

Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 5, NO. 6 “EXALTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION” —EDWARD R. MURROW JUNE 2025

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Ethics investigation on conduct of election called for

For residents seeking answers on the events leading up to the nullification of their votes in the recent Town election, the May 15th Town Council meeting not only failed to provide answers, but raised more questions on the validity of the process used to nullify their votes.

To the frustration of many who had assembled to get answers to their questions, Burgess Barnes spent over 20 minutes repeating a litany of claims he has made on Facebook questioning the veracity of this newspaper’s coverage of Town events in general, and this election specifically.

Barnes concluded by chastising the assembled residents telling them “to take some of the energy that they are constantly complaining about and join a community service.” Barnes then went on to list the community groups he is in, and said, “I have never seen most people in Town that are complaining at any of these events.”

While most of the residents who subsequently spoke during the public comment period chose not to address Barnes’ claim that

local residents did not do community service, Dorothea Mordan responded to Barnes on the subject right out of the box, telling him that he was wrong. There are many Woodsboro residents who, like the Mordans, who are caregivers for family members and are able to find time to participate in community service and various non-profit organizations, noting that she herself was a founding board member of a nonprofit that focuses on independent living (Kitsune), and has been a Parent Member of the FCPS Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee.

With regard to the nullification of the votes, Barnes said that he had contacted the Town’s lawyer for legal advice on David Williams, who was running for Commissioner while also seeking write-in votes for Burgess.

The letter sent by the Town’s lawyer, which was subsequently used to invalidate the votes of everyone who wrote in Williams for Burgess, asserted that “Maryland law expressly prohibits a person from being a



Kim Nichols expresses her concerns on the lack of resolution on how the election was handled to Commissioner Jesse Case.

simultaneous candidate for more than one public office.”

This assertion failed to recognize that the Maryland State election laws cited do not apply to municipal elections, such as those held in Woodsboro.

The Summary Guide, Maryland Candidacy & Campaign Finance Laws, issued by the Maryland State Board of Elections in November, 2022 clearly states: “Maryland election law does not regulate the conduct of municipal elections.” Furthermore, the *General Assembly*

of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services Fact Sheet: Elections in Maryland reinforces the Summary Guide, stating “Municipal elections are primarily governed by each municipality’s law....”

The lack of jurisdiction of State election law over Town codes was confirmed by the Town managers of Thurmont, Walkersville and Taneytown., and also affirmed by County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and County Council President Brad Young.

continued on page 2

Union Bridge to host 7th annual Rubber Duck Derby

On June 7 Little Pipe Creek will be teeming with hundreds of yellow rubber ducks.

Dream Big Union Bridge is diving towards their 7th annual Rubber Duck Derby Festival featuring local vendors, food trucks, music, and Maryland’s Jeep Club. The founder and co-founder of Dream Big Union Bridge, Brian Colussy and Cheri Thompson, make sure the proceeds not only fly towards the individuals who live in Union Bridge, Maryland but also families across America through the non-profit organization Mission 22.

The Rubber Duck Derby festival is free to attend. In order to participate in the derby, individuals can purchase a pack of rubber ducks from their choice out of three levels. Entry level one, “Lucky Duck” one duck for \$5, entry level two, “Quack Pack” six ducks for \$25, and lastly, “Flying Flock” 15 ducks for \$50.

The ducks are poured into Little Pipe Creek and travel downstream towards the finish line. Each duck is numbered, and cash prizes are awarded to the top three finishers. First place awards \$250, second \$200 and third place \$150.

Although onlookers will be cheering for their duck to pass the finish line first, the ducks that bob

in the creek alongside the Donal D. Wilson Walking Trail mean more to the community than a cash prize.

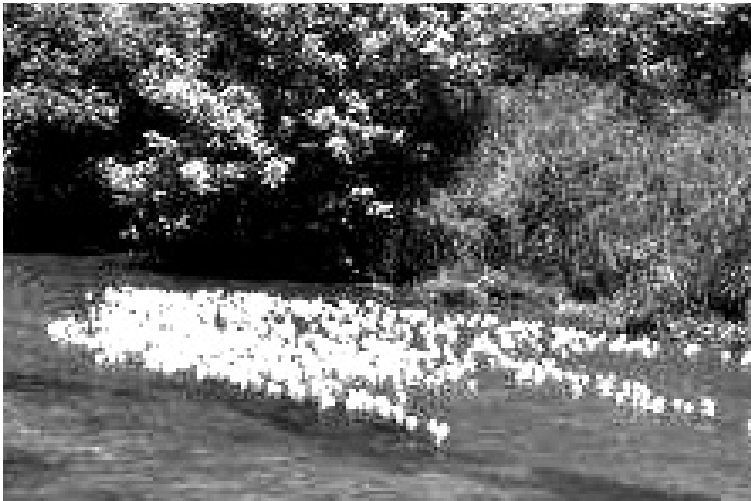
The money raised from entry purchases goes back into improving the infrastructure of Union Bridge. Past donations have gone into the construction of a park bench, community boards and housing renovations.

Dream Big’s next big mission is to turn Union Bridge from a food desert into a food paradise. Starting with a farmers’ market that will open the day of the derby.

“There are no grocery stores in town and a lot of the people don’t even have their license around here,” Colussy said. “Transportation is an issue, so they need as many services in town to accommodate the need.”

While working to improve the town of Union Bridge, the founders of Dream Big Union Bridge are also taking it upon themselves to raise money for a widespread organization, Mission 22.

Mission 22’s goal is to provide veterans and veteran’s families with suicide prevention programs and resources. The vendors and food trucks that will be featured during the event are welcome, not required, to donate some of their proceeds to Mission 22.



Rubber ducks race ... err ... waddle down Little Pipe Creek in hopes of bringing home a blue ribbon! See related story on page 4.

Through Maryland’s Jeep Club, Jeep owners are able to contribute to donations by registering for a spot at the Jeep show that will run throughout the event.

Two bands, The Mayo Family Band, a bluegrass band and Payload, a Classic Rock band are both scheduled to perform during the festival and for the first time local wineries and distilleries will be in-

cluded in the to the festival.

Kathy Kreimer the owner of Esquire Liquors Union Bridge explained that the duck derby always increases foot traffic in the town.

“It brings people into town and lets them see all we have and all we do,” Kreimer said. “It’s a real nice day to just have fun for the kids and the parents and not worry about anything else.”

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WOODSBORO NEWS

Ethics investigation on conduct of election needed (continued from page 1)

The question on top of most residents' minds was who gave direction to the election judges to invalidate all ballots for Williams and when this direction was given.

Barnes, who had received the letter on May 6, four days before the election, told the residents that he had decided not to release the letter prior to the completion of the voting due to concern over the fact that absentee ballots had already been submitted.

In response to Commissioner John Cutshall's question as to what guidance was given to the election judges on how votes needed to be dispositioned and when, Barnes said that he was unable to answer Cutshall's questions because he had not talked to the election judges.

Town staff immediately refuted Barnes' response, stating that while they had in fact directed the election judges, they "did it by the direction of the Burgess and the attorney." Speaking to directly to Barnes, Town Staff said, "So you do know what they were told, because you told me what to tell them. So you can answer John's question."

Town staff then went on to state that they told the election judges: "If you voted for only two commissioners, that was a legal vote and your vote counted. Any ballot that had Mr. Williams' name written in as Burgess, had to be marked as invalid. That is how we were told how to do it."

In response, Barnes again stated "that was the instruction we got from the attorney." However, contrary to Barnes' statement, the attorney's letter did not include such instruction.

Following Barnes statement, Commissioner Case expressed reservation on the tone and nature of Barnes' comments, and said given the information presented, "the whole process was unfortunate."

The floor was then opened to residents to voice their opinions and/or concerns on how the election process was handled. The majority of those who spoke expressed a desire to know exactly what was told to the election judges, who told them, and when. Given the apparent involvement of Barnes in those decisions, many asked that an inde-

pendent ethics investigation be done.

In asking for an ethics investigation, residents stated that the facts needed to be brought to light so that there would be confidence in the Town's process for conducting elections going forward.

Residents stated that if election judges were directed by the current Burgess to nullify the ballots of his opponent, then there appeared a be conflict of interest as he was a candidate in the election and had a vested personal interest in its outcome.

Several residents concerned about the integrity of the results called for the election to be run all over again, with one even suggesting that Barnes step down as Burgess.

Commissioner Jesse Case told the residents in the hall that the Town should not have invalidated the votes. But Case was cut off by Barnes who challenged him by asking if he was "going against the attorney's opinion?"

Barnes' statement about the lawyer's letter brought repeated outbursts from residents that the lawyer's letter had no basis in fact. The renewed back and forth between the residents and Barnes became so heated that Commissioner Bill Rittlemeyer shouted "stop" and brought the exchange to an end, at which time Barnes called for the meeting to come to an end.

On May 20th, the Town Council held a special meeting to specially address the election results. In front of another packed audience of residents, Case made a motion directing that all votes originally invalidated for writing in Williams' name for Burgess be validated.

Prior to making his motion, Case told his fellow commissioners and assembled residents that he don't believe the attorney's words were enough for him to be like 'I have to do [invalidate the votes.]' "I do believe that you wanted your votes to be heard."

Case then made his motion to validate the votes for David Williams and recommended that in the future "decisions like this should be passed through the commission, then we all

can make them together..."

Case's motion was approved unanimously. Outgoing Commissioners Bud Eckenrode and Rose Woodsmall volunteered to review all the invalidated votes and report the results back to the Town Council.

Much to the chagrin of the assembled residents, upon the carrying of Case's motion, Barnes called for the meeting to end without the public being afforded an opportunity to speak.

According to Case, Barnes had made the decision not to allow public comment, leaving many who had come with prepared comments unsure how to proceed. One, Kim Nichols of Main Street, provided her comments to us. Had public comments been allowed, the Town Council would have heard the following:

"First off I believe reversing the decision to invalidate our votes was a good decision, but they should have never been invalidated to start with."

"The issue that needs to be addressed is what right did Burgess Barnes have to direct the town staff to direct the election judges not to count our votes?"

"The town council say that they were not made aware of this decision, or of him contacting the town attorney. How can the current Burgess make a decision affecting election results without consulting the town council? Why was this not decided upon by the leaders of the town before the election? Why was the election not postponed until any questions were clearly answered?"

"Burgess Barnes hides behind the letter from the Town attorney as justification for his actions, but what information did he provide to the town attorney that led up to the letter? And since the attorney works for the town, not the Burgess, why were the residents of the town not informed? Or at minimum the town council? Why did the attorney letter not even mention the conflict of interest in Burgess Barnes interfering in an election where he is on the ballot?"

"What specifically did the Burgess direct the town manager to do and when? When

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did the town manager direct the election judges - was it before the polls opened or after the polls had closed? And what right did the Burgess or the town manager have to direct the election judges to being with?

"These are just a few of the questions many in this room have on their minds, questions we feel we are owed an answer too."

"While some of you may hope that counting our votes will make the issue go away, it should not. While some have called for action to change the town code to prevent this from occurring again - how are you going to change the code to prevent its re-occurrence without a clear understanding of what went wrong and why?"

"The residents of Woodsboro deserve answers."

"And the only way to get to the bottom of this is through an independent ethics investigation which has to be done by someone outside of the town government - a good start would be the Frederick County Board of Elections."

"And if it turns out the Burgess violated his oath of office, or exceed his responsibilities, then there should be consequences."

"Until the residents of the town get a full answer, questions on the veracity of not only the Burgess, but the council will remain on everyone's minds. Without action, how do you expect us to ever trust any of you again?"

Town considers options to clean park pond

Commissioner John Cutshall expressed concern that the algae had built up so much in the ponds in the Town's park that it was a disaster.

Cutshall told his fellow commissioners that the State had recently tried to stock it with trout. When one of his buddies went down to fish "He couldn't even throw a line

in it was so bad. Is there anything we can do to remediate the algae?" Cutshall asked.

Commissioner Bill Rittlemeyer used the question to enlighten the large audience which assembled for the election discussion on what the Town had been doing to address the issue. Rittlemeyer said the Town

had received an estimate of from \$215,000 to \$500,000 for cleaning up the pond. But that estimate was based upon draining the pond and dredging it, a cost that all the commissioners agreed was a non-starter.

The problem, Rittlemeyer said, was that if the Town wanted to fund the cleanup of the pond under a Program Open Space (POS) grant, which is administered by the County, the Town would first need to get an estimate.

Rittlemeyer said he reached out to Solitude, an aquatic resource man-

agement company that specializes in the development and execution of customized lake, stormwater pond, and wetland management in hopes of getting the required estimate.

Rittlemeyer said that before Solitude would give an estimate, they wanted to come in and do a survey to measure how much silt there is in the pond, an effort for which they would charge the Town \$5,000 to \$8,000. Based upon the survey results, Solitude would then give the Town a project plan which could then be given to

the County. But all of that "would have had to be paid out of pocket," Rittlemeyer said.

"If we don't something with the pond, it will be gone in two to three years." Rittlemeyer said. "There is plant life growing up through the middle of the pond. We have to do something or in a couple of years it's going to be a swamp, and a couple years after that it will be gone. So even if we don't get POS money, we may want to look at the Town's spending money to rejuvenate the pond."

Rittlemeyer said another company he is looking at could probably get a lot done for \$50,000. Rittlemeyer said the Company would do hydro raking, which utilizes a floating rake that would rake up all the algae and silt. "The biggest expense is hauling the algae and silt off site, which would require permits, he said, but the Town could dispose of it in the park, which would save money." Even so, Rittlemeyer said, "as bad as the pond is now, it's going to cost us a fair amount on money." "The good thing is," he said, "we can do part of it this year, and go back to POS next year".

"The Town is in a losing battle with the algae," Rittlemeyer said, making it clear that work on cleaning the pond needs to begin sooner rather than later.

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WALKERSVILLE NEWS

Rail trail through Town in design stages

Frederick County has long had a goal of connecting Frederick City and Frederick County with the Frederick and Pennsylvania Line Railroad Trail. The trail has been in the discussion phase for years and has finally made its way to the Burgess and Commissioners to discuss complications that have arisen in the design phase of the Walkersville portion of the trail.

Patrick Muldowney, Project Manager with the Frederick County Department of Engineering and Construction Management, and Matt Sichel, Senior Project Engineer at KCI Technologies, explained the Project at April's Council meeting. "I want to stress that this is our initial conversation to gather input and hopefully collaborate and come up with a starting point with design," said Muldowney.

The first phase will consist of the trail origination in downtown Frederick, at the North Frederick Park and Ride at Christopher's Crossing, and continue to Fountain Run Park. Phases two and three will begin at Fountain Run Park and

continue to Heritage Farm Park. Muldowney said they have \$360,000 in grant money from the Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program for the design portion of these phases, although they do not have any plans drawn up yet. "It's fairly simple as the trail follows the MTA (Maryland Transportation Authority) right of way, when we get to Walkersville there are a number of challenges," he stated.

Traditionally, the rail trail would follow along the railroad right of way owned by the MTA and leased to the Walkersville Southern Railroad. However, because of the active operation of the Southern Railroad in Walkersville and the smaller constraints of the Biggs Ford Road crossing, it is not possible to follow the railroad through Walkersville.

The train tracks have a right of way of approximately 66 feet for its entirety and the tracks themselves are on the east side of this right of way due to the original plan of Pennsylvania Railroad to build a second track which was never completed. The six foot

wide (and in some places up to ten), unlit, paved rail trail is proposed to be on the western side of the right of way, about ten feet from the tracks.

There will be bollards at every road crossing to prevent ATVs and larger vehicles from gaining access to the trail. Fencing between the tracks and the trail is being considered for safety reasons as well. Commissioner Bob Yoder pointed out the need for extensive excavation in order to get the railroad and the rail trail at the same elevation which is how the rest of the trail is. Sichel compared the future trail to the Northern Central Rail Trail through Baltimore County and the Western Maryland Rail Trail in Washington County.

Along with the design funding, \$4.8 million dollars was awarded in 2022 for the trail construction phases from the Maryland Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). TAP is a federally funded program administered by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) supporting public transportation access, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, environmental

projects and community improvements.

The County received a grant for \$9.4 million for their portions of the rail trail, which Sichel clarified that the vastly larger amount of funding was, in part, due to the two pedestrian bridges needed to continue the line over the Monocacy River and Tuscarora Creek that will have to be built.

The owners of Lonza, a medical manufacturing company in Town, are "very interested in working out a way to be a part of the project" according to Sichel. He presented a rough sketch of the prospective trail, with it following the railroad tracks until south of the bowling alley, cutting through the Town's newly acquired property next door to the bowling alley, crossing Biggs Ford Road and turning onto property owned by Lonza where it will follow behind property being purchased by the railroad until able to rejoin the railroad south of Main Street.

As for who will be responsible for maintaining the Walkersville portion of the trail, it is unknown at this time, said Muldowney.

This concerned the Commissioners as well as residents present at the meeting. Commissioner Chris Ragen said, "We have a direct footpath or bike path out of Frederick into some stretches that are heavily wooded and one area that runs literally adjacent to our elementary and high schools." John Merando said, "At the last planning meeting there was a lot of concern about teenagers going around with the trains causing trouble." He encouraged the designers to think about these safety issues in the design phase and not wait until it's an active problem.

Commissioners also voiced concern over the close proximity to the Winterbrook and Glade Village residences. After Glade Road, the rail trail will be essentially "two feet into their back yards," said Ragen. Muldowney pointed out that this portion is part of the fourth phase and is many years away.

With so much yet to decide for the trail, the Commissioners suggested the Planning Commission get involved as soon as possible. Muldowney did say that, per the grant funding requirements, all construction must be completed by 2029.

FY-26 budget introduced with \$921k deficit

The introduction of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget showed that Walkersville has a \$921,000 deficit that must be addressed before approval in June as the new Fiscal Year Budget takes effect July 1st.

Overall, the General Fund, where day-to-day Town operating expenses (such as office salaries, insurance, vehicle maintenance, etc.) are pulled from, is expected to see \$5,297,256 in revenue. Of this, \$1,300,000 is attributed to property tax, \$1,349,317 from State income taxes and \$1,126,002 from County tax rebate, as well as other sources.

Total expenses attributed to the General Fund are \$6,218,804, with \$5,031,250 recurring costs and Capital Projects providing the rest at \$1,187,554. Some of the recurring expenses include \$300,000 in office salaries, \$480,000 in maintenance salaries and a large \$2,000,000 price tag on the Town's police protection.

Capital Project expenses include \$500,000 in rollover for State mandated MS4 stormwater projects as the biggest cost, \$175,000 in playground projects, and \$90,000 for a replacement truck with a plow. This leaves a deficit of \$921,548 that the Town must address by making some tough decisions to possibly include raising taxes, pulling from savings and/or postponing Capital Projects or eliminating some completely.

According to a report by the Frederick News-Post, Town Manager Sean Williams said the Town currently has about \$5.8 million

available in its savings that could be used for the General Fund. They also reported that Commissioner Bob Yoder, who was elected in September, said Thursday he's been critical of the Town in the past for using savings to cover budget deficits. He said he hadn't examined the Proposal enough by Thursday afternoon to see where cuts might be made. But he agreed with Williams that it would come down to using reserves, raising taxes, and looking at what Capital Projects need to be done and what can be deferred. "There's

only three choices," Yoder said. He said it might take a mix of all three options to address the issue, although increasing taxes would not be his first choice.

As of now, the Town's property tax remains the same as last year at a rate of .14 cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

The Water Fund, where the operation of the water plant is funded, is projected to see \$5,091,675 in revenues. Here, \$1,550,000 is attributed to water rates, which increased by 20% last year and will see a 3% increase for the next four

years. ARPA Funds are also contributing \$3,033,755 to the Water Fund revenues and the majority is slated to be used for the Discovery Water Main replacement.

Water Fund expenditures total \$1,771,985 with the biggest draw coming from salaries at \$250,000, parts at \$217,600, chemicals at \$111,618 and the annual sewer treatment at \$430,849, an increase

of 4.1% compared to last year. Capital Projects total \$3,295,007, all from ARPA funding slated for the ongoing Discovery Water main replacement. This gives the Water Fund a reserve of \$24,683.

The Town will hold a public hearing on the General Fund budget at its May 28 meeting, and a hearing on its Water Fund budget at its meeting on June 11.

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WALKERSVILLE INFO

Wed., June 4 - 7 p.m. - Parks Meeting

Sat., June 7 - Bulk Trash Pickup

Tues., June 10 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Workshop

Wed., June 11 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

Thurs., June 19 - Town Hall Closed - Juneteenth

Mon., June 23 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting

Tues., June 24 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting

Wed., June 25 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

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 Walkersville: Our Town

UNION BRIDGE NEWS

How Dream Big Union Bridge got their ducks in a row

Daniel Mihm

A liquor store is not the first building one would expect a Carroll County deputy to enter.

In 2017 while Cheri Thompson was working a part-time shift at Esquire Liquors in Union Bridge Maryland, Brian Colussy in full uniform, stood among the packed shelves of wine bottles, looking to initiate a long-lasting partnership with Thompson.

At the heart of Dream Big Union Bridge, a non-profit organization in Union Bridge Maryland, is Brian Colussy the founder and Cheri Thompson the co-founder, who both share a deep motivation to make Unions Bridge the best version of itself.

“I’ve had a dream that this town can be like Sykesville or Mount Airy, because they looked like this before they got to where they are now,” Thompson said.

“That’s my goal I’d give anything for that.”

As a Carroll County deputy in 2014 Colussy saw the parts of Union Bridge that people passing by would not get the chance to see.

Growing up in a rural town in western Pennsylvania, Colussy saw Union Bridge as more than just one of the thousands of map dots across America. Union Bridge reminded him of his home, and he did not want to see it fall apart.

“He wasn’t your average deputy,” Thompson said. “He was everywhere, and you never knew where he was from one five minutes to the next. He could tell you who lived in what house if they were married, divorced, if they had a dog or a cat.”

Colussy saw families struggle to pay their bill, individuals dealing with substance abuse, empty

storefronts, and a small town being forgotten by the rest of the county.

“It’s like the broken glass theory,” Colussy said. “Prime example, kid breaks a window, window doesn’t get replaced, more kids are going in and breaking even more windows and when that happens the homeless move in, try to keep warm and end up burning down the whole building.”

Colussy expressed that when a town doesn’t have enough money to fix one small problem then it could lead to even bigger issues. Colussy wanted to make a change but knew he could not do it alone.

Thompson was recommended to Colussy by a Union Bridge residence due to the reason that she had an extensive past in working with non-profits organizations such as Taneytown Jaycees, Maryland State Junior Quarter

Horse Association and Union Bridge Business Association.

Thirty community members and business owners showed up to the first meeting in which both Colussy and Thompson recognized a theme among the people. Members of the Union Bridge community had big dreams for the future of the place they call home.

Eight years, six duck derbies and countless community events later Dream Big Union Bridge is still working towards bettering the community.

It is the founders’ hope that the more vendors and activities they feature during their upcoming event on June. 7. will not only bring people to the derby but also introduce people to a town that they otherwise would drive right past.

“We have people from all over come to the derby,” Thompson

said. “Our goal is that when they come, they will learn more about the town, patronize some of the businesses, hopefully they’ll see a vacant building and possibly want to start their own business in town.”

While organizing the event both founders are also juggling full-time jobs. Colussy serves at Carroll Community College on the campus police force and Thompson works at Carroll County government and Resources Management. And still they are both driven by their love for Union Bridge.

“It takes a community. We have to look out for each other,” Thompson said. “That’s what Dream Big does. We’re trying to get people to know their neighbors which is why we do the community events so that people know what is going on in each other’s lives.”

Three new Councilmembers join Town Council

Pursuant to changes made to the Town Code last year, Mayor Perry Jones announced that the May 13 election to fill three open seats on the Council was essentially cancelled due to being uncontested. Last year the Council voted

to allow an election to be cancelled if the number of qualified candidates for an office is equal to or less than the number of vacancies. The reason behind this change was due to the cost of conducting special elections and the time com-

mitment required from Town staff and volunteers. It was agreed to be in the best interest of the town to amend the Charter.

Retiring from the Council were Amy Kalin and Cheri Thompson. Councilwomen and President Laura Conaway kept her seat on the Council as well as Police and parking enforcement, mowing and the Town’s Christmas lights and banners. New Councilmember, Logan Grossnickle was assigned sanitation and streetlights and Anthony Bowmen picked up streets. They joined current Councilman Bret Grossnickle in charge of water and sewer and Councilwoman Ellen

Cutsail will continue to manage the Community Center.

Tree Nursery joins Town’s businesses

Business owner Will Freeze introduced his newest business, Grace Valley Farms, to the Council in May. The farm is a tree nursery that will be replacing an original nursery in Town. With a total of 3,500 varieties of trees being planted. Freeze said in about eight years they will be able to dig up the 15- to 16-foot-tall trees and sell them to the public. Freeze said they also have approximately 450 yards of mulch, some of which, they would

be happy to donate to the Town for any beautification projects.

Wastewater contract renewed

The Town Council voted to approve a bid for a three-year contract allowing Environmental Operations to continue management of the wastewater plant for \$59,232. This amount is an increase of \$2,280 over the previous contract. The bid is annual, maintaining the current cost for the second year but a small increase of \$2,952 to \$62,184 for the third year \$62,184. The Company will oversee the operations and management of the plant.

