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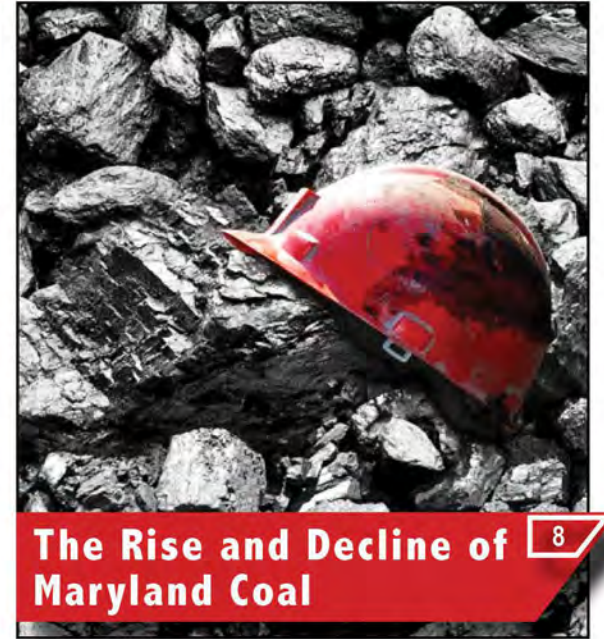
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# Maryland House of Delegates

## DISTRICT 2A



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Wivell**



*William*  
**Valentine**

**Early Voting: June 11 - 18**

**Primary Voting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Authority: Friends of William Wivell

Authority: Friends of William Valentine

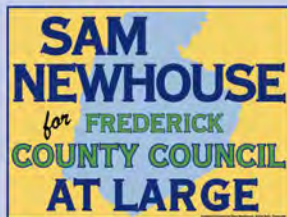
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# LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

## CATOCTIN BANNER FANS:

Whew—another issue down! It seems hard to believe the summer months will soon be upon us. For now, I will try to enjoy the occasional spring weather that has been given to us.

May is a month of both celebration and remembrance. On May 10, we honor mothers everywhere—a day that is certainly well deserved. Kudos to all moms, and to those who step into that role—it's often a thankless job, but an incredibly important one. Be sure to check out Michele Tester's column, My Two Cents, on page 51, where she reflects on motherhood and her new role as a grandmother.

Later in the month, Memorial Day weekend offers time to remember and honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten. We invite you to read about Fairfield veteran Henry B. Pecher in this month's Veteran Spotlight on page 52. Thank you to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and freedom.

As we were going to print with this issue, we received the news that Rodman Myers sadly passed away at the age of 92. Myers was a true legend, a man of kindness and community. Our community will forever be grateful for the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show, which Myers started over 50 years ago. In honoring his memory, we encourage our readers to carry on his legacy through service. No matter your talents, it's never too late to get involved—every effort, big or small, helps strengthen our community.

As always, I'd like to close by encouraging you to support our advertisers. When you visit their businesses, please let them know you saw their ad in The Catoctin Banner.

— Alisha Yocum,  
Publisher



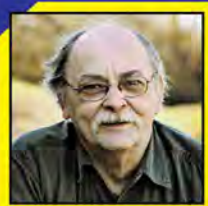
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## OUR TEAM

**AD/CONTENT DEADLINE:**  
On or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of month  
prior to issue month.

### Additional Banner Team Members:

Joan Fry, Dr. Thomas Lo, John Nickerson, Buck Reed, Michael Betteridge, Mitchell Tester, Tricia Bush, Jeff Yocum, Aditi Dhananjaya, Makayla Comer, and Jack Davis.

**YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$37.00**

## Factoid

### MARYLAND

Signs proclaiming a statewide Bicentennial Trail went up along Maryland roads in May 1976. The signs, identifying historic sites chosen by the State Bicentennial Commission and marked with the nation's swirling red, white, and blue Bicentennial logo, were placed by State Highway Administration crews.

## Factoid

### THURMONT

In January 1951, the Frederick County Clerk of the Circuit Court swore in former Maryland State Trooper William M. Houck as the trial magistrate at Thurmont, succeeding the late Justice William J. Stoner.

## Factoid

### EMMITSBURG

In late 1999 and early 2000, water fluoridation was a hot topic in Emmitsburg, as officials were urging citizens to learn the facts about it as they considered plans for the new water treatment facilities to be built.

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**Cover Photo** | Payton Fritz is seen throwing a pitch on Opening Day of Thurmont Little League.



Thurmont Little League (TLL) players and coaches gather on the new Westview Drive field—still proudly owned and operated by TLL today.

## 75 Years Strong

### Thurmont Little League Built on Community and Tradition

BY ALISHA YOCUM

Traditions have stood the test of time at Thurmont Little League (TLL). On April 3, the league celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> season, honoring decades of community, teamwork, and tradition.

Historical images show that the raising of the flag has long been a part of Opening Day ceremonies, a tradition that continues today. This year, Cub Scout Pack 270 and Troop 77 carried on that legacy by presenting the colors during the event.

Opening Day wouldn't be complete without the reciting of the

Little League Pledge, led by District 2 Administrator Marty McNeil, along with the Volunteer Pledge, led by Sheriff Chuck Jenkins.

A highlight of the ceremony was the ceremonial first pitch, thrown by PJ Nicholson, owner of PJ's Roofing, in recognition of his years of dedication to the league. "His commitment to the league and our community has made a lasting impact, and we are incredibly grateful for everything he has done for Thurmont Little League," said Brian Mo, who served as master of ceremonies. Nicholson's contributions have previously been honored with a field being named after him at the TLL complex.

Keilholtz Trucking was also recognized as the league's longest-standing sponsor, with three generations of family support—a true testament to the community's lasting commitment to the program.

The ceremony continued with the singing of the National Anthem by three TLL alumni: James Clements, Evan Laird, and Allie Bryant.

According to Thurmont Mayor Kinnaird, the league began in 1951 on a field by the Cannon Shoe Co. Factory on Apples Church Road before eventually moving to its

■ continue reading story on Page 9

Photos Courtesy of Mayor Kinnaird/Thurmontimages.com



Raising the flag on opening day in 1953.

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Lucas Swartz makes a determined push for first base during Opening Day action



Teammates from the Worm Burners pause for a picture during their game on Opening Day.

Photos by Reaver Photography



Kyla Derr gets ready to take a swing during Opening Day games.



(left) Three Generations of the Riffle Family who have played for TLL.



(right) The Schildt Family has had four generations of involvement in TLL.

Photos by Alisha Yocum

current location at 275 Westview Drive.

Many TLL alumni were in attendance and recognized during the ceremony, including Ed Schildt, whose family represents four generations of involvement in the league.

Schildt's father coached from 1968 to 2000, while Ed and his brother Blaine Sr. both played as children and continue to contribute as coaches. Today, their children—and even grandchildren—carry on the family tradition as players, coaches, and volunteers.

David Riffle, whose family now has generations involved with TLL

as well, says he played on the old field by the shoe factory and then moved to the new field during his tenure at Senior League. "I remember spending entire Saturdays helping build the new field," he said.

Ed Schildt recalls similar memories. "We had to hand rake it and shovel off the rocks to build the fields. It was really special for us when the fields grew grass, and a concession stand was added," he said.

For Blaine Young Jr., who now serves on the TLL Board as Umpire-in-Chief, the memories are just as meaningful. "I have so many great

memories, but one that stands out is my first year playing on the TLL Minor Bombers. I made lifelong friends, and I remember a teammate catching a line drive at first base bare-handed after his glove fell off. I thought that was the coolest thing ever."

To commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> season, each player received a pack of Topps baseball cards, which is also celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Reflecting on the milestone, Ed Schildt summed up the spirit of Thurmont Little League: "Families can make memories on these fields that never go away. They stay with you for the rest of your life."

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# The Rise and Decline of Maryland Coal

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON

The story of Maryland's vast coal seams began some 400 million years ago when the collision of the African and North American continents had begun to lead to land arising from the tropical seas ... seas that had once covered the land that would eventually become Maryland.

Around 320 million years ago, as the continental collision progressed, vast swamps formed on formerly submerged lands that would eventually become Allegany and Garrett counties, both of which fostered a heavy growth of vegetation, comprised primarily of primitive scaled trees, giant horsetail ferns, tree ferns, and seed ferns.

Over literally millions of years, the continuous death, burial, decomposition, and regrowth of generations of these plants accumulated on the swamp floors, thereby ultimately becoming peat (peat moss is formed by the same process) and then lignite (low-grade "brown coal").

However, as the cycle of burial and regrowth continued, eventually enough pressure, combined with heat produced by the constantly accruing vegetative overgrowth, generated a change in the layer of accumulated peat and lignite beneath... into coal—a process termed as coalification.

The primary coal in Maryland consists primarily of a type called bituminous, or "soft coal," as opposed to the coal deposits in Pennsylvania, which are primarily comprised of anthracite coal, or

"hard coal," which is the highest grade of coal.

## AGE & MINING

Geologically, the age of the preponderance of Maryland coal dates back to the Late Pennsylvania Epoch (part of the Carboniferous Period), which ranges in age from 323 to 298 million years.

The Pennsylvania Epoch received its name as the result of the "hard coal" deposits in Pennsylvania, while Carboniferous means "coal bearing," it being the period of time when much of the world's coal was formed.

There is some Early Permian Period (298 to 273 million years of age) coal in Maryland, as well as some from the Mississippian Epoch (which preceded the Pennsylvania Epoch), and can be observed in a road cut in Sideling Hill, along Interstate 68, six miles west of Hancock, Washington County. Both contain somewhat insignificant amounts of coal.

The first coal mines established in Maryland occurred in 1782, with another operation commencing in 1804. Improvements in transportation contributed to a surge in the development of coal mines, beginning with the establishment of the National Road, running through Cumberland in 1818.

The establishment of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in 1842 (and subsequently the Western Maryland Railroad beginning in 1852), and the Chesapeake and

■ continue reading on Page 9



Abandoned mine in Garrett County, Maryland.

Source: Library of Congress

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Ohio Canal in 1850, all provided ample transportation for coal from the rapidly expanding number of coal mines, according to a 1981 document of coal mining in Maryland, in the files of the US Geological Survey (USGS).

In the late 1799 era and early 1800s, coal was recovered in Maryland through drift mines (digging mines directly into hillsides) and pit mines (small pits dug into near-surface coal deposits). With the advent of the 20th century, the primary processes utilized in removing the coal from the coal deposits included surface mining (also known as strip mining), sites, and underground mining.

Among the primary coal fields of Maryland, sites have been designated as the Georges Creek Basin, the Upper Potomac Basin, and the Castleman Basin, along with the Lower Youghiogheny Basin and the Upper Youghiogheny Basin.

The Georges Creek Basin is five miles in width and is about 18 miles long, and has the longest history of commercial mining in the state, according to the USGS. The less-grandiose Upper Potomac Basin, and the Castleman Basin, the Lower Youghiogheny Basin, and the Upper Youghiogheny Basin apparently tended to be out-produced by the Georges Creek.

