

Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 3, NO. 2

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

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Election to fill 1st of two vacant Council seats

Five candidates have thrown their hats into the ring to fill the seat formally held by Commissioner Michael McNiesh. McNiesh was removed from office in October by fellow commissioners when they determined he had forfeited his office for failing to attend three Town Council meetings in a row in-person.

Following the decision, the Council had 30 days to either appoint a qualified individual to fill the remainder of the term or hold a special election to fill the seat. The Council opted for the latter, which will occur February 13.

A candidate forum will be held February 11 at the Town Hall where residents will have the opportunity to listen to each candidate. Candidates applying to fill McNiesh's old seat include: Betsy Brannen, Jason Bryant, David Toohey, Duane Musselman, and Michael McNiesh.

Brennen said she was running because: "the past few months have made me question the trajectory of the town. Walkersville is welcoming and open. Our elected officials owe each other and town residents complete honesty and transparency. These values should define

Walkersville's governance. These are my standards for myself, and I expect them of our chosen representatives. I know it may seem like a lot to ask these days, that our government bodies -- at every level -- be open and honest with the people and try to do what is in the people's best interest, but I really do believe that. That's the type of Commissioner I'll be. Maybe I sound too old fashioned or idealistic, but as a Town Commissioner, I promise to put Walkersville first and always keep the best interest of the residents in mind."

Bryant said he was running to: "help bring back businesses (both shops and restaurants) to downtown Walkersville, as well as add lighting to our tennis/pickle ball courts at the Walkersville Community Park, and the Walkersville High School, and furthermore find a better way to ease the speeding and noise of RT194. Lastly, like in Thurmont, I believe Walkersville should have our own arts and crafts festival to show off all the talents of the people of Walkersville."

Toohey said: "As a member of the Parks Committee and a 20 year resident, I am already committed to Walkersville, but wanted to solid-



Commissioner Michael Bailey, who resigned following his decision to move to North Carolina, was recognized by Burgess Chad Weddle and his fellow commissioners for his dedication to the betterment of Walkersville.

ify that commitment by becoming a Town Commissioner. I fully support an additional special election which would allow my neighbors to elect me to represent them, but if the town chooses to appoint someone I want our residents to know I am committed to them and what they feel the town needs. My family and I have enjoyed building our lives and raising our family in Walkersville and believe that others should as well."

"The residents here deserve transparency from their elected officials, that was demonstrated by Commissioners Mike McNiesh and Mike Bailey and I plan to continue that openness. I believe in

smart growth that supports a community such as Walkersville, and want to bring Walkersville into the 21st century while embracing its rich history. We need more small businesses that will continue to bring our town together, such as a small coffee shop or bookstore, this would also improve our already walkable community. Our town is on the cusp of greatness, and I want to work with our community to keep that momentum going."

Musselman's reason for running dates back 25 years to when he and his wife moved to Walkersville: "shortly after moving to Walkersville, our oldest child joined his

Continued on page 4

Woodsboro delays decision on in-town chickens

In front of one of the largest crowds in memory, the Woodsboro Town Council opted, in a split decision, to delay by a month, a formal decision to modify the town charter to allow the ownership of chickens within town limits.

The audience was equally divided by proponents, opponents, and those who the thought of owning a chicken never crossed their mind. Those in the latter group, while not opposed, insisted that strict and enforceable requirements be put into place to ensure that the tranquility of the town not be effected by the presence of chickens in their neighbor's backyard.

Mitzi Smith, the first speaker of the night, summed up the thinking of the latter group pretty succinctly. "I'm opposed to owning chickens in town," she said, "but if the town opts to allow them, I'm fine with it. All I ask is if you do allow ownership of chickens that you make the rules governing the ownership of them clear and enforceable."

"Owners of chickens should be required to keep their places clean and ensure there are no odors. They also need to be respectful to those who complain to authorities when chicken owners fail to abide by the

rules and allow their chickens to become a nuisance," she said.

Former Burgess Bill Rittelmeyer also said he was not a fan of owning chickens in town. He feared that people with no animal or farm background would jump at the chance to own chickens, and then get bored with them.

"That's when the problems will begin," he said. Poorly kept chickens will result in an influx of nuance pests seeking spilled grain and predator wildlife seeking an easy meal of a fat chicken. Like many who spoke, Rittelmeyer said successful implementation of in-town chicken ownership would be based upon the ability of the town's code enforcer to inspect all properties with chickens on them to ensure they are being kept in compliance with all rules or regulations.

David Weldon, an owner of a local commercial chicken operation, advised the town council against allowing chickens in town. Weldon's concerns stemmed from the potential of the unchecked spread of Avian Flu which "has killed over 57 million chickens so far," he said. "Unlike commercial chicken operations, which test regularly for Avian flu, back yard chickens are rarely tested. Last year



The bonding of children with their pet chickens was a repeated theme of parents at the public meeting.

421 backyard flocks tested positive for Avian flu." Raising the question of how the town would handle an outbreak in one backyard flock - would it require all chickens in town to be euthanized, as would happen in a commercial operation?

Weldon also went on to note that while the Avian flu has not jumped to humans yet, the potential still exists, and cited a recent occurrence, where for the first time a bird in a flock tested posi-

tive for the a human virus - implying the potential for cross species transmission.

Renee Eiswick, a proponent for allowing chickens in-town, said they are a great way to teach children responsibility. Eiswick compared owning chickens to backyard vegetable gardens. "It's a great way to provide cheap and wholesome food, she said. She addressed the concerns of opponents to the

Continued on page 2

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WOODSBORO NEWS

Options sought for Skatepark funds

At the January 10th council meeting, Commissioner Crum updated her fellow Commissioners on the status of efforts to build a skatepark in the Woodsboro Regional Park.

While support continues to grow for the skatepark, the biggest concern, according to Crum, was how to collect and process contributions that have already started to come in.

Commissioner Crum said that the Skatepark Committee initially had hoped to become a 501.C charitable organization, which would allow it to solicit and accept donations to build the park. However, according to Skatepark Committee Chairman Ben Marshall, it quickly became apparent to all that the amount of effort that had to be put into filling out the 501.C paperwork far exceeded the benefits.

Marshall noted that in the case of the Thurmont Skatepark, the Thurmont Town Government served as the focal point for the collections and distribution of all funds and asked the Town Council if the Woodsboro Town government would consider doing the same by creating an account within the town budget to handle all transactions related to the funding and building of the skatepark.

Burgess Barnes quickly pushed back on Marshall's request, stating that would create a bad precedent,

not to mention that the town is only allowed to handle money from town taxpayers, and its books and accounting systems were not set up to handle contributions, let alone contributions from non-town residents.

While Thurmont's Town government did create an internal account to handle donations for their skatepark, they were not treated as charitable contributions according to Thurmont's Town Manager Jim Humerick. "When things needed to be paid for out of that account, the Skatepark Committee communicated that information with the Town and we processed the payments. Contributors to the Thurmont Skatepark were not able to deduct their contributions off their taxes as charitable contributions."

Marshall said the reason for his request was the Skatepark Committee was afraid of opening a bank account under their personal names as the IRS would consider the money theirs, and in doing so, make it not only taxable, but raise the individual committee members tax rates in general.

Barnes asked Marshall if he had approached any existing non-profits within the town to see if the skatepark committee could use their 'good offices,' and suggested he reach out to the Lions Club or the American Legion.

As Marshall pondered that recommendation, it was noted by a member of the audience that the Woodsboro Recreational Committee was a 501.C, and would be the most logical choice for a partner with the Skatepark Committee.

To the humor of everyone in the audience, Crum, smacked her head when she heard the recommendation. "I should have known that - after all - I am a member of the Recreational Committee!"

Marshall agreed to work with Crum and reach out to the Recreational Committee to see if they would be willing to help.

The Council originally gave its go ahead for building the park at its October meeting. Marshall hoped that the planned 80 x 100 feet skatepark will give skaters ample room, as well as see Woodsboro's park made accessible for BMX bikes, which Thurmont's does not allow. A Rough estimate places the proposed park's cost around \$100,000, not including lighting or benches.

While the town hopes to obtain State grants to cover \$50,000 of the park's cost, the town will not be eligible to apply for Program Open Space funding until Spring of 2023.

Barnes, who along with all four of the town commissioners, supports the skatepark, and said he looks forward to seeing it built and being used by kids of all ages in town.

Woodsboro is not the only town

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looking to follow Thurmont down the skateboard ramp. The Walkersville Town Council has also agreed to

explore the idea of building a skatepark in their community park, as has Taneytown.

News Briefs...

Town Hall Update

Burgess Barnes informed the Council that the architect reported the site plan for the new town hall was nearing completion.

"Unfortunately," Barnes said, "we can't use the old site plans as it was designed for a much smaller lot."

"Once the architect's site plans are done, they will have to be approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission, and then the Town Council. Only then can we go to the County for all the necessary permits.

"We've got a lot of work in front of us, but I'm hoping that we'll be able

to start digging the foundation for the new town hall this spring," Barnes said.

High Water Pressure Complaints Draws Head Scratches

Lily Umberger, of Weinburg Court, complaint about high water pressure drew baffled looks from the town council and staff.

"The water pressure is so high that when I turn on my kitchen sink, water sprays all over the place, and the splash back even hits the ceiling," Umberger said. "When I take a shower, I feel like the water is tearing my skin off.

The pipes rattle so loudly when water is being used that I was afraid I was disturbing my neighbors," she added.

Umberger said there were numerous postings on neighbor's Facebook pages also questioning what was going on with the water pressure. Umberger laughed when she admitted that complaining about high water pressure is not the norm, but asked that the town look into it.

Town staff said that they were unaware of the issue and had no idea what was going on. The Town, the staff said, keeps an eye on water pressure to ensure that it was constant everywhere in the town, but agreed that something might be amiss and

would visit the property in question to ascertain what the issue was and would resolve it.

Town to Renew CD's

Town staff told the Council that the Town would be renewing CDs once they had reached their maturity date and the Council would be briefed in February on the new yield the CDs would bring.

According to the town financial report, two CD's were coming to maturity in January, one for \$139,560 and another for \$230,609, both currently have an interest rate of .07 percent. Current rates today vary from 2.5% all the way up to 5%

Even if invested at only 4%, one resident noted, the additional \$4,800/yearly income could be put to good use.

"Right now we are getting nothing from the bank, if we re-invest them, it will give us money to do things that will help our community," the resident said.

The town currently has 10 financial 'instruments' with Woodsboro bank totaling \$2,021,949, with most earning only .05% interest.

The largest instrument being the Water/Sewer Money Market Fund .05% interest with \$739,599 in it, the CDs mentioned earlier, and \$195,118 in the town's general Money market fund, again yielding only .05%.

In-town Chickens continued from page 1

chickens by saying that if owners did not take proper care of them, then she was all for the town code enforcers having them removed.

Jake and Rachel Dizk, who owned chickens until they moved

within town limits, spoke about the impact the chickens had on their family of seven's budget. "With eggs now approaching \$8 a dozen, our five chickens saved us a lot of money each week."

Rachel then went on to recount how they handled the manure from

the chickens to ensure there was no smell, and how they saw their chickens as pets, members of their family, and how the kids interacted with them. "The chickens greet the kids every morning when they go out to feed them. The joy in the eyes of my kids when they interact with their chickens is undeniable."

Commissioner Case freely admitted that the owning of chickens within town limits never crossed his mind, and he really

didn't have any opinion one way or another other than that clear and logical rules on ownership be established, such as capping the number of allowable chickens based upon lot size."

Commissioner Case expressed skepticism that a change to the code would result in an influx in new chickens. "People who want chickens already have them, and the fact that no one really knows about it just goes to show that as

long as people are responsible, it's not going to be a problem."

When Burgess Barnes asked if the council wanted to vote on allowing chickens, Commissioner Engenrode asked for the vote to be deferred. "I don't think it's fair that we invited everyone here tonight to speak their mind and then we vote. I want to digest what everyone said and think about it. There are lots of pros and cons. And before I vote, I would like to see what requirements could be put in place."

Barnes agreed, and suggest that instead of voting on allowing chickens, the Council vote on delaying the vote until the February meeting, during which time the town Planning Commission could draft potential requirements. The vote to delay the vote until February passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Crum, a proponent of chickens, casting the dissenting vote.

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WALKERSVILLE NEWS

Council hears pitch for possible annexation

At a special joint meeting of the Town Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission, town officials heard the opening pitch by FoodPro for the annexation of 106 acres of land adjacent to the Creek Side and Spring View Estates developments, for their new distribution center.

The joint workshop was held so all interested parties within the town government would hear the proposal and have an opportunity to ask questions.

FoodPro, a 70 year old Frederick City based company, is a wholesale restaurant supplier and food-service distributor of fresh cut steaks, fish, and produce, as well as non-perishable groceries and food service supplies. FoodPro has clientele in Maryland, Northern Virginia, West Virginia, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

According to FoodPro President Scott Brunk, the company has outgrown their Frederick City location and has been looking for the past three years for a new location upon which they can expand.

The property Brunk would like the town to consider annexing is the Bowers Farm, which runs just west of Fountain Rock Road and south of Biggs Ford Road. The property is currently zoned by the county as principally agriculture, with a small portion that runs through the middle along Israel Creek zoned Resource Conservation.

However the Walkersville Municipal Growth Plan has the property zoned 'limited industrial.' The land use designation on the northern part of the property must be designated for

industrial growth for the annexation plan to be consistent with the Municipal Growth Plan.

As the proposed zoning after annexation would be substantially different from existing county zoning, the county must approve the zoning change. If the county does not approve the zoning change, then the property cannot be developed for 5 years after the annexation.

Much like ongoing annexation discussions in surrounding communities, discussion quickly pivoted to traffic and its impact on local roads and adjacent neighborhoods.

Brunk said that he expects truck traffic out of the facility to start around 4 am every morning. Initially Brunk said 36 of his own trucks will be involved, but that could double as

the company grows over the years. In addition to FoodPro, the facility would also be receiving inbound trucks throughout the day delivering supplies. In addition, Brunk said up to 100 additional vehicles could be expected on the road from office staff and drivers coming to work.

Brunk said all inbound trucks would be routed off Rt.15 and down Biggs Ford Road so as not to disturb the adjacent developments of Creek Side and Spring View Estates.

Brunk also said all outbound trucks going North on Rt. 15, would be routed over Biggs Ford Road. However, as two thirds of his trucks head south, they would be forced to go down Fountain Rock Road to the intersection with Rt. 194.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert

expressed concern over heavy trucks traveling windy county roads and the potential for accidents that would bring.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis expressed reservations over the impact the facility would have on residents who had only recently purchased homes under the assumption of pastoral views. Other expressed concern over the noise from early morning truck traffic.

In addition to the distribution center, Brunk said that he hoped one day to also add a retail food center on the property, which would increase traffic even further.

If Brunk opts to proceed forward with his request, the project will enter the lengthy annexation process where town residents will be given multiple opportunities to voice their concerns and opinions on the matter.

Revision to Council 'Attendance' text proposed

At its January 11th meeting, the Town Council was briefed by Dave Toohey, of the Walkersville Parks Commission, on the potential benefits of purchasing the vacant lot behind the Walkersville Bowling Center. The 11.8-acre lot, a hold over from the original Mill Run development, is currently zoned agriculture.

Toohey proposed that if the town purchased it, a trail could be laid through the lot that would allow easier access to Community Park from Old Town & the Mill Run development. The County's Rail Trail project

has been eyed for several years to make use of the old rail beds of the area. In July of 2022, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments approved a \$5.28 million grant to Frederick County for the long-discussed rail trail project.

Phase I consists of a 1.8-mile section of trail from Monocacy Boulevard to Fountain Rock Nature Center. The 10-foot-wide asphalt path will follow the railroad right of way owned by the Maryland Transportation Authority and leased to the Walkersville Southern Railroad.

The County just received \$280,000 for phase II of the planning of a project that will connect Fountain Rock and Heritage Farm Park and the county hopes to begin work on this portion of the trail this year.

According to Toohey, the lot is currently listed for \$295,000. Commissioner Gary Baker noted that the lot has been on the market for 203 days, so there was a good chance that the town could negotiate a better price. Toohey concurred; noting that close to 80% of it is in a floodplain, which would make building upon it difficult at best. Toohey

said that keeping the lot natural would "would benefit the deer and other wildlife who use it as a superhighway."

Hercules Custom Iron, whose property abuts the lot, had at one time expressed interest in the property for a storage building, but that would require the lot to be rezoned for light industrial. No action has been taken by the planning commission since the initial briefing by Hercules back in the Fall of 2022.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis suggested that the town could use Project Open Space funds to pay up to 75% of the cost of the purchase price.

Toohey said the town could also consider applying for a grant from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) program. MS4, a program of the US Environmental Protection Agency, was developed, in part, to promote local measures to control the quality of storm water discharged to storm drains. Toohey noted that as the property is natural fit for the program as it is in the floodplain and catches and filters much of the overflow from Glade Creek during heavy rains.

Town considers 12-acre lot for trail

In his last official act as a member of the Town Council, Commissioner Michael Bailey proposed language to the section of the Town Charter regarding the meaning between 'participation' and 'attendance' with respect to town council meetings and their implications.

Following the decision of the Town Council to remove Commissioner Michael McNish for failing to 'attend' three council meetings in a row, discontent was felt among many in the Town. While McNish did 'participate' virtually, he was by definition, not present physically, and therefore, according to the Charter, unable to vote, and thus marked down as not being in 'attendance'. It boiled down to the difference in interpretation of the intent of the current language in the town charter.

In proposing language to prevent a future misinterpretation, Bailey said: "the last few months have been a little tumultuous, and has caused me to sit and think about everything that has happened. Knowing me, I'm a literalist, and I know one of our big points of contention during the public hearing was the 'intent of the law' versus the way the law, or the charter is written."

Bailey's changes to section C.3-7 of the town Charter, Meetings of Commissioners, would change the word 'attendance' under Part A to 'participation'. The amended sentence would then read - 'Meeting participation will be allowed via telephone or video conference call format in the event the

Burgess or Commissioner is unable to attend the meeting in person.'

Under A.1, Compensation for Absences. Bailey suggested language be added to clarify that while Commissioners not physically present may join in on discussion, they are prohibited from casting votes, and will not be counted as present in regards to Section 3.10, Determining of Quorum. Bailey then added a part 2 that says, "any Commissioner or Burgess participating via telephone or video conference pursuant to this section is also to consider to have failed to attend the meeting unless excused ... per the Forfeiture of Office Clause."

In reflecting on the rationale for his changes, Bailey said "the more I think about what we do as a leg-

islative body the more I think it is important for us to be present when we are able to be present. If we have conflicts and need to be excused - that is one thing - but I think that part of the legislative process in representing our constituents is that it is important that our constituents can come sit before us and look at the whites of eyes, read our body language, and speak to us in person."

"This [the charter change] does two things. It tightens up the code but it still allows people, who have an absence, they can request to be excused. But we close [the loophole] where if they call in it is considered being present for the meeting."

The resolution was approved at the January 25th Town Council meeting.



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WALKERSVILLE INFO

Wed., Feb. 1 - 7 p.m. - Parks Commission Meeting
 Wed., Feb. 8 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
 Sat., Feb. 11 - 7 p.m. - Candidate Forum
 Mon., Feb. 13 - Special Election
 Polls open 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Tues., Feb. 14 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting
 Mon., Feb. 20 - Office Closed for Presidents Day
 Wed., Feb. 22 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
 Mon., Feb. 27 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting
 Tues., Feb. 28 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting

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 Walkersville:Our Town

LOCAL & COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Setting the record straight...

Over the past three months, much as been written on various media outlets regarding the forfeiture of the Town of Walkersville commissioner seat of Michael McNiesh. By virtue of the Town ordinances, McNiesh forfeited his seat by failing to attend three consecutive meetings or seeking permission, in advance, to do so. In some publications and among individuals, some prominent who will not be named here, there was a rush to judgment. Also, it was incorrectly stated that it was the remaining Commissioners that caused him to forfeit his seat. This was the case with the Frederick News Post editorial October 12, 2022 and just about every subsequent reporting by FNP, stating the Commissioners "ousted" McNiesh. In fact, McNiesh ousted McNiesh. Many of his followers

cannot seem to understand that we are a nation of laws and when laws are broken, in most cases, there are consequences. The Commissioners along with the Burgess very simply upheld the written rules which McNiesh surprisingly authored. His inactions to attend resulted in the forfeit--- much like failing to field a team and forfeiting a game---no one decided this---his inaction led to his forfeiture.

As stated publicly, McNiesh had done a lot of good things for the town. This is indisputable. However, his failure to accept what he did (or did not do) has cost the town wasted time, unneeded efforts, and taxpayer funds. Yes, he is the responsible party for these costs. These lay at his door.

One of the routines McNiesh had was to inform the public of

the goings on at Town meetings using his personal media account. Some of his messages were editorialized and accepted by a group of people who, upon forfeiture and subsequently taking his side, have responded with disparaging, in some cases vicious, remarks containing falsehood and threats to the Town elected officials. This is both disappointing and shameful.

Most of the content of the emails and letters received were disappointing and downright rude. Some questioned why McNiesh was dismissed while they admitted he had missed three meetings. They wondered why virtual attendance was not counted as being present. This is clearly defined in the Town charter that a virtual call-in does not count as being present, again, a stipulation McNiesh authored, supported, and

voted for approval in 2019.

Please understand, we have no problem with people being passionate for their cause. That is their right. However, when this so-called passion takes the form of threats and condemning one's character, then we do have a problem as we believe most reasonable people would. But some of McNiesh's supporters have cast threats and dispersions on the character of the remaining Commissioners and the Burgess with no basis than their desire to abide by the stated rules found in the Town of Walkersville charter.

At best, social media can be a tool of instruction and information, but as evident in Walkersville, it can be a source of misinformation, destructive comments, and character assassination. When fraught with innuendo and misinformation, it cannot be a good

thing and only serves to light the fires under others willing to accept the misinformation as gospel. These people have not taken the time to read and study the Town charter and only rely on one person's view. Unfortunately, this has led to chaos on the social media websites designed for better purposes.

It is our hope the townspeople who have succumbed to this action will take a breath, conduct their own due diligence, and make better decisions. Others in and around Walkersville expect this.

Walkersville Town Burgess
Chad Weddle

Walkersville Town Commissioner Mary Brodie-Ennis
Walkersville Town Commissioner Gary Baker
Walkersville Town Commissioner Tom Gilbert

Town Election continued from page 1

first sports team and my journey into volunteering began. I found my niche in coaching and have spent the last few decades on the fields and courts of our community. This time afforded me the opportunity to meet and work closely with the families of our town as well as to become familiar with many town procedures and regulations."

"I look forward to the opportunity of working with our community in a different capacity. I believe the well-being and welfare of our town residents must be at the forefront of every decision to be made.

As a business owner, I believe in the values of honesty and hard work. As a commissioner, I see myself not only helping to guide our town towards responsible management and growth, but also rolling my sleeves up and joining in the work that it will take to get things done."

McNiesh said he is seeking to reclaim his old seat to advocate for initiatives that will improve the quality of life in Walkersville. "While keeping responsible spending at the forefront of my proposals, I have pushed for appropriate projects to support our entire town, and to provide assistance for those in need. I advocated for increased spending in our local parks, and

we now have an amazing new play structure at Walkersville Community Park, with accessibility for children of all abilities. Huge thanks to the Parks Committee for seeing this project through!"

"Another effort on my part will be to ensure fiscal responsibility in the recent implementation of a 12.5% property tax reduction for our Walkersville taxpayers. Once I realized the surplus Walkersville had accumulated over the past two decades, it did not make sense to continue collecting your tax money that was not being utilized to

your benefit. People love Walkersville because we are small and quaint, and I want to keep it that way. Our infrastructure cannot accommodate rapid development, and I will advocate for us to remain the small town we all know and love. As your Commissioner, I will work to improve Walkersville while maintaining its small-town charm."

The Council, as of press time, had not determined how they will fill the seat of Michael Bailey, who resigned in January following his decision to move his family to North Carolina.

At the January 11 Town Council meeting, the Council agreed, in a three to one vote, to shorten the election hours for any special elections in 2023, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.. Commissioner Bailey cast the only dissenting vote.

Residents have until February 7 to request an absentee ballot. Residents can request a ballot at the town hall, and if they so wish, can fill them out right then and there. All absentee ballots must be returned to the town offices by February 7.



VOTE
Feb. 13
David
Toohey
for

Walkersville Town Commissioner

I am David Toohey and am running for Walkersville Town Commissioner in the upcoming Special Election.

As a member of the Parks Committee and a 20 year resident, I am already committed to Walkersville, but want to solidify that commitment by becoming a Town Commissioner.

My family and I have enjoyed building our lives and raising our family in Walkersville and believe that others should as well.

I am currently on my 2nd term as a member of the Walkersville Parks committee. During my tenure, I've assisted in the Memorial Bench and Tree program for our parks. I successfully worked with the town to expand the walking trails available in Walkersville Community Park, where we will have an additional loop added this spring.

The town deserves transparency from their elected officials demonstrated by Commissioners Mike McNiesh and Mike Bailey. I plan to continue that openness.

Please consider me when you cast your vote on Feb. 13.

For those of you who want to talk more, email me.

David.Toohy@gmail.com

Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

Happy February we are over halfway through winter with 7 more weeks until spring. I have personally been grateful for the mild winter that we have had so far and am looking forward to spring.

At our January 10th meeting we also held a public hearing about whether to allow chickens in town. The current town code that was written in 1972 does not allow them. We opened the meeting up with this topic and allowed any town resident up to 3 minutes to speak on the issue. We had several town residents in attendance

and the majority that was there spoke in favor of allowing chickens. With the information that was provided the council voted 3-1 not to take the vote that night, but rather to let our planning and zoning committee who met on January 23rd to put in place what the regulations would be such as herd size, distance from property line for chicken coops, etc. Planning and Zoning met on January 23rd and the council will vote on the measure at the February 14th meeting.

I did give another an update on

the town hall progress. Our engineer and architect are working diligently on it and our engineer feels that there is a good chance we could see shovels going into the ground by late spring. I as well as many others will be happy to see this progression happening.

This month has been very quiet in the town so there isn't much more to report on. Next month there will be more.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) if you have clothes or food donations as they are always in need of items for members of the community. For more information, please contact GVCS by email at gvcs.inc@verizon.net, or call 301-845-0213.

If you have any questions, concerns, complaints, or compliments please feel free to reach out to me at hbarnes@woodsboro.org or by phone at 301-401-7164.

Woodsboro Town meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. In addition, Planning and Zoning meetings are at 6pm on the First Monday of the month as needed. If you have an item for the agenda it needs to be submitted 14 days before the P&Z meeting. The current location for meetings is the St. Johns United Church of Christ located at 8 N 2nd Street Woodsboro, MD 21798. The public is always invited to attend.

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LOCAL & COUNTY GOVERNMENT

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

It's hard to believe that it's already February! The Maryland General Assembly is in full swing, with many new faces representing Frederick County in Annapolis, thanks to new district lines. I was honored to be in Annapolis to witness the historic moment when Governor Wes Moore took his oath of office. One of his first acts was to propose his budget, with increased levels of funding for education and transportation among other initiatives.

We are working on a budget here in Frederick County, as well. I say "we" because hundreds of residents have shared their priorities for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1. We kicked off the new year with a series of listening sessions. I hosted meetings in all five council districts, from Thurmont to Brunswick, and was joined by the local County Council member and at-large members.

Scores of people turned out at each event, many speaking at a public meeting for the very first time. Parents asked for our oldest schools to be renovated

or replaced. Farmers spoke about the importance of preserving agriculture. Residents spoke passionately about the difference a library would make in their community. Seniors advocated for additional staff to support the 60,000 people over age 60 who live in Frederick County. Some speakers asked for trails to connect towns and neighborhoods so people could get places without a car. A few homeowners requested lower property taxes, while others said they would pay more in taxes if it meant more funding for education. Some complained that new houses are being built so fast that schools are overcrowded.

If you came to the town hall at Catoctin High School, or another location, thank you for taking time to share your priorities with me. If you chose to submit your thoughts through our online portal, please know that I will read all the comments as I begin the difficult task of drafting the County's budget. If you would still like to share your ideas and priorities, you can do so at FrederickCountyMD.gov/BudgetPublicHearing.

There are more opportunities to be heard before the budget is adopted. In March, you will have a chance to use an interactive tool to decide which budget requests you would, or would not, fund. There will also be another public hearing in March. Then in April, I'll present my budget to the County Council. The Council will hold its own public meetings, including another public hearing on the proposed spending plan.

Mental Health

One item that I am pleased to include in the next budget is continued funding for a new Crisis Stabilization Center. The center will allow people who are struggling with substance use disorder or mental health challenges to access treatment 24 hours a day, and in many cases prevent them from needing expensive emergency room care. One out of every five admissions at Frederick Health Hospital relate to behavioral or substance use issues. Statistics

show that 47% of all the 9-1-1 calls for behavioral health could be diverted from the emergency department when the Crisis Stabilization Center opens.

Frederick County's in-house construction crew in the Division of Public Works will begin work on the center this month, and should be ready to open late this summer. The Frederick County Health Department will oversee the center. Staffing will be provided by the Mental Health Association of Frederick County.

Our Federal delegation, which includes U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, as well as Congressman David Trone, came to Winchester Hall in late January to learn more about the Crisis Stabilization Center. They presented a check for \$699,000, which will allow Frederick County to purchase the equipment needed to open the center. The funds were approved as part of the most recent Congressionally Directed Spending package. Frederick County received a second federal grant of \$850,000 last fall to help stand up the Crisis Stabilization Center.

Day-to-day operational costs will be

supported in part by the County's share of legal settlement payments from opioid manufacturers and distributors. Those payments will total nearly \$12 million over the next 17 years.

Design Our County Flag

Are you an artist or graphic designer? Have you ever imagined your design flying from flag poles? Frederick County's 275th anniversary planning committee is holding a contest to pick a new design for the official county flag.

Residents of any age are invited to submit original designs that illustrate a message of unity. Former residents are also eligible to compete. Designers are limited to a single entry per person. A selection committee will score each design. The top three submissions will be announced in April, and the public will vote on which of the three designs will become the official flag of Frederick County.

The winning design will be unfurled at the county's 275th Anniversary Jubilee on June 10. You can find entry forms and contest instructions at FrederickCountyMD.gov/275flagcontest.

Walkersville Town Council Candidate David Toohey

I am running for Walkersville Commissioner in the upcoming Special Election. I was inspired to run for Commissioner when I heard that the remaining Commissioners may appoint someone to fill the vacancy Mike Bailey's departure will create. As a member of the Parks Committee and a 20-year resident, I am already committed to Walkersville, but wanted to solidify that commitment by becoming a Town Commissioner. I fully support an additional special election which would allow my neighbors to elect me to represent them, but if the town chooses to appoint someone, I want our residents to know I am committed to them and what they feel the town needs. My family and I have enjoyed building our lives and raising our family in Walkersville and believe that others should as well. Whether your family has generations that have lived in Walkersville, or if your family is the first to call it home, you should be considered an equal member of our town.

My wife and I relocated to the Walkersville area in 2002. We have two sons, and through them we were involved in supporting several GVAA sports including T-ball, Football and Wrestling. We are still active in sports through our Class

of 2023 WHS Lacrosse Goalie and our oldest son earned his Eagle Scout with local Troop 1011. I have worked for the Federal Aviation Administration supporting their aeronautical charts and products for over 20 years.

I am currently on my 2nd term as a member of the Walkersville Parks committee. During my tenure on this committee, I assisted in the Memorial Bench and Tree program for our parks. I successfully worked with the town to expand the walking trails available in Walkersville Community Park, where we will have an additional loop added in Spring 2023. At the most recent town meeting, I suggested that we expand Walkersville Community Park and support the Bike and Rail Trail, by purchasing nearly 12 additional acres of land that is currently for sale on Biggs Ford Road. From discussions with residents, including the communities directly adjacent to that land, I know that there is support from our community to keep that green space open and available for residents to enjoy.

The town deserves transparency from their elected officials that was demonstrated by Commissioners Mike McNiesh and Mike Bailey and I plan to continue that openness. I believe in smart growth that supports

a community such as Walkersville, and want to bring Walkersville into the 21st century while embracing its rich history. We need more small businesses that will continue to bring our town together, such as a small coffee shop or bookstore, this will improve our already walkable community.

In my opinion, the current slate of commissioners should be putting more effort into transparency and openness as our elected officials. McNiesh

and Bailey set an excellent example of how to respond and keep residents informed and if elected, I plan to follow that example. Residents need to be able to reach out to their elected officials and receive an answer, even if the answer is "I don't know but I will get back to you." In my role as a Parks Committee member, I suggested we set up a "Meet the Committee" so that our neighbors can approach us in a less formal and less intimidating setting to

discuss issues. It is my goal to make our elected commissioners and committee members more approachable outside of meetings and their neighborhoods.

I know that Commissioner Mike McNiesh deserves your vote, he may even get mine, but if the residents of Walkersville have an opportunity to cast another vote, I hope they would consider me. For those of you who want to talk more, please email me, David.Toohy@gmail.com.

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

February perceptions

Shannon Bohrer

February is the shortest month of the year and contains three well known holidays, Ground Hog Day, President's Day, and Valentine's Day. Early in the month the ground hog, Punxsutawney Phil, predicts the weather. While Presidents Day celebrates all of our presidents, George Washington, and President Abraham Lincoln, who were both born in February are the ones most celebrated. Unlike the first two holidays, Valentine's Day is a global holiday with incredibly old origins. Growing up I remember all three of these holidays, specifically Valentine's Day because it was celebrated in grade school, with the exchange of cards with classmates.

Our thoughts on the shortest month of the year are varied and some of the variations are also interconnected and yet also distinctive. Many people think of February as the beginning of the end of winter, and others like to think it is a transition month, not winter but also not spring. It is common to have significant snow in February, and also mild spring like days. So, February can very often can fit into both winter and spring, and often does.

The prediction of February's weather

is related to Ground Hog Day. Of course, using a ground hog to determine the future weather, for the next six weeks, is neither logical nor scientific. Long range data shows that Punxsutawney Phil only being correct between 36 to 39 percent of the time. Punxsutawney Phil's poor prediction rate is often belittled, but compared to the professionals, it is not that bad. On average, the 10-day weather forecast from professional meteorologists has an accuracy rate of 50 percent, and Punxsutawney Phil's, for 42 days has an accuracy rate of 36 to 39 percent.

While Presidents Day is a celebration of all our presidents, we generally focus on two presidents, our first president, George Washington and our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln. The belief of many historians is that they are our most famous Presidents. General Washington defeated the British to help create our country and Abraham Lincoln defeated the Southern States Insurrectionist to save the nation that Washington helped create.

George Washington was reported to have said that he could not tell a lie, which means he might not be electable today. He also stepped down from the president's office after just two terms, setting in motion a continuum of government not dependent upon one person, or party. President Washington set

the bar high which is why he is held in high regard and rightfully so. I wonder what he would think of the country today.

President Abraham Lincoln is widely known for leading the country during the civil war, his Gettysburg address and freeing the slaves. Historians agree that he was integral in saving the union. His administration held the country together during the civil war, not an easy task. What we are as a nation today, has a direct relationship to his presidency. Lincoln, like Washington, possessed many admirable traits. One of his best known was his honesty. When Lincoln was a young man he walked miles – just to return a few pennies.

"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom"

—Thomas Jefferson

Presidents Day is a time of reflection for not just their service, but their values, what they accomplished for our country and their contribution to our nation. When you reflect upon our past presidents, it is amazing how much they influenced our lives centuries later. It is also amazing how high they set the bar, and at times, how far we have strayed.

How many current politicians would say they cannot tell a lie, or would return any sum or money, for

any reason? While we honor all of our presidents, the idea of not telling a lie or being honest, like Honest Abe, seems like an old history lesson. Even Punxsutawney Phil is honest, he might not be the best weather predictor, but there is no evidence that he lies.

February is the only month with a holiday that celebrates love. On the surface Valentine's Day seems unique and not really connected to the other holidays. The day is unique in that is celebrated worldwide. The celebration is about expressing your love for others. What other holiday is known for a celebration of love? Candy, flowers, and cards with devotion of love, what's not to like about it? Of course, given our humanitarian values that includes respect and love of others, one would expect the holiday to be popular. Maybe the idea of the expressing your love should be practiced all year. Treating everyone with respect and telling someone that they special should not be limited to one day a year.

The month of February offers wisdoms with the three holidays we celebrate. Ground Hog Day is more than just a weather event. As humans we often see ourselves as different, or on a higher level than animals. Yet as humans the animals, domestic and wild, enrich our lives. Many animals, especially our pets are connected to our mental wellbeing. Can you image life with no animals? As Will Rogers once

said, "If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went."

We have Valentine's Day as a reminder to express our love and caring for those around us. Love and caring for others are important emotions that enriches our lives and should be acknowledged more than one day each year. Just as our pets make our lives better, having friends, and sometimes family members, adds meaning to our lives. What would your life be without your significant other, your children, friends, and pets?

Then we have Presidents Day, a day to reflect on the individuals that have founded and guided our country. The impact and influence these leaders had on our country affects us to this day. The freedoms we enjoy, that we often take for granted, are a direct result of many of our founding and former Presidents. Events over the last several years is a lesson that our freedoms are not guaranteed, and Presidents Day - is a reminder to pay attention. As President Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

If you like animals, love your friends and family members, and enjoy living in a democracy, February is a reminder of all three.

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

Tumbleweeds

Cancel Culture not very woke

Mark Greathouse

Censorship...cancel culture...shadow banning...visibility limiting...wokism. What are these often-unjust and at times criminal cultural anomalies derived from? What are woke standards of morality? For today's op-ed, I've lumped leftist dogma, cancel culture, and wokeness together as a one-in-the-same construct.

When I see woke cancel culture in action, I think of the perpetrators as only partially educated. They've generally been shielded from contrary viewpoints. The ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu spelled out how to control people, "keep their minds empty and bellies full." Decades have been spent corrupting our education system to the point where supposed academic elites deem themselves entitled to determine what we should and should not know. Censorship and its various manifestations are a byproduct of this phenomenon. The greater the censorship the faster the transition to tyrannical all-controlling governance. Let me be clear, the far right is also often guilty of censorship. The difference is that the political left is more inclined to shut down dissenting debate.

In my tumbleweed research of America's frontier west, I found it reassuring at how homesteaders, ranchers, merchants, and more saw education as vitally important. By today's "standards," frontier education was minimalist (e.g., no gender or race studies). It was often delivered in a one-room school housing multiple grade levels and replete books across essential

subjects with curricula delivered by someone perceived to harbor enough knowledge to be viewed as a teacher. Their version of social media was via newspapers, personal conversations, and telegraph. There was a de facto censorship of sorts, as long-held values that were rooted in biblical teachings and a sense of respect and common decency were integrated within the culture. Apparently, education back on the frontier effectively reduced the number of folks stupid enough to fall for what we call cancel culture.

So, what on earth has happened to mess things up over the past 150 or so years? There is a certain illiteracy endemic to wokism by virtue of lack of exposure to opposing views. "Constructivism" is the fertilizer for wokism. Have you ever heard of George Berkeley? He's the father of constructivism which essentially postulates that knowledge is created by individuals reacting to information they receive as opposed to being from a commonly-accepted, morally-bound objective state. Thus, information has no meaning in reality of itself but is what the individual perceives. Common sense becomes a mere personal social construct. For example; constructivism today forms the bedrock upon which censorship by government becomes easy so long as the government-approved message is accepted. Shadow banning or visibility filtering by social media is also an example. Constructivism is the premise for Newspeak in George Orwell's classic dystopian novel 1984, as control of information is the slippery slope to tyranny.

Morality? Yours, mine, or theirs?

Morally bereft constructivist woke whim of the day versus traditional faith-based morality? It's like the proverbial house built on sand that crumbles in the storm versus the house built on rock that stands solidly. The wokist cancel culture is atheistic and thereby without any rock-solid moral values.

Where constructivism goes especially awry is when a small segment of counter-culture individuals has an outsized influence on public discourse, falling back to emotion-driven rationales when intellectual reasoning fails them. The outcomes these woke folk deliver provoke serious kerfuffles. It's easy to win a debate if other side is silenced (beaten into submission), and the woke leftists are well-practiced at silencing dissent from their views. A great example was the vainglorious bureaucrat Dr. Fauci who wouldn't tolerate dissent from his opinions supposedly couched in "science" that changed constantly and which arguably resulted in far greater life loss for COVID victims. Free speech for wokists but no one else simply doesn't cut the mustard.

Ironically, wokism is espoused by a small minority of our nation's population but garners a large voice thanks to its acolytes in media, academia, politics, government, corporations, and education. What do the likes of Meta, American Express, Amazon, Walt Disney Company, Levi Strauss, Bank of America, Apple, Nike, Starbucks, NBA, NFL, and many more organizations have in common? They've all caved to the woke cancel-culture agenda such as it is. They lack the spine and moral fortitude to resist the minority wokist gaggle. For example, blatant federal government induced censorship collusion with big tech was strikingly unveiled

with Elon Musk's release of revelatory internal Twitter emails. It's a sad state of affairs, when industry elites collude with government and the minority cancel culture to shape what Americans are supposed to believe. Heaven forbid there should be any sort of syncretism, the reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief as in philosophy or religion.

Illiteracy among the woke is alarming in its narrow cultural focus. Lao Tzu's philosophy is delivered today by self-serving bureaucrats and politicians like Dr. Fauci, President Biden, Adam Schiff, Alejandro Mayorkas, and their ilk. Woke cancel culture thus preaches to a rabble made brainless and gullible by a fawning, failing, education system bought and paid for politicians and by a decidedly leftist news media. The cancel culture mostly uses uncertainty and fear as a socio-political bludgeon.

In an era of entitled spoiled brats, wokists are experts at forming social media lynch mobs. Per Karl Marx's playbook, they relentlessly attack religion (e.g., many Portland rioters used Bibles as fire starters) and family (e.g., abortion on demand, LBGTQ promotion, and schools preempting parental rights in child raising). It's far more than toppled statues, profanity-laced graffiti, burned out neighborhoods, and changed school and sports team names. Woke's constructivist roots have been growing for decades and folks would have to be blind or uneducated to not see how it parallels the underpinnings of Communism. Not to be paranoid, but Americans ought to be looking over their shoulders warily at China. For a sneak preview, folks need only consider California with its seemingly inexorable slide toward being the next Cuba or Venezuela.

As wokists and their liberal compatriots seek to divide the nation over cultural, political, racial, and gender lines, we dare not forget that our nation's motto is E Pluribus Unum (out of many one) not Me Primum (me first). And we should take Benjamin Franklin's warning to heart "a republic, if you can keep it." Indeed, our mettle is being tested by the small mob of well-funded, media-supported wokists in our midst. As to the wokists themselves, they're arguably intellectual and cultural cowards.

What do we do about it? We stop appeasing the woke crowd; we challenge woke indoctrination in our colleges and K-12 schools by securing equal time for opposing views (cancel the cancellers); we stop dumbing down our education system in the name of "equity" (aka, lowest common denominator); we boycott the corporations caving to wokists; we express our opposing views through social media, op-eds, and letters to editors; we don't feed the coffers of wokist universities by enrolling our children into their indoctrination echo chambers; we promote exceptionalism in resistance to a world of participation trophies; we seek office ourselves or elect legislators that stand firm for our rights as enumerated in the U.S. Constitution; and we support parents being in charge of their children rather than government-run schools.

Make no mistake, cancel culture will die if resisted and resist we must if we are to keep our republic. Folks need to be seriously questioning the heritage they are leaving for future generations.

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

The Bulwark

Will the GOP walk the Fair Tax plank?

Jim Swift

Not all of Kevin McCarthy's concessions to the House Freedom Caucus have been made public, but one that has gone largely unremarked deserves more attention: The new speaker of the House has agreed to grant the "Fair Tax Act" a vote on the House floor, its first since its conception in 1999 by talk-radio host Neal Boortz and Georgia politician John Linder.

The Fair Tax Act would replace income, payroll, gift, corporate, and death taxes with a federal consumption (sales) tax. To ensure that the legislation actually replaces rather than adds to existing taxes, the bill includes a provision that the new tax would expire in seven years if the Sixteenth Amendment, which allows for federal income taxes, is not repealed. (Keen-eyed readers will notice that this creates the bizarre possibility of federal tax revenue going down to zero after seven years, if income taxes are not collected but the Sixteenth Amendment remains on the books.)

The bill's backer in the current Congress is Georgia Rep. Earl LeRoy "Buddy" Carter, who voted for McCarthy for speaker on all fifteen ballots last week. Carter is not a member of the Freedom Caucus. However, the Fair Tax (or "Fair-Tax") Act is popular with members of the Freedom Caucus: McCarthy had to promise a floor vote on it in exchange for their support in the speakership contest. Politico's Sarah Ferris reports that bringing the bill to a vote was a demand from all twenty holdouts.

Whether McCarthy will deliver on this promise is unclear. On paper, the bill sounds like a mes-

saging win for Republicans: Abolish the IRS using this one neat trick! You never lose with the base by bashing the IRS. But the political reality is more complicated—as is the math.

The Fair Tax idea has never really had any serious support because it's not a serious proposal, but a bit of niche talk-radio kitsch from a generation ago. Yet it has become a right of passage for Georgia Republicans to introduce it as the panacea to big government—by means of a federal 23 percent tax inclusive sales tax. (That 23 percent number is misleading—calculated the normal way, the tax exclusive rate is actually 30 percent.) If a federal sales tax were to match current government tax revenues, the actual rate would have to be higher.

Sound regressive? It is! But don't worry, like any talk-radio proposal, there's an equally wacky solution to the problems posed by the wacky tax proposal itself: the "prebate," a monthly check mailed to taxpayers. The Fair Tax organizers frame it this way: "This gives every legal resident household an 'advance refund' at the beginning of each month so that purchases made up to the poverty level are tax-free. The prebate prevents an unfair burden on low-income families."

I know what you're thinking: Mailing hundreds of millions of checks twelve times a year sounds complicated. But don't you worry, talk-radio listener, because the big brains behind the Fair Tax have got you covered. . . with a smart card. Per the most recent House version of the bill: "The Social Security Administration may provide rebates in the form of smart cards that carry cash balances in their memory for

use in making purchases at retail establishments or by direct electronic deposit."

Oh, good, the money can go out by electronic deposit. Whew. Who knew that getting rid of the IRS meant turning one annual tax return into twelve opportunities for the federal government to fall down while spraying the American people with a money hose? Cross your fingers!

Bruce Bartlett, the former deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury, eviscerated the Fair Tax in a Wall Street Journal op-ed in 2007, when then-Gov. Mike Huckabee was campaigning on the idea. (Bartlett also wrote an in-depth research paper for Tax Notes, if you care to take a deep dive.) He concluded: "The Fair Tax is too good to be true, and voters should not take seriously any candidate who supports it."

Indeed, nobody has ever taken the Fair Tax seriously.

Not in the years after the Tea Party wave, when the House Ways and Means Committee under Paul Ryan and Dave Camp dedicated years and numerous hearings to the subject of tax reform.

Not in 2011, when Texas Gov. Rick Perry briefly campaigned in support of the Fair Tax, only to quietly walk back his support and switch to a flat tax proposal.

Not in 2017, when the Republican-controlled Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Not in the last Congress, when Jamie Dupree wrote in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the proposal was "barely breathing," with 21 co-sponsors, a big step down from the 75 supporters it had in 2016. (The version now apparently destined to come up for a vote in the House has 11 backers so far.)

No, not until the desperate Kevin McCarthy needed to cut every possible deal to become speaker did the



Fair Tax get taken seriously.

Do moderate House Republicans really want to be forced to vote on the Fair Tax? Shouldn't a major overhaul of the tax system of the world's largest economy be subject to in-depth hearings by the House's tax writers? The Bulwark asked the new Ways and Means chairman, Rep. Jason Smith, about the Fair Tax legislation and its future in his committee, where it was referred after its introduction on Monday. He wasn't sure, answering: "I've been chairman for thirty hours," before walking away.

The Fair Tax has never been popular in the Senate, having never garnered more than eight senators as cosponsors. (The Fair Tax Act of 1985, which had 11 cosponsors, was a different proposal entirely.) Assuming the Fair Tax has the votes in the House—a big, unwieldy assumption that could come crashing down at any moment—it will be dead on arrival in the Senate.

In light of all this, why promise a vote on such a loser? Going straight to the floor poses risks, given the slim GOP majority. It's a lose-lose situation: Vote yes, and the House Republican Conference looks frivo-

lous, to say nothing of the messaging gift they would give Democratic speechwriters in 2024 ("Republicans want to instate a 30-plus percent federal sales tax!"). Vote no, and invite primaries by far-right candidates who will accuse you of siding with Democrats when given a chance to abolish the IRS. There's a reason Republicans have never brought any of the previous versions of the Fair Tax to a vote before.

It's possible that McCarthy agreed to a floor vote expecting moderates to break ranks and the bill to fail by a spectacular margin. That would drive a stake through the heart of the Fair Tax. But this interpretation probably gives him too much credit.

What's likelier is that McCarthy knew this was a promise he could break. He never said anything about when he would bring the bill to the floor, and he has plenty of more important votes ahead. It is certainly not lost on him that some of these upcoming votes could occasion a rebellion that might threaten his hard-won speaker's gavel.

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

Good Day, Neighbor

Valentine to caregivers

Dorothea Mordan

Traditions come from somewhere. Saint Valentine is a composite of historic religious figures that includes St. Valentine of Viterbo, St. Valentine of Rhetia, and others who share martyrdom because of their beliefs. Their life-works, and stories have combined into the legendary St. Valentine, patron saint of such disparate areas as love, epilepsy and beekeeping. St. Valentine is thought to have been a priest and physician. In his life as an early Christian priest he married couples according to that faith. This was in the 3rd century, A.D. during the end of the Roman Empire, and so was against the laws of that time. As a physician, St. Valentine was said to have cured blindness, including that of a daughter of the jailer where he was held at the end of his life.

Changes in society's tolerance, religious or otherwise, happen over long stretches of time. Christianity, once established, was just

as capable of producing leaders who would martyr nonbelievers, as did the Roman Emperors who fed Christians to the lions. Social change has long inspired humans to kill. It was, and still is, bad behavior.

The almost 2000 years since St. Valentine's death have delivered us a holiday to celebrate love and chocolate. The story of St. Valentine, though, is at its heart, the story of a caregiver. One reason his story persists is that we each need acceptance and understanding. What is more proof of that than having a day to celebrate your partner in love and life.

Caregivers have the same objective as the St. Valentines of the world—to shake up society, hoping to bring change for those in need. Whether it is medical, spiritual, or economic, the groups that inspire them are usually the underserved and forgotten. Consider if you need what the St. Valentines of the world do.

The impact that caregivers have,

is an inspiration for cultural shift from "me" to "we". A large amount of our current public political debate is centered on what is good in it for ME. Just by saying that private business/medical practice and our social structure and economy would be better than a social safety net organized by the government doesn't make it so. The reverse is also true. The government, no matter how well intentioned, cannot replace communities where people work together to solve problems. When we do not work together for improved quality of life for each other, we get more government intervention—like the intersection where one too many traffic fatalities happen. We ultimately agree to impose a traffic light and a speed limit. When we get too many bureaucratic details invading our everyday lives, we start mini revolts to give voice to our person grievances. Again, it is about me.

Caregivers see an imbalance and take the pressure off where they can.

Some caregiving is obvious. 24 hour nursing care for friends and loved ones who need specialized care. Mental health professionals

helping any one of us with invisible traumas. Teachers. Each of us has been to school, and had to find our path to understanding the world we live in. Teachers show us how to look at life from different perspectives as we find our way. Counselors. Each of us has been the giver or receiver of bullying, peer pressure, misunderstanding. Counselors guide us to addressing the root of the problem, so we have a chance of solving it.

The support staff in our public school system give their all everyday to take care of our kids and back up our teachers in the front lines. Administrators, secretaries, school nurses, custodians, food service professionals, bus drivers—thank you Amy!—librarians, and everyone with a title I haven't learned yet, are the daily first responders for our kids.

Some caregiving is more subtle. Just as we each have things that make our blood boil at the mere mention of a different opinion, we each have the ability to take the energy out of empty arguments. An argument based solely on having an opposing opinion is pretty empty, but that's just my opinion.

A thoughtful person with a full grocery cart sees you have few items and lets you go ahead.

The person who doesn't lose patience with you when you are having a bad day, about to lose your own patience.

Each of these is an example of an impact on our daily quality of life that has the unsung attribute of costing zero while taking the pressure off of our shared public argument about private versus government order. A lot of what any of us can find annoying is rooted in how our well planned life is ruined by the social order around us. We each have opportunities to take the pressure off, to be Radar of the 4077th M*A*S*H.

There is no one size fits all solution to any human problem. Community-based or government-funded, we each do the best we can. Caregivers see us at our best and worst. They take care of us anyway. Let's take care of them, and ourselves.

Happy Valentine's Day to you.

To learn more about *Walkersville's* own Dorothea, visit her site at *chandlerdesignslimited.com*.

PASTOR'S DESK

Crown the year with your goodness

Pastor Jacki Dvorak
Providence Baptist Church

Many consider New Year's Resolutions each year about this time: We make promises to eat healthier, exercise, stop this or that, etc. All great ideas, and we tend to be highly motivated on January 1st, but where are we on February 1st? Still motivated, or fizzling down? I saw a funny meme recently that said, "I used to just 'Crastinate,' but then I got really good at it and I went Pro!"

Let's face facts, many of us are Pro-crastinators! What does the Bible teach us about that? Here's a few verses to consider: Galatians 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." I Corinthians 14:40 "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way." and most important, II Corinthians 6:2b "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

Yes, we all make choices every day, and every choice we make effects our lives in some way, be it large or small. But what is the most important choice in life? What is the choice that will be the most significant and ultimately have an eternal effect? It is the choice to accept (or reject!) Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

Let's start off 2023 with a New Year's Resolution to become a changed and new person—one who is a believer and follower of Christ, the most important choice! II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

How can you become this new creature? If we follow the "Romans

Road," (verses from the book of Romans in the Bible,) we can walk down the road to the choice of salvation—often called God's Simple Plan of Salvation.

The following is the King James Version (KJV) of the "Romans Road":

"As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one.'" (Romans 3:10) The Apostle Paul declares that no single human being is "righteous" (best understood as "right with God".)

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Some may protest that they are a good person, especially when compared to people they know or observe, however, the Apostle Paul points out that the standard isn't any other human, but rather God Himself. The standard is God's holiness, not man's, and all of us fall short of that standard!

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) Agreeing that we are all sinners who fall short of God's glory, the Apostle Paul explains that the "wages" (or earnings) of our sin is "death." This includes both physical death and spiritual death. Physical death is when your soul separates from your body. Spiritual death is when your soul is separated from God. And this separation from God extends into eternity. Because of our sin, we face the certainty of both physical death and eternal separation from God.

But the Apostle Paul doesn't leave us with just bad news! The second half of the verse says, "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." To further

explain this, we step back a chapter in Romans to go to the next marker on the Romans Road.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) God doesn't leave us in our sinful state, facing both physical and spiritual death. He commended (gave) love to us even when we didn't deserve it. Even when we were deep in sin, "Christ died for us."

What do we do this information? Let's continue on the Roman's Road...

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13) The bad news is we all fall short of God's glory and we all face both physical and spiritual death because of it. The good news is that God loved us, sent Jesus to die for us, and anyone who calls upon "the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Call upon Him now—right now! Don't PRO-crastinate! Take a moment while reading this and whisper a prayer to God. He will hear you and He will save you! Then what? Read the Bible, God's instruction manual to His children, Pray—talk to God; He listens! Find other Christians to fellowship with and go to church. This is how we grow our faith! Grow stronger in Him and live an abundant life—RESOLVE to make 2023 your best year ever!

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

The House of the Lord—what a glorious thing that is! As King David says in this verse, just thinking about God's House brings gladness to the heart! We can think of God's house as the church building, but His word also tells us that the Christian



Believer is the actual dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) We are reminded to glorify God in our bodies—that means with our words and deeds. Let us first trust Him for our salvation and then strive to do our best to glorify Him! Make Good Choices!

Providence Baptist Church enjoys the privilege of meeting in God's house, the historic brick building at 40 Main Street. This church has been a beacon for Christ in Walkersville for over 100 years. It is beautiful inside and out; the building is in stable but understandably declining condition. We are tasked (and blessed) with the stewardship of caring for not only God's children, but His earthly house as well.

It is an honor to stand in the pulpit each week to preach God's word, knowing that many dedicated Christians have preceded in that very spot. On November 20th, we had a Homecoming Service which brought together folks who were involved with the church in years past, [or who want to be involved now!] Native Walkersville resident and former long-time member of Georgetown Chapel, [the original name of our church,] Pastor John Schildt was the keynote speaker.

Pastor Schildt is the current pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church in Rohbersville, Maryland. He is a dedicated man of God, a seasoned student of God's Word, and an expert in local history. His message was informative; filled with Biblical truths, personal reflections, touching stories, and fascinating facts concerning not only the church history but other Walkersville and local history. We celebrated the day with special music presentations by Walkersville musician, John Grimes, as well as old fashioned hymn singing, sharing and fellowship, prayer, and light refreshments. It was indeed a most enjoyable event. We hope to do a similar event in the future, and perhaps an annual Homecoming. Our sincere thanks to all who participated.

The church meets each Sunday at 11 am. — all are welcome. Although small, we are praying to grow. We would love to have you as our guest! Striving to carry out the great commission in Walkersville and everywhere, we look forward to seeing you soon...

Pastor Don Dvorak and his wife Jacki, reside in "old town" Walkersville. Don is a native of Baltimore and a graduate of The Baltimore School of the Bible and Philadelphia Bible College and Seminary. He has served as Associate Pastor & Music Director at Chesapeake Baptist Church, in Severn Maryland, Soul-Winning Director and Elder at Grace Bible Baptist Church, in Catonsville Maryland, (where he was ordained in 2002), Elder at Fredericktowne Baptist Church, in Walkersville, and has pastored Providence Baptist Church since February 2018. His wife is the former Jacki Fogle, a native and life-long resident of Walkersville. They have been married for almost 40 years, have four sons and five grandsons. Both Don and Jacki are employed full time in addition to their ministries. It is our privilege to serve—what a mighty God we serve!!

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Isaiah 14:10

Ash Wednesday - February 22

Soup and Ashes

Drop in anytime between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. for a hot bowl of soup and receive your ashes. For more information call the church or check our website.

Come and worship with us in our Sanctuary
Sunday Mornings at 10 a.m.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

John of Gaunt



Edward the Third's fourth son, John, born at Ghent, or, as it was then spelt, Gaunt, during his father's expedition to Flanders, in February 1340, and called from that circumstance, John of Gaunt, has obtained a greater name amongst celebrated princes than his own merits would perhaps justify, probably in some measure from his inheriting the popularity of his elder and greater brother, the Black Prince.

John, when two years old, was created Earl of Richmond. After the death of the great warrior, Henry Duke of Lancaster, in 1360, John of Gaunt, who had married his daughter the princess Blanche, was raised by his father, King Edward, to that dukedom. In the adventurous expedition which the Black Prince made into Spain in 1367, his brother John accompanied him. Two years later, accompanying the Black Prince on a march which he made through France to the English possessions in the south, John took the command of the army, on his brother

being obliged by the state of his health to return to England. Immediately afterwards John of Gaunt married the Spanish princess Constance, eldest daughter of Don Pedro, whom he had first seen at Bordeaux in 1367; and, as her father had been murdered by his rival, the usurper Don Enrique, the Duke of Lancaster assumed in his wife's right the title of King of Castile and Leon. In the continuous wars with France which followed, John of Gaunt was a brave but not a successful commander, and they were put an end to by the truce of 1374.

The Black Prince died on the 8th of June 1376, two years after this peace. Since his return to England, he had espoused the popular cause against his father's government, and thus became a greater favourite than ever with the nation. His brother of Lancaster, on the contrary, was unpopular, and supported the abuses of the court. After his death, John of Gaunt became all powerful in the parliament, and high in favour with his father the king; but in his hostility to

the opposition which had been supported by the Black Prince, he quarrelled violently with the Church, and especially with William of Wickham, Bishop of Winchester, whom he persecuted with inveterate hatred.

It is believed that the Duke's hostility to the bishops was the main cause of the support he gave to John Wycliffe, the great Church reformer, by which he certainly did good service to the English Reformation in its first beginning, and gained popularity among the Lollards. But even here he proceeded with the intemperance which especially marked his character. The prelates, provoked by the encouragement thus openly given to innovators in Church doctrines and government, cited Wycliffe to appear in St Paul's Church, before Courtenay, Bishop of London, to answer for his opinions. He came there on the 19th of February 1377, supported by the Duke of Lancaster and the Lord Henry Percy, Marshal of England, in person, with a formidable array of knights.

The bishop was highly offended by this bold advocacy of men who came there to be tried as heretics, and high words passed between him and the Duke, who is said to have threatened 'to pull down the pride of him, and of all the bishops of England,' and to have talked of dragging him out of the church by the hair of his head.

A great crowd of citizens, who were present, spewed an inclination to take part with the bishop, and, further irritated by some proceedings in parliament which threatened their municipal rights, they rose tumultuously next morning, and rushing first to the house of the Marshal, broke into it, and committed various acts of violence. Not, however, finding Lord Henry Percy there, they hastened to the Savoy, the palace of the Duke of Lancaster, where 'a priest chancing to meete them, asked of some, what that business meant. Whereunto he was answered, that they went to take the Duke and the Lord Percy, that they might be compelled to deliver to them Sir Peter de la More, whome they unjustly kept in prison. The priest sayde that Peter de la More was a traytour to the king, and was worthy to be hanged. With which words they all cried,

"This is Percy! this is the traytour of England! his speech bewrayeth him, though hee bee disguised in apparel." Then ranne they all upon him, striv-

ing who should give him his death wound, and after they had wounded him, they caryed him to prison, where he dyed.'

The Bishop of London now arrived and appeased the rioters, but not till the great courtiers against whom their wrath had been excited were in great terror. The Duke and the Lord Henry Percy happened to be dining with a Flemish merchant named John of Ypres; 'but the Londoners knew it not, for they thought that he and the duke had beene at the Savoy, and therefore with all hast posted thither. But one of the dukes knights seeing these things, in great haste came to the place where the duke was, and, after that he had knocked and could not get in, hee sayd to Haverland the porter, "If thou love my lord and thy life, open the gate I" with which wordes hee got entrey, and with great feare hee telles the duke that without the gate were infinite numbers of armed men, and, unlesse hee tooke great heede, that day should bee his last. With which words, when the duke heard them, he leapt so hastily from his oysters, that he hurt both his legges against the fourme. Wine was offered to his oysters, but hee would not drinke for haste. Hee fledde with his fellow Syr Henry Percy, no maniac following them, and, entering the Thamis, never stinted rowing untill they came to a house neere the manor of Kenington (besides Lambeth), where at that tyme the princessse was, with the young prince, before whom he made his complaint.'

The Londoners were summoned before the King, who effected a reconciliation between them and the Duke; but, old Stow adds in his quaint manner, 'in the meane space some men ceased not to make rymes in reproeh of the duke, and to fasten them in divers places of the city, whereby the greater fury of the people might be kindled, the dukes flame blotted, and his name had in destestation.'

This was one of the last public audiences given by King Edward III, who died on the 21st of June following. At the beginning of the following reign, the hostile feeling between the Londoners and John of Gaunt continued, but his power had greatly declined, and for a while he took little part in public business.

In Wat Tyler's rebellion, when

the insurgents had obtained possession of London, they proclaimed the Duke of Lancaster as one of the arch-traitors, and burnt his palace of the Savoy to the ground. John of Gaunt was at this time in Scotland, employed in a diplomatic mission. He had not long returned from a hostile expedition to France, the ill success of which had increased his unpopularity. From this time forward the Duke was involved in frequent quarrels with his nephew the young king, and they became more and more difficult to reconcile, until at last Richard was glad to get rid of him by allowing him to carry an army of ten thousand men to Spain in order to recover by force the kingdom of Castile.

He landed at Corunna in the month of July 1385, and marched through Galicia into Portugal, where the King of Portugal not only joined him with an army, but married Philippa, John of Gaunt's eldest daughter by his first wife. He was at first successful against the Spaniards, but eventually having lost the greater part of his troops by famine and disease, he was obliged to make his retreat into Guienne, and was glad to conclude a treaty with the de facto King of Castile, by which John of Gaunt abandoned all his claim to the throne of Castile and Leon, in consideration of a large sum of money, and of the marriage of Henry Prince of the Asturias, the heir of Castile, with his daughter by his second wife.

On the return of the Duke of Lancaster from the Continent, he appears to have become suddenly popular, perhaps on account of his hostility to his nephew's favourites. He had been always accused of aiming at the English crown, and of a design to supplant the young King Richard; and it is said that he incurred Richard's final displeasure, by pressing the king too urgently to acknowledge his son Henry of Bolingbroke, heir to the throne.

From this time John of Gaunt lived retired from court until his death, which occurred at Ely House, in Holborn, on the 3rd of February 1399. It is hardly necessary to add, that within a few weeks afterwards his son became King of England, as Henry IV.

To read more selections from the Book of Days, visit Thebookofdays.com.



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Introducing ourselves

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

To all the wonderful readers of the Emmitsburg News-Journal, hello! My name is McKenna Snow, and I am the (somewhat) new Managing Editor for the News-Journal. Although this position is more recent for me, my work for the news-journal goes back about two years ago, when I began writing for the column "Four Years at the Mount." Traditionally, the authors for this column write a total of, as the title implies, four years. I took a non-traditional route through college and am graduating a year early, so here I am as the senior writer, and Managing Editor. Introductions under this newer title, which I will hold for about a year, seem to finally be in order.

First, a little introduction about me; second, it is also fitting to give a brief re-introduction to what the involvement of the Mount students in this paper is for. I will cover the first half quickly: I am a Theology major, with a minor in Philosophy. Before college, I was homeschooled, and must give a lot of credit to my mom for being the best teacher I know. At the Mount, I am a Women's Fellowship Leader, and I love to help lead music during the weeknight Praise and Worship Holy Hour. I am also a second-year Resident Assistant (RA), and am in the Honors Program. I have loved my time at the Mount and can't believe how fast graduation is com-

ing up, so I am determined to slow down this semester and enjoy time with good friends. I want to be a writer and/or editor post-graduation, and have loved working for the News-Journal. It has provided me an incredible opportunity in the writing world, as well as given me the opportunity to work with an amazing team of Mount students and Mike.

That being said, what is the purpose of involving Mount students in the production of this paper? For one, it is a great way to connect life at my vibrant school with the town's larger community. Our column aims at giving readers an insight into the personal thoughts, experiences, and education of the students at the Mount. For students, it teaches us how to write for those outside of ourselves and our immediate spheres, because our work is meant to be accessible to many. Though our grammar and punctuation might not be perfect at all times, the column aims to showcase the incredible talent, virtue, gifts, and potential of the students at the Mount. My job, and goal as Managing Editor, is to help cultivate these talents and potentials. Some of the best writers from the Mount are contributing to the News-Journal, and hopefully this gives you an insight to the great care that Mount students put into our words, beliefs, hopes, and work. In order to accomplish this, we have monthly meetings as a student staff, and I strive to check

in with everyone in-person whenever we see each other around the Mount ("How is Introducing ourselves your article going? Do you need any help or inspiration if you are having writer's block?"). Staying connected with one another, and having those conversations as the months roll along to see what we can do better is essential.

As the Managing Editor, I don't oversee every single article that gets published, but work mostly with just the student-involved pieces. However, in an effort to improve the grammar, punctuation, and quality of the articles overall, this year I have agreed to work with Mike in editing any additional articles he wants to send to me. An extra eye is always helpful in proof-reading, and I am more than happy to provide what services I can to help make this local paper top-quality.

When I was a freshman, I was hired by the senior writer and Managing Editor of 2020. That writer was hired by her Managing Editor, back in 2016 or so. This student hiring process can be traced all the way back to the very first student who worked for the News-Journal, as she chose her successor when graduation approached. This fall, I found myself in the position of hiring our freshman writer. Time will fly by for her as I know it has for me, and I hope this position is as rewarding to her as I have found it over the years. Picking successors is hard, but worth it, as I have deeply cherished working for this journal. Somewhere, down a line that started in 2011 when the first student began writing for the paper, I have a girl named Julia to thank for this opportunity.

As the Managing Editor this year, I hope to make our writing better with every article, and to provide for Emmitsburg a journal that elevates the mind and soul. As Mike has pointed out to me several times, most newspapers write at a fourth-grade reading level. The Emmitsburg News-Journal encourages its students to write at the college level, so as to not over-simplify and water down conversations worthy of significant effort. We aim for high-quality content, rather than high-quantity, even though the latter may produce more "on paper." Arguably, however, what



The Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal's Managing Editor McKenna Snow, Mount Saint Mary's Class of 2023.



The Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal's Assistant Editor Claire Doll, Mount Saint Mary's Class of 2024.

is published on paper produces more for those who read it, even if only in the mind. Overall, the News-Journal is a celebration of the intellect, the capacity to learn,

and the sharing of ideas. I hope to carry out the News-Journal's mission well, and look forward to what this year has in store for us as a community.

Hi News-Journal readers! I'm Claire Doll, your Assistant Managing Editor, and I'm so happy to be writing to you. I've been a Four Years at the Mount columnist for a year and a half, and I also write feature articles about things happening around the community.

My first foray into your community was my article on Ghost, the official cat greeter at Gardner's Garage in Woodsboro – and trusts me, it will not be my last pet story!

At the Mount, I study English education and creative writing. I hope to write books and also teach writing and literature to middle and high

school students! In addition to writing for the News-Journal, I am also editor-in-chief of Lighted Corners, our university literary magazine, and I love working out and being in nature.

My favorite things to write include short fiction and creative nonfiction, and my favorite artist is Taylor Swift (if you haven't caught the references in my articles). Thank you so much for reading my articles and being part of this wonderful community!

If you have anything you would like me to write about, please reach out me! I look forward to serving the community.



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Blessings in a Backpack, Frederick Chapter

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Seldom do we think about the students that leave school on Friday afternoon and do not know when they will eat next. Sometimes, these students won't have another meal until that Monday, when they return to school for breakfast or lunch. In Frederick County specifically, more than 13,300 kids are uncertain if they will have enough food to last them the weekend. Although this statistic is heartbreaking, the Frederick chapter of Blessings in a Backpack feeds these students and ensures that they have enough meals and snacks to eat in between Friday and Monday.

Blessings in a Backpack is a nonprofit, donation- and volunteer-driven organization that stands as a national program but serves individual chapters all across the country. In Frederick County alone, Blessings in a Backpack serves close to 4,000 local kids in 30 schools, all elementary. Essentially, students will receive a package of food sent with them home on Friday. The package is put in their backpack to ensure that they have a meal and snacks over the weekend. Students who qualify for this program are on free and reduced meals, and families on the edge of poverty levels.

Shannon Kelley, school coordinator for Blessings in a Backpack, works with Walkersville Elementary School, and represents the cluster of Walkersville, Glade, and Rock Creek. Shannon has been volunteering with Blessings in a Backpack for the past five years, and at Walkersville Elementary alone, she helps feed 250 kids

over the weekend. At Glade she helps feed 120 kids, and at Rock Creek, she helps feed 125 kids.

"It's a pretty quick, smooth process," Shannon says. Students grab their "Friday Friends" bags when they get excused as the buses are called. "It doesn't need to be a big thing," she notes, ensuring that the biggest priority is that students get fed. "It's almost like an underground program. People don't realize that it's here and in the school. When people hear about it, and how many children we serve, they are very surprised."

The program is so well-developed and effective that when COVID-19 hit in March 2020, Blessings in a Backpack was back to giving out food within a month. "Families that were coming were so appreciative," says Shannon. "We got thank you notes from kids for giving them extra food, because families were in such turmoil since parents weren't working." During the pandemic, Shannon found that interactions with the students through this program were more personable.

This year, Walkersville's Blessings in a Backpack needed funding from town commissioners. For the past two years, there were two federal grants in place that helped the program. The income level was lowered by about \$5,000, and families that were getting help were suddenly not qualified. Additionally, in 2022, there was an increased need in Frederick County. Shannon notes that the program coordinators look at their numbers and what they expect for the year. This year, students increased by 10%, so the organization rightfully prepared

for this change. Town commissioners voted to give Blessings in a Backpack extra money, which then cleared the wait list, and allowed all students to have access to weekend meals.

Although individual Blessings in a Backpack chapters will get grants, the community of Walkersville specifically gets public donations and food donated from different companies. For example, on November 4th, the Frederick Chick-fil-A staff spent their Sunday off packing 500+ bags of food for the chapter. Additionally, volunteers will hold packing events for blizzards and inclement weather, calling the packages "blizzard bags" for students who might be out of school longer than the normal weekend. The annual blizzard bag packing event was held on November 17th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mad Fitness Gym.

One of the most enthusiastic events sponsored by Blessings in a Backpack was the Ravens Watch Party held on October 16th from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Walkersville Fire Department. While the Ravens vs. Giants game was playing on the big screen, and during several family-friendly activities such as a kid's zone and a beer garden, volunteers packed bonus bags for the elementary school students in need. "It was great to see the kids being involved in it," Shannon says when reflecting on the number of elementary and middle school students who participated in packing meals for their peers. Events like this help to erase the stigma present in students who struggle with food insecurity. The Ravens Watch Party helped raise over \$11,800 to help feed kids in Frederick.



100 years ago this month, Frederick County school system discovered the benefit of free hot lunches to needy students - Blessings in a Backpack carries on that tradition.

"We're a comfortable community, but still, people need help. Blessings in a Backpack is the way to keep doing that," says Shannon. When asked what is worth mentioning most about the program, she notes her gratefulness to the town commissioners in Walkersville. "They went out of their way to give money," she says. "They could have easily said that it wasn't their responsibility, but it's amazingly generous that they responded so quickly with it." Shannon had communicated with several commissioners about the organization and was impressed with how they wanted to help.

In the 2021-2022 school year, 4,200 students were served in Frederick, with 2,500 volunteer hours logged. Additionally, there were 129,231 hunger-free weekends experienced by students. The Frederick County chapter of Blessings in a Backpack also plans to hold several events

throughout the school year, including the Blizzard Bag Packing mentioned, as well as a Giving Tuesday event on November 29th to raise \$10,000, as well as a Race to Feed Frederick on March 30th, 2023. On average, volunteers in Frederick pack approximately 3,100 bags each week. The enthusiasm and pride in this organization displays a wonderful sense of community, both throughout Frederick and within the community of Walkersville.

It costs \$130 to feed a single child each weekend for an entire school year. In order to contribute, you can donate, too! Donations payable to Blessings in a Backpack, Frederick Chapter may be sent directly to P.O. Box 3508, Frederick, MD 21705-3508. You may also donate online through their secure page at www.frederick.blessingsinabackpack.org/donate, and you can request additional information via email angela@blessingsinabackpack.org.

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REAL SCIENCE

Is race a real thing?

Boyce Rensberger

You're not a racist. You know that deep down inside, all people are pretty much the same, no matter the color of their skin or the shape of their eyelids. But you are curious about differences among the groups that we call races.

Why do most people from Europe have pale skin? Why is the hair of most Africans tightly curled? Why do most Africans and most Europeans — and their descendants in this country — have eyelids shaped alike but so different from an Asian's eyes?

Do these variations reflect deeper, more fundamental differences between people usually call races? Scientists have long asked the same questions and, after centuries of probing and failed attempts to set up a workable classification system, today's researchers generally agree on three conclusions:

- There are many more differences than the ones we usually think about. Most of those other differences are more than skin deep.
- Many of these differences have been good for the human species. They have opened the doors to evolutionary change that allowed us to occupy most of the globe.

- The third conclusion, and probably the hardest to grasp is this: There is no biological basis for race. We all use the word as if it meant something obvious. We sometimes imagine that Blacks, Whites and Asians belong to different groups that developed long ago. We continue to use "race" to refer simplistically to cultural or social groups. And that's fine, but according to nearly all anthropologists today, any presumed biological basis for "race" is a presumption invented to fit a misunderstanding about how human beings evolved.

Centuries ago, European scientists argued that races were natural divisions of the human species imposed by a supernatural creator or by natural selection. Some even argued that races represented a series of evolutionary stages, some "more advanced" than others. The thinkers of old knew of very few differences among peoples and did not understand how evolution works. In fact, the concept of race was developed long before 1859, when Charles Darwin published his discoveries about how evolution works.

In 1735, Carl von Linne, the Swedish naturalist better known as Linnaeus, said there were four

racess. Over the years, dozens of other classifications have been proposed, some arguing that there are as many as 31 or even 37 races. In other words, scientists could never agree on how to define a race.

Today's researchers know of many differences under the skin that do not correspond to racial categories used in popular culture. Even today, the more that researchers study people worldwide, the more they realize that if they take into account all the hidden differences, there is no correspondence to what we commonly call race.

If you consider each feature by itself, you see that a person of one socially defined race can be more like a person of another "race" than that person is like someone of their own race. Take blood for example. African Blacks may have any of four major blood types: A, B, O and AB. The same is true of European Whites and of Asian peoples. If you're a type O, your blood is more closely related to that of any other type O person — regardless of race — than it is to a type B or type A of your own race.

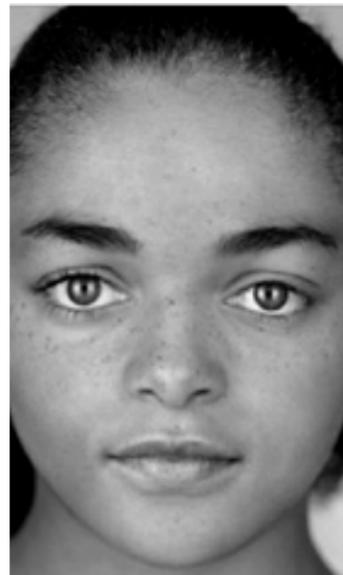
If you need a blood transfusion, you want a donor of the same blood type, not the same skin color. That's also true of organ transplants. Your closest genetic match for a donated kidney, for example, could easily be somebody of another "race."

Still, many of us think skin color is a major factor in pigeonholing people. It is true that most Africans and their descendants have

skin that is darker than that of most Europeans and their descendants. But millions of people in India, once classified as members of the "Caucasoid," or "White," race, have darker skin than most Americans who call themselves Black. Does their black skin mean they should be grouped with black Africans? Or does their straight hair mean they should be grouped with Europeans? Also, some supposedly "Negroid" people living in Africa today (such as the !Kung San, once called Bushmen) have skin no darker than that of many Italians and Greeks. And there are people in New Guinea who are as black and woolly haired as any African but have no known ancestral links to Africa. And what about the so-called Australian "aborigines," who have very dark skin and straight, sometimes blond hair?

Here's yet another angle to think about. If you want to classify all black Africans in one group, how do you deal with the fact that within Africa live several kinds of people with much more dramatic differences than skin color? There are the world's smallest people, the Mbuti pygmies of Zaire, who average 4 feet 7 inches and whose size is like that of a group in the Philippines called the Negritos. And there are the world's tallest, the Tutsi of neighboring Rwanda, who average 6-feet-1—close to the average for the very pale-skinned Scandinavian peoples.

And there are deeper differences



among Africans. One, for example, explains why East Africans dominate marathon running while West Africans dominate sprints. The two populations have actual differences in muscle physiology, even different ratios of what are called "fast twitch" and "slow twitch" muscle cells. East African muscles are more like those of Scandinavians, who excel at distance events such as cross-country skiing. There are other differences as well.

Genome sequencing among sub-Saharan Africans has revealed a startling fact. There are more genetic differences between any two groups of Africans than there are between Europeans and Asians or between Europeans and any group of Africans. If we want to impose racial categories on Africans, we would have to say there are several different races of black Africans.

All these findings have led most anthropologists to conclude that it makes no sense to think that races are biological categories. The overwhelming conclusion of researchers, in short, is that no single physical feature distinguishes any race. You can classify traits but not people. People are bundles of differing combinations of traits.

Next month in part 2 will discuss why people differ by color and other traits.

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

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Finding balance: Lessons from early conservation efforts

Anne Gageby
Environmental Education Manager
Strawberry Hill Foundation

During William Penn's time, about 99 percent of Pennsylvania's nearly 29 million acres were forested. Within a few generations, our forests had been whittled down to around half their original size. Within that half existed a nominal selection of wildlife as entire game populations had been quickly extirpated or brought to the brink of extinction. By the late-1800s logging, unregulated hunting and trapping, and rapacious farming techniques had turned our beautiful state into a ghost of its former self. Fixing the damage was a seemingly impossible task, one that fell to a handful of conservationists and government organizations such as the newly minted Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Forestry Association. It would be a long road to walk.

It's hard to imagine a Pennsylvania forest from three hundred years ago. Before European settlers alighted on our shores, our forests were incredibly rich in biodiversity, having the fortune to be a mixture of forestry zones. Elk once roamed our lush Pennsylvania woods in droves. The skies were filled with flocks of the now-extinct carrier pigeon. Bobcats, fishers, river otters, and bald eagles all thrived in our woods.

Early colonists pushed further west in ever-expanding waves of settlement which required more resources year over year. Hunters and trappers took as much game as they could in a day with no regard for animal repopulation. Regulations for hunting and trapping were uncomplicated – there simply were none. No oversight and no game-specific hunting seasons led to ecological injuries that would last for decades.

Mountain lions were a common predator in the Commonwealth until a perfect storm of habitat destruction and loss of prey (primarily elk and white-tail deer) led to their eventual decline, aided by predator eradication programs of the 1800s.

These programs were a potential boon for poor families as they had no bag limits and paid handsomely for every kill brought in. A good hunter could provide for his family with the bounty he collected.

His opportunities weren't limited to mountain lions. All big game predators suffered at the hands of economy and fear. The North American wolf population was estimated to have been around one million at its height. European settlers wore a mantle of religious fear and deeply rooted mistrust of wolves, not surprising when examined through the lens of Church teachings. Wolves were the very essence of evil. And in 18th century Pennsylvania, they were literally right outside your door.

It's easy to assign blame to the animals themselves. After all, mountain lions, bears, and wolves have long been notoriously mischaracterized as inherently and pressingly dangerous. And yet no one can say the same of our beloved turkey. Wild turkeys once thrived in the United States. Some estimates put a total of around ten million birds within the Appalachian region alone. By the 1930s wild turkey numbers had dropped to their lowest recorded numbers due to severe overhunting and were on the brink of extinction. By this point in America's history, the few remaining pockets of wild turkeys were reduced to the most inhabitable locations.

Overhunting and trapping were one line in a list of problems facing our early nation. Logging had quickly become the backbone of American society. Lumber was harvested for shipbuilding, railroad expansion, fuel, tanning, and more. Timber barons grew unimaginably wealthy since our country's focus was on development, not on the sustainability of natural resources. In 1907, Teddy Roosevelt noted that the dizzying pace of deforestation had depleted the country's timber to the point that "the country



is unquestionably on the verge of a timber famine which will be felt in every household in the land."

Around the turn of the century, the conversation began to shift toward conservation. In 1902, the U.S. Geological Survey submitted a report to President Roosevelt that described the grave damage inflicted upon American forests by industrial logging companies. The worst, in the minds of the surveyors, was the alarming rate of operations. "Within less than a decade every mountain cove will have been invaded and robbed of its finest timber, and the last remnants of these grand Appalachian forests will have been destroyed," the report noted.

If the problem had simply been a matter of losing greenery, the argument might have ended there. Instead, the country was slowly opening its eyes to the jagged, bitter truth: logging companies had done unthinkable ecological harm. The loggers had stomped through previously untouched forests with a careless ferocity, leaving miles of torn-up soil, crushed trees, and scarred, burnt

land in their wake. Their waste had piled up in chaotic stacks leaving massive broken trees to rot along the muddy, sullen forest floor. Without trees to act as riparian buffers, watersheds became sludgy messes of soil runoff and waste. Industrial pollution poured into waterways and swaths of farmland became uninhabitable. Creeks and rivers, once crystal clear and pure, became wastelands that could no longer support flora or fauna. These areas became known as Pennsylvania's "deserts."

On a national scale, the conservation movement, which was in its infancy during the turn of the century, started slowly shifting the conversation to responsible resource management. Instead of asking the public to save the forest, it asked the public to consider ethically and sustainably using the forests' resources for the benefit of all. The Public Trust Doctrine helped further this dynamic shift in thinking.

The Public Trust Doctrine has roots that go back to Roman civil law. Today, it's an essential part of American wildlife law and estab-

lishes a trustee-style relationship of authority, one that gives the government the legal ability to hold and manage wildlife, fish, and waterway on behalf of the public. At its core is the idea that natural resources are deemed universally important and that everyone should have access to said resources for the purpose of fishing, trapping, hunting, and traveling.

If we were to overlay an image of Pennsylvania today with an image of our state from a hundred years ago, the difference would be breathtaking. The modern, new-growth forests we see today are a banner of hope, one born of hard-learned lessons over many generations. As Teddy Roosevelt noted, "The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method." Today, Pennsylvanians are now "walking Teddy Roosevelt's talk."

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PETS

Julie – current longest ‘resident’

Bethany Davidson
FCAC Humane Educator

One of the most common questions we’re asked at Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center is how long we keep animals. The answer is short and sweet, until they are adopted or placed with a rescue. One current example of that is our spunky little senior, Julie, who also happens to be FCAC’s longest canine resident.

Julie arrived in May after the death of her beloved owner and has been with us for 252 days and counting. Staff and volunteers have come to love Julie for her unique look and personality. While her breed is listed at pit bull mix, we often wonder what she really is. Part Boston terrier? Pig? Alien?

Some have described Julie as the perfect dog for a cat person. She knows exactly what she wants and is full of lovable quirks. For example, she can’t wait to get outside. Once there she walks around, sniffs, tries to engage the other dogs in play and then BOOM! She’s done. And once she’s ready to go back to her kennel, she’ll pull you all the way there. She knows exactly which house is hers and how to get there. In an office, Julie enjoys looking out the window or just relaxing at your feet. Julie knows “sit” and walks fairly nicely on a leash. She pulls a bit but is adjusting beautifully to walking on a harness. She loves her frozen kongs, Nyla bones and

can destroy a squeaky toy like a champ.

Julie would be a great addition to a multi-pet household. She has done great with other dogs and resembles a puppy when she tries to engage in play. She is our go to dog for parallel walks and dog testing. She has also previously lived with cats and has no issues that we’ve seen.

With all these great qualities, you might be wondering why she’s still searching for a forever home. Perhaps the biggest challenge Julie needs to overcome to find a new family is her fear of strangers. When she first arrived, she got a lot of attention from potential adopters, however, her reluctance to quickly bond led them to move on to other dogs. Julie is all smiles with us now, but it took several weeks for her to warm up to staff and volunteers. In order to earn Julie’s trust and really start to get to know her, a prospective adopter might need to go on a couple of dates with the adorable senior. Julie is excellent with her body language and is easy to read if you’re a dog savvy individual.

Because she can be wary of new environments and people, we think Julie would do best with kids who are older (10y+) who can respect her boundaries and approach her in a way that will make her more comfortable.

The second reason...allergies. Julie has had some issues with allergies and ear and skin infections. We have tried a variety of things to resolve them. We have

recently transitioned her from our standard diet to a limited ingredient salmon diet to see if her issues were related to a food allergy.

It’s our hope that we can find a loving home for Julie to start the next chapter of her life before she hits her one year anniversary of as a shelter dog. If you’d like to set up a first date with Julie in hopes of ending her days as FCAC’s longest canine resident, go to vistfcac.as.me to book visitation.

Fraidy Cats
Shawn Snyder

Frederick County Animal Shelter
At the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center, kitten season is usually between the months of April through September. “Kitten season” is a term that refers to the timeframe that animal shelters experience what seems like an endless intake of pregnant cats, nursing queens (Mama cats), and kindles of kittens of all ages.

However, weather patterns in general will affect the length of kitten season as well as the population of felines it generates. While it is still wintertime, we want to be sure to remind potential adopters that we actually still do have young cats available for adoption that arrived last kitten season.

Judo was brought to the shelter on June 14th along with several other kittens from the same property. Recognizing Judo’s quiet nature, we categorized him as a Fraidy Cat. Shelter Fraidy Cats receive special TLC from staff and



volunteers who understand that not all felines are created equal. Fraidy Cats are adoptable, but not as resilient or adventuresome as other cats or kittens.

They do best in a home that understands the concept of giving them space while incorporating them into the family—an effort in balancing skill and patience. From the shelter perspective, Fraidy Cats are capable of acclimating to new homes just like any other cat. However, potential adopters have overlooked shy Judo for her more outgoing littermates. As a result, the others have already been adopted.

Judo has now been with the shelter for over six months, placing him in the age category we refer to as “juvenile.” He is current on all vaccines, including rabies prevention. He has been neutered, microchipped, and tested negative for Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. And,

has recovered well from an upper respiratory infection. Judo is essentially ready to go.

There are benefits to every age of animal, including our juvenile population. With juveniles, you get the play level and young enthusiasm of a kitten while bypassing the getting-into-everything-possible stage. You have a relatively young cat that will still spend fifteen-plus years as a family companion.

While Judie was finally adopted, we have several cats classified as Fraidy Cats that are still looking for homes.

If you think your family would be a good match for Fraidy Cat, we encourage you to visit them at the shelter. If you have the patience and interest in making a difference for other cats like Judo, consider fostering or contact us to learn more about our Fraidy Cat program.



Cold winter night got you down? Mr. Fox would love to snuggle in your lap and keep you warm. His friendly, confident personality will make him a great addition to most families. However, at eleven years old, he may prefer a slow paced, quiet home over a busy, loud home.



If you visit Frederick County Animal Control & Adoption Center, you may miss seeing Radish. She is one of our Fraidy Cats and often hides in the back of her cage. Volunteers and staff continually work with Fraidy Cats to help them feel more comfortable.



Saul is starting to show a little grey in his muzzle, but he still enjoys being active. He walks nicely on a leash and will make a great companion for those who like to take a daily stroll. The best part about Saul, he knows how to relax and has a very calm personality.



At six-years-old, Twinkie is a big, lovable guy looking for a fresh start. His owner recently passed away and other family members were not able to care for him. Twinkie has adapted to shelter life quickly and will likely transition to a new home just as quick.

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

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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NATURE NOTES

Catoctin Christmas Bird Count

Kathy Brown
Frederick Bird Club

December 17, was the 74th year of the Catoctin Christmas Bird Count (CCBC). The CCBC covers a 15-mile diameter circle in north Frederick County with Thurmont as the epicenter. The territory is divided into 8 sectors and includes a few towns and a lot of open country including state, national and local parks, forests, numerous waterways, fisheries and seemingly endless farm fields. The Frederick Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, has sponsored the Catoctin CBC for many years. It is a very tangible example of citizen science and a great way to enjoy a winter's day in beautiful northern Frederick County.

On count day the weather was mild and the morning was partly sunny – ideal for winter birding. The teams were all experienced and most knew their territories well. In short, I expected a good day for everyone.

The majority of the birds seen during winter counts are year-round residents, like chickadees, cardinals, hawks, and woodpeckers. By the time of the count, our migrating summer residents, the original “snow-birds,” have already headed south for warmer territories with open water and plentiful food. We do enjoy a few winter-only visitors, that migrate from the colder north primarily due to lack of food. Our most common winter visitors are Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows that can be seen at the base of many bird feeders throughout the winter.

My count partner and I began at dawn in the lovely small park at Roddy Covered Bridge. The location has safe parking, a stream, tall trees, berry bushes, open fields and (always appreciated), a clean comfort station. The birds were actively feeding after a long, chilly night. Various woodpeckers, chickadees, Carolina Wrens and goldfinches zipped through the trees making an accurate number count a challenge. But the spot was unusually productive and the day was off to a good start.

We spent the rest of the morning driving and, where possible, walking through our territory. “Counters” count every bird seen and heard, so the ability to ID birds by sound

is very important. Some birders are very skilled at sound ID; sadly, I am not one of them. After a quick lunch break, we were off again, but all the birds seemed to have disappeared! The rest of the afternoon was frustratingly unproductive.

Overall, this year's results were not as good as last year for most bird species. There were good numbers for vultures, pigeons, mockingbirds and two beautiful and appreciated species: Eastern Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings.

Two years don't make a trend, so I compared averages for each species for the most current ten years with averages for the prior ten years. Many of our common species show significant population declines and some species are increasingly rare or no longer found in Frederick County. A few species like the Bald Eagle and Common Raven continue to show impressive population gains. The CCBC's first Bald Eagle was reported in 2001; this year 14 were reported. Ravens were first observed in the 1973 count; this year 29 were sighted.

Red-shouldered Hawks are also doing very well (up 57%), but Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel numbers are all lower by 35% or more.

The population numbers for our two common winter visitors, Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, are fairly steady, but average numbers for another handsome winter visitor, the White-crowned Sparrow, have declined 66%.

Studies show that grassland bird populations in North America have declined by more than 50%. Habitat loss is a probable factor in these declines, particularly agricultural intensification and development. Grassland birds include Bobwhites, Eastern Meadowlark, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Harrier, Horned Lark and many sparrow species.

Northern Bobwhite and the non-native Ring-neck Pheasant are no longer found in Frederick County. Results for other grassland birds are mixed, but most resident sparrows show steady population declines.

Looking at the total number of birds seen and/or heard during the count really brings home the loss. This year 9,176 individual birds were counted. The average for the most

current 10 years is 9,347; the average for the preceding ten years was 12,351. The overall decline is a sobering 24%.

Many things are contributing to bird population declines including habitat loss, window-strikes, pesticides and herbicides, free-roaming cats and even light pollution. But climate change is now recognized as the biggest ongoing threat to birds – and yes, humans.

This year, a severe drought in the southwest led to the driest two decades in over 1,200 years; extreme heat plagued Europe, China and India; tornadoes and hurricanes were stronger and more frequent; central Appalachia suffered widespread flooding; and the US experienced its most active wildfire season in more than a decade. And without concerted action it will only get worse.

But there is hope. A recent article in Audubon Magazine highlights the expected impact of the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the largest and most comprehensive climate legislation in US history. A total of \$369 billion will be invested in energy and climate programs, resulting in an estimated 40% reduction in US green-house emission levels by 2030. Many of us will drive electric cars, buildings and targeted indus-



The dapper White-crowned Sparrow is easily recognized by its boldly striped head, colorful pink or yellow bill, and unmarked gray breast. This handsome bird is suffering an alarming decline in its population due to ingestion of neonicotinoid pesticides. The Catoctin region saw an alarming 66% drop in its number from last year's count.

tries will be more energy efficient, and climate-smart agriculture and ranching will reduce emissions and improve carbon storage in soil and trees.

These changes will take time, but there are seven simple actions Audubon encourages everyone to do now to help birds and our planet: make windows safer; keep cats indoors; reduce lawn and use native plants; avoid pesticides; drink shade grown coffee; avoid single use plastic; and join the Citizen Science Effort.

This year I want to add one of my own: Support national, state and

local officials who have the courage to make the difficult decisions required if the beautiful world we call home can be preserved for future generations.

If you are interested in learning more about the birds of Frederick County, the Frederick Bird Club www.frederickbirdclub.org and Audubon Society of Central Maryland www.centralaudubon.org welcome guests and new members. Visit their websites to learn about meetings, bird-focused presentations, bird counts, and bird walks and outings throughout the year.



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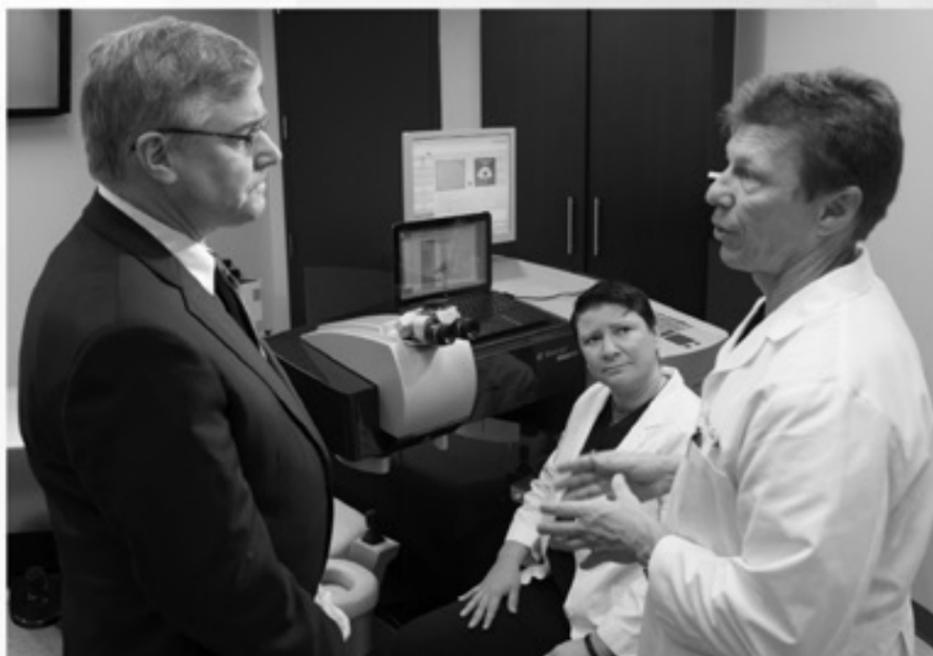
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DAVID TRONE



Long-Term Investments in Curing Diseases Pay Off

Those who think long-term investments by government do not pay off should look at stark evidence in recent years. Smart investments, especially in basic science and medical research, are paying off. The best example of what science and medical research can achieve in modern times is the COVID-19 vaccine, which is responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of lives and preventing the pandemic from being far worse.

My Commitment to Continue Increasing Research at the National Institutes of Health

Marylanders should be incredibly proud of the life-saving research conducted at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. These dedicated scientists and public servants have been the driving force behind many advancements in health and medicine, including promising treatments for cancer, Alzheimer’s, and other diseases that impact our families. But the facts show that their contribution is hampered by the federal government’s inadequate investment in their work.

Double Budget of NIH to Help Find Cures

In the early 2000s, NIH was funding approximately 35% of research requests submitted to them. In recent years, that number has dropped to 17%. If we seriously invested in the remaining 83% of requests – or even 25% more than we are now – the positive impact on health would be unimaginable. But to do that, it will take money. That’s why I’m working so hard in Congress to double the budget of NIH and make a real, lasting investment in life-saving research.



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DAVID TRONE

U.S. CONGRESS

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Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

Walkersville Volunteer Fire Co. recognizes volunteers

Vaughn Zimmerman & Kristi Staley

The Walkersville Volunteer Fire Co. #11 (WVFC) held their annual award banquet on January 21st to recognize the volunteers whom have served the community of Walkersville so selflessly over the past year.

This year the Honorary Life Membership Award, the most prestigious award that the Fire Company gives, was presented to Chief Chad Barrick. Barrick started as a Junior member 29 years ago and rose through the ranks to be both the President and the Chief of the Company. WFC Vice President Hildebrand said "the Company has been fortunate to have Barrick in a leadership role and the award was well deserved."

The Chief's Award was given to Matt Staley for all of his operational, administrative, and fund raising activities. Staley responded to 42% of the Company's calls. Staley was in charge of the maintenance and readiness of all of the Company's apparatus. And if that wasn't enough, he served as the Co-Chairman of the Carnival Ice

Cream Committee; and assisted in the kitchen at Bingos.

Chase Tracey was recognized as the Most Valuable Responder. Tracey responded to 35% of the company's calls and became an apparatus driver & operator during 2022. "Chase is one of the Department's youngest, cleared emergency drivers. He can often be found at the station organizing crew nights, helping with Cadet member training nights, and taking ongoing training to improve his own knowledge.

The Annual Fire Fighter of the Year award was presented to Dalen Hahn. Hahn was recognized for answering service calls, helping with fundraising activities, and helping with the younger firefighters and cadets. Barrick also recognized the fine work of Kristi Staley and the Line Officers with the Cadet & Junior Membership Program - a program important to the future of the Company.

The Member of the Year award was presented to Bingo Committee Co-Chairs Jean Brooks and Ellie Gil-

bert. "Last year," according to Graham, "the pair worked tirelessly each week to raise funds necessary for the Company. As the County has minimally raised the Companies yearly funding and it has become even more important for fundraising to continue. Jean and Ellie worked to keep the tip jar/holder table stocked and organized. They also organized volunteers' efforts and kept players happy and excited for each week."

The Appreciation Award - a new award this year - was presented to Vaughn Zimmerman for being a bingo caller for 42 years for both the Fire & Rescue companies. Vaughn has been a staple at weekly bingo as the second half bingo 'caller.' He is there long before the doors open to welcome and check the players in for the evening.

Life Memberships, which are given to a member who has belonged to the WFC for at least ten years and are over the age of 65, were given to Shirley Beard, Charles Becker, Cynthia Grossnickle, Edward Poole, & Carol Noonan.



Chad Barrick was this year's WVFC's recipient of the Honorary Life Member Award. The award was presented to him by Vice President Brian Hildebrand & President Jim Graham.

The Vaughn Zimmerman Scholarship was given to Aiden Shadle, grandson of member Brian Hildebrand. Aiden is attending Shenandoah University

The WFC answered 795 emergency calls in 2022. Top responders were Malik Bowie, 104 calls; Bill Horine, 107 calls; Josh Held, 109 calls; Josh Smith, 113 calls; Dalen Hahn, 119 calls; Riley Cave, 124 calls;

Josh Barrett, 153 calls; Brad Bliven, 180 calls; Lukas Hoffman, 194 calls; Kristi Staley, 210 calls; Alan Staley, 246 calls; Chase Tracey, 277 calls; and the top responder for 2022 was Matt Staley, with 328 calls.

Chaplain Chad Weddle gave a moving service for David Kline, Pat Collins, Orley Bourland, Charles Nicodemus, and Ridgely Cramer; WFC Members who died in 2022.



WVFC officers for 2023: Brian Hildebrand, Director Richard Gilbert, Chaplain Chad Weddle, Director Blaine Smith, Assistant Secretary Kristi Staley, Director Alan Staley, Director Matt Staley, Chief Chad Barrick, Treasurer Betsy Graham, Director Joshua Barrett, President Jim Graham, Assistant Treasurer Andrew Skidmore, Director Willard Horine, Director Vaughn Zimmerman, Secretary Linda Grossnickle, Director Austin Schroyer



Captain Matt Staley was this year's recipient of the Chief's Award, presented by Chad Barrick.



Ellie Gilbert and Jean Brooks were this year's recipients of the Member of the Year Award, presented by President Jim Graham.



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HISTORY

Churches

Rocky Hill Church

Originally named Peter's Kirke, the church known today as Grace "Rocky Hill" Lutheran Church stands in a grove of towering oaks on a windy hill a mile or so outside of Woodsboro on the Coppermine Road. Organized by a dozen Lutheran families as an outgrowth of the old Monocacy Church, Rocky Hill was the second Lutheran Church in the Monocacy Valley and the "Mother Church" of the former Woodsboro Parish of four congregations. It still maintains the parish relationship with Mt. Zion's "Haugh's", but Woodsboro Evangelical and Chapel now form a separate sister parish.

Charles Frederick Wildbahn, a teacher from Winchester, Virginia, who was licensed by Muhlenberg to direct the affairs of as many as nineteen congregations at a time, directed the organization of Rocky Hill and helped dedicate its building in 1776. Lucas Raus accepted the call to become its first pastor in 1767. The church was built on land granted by the English government for a place of worship and was occupied jointly by Lutherans and the Reformed Church until they separated amicably in 1887. The congregation has occupied at least two buildings (1771 and 1889) and has kept the present one attractive and useful with additions and renovations.

Rocky Hill cherishes its mementos of the past such as the original pulpit, now repainted with the old German inscription and date, 1771. In the same vein, its people tend to maintain their relationship even though they live at a distance. Hundreds of friends and former members attend the annual picnic which became a minor part of Civil War history when the band music attracted the attention of a band of Confederate soldiers who suspected a Yankee encampment.

St. John's Reformed Church

It was impossible, according to T.J.C. Williams, to trace an accurate history of St. John's Reformed Congregation of Woodsboro because of a lack of records.

Reverend Carl Lange, pastor of Evangelical Reformed Church of Frederick, preached, visited, and confirmed at Millerstown.

The author Williams stated that he believed Millerstown was Woodsboro and not Rocky Hill, a church one and a quarter miles from Woodsboro. From 1768 to 1802 there were no records. The cornerstone of the church was laid April 11, 1802. The property was deeded from Adam Creager to the trustees of the Presbyterian and Lutheran congregations. These congregations, Williams concluded, must have existed prior to 1803. Rev. John William Runkle was the man responsible for the building of the church. He was pastor of the Frederick charge from 1784 to 1802. Henry Clantz was the mason who laid the cornerstone.

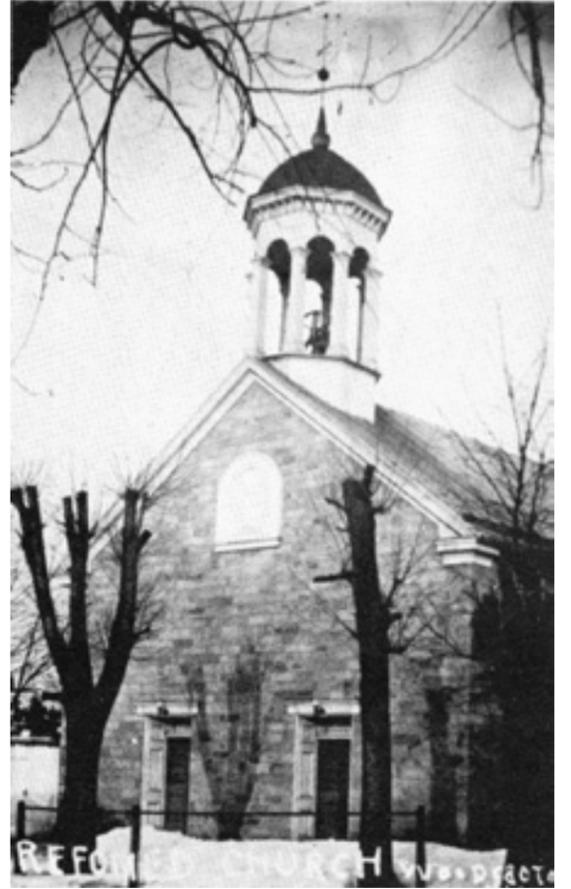
The Church was known as Solomon's Church. It was a Union Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church. The name in the deed was Lutheran and Presbyterian. In the early years of the church, Reformed and Presbyterian were used synonymously.

From 1818 to 1820 there was no pastor. From 1820 to 1827, Rev. Dietrick Graves was pastor. From 1827 to 1830, there seemed to be no pastor. Rev. Graves served again from 1830 to 1832.

From 1801 or 1802 to 1833, the Church did not belong to the Glade charge. It may have belonged to the Littlestown charge. The Church was completed in 1822. On April 4, 1825, the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed church was adopted. Five shillings were paid for the church and land.



Rocky Hill Lutheran Church



St. John's Reformed Church

The deed said that "said property shall be forever the joint property of said Lutheran and Reformed, each denomination shall have equal rights with the other and no regulation of either shall be valid which would in any way deprive the other of its rights and privileges..."

Woodsboro joined in 1833 with Rocky Hill, Glade, and Creagerstown to form a pastoral charge. The charge was reconstructed several times. The church was rebuilt at a cost of \$1,200 and consecrated on May 24, 1840. The contractor of carpenters for the work was Adam Beck; the workmen were William Beck and Paul Holbrunner; the mason was Moses Anders and the plasterer was W.N. Derr.

At a meeting of the joint councils of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations on November 3, 1855, it was

unanimously agreed that it was absolutely necessary to tear down the church steeple and have it repaired, G.P. Barrick was chairman and M. Shank was secretary of a congregational meeting to devise plans for this. A joint meeting was called December 1, 1858.

M. Shank was president and Daniel Barrick was secretary. The meeting was found to be unconstitutional; therefore, an informal meeting was held. M. Shank and George Saylor were to find out the cost of rebuilding and repairing the church. On January 15, 1859, a joint meeting was called with M. Shank president. By letter, Mr. J.D. Crumbaugh expressed a desire to have the church repaired but not rebuilt. On

March 11, 1860 at a Lutheran

congregational meeting, it was agreed that the Lutheran council would hold a joint meeting on March 31, 1860. On that date the two churches' councils met. The Lutheran council proposed to sell their interest in the church property to the Reformed Council, reserving the right to the graveyard. On April 4, the two councils met. The Lutherans offered to sell their interest in the old church. This proposition was accepted on April 19, 1860.

The church was struck by lightning in 1859 or 1860. Between November 1874 and 1879, a Reformed Sunday School was started and flourished. It was voted in October 1888, to remodel the church. Rev. Hench and Elder J.H. Bowers solicited

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HISTORY



Woodsboro Lutheran Church around 1860

funds. The building committee consisted of George P. Barrick, Jacob H. Bowers, P.L. Feiser, and J.P. Lough. The cost was \$800. The church was rededicated on February 10, 1889. In February 1892, the Glade charge divided and Glade and Woodsboro formed a pastoral charge. During the pastorate of Rev. Atvill Connor, from June 7, 1892 to August 1, 1898, the congregation was incorporated.

On March 14, 1904 Rev. J. Wolf who had served the Glade charge since November 3, 1898 resigned. He was succeeded on September 3, 1904 by Rev. James J. Schaeffer, whose services ended on November 9, 1908. The next pastor, Rev. Guy P. Bready served from March 11, 1909 until June 15, 1914.

On November 27, 1914 Rev. Ernest E. Weaver became pastor. Weaver resigned April 2, 1917 and was followed in the pastorate by Rev. Walter R. Hartzell. Hartzell was pastor until October 15, 1928.

The service of Rev. Frank A. Rosenberger, the next pastor extended from May 15, 1929 until February 26, 1933. Rev. Nelson C. Brown took charge until 1939. Rev. Dr. Edgar Hoffmeir served from 1940-1949, and Rev. Charles S. Price from 1950 to 1957.

Rev. Rosenberger returned to the charge from 1958 - 1962, followed by Rev. Dale W. Shellhamer from 1963 - 1967. Rev. Fred A. Trimble has been with the church since 1967 and has just resigned.

A new addition for a Sunday school room was begun in April 1957, encompassing part of the adjoining grave yard. The new room was dedicated in October of the same year. The entire debt was paid off by the congregation within four years.

In 1934 the Old German Reformed Church joined the Evangelical to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1957 the Evangelical and Reformed Church joined with the Congregational Church of America to become the United Church of Christ.

At present the Woodsboro United Church of Christ has one hundred and eight members. The Sunday School has an enrollment of ninety-five.

The Lutheran Church

Lutherans settled around this area by 1710 or 1711. By 1747, they were included in a Lutheran charge. In 1803 they joined with St. John's Reformed Church. Rev. William Jasinsky was the first to serve the church when the congregation was organized in 1805.

Rev. David Franklin Shaeffer came to the Woodsboro church. He was claimed to be the father of Lutheranism in Frederick County. The building which served both Lutherans and Reformed was completed by 1822. The stone church known as Solomon's was thirty-five feet by forty-five feet and plain in its appearance except for a large tower and spire. Rev. Frederick Haas was pastor between 1816 and 1821. Between 1821 and 1836, Rev. Michael Wachter was pastor. A Constitution was adopted in 1825. Rev. Simeon W. Harkney was pastor in 1836. Rev. Weiser served the church from 1837 to 1840. In 1839 and 1840, repairs and additions to the church were completed at a cost of \$1,200. Rev. John W. Reimensnyder in 1841. Rev. Michael Wachter again in 1847, and Rev. William Hunt in 1850 were the church ministers. In 1857, Rev. George H. Beckley became the minister.

In 1859 the trouble began between the Reformed and the Lutheran Congregations, before mentioned. In addition to the controversy concerning church repairs, regularity of elections and organization of the Reformed consistory and their right to join in joint council meetings were also issues.

The Lutherans built a new church in 1860 at a cost of \$500. It was forty by sixty feet, located on Frederick Street at the site of the present church.

Rev. S.W. Owen served the church from 1865 to 1870. During this time, the parsonage property was bought for \$3,500. Adam Diehl, George D. Martz, and Michael Shank were appointed as a committee in 1867 to obtain land for a cemetery. Land was purchased from George Flickinger for \$1,000, and these four acres contain the present Mt. Hope Cemetery.

In 1868, Woodsboro rejoined the Maryland Synod from which it had left in 1857. Rev. Michael N. Fair in 1889, the Rev. B.F. Alleman in 1873, and the Rev. A.W. Lentz in 1874 were the next ministers of the church.

Rev. D.M. Lamotte came in 1876. The church was rededicated in 1879. The Missionary Society was organized in 1883. It was known as the Women's Foreign and Home Missionary Society.

Rev. Adam Diehl was the next minister, and was responsible for the church debt being liquidated. Rev. Richard S. Patterson was the minister between 1892 and 1899. Rev. W.E. Wheeler was pastor in 1900 to 1904.

Rev. R.S. Poffenbarger came in 1905. The present church was erected with work beginning April 15, 1913. On July 27, 1913, the cornerstone was laid. It was eighty-four feet by fifty-seven and one-half feet. It was built of the best available brick and terra cotta trim. On May 31, 1914, dedication ceremonies were held. The new building cost \$25,000.

In 1917, Rev. Patterson returned. The parsonage was remodeled at a cost of \$4,000.

Rev. Raymond Sorrick was the next minister and served till 1929. The Sunday School was departmentalized for the first time. Luther League and Daily Vacation Bible School were held. Rev. Sorrick served as President of the Mary-

land Synod from 1941 to 1943.

Rev. J. Frank Fife was the next pastor of the Lutheran Church. A new and better lighting system was installed and the choir received gowns for the first time. Rev. Fife later became secretary of the Maryland Synod, and served as its first full-time president.

In 1938, Rev. Herbert H. Schmidt came to Woodsboro. He got young people of the Sunday School to attend summer camping periods at Camp Nawaka. He served until 1946.

Rev. Raymond C. Myers became pastor in 1947 and served till 1955. Daily Vacation Bible School was reorganized and has since been held two weeks each summer. Sunday School rooms and the church were improved and redecorated at a cost of \$25,000. This was completed and a rededication service held September 14, 1952.

Rev. William M. Brown came to Woodsboro in 1955 and stayed till 1960. The Evangelical Lutheran Church and Chapel Lutheran Church of Libertytown formed the new Woodsboro Lutheran Parish in 1960, having for many years included Rocky Hill and Haugh's also.

Rev. Donald A. Haas served as pastor from 1961 to 1967. Rev. David Himmler from 1967 until 1973.

The life of the congregation is a busy one under the leadership of Rev. Harry L. Wolpert who answered the pastoral call in July of 1974. With pastor Wolpert's guidance and nearly two centuries of love and labor in the church behind us, we, as a congregation may come to realize what the scriptures tell us in First Corinthians, 3:10 - "I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon; but let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon."

continued next month

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 2

Flu

As the flu and other forms of sickness have been keeping the people busy, very naturally there is little news other than that related to the sick. And to tell the story in full, nearly every home would have its quota. Fortunately, there are only a few serious cases, but literally hundreds of mild ones keeping the physicians on the jump.

Coal Shortage In County Acute

The coal situation in the County is daily becoming more acute. On Saturday Emmitsburg was reported to be entirely without anthracite coal. It is reported that Ladiesburg is practically without hard coal and that several other towns in the county are in a like predicament.

As of yet no other Frederick county town has reported an entire lack of coal, but it is known that a number of localities are running short, and is expected more will be in the same class as Emmitsburg unless some immediate steps are taken to alleviate the situation.

Blizzard Snowfall

Totals 10 Inches

A total of 10 inches of snow fell during the snowstorm, which hit the County Thursday night. The storm was accompanied by heavy winds, which caused the snow to drift as fast as it fell. The high winds that accompany the storm developed into a blizzard. Every state and county road was blocked due to the drifting of snow.

Still Captured In Woodsboro

Armed with a search warrant issued under the County Anti-Saloon Law, agents visited the home of Charles Grim. When Grim told them his wife was very nervous and will be much disrupted if they enter the house without giving her warning, they allowed him to go in and prepare her for their coming. When Grim did not come back in a hurry they smelled a mouse and got busy. In the basement they found nothing. In the bedroom on the first floor they found two barrels, containing about 100 gallons of mash.

In the room above they found a stove, with a fire in it, and the coils

of a still running through a tub of water, but no still. Upon further search they found under the back porch the 25-gallon still, still hot. After sipping multiple samples of the 'hooch' to verify its quality, the agents brought Grim and the still to the jail. The remaining 'hooch' was also brought to the jail for other officers to 'sample'. Officers from other districts were invited to sample the 'hooch' as well.

February 9

Flu

The general health condition of communities remains much the same as a week ago, there being an abnormal number of cases of flu and allied diseases, keeping positions busy day and night.

Farmers Cut Ice

The coming of the cold spell on Monday and Tuesday brought joy to the heart of many of farmers who happened to have a pond on their place. Ice froze the surface of a number of ponds to a depth of five or six inches and several farmers gather their first ice of the winter. Once before this winter the advent of a cold spell caused the ponds to freeze over, but the farmers waited for it to get better, or some of them did, but a thaw came, breaking things up.

This is not the case this time. As soon as the surface of the ponds became hard, a number of farmers commenced cutting ice and storing it in their ice-houses. Several farmers in the vicinity of Woodsboro and Lewistown were busy cutting ice until the snow drove them in late Tuesday afternoon. The ice crop throughout the county has been the lightest in years, according to some farmers.

County Schools

Serve Hot Lunches

Between 15 and 20 one-room schoolhouses in Frederick County are now serving hot lunches to students. It is through the effort of the teachers in these various schools that the children are provided with hot lunches at noon.

Among the schools which have recently adopted hot lunches is New Midway. The efforts of the teacher

at that school in serving hot lunches is meeting with considerable success, and parents of students seem well pleased with the results.

The serving of hot lunches to school students develops a spirit of cooperation and community pride that has been found to be quite beneficial. The children all eat their lunches together and each day a lesson is given in table etiquette. It is said that there is a noticeable improvement in the manners of the children in schools where hot lunches are being served.

Great Weather

Monday of this week was a real Spring day. So much so that a poor deluded wasp was fooled into coming from his Winter quarters into the cold light of day. We noticed him as he promenaded on the sunny sidewalk and attempted to lift him out of harm's way; but he was too much of a contortionist for us and we quickly dropped him, and left him to his fate, which we notice later over took him

Women's Smokers Suspected

Women smokers are suspected of having caused the heavy increase in losses from fires due to "matches and smoking" in the United States during the last year.

For many men, the news is not unexpected. The increase in fires from women folk infringing upon a man's domain of smoking, follows on the heels of the increase in auto accidents when women felt themselves equal to men in understanding the complexities of driving an autocar.

We firmly believe that the country would be better off if both the 18th and 19th amendments were repealed and men could once again enjoy the fruits of 'John Barley Corn' and women return to their natural role of housekeeping.

February 16

The Flu Epidemic Still Growing

The influenza epidemic throughout the County has grown to alarming proportions, and is still growing. Along with the flu, there is a great increase in cases of pneumonia, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, and like diseases of lesser importance. There are a large number of unreported cases, without doubt, in almost every community, and it is this that makes the exact situation one of great concerns.

The flu epidemic is taking its toll on the youngest. John Krieger, son of John and Olivia Krieger, died on Sunday morning. He was 2 years in three months and two days old. He had



been ill with influenza only 48 hours. George Rice, infant son of Milton and Annie Rice, died at the home of his parents on Wednesday.

Wife Beater Sentenced

In sentencing Samuel Gessaman, of New Midway, to serve three months in jail on charges of assaulting and battery on his wife, the Judge said: "any man who strikes a woman at any time is a coward, but one who strikes his wife is a bastard and a coward. It is too bad the whipping post has been banned; it might come in good in this case."

In addition to serving three months in jail, Gessaman must pay \$40 a month for the support of his wife. He was also placed under \$300 bond to keep the peace and fined \$25.

Mrs. Gessaman, a woman of 55 years, complained of abuse at the hands of her husband dating back to December 1921. Gessaman countered with charges that are one of their numerous quarrels his wife had caught his thumb between her teeth and bit deeply into the bone.

Keymar Smokehouse Burned

The smokehouse on Robert Alexander's farm in Keymar, caught fire, Monday night and was burned down, with a season supply of meat. The fire evidently originated from the smoking process that was underway. A large quantity of hams and shoulders were destroyed. The building, being built of logs, made a considerable fire and for a time the dwelling and all other buildings were in great danger, but the prompt help of neighbors confined the loss to the one building.

February 23

Influenza Cases Declining

Influenza has had a sharp drop throughout the County this week, and health officials say the disease is on the wane. Cases of pneumonia, typhoid fever and measles, also show a decline. Influenza cases were several hundred a day less than ten days ago.

No Coal At New Midway

New Midway is without coal, and in other towns to supply is getting low, but is sufficient to meet the needs of the residents until the arrival of shipments of coal that are known to be in transport. The cold weather of the past few days cost a greater increased demand for coal but the supply and most of the County towns has been sufficient to meet the demand. There has so far been very little suffering at New Midway as the result of the coal shortage.

Free Publicity Is Not Free To Us

This paper likes to accommodate various forms of publicity, in the interest of the general good; but it does seem to us that ready-made promotion articles are rather numerous, and that the County newspaper should not be regarded only for the free use that it may be made of. We can ensure a lot of publicity seekers (free of charge) that it still cost us a lot of money to publish even a little County weekly.

Woodsboro To Be Awarded For Leading Baseball League

Final arrangements for the baseball banquet that will be held in the opera house in Woodsboro are being completed by the committee in charge. Everybody who wore the Woodsboro uniform at any time during the season of 1922 has been invited. Every member of the Board of Directors for the past season, and of the new Board of Directors, all league officers, and two representatives from each County league club have been invited to attend the banquet, where Woodsboro will be formally presented the cup for winning the pennant last season.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.

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FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

February 2

Throughout the 277-year history of Frederick, violent weather has played an important role. Most notable, of course, have been the numerous floods of Carroll Creek.

However, on February 2, 1876, a freak windstorm struck, causing significant damage, but few injuries.

The 135-foot, 20-year-old steeple of All Saints Episcopal Church, at 106 West Church Street, was toppled. It fell on the roof of the Central National Bank Building next door, which at the time also housed the president of the bank, Col. George R. Dennis, and his family. All escaped without injury. The steeple was later rebuilt at a cost of \$3,500.

Some damage was recorded at the Maryland School for The Deaf and Dumb (now the Maryland School for the Deaf) and at Montevue Hospital. Another church steeple was blown down in Jefferson and the roof of the Lutheran Church in Mechanicstown - now Thurmont - was also destroyed. Many roads were blocked by fallen trees and farmers all over the county suffered immense damage to orchards and farm buildings.

February 9

In the early years of this great nation, prominent men in all walks of life passed through Frederick on their way to and from our nation's capitol. Even before the District of Columbia became the seat of our national government such men as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson spent a night of rest here.

On February 9, 1829, President-elect Andrew Jackson was an

overnight guest at Talbott's City Hotel in the first block of West Patrick Street. He was on his way to Washington from his Tennessee home - The Hermitage - for his inauguration.

The Frederick-Town Herald of Saturday, February 14, 1829, said: "The President-elect arrived in Frederick early on Monday afternoon last. He was escorted into town by a number of his friends, who met him at the county line, and his arrival was announced by the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells.

"The whole scene, from first to last, was one of much noise and confusion, as we understand, for we witnessed no part of it ourselves, except when the old Hero was dragged along the street in the most unhandsome style.

"He left here on Tuesday morning for Washington, carrying with him, we apprehend, no very favorable impression of our town, should he form his opinion of us from the manner of his reception on the present occasion."

And we learn, notwithstanding the badness of the roads, he had the good fortune to reach Washington in safety early on Wednesday."

It can only be assumed that his apparent mistreatment in 1829 did not keep him from returning to Frederick eight years later on March 8, 1837, on his way back to The Hermitage at the end of his two terms as President of The United States. It also did not keep him from appointing Roger Brooke Taney, who had practiced law in Frederick from 1801 to 1823, to numerous federal posts, including Secretary of The Treasury and Chief Justice of The United States Supreme Court.

February 16

One hundred and sixty-three years ago politics was considered entertainment. It permeated every facet of life in Frederick. The many local newspapers carried numerous articles every week about the political happenings, not only in Frederick, but in the state and nation. And it wasn't just in the commentary columns either. Here's a classic example.

"At about 10 P.M., on February 16, 1860, fire erupted in the rear portion of the City Hotel in the unit block of West Patrick Street. It apparently started when the stove in a rear room on the third floor, which hadn't been lit for weeks, was ignited in anticipation of a paying guest.

"The stove pipe fell against the lathing at the inner edge of a dormer window. It quickly spread to other rooms and the back staircase.

"All of the city's fire companies rushed to the scene, but were initially hampered by frozen fire 'water plugs.' But that problem was quickly resolved and the fire was extinguished in short order.

"A thick layer of snow on the roof, and the fact there was no wind, slowed the progression of the flames and aided the firemen.

"The property was fully insured and the Baltimore Fire Insurance Company and the National Fire Insurance Company paid the claim in short order.

"The owners were reimbursed a total of \$743.80, which, unfortunately, did not cover the contents of the several rooms that were heavily damaged, or the loss due to water damage."

The Examiner concluded its story on the fire by saying: "Great complaint is made of the neglect of the Corporate authorities (Frederick's elected officials) in suffering the fire plugs to get frozen - but what of good can be expected from a "democratic" administration?"

We suppose that the fall-out from the frozen fire plugs was as great as that from the fire itself.

February 23

Governments are always looking for additional revenue in their efforts to provide more and better amenities for their citizens. And sometimes a windfall drops into their laps.

Such was the case on February 23, 1989, when the Frederick Towne Mall on West Patrick Street's Golden Mile was sold. This transaction, the largest in county history, netted almost \$600,000 in recording fees for Frederick County and the State of Maryland.

The transfer tax of one half of one percent amounted to \$254,978, and went to the state for its open space program. The balance of \$336,354 went to the county and represented nearly a full penny on the property tax rate.

The Edward J. DeBartolo Cor-

poration, with headquarters in San Francisco, and Equitable Real Estate Investment Management, Inc., were the purchasers.

If the name DeBartolo sounds familiar, it should. DeBartolo is the owner of the San Francisco 49ers National Football League team.

The new owners planned extensive renovation and additional major stores at the Mall, but years later the mall was still anchored by three department stores - J. C. Penney's, The Bon-Ton, and Montgomery Wards.

At the time of the sale, Charles S. Nicewarner, of the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, said the sale price of \$51 million was nearly \$20 million more than the assessed value. What that meant was that other properties along The Golden Mile were going to face reassessments that would substantially increase their tax value.

On the same day the two purchasers also bought the Country Club Mall in LaVale, for \$51,616,140, and the Valley Mall in Hagerstown, for \$61,173,000.

The largest single real estate transaction prior to this one in Frederick County also involved The Frederick Towne Mall. In 1983, this same property was sold to The Patrician Group, out of New York, for \$31.5 million. At that time the transfer fees totaled \$368,954.

To read past selections for John Ashbury's *All Our Yesterdays*, visit Walkersville.net.

Valentine' Day is coming quickly!

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SCHOOL AND LIBRARY NEWS

Walkersville Public Library

Feb. may be the shortest month, but the Walkersville Public Library has made sure to pack it full of fun and fulfilling programs for every age.

Looking for a new routine to add to your fitness regimen? Seniors can join us on Thursday, Feb. 2nd at 10:30 a.m. for Senior Fitness, a low impact exercise class. This class will show you exercises to work on your core and help with your strength, balance and posture! Bring your comfortable clothes and get ready for a good stretch with Sol Yoga on the 6th and 20th of Feb.. Sol Yoga is a free yoga class the starts at 6 p.m. in the Community Room.

Hey parents! Looking for ways to get your child active and maybe give back to the community? Come meet and greet Glade Valley Athletic Association coaches and volunteers to learn more about their programming on Feb. 2nd, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.. Their association serves families from the Walkersville feeder schools and currently offer options for athletes

between the ages of 5 and 18 years old across 10 different sports. Coaches and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and help you register for the upcoming sports season. They are 100% volunteer run and are always looking for new coaches and helpers.

If English is your second language, the library has a great program offering for you. We welcome adults who want to practice their English to a conversation class hosted by the Literacy Council of Frederick. Students will practice their speaking and listening skills with conversations guided by an instructor from the Literacy Council of Frederick. These classes take place on Sundays in Feb. at 1:30 p.m..

As a part of the year long celebration of the Frederick County 275th anniversary, the African American Resources Cultural and Heritage Society will be hosting Held in Regard on Feb. 7th at 10:30 a.m.. Held in Regard highlights known and unknown Afri-

can Americans who impacted Maryland History.

If you're interested in a fun activity for you and a loved one this Valentine's weekend, or even if you're just interested in learning some new moves, you can join us for Swing into Valentine's Day on Feb. 12th at 1 p.m. in front of our fireplace. Join us for an afternoon of fun, featuring Amanda Comi of Revolution Modern Dance, as she reviews some basics of swing dancing! After Amanda's review, there will be time to practice what you learned or freestyle to some swingin' tunes. Come on your own or bring a partner, but whatever you do, be sure to bring your dancing shoes!

We have great news for our teens. We are continuing with our Teen S.T.E.A.M. program the first three Tuesdays of Feb. at 3:30 p.m.. Join us to explore the various worlds of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics with a variety of fun activities, experiments, and

challenges each week.

The library will be continuing with a month full of fun and enriching story times for the whole family. We kick things off each week with Infant Storytime 10-10:30 a.m. every Monday in Feb., join us inside to explore songs, stories, and fun designed for our youngest audience and their caregivers! This program is intended for children 0-12 months and their families. Followed directly by It Takes a Village a caregiver-led discussion and playgroup for tips and tricks to help navigate raising little ones, at 10:30-11 a.m.. Then bring your energy to explore songs, stories, and fun designed for our youngest audience and their caregivers with Baby Storytime at 11 a.m..

Our burgeoning tots and their caregivers can join us on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. for Toddler Storytime. Bring your wiggles for songs, stories, and fun for toddlers and their grownups. Stay for Toddler Skills directly after at 11:30 a.m. which introduces toddlers and their caregivers to a variety of pre-

school-readiness skills including fine motor development, social emotional skills, and early literacy activities.

Wednesdays bring fun for the whole family with Family Storytime at 6 p.m.. Wear your pajamas and join us inside for songs, stories, and movement. Preschoolers and their caregivers will learn early literacy skills with fun songs, story telling, movement, and more during Preschool Storytime every Thursday at 11 a.m.. Followed by School Skills for Preschoolers at 11:30 a.m. where preschoolers and their caregivers will practice school-readiness skills with cutting, tracing, play, and other literacy activities.

Elementary aged kids can join us for Amazing Art Exploration, featuring a variety of hands-on art activities and learn about famous artists and techniques. In front of the fireplace on Feb. 6, 13, and the 20th.

Readers of all ages can improve their reading confidence and make a new friend when they read aloud to a Go Team Therapy Dog at Paws to Read on Feb. 9th beginning at 6:30 p.m..

Frederick County Public Schools

Karen Yoho
Board of Education

Budget season is well underway. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget has now become the Board of Education's budget to work with. We held our full day budget workshop on January 18. There is a wealth of information on the budget accessible on the FCPS web-

site. Click on the "About Us" tab and you will see Budget in the list.

The Board will have the opportunity to hear from the public on February 1 at Frederick High School at 7 p.m. The proposed operating budget expenditures total \$933,044,509. This is an increase of \$110,208,258 over last year's budget.

If you have paid any attention to

Maryland public schools over the past few years, the term Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act should be familiar. This massive legislation has the goal of transforming public education in Maryland to be not just the best in our country, but to put Maryland on par with the best performing school systems in the world.

Very often, American schools are compared to schools around the globe and found to be lacking. But nothing is typically done with that information. No reasons are given for why there might be differences, such as the rate of student poverty being much higher in

the United States than for the students ours are being compared to.

The Kirwan Commission sought to study the issue and then arrive at conclusions that could be acted on to improve public education. The work of this Commission was turned into legislation by Maryland lawmakers. Of course, Covid had to get itself in the way initially and the road hasn't always been smooth for implementation. But the pieces are seemingly finally getting towards being in place.

There are five pillars to the Blueprint. Pillar One is the significant expansion of full-day pre-school. Pillar Two is centered on elevating teachers and school leaders. Pillar Three focuses on college and career readiness for our stu-

dents, with a larger emphasis on career and technology education. Pillar Four seeks to provide more resources for high needs students. The final pillar centers on accountability and involves submitting plans to various oversight bodies at the state level.

While the average citizen in Maryland may not be aware of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, every school system in Maryland is busily working to plan for implementation and have reports due on time. Information on the Blueprint and each pillar can be found on the main page of the FCPS website. The Blueprint has its own link.

Congratulations to the five FCPS high school seniors who were selected to serve as pages for the Maryland General Assembly beginning on January 11. The students are: Bella Amell, BHS; Mehr-Un-Nisa Saeed, THS; Layla El-Sherif, OHS; Manasi Tanikella, UHS; and our very own Student Member of the Board, Lucas Tassarollo, Gov. TJHS. The student alternate is Aiden Miller, LHS. We are very proud of these students and know they will represent us well in Annapolis during the upcoming legislative session.

The Middle School Music Festival will take place on Saturday, February 4 at GTJHS. Tickets are available at GOFAN.co for \$6 for adults and \$2 for students, plus additional fees. There will also be cash only sales at the door. Senior Citizens (60+) and children under school are free, as are FCPS employees who show their badge.

Every Friday evening in January and February, high school teams compete at Frederick High in the Academic Tournament. This is the 42nd year. The final competition will be held on February 24.

The FCPS Science Fair is back. It is scheduled for March 25 at Tuscarora High School. Information can be found on the main page of the FCPS website. Scroll down to find links for Elementary Science & Engineering Fair, Secondary Science & Engineering Fair, and Elementary Social Studies Fair.

The seven members of the Frederick County Board of Education are working hard together to do the best for our students. Please contact us at board@fcps.org.

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WALKERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

WHS swim team glides into county championships



Walkersville High swim team, one of the strongest in the County, readies for a competition.

Audrey Shabelski

Walkersville High-school 2024

With their season wrapping up, the Walkersville High swim team has the upcoming Frederick County Championships on their minds and a strong season behind them. Since starting their season in December, the varsity swim team has competed at eight meets. Currently, the girls team stands at four wins and five losses, while the boys team stands at five wins and three losses.

The teams have certainly been hard at work all season, practicing four days a week for at least an hour each day. “We have definitely come a long way from morning five a.m. practices, though I do miss those, and I think we have definitely improved as a team,” senior swimmer Gressa New said.

While both teams started their season with a loss against Linganore, they were resurgent and went on to win their second meet against Catoctin. There, the boys team achieved a score of 112-35 and the girls team won 111-54.

There are many events that each swimmer can compete in during a meet: relay races, butterfly races and freestyle. There are typically six lanes, and the faster the swimmers finish their race, the more points they get. The first place swimmer receives five points, fifth place receives one point, and swimmers placing in sixth or lower receive no points. In the diving category, competitors use a different set of scoring. Walkersville only has one diver, sophomore Natalie Lertora, but she has stood strong this season, winning in the diving category against both Catoctin and Frederick.

Senior Abigail Atallah competes in both the 100-meter freestyle and the 200-meter individual medley and has been swimming for 12 years. As she approaches graduation, she reflects on her time as a Walkersville swimmer. “This season has flown by. It feels like we started training for pre-season just a few weeks ago,” Atallah said. “My hope for the rest of the

season is to go out giving it my all. It's my last swim season, so I want to make it the best it can be.”

Alongside the girls, the boys swim team has seen a successful season unfold as well, particularly after losing a strong set of seniors from the 2021-22 season, in which the team won the title of CMC Boys Regional Champions.

Luckily, this year's team has a new set of strong seniors, and with them strong underclassmen. Senior Reuben Puthumana, who started competing on the Walkersville swim team only last year, noted that because the boys team has grown smaller this year, “every player is truly contributing to the final score, making each race more meaningful.”

While maintaining high scores can be especially stressful for teams experiencing decreases in participation, the Walkersville boys team takes it in stride. “Sometimes we compete against schools that are twice or three times our size, and in those cases we just strive to do our best, setting personal bests and achieving

the highest score that we possibly can,” said Puthumana. “My best time for the 50-meter freestyle is 35 seconds, and my best time for the 100-meter breaststroke is 1 minute 58 seconds. These times are nothing impressive, but I'm proud of the progress I was able to make in two years.”

The boys team boasts an array of strong individual swimmers who excel in their events as well as a very competitive relay team. The team is hoping that they can

keep their title of CMC Regional Champs again this year, the next step of which will be competing in the county championships.

The Frederick County Championships will be hosted by the Lions this year at Walkersville High, and will be held on Saturday, February 11th at 10 a.m. There, both the boys and girls swim teams will compete against other county teams, most notably opponents Oakdale, Urbana, and Linganore. Make sure to support your local swimmers!

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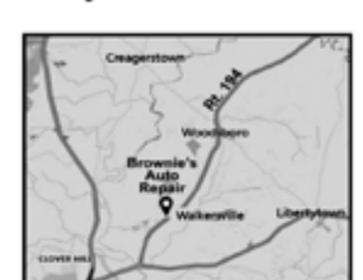
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Beautiful to look at with coveted aromas and varieties to suit anyone's aesthetic taste, flowers have been an inseparable part of our lives throughout history. Whether they were used for decorations, perfumes, or even as food, flowers and other flora have taken on roles far from their original evolutionary purposes.

One of the societal roles of flowers at least since medieval times is floriography. Literally meaning "language of flowers," floriography has been used in Biblical texts and in ancient and traditional cultures worldwide. However, it was in the Victorian era that this art style and form of communication took off. Since outward expressions of affection and emotion were essentially frowned upon, people could not develop or even break off relationships easily.

Taking hints from the popular study of ancient and medieval history, people in the Victorian era began to communicate their true feelings by arranging flower bouquets to "spell out" a message to the recipient based on the historical symbolism of each flower and plant. This method of communication carried over to artwork, architecture, literature, and even tombstone engrav-

ings, allowing Victorians all equipped with floral dictionaries and pamphlets to truly express their thoughts and feelings with one another while keeping up appearances for social elite dedicated to strict etiquette.

Though the meanings and significance of flowers and plants differ, depending on the region and time period of their use, universal definitions of common blooms and plants can still be seen today in our modern culture. For example, the yellow rose, which symbolized friendship in Victorian era England, meant death and unrequited love in the state of Texas during the same time period. Now the yellow rose represents mutual friendship in both regions. With all of these various meanings, floral dictionaries became incredibly popular everyday items in the typical Victorian era household.

The first known Victorian era floral dictionary was printed in 1819 in France by Louise Cortambert (who wrote under the pseudonym of Madame Charlotte de la Tour), entitled *Le Langage des Fleurs*, and remained a core resource and guide for over four decades. British flower writer and publisher Robert Tyas is credited with reprinting Cortambert's book into English in his 1836 edition, *The Sentiment of Flowers*; or, *Language of Flora*.

More contemporary versions were written between 1820 and 1880 when the trend became popular in Great Britain and the United States, imparting their insight in popular fiction written by the British authors Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte, and the American poet Emily Dickinson. All three authors were avid gardeners and quick to utilize floral imagery in their work to convey deep meanings behind life events, relationships, and in the case of novelists Austen and Bronte, as omens on future outcomes for the characters.

Some examples of floriography and the symbolism of flowers taken from the *Illustrated Language of Flowers* (1856), compiled and edited by Mrs. L. Burke, are as follows: Butterfly weed—a plea for personal freedom to live as one desires; red carnations—sorrow; daisy—innocence and attachment; white rose—worthy of someone's love; sweet violets—modesty; red roses—symbolizing not only affection through bloodshed and sacrifice, today it mainly expresses romantic love; white lilies—virginity and purity; the red poppy—consolation (used especially in World War I in remembrance of fallen military officers and emergency responders).

Using these symbolic definitions, Victorians created whole conversations and statements through the arrangement of multiple types of flowers and plants together in bouquets or in smaller bouquets known as "nosegays" or "tussie-mussies" that were comprised of herbs with a single flower in the center which ladies could pin on their dresses and topcoats to reveal another level of communication to possible suitors.

For example, combining the red rose and white rose conveys the message of unity and the reward of virtuous morals and dedication to one another. A bouquet with Dame's Rocket (Rivalry), ranunculus (Charm), and rhododendrons (Dedication) sent by a lady to a suitor would say to the suitor, "You have a rival in my hand in marriage, but I am dazzled by your charm and I won't even consider him again."

If the "tussie-mussie" was pinned to the lady's breast, it was bad news for the sender, for it meant she only considered him a friend, but pinning the "tussie-mussie" over her heart was an all-out declaration of love to the sender. This type of behavior became an acceptable method of flirting between a lady and



Nosegays or 'tussie-mussies', made of flowers and herbs, date from medieval times and were thought to ward off disease or were simply used to provide a pleasant smell. During Victorian times they were used to send non-verbal messages to loved ones.

her suitors while still distancing themselves from the unrestrained and uncivilized chatter of flirting and expressing personal opinion and emotions during a time in which marriage and relationships were contracted as more of a political chore by aristocrats and royalty.

Though the Victorian era officially ended by the 1920s, many of the commonplace meanings and practices around flowers and plants are still active today, a mere 100 years later. In keeping with these past trends, modern society still holds on to many old tales and legends about plants and the meaning of them. For example:

It is bad luck to give someone a potted plant during a hospital stay, for it predicts a long, difficult recovery.

It is common, especially in the American South, to eat money-symbolizing foods like cabbage, black-eyed peas, or collard greens on New Year's Eve at the stroke of midnight or as the first meal of the New Year to bring in wealth and financial stability.

Gifting someone a snake plant, especially as a house-warming gift, invites death into the home.

Money plants, which promote wel-

fare and riches, are common gifts to people who begin a new job or career or even retire.

Planting peppers when you are mad will make the pepper "fruit" hotter.

A common Appalachian belief—saying "thank you" when someone gives you a plant—is bad luck and will kill the plant. The best response is to compliment the plant on its beauty or uniqueness.

So as you prepare the perfect bouquet to express your feelings toward your beloved this Valentine's holiday, take some time to study some of these unique flower meanings to create a personalized bouquet not only for your personal fancy, but as a way to better express your thoughts and feelings towards your loved one. Or, you can take a note from the Victorian era and give him/her a pineapple to communicate how absolutely perfect that person is in each and every way. But whatever you choose to do, it won't be a Valentine's Day either of you will forget anytime soon.

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February 18: "Elements of a Pollinator Garden" Learn the four elements that are essential to creating a garden that attracts and sustains pollinators year-round. We will offer advice on building your own pollinator-friendly habitat, including lists of plants.

February 25: "Right Plant,

Right Place: Design Fundamentals" Use basic design principles in your flower gardening to add interest and increase impact! Learn about basic landscape design concepts that can be easily applied to any garden; including shape, color, texture, framing, rhythm, focal points and other considerations.

All seminars are free and start at 10 a.m. and run until noon, and take place at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue), in Frederick.

You can register online for these and other courses at <https://bit.ly>.

Small Town Gardener

Adventures in #GrowYourOwn

Marianne Willburn

It's time to pay attention. February is here – the quiet prelude to Spring. This is the month where I get tough with myself and methodically face indoor tasks which will hurt the growing season's upcoming display if I don't.

Seed Orders – Because even your old high school coach is buying seeds these days, and there are only so many seeds out there. Timing is everything.

Plant Orders – Because, ditto. And before you know it, May will be here and "out of stock" will greet you when you finally get around to getting hold of that gorgeous *Alocasia macrorrhiza* 'Lutea'.

Plants in Storage – They may be too dry, too wet, or growing out of their bags and alerting you to too-warm temperatures in your holding areas. You may even have a pest problem if it's been too warm.

Houseplant Pests – February really is the month for trials and tribulations. We're still several months from getting your Long-Term Commitments back outside (if you give them a #houseplant-vacation), and much can happen in that time – you simply have to pay attention this month. Many gorgeous specimens have lost their proverbial bloom after realizing that no, indoor conditions were not just a temporary measure, and they're in it for the long haul. Give them a bit of love.

It's always a good idea to think ahead, but this year, inflation and supply chain issues are shifting that concept into mantra status. At least around here. If you're feeling overwhelmed (I am), write down the things you really don't want to live without this growing season. It may be less than you think.

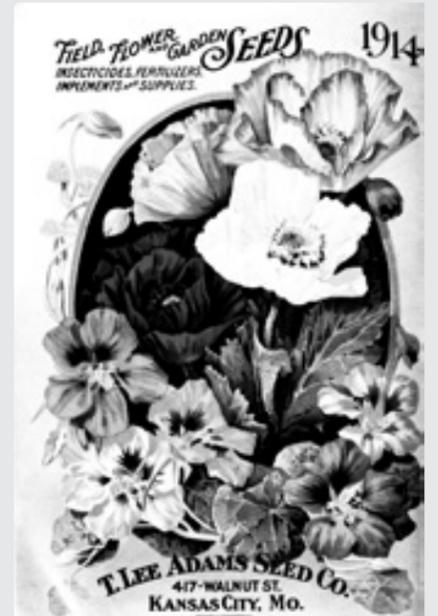
Perhaps you can live without them, use the seeds you have, and sharpen your propagating skills this year. If so, it's wise to make a decision to that end instead of passively and guiltily letting the decision-making point go by. It's a spirit-refreshing superpower.

As for those houseplants and tender storage plants? Absolutely you can let those once lovely houseplants walk one-by-one down the long green mile. You can refuse to check on the plants in cold storage to see if they need some moisture (they probably do).

Yes, you can let them all perish, or at least see what survives if you do nothing, but I'd counsel against it if possible. You've already spent a great deal of time, money, and most of all, energy, getting them where they are. See them through till the spring and then let your experience of "Why did I do that to myself!?!?" inform your decision-making process next autumn instead.

As for the winter garden, there are many who do not garden in February, or do not choose to aim for a four-season garden. And while I understand this attitude in climates where gardens are covered in two feet of snow for the majority of winter, for me, February is a too-short month that allows me to take care of things that are so much more difficult to do when the weather warms up and everything needs my attention.

Yesterday was a good case in point. Bright. Fine. Probably 38-42F. Wrapped up warm with a good pair of gloves and a warm hat, I added to the habitat nest near the chicken coop with a pile of fallen branches and sticks, pruned the 'Gardenia' ram-



bling rose that wants to run over the top of the wired run, and removed the dead vines of *Dioscorea bulbifera*, that with fallen twigs and rambler laterals, creates an efficient catch all for a million leaves, seed pods and branches from the massive sycamore above.

What a job. There was a fair amount of swearing. I questioned, as I always do, the need for rambling roses in a garden.

And yet, how much more difficult had I left this to spring, with emerging bulbs to tread on, and budding, ancient rose canes to feel pity for, and wet, mushy soil to hold up my rake instead of allowing me to sweep up the sticks I tossed on the ground whilst atop a wobbly ladder? Plus, keenly aware of 526 other time-sensitive tasks to do as the planting season raged around me...

This also allowed me to assess the gnarled skeleton of my chaste tree and decide if that really was the shape I wanted, or if it would add more as a much smaller shrub. The answer was yes, the chainsaw came out, the deed was done – more fodder for the nest. I cleared the remains of *Persicaria virginiana* from around a budding but small *Corylopsis* (which would have ruined the spring show), pulled the remains of a rotting cold frame out from rampant ajuga, and took a long hard look at the Allegheny viburnums, now stripped of leaves, and decided that they too, would be drastically cut back in a few weeks' time.

And in doing so, I got my blood pumping and my back moving – which is crucial in the winter when it would otherwise be atrophying at my desk. But above all, I remembered how beautiful the winter landscape is, even when the garden is technically not. I couldn't be without February in my gardening year – how curious to find myself sad it is a short month. My twenty-something self would be shocked.

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

Marianne Willburn is an author, speaker, and columnist, and blogs at GardenRant and MarianneWillburn.com.

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ARTS

Weinberg Center presents the *Doo Wop Project*

The Doo Wop Project, a super-group of Broadway stars who transform influential hits from the American pop songbook, is coming to the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick on Friday, February 3 at 8 p.m.

Featuring stars of Broadway's smash hits *Jersey Boys* and *Motown: The Musical*, The Doo Wop Project traces the evolution of Doo Wop from the classic sound of five guys singing tight harmonies on a street corner to the biggest hits on the radio today. Members of The Doo Wop Project are Charl Brown, Russel Fischer, John Michael Dias, Dwayne Cooper, Dominic Nolfi and Musical Director Santino "Sonny" Paladino. In their shows, The Doo Wop Project takes audiences go on a journey with music from groups like the Crests, The

Belmonts and Flamingos through their influences on the sounds of Smokey Robinson, The Temptations and The Four Seasons, all the way to "DooWopified" versions of modern musicians like Jason Mraz and Garth Brooks.

Other shows coming up at the Weinberg include:

The Ivy League Of Comedy Presents *Skirmish Of The Sexesm* - February 8, at New Spire Arts. The Ivy League of Comedy is known for their elite brand of clever comedy, with comedians featured on late-night TV and Comedy Central, including Carmen Lynch (Tonight Show, Letterman, Colbert), Kerrie Louise (Showtime, Comedy Central), Clayton Fletcher (Sirius/XM radio, Hulu TV) and Shaun Eli (Netflix,

Lafayette Gilchrist Plays Herbie Nichols And Lafayette Gilchrist -



The Musical, *Doo Wop Project* will appear at the Weinberg Center of February 3rd.

February 18th.

Lafayette Gilchrist is best known for his music heard on the iconic television series, *The Wire*. Gilchrist pays homage to Herbie Nichols, a composer overlooked during his too-brief lifetime, but now compared to Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk. Leading.

Thumbscrews - April 29, February 8, at New Spire Arts. The internationally acclaimed trio of guitarist Mary Halvorson, bassist Michael Formanek, and drummer Tomas Fujiwara have performed at jazz festivals throughout North America and Europe, and at such legendary clubs as The Village Vanguard and Blues Alley, as well as releasing seven CDs, garnering acclaim from internationally respected media platforms.

Liberal Redneck Trae Crowder Brings Just Me and Y'all! Tour - March 25. Trae Crowder first gained international attention in 2016 for his hugely viral series

of "Liberal Redneck" comedic "porch rant" videos. Since then, Trae has written a best-selling book, *The Liberal Redneck Manifesto: Draggin' Dixie Outta The Dark*, toured the country playing sold out theatre shows under the WellRED Comedy Tour banner, appeared on *Real Time* with Bill Maher (HBO), *Nightline* (ABC), *The View*, *Last Word* with Lawrence O'Donnell (MSNBC), NPR, *WTF* with Marc Maron, MTV, CNN, *Huffington Post* and in the *Veronica Mars* reboot, as "Chattanooga Charlie," among many others. Initially from rural Celina, TN, Trae has developed and sold five scripted pilots for Warner Bros TV, ABC, and FOX and continues to work as a writer.

Ladies of Laughter - May 12, also at New Spire Arts. Friday, May 12. See 3 past winners from the heralded *Ladies of Laughter* international competition, the one-and-only women's com-

edy programming with the sole purpose of highlighting, celebrating and furthering the careers of women in stand-up comedy.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2022-23 season can be found at WeinbergCenter.org.

Tickets for these and other shows may be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street. Discounts are available for students, children, military and seniors.

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Winter wonder (what to do) land!

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

After the holidays and back to the work and school grind, February can feel like the longest month of the year and a culinary bore. Taking advantage of the cold weather, you can stroll and snack down the streets of Frederick for Fire and Ice on Saturday, February 4th where over 100 Ice sculptures will be on display from 11am on, during the day. But that leaves 27 other days to feed yourself and others. I would like to speak to the person who came up with the idea that dinner should be served Every Single Night.

My middle little recently declared that he does not like pizza. Unless I make it, which means the dough. This takes a bit of forethought, but we've found and adjusted a simple pizza dough recipe that can make one large pie or four small ones, for independent topping. Using a mixer is a way to speed things up and avoid kneading for an unreasonable amount of time (may my Italian grandmother forgive me), so you can turn out this dough in time for dinner pizzas.

National Pizza day is February 9th, so you will be ready to go.

Pizza Dough

Ingredients

- 2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour or bread flour divided
- 1 packet instant yeast (2 1/4 tps)
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tbs olive oil plus additional for

- brushing the dough
- 3/4 cup warm water

Preparation instructions: In a mixer (or large mixing bowl), whisk together 1 cup of flour, the yeast, sugar, salt, and garlic powder. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil and the warm water and mix well on low for 2 to 3 minutes. Then add in another cup of flour, mixing on low until the dough comes together, it will be sticky but should be able to form a ball. Only use the additional 1/3 of a cup if your dough is very wet. Later, when the dough is fermenting (proofing) it will absorb the water more. Now, turn the mixer up to medium and mix until it is elastic, for about 3 minutes.

Prepare a large, clean bowl by very generously brushing with olive oil. Transfer the dough ball to the bowl and also brush the top with olive oil so the entire ball is coated, or turn it a few times in the bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap (or a kitchen towel) and set aside in a warm place to rise until doubled, which will take about an hour. To push your dough a little faster, you can put it in an off oven with just the light on.

Once the dough has risen, punch it down then transfer to a floured surface. You can be very authentic and knead it for a minute, then roll the dough into a large circle. Or you can divide it into 4 balls and people can make their own personal pizza. Then place on a pizza pan or stone. Poke the dough all over with a fork, then brush the dough with olive oil. To make the pizza, preheat the oven to 425F.

Top the dough with pizza sauce, mozzarella cheese, and the toppings

of your choice. Bake the pizza at 425F for 12-15 minutes until the cheese is melted and dough is baked.

The most obvious holiday in February is Valentine's Day, often revolving around decadent deserts. If you are like me and prefer to stay at home instead of battling crowds for dinner reservations, here is a desert that looks fancy but can be made a day ahead of time and refrigerated for a day. It is vanilla pastry cream, chocolate ganache and whatever fruit you enjoy, layered in a martini glass or a glass bowl shows the layers and looks like more work than it is.

Pastry Cream

This vanilla pastry cream is smooth and rich tasting, goes great with even plain fruit and feels like a real treat. This recipe also makes enough to fill one 10 inch tart shell, or several individual wine glass servings. (adapted from the Salamander Resort Summer Fruit Tart class).

Ingredients

- 2 cups Milk
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 4.75 tbs cornstarch
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 whole large egg
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2 tbs butter

Preparation instructions: In a bowl, whisk together half the sugar, cornstarch, whole egg and egg yolk and set next to the stove, on a towel where you will be heating the milk. Heat the milk and other half of the sugar together in a saucepan over medium heat, just before it simmers. Temper (pour slowly) the hot milk into the egg mixture while whisking constantly, and then return the entire mixture back into the pot. Cook mixture while continu-



ously whisking, until it thickens and bubbles. (The speed that it thickens depends on the heat, I am a chicken and heat mine very slowly so it doesn't curdle or burn.) Once thickened, remove from heat over to the towel your bowl was on and stiff in butter and vanilla and stir until the butter is melted. Pour the pastry cream through a fine sieve into a shallow pan and then cover with plastic wrap directly on the surface of the pastry cream (so it doesn't form a skin) and refrigerate to chill and use later.

Medium Chocolate Ganache

Chocolate ganache is made up of just chocolate and heavy cream but changing the ratios of how much chocolate to cream. A medium ganache is great for pouring or dipping items in, it coats well, is very shiny and is still a little soft.

Ingredients

- 16 ounces bittersweet chocolate (chopped)

12 ounces heavy cream

Preparation instructions: Place the chocolate in a bowl, heat the heavy cream just to a boil and then pour over the chocolate to melt it and stir. It will look very thin, but will thicken some as it cools.

Wash and prepare your fresh fruit, berries work well, or you can just use the cream/chocolate combination. Start by putting the pastry cream in a piping bag, then use a spoon to fill a small amount of the chocolate in the bottom of a glass, and then splatter inside of the glass a la Jackson Pollock. Layer with fruit, vanilla pastry cream, more chocolate, more fruit, until you get a desert you desire. Make this a day ahead of time, cover and refrigerate, then present to the one you love.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of February

Professor Wayne Wooten

For February 2023, the Full Moon, the Hunger Moon, is February 5th. The last quarter moon is February 13th, and the waning crescent passes 4 degrees north of Mercury in the dawn on February 18th. The New Moon is February 20th. Six more new moons find the moon passing in front of the Sun for an annular solar eclipse on October 14th; we will witness about 70% of the Sun hidden behind the moon at noon in our area. The waxing crescent moon passes 2 degrees south of Venus in dusk on February 22, then passes 1.2 degrees south of Jupiter a few hours later. The moon first quarter moon passes one degree north of Mars on February 27th.

Mercury is low in the SE dawn sky in mid February, with the waning crescent moon nearby on February 18th. Venus climbs higher in the western sky, to dominate it as the evening star through the summer. Still on the far side of the Sun, Venus is currently a waning gibbous phase in the telescope. She overtook Saturn in late January, and now catches up with Jupiter as well as February ends, passing 1.3 degrees from it on February 28th. These are the two brightest planets, so this will be a spectacular naked eye conjunction into early March as closer Venus moves eastward daily past slower moving Jupiter. Mars is near quadrature, 90 degrees east of the setting Sun, and high overhead at sunset in Taurus. Saturn is behind the sun and lost in its glare this month.

Another member of our solar system will draw considerable attention this month. It is Comet 2022 E3 (ZTF). It was the third comet found in the first two weeks of March 2022, hence letter E (each half month starts a new letter, from A for Jan 1-15) and was discovered in a routine sky survey by the 48" Palomar Schmidt Telescope, now used by



Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) is on a journey of astronomical proportions. It is classified as a long-period comet, meaning it takes more than 200 years to complete an orbit. It should be visible with binoculars — and may even be visible with the naked eye — when it reaches its closest approach to Earth in early February. It could be a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle.

the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF), looking for changes in the sky such as appearance and motion of comets, novae, supernovae, NEO asteroids, etc. It will pass closest to Earth, at 43 million km, on February 2nd, and probably become faintly visible with the naked eyes under dark skies. It is in the dawn sky in Corona Borealis in mid January, but will rapidly head northwest, passing between the Big and Little Dippers in late January, and into the evening sky overhead during all of February, passing closest to red planet Mars about Valentine's Day.

Here we start in the northern sky on February 1st and follow the comet swiftly southward (note how fast it is moving passing us in early February here, passing between bright yellow Capella and Marfik in Perseus on February 5th, almost overhead, and then by red Mars on Valentine's Day. Also note as it retreats from earth and Sun by month's end, it fades rapidly and appears to slow down as it retreats from the Sun's gravity.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular

users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now.

Cassiopeia's daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, about 2.5 million light years away.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol,

where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye; use it (mag. +0.9) as a comparison star to measure the fading of Betelgeuse. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini; they were the first two recruits for the Argonauts of University of West Florida.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Betelgeuse is also known as alpha Orionis, for it has been the brightest star in Orion most of the time.

Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an out-

standing binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope. Just east of Betelgeuse is the fine binocular cluster NGC 2244. But the much fainter Rosette Nebula that it lies in the center of requires bigger scopes or astrophotography.

In the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 p.m., and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now".

When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, a reminder that spring is coming; look for the bowl of the Big Dipper to rise, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. But if you take the pointers south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". Fitting for our cosmic king of beasts, whose rising at the end of this month means March indeed will be coming in "like a lion".

Farmers' Almanac

"February is the border between winter and spring."

—Terri Guillemets (1973-)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Dry and mild, then snow north and west, rain south and east followed by breezy conditions (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); dry, then occasional light showers followed by brisk and cooler conditions (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); seasonal, then snow, wintry mix central and east followed by brisk and dry conditions (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16); cold, then moderating (17, 18, 19, 20); wintry mix, rain south and east at first, followed by dry weather (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28).

Severe Weather Watch: Heavy Snow, Wintry Mix (2, 3, 4, 5); wintry mix, high winds (11, 12, 13, 14); heavy snow (15, 16); more wintry mix (21, 22, 23)

Full Moon: in 2023, February's Full Moon will occur on February 5t. Where tribes saw the deepest snow, it was called Snow Moon, while other tribes called it Wolf Moon because of all of the howling heard during the month, which happens to be the middle of their breeding season! And because there is such an extreme scarcity of game to hunt everywhere during this month, it was also aptly referred to as Hunger Moon.

Special Notes: "Punxsutawney Phil" makes his annual and much-anticipated appearance on Thursday, February 2nd when he issues his 'prediction' of the coming of Spring! If it is a sunny day and this little marmota monax sees his shadow, he will retreat post haste underground, to remain there for another 6 weeks of Winter! If it is cloudy and he doesn't get scared by his own shadow, Spring will come early in 2023. Also, The Christian Festival of Lights, or Candlemas, will be celebrated on the 2nd as well. As part of a long tradition, many churches would display many more candles on this day during their daily services. Not only did it make the service a special one, but it was also believed that the additional light would provide protection from illness and plague in the coming year. Shrove Tuesday (or Fat Tuesday, the start of Mardi Gras) is February 21st and Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, marking the beginning of Lent.

Holidays: Valentine's Day, February 14th, falls on Tuesday in 2023. Show that special someone just how special they are and how much you appreciate them. The birthdays of Presidents Abraham Lincoln (Saturday, February 12th) and George Washington (Tuesday, the 22nd) are collectively celebrated on President's Day, which falls on Mon-

day, February 20th, providing us with an extended holiday weekend. Enjoy!

The Garden: With some good news from our favorite groundhog, we can start thinking about things to do in an early. It's time to turn the compost pile (if it's not too frozen!). Mid-to late-February is the time to fertilize shrubs and evergreens. Use an acid-type Rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed Roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly. The vegetable garden should get its first good tilling of the year, if weather and wetness permits.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (9, 10, 11, 16, 17); best for weeding and stirring the soil (1, 27, 28); best for planting above-ground crops (2, 3); best for harvesting all crops (14, 15); best days to set hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 27, 28); slaughter and butcher meat (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); transplant (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); harvest and store grains (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19); wean animals (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"Make the most of each day's opportunities. Those who wait for their ship to come in often miss the boat."



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Mimi McLaughlin Galanis -
McLaughlin Chiropractic

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like hiking with my family, playing tennis, and walking our dog in my spare time. I also appreciate doing crafts and one day may get back into that. Our young adults keep us energetic so there hasn't been much spare time since they've been born.

When did you move to the Walkersville area? What made this area a good choice for you?

I moved to Walkersville, on the Fourth of July weekend, 1995. My sister was getting her masters in Education at Mount Saint Mary's. While there she worked

at Campus Ministries with outreach for Fr. Keith Boisvert. Moving to Maryland, from Memphis (after living in Atlanta) was a great choice. I knew I needed to get closer to home, and I found many chiropractors in NJ and fewer in Md.

Have you always lived in the Walkersville area?

I grew up in Ramsey, NJ, and am the second oldest of seven.

Business Questions

What motivated you to go into the chiropractic field?

I was motivated in high school to become a chiropractor. After suffering from severe allergies and asthma and being cared for by an allergist, my Mom brought me

to a chiropractor. The care there gave me relief from the allergies and asthma, and I no longer needed to get allergy shots, or use steroid inhalers and over-the-counter medications. I went into college thinking I'd be premed. While there I switched to major in Economics. After I worked in the business world for a few years, I made the commitment to go back to school, for another 4 years, to pursue my chiropractic degree.

Describe your perfect customer

Our perfect customer is one that may have an issue - back pain, neck pain, headaches, sinus issues, sciatica, numbness, and/or tingling. The person may have been dealing with the problem for a while, living with it, or getting tired of how it's negatively affecting their life. They may also be in a place to do something different, ie they are tired of taking medications, may have already tried physical therapy, and had a few shots. The pain may also be affecting their sleep and or their daily activities. They are ready to learn, listen, (after we've listened to them), they are ready to engage, ask questions, and are willing to care for themselves.

How do you motivate yourself?

I like serving people and seeing them get better and better, going back to doing activities they love, without medications. I also appreciate it when they tell their friends

and family and bring them in to get results.

Random Questions

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
In five years I see myself with a fantastic team including an associate. We're having fun and are well integrated into the community and are going to healthcare professionals. Our team is passion-

ate about serving and is well cared for, they share this positive energy with those we serve in the office - and in our community.

What advice would you give to our youth?

I'd give our youth the advice to follow their bliss, and release the fear of doing something different or something that's difficult. If there's a will, there's a way.

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HUMOR

Trivia Part Whatever

A “clue” originally meant a ball of thread. Hence, one “unravels” the clues of a mystery.

A “jiffy” is an actual unit of time. It is 1/100 of a second.

A fireplace is called a “mantelpiece” because at one time people hung their coats (or “mantles”) over the fireplace to dry them.

The name of the Internet’s most popular directory, is an acronym. According to the company, the name “Yahoo” stands for “Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle.”

If you add together all the numbers on a roulette wheel (1 to 36) the total is the mystical number 666.

If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.

In Albania, nodding the head means “no” and shaking the head means “yes.”

The original name for the butterfly was “flutterby.”

The phrase “a red letter day” dates back to 1704, when holy days were marked in red letters in church calendars.

The pretzel is named from the Latin word “brachiatus” meaning “having branch-like arms.”

In the Middle English the word “minister” meant “lowly person.” It was originally adopted as a term of humility for men of the church.

Levan, Utah is “navel” spelled backwards. It is so named because it is in the middle of Utah.

The word “Checkmate” in chess comes from the Persian phrase “shah mat,” which means “the king is dead.”

The word “dreamt” is the only word in the English language that ends in “mt.”

Honey is the only food that doesn’t spoil.

Talmudists believe Adam and Eve resided in paradise a mere 12 hours before they were kicked out.

With few exceptions, birds do not sing while on the ground. They sing during flight or while sitting on an object off the ground.

Lewis Carroll wrote 98,721 letters in the last 37 years of his life.

Cinderella is known as “Tuna” in Finland.

A bear has 42 teeth.

Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.

In eighteenth-century English gambling dens, there was an employee whose only job was to swallow the dice if there was a police raid.

The human tongue tastes bitter things with the taste buds toward the back. Salty and pungent flavors are tasted in the middle of the tongue, sweet flavors at the tip.

A sneeze can travel as fast as 100 miles per hour.

It is impossible to sneeze and keep one’s eyes open at the same time.

In 1778, fashionable women of Paris never went out in blustery weather without a lightning rod attached to their hats.

In the Balanta tribe of Africa, a bride remained married until her wedding gown was worn out. If she wanted a divorce after 2 weeks, all she had to do was rip up her dress. This was the custom until about 20 years ago, anyway.

Marie de Medici, a member of that famous Italian family and a 17th-century queen of France, had expensive tastes in clothes. One special dress was outfitted with 39,000 tiny pearls and 3,000 diamonds, and cost the equivalent of \$20 million at the time it was made in 1606. She wore it once.

Here is the literal translation of one of the standard traffic signs in China. It reads: “Give large space to the festive dog that makes sport in the roadway.”

In 1968, a convention of beggars in Dacca, India, passed a resolution demanding that “the minimum amount of alms be fixed at 15 paise (three cents).” The convention also demanded that the interval between when a person hears a knock at his front door and when he offers alms should not exceed 45 seconds.

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7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$500
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$500	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$500	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$1000
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HUMOR

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A law passed in Nebraska in 1912 really set down some hard rules of the road. Drivers in the country at night were required to stop every 150 yards, send up a skyrocket, then wait eight minutes for the road to clear before proceeding cautiously, all the while blowing their horn and shooting off flares.

Crocodiles and alligators are surprisingly fast on land. Although they are rapid, they are not agile; so if you ever find yourself chased by one, run in a zigzag line. You'll lose him or her every time.

In 1500 B.C. in Egypt a shaved head was considered the ultimate in feminine beauty. Egyptian women removed every hair from their heads with special gold tweezers and polished their scalps to a high sheen with buffing cloths.

In ancient China and certain parts of India, mouse meat was considered a great delicacy.

In ancient Greece, where the mouse was sacred to Apollo, mice were sometimes devoured by temple priests.

In 1400 B.C. it was the fashion among rich Egyptian women to place a large cone of scented grease on top of their heads and keep it there all day. As the day wore on, the grease melted and dripped down over their bodies, covering their skin with an oily, glistening sheen and bathing their clothes in fragrance.

In the United States, a pound of potato chips cost two hundred times more than a pound of potatoes.

Half the foods eaten throughout the world today were developed by farmers in the Andes Mountains. Potatoes, maize, sweet potatoes, squash, all varieties of beans, peanuts, manioc, papayas, strawberries, mulberries and many other foods were first grown in this region.

Blue whales weigh as much as 30 elephants and are as long as three Greyhound buses.

According to tests made at the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems in Washington, D.C., dogs and cats, like people, are either right-handed or left-handed—that is, they favor either their right or left paws.

A person cannot taste food unless it is mixed with saliva.

According to acupuncturists, there is a point on the head that you can press to control your appetite. It is located in the hollow just in front of the flap of the ear.

Tibetans, Mongolians, and people in parts of western China put salt in their tea instead of sugar.

In 1976, a Los Angeles secretary named Jannene Swift officially married a 50-pound rock. The ceremony was witnessed by more than 20 people.

In the early 19th century the words "trousers" and "pants" were considered obscene in England.

There is approximately one chicken for every human being in the world.

The first automobile race ever seen in the United States was held in Chicago in 1895. The track ran from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois. The winner was J. Frank Duryea, whose average speed was 7 miles per hour.

In the memoirs of Catherine II of Russia, it is recorded that any Russian aristocrat who displeased the queen was forced to squat in the great antechamber of the palace and to remain in that position for several days, mewing like a cat, clucking like a hen, and pecking his food from the floor.

The outdoor temperature can be estimated to within

several degrees by timing the chirps of a cricket. It is done this way: count the number of chirps in a 15-second period, and add 37 to the total. The result will be very close to the actual Fahrenheit temperature. This formula only works in warm weather.

During a severe windstorm or rainstorm the Empire State Building may sway several feet to either side.

In Elizabethan England the spoon was such a novelty, such a prized rarity, that people carried their own folding spoons to banquets.

In "Gulliver's Travels," Jonathan Swift described the two moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, giving their exact size and speeds of rotation. He did this more than 100 years before either moon was discovered.

It costs more to buy a new car today in the United States than it cost Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the New World.

One-fourth of the world's population lives on less than \$200 a year. Ninety million people survive on less than \$75 a year.

Butterflies taste with their hind feet.

The word "Nazi" is actually an abbreviation. The party's full name was the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei.

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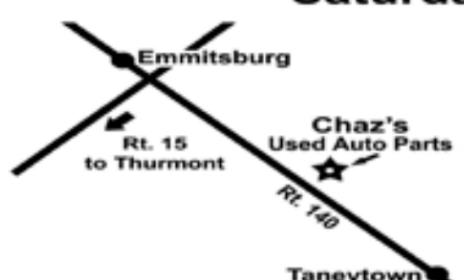
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