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2024 Walkersville Annual Water Quality Report

The Town of Walkersville is pleased to present the 2024 Annual Drinking Water Report for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

Source water for the Town's water system originates as groundwater that is pumped from three wells located in a highly-productive limestone aquifer. The limestone in the aquifer possesses large voids, or cavities, where the source water is stored. Springs and sinkholes are typically found within limestone aquifer areas. The presence of sinkholes allows for surface water to mix readily with groundwater, so the state has categorized the Town water system as groundwater under the influence of surface water. Thus, the Town's level of water treatment is equal to that of a surface water source system.

The Town of Walkersville strives to keep our valued water customers informed about their water utility provider. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Matt Omdorff, our Water Superintendent at 301-845-4500. To remain abreast of Town matters, including water service, please attend the twice monthly Town meetings of the Burgess and Commissioners. Town meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Town Hall Office located at 21 W. Frederick St., Walkersville. Our website, www.walkersvillemd.gov, provides an up-to-date calendar of all Town meetings as well as agendas and past meeting minutes.

An initial Service Line Inventory was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on 10/16/24. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. The report is available upon request.

Source water assessment has been performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and is accessible on their website at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx.

In accordance with state and federal laws, the Town's Department of Public Works routinely monitors for contaminants in the Town's drinking water. As source water travels underground or over land, it can acquire substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, is reasonably expected to contain trace amounts of the aforementioned contaminants and it should be noted that mere presence does not necessarily pose a health risk. To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA), enforces regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration, FDA, enforces regulations to limit contaminants in bottled water which provides the same protection for public health.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Walkersville is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by

an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Town of Walkersville at 301-845-4500. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: www.mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR. The Town of Walkersville is currently conducting their testing, and results will be included on the 2025 CCR.

Source Water Information (ground water): well 1 - FR720037, located approximately 500 ft West of Rt. 194; well 2 - FR810307, located approximately .25 mi west of Rt. 194; and, well 3 - FR815107, located approximately 300 feet East of Fountain Rock Rd.

PWSID # MD0100025

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Disinfectants | Collection Date | Highest t RAA | MR DL | MR DLG | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|--|
| Chlorine | 2024 | 1.3 | 4 | 4 | ppm | N | Water additive used to control microbes. |

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | 90th Percentile | Action Level (AL) | # Sites Over AL | Units | Range of tap Sampling | Typical Source |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Lead | 7.16.24 | 5 | 15 | 0 | UG/L | 5-7 | Single Family Dwelling |
| Copper | 7.16.24 | .18 | 1.3 | 0 | MG/L | 0.08-0.23 | Single Family Dwelling |

| Disinfection Byproducts | Sample Point | Period | Highest LRAA | Range | Unit | MCL | MCLG | Typical Source |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------|------------|------|-----|------|---|
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | Discovery Day Care | 2023-24 | 3 | 1.02-5.65 | ppb | 60 | 0 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | Town Hall | 2023-24 | 2 | 0-2.57 | ppb | 60 | 0 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| TTHM | Discovery Day Care | 2023-24 | 5 | 2.69-10.62 | ppb | 80 | 0 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHM | Town Hall | 2023-24 | 1 | 0-2.4 | ppb | 80 | 0 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

| Regulated Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Value | Range | Unit | MCL | MCLG | Likely Source of Contamination |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|------|-----|------|--|
| Dibromochlorome Thane | 4.15.19 | 0.00051 | 0.00051 | mg/l | 0.1 | 0.06 | |
| Flouride | 3.4.24 | 0.46 | 0.46 | ppm | 4 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate-Nitrite | 12.3.24 | 3.77 | 2.94-3.77 | ppm | 10 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |

TURBIDITY

| Percentage of samples in compliance with Std | Months Occurred | Violation | Highest Single Measurement | Month Occurred | Sources | Level Indicator |
|--|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 100.00 | 12 | No | 0.06 | November | WTP - Wells 1, 2, 3 | Yes |

The Town of Walkersville works around the clock to provide top quality water to every customer. Please contact our office, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., if you have any questions about the information presented in this 2023 Town of Walkersville Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

Town of Walkersville, 21 W. Frederick St., PO Box 249, Walkersville, MD 21793
www.walkersvillemd.gov. Office: 301-845-4500 * After-Hours Water Emergency: 301-880-6510

Definitions:
Avg - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Action Level Goal (ALG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
LRAA - Locational Running Annual Average.
Level 2 Assessment - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. Level 1 Assessment - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Mrem - Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NA - Not Applicable
Picocuries per liter(pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
ppb - Micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm - Milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ppt - One part per trillion is equivalent to one nanogram (ng/L) per liter. A single drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water.
Treatment Technique or TT - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Variances and Exemptions - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
The following tables show the results of the monitoring period between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

FROM THE DESK OF...

Congresswoman April McClain Delaney

I took my usual seat on the House Agriculture Committee—front row and one of the last in the speaking order. As a first-term Congresswoman who grew up in a farming family, I've spent much of my time here listening and looking for common ground. Sadly, after hours of debate on the House Majority's sweeping budget reconciliation package, I left feeling frustrated, unsettled, and frankly, livid.

The House Agriculture Committee was founded over 200 years ago with a shared mission of feeding the country and supporting rural America. For generations the House Agriculture Committee has served as a place where partisanship takes a backseat to pragmatism and finding common ground. This week that legacy was tested—and failed miserably.

Instead of advancing a bipartisan Farm Bill—a cornerstone of stability for farmers, producers and rural economies—House Republicans pushed through a deeply partisan reconciliation package. Rather than meeting the needs of our rural communities, this legislation prioritizes tax breaks for large corporations and the ultra-wealthy while simultaneously inflicting sudden, severe and nonsensical cuts to es-

sential agricultural, conservation and nutritional programs.

Let's be clear about what's happening. Among the hardest hit by these proposed cuts would be the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps more than 42 million Americans, many of them in rural communities, afford groceries at a time of skyrocketing food prices. In my district, one in nine families in Western Maryland relies on SNAP to feed themselves—half of whom are children. In Frederick County, over 18,000 of our family, friends and neighbors rely on it. Across the country, more than 27,000 authorized SNAP retailers would also be at risk if this package is passed into law, including over 3,500 small grocery stores, over 900 specialty food shops, and 600 farmers markets. Beyond its direct impact, studies show that for every dollar spent on SNAP benefits, an estimated \$1.50 in economic activity is generated. This activity translates into farmers selling into local food banks and school lunch programs, into boosting local businesses which accept SNAP benefits and truckers who transport the crops. These are not just numbers; but real impacts on real farmers, working families and rural communities.

As a farmer's daughter, I prioritize supporting our country's rural communities. Since taking office, I've met with the Maryland Farm Bureau and all five county farm bureaus in my district. I've visited with farmers, small businesses and rural leaders, and their message is clear: they want a Farm Bill that works for them. Unfortunately, the legislation which moved out of committee last night misses the mark. Shut out of the legislative process, my colleagues and I were given the drafted reconciliation and notice of the mark-up only 24 hours before the hearing started. I joined my colleagues in voicing opposition about the lack of transparency, the fact that no hearings or expert testimony was called, and no bipartisan dialogue occurred about how to best invest in our farming communities.

I introduced several different amendments, including one that would have expanded critical rural broadband access—an issue raised again and again in every corner of my district and one I've worked on for decades before serving in Congress. Mind you, the Farm Bill isn't just about farms, it's about supporting infrastructure that underpins rural America. Roughly 25% of rural

Americans still lack reliable, high-speed internet. In Maryland, more than one in six, including thousands of families in my own district, remain cut off from the digital infrastructure that powers access to precision farming, education, health care and jobs. Broadband isn't a luxury, it's a necessity.

Unfortunately, the Committee didn't even have a chance to consider this amendment, and many others, after the Republicans in charge cut off debate after 16 hours over two days. We—and by extension the communities we represent—weren't afforded a full debate (even though several of my Republican colleagues commiserated in private about the tragic impact of these cuts). To say this was a disappointing end to this process would be an understatement.

The Farm Bill has always occupied a rare space where bipartisanship wasn't just encouraged—it was essential. Rural America isn't red or blue—it's made up of families who care about putting food on the table, getting a fair price for their crops and having access to basic services. And when we abandon good-faith bipartisanship, we abandon the people we're elected to serve.

This moment should have been about passing a serious, bipartisan

Farm Bill—a real opportunity to increase access to capital for farmers, invest in sustainable agriculture, protect natural resources and strengthen the rural economy. Instead, we witnessed a Committee meeting that placed ideology ahead of community needs.

Let's not pretend this is about fiscal responsibility. It's about misplaced priorities. Rural communities aren't being left behind because we lack the resources to help them—they're being left behind because House leadership is looking the other way to meet a self-conceived bottom line from this Administration.

Every year we delay the Farm Bill, rural hospitals go underfunded, farmers face financial uncertainty, conservation efforts are stalled, and nutrition programs hang by a thread. The clock is ticking, and every day without action is a day of unnecessary hardship for the families who feed this country and those vulnerable families who are at risk of going hungry.

It's time to pass a bipartisan Farm Bill that puts people over politics. And no matter the obstacles, I will continue to show up—because every Representative must remember who they serve, who they're fighting for and how they can truly stand with the working families who are struggling to get ahead.

County Council President Brad Young

On May 20, the Council passed Amended Bill No. 25-05 sponsored by Council member Knapp and

me. The purpose of the Bill was to update the design and specific use regulations for Critical Digital Infrastructure

(CDI) Facilities, and Critical Digital Infrastructure Electric Substations
There were key siting, design, and

There were key siting, design, and

location requirements in the legislation. Among them are that CDI facilities and substations may only be in Limited Industrial (LI) or General Industrial (GI) zones, within a Community Growth Area, and located within two miles of 69KV+ transmission lines.

The bill also prohibits data center facilities and infrastructure from being sited in Priority Preservation Areas (PPA); Rural Legacy Areas (RLA); Treasured Landscape Management Areas; and areas with No Planned Service (NPS) designation in the Water and Sewerage Plan. Additionally, sites may not abut residential-zoned or designated properties, unless 200-foot setbacks are applied.

The legislation also contained design and development standards. Among these are increased setbacks for CDI facilities: now 300 feet lot width and 100-foot minimum yard setbacks (or more if adjacent to residential areas). It increased

the maximum building height to 75 feet for CDI facilities. The legislation also protects livability by establishing visual buffers with landscaping, fencing, or walls for screening requirements. CDI facilities must minimize visual impacts to scenic, historic, or preservation areas through viewshed analysis.

The bill also sets strict noise limits depending on adjacent land use (e.g., 55 dB for residential). This bill, CB 25-05 requires sound and vibration studies before approval, and biennial testing after occupancy, and Dark Sky principles, such as capped lighting to avoid light pollution and wildlife disruption.

Bill 25-05 also requires generators to meet EPA Tier 4 standards. Testing will be limited to weekdays, 8 to 5, for 60 minutes max. Above-ground fuel tanks are limited to 20,000 gallons per building, with strict setbacks, containment, and spill protection.

Applicants also must demonstrate efforts to avoid or minimize negative impacts on schools, residences, and



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FROM THE DESK OF...

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

June marks the beginning of a vibrant season in Frederick County. As schools close for the summer, our streets and parks will be filled with children enjoying their break. Please be extra vigilant while driving and mindful of the increased activity in our neighborhoods.

We also celebrate Pride Month, a time dedicated to honoring and uplifting our LGBTQ+ community. This celebration not only acknowledges the struggles and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community, but also reinforces our dedication to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone.

June is also National Immigrant Heritage Month. Frederick County is honored to host a Heritage Festival on Friday, June 6, from 4 - 8 pm at Hill Street Park, located at 100 Hill Street in Frederick. This event will feature music, food, and activities that highlight the contributions of our diverse cultures. We hope you can join us!

Update on the FY26 Budget

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who participated

in the FY26 budget process. Your input was invaluable and ensured that our budget for the coming fiscal year, which starts on July 1, reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to the County Council for their diligent work and collaboration in passing the budget as introduced. I am proud that this year's budget prioritizes education and protects core services while maintaining fiscal responsibility. To learn more about the budget, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget.

Limiting Data Centers

One of the most important questions facing our community is where data centers can be located and, by extension, where they will not be allowed.

Last month, the County Council and I jointly announced a compromise to limit where data centers can be built to the area around the old East Alcoa property north of Adamstown. I want to thank the Council for working together to create a way forward

that we can all support.

This bipartisan compromise ensures we are protecting our environment and quality of life, while acknowledging that Frederick County's location makes it a logical site for this critical industry.

We will limit the development to less than 1% of the County's total land mass, in an area with the infrastructure to support it, and ensure the County Council retains the tools to prevent future sprawl.

An amendment will be introduced to the zoning code to create a tool called an overlay, which will be used to limit data center development.

The Council will review and vote on the bill through its ordinary public legislative process. After that, the Division of Planning and Permitting will develop a map through an open and transparent public process, which will be presented to the Planning Commission for review and the County Council for approval.

Community Partnership Grants

I recently announced \$1.2 million in grants to 32 local nonprofit organizations through the

Community Partnership Grant program. This initiative awards competitive grants to nonprofits focusing on four key areas: addressing homelessness and housing solutions, enhancing quality of life, improving public health, and supporting the arts.

Frederick County has an amazingly strong nonprofit network. Partnerships with our nonprofits results in big impacts for our community. Together, we can provide more services to more people, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

The grants will fund a variety of critical services that foster resilience, bridge gaps, and bring innovative solutions. For example, Mission of Mercy, which serves Brunswick and Emmitsburg, and the Seton Center in Emmitsburg provide resources and assistance to those in need, ensuring that everyone has access to essential health-care and support services.

Local nonprofits applied for a total of 61 grants, requesting nearly \$3 million in funding. Independent review panels recommended the final list of grantees, which can be viewed online at

FrederickCountyMD.gov/CP-GAwardsFY26.

Frederick County Becomes Maryland's First Bird County

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership officially recognized Frederick County as Maryland's first "Bird County" during Earth Week 2025. The designation acknowledges the County's efforts in ecosystem restoration, environmental education, and habitat protection.

Frederick County joins a growing network that includes eight Bird Cities across the state, including Brunswick and Middletown.

Birds are not only beautiful to watch – they also tell us a lot about the health of our environment. Because they respond quickly to changes in nature and are easy to observe, birds help us understand the conditions of our ecosystems.

By protecting birds and their habitats, we are also protecting the health and well-being of people in our community. The Bird County designation highlights this important connection and recognizes our continued leadership in environmental stewardship.

To learn more, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/BirdCounty.

non-industrial neighbors; fragile ecosystems and watersheds;

historic and recreational sites; and overburdened or underserved communities (as per Maryland law).

The bill also has a transitional provision for facilities or substations that submitted site plans before the bill's effective date (July 19, 2025) are exempt from the new requirements.

Also on May 20, the County Council adopted Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater's FY26 budget, which emphasized major investments in education and essential services without increasing taxes.

Key Highlights:

Education: Over \$508 million allocated, a 30% increase over three years.

School Construction: \$175 million dedicated, up 86% from the prior year.

Employee Compensation: New \$21/hour minimum base pay; 2% salary increase for all employees starting January 1, 2026.

Senior Services: Expansion at Middletown 50+ Community Center and plans for additional centers.

Affordable Housing: Support for development on County-owned land.

Public Safety: Funding Sheriff's Office training facilities and added resources for the State's Attorney's Office.

Fiscal Responsibility: Reserves and pension obligations maintained; strategic financial planning supports AAA bond rating.

Finally, I am working on legislation making it illegal for the sale of invasive bamboo in Frederick County. I will have more details on this proposed legislation in the future as I formulate a bill.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voice-mail to be forwarded to each Council

Member, or email us any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/countycouncil to view our latest agendas, legislation, and

upcoming calendar of events.

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

FrederickCountyMD.gov, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in

downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we welcome public participation. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person or participate over the phone.

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Politics and changing one's mind

Shannon Bohrer

Changing one's position can be good or bad, depending on the circumstances. Reporters who cover politics are very astute about keeping records on politicians' words and promises. When a politician employs ambiguous language to convey strong and seemingly inflexible beliefs, they are frequently scrutinized, especially if their later position changes. Yet, there are instances when people, including politicians, change their minds. When additional information becomes available on a topic that questions one's position, changing one's position can be reasonable.

The topic of changing one's position is often criticized and has historically been labeled as flip-flopping. The term political speech itself often conveys the idea that the content can depend on whom the person is talking to. In politics, the inferences of changing one's position are often viewed as inconsistent and unreliable, denoting that one cannot be trusted.

We have witnessed politicians changing their positions on global warming and alternative energy sources, often citing added information. We have also witnessed politicians maintain positions even after the facts do not support them. COVID was a pandemic that many denied even after it was scientifically and fac-

tually proven to exist. Sometimes, being consistent and not changing one's position, after the facts have changed, implies a closed mind.

The supporters of our current president often describe him as being focused. He says what is on his mind and does not waver from his promises, yet that description has not always been accurate, because he has demonstrated the ability to change his positions. When he ran for office, he promised to raise tariffs on countries we trade with, because we have a trade deficit. After being elected, he kept his promise and raised tariffs. The tariffs negatively affected our economy, the bond markets, and the value of our currency. He then withdrew some of the tariffs. Having more information can allow someone to make better decisions. He then promised to raise the tariffs again and expressed possible exceptions for numerous tariffs. So, he kept his promise and changed his mind, but he still promised to raise tariffs again. So, even someone who appears steadfast in their beliefs can be flexible.

Another change he made, which is related to the tariffs, goes back to his first term in office. At the end of his first term in 2020, he signed the USMCA trade agreement, which updated NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, originally signed into law by President Clinton. The overhaul was "designed to update the pact to reflect the rise of

e-commerce and other technological changes and to do more to encourage factories to move production to the United States." He acquired more information and changed his mind by adding additional tariffs to Canada and Mexico.

When Trump was campaigning, he also promised numerous times to eliminate DEI, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and later signed four executive orders, one of which bans transgender individuals from serving in the military. The order banning transgender military service is "Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness." The order states that "This policy is inconsistent with the medical, surgical, and mental health constraints on individuals with gender dysphoria."

Yet, in 2018, during Trump's first term, medical procedures for transgender persons were addressed when "Officials in the justice department gave the green light to procedures that also included hormone therapy and hair removal." Additionally, "Prison bureau officials wrote in a budget memo to Congress in February 2018 that the government was obligated to pay for sex-change procedures if deemed medically necessary." The medical care included cross-gender hormone therapy, including surgical intervention if needed, and counseling if required. So, he changed his mind, again.

In 2018, President Donald Trump said, "The Iran Deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into." The deal with Iran he

referred to was «the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," signed into law by President Obama. The deal included a transfer of Iranian assets/monies back to Iran and a lifting of sanctions, provided Iran ceases its nuclear program and agrees to inspections. Trump cancelled the deal during his first term.

Recently, while in his second term, he changed his mind again, sending a letter to Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The letter proposed a new nuclear deal and a "two-month deadline to reach an agreement." Brian Hughes, speaking for the National Security Council, said that "Trump wanted to resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program diplomatically – and very soon – and if this was not possible, there would be other ways to resolve the dispute." Also, during a telephone call with NBC News, Trump said, "If they don't make a deal, there will be bombing." He also promised secondary tariffs if a deal could not be made.

To be clear, there was a deal with Iran to stop the production of nuclear materials under President Obama. After Trump was elected for his first term, he cancelled the deal, and Iran restarted the processing of nuclear materials. Now that Trump is in his second term, he wants to revive or recreate the deal that Obama made. Obviously, or maybe obliviously, he has changed his mind again.

As discussed, changing one's position when added information becomes available can be a good thing. However, there are times when changing or not changing a position is not based on new information

but based on political perspectives. How does my position compare to my opponents? This is often referred to as diversion speech. Sometimes, the best way to defend your party's poor decisions is to say the opposing party is worse, often for doing the same thing.

Diversion speech is often not recognized for what it is, because the facts are just a distraction. When Trump was running for his first term, he complained that Hillary Clinton's computer contained secret information, and that was tantamount to treason. In fact, he said she should be locked up. Recently, Pete Hegseth was accused of having classified documents on a private email with minimal security. The email was sent to numerous administration officials and included a news reporter. Outside of the administration, every national security expert vilified the incident, saying that anyone in a lower position would lose their rank and face charges. Trump defended Hegseth, saying the military action was successful.

When both sides use diversion speech—look over there—it becomes difficult to have rational conversation. Changing one's mind should not be confused with diversion speech. One can be justified, and the other cannot.

"If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading."- Laozi

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

The Bulwark

I don't care if MAGA burns down your house

Jonathan Glass

Let's start with Emmitsburg. The town is home to the National Fire Academy, which is like the Army War College for firefighters. The NFA became a target of DOGE and, by order of the Trump administration, is no longer conducting in-person classes. This development is bad for the local economy, bad for the institution of the National Fire Academy, bad for firefighters, and ultimately bad for anyone, anywhere, who might someday need emergency services.

NPR spoke to a number of people in and around the NFA, all of whom voted for Trump, all of whom claimed to support what Trump is doing as president—and all of whom think that what Trump is doing to the National Fire Academy is . . . bad.

Here is Frank Davis, the mayor of Emmitsburg and a volunteer firefighter:

Frank Davis saw a lot of waste during his decades in the federal government. In November, he voted for Donald Trump to get rid of it. So far, Davis likes a lot of what he has seen.

"I'm probably gonna get shot for this, but he is doing what he said he was going to do," says Davis, who serves as mayor of this town of about 3,000 people in western Maryland, just south of Gettysburg.

Davis says the administration is re-

viewing the academy's operations, and he is hopeful it will restore classes. If not, he says, he'll see the administration somewhat differently.

"It will change my outlook to say that they're not being fair," says Davis, who also serves as emergency medical services captain at the local firehouse, known as the Vigilant Hose Company. "They're just going in to cut and not caring what they cut."

Here is John Beck, a volunteer fire chief (and Trump voter) from a neighboring town across the Pennsylvania state line, who was supposed to attend a leadership course at the NFA this summer:

"We're only 100-plus days in," Beck says of Trump's current term. "I wish things were going differently."

Beck doesn't regret his vote — yet. "I'm not 100% there yet, but it may not take much more," he says.

And here is Susan Glass, who owns a pub in Emmitsburg that gets 30 percent of its business from firefighters visiting the academy:

"I've already told a lot of our employees that it's a possibility they won't have a job for the summer, but we're hoping things open back up," Glass says.

In fact, many of the town's residents hold out hope that the administration will see the value of the academy and start classes again. Glass also voted for Trump but feels the administration is moving too fast.

"I agree with a lot of things that they're doing, but sometimes I dis-

agree on how they're doing them," says Glass, who thinks the administration shouldn't try to do so much at once. "Maybe ... spread it out a little bit. It just seems like it's just one hammer after another."

Perhaps you can understand why I got so worked up.

But still. I'm sure that somewhere out there is a firefighter who's a jackass. But I've never met one. Firefighters are like nurses: One of those professions that attracts the very best kind of souls.

There's an old joke: Tough guys who want to boss people around become cops; tough guys who want to help people become firefighters.

So I should assume the best about Mayor Davis and Chief Beck because firefighters are great human beings. And I bet these guys are great, too. If they were selfish, they wouldn't have become firefighters in the first place. You don't sign up for that gig for the ducats.

I'm sorry, guys. I was the jackass.

But what made me angry was the narrowness of vision expressed by the people of Emmitsburg. Because this isn't just an intellectual failure. It's a civic failure. And a potentially fatal one.

The general view of the Emmitsburg Trump voters NPR spoke with was:

They like Trump. They want Trump to shut down a bunch of government programs.

They do not have any specific recommendations for programs they believe are wasteful.

However they are certain that their pet program is valuable.

And so if Trump restores funding to the National Fire Academy, they will continue to support him.

But if Trump does not restore funding to the NFA, then—and only then—they will conclude that his assault on government is harmful.

This is a myopic, untenable civic approach to democracy.

We talk about Direct Personal Consequences, but the truth is that national politics rarely manifests DPCs for voters.

The Trump administration—unlike most previous administrations—is causing a great many Direct Personal Consequences. Miss Glass, the Emmitsburg pub owner, might lose her business because of Trump's decision to cancel in-person classes at the National Fire Academy.

But Direct Personal Consequences should not be the determinative factor in either people's understanding of the world or their voting behavior.

Put it this way: The Trump administration chose to destroy USAID. As a result, children in Africa are dying.

The Trump administration chose to disrupt medical research being funded by the NIH and is seeking to impose deep cuts on public health programs at both the NIH and the CDC.

The Trump voters in Emmitsburg look at these actions and essentially say:

If Trump restores funding to the National Fire Academy, then the cuts at USAID, the NIH, and the CDC are okay with me.

But if Trump permanently cuts National Fire Academy funding, then I will view the other cuts as bad, too.

This is not okay. Politics in a healthy society cannot be driven by such provincialism.

The most important issues rarely have Direct Personal Consequences for Americans. That is one of our nation's many privileges.

America fought the Cold War for fifty years and it was the most important political issue in most of the elections during that time. Yet the U.S. strategy in the Cold War did not carry Direct Personal Consequences for most voters. Still, they cared about it anyway and considered it part of their decision matrices.

On the other hand, consider how much Americans say they care about immigration right now, even though immigration has zero bearing on their day-to-day experiences. Seriously: Go ask someone how their month went when border crossings were up versus on a month when border crossings were down. The average American experiences zero impact on their lives relative to the number of immigrants, yet cares a great deal about "immigration."

We've got to do better.

A society in which people reserve judgment on the alligator until they see whether or not the alligator eats them is in trouble.

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

COMMENTARY

The Liberal Patriot

The rise of anti-politics

John Halpin

Americans like to dance around their problems rather than confronting them head on. One such un-addressed issue is politics itself. People hate politics. They don't like the government, elected officials, the media, and many of the policy outcomes produced by the legislative and executive branches. In 2023, a meager four percent of U.S. adults told Pew that they think the political system is working either extremely well or very well.

Partisans really hate politics—when their opponents are in charge. Trump people hated Obama and Clinton people. The Resistance hated Trump. MAGA hated Biden. The Resistance hates MAGA again. The cycle of partisan animosity spins round and round. Everyone else who is not a reg-imented partisan wisely checks out to focus on other things.

Rather than constituting normal democratic processes and public deliberation on important national matters and reforms, all of this elevat-ed public distrust and anger at insti-tutions, along with mutual loathing between partisans, constitutes a dis-tinctly American form of anti-politics. Anti-politics is a concept that de-scribes public opposition to tradition-al democratic norms and procedures ranging from radicalism and conspir-acy theories to elite technocracy and one-man authoritarian rule.

Anti-politics in America is exem-plified by two populist leaders from the right and left: Donald Trump and

Bernie Sanders. Trump is America's leading master of a certain kind of an-ti-politics emanating from the nation-alist right: against all established insti-tutions they don't control, dismissive of "elites" and "experts," distrustful of elections and political processes that don't advance their positions, disdain-ful of outsiders, and dedicated to the belief that only their leadership can break through governmental corrup-tion to restore the country.

In contrast, Bernie Sanders rep-resents a more ideological form of left-ist anti-politics based on the primary belief that everything in American life is a rigged game that favors the wealthy. Although Sanders competes for influence within the Democratic Party, he remains an independent. His supporters despise establishment politics. His solution for nearly ev-ery problem is always to attack the "oligarchs" and "billionaires" and to replace plutocratic government with some nascent form of democratic so-cialism built on high taxation, nation-alized health care, a smaller military, green energy policies, and universal social spending.

Leftist anti-politics generally per-forms better in continental Europe than in America given historical left-wing activism in countries like France, Greece, Portugal, and Spain. Unlike Trump, however, Bernie Sanders has been less successful in capitalizing on leftist anti-politics within Amer-ica's two-party system. Sanders and his progressive followers clearly have amassed influence but have never taken over or transformed the Demo-cratic Party the way Trump did on the

Republican side. Although Sanders has built a fiercely loyal constituency, and enjoys decent personal popular-ity and support for his attacks on the rich, he faces a strong counterbalance from moderate Democrats while his national support is capped by Ameri-cans' general resistance to higher taxes, more governmental regulation of the economy, and higher social spending.

Why are both Trump and Sanders considered exemplars of anti-pol-itics rather than politics? It's not just semantics. Both men and their movements are engaged in political activity, but it is a distinctly disrup-tive form of political action rather than a steady, incremental approach designed to achieve policy goals through majoritarian legislation or other bipartisan measures.

Anti-politics generally works much better as an election framework than as a blueprint for governing. Popu-list anti-politics is thus best viewed as a shock to the system, not a well administered and widely supported course of treatment. The strengths and weaknesses of this model are best seen in the heavy dose of executive actions early in Trump's second term coupled with his rapidly declining job approval ratings.

The fragmentation-apathy side of anti-politics is most apparent in the backlash to mainstream media and other expert bodies along with the proliferation of new social media influencers, podcasters, bloggers, ac-tivists, tech evangelists, and regular people "doing their own research" to get around the partisan gatekeepers they feel routinely mislead or lie to the public. Similarly, for those not drawn to these fragmented anti-elite media voices, the most common form of

anti-politics is paying little to no at-tention to traditional politics, public debates, or decisions by government.

"I hate politics and won't partici-pate" is a rapidly growing if disorga-nized movement among indepen-dent and non-affiliated Americans who are fed up with partisan rhetoric and policy failures.

What is the future of anti-politics in America?

One possible end game is that Trumpian anti-politics from the right cements its power in government and maintains electoral advantages for the next few presidential cycles as a cohe-sive plurality movement with the abil-ity to reach majority status by bring-ing in other disgruntled Americans who like their disruption and change.

Another possible outcome is that Trump's second term ends up in a ditch, probably due to econom-ic mismanagement and right-wing culture wars. This could allow leftist anti-politics to finally take over the Democrats and convince enough dis-appointed Americans among the larg-er electorate to give the opposite end of the ideological spectrum a chance to prove their worth. This scenario is plausible but not probable. It would first require centrist and moderate Democrats to give up their internal fight for control of the party and then would require mainstream Americans to take on notably more progressive economic and cultural views than they currently hold.

A third scenario is that anti-politics on the right and left fails in the eyes of many Americans who instead band together to back a "return to normal-cy" as represented by something oth-er than the Trump or Sanders wings of their respective two parties. Since

Trump is in power and completely dominates his party, this would most likely have to come from a moderate or reform-minded presidential nom-inee giving voice to this sentiment from the Democratic side. Joe Biden was elected in 2020 based on this approach but he did not deliver the goods in the eyes of most Americans thus fueling another round of an-ti-politics from Trump.

Given the dynamics that have emerged in the U.S. since 2000, a return to normalcy would likely rep-resent a temporary solution at best rather than a long-term turnaround for traditional politics and governing. The stark reality is that anti-politics isn't going away anytime soon. The days of civic-minded officials working cooperatively within and across party lines to advance national economic, social, and security goals with public backing are either long gone or a ro-mantic delusion.

Once public trust and confidence in government and politics is lost, it's difficult for any party to rebuild it with sustained majority support.

Unfortunately, this means Amer-ica may be in for a rough period of governance since anti-politics engages the most angry and radi-cal segments of society and rarely pleases anyone else. Perhaps various right-wing and left-wing populist outbursts will lead to reforms that most Americans like. More likely than not, however, anti-politics will continue to swamp rational efforts at consensus building and prag-matic policy making in defense of America's interests and all its people.

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

Good Day Neighbor

Someone to watch over me

Dorothea Mordan

Joe Biden has become a vic-tim of prostate cancer. One of my brothers has prostate cancer. Small changes in my brother's be-havior starting occurring at ran-dom times, long before diagnosis. It turned out a large tumor was growing from his prostate, press-ing on his bladder, backing up his urine. This can cause a temporary hallucinatory state. During one of his, he got caught in a con-versation with a scammer who talked him out of \$97,000. But by 8 o'clock that night, his mind cleared and he called me for help (I did, money saved.) My broth-er has lived a lifetime of brilliant conversation and healthy habits. None of us around him would have known that a few random times of fogginess were really a deadly cancer disrupting every-thing we were conditioned to expect from him. By the time we were aware of it, his tumor was the size of a grapefruit.

There are people all around us who are going through something small or large that can change their behavior, and how they deal with life and their responsibilities.

Small changes subtle enough that family, friends and professional associates can brush off an odd bad day until, BOOM! suddenly everything is different.

Not long after Ronald Reagan left office, it was publicly an-nounced that he had been diag-nosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1994. His son Ron said he had seen changes in his father for a decade, His son Michael said Rea-gan was the same man almost up to the diagnosis. Perception. De-mentia in various forms can take a long time to develop and change a person. There was speculation whether this had impacted Rea-gan's time in office as President.

Reagan's Alzheimer's was very unlikely to have been present during his presidency. Doctors who treated him know that be-cause of medical research. The kind done at the NIH. That is the knowledge that allows us to have confidence in our leaders and elected officials. That is the issue with medical conditions. They can take a long to develop. Often there is no way of telling what their impact is until the symptoms are permanently visible. If we can't see it, we don't know it. Even then it takes research and study to un-derstand medical condition.

Perception makes all the dif-

ference. The view we have on a person makes a big difference in how we respond to their behav-ior. For me, suddenly getting a call that my brother had been conned, and listening to his con-fusion as he described the steps in the event, caused a seismic shift in everything I understood about my sibling. This is a person I love. It made me concerned and sad. Imagine, using my handy exam-ples, a politician who you dislike has the same slow march into the unknown. Is there sadness?

We have federal agencies that research cancer, Alzheimer's dis-ease and other medical conditions. They bring the most answers and cures in the world, taking some of the pressure off the march each of us takes into the unknown. The 2025 federal government is dis-mantling them, stopping federal programs for research on cancer cures, and other components of medical care, dead in their tracks.

Perception. For Republicans, all perceived unnecessary spending is bad versus medical experiments to find cures for disease. Which part of the experiments are a waste of money? Where is the logic and ad-ministrative responsibility in these funding cut decisions?

The proposed 2026 Federal budget has a 40% cut to the total NIH budget.

"The proposal slashes the NIH budget, and in some cases com-

pletely eliminates funding for groundbreaking research initia-tives, public health programs and essential support systems that have contributed to advancements in cancer prevention, early detec-tion and more effective treatment options. Returning to funding levels from two decades ago – and three decades ago when account-ing for biomedical inflation – will set this nation back dramatically in our ability to reduce death and suffering from a disease that is ex-pected to kill more than 618,000 Americans this year alone.

"For the past 50 years, every sig-nificant medical breakthrough, es-pecially in the treatment of cancer, has been linked to sustained fed-eral investment in research. This commitment has contributed to the remarkable statistic of over 18 million cancer survivors currently living in the U.S. today. Moving backwards in funding would not only stall scientific breakthroughs but also impact our ability to combat the rising incidence of cancer nationwide. With more than 2 million people in Amer-ica expected to be diagnosed with cancer this year, now is the time to strengthen, not weaken, our commitment to ending cancer as we know it, for everyone." — Lisa Lacasse, president of the Ameri-can Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN):

The changes in our federal gov-

ernment are being done to su-perficially look good. The people who were taking care of us have been taken out of their jobs and the real impact is that the care you and I need won't be there when we need it.

Perspective. Maybe the cur-rent administration is not a Team Scrooge, cutting Medicaid so that if people die without healthcare they will do their sacrifice by de-creasing the surplus population. Or maybe we need more popu-lation, the Trump administration can't seem to decide. Maybe we are supposed to be self-sufficient, sacrifice, and mix up cancer cures in our kitchens.

Perspective and our perception of the people who watch over us. Hindsight is twenty-twenty. May-be in five or six years it will be an-nounced that Trump has an illness that caused an unspecified decline in mental acuity. We are losing not only because there aren't enough people to care for each other. There aren't enough of us to care about learning HOW to take care of each other. There aren't enough of us to watch over each other as we go through life and need care. With the Trump administration, we have even less.

To read prior editions of Good Day Neighbor, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net or visit her web-site: ChandlerDesignsLimited.com.

PASTOR'S DESK

A Father to the fatherless

Pastor Sabrina Slimmer
Keymar Evangelical Wesleyan Church

Father's Day is a day many of us mark with joy. It's a time to fire up the grill, send a heartfelt card, and honor the men who have guided us with strength, gentleness, and wisdom. Yet, for others, it's a day that carries a different kind of weight. Perhaps it brings bittersweet memories of a dad who's no longer here. Maybe it stirs pain from wounds left by a father who was absent, distant, or even harmful.

Whatever your experience has been, one truth brings hope and healing: we all have access to a perfect, loving Father—the One who created us, knows us intimately, and never fails us.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 68:5, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling." These words describe God's character. He does not turn a blind eye to our pain. He steps into the broken spaces of our lives with strength, comfort, and the kind of love that brings restoration.

Let's be honest—earthly fathers, like all people, are flawed. Some do their best with the tools they were given. They show up, support their families, provide guidance, and leave a legacy of faith and character. If that's your experience, give thanks. You've seen a glimpse of God's heart through your father's love, protection, and presence.

But for many others, the word "father" may feel loaded. You may have grown up in a home where your dad was more of a shadow than a shepherd. Perhaps your childhood was filled with unanswered questions, unmet needs, or the sting of being overlooked or misunderstood. Fatherlessness isn't always about physical absence—it can be emotional, spiritual, or relational.

Yet here is the beautiful truth: our identity and security are not ultimately rooted in our earthly fathers. They are grounded in our heavenly father.

God is not just another version of our dads—He is altogether different. He is holy, just, and all-powerful. But He is also tender, compassionate, and full of mercy. He knows our

past, yet He still draws us near. He knows our weaknesses, yet He calls us his children. He is patient when we fall, generous when we ask, and faithful when we fail.

The apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:1, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" That word lavished speaks of abundance—overflowing love, poured out not because we earned it, but because He delights in us.

Jesus, the Son of God, introduced us to this divine relationship when He taught His disciples to pray, saying, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9). That simple phrase, "Our Father," revolutionized the way people saw God. He is not a distant ruler but a personal Father who longs for relationship with His children.

If you carry the ache of father wounds, you're not alone. Even some of the greatest heroes of the faith carried pain from their families. David, the shepherd-king, was overlooked

by his father Jesse when the prophet Samuel came to anoint a new king. Joseph was rejected by his brothers and left for dead. Even Jesus was misunderstood by His earthly family during His ministry.

But none of that disqualified them from God's purposes. In fact, God often uses our pain to draw us closer to Him and to show the world what healing and redemption look like.

Psalm 34:18 says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." On Father's Day, that verse rings especially true. If you are hurting today—emotionally, spiritually, relationally—know that your heavenly Father is near. He doesn't ask you to clean up before coming to Him. He meets you in the mess and walks with you toward wholeness.

To all the dads reading this—your role is sacred. Whether you are a biological father, a stepfather, an adoptive father, or a spiritual father—your presence matters. The words you speak (or don't speak), the example you live, and the time you give are shaping a future generation.

Proverbs 20:7 says, "The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them." The impact of a godly father cannot be overstated. It's found in bedtime prayers, patient discipline, shared bibles, and intentional moments of love. You are pointing your children to a Father who will never leave them, even when you're no longer able to walk beside them.

Maybe you feel like you've failed. Maybe you wish you could rewrite chapters of your fatherhood story. Here's the good news: God's grace is bigger than our regrets. It's never too late to love better, speak life, and lead your family toward Jesus.

This Father's Day, whether you are honoring a great dad, mourning a loss, or lamenting what was missing—may you look to the One who never changes. God, our Heavenly Father, is consistent in a world of inconsistency. He is faithful in a world of failure. He is near in a world that often feels distant and disconnected.

And maybe today, you can do something more than reflect. Maybe you can become a reflection of that Fatherly love for someone else. Is there a child who needs a mentor? Is there a neighbor who needs a kind word or a visit? Is there someone in your own family who needs to hear, "I'm proud of you. I love you. I'm here for you?" You can be the vessel through which God's fatherly love is poured out. Not because you're perfect—but because He is.

The story of the Bible is not primarily about rules, religion, or ritual. It is a love story. A Father pursuing His children, calling them home, and welcoming them with open arms.

In Luke 15, Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son—a young man who squandered his inheritance and returned home expecting judgment. Instead, the father ran to him, embraced him, and threw a celebration. That's the heart of our Heavenly Father. He runs to meet us when we take even one step toward Him.

So if you've wandered, return. If you've doubted, come close. If you've been hurt, let Him heal. You are not forgotten. You are not disqualified. You are not unloved. You are a child of the most high God.

To learn more about Keymar Wesleyan Church, visit them online at www.keymarwesleyan.org or better yet, join them for Sunday service.



Christmas in July Hymn Sing

Saturday, July 26th at 3 p.m.
Refreshments following the program
Service every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Apples United Church of Christ
7908 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont
240-385-7617



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Saturday, June 21
Featuring Dixie Wind Band
Saturday, August 2
Featuring 5.5 Men

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

Graceham Moravian Church

June Summer Hours for Church Service 9:15 - no Sunday School
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 6th & 7th
HUGE YARD SALE
8 to 2 - INDOOR & OUTDOOR - RAIN OR SHINE



Served With Grace Free
Dinner June 2nd
at 5:30 to 7pm

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Turkey Corn Soup
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John 14:27


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Food and baked goods available
Outdoor spaces available
For more information contact Robin at 301-639-1206



Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 S. Main Street, Woodsboro
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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Midsummer Day



June 24
Considering the part borne by the John the Baptist in the transactions on which Christianity is founded, it is not wonderful that the day set apart for the observance of his nativity should be, in all ages and most parts of Europe, one of the most popular of religious festivals. It enjoys the greater distinction that it is considered as Midsummer Day, and therefore has inherited a number of observances from heathen times.

The observances connected with the Nativity of St. John commenced on the previous evening, called, as usual, the eve or vigil of the festival, or Midsummer Eve. On that evening the people were accustomed to go into the woods and break down branches of trees, which they brought to their homes, and planted over their doors, amidst great demonstrations of joy, to make good the Scripture prophecy respecting the Baptist, that many should rejoice in his birth.

This custom was universal in England till the recent change in manners. In Oxford there was a specialty in the observance, of a curious nature. Within the first court of Magdalen College, from a stone pulpit at one corner, a sermon was always preached on St. John's Day; at the same time the court was embowered with green boughs, 'that the preaching might resemble that of the Baptist in the wilderness.'

Towards night, materials for a

fire were collected in a public place and kindled. To this the name of bonfire was given, a term of which the most rational explanation seems to be, that it was composed of contributions collected as boons, or gifts of social and charitable feeling. Around this fire the people danced with almost frantic mirth, the men and boys occasionally jumping through it, not to show their agility, but as a compliance with ancient custom. There can be no doubt that this leaping through the fire is one of the most ancient of all known superstitions.

It was customary in towns to keep a watch walking about during the Midsummer Night, although no such practice might prevail at the place from motives of precaution. Every citizen either went himself, or sent a substitute; and an oath for the preservation of peace was duly administered to the company at their first 'meeting at sunset. They paraded the town in parties during the night, every person wearing a garland of flowers upon his head, additionally embellished in some instances with ribbons and jewels.

In London, during the Middle Ages, this watch, consisting of not less than two thousand men, paraded both on this night and on the eves of St. Paul's and St. Peter's days. The watchmen were provided with cressets, or torches, carried in barred pots on the tops of long poles, which, added to the

bonfires on the streets, must have given the town a striking appearance in an age when there was no regular street-lighting. The great came to give their countenance to this marching watch, and made it quite a pageant.

Some of the superstitious notions connected with St. John's Eve are of a highly fanciful nature. The Irish believe that the souls of all people on this night leave their bodies, and wander to the place, by land or sea, where death shall finally separate them from the tenement of day. It is not improbable that this notion was originally universal, and was the cause of the widespread custom of watching or sitting up awake on St. John's night, for we may well believe that there would be a general wish to prevent the soul from going upon that somewhat dismal ramble.

In England, and perhaps in oth-

er countries also, it was believed that, if any one sat up fasting all night in the church porch, he would see the spirits of those who were to die in the parish during the ensuing twelvemonths come and knock at the church door, in the order and succession in which they were to die. We can easily perceive a possible connection between this dreary fancy and that of the soul's midnight ramble.

To sleep on St. John's Eve was thought to ensure a wandering of the spirit, while watching was regarded as conferring the power of seeing the vagrant spirits of those who slept. Amongst a company who sat up in a church porch, one fell so deeply asleep that he could not be waked. His companions afterwards averred that, whilst he was in this state, they beheld his spirit go and knock at the church door.

The same notion of a temporary liberation of the soul is perhaps at the bottom of a number of superstitious practices resembling those appropriate to Hallow-eve. It was supposed, for example, that if an unmarried woman, fasting, laid a cloth at midnight with bread and cheese, and sat down as if to eat, leaving the street-door open, the person whom she was to marry would come into the room and drink to her by bowing, after which, setting down the glass, with another bow he would retire. It was customary on this eve to gather certain plants which were supposed to have a supernatural character. The fern is one of those herbs which have their seed on the back of the leaf, so small as to escape the sight. It was concluded, according to the strange irrelative

reasoning of former times, that to possess this seed, not easily visible, was a means of rendering one's self invisible. Young men would go out at midnight of St. John's Eve, and endeavour to catch, some in a plate, but without touching the plant—an attempt rather trying to patience, and which often failed.

Our Elizabethan dramatists and poets, including Shakspeare and Jonson, have many allusions to the invisibility-conferring powers of fern seed. The people also gathered on this night the rose, St. John's wort, vervain, trefoil, and rue, all of which were thought to have magical properties. They set the orpine in clay upon pieces of slate or potsherd in their houses, calling it a Midsummer Man. As the stalk was found next morning to incline to the right or left, the anxious maiden knew whether her lover would prove true to her or not. Young women likewise sought for what they called pieces of coal, but in reality, certain hard, black, dead roots, often found under the living mugwort, designing to place these under their pillows, that they might dream of their lovers.

The observance of St. John's Day seems to have been, by a practical bull, confined mainly to the previous evening. On the day itself, we only find that the people kept their doors and beds embowered in the branches set up the night before, upon the understanding that these had a virtue in averting thunder, tempest, and all kinds of noxious physical agencies.

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



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ECOLOGY

Wild Strawberries Summer Camp

Anne Gageby
Director of Environmental Education
Strawberry Hill Foundation

If you’ve been around campus over the last year or so, you might have noticed rocks being left on the railing of one of the Nature Trail’s bridges. That’s no accident. Those rocks are left for George, one of our resident trolls. Yes, we have trolls at Strawberry Hill. But don’t worry; they’re good trolls who love geology and dendrology, the study of trees. The forest is their home, and their stories help us teach kids of all ages about the science and history of the woods.

These trolls, like much of our campus folklore, developed over time during our Wild Strawberries camp days. Our young explorers love finding unfamiliar rocks, leaves, mushrooms, insects, and more. These discoveries come with questions that have real, scientific answers. And some fun answers as well. Over time, our folklore blossomed into what it is today and it’s thanks in part to our Wild Strawberries campers’ questions and enthusiasm for nature.

Wild Strawberries is Strawberry Hill’s summer camp designed to immerse kids in nature while engaging their hearts and minds with hands-on, play-based learning outdoors. It gets kids outside and away from electronics while bolstering their love of adventure. It fosters community connections and affords kids the opportunity to make new friends, usually outside their social circle and school network. Kids share their experiences and learn and grow together while enjoying the great outdoors.

Wild Strawberries runs from Monday through Thursday from 9am-4pm. Each week has a different theme from exploring a watershed to nature science to survival skills. Kicking off the summer season is Outdoor Survivalist from June 23rd - 26th. Create memories that will last a lifetime as you join your friends on the trails. We’ll learn the basics of hiking safety, understanding landmarks, orienteering, fire safety, building shelters, and tackle a survivalist challenge! Outdoor Survivalist is unfortunately sold out but reach out if you’d like to be added to our waitlist.

Week two is Bee Bilingual from July 7th - 10th and this is a week that’s sure to be a hit as we learn how animals and insects communicate. Join us as we discover the hidden “languages” of woodland creatures while adding in nature education in English, Spanish, and Sign Language! We will also learn how different animals sneak through the forest, find food, and water, and spend their days and nights when we’re not watching.

Up next is Nature Scientist which runs from July 14th - 17th. By the middle of July, summer will be in full swing and that means the forest is hopping! Join us as we explore and discover the wide variety of creatures that call our forests home. We’ll participate in community science activities, try nature experiments, and so much more.

Follow that up with Forest Friends from July 21st - 24th and see what secrets the forest holds! Join us for a week of learning how to show kindness to the forest, making nature art,

meeting Strawberry Hill’s animal ambassadors, and creating new memories while adventuring outdoors.

End your summer camp experience with Water, Water, Everywhere! from July 28th - 31st. Grab your water shoes because this week is all about water. We’ll learn how to locate hidden sources of water, water safety while out in the woods, how to prevent pollution, why a healthy watershed is important, and so much more!

Wild Strawberries summer camp is an experience like no other. It offers kids a chance to engage in environmental education without the pressure of tests and grades. It makes learning fun again. It also fosters a natural curiosity that helps children become real-world problem solvers and self-motivated learners. They gain valuable experience in leadership, communication, and decision-making through hands-on activities with peers. And it accomplishes this while allowing children the freedom to be themselves and have a blast with friends. After all, camp should always include games and activities that allow kids to just be kids.

While learning is an important piece of the summer camp experience, imagination is just as important. That’s part of why we use creative storytelling. Because it helps kids to engage in their learning in an enjoyable way while absorbing genuine science in the process. So, when campers ask questions about the quartz they find all around us or want to know more about a new fungus they just found, we have fun answers. Just look at George, our geology troll. He teaches



Strawberry Hill’s Wild Strawberries Summer Camp is designed to immerse kids in nature while engaging their hearts and minds with hands-on, play-based learning outdoors.

us about the uniqueness of our mountain and region. His story encourages kids to pick up rocks, to be fascinated by the world around them. And at the end of the day, who doesn’t love a troll with a hobby of collecting metamorphic rocks?

These stories and experiences at camp bring out the joy of being a kid. And they help foster a better appreciation for our natural world. Being immersed in nature deepens the connection to it. At Wild Strawberries, children explore creeks, forests, make nature art, discover geology, and so much more during their time on campus. We encourage children to ask questions, share their knowledge and ideas, and form emotion-

al connection to our natural world through play and exploration. All while making memories that are sure to last a lifetime.

I would know because my own kids went to camp at Strawberry Hill when they were younger. Summer camp on the hill still holds a special place in their hearts even though they’re grown. It mixes learning with fun and makes a recipe for an unforgettable classic childhood experience for many. Up at Strawberry Hill, the next summer adventure starts in just a few short weeks and we’re so excited for the fun to begin!

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



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Discover our local lunch services!

Celia Alsbaugh
WHS Class of 2028

Each year when summer rolls around, students jump for joy. Excited cries of “school is out for the summer!” resonate through neighborhoods throughout the world. However, some students are left with a troubling question once their school year ends; what will they eat for lunch? Volunteers from all across Walkersville have made it their mission to remedy this conundrum and provide for their community.

The Summer Outreach of Walkersville Area Churches, or SOWAC, holds their Summer Lunch Program every year in Discovery. Christian churches from across Town each spend a week serving free lunches to those who need it. They serve from the Discovery Recreation Center located at 8740 Stauffer Road. Lunch is held from 11:30 to 1 each week Monday through Friday. The first week begins June 16th, and the last ends August 15th. Volunteers, members of the community and organizations all over Walkersville help pitch in to feed those in need.

The woman in charge of this program is Jennifer Goodman. Goodman has been a dedicated volunteer of SOWAC since 2016. This organization has been run-

ning for over twenty years and continues to be helpful to the Walkersville community. Goodman has spent her years volunteering as much time as possible, firmly believing that this is more than just a lunch program. “I believe it’s important for kids to be outside, playing and connecting with others instead of staying indoors,” she states, expressing how serving their neighbors with food is just one part of a much larger organization.

The Summer Lunch Program has had multiple different groups, which are not affiliated with the food at all, come to interact with the children and families who attend each day. In the past they’ve had visits from Keys Coyote, Fountain Rock Park, and even a free face painter that the kids loved. Children are encouraged to play outside while they and their families are at the Discovery Recreation Center, games like giant Connect Four and giant Jenga laid out for the kids’ entertainment.

Currently, SOWAC is looking for volunteers to help serve the lunches. Should anyone be interested in helping make a difference this summer, they are open to any volunteers who would like to assist them! Along with these church volunteers, the rescue mission from Downtown Frederick brings bags of groceries once a week to support Goodman and her volunteers’ mission.

In years prior, this program has had

multiple different methods of outreach. They used to have a location at Creamery Park but due to lack of volunteers, they had to let that station go. Luckily the Walkersville Public Library stepped in to help with their own Summer Lunch Program. This year the dates are the same as in Discovery, only distribution times lie between noon and 1. Lunch is available for children up to ages eighteen, with their meals being provided by generous donations from the Town of Walkersville, Glade Valley Community Services, and the Friends of the Walkersville Library.

The Walkersville Public Library is dedicated to helping children and parents alike discover the magic of books, now that patrons are invited to come inside, grab their lunch, and eat their meals in the Batson Community Room. This immerses them into the library and helps students avoid that “summer slide” of knowledge, and be prepared for when school ultimately starts back up again. The library has successfully served over 4,000 lunches to families around the Town, and this year community volunteers will be used for the first time to set up, distribute, and prepare the lunches. Because of the overwhelming support, this year’s volunteer positions are full!

THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

Weather, under ground

Bill Meredith

"You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows."
—Bob Dylan, 1965

Suppose there may be people somewhere who can keep up with changes on the internet, but I am not one of them. I got a new computer a couple of years ago, and when I turned it on for the first time the screen filled up with icons I had never seen before. It was intimidating, but I finally got up enough nerve to pick one at random and open it, and it presented me with a website called Weather Underground.

It had a selection of weather maps on any scale from international coverage to a group of weather stations less than 10 miles from town, with interactive radar, long-range forecasts, historical records, air quality indexes, and other information I had never thought of. Over the next few months that website became an important source of information for me, because to an ecologist, weather is one of the most important aspects of the environment. But my first reaction to it was that it awakened memories of insecure and threatening times. To those of my generation, the term "Weather Underground" recalls that time from the mid-1960s to the late '70s, when the world as we had known it came apart.

Remembering that time always makes me think of the "Law of Unintended Consequences." That concept has a long and rather vague history. Apparently it was proposed independently in the 17th and 18th centuries by several serious thinkers... John Locke and Adam Smith, among others... who were attempting to caution politicians that laws passed with the best of intentions often produce unanticipated results. Theoretically, these results could be either good or bad, but in practice it seems that "Unintended Consequences" is just another way of re-stating Murphy's Law... anything that can go wrong will, and at the worst possible time.

The case in point began with a song called "Subterranean Homesick Blues," which Bob Dylan wrote in 1965. The second verse ends with these words: "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." I don't remember ever hearing it performed, and I've never felt sure I knew what Dylan was thinking when he wrote it... or any other time, for that matter... but looking at the lyrics now,

50 years later, it seems to be a youthful reaction to the injustice that resulted in the Civil Rights movement, opposition to the Viet Nam war, and the violence that followed.

But it had an unintended consequence. In 1969 the line quoted above was co-opted as a name for a violent protest group who called themselves the "Weathermen," and their movement, "Weather Underground," became a domestic terrorist group whose ultimate goal was to overthrow the U. S. government. The group was involved in bombing several government and civic buildings before it ultimately disbanded in the late 1970s after the Viet Nam war ended.

Perhaps our collective memories of historical events are short, or, perhaps, young people just don't place much value on knowing history. Or, perhaps the individuals who make obscene amounts of money by creating new websites don't bother to think of history. I have to give them credit; they have created an excellent source of information about the weather, and I have come to use it every day. I find its predictions remarkably accurate, and the information it provides helps me understand the environment I live in. I just wish they'd called it something else.

It hasn't always been that way. In my early memories, there was a small box on the front page of the newspaper which presented a weather prediction for the following day, but it was noto-

riously inaccurate. If there was a flood, hurricane or blizzard, articles in the following days would report the damage; and major droughts like those in the days of the Dust Bowl reported. But we could do nothing to anticipate these things, so we went about our lives, one day at a time.

On the farm, there were certain tasks like milking and tending to livestock that had to be done in a daily routine, regardless of the weather. Other things, like gardening and making hay, could only be done when the weather was favorable; long-range planning was usually futile, so we took our chances and lived with the results. Sometimes the hay was cut, cured perfectly in the sun, was stored in haystacks that shed water when it rained, and kept beautifully. Other times, we would mow hay on a fine, sunny day and then have a week of rain, and the whole crop would rot. A lot of praying was involved; sometimes it appeared to help, but other times it seemed that we were being punished for some real or imagined sins.

One of the unintended consequences of the War was that radar, invented for locating enemy ships and aircraft, turned out to be useful in locating storm systems, and made it possible to create weather maps that could be updated regularly. This enabled meteorologists to measure how fast a frontal system was moving, and to predict when it would arrive at a particular city or airport.



Logo for the Weather Underground. Officially known as the Weather Underground Organization, the group's express political goal was to create a revolutionary party to overthrow the United States government, which WUO believed to be imperialist.

Television was developing at about the same time, and soon every TV channel included a weather report in its news programming. Initially these reports featured pretty girls reading the forecasts, or reporters who attracted an audience by goofy antics and puns (remember Willard Scott?), but as graphics evolved and information became more accurate, reliable forecasts drew a following based on merit.

For several years The Weather Channel provided accurate and professionally presented information; I watched it regularly and used it as a source of teaching material as well as for gardening and vacationing. But in recent years its value was diluted by hype for personalities and an emphasis on sensationalism. I now rely on my computer and the Weather Underground website... in spite of the name.

Lately I've been thinking about taking the name literally, and I've come to think that what goes on under

the ground is important. We had an old-fashioned winter; the ground froze to some depth, which usually reduces the populations of pest insects. It also delayed the beginning of plant growth; plants came up later, but then grew faster than I remembered in recent years. Earthworms spent the winter below the frost line, and came up plentifully when it thawed. Frogs and toads are more abundant in my yard and garden than they have been for years. But in spite of our improved predictive power, I've no idea what the future will bring. It's an El Nino year; will the drought in California continue? ... will we have fewer Atlantic hurricanes? ... how will my garden do here? ...will I be able to play golf next Wednesday? Maybe there is something going on under the ground that will determine these things. Or, maybe not.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Last flight of the Bumblebee

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

There has been a lot of buzz in the news lately about bees and other pollinators. It may even come across as alarmist and sensationalistic fear mongering with titles such as, “Bee-pocalypse: The End of The World”. Full disclosure, that wasn’t an actual title I’ve come across, but it might as well be. The truth is that with the sudden and rapid decimation of bee and other pollinator populations we’re in for an uncertain and costly future, and that is alarming.

Pollinators serve a vital and irreplaceable role in our world. The word pollinator immediately conjures up images of bees, specifically honey bees. While bees are an important pollinator they don’t have the market cornered. Other pollinators include bats, birds, beetles, moths, butterflies, and small mammals. Pollination is the process by which pollen from

flowering plants is spread. In a recent report from the USDA it is estimated that, “Pollinators, most often honey bees, are also responsible for one in every three bites of food we take, and increase our nation’s crop values each year by more than 15 billion dollars.” With the sudden inexplicable loss of a significant pollinator we should be alarmed.

For the past decade honey bees have suffering from what is called Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD. CCD, by definition, is a colony with either no adult bees or surrounded by dead bees but with a live queen and may or may not have honey or immature bees. It is still largely not understood and happening in droves.

Beekeepers reportedly lost 42% of their colonies over the last year alone. Even more troubling is much of this loss occurred during the summer months which is unusual. This has become such a systemic problem that it now has the

full weight of the federal government behind it.

Launched in 2014 The White House began a Pollinator Health Task Force. On May 19 this task force unveiled their national strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators. The goal of which is to devote more money to research on pollinators, educate the public on the importance of protecting honeybees and monarch butterflies, reexamine the use of widely used pesticides, change landscaping techniques on federally controlled lands and property, and to restore and develop roughly 7 million acres of pollinator habitat.

Leading the charge on this is the Environmental Protection Agency, which has put a freeze on new uses of a class of chemicals known as neonicotinoids until further research has been done, and the Department of Agriculture. Neonicotinoids are often cited as the culprit behind the staggering losses, but a recent study from the University of Maryland found otherwise.

The study, which was published in March 2015, closely examined the effect of imidacloprid (a type of neonicotinoid pesticide) on honeybees over the course of three years. Interestingly the study found that in real world dosage levels the pesticide did not have a significant impact. Only at levels of at least four times normal dosage did the pesticide have significant impacts. Neonicotinoids ar-



en’t entirely absolved by this study. “Everyone is pointing the finger at these insecticides.

If you pull up a search on the Internet, that’s practically all anyone is talking about...This paper says no, it’s not the sole cause. It contributes, but there is a bigger picture,” said Galen Dively, emeritus professor of entomology at UMD and lead author of the study. According to the researchers, the test colonies for the study were treated well and weren’t subjected to any additional real world stressors, such as multiple pesticides or malnourishment. “It’s a multifactorial issue, with lots of stress factors...Honey bees have a lot of pests and diseases to deal with. Insecticide exposure is one factor among many. It’s not the lone villain,” Dively said.

While the government and universities are diving head first into the problem there is a lot a private citizen can do help the cause too. Selecting certain plants to encourage pollinators will attract and strengthen local species.

Plants like milkweed, ironweed, coneflower, goldenrod, and asters are favorites of pollinators as they provide food and habitat. Providing nesting sites by planting these plants will encourage population growth, but you can also include bee nesting blocks. Nesting blocks can be purchased or made by bundling hollow stems (usually bamboo) horizontally together.

Of course, as the study and EPA, have indicated pesticides are a contributing factor. Avoid using them, when and if you can, as they can still have an impact days after application. You can encourage predatory insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals by planting specific types of native plants. The University of Maryland has a great resource for Integrated Pest Management control available online.

What is clear from the information we currently have is that nothing is immediately clear. With time and a cautious approach we can hopefully reverse the downward spiral. While more research into the issue is underway there are meaningful avenues we can take to mitigate losses. Native pollinators contribute billions to the economy and ecosystem and are too significant to idly let them vanish. Human intervention is likely required to tackle a human caused problem, and an all hands on deck approach is important to protect and encourage these species. By being proactive, being responsible, and being stewards we’ll be okay.

To read past articles by Tim Iverson, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Ad nauseum: how rigged science sells pills

Boyce Rensberger

If you watch television a lot, you’ve seen ads for products that claim to improve your memory, especially a pill called Prevagen. Do you remember the commercial that began with the words, “Your brain is an amazing thing”? It went on to say the product containing an ingredient found in, surprise, jellyfish. There was a pretty video of jellyfish waving their tentacles rhythmically.

The announcer called it a “breakthrough” that “actually improves memory.”

That sounded pretty interesting to me. At my advancing age lapses in memory are increasingly common. And it was not lost on me that the word Prevagen sounds like “prevent aging.” (Oh, the marvels of ad agency creativity!)

To support its claim, the commercial said the product had been tested in clinical trials. Sounds good. That’s something that savvy consumers want to know. The commercial featured a sciency-looking bar chart showing that after 90 days Prevagen boosted short term memory by between 15 and 20 percent.

I never bought the stuff, because I am a skeptic about almost all advertising claims, but lately I have noticed that Prevagen commercials have dropped the amazing-brain and jellyfish business and now offer simple personal testimonials that sound like ordinary people in a calm conversation. For example, the announcer says, “David takes Prevagen for his brain, and this is his story.” Then David comes on and tells how he thinks his brain is better. No health or medical claims; just regular folks who say it works for them.

What happened to the jellyfish and the bar chart? A Federal court made them stop. The Federal Trade Commission, along with the New York State Attorney General, had sued the manufacturer, Quincy Bioscience, alleging fraudulent advertising. That was

seven years ago. But only last winter did the court issue its ruling.

The company didn’t have to take Prevagen off the market; it just had to stop claiming there was scientific evidence that it worked.

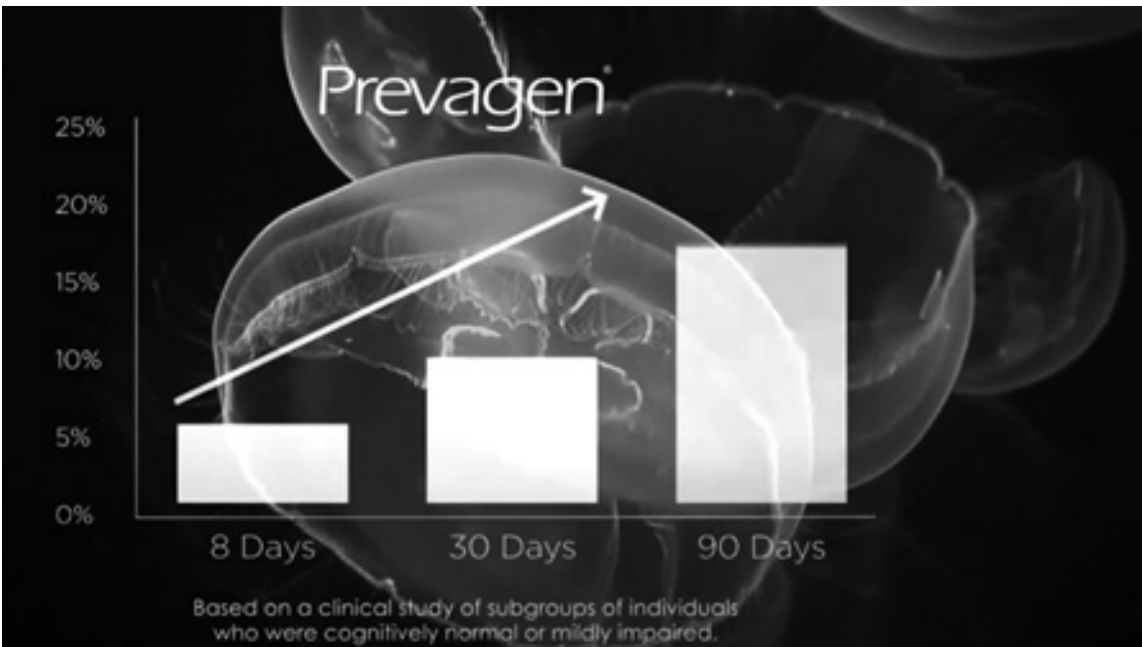
There was a clinical trial, all right, but when the manufacturer was forced to show the court what happened in the one trial, it turned out that the company had manipulated the results, over-counting people who seemed to improve and under-counting people who didn’t improve or, who, in fact, got worse.

You’re not supposed to do that in real science. Drug companies are famous for manipulating the design of clinical trials or the findings or both. Sometimes it’s as simple as spotting patients in the study whose results look very bad and saying this just can’t be right, so we won’t count those people.

I know this because a friend of mine who used to be a good medical journalist switched careers and began helping drug companies tailor their research reports and their press releases to make their pills look better. He’s not proud of this turn in his career, but it did let him put two kids through college at the same time.

Just last December, after seven years of litigation, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York ordered Quincy Bioscience to stop making false claims about Prevagen’s effectiveness.

The director of FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection issued this statement: “Following seven years of hard-fought litigation, including a jury trial, we are pleased that the Court has ordered Quincy Bioscience to cease making claims about Prevagen that mislead Americans concerned about memory loss. Companies should take note and remember that health claims need to be backed up by reliable scientific evidence.”



One of the fraudulent claims banned from TV.

Although Prevagen is still heavily advertised on TV, gone are claims of evidence. Now what we get are those testimonials from “real people.” It’s not clear whether the people on camera really take Prevagen or are merely actors saying so. Having spent a small part of my career making TV shows, I know how hard it is to get people to look and speak “naturally” on camera. It takes scripting or at least prompting, repeated takes and clever editing.

Prevagen is not alone in claiming or suggesting that their product improves memory. There are also pills such as Neuriva, RediMind, Dynamic Brain, and Focus Factor. Sadly, they don’t have the ingredient found in jellyfish. Instead, they have various combinations of vitamins, minerals, herbs, and other substances that can all be sold legally as dietary supplements. The brain health supplement market was estimated at \$7.6 billion in 2021 and predicted to increase to more than \$15 billion by 2030.

You may be surprised to know that there is no government regulation of “supplements,” not even before Trump. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (F.D.A.)

does not have the authority to evaluate dietary supplements for safety, effectiveness, or labeling. If the company doesn’t make any health claims, the F.D.A. can do nothing. Prevagen got nailed because it said there was real clinical evidence of memory improvement.

Marketers know that the number of older Americans is growing and also their worries about memory. Growing right along is the number of oldsters with a weak grasp of what constitutes evidence.

Testimonials, as Prevagen is now offering, are not evidence. Remember the placebo effect: if you think it’s going to work, you are likely to feel that it *is* working, especially if you paid good money for it. To be sure, a sense of confidence may well perk up your brain and make it perform better than usual. There do appear to be natural mechanisms in our bodies that can be boosted by faith in some person or pill.

Real evidence would be something called a randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial. I’ve discussed these in an earlier column. People are randomly assigned to a group that will get the pill or to the placebo group which will get a

dummy pill. The subjects are said to be “blind” as to which group they are in. An even better version of clinical trial is “double blind,” meaning that even the scientists, especially those evaluating each person don’t know which is which. They evaluated results strictly on objective measures.

In a double-blind trial, a monitor or nowadays a computer randomly assigns each subject a code number and a group. Once the trial is finished, the code is broken, and researchers can see who got what.

In the Prevagen trial there was one more bit of evidence. The jury learned that the main ingredient—the stuff from jellyfish—is rapidly digested in the stomach and that very little reaches the bloodstream.

Boyce Rensberger retired to Frederick County after some 40 years as a science writer and editor, primarily at The Washington Post and The New York Times. He welcomes feedback at boycerensberger@gmail.com.

To read other articles by Boyce Rensberger, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

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TLC for the summer lawn

Maritta Perry Grau,
Frederick County Master Gardener

Whether or not you adhered to the “No Mow May,” helping to protect pollinator late-comers just a little longer (see Debbie Boots’ letter to the editor, “This month, avoid mowing your lawn,” Frederick News-Post, in early May), here are a few suggestions for watering and mowing your lawn during the hot and humid summer months.

About that lawn

When we plant lawns, we tend to plant mono-turfs—all one type of grass, obliterating clover or other plants. However, a mono-turf is more susceptible to disease and attracts fewer pollinators than a mix of grass species and other plants, which are better able to resist disease and to provide food and shelter for those pollinators. The pollinators spread pollen as they feed on our flowers, vegetables, and other plants, thus increasing plant yield. Studies have shown that even

plants that self-pollinate, such as tomatoes, egg plants, green beans, chili peppers, etc., give a better yield when pollinators visit.

I hear you. You need lawn space for the dogs to romp and for the kids or grandkids to play. But take a look around. Are there places where you have little-used lawn, maybe even a hard-to-mow area? Could it be replaced with a garden or even just green, no-mow groundcover? Most gardening experts do recommend less lawn, rather than more, as a way of encouraging pollinators, especially during this time of climate change and the changing migratory patterns of some birds and insects. Whether a postage stamp-sized lawn or much more, we tend to do just three things, almost on auto-pilot: we fertilize the lawn in the spring and early fall, mow it once or twice a week, and water it when it looks dry.

About fertilizing

With fertilizing, try to select a fertilizer that won’t kill the other species of grasses in the lawn. If possible, consider using organic

fertilizers. Remember, too, Maryland law forbids lawn fertilizing between November 15 and March 1, to help prevent stormwater run-off into our streams and rivers and subsequent pollution of the Bay.

About mowing

Keeping mown grass height to about 3–4 inches (well, after May, anyway) helps “maintain deeper roots and shading of the soil to enhance weed control. Leave the clippings” for extra nourishment, “and never remove more than one-third of the leaf surface at each mowing,” says Dan Felice, Frederick County Master Gardener and professional landscaper.

As part of that mowing, remember to give your lawn mower its own spring cleaning. Well-tuned engines are more efficient and emit less pollution. Keep blades sharp, so they will cut the grass cleanly, again helping make the lawn less susceptible to disease.

About watering

With summer almost upon us, that third autopilot task—watering the lawn—is really important. Water is a limited resource. Despite the late winter snowfalls and more recent rains, the Maryland Department of the Environment as of May 5 still declared 52 percent of Maryland as under a drought watch, “with areas of central and western Maryland most impacted....a third less precipitation than normal” (Maryland.gov). In addition, the May 1, 2025, Potomac News Reservoir newsletter noted that “the Potomac River basin has received only 12 inches of rain, which is below average, although 2–5 inches of rain was expected during the first week of May.” The editor also not-



Replacing your lawn with wildflowers not only relieves you of weekly mowing, but will provide you hours of enjoyment as you watch the bees and butterflies you attract!

ed that 57 percent of the Potomac River basin area is still in a moderate drought and 30 percent in a severe drought (potomacrivier.org). Hopefully, by the time you are reading this column, those figures will have changed for the better.

Although almost all plants need regular watering for the first year they’re planted, native plants generally need less water, less tending, and conserve water better than do many ornamental, nonnative plants. Many landscape plants do not need much water beyond natural rainfall once they are established. Putting less water on your landscape plants has both environmental and financial benefits: It reduces run-off that contributes to pollution of our waterways, as previously mentioned, and it saves money if you pay for water (i.e., you aren’t on a well).

We rarely need to water a well-established lawn. One caveat: A newly seeded/sodded lawn should be watered regularly until it has taken root and is regularly sending up shoots of grass, according to the University of Maryland Extension Service. Also, cool season grasses like tall fescue and bluegrasses are recommended for our area. Tall fescue has a wider blade and much deeper roots (up to 15 inches) and is more drought-resistant; bluegrasses are slightly softer underfoot, and their roots only go down to about six inches; they tend to be thin and patchy in the shade. Both species naturally go into a semi-dormant state during summer’s heat and drought. This is a survival mechanism. The lawn usually recovers after a good rainfall.

So, when should you water the lawn? You can check to see if water is needed through several ways. First, if your grass has gone into that dormant state, you’ll probably see a slight change in color. Second, when you walk across the lawn, you’ll probably leave visible footprints, as the grass doesn’t spring back up right away. Thirdly, and probably most importantly, you should test for moisture in the soil below the grass—dig down about six inches and check to see if the soil is dry that far down. If



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The Little Red Wagon

Marianne Willburn is the co-host of The Garden Mixer Podcast and a contributing editor at GardenRant.com. She gardens in Lovettsville, VA.

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PETS

Mama cats

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

I witnessed a phenomenon this week at the shelter that was just so amazing, I had to share.

We are basically in what is called kitten season. That is the time of year when shelters get a whole lot of kittens coming in the doors. Adult cats are out sowing their wild oats and they bring us the results.

It basically means we are over-run with kittens.

We have some kittens who come in without a mother and others who come in with a mother.

Recently, we had some really little kittens come into the shelter without their mama and we tried to bottle feed them. One of them wasn't doing too well on the bottle and we knew we needed a feline to help.

Well, we have one mother who is feeding two kittens right now and we named her Mama. What can I say? Some days we're not all that original.

We figured we would see if she might like a third baby.

Keep in mind, this is a kitten who isn't hers and isn't even the same age as her babies.

We knew it was a long shot and we might need to have another plan, but we crossed our fingers and introduced her to the kitten.

I have to tell you, it absolutely choked me up to watch this mama cat seem a little confused at first,

but eventually take the baby into her litter. I'm not joking. She was feeding the baby just like he or she was her own.

I say he or she because sometimes it's tough to tell whether really little kittens are male or female. We occasionally have to wait until they are older to be certain.

I feel for the mama cats at the shelter, actually. They always look so tired and they have this expression on their faces that seems to say, "Can you get me away from these hooligans?"

Despite the exhaustion, they are always there for their kittens.

Over the years, I've seen some really amazing mama cats at the shelter in terms of caring for their babies.

Mama is definitely one of those. She's not only feeding for her own offspring, but someone else's.

Animals really are incredibly amazing. I remember a few years ago I saw a show, I think it was on Animal Planet, about a snake, a mouse and a bird who all lived together in the same terrarium. They were natural prey and predator, and yet they coexisted quite happily.

It reminded me a little of the animated movie Zootopia, but that's a subject for another column.

Sometimes I think the only place you can truly find something like that is in the animal world.

We can learn so many lessons from our four-legged friends.

Mama definitely taught me that families can be blood, but they can also be made. Heck, I know

some human families who don't speak to one another for one reason or another and here is a cat not only nursing her own kittens, but another one as well.

Some days at the shelter can be incredibly tough. We struggle sometimes when we hear the bad stories about animals being abused and neglected.

But then there are the days when a mama cat helps a random kitten and we're reminded why we do this job.

It's not all bad.

And sometimes the good actually reminds us what it is to be human.

Thank you, Mama, for being a true source of unconditional love for all creatures. You've done more us lowly humans than you will ever really know.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Public Relations Coordinator 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.

The Cumberland Valley Animal 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.



Babs came into the shelter a stray, so we don't have a lot of information about her, but this is one nice brown and white tabby girl. She's about 3 years old and loves a good snuggle. Could you be her snuggle companion for life?



Sprite came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't have a lot of information about her. She is a 4-year-old grey girl who is sweet, but can be on the shy side. She would do best in a home that is on the calm side. Could you help Sprite out?



Harley is a sweet, laid-back girl that loves to go on walks! She is around 6 years old and came into the shelter as a stray. She was a little chunky for a stray and had some hair loss along her sides that didn't seem to grow back. Bloodwork discovered that Harley was hypothyroid. She is now on a thyroid medication (that is relatively cheap) and will need to be on it for the rest of her life.



Lars is 2-year-old terrier mix who came into the shelter as a stray. He's a real sweet guy that loves to go in the play yard and play! Lars will need someone that can provide him with regular exercise and loving! He does have a high chase drive, so a home without cats or small animals may be best for Lars. Lars may be too much for small children. He would love to find out what a loving forever home is all about soon!



Lou was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He is a 3-year-old Terrier mix who is a BIG boy—he weighs 74 pounds. He loves people too! Lou can be a little rough with jumping up when excited, so he'll need someone to work with him on this. Per his previous owner, Lou may be too much for small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Please discuss this with the shelter staff. Also, per his previous owner, Lou should not go to a home with cats as he chases them and will not leave them alone. Lou would love to find his second chance at a loving forever home soon!

For more information about Babs, Sprite, Harley, Lars, or Lou, call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, visit them online at www.cvaspets.org, or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter!



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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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


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

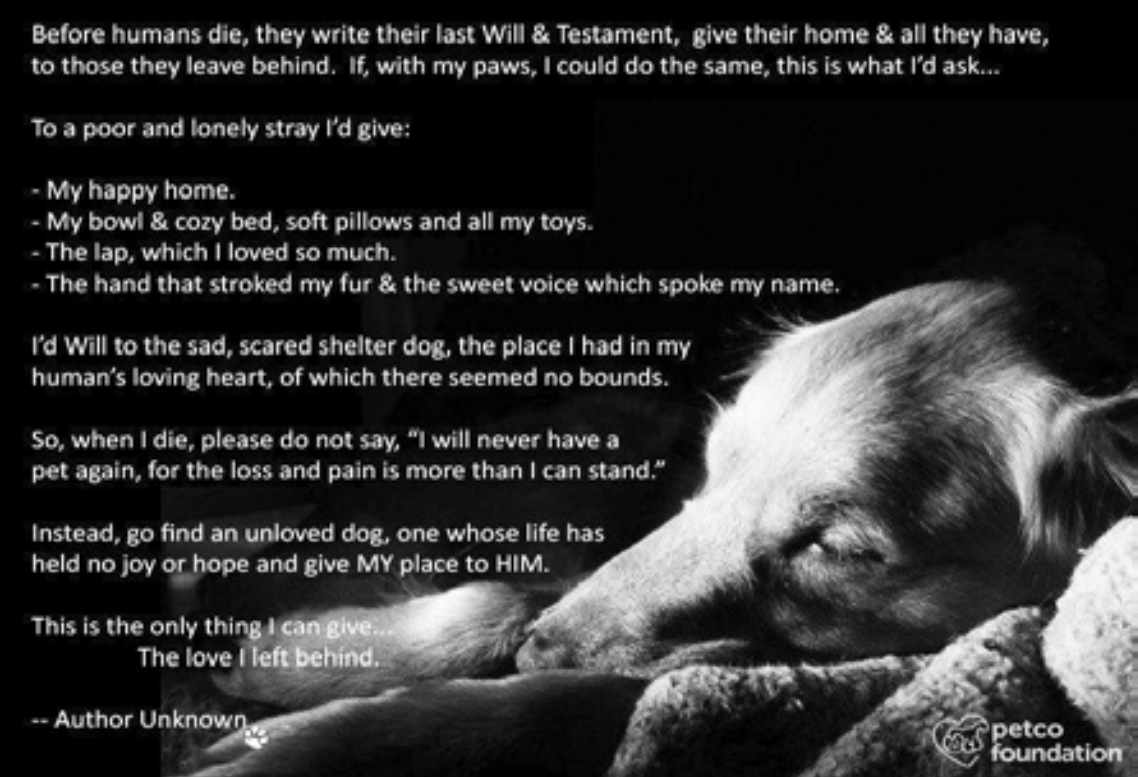
Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope and give MY place to HIM.

This is the only thing I can give...

The love I left behind.

-- Author Unknown





Pet ownership is a big commitment

Shawn Snyder
Frederick County Animal Control
& Pet Adoption Center

It's no secret that pet ownership is a big commitment, but what may be a less well-known fact is that Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center is just as committed to our residents as we are to our personal pets. Our former longest resident, the recently adopted Evan, is a great example of this commitment.

When the pit bull mix first arrived at FCAC in March of 2023, it was evident that he was feeling a bit of FAS (Fear, Anxiety, and Stress) and struggled to settle in. Staff tried different strategies to make him feel more comfortable. Things like covering his kennel, playing relaxing music and moving him to kennels in quieter areas with less foot traffic. The stray dog was here for nearly a month before he was processed for adoption because our facility is committed to giving each animal in our care the opportunity to acclimate to the stressful shelter environment and show us who they truly are. We are also committed to doing everything we possibly can to help them through that process.

Once he was processed for adoption and officially became Evan, we noticed that he loved his toys a little more than

the rest of the dogs and was doing a bit of low-level resource guarding. We began giving him frequent, supervised playtime with his stuffies to make them less valuable and when an opportunity for Evan to go to training to work specifically on this issue presented itself, we jumped at it. Protocols were implemented like "I Come in Peace" and "Trade." We continued to do maintenance training throughout the shelter dog's long stay with us. Today, Evan is a recovering resource guarder because we as a facility are committed to providing our animals with training basics and behavior modification when we see a need including seeking outside help from our community partners.

During our Home for the Holidays event in December of 2023, Evan was placed in a foster home. Shortly after, they decide to make it official and adopt. Sadly, in February of 2024 the family realized that maybe Evan wasn't the best fit for them after all. While we were all saddened by the fact that this wasn't his forever family, we happily took Evan back into the FCAC family because once an animal comes through our facility we are committed to them for life. If at any time they can no longer stay with their adoptive families and those same families cannot appropriately rehome the pet themselves,

they are welcome to be returned to us, in fact, we request it. It's in our contract.

In June of 2024, Evan started acting a little off. Turned out the toy-crazed goof-ball ate four squeakers. FCAC's medical team sprung into action. They induced vomiting, got X-Rays and when it became necessary, performed surgery. He stayed overnight at a local vet and then recovered in offices and foster care for the following couple of weeks. This facility is committed to providing the best medical care possible to our residents and we can do this in part because so many others are also committed to us. Without our contract vets, the community of local veterinary clinics, and of course, FFOCAS, who are equally committed, these lifesaving procedures would not be possible.

Finally, in May of 2025, more than two years after he first became a part of our family, Evan was finally adopted by his forever family.

While Evan may be the most recent example of Frederick County Animal Control's commitment to our residents, he is certainly not alone or special in this area. If you want to know more about our commitment, just ask us. We'll be happy to gush over all the animals we've loved and cared for over the years and those still residing with us until they find forever homes of their own.



Astro is a handsome, two-year-old, Siamese cat. Unfortunately, Astro's previous owner became sick and was no longer able to care for him. His profile indicates he is energetic, independent and has shared his home with other cats. At the shelter, Astro is outgoing, friendly and like a lot of Siamese cats, he can hold up his end of a conversation.



At ninety-plus pounds, Maise is currently one of the largest dogs available for adoption. She arrived at the shelter through no fault of her own, but rather her family was moving and could not take her along. She shared her previous home with children, and according to her owner, she enjoys the company of other dogs. Maisie can be shy when meeting new people, but giving her treats wins her over quickly.



Rosie is a real sweetheart. She is friendly, loves to be pet and enjoys the company of other dogs. Rosie has attended a few off-site shelter events and enjoyed meeting so many new people! Her previous owner told us she is a three-year-old Rottweiler/Belgium Malinois mix. Unfortunately, she was relinquished to the shelter because her owner's housing situation changed and her could no longer keep her.



If you visit the shelter's cat adoption room you will likely find Leo at the front of his cage, politely asking for a pet from anyone that passes by. Unlike some new arrivals, Leo is not afraid of new people or his current living arrangement. His laid-back personality will make him a great fit for families with kids of any age or, with careful introduction, other pets.



Pumpkin needs your help! Currently, she weighs twenty-three pounds and needs to lose approximately nine pounds to reach a healthy weight. At only three years old, she is still playful and really enjoys wand toys. At the shelter, Pumpkin lives in one of the shelter's free roam rooms to encourage exercise and movement. She is reserved when meeting new people but once you gain her trust, she enjoys head scratches and chin rubs.



Milo is a one-year-old Pitbull Terrier mix with a beautiful blue coat. Like most young dogs, Milo is full of energy. He enjoys going for walks but would really benefit from off-leash play time. Staff has been working with Milo and overall, they have seen an improvement in his manners. He seems to like everyone he meets and is very affectionate. Milo hopes to find a home that will continue his training and provide him daily exercise.

For more information about Maise, Rosie, Astro, Leo, Pumpkin, or Milo call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter!

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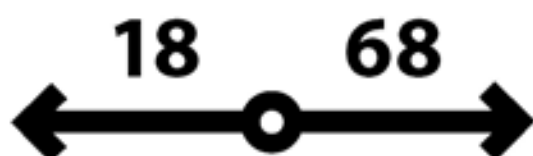
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Average age is 27



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36%

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– Dr. Annesa Payne Cheek, FCC President

View a list of graduates and their credentials: frederick.edu/graduates



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Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

SECTION 2

Meet your staff: Devin and Gracie!

The Emmitsburg News-Journal and Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal would not be where they are today without the help of Managing Editor Devin Owen and Staff Writer Gracie Smith. In honor of celebrating the Mount and local communities, you will be getting to know a bit about each writer, including their backgrounds, time at the Mount, and why they write for the News-Journals! Enjoy this feature about your dedicated, ambitious staff, and learn all about why they do what they do!

Managing Editor, Devin Owen

Devin Owen, a current junior at the Mount, was born and raised in Southern Delaware, spending any and all time she had at the beach. Growing up in a town where everyone knew everyone, Devin admits that her town shaped who she is today. "I find peace listening to the waves crash, and I've found that being from a small town makes me more sociable with adults."

After high school graduation, Devin decided to trade the beach for the mountains. "I had a friend...who committed [at the Mount]," says Devin. "He had sent me a message saying how much I would like it here—it's a beautiful campus in a small town. I ended up keeping his words in mind when applying to schools, and after my tour here in March of my senior year, I ended up committing!" Much like her hometown, the Mount boasts that small-town feel that Devin craves. Devin was attracted to the Mount's atmosphere, natural beauty, and the Liberal Arts college, where she would pursue a degree in English.

As an English major and Communication minor, Devin hopes to work in a writing-related job. Other than the News-Journals, Devin is part of the Mount Honors Program and works part-time as a waitress.

Devin discovered the *Emmitsburg News-Journal* her freshman year at the Mount—and for that we are so thankful! Interviewed by former Managing Editor McKenna Snow, Devin earned a position as a Feature Writer—a writer who ventures around the community, conducting interviews and research for exciting stories. "The first story I actually wrote was a feature on the Farmers Market in town. It never got run in the paper, but it was the first interview I did, the first article I wrote, and the

first time I got to really do it all on my own." Devin admits that while feature writing was initially challenging, the job prepared her for being a Four Years at the Mount (FYATM) writer, which she finds much more enjoyable.

Devin's current role in the News-Journal is Managing Editor. This job includes meeting with Editor Michael Hillman on articles, organizing staff meetings, compiling and completing edits, and even mentoring a local high school writer. Simply put, she is a superstar.

For Devin, working with the News-Journals has been a wonderful experience. "I have refined my writing skills and gained real-world experience," she says. "Not to mention, I have made myself part of the Emmitsburg community. It has helped make this town feel like a home to me." In her free time, Devin enjoys reading and writing (not just ENJ articles, but also poetry, songs, and pieces about home) as well as spending time with family and friends. And, as anyone who grew up hearing the ocean waves, Devin loves the beach. "Being there brings me an absolute complete sense of peace. It's my favorite place."

Gracie Smith, Staff Writer

Gracie, a sophomore at the Mount, is an equally impressive writer and staff member. From Hanover, Pennsylvania, Gracie adores the fact that her hometown is unique and reputable. "That is to say, we have the Utz Potato Chip Factory, Snyder's Pretzels, Hanover Food, Clarks Shoes, and now even Campbell's Soup," she says. Gracie's hometown—the Snack Capital of the World—is not far from the Mount, making it an easy trip home for whenever she craves some salt and vinegar chips.

Gracie decided to go to the Mount because of its small campus size, low student-to-teacher ratio, and its strong faith identity. Although the first few days on campus were overwhelming, Gracie has adjusted wonderfully. "It was very easy to find my way around and identify my resources. To this day, I have no regrets as to my college choice."

A double major in History and English with a minor in Spanish, Gracie dreams of being a Historian and writing historical works about military history and war, hoping to one day publish a novel about a historical event or figure.

While studying for two degrees, Gracie enjoys the writing-heavy assignments from her professor, noting the significance of writing a lot and writing well.

Other than the News-Journals, Gracie works at Walmart as a Pharmacy Technician in-training, where she enjoys working with "brilliant minds" that are "engrossed with mathematics"—a change of scenery from Gracie's history-and-English brain. Gracie also just recently took the Licensed Gettysburg Battlefield Guide Exam, testing her knowledge on a battle she's been studying since the eighth grade. "I often find myself reading and collecting history books to read in my free time when I'm not working," Gracie says.

Her first year at the Mount, Gracie received an email advertising a freshman writing position for the *Emmitsburg News-Journal*. Intrigued and excited, Gracie applied, eager to meet like-minded writers. After being interviewed by yours truly, Gracie became the new FYATM writer!

"I love being part of our small newspaper staff," Gracie says. "If there is one thing I've learned from writing for this paper, it's how significant your work is." Gracie notes how there is so much time, work, and effort put into each edition—and how this is significant



Junior Devin Owen assumed the role of Managing Editor in November with Sophomore Gracie taking over her previous role as Assistant Editor. This was the first time underclassmen have taken over the reins of the paper. We would like to think they have done a great job, and now that they are seasoned veterans, will have a bang-up year next year!

to the staff's close attention to detail. In addition to FYATM pieces, Gracie will also write feature articles. She also assists Devin in editing articles and managing the paper's layout.

"The ENJ has helped me connect with Emmitsburg in a way that I otherwise wouldn't have," adds Gracie. "I have met amazing people in the community and learned so much about the importance of staying connected, and that's what this paper does." Gracie

values her role within the News-Journals as well as the communication and writing skills she has gained. In her free time, Gracie loves to read nonfiction books and occasionally play some fun, simple video games.

To read any articles by Devin or Gracie, visit Walkersville.net. Take the time to read their fabulous writing, and if you ever see them around the community, be sure to say hi!

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HISTORY

Williams History of Frederick County

Continued from last month

John Smith

John Smith, a leading citizen and a prominent farmer of the Woodsboro District, is the owner of Chester Hill Farm, containing 100 acres, which was the original family estate, and is located 1 mile west of the town at Woodsboro. The present home was built by Mr. Smith about 17 years ago, and the barn was erected about 1859 by his father. Mr. Smith was born March 4, 1837, on his father's farm near Woodsboro. He is the eldest child of John and Elizabeth Smith.

John Smith Sr. was a farmer boy, and followed agriculture in after years. He was also engaged in lime burning at Woodsboro, and for many years was Justice of the Piece. He served in the second war with Great Britain, 1812 to 1815. Mr. Smith was married twice. His second wife was Elizabeth Frock. They were both members of the German Reformed Church. Mr. Smith was all his life a Democrat. He died on

his farm near Woodsboro.

John Smith Jr. attended the county schools until he was 18 years old, although he went but a short time each year. He was a great lover of horses, and was kept at home to drive teams. He worked on his father's farm and his line killed until he was 22 years old. He was then married, and located on the farm, which he now owns in occupies in the Woodsboro District, about that time possessed by his father. He has spent all the intervening years to the present time on this estate,save seven years past on his brothers farm.

As an agriculturalist, Mr. Smith has achieved success, and is in comfortable circumstances. He is good natured, and jovial, and is highly esteemed in honor in his community. He is of high character. In politics, Mr. Smith is a staunch Democrat. He holds membership in Lutheran Church at Woodsboro, where he is acted as a deacon.

Mr. Smith was married at Woodsboro, in 1859 to Mary Jane Gilbert, daughter of Michael and

Margaret Gilbert. She is also a Lutheran in religion.

Allen G. Fisher

Alan Fisher, one of the representatives and energetic agriculturalist of the Creagerstown District, was born on his father's farm in that District, February 19, 1864. He is a son of John M. and Mary E. Fisher.

The first of the Fisher family to come to this country was Thomas Fisher. He was a native of Germany, and when a young man immigrated to America, settling in Adams County, Pennsylvania. He later brought a farm, and was engaged in agricultural until his death. In his day, he was well known. His wife was Catherine Mitten. They were the parents of eight children.

Isaac Fisher, son of Thomas and Catherine Fisher, was a twin. His birth occurred in Adams County, in 1799. He was given such an education as was available in those days, and then later life followed farming in his native county. Upon his marriage, he set out on his own account, and began farming on what was known as the Fleming Farm. Here he remained for 10 years, at the end

of what he removed to his father's farm, where he located for 12 years. Mr. Fisher then acquired by purchase a farm of 175 acres of excellent land, which was partially in Adams in partially in Frederick County line on the Frederick and Littlestown Road. He bought the 70 acres track adjoining, on which he began to live. This farm, he divided into two tracks, erecting a new set of buildings on one and improving the original houses. He was also the possessor of a farm now owned by his son, John M. He died on his farm in 1875, and was laid to rest in the Lutheran cemetery in Emmitsburg. In his political affairs, Mr. Fisher was a Democrat. He was a Lutheran in his religious conviction and was a member of the Emmitsburg congregation. Mr. Fisher was married to Mary Rowe, daughter, of Daniel Rowe, who was a prominent farmer of the Emmetsburg District. She died in 1869. They were the parents of 13 children.

John M. Fisher, son of Isaac and Mary Fisher, is one of the old and most highly esteemed citizens of the Creagerstown District, passed his active years in rural occupations. He was born in Adams County, near the Maryland line,

November 27, 1827. He attended the common schools and followed farming until 1891, when he gave up active work. He helped his father until he reached the age of 26, when he began the cultivation of his present farm, then owned by the elder Fisher. For four years, he was successful in the management of the place, and then brought it. This farm lies 1 mile north of Creagerstown, on the road from that place to Lloyd Station. This track Mr. Fisher greatly improved by the erection of two-story brick house, a bank barn, and necessary, out-buildings, making it one of the finest farms of that District. He also owned the adjoining farms, now, in the possession of his son Allen. Mr. Fisher is one of the oldest resident of the Creagerstown District and universally esteemed for his excellent character.

Mr. Fisher takes allegiance with the Democratic Party in politics. He is a developed member and leading spirit in St. John's Lutheran Church of Creagerstown. He has served in official capacities, having acted his deacon, and is at present and elder. he was also a member of the building committee that erected the church edifice at Krieger town. Mr. Fisher was twice Mary. His first wife was Mary Valentine, daughter, of Samuel Valentine, by this union there were five children, all of whom grew to maturity. Mrs. Fisher died in 1897, and was in intern at St. John cemetery at Creagerstown. Two years later, Mr. Fisher was married to Anna Eyler, daughter, of Charles, and Sarah Eyler, of the Creagerstown District. There is no issue by this marriage.

Alan Fisher, son of John and Mary Fisher, received a public school education. He lived at home until he began for me for himself. He purchased one of his father's farm, containing 127 acres of excellent land, situated about a mile and a quarter north west of Creagerstown, on the road to Graceham. Here he removed and has sensory Maine. He also cultivates the farm of us, father adjoining. Mr. Fisher is a hustler and has made much success for me. He has devoted much time to the improvement of his property, and it shows the effects of his labor. He is well known in the Creagerstown District and is a prominent citizen there.



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HISTORY

Mr. Fisher uses his right of franchise in favor of the candidates of the Democratic Party. He is a member of Reno council, number 48, Junior order United American mechanics. In religious affairs, he holds a membership in St. John's evangelical, Lutheran Church of Creagerstown, in which he has for a number of years filled the office of Deacon.

In 1886, Mr. Fisher was married to Cora Miller, daughter of Miller, prominent residence of the Creagerstown District. Mrs. Fisher is a Lutheran, by this marriage they have two daughters, twins, namely, Nelly and Mary.

Joseph M. Koons

Joseph Koons is the owner of the old home farm in the Johnsville District where he now resides. He was born on this place June 1, 1869. He attended the Good Intent school. At the age of 18 years, he had completed his education. He began life as a clerk for his brother, Robert, at Middleburg, remaining there for two years. He then traveled to the west for five years in commercial lights. He returned home and engaged in farming on the homeplace, 'Donaldson's Range'. He purchased the Homestead of 173 acres after the death of his brother, Edward.

Mr. Koons was married February 1, 1906, to Mrs. Emma, Koons widow of his brother Edward, and daughter of Edward and Julia Barrett. She was born at Utica Mills. She was married November 25, 1890 to Edward Kunz, who died November 5, 1900, by whom she had five children. By the second marriage, there is no issue. Mr. and Mrs. Kunz are members of the hall Lutheran Church. He is an ardent, Republican.

John father, John A Koons taught school for two or three years, previous his marriage. He was early, interested in politics, and was elected a member of the House of Representatives in the Maryland legislature, in 1857. He was again elected in 1873 in an 1875. In his first term, he served as a Whig, and the last two as a Republican. He had among his fellow legislators the title of 'Fox Mountain Orator.

In religious matters, the Koons family show considerable variation. The different members are divided among the Evangelical Lutheran, the German Reformed, and the Methodist Episcopal communions, but nearly all our members of some Christian church, and all are living in Cherry hope of a great home gathering in a life where we will never grow old.

Peter D. Koons

Peter Koons, who conducts a warehouse at Detour, was born at the family farm in Johnsville District, May 18, 1860. He is the eldest son, and third child of John and Georgiana Koons.

Mr. Koons acquired as learning at the Good Intent public school, in the Johnsville District, under Jesse Fox and Minnie Seabrook, under whom he finished to studies at the age of 20.

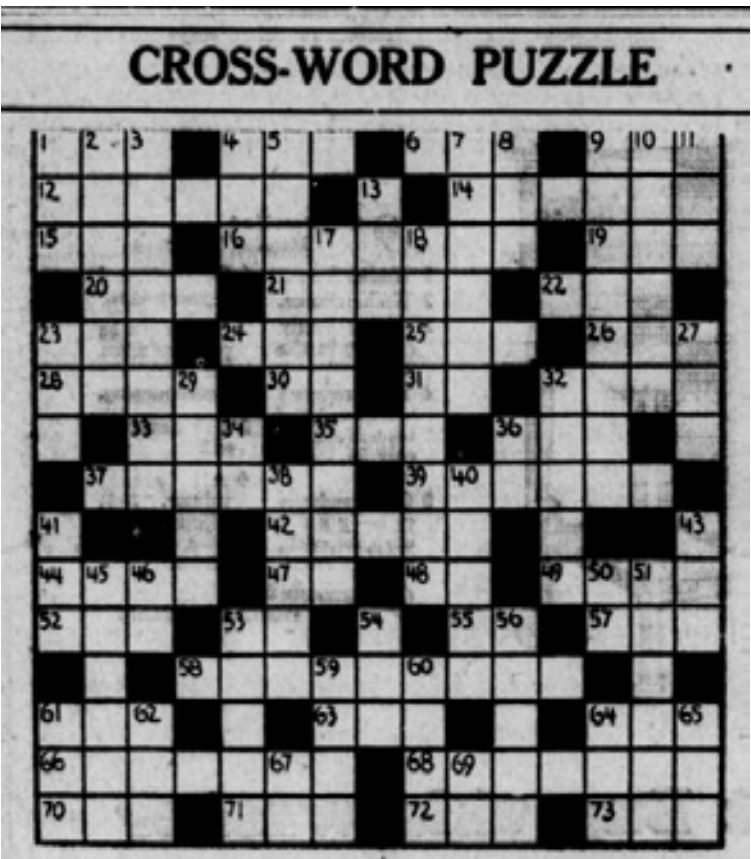
Until 1886 he was in the employee of his father on the homeplace. At the time of his marriage, he lived for eight years on one of his father's Farms in the Johnsville District. He then removed to Ladiesburg and engaged in canning fruits and vegetables for two years. Mr. Koons then purchased the A. D. Birely farm of 125 acres in the Woodsboro District, which he operated for 10 years. He then disposed of this property and went to Detour. Here he embarked in the warehouse business, and which he is still interested. He is an enterprising businessman, and all his transactions are marked by the strictest integrity.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Koons is a Republican. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and hold membership in the reform church at Ladiesburg, and as acted as an elder for 20 years.

Mr. Koons was married January 7, 1886 to Alice Birely, daughter, of A. D Birely of Ladiesburg. By this matters, they had three children.

James Alfred Koons, a younger brother of Peter Koons, is a rural delivery mail carrier. On route number two, leading out of York Road and Ladiesburg. He resides at Good Intent, in the Johnsville District, where he has a farm of 45 acres. He was born on the home place, September 15, 1867. He also studied at the Good Intent school. During vacation he helps his father. He began to learn the Miller trade, but did not serve his apprenticeship. He then spent two years in the west, and trailed sheep in the Rocky Mountains of Nevada, and along the old California Trail, at times suffering, much hardship. At the end of two years, he returned to Maryland, and clerk in the store of his brother, Robert, in Middleburg. He was married May 28, 1890, to Lily Smith, of Ladiesburg, who is the daughter of John and Ida Smith. For six years Mr. Koons worked on the repair gang of the Northern Central Railroad and on November 15, 1901, he began work as a mail carrier. He is a member of the Middleburg Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a Republican.

continued next month



Horizontal

- 1 – Definite article
- 4 – An Israelite
- 6 – Farther, or more distant
- 9 – An animals hairy coat
- 12 – A short cut-and-thrust sword
- 14 – Lubricating
- 15 – One of the months (abbr.)
- 14 – Passage
- 19 – Prefix meaning “apart : asunder”
- 20 – Relatives
- 21 – To render void
- 22 – Conjunction
- 23 – In music, alto : high
- 24 – Station (abbr.)
- 25 – Permit : allow
- 26 – Century (abbr.)
- 28 – A blood vessel
- 30 – Man’s name (familiar)
- 31 – Settled, as a bill (abbr.)
- 32 – Remain : stay
- 35 – Greek goddess if the dawn
- 36 – A constellation
- 37 – Egyptian god of light
- 39 – A traitor in the American Revolutionary War
- 42 – Condition
- 44 – Greasy
- 47 – Bike
- 48 – To flow back (simplified spelling)
- 49 – Affection
- 52 – To touch with the toes
- 53 – Southern state of the US (abbr.)
- 55 – Upper Canada (abbr.)
- 57 – Man’s name (familiar)
- 58 – One who ordinales, adorns
- 61 – Prefix meaning ‘through’
- 63 – Not a “dry”
- 64 – Grief
- 66 – One who rows
- 68 – Ill-omened
- 70 – Entomology (abbr.)
- 71 – A country of central Europe (abbr.)
- 72 – Human beings

73 – Suffix, same as “ours”

Vertical

- 1 – Even if
- 2 – To comb flax or hemp
- 3 – That: which actually exists (pl.)
- 4 – A gushing flow
- 5 – Errors in printing
- 7 – Frustrated
- 8 – Prepared : ready
- 9 – Of the nature of a trust
- 10 – Joined together
- 11 – Royal Geographical Society (abbr.)
- 13 – Girl’s name
- 17 – Those who analyze
- 18 – A salt of sulfuric acid
- 23 – A broad street (abbr.)
- 27 – Western state of U.S. (abbr.)
- 29 – Making a loud noise
- 32 – A turmoil
- 34 – Older in years (abbr.)
- 36 – Indefinite article
- 38 – Man’s name
- 40 – Disprove
- 41 – An iota
- 43 – A color
- 45 – Group of islands west of Greece
- 46 – French definite article
- 50 – Preposition
- 51 – Pertaining to the veins
- 53 – a bud
- 54 – Part of the verb “to be”
- 56 – The bob-white
- 59 – Possesses
- 60 – A speck
- 61 – Female deer
- 62 – Part of the verb “To be” (old form)
- 64 – To court
- 65 – Point of compass (abbr.)
- 67 – Latin word for “gold” (abbr.)
- 69 - Pronoun

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June 5

Decoration Day Finely Observed

By general consent, Taneytown had the most creditable celebration of Decoration Day of any community. The parade was larger, and the observance at the cemeteries was appropriate and well carried out. The following were in line; two Civil War veterans, George Dutera and Luke Bitzel; one Spanish American War - Harry Baumgardner; 25 World War survivors; Hanover Pa. Drum Corps; Town Officials; a long line of children with flowers; Taneytown Band; 50 members of the P.O.S. of A.; the fire truck and firemen.

At the cemeteries, and at the soldiers' memorial members of the American Legion rendered the customary honors, bugle calls and salutes; appropriate to such occasions, and the graves were decorated by the children.

The theme of all of the addresses was "sacrifice," as embodied in the full measure given by the soldier dead, that made by the home folks in many ways, the sacrifice that is due by all good citizens at all times that our dearly bought heritage shall be properly safeguarded, and the importance of showing our gratitude for the liberties we enjoy through perpetuating the best memories of Decoration Day.

The streets of the town and the cemeteries were well filled with people from far and near, who spent the two hours from 1 to 3 o'clock observing the various events. The large number of visitors from quite a distance was distinctly noticeable.

The committee having charge of the arrangements are grateful for the assistance and encouragement it received, and returns thanks to everybody who in any way contributed to the success of the event.

May Fete Given

The Woodsboro Parents Teachers' Association gave its final program of the present scholastic term, on Friday night on the school lawn.

The feature of the program was a "May Fete", including a procession consisting of a May Queen, and attendants made up of children in costumes to represent roses, violets, daffodils, lilies, poppies, butterflies and bees. "Book Land" consisted of fairytales, Alice in Wonderland, Tin Soldiers, Little Red Riding Hood, Hiawatha, Siamese Twins, and Gardens of Venice.

Each group of characters demonstrated their stories by song and dance before the May Queen's throne. Following this, there was a procession of the characters to the schoolhouse.

A play written by the seventh grade entitled: "Scouting In The West, was given by the sixth and seventh grade pupils. This consisted of a night scene around a campfire and another scene fighting a forest fire. About 10 children took part in the program. About 100 parents were present.

The committee in charge where: Mrs. Charles Miller, Mrs. William Cutshall, Mrs. Noah Flanagan, Mrs. Raymond Smith, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Elizabeth Benson, and Misses Bertha Rice and Elizabeth Futzelle, teachers of the school.

Eight Boys Pay For Prank

A series of practical jokes extending over a period of several weeks resulted in the arrest last week of eight youths, all whom live in the vicinity of Johnsville. The complaint was made to the authorities by Chester Stover, about 18, of the same vicinity.

Those for whom warrants were sworn out are: Paul Grossnickle, Lester Singer, Elmer Singer, Reginald Watcher, Thomas Watcher, Daniel Stitely, John Foreman, and

Norman Eyer. The arrests were made by Deputy Sheriff Meyer. The eight were charged with playing a series of so-called practical jokes on the young Stover.

One night, it was said, a strand of fine wire was drawn across the road, and the party lay and wait for Stover to come along, at which it was planned to frighten him, start him running with a result that he would trip over the wire. Stover came along, but saw the wire with the aid of a flashlight, which he was carrying, and broke it, it was said.

On another occasion, Stover was told that a girl who lived some distance away, wanted to see him, and the boys accordingly took him to the appropriate destination. Arriving there, Stover got out of the machine in which she was riding and the boys hurried away, leaving Stover to walk about halfway home, at which point they met him and took him the remainder of the distance.

Stover also claimed that he was tied by the boys several times and that each time he cut the ropes with a penknife.

Stover finally became peeved and had a warrant sworn for the eight, charging each with assault and battery. The youths were then arrested and brought before Justice Sherman Bowers for a hearing and each was fined the cost in the case. In addition, Justice Bowers reprimanded the youngsters for their exuberant spirit.

June 12

First Silk Spun By County Worms

The first silk spun by the silk worms grown on Chestnut Farms, Walkersville, by the proprietor, Dr. Will Payne, who has been conducting experiments with this new adventure in agriculture for Frederick County, was brought to the newspaper's office.

Tuesday night, the oldest silk-worms began their eight-day task of spinning their cocoons. Most of the night Dr. Payne watched and aided the worms in their activities so that the silk could be in the desired condition. 14 persons assisted him in this work. There are hundreds upon hundreds of worms starting on this transition stage of life, whereby material is made for the most valuable of millinery finery.

The worms brought to our offices have completely covered themselves, the silk bean of yellowish hue. By artificial means, the grower

can establish the color of the silk to be spun by the worms. The cocoons are about the size of a large size single jointed peanut. Dr. Payne stated that the worms continue to spin for eight days inside of their silk shell until the mass becomes particularly solid. By holding the cocoons to the light, the forms of the tireless little workers could be seen.

Dr. Payne stated that the average length of the silk spun by a silk worm in making his cocoon is 37,000 yards, which is about 21 miles. This means that a worm spun about 10 feet of silk a minute, and continues his work uninterrupted for the eight days. At that time, he passes into a comatose state and remains so until he emerges as a butterfly. Before that time, however, the grower ships the cocoons to the mill where the cocoons are holed, the worms being destroyed in the process.

Dr. Payne is elated over the success of his first effort and is convinced that the conditions here are suitable for the industry. The first essential in the undertaking will be the planting of mulberry trees on which the worms feed.

Walkersville Baby Clinic A Success

The Walkersville baby clinic last week was described to have been very successful, 51 children, ranging in age from two months to six years, having been examined by Dr. Wells, Superintendent Of Child Hygiene, form the State Department Of Health.

Miss Maud Wagner, County health nurse, weighted and measured the children; Miss Henrietta Cramer and Miss Nelly Kenode, graduate nurses at the Frederick City Hospital, assisted Dr. Wells. His histories of the children were taken by a committee from the Women's Club, under whose auspices the clinic was held. Doctor Kefauver, county health officer, was present and assisted in giving instructions to the mothers. A health motion picture was shown by the county agent and a large number of persons were present.

Literature from the Child Welfare Association, State Department of Health, and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company were distributed. Instructive posters decorated the walls of the old school house in which the clinic was held and the proper clothing and toys for babies was exhibited.

In commenting upon the clinic, Dr. Wells said that the children examine tested higher than in any

other community he had ever given an examination. Dr. Joseph Long and Dr. Nicodemus, both of Walkersville, spent part of the day and together with the nurses where guest of the Women's Club at lunch at the Cramer House. No prizes were awarded due to the fact that in the examination there had been such close competition.

Fall From Train Fatal

Missing his footing and falling between two cars from a Western Maryland freight train on which he was a brakeman, John Vaughn, 32, of Woodsboro, sustained injuries Thursday morning, which resulted in his death a few hours later at the Frederick Hospital.

The mishap occurred about 5 o'clock as Vaughn left the engine of the train to go back over the freight to make the inspection, which is conducted following each trip made through the mountains.

He missed his footing and fell between two cars, his right arm was cut off as was his left foot at the end step. He was dragged for some distance, which caused injuries about the head and hips.

The mishap occurred about a half mile west of Thurmont. Vaughn was rushed into the northern county town, where a few minutes later he was taken in a car to Frederick. But died about two hours later.

The Frederick County Jail

The County jail has been rated as grade "C" in the report of the Director of Public Welfare, and 16th among the county jails of the state. According to the report, there was not much about it that was "fit, except ample air space, steam heat, and electric lights in corridors."

Well, those who don't like the accommodations should keep out of it. There are seven jails in the state less desirable than ours, and Baltimore County heads the list for general up-to-dateness. Tramps, bums and evildoers, take notice, and avoid Frederick County.

The Keymar Fishing Club

The Keymar Fishing Club had an outing Saturday to the Potomac River, where they had a most delightful time and plenty of fishing, and on Monday night gave a fish roast on the lawn of White Plank's, one of the members. They invited their friends and family, and all did justice to the fish, which all said was prepared fine and was served camp style. The Four Leaf Clover Orchestra furnished music.



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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

Flag Day

The approaching observance of Flag Day, nation-wide in scope and world-wide in sentiment, tends to bring us into a closer realization of the significance attached to our National Colors.

The stripes of red, symbolic of the baptism in the noble blood of American manhood, alternating with the pure white stripes, that should never bear the stains of national dishonor; together with the clear-cut stars amid the field of blue, all forming the component parts of the banner representing these United States of America; is a beautiful and impressive sight to behold as it floats in an azure sky, with the bright sunlight playing upon its glorious and protecting folds.

Our Flag should have the loyal support of all true Americans. Government officials, the men in whose hands the welfare of this country rests, should ever remember and practice - the sacred trust reposed in them. No un-American practice, or malfeasance of public office, can be tolerated, supported or condoned by our people.

National and state legislatures should forget, momentarily at least, on this day of reverence, all-party differences, and unite in rendering due homage. For our Flag to continue to wave over the republic as the symbol of Liberty, in its truest sense, and rational patriotism in its noblest form, thus justifying that proud boast of unsullied reputation so well known to every school student, is our prayer.

Our country should be free from sectarianism; free from corrupt political influences and practices; eternally grateful to the brave men who have, by sacrificing their lives, insured Democracy; and solicitous of the comfort and welfare of its maimed veterans.

June 19

Colored Man Killed at Union Bridge Cement Plant

Robert High, colored, was killed at Union Bridge cement plant, Thursday morning, by being caught between two gears at a dryer. Death is supposed to have been instantaneous. His body was not discovered until several hours later. He was a roving character, said to be from California, and leaves no known relatives in this section of the country.

Robbery on Keymar Road

Last Wednesday night, as Marshall Bell was coming home on the Woodsboro Pike road, he noticed a rope stretched across the road, and as he got near the rope saw two men, a white and a colored, who held the rope and called to Mr. Bell to stop. He did not know what to do but did slow up, the white and colored men jumped on each side of the car and grabbed for his watch. But the chain tore so they got only part of the chain and did not get the watch.

Mr. Bell fought them and kept his car running. He knocked the white man off first, and then had

the colored man to contend with. He fought him and kept his car running, and going down a big hill he knocked him off. Mr. Bell went on to Walkersville and reported the robbery to the Deputy Sheriff.

Automobile Traffic and Birds

The heavy automobile traffic in most parts of the country, presents as grave a problem to the birds as it ever can to humans.

We can remember driving along the country roads and counting the birds nest in trees and wayside bushes. Robins, orioles, catbirds, bluebirds and many others seemed to nest and raise brood after brood in the reach of humans and not show the least fear. Bob-whites and the more timid ruffed grouse might often be seen running across the road in front of horse's feet.

All this has changed. The noise and smothering dust and burned gas of the passing cars have driven the birds far back into the woodlands. If a nest is seen it is far up and no sociable burst of song greets us as we journey along.

Occasionally a dead woodpecker or sparrow, or perhaps a young quail, tells of some overbold fellow who will sing no more.

The telegraph and telephone wires have long been fatal to many flying birds. One day while riding with a friend in a wagon, along a country road, we saw a ruffed grouse flying toward us, but she never reached the road. She hit a telephone wire with such force that she dropped dead almost beneath the horse's feet.

If birds are able to think at all, they must feel that all mankind is leagued against them.

Supreme Court Gives to Parents Control of Education

The Supreme Court, on Monday, without a dissenting vote, declared invalid a Oregon school law, requiring all children between the ages of 8 and 16 years, to attend the public schools. The decision therefore upholds the decision of the District Court of Oregon, from whose decision the Governor and Attorney-General of the State had appealed.

The decision holds that a State has the power "reasonably to regulate all schools, to inspect, supervise and examine them, their teachers and pupils; to require that all children of proper age attend some school; that teachers shall be of good moral character and patriotic disposition, and that certain studies plainly essential to good citizenship must

be sought and nothing be taught which is manifested inimical to the public welfare."

However, beyond that broad general ground, the Supreme Court does not go and it clearly upholds the right of a parent to send his child to a private, public or parochial school.

The opinion, rendered by Justice McReynolds, of Tennessee, said among other things: "We think it entirely plain that the (Oregon) act of 1922 unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control. As often heretofore pointed out, rights guaranteed by the Constitution may not be abridged by legislation that has no reasonable relation to some purpose within the competency of the State. The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations."

June 26

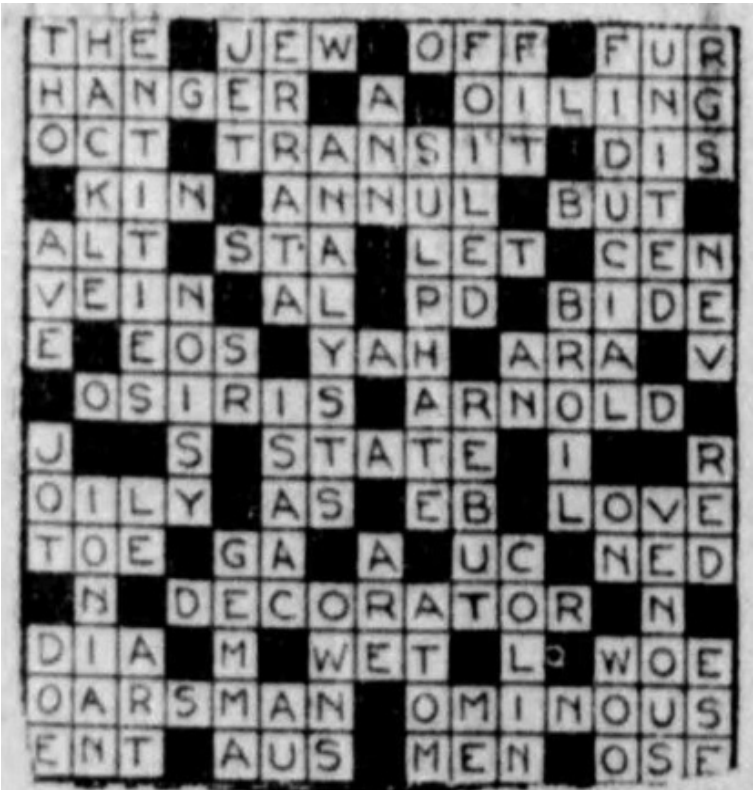
Storm Does Heavy Damage

Barns were unroofed and blown over, fencing leveled, trees uprooted, sheaves of wheat tossed about and carried from one field to another, and outbuildings demolished in the locations of Creagerstown, Lewistown, and Woodsboro Saturday afternoon in one of the heaviest rain and wind storms of the summer.

The storm broke near Creagerstown, between four and 5 o'clock and was accompanied by wind, hail, and rain. A barn on the farm of George Ramsburg, near Creagerstown was blown over and wrecked, and the barn on the farm of County Commissioner Frank Stevens was partially unroofed. A garage on the premise of Russell Smith, near Lewistown, was lifted from its foundation and sent in an adjoining field. A car in the building was damaged.

The barn on the farm of Newton Kramer, near Woodsboro, was blown over. A large number of trees were uprooted near Lewistown and hay shed on the farm owned by Mr. Stevens, near Creagerstown, was demolished. A large locust tree was uprooted and blown across the front porch of the house occupied by Mr. Garvey.

The road for some distance along Hunting Creek was blocked by uprooted trees. Orchards were stripped of fruit and fencing on a



Solutions to this month's crossword puzzle. Note, this crossword puzzle was first run in June 1925.

number of farms was blown over. In some places, the force of the wind broke off fence posts even with the ground. Farmers near Creagerstown were compelled to work nearly all day Sunday rebuilding their fences to keep their stock from straying away.

A culvert on the road near the farm of Harvey Rhensburger was washed out and the stream overflowed the road and adjoining fields. Sheaves of wheat were carried down the stream and lodged in trees along hunting creek. Practically every sheave of wheat in the fields adjacent to Creagerstown where blown over and many sheaves were scattered in every direction. Dozens of large trees were uprooted and others blown over. Telephone service between the communities was put out of commission for a short time Saturday afternoon. A severe storm also settled in over Keymar and Ladiesburg.

Bee Causes Auto Wreck

A bumble-bee caused the wrecking of an automobile driven by James Nelson, Walkersville. Mr. Nelson

and family were driving on the Woodsboro Pike, when a bee flew through the window of the car and struck Nelson's face. In hitting at the bee, Mr. Nelson lost control of the car and struck a barrel of tar at the edge of the road. The machine was wrecked and Mr. Nelson severely hurt, while Mrs. Nelson and son were but slightly injured.

Joy Ride Goes Bad

A supposed case of joy ride by four inebriates met with a mishap on York St., last Thursday evening, the car running into a stone pile in front of Raymond Ohler's.

One of the occupants appeared to be badly injured. The others refused and hastily left in the direction of Woodsboro. The license tag was found along the road, near town. As the parties failed to show up with the injured man at Frederick Hospital, the probability is that it was a bad case of drunk, and a get-away from a hearing before a justice, and a heavy fine or jail sentence.

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

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LIBRARY NEWS

June is here and hopefully you're ready to read all summer long! Whether you're paperback reading poolside or listening to an audiobook on the road, make it count by logging your days for the Summer Reading Challenge! Read (or listen) for 20 days and receive a finisher prize. Continue reading to earn tickets for the grand prize drawings in July and August. All ages can participate, so stop by your library to sign up and learn more!

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

Are you unsure of your financial future? Retired but not sure what's next? Join Tim Kueberth, financial planner and advisor with Prudential, as he focuses on risks that retired investors face like uncertain markets, inflation, and the risk of outliving your money. Thursday, June 12 at 10..

Join Andy Nichols, outdoor enthusiast and director of programs at Shenandoah Mountain Guides and School, for a refreshing look at the history, natural wonders, and recreational opportunities of the Monocacy River on Sunday, June 22 at 1:30.

Mary Mannix will give a presentation on Tarot Cards and how this practice can support your self-reflection journey, Thursday, June 26, at 10:00am.

If you grew up playing video games and want to show your kids what it's all about, come to the family friendly One-Up Games: Family

Retro program at the Walkersville Library on Tuesday, June 17 from 6 to 7:30. This is your chance to relive the golden era of gaming and experience the thrill of playing on Nintendo systems like the classic NES to the latest consoles for an evening of pure fun.

All ages and abilities are welcome to wind down the day with a 1-hour, free yoga class offered by Sol Yoga on Monday, June 9 and 23 at 6. If you're looking for an exercise class that will invigorate your morning, try out Freedom BANG Fitness class every Saturday at 10.

The Walkersville Branch Library has programs designed for adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. Join us for a fun hour of Bingo on Wednesday, June 4 at 10:15 and on Wednesday, June 18 at 10:15 for an hour of musical exploration with music therapist Marsha Hudson.

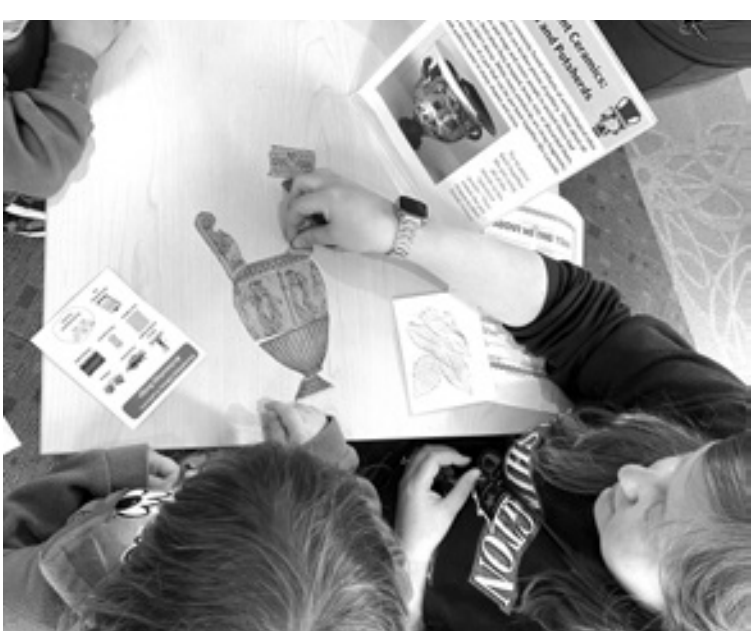
Does your teenager want tattoos or aspire to be an artist? Let them test their skills on a banana or two before they go more than skin deep! Teen Tuesday is June 3 at 3:30. Tweens (ages 8-13) will have their chance to make a mark on Wednesday, June 11 at 4. This year's School's Out Party for teens will take place Tuesday, June 10 at 3:30. Bring your friends, play games, and have fun in a free, safe environment after school!

No matter your age, it's fun to read, especially when your audience is a cute doggie! On Thursday, June 12 from 6:30 to 7:30, the Go Team Therapy Dogs will be more than happy to sit and listen to you read a story!

Spend quality time with your littlest children on Friday mornings doing fun hands-on activities on Fridays at the Walkersville Branch Library. Get ready for a fun-filled day under the sun and join us for Outdoor Games Day, a high-energy event packed with classic games, friendly competition, and community spirit on Friday, June 13 at 11.

Explore the radical world of reptiles with Nicole and her exotic pets on June 20 at 11. Not only will participants learn all about what makes a reptile a reptile, they will have the opportunity to interact with lots of animal friends. Art teacher by day and reptile enthusiast all of the time, Nicole brings along part of her personal exotic pet collection to provide high quality education and to extend positive experiences with misunderstood critters to people of all ages!

If you prefer cute cuddly animals over the scaly variety, come to the library Friday, June 27 at 11 to make some new friends—alpacas! You'll learn cool facts about what they eat, where they live, and you can ask ani-



Patrons assemble a potsherd puzzle as part of the Elementary Explorers Program to earn the Archaeology Badge.

mal experts all your alpaca questions. The Walkersville Branch Library schedule for storytimes is as follows:

- Monday: Baby Storytime at 10
- Tuesday: Toddlers at 11
- Wednesday: Family at 6
- Thursday: Preschool at 11

Bilingual Storytime at the Walkersville Branch Library will be on Wednesday, June 3 and 18 at 6. Storytime will be presented primarily in English, while introducing basic words and concepts in Spanish, French, ASL and other world languages!

YMCA earns highest honor for abuse prevention practices

The YMCA of Frederick County was recently awarded Praesidium Accreditation® by Praesidium, the leader in abuse risk management. This prestigious honor publicly demonstrates the YMCA of Frederick County's efforts to achieve the highest industry standards in abuse prevention.

To achieve Accreditation, the YMCA of Frederick County underwent a rigorous process to implement Praesidium's Accreditation Standards focusing on eight primary operational areas within their business: policies, screening and selection, training, monitoring and supervision, consumer participation, internal feedback systems, responding, and administrative practices. Praesidium then verified the Y's successful implementation of these standards.

The YMCA of Frederick County will be accredited for three years, and during this time will commit to uphold fundamental organizational values and stringent safety practices that demonstrate their commitment to protecting those in their care from abuse. With the Praesidium Accreditation® providing solid proof of sound

risk management practices, the honor distinguishes the YMCA of Frederick County from others in their industry.

"At the YMCA of Frederick County, safety is not just a priority—it's a core part of who we are," says President & CEO Chris Colville. "Earning Praesidium Accreditation is a powerful affirmation of our unwavering commitment to protecting the children, teens, and vulnerable individuals who walk through our doors every day. This recognition reflects the intentional work our team has done to create a culture of safety—from how we train our staff and volunteers, to how we monitor programs, and how we continually evaluate and strengthen our practices."

While the YMCA of the USA requires all Ys across the nation to uphold fundamental organizational values, standard safety and child sexual abuse prevention practices, the Praesidium Accreditation® distinguishes an organization's abuse policies and practices at levels above and beyond.

The Y's mission largely focuses on providing safe spaces for the individuals and families it serves. To learn more on how the YMCA of Frederick Coun-

ty keeps children in the Frederick County area safeguarded against abuse through staff training, policies, protocols, and ongoing knowledge of awareness and prevention, visit frederickymca.org/about-us/child-abuse-prevention.

About the Y - The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,700 Ys engage 21 million men, women, and children – regardless of age, income, or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but also to deliver, lasting personal and social change. www.frederickymca.org

About Praesidium - Praesidium specializes in preventing sexual abuse in organizations that serve youth and vulnerable adults. Over a period in excess of 30 years, the company has reviewed over 4,000 cases of abuse within organizations to determine the root causes of sexual abuse within organizational settings. Praesidium employs more than 50 staff, including licensed social workers, lawyers, health care researchers, and other experts. The company has served over 5,000 clients with a broad range of products and services to aid organizations in preventing abuse, including online and instructor-led trainings, organizational risk assessments, model policies, and background checks. Having trained more than one million people online and hundreds of thousands in person, Praesidium is the largest and most comprehensive sexual abuse risk management firm globally. Learn more at www.PraesidiumInc.com



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Introducing Casey Day, candidate for BOE

Editor's Note: Yes we know, the next county election is still 18 months away, but its never to early to start to learn about those wishing to serve!

Hi there! My name is Casey Day, and I'm running for the Frederick County Board of Education. I grew up right here in the county, raised my children here, and for the past 29 years, I've proudly served as a teacher in FCPS. I've had the privilege of teaching students from early childhood through high school, and later, working with educators as a graduate instructor at Hood College.

When people ask me why I'm running for the Board of Education, my answer is simple: I believe in the power of public education to transform lives, and I believe our schools deserve bold, thoughtful, and compassionate leadership to make that happen. I've spent decades advocating for our schools, working to strengthen them from the inside. As I approach retirement next year, stepping into this role feels like a natural continuation of that work. I'm not just running for a seat at the table, I'm running to pull up more chairs for everyone: students, educators, families, and the entire community.

I didn't make this decision lightly; I've spent years listening to educators who work tirelessly under increasing pressure, to families navigating a complex and changing world, and to students who are both hopeful and worried about the future they're inheriting. Through it all, one truth stood out to me loud and clear: our public schools are the heart of our community, and we need a Board that will treat them that way.

I'm not a politician, I'm a public school teacher and advocate who knows what it means to show up, roll up my sleeves, and do the work. I've done my homework, completed training, learning to run an effective campaign, and spent time in the community, listening to what matters most to people across our county.

I don't come from a background of corporate connections or political offices; my family is made up of hard-working blue-collar folks. I do, though, bring a deep well of connections built over nearly three decades with the families of the 4,000+ students I've taught, with the educators I've worked alongside or mentored, and with the community leaders I've advocated, volunteered, and served with.

I'm in this race because I love this community, and I want to see it thrive.

This campaign is grounded in the values I hold most dear: equity, respect, transparency, growth, and love. Every child deserves access to a safe, inclusive, well-resourced public school. I believe in uplifting our educators and staff, ensuring they are empowered, supported, and heard. I believe in transparency and accountability; decisions should be made openly, with community voices at the center. I believe in growth, not just academic progress, but a system that adapts and strives to serve all students better. Above all, I believe in

leading with love, for our students, our staff, our community, and the future we are building together.

A key focus of my platform is educator sustainability. We have incredible staff in Frederick County, but too many are burning out, and asked to do more with less. I want to work with fellow Board members to champion fair compensation, strong support, and healthy workplace conditions that attract and retain the very best educators.

I'm also thinking about innovation and long-term planning. From expanding career and technical education to strengthening academic support systems, I want us to be bold in our vision and practical in our steps. We must plan carefully for growth and ensure that all our schools, from the newest to the oldest, are equitably resourced so that every student has the same opportunities.

None of this happens in isolation. That's why I'm committed to com-

munication and collaboration. I want to foster stronger partnerships between schools and families, educators and administrators, and the Board and the broader community. I want to keep listening, really listening, to what's working and what's not. Leadership isn't about having all the answers. It's about asking the right questions and growing with the people you serve.

At the end of the day, I'm running because I believe in public education. I believe in the brilliance of our students, the dedication of our educators, and the strength of our neighborhoods. And I believe that when we keep people as our focus, not politics, we can build a school system that reflects the best of who we are and the brightest of who we can become.

If you'd like to learn more or get involved, please visit aGoodDay-ForFrederick.com. I look forward to earning your vote!



Casey Day, candidate for Board of Education

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our writers to create their own summer holiday. Keep reading to see what they came up with!

Walkersville senior spotlights

Celia Alsbaugh
Class of 2028

Now that the 2024-25 school year is coming to a close at WHS, let's take a look back at the high school careers of now graduated seniors. This year WHS has 306 students graduating, including their eight Remote Virtual Students. The majority of these pupils have bright plans for their futures ahead of them, but it is important to see what guided and influenced them to decide what they wanted those futures to be. A handful of WHS seniors offered their high school stories to be shared, and what events helped them see who they wanted to be.

High school is just four short years, but during that time adolescents are given opportunities to discover what they want to do and the person who they want to become. The things they experience as teenagers and young adults shape the rest of their lives. Some struggle, like Brandon Etzler. Etzler talks about how his sophomore and freshman year were "pretty rough." He showed great determination his junior and senior year, stating he actually, "straightened up and focused." Etzler was able to make the honor roll every semester for his last couple of years in high school, meeting his goals and setting himself up for future success. His eye for construction and joy found in the Theatre Department heavily weighed in on what Etzler decided he

wanted to study after graduation.

Another senior, Ava Casserly, shares her high school experience. Casserly states that her friends were really important to her at school. "Meeting new people is one of the best things about high school, [that], and being exposed to different people and cultures." To Casserly, being able to learn different things and have new experiences through people was the best part of her time at WHS. She hopes to continue learning new things and meet new people, and to be able to work in a field where she can help the people that she meets.

In his time at WHS, Gabriel Carter has worked incredibly hard. Focusing intently on his academics, Carter made time for his educational, social, and physical life. Carter was active in multiple honor societies, and stated that his sport of choice, lacrosse, was very important to him. All three of his main focus areas in high school benefited him because, as he puts it, "these all gave me numerous volunteer and leadership opportunities." Carter's hard work and dedication are paying off, having helped him help himself in what he intends to do with the next years of his life.

Autumn Hall has spent her years at Walkersville High surrounded by the performing arts. Hall's high school career allowed her to dive into the world of theatre, and to explore her love for light design. Alongside the passion she discovered in the dramatic field, Hall highly values the family she found as the drum major for the WHS Marching Lions, learning what it means to

form strong bonds with her peers. Hall is incredibly grateful to have been able to find her love for lighting and the amazing family she made through marching band, "I've met so many amazing people because of it."

Florian Kamdem was approached with another issue during high school. Kamdem joined WHS his junior year, having moved from another country. The club that initially caught his eye was Mock Trial, but what really ended up shaping his high school career was track and field. Kamdem is incredibly grateful for his school years, "I love the two years I spent in WHS and, as a matter of fact, I feel very nostalgic leaving. I am blessed and humbled I got to have wonderful teammates in the track team, wonderful classmates in high school and I got to make wonderful friends." He hopes to use his education and experiences at WHS to help him through his future.

For Marie Kleimola, her time in high school allowed her to make connections and relationships that she "would not have even thought [she] was going to have." Kleimola's interest in the arts was constant throughout her high school years. A member of Gov. Thomas Johnson High School's Academy for the Fine Arts program for two years, Kleimola honed her vocal skills with professional performing arts teachers. When she transferred to WHS as a senior she learned about many topics that helped her discern what she wanted to study after she graduated.

Evan Boledovic remarks on how his transition into high school was difficult, seeing as his graduating class were the students who spent their 7th and 8th grade years online. Going back to school in person as freshman was destabilizing, a challenge the class of 2025 had to navigate on their own. Once he got into the swing of things, Boledovic dove in head-first, joining what he jokingly referred to as "possibly too many various afterschool activities." From soccer teams to STEM classes to card game clubs, this senior had a hand in many of the goings on at WHS. His interests and natural leadership tendencies have helped him through high school and will continue to help him throughout the rest of his life.

Each and everyday students are encouraged to push themselves to the limit, tackling their academic challenges with rigor. Because of FCPS' high expectations for their students, no Frederick County Public School has valedictorians anymore. Students used to take easier classes to receive higher GPAs and become valedictorian, so to avoid this issue FCPS introduced "Honors", "High Honors" and "Highest Honors". Depending on a student's grade-point-average, they can receive one of the three honors. Tuesday, May 27th is the day when seniors are gifted with awards, scholarships and their honors at their awards ceremony.

These days it is less common for each and every high school graduate to go straight to college. Many have found great opportunities at trade schools, in the military, and at jobs that don't require degrees. WHS Principal Dr. Ware is incredibly proud of her students. She has watched them grow and learn over the years and

knows they will all go on to do great things; whether they choose to go to college or otherwise. "I love these kids, I love their personalities," Ware states, both proud and sad to watch her students take the next steps in their lives.

Etzler is now enrolled in Frederick Community College, his plan being to study carpentry or construction to hopefully learn set design. Casserly plans to also attend FCC, with hopes of getting into their Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Carter is the only student at WHS to have been accepted into the United States Air Force Academy, and hopes to become a pilot, an option the academy offers. Hall is set to get her BA in Theatre, her focus being on Lighting Design, at James Madison University. Kamdem enrolled in the US Army as a Geospatial Intelligence recruit in August of 2024. He plans to attend college at Mount St. Mary's to study International Studies and Statistics to hopefully become an officer in the US Army. Kleimola has been accepted into The Temple: A Paul Mitchell Partner School for Cosmetology and has dreams to open her own salon one day. Boledovic is committed to University of Maryland College Park for Chemical Engineering, with plans to either dual major or acquire dual degrees in that and Astronomy. Congratulations seniors, and best of luck with your futures!

To read other articles by Celia Alsbaugh, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Sophomore

Animal Crossing Day

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

The most comforting game known to man was released on March 20th, 2020. Just one week after the world shut down, this game took players from all over on a cozy adventure of creativity and fun. After 5 years, the game is most well-known for providing people with comfort and security during the worldwide pandemic. Because of this, let's dedicate a day to the game we know and love, Animal Crossing: New Horizons.

My love for the game started at a young age. I remember playing Animal Crossing: New Leaf on my Nintendo 3DS. I had never been a big video game person, I had only ever played Mario Kart and Wii Sports. However, my best friend introduced me to the game, and I was immediately hooked. In high

school, I heard that Nintendo was releasing an Animal Crossing-themed Nintendo Switch and a new game to go along with it. I knew I had to have it.

I had gotten some money for my birthday just a few days before the Animal Crossing Switch was to release on March 13th, 2020. My dad drove me to Gamestop at 7 in the morning so I could be the first in line to get the new Nintendo Switch. It was cold, rainy, and overall very unpleasant. Nevertheless, my spirits were high. Once the store opened at 9 am, I went right in and made the biggest purchase of my life. I bought the Animal Crossing Switch, a preorder for the Animal Crossing Game that was to come out a week later, and Mario Kart. \$450 later, I was back home playing my new Nintendo Switch.

I thought the timing of the pandemic was truly impeccable. I had just gotten my Nintendo Switch and two new games. The world shutting down gave me all the time in the world to dedicate to Animal Crossing. I couldn't be happier to stay home and play my games. I was not the only one with this mind-

set. Animal Crossing: New Horizons became the most popular game for the Nintendo Switch following its release a week after the shutdown. Everyone had nothing better to do, so they purchased the game and dedicated a large number of hours to it. I, shamelessly, was one of those people.

Once my high school figured out how they wanted to proceed with the rest of the school year, I found myself sitting on Zoom calls playing my Switch in the middle of class. My teachers were none the wiser, and I had A's in all my classes. After the shutdown, attendance became the most important part of the class, not the material. Despite this, I had my Switch propped up just under my computer, and would play Animal Crossing for hours. For the first year of owning my Switch, not a single day went by where I did not log into Animal Crossing.

During all the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the pandemic, Animal Crossing: New Horizons was the one bit of consistency that I had. It was the one thing that I could count on not changing. I realize now that I depended on that game to get me through such a time of uneasiness and vulnerability. I would like to think that I'm not the only

one who depended on something so heavily, such as this. Now, 5 years later, my Animal Crossing island is my pride and joy. Not including my cat, Oliver.

The years passed, and my life started to change; graduation, college, and new jobs. However, at the end of the day, I would still log into Animal Crossing: New Horizons and be transported to something that has never changed. It is always the same, and it will always be there for me to come back to, transporting me to the comforting time of my youth.

My love for the game quickly became something people recognized me for. For a short period of time, I was referred to as "Animal Crossing girl", which, I admit, I didn't enjoy. However, I couldn't blame people for the association. Over time, I began collecting Animal Crossing merch, including crewnecks and blankets. I was even gifted Animal Crossing merch. I went to Build-A-Bear to stuff my own Isabelle plushie. For those unaware, Isabelle is an Animal Crossing icon who appears in all of the Animal Crossing games.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons comforted thousands of people during the worldwide pandemic. For this, I believe we should dedicate March 20th

as International Animal Crossing Day. On this day, Nintendo should offer special in-game events that encourage players to celebrate the game. In addition, Nintendo should create special merchandise to commemorate the game, like shirts, hats, cups, etc. I think limited edition Nintendo Switch accessories, such as controllers, new Joy-Cons, and cases, should be available for purchase, which would be even more exciting. Most of these ideas stem from what Nintendo does for Mario Day, which is celebrated on March 10th. If all the Mario games get a holiday, why shouldn't Animal Crossing?

When asked to write an article where we create our own holidays or international days, I wanted to write something that was personal to me and dedicated to a specific audience. While this article might make me sound incredibly childish, I enjoyed every second of writing it. This one is for all of those who found comfort in something a little odd during the uncertain times of the pandemic, and to those who are of innocent hearts and youthful minds. This article is for those who have depended on something to help them through life's constant changes. For me, Animal Crossing has helped me grow through challenging times and brought me joy when the world seemed to bring nothing but inconsistency and fear. I encourage everyone to find something that brings them comfort, and as a famous Beatle once said, "Life happens just when you're making plans." Find something to help get you through it.

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PROPOSED SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Junior

Drift Day

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

First and foremost, I would like to start this article off by saying happy first official month of summer vacation! Finally, the stress of finishing my spring semester classes and finals week has fully left, although it left behind a seriously messed up sleep schedule. Being home has been a whirlwind of chaos in its own way though; from moving all of my stuff back and unpacking to starting back to work waitressing and getting back into a schedule, it has certainly been a long readjustment period. But hey, it's officially summer!

I must say though, there has been one thing I have been looking forward to about my return back to my sweet hometown of Lewes, Delaware; one thing that has continued to get me through every moment of chaos and stress: the Roosevelt Inlet beach. The waves crash along the shoreline as hints of a fiery orange and red hue begin to rise over the horizon. The seagulls are calling out to one another as the rest of the world begins to awaken. The water

ripples and sparkles as if it is something of such perfection and beauty that it is simply untouchable, yet it is not; instead, it is a place where everyone wants to be, splashing through those ripples perfectly curated with each passing second, and creating their own made from joy and love. It is a place of peace, of tranquility; a place I find myself wandering to when I am ready to drown out the rest of the world. From summer to winter my love for this piece of home never falters. The waves are not big enough to crash upon you and create a wipe out, but instead they are small and fast—the kind that little kids get excited to jump over and babies can sit at the shoreline and watch them crash over their little toes. For me, home was more than just a place, it was also a feeling. I have never felt more at home than when at the Roosevelt Inlet. And somehow, I always find myself there when I'm looking for peace.

With my favorite piece of home in mind, I present to you my idea for a new summer holiday: "Drift Day," a day of letting go of the plan and following the flow; drifting wherever the wind may take you. This will be a celebration of spontaneity, curiosity, mindfulness, and the joy of being off course. Consider the way in which driftwood or seaweed slowly and aimlessly flow along the tide;

no destination in mind or purpose other than existing, on this day you are encouraged to embrace the unknown and rediscover the world without an agenda or a plan, simply just follow the flow of the tide. The holiday will be celebrated yearly on August 17th, not for any other reason than the fact that 17 is my lucky number and August has a fewer number of holidays. Believe it or not, deciding on a date for this holiday is the hardest part about creating my own holiday!

Unlike most holidays that center around traditions, expectations, or to-do lists, Drift Day asks only one thing of you—to surrender control and follow where the day leads. There are no set events, no start time, no obligatory feasts or fireworks. Just a gentle encouragement to wander, to explore, and to rediscover the world with curiosity. Let yourself be moved by nature's rhythm! This is a day that honors uncertainty and the beauty of the unplanned. Whether you're walking along a shoreline, weaving through backstreets in your hometown, or simply following the direction of the wind, the goal is to embrace the unfamiliar and see where you end up. In a world increasingly driven by schedules, alerts, and optimized productivity, Drift Day is an intentional pause.

It's a chance to remember that joy isn't always found on the itinerary. Sometimes, it waits just beyond the bend you hadn't planned to take.

Realistically, there is no "right" way to celebrate Drift Day, that's the beauty of the holiday, as well as the entire point of it. There are so many different ways to practice mindfulness and follow the direction fate takes you. Whether it be having heartfelt conversations with strangers, walking along the shore, picking random activities from a jar to partake in, or even deciding your next turn on whatever path you end up on by color, sound or smell, there are so many different ways to go with the flow.

Personally, I can imagine myself ending up at the Roosevelt Inlet with a journal and a book in hand. Whether it be to start the day off by watching the sunrise and doing some yoga or stretches to begin my day or watching as the sun sets and brings the day to a close, I know I will find my way there. I could see myself ending up in numerous conversations with people I wouldn't have otherwise known and learning life lessons that I very well might need. There is always someone wiser and more educated, and it's a gift to be able to learn from them.

I hold on tightly to the memories of waking up to see the sunrise at the inlet with my friends growing up. The beautiful mix of red, pink, orange, and blue in the sky created a colorful sparkle over the water as we arrived. 6:13am: us teenage girls running and laughing on the shoreline, splashing each other with the water, sitting in the sand and watching in awe as the colors of the sky danced along the shoreline and chased us until they engulfed us completely. We would talk about life and our goals, we would swim in the water, and we'd read our books and be laughing, loving, and sharing all the details that made us enthralled. This is a place where we feel absolutely free; free to live, free to be who we are, free to feel everything. These memories inspire the idea for Drift Day, find your peace and remember the beauty and exhilaration of simply existing in this beautiful world. So, when the sun's high and the air is thick with summer possibility, consider taking one day to drift. You might just find something you didn't know you were looking for, and if nothing else, you'll end up with a great story to tell at the end of the day.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Senior

Emmits-burger Day

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

The summer is a special time of year because it provides opportunities for endless adventure.

Family and community are the heart of who we are; they give us the sense of belonging, support, and connection that we all need in life. Whether it's celebrating birthdays, helping each other through tough times, or just sharing meals and stories, family creates a foundation of love and trust. But it's not just about the people you're related to — community plays a huge role too.

Good neighbors, kind teachers, helpful friends, and even familiar faces at the local store can make life feel fuller and safer. Being part of a community means you're never truly alone. It gives you people to lean on, laugh with, and grow alongside. It teaches us how to share, respect others, and care about something bigger than ourselves. When families and communities are strong, everyone benefits — kids grow up more confident, adults feel supported, and elders are respected and included. In a fast-paced world where it's easy to feel isolated, taking time to connect with family and community is more important than ever. Those bonds remind us that we matter, that we're loved, and that together, we can get through just about anything.

Growing up my absolute favorite time of year was summer. No school, going for walks and bike rides every day, manhunt and catching fireflies with neighbors, bonfires, swimming in the river, and barbecues. These barbecues were always big events with friends and family gathered in our backyard, our driveway overflowing

with cars, spilling out into the street. There was something magical about waiting by the window and guessing who would be the next person to arrive. By this point my mom had already planned and shopped for the various meals and snacks that were going to be put out, and I helped her prep some of the food. Cutting veggies for salads, baking desserts, putting chips into bowls, and my personal favorite, the buffalo chicken dip. My dad would fire up the grill, cooking everything from barbecue chicken and ribs to hamburgers and hot dogs. My dad's side of the family, the men specifically, all sound exactly alike when they get together. I loved just sitting and listening to them joke around and tell stories and laugh similarly. The women on my mom's side will stand around the countertop picking at bits of food as they gab and bring each other up to date on the latest in their day to day lives. As time passed my dad will start a bonfire in the backyard and people will start to make their exit. Then, once it's dark out, there are only a few left, and they sit around the firepit with us and talk about everything under the sun, from deep philosophical topics or good movies that they have seen lately to stupid poop jokes. These barbecues mean so much to me that I think there should be a holiday where everyone opens their doors to family, friends, and neighbors, and has a barbecue.

Emmitsburg and the surrounding areas have truly become my home away from home. Nestled in the quiet beauty of rural Maryland, this close-knit community offers a sense of belonging that is rare to find. The people here know each other by name, lend a helping hand without hesitation, and treat neighbors like extended family. Whether it's a friendly wave from across the street or a spontaneous conversation at the Otts, there's a warmth

that makes you feel seen and cared for.

To me, nothing says family and community like a yard filled with laughter, shared meals, and memories made under the open sky. It's where children run barefoot through the grass, singing, dancing and playing whatever games their hearts desire, where barbecues bring folks together on summer evenings, and where the simple act of gathering becomes something sacred. A yard, in this sense, isn't just a patch of land — it's the heart of a home, and the heart of the community too.

If I were to make a summer holiday, I would have one designated to the Emmitsburg area, called "Emmits-burger Day". It would be one day during the summer when everyone either hosts or visits a barbecue. Like one big potluck, people visiting will bring food and drink to the homes who have the grill. There will be competitions between recipes, including pasta salad, barbecue sauces, and hamburgers. Music will play throughout the streets, there will be activities specifically for kids like scavenger hunts and bounce houses. The Knights of Columbus would set up in Town and donate burgers to anyone who stopped by, providing an opportunity for those who are struggling with food insecurity to get some food and be a part of the community. Emmits-burger Day will be the last Saturday in May. People can have their own private barbecues, or they can register to host one on their lawn for anyone to stop by. The Otthouse could offer discounts on wings or beer to get more business while people walk around in search of barbecues and activities.

In all honesty, this holiday might be more than the Town can chew, no pun intended, but I think

that the ideals of the Town, the importance of community and family mentality, and knowing food brings

people together would support the holiday. If needed or if possible, surrounding communities, such as Thurmont, might want to join in.

I'm beyond grateful to this area for supporting me the past four years and creating such a loving and beautiful place for me to find work, go to school, and have many adventures. But to me the best part was meeting new people. Families I've come to know, college students, my students at Ballenger Creek, members of St. Anthony's Shrine, coworkers of the

paper, especially Michael Hillman, and Mount St Mary's professors and staff. Words cannot describe the feeling of gratitude and fullness in me that is all because of so many people. It has been a blessing getting to know this community and every detail of its beauty, which is exactly why I would create a holiday that highlights just that.

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ARTS

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Harold López-Nussa - June 7. Harold’s music blends traditional Cuban rhythms with innovative structures, creating a modern Latin jazz experience that’s both emotionally resonant and musically groundbreaking.

This Cuban-born pianist and composer unveils a mesmerizing concert experience that transcends borders and genres. With a career marked by acclaimed performances and collaborations, Harold’s mastery of the piano and his deep connection to Cuban musical traditions shine brightly on stage. His innovative approach to blending traditional rhythms with modern compositions creates a dynamic and soul-stirring performance that captivates audiences worldwide.

Coling Mochrie and Brad Sherwood – June 15. Get ready for an evening of sidesplitting laughter as Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, the dynamic duo from TV’s “Whose Line is it Anyway?,” take the stage in a one-night-only uproarious live show, Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood: Asking for Trouble.

With lightning-fast wit, Mochrie & Sherwood transform the audience’s suggestions into an unpredictable eve-

ning of non-stop comedy gold. No script? No problem! “Asking for Trouble” is a wild rollercoaster ride of hilarity, where two improv legends prove they are still the best in the business.

Frederick Symphony Orchestra – The Bright Lights of Broadway – June 22. Immerse yourself in the magic of Broadway musicals! Experience the magic of Broadway as The Frederick Symphony Orchestra takes you on a captivating exploration of iconic Broadway musicals. From beloved classics like West Side Story and South Pacific to timeless favorites from Les Misérables and Phantom of the Opera, sing along to show-stopping tunes and immerse yourself in the enchanting world of musical theater.

Zebra, Angel & Starz – June 28. The show brings together three legendary bands for one electrifying night celebrating 50 years of rock ‘n’ roll history.

Zebra, the hard rock trio founded in New Orleans, returns to the stage with original members Randy Jackson, Felix Hanemann, and Guy Gelso. Known for their signature mix of technical musicianship and soaring vocals, the band will perform fan favorites including “Tell

Me What You Want” and “Who’s Behind the Door?”

Angel brings their glam-infused, progressive rock sound with original members Punky Meadows and Frank Dimino. With hits like “Don’t Leave Me Lonely” and “The Tower,” Angel delivers a high-energy set that blends theatrical flair with serious rock chops. Opening the night is Starz, featuring Richie Ranno and Joe Dube. Known for their power-pop style and catchy hooks, Starz sets the tone with tracks like “Fallen Angel” and “Detroit Girl.”

This milestone tour celebrates the lasting impact of three trailblazing bands that helped shape the sound of the mid-70s and beyond. From anthemic hits to cult classics, the Spirit of ‘75 Tour promises a night of rock nostalgia and powerful performances.

New Sprit Arts presents A Few Good Men - July 11-13. Aaron Sorokin’s groundbreaking play tells the story of a group of military lawyers assigned to defend two Marines in Guantanamo Bay. During the course of the trial, they uncover a high-level conspiracy designed to eliminate weaker soldiers in the name of patriotism.



Frederick Symphony Orchestra

The World Ballet Company – September 25. The magic of a timeless fairy tale takes the stage as World Ballet Company brings its dazzling production of Cinderella.

An enchanting story for all ages, Cinderella blends humor, elegance, and the majesty of classical ballet. Performed live by a multinational cast of 40 professional dancers, this visually stunning production features over 150 radiant hand-sewn costumes, richly detailed hand-crafted sets, and sparkling choreography by Marina Kesler. Audiences have called the show “a treat to see probably some of the finest ballet artists in the world,” with Times-Advocate proclaiming, “This is probably as good as it gets.” Modern Luxury San Diego praised its “hand painted sets, over 150 incredi-

ble costumes and brilliant artistry that is not to miss.”

World Ballet Company, based in Los Angeles and led by Sasha Gorskaya and Gulya Hartwick, creates, produces, and tours original productions with broad appeal. With decades of combined experience in the entertainment industry, the company is committed to making ballet accessible by performing in cities with limited access to the art form—offering newcomers a memorable introduction and ballet fans an annual event to anticipate.

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

Way Off Broadway presents Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella

As The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre continues its 2025 Season, this summer, the theatre will present a new staging of Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella – The Broadway Musical. The revised version of the classic musical opens June 20th and runs through August 16th.

Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella - The Broadway Musical is the 2013 Broadway adaptation of the classic musical that tells the timeless story of a kind and mistreated young woman who, with the help of her Fairy Godmother, is able to attend the royal ball where she captivates the heart of the

Prince, while opening his eyes to injustices throughout his kingdom. With a revised book by Douglas Carter Beane, this is a fresh-telling of a favorite tale.

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s original Cinderella was written and broadcast on television in 1957 starring Julie Andrews in the title role. Though its popularity was immediate and talks were held, the show never made it to Broadway. Since the original airing was not filmed for rebroadcast, CBS decided to mount a new production for broadcast in 1965. This time, stepping into the glass slippers, Lesley Ann Warren starred at Cinderella. Over the

next decade, this version of Cinderella was rebroadcast almost every year. Once again, the show never made it to Broadway but was licensed for theaters to perform around the country.

In 1997, Cinderella again appeared on television sets in a remake starring Brandy as Cinderella, Whitney Houston as the Fairy Godmother, and Broadway Icon Bernadette Peters as Cinderella’s Stepmother.

In 2013, Cinderella finally made it to Broadway when Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella - The Broadway Musical began previews in January, with an official opening on March 3rd.

Legendary playwright Douglas Carter Beane revised the story for the Broadway production, adding new character and scenes to give the show a slightly more contemporary storyline, while still maintaining the classic elements audiences had come to know and love. At the same time, several new songs were also added from the Rodgers & Hammerstein collection.

The Broadway production featured Laura Osnes as Cinderella, Victoria Clark as the Fairy Godmother, Harriet Harris as the Stepmother, and Santino Fontana as the Prince. When the production closed in January of 2015,

it had run for 41 previews and 770 regular performances, earning nine Tony Award nominations (winning for Best Costumes - William Ivey Long), five Drama Desk Award nominations (winning Outstanding Actress - Osnes, Outstanding Costume Design - Long, and Outstanding Orchestraions - Danny Troob), and eight Outer Critics Circle Award nominations (winning Outstanding Costume Design - Long).

Leading the cast in the title role will be Emily Flack, who made her WOB debut last season as the Grand Duchess Anastasia in Anastasia. She will be joined on stage by Randy Stull as Prince Topher, Jessica Billones as the Fairy Godmother, Sarah Melinda as Madame, Kaley Harman as Gabrielle, Melissa Ann Martin as Charlotte, Kyle Donovan as Jean-Michel, Steve Steele as Sebastian, and Dominic Massimino as Lord Pinkleton. Rounding out the cast will be MacKenzie Brannen, Chris DeOcampo, Grace Guzman, Piper Guzman, Nathan Pitzer, and Tristan Vail.

This version of Cinderella has music by Richard Rodgers and an original book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, with revisions by Douglas Carter Beane. Way Off Broadway’s production is under the direction of Bill Kiska, the theatre’s Executive Producer, with music direction by Tina M. Bruley and choreography by Dee Buchanan.

The show will run June 20 – August 16, with performance every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of month. Tickets on a Friday or Sunday are \$60 per person and \$65 on Saturdays.

To learn more about Cinderella, or any of Way Off Broadway’s productions this season visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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COOKING

Ode to Minnie

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

My dear friend’s dog died. Any of us who has loved an animal knows that it’s such a perfect love that it leaves a gaping hole in your heart. She found Minnie on the streets of Detroit, rehabbed her, and then lived loved her for 14 years. Human relationships are complicated, but a dogs love is simple and honest. This article is for Minnie and her family who loved her, bake some cookies or take a plate of pasta to your friends when they lose their fur babies.

Pumpkin and Oat Dog Cookies
These are a healthy grain free dog cookie you can make for your best friend.

Ingredients

- 1 cup of pureed pumpkin (not the pie filling—just plain pumpkin)
- 2 1/2 cups of oats (ground into flour or use oat flour)
- 1 egg (for binding)
- 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon (optional, but a nice flavor boost)

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl, combine the pureed pumpkin, egg, and cinnamon. Make sure the egg is fully incorporated and mix until smooth. Cinnamon is optional. Slowly add the oat flour into the pumpkin mixture, stirring as you go. If you don’t have oat flour on hand, don’t worry. Just blend some rolled oats in a food processor or blender until they turn into flour. The dough will start to come together and should be easy to handle. If it’s too sticky, add a little more

oat flour, one tablespoon at a time. Roll out the dough to about 1/4 inch thick on a floured surface. Cut the dough into shapes using cookie cutters, or if you’re feeling lazy (no judgment), just cut them into squares with a knife. Place the cookies on the baking sheet and pop them in the oven for 20-25 minutes. You’ll know they’re done when they’re firm and slightly golden around the edges. The longer you bake them, the crunchier they’ll get, which is great for keeping your pup entertained with a longer chew. Let the cookies cool completely before giving one to your dog. Store them in an airtight container, and they’ll last for about a week. If you want to make a big batch and save them for later, you can also freeze them. Just thaw them out before serving.

Green Pea Pasta with Roasted Asparagus

This is a nice spring pasta, that is warm and lemony. Minnie’s mom is vegan, and pesto can easily be dairy free by switching nutritional yeast for the parmesan. But you can always use what you prefer. A bowl of pasta always helps mend a broken heart.

Ingredients

- Asparagus bunch
- Olive oil
- Salt
- Black pepper freshly ground
- 16 ounces pasta

Pea Pesto

- 10 ounces frozen peas
- 1 cup fresh basil packed
- ¼ cup lemon juice freshly squeezed
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast
- 2 tablespoons pine nuts

- 2 garlic cloves peeled
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper freshly ground

Instructions: Preheat the oven to 425F. Remove the tough ends from the asparagus by snapping them off with your hands. Once removed, cut the asparagus into 1-inch pieces. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet and drizzle with oil, salt, and pepper. Mix to distribute oil and seasoning. Roast for 15 minutes, stirring halfway. Keep the oven light on and check periodically as all ovens differ. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook pasta according to package instructions. Fill a small saucepan about a quarter of the way with water and add the peas. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat, and cook 4-6 minutes. Scoop out ¼ cup of water (it’s okay if some peas sneak in!). Drain and add the ¼ cup of water and the peas to your blender. Add all of the pea pesto ingredients to the blender. Blend on high until smooth. Add sauce to the bowl with the pasta, toss in the roasted asparagus, and stir to combine. Serve with fresh basil and black pepper.

Vegan Lemon Sugar Cookies

These are easy chewy cookies that will be done in 30 minutes to walk over to your friends house. They can be legal or use dairy butter dairy and egg, instead of a “flax-egg”

Ingredients

- ½ cup room temperature vegan butter
- ½ cup+ 2 Tablespoons sugar ½ cup for dough, 2 tablespoon for rolling before baking
- 1 tablespoon ground flax
- 2 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste or vanilla extract

- 1 cup+ 3 Tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Instructions: First add the butter and ½ cup of the sugar to a bowl and cream together until light and fluffy, about 1 minute. Then, add in the ground flax, lemon juice, lemon zest, and vanilla and mix together. Next, add in sifted flour, baking powder, and salt to the mixing bowl. Mix until a smooth and thick cookie batter forms. Do not over mix or else you will form too much gluten and the cookies will not spread as much and be tough. Next, add the bowl of dough to the fridge, cover, and let chill for 30 minutes- 1 hour. Cover a baking sheet in parchment paper and preheat the oven to 350F. Next, remove the dough from the fridge and use a 1.5 tablespoon cookie scoop to form your cookie dough (30 grams per cookie of dough). Roll into balls between your palms and then roll in the 2 tablespoon of sugar that was set aside so that each dough

ball is coated. Place the lemon sugar cookie dough balls onto the baking sheet. If you want flatter cookies, you can slightly press the dough down with your palm, but leave as is for the cookies you see pictured. Make sure that each cookie is kept about 2 inches apart since they will spread while baking. Bake for 10-14 minutes until bottoms are lightly browned and the cookie is cooked through but has slightly soft centers.

The cookies will continue baking after they are removed from the oven so the centers should still be soft, but not glossy or raw, when they are removed from the oven. Remove the cookie tray from the oven and immediately tap the tray on the counter to produce a more “wrinkly” cookie. Then, let the cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5-10 minutes. The cookies will be soft and puffy out of the oven and will naturally deflate a little while cooling. Once the cookies have cooled, serve and enjoy!

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of June

Professor Wayne Wooten

For June 2025, the first quarter moon is on June 2. The full moon, the Honeymoon, is June 11th. Last quarter moon is June 18th. Summer begins at 10:42 p.m. with the solstice, the longest day, with 14 hours of sunlight locally. The waning crescent moon is passing above Saturn in the dawn on June 19, and just north of Venus on June 22nd. The moon is new on June 25th. The waxing crescent moon passes Mercury in the west on June 26th.

This June Mercury passes Jupiter low in the NW at dusk on June 5th. Jupiter becomes lost in the Sun's glare for the rest of the month, but Mercury is visible low in the west for the rest of June, with the nicest grouping with the crescent moon and the Gemini, Castor and Pollux, all in a row in twilight; great photo op for smartphones! Mercury is at greatest elongation, 26 degrees east of the Sun, on July 4, but quickly gets lost in the Sun's glare by mid month.

Venus dominates the dawn sky. She reaches greatest western elongation, 46 degrees ahead of the rising sun, on June 1st, and will appear half lit in telescopes. After that, it pulls away from the earth, shrinking in size but appearing gibbous in phase for the next several months.

Mars is still visible in the western evening sky, and makes a nice grouping with Regulus in Leo on June 16th, passing just over a lunar diameter (.8 degrees) north. While comparable in brightness then, Mars of course will



Omega Centauri, the grandest globular cluster in the sky.

be much redder than blue Regulus.

While Jupiter passes directly behind the Sun on June 24th, Saturn is well placed for dawn observers, who can see the rings, edge on for the last several weeks, tilting more open each morning. The rings continue opening until their solstice in 2032, when they will tilt 27 degrees toward the Sun and more than double the planet's present brightness. It is still the brightest object in the southern fall sky now, in Pisces.

The Big Dipper is almost overhead as twilight falls, and its pointers take you north to the Pole Star. If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion is in the SW. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. 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.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. North of Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, is where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years distant.

South of Corvus lies the famed Southern Cross, but only its top three stars are BARELY visible on the Gulf horizon for us. But much of the rest of Centaurus is visible, and two notable deep sky objects beckon binocular viewers. The easiest is Omega Centauri, the grandest globular cluster in the sky. Visible as a circular blur with the naked eye, it can be resolved into some stars with even large binoculars. In my See Star S 50, it is a great sight

with clear skies, despite being only eight degrees high in the south!

Just a few degrees above Omega, Centaurus A is the most powerful radio galaxy in our neighborhood. Two great galaxies, each as massive as our own Milky Way, are colliding and merging before our eyes. In the middle is a giant elliptical, a ball of billions of older reddish stars but a thousand times more populated than Omega. Its black hole is pulling core of a spiral galaxy, not that different from our own, toward the core, while the spiral arms of the victim still lie silhouetted in front of the collision. All this collision of gas and dust is stirring up star formation at a furious pace, hence it is called a "starburst" galaxy, and its output of all forms of energy is indeed off the scale.

To the east, Hercules is well up, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars. They are bright because they are hot, even though on the main sequence, fusing hydrogen like our Sun, they are only a little larger than our home star.

Northeast of Lyra is Cygnus, the Swan, flying down the Milky Way. Its bright star Deneb, at the top of the "northern cross" is one of the luminaries of the Galaxy, about 50,000 times more luminous than our Sun and around 3,000 light years distant. Our solar system is orbiting the core of our own Galaxy every 250 million years, and currently moving in the direction of a point, our Apex, midway between Deneb and Vega.

Under dark skies, note the "Great Rift", a dark nebula in front of our solar system as we revolve around the core of the Milky Way in the Galactic Year of 250 million of our own years. The effect of our Sun and planets passing through such dusty regions as this is debated, and may effect our long term climate and even our Ice Ages. Warning, this cooling can not be in time to fix our present global warming issues!

To the east, Altair is the third bright star of the summer triangle. It lies in Aquila the Eagle, and is much closer than Deneb; it lies within about 13 light years of our Sun. Use your binocs to pick up many clusters in this rich region of our own Cygnus spiral arm rising now in the east. The nearest spiral arms of our Milky Way are now on the eastern horizon, and may be mistaken for a cloud rising if you are not used to the transparency of rural skies! They arc overhead in the morning hours for restless campers. To the south, Antares is well up at sunset in Scorpius.

It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Scorpius is the brightest constellation in the sky, with 13 stars brighter than the pole star Polaris! Note the fine naked eye clusters M-6 and M-7, just to the left of the Scorpion's tail. Just a little east of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which lies toward the center of the Milky Way. From a dark sky site, you can pick out the fine stellar nursery, M-8, the Lagoon Nebula, like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout.

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Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Dry and seasonable, then humid with occasional isolated afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); initially dry, very warm and humid, then a few showers, followed by dry and slightly cooler weather (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry and turning warm and humid with late day showers and thunderstorms after the 12th (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and turning unseasonably hot and humid with mainly afternoon thunderstorms after the 19th (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); dry, warm, and humid at first, then showers and thunderstorms, then dry and turning a touch cooler and less humid (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry and comfortable at first, then warm and humid with scattered afternoon storms on the 29th and 30th.

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees severe thunderstorms in the Mid-Atlantic Region on the 23rd and the 24th of the month (23, 24).

Full Moon: The Full Moon in June will occur on Wednesday, June 11. It

has been known, quite famously, as Rose Moon because roses start to show their gorgeous blooms at the beginning of the month. It has also been referred to as Strawberry Moon because the first strawberries of the season become ripe for the picking in June!

Special Notes: The Summer Solstice that will occur on Friday, June 20th, marking the official beginning of summer. June is graduation time for many high school and college students. Celebrate this major milestone with a big party with family and friends or a very special gift. Consider marking the special year (or any special event) with a copy of the 2025 edition of the Town and Country Almanack. Go to www.almanack.com/order and order one right now!

Holidays: Proudly display 'Old Glory' on Saturday, June 14th. Be sure to display it properly and reference www.ushistory.org/betsy/more/displayonly.htm to be sure you're doing it right! Father's Day is Sunday, June 19th. Do something really nice for the guy who a) taught you how to ride a two-wheeler b) videotaped every sporting event or recital you ever were in, c) helped you finance that new (fill in the blank), or d) all of the above! National Independence Day, or Juneteenth, is celebrated on

Thursday in 2025. The day commemorates the ending of slavery in the United

The Garden: Feed roses after each bloom cycle, water regularly, and remove any spent flowers. It's not too late to start warm-season crops such as corn, beans, tomatoes, squash, peppers, and eggplant. Plant or sow summer annuals such as nasturtiums, vinca, verbena, geraniums, phlox, marigolds, lobelia, impatiens, cosmos, sunflowers, zinnias, and alyssum. Feed annuals and remove spent flowers to promote another round of flowers.

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

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|------------------------------|--------------------|---|
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| Thursday, June 12 | Friday, June 13 | Saturday, June 14 |
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| | |
|---|---|
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| Wednesday, June 11 Cash Only | Thursday, June 12 Half Serious Band |
| Friday, June 13 Bootleg | Saturday, June 14 Borderline |



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HEALTH

Frederick Health names nurses & employees of the year

With a strong emphasis on team culture, excellence, and patient-facing care, Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in the area, prides itself on its employee recognition efforts. Each year, the healthcare system names two nurses of the year and two employees of the year, one a team leader and one a team member.

Why two of each, you may ask? In healthcare, nurses are usually assigned to two unique categories. The first is patient-facing or direct-care nurses. These nurses are responsible for patient care in the hospital, urgent care, emergency department, and inpatient treatment. The other category is indirect-care nurses. These nurses

administer system-wide programs, new initiatives, and other essential operational tasks. Both categories are vital in maintaining the high level of care provided by healthcare teams and systems. Additionally, most employees at Frederick Health are considered team members or team leaders. It is important to honor the unique contributions in each category.

Additionally, their colleagues and peers must nominate the award winners. The nominations are then reviewed and compared by a selection committee. Once the committee has decided the winners, they are announced at two different ceremonies. As such, Frederick Health is pleased

to announce the 2024 winners in each category.

Jeb Gibson, a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Emergency Department, was named the Indirect Care Nurse of the Year.

Wearing many hats, Jeb is a strong nurse, educator, paramedic, and Clinical Nurse Specialist. Working in the emergency department can sometimes be challenging, but Jeb has accomplished a great deal in helping to keep this community healthy. His years of experience, certifications, and education make him a strong leader and patient advocate. Throughout the pandemic, Jeb rose to the challenge and supported the hospital.

“This is such an incredible honor. I have the benefit of being surrounded by an amazing team. I am truly humbled,” said Gibson.

Jeb’s manager had high praise for Gibson.

“He routinely shows his dedication, compassion, leadership, and expertise; he is a proven, trusted asset to Frederick Health,” said Peggy McNeill, Director of Nursing Quality and Professional Practice.

Ellen Nicodemus, a Registered Nurse in the Pediatrics Department, was named the Direct Care Nurse of the Year.

According to her colleagues and supervisors, Ellen is a fantastic asset to the Pediatrics team. With over 22 years of experience, she is a leader and someone all staff look up to, always there to aid others with a smile. The Pediatrics Department praised Ellen for her way of teaching both clinical expertise and the art of compassion.

“I’ve always felt privileged to be part of this team of healthcare providers. It means a lot to be recognized by my peers, whom I really admire,” Nicodemus stated.

Nicodemus, slated to retire later this year, is much beloved by her entire department.

“Ellen is the epitome of the art of nursing. She has the delicate balance of skill, compassion, integrity, and experience that all nurses should strive for,” said Charli Crawford, Manager of the Pediatrics Department.

The 2024 Employees of the Year winners were equally surprised and honored by their awards.

Brenda Zell, Accounting Manager, was named Team Leader of the Year.

Zell has worked at Frederick Health for over 49 years. Her responsibilities include monthly and annual financial reporting for the organization. She also maintains accurate accounting records and leads all banking transactions with vendors. Many ‘other duties

are assigned,’ including supporting numerous grants, COVID-19 and FEMA-related funding, and annual Community Benefits reporting.

“This means everything to be recognized by my peers. They are all like family,” said Zell.

Zell is known to nearly everyone in Frederick Health, and her efforts impact almost every facet of the organization.

“Brenda is the epitome of dedication and loyalty,” said Hannah Jacobs, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer with Frederick Health. She meets the daily stress of her role with optimism. Her entire team values her positive spirit and compassionate leadership style, and she has demonstrated her commitment with long-tenured careers here at Frederick Health.”

Clayton Holdcroft, Learning Technology Specialist, was named Team Member of the Year.

Holdcroft has worked at Frederick Health for six years. He is responsible for streamlining internal processes, designing, and updating Human Resources communication tools, and organizing the internal NetLearning employee modules. He is also a strong advocate for employee engagement and education.

“It’s a pretty high honor,” said Holdcroft, “there were so many amazing people nominated that I think it’s a testament to the wonderful team we have at Frederick Health.”

“Clayton is like our Swiss Army Knife,” said Chris Bumbaugh, Vice President of Human Resources with Frederick Health. He can do it all. Clayton has a great talent for technology, analytics, and data integration. He makes life better for many people at Frederick Health and is one of the nicest people I know. I can’t say enough nice things about him; he is a star.”

Congratulations to Jeb, Ellen, Brenda, and Clayton.



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Frederick County Board of Health Recruits Liaisons

The Frederick County Board of Health is now recruiting liaisons to provide their perspectives and expertise to the board. The open liaison positions are for: Chamber of Commerce member & Mental Health Professional

Board of Health meetings take place in public and are held a minimum of twice a year. Liaisons are expected to attend these evening meetings in person. Liaisons are volunteer roles: they will have no voting privileges and will not receive any compensation.

“Our Board of Health has benefited from having more expertise to guide our discussions,” said Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Health Officer for Frederick

County and Executive Officer of the Board of Health. “We hope anyone with the qualifications for the two open positions will consider applying and add their unique lived experience and perspective to help us better serve Frederick County.”

Anyone interested in serving in one of these positions can complete the application. In addition to the application, resumés and any supplementary details can be emailed to boardofhealth@FrederickCountyMD.gov. Applications are due by 4pm on Friday, June 20. More details about the Board of Health can be found on their website FrederickCountyMD.gov/BoardofHealth.



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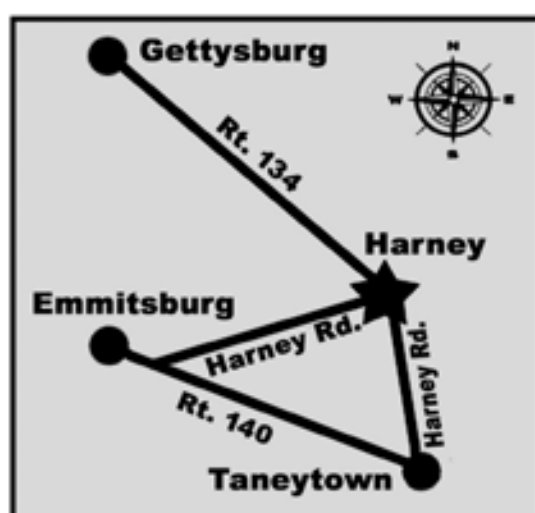
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Thursday, June 26 - Taylor Brown (Elvis tribute)

Friday, June 27 - Dixie Wind Band (Classic country)

Saturday, June 28 - Cash Only (Country)



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