end result was stipulations from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, particularly in the area of improving teacher salaries. There will be much more to report on this landmark legislation in the coming months.

Of course, we are constantly reminded that COVID-19 is ever present. We still employ ventilation, hand hygiene, and masks to keep our students and staff as safe as possible. The only method not currently available is distancing, which is not possible if we are to have all of our students attend five days a week. Administrators are using creative means to allow

students to space out as much as possible when eating lunch. We have heard from many parents on both sides of the mask-wearing issue. Around the country there have been too many examples of school board meetings making the news due to disruptive behavior. Our Board greatly appreciates the respectful conduct of those who have come to give public comment.

On July 28, Dr. Alban released a statement alerting the community that masks would be required when school began in August. Shortly after, the state board of education passed a resolution that would require masks in all twenty-four school districts. On September 14, the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) board, made up of state senators and delegates from both parties, held a four-hour hearing on the matter, available for viewing on YouTube.

The new Maryland school superintendent, Mohammed Choudhury, and state board president Clarence Crawford spent the first hour and half answering questions from the legislators. The virtual hearing was then opened up for the thirty some speakers signed up to give comment. Interestingly, state organizations representing vulnerable groups of students such as The ARC and those with Down Syndrome, were very much in favor of masks due to the often increased fragility of these students' health. They also appreciated the medical waiver for students who are unable to wear a mask. In the end, the members of the AELR

board voted 10-7 to uphold the state boards' directive. We understand that masks are not always popular, but the goal of our Board and Superintendent is to keep our students in school as much as possible and this is one of the tools in our toolkit.

FCPS will begin to offer screening testing for all staff sometime in October. Staff will be asked to provide proof of vaccination. Testing will be one more strategy to achieve our goal and is frequently cited by experts as a major way of curtailing the amount of quarantining necessary.

Conferences for elementary and middle school students will be held October 12-14. Parents/guardians will have the option to choose in-person or virtual. This was another positive innovation to come from the necessity of the virtual world. Please remember that you do not need to wait for conference time to meet with your child's teacher.

Finally, the Sabillasville charter school received conditional approval from the school board at the 9/13 meeting. Their request to be a conversion charter is being researched by our Board. While there are still a number of steps that have to be accomplished before the school can open its doors in August 2022, the organizing committee is currently looking to complete the condition of enrolling 161 students by December. Any student in Frederick County is eligible to attend the planned environmental school. Please contact Sabillasville Elementary School if you would like more information.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

We asked our FYATM writers to watch Edward R. Murrow's famous speech - Good Night and Good Luck - and challenged them, as future journalists, to reflect on Murrow's belief that society needs honest, hard hitting news sources and his prediction of what would happen if we did not have that.

Freshman

Murrow says he was ambitious

Jack Daly
MSMU Class of 2025

Two men, both prominent public figures, clash. The winner will be lauded, the loser disgraced forever. The year is 1953 and the men are Senator Joseph McCarthy and CBS reporter extraordinaire Edward R. Murrow. Their battleground consists of millions of living rooms across the country and the choice of weapon is rhetoric. The results: McCarthy is counted among the great villains of the twentieth century and Murrow is named the patron saint of journalism. Their battle is given new life through a thrilling albeit flawed dramatization in the 2005 Warner Brothers movie *Good Night, and Good Luck*.

After the Second World War, America was plunged into a renewed red scare. Thanks to the testimony of disaffected communists such as Elia Kazan and Whitaker Chambers, the public could be certain that subversive actors were attempting to influence the nation's most esteemed circles from Washington to Hollywood. As a response to the soaring anti-communist feeling, predictable measures, such as loyalty oaths, were in place since the Truman administration, but that wasn't enough. As in all moments of historical passion, the public craves an identifiable face and name, producing visible results to relieve the tension of the unknown: Joe McCarthy would be their man. From his seat on the Senate investigating committee, he turned hearings into theatre, drama that might at last give Americans a much yearned for release.

Whatever his intentions, it soon became clear that the senator from Wisconsin was the wrong man. In his zeal, he became a liar and a bully in the most consequential sense of the word. Throughout the nation, everyday people were rapidly waking up to see that McCarthy had to be stopped as he lashed out at new opponents clearly undeserving of ire. Herein lay the problem: real communists posed a real threat, but the man trusted to root them out had abused his station, while the public languished in confusion.

Enter Edward Murrow, a broadcaster who had made his name during the war. From the Anschluss to the liberation of death camps, he was never more than two steps behind the action. Among the first to make the switch to television, Murrow would appear to Americans every night as the avatar of journalistic virtue. If he had to be pinned down politically, Murrow would almost certainly be a liberal, yet well within the moderate consensus that existed at the time. He was a man of doubtless potency in skill and style, and illustrious in honor. As more and more voices of greater and greater renown began to speak out against McCarthy, the country awaited Murrow's words to shift the conversation.

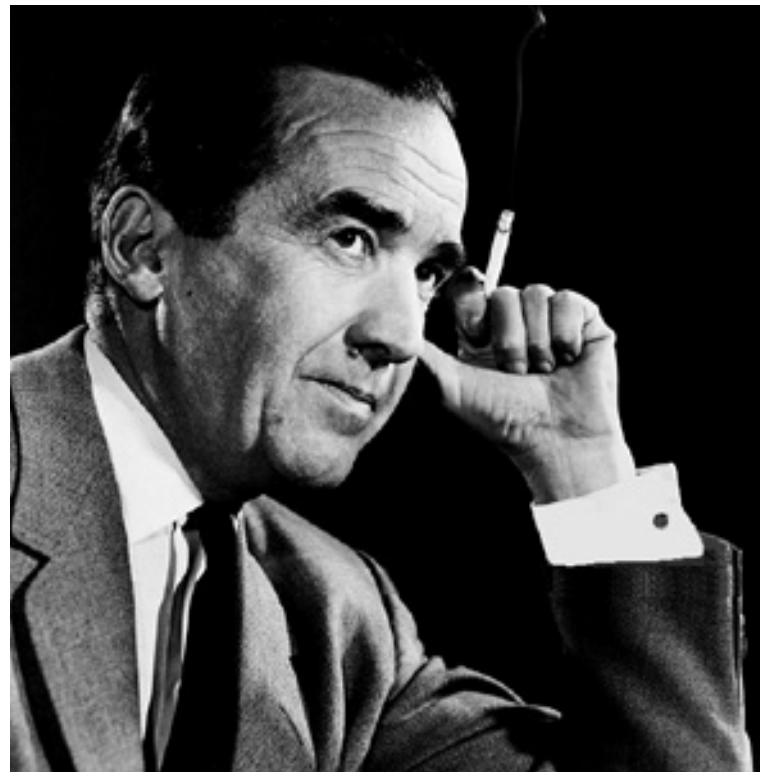
Good Night, and Good Luck recreates real episodes of Murrow's program, linked together by segments of behind-the-scenes action unfolding in the CBS studio. The audience is treated to a nostalgic picture of mid-twentieth century network news. The last of the line of tough talking truth tellers surrounded, if not mellowed, by an air of professionalism. The movie serves as a glowing celebration of the press and its role in the American Republic.

Speaking of McCarthy's imminent counterattack Murrow, portrayed by David Strathairn, remarks, "He's going to bet a senator trumps a newsman." His producer Freddy Friendly (George Clooney) instantly replies, "He'll lose."

No bias, both sides, just the facts: these were supposedly the gold standards within the news world of yore. Still in the current media climate, one must wonder whether Murrow and his ilk were setting too high a bar with all their talk of "objectivity." In the film, Murrow all but makes the same point, when to quiet resistance to his taking a public stance he says, "We all editorialize."

As a work of cinema, *Good Night, and Good Luck* is fast paced and adrenaline inducing, but as a matter of ideology, the movie critically overplays its hand. When in original footage Margaret Radulovich, sister of Milo Radulovich an Air Force Lieutenant discharged because his family were suspected communists, states that her political conduct is her, "own private affair," she is simply wrong in that political action by definition concerns the public. Most bizarrely, the movie expects its audience to sympathize with Joseph and Shirley Wershba (Robert Downey Jr. and Patricia Clarkson), two married fellow travelers working for CBS. At one point Joe entertains the possibility that they might have, "protected the wrong side," only for his wife to immediately reassure him. Furthermore, Joe is only forced to leave CBS when their secret relationship is revealed because of a policy barring the marriage of employees.

McCarthy finally accepts Murrow's offer to appear on television, the den of the "jackal pack." This is McCarthy's last shot, and he's aim-



ing right at Murrow, right at the voice of opposition. His slanderous words can bring down the reporter, or ricochet to solidify his own undoing. The senator walks away wounded, and soon after commits political suicide at the hearings.

The actions of the senator permanently tarnished the anti-communist movement. Works of popular media such as Rod Serling's masterful Sci-fi fable "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street" reinforced one side's outlook on the era. Now fears of the subversive creed could simply be dismissed as gross expressions of the national id, and a kind of anti-McCarthyism in time became its own cudgel against opposition.

In the succeeding decades, McCarthy has come to be viewed as a maniac who made wholly baseless claims, but anyone with these opinions would do well to remember the

serious threat posed by communism. The prevailing image of the senator is not only misleading in its lack of nuance, but also guilty of sowing the seeds of contention. To anyone ignorant of the full historical reality, but cognizant of fact that the accepted views on McCarthy are false in many respects, he becomes the perfect figure to lionize.

A few things can be gleaned from this snapshot of history. The first is that while many comparisons can be made of contemporary political bullies to McCarthy, there is no equivalence. The senator, villain though he was, at least ostensibly went after communists. The other is that the nation is once more awaiting the words of someone such as Murrow.

To read other articles by Jack Daly, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

The power of words

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

I've found that it is always the end of news reports that brings us the most fear, the most apprehension, the heart-racing anticipation of what tomorrow will bring. While headlines can be threatening, telling us in big bold words what the state of the world is, it's those last few words printed in small black ink, or the final sentence spoken on air, that truly rings with us long after the news is told. Because of this, the profession of journalism is looked down upon. After all, watching the news takes a big toll on our soul, drowning us in fear and giving us a pessimistic view of the world. I'm sure we have all experienced this throughout the one-and-a-half years of COVID-19. How many times have you gone to bed, physically feeling the hope fade from your heart because the world as we know it will never be the same? How many times have you sat in front of a screen, any screen, your heart beating loudly as you watch the number of virus cases climb? And how many times, at the

end of a news report, have you been told that everything would be okay? At the very least, have you ever been wished good luck?

"Good night, and good luck." Broadcast journalist Edward Murrow famously spoke these words at the end of his very own broadcasts throughout World War II and during the rise of Communism, a time characterized by uncertainty and fear. Although the content of Murrow's reports was important, it was the way he delivered this news that really distinguished him as a truth-seeking journalist with the purpose to not only educate the public, but to also give a semblance of hope. Murrow spoke with words of courage, words that would be heard by all Americans on TV, words that informed many and fueled perseverance.

It is a dream of mine to be a writer that can convey such hope and impact so many people simply with the use of my words.

When I was younger, I begged my parents to buy me a Kit Kittredge doll for Christmas. She was an American Girl Doll, belonging to a brand of dolls where each one had their own historical significance, their own story of adventure and courage. The blonde ten-year-old would venture into her

town and reveal truths about the Great Depression, working with friends and even solving crimes just to accomplish her dream of being published in a real newspaper. As a ten-year-old myself, I strived to be Kit Kittredge. Although I didn't have blonde hair or freckles like my doll did, I began writing, journaling the events that took place in my life, creating characters that evolved into stories, finding the beauty a single word can hold and embedding it into a poem. As I grew up, the idea of creative writing appealed to me more than journalistic writing; I loved how musical and lyrical sentences could sound, and I enjoyed nothing more than describing a scene with colorful imagery and telling things exactly how I saw them. Flash forward to college: I am an education major with the hope of teaching young students how to read and write, and I am a creative writing minor with a passion for storytelling and language. To put it simply, I love using words, love how much meaning they can convey, love how they shape the world just by existing.

I used to think only creative writing was beautiful because it used words to help me escape. I can recall countless times in my life where I'd sit down, crack open a journal, and write to my heart's content. Creating characters,

inventing plots, and stringing together image-filled sentences reminded me that reality was temporary by choice, and that writing fiction is a mode of travel. I grew away from Kit Kittredge's method of writing, of reporting news and jotting it down on a notepad. After all, how could journalism be beautiful? The media today uses words to convey misinformation and evoke fear. I had looked down upon it for so long, until I was given the opportunity to research Edward Murrow. Only then did I discover a particular use of words, one different from writing creatively, one that shows how journalism is meant to not only provide facts, but to also steer readers towards a common truth.

Journalism is beautiful because, when done well, it is truth-seeking. Perhaps there is no imagery, no lyrical rhymes embedded in sentences, but as Plato once said, "Truth is the beginning of every good to the gods, and of every good to man." The sole purpose of journalism is to not only report facts to the public, but also to convey hope and perseverance in a time where the truth is desperately needed. Edward Murrow knew this well. He inspired the initial purpose of journalism and gave his broadcasts to the people, acting as a light of truth in a time shadowed by darkness, revealing the ultimate good

in a world of bad; this in itself is what makes journalism beautiful.

We are simply unaware of the power of words. I did not recognize this until hearing the resonance that the sentence "good night, and good luck" had left behind when spoken by Murrow. In times of terror and fear, writers and broadcasters feel that their only purpose is to inform the public. While this may be true, the profession of journalism is one that uses words to communicate with thousands and thousands of people, words that spark panic and take from hope. Murrow, however, used his words to offer comfort. Perhaps he couldn't end World War II or protect from Communism, but he cultivated an atmosphere of perseverance. His words encouraged others, and this reveals how language holds the power to unite one another and inspire the pursuit of the truth. And perhaps saying "good night, and good luck" at the end of his broadcasts was the most impactful sentence he could say, because at the end of the day, humans desire that sentiment of peace, of togetherness, and of knowing what tomorrow will bring.

To read other articles by Claire Doll visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

"GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK"

Junior

News or stories?

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

Newspapers are dying. This mantra was thrown at me again and again throughout my English and History courses in my secondary education. Social media was on the rise, news magazines were trying to shift with the times, and the newspaper stopped getting physically delivered to my house. Yet, something kept drawing me to journalism. My high school days were filled with yearbook publishing deadlines, editor duties, and writing courses I enjoyed while other teens were at the beach. I liked to write, but more importantly, I loved to tell stories. I've written consistently for journals and publications for the past eight years. So, looking at my own life, it sure doesn't seem like its dying.

However, it is. Journalism suffers, especially in this country, with entertainment media, social media, and commercialization, among other factors. I'm not one to dismiss change just for the sake of it, but sometimes tradition is better than the alternative. If we lose the newspaper, history doesn't make sense. Alexander Ham-

ilton, John Jay, and James Madison chose to publish The Federalist Papers, not to orate them. Hamilton, as well as Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, and John Adams, were all journalists in addition to being Founding Fathers. Hearst and Pulitzer, newspaper giants of the late nineteenth century, were politicians. Franklin Roosevelt, with his fireside chats, can be said to have dipped his toes into the journalistic world. The inventions of the twentieth century flowed with the tide, with radio and TV broadcasts allowing the country the same access to information unlike before. I can name some sports announcers, sure, and I know the personalities on the local radio stations. But the social positions given to journalists today pales in comparison to giants of free speech and publication.

With the explosion of technology, there are so many places we could receive information: newspapers, magazines, television, radio, advertising, social media, websites. Yet, the more places to seek information has dulled the information available. Newspapers have shortened, magazines are digital, and every publication has an Instagram where they shrink the information into a few phrases. Entertainment has become news and news has become entertainment. BuzzFeed, a popular

entertainment site, has added a newsfeed portion. The New York Times, in between stories of global significance, shares pictures of celebrities and Hollywood trivia. While entertainment and pop culture can be meaningful and provide the country with influential cultural novelties, there exists real danger with equating them with news.

The result has been to soften news, to make it as digestible as the pop culture bookending it. We write with our readers in mind, not to share the stories that are worth printing on the page. Stories are shortened because we can't expect people to read as much anymore, even though the literacy rates are higher now than they were when newspapers held social significance. Are Americans not as smart as they used to be? The increasing number of Americans holding college degrees would beg to differ. I am a bit of an optimist; there is no doubt in my mind that the vast American public could stomach journalism as it used to be, with news, significance, information, yes, and even higher word counts. That is, if we gave them the opportunity to try.

Edward Murrow, the inspiration behind this publication, predicted this change long before I was around to chronicle it: "This instrument can teach, it can illuminate; yes, and even

it can inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends. Otherwise, it's nothing but wires and lights in a box." Murrow said this about TV, before the proliferation of channels that leads most Americans to turn off the device instead of choosing one of thousands. This same statement could be said about radio, newspapers, social media, television, and music. If we, on the production end, allow the medium to be something, it will serve that purpose for the audience. If we, assuming something about the audience, make the medium fit that presupposed mold, we should not be shocked to find our audience eating it up. We let the profits drive the production, and as I start picking up some of the burdens of adulthood, I understand that to be a valid course of action. However, there have been and there will continue to be drastic impacts of these journalistic choices.

Other than being a contributing writer to this unique publication, I am the Student Body President at the Mount. Shortly after I was elected, a seasoned staff member left me with this: "A student government is only as strong as the student newspaper, or vice versa. If both are strong, the university can't help but take them seriously." I hadn't connected these facets of my life

before, although they've always coexisted. As well as being a passionate storyteller, I've always had my hand in the political realm of the institutions. They aren't too different; being a leader is about listening to the stories around you and deciding which ones need to continue and which need to drastically change course. It is not to suffocate the voices of others around you, but to listen to those you serve and tweak the plot when the problems arise.

Edward Murrow knew this. In addition to being a news personality, he saw the importance of storytelling. I know Murrow best from the editions in my bedroom of This I Believe, where the famous and not famous were encouraged to share their personal motivations and life stories in a few minutes or pages. These stories were told by former presidents, celebrities, notables, and nobodies. It was these stories that ignited the fire of journalism in my heart at a young age and I have spent the years since then chasing that spirit in publications, only to wind up here, doing exactly that. So Emmitsburg and surrounding, goodnight, and wish me luck in trying to live out the mission Murrow has left us with.

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

A narrow focus for truth

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

Good Night, and Good Luck is a story of resilience, conviction, and most importantly, risk. The most consistent look of Edward R. Murrow, played by David Strathairn, is uncertainty. The questioning mind of Murrow drives his actions in the way of principle, constantly aware that monsters and goblins line his path on either side. The lesson that can be gained from this sort of prudential tunnel-vision is a difficult but necessary one.

Near the beginning of the film, Murrow says, "We're going to go with the story, because the terror is right here in this room." The motive of this declaration is worth parsing out. Was it a concern for the national and international ramifications of such a move? Perhaps he spoke in such a way as the result of personal exhaustion from the painstaking deliberation. While both of these are plausible, and certainly have been motivations for choice and action in the past, they do not seem to apply here.

Rather, Murrow recognizes the intimate connectivity of the personal and social. Namely, he sees the "terror" in the voices, eyes, and words of his colleagues and decides that this attitude is not fitting for a republic. It was the quiet testimony of his peers that initiated a political firestorm. There does not seem to be anything imprudent about this method of decision-making, though. Murrow sees the consequential editorial board meeting as a microcosm of the American mind. 'If my educated and informed colleagues are behaving in such a way,' Murrow thought, 'so are many other American professionals across the country.'

In this way, Murrow's boardroom fulfilled its controversial role as the chambers for the fourth branch of government. The soft power held by the editors, writers, and producers of Murrow's broadcast is hard to overlook. While some may view this influence as a tantalizing incentive to join the ranks of corporate media, it seems that such an attitude would be more destructive than beneficial for our republic. Similar to the sentiment that those who want to avoid institutional political work should pursue such a position, it seems that only those who do not want to work in journalism should seek the position of journalist. The temptation that goes along with such a position is as strong as it is common. To that end, a certain disinterest in the result or product of the journalistic act seems to be a prerequisite for any journalist seeking to "exult the importance of ideas and information," as the head of our newspaper would encourage.

Murrow sets himself up as a model for this sort of journalistic disinterest. While he was not ignorant of the forces against him on the levels of politics, professionalism, and personal reputation, he was more concerned with the propagation of his journalistic work than the certain political ramifications. The film would suggest that this sort of narrow focus is a virtue in the world of journalism; any broader focus forces the journalist to abdicate his position as invested observer and to join the messy world about which the journalist is tasked to write.

In pursuit of this focus, the film seems to identify a certain level of education necessary to fully respond to the rigorous demands of responsible citizenship. The film engages with issues of infiltration, deceit, and principle. While all of these phenomena are typical in the realm of human experience, the way in which the film deals

with them requires a certain elevated awareness. For example, Murrow's literary allusion in the middle of the film successfully refers their current institutional crisis back to an ancient one pursued by Shakespeare: "Cassius was right. The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves." This sort of reference on national television flies in the face of our contemporary impulse toward accessibility at any cost, even if the cost is a weakening of national wisdom. Murrow, however, was taking advantage of a common language that he shared with the sections of the citizenry that would be most receptive to his message. This is political thinking at its greatest. Behind his attitudes of uncertainty, doubt, and relative discomfort in a situation of serious risk, Murrow maneuvers his political pieces on the board of national television.

This chess game does not go on for long, though. The chief executive of CBS named William Paley, played by Frank Langella, takes on the role of scapegoat, especially near the end of the film. Murrow engages with sensitive and controversial issues throughout his evening special. Paley thinks that this strategy, however popular with a certain contingent of consumers who search for beat journalism, is not sustainable in the long run. He cites the monetary and social influence of sponsors and the political capital that the station stands to lose as reasons for Murrow's adjusted schedule to be placed on a Sunday afternoon. In this way, the film successfully portrays Paley as the cold-hearted capitalist, solely concerned with financial health and ignorant or apathetic toward a pursuit of truth-at-all-costs.

In this way, the film places an insurmountable dichotomy between the truth-loving journalist and the money-grubbing, functionary corporate bureaucrat. This dichotomy is, admittedly, a romantic one and one that probably exists in reality to

some extent. It seems that one of the goals of Hollywood productions like this one is to place a clear distinction between the pitiful loser and the arrogant winner; after the distinction is made, a fight to the death is in order. Something closer to reality recognizes that Murrow, McCarthy, Paley, and all the characters implicated in this story did some things right and some things wrong. Of the things they all did right and wrong, they did them well or poorly.

As the 2021-22 university writing staff of the *Emmitsburg News-Journal* embarks on a new year (and my final year with the paper), it is my hope that our writing recognizes nuance, embraces truth, and identifies evil when it comes in our way. In other words, may we exult the importance of information and ideas.

To read other articles by Harry Scherer, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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HOME DECOR

Fall is officially in the air

Jess Crawford
Cotton & Co, Keymar

Without a doubt, Fall is my most favorite season. Spring, being a close second for me, but it doesn't have the crisp, cozy, coolness that Fall brings. When life goes from the bustle of Summertime to the slow-down and relaxation that's promised by the changing of seasons. When you walk outside in the morning, and the air smells like damp leaves and wet earth. Where the evenings are a bit chilly and campfires are in season. When it's sweater weather and apple picking time. Where the leaves start to change, revealing their vibrant, striking earth-tones. When they drop to the ground and the kids play in heaping leaf-piles just as children should. Fall is just good for the soul.

Fall is one of my most favorite seasons to decorate for as well. If done intentionally, your Fall décor can carry you from September through Thanksgiving, when the time comes to decorate for Christmas and/or Winter. I personally like to do a couple of spooky Halloween inspired vignettes around my home. But put the main focus into décor that can last the whole Fall season. The Halloween vignettes are easy to adapt and take-down once Halloween has

passed, so it doesn't feel like packing up and setting up a whole season.

First, let's talk pumpkins. When it comes to Fall, you really can't have too many. I love to stop by our local farmer's market near our home, and pick up an array of mini gourds and pumpkins. I also like to throw in a few of the specialty fall and winter squash and pumpkins. You know the ones; the ones that are so knobby and strangely colored and shaped, that they're actually beautiful instead. Our favorite place to pick pumpkins locally is Baugher's in Westminster. Their pumpkin patch is absolutely amazing. It's planted with the traditional combination of orange and white pumpkins. But also incorporated into the endless acres of pumpkins are all the funky gourds and squashes too. The best of all the Fall squash worlds.

You can't go wrong with a beautiful Front Porch display, utilizing natural elements that highlight the bounties of Fall. Straw bales come in so many different sizes, they make a great base for the display. Fill them up with a variety of gourds and pumpkins. And add some cornstalks and perhaps a seasonal wooden sign, and you've got the makings of a great, seasonal porch display. My children also enjoy hitting our local thrift store for the fixings for a one

of a kind, homemade scarecrow. All you need is some flannel shirts, jeans, twine for binding and straw for stuffing. It's a great, timeless activity and tradition to do with your kids. A good way to bond and spend quality family time together. We have a pew on our porch, a scarecrow is the perfect Fall touch.

In terms of indoor pumpkins, felt and velvet pumpkins are on-trend. The velvet pumpkins tend to be available in rich, bold colors. They give off a touch of a regal vibe, while adding a pop of color and texture to a vignette or tablescene. Felted pumpkins on the other hand, while offering a textural balance as well, are on the more whimsical side. I personally, equally love both. A tug or trough filled with pumpkins of varying sizes, coordinating colors, and textures would be an easy Fall display. Pop in a few carved mango wood pumpkins, you've got yourself and easy centerpiece, that will stand up to the next seasons, until it's time to change over to Christmas and Winter.

Faux florals are highly underrated too. Gone are the 1980's florals, that were gaudy and unrealistic. Made of awful synthetic materials that frayed and faded. The new age of faux florals are beautifully made and super realistic in color and texture. A large bouquet of Autumnal florals, berries, and leaves would be a great no-fuss-no-maintenance Fall display. We also have a permanent vendor in the shop that does hand-dyed and hand-arranged wood flower arrangements and stems. The beauty of her arrangements isn't just in their actual, physical beauty. But also the fact that they're ever-lasting and easy to keep clean with a soft paintbrush or canned air. She keeps her space in our store fully stocked and brimming with seasonal colors and arrangements. Her Fall presentation is no exception as it's breathtakingly beautiful.

Fall is also the beginning of the cozy season. Arguably the most romantic of all seasons. Bundling up with oversized sweaters, in front of a fire, wrapped up in a soft and cozy blanket. We have all of the Sweater Weather essentials in stock right now. Our vendor Molly's Meanderings provides our shop with seasonal



women's clothing and accessories. She's recently been in and restocked her space with seasonal must-haves. Many of our vendors stock their spaces with comfy throws and pillows, perfect for elevating your favorite comfy nook.

I know that our family always looks forward to campfire season. Sitting around an open fire with friends, swapping stories, spending intentional time together, unplugged and outdoors in nature. Need some campfire essentials? We have custom benches that are wonderful for extra seats around a fire. We have an assortment of blankets, perfect for picnics or staying warm. We have local charcuterie boards, excellent for outdoor entertaining. We also carry

a large array of local and delicious sauces and rubs, great for campfire cooking and entertaining.

Whatever you need to get you and your home prepared for the next season, we've got you covered. Need help with a space you're envisioning in your home? Our friendly staff is very knowledgeable and willing to help make an idea come into fruition. We're open weekly, and our team of vendors is amazing at curating and updating their spaces regularly, to provide a fresh shopping experience each and every time you come in. Stop on by and see what's new!

To read past Home Decor articles, visit the Authors section of emmitsburg.net.

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2. Purchase a Pinwheel at the Town Office for our PINWHEEL GARDEN OF LOVE.
3. Purchase a Gateway to the Cure coffee mug, water bottle, umbrella, ball cap, sweatshirt & a variety of T-shirts. Merchandise available at the Town Office.
4. Vote for your favorite pumpkin at Hobbs Lumber & Hardware starting October 8th. All votes \$1. Pick up your voting slip at the Town Office.

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LOCAL ARTS

Music, Gettysburg! presents Gail Archer's organ concert

On Sunday, October 3rd, Gail Archer will perform a recital of solo organ music on the Andover Opus 84 pipe organ for the Music, Gettysburg! series. The concert will take place at 4 p.m. in the United Lutheran Seminary Chapel at 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, and is free and open to the public. Per seminary policy and CDC guidelines, the audience is asked to wear masks, regardless of their vaccination status. The program will include Bach and Brahms, as well as contemporary composers Viktor Goncharenko, Svitlana Ostrova, Mykola Kolessa, Nadia Boulanger, and Jeanne Demessieux.

Gail Archer is an international concert organist, recording artist, choral conductor and lecturer who draws attention to composer anniversaries or musical themes with her annual recital series including

her 2021 series, A Slavic Celebration, and Max Reger, The Muse's Voice, An American Idyll, Liszt, Bach, Mendelssohn and Messiaen. Ms. Archer was the first American woman to play the complete works of Olivier Messiaen for the centennial of the composer's birth in 2008; Time Out New York recognized the Messiaen cycle as "Best of 2008" in classical music and opera recordings include her new August, 2020 release, Chernivtsi, recorded at the Armenian Catholic Church, Chernivtsi, Ukraine, featuring contemporary Ukrainian composers; A Russian Journey; The Muse's Voice; Franz Liszt: A Hungarian Rhapsody; Bach: The Transcendent Genius; An American Idyll; A Mystic In the Making (Meyer Media); and The Orpheus of Amsterdam: Sweelinck and his Pupils (CALA Records).

Ms. Archer's 2019 European tour took her to the British Isles, Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Poland, Russia, and Malta. Highlights include St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland, the Basilica of Loyola, San Sebastian, Spain, St. Mary's Cathedral, Cracow, Poland, Holy Cross Church, Lublin, Poland, the Philharmonic of Lviv, Ukraine, and the Lutheran Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, Moscow, Russia.

She is the founder of Musforum, www.musforum.org an international network for women organists to promote and affirm their work. Ms. Archer is college organist at Vassar College, director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University, where she conducts the Barnard-Columbia Chorus and Chamber Singers and a faculty member of Harriman Institute,



Columbia University. She is artistic director of the artist and young artist recital series at historic Central Synagogue, New York City.

Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, national, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region.

The United Lutheran Seminary Chapel is at 147 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, please call 717-339-1334 or visit the Music, Gettysburg! web site: www.musicgettysburg.org or email to info@musicgettysburg.org.

Way Off Broadway announces 2022 season

Justin Kiska

Following the tumult of the last year and a half, and schedules which have been forced to change numerous times due to the Pandemic, The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre is preparing to look to the future with the announcement of its 2022 Season. The new season of shows will begin in January, kicking off the theatre's 28th season of bringing live Broadway-style entertainment to the Frederick stage.

The season will begin with the return of the Little Sisters of Hoboken in the hilarious musical comedy Meshuggah-Nuns!, followed in the spring by Jerry Herman's classic Hello, Dolly!, which was postponed from its original 2021 run. For the summer, Way Off Broadway will produce the regional premiere of the new musical The Beverly Hillbillies – The Musical, based on the hit television series from the '60s. The fall will be filled with mystery

and intrigue with the stage adaptation of Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express by Ken Ludwig. Rounding out the season will be Way Off Broadway's new holiday production, Countdown to Christmas.

Meshuggah-Nuns! - January 14 – March 5. The Kunkels (the poor family living behind Mount St. Helen's School) have won the lottery and gifted the Sisters an all-expense-paid trip on the "Faiths of All Nations" Cruise. After a week at sea, several people become ill, including all of the actors in the ship's production of Fiddler on the Roof. (All except the actor playing Tevye, that is.) The ship's captain, knowing of the Sisters' show biz savvy, requests that the Sisters and Tevye put on a revue. The result: Meshuggah-Nuns! The Ecumenical Nonsense.

Hello, Dolly! March 25 – May 21. Dolly Levi is a widow, a matchmaker, and a professional meddler

- but everything changes when she decides that the next match she needs to make is to find someone for herself. Set in New York City at the turn of the last century, Hello, Dolly! is boisterous and charming from start to finish. This blockbuster Broadway hit bursts with humor, romance, high-energy, and some of the greatest songs in musical theater history.

The Beverly Hillbillies – The Musical, June 3 – August 21. When 17-year-old Elly May Clampett's father unexpectedly strikes it rich, he moves his family from the Ozarks to Beverly Hills, California. Suddenly torn from her pig-farmer fiancé, the beautiful but naïve tomboy is thrown into a world of debutante balls, polo matches, and people mainly concerned with their place in society. Nearly taken in by a couple of scheming ne'er-do-wells, Elly proves traditional country virtue triumphs over slick city vice.

Agatha Christie's, Murder On The Orient Express, September 9 – November 6. Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.

Countdown To Christmas, November 26 – December 23. Christmas is always the most popular time of the year at Way Off Broadway. And the theatre is the perfect place to celebrate the holiday with family and friends. Countdown to Christmas will be a heartwarming stroll down memory lane as stories of Christmases past are shared and the true mean-

ing of the season is remembered. It's a feel-good show perfect for the entire family.

"We're very much looking forward to the 2022 Season," says Bill Kiska, Way Off Broadway's Executive Producer. "After the uncertainty of the last couple of seasons, we wanted to put together a line-up that would have something for everyone. So next year we have a blockbuster classic, comedies, and one of the most well-known mysteries of all time."

Way Off Broadway has performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. For evening performances, guests arrive for dinner at 6 p.m. with the show beginning at 8:00 p.m. Regular priced tickets on a Friday evening or Sunday matinee are \$50 per person; on a Saturday, tickets are \$53 per person.

To learn more about Way Off Broadway's 2022 Season, or about purchasing season subscriptions, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Majestic Theater Art Gallery

"A Moveable Feast," a wide-ranging selection of wood block prints, charcoal drawings, and watercolor paintings by Central Pennsylvania artist Robert Patierno is on display daily at the Majestic Theater's art gallery now

through the end of November. The gallery is open daily during Majestic business hours.

"Art making is my attempt to make order of chaos, so in this sense my work is observational in nature," explains

Patierno. "What I perceive must be simplified, readjusted, and then the personal image surfaces, disinterested to a large degree. I think any subject looked at with a careful mind's eye, becomes significant. The Art object

itself is not as important to me as the resulting conversations that occur with my audience."

Patierno is an internationally renowned printmaker, painter and draftsman with work in the permanent collections of museums across the world, including in Belgium, the Erie

Art Museum, Lancaster Museum of Art, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, and the U.S. Department of State Art Bank. His multi-decade career has included numerous exhibitions in the United States and in Europe. A founder of the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, Patierno developed the Fine Arts Department for two decades until 2003. He continues to teach as an adjunct assistant professor in art and art history at Gettysburg College. Past shows in Gettysburg include a major exhibition at Gettysburg College's Musselman Library.

"The Majestic is honored to share Mr. Patierno's wonderful artwork with our patrons and the community at large," said Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director.

The exhibit is open to the public daily during regular box office hours, Monday through Saturday, 12 – 7 p.m. and Sunday, 1 – 5 p.m. Admission is free. The Majestic Theater is located at 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg.

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Murrow's journalism legacy

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

Edward R. Murrow, a concerned man, was a CBS news-documentary host in the 1950's. What was he concerned about? What did he do and what was his concern that left such a legacy behind and has influenced journalism forever after?

Murrow was a man who constantly pursued rare but crucial themes for his show; that is, integrity, education, and real information. He was concerned about the decline of public interest in current political affairs, and of topics that the average American should be educated on, but rarely were. There was a growing complacency in the escapism that TV shows offered to the viewer, and notable desensitization of all who were happy to live without any substantial content coming through their screens. Entertainment, while not a terrible thing in and of itself, can be problematic in distracting from the real issues of the world, which so many turned a blind eye to in television, whether they realized they were doing so or not.

As a host of a television show who realized this, Murrow felt a particular responsibility to use his platform not merely to entertain with superficial stories, interviews, and jokes, but to discuss current events using the most real words he could choose.

Thus, in his news-documentary show called "See it Now," Murrow actively brought these topics to the limelight. The show aired from 1951 to 1958, during which Murrow went after giants that no other nighttime TV show would dare discuss. Among other things, perhaps the largest giant Murrow is known for reporting on with blatant honesty and fierce courage was the "McCarthyism" that blazed through the United States like wildfire.

It was 1954; Post-World War II America was getting back on its feet, but not without lingering concerns of the Communist party still quietly harboring in the shadows of the world. Some were concerned that America had been infiltrated by Communists, and, because of a senator from Wisconsin, association with the Communist party became not-so-wild a claim to make against one's friends, only if rumor should ever get around to proposing it.

Senator Joseph McCarthy was not merely in staunch opposition to Communism and an active hunter of those involved. He took this hunt a step further than a fair man would allow: he targeted anyone in America whom rumor may suggest to have any ties whatsoever to the Communist party. This could've been a distant familial tie, or even a tie through a newspaper they may have read years ago. He operated on the grounds of the fear that simmered still among American people, those unsure of

who to trust, and he preyed on it.

Senator McCarthy exploited a situation that was genuine, and using fear and intimidation tactics, would target anyone at all who could be thought of as having ties to the Communist party. These tactics, which caused many people to lose their jobs, were a threat to genuine investigation of a suspect, and a distraction from the real effort that needed to be made in search of those in the Communist party who had infiltrated America. But McCarthy was targeting average Americans and had the fierce ability to win these arguments by bullying and accusatory name-calling; thus, no one dared to call him out, for fear of being accused as a Communist themselves.

Murrow heard a particular story of one such American targeted by McCarthy and decided to use that to face him head-on in his show. Milo Radulovich, a Serbian American Air Force lieutenant, was targeted by McCarthy because Milo's sister and father both allegedly had ties to the Communist party. Senator Joseph McCarthy gave no fair trial or investigation to Radulovich but succeeded in having him forcibly removed from his job in the Air Force without question. Murrow reported on this story in his show and called McCarthy out for the blatant disregard for genuine trial.

Murrow also offered for McCarthy to appear on the show if he should like to make a rebuttal about Murrow's claims against him, to which McCarthy obliged. Not to Murrow's surprise, McCarthy made little comment on his dangerous and dishonest behavior, and instead openly accused Murrow of being in association with the Communist party himself as the main structure of his rebuttal.

Before the days of hosting "See it Now," Murrow was a World War II correspondent, who stayed in Austria, and later London, reporting to the U.S. as an eyewitness on the events of the German invasion of Austria and the bombing of London. These narrative experiences proved hearty formation as a radio show host, and later as a television host. His dedication to the American people during that time gave him substantial grounds of trust to stand on when he returned home and later began his news-documentary show. McCarthy's ad hominem rebuttal to Murrow only further displayed the problem that McCarthy was creating: name-calling,



Creating a newspaper is really an art. You never know what you'll find in the newspaper; the only way to know is to read it for yourself.

serious accusations of the everyday American citizen, and no use of real words by which to defend his accusations.

Murrow's response to McCarthy's rebuttal was a simple debunking of McCarthy's accusations against him. Murrow noted that McCarthy made no effort to reject or deny the accusations against him of aiding the real Communist party in its survival because of how heavily he went after normal American citizens. Shortly after this episode aired, a federal investigation of Senator McCarthy was opened, and Milo Radulovich was reinstated in his job in the Air Force. McCarthyism had been tackled; its ad hominem tactics were brought to light.

This story illustrates how much influence a show, and a man's words, can have on those to whom he broadcasts. Contrary to CBS's concern that viewers would not want this political involvement in their show, the viewers' response was overwhelmingly positive. People responded heartily to the incorporation of education and genuine news content in their daily television shows.

Because of the example of Murrow, we can see the power that media platforms have. Our communities are not connected by mere reports of the latest Hollywood scandals, which tend to make the front page. I argue that instead, we are connected by matters that concern all people, like those that concerned Murrow: that of our history, our heritage as Americans, our ideas, our town's growth, strug-

gles and triumphs, our sciences, our faith, and our hope.

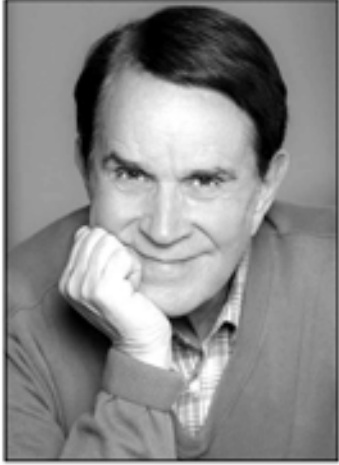
Murrow gave a brilliant speech to the Radio and Television News Directors' Association in 1958, arguing back against those who sneered at television that it was a medium to not escape reality, but to understand it better. "This instrument can teach," Murrow said. "It can illuminate and, yes, it can even inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it toward these ends. Otherwise, it is merely wires and lights in a box." The same,

too, for newspapers, that would be printing mere black and white ink, if the words are not given any real quality to them.

"Just once in a while," Murrow said in his speech, "let us exult the importance of ideas and information." That is what the Emmitsburg News-Journal aims to emulate in its monthly issues: publicizing topics worth talking about, printing real words worth reading.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Catoctin fall athletic competitions are officially underway

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

With the fall competitive season now fully underway, Catoctin High School teams are already celebrating victories. The first of the CHS athletic competitions began September 3rd, officially marking the beginning of the fall 2021 regular season. It will continue throughout October and into early November. CHS coaches and athletes have enjoyed their return to athletic contests at this time and are ready for their hard work to pay off.

Proudly representing the early success of CHS fall sports teams, the varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams carry into October a handful of victories already under their belts—both holding initial records of 3 - 1 as of September 24th. The JV team began the season with a victory of 2 - 0 against Frederick High School on September 9th. They then went on to win two more consecutive games followed by one loss. Determined to reclaim their opportunity at a state championship after last season's cancellation of all play-off tournaments, the varsity volleyball team returned with a winning score of 3 - 0 on September 9th against Frederick. Following a loss of 0 - 3 against host Governor Thomas Johnson High School the previous week, the varsity Cougars scored 3 - 1 against host Middletown High School on September 21st. Three days later the team defeated previous state champions Smithsburg High School for the first time in over a decade with a score of 3 - 0.

The CHS field hockey team has kicked off the regular season with two victories and one loss, already surpassing the previous season's number of wins as early as the second

game. The opening game, hosted by opposing team Brunswick High School, was held on September 9th. The team won with a score of 6 - 0 with goals from sophomores Grace Williams and Meghan Gray, juniors Morgan Ridenour and Maddie Greco, and seniors Cheyenne Van Echo and Kendall Abruzzese. Sophomore goalie, Natalie Hoyt, made two saves. The team then went on to score 7 - 0 at their home game on September 14th against Saint James. Gray scored two goals and Ridenour, Van Echo, freshman Annie Abruzzese, sophomore Raegan Miller, and junior Jazmyne Howard each scored one. The field hockey team hopes to build off of the momentum of the initial victories. "We know we have to keep working hard and not give up for our future games," team member Greco expressed. She credits the team's encouragement towards each other as their source of motivation. "Coming together and learning as a team is only going to make us a better, more connected team," Greco said. "We are going to prove that our Catoctin field hockey team is a force to be reckoned with!"

The CHS cross country team attended the Bull Run Invitational on September 18th. Sophomore Jenna Conley led the girls team in the 3 Miles Large Girls Varsity division, placing 14th out of 144 runners with a time of 21:30.4. The boys team was led in the 3 Miles Large Boys Varsity division by junior Alex Contreras who placed 13th out of 200 runners with a time of 17:33.8. Contreras was ranked this past month as the number one Class 1A boys returner for the season ahead with a 5K time of 17:07.79. Conley and Contreras were both selected last season to the FCPS All-League Cross Country First teams. On September 25th the

high school hosted the Cougar Challenge 5K, which was attended by four visiting high school cross country teams. Conley took home the gold medal and title for first place in the girls 5,000 Meters Varsity event with a time of 22:02.85. The boys CHS team had three runners finishing in the top ten. Contreras came in second place with 18:43.23. Sophomore Gabriel Riling placed 9th with a time of 20:26.05, and sophomore Santiago Canadas Fraga took tenth place with 20:26.37.

The CHS junior varsity football team dominated their first two competitions of the regular season, collecting 73 points in total and refusing their opponents a single point. The first game was hosted by the Boonsboro High School Warriors on September 8th. The Cougars won 27 - 0 with touchdowns by freshmen Jacob Bell, Hunter Bradshaw, Vince Reaver, and Shaymus Stull. The team went on to compete two weeks later against visiting team South Hagerstown High School Rebels, defeating the Rebels by an impressive 46 - 0. After playing two games at the beginning of the month, the CHS varsity football team performed at their homecoming game on September 17th against the Governor Thomas Johnson High School Patriots. Closely following a Patriot touchdown and extra point the Cougars took an 8 - 7 lead with junior Joseph McCallion's 59 yard touchdown run and a two-point conversion in the remaining minutes of the first half. Another touchdown by McCallion later widened the lead for Catoctin in the fourth quarter. The Patriots came back with two touchdowns and extra points and one field goal, concluding the game with a Patriot win of 27 - 20. The varsity team visited the South Hag-



CHS field hockey team after their 7 - 0 win on September 14th.

erstown Rebels the following week. With two field goals from junior Connor Crum, the Cougars entered the third quarter with a leading score of 6 - 3. After a Rebels touchdown and extra point left the Cougars trailing behind in the third quarter, the Cougars pulled ahead again with a safety and a touchdown from junior Adrian Febus. The remaining ten minutes of the game was a constant fight by both teams to reclaim the lead from the other. The Rebels counteracted the Cougars' lead of 22 - 16 with a touchdown and a two-point conversion with four minutes left, winning the game with a score of 24 - 22.

September 20th was the season's opening meet for the CHS unified tennis team. The CHS team won two scored matches by doubles teams: one scored by senior Raphaela Smaldone and junior Jazmyne Howard, and the other by sophomore Shay Johnson and junior Helen Hochschild. CHS athletes Andrea Lopez, senior, and Erin Miller, freshman, "demonstrated great skill and hustle on the court," as described on the high school announcements two days afterward, winning the exhibition match for the team. Opponent Linganore High School won one scored match, and Governor Thomas Johnson High School won two. Freshman Lucas Phelan outscored his opponent in the individual skills competition, securing a

Catoctin victory.

Come show support for our athletes and coaches by attending competitions! An athletic calendar can be found at the athletic section of the Catoctin High School website. A ticket to any event is \$2 for CHS students and \$6 for adults. Anyone over the age of 60 or under 7 are allowed free entry to any FCPS athletic competition. The CHS Athletic Department is partnering with Ticket Spicket to offer digital tickets and game passes. The link to purchase either is <https://spicket.events/Catoctin>. Tickets can also be purchased at any event. Annual All-Sports passes provide access to any home event in the regular season (non-play-off and non-tournament) of the 2021-2022 school year. Annual All-Sports passes are sold at \$25 for students, \$90 for adults, and \$200 for families consisting of two adults and up to three school-age children. Seasonal All-Sports passes provide access to any regular season home event specifically within the season in which the pass is purchased during the 2021-2022 school year. Adult Fall All-Sports passes can be purchased for \$45. The teams look forward to seeing the community come together again to cheer them on throughout the seasons ahead.

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

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MOUNT SPORTS

Sports journalism: the evolving industry

Sam Barber
MSMU Class of 2022

The right to speak freely and be allowed to have your opinions shared in an open setting is one of the many foundations of a free and democratic society. The art of journalism serves as a catalyst to offer society the platform to exercise these rights. Dating back to the colonial era, journalism has seen its fair share of spotlight. This necessity for journalism has allowed for the multi-generational evolution of the practice. Through this evolution, journalism has branched into a multi-faceted profession while connecting the private and public realm.

For nearly 250 years, journalism has planted its roots within the hard news section, which casts a wide umbrella over topics ranging from the local, state, regional, or national level. It was not until the middle of the twentieth century where new topics of journalism began to sprout up from the ground. The journalistic evolution has allowed for entertainment, health, investigation, nature, politics, etc. New journalistic disciplines have opened new doors while also connecting different areas of the world in the process. Although every aspect of journalism changes on a daily basis, no other discipline changes as much as sports journalism in terms of variety.

Sports journalism often takes a backseat to different topics in journalism that are routinely deemed as being "more important." However, that could not be further from the truth. Sports journalism has developed into one of the most sought-after journalistic fields, mainly because of the scores of avenues a person can take to format their career.

Despite sports journalism being commonly regarded as beginning within the expansion period of the 1960s and 70s, there have been accounts of a rather simple form of sports journalism dating back to 850 B.C. This has become such a lost factoid; however, the ancient Greeks are credited with birthing the profession. Greeks would often write down score charts, nowadays referred to as box scores, of wrestling matches. After sports journalism began in the ancient world, until roughly the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, sports journalism seemed to vanish off the playing field. So, what fueled that more than millennial absence? Many signs point to the simple fact that organized sports did not truly become organized until the late 1800s.

As a variety of new sports began to come to fruition, the practice of covering sports became a multi-dimensional process. This rang true especially when collegiate and professional sports began to dominate the industry. Sports like basketball and football started to see their following grow exponentially. The formation of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Basketball Association (NBA), and National Football League (NFL) have now become driving factors within the sports journalism world and outside.

It would not be known until nearly the turn of the century, however, that the invention of the television would allow for the birth of a new form of journalism known as broadcast journalism. Broadcast journalism can be loosely defined as reporting news through broadcasting devices such as a television. Dating back to the 1990s, broadcast journalism has been a driving force inside the profession. Not only has broadcast journalism carved out new opportunities for scores of journalists throughout the years, but it has also brought upon some of the highest quality within the industry. The movie *Good Night, and Good Luck* highlights this narrative spectacularly. Legendary journalist Edward R. Murrow was a trailblazer for success within the middle portions of the twentieth century. The tireless work of Murrow to showcase what McCarthyism truly was to the American people allowed for him to etch his name into the history books. Murrow so crisply presented how Senator Joseph McCarthy was fear-mongering the American people. The public and private realm, along with Murrow himself, had no idea how crucial Murrow's dialogue would be to the foundation and history of journalism.

Sports broadcasting serves on a multitude of platforms, whether that be local, regional, or national. However, sports broadcasting has seen most of its success within the national sphere. Media outlets such as CBS Sports, ESPN, Fox Sports, and NBC Sports are the four main breadwinners at the table of sports mega conglomerates. Sports broadcasters such as Dick Vitale (ESPN), Jim Nantz (CBS Sports), and Al Michaels (NBC Sports) have become household names in and out of the industry's walls.

While sports broadcasting and journalism are too swiftly being written off as easy, that is not the case by any means. Ascending to the top of the industry within sports journalism is a near-impossible task to complete, as it is undoubtedly the hardest discipline in journalism to achieve success in due to its sheer cutthroat nature.

Many professions try through ini-

tiatives to make their landscape a more diverse and inclusive environment, but most fail to do so. Sports broadcasting and journalism have leapfrogged a host of professions to become one of leading industries that foster diversity. Having a history that has been dominated by men and having very few other races aside from Caucasian represented does not paint the best picture. Regardless, the sports broadcasting industry is seeing people of other races and women skyrocket into the field.

Talents such as Beth Mowins, Erin Andrews, Holly Rowe, Maria Taylor, among others have spearheaded efforts for more women to make their mark on history. The latter two especially have gone to tremendous lengths to fight for the inclusiveness of women in a male-dominated profession. Furthermore, personalities such as Clark Kellogg, Kenny "the Jet" Smith, and Stephen A. Smith are the figureheads for ensuring the success of male black Americans in sports broadcasting.

Although we commonly see sports journalism as more in the entertainment realm, sports journalism should also have a seat at the table regarding its overall importance to society. Through sports broadcasting and journalism, some of the world's most pressing issues have received the necessary front-page coverage they deserve. Sports broadcasting and journalism have shed light to everyday citizens of the world on the importance of specific social justice issues, such as the Black Lives Matter movement. The BLM movement has etched itself into the sports landscape and rightfully so, thanks in part to sports journalists. The advancement of women in the sports world has garnered plenty of attention because of reporters that have put issues facing women at the forefront.

The coverage of societal issues is not the only reason why sports broadcasting and journalism serve such a vital role in our present-day society. Iconic moments that have become a part of American culture are woven into American culture because of the sports journalism industry. These moments include "Miracle on Ice,"

"The Shot," by Michael Jordan, and countless American titles around the globe. Sports journalism has also covered dark moments in sports history. One of the biggest moments was during the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics where the terrorist organization Black September slaughtered members of the Israeli Olympic team.

Journalism, specifically sports journalism, holds a key that many professions do not. There will always be

a need for journalism in any realm of society. From a sports perspective, the sports media industry is an ever-changing landscape that is enriching nations across the globe while also influencing the youth of the world. Journalism itself is a cornerstone in ensuring that the people have a platform to exercise their everyday, basic human rights. Without journalism, the foundation of civilizations will ultimately crumble.

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

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but...

Jefferson Brand

In August's column, I introduced a distinction between necessary and unnecessary suffering. In last month's column, I followed that up by getting more specific about how our beliefs can lead to unnecessary suffering and the power of not knowing (for certain) and saying, "Maybe?" to our thoughts or opinions about people or events which show up differently than we expected or want them to.

The most basic difference between the two broad categories of suffering is necessary suffering tends to be more 'external,' the "life happens" variety and unnecessary suffering is more "internal" and is created by our wanting life and the people in it to be different than they are. This unnecessary suffering is based on our beliefs of how life should be: society, business, government/politics, laws, religion, the price of gasoline, people's daily behavior, and even the weather.

According to the website, the-worldcounts.com, the current number of human beings on planet Earth is approximately 7.9 billion. That is 7.9 billion ways of doing life differently. That is potentially 7.9 billion different opinions about any one thing. With so different possible differences of doing and thinking, I think it's a miracle that we can agree on anything, even the most basic concepts, like colors, what is up/down, east/west/north/south, and the like. And yes, these ideas are agreements made long ago and passed down as "truths." Given the number of languages and cultural

differences around the world how we humans do anything together is a miracle.

One thing on which we might agree is most of us will have an opinion about what we see, hear, taste, touch, and smell. Each of us will create a story, a thought, about what we perceive. In our stories, we often attach an assessment of the quality, the appropriateness, the morality, the intelligence, the stupidity, the "rightness," the "wrongness," success or failure, the "goodness," the "badness," etc, including the appropriate length of a list or use of a thesaurus.

All this to point out, most of us have something to say about almost everything and anything. Sometimes, someone will share with us their opinion of us. Sometimes these opinions are positive. Other times, these opinions are of the negative variety.

If someone doesn't like our looks, clothes, driving ability, job skills, parenting skills, children, our spouse, home, choice of political affiliation, choice of religion, lineage, color of our skin... you name it and someone will have a negative opinion about it. If that someone shares their opinions in an unkind way those toxic words can shape a person's life in a profoundly negative ways.

Some of us who hear negative opinions will feel physical and emotional pain. We will form negative opinions about ourself. We will believe what was said no matter how untrue it was. We will shut down parts of our being because someone just had to open their mouth. Why do we do this even when we know we are fundamentally good

people and may even have a positive self-image?

Well, scientific studies and common sense have shown us that humans tend to weigh negative information approximately five times greater than positive information. One of the names given to this concept is Negativity Bias.

One theory is "Negativity Bias" developed evolutionarily over many, many, millennia as a tool to survive the dangers of the wilderness which until relatively recent times was almost all of the planet. We learned to be wary of anything that might harm us like poisonous or spiky and hurtful plants and animals, and where they lived in nature; like dodgeball on a prehistoric playground. "Negativity Bias" is pervasive in our psyche and is linked to our "flight, fight, or freeze" responses of our Sympathetic Nervous System.

So, what can we do about this ancient predilection I am linking to a childhood adage and unnecessary suffering?

Please know that you have a choice about what you believe. You also have the choice to not believe. This may not be self-evident when words of others get under our skin and hurt us deeply. Here are several tools that may help us choose how we feel about ourselves.

A radical idea I learned about several years ago is, "Nothing is personal unless you let it be so." Let me rephrase that, "Nothing is personal unless you make it personal." Let me rephrase that again, "Nothing is personal unless you choose to make it personal."



What? I choose to feel bad? This leads us back to "Negative Bias." The choice is invisible and happens almost as fast as the speed of light. As children we may not have the tools to believe and understand this and let go of the opinions of peers and adults, especially parents. As we get older and develop a knowing of ourselves, we can begin at anytime to begin the process of letting go of the opinions of others that don't serve us. We can begin to examine our lives and redefine ourselves. It is never too late to know that we can begin the process of our own healing. I invite you to look into the teachings of Byron Katie. She has developed a formal process called "The Work" which helps us become aware of our beliefs that may be harmful to us. The first two questions Katie asks us to ask of ourself are: "Is it true?", "Is it really true?". The Work has helped many, many people.

Another tool that helps me is to remember the speaking always says more about the speaker than what or who is spoken about. Our speaking is a reflection of our beliefs and our expectations. If we don't fit conveniently into another person's thinking and they say something about us; that is entirely on them. It has nothing to do with us. We are simply the occasion for them to spew their upset related to their thoughts. We just happen to be there. It is not fair and it happens quite often.

Another tool I that helps me not believe what others say is, "All words are made up." Words by their very nature are an abstraction. They are not what they describe. There is what happens and what we say about what happens. Is what we say true? Is it really true? Sometimes, if it accurately describes what is observed

without blame or judgement. Many times it is an opinion that does not accurately reflect what was observed.

This Autumn, as nature spins toward Winter, trees remind us that we can change as they do. As the trees let go of leaves, we can begin to let go of hurtful beliefs and thoughts. We can begin let go of what no longer serves us. And this takes practice, it is not a one walk dog. We must be committed to our own healing over and over again, until we no longer create suffering with the negative thoughts and ideas of other people.

Can you think of any thoughts or beliefs that create suffering in you? Write them down. Make a list. When you do this, you can see literally that they are not a part of you. The words came from outside of you. They were given to you by someone's speaking and thoughtlessness and misunderstanding. Seeing the words on the page are a visual reminder where the words came from and you can release them. Tear up the list, destroy it, bury it if you like. Most importantly recognize that those words are not you.

Finally, remember that our words can hurt and they can heal. Choose your words carefully. Please do not add your words to the continuum of hurtfulness and unnecessary suffering.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg and Towson. If you would like to know more about how Jefferson helps people please call him at 410-336-5876, email him at jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com, or visit his website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org.



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HEALTH AND FITNESS

Fall exercise routines

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

This summer has been very hot and humid but relief is on the way. We still have some hot days in September and October but nothing like the heat and humidity we faced during the summer months. The heat may have prevented you from following your exercise routines and it is very easy to get off track quickly if you miss a few days. Hopefully you were able to continue with most of your exercise each day but if you did get out of the habit now's the time to recommit.

Fall is the perfect time to set a schedule and commit to a steady exercise routine. The weather is not as hot as summer and eventually it will become crisp and comfortable weather for a run, walk, bike ride or whatever you decide to do outside. I realize the kids are back in school so that could mean different routines for different people and families. If you like

to go for a walk or run by yourself maybe you can work that in early in the morning or at lunch time.

If you exercise with your family, evenings are a great time to share the days events. It gets dark early but you may be able to go when the kids get home from school. That may help them decompress from their school day and prepare for your families evening. Even when it does get dark you can still go for a walk under the streetlights or at an inside track. Where there's a will, there's a way and I'm sure you will find what works for you.

During the winter months when daylight is limited it is harder to get the vitamin D we need. Vitamin D is important for many body functions and helps with our immune system. Getting outside in the morning helps you get your daily dose of vitamin D and limits the harsh rays from the sun. Sun protection is always important. We can get vitamin D from foods like leafy greens and many other types of food.



If you do a little research you may be surprised that with what you eat you may or may not be getting the amount you need. Of course, you can always take a supplement and that may be needed, especially during the cold winter months. Supplements are very helpful but if you can get your vitamins in the food you eat that is even better.

Whatever exercise you decide to do is great. The important

thing is to do something. I have said this many times before but I think it is so important that I will say it again, choose an exercise that you like and will stick with. If you get bored with one thing, look for something else and you can change it up. Try to pick an exercise that your whole family will like and that way when one person doesn't feel like exercising that day the rest of the family will

encourage them to participate. I know it's hard to get out there sometimes but usually you feel better after you do.

Fall and winter are coming whether we like it or not so try to put a positive spin on your exercise routine. When we have something to look forward to the things we are less enthusiastic about are not as hard to face. Remember to Keep Moving!

Planning for the inevitable: FAQs

Doug Propheer

Catoctin Advisors is a Thurmont-based consulting business that offers estate readiness planning, estate administration, and budgeting and bill-pay support to survivors. Each month we answer common questions about end-of-life issues.

Q. I recently lost my spouse after a short illness, and I'm having trouble bouncing back. How can I respect the grieving process but also tackle the paperwork and logistical issues that face a survivor?

A. This is such an important question. First, there's nothing wrong with grieving – it's good for you. Let it happen. If you recognize that you're dealing with the sort of stress, emptiness, and loneliness that most of us would expect

after the death of a spouse (or parent), then typically those feelings become less intense over time – and the amount of time varies for each of us. However, if you have a concern about depression, definitely make an appointment with a licensed therapist who can work with you to find the right balance.

One way to heal is to acknowledge that you aren't forgetting but you are moving on; you have to. So, talk with people, join activities at a senior center or church, and start or renew hobbies that occupy time and attention. Consider whether joining a support group will bring a mental health benefit. Start exercising. All of that "moving on" behavior helps you discover whatever new normal awaits you after your loss. Another important service for yourself is eating and sleeping in

healthy ways – doing so will keep your mind and body functioning efficiently.

As far as the paperwork, the Maryland Register of Wills lists 15 forms required to manage administration of a regular estate. There are creditors to notify, most likely. There are accounts to close and possessions to sell. Someone has to file taxes. It's a laborious process, absolutely. And, if your spouse was the person who organized everything and paid the bills, there will be some learning by you of new tasks and processes that only add to the challenge.

The court calendar is both fixed and fluid. By that I mean, once you start the clock there are deadlines to meet for the forms and reporting; however, you don't have to start immediately. A simple way to make progress is to develop a

checklist and start checking stuff off. On the other hand, it may be your responsibility but that doesn't mean you have to bear the burden alone – ask for help. Family, friends, and professionals are available to support you, or, in the case of professionals, perform all the work on your behalf.

Finally, it's also an appropriate time to do some end-of-life planning for yourself. At some point, someone will be grieving for you just like you are grieving now. Take steps to make that process

easier for them – create a Will; make a list of people to notify; close unnecessary accounts; get rid of the stuff you don't use anymore. As you are discovering, grieving takes time and can drain you emotionally – do what you can to help those who will survive you.

For more information about Catoctin Advisors, visit our website (www.catoctinadvisors.com) or send email to doug@catoctinadvisors.com. We're happy to help you.

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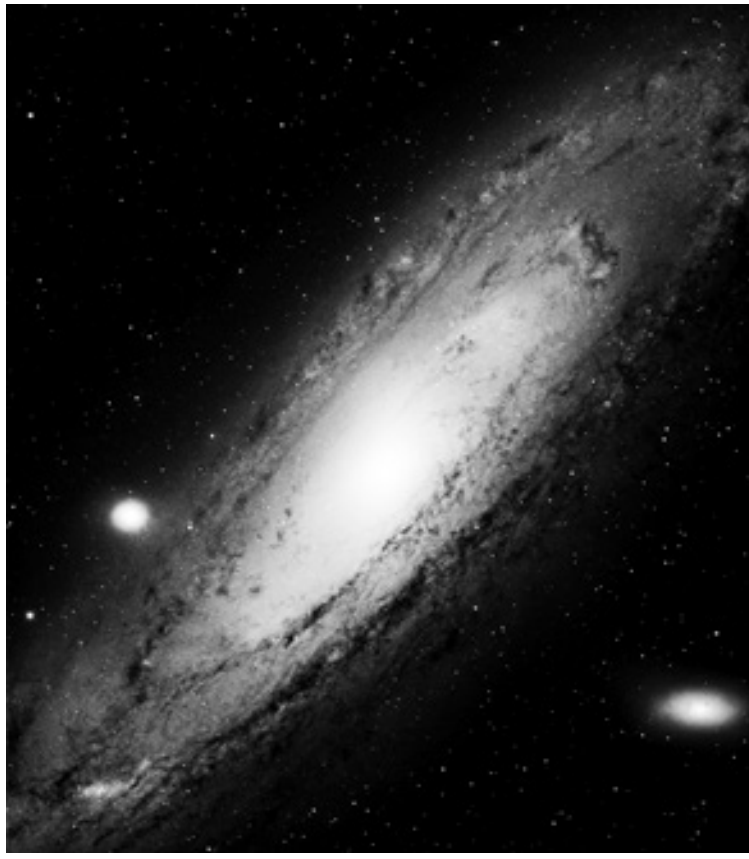
ASTRONOMY

The night sky of October

Professor Wayne Wooten

For October 2021, the crescent moon wanes in the dawn until new moon on October 6th. It makes a striking pairing with brilliant Venus in the dusk on the weekend of October 8-9. The star close to Venus is delta Scorpii, the north claw of Scorpius. Note the earthshine for a nice photo with even your smartphones! The moon is first quarter on October 12th, and just south of Saturn on the next evening. It passes below bright Jupiter on October 14-15. The full moon for October, the Hunter's Moon, is on October 20th, so alas, no moon for the pumpkin patch this Halloween! In fact, the last quarter moon will rise about midnight on the 28th, and will be a waning crescent in the dawn on Halloween morn.

We can't see Mercury well this month, being too close to the Sun, but Venus dominates the evening skies for the rest of 2021. It passes 1.4 degrees north of Antares in Scorpius on October 14th, and moves into Sagittarius by month's end. Telescopically it is a bright waning gibbous disk, with no details in its cloud deck, alas. Mars, like Mercury, lies too close to the Sun now. But Jupiter and Saturn are still well placed for fall sky observers. They lie at opposite ends of Capricornus, in the SE. Saturn's fine rings are still well open and spectacular in the head of the sea goat. Jupiter is much brighter, right above the tail of our sea goat. Its four huge moons are visible even in binoculars, and belts, zones, and famed Great Red Spot



M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light-years distant. It is a bigger version of our own Galaxy, which it may collide with about three billion years from now.

make a constantly changing tableau for large scopes. Yet another comet or asteroid fit it on September 14th, creating a video record of two second flash near the center of the disk... always the promise of excitement!

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 visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for October; 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. Also available as the next month begins is wonderful video exploring the October 2021 sky, available from the Hubble Space Telescope website at: http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/.

The Big Dipper falls lower each evening. By the end of October, it will be only the three stars in the handle of Dipper still visible in the northwestern twilight. By contrast, the

Little Dipper, while much fainter, is always above our northern horizon.

To the southwest, Antares and Scorpius also set soon after twilight, and will be gone by month's end. East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Saturn lies above of the pour spout now. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky overhead. 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. To the east of Altair lies tiny Delphinus, a rare case of a constellation that does look like its namesake.

To the south, Saturn is in the head of Capricornus, and Jupiter above its tail. Aquarius and Pisces are among the faintest of the zodiacal constellations, and need dark skies to pick out. Fomalhaut is the only first magnitude star of the SE fall sky, and stands alone above the South East horizon now.

To the east, the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the North West. 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 North East now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes

North East with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we precede 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. It is a bigger version of our own Galaxy, which it may collide with about three billion years from now. Note companions, M-32 near left center, and M-110 at bottom right.

Below Andromeda is her hero, Perseus. In his hand is a star most appropriate for Halloween, Algol. This star "winks" at us for six out of every 70 hours, which Arabic astronomers centuries ago found spooky, hence naming it "the ghoul". We know today it is an eclipsing binary system, with the larger, cooler orange star covering 80% of its smaller, hotter neighbor during the "wink". At the foot of Perseus, the hero of "Clash of the Titans" is the fine Pleiades star cluster, the "seven sisters" that reveal hundreds of cluster members in large binoculars. This might be the best object in the sky for binocular users.

Winter will be coming soon, and in the NE we see yellow Capella rising. It is the brightest star of Auriga the Charioteer, and pair of giant stars the same temperature as our sun, but at least 100X more luminous and about 10X larger than our sun. It lies about 43 light years distant. A little farther south, below the Pleiades, orange Aldebaran rises. It is the eye of Taurus the bull, with the V shaped Hyades star cluster around it making the head of the bull. This colorful giant star is only 2/3 as hot as our yellow sun, but 44X times larger and at 65 light years distant, one of the closest of these monster stars.

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Farmers' Almanac

*"The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky."*
—William Butler Yeats
(1865-1939)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Dry, very warm (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) with storms (9, 10, 11, 12); dry and warm again (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 18, 20, 21) with rain, then breezy and cooler (22, 23). Hard freeze in the northern part of the region, fair, turning milder (24, 25, 26, 27); occasional showers (28, 29) turning fair (30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Almanack sees severe thunderstorms in the region on 11th and the hard freeze hitting on the 24-25.

Full Moon: October's Full Moon will occur on October 20th and is the Hunter's Moon. Named because of the extra light it provided many Native Americans, extending their hunt for food well into the early evening. It was also referred to as and Yellow Leaf and Falling Leaves by the Cree Tribe because of the many leaves

turning that color and that most of the trees lose the last of their leaves during the month.

Holidays: Columbus Day is observed on Monday, October 11th, United Nations Day is celebrated on Sunday, the 24th, and Halloween falls on Sunday, October 31st.

Special Notes: October is Fire Prevention Month. In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Today, we celebrate Fire Prevention Week and Month by raising fire safety awareness and educating families, students and communities across the United States. During this month, fire departments provide education to their communities, and encourage parents and loved ones to practice fire safety and whole home safety. Have an evacuation plan ready with your family and check smoke detector batteries often

The Garden: Mulching fall planted perennials will keep the soil warmer longer, allowing root growth to continue, however, the plants do need time to harden off for winter. Spread a

thin layer of mulch after fall planting, and then add a thicker layer once the ground has frozen. Shredding leaves, along with lawn clippings, dead plant stalks from the vegetable garden make a fine addition to the compost heap. And try this simply trick: remove all large vines and spent plants from the vegetable garden. Mix 1 can of cola (not diet), 1 cup of dish soap, and ¼ cup of ammonia and add to 20-gallon hose end sprayer and fill to top. Saturate the layer of mulch that's left on top of the garden's soil and then say, "Good Night" until the next growing season!

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (21, 22); weeding and stirring the soil (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12); planting above-ground crops (8, 9); harvesting all crops (18, 19, 20); the best days for setting hens and incubators (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11); transplanting (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 21, 22); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27); harvesting and storing grains (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 28, 29, 30, 31).

J. Gruber's Thought for Today's Living

"The time to make friends is before you need them."

COMPUTER Q&A

Windows 11 is here

Aysè Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

On October 5th Microsoft is releasing their surprise Operating System Windows 11. Like many users you may find yourself wondering if Windows 11 is right for you, how you will install it, and whether your device is even compatible. Upgrading your device is usually a fairly straight forward process however Windows 11 brings in a new set of system requirements that cause many Windows 10 machines that are currently being used to fall short, mainly due to increased security.

Will you be able to upgrade to Windows 11? The easiest way to answer that question is to download the compatibility checker which can be found by visiting www.microsoft.com/windows/get-windows-11 from there you can download the PC Health Check app. Once installed clicking on the check now button will let you know if your system meets the system requirements. You will see a checklist of all the minimum system requirements which include; support for secure boot, TPM 2.0 enabled, a supported processor or CPU with 2 or more cores over 1GHz, 4GB of RAM and a 64GB or larger hard drive.

Can your computer be upgraded to meet the Windows 11 system requirements? Most if not all laptops or all-in-one computers that do not meet the minimum system requirements can't be upgraded to become compatible with Windows 11. Some devices may have the capability to utilize the security features required for Windows 11 but may not be enabled to do so. Desktop computers that don't meet the minimum requirements for the CPU could be upgraded by replacing several components typically this includes the motherboard, CPU and memory.

Do you need to upgrade to Windows 11? The short answer is no, not right now, the long answer is yes, eventually. Currently, Windows 10 is still supported and will be until at least October 14, 2025. This means users will continue to get free updates and mainstream support from Microsoft. Microsoft will continue to fix bugs and patch security flaws until October 2025. When that time comes, if Microsoft doesn't extend support and if you haven't already switched to Windows 11 your device may not be safe to use online especially if you store important personal information or do online banking or shopping.

Should you upgrade to Windows 11? Most users will want to avoid upgrading right away especially those who rely on their computer for business or school. Switching to a new operating system can be unpredictable and fully backing up your computer before proceeding is highly recommended. Software and hardware that works in Windows 10 should work with Windows 11 but rarely is the transition ever without issues. For example many users found when they upgraded from a previous operating system to Windows 11 that their existing printers were not compatible or did not yet have drivers released to

help them function properly.

What are some of the new additions to Windows 11? The new OS brings a slew of new features that are designed to make computing a seamless experience when using multiple devices or working remotely. Android app integration brings a multitude of new apps and features to the table. Users will find switching between apps and screens much easier with new windows snapping and application grouping. There are several new design elements integrated into Windows 11 including a now centered task bar with a fully redesigned "start menu" that bears an awful lot of resemblance with Mac OS and Widgets that can be accessed directly from the task bar. Users with touch screens or tablet devices will see

a major improvement with ease of access with touch interaction.

What features from Windows 10 have been removed from Windows 11? Many removed features were found to be less than thrilling and in turn the following used features have been eliminated from the new OS. Timeline which allowed users to view a 30 day history of across all of your devices where logged into your Microsoft Account is no longer found in Windows 11. Live tiles and tablet mode have both been nixed as well in favor of the new more touch friendly design. At least at the initial launch Windows 11 users will find that the taskbar is staying put, users can no longer move the task bar to the left, right or top of the screen. Cortana and several pre-installed apps including skype are missing from Windows 11 and the now antiquated Internet Explorer



browser has been removed completely in favor of Microsoft's Edge browser.

Ultimately only you can decide if Windows 11 is right for you when it becomes available. At Jester's Computers we understand that computers can be frustrating. If you find that your device is not compatible with Windows 11 and are interested in upgrading or are in need of

general computer support or repair, you can visit our website at www.jesterscomputers.com. Our shop is located at 5135 Fairfield Road in Fairfield PA we open Monday through Friday 9 am until 5 pm with extended hours until 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To contact us please call or text 717-642-6611 or email us at customerservice@jesterscomputers.com.

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HUMOR

More totally useless facts you never knew

- By the time he was twelve years old, Daniel Boone was already an expert hunter and trapper.
- If all the gold suspended in the earth's oceans was "mined", there would be enough for every person on earth to receive 9 pounds!
- A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
- Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself.
- The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
- A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
- A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.
- A 2 X 4 is really 1-1/2" by 3-1/2".
- On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily! (That explains a few mysteries...)
- Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
- Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
- The number of possible ways of playing the first four moves per side in a game of chess is 318,979,564,000.
- There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple and silver.
- The name Wendy was made up for the book Peter Pan. There was never a recorded Wendy before.
- The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin in World War II killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.

- If one places a tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion, it will instantly go mad and sting itself to death. (Who was the sadist who discovered this??)
- Bruce Lee was so fast that they actually had to s-l-o-w film down so you could see his moves. That's the opposite of the norm.
- The first CD pressed in the US was Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA."
- The original name for butterfly was flutterby.
- The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
- The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for automobiles. At that time, the most known player on the market was Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.
- Roses may be red, but violets are indeed violet.
- By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you cannot sink into quicksand.
- Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.
- Charlie Chaplin once won third prize in a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest.
- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
- Sherlock Holmes NEVER said, "Elementary, my dear Watson."
- An old law in Bellingham, Washington, made it illegal for a woman to take more than three steps backwards while dancing!
- The glue on Israeli postage is certified kosher.

- The Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from public libraries.
- Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a spacesuit damages them.
- Bats always turn left when exiting a cave!

Uses for Vodka ... other than drinking

- To remove a bandage painlessly, saturate the bandage with vodka. The solvent dissolves the adhesive.
- To clean the caulking around bathtubs and showers, fill a trigger-spray bottle with vodka, spray the caulking, let set five minutes and wash clean. The alcohol in the vodka kills mold and mildew.
- To clean your eyeglasses, simply wipe the lenses with a soft, clean cloth dampened with vodka. The alcohol in the vodka cleans the glass and kills germs.
- Prolong the life of razors by filling a cup with vodka and letting your safety razor blade soak in the alcohol after shaving. The vodka disinfects the blade and prevents rusting.
- Spray vodka on vomit stains, scrub with a brush, then blot dry.
- Using a cotton ball, apply vodka to your face as an astringent to cleanse the skin and tighten pores.
- Add a jigger of vodka to a 12-ounce bottle of shampoo. The alcohol cleanses the scalp, removes toxins from hair, and stimulates the growth of healthy hair.
- Pour one-half cup vodka and one-half cup water in a Ziplock freezer bag, and freeze for a slushy, refreshable ice pack for aches, pain, or black eyes.
- Fill a clean, used mayonnaise jar with freshly packed

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HUMOR

lavender flowers, fill the jar with vodka, seal the lid tightly and set in the sun for three days. Strain liquid through a coffee filter, then apply the tincture to aches and pains.

- Make your own mouthwash by mixing nine tablespoons powdered cinnamon with one cup vodka. Seal in an airtight container for two weeks. Strain through a coffee filter. Mix with warm water and rinse your mouth. Don't swallow.
- Using a q-tip, apply vodka to a cold sore to help it dry out.
- If a blister opens, pour vodka over the raw skin as a local anesthetic that also disinfects the exposed dermis.
- To treat dandruff, mix one cup vodka with two teaspoons crushed rosemary, let sit for two days, strain through a coffee filter and massage into your scalp and let dry.
- To treat an earache put a few drops of vodka in your ear. Let set for a few minutes. Then drain. The vodka will kill the bacteria that is causing pain in your ear.
- To relieve a fever, use a washcloth to rub vodka on your chest and back as a liniment.
- To cure foot odor, wash your feet with vodka.
- Vodka will disinfect and alleviate a jellyfish sting.
- Pour vodka over an area affected with poison ivy to remove the urushiol oil from your skin.
- Swish a shot of vodka over an aching tooth. Allow your gums to absorb some of the alcohol to numb the pain

More totally useless facts ... part whatever ...

- A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
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