**RISE & DECLINE**

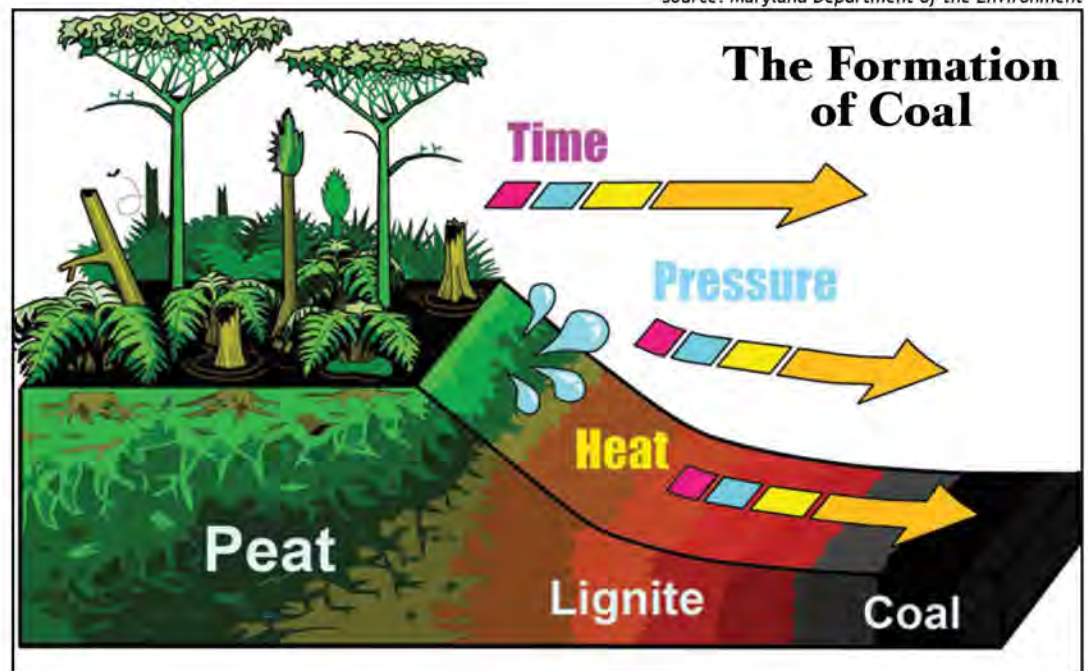
The labor force that mined the coal in Maryland depended to some degree on slave labor until 1865, when labor was further provided for, as the result of English, Welsh, Scottish, and occasionally German immigration, according to coalcampusa.com. During the peak periods of coal production in Maryland, the mines employed some 5,000 miners. By 1972, that number had been reduced to 637, according to the Maryland Geological Survey (*Coal Reserves in Maryland – Potential for Future Development* by Kenneth N. Weaver, James M. Conforth, and Jonathan Edwards, Jr.).

Fueled by the industrial revolution, coal mining in Maryland increased from 1782, peaking in the early 1900s when the coalfields yielded some 5 million tons of coal. In 1906, “the average Maryland miner worked 250 days a year, for an average annual income of \$489.97,” according to the Western Maryland Historical Society’s website.

The most productive period of coal mining occurred between the early 1900s and the 1920s. According to the Global Energy Monitor (GEM) website, coal mining in Maryland in 1865 produced 1 million tons, which increased to 4 million tons by 1895. Coal mines generated 5.5 million tons by 1907, which has been generally regarded as the peak year for coal production in the state.

However, after the mid-1920s, Maryland coal production began to decline, which has been attributed to the increased use of petroleum instead of coal. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, production had fallen back to 1.5 million tons per year, and then plummeted down to 500,000 tons, according to GEM and the USGS.

And so, how much coal remains in Maryland to be potentially mined? According to a 1976 report published by the Maryland Geological Survey, based on the 1976 estimates, “Remaining recoverable reserves” (the estimated number of tons remaining to be recovered), included: 354,100,000 tons in the Georges Creek Basin, 223,500,000 tons in the Upper Potomac Basin, 116,000,000 tons in the Castleman Basin, 107,000,000 tons in the Lower Youghiogheny Basin, and 54,300,000 tons in the Upper



Source: Maryland Department of the Environment

Youghiogheny Basin, for a total of (by 1976 numbers) 854,900,000 in “remaining recoverable reserves.”

The report further stated, “At the present yearly rate of mining, this total recoverable reserve of coal would last for approximately 342 years, and if mined at a rate equal to that during the peak production year of 1907, it would last for 150 years.”

However, the report concluded, “A related problem is how to extract the energy present in the coal (fields) with a minimum waste, but yet to provide an environmentally acceptable product. Two of the basic problems generally associated with the use of coal are that it is dirty to mine... and dirty to burn.”

Source: Source: Un-sourced photo via miningartifacts.org



Workers in George’s Creek Mine in Lonaconing, Allegany County.

Down, but not out from its initial-peak period, Maryland coal, as of 2022, constituted about 12 percent of the energy produced in the state, with 44 coal mines still in operation. In addition, as of 2023, Maryland coal mines have been producing 1.4 million tons of coal annually.

The Castleman (Basin) Mine remains Maryland’s largest active, underground coal mine. As was reported in Maryland’s largest underground coal mine changes hands (by Paul Kiefer) on May 16, 2025, in the Capital News Service. The mine changed ownership in April 2025. In 2023, the mine produced 660,000 tons of coal.

According to the article, Allegany Coal & Land Company’s President, Steve Jenkins, reportedly stated that although coal in Maryland’s coal seams is far from expended, “It’s just a matter of how much is accessible in the regulatory environment.”

**CONCLUSION**

Today, coal has become a tug-of-war subject between “green energy” advocates... and proponents of fossil fuels.

A statement issued by the White House in April 2025 had stated “It is a national priority to support the domestic coal industry by removing Federal regulatory barriers that undermine coal production, encouraging the utilization of coal to meet growing domestic energy demands, increasing American coal exports, and ensuring that Federal policy does not discriminate against coal production, or coal-fired electricity generation (whitehouse.gov).”

# TOWN HALL REPORT

BY JAMES RADA, JR.



## THURMONT

For more information on the Town of Thurmont, visit [www.thurmont.com](http://www.thurmont.com) or call 301-271-7313.

### Sidewalk Work Ongoing

The Town of Thurmont began a comprehensive sidewalk replacement project on April 14. The project, funded by a Community Development Block Grant and Maryland Highway User Revenues, will remove and replace the sidewalks on Lombard Street, Walnut Street, and Carroll Street. While the work is underway, parking on the affected streets will be limited to one side of the street, opposite to where the work is taking place. Updates on the project will be posted on the town website and Facebook. Residents may also call the Town Offices at 301-271-7313 with any questions.

### State Highway Project Work On Emmitsburg Road Expected to Finish This Month

The Maryland State Highway Administration began repairing cracks and depressions on the roadway, removing the driving surface, and installing a new asphalt surface on Emmitsburg Road in late March. No parking is allowed along this stretch of road during work hours. The project is expected to be completed this month, weather permitting.

### Program Open Space Projects Discussed

As part of the budget discussions for Fiscal Year 2027, the Thurmont Mayor and Commissioners discussed their wish list for projects that could be funded with Program Open Space funds. A new project on the table is a disc golf course that could be placed on town property near the library. Besides the course equipment and landscaping, picnic tables and trash cans could be placed in the area. Another possible project is to replace the fence on one of the baseball field backstops.

Once the mayor and commissioners choose their priority projects, a representative from the town will meet with other municipal representatives to see how much money is available and how many projects the money can fund.

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From the **MAYOR**

**THURMONT**  
Mayor John Kinnaird

This year, the United States is celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I expect that there will be lots of opportunities to celebrate this milestone accomplishment! Interestingly, here in Thurmont, we are also celebrating a special anniversary. This year will be the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our community by settlers from Pennsylvania.

When the first settlers arrived here in 1751, they were attracted by the beautiful mountains, cool streams, and ample land for farms and orchards. As time passed, several mills were built along Hunting Creek to help with the manufacture of grains, tools, hides, shingles, and other products. Our community was incorporated as Mechanicstown in 1831, in recognition of the number of small manufacturing businesses at the time. By 1871, when the Western Maryland Railroad arrived, Mechanicstown was a thriving community. The railroad brought with it new opportunities, improved transportation for goods, and a lot of tourists. With the growth of Western Maryland, they had a problem with several towns having the word Mechanic or a variation in the town's name. There was a contest in Mechanicstown to come up with a new name. Blue Mountain City was selected, but due to its length, the railroad objected. In the end, the second-place winner, Thurmont, was chosen. The name Thurmont was coined by local businessman and newspaper owner Charles Cassell and means Through the Mountains. The name was officially changed in 1894, after the town residents petitioned the State Legislature. The original petition is on display in the town office. Beginning in the 1940s and 1950s, Thurmont saw an influx of large businesses and residential growth. These new residents and businesses have been welcomed into our community and are now an integral part of our daily lives. Thurmont remains a small town at heart, and we are very proud of our community spirit.

Thurmont has seen several anniversary celebrations over the years. The largest being the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary held in 1951. This celebration featured school plays and concerts, a parade, the crowning of a Queen and Court, a souvenir booklet, and many other events, hosted by churches and social organizations. During the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, there were several souvenir items for sale, a booklet, and a program. One of the parts of the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration involved gathering old photographs of the buildings in our downtown. Denny Smith and I gathered an amazing collection of photos that we displayed in each of the buildings downtown. This collection of images was the beginning of my collection of Thurmont photographs. You can see several thousand historic images of Thurmont and the surrounding communities at [thurmontimages.com](http://thurmontimages.com). The site also has a collection of images from the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

We are currently planning a celebration for this year's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The plans include a poster contest for school kids, several scavenger hunts, a new booklet featuring then and now images of Thurmont, a float in the GHC Parade, t-shirts, artwork, a plein air art program, a fashion show, raffles, games, and culminating with a large community picnic on September 27 at Community Park. Out of respect for our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our celebration events will occur after July 4<sup>th</sup>. Please be on the lookout for additional information regarding Thurmont's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. And remember, our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is only 25 years away!

Karen and I hope everyone has a wonderful month of May and that the weather starts leveling out soon. I can be reached at 301-606-9458 or by email at [jkinnaird@thurmont.com](mailto:jkinnaird@thurmont.com).

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# TOWN HALL REPORT

BY JAMES RADA, JR.



## EMMITSBURG

For more information on the Town of Emmitsburg, visit [www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov) or call 301-600-6300.

### Sheriff's Deputies' Contract Approved

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners approved the contract with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office for the community deputies who handle law enforcement in Emmitsburg. The contract to have two deputies in Emmitsburg for Fiscal Year 2027 will cost \$402,927, which is an increase of 4.71 percent over the current year. The increase is due to a 4.5 percent increase to the Uniformed Law Enforcement Pay Scale, a step increase for each deputy, and associated fringe benefit costs. Commissioner Rosario Benvengi objected to some of the costs, saying that town residents were already paying for some of the costs, such as workman's compensation through their county taxes, and that having them in the contract was double taxation.

### Rainbow Lake Dam Repairs Approved

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners recently approved a contract with Charles P. Johnson & Associates to make needed repairs to the 76-year-old dam at Rainbow Lake. The list of repairs came from a Maryland Department of the Environment required inspection. The cost of the repairs is \$125,243.45.

### Benefits Allocation Discussed

When the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners requested that town staff allocate staff benefits to their home department rather than where the work was performed, they were warned that this was not considered a best practice. However, it allowed for it to appear that the water budget was smaller in the hopes of minimizing the increase needed to make the needed repairs and upgrades to the water system.

As Mayor Frank Davis explained it, "You're saving the water fund a little but draining the general fund."

Town Manager Cathy Willets explained that shifting the money didn't decrease the amount of money residents will need to pay to fund the budget; it just moved it from one fund to another. The shifting of money between funds amounts to around \$60,000.

Then the annual town audit noted this change as a problem that should be corrected. While changing the methodology back to allocating the benefits to the department that received the work, the commissioners were warned that not doing so could affect the town's ability to get grants.

The commissioners need to decide how they want the benefits allocated so that the budget can be put together.

### Butterfly Garden Approved

Based on a recommendation from the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners approved the expenditure of \$100 to create a Monarch waystation in E. Eugene Myers Community Park, where the town's first community garden is located. Residents who currently garden there can be redirected to the Cedar Avenue Community Garden.

The waystation would be a native plant "demonstration" garden that will help the town meet the goals of Sustainable Maryland. It will also serve as an outdoor classroom for adults and children who want to learn more about native plants; the importance of pollinators in flower and food production; the amazing lifecycle of butterflies; and how to "tag," record, and release monarchs.



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From the **MAYOR**

**EMMITSBURG**  
Mayor Frank Davis

Warmer weather is here, flowers are blooming, our parks are full of people of all ages, and the smell of fresh-cut grass is filling the air. I hope you get out and take advantage of this wonderful time of year.

One of the things I have learned over the past two and a half years is that nothing is easy in the world of construction. As some of you have noticed, there has been a delay with the North Seton Avenue water line and Green Street project. After 15 months of reviews and comments from state agencies, we thought we were ready to move dirt in the first week of April. Much to our surprise, on March 30, we received a few more changes to the stormwater management part of the contract. To be exact, there were 18 changes, this time by the fifth different reviewer. Frustrated and not sure of what steps to take, I reached out to our delegation in Annapolis, Senator Corderman and Delegates Valentine and Wivell. Within an hour, I received a call from our delegates, offering assistance. Within 24 hours, we were given permission to continue the project, with the condition that we address the new comments. I want to thank our senator and delegates for being there when we needed them the most.

Over the past month, I have had the opportunity to attend several special events, the first being Opening Day for the Thurmont Little League. This year marks their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was attended by several hundred players, families, friends, and fans. Thanks to this fine organization, their partnership with our town has brought our ballfield back to life. Thank you, Thurmont Little League.

Thanks to the Seton Shrine and the Daughters of Charity, I was invited to the opening of the America 250 Special Exhibit. "Emmitsburg: From Way Back to Now" is a must-see. Join the Daughters of Charity for their special exhibit on the history of Emmitsburg, the town they have called home since Mother Seton's arrival in 1809. The exhibit will be open until the holiday season of 2027.

Next month, I will be giving you updates on all the current and upcoming projects that will continue to make Emmitsburg a better place to live, work, and visit. I hope to have some exciting news to share.

In closing, I want to remember two very special friends who we lost during the month of April. Norman Shriver Jr. and Ben Ogle were prominent businessmen who served the Emmitsburg and Thurmont communities with pride. While both had quite different personalities, they both loved their family, friends, and communities with all their hearts. I will personally miss both. On behalf of the Town of Emmitsburg, we offer our prayers and condolences to their families.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns or just want to chat, please give me a call.

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## From the **BURGESS**

### **WOODSBORO** Burgess Heath Barnes

*Woodsboro town meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. In addition, planning and zoning meetings are at 6:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month, as needed. If you have an item for the agenda, it needs to be submitted 14 days before the P&Z meeting. The current meeting location is the St. John's United Church of Christ, located at 8 N. 2nd Street, Woodsboro, MD 21798. The public is always invited to attend.*

Greetings! I opened the April Woodsboro town meeting by discussing the previous meeting and the way the public comments went. Even though there are personal issues between Mrs. Haines and me outside of town business, I should not have let those come into play at the meeting and let her speak without interruption. I apologized to her at the meeting (she was not there, so I am also doing it here). My apologies for the behavior at the meeting.

We had several items on the agenda at the April meeting. One was a discussion about sewage and water hookup rates for new homes, which are currently \$7,500 each for a total of \$15,000 per home. This number has been the same for many years. After a discussion, ultimately, the commissioners unanimously voted to raise these amounts to \$10,000 each for a total of \$20,000 per hookup fee for each new home. This will help with our water and sewer funds, which are so desperately needed. The new rates go into effect immediately.

We also discussed community events. After a conversation following the last Easter Egg Hunt, there isn't much appetite within the fire department to continue it, and I do not have the desire either, as

it is difficult to get help. This year, we had very little help on the day of the event, and it's just too much. We then discussed the Woodsboro Days. The first four years, I did it on my own with no help at all. Last year, we had a little bit of help, and I appreciate it, but it is still not enough. I personally am not looking to spearhead it this year. I presented it to the council to see if anyone wanted to take it over, and no one did, so the decision was made that there will not be a Woodsboro Days festival in the park this year. It is unfortunate because it is a fun event for all who typically attend it. I highly encourage anyone who wants to use the stage and have events to reach out to Mary and get something in place. It has been getting used for some events, and I love seeing that. It was my desire when I went after that grant to see it being used for the community.

I also discussed social media. I have removed my Burgess Facebook page because it has caused more issues than good. When I was elected, I had a goal to get the availability to elected officials out there, and I truly believe I have been out there giving updates in real time on social media more than any elected official in the history of

the town, but it just caused more headaches than good. We have a town office with a full-time town manager who's there Monday through Friday. If there is a question, that's where it needs to be asked. I am, as always, available for after-hours emergency questions via my phone number, which is 301-401-7164, and can also be found on the town's website. We will also make sure that each commissioner's contact information is on there, along with the departments he/she oversees. Another reminder is that the "Living in Woodsboro" page is NOT a town-run page; it is a community page, so there is no guarantee anyone from the town will answer questions on it, or if the answers being given are even correct.

Going forward, and for the last three years of my term, I will be working hard like I always have to continue going after grants and wherever I can to bring in funds to make the town even better, because everything can always be better. I will be the administrator of the town, overseeing the town staff and assisting them, running the monthly town meetings, representing the town at state and county events, etc. As for anything else, I will be stepping back. If any of the other

town council members or anyone from the community would like to form committees for community events, I have all the information and would be happy to hand it off to you and share the contacts you may need to continue them.

Reminder to anyone interested, the budget meeting will be held at our May 12 meeting. This is where the council will discuss the budget to be voted on at the June meeting. As always, it will begin at 7:00 p.m. Also, the annual Memorial Day Parade that is put on by the Woodsboro American Legion will take place on May 24 at 1:30 p.m. down Main Street. They always put on a great event. I encourage you to attend.

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

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

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# Maryland on Stamps & Covers

## B&O 125<sup>th</sup>

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON

The United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a three-cent stamp on February 28, 1952, commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad.

The stamp depicted a horse-drawn railcar, the 1829-1930 *Tom Thumb*, and then-modern diesel. In addition, the legend on the stamps stated, "Baltimore & Ohio Railroad chartered February 18, 1827," and "125 years of rail transportation."

First day of issue covers (FDCs) were canceled at the Baltimore Post Office.

The B&O traces its origins back to Baltimore's economic struggles, which the port city had faced in the mid-to-late 1820s.

An idea was suggested in 1826 by Evan Thomas, brother of Philip E. Thomas (president of the National Mechanics Bank of Baltimore) that railroads could be constructed and employed to transport goods. Evan Thomas had learned of the possibilities when he had visited England, according to *The Great Railroads of North America* (Bill Yenne, general editor, and Timothy Jones, editor).

In England, Evan Thomas had witnessed the operations of the British Stockton & Darlington Railroad, a small mining railroad.

Sold on the idea, Philip E. Thomas and George Brown (who was the director of the National Mechanics Bank of Baltimore) then became partners in establishing a "rail road" venture, and on February 28, 1828, incorporated the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company... thereby

paving the way for the B&O to become the first (and ultimately the oldest) passenger and freight railroad in the nation.

The first leg of tracks was laid between Mount Clare, Baltimore, and Ellicott City, with the first "train" then having been in operation on this short line on May 24, 1830, according to Yenne and Jones. The "trains" consisted of a stagecoach-like car—the first car having been named "The Pioneer" and was pulled by horses. The horses also pulled wagons, which were designed for hauling freight.

On August 24, 1830, the first B&O steam engine made its debut, named the *Tom Thumb*, which had been constructed in 1829 by Peter Cooper. According to Yenne and Jones, the *Tom Thumb* made its first run from Baltimore to Ellicott City, traveling at an average of 18 miles per hour, while hauling a coach with 25 passengers.

On the Fourth of July in 1831, the B&O purchased the first eight-wheeled passenger cars, and by 1835, the B&O owned eight steam engines, 44 passenger cars, and 1,078 freight cars, according to Yenne and Jones.

On New Year's Day, 1853, the B&O reached Wheeling (Virginia), thereby deeming the B&O as being the first railroad to reach the Ohio River from the East Coast. Subsequently, the B&O became the first through-train from the East Coast to have reached Saint Louis.

The subsequent War of Rebellion found the B&O



1952 First Day of Issue cover (FDC) for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the B&O Railroad stamp.

serving an unanticipated duty: transporting Union troops and supplies to aid the Union forces in their attempts to restore order to the nation.

Serving the Union war effort proved to have been quite costly to the B&O. By the end of 1861 alone, dozens of B&O steam engines had been destroyed or captured, hundreds of railroad cars had been destroyed or captured, and nearly two dozen B&O railroad bridges had been destroyed, along with more than three dozen miles of railway.

The B&O reached its ultimate peak in the 1950s when it operated on some 5,658 miles of track between Baltimore, New York City, Chicago, and Saint Louis, the railroad tracks thereby spanning a total of 13 states.

The railroad faced financial difficulties entering the 1960s, was merged into the Chessie System, which joined with the Seaboard Coast Railroad in 1980, and was then consolidated into CSX Corporation.

In 1987, the B&O company was officially dissolved.

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## Fun Run/Walk at the Fort & Wellness Fair

The Ft. Ritchie Community Center is hosting a Fun Run/Walk Wellness Fair on Saturday, May 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. All ages are welcome to participate in the 1-mile, 2-mile, or 5K. Costs are \$10.00 for pre-registration for ages 7-plus, and free for ages 6 and under. For same-day registration, the cost is \$15.00. To register and find out more, view the advertisement on page 28.

## AMVETS Bar Bingo

Every Thursday, join the AMVETS Post 7 in Thurmont for Bar Bingo at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Open to the Public. Last week's Jackpot was \$700. View the advertisement on page 50 for details.

## Huge Yard Sale

Come ready to browse for bargains at the Huge Yard Sale benefiting Apples Church UCC on May 8-9, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tons of great stuff! Hot dogs and baked goods will be available. View the advertisement on page 45.

## Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company Bingo

Mark your calendars for the next Bingo at the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company in Rocky Ridge on Saturday, April 9. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., with games starting at 7:00 p.m. Come hungry! Food is available for purchase. View the advertisement on page 45.

## Mighty Tikes and Kids Triathlon

Frederick County Parks and Rec brings you the annual Mighty Tikes and Kids Triathlon on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at Ballenger Creek Park. Kids will pedal through a bike course, then transition to the running portion, concluding with a "swim" (dashing through a water obstacle course). To register and for more information, view the advertisement on page 39.

## Visit Harriet Chapel During the Maryland Iron Festival

Stop by Harriet Chapel during the Maryland Iron Festival on May 16-17, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Enjoy free Docent-led tours of the chapel's historical building, as well as free children's activities. Delicious food and baked goods will be for sale. Sunday services will take place at 8:30 a.m. View the advertisement on page 39.

## Mother Seton Carnival

It is time for Mother Seton's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Carnival! Come out and enjoy rides, games, live music, and raffles while supporting the school on May 27 through May 30, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The event is located at 100 Creamery Road in Emmitsburg. View the advertisement on page 35 for more information and the complete lineup of live music.

## LOOK WHO TOOK US ALONG!

Take our newspaper along with you on your travels—day trip, adventure, hike, vacation—anywhere!

Have someone take a photo of you holding *The Catoctin Banner*, and your photo could be included in a future issue!

Send your photo, along with the details of where you traveled, name(s) of person(s) pictured, and any details you would like to add, and email it to us at:

[NEWS@THECATOCTINBANNER.COM](mailto:NEWS@THECATOCTINBANNER.COM)

(Subject Line: Take Us Along)

## Bingo — Every Friday Night

The Thurmont Community Ambulance hosts its Friday Night Bingo every Friday! Come out to the Thurmont Event Complex every Friday night to play bingo! Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. Bingo also features tip jars, food, and a jackpot of up to \$1,500! Proceeds benefit Thurmont Community Ambulance. View the advertisement on page 31.

## St. Mark's Strawberry Festival & Yard Sale

On May 30, stop by St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Sabillasville for delicious homemade sandwiches, soups, strawberry sundaes, shortcakes, pies, and a variety of baked goods. After dining, browse the yard sale. View the advertisement on page 60.

## Mt. Tabor Park Events

The Mt. Tabor Park is once again hosting a variety of events. On June 13, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., stop by the Festival for food and music by Taylor Brown's Elvis. The second festival will be on July 18, with Honky Tonk Twins. The Big Picnic will be on August 8, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m., with music by Tall in the Saddle and a Baby Show and Tractor Ride. On August 10-15, come out for the Rocky Ridge Vol. Fire Co. Carnival, and October 8-10 for Ridgefest from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clip the advertisement on page 31 to save the dates!

## Thurmont Main Street Art & Wine Stroll

Come ready to sip, shop, listen to music, and enjoy a variety of food trucks at the annual Thurmont Main Street Art & Wine Stroll on May 15, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come dressed in your best Preakness hat! Stop by 10Tavern for the Preakness Hat Judging Contest at 8:30 p.m. Prizes awarded to top five hats. View the advertisement on page 29 for a complete list of wineries/distilleries/breweries, food vendors, and entertainment.

## Graceham Moravian Church Events

Graceham Moravian Church will hold its monthly Served with Grace Free Dinner on Monday, May 4, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join. In June, stop by for a Yard & Food Sale, which includes breakfast and oyster sandwiches, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. On August 29, join them again for a Vendor Craft and Food Sale with breakfast and lunch sandwiches, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In the fall, join them for the Colorfest Yard and Food Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and finally, on November 14, the Oyster Platter Carry-Out will be from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. View the advertisement on page 28.

## Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day Craft & Vendor Show

Come out for the annual Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day, which includes a free Craft and Vendor Show on June 27, from Noon to 4:00 p.m., with setup at 9:00 a.m. Refundable registration of \$25.00 for all vendors/crafters. Vendors need to register by June 19. View the advertisement on page 28.

## Emmitsburg Community Baptist Church VBS

Kids in grades K-5 are welcome to join the Emmitsburg Community Baptist Church for its Emerald Crossing Vacation Bible School (VBS) on June 22-25, from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. During VBS, kids will journey through Ireland and explore Psalm 23. For registration information, view the advertisement on page 27.

## Designer Bag Bingo

Help support the Biglerville Fire Company Auxiliary and get a chance to win a new designer bag on May 31. Doors open at Noon, and Bingo begins at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and sold at the door only. You can reserve a table by calling 717-586-1808. View the advertisement on page 26 for more information.

## Weller UMC Events

Weller UMC in Thurmont will be hosting a Ladies Tea after Church on May 17 at 11:45 a.m. This is a free event! On June 12, kids are invited to join the Youth Sock Hop from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. View the advertisement on page 25 for details.

## Rocky Ridge Pit Sandwich Sale Drive-Thru

Grab yourself some delicious pit beef, ham, or turkey sandwiches at the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company Pit Sandwich Sale Drive-Thru on May 23 at 13527 Motter's Station Road in Rocky Ridge. Pickup will be from 11:00 a.m. until sold out. Sandwiches are \$8.00 each, or make it a platter for \$13.00 and get a sandwich, fries, coleslaw, and applesauce. Pre-order to ensure you don't miss out by placing your order by calling the numbers listed in the advertisement on page 24.

## Thurmont Ambulance Carnival

Come out to the Thurmont Event Complex for the annual Carnival, benefiting the Thurmont Ambulance Company, on May 26-30. Pre-Sale ride tickets are currently on sale for \$25.00 and include unlimited rides from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Thurmont Event Complex, Woodsboro Bank (Thurmont), Kountry Kitchen, Weis Markets, and Direct to You Gas Station. The carnival features live music each night and fireworks on May 29. For more information, view the advertisement on page 23.

## Emmitsburg Pub Crawl to Save the Fireworks

Help support the Emmitsburg Lions Club and the Community Heritage Day Committee as they fundraise to save the Emmitsburg Fireworks. The Pub Crawl will be held on May 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$30.00 per person, and the event starts and ends at the Emmitsburg VFW. First and second place for best hands; third place for worst hand. Enjoy extras: finger food, specialty drinks, jars, and raffles. View the advertisement on page 19.

## Lions Club Sandwich Sale

The Thurmont Lions Club will be selling its pit beef, pork, ham, and turkey sandwiches on May 23, July 4, August 1, and September 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (or until sold out) at the Bell Hill Farm on Rt. 15 in Thurmont. New this year is a gigantic indoor yard sale in addition to the sandwich sale in May. View the advertisement on page 19.

## Tom's Creek UMC Events

Join Tom's Creek UMC for their May events! On May 2 at 10:00 a.m., they will hold Film and Conversation in the sanctuary. On May 14 at 7:00 p.m., join them for the Westminster Ringers, A Maryland Community Handbell Ensemble. There will be a freewill offering. Then join them for Face of America's Annual Bike Ride at The Promised Land on May 17, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. This is a Tom's Creek tradition to host a rest stop for our wounded warriors. The bikers are greeted with applause, waving banners and flags, snacks, and beverages. View the advertisement on page 19 for more information.

## May Birthday Celebration for Wayne Wiles

Stop by Cactus Flats on May 17, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. to celebrate the birthday of Wayne Wiles, former owner of Cactus Flats. The event will feature music by Erine Bradley & The Grassy Ridge Band. View the advertisement on page 13.

## Big Money Cash Bash

Win some money at the Big Money Cash Bash on Saturday, May 17, at the Thurmont Events Complex. Gates open at 10:00 a.m. Tickets include food, beer, wine coolers, and soda. Cost is \$20.00 per person. For information on purchasing tickets, view the advertisement on page 8.

## Thurmont Farmer's Market

The season starts on May 23! Come ready to shop all our local favorites—meat, honey, fruits and vegetables, soaps, and much more! The event runs every Saturday through September 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Thurmont Town Park. View the advertisement on page 5 for more information and a complete listing of food trucks.

## County Council Candidate Meet & Greet

Come meet the candidates running for District 5 on the County Council on Saturday, May 9, from Noon to 3:00 p.m., at the Thurmont Senior Center, located at 806 E. Main Street in Thurmont. Candidates will provide plans for making a critical difference in Frederick County. Bring the kids and grandkids for pizza and popsicles. For more information, view the advertisement on page 2.

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# How Wild Was “Wild Mary”?

Rail fans affectionately called the Western Maryland Railway “Wild Mary.” Although no one is sure of the origin of this nickname, it is believed to have developed from the small railroad’s scrappy spirit as it traversed the mountainous terrain, steep grades, sharp curves, and dramatic scenery of Western Maryland.

Unlike most railroads that were built by a specific company, the Western Maryland Railway’s largest growth came as a result of it taking over dozens of smaller railroads, each with its own stories that became part of the Western Maryland Railway story. Although the Western Maryland Railway was eventually taken over by a larger railroad, people still fondly remember “Wild Mary.”

Bestselling author James Rada, Jr.’s newest book tells many of the forgotten stories of the Western Maryland Railway that help show why it is still fondly remembered today.

*Secrets of the Western Maryland Railway: Little-Known Stories & Hidden History About “Wild Mary”* is the latest book in Rada’s Secrets series.

“These are stories that caught my attention in one way or another,” Rada said. “They aren’t well known—I call them hidden history—but they are the stories that can be the most interesting.”

*Secrets of the Western Maryland Railway* contains 40 stories and nearly 60 pictures about the construction, labor issues, wrecks, and other stories from the railroad.

Among the stories are:

- The trick that the Western Maryland Railroad used to get into Pennsylvania without a charter.
- Abraham Lincoln’s adventures riding the railroad in both life and death.
- How the Western Maryland Railway helped make one of the largest archeological discoveries in the U.S.
- How the railroad had the power to change the name of towns it serviced.
- The worst accident on the Western Maryland Railway.

These are just some of the stories included in *Secrets of the Western Maryland Railway: Little-Known Stories & Hidden History About “Wild Mary.”* These are the types of stories that you won’t read about in history textbooks.

“People often ask me where I find the stories,” Rada said. “I spend a lot of time looking

through books on the topic I’m researching, poring through old newspapers, and searching the Internet.”

*Secrets of the Western Maryland Railway* is the tenth book in his popular Secrets series. Other local titles include *Secrets of Catoctin Mountain*, *Secrets of the C&O Canal*, and *Secrets of Frederick County*. He has also written 10 other non-fiction history books and 12 historical fiction novels.

James Rada, Jr. is an Amazon.com-bestselling author and award-winning writer who Midwest Book Review called “a writer of considerable and deftly expressed storytelling talent.”

A review of Rada’s most recent historical-fiction novel, *Home for Wayward Elephants*, on OnlineBookClub.org, called it “a delightful read with dynamic characters and highly emotional scenes.” He has been writing about history for 25 years and still finds it fascinating and new. “History

## Secrets of the WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY



is not boring. It’s full of love, adventure, comedy, and mysteries that still aren’t solved to this day. It’s those types of stories I like to write, and I believe I’ve pulled together a great collection of them for this book,” Rada said.

For more information about James Rada, Jr.’s books, visit his website at jamesrada.com.

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**May 14**  
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7 pm, Tom's Creek UMC

**May 17**  
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Bike Ride  
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Photos by Alisha Yocum



## Thurmont Welcomes Pools, Patios & Porches to Main Street

BY ALISHA YOCUM

The Town of Thurmont held a ribbon-cutting on April 20 to welcome Pools, Patios & Porches to Thurmont.

Thurmont welcomed its newest business to the square on April 20. Pools, Patios & Porches is now open at what was the former the Hobbs' Hardware building at 15 E. Main Street.

Owners Paul and Donna Gorgol—along with their children, Kelly Sewack, Bryan Berzinski, and Mike Gorgol, who help run the operation—are no strangers to the industry. In 2002, the family purchased a pool store in Frederick, launching the first Pools, Patios & Porches.

As the business grew, the family opened up a Smithsburg location in 2009. The new location will now replace the Smithsburg store.

“Thurmont offered many highlights when the opportunity to came to purchase the building, including easy access via major roads, an easy 20-minute ride in all directions connecting you to a large growth area, many community

events that attract a great number of potential customers, and we’ve received a lot of support from the economic development group in Thurmont, the community leaders and many of the local businesses,” Kelly Sewack, said.

“We are so thankful for the Town of Thurmont and how supportive they have been through the process. They have welcomed us with open arms,” Paul expressