

Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 3, NO. 5

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

MAY 2023

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NEWS

Woodsboro Approves Chicken Ownership

With no public speakers, final vote was anti-climatic. **Page 2**

Verizon 5-G Lease Approved

After sweating its offer, the town council approved leasing space for 5-G transmitters. **Page 2**

Brannen Wins Bailey's Council Seat

Brannen takes 45% of votes to win 4-way race. **Page 3**

Dog Park Planned For Heritage Park

Park will allow owners and their dogs to play with other dogs. **Page 3**

Unsung Heroes

Mike Mathis—inspiring student athletes for 27 years. **Page 17**

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Divisive calls for actions by one side undermines all our freedoms. **Page 6**

The Bulwark

Two big lessons of Dominion vs. Fox. **Page 7**

Good Day, Neighbor

On addressing American's mental health needs. **Page 7**

ARTICLES

The Book Of Days

The legendary history of King Arthur. **Page 9**

Ecology

Improving critical and creative thinking skills through environmental education. **Page 10**

In The Country

When Mother Nature's delicate balance gets changed, the final outcome is anyone's guess. **Page 11**

Science Matters

Global warming is changing the flow of ocean currents. **Page 12**

History

The History of Woodsboro - Business. **Page 17**

Gardening

looking for gardening ideas? Visit the Frederick Master Gardener gardens. **Page 24**

Cooking

Fresh fruits and herbs are just around the corner... **Page 27**

Two throw hat into the ring for council seats

At the April 11 town council meeting, nominations were received to fill the two seats on the town council currently held by Commissioners Dana Crum and John Cutshall.

Crum reluctantly announced that she would not be seeking re-election, opting to spend more time with her family. "With a three year old now running around the house, I just don't have the time to dedicate to the council, and it's not fair to him, or the town."

Cutshall however, made it clear that he would look forward to being nominated to serve another term, and Commissioner Jessie Case rose to the occasion and made the necessary nomination. Case said: "John is a great guy, and a great commissioner. He loves the Town, has a rich knowledge of the town history, and more importantly, a level head. In many ways, he's the bed rock of the town council and we are all better off with him on it."

Cutshall said he never thought about not running. "I love this town. I've lived here all my life and one of these days they are going to carry me out of here in a box. I'm retired, so I have all the time in the world to serve the town. I love taking care of the town and serving the people."

Unlike other municipalities where candidates simply apply to have their names placed on the ballot, Woodsboro uses a nominating process to 'vet' candidates for town council. A candidate can nominate themselves, or have someone else nominate them; but someone needs to 'second' the nomination before the name is placed on the ballot.

Subsequent to the nominating 'convention,' former Burgess Bill Rittelmeyer said he went home and, after discussion with his wife and getting her support, decided to run as a write in candidate. "I hadn't thought about putting my name in prior to the meeting and hadn't discussed it with my wife. So, I wasn't in a position to accept a nomination at the meeting."

"I served 10+ years as a Commissioner and four years as Burgess and am well qualified to run for an open seat," Rittelmeyer said. "I will be asking people to write in 'William P. Rittelmeyer' (spelling and middle initial are important) for the second open council seat. I would be honored to serve the citizens of Woodsboro again if they think I am worthy of the position."

Crum nominated Ben Marshall to serve on the council, stating that Marshall, who is cur-



Former Burgess William T. Rittelmeyer has thrown his hat into the ring as a write-in candidate to fill Commissioner Crum's seat on the town council. Make sure when you write him in, you spell his name out in full: 'William T. Rittelmeyer'.

rently heading the Woodsboro Skate Park Initiative, "would be the logical replacement for her given that he would presumably assume her responsibilities on the Parks & Recreation Committee." However Marshall, who was not in attendance at the meeting, declined the nomination.

Burgess Barnes pointed out that

while the purpose of the nominating process was to identify the names to be put on the ballot, it was still possible for a person to run a write in campaign. "It's very possible," he said, "given the usual low turnout, to win a seat on the council with just a handful of votes."

The town's election is scheduled for Saturday, May 13.

Commission rejects FoodPro's zoning change

In a 6 to 1 vote, the Walkersville Planning Commission turned down FoodPro's request to change the zoning of the northern portion of their property from Agriculture to Limited Industrial in the updated Comprehensive Plan.

In a second motion, the Commission voted unanimously to change the zoning of the southern portion of the property, currently zoned Limited Industrial, to Agriculture, consistent with the current county zoning.

Over 100 residents sat attentively as town staff provided an overview of the town's current comprehensive plan. Most were chomping at the bit to get to the reason they had all shown up—a chance to provide their input on FoodPro's request to have their full 106-acre property designated Limited Industrial in the updated plan.

After recapping their development plans, representatives of FoodPro stated that the intent of their request to have the land rezoned in the town's updated Comprehensive Plan was to remove one hurdle in any future annexation request for the prop-

erty. "As you are in the processes of updating the plan, we felt this was a good opportunity to address the issue now, rather than later," FoodPro's representatives said.

Public comment on the proposed zoning change was almost unanimously against changing the zoning designation. Homeowners adjacent to the property expressed frustration over the loss of their pastoral views, and concern over light pollution and the noise from early morning truck traffic. Other residents expressed concern that the proposed zoning change would set in stone the property's eventual annexation, an annexation they believed would adversely impact the small town 'feel' of the town.

To the applause of residents in the audience, Commissioner Russ Winch, in expressing his opposition to the proposed change, cited the criteria in the town's zoning manual for Limited Industrial designation as: "to provided adequate land for development of industrial uses whose operations have a relative minor nuisance value to the surrounding area."

Commissioner David Ennis said that while he would like to see the property go through the annexation process so the town can have a say in the land's use, and that he appreciated FoodPro's goals of flushing out the details in an annexation process, that would be too late, and once zoned, the hands of the Commission would be tied.

Commissioner Brady joined Ennis in his concern that without annexation the town would have no control over the development of the property: "I want the town to have control of what gets built there." Brady noted that it would be more difficult for residents to get their concerns addressed at the County level.

Commissioner Mike Kuster not only said he was against the proposed zoning changed but went fur-

ther by proposing that the portion of the property currently zoned Limited Industrial have that designation removed so that portion of the property could not be developed.

Commissioner Ray Santullo said he could not see how a 24-hour trucking company fits into Walkersville's future. Santullo's concerns were echoed by Commissioner Nat Shatto.

Upon conclusion of the votes, Commissioner Winch warned the residents that the future development of the property will now rest with the county and be outside the control of the town.

Winch's words were echoing in the room when FoodPro's President Scott Brunk announced the company will proceed forward with the County on the development of the property.

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WOODSBORO NEWS

In-town chicken ownership approved

After all the hoopla and back and forth on the changing of the town code to allow residents to own chickens within town limits, the final act — a public meeting, was anything but.

Not a single resident stood up, for or against the changing of the town code, and without discussion, the council voted unanimously to approve the code change.

The code change will take effect on May 13, at which time residents can apply for a permit for their chickens and begin the process of bringing their chickens home to roost.

As amended by the Town Council, property owners within the town who own less than an acre will be allowed to have 5 chickens. Owners of more than one acre will be allowed to own up to 12 chickens. Ownership of roosters is prohibited.

A majority of the requirements within the ordinance are related to

ensuring the safety, health and well-being of the chickens. Especially, the ordinance lays out requirements for the minimum size of chicken coops and their outdoor runs, based on the number of chickens.

Chickens must be safely secured in well-constructed coops at night, and be protected at all times from attacks from wild animals, dogs and cats. In addition, veterinary care must be provided for all sick or injured chickens.

The rights of adjacent property owners were also addressed by the proposed requirements. Specifically, when not in their pens, all chickens must be in an enclosed area to prevent them from being “free range chickens,” according to Cutshall. In addition, the enclosure cannot be closer than 10 feet to an adjoining property.

Any odor from the chickens, including waste byproducts, may not be discernable at the property

line. Owners must dispose of all chicken waste, not used for fertilizer, properly. Disposal of chicken waste in the town’s trash system is strictly prohibited.

In order to obtain a town permit, owners must first register their chickens with the State’s Domestic Poultry division. Following the state registration, a resident can then apply for a town permit.

Prior to issuing a permit, the property will be inspected by the town’s zoning enforcement officer to verify that the chicken coop and enclosure are compliant with all requirements.

Owners who violate any of the requirements within the new ordinance will be cited and fined, with fines increasing with each violation. An owner who is cited three times within a 12 month period will have their permit withdrawn and will be required to move their chickens outside of town limits.

Council votes to limit grass height

To the surprise of just about everyone at the April 11 town council meeting, it was the discussion on the changing of the allowable heights of grass within town limits—not the ownership of chickens—that occupied a majority of the night’s discussion.

Due to frequent complaints from residents related to adjoining property owners not cutting their lawns, town staff recommended a change to the town code reducing the allowed height of lawns from 18 inches to 8 inches. Discussion between council members quickly deviated into a discourse over what in fact was meant by ‘grasses and weeds.’ Commissioner Dana Crum questioned if the code would restrict the ability of residents to develop native

plant gardens designed to benefit native bees and butterflies.

“Many ornamental grasses that are often part of gardens can grow over 4 feet tall,” Crum said. “Will the homeowners be forced to cut these plants?”

One resident questioned if the change was contrary to recent Maryland law that prohibited the forcing of homeowners to have lawns as opposed to wildflower meadows or just plain meadows.

What exactly was considered a weed perplexed many, as many weeds are also considered ‘beneficial,’ meaning they accomplish a number of roles in the garden or yard, including fertilizing the soil, increasing moisture, acting as shelter or living mulch, repelling pests, attracting

beneficial insects, or serving as food or other resources for human beings.

Others questioned the limitation on the brush piles, citing that depending on the size of the pile and its composition, different organisms will be attracted and may establish themselves. The presence of piles of sticks usually attracts birds, which may nest within the pile or may just spend time within the pile searching for food or finding shelter at different points during the day. These birds contribute to increasing the diversity of animals present and serve to control of insects & pests in gardens and yards.

In an effort to alleviate the fears, Burgess Barnes and Commissioner Case made it clear that the intent of the

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ordinance was not to limit the gardening desires of any resident, but instead to simply place a limit on the height of grass in your typical lawn; “nothing more, nothing less,” Barnes said.

“I myself would love to live next to a property with an actively maintained garden. Such properties not only add value to my home, but the town in general.

The goal of this change is to simply put a check on those who chose not to maintain their yards, or allow debris to accumulate to the detriment of adjoining properties. Overgrown lawns are

not only unsightly but can serve as breeding ground for unwanted pests and vermin.

“And if someone who is truly growing a meadow or wildflowers is cited, they can always appeal the citation. Again, we have no wish to hinder gardeners, if anything we want more gardens in town.”

Barnes’ logic won the day, and in the end, the council voted 3 to 1 to adopt the code change, with Commissioner Dana Crum casting the only dissenting vote.

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Verizon 5-G antennas approved

In a unanimous decision, the town council voted to lease space to Verizon on the Town’s water tower to install 5-G transmitters to enhance coverage in the Woodsboro area — which currently, according to the Verizon representative, has dead zones.

Verizon initially offered to pay the town \$2,000/month for a five-year lease, with five, five-year extensions, for a total maximum lease of 30 years. In addition, Verizon offered a 2% yearly increase on the monthly rate.

While the council was open to the offer, they noted that both AT&T and T-Mobile, which currently lease space on the water tower for their customers, increase their monthly rate by 3% per year, and requested Verizon to match them, which they did.

Verizon said that given the central location of the tower, installing their transmitters on it was far preferable coverage-wise, not to mention economically, to leasing land on an adjacent farm and building their own cell tower.

As part of the deal, Verizon will have 24-hour access to the water tower to allow it to make emergency repairs when necessary. To allow all three-cell phone/internet providers, as well as the town maintenance staff 24-hour access, the chain locking the access gate is ‘locked’ by each provider connecting their lock with the adjoining lock, in what is called a ‘daisy chain’ arrangement.

If someone installs their lock in such a way that it blocks anyone else from accessing the tower, “we will simply cut it off,” town staff said.

While no timeline for the installation of the Verizon 5-G transmitters was given, it is expected that following the required engineering reviews, the work will begin relatively quickly and completed in a short time period.

5G is over twice as fast as 4G on average. 5G will enable gigabyte downloads in seconds. Once installed, users of the service in Woodsboro will be able to download a 1-hour, 48-minute town meeting movie in just 49 seconds — that is of course, when the meetings are held in the new fancy town hall when it’s built. In the meantime, they use the speed to download movies in minutes.

VOTE
William P. Rittelmeyer
Woodsboro Town Commissioner
My name is Bill Rittelmeyer and I’m running as a write-in candidate for Woodsboro Town Commissioner in the May 13 town election. I have served on the Town Council, and after two years off, I’ve decided to dedicate more time serving our great town. I’m asking for your write-in vote on May 13. Take this ad with you when you cast your ballot.

WALKERSVILLE NEWS

Betsey Brannen wins Michael Bailey's council seat

Former councilman Michael Bailey got his wish—Betsey Brannen won the four-way race to succeed him on the town council. Brannen received 147 votes to second place David Toohey, who received 82. Bob Yoder received 60 votes, and Chris Ragen 35.

Voter turnout was 327, far short of the 572 that turned out for the February special election that returned Michael McNiesh to the council.

In his endorsement of Brannen, Bailey, whose seat has been vacant since January 12 following his move to North Carolina, said: "I first voted for Betsy in the 2018 commissioner election for many reasons. Betsy will

bring a unique perspective to the commissioner role. Being born and raised in the town gives her a foothold into understanding the historical context for issues the town faces.

"Pair this with a desire to innovate and modernize means that she can successfully navigate issues and propose meaningful solutions. She has also demonstrated herself to be intentional, realistic, innovative, and a collaborator. All things needed on the board."

Brannen has been a resident of Walkersville since 2015 following her husband's retirement from the military. Brannen said she ran for town council 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.

"I know it may seem like a lot to ask these days," Brannen said, "that our government bodies 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."

Brannen said it was important to attract new business and that the town needs to address the 'blight' issue, where business are not presenting the best store front image.

Brannen said she was not supportive of any additional residential development of land adjacent to Walkersville. Further, while she did not directly address the 'elephant in the room,' i.e., FoodPro's potential annexation request, Brannen said she "is for keeping the agriculture buffer around the town."

As a Town Commissioner, she would endorse holding office hours for town residents to stop by and chat or ask questions. "That will go a long

way to establishing stabling trust with the residents."

Brannen said the most important issue that needs to be addressed is public safety: "People moved here because it's safe. Up until recently, it was hard to find people who lock their cars at night, even their homes. But it's getting to the point that it is now a necessity. More police does not deter crime; instead, giving people, especially youths something to do, deters crime." She recommended creating more safe opportunities for younger residents to socialize, such as lights for basketball courts and longer library hours. She is open to future consideration of the town eventually establishing its own police force.

Brannen will finish Bailey's term, which will expire Sept. 13, 2024.

Dog park planned for Heritage Farm Park

The Walkersville Parks Commission discussed at their April meeting more in-depth plans for constructing a dog park within Heritage Farm Park. The inclusion of a dog park at Heritage Farm was suggested after last year's parks development survey was released. When the results of the survey were reviewed in the fall, a number of town residents expressed interest in a dedicated unleashed space for their dogs.

Currently, Heritage Farm is a popular site for dog-walking with its open fields and paved walking trails. However, a fenced and unleashed space would allow

pet owners to let their dogs run and play without fear of dangers like car traffic.

The tentative site of the dog park is the former compost area, located between the water tower and community garden. This space has remained unused for several years and maintains a greater distance from sports fields and residential homes than other spaces in the park. It is also located close to parking and to the water line if a dog water fountain is installed.

Size is the main topic of discussion surrounding the dog park, as it will determine costs for fencing and grading. The two estimates given at the April Parks

meeting were for a 100 ft. by 100 ft. space (about 1/4 acre), which would cost \$17,000, or for a 210 ft. by 210 ft. space (about one acre), which would cost \$27,000. Sizes of other local parks include Thurmont at about 1/4 acre, Middletown at two acres, Ballenger at four acres, and Urbana at one acre.

The size of the park may also depend on the town's chosen layout. The inclusion of an unleashing area is non-negotiable, as it provides a safe place for owners to unleash their dogs in a contained area before introducing them to other dogs. Parks commission members also ques-

tioned whether it would be beneficial to divide the park into two fenced sections—one for small dogs and one for large.

As of the April 26 town meeting, the park is most likely to consist of a 100 ft. by 100 ft. area for large dogs and a 40 ft. by 100 ft. area for small dogs (defined as under 30 lbs.). Initial cost for this size would be \$25,998.

In addition to fencing costs, the land may also have to be graded to provide a more level surface in an effort to prevent both canine and human injuries. While the park will likely start with a grass surface, the town may consider mulching

it in the future to avoid heavy wear-and-tear. In any case, inclusion of larger bullgates for mowing and maintenance may be considered, as well as the installation of benches for owners.

The town council expressed concerns over clean-up, maintenance, and dog injury, the latter of which prompted Burgess Weddle to suggest the placement of security cameras in the park. These concerns may push back funding requests for the dog park, which were initially supposed to come from Project Open Space, which strives to preserve and protect natural areas from development. If delayed, approval of the project may not occur until at least 2024.

News Briefs...

Three-Way Stop To Be Constructed On Kenneth Drive

In 2022, residents of Kenneth Drive approached commissioners about speeding issues along the primarily residential road which also contains the entrance to Community Park. A temporary speed bump was installed in the summer of 2022 as a short-term solution. Although the speed bump has been successful, the town now hopes to install a more permanent solution in the form of a three-way stop at the halfway point of the road near St. Timothy Catholic Church. Not only will a three-way stop be less invasive than a speed bump, it will also cost less than installing a permanent speed bump.

Heritage Farm Park Playground To Undergo Renovation

The Parks Commission has laid out its plans for renovating the playground at Heritage Farm Park. Although a definitive timeline is yet to be scheduled, early plans include the complete demolition of current playground equipment and construction of brand new equipment. Since it will be rebuilt from the ground up, the town hopes to make the equipment accessible for children of all ages and abilities. With this in mind, Walkersville resident Kelly Eakin and her two special needs sons, Bryce and James, were invited to speak at the Parks meeting about accessible playgrounds. They emphasized the need for interactive elements like games as well as "combination spaces" in which both able-bodied and disabled children can play. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis also noted the need for Poured-in-Place rubber, which would allow wheelchairs and other medically necessary equipment to access the

playground. Once proposals and estimates are completed, the town plans to complete construction of the playground with their own funds.

Heritage Farm Park is one of many beneficiaries of the Maryland Forest Service's "5 Million Trees Initiative," which is coordinated by state-appointed tree expert Anna Twigg. As of mid-April, 65 trees were planted near the playground, tee ball field, and the beginning of the disc golf course in the park. At least 20 more trees are expected to be planted in the park by summer. This comes in addition to Walkersville's new memorial tree program, which will allow residents to purchase new saplings for the town's parks in honor of loved ones.

Creamery Park Renovations Nearing Completion

After many months of planning, designing, and construction, the new-and-improved Creamery Park is set to open by early summer. With construction of new playground equipment completed, the

park now awaits installation of a new basketball court, walkways, and Poured-in-Place rubber for the playground surface. In addition, the first memorial bench in Creamery Park has been installed to honor 15-year-old Nikole Cynthia Morfess, who was struck by a tractor-trailer in April 2022. The town also hopes to honor the legacy of 21-year-old Matthew Coleman who died in a bungee-jumping accident in 2000. The Coleman family, who has long supported students through the Community Foundation, has donated the remaining money in the fund to support Creamery Park. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis has suggested the inclusion of an honorary park sign for the Colemans.

Walkersville Day To Be Held May 20

Walkersville Day, a popular community-wide festival, will return for its second year since the COVID-19 pandemic on Saturday, May 20. Attendees can expect to find vendors throughout town, from the Glade United Church of Christ to the

Walkersville Public Library. St. Paul's Lutheran Church will also hold its annual Strawberry Festival, with fresh fruit and sweets available for purchase. Many local organizations are also expected to participate, including the

Walkersville Business and Professional Association and the Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company, who in the past has provided activities for children. The bulk of the event will take place between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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WALKERSVILLE INFO

Wed., May 3 - 7 p.m. - Parks Meeting
 Sat., May 6 - 10:30 a.m. - ARIA Ceremony
 Tues., May 9 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Workshop
 Wed., May 10 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
 Mon., May 15 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting
 Tues., May 23 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting
 Wed., May 24 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
 Mon., May 29 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

website: www.walkersvillemd.gov
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 Walkersville: Our Town

FROM THE DESK OF...

Congressman David Trone

You've probably heard me mention how lessons I learned in business guide my work in the public sector: focus on the long term, not just the next election; innovate and be open to new ideas; and use failure to inspire rather than to retreat. These lessons are the reasons I've found success in Congress, passing dozens of pieces of legislation that are making a difference in Maryland and across the country.

But the most important lesson I've learned in business that guides my work is that the customer comes first. As a member of Congress, the proper term is constituent, but the sentiment remains the same. My number one priority is serving you.

Unfortunately, constituent service isn't a priority for every elected official. Too often, the officials who are most vocal on television

and social media have overflowing voicemail boxes, don't respond to requests for assistance, and generally ignore the needs of those they were elected to serve. I came to Congress committed to doing better.

My philosophy is simple: answer every constituent message, whether it's a concern about legislation or a request for help. Answer it promptly. And do everything in my power to address their concerns. While the philosophy is simple, it takes a lot of planning and effort. But it couldn't be more important.

In an effort to fulfill my commitment to you, I was the first Representative in this district's history to open four constituent service offices — including one in Frederick. While the location of our offices has changed somewhat because the district has changed, my commitment hasn't. I'm incred-

ibly proud that at the beginning of this term, I moved my constituent service headquarters to the Golden Mile in Frederick.

These offices are staffed with people who truly care about helping those in need. The vast majority of the people who work in our offices are local, giving them special appreciation for the issues facing our communities. Many of them have experienced the same challenges themselves. They are experts in addressing these needs, and the needs can be quite varied — renew a passport on short notice, help a veteran obtain the benefits they are due, untangle a mess with the Social Security Administration, sort out unemployment claims — plus much, much more.

Each year, we answer thousands of requests for help, tens of thousands of comments and concerns, and work with federal agen-

cies to address the problems that you face. Last year alone, my team answered 31,263 calls, emails, and letters. Every one of them was answered within 72 hours. 1,520 of those were issues with state unemployment benefits. While issues with state government typically aren't addressed by Members of Congress, my team and I recognized the urgent need for help in the wake of the pandemic, so we worked hard to help everyone who was struggling to get the benefits they earned. In total, we delivered millions of dollars in unemployment benefits to Marylanders at a time when they were desperately needed.

But the impact of this work is so much greater than just dollars and cents. It's in the stories that we hear from those we've helped along the way. When David and Tex Mordkofsky finally got approval to adopt their daughter Sophia from the Philippines last

year, they were told they would have to wait up to a year to get visas that would allow her to come home because of bureaucratic delays. When we found out about the problem, we were able to secure a visa for them right away. Back in November, my wife met the family at the polls. Sophia is happy as can be, and she sent me a congratulations video after I won the election. These stories fuel our mission to continue helping those who need it.

If you have any issues with a federal agency, concerns about a piece of legislation, or questions about benefits owed to you, please reach out to my team and me. Serving you and addressing these issues is incredibly important to us, and we are more than happy to help. You can reach us by calling 301-926-0300, visiting trone.house.gov/services, or stopping by our office at 30 W. Patrick St., Suite 505.

County Councilwoman-At-Large Renee Knapp

Last month on April 1st, I was happy to take two bus rides to areas in Frederick County that will now have expanded Saturday shuttle service. Residents living in Thurmont, Emmitsburg, Jefferson, and Brunswick can now access round-trip shuttle buses that depart from the Transit Center in downtown Frederick. In the morning, I joined Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird and Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs for one of the first trips on the Thurmont/Emmitsburg route. There were already some passen-

gers using the new service that morning and we enjoyed hearing about how the expanded service will impact their lives.

Frederick County is the largest county in Maryland by area and it's difficult to get around the county without a car. This expansion will create opportunities for senior residents and those with disabilities to have more independence to attend appointments, shop for necessities, and take part in recreational activities. With a new stop at Mount Saint Mary's University, Mount students will

be able to travel into The City of Frederick for the day to dine in a great restaurant or just take a walk along the Carroll Creek promenade. Frederick residents will be able to travel to Colorfest in Thurmont in the fall and not have to worry about parking.

In the afternoon, I rode the Brunswick/Jefferson route that also originates at the Transit Center. I got to talk with some regular passengers who were excited about the Saturday service, and a couple of new riders. I learned a couple of important things to share while talking with Transit staff throughout the day. First, did you know that you can hail a Transit bus to stop and pick you up, if the trip is within the historic district in downtown Frederick? You don't have to be at a bus stop. Also, anyone can request to use the accessibility lift service to get on the bus. You don't have to pre-arrange anything and you don't have to prove a disability.

The staff at Transit Services continues to expand and elevate the public transportation experience in

Frederick County. And it's still fare free to ride for 2023 and 2024!

Sustainability

As the County Council liaison to the Sustainability Commission, I joined the Commission on April 19th to honor recipients during their 2023 Sustainability Awards program. We were proud to recognize students from Middletown, Oakdale, and Urbana for their work to keep school cafeteria waste out of the county landfill. Students who participate in a Lunch out of Landfills program at their school recruit other students who are interested in sustainability to mentor and together they set up sorting stations in the school cafeteria to separate discarded items into categories that include: food that is wrapped and unopened, a bucket for liquids, a bucket for organic matter that can be composted, recyclable materials, and trash.

These efforts divert a large volume of waste away from the landfill. Additionally, students learn to work together and to incorporate sustain-

able practices into their everyday routines. The honorees were also recognized for their advocacy for state funding from Annapolis so the program can be expanded.

Budget Hearings

The County Council received the proposed 2024 Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets from County Executive Jessica Fitzwater on April 14th, and the Council held a public hearing on the budget on April 25th.

After the hearing, we will have Budget Workshops on May 3rd, May 4th, and May 5th. The workshops are from 9:00am-4:00pm at Winchester Hall and they will be open to the public. If you have any questions about the proposed 2024 budget, or would still like to offer public comment, you can email me at rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov. You can also reach the entire County Council by sending your email to councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov.

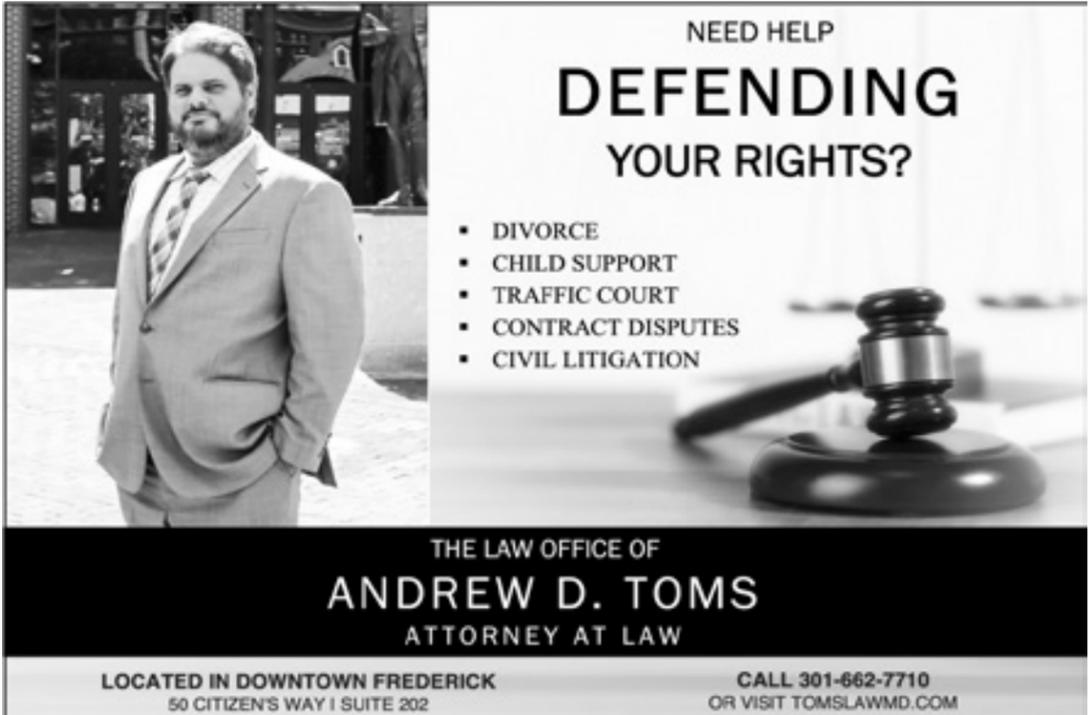
Hopefully by the time you are reading this, Frederick County will have received some much needed rain to help local farmers with the start of the growing season.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

The single most important responsibility I have as your County Executive is to prepare the county's budget. I am proud to have submitted a budget that puts people first and moves Frederick County forward. After hearing from over 1,500 people from across the county, I shaped a plan that invests in our greatest asset – our people.

This proposal is fiscally responsible. It ensures healthy reserve funds, meets our long-term pension obligations, and makes tactical investments to protect our coveted AAA bond ratings, which save taxpayer dollars as we invest in essential services and capital projects. Most importantly, it lays a foundation for all of our residents to thrive.

One of the initiatives I'm most proud of in the budget is reducing the income tax burden for the most vulnerable in our community to the lowest rate allowed by law. Frederick will be the first county in Maryland to set the rate this low. The property tax rate remains unchanged. The budget invests in:

Our Students

Making a record investment in Frederick County Public Schools. – The \$405 million allocation is \$35 million more

than required, but less than what was requested by the Board of Education.

Constructing new school projects to address enrollment growth and aging facilities.

Our Workforce

Conducting a disparity study of Frederick County Government contracting – Results will help to shape the County's first Minority Business Enterprise program. Small businesses will be aided by new Ombudsman and Small Business Navigator positions.

Our Growing Community

Focusing on housing needs – To help current residents stay in their homes and new residents afford to live here, the budget increases the Housing Initiative Fund, includes a housing needs assessment, and elevates the Housing Department to a Housing Division.

Connecting people through bikeways and trails – The budget makes a record investment of more than \$4.5 million in Frederick County's bikeways and trails system.

Investing in senior centers – A new and improved Brunswick Senior Center, a brand-new facility in east county,

and renovations to the Frederick Senior Center are included early in the six-year Capital Improvement Program.

Building resilience and responding to climate change – The budget prioritizes the critical work needed to address climate change. It begins implementation of the County's Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan and the Climate and Energy Action Plan.

Our Public Servants

Attracting and maintaining the best employees – A 5% cost-of-living adjustment for non-union employees helps Frederick County Government to be an attractive employer. The budget also honors the contracts with public safety unions.

Recognizing 911 emergency communications specialists – To support these front-line emergency responders, the proposed budget provides additional staff and supports the operations of a new state-of-the-art Next Gen 911 Center, funded through an increase to the 911 fee on cell phone bills. The budget also reflects key changes in classifications, shift differentials, and salaries for these workers.

I want to try to clear up some con-

fusion about the tax proposal. Here is what we expect the impact to be on Frederick County taxpayers, based on 2021 tax filings:

Most people will see no change in their tax rate. This is true for over 42,000 households that file joint returns and more than 27,600 "single status" tax filers.

The tax rate will drop for more than 9,000 joint and 25,500 single taxpayers. People who make \$25,000 a year or less will see their rate decrease from 2.75% to 2.25%.

Only the top earners – joint filers who earn over \$200,000 a year (approximately 9,750), and "single status" filers who net over \$100,000 (about 5,000) – will see their rate increase to 3.20%. This brings Frederick County in line with many other jurisdictions in the state. Two-thirds of all Marylanders are taxed at this rate.

Taxpayers who file "single status" returns include people who are single, married filing separate returns, and dependents. "Joint status" filers includes married couples who file returns jointly, heads of households, and qualified widows.

It's important to point out that changes still could be made to the proposed budget. County Council mem-

bers will hold workshops on the budget May 3-5. The Council has until the end of the month to adopt a final budget.

One important program funded through this budget is Frederick County's longstanding Community Partnership Grants. We see big community impacts from an investment of a relatively small amount of money, leveraging the incredible experience, expertise, and relationships our nonprofits have built in our community. This year, 39 local nonprofit organizations will receive grants totaling \$1.3 million. Grants will provide food to children; emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence; respite service for caretakers; home repairs for seniors with low income; job skills and education for youth without stable housing; and 2-1-1 crisis services for residents facing addiction, among many other services.

These nonprofits include familiar community partners: Mission of Mercy, The Seton Center, The Arc, Frederick Health Hospice, YMCA's afterschool program, Way Station, to name just a few.

We are blessed to live in a community with so many amazing organizations devoted to helping people reach their full potential. They are making life better and making it possible for everyone in our community to thrive.

Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

On April 11th we held a public hearing before our regular meeting to discuss two proposed code changes, and both passed. The first code change was to change the code to allow chickens in town based upon the regulations that had been previously proposed and passed 4-0. An overview of the ordinance is that residents with lots less than one acre will be allowed to 5 chickens. Residents with more than one acre will be allowed to have up to 12 chickens. Absolutely no roosters will be allowed and all wishing to have chickens will be able to apply for their permit at the town office beginning May 11th.

The second code amendment which passed 3-1 from the council with Commissioner Crum voting no was the code to change the grass height allowed. Current code allows up to 18 inches high grass. The new code will be changed to a maximum height of 8 inches. Per town ordinance both code changes will go into effect 30 days after the vote which will be May 11th. I thank the residents that came and spoke out about their concerns on either issue.

The town council was approached in

March with a proposal to allow a 3rd cellular phone company to rent space on our water tower. In the past we have had 3 towers, but recently we have just had 2. The council sent it back to them for negotiations and our request was met so it was unanimously voted on to allow them to rent the space, which will bring in more funds for the town.

This meeting was also the night to nominate candidates to run for the upcoming town election that will be held on May 13th. There are two of the four commissioner positions open. Commissioner John Cutshall and Commissioner Dana Crum's seats are both up for election. Commissioner Cutshall expressed interest in running again and was nominated to be on the ballot. Commissioner

Crum has chosen not to run again, and unfortunately no one else accepted a nomination to run. Although it is too late to appear on the ballot if you are considering running, please do so as a write in as we will have an empty council seat if no one runs. To be eligible you must be at least 18 years of age and reside in the town limits for at least

1 year before assuming office. If you are not able to vote in person on election day you may request an absentee ballot at the town office up until end of business on May 6th, 2023.

On Sunday May 28th, the American Legion will host their annual Memorial Day parade. All are welcome to participate in the parade or just come out and enjoy watching it. Lineup will begin at 1 p.m. with the parade beginning shortly after. In addition, there will be a service pre parade at the war memorial along with a service in the American Legion post parade to honor our military that we have lost.

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. The public is always invited to attend.

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COMMENTARY

The Liberal Patriot

Nation-first public policy

John Halpin

Instead of fighting useless partisan battles over niche issues, why not get together around key national priorities to help everyone succeed?

One unfortunate by-product of America's increasingly sectarian politics is a dearth of policy ideas designed from the start to advance the country's economic and security interests and the well-being of all Americans in all places.

- The current policy development process goes something like this:
- Survey what the leading (or loudest) activist groups and their policy arms are promoting institutionally or in the media.
- Create a policy agenda—either real legislation or some “message bill” and sometimes just talking points—based on these activist policy concerns.
- Jam one's own party members to adopt these terms without question and accuse dissenters and the other party of perfidy if they do not accept them.
- Get nowhere most of the time and pass a few things occasionally when the party numbers align, or some emergency crops up.

This party-first process explains the Build Back Better monstrosity that cobbled together every single item on the Democratic wish-list into an unworkable mega-bill that eventually brought down Presi-

dent Biden's job approval numbers as negotiations dragged on and inflation started to spike. Biden basically squandered nine months of his presidency pursuing a strategy that deviated from his campaign promise to govern from the middle with broad consensus. This party-first model also explains why House Republicans today cannot agree on a basic budget in Congress and instead are seeking to tee up a series of culture war battles.

Recent legislative successes that ignored the typical partisan policy process include the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which was negotiated around the constant criticism of the Democratic Party left and blanket opposition from the right; the CHIPS and Science Act, which placed competition with China and domestic manufacturing at the center of successful cross-party discussions; and the Inflation Reduction Act, which reduced the Build Back Better hodgepodge to a few key items that at least all Democrats could agree on and garnered broad public support.

Two-party systems like ours with multiple checks and balances and veto points generally discourage more consensus-based policy development, particularly during a period of ideological alignment inside both parties as we see today. There simply aren't enough liberal

Republicans and conservative Democrats to regularly make common cause on important national matters and bypass the extremes.

Instead, Democrats and Republicans pretend that they exist in a parliamentary-like system where a basic majority passes its agenda and voters decide whether they like it or not in the next election. Or they hold on to the illusion of creating legislative super majorities at the federal level to permanently exclude the other party from the policy making process. “Compromise? No need to compromise, we're in charge!”

Since the two parties do not exist in a parliamentary structure, and neither one is close to building a long-term majority, politics is less about consensus policy development and more about constant fulminations in the media and online—performance art rather than governance. Democrats and Republicans create policies mostly as a means for political fights with the other side or to rally their own base. Big decisions get pushed off to the last minute and are often passed in a rush ahead of an impending calamity like a government shutdown or a real one like the COVID pandemic.

The American constitutional and two-party system is not going to change anytime soon, if ever. So, rather than just accept the bad results, what if dedicated patriots on the center-left and center-right created a new policy development process to replace the old party-first model with a nation-first one?



Mix-up the policy recipe to look something like this:

- Agree to collectively address a handful of major national problems that affect everyone equally. No side issues.
- Bring all available research and empirical evidence to the table on how best to address these problems.
- Put together legislation in one specific area—not a massive conglomeration of issues—based on the best ideas on offer, not just the ones supported by the respective parties and their activists.
- Build cross-party coalitions to pass these bills and keep out all side ideological demands and culture war distractions designed to blow up the process.

Nation-first policy development need not be an idle dream of government reformers and political scientists. It could start right now by focusing on three key national goals: comprehensively tackling crime, drugs, and

homelessness in American communities; promoting economic development in distressed places across the nation; and fortifying our economy and national security against threats from China and Russia.

We've already made some good progress in trying to tackle the China and Russia threats. There is no reason why patriotic members of both parties couldn't also get together to address the looming threats to our communities from crime and drugs and a lack of economic opportunity.

All it would take is a core group of dedicated members from each party to form a Nation-First caucus and get things rolling. Voters everywhere would love to see America's dysfunctional politics replaced with earnest and meaningful attempts to help our nation and our people succeed.

To read past editions of The Liberal Patriot, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Words From Winterbilt

A tyrannical government

Shannon Bohrer

The last several years have been unusual and difficult, not just to understand but also to accept. Our politics have been divisive, which by itself should be expected, but the divisiveness exceeded anything that would resemble normal, at least from my expectancy of normal. Our political differences have always existed but the differences seemed to explode under the previous president. Many expected the differences and conflicts to subside after the last presidential election, but that did not happen. If anything, since the election in 2020, the conflicts and differences have continued and escalated in many ways.

Our differences are wider and more entrenched than most of us would have ever imagined. The divisiveness reflects continued beliefs in false narratives that are unexplainable. Normal differences in policy, rules, and proposed regulations are understandable. One's philosophy and political party affiliation have always been accepted as simply different opinions. However, when people disagree with science and known facts, as they have been for several years, that position is just unacceptable. How did we get here?

Early in the presidency of the “Very Stable Genius” we were given warnings that our common views and understandings were going to be ques-

tioned. “Alternative facts” and “truth is not always truth,” were thought to be funny. After all, we were talking about our government. America has a history of criticizing our government, which is allowed because of the protections in the first amendment. In fact, criticizing and making fun of our government has always seemed to be a national pastime.

As President Teddy Roosevelt said, “When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senator do not know whether to answer ‘Present’ or ‘Not Guilty.’” For many, too many, the jovial perceptions of the jokes have morphed into serious complaints, implying that our government is unjust and corrupt and should be eliminated or replaced. It was President Ronald Reagan that said, “Government is not a solution to our problem, government is the problem.” Was that his belief or was he joking or maybe a little or both?

Our long history of citizens and political figures criticizing and making jokes about the Government seems to have transformed into a real hatred of the Government. This clearly happened over a long-time span but seemed to accelerate with the previous administration. We have a segment of our population that views the Government as the enemy and believes it should be dismantled. Far-right defenders of the second amendment have even made the argument that the second amendment

was created for the citizens to defend themselves against a tyrannical government. For discussion purposes, if that is true, who determines when a government is tyrannical?

Was the January 6th insurrection a failed attempt to overthrow a tyrannical government? That theme was prevalent during the insurrection. We saw many insurrectionists carrying Gadsden flags, a yellow-colored flag with a snake, and the words “Don't Tread on Me.” The Gadsden flag was a symbol to the British during the American Revolution that Americans would not be denied their freedoms. The Gadsden flag is popular and is displayed in many homes. With a catchy phrase, like “Don't tread on me,” they have an air of patriotism that sounds sensible. We, as citizens, have the right to question our government. However, attacking our government and assaulting police officers while trying to overthrow the Government is the opposite of being a patriot. In democracies, voting is how we change our government.

The principal reason for the insurrection was for the purpose of changing the outcome of the election. Our previous president asserted he won the election, which he did not, but many of the insurrectionists believed him. They believed him and also thought that the then vice-president could reject the Electoral College count. They believed that if the Electoral College counts were rejected, state legislators could reconvene and elect new repre-

sentatives. In essence, the state legislators would be overriding the votes that were cast by the citizens in their states. If state representatives rejected the votes of its citizens, would that not resemble a tyrannical government?

In normal or ordinary times, we would expect some differences in our politics that reflect the normal disputed social and spending issues in society. How much do we fund education, how much do we spend on national defense, and how will we ensure the continuation of Social Security and Medicare? What is the Government's role in ensuring citizens' safety? These and similar issues are normal and expected. However, the discord we are currently experiencing in our politics is a reflection of our country's deepening divisiveness surrounding other issues. Examples like book bannings, repudiation of science and scientists, rejection of vaccinations, even the opposition to even wearing a mask during a pandemic. If you don't believe in science, you may not think we had a pandemic, so you would think you don't need a mask. However, science is real.

Many that supported the insurrection and the former president often use the word “freedom” as a noun describing their cause. The word “freedom” is used in their talking points and in their speeches, and yet their actions often limit our freedoms. Banning books, restricting women's reproductive rights, prohibiting educational programs, and even requiring women to report their menstrual cycles is not

freedom. These actions are reflective of repressive governments and are expected with fascism, which is a tyrannical government.

Imposing one's will by banning books, eliminating educational programs, and limiting female reproductive issues is a reflection of control. When a group consistently touts the word “freedom” as a reason for protest and insurrection and simultaneously limits your freedoms, do they become the tyrannical Government they oppose? We do have a segment of one party that identifies themselves as the “Freedom Caucus,” and they support book banning, limiting women's health issues, and even restrictive voting. That is not freedom, that is control.

Maybe their intent is not creating an oppressive or tyrannical government. Maybe the issue is control. Who is in charge? Telling us that “freedom” is their cause and then limiting or eliminating freedoms - is disingenuous. History tells us that dictators and fascist governments control the citizenry, limiting fundamental freedoms.

‘Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time...’ - Winston S Churchill

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

The Bulwark

Two big lessons of Dominion vs. Fox

Jonathan V. Last

We learned two lessons from the settlement of Dominion's suit against Fox. One about Fox and one about its audience.

What is the difference between "media" and "propaganda"?

There are a lot of ways you could make this distinction. One of them might be:

A media outlet is an organization whose biases are constrained—either well or poorly—by self-imposed codes of conduct. A propaganda outlet is an organization whose pursuit of an agenda is constrained only by the law.

Fox's statement yesterday made clear that it's a propaganda outlet. Here's the full text:

We are pleased to have reached a settlement of our dispute with Dominion Voting Systems. We acknowledge the Court's rulings finding certain claims about Dominion to be false. This settlement reflects FOX's continued commitment to the highest journalistic standards. We are hopeful that our decision to resolve this dispute with Dominion amicably, instead of the acrimony of a divisive trial, allows the country to move forward from these issues.

Fox makes no admission that anything it broadcast was untrue—either willfully or even accidentally.

Fox refuses to correct its public untruths.

And then Fox fully takes the piss by claiming that the settlement reflects its "continued commitment

to the highest journalistic standards." I've bolded "continued" and "highest" because these words are gratuitous except as middle fingers to the public.

It's Orwellian. Even in defeat—even when the law forces the company to spend three-quarters of a billion dollars—Fox goes out of its way to do propaganda.

The other big lesson is about Fox's audience.

I would not blame Fox watchers for feeling used and disrespected by Fox. It's clear that no one views Fox's audience with greater contempt than the people who work at Fox. They believe that the people who watch their channel are foolish, irrational, and infantile. They believe that these people cannot grasp reality and that if they were confronted with reality, they would react with anger and petulance.

The people who run Fox believe that the people who watch Fox are dim, emotional, and unpatriotic bigots who must be coddled like particularly malevolent children.

And here's the thing: Fox is right.

We know that they're right because Fox's audience hasn't abandoned it even as the texts and emails from discovery piled up. Even as the network was forced to cough up one of the largest settlements in media history.

A common explanation you hear about Fox's audience is that they can't possibly know better because they are trapped inside an echo chamber.

I reject this. Completely.

There is simply no way to move through the world as a functioning adult without having some sense as to what the biggest story in modern media history is about. Even if the

TV network you rely on for news doesn't cover it.

Big stories aren't siloed. They float around in the ether. They are part of our shared experience even if we don't want to know about them.

I find it impossible to believe that a majority of Fox viewers could reach April 19, 2023 without knowing that Fox was credibly accused of defaming Dominion Voting Systems; that there were a large number of internal communications in which Fox executives and stars admitted as much; and that Fox was forced to pay a large settlement to avoid a trial it was likely to lose.

The only way the median Fox viewer could avoid such information is if he or she made a conscious attempt to either (a) not learn about it, or (b) refuse to believe it.

In other words: Something like willful negligence.

There is a strange form of infantilization that happens solely around the subject of conservative politics.

In America we believe—rightly or wrongly—that nearly everyone has the cognitive ability to hold a job, drive a car, pay their rent, figure out healthcare, plan for retirement, raise a family.

Yet when it comes to politics, we suddenly reduce these grown-ass adults to the status of children.

Oh, Cletus couldn't possibly have known that COVID was deadly because he only listens to talk radio.

Don't blame poor Lurlene for not knowing that Fox was lying to viewers about 2020. She only watches Fox, so how could she have known?

This infantilization is a comforting explanation. It stipulates that, if you could just get the right information from the right messenger to Fox viewers, then they'd grasp reality.

And this view places a lot of faith



in the art of persuasion because it supposes that you can reach Fox viewers.

The alternative explanation is problematic because it assumes that Fox viewers believe only what they want to believe and that persuasion is impossible. That's the view Fox takes of its own audience. And just going by the ratings, it seems to be objectively correct.

Unanswered Questions

There are a number of outstanding questions about what that \$787,500,000 settlement means.

Who's paying?

Does that money come from Fox itself? Or is it coming from the company's insurer? Media organizations carry libel insurance to regularize the costs of irregular legal claims. Libel insurance typically covers both legal costs and judgments. Does Fox's policy cover settlements? If so, what's the extent of the coverage? Will their insurer be on the hook for \$100 million? \$500 million?

When does payment take place?

Fox reportedly has \$4b in cash reserves. If they are required to pay out immediately, that makes a significant dent in their security and ability to weather the next round of defamation suits. But if payment takes place of a longer period of time,

they won't be under as much stress.

Is Fox insurable going forward?

The insurance and re-insurance industries are a mystery to me. But if I were an insurance carrier and I'd watched the Dominion discovery play out, there's no way in hell I'd write a libel policy for Fox. It would be the libel insurance equivalent of doing life insurance for a 400-pound, 80-year-old dude who smokes three packs a day.

I suppose there is theoretically some point at which the premium is so steep that you can write such a policy without too much exposure. But maybe not?

If you wanted to be as charitable as possible to Fox, you might say that the refusal to make corrections is a business decision. Because while paying \$787m hurts the company's immediate financial situation; admitting that it lied to viewers could put the company's future earning potential in jeopardy.

So I guess you could say that the refusal to admit fault was a business decision and not a political one? But I'm not buying it. The "continued" and "highest" give away the game.

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

Good Day, Neighbor

The brain is invisible

Dorothea Mordan

The Miracle Worker tells the story of Anne Sullivan, a nineteenth century teacher who would not accept parents' lack of understanding the needs of their daughter, Helen Keller. Helen had been deaf, mute, and blind from infancy, was not fully able to communicate her needs, nor to understand how to interact with her family and the world around her. In 1887, when Helen was seven years old, Anne Sullivan, age 20, was hired as a live-in teacher to provide Helen with education and social skills. Anne was a recent graduate from the Perkins School for the Blind. No one expected progress, Helen's parents simply reached a point where they could not cope with her erratic behavior. Everyone was at a loss due to their limited ability to communicate social norms to Helen.

Anne created a routine of daily tasks for Helen, hoping to spark mutual understanding. Anyone who has seen the movie *The Miracle Worker* with Anne Bancroft as Anne Sullivan, and Patty Duke as Helen Keller, surely remembers the scene at the water pump. Anne is repeatedly using

American Sign Language to spell w-a-t-e-r into Helen's palm while pumping water from the family's well. Suddenly, Helen gets it! She fully understands the pump, the pump handle moving, and the water coming out to the spout. She fully understands that the sign language gestures Anne is showing to her are communications. Helen takes Anne's hand, and spells w-a-t-e-r back to her. Helen is instantly c-o-n-n-e-c-t-e-d to this person who simply seconds before was someone pushing her around and making her do stuff. From chaos and frustration comes a plan. With patience and perseverance comes success. From darkness, the light of understanding.

We find this barrier-crossing true story so compelling that we have told and retold it for over a century.

A lot of the stories from history that involve health care, or lack of care, are pretty dismal. They tend to be stories of the general public just throwing up their hands, not knowing what to do, and letting the state take over, or the church, or somebody to please take it off my hands. They are often about the devastating results for the patient. In fairness, caregiving is exhausting in the best of circumstances. When you have no possible path to communicat-

ing with a person who has a physical condition, developmental disability or a mental illness, going it alone is about as scary as life can be.

Consider the recent news story of John Fetterman. He, his family, and doctors have worked to find solutions to his own clinical depression. It is a contemporary tale of hope. It's a tale of how we can address our own issues, and really take care of them by stepping out of the zone of "keeping up appearances".

Any of us can face stress, developmental delays, or mental imbalance, in someone we know or ourselves. Some causes we don't commonly talk about are sneaky—frontal lobe underdevelopment, poor brain development because of lack of good nutrition, addiction from having one too many prescriptions of an opioid. In Helen Keller's case, she had scarlet fever as an infant which left her with no obvious way of communicating. Her behavior as she grew became erratic, and thus scary to her family. It is easier to look at behaviors as successes or failures and chalk them up to personal responsibility, rather than looking into a health issue. The brain is invisible. We think we know by a person's actions what they are thinking.

From January 1, 2023 to April 22, 2023 there have been 12,920 gun

related deaths in the US. Mental illness is a main topic after the fact for mass shootings, 169 in 112 days, and for suicide, 7,392 in 112 days.

Before the fact, every story has a root, an early warning point where some form of mental or physical health issue can be suspect.

Addressing our mental health and physical safety needs, basic steps include being open to improvements in our own education, communication between the mental health and law enforcement professionals, and communication between us (the public) and the professionals who commit to service for all. They deserve our input about how to address mental health conditions that impact all of us. County health and police departments with a good working relationship can better meet public needs before they become public crises. Early intervention is better for successful treatment, and for lessening the burden on law enforcement, whose members may not have the training and resources to deal with mental health crises.

We have a County Health Department. We need a County Police department. Five Maryland counties have larger populations than Frederick. Each of these has a county police department. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and

Prince George's Counties each have a Chief of Police who is answerable to the County Executive. They are subject to hiring and firing policies, not an every four year election frenzy. In counties with a police department, the elected position of a Sheriff heads a separate department with a focused, limited set of duties.

To truly partner with health care providers and the police, we need to be able to ask for help in the first place. Social conditioning tells us that option #1 is always "go it alone, pick yourself up by your bootstraps, suck it up, take it like a man, boys will be boys". Each of these phrases are ways we say, "whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger." They also say "don't bother me with your problems."

We are supposed to debate about how to solve these bigger problems of society, but we have to recognize we have multiple ways to find solutions. It can start with simple conversations, remembering that you won't know what is really going on unless you take the time for conversation. The brain is invisible. You may not see it, but by reaching out you might bring someone a light.

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

PASTOR'S DESK

Bold move

Reverend Sabrina Slimmer
Keymar Wesleyan Church

I am sure we all know someone who is the life of the party, or maybe that person is you? Either way there is always someone at some get together who doesn't mind having all eyes on them. Teenagers usually don't mind having all the attention. I have one who comes to my house on a regular basis. This teen loves to walk into a room and ask those around if he can arm wrestle them. Yes, everyone knows when this person is around.

God usually isn't that bold in making his presence known. He will wrestle with you if you make Him, just read about Jacob and his encounter with God, but that usually isn't His way. We no longer hear God speak to us in burning bushes, or in pillars of smoke and fire, or have a messenger who sees God face to face on top of a mountain like we read in the Bible.

And no doubt the disciples knew they were God as they had just witnessed the boldest move God had ever done, raising Jesus the Son of God from the dead. It is in Acts when the disci-

ples are with Jesus again after His resurrection that He reminds them that He will leave them, but promises to send another. He instructs them "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what He promised. Remember, I have told you about this before. John baptized you with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4

Jesus reminds his disciples that God promised a gift, and God is faithful to do what He says if we stay faithful and obedient to Him. In this verse we read Jesus asking them to do something - Stay in Jerusalem, and if they do God will send what He promised. Jesus goes on to say what the promised gift is ... The Holy Spirit.

So who is the Holy Spirit and why do we need Him? The Holy Spirit is a part of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God the same God as Abraham talked about, the same God Jesus proclaimed to be, it is the same God now in Spirit form. Meaning He has all the authority of God and in John chapter 3 verse 6 describes Him as "The giver of Life from Heaven."

We answered who, so now let's look at why we need Him? When you read

your Bible you will see throughout the new testament why we need Him; He gives us strength, helps us to speak for Christ, helps us to change letting go of our old selves and changing more and more like Jesus, he helps us to understand the Bible, urges us towards salvation, He brings us peace, helps us to pray, and so much more. He marks the beginning of the Christian experience. We are only adopted into God's family by His Spirit, He is the power that transforms our lives helping us to become more like Jesus, He helps to connect us to a community of other believers, and He can be experienced by all and when allowed too He can work for all people.

It is because of the Spirit, that others, on the day His Spirit was poured out upon the disciples, heard the testimony of Jesus Christ being spoken in their own language. The Bible tells us in Acts 2:2 - 4 "Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting, 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."

It is here that God, like that teen who regularly comes into my home asking unwilling men if they would arm wrestle him, makes Himself known to a group of believers in a bold way. God sent His Spirit, and did exactly what He said He would do. HE gave them the power to speak boldly for Christ.

Others that day were confused and



wondered how they could understand these men who were not from their homelands and normally spoke in another language? Confusion can bring many emotions. If you have ever been abruptly woken from a nap or from sleep there is an element of confusion "What is going on?" And when left in the state of confusion we as humans can become easily agitated and start trying to come up with our own explanations, which is exactly what happened. If you read chapter 2 you will read that those around the apostles thought of them as drunk.

Remember, the Holy Spirit helps us to BOLDLY speak about Christ, and that is exactly what happened. Peter receives an unknown wisdom about what was happening by the Holy Spirit. Not only was he able to explain what was going on, but he was able to use their own Torah to explain it quoting Joel 2:28-29 "Then after I have poured out my rains, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughter will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will

see visions. In those days, I will pour out my Spirit even on servants, men and women alike."

There were Jews there whose hearts were opened and softened so they could accept what Peter was saying and accept the testimony of Jesus. We read that on that day 3,000 men and women were saved starting the Christian Church. The people of that day asked in response to Peter preaching, "What should we do?" And this is the basic question we should be asking ourselves. It's not enough to be sorry for our sins we must repent - ask God to forgive us.

If you want to follow Jesus, you must "Turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized." This means we ask God to forgive us - repent and change from a life that thinks about what's best for "me" to a life that totally depends on God for forgiveness, trusting you have been forgiven when you asked, trusting and depending on God for mercy, guidance, and purpose.

We cannot save ourselves, if we could there would've been no need for Jesus to come. The hard truth is, we cannot save ourselves and are in desperate need of a savior. The Good News is, we have that! And His name is Jesus Christ.

You are not lost, forgotten, neglected, or unworthy. You are found, highly valued, every need thought of before you can even ask for it, and totally worthy of His love and sacrifice. All you need to do is accept it.

If this is something you want to know more about and have in your life we would love to connect with you at Keymar Wesleyan Church 1011 Keymar. This is a place where we will help you to connect in groups and be with others who want the same thing you are looking for. Or connect to a church that is close to you that will help you find that relationship you are looking for in Jesus Christ. The most important thing you can do is to seek out other believers and connect with them in reading the Bible, prayer and gaining understanding of what the Bible is telling you. Don't do it alone; connect!

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Happy Mother's Day

May God bless all Mothers - past - present - and future!
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 All are welcome

Visit our website for more information about all of our upcoming events at www.woodsborolutheranchurch.com

THE BOOK OF DAYS

King Arthur



According to British story, at the time when the Saxons were ravaging our island, but had not yet made themselves masters of it, the Britons were ruled by a wise and valiant king, named Uther Pendragon. Among the most distinguished of Uther's nobles was Gorlois Duke of Cornwall, whose wife Igera was a woman of surpassing beauty. Once, when King Uther was as usual holding his royal feast of Easter, Gorlois attended with his lady; and the king, who had not seen her before, immediately fell in love with her, and manifested his passion so openly, that Gorlois took away his wife abruptly, and went home with her to Cornwall without asking for Uther's leave.

The latter, in great anger, led an army into Cornwall to punish his offending vassal, who, conscious of his inability to resist the king in the field, shut up his wife in the impregnable castle of Tintagel, while he took shelter in another castle, where he was immediately besieged by the formidable Uther Pendragon. During the siege, Uther, with the assistance of his magician, Merlin, obtained access to the beautiful Igera in the same manner as Jupiter approached Alcmena, namely, by assuming the form of her husband; the consequence was the birth of the child who was destined to be the Hercules of the Britons, and who when born was named Arthur. In the sequel, Gorlois was killed, and then Uther married the widow.

Such, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, and the so-called British historians, was the origin of King Arthur. On the death of Uther, Arthur was unanimously chosen to succeed him, and was crowned at Silches-

ter. No sooner had he ascended the throne than he was called upon to war against the Saxons, who, under a new chief named Colgrin, had united with the Picts and Scots, and made themselves masters of the northern parts of the island.

With the assistance of his nephew, Hoel, King of Brittany, Arthur overcame the Anglo-Saxons, and made them promise to leave the island. But, instead of going to their own country, they only sailed round the coasts, and landing again at Totness, laid waste the country with fire and sword till they reached the city of Bath, which they besieged.

Arthur, leaving his nephew Hoel sick at Alcluyd (Dunbarton), hastened south-ward to encounter the invaders, and defeated them with great slaughter at a place which is called in the story Mount Badon. Having thus crushed the Saxons, Arthur returned to Alcluyd, and soon reduced the Picts and Scots to such a condition, that they sought shelter in the islands in Loch

Lomond, and there made their peace with him.

Not content with these successes, Arthur next conquered Ireland, Iceland, Gothland, and the Orcades; to which he afterwards added Norway and Denmark, placing over them all tributary kings chosen from among his own chieftains. Next he turned his arms against Gaul, which also he subdued, having defeated and slain its governor Frollo in single combat, under the walls of Paris. The conquest of the whole of Gaul occupied nine years, at the end of which Arthur returned to Paris, and there distributed the conquered provinces among his followers.

Arthur was now in the zenith of his power, and on his return to his native land he made a proud display of his greatness, by calling to a great council at Caerleon all these tributary princes, and there in great pomp he was crowned again. Before the festivities were ended, an unexpected occurrence turned the thoughts of the assembled princes to new adventures.

Twelve aged men arrived as ambassadors from Lucius Tiberius, the 'procurator' of the republic of Rome, bearing a letter by which King Arthur was summoned in peremptory language to restore to Rome the provinces which he had unjustly usurped on the Continent, and also to pay the tribute which Britain had formerly paid to the Imperial power.

A great council was immediately held, and it was resolved at once to retort by demanding tribute of Rome, and to march an army immediately into Italy, to subdue the Imperial city. Arthur next entrusted the government of Britain to his nephew Modred and his queen Guanhumara, and then embarked at Southampton for the Continent. They landed near Mont St. Michael, where Arthur slew a Spanish giant, who had carried away

Helena, the niece of Hoel of Brittany.

The army of the Britons now proceeded on their march, and soon encountered the Romans, who had advanced into Gaul to meet them; but who, after much fighting and great slaughter, were driven out of the country, with the loss of their commander, Lucius Tiberius, who was slain by Arthur's nephew, Walgan, the Gawain of later romance. At the approach of the following spring, King Arthur began his march to Rome, but as he was beginning to pass the Alps he was arrested by disastrous news from Britain.

Modred, who had been left there as regent during the absence of the king, conspired with the queen, whom he married, and usurped the crown; and he had called in a new horde of Saxons to support him in his usurpation. On hearing of these events, Arthur divided his forces into two armies, one of which he left in Gaul, under the command of Hoel of Brittany, while with the other he passed over to Britain, and landed at Rutupiae, or Richborough, in Kent, where Modred awaited them with a powerful army.

Although Arthur lost a great number of his best men, and among the rest his nephew Walgan, Modred was defeated and put to flight, and he was only able to rally his troops when he reached Winchester. When the news of this defeat reached the queen, who was in York, she fled to Caerleon, and took refuge in a nunnery, where she resolved to pass the remainder of her life in penitence.

Arthur followed his nephew to Winchester, and there defeated him in a second battle; but Modred escaped again, and made his retreat towards Cornwall. He was overtaken, and finally defeated in a third battle, which was far more obstinate and fatal than those which preceded. Modred was slain, and King Arthur himself was mortally wounded. They carried him

to the Isle of Avallon (Glastonbury), to be cured of his wounds; but all the efforts of the physicians were vain, and he died and was buried there, Geoffrey of Monmouth says, in the year 542. Before his death, he resigned the crown to his kinsman Constantine.

Such is an outline of the fabulous history of King Arthur, as it is given by the earliest narrator, Geoffrey of Monmouth, who wrote in the year 1147. The numerous stories of King Arthur, and his knights of the round table, which now swell out the story, are the works of the romance writers of later periods.

There was a time when every writer or reader of British history was expected to put entire faith in this narrative; but that faith has gradually diminished, until it has become a matter of serious doubt whether such a personage ever existed. There are few indeed now who take Geoffrey of Monmouth's history for anything but fable.

The name of a King Arthur was certainly not known to any chroniclers in this country before the Norman period, and Giraldus Cambrensis, towards the end of the twelfth century, bears testimony to the fact that Geoffrey's stories were not Welsh. From different circumstances connected with their publication, it seems probable that they were derived from Brittany, and one of the opinions regarding them is that Arthur may have been a personage in the mythic history of the Bretons.

However, be this as it may, the history of King Arthur has become an important part of our literature; and as it sinks lower in the estimate of the historian, it seems to have become more popular than ever, and to have increased in favour with the poet.

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

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ECOLOGY

Connecting to our natural world

Anne Gageby
Environmental Education Manager
Strawberry Hill Foundation

It's an open secret in education that kids won't remember how deftly you executed a perfectly planned lesson. After fourteen years in the classroom, I can assure you they will never remember the day you broke down a broad and difficult topic into a bite-sized piece that planted the seed of understanding. They will only remember how you made them feel. Emotional connection to a topic is the keystone to caring about that topic. Math will be little more than numbers if a child doesn't love adding and subtracting. Reading is boring if a child can't fall in love with the look and sound of words as they float off the page. And a child won't care about the environment until they experience the joy that comes from smelling fresh skunk cabbage. I'm kidding – sort of.

I taught a program recently to elementary students who, according to their teacher, didn't spend much time outside. As we hiked the Nature Trail their energy was electrified as we encountered turtles, a butterfly, and yes, skunk cabbage. The kids took turns being absolutely horrified that a lovely green plant could smell so bad. They were still laughing about it half-way through our hike. Every time we passed a new section of wetland, the kids pointed out the wide rosettes of green leaves and dared one another to take a whiff. Two children debated whether or not the stench could actually make someone pass out. Another asked if skunks ate it and if so, was that why skunks smell so terrible?

Genuine curiosity framed every mile of the hike and brought out more questions than even I had answers for. By the end of our program, we had put together an extensive list of researchable questions and topics for the kids to explore back at school. Two excitedly jumped up and down at the suggestion of going to the library to research – something they weren't known for, according to their teacher.

The beauty of environmental education is it provides an interactive learning experience that unlocks the imagination. And imagination, at its core, is infinite possibility. Today's child, stuffing their pockets with pretty stones, becomes the geologist of tomorrow. Songbirds calm the restless child who grows up to study migration patterns of threatened avian species. Traversing the mountainside in search of wild ginseng instills an appreciation for resource management and responsible foraging. These experiences are formative in building a person's character and mindset. They're also incredibly fun and memorable.

I know this not because I was a teacher but because I was that child who hiked the trails at Strawberry Hill and listened for great horned owl's calls. I ate summer berries by the handful, wondering at the vast differences between spicebush, hawthorne, and wineberries. My favorite school field trip was with Mrs. Tammy Deardorff's second-grade class at Fairfield Elementary. We hiked along the Nature Trail to search for signs of spring. Though I had grown up on Mount Hope and played along this trail countless times, the field trip experience was different. We



The beauty of environmental education is that it provides an interactive learning experience that unlocks the imagination.

learned about animal habitats, which birds had already made the trip north, and what Swamp Creek would look like with the coming spring rains. More than three decades later, I still remember the excitement of that afternoon.

You could say mine was the first generation to grow up surrounded by the enthusiasm and love of the Strawberry Hill family. My connection to nature began right here. It shaped who I became as I entered my teens and began teaching myself about wild edibles. It carried me through my time in the Army as I found field exercises and outdoor training preferable to stuffy buildings. And later, as a school librarian, I sought out ways to incorporate environmental education into my lessons at every opportunity.

Environmental education improves critical and creative thinking skills and drives children to discover the world

around them. It allows children to ask why the world works the way it does and fosters the desire needed to seek answers. It doesn't advocate a specific viewpoint. Instead, environmental education teaches kids how to weigh and compare different sides of an issue via critical thinking. This enhances their decision-making and problem-solving skills overall. It also gives a child ownership of their opinions and the freedom to express them. Furthermore, it facilitates a genuine appreciation for nature.

This connection to our natural world is a gift, one that our program at Strawberry Hill hands down to the next generation. Through our school field trips, homeschool, and public programs we build the emotional connection necessary to raising a new generation of environmental stewards. Those who come after us will remember the joy of new discoveries – catching crayfish in the

creek, searching for salamanders along the trail, and they'll cherish their memories of Strawberry Hill just as I have.

They say it takes a village to raise a child and that truth is evident within our program. None of the things I've mentioned here would be possible without the greater Strawberry Hill family - the donors and supporters. The families who come to our events and programs. The kids who laugh with excitement at seeing fresh animal tracks. And of course, readers like you. You make the memories possible. You make the love for our environment something tangible that circles back to all of us. Together, we will raise the next generation of environmental stewards and build a brighter world for everyone.

To read other Ecology articles, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

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IN THE COUNTRY

The lion sleeps tonight

Tim Iverson
Cunningham Falls State Park
Seasonal Naturalist

Lions don't generally call Maryland home, but it wasn't in the too distant past that we did in fact have a resident lion population – Puma concolor, or the mountain lion. Mountain lions can go by many names: cougar, puma, panther (in Florida), or catamount. It's a game of semantics, but in North America they all refer to the same big cat. Historically speaking these cats did roam Maryland and much of the rest of the country as well. While relatively common, even as recently as mid 1800's, they are virtually non-existent anywhere west of the Rocky Mountains with the exception of Florida (more on that later).

Mountain lions were extirpated (locally extinct) from Maryland sometime in 19th century. When the Eastern portion of North America was settled by colonists these big cats roamed free and were pretty common. If they were so common then you might be asking yourself where they all disappeared to. These cats suffered from a double blow – hunting and habitat loss. Early colonists saw cougars as both a nuisance and a threat, and arguably rightfully so. They had good reason to fear the animals, because they can be dangerous. They also preyed on livestock farmed by the colonists, which in turn caused a number of problems in terms of financial and basic survival needs. Without further need they turned their rifles on the cats and began to clear the land. However, they didn't just stop at clearing the land of the cats themselves. Logging was a major industry throughout much of the northeast and Appalachia, and as a result the mountain lions lost much of their habitat. This is a common story throughout much of the eastern United States, and the only known population of cougars remaining in the east is located in Florida.

The Florida panther is the only

known population of cougars in eastern North America, and it is regarded as critically endangered. In the 1970's it was estimated that a total of 20 remained in the wild. Through serious efforts made by state and federal agencies that number is now believed to be between 100 and 160. This lone isolated population exists entirely in southern Florida, and faces threats mainly from habitat loss via land development.

As a top predator in the food chain in most areas they serve a valuable role in the ecosystem. Much like in the American political system (ideally at any rate) there are checks and balances, and the same is true in nature. Prey species keep their numbers up to ensure survival, while predators keep their numbers in check which ensures things like overpopulation, overgrazing, and more don't occur. Without a keystone species like mountain lions in the area anymore we can see a marked difference in the ecology of the area. Species like deer, which would be prey for cougars, have and continue to explode though the population is managed through measures such as hunting. Inevitably though wherever a vacuum occurs it will be filled, and coyotes have found a niche here. Coyotes traditionally occupied territory west of the Mississippi, but have migrated since westward colonial expansion and can be found in much of the northeast. With the elimination of competing predators coyotes now function as the top predator in many places. Their expansion and reproduction has been so rapid that the state of Virginia estimates that there is an annual 29% growth rate for the population. Maryland is undergoing a similar study, but it stands to reason that similar patterns will be seen here as well.

The largest problem with this, as with any type of invasive or non-native species, is that the newcom-

ers can and often out compete the native species. The red fox (which we'll consider the home team, as it is native) and the coyote (which we'll consider the away team, because it wasn't documented in MD until 1972) compete for much of the same resources. The coyote which is more resilient and adaptable has slowly been displacing the red fox, and there are significant and measurable impacts as a result. Similar results are expected with the gray fox and the bobcat, which is the only documented "big" cat in Maryland.

The whole checks and balances thing can be tricky, but once something is set in motion it can be hard to predict the end result. When colonists were exterminating those pesky mountain lions just 200 years ago they set into motion a line of dominoes that is persisting even to this day. Despite their extermination in the east more than a century ago there are still reported sightings here.

From time to time people will call local police departments or the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and say they have either seen a cougar or have video or photographic evidence of one in the area. Most of these are a case of mistaken identity and there have been no confirmed cases of a wild mountain lion in Maryland since their extirpation. Most often people describe seeing a brownish cat the size of a German shepherd jump across the road or dart across the trail. While there have been a few instances of escaped pet cougars caught over the years (unrelated but worth noting – police on the eastern shore actually found an alligator in a parking lot this past summer), what people usually see are either deer, coyotes, or bobcats.

At the moment I am currently working as a seasonal interpreter at Big Bend National Park in Texas. I was a bit alarmed when I went for a hike in the Chisos Mountains on my first weekend there and was greeted by a rather con-



Without a keystone species like mountain lions anymore we can see a marked difference in the ecology of the area. Species like deer, which would be prey for cougars, have and continue to explode though the population is managed through measures such as hunting.

spicuous sign that read "Please Do Not Take Children On This Trail" with a picture of a mountain lion plastered next to the message. I can't speak for anyone else, but I received the message loud and clear. The sign gave me pause, and frankly made me pretty apprehensive the whole hike, but I never did see any lions. As a matter of fact I end my time at Big Bend and return to Cunningham Falls in mid April, and if I leave there without having seen one I am going to be sorely disappointed. Big Bend has done many rigorous studies over the past sixty years. Population studies, habitat assessments, and behavioral research are all integral parts of understanding how they work and interact with both the ecosystem and us. There are over 100,000 people who visit Big Bend on an average year, and since the parks inception in 1946 there have been less than a dozen attacks. I think it's important to note that no one has ever died from an attack in Big Bend, and more people actually die from dog bites in a single year than all mountain lion attacks in Big Bend (which as of this writing is 0).

Here, as with everywhere else, better understanding will make life better for both them and us.

While there is some evidence to suggest that mountain lions are gradually pushing their way back into the middle and eastern portions of the country they still face threats in their remaining home ranges. The largest key to their survival and any possible expansion into old territory is habitat protection. Repercussions from the elimination or introduction of a species, new or old, can have ecosystem altering effects, and the impact of their absence is still reverberating to this day. What we're experiencing now is a centuries old experiment that we're still grappling with. The checks and balances not only apply to the natural world, but applies to us as well. It's unlikely that cougars reappear in Maryland anytime soon, if ever, but if people take a balanced approach to development and conservation then a healthy and stable mountain lion population can continue to exist elsewhere.

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

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Global warming is changing the flow of ocean currents

Boyce Rensberger

As all observations show, global warming is happening faster at the poles than it is in our temperate latitudes. While the average annual temperature in our part of the Earth has risen by 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1980 (yes, that's enough to contribute to the weather chaos we're seeing), the Arctic has had an increase of about 5.4 degrees during the same time.

If you want to see what global warming can do, ask the Alaskan natives whose seaside homes are sinking into the melting permafrost; they are having to move miles inland. Ask the people who race their sled dogs in Alaska's 1,000-mile Iditarod. There have been recent years with no snow; once-frozen lakes must now be bypassed.

Much the same thing is happening in Antarctica. There are places where the snow is gone, and grass and wildflowers are now established.

Even though we're not seeing such dramatic changes in Maryland, we eventually might. The cause could be the possible collapse of deep-ocean currents that flow all over the planet.

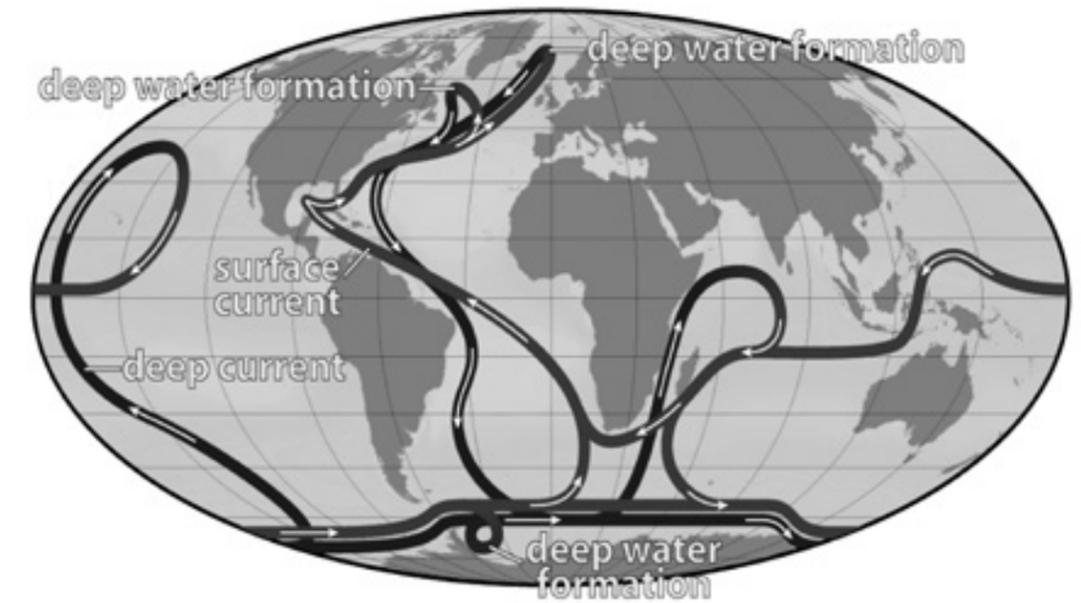
First a little background:

Most of Earth is, of course, covered by water, 70 percent of it. And that water doesn't just sit there, stagnant. It's laced with currents—mas-

sive rivers of water that flow within the oceans from one part of the globe to another. In our region, we're most familiar with the Gulf Stream, discovered long ago by Benjamin Franklin. Warm water from the Gulf of Mexico flows along the surface between Florida and Cuba and then up along our East Coast at speeds between four and six miles per hour. The volume of water that flows is greater than that of all the world's rivers combined.

This oceanic river even has a tributary. Warm water from the Caribbean joins the flow a few miles off the Florida-Georgia state line. The current roughly follows the continental shelf northward and, a few hundred miles off the coast of New England, it turns eastward, bringing warm water to Britain and northern Europe. It's the reason that palm trees can grow in Scotland, and England, even though these countries are at the latitude of Hudson Bay.

As the Gulf Stream gives up its heat to the northern atmosphere, the water obviously becomes colder. But this is just one of two phenomena that make this water sink toward the bottom of the ocean. One is that cold water is more dense than warm water. Its molecules are closer together. The other phenomenon is that when the surface current reaches far enough north to freeze, it becomes saltier and this makes



Dense cold water in the northern and southern portions of the Pacific and Atlantic sink to drive deep ocean circulation.

it still more dense. This happens because when salt water freezes, the water molecules crystalize in a way that pushes away most of the minerals that made the water salty. So, sea ice is basically fresh-water ice. The excluded salt atoms remain in the unfrozen water, making it still more dense.

This doubly dense water sinks, slowly diving into the depths of the North Atlantic and flowing southward. As this deep, cold current moves toward the equatorial region, it picks up heat and, now less dense, rises back to the surface to repeat the cycle. It may help to think of the current as a conveyor belt. The water that is cooling and sinking, "pulls" the warmer surface water behind it. My explanation here is an oversimplification but it helps me get a mental grasp of the phenomena.

Similar currents flow in all the world's oceans. The scientific picture of all this emerged in the 1980s from the work of the late Wally Broecker, a scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Broecker also foresaw a rise in global temperatures and

coined the term "global warming."

He warned that as the Arctic warms, less sea ice will form. As a result, Gulf Stream salinity would not increase as much and, therefore, its water might not become dense enough to sink as fast. This great conveyor belt—and one that does the same thing in the Pacific—could slow down. Global warming, in other words, could slow the Gulf Stream, causing northern Europe to become cooler. That's one of the counter-intuitive results of global warming. The global average temperature is not uniform across the globe.

Antarctica is warming almost as fast as the Arctic, but the latest report from the UN's IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) says that its deep-water circulation appears to be slowing twice as fast as that in the North Atlantic.

"[It's] stunning to see that happen so quickly," said Alan Mix, a climatologist at Oregon State University and a co-author of the IPCC report. "It appears to be kicking into gear right now. That's headline news," he told Reuters.

How might these conveyor-belt

slowdowns affect us in Maryland? Nobody can say for sure, but scientists point to two global phenomena. One is weather. Because ocean currents redistribute heat around the planet, the resulting patterns of rainfall and drought can shift. Regions with established patterns of low rainfall (deserts, for example) could become wetter. That could leave less rain to fall in areas that counted on regular rainfall to grow crops. I have found no research reports that venture to say how things might change in Maryland but change they certainly could.

The other global phenomenon is productivity of the fishing industry. The turnover of sea water brings nutrients from the deep—organic matter of all kinds—up near the surface where most fish live. The nutrients support food chains up to the species we humans like to eat. With a slowed oceanic turnover, there would be fewer fish to catch.

The overall effects will be slow to come. But since humanity's emission of greenhouse gases is still increasing—and is projected to keep increasing for years to come—those effects are essentially certain to arrive.

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

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



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PETS

Saying "I love you"

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

Hi. It's me. Your pup. I finally got the hang of this whole computer thing, with the keyboard and everything. You humans sure do spend a lot of time on this. Do you know there are balls that could be chased or bushes to smell or tulips to dig up?

Um. Maybe it's better if you forget that last one.

Anyway, I wanted to get my thoughts down here because sometimes I worry that you don't always

understand how much you mean to me. You know those times where we're not really doing much of anything and you catch me watching you? I know you want to know so bad what I'm thinking but the whole talking thing, other than a bark or too, is kind of beyond me.

I figured if I could just get the hang of the keyboard, I'd be good. So here we are.

Funny thing about words, huh? Just when you get the chance to use them, you kind of can't come up with any adequate enough to describe how you really feel.

I mean, I love you. A whole lot. You're easily the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. Remember the day you found me in the shelter? That was the start of the whole looking in your eyes and the connection. Gosh, I knew, even back then, that if I could just be yours I'd spend the rest of my life so grateful and happy and doing everything I could to give you the same.

Wow, that was a long time ago, wasn't it?

You took me out of that cage and into your home and my chest actually hurt with how happy I was and still am.

The years sure have gone by. The kids are growing up so fast and they're getting involved in so many different things. You must be so proud of them. I know I am. They really are the perfect com-

bination and the best of both of you, Mom and Dad.

I hope that didn't sound too cheesy. See, this word thing is getting me.

I could just fill up this whole sheet with the word love and I still don't think it would really give you a picture of what you mean to me. Maybe I'll try with memories.

I remember the reading nights, back when the kids were little. You had that whole stack of books and each one of them got to pick a story before bed and I'd lie on the floor at Mom's feet, listening to her voice and I knew, even though I was young back then, that I would die for every one of you.

I remember picnics and the barbecues and how I always got a taste of everything on the plate, even though the kids weren't sup-

posed to feed me from the table. Not sure if anyone ever knew how many bites Dad would sneak me, but maybe that's something just between us.

I remember, just recently, Mom and I watching TV one night - who is this Ted Lasso guy, anyway? My head was on Mom's lap while we were on the couch - my favorite place to be and an advertisement came on for people who rescue dogs from the life of dog fighting. I couldn't take my eyes off the television. Those poor animals.

I was a stray before coming into the shelter, but even that experience was nothing - nothing - compared to what dog fighting dogs go through. My heart hurt so bad for those animals and the life they'd known.

When the ad came to an end Mom leaned down and put her cheek against mine and I knew she'd been crying. She whispered, "I love you so much."

It was then that I knew I had to figure out a way to do this. This computer thing. To tell you the feeling is mutual and always will be.

Our lives will change - that's what lives do - but the one constant I can guarantee is my devotion to you and this family.

I know we get busy with baseball games and band practice and trips to the dog park and family commitments, but I just wanted you to know that through it all, I'll never leave your side.

A companion, a shoulder to lean on, a best friend.

Yeah. That sounds about right. Maybe I did manage to find the words after all.

Well, it's getting late and I've got a house and five people to protect and watch over. I'll just leave this here for you...

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

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Don't judge a dog

Bethany Davidson
FCAC Humane Educator

Whether they're walking through our adoption floor or scrolling through photos online, potential adopters quickly notice that many of Frederick County Animal Control's canines have large block heads, muscular builds, big goofy grins and that they fall into the category of pit bull type dogs. In fact, pit bull mixes currently make up 70% of our adoptable canine population and frequently serve as shelter ambassadors at events and facility tours. Despite being some of our friendliest, most tolerant, and well-behaved dogs, these mixes are sadly among the last to be adopted due to breed restrictions/bans and misinformation. Here are just a few facts about the dog that is simultaneously demonized and referred to as America's Dog.

First, Pit Bull isn't actually a breed at all but rather a term used to refer to a group of dogs that share similar physical characteristics much like the terms retriever, shepherd, hound and terrier. According to AKC/UKC breed standards there are four main breeds that fall into this classification. They are the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier and American Bully. There are also a number of unique breeds and mixes that are often misidentified as pit bulls due to their physical characteristics.

Every dog is unique, but overall pit bull type dogs have a ton of favorable traits. While there is some variability between the four main breeds, pit bulls are known for being friendly dogs who are incredibly affectionate with family and good with children. They are strong, confident, and eager to please. Pit bulls can be couch potatoes, playful and energetic or a combination of both. This canine classification is also one that is adaptable to change and highly trainable.

Yes, pit bull type dogs have been bred and used for dog fighting both historically and presently, but they are so much more. The mix originated in England in early 19th century where they were also bred

as working dogs used to herd, protect and manage livestock. Once pit bull type dogs made their way across the ocean, they became a popular American family dog even serving as national mascots and the beloved canine companion of the Little Rascals. Today, pit bull mixes can be seen in communities not only as pets but as service dogs, therapy dogs, and police dogs. One former FCAC resident is now putting her ball drive and strong nose to work as a cadaver dog.

Given their history as dog fighting dogs, it is often assumed that pit bulls are dangerous and aggressive. After analyzing multiple peer-reviewed studies, the American Veterinary Medical Association concluded that "controlled studies have not identified this breed group (pitbull-type dogs) as disproportionately dangerous." In fact, pit bull type dogs have excellent temperaments. According to the American Temperament Test Society, pit bull type dogs score in the top 23% of all breeds tested and have an average score of 87.9%.

Locking jaws are also a myth. Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin of the University of Georgia says, "There is absolutely no evidence for the existence of any kind of 'locking mechanism' unique to the structure of the jaw and/or teeth of the American Pitbull Terrier." Pit bull type dogs don't even have the strongest bite among canines. Information posted on Pitbullinfo.org states that both German Shepherds and Rottweilers have stronger bites than any pit bull type dog and with the strongest bite belonging to the Kangal. Its bite has been measured at over three times stronger than that of pit bulls.

FCAC takes care to ensure that the dogs we adopt out into the community are safe regardless of breed. "The reality is that dogs of many breeds can be selectively bred or trained to develop aggressive traits," states the ASPCA. "Therefore the responsible ownership of any dog requires a commitment to proper socialization, humane training and conscientious supervision."

If you're interested in learning more about pit bull type dogs, visit Pitbullinfo.org.



Albany & Brooklyn arrived at shelter in late March as a result of their owner's declining health due. Albany is your typical cat. She enjoys attention and comes to greet visitors if she's not too sleepy. She really loves to play with her ball tower and is interested in toys. Brooklyn's favorite activities are napping and more napping. She enjoys petting sessions too, but this diva expects you to come to her. Albany and Brooklyn seem to draw comfort from each other's presence; therefore, they are better together.

If you visit the shelter's cat adoption room, the first cat to greet you will be Georgia. She was placed there because of her cool, calm and out-going personality. Georgia loves to be pet and will nuzzle you to get your attention.



During his first week at FCAC, Abraham was very scared, so much so our Humane Educator wrote "I walked by his kennel and observed him at the back trembling and trying to hide under his bed. His body was very tense, ears pinned back, tail tucked tightly." Fast forward three months, Abraham has become comfortable with the shelter routine, staff and volunteers.



Hudson is a friendly guy and seems to like everyone he meets. He loves attention and will put his head in your lap to let you know he wants more petting. When he is not snuggling by your side, Hudson likes to play with his toys and run free in one of the shelter's off-leash areas. Hudson has lived with another dog and would likely enjoy having a dog friend in his next home.

For more information about Albany, Brooklyn, Georgia, Abraham, and Hudson call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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My top priority in Congress is working for you. Each and every day, I'll fight to deliver health care for all Marylanders including mental health care, help those with opioid and other addictions, reduce inflation and improve our economy. I'll always put Maryland first and work to secure federal money to improve roads, bridges, highways and broadband to Frederick County and all of Western Maryland.

My Work on the Appropriations Committee Helps Maryland

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am in a unique position to deliver for Frederick County. In the last Congress, my role on the Appropriations Committee brought millions of federal dollars to our area of Maryland. In Frederick County, I successfully fought for millions of dollars to mitigate floods and prepare for natural disasters, provide much-needed help to those struggling with substance use and mental health through the Crisis Stabilization Center, invest in Mount Saint Mary's University to expand their research facilities, and help build a new Center to serve Asian American and other minority populations that are in need. And I'm proud to have successfully fought for \$4.6 billion to improve roadways and bridges across our nation, like Route 15 in Frederick County.

New Frederick County Office to Help You

To better serve you, we have a new office in Frederick County. If you are having any problems with a federal government agency, or need help getting the benefits you're entitled to, please contact my office. We are here to help!

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DAVID TRONE

U.S. CONGRESS

Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

Mike Mathis - inspiring student athletes for 27 years

Audrey Shabelski
WHS Class of 2024

It is so often that we shine a light on the student athletes but those often overlooked are the coaches who put in so much time to put together a great team and a great season. One coach on all minds has been the Walkersville Boys Basketball Coach Mike Mathis.

The Basketball coach started out as an assistant coach on the junior varsity girls basketball team in 1996. It all started when his wife was placed as the head coach and he followed her to help out. He was looking for a way to give back to his community even if he wasn't an avid player himself. After a couple years assisting, his wife moved her coaching to FCC, placing him in charge of the girls Varsity team for a number of years. It wasn't until 2016 that he moved from the girls team to the Boys Varsity Basketball team as an assistant coach.

Mike Mathis was greatly revered for he was able to lead the girls varsity basketball team to a championship victory. In 2003 the Girls Basketball team played a great season with about 20 games won and the state championships won against Middletown High School. This year at the 2023 season, Mathis had the opportunity to make the feat again with the Boys Basketball team making it all the way to regionals.

Since then he has been working with the Boys team. There was a brief pause due to covid but Mathis said, "I don't think Covid really effected us, but I do think

that it made some of the students more appreciative and even excited with this sport. I know that when they came back we got more motivation, more energy and even more participation from students and parent volunteers."

When the team came back for the 2022 season, it was also a good run. They won about 19 games with only 6 losses and the one of which was a playoff. The team was pretty bummed about it, as was the coach. However, Mathis believed that this only motivated the returning students. They suddenly has something to fight for which really played for the upcoming season.

A famous strategy that Mathis employs is his emphasis on defense. Not everyone can score, but everyone can play defensively and this is what leads the lions to victory. They can get the points they need without falling into any traps and they can play it smart so there is always have a strategy in play.

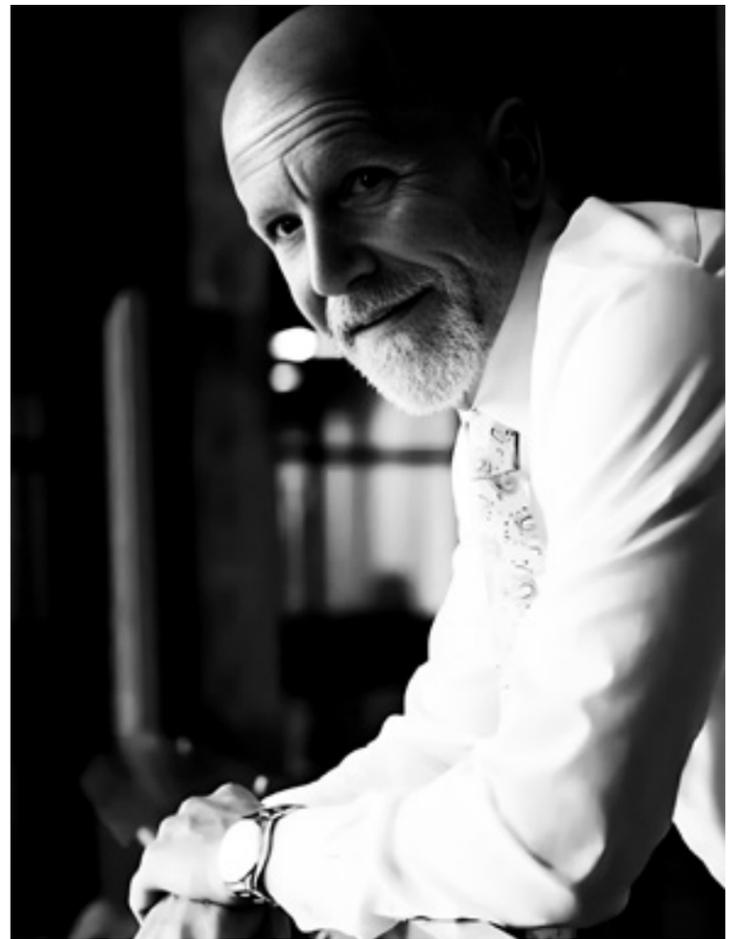
This has caused a huge success with the Boys basketball team. In the 2023 season they had a pretty good start to their season, loosing their first game against Frederick by 6 points but then winning the next six games against the likes of Linganore, Liberty, Brunswick, Boonsboro, Kent County Tournament, and SEED Tournament. They faced another close game against Oakdale losing with 40 to their 43. They then won against the next 14 games against Smithsburg, Catoctin, Middletown, Governor Thomas Johnson, Williamsport, River Hill, Brunswick, Tuscarora, Urbana, Brunswick, and Boonsboro. They lost to Fred-

erick again, this time with a heavier loss 63-55 and then it was to the playoffs. They won against Poolsville, Middletown, and Liberty, only loosing to Largo by 2 points. They had made it to Regionals, the first step in their goal.

One could link this strong motivation of the Boys team with the 20th anniversary of the girls team win back in 2003. Mathis could recall a certain determination found in this seasons practices as they were all so locked in. Like many sports, Basketball players are at their best when they are in sync. When they all have the same goal in mind and the same passion, then they can accomplish anything. Mathis saw that in the determination to win they had this season.

If the team did move forward from the regional semi finals, Mathis would've made history as the second Maryland coach to ever land a state championship win both for the Boys Varsity Basketball Team and the Girls Varsity Basketball team. The only coach from Maryland known to accomplish this is Stan Kernan, the coach who won the Parkdales Boys team AA State titles in 1971 and 1976, as well as the Parkdales Girls team AA State Crown in 1981.

Sadly the play was not meant to be. The Boys Basketball team had finished as 2A West Regional



Walkersville Basketball Coach Mike Mathis

Champions with a semi finals loss by 2 points. This does not make Mathis any less proud of how hard the students worked however nor did it really shake the spirit of the team. Mathis recalled being drenched in water by the team in the locker room after the Regional Championship Win, so it was

clear that there was no shortage of good memories to come from this experience.

Mathis said, "It was hard work, but we all really had a good time, good comradery. Hopefully collectively as a program and a team next year, we can continue to strive and to be great next year."

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HISTORY

Woodsboro Remembers

Francis Meehan Smith
Continued from last month

Circuit Rider Shop

The Reverend Gordon and Marjorie Wilson are the most industrious couple you'll ever find the purchase of "THE MILL" in Woodsboro marks their latest venture.

Besides serving four Methodist churches, they operate a furniture stripping and antique business. The old grist mill, which dates back to the 1890's, is truly a museum piece, with much of the original milling equipment still intact: the grain chutes, bins, mill wheels, filters, elevator, &c.

There's even a diary recorded on the side of the bin, apparently kept by

one of the mill workers. It's a running account of happenings, even includes a day-to-day description of the weather. One item tells about a local man being trampled to death; another when the United States declared war on Japan.

"It has quite a history," says Marg, "and one of the few grain mills originally operated by steam."

"And later by electricity," adds Gordon.

"We've always been interested in antiques." He continues, "and for years refinished our own furniture by hand the hard way; in fact we had a stripping business in Frederick.

But the Wilsons wanted to expand, so when they read in a local paper that the old grist mill, with

one acre of land and adjoining frame house, was for sale, it didn't take them long to contact the real estate company and make the purchase.

"We named it the Circuit Rider Shop," Marge explains, "because a Methodist minister with more than one church used to be called a circuit rider as he rode his horse from one church to another."

The house, formerly the home of the mill engineer, is now occupied by Wilson's daughter, Wendy, and her husband, Ernest Linquer.

Three years ago the Wilsons purchased the Houck's Stripping Franchise now being used at the mill.

"It's better than any stripping compound you can buy commercially," claims Gordon, "and much safer, although the chemicals used are a trade secret of Houck."

"What we like about Houck's setup," explains Gordon, "is that they continue to experiment and try to make their product better all the time. And if we run into a problem, they always come to our rescue."

A Busy Day

What comprises a busy day? "I guess the busiest day I've had was when I stripped eighteen chairs, two tables, six rockers and a desk. But the most difficult is when we did the church pews. That took some doing, with double dipping to strip both ends."

Although at present the two top floors house the mill machinery. Gordon hopes to eventually convert them into apartments. "There's a lot of good Georgian pine in that building," points out Gordon, "and some really valuable wood in the equipment."

But unless converted into something artistic, it serves no real purpose other than for visitors interested in old mills and how they used to operate.

Taps Across America



As Part of the "National Moment of Remembrance" Taps will be sounded in Woodsboro's Mt. Hope Cemetery, at 3 p.m., May 29th, Memorial Day by member of "Taps For Veterans", Dahl Drenning.

A brief cemetery walk will be offered following the sounding of Taps to visit the graves of six soldiers from three wars who paid the supreme sacrifice and have been laid to rest in Mt. Hope Cemetery. The public is invited to attend.

First Baptist Church of Thurmont

Spring Annual Fling

Saturday, May 6
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Featuring:

- 5.5 Band ~ Free Food Games ~ Prizes ~ Crafts
- Face Painting
- Moon Bounce ~ Puppets

Thurmont Community Park
21 Frederick Rd., Thurmont

The old elevator shaft still works. But is not safe to use. It's operated by a large belt, which moves constantly. The idea is for a worker to grab hold of the belt and travel upward. Unless he wants to lose his head, he better not look around too much. Anyway, workmen's compensation laws forbid its use, so the Wilsons have to resort to ropes and a hoist for getting furniture upstairs.

There's a wide assortment of antiques, gifts, refinishing and caning supplies on the first floor, mixed with the mill equipment. The business operates on a 50-50 basis, half antiques and half stripping.

Now that the old mill is open, people drop in regularly to see what's taking place. The mill, of course used to serve all the farmers in the area. Now they wander in to see what the Wilsons have done to "their mill." Bringing it back to life has meant a lot to the town folks who "knew it when."

Somehow when you step inside it's like going back 100 years. You keep

looking for the old millers.

Perhaps you imagine you hear the sounds of the machinery operating, or smell the smoke from the train just outside waiting for the grain to be loaded.

Whatever it is, there's one thing for sure It's a fascinating and comfortable feeling.

Woodsboro Livestock Sales

Back during March 1949, a group of men got together and figured there was a great need for a "Consignment Sales Barn" in this area of Frederick County; as there were only two around here at that time; one at Westminster, the other in Hagerstown.

After hours of meetings and discussions, the group came to the conclusion that land around Woodsboro would be the ideal spot; finally decided that acreage

then owned by Carl L.S. Ramsburg which was on the outskirts of Woodsboro would be exactly what they needed. Mr. Ramsburg was

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HISTORY

approached and agreed sell them five acres of this land with option to purchase more acreage if at a later date this would be needed.

The name of the Sales Barn would be "Woodsboro Livestock Sales Inc."

The organizers, first stockholders and officers were: Krebbs Benchoff - President,

Lloyd M. Fogle - Secretary & Treasurer, Carl L.S. Ramsburg - General Manager,

George E. Runkles - Ring Manager & G. Atlee Shry - Vice-President.

March 31, 1949 a special meeting of directors was held, plans were made to build a frame building with metal roof. The building, to have a second story where Mr. and Mrs. Carl L.S. Ramsburg could live, as they would become caretakers, Mrs. Ramsburg to operate a lunchroom or restaurant on said premises.

May 1949 Lloyd M. Fogle, who was secretary and Treasurer, handed in his resignation; due to other businesses, it was impossible for him to continue his work at the Sales Barn.

Mr. Paul Etzler, a new stockholder, was voted in to fill the vacancy as Treasurer.

The first sale at "Woodsboro Livestock Sales Inc." was held on May 19, 1949. Mr. Delbert Null was Secretary at this time but also the auctioneer; his father, John Null, also was on the auctioneer staff.

1951 the Company decided more land was needed: land north of the building was purchased. Other improvements were made as concrete pens, and alleys were added to the "Dairy Cow Shed".

The directors decided in 1953 in favor of Mr. Atlee Shry's suggestion to buy 400 small calendars, 50 large ones, to be given away. These were distributed of and

on through the years. In 1975 between 1,200 and 1,500 were pur-

chased. These calendars are a "must" to many people.

The Sales Barn suffered a great loss in March 1953 when Mr. W. Paul Etzler passed away. Mrs. Norma W. Etzler, his wife was then voted in, named as Secretary and Treasurer. She served in this role for years but due to illness has had to curb some of these activities, but is Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Carl L.S. Ramsburg handed in his resignation as director manager, stockholder to become effective as of January 1954. When Mr. Ramsburg decided to sell his stocks in the Company, they were purchased by Charles D. Burrier and Wilfred C. Wisner.

Mr. Charles D. Burrier remained with the Sales Barn a number of years serving as Secretary and Treasurer; also Office Manager. Later when Mr. Burrier sold his stock it was purchased by Richard A. Cramer who for several years was Secretary and Treasurer, sold his stock to Mr. Robert L. Layman.

Mr. Wilfred L. Wisner is the Assistant Manager; also very active as he keeps an eye on the unloading dock and the penning of stock. If by chance and stock is listed missing he runs them down; he keeps very busy running up and down the stairs checking outside before and during the sales.

Mr. Robert Layman is now the Secretary and Treasurer, Office Manager, and Weighmaster; he too is always quite busy.

As time passed, many, many new features etc have been added. Twenty years ago Mr. G. Atlee Shry suggested the market report be put on the air, then buyers and sellers alike would know the prices for their stocks and poultry. This proved to be a wise idea, and has been on the air ever since with Frederick or Thurmont radio stations.

Mr. Shry joined the "Woodsboro

Livestock Sales inc. 27 years ago, helping to organize the Sales Barn. He has acted as Vice-President, now is the President. During the years he made many suggestions which have proven to be an improvement for the Company' surroundings, dealers, buyers, and sellers.

Mr. A.K. Martin from Green Castle, Pa., served as Ringman for a number of years; he is now retired. Mr. Kebbs Benchoff put his stock up for sale March 1957, Mr. Ralph D. Zimmerman purchased his stock.

Mr. Zimmerman is now the Vice President and General Manager, being very active auctioneering, selling all the livestock, plus clerking some for Sales day. At times calls will be coming in to him, which are relayed to him via telephone in his auctioneer box; these calls are usually about some problems to be straightened out; he handles these problems with great thought and care.

The Sales Barn has grown in business through the years, therefore new installations have been made. For instance, a computerized accounting machine was in stalled where an "instant payoff" via check is made to consignors, plus checks will be in the out-of towners' mail boxes the next morning.

Another very important installation is a closed circuit TV; where the weight of all stock is flashed on a TV screen showing the buyers and sellers alike said weight of any stock to be sold. From 500 to 700 head of stock and cattle may be sold on the "hoof" on Sales Day' so the TV (closed circuit) has proven quite a success and help to all concerned in buying or selling the livestock.

The Company feels quite fortunate in having Mrs. Virginia Hammoni to operate the Restaurant during the past years. She serves delicious dinners, lunches, soups, sandwiches, pie, cakes, etc, all are homemade goods, and this restaurant has been an asset to the public attending Sales Day on, Tuesdays.

One man who is practically an institution at the sale is John Wolf. Although a Taneytown resident, John is known by everyone attending the Livestock Sales. He can be seen mingling in the crowd' helping with the sale, or on the road in his 1953 white Ford van truck. John has been with the sale since its beginning - serving as a ringmaster, livestock hauler and a flea market contributor. John himself is also often found in the role of

Walkersville Senior Citizens May schedule

The Seniors meet on Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Town Hall, 21 West Frederick Street. In the morning, we play rummy or dominos, complete jigsaw puzzles or enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. Lunch, catered by Trout's Market of Woodsboro, is served at noon. Events scheduled in the afternoon are as follows:

4 May - Table competition: Using clues, players determine the correct rhyming words to a given word.

11 May - Have you wondered if the jewelry Aunt Edith gave you had monetary, as well as, sentimental value? Is the brooch costume jewelry or

could it be made of silver? If you're wondering whether your gold and silver jewelry are real, experts say the most reliable test is to take it to a certified jeweler. Mr. Wayne Starkey, Old Towne Jewelry, will be at Seniors to examine your jewelry and answer questions. Old Towne Jewelers, a family-owned business, has been operating in Walkersville since 1986.

18 May - Bingo.
25 May - Memorial Day Remembrance.

For information, call 301-845-7174. To make lunch reservations, please call the same number at least 72 hours in advance.

buyer when he recognizes a bargain being sold below its real value. Some-time ago "Woodsboro Livestock Sales Barn" expanded into the sale of other things; two buildings have been built during past few years where the public may sell their wares.

More parking places around the building were added, as branching out from exclusively selling livestock

needed more spaces. On Sales Day one may see cars, trucks, vans, loaders, etc., some of stock may be sold or brought in for sale from states such as Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. After animals are sold they are tagged and penned accordingly to buyers.

Continued next month

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May 3

Spring Isn't Happening

Spring is trying to function in a traditional manner, but the cold nights and cold breezes continue to delay the growth of crops. Many farmers are predicting a short hay crop.

How Radio Code Is Recorded

A machine that would take down telephone conversations in the absence of anyone in the vicinity of the instrument was placed on the market a number of years ago, but was not successful financially. A similar machine is now being developed to register radio broadcasts. It is quite possibly physically to construct a machine that will register radio conversation. The day may be near when a whole concert can be received during the absence of the owner of a set and reproduced at his pleasure.

Hurled From Auto In Wreck

Stanley Green, 15, sustained a fractured skull and lacerations about the head, and Frank Krebs, 16, suffered severe lacerations about the head when the machine in which they were riding struck a guy wire on a pole near Lewistown Thursday morning about 1 o'clock, causing it to upset and throw the occupants out.

Whether they were blinded by the light from another automobile or the lights on their own machine went out is not known. Green himself is still unconscious and Krebs is in too serious a condition to relate the details of the accident. They were found by Burley Smith, of Walkersville, who came upon the wreck.

It is thought that the machine the two youths were ridding in was driven from the road, striking a guy wire which caused it hit a culvert and turn upside down, throwing the occupants on their heads.

May 10

S'More Snow

Between the hours of one and three o'clock Thursday morning a severe wind and rain storm shook buildings, rattled and banged shutters and made our metal roof sound like a load of scrap iron hurrying over a dilapidated wooden bridge. Wind, rain, hail and snow, all made their appearance and their present felt. A light covering of snow was visible on the mountains when daylight came.

Many small branches were broken from trees, leaves almost covering the street at places. It is said that thunder and lightning was seen and heard during the night.

Boys' Pig Club Formed

A Boys' Pig Club, the fifth in the county was organized in Lewistown, Tuesday night. Six members were enrolled and two others who could not attend sent word they wish to be included as members. The meeting, held at the Lewistown School House, was attended by a number of boys and several fathers and mothers.

Each boy was supplied with a bulletin giving specific instructions on how to feed and care for his pig and also a record book in which to keep the cost growing out of raising his pig. Five of the boys present selected Poland China Pigs and one a Duroe. The pigs will be delivered to the boys on Saturday and will be about eight week old.

Scholarship Exams

Examinations were held on last Saturday and will be held again this Saturday for the two scholarships, one to Western Maryland and one to St. John's College, offered by the Frederick County Board of Education. The scholarships are an offer on the part of the Board of Education to defray all expenses of a four-year college course. One scholarship is to be awarded to the boy making the highest average in the examinations and the other to the girl making the highest average.

The examinations cover the following subjects: mathematics - including algebra and arithmetic, history, science, English and spelling. The requirement for those wishing to take the exams are that they be at least high school graduates. No one under the rank of a high school graduate will be allowed to complete in examinations.

Under the conditions of the scholarship the boy to whom it is awarded will be given an absolutely free course for four years training at St. John's College. The girl who wins the scholarship will be entitled to similar training at Western Maryland. The scholarships include not only tuition for the entire four years but also carry with them funds to cover room and board and other incidental college expenses. These scholarships are given only every four years.

May 17

More Mountain Fires

A fire in the Catoctin Mountain, three miles west of Catoctin Furnace was sighted on Monday afternoon. The heavy rain on Tuesday afternoon put the finishing touches on the work of the firefighters.

The fire near Catoctin Furnace started in a remote section of the mountain and was very difficult to reach. There were reports of several smaller fires but the locations of these could not be ascertained. The fires are in the same localities as the fires of last week and incendiarism is suspected.

The County Commissioners Monday afternoon offered a reward of \$100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone starting a fire in the mountains.

The Fire Warden said that failure of persons to notify wardens of the existence of a fire is punishable by a fine of \$10. He added that he had heard of the Monday afternoon fire two hours before persons residing in their immediate neighborhood had informed him. He also said the law provided that owners of timberland on fire are not released from fighting the flames.

Sugar Rebellion

Governor Albert Richie last Friday night officially declared a statewide rebellion against high sugar prices, shortly after similar declarations by the Governors of Ohio and Kansas.

In an official proclamation he called upon householders in Maryland, and all other users of sugar in the state, to restrict sugar purchases to the smallest possible quantity. "The recent price increase operates with the greatest injustice upon every householder and user of sugar," the proclamation declares. Curtailing buying is urged as the only immediate effective means of restoring a normal market.

Governor Ritchie previously had taken cognizance of the sugar situation in a telegram to President Harding Wednesday, in which he urged a statement from the president, stating it would have a meaningful effect in relieving the high-priced situation.

His proclamation is as follows:

"Whereas the rise in the price of sugar, which cannot possibly be prescribed to any natural cause, operates with the greatest injustice upon every householder and user of sugar in this state and in this country, with respect to one of

the necessities of life, and therefore justifies such concerted action on the part of the people as will write the wrong; and,

"Whereas the recent current helmet in the purchase and use of sugar has already resulted in a material reduction in the price therefore; now, therefore, I, Albert Richie, governor Maryland, do earnestly request that house holders of Maryland and all other users of sugar, in the state to continue restricting your purchase and use of sugar to the lowest possible amount, as the only immediate effective means of restoring a normal market and destroying the efforts of those who would prevent one."

Destroying Stills

In connection with the efforts of officials of the law to enforce prohibition, one is struck by the reports of the large number of stills destroyed, and the question actually rises - why not make it a criminal offense to manufacture, or sell, all necessary implements to the manufacturing of liquors?

We do not know how openly the stills are manufactured and sold, but surely few of them are home manufactured exclusively; and even if they are, it seems to us that the necessary parts that cannot be made at home, ought to be under strict supervision as to the uses to which they are to be put after going into private hands.

Unquestionably, the bootleggers are getting a great deal of more or less open help, in the contact of their illegal business; and if a still is openly displayed and sold, as has been reported, it's like locking the stable after the horse is stolen to permit stills to be sold, then try to hunt them down, destroy them, and punish the users.

May 23

Train Hits Fire Engine

Passenger train number 105 of the Western Maryland Railroad which was scheduled to arrive in Thurmont around 9:30 p.m. got there on Sunday evening about two hours late. The train collided with a fire engine near Union Bridge, which caused the delay. Three firemen were seriously injured. The accident occurred at 8 o'clock when the fire apparatus was responding to an alarm for a small fire. The fire engine was struck by the locomotive and cut in two. Five firemen leaped from the moving truck and were not hurt.

The railroad crossing where the accident occurred has no safety gates; instead the signal of approaching trains is given by an automatic bell. The sound of this was lost in the clamor of the fire engine gongs, it is said.

Protection Of Wildflowers

The protest that have been coming in to the State Department Of Forestry for the past few weeks, against the depopulation of the Woodlands for dogwood, redbud and azalea blossoms call for the widest publicity to the law enacted in 1918 for the protection of wildflowers, trees and shrubs.

This law, chapter 179, acts of 1918, makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine, or imprisonment, or both, for any persons to remove, break, or destroy any trees, shrubs, find, or flower, moss or turf from the lands of another without the written consent of such owner, or under his personal direction.

At this season of the year, with dogwood, red bud, azalea and other beautiful wildflowers adorning the roadside and making the woodland attractive, there is a temptation to gather them for decorating automobiles or carrying them home. Flowers gathered in this way and carried in the sun and wind for a few minutes, will wilt and become useless.

The trees that have been mutilated, will cause hundreds, perhaps thousands, who might've enjoyed the blossoms on the trees to be deprived of the pleasure of seeing them; the owners property has been despoiled, and the law violated and the violator himself benefited very little, if at all.

The police officials of the state are being asked to stop these violations, and every landowner is asked to cooperate with the authorities to stop this vandalism. Posters carrying the provisions of the law will be furnished to landowners for the protection of their property upon application to the State Department Of Forestry.

May 31

Woodsboro Pike Repairs Finished

The work of patching and repairing Woodsboro Pike from the point of its intersection with the Liberty Pike at Ceresville through the town of Woodsboro was completed by a force of employees of the State Road Commission Saturday afternoon. The work consisted of filling many holes in the road with stone and tar and covering this with a macadam surface. The work was commenced on Wednesday and completed Saturday.

The eight mile long Woodsboro Pike was taken over by the State Road Commission last year. A little over one mile of this highway was resurface by the state last summer. But complaints continued to be made of the condition of the road and it was decided to patch the highway for this year. It is understood that no further improvement will be made on this highway this year.

Thurmont At Woodsboro

Although Eaten outpitched Fox in a pitchers' duel, by taking advantage of several costly errors at critical times, Woodsboro was able to secure a 2 to 1 victory over Thurmont in an exhibition baseball game at Woodsboro Wednesday afternoon.

Eaton, for Thurmont, pitch to fine game, allowing five hits and having five strikeouts to his credit, some of which came at critical periods. He was going just as strong at the end of the game as at the beginning.

Fox, for Woodsboro, was a surprise. Last year he was out of the game entirely, recuperating from an accident in which he sustain two broken arms and other severe injuries.

Both teams played real baseball from start to finish. Ecker and the infield are working right up to the minute. The outfield needs a little more confidence to put them in good shape to meet all comers. This kind of ball, if continued by both teams, will see Thurmont and Woodsboro heading the list at the close of the season.

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



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ALL OUR YESTERDAYS - FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

May 3

Few names remain in the memory of longtime county residents like that of M. Etchison. For most of the first half of the 20th Century he operated the Etchison Funeral Home in Frederick.

McKendree Etchison was born September 15, 1864, in Jefferson where his father, John Etchison, and his mother, Julia Ann Etchison, established a funeral home and cabinet making company in February of 1848.

When his father died in 1880, Riley's two older brothers, Eugene and Louis Etchison took over the business. When Eugene died, Riley purchased the interest of both of his brothers and became sole owner of M. Etchison Funeral Home.

In 1922 he rented a room at the rear of 122 West Patrick St. and opened a branch of his undertaking business. He then moved to 214 North Market St. in 1925, and, when his son entered the business as a partner in 1927, he changed the name to M. R. Etchison and Son.

In November 1939 he purchased The Trail Mansion at 106 East Church St. and the firm, and its successors, have operated from there since. Hart Etchison lived in the house while Riley Etchison remained for many years at his West College Terrace home.

Riley Etchison was active in whatever community he lived. He was an active mason and The Jefferson Council No. 127, Junior Order of United American Mechanics. He loved to fish and to build small boats. He was for many years the chaplain of the Frederick County Fish and Game Association. He was a devout member of Calvary (United) Methodist Church and also served the Methodist Church in Jefferson as its Sunday School superintendent for 40 years.

In 1891, he married Ann Kessler and they were the parents of five children. When Riley Etchison died in 1952, he and his wife were living at 11 West Second St.. He was 87. After services at his church, he was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. His son, Hart, continued the family business until 1971 when it was sold.

Today the Keeney, Basford

Funeral Home operates from The Trail Mansion, continuing this business into its 150th year. (Now it's 175th year.)

May 10

When Frederick County was separated from Prince George's in 1748, a court was also established in Frederick. The honorable justices settled every possible dispute, including claims for welfare and tax relief.

In the early history of Frederick "...the county court of the Right Honorable Charles, Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Province of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore," was in session only four times a year, in March, June, August and November.

The sessions were usually called on the third Tuesday of the month. In the March 1750 session, after several postponements from previous meetings of the court, Charles Wood, "late of Frederick County, planter," was tried by jury for "breach of promise."

Miss Lydia Dent contended that Wood, on February 25, 1747, proposed marriage and she accepted. Miss Dent told the jury that at all times afterwards she was ready, willing and able to perform as she had promised. It was also contended by Miss Dent that Mr. Wood "fraudulently intended to deceive and defraud" her.

Evidence also revealed that on May 10, 1748, Charles Wood married another, namely Sarah Brightwell, contrary to his promise to Miss Dent. The plaintiff asked the court for damages in the amount of 100 pounds "current money."

The case was decided in favor of Miss Dent and Mr. Wood was ordered to pay her 30 pounds "current money" plus 1,443 pounds of tobacco for her costs and charges.

May 17

On May 17, 1943, two famous world leaders stopped at a Frederick historic landmark.

At the height of World War II, Winston Churchill, prime minister of Great Britain, came to Washington to confer with President Roosevelt, one of many occasions the two world leaders met during those tumultuous years.

On a bright, sunny afternoon in mid-May, the pair, along with cabinet members and advisors, left Washington by motorcade for Shangri-La, the presidential retreat near Thurmont.

When they arrived in Frederick, coming up Market St., they stopped at the Square Corner and asked Officer Marshall Murray for directions to the Barbara Fritchie House.

Secret Service men cleared the way as the six-car motorcade pulled up to Dame Barbara's home. Churchill was hatless and was wearing a zipper suit, similar to that worn by aviators when he emerged from the limousine.

Others who observed the visit, reported that Churchill had a cigar between his fingers and Roosevelt was holding a rather long cigarette holder in his mouth.

The chauffeur for the two statesmen, recalled years later when he made a return visit to the Fritchie home, that Churchill recited John Greenleaf Whittier's famous

poem from memory as he drove them up Market Street.

May 24

When Frederick County National Bank officials arrived for work on May 24, 1841, they discovered the bank had been robbed during the weekend. Missing from the vault was \$185,000, consisting of \$135,000 in bank notes, \$10,000 in gold, \$32,000 in State of Maryland bonds, and \$8,000 in other negotiable instruments. The robbers had to pass through seven locks to effect their crime.

In June bank officials received a letter from William Wiley, a New York lawyer and judge. He said he could "negotiate" the return of some of the stolen funds in return for a fee of eight percent of the value of the recovered funds.

At a meeting in New York City with several prominent Empire State citizens, and two representatives of the bank, Wiley brought in some of the stolen property and was paid his commission.

The thieves retained the \$10,000 in gold and a small amount of C&O Canal script. Wiley refused to provide any information about the robbers or how he had "obtained" the stolen funds.

Sometime later Wiley was convicted in another case in a New York court of receiving stolen goods and was removed from the bench.

May 31

On May 31, 1871, the cornerstone was laid for the first new building at the Maryland Institu-

tion for The Deaf and Dumb.

Thousands of local residents, along with numerous state and national officials attended the elaborate ceremonies at the Cannon Hill school grounds.

The corner stone was of "Connecticut brown stone of a superior quality, 21 feet long, 22 inches wide and 18 inches high, with a niche 13 inches in width and 4 and a half inches deep in the center to receive the box, and bears the inscription "1870."

The box is of copper, 8 x 12 inches, and 4 inches deep, and has on the top of it a silver plate with the following inscription: 'Institution for the Deaf and Dumb of the State of Maryland, May 31, 1871.'

Into the box was placed a Bible, a copy of the state's constitution, the act incorporating the institution, the bylaws of the institution, and numerous other documents and a listings of prominent citizens associated with the school.

The daylong ceremonies included speeches, choral presentations, and the actual laying of the cornerstone by the Grand Lodge of The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland.

When the building was demolished in 1967, the cornerstone was recovered. Most of the documents were in good condition and were placed again - along with accounts of the history of the school - into the same cornerstone and box. It was then used as the cornerstone for the Ely Building, which replaced the original structure, and is today the primary building on the campus.

From John Ashbury's '... and all our yesterdays: A chronicle of Frederick County'.

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LIBRARY NEWS

This month at the Walkersville library

The Walkersville Library will be continuing with its amazing Spring programming in the month of May.

Spring is a great time to find a new favorite fitness regimen and the library has some great options to choose from. On Monday, May 1st and 15th at 6 p.m. join us for a free yoga class offered by Sol Yoga. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes! Saturdays at 10 am we will have Freedom BANG. Freedom Bang is a pre-choreographed fusion of boxing, HIIT, hip hop, world dance, optional weighted gloves and just a touch of attitude. There is a wide range of intensity options to help you customize your workout. For seniors we have our Senior Fitness Class on Thursday, May 25th at 10:30 a.m. This class features low impact exercise to work on your core and help with your strength, balance and posture!

On Wednesday, May 3rd at 10:30 a.m. the Alzheimer's Association will be presenting Healthy Living for

Your Brain and Body. This program examines the latest research related to brain health and dementia prevention/reduction of risk. There are handouts that have the 10 Ways to Love Your Brain and a workbook that participants can take with them to track their progress.

Our weekly Farmer's Market is back! You can enjoy a variety of goods from local vendors at our Farmer's Market Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.. If you are interested in having a spot at the Farmer's Market, call the library at 301-600-8200. Spots cost \$25.

Join us to celebrate the 275th anniversary of Frederick County with two great programs. On Sunday May 7th at 1-1:45 p.m.. Come join us to discover Walkersville's Ghosts, Oddities and Morbidities! Hosted by Bonnie Leins of the Walkersville Historical Society, she shares all the things that will give you shivers from our hometown. You'll want to leave the nightlight on after this program! Then on Saturday May 27th at 11

a.m. join us for Color on the Creek presented by founder Peter Kremers, MD. "Color on the Creek and Sailing Through the Winter Solstice" is a unique self-supporting event in its eleventh year. The project features the largest planted water garden in the world from spring through the fall which is capped by an armada of lightships that sail atop the dormant garden through the dead of winter. The rationale and strategies for water quality improvement and sustainability, both ecologically and economically, will be addressed.

Join us to celebrate Walkersville days! On May 20th, between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., we will host yard sale space. If you are interested in having a spot to sell your wares, call the Walkersville Public Library at 301-600-8200 to sign-up, spaces costs \$10.

Concert to benefit our out door space, May 20th—Join us for Mike Kuster and the Catoctin Cowboys, at 6 p.m. on May 20th at the library. This outdoor benefit concert is being held by the Friends of the Walkers-

ville Library to benefit the addition of shade sails to our outdoor programming space.

We are charging full STEAM ahead with our Teen STEAM program this May. The first four Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 p.m., teens in middle and high school can join us for fun activities that explore the worlds of science, technology, engineering, art, and math. This month's activities will be the following: May 2nd: Gaming—Come and enjoy different types of games; May 9th: Spectroscope—Build your own Spectroscope and capture a rainbow in a box; May 16th: Flower Pounding Cards—Make beautiful cards using natural dyes created by flowers; and May 23rd: Solar Ovens—Harness the power of the sun to make smores after building a solar oven.

The Walkersville High School National Science Honors Society will have a variety of fun STEM demonstrations and activities for the whole family on Thursday May 4th at 6 p.m..

Calling all teens! Are you an avid gamer? Have you ever wondered what went into making some of your favorite games? Join us on Saturday May 6th at 1 pm for a presentation by Bryce Tynes and Sara Platner from DiG-iT! Games as they talk about the world of game design and development. And stick around after to enjoy some gaming in the library!

Are you a teen that is looking for fun and a way to relax after a long school week? Join us on Fridays at 3:30 p.m. for Teen Connect! We will be offering a variety of different activities including video games, VR, and tabletop games. Come have a good time and hang with good friends.

Hey teens! Would you like to earn your needed service hours while helping the library and hanging out with fellow teens? Come to our Teen Library Council meeting, at 3:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. Share what you would like to see in the library, help plan programming, and learn about other volunteer opportunities in the library, while gaining marketable skills and a service-learning hour for each meeting!

The library is continuing with its weekly story times throughout the month of May! Our youngest patrons and their caregivers can join us on Mondays for a morning packed with stories, songs and fun. The fun begins at 10 a.m. with Infant Storytime, designed for children 0-12 months and their families. This is 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 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.

Our toddling tots get to join in on the fun Tuesdays at 11 a.m. with Toddler Storytime. Bring your wiggles for songs, stories, and fun for toddlers and their grownups. Stay for Toddler Skills directly after at 11:30 which introduces toddlers and their caregivers to a variety of preschool-readiness skills including fine motor development, social emotional skills, and early literacy activities. And we didn't forget about our 3- to 5-year-olds. Thursdays at 11 a.m. we have Preschool Storytime filled with songs, stories, and fun for our preschoolers and their grownups. Then at 11:30, we have School Skills for Preschoolers where preschoolers and their caregivers will practice school-readiness skills with cutting, tracing, play, and other literacy activities.

Looking for something that the whole family can enjoy? Join us Wednesdays in May for Family Storytime at 6 p.m.. Wear your pajamas and join us inside for songs, stories, and fun for the whole family. Our Family Storytime on May 3rd will be bilingual! Join us for songs, stories, and rhymes in Spanish and English!

Paws to Read with Go Team Therapy Dogs—Thursday May 18th, 6:30 p.m., Improve your reading confidence and make a new friend when you read aloud to a Go Team Therapy Dog.

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WALKERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls softball team aim for regional championships



Effective strategy sessions have been a key to this year's successfully softball season.

Audrey Shabelski
WHS Class of 2024

The Walkersville girls softball team has stepped up to the plate for this new season! After a strong finish last year as regional champions, the team is now set on working their way to the title of state champions. With 11 wins, three losses, and only four more games left in the season, they are currently ranked second in the Central Maryland Conference (CMC).

"I'd say the season has gone really well," said sophomore Izzy Dietrich. "We've won a lot [and] we've been beating teams we lost to last year such as Linganore and Thomas Johnson. Coming out of last season, losing in the semi finals, I feel like we still have something to prove, [but] I think we have a good chance of making it all the way [this season]."

Team camaraderie and effective practices have both played a major role in the success of the team throughout the last several years. "The better the bond you have with [your teammates], the better the outcome," said junior Ella Montgomery. "Last year, we got very far in the playoffs, and I think the reason for that is because we trust our coaches and teammates and we all feel like a family."

Assistant coach Jason Lepeonka said, "I think so far the season is better than we expected. Every girl is stepping up and finding a way to contribute, and every girl knows their particular role and what they're good at. We have very structured practices focusing on what we need to work on based on game performances. This can include hitting, field, and out-field drills. Most importantly, we try to give the girls constant reps."

Head coach Randy Hinkelman said, "This year, nearly everyone is a returner, so we are able to build more on previous foundations without having to reintroduce things. Our practices are very detailed and all planned out, but we like to have fun too."

This is the fourth year that both Hinkelman and Lepeonka have been with the Walkersville softball team, and it is clear that they both know what they are doing. The softball team has only taken three losses this season, all with a difference of just one run. The team lost 1-0 to both Catoctin and Urbana and 8-7 to Williamsport.

Softball has made a huge impact on many of the girls both inside and outside of the sport. Most of them have been playing from a very young age.

"When I was a kid, my parents used to take me to the park and I'd see some teams practicing and I thought, I want to do that," said Dietrich. "So I picked up softball and I just never stopped."

Says senior Alexis Offutt, "I've been playing since I was in Pre-K and I'm playing in college at the Community College of Baltimore. I love the people and all the connections you make, and of course getting better as a player. It helps with your responsibilities as a student, too."

Offutt is the only senior on the team this year and has provided excellent leadership to the rest of the

team throughout her time at Walkersville. Teammates agree that softball has encouraged their studies, contrary to the typical stress-inducing nature of high school sports.

"I like having practice right after school because it allows me to go home and do homework. It helps especially if you have a stressful day at school because you just release it all in a place that you love and then go home and do what you need to do," says Montgomery.

This year's players have a particularly special bond as nearly all of them are sophomores and juniors who have returned to the team from previous seasons. This has encouraged a deep shared determination to push even harder this season than they did last year, spurring the team further toward their championship goals.

"This season is a lot like the last [in that] connections are still there with everyone and we back each other up," said Offutt. "We have a lot of good players, but [we all] realize that there is always room for growth and to learn more about the sport we all love."

Their growth and learning have certainly shined through in their impressive scores and multitude of wins. The Lions kicked off their sea-

son in March with a shutout 8-0 win against Governor Thomas Johnson High School, and didn't stop with an eight point difference. In their fourth game of the season on March 29, Walkersville won 20-1 against Brunswick High, solidifying their place as tough competition for other teams in the conference.

Other notable scores include: WHS vs. Williamsport, 10-0; WHS vs. Smithsburg, 13-3; WHS vs. Brunswick, 24-1; WHS vs. Smithsburg, 17-0; and WHS vs. Frederick, 19-1.

The Lions will play their last regular-season game on May 1 against Catoctin High before progressing to championships. With

the support of coaches, friends, family, and the entire Walkersville community, they look forward to repeating their success as regional champions, and perhaps even state champions as well. It would certainly be well-deserved by a team which has shown nothing but passion and fondness for the sport and for each other.

Says Dietrich, "My dad always told me it was an honor to play for your school, and I always wanted to live up to that. I love everything about the sport... I love the feeling of knowing I'm doing well and I love the feeling of having a great defense behind me, [knowing] they all have my back."

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Beyond our garden gates

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Looking for ideas for your home garden? You can't do better than visit the University of Maryland Extension Service demonstration gardens on Montevue Lane. This month we join the "Beyond the Garden Gates" garden tour on May 20 and 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. Sign up to stop by then or visit any other day and tour our demonstration gardens. You will probably find some ideas to apply to your home garden.

Most of our plants, trees, and shrubs are labeled to help you determine whether they'll work in your own yard. In addition, many of the gardens have literature boxes or mailboxes with brochures that tell you about the plants in those areas.

Begin your tour in the front of the building with our shade gardens filled with wild ginger, wood poppies, button flowers, etc. Shade-loving flowers give color through three seasons. On the west end of the building, you'll find native and other perennials, including a red twig dogwood and cannas that are well mulched and are sheltered against the western end of the building, so they don't have to be dug up each winter.

Then, wander behind the building to check out the rain barrels and, across the driveway, the fenced-in demonstration gardens. Inside the fenced area, many of the raised beds

demonstrate different experiments in growing vegetables, herbs, flowers, and fruiting trees and shrubs. Most of our raised beds have traditional vegetables, herbs, and flowers and smaller triangular sections at the corners filled with plants to attract even more pollinators.

Each year, those pursuing a master gardening certificate design their own projects to plant in the beds and report on the success or failure of their projects at the end of their intern season. Last year, for example, one intern planted sunflowers along one side of his bed to encourage pollinators. He discovered that the sunflowers would have been better planted on the opposite side because as they grew, they shaded the rest of his vegetables, thus inhibiting the vegetables' own growth.

Please go on inside our own garden gate, the fenced-in area (just remember to latch the gate!). Browse among our many gardens and look for our unique ideas. Children are welcome, too!

First, on the left is the Children's Garden, designed to foster and nurture an interest in gardening for youth; it contains plants that appeal to all the senses. Our "Story Time in the Garden," when volunteers read stories aloud and provide follow-up activities for children, dates are scheduled for May 3, June 7, July 5, and August 2, weather permitting. Watch for announcements in the paper of other dates.

Two of our raised beds are called "focus beds," where we grow produce for specific regional recipes from different countries. This year's focus beds will highlight recipes from Costa Rica and Afghanistan. You'll find the recipes in the bed information boxes so that you can try growing the foods yourself.

You might also see a hoop bed, with large, upside-down, U-shaped half-hoops supporting white fabric to protect tender plants from late frosts in the spring or early frosts in the fall. The fabric can be folded back to open the beds to air and pollinators.

In still another area you may spot a "three sisters" bed—that is, companion planting—with corn, squash, and beans; beans, onions and tomatoes; beets, carrots, and corn; or some other combination supporting one another in growth or just in ambiance. This planting practice was developed and widely used by Native Americans. Be sure to check with us or online, however, to make sure the plants you choose actually grow well together.

Pat Strawder often uses odd containers as her "beds." Last year, she made a self-watering "bed" by growing cherry tomatoes in a small, dirt-filled bucket in a larger bucket and in the inner bucket. In addition, she grew cucumbers in an "earth box," which had a reservoir for water low. She has even been known to take a bag of potting soil, poke holes on both sides of it, and plant almost anything directly in the bags, leaving them lying flat in a demo bed.

Another of Pat's unique beds is our "grow" table; i.e., a waist-high bed on stilts designed to make gardening more accessible, something else designed by Mrs. Strawder. The floor of the bed is a heavy mesh, which allows water to drain through. Mrs. Strawder grows even more happy plants on the wooden support shelf under the table.

You might also see a hoop bed, with large, upside-down, U-shaped half-hoops supporting white fabric to protect tender plants from late frosts in the spring or early frosts in the fall.



Mason Bee bundle: Solitary mason bee houses contain hollow tubes in which each bee lays its eggs for future generations. Because the houses are hung near fruiting trees and shrubs, they increase the number of bees pollinating the fruits' flowers and thus increase the number of bees for pollination. Mason bees rarely sting unless attacked.

The fabric can be folded back to open the beds to air and pollinators.

Check out the ingenious and attractive herb spiral bed. If you think you don't have room for a garden, this might change your mind. Like a high-rise, a spiral bed's real estate goes upward rather than out. The spiral structure allows you to grow quite a few herbs, vegetables, or flowers in a tight space.

Dr. Greg Susla, another master gardener, grows medicinal plants, common in nineteenth century kitchen gardens, including catmint, yarrow, chamomile, lavender, lemon balm, sedum, vinca, and wormwood (artemisia). "I chose plants that people are familiar with... [Although somewhat invasive,] vinca is still the only source of two of the most commonly used anticancer medicines, vinblastine and vincristine," Dr. Susla explained.

Last year, gardeners and interns hung several bundles of hollow nesting tubes in houses for solitary mason bees to increase the pollination of the fruiting trees and shrubs. In fact, last year our gardeners donated 170 pounds of food from our gardens to the Frederick Food Bank and other food pantries, according to Jeff Matt, chair of our Demo Garden.

Once you leave the fenced-in area, look for:

The rain barrels against our building and our stormwater management renovations, including a bioretention area (lots of plants in there),

which replaced our rain garden that had often been flooded out by heavy rainstorms and run-off from the parking lot. The pebbled, serpentine drystream bed slows and controls the surface rainwater as it is funneled through the many plants, soil, and the pebbled streambed into the underground infrastructure.

Our three woodland edge gardens filled with native perennials;

A cove of Paw-paws (*Asimina triloba*), deciduous, shade-tolerant, understory trees native to eastern North America. The fruits, which I'm told have a strong tropical flavor like mango, ripen by late August/early September;

The native hedgerow that borders Montevue Lane, where you'll find many native trees and bushes, such as redbud, fringe tree, witch hazel and bottlebrush; and perennials, including black-eyed Susans, milkweed, viburnum, iris; and grasses and sedges. The hedgerow is a cooperative effort between the master gardeners and the county.

Everywhere, of course, you'll find new and traditional ways of attracting pollinators to our gardens. We have several patches of milkweed and miniature monarch "waystations" composed of butterfly weed, zinnias, etc., and lots of native perennials.

Welcome to our garden!

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

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May 13: "Planting the Family Garden" Join us in the Demonstration Garden

for a hands-on experience planting the home garden. Learn about seeds and transplants, planting techniques, planting for pollinators, and basic IPM (integrated pest management).

All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10 to noon.

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

Small Town Gardener

You can leave your hat on

Marianne Willburn

Very few of us can honestly say we look better naked. Fabric is a true and loyal friend, and that bond grows ever stronger as we age. Last winter I was pondering such truths as I stared unashamedly at my naked friend Harry Lauder every morning (or rather his walking stick – aka Corylus avellana ‘Contorta’) and realized that, unlike the rest of us, not only does this beautiful creature look better naked, the nakedness I have savored for four years now is swiftly coming to an end.

After an emergency garden rescue in the heat of summer several years ago. I re-homed this five-foot shrub in my garden on the edge of a stone wall, where it looked magnificent, but lost the will to live as anything approaching five-feet. Had I cut it back hard I may have saved more of the height of it, but I was weak and could not bear to. Surprisingly I was not too bothered

when it failed to re-leaf the next year, as its round and contorted silhouette was so exquisite that it functioned as a piece of installation art.

The twisted branches and vase like shape of the contorted filbert make it a perfect specimen for dramatic impact in late fall and winter. In earliest spring, when delicate two-inch yellow catkins hang suspended from light grey tendrils, the effect is more than dramatic – it is magnificent.

There were no catkins hanging from those dead branches for me, but I did not mind. A year later it resprouted from a point above the graft union and began a very slow process of regeneration.

And today I am face to face with the fact that it is well over-time to cut back the brittle but beautiful remains of the original shrub and let the new stems have a chance to make something equally beautiful someday. But they're going to insist on growing leaves to do it. And there's the rub.

Much like other filberts, the leaves are coarse when they

come, and seem incongruous in a shrub that elevates floral nudity to an art form. The effect is much like throwing a heavy rumpled blanket over Michelangelo's David during the height of touring season.

It is a shrub best suited to the naked life.

There are other taxa that share the state of Clothing-as-Catastrophe. Sycamore is a white winter monarch, but swiftly disappears into the summer woodlands and spends all summer throwing perfectly good leaves over perfectly clean beds. Citrus poncirus, the hardy orange, is a thorny, contorted beauty in deep green which is lessened by non-descript leaves in spring (though redeemed by tiny oranges in fall). And who cares to notice yellow or red-twigged dogwood on summer walks through the garden? Even if you were determined, you'd be hard pressed to pick them out against a sea of green.

We delight in each of these winter blockbusters as the fall reveals form and color, and sigh deeply when May brings the mediocracy of foliage, but the alternative would be foolish. January must have a few ups for all of the punishing downs.

Over the last few years I have relished the silhouette of my mostly-dead contorted filbert. I threw uprights under it for winter evenings. The cats used it as a wildly complicated climbing tree. I wound a couple of homeless clematis on it - one for spring and one for summer. Winter aconite bloomed at its feet in February, forget-me-nots in May. It was the perfect bit of organic garden sculpture and never lost my affection. At one point I considered painting it in a bright glossy blue, but thankfully reconsidered. There was no need to gild this particular lily.

And now, much to my chagrin, it is clothing itself. I have used the old branches to provide support for the new ones – guiding them into equally complex poses that will delight the eyes in winters to come. In doing so, many of the old branches (now covered in lichen and florescent forms of jelly fungi), snap off in my hands and remind me that my days with this beautiful sculpture were numbered.

Yes. It is all for the best I know, but still there is regret.

Marianne is the author of Tropical Plants and How to Love Them, and Big Dreams Small Garden, and gardens from her home in Northern Virginia. Follow her on Instagram at @marianne.willburn.



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ARTS

Majestic presents the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater welcomes George Hinchliffe's world-renowned Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of heartfelt musical absurdity. Tickets for the group's Gettysburg debut are available now at the Majestic Theater Box Office.

"For nearly 40 years, this group of talented musicians have been touring the world playing music on the happiest instrument on the planet. They have entertained millions of people with their unique take on songs, resulting in a massively loyal fanbase that is tuned in to their uniquely English style of music hall humor which

has become their trademark," observed Jeffrey Gabel, the Majestic's founding executive director.

"The orchestra's U.S. tour includes many of the most prestigious, major city performing arts center. That the orchestra agreed to perform at the Majestic is a real honor, and a once-in-lifetime opportunity for music lovers in our community."

The Ukulele Orchestra has been delighting audiences and selling out performances since 1985 with only their ukuleles, their voices, and their belief that all genres of music are open to reinterpretation. With no audio gimmicks or light shows, the group tears down the house with lively, touching,

catchy performances threaded with humor and wit, and which transcend musical genres into a world of joy.

Sitting in a chamber format and dressed in formal evening wear – regardless of venue – the group is only limited by their imaginations in using the ukulele to express musical freedom. Since coming together for a one-off performance 38 years ago, the orchestra has become a beloved international institution, performing live and on television and radio throughout the world. They also had the honor to perform at the private 90th birthday party of Queen Elizabeth II.

Tickets for The Ukulele



Orchestra of Great Britain start at \$45 and are available now at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Catoctin Forest Alliance's new Artist in Residence

Mr. Jeffrey Lockwood from Laramie, Wyoming will be the Catoctin Forest Alliance Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park May 8 to the 27.

Some 40 years ago, Mr. Lockwood earned a BS in biology and a PhD in entomology. the choice of the latter field was motivated by a fascination with the life forms which were disturbingly and enchantingly 'other'. He was hired as an insect ecologist at the University of Wyoming in 1986, and for 15 years he immersed himself in the lives of insects. His work focused on grasshoppers and locusts, taking him to the steppes of Asia and the Tibetan

plateau, the savannah of Africa, the outback of Australia—and back to the grasslands of North America.

With time, however, he found himself no longer fulfilled by applied research, which had become a euphemism for the wholesale killing of grasshoppers, creatures that had grown close to his heart and mind. This led to his first book of essays, "Grasshopper Dreaming: Reflections on Killing and Loving". Over the next 5 years, he transitioned (or perhaps metamorphosed) from the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources into the College of Arts & Sciences, where he settled into a split appointment between

the Department of Visual & Literary Arts (focusing on creative non-fiction in the realm of nature and environmental writing) and the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies (focusing on environmental ethics and aesthetics).

Mr. Lockwood will be presenting two free public writing workshops at the Thurmont Library while serving as the Catoctin Forest Alliance Artist in Residence.

The first workshop will be a Children's writing workshop titled Spring Rains and Cinquains, May 13. Kids love poetry (even if grownups tend to take the fun out of creative writing by imposing silly rules about rhyming and whatnot). And kids love the outdoors (even if grownups tend to take the fun out of poking around in ant hills and dung piles). So what could be better than combining these two, fundamentally fun ventures?

You've probably heard about short forms of poetry, such as haiku and limerick, but in this workshop we're going to play with an unusual form called the cinquain. So join Jeff Lockwood, the Catoctin



Mountain Park artist-in-residence, who's conducted poetry-writing workshops with kids from 6 to 12 (and older—or for that matter, anyone who still has a child inside of them!). The "rules" for a cinquain are few and invite writers to explore the natural world using short, evocative lines that capture their sense of joy and wonder.

The second workshop will be an adult writing workshop, titled Minute Memories, May 17. Writing the story of your life is a common goal

for many people, but one that is rarely achieved. This workshop will absolutely assure your success in this regard. Of course, a 200-page memoir is a bit daunting, so we'll start smaller. Much smaller. Like 10 words. Really.

For a creative and playful 1-hour workshop in which you'll compose no fewer than three memoirs (keeping in mind a memoir is not an autobiography but reveals a particular aspect of one's life). All that you need to bring is a sense of puckish possibility and some moving memories.

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Swinging into spring

Sonya Verlaque

As the spring progresses, inspiration for new meals is all around us. With fresh fruit and herbs and vegetables starting to sprout the gardens and at the farmers markets wonderful meals will abound.

Strawberry Spinach Salad

Ingredients - For the salad

- 1 ½ cup pecans
- 16 ounces baby spinach
- 16 ounces strawberries quartered or sliced
- ½ red onion, finely sliced
- 4 oz goat cheese, crumbled

For 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

- 1-2 tbs honey more or less depending on how sweet you like it
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 garlic clove minced
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp fresh cracked black pepper

Preparation instructions:

For the Dressing: Place the Dijon mustard, honey, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, garlic, salt, and pepper in a glass jar and shake or stir until fully combined.

To assemble the salad: Toast the pecans in a dry pan until they become fragrant, then let cool completely. In a large bowl, add spinach, sliced strawberries, and chopped pecans. Top with red onion sliced and crumbled goat cheese. Add salad dressing and toss until evenly coated right before serving!

Pasta e Piselli

Pasta with peas always feels like a springtime, light pasta dish. Fresh peas are always sweet and crunch but you can use frozen peas for convenience as well. Pasta e piselli recipe is a flavorful dish that's like a cross between a pasta dish and a soup.

Ingredients

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 large shallot, finely chopped
- 500 g (1 lb) fresh or frozen peas
- 320 g (11 oz) ditalini or another type of small pasta

- 50 g (1 cup) freshly grated parmesan, plus extra for serving
- Handful fresh basil, optional
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation instructions: Heat the olive oil in a Dutch oven and sauté the shallot for 3 to 4 minutes until softened. Meanwhile, bring a pot of water to a boil, salt it generously, and cook the pasta for half of the time indicated on the package. Before draining, reserve at least 4 cups of pasta water. Add the peas over the onions together with 1 cup of pasta water and simmer for 10-15 minutes. Transfer the pasta to the pan and gradually add some extra pasta water until the pasta is cooked al dente. This should take about 5 minutes, and you should still have some liquid when the pasta is al dente. Turn off the heat and stir in the grated Parmesan and basil if using. Season to taste with salt and plenty of freshly ground black pepper and serve with extra grated Parmesan on top.

Mushroom Galette Recipe

To the dismay of my family, I love mushrooms. A galette is a rustic tart made from piecrust folded around the edges. Apple galettes are a great sweet treat, but a savory tart made with flaky pastry and a delicious combination of cheeses, mushrooms, and caramelized onions makes a great dinner.

Ingredients:

- 1 sheet of pie dough
- 1/3 cup whole milk ricotta
- 6 oz. crimini mushrooms, cut into slices
- 1/4 of a jumbo white onion, cut into thin crescent-shaped slices
- 1.5 oz gruyere cheese, shredded
- parmesan cheese, for grating as a garnish
- pinch of salt and freshly ground pepper
- pinch of nutmeg
- 1 egg, separated into white and yolk
- olive oil
- 1 sprig of thyme

Preparation instructions: Preheat the oven to 400°F. To a pan, add about a tablespoon of olive oil. Warm over medium heat and once hot, add in the onion slices. Cook until the onions begin to become golden along the edges and caramelize. Add the mushroom slices to the pan and cook for another few minutes until the mushrooms are tender. Turn off the heat and temporarily set the pan aside. Unroll the pie crust onto a baking sheet fitted with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Brush the egg white over most of the pie crust, leaving about a 1 1/2 inch perimeter bare. Let the crust rest for a minute for the egg white to slightly dry. Spread the ricotta cheese all over the area covered with the egg white. Use a zester to finely grate a little bit of Parmesan cheese as a slight garnish over all the ricotta cheese. Add a small pinch of salt and freshly ground pepper, as well as the pinch of nutmeg, over the cheese. Distribute the mushroom-onion mixture all over the ricotta cheese, and then top with the shredded gruyere. Add the thyme leaves all over the top. Fold the edges of the piecrust over the mushroom filling, all along the edges. Brush the egg yolk over the pastry, then top the pastry with some of the finely grated Parmesan. Bake the galette for 20-30 minutes. If you're using store-bought crust, it will typically look golden and be ready in the 20-25 minute mark, whereas homemade pastry can take up to 30 minutes. Let the galette rest for 10 minutes on the baking sheet, then transfer to your serving plate.

Lemon Ricotta Cookies with Lemon Glaze

These light and fluffy cookies were developed by Chef Giada De Laurentiis and are a family favorite in our



Pasta e Piselli - Pasta with peas always feels like springtime.

house. They are so full of citrus flavor you can almost pretend that they aren't a desert but maybe not quite "healthy."

Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour (310 grams)
- 1 tsp baking powder (4 grams)
- 1 tsp salt (4 grams)
- ½ cup 1 stick unsalted butter, at room temperature (113 grams)
- 2 cups granulated sugar (400 grams)
- 2 eggs
- 1 15-ounce container whole-milk ricotta cheese (425 grams)
- Zest of one lemon

For the Glaze

Ingredient

- 3 tbs freshly squeezed lemon juice (45 grams)
- 1 ½ cups confectioners' sugar (180 grams)
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 3 tbs freshly squeezed lemon juice (45 grams)

Preparation instructions: Preheat

the oven to 375°F. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating until incorporated. Add the ricotta cheese, lemon zest, and lemon juice and beat to combine. Stir in the dry ingredients. Line the 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Spoon the dough onto the baking sheets using 2 tbs for each cookie.

Bake for 15 minutes until slightly golden at the edges. Remove from the oven and let the cookies rest on the baking sheet for 20 minutes. While they cool, combine the confectioners' sugar, lemon zest, and lemon juice in a small bowl and stir until smooth. Spoon about ½ tsp of the glaze onto each cooled cookie and use the back of the spoon to spread it to the edges. Let the glaze harden for about 2 hours. Pack the cookies in an airtight container

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



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May, the full Flower Moon occurs on May 5th. It is last quarter on May 12th, rising about midnight, when it is passing just south of Saturn. In the dawn sky, the waning crescent passes just north of Jupiter on May 17th, Mercury will lie just south of them in twilight. The new moon is on May 19th. The waxing crescent passes two degrees north of brilliant Venus on May 23rd, and four degrees north of much fainter Mars the following evening. It is first quarter on May 27th.

Mercury passes between us and the Sun on May 1st, and is the dawn sky near Jupiter by month's end. Venus chases Mars in the west, but will not catch him. She reaches greatest eastern elongation on June 4th, 45 degrees east of the Sun and appears half lit as viewed from earth. Mars lies just above her then, but she will turn around and retrograde westward between us and the Sun in July, while Mars continues moving eastward as it orbits the sun. Mars will be lost in the Sun's glare by the end of summer, but by then, Venus will pass between us and the Sun and become a morning star for the rest of 2023. Jupiter is just emerging low in the SE dawn sky, while Saturn is at quadrature, 90 degrees west of the Sun in the SE morning sky.



Illustration of SpaceX's Starship human lander design that will carry the first NASA astronauts back to the surface of the moon by 2025 under NASA's Artemis program.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about April 30th, visit the www.sky-maps.com website and download

the map for the new month; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Also available is wonderful video exploring the sky, available from the Hubble Telescope website at: www.hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/. Sky and Telescope has highlights at www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/ for observing the sky each week of the month.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula,

M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the NW is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The "regal" star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the

"northern crown", a shapely Corona that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. The arms of Virgo harbor the Virgo Supercluster of Galaxies, with thousands of "island universes" in the Spring sky. We are looking away from the place of thickly populated Milky Way, now on the southern horizon, toward the depths of intergalactic space, where even amateur telescopes can spot quasars billions of light years distant.

Because we live farther south than most Americans, we get a fine view of the closest and brightest globular star clusters, Omega Centauri, on May evenings. From a dark sky site, you can spot it with your naked eyes about 12 degrees above the southern horizon when it is at its highest in the south, about 9 P.M. at the end of the month. It is fine in binoculars, and resolves beautifully into about a million sun with larger scopes.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. Find it with binoculars midway on the top left wing of the cosmic butterfly, then take a look with a larger telescope and you will find it resolved into thousands of stars! Still, it is smaller and farther away than omega, and pales in comparison, but is high enough to be observed for observing it for several hours. Omega is only out for about two hours an evening in the far southern sky.

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Farmers' Almanac

"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."
 —Honoré de Balzac (1799—1850)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Dry and mild, then heavy rain (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); dry, then turning warm and slightly humid with isolated PM showers (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry again, near record warmth developing (11, 12, 13, 14); frequent afternoon & evening showers and thunderstorms followed by cooler and more seasonable conditions (15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); frequent afternoon & evening showers and mild (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); seasonable with occasional showers (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Extreme Weather Watch: The Almanack sees heavy rains in the Mid-Atlantic Region (3, 4, 5, 19, 20)

Full Moon: May's Full Moon will occur on Friday, May 5th. Many flowers emerge and blossom during this month so many Native American tribes called it

Flower Moon while the Huron tribes specifically chose to call it Budding Moon for the very same reasons! The colonial farmer called it Milk Moon because of the noticeable increase in milk produced by his dairy cows in the month of May.

Holidays: Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Friday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday May 14th. Treat that "very special lady" to a nice dinner out, a sentimental card and/or nice flower arrangement, or just a telephone call to say, "I love you"! Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 29th. On this day, we honor those who have died in defense of our freedoms, who suffer from injuries suffered in combat, and to all those who are currently serving today. Their unflinching service and sacrifice protect our way of life every single day

The Garden: Once your last frost data has passed, warm season crops can be planted. When the ground temperatures reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit, it is safe to begin planting Okra, Pump-

kin, Sweet Potatoes, Eggplant, Peppers, Peanuts, Watermelon, Cow Peas, Black-eyed Peas, Crowder Peas, Butter Peas and Butter Beans. With a little luck, you may begin to see the first fruit on your strawberries by late this month. The birds will enjoy them very much if you don't provide some protective netting over them! Newly-planted strawberries should have the blossoms picked off until they become well-established.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (18, 19); weeding and stirring the soil (20, 21, 25, 26); planting above-ground crops (22, 23, 24); harvesting all crops (7, 8); best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); slaughtering and butchering meat (19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26); harvest and store grains (12, 13, 14, 5, 15, 16, 17, 18); transplanting (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); weaning of small animals and livestock (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:

"While the truth may be painful to hear today, the wise man will benefit from it tomorrow"

FITNESS & HEALTH

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Always consult your physician for any medical condition you are having. Changing of seasons can have a positive or negative affect on people. Not everyone handles this change in the same way. Warmer weather usually improves our mood because we cannot get outside more. Even if you like the warm weather, just the change in routine can upset our emotional balance.

Talking with friends and family can be a good way to work through the feelings and concerns you may be having. Going for a walk, run or ride on your bike will raise your endorphin level and boost your mood. Now that the temperature is getting warmer outside it's a good time to think about your summer exercise routine.

Some people like to go to the gym and pump iron to release tension while others can feel better

with less exertion. Whatever works for you is worth setting aside time for. Everyone knows exercise can improve high blood pressure, lower cholesterol and improve flexibility but not everyone thinks of improving emotional and mental feelings with a good workout.

Many doctors have prescribed exercise, both cardio and weight training, to help patients with depression or other diagnosis. Our body has many ways to heal itself and often we think of medication

before self-help. I always recommend seeing your doctor for a professional diagnosis. It's a good idea to talk to the doctor about anything you can do on your own that may help.

Today medical doctors are working together with professionals in alternative medicines to treat the complete patient. Medication is often needed to treat a disease but alternatives treatments like acupuncture, meditation and even exercise can ease the symptoms. Everyone is different and you need to consult with your doctor for your specific situation but it may be helpful to check into the new recommendations.

People have learned that keeping active can sometimes keep their spirits up and having a positive attitude always seems to help when you are facing any hardship. Having someone to talk to usually gives you a release and may even give you a better outlook on the situation you are facing. Finding a part-

ner to take a brisk walk with while you talk about what is troubling you may be the answer for some. Walking by yourself and having the time alone may be just what others need.

I think the most important thing is sharing your concerns with someone. Being there to listen to someone's thoughts is how most of us can

get through life's challenges. I've said before, a true friend is one that will put your needs first and present ideas to help you through whatever you are facing. This is the time you find out who your real friends are and believe me, they will be there for you no matter what.

Remember, Keep Moving, we now know how much it can help.

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Acceptable Items: prescription & over-the-counter medications (in pill form only), prescription patches (fentanyl & nicotine replacement), medication for pets (in pill form only)
Unacceptable Items: needles/sharps, inhalers, thermometers, aerosol cans, ointments, liquids, lotions, hydrogen peroxide, medicine from businesses or clinics

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COMMUNITY NOTES

The Maryland Iron Festival

Elizabeth Comer

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. will present the fifth annual Maryland Iron Festival during the weekend of May 20 and 21, 2023 in partnership with Cunningham Falls State Park, Catoctin Mountain Park, Harriet Chapel, Frederick County Public Libraries and Visit Frederick.

Families and festival attendees of all ages will enjoy blacksmithing, a live iron pour, log hewing, woodturning, and casting demonstrations; ranger-led tours in Catoctin Mountain Park; tours of historic Harriet Chapel, "Feats of Strength" games and challenges; an artist and maker market; children's activities; activities from the Frederick County Public Libraries; Scales & Tales birds

of prey program; an interactive display from Hagerstown and Frederick Railway Historical Society and more! The Museum of the Ironworker, featuring our new forensic facial reconstructions, will be open.

The event will feature live music. Saturday's lineup includes The Honey Dew Drops at 11 am, Eric Byrd Trio at 2 pm, and Van Wagner at 4:30 pm. Sunday's offerings include Slim Harrison at 12 noon, Shana Oshiro at 1 pm and Ken Kolodner at 2 pm.

Food trucks including Sauced Savage BBQ, Fryzaholic, and Snowball Waterfalls will be onsite over the weekend. A bake sale with homemade delicious treats from heirloom recipes will be set up both days. A wine and beer garden will be open on the Furnace green near the ruins.

Festival visitors can also enjoy a hike along the Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery Interpretive Trail, which links the furnace to the historic village with a trail extension into Cunningham Falls State Park and visits to Catoctin Furnace's historic kitchen and pollinator gardens.

Catoctin Furnace was built by workers owned or employed by the four Johnson brothers in order to produce iron from the rich deposits of iron ore found in the nearby mountains. At least 271 enslaved people of African ancestry made up the bulk of Catoctin Furnace's earliest workers. In the decade before the Civil War, European immigrants began replacing the enslaved and freed African American workers as it was more economical to hire cheap labor than support an enslaved workforce. Descendants of the immigrants still live in the village.

The iron furnace at Catoctin played a pivotal role during the industrial revolution in the young United States. The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack. Throughout the nineteenth century, the furnace produced iron for household and industrial products. After more than one hundred years of operation, the Catoctin Furnace ceased production in 1903.

In 1973, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., was formed by G. Eugene Anderson, Clement E. Gardiner, J. Franklin Mentzer, and Earl M. Shankle to "foster and promote the restoration of the Catoctin Furnace Historic District...and to maintain the same exclusively for educational and scientific purposes...to exhibit to coming generations our heritage of the past."

Today, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. is undertaking



The iron furnace at Catoctin played a pivotal role during the industrial revolution in the young United States. The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack.

groundbreaking research, including bioarchaeological research of the African American cemetery in Catoctin Furnace. In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Reich Laboratory for Medical and Population Genetics at Harvard University, this project is analyzing ancient DNA and the human genome of revolutionary-era enslaved African American workers at Catoctin Furnace.

Such research, in conjunction with other technologies such as stable isotope analysis, could tell us where these workers were born, where they lived throughout their lives, and what constituted their diet. We believe that every life mattered, and every past matters now. By studying and disseminating the

results of this research, we hope that people everywhere will get to meet some of these early workers and understand the critical roles they played in the development of our young nation, as well as appreciate the varied trajectories of their lives.

An important part of the historical society's preservation work are its seasonal festivals

and heritage tourism holiday events. This year we are hosting:

Special thank you to event sponsors: First Energy, Visit Frederick, and Woodsboro Bank.

The event is free but donations are welcome. All proceeds will be used for the ongoing restoration of the historic village structures, a critical need. For more information contact info@catoctinfurnace.org.

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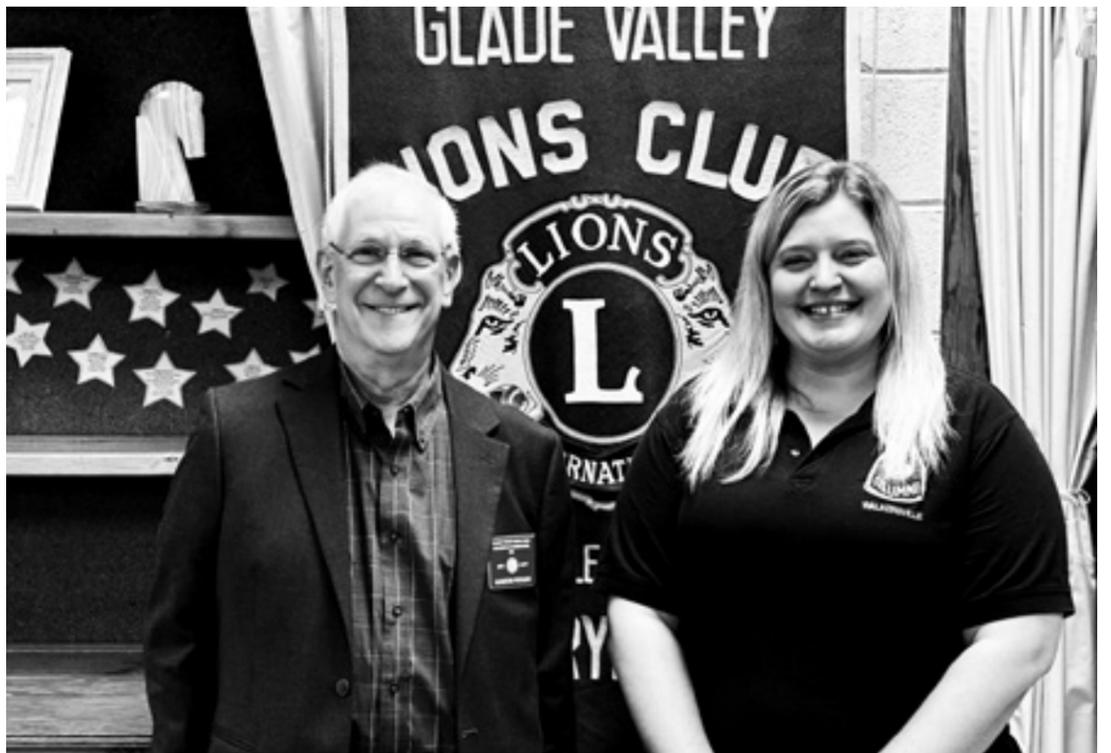
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Glade Valley Lions Club



On March 16 the Glade Valley Lions Club (GVLC) the winners of the 2023 American Heritage Preservation and Patriotism Essay Contest. Each award winner shared their winning essay with the club. Pictured above are Jim Corley Vice President GVLC, Josie Ritchie 2nd Place Winner High School Division from Walkersville High, Reuben Puthamana 1st Place High School Division from Walkersville High, Cash Ritchie 1st Place Middle School Division from Walkersville Middle, and Marty Potash President GVLC.



Marty Potash President GVLC and Brittany Ramsburg of the Glade Valley Community Show Committee. Ramsburg shared information about this year's show and solicited the club to choose a member to sit on the Community Show Committee.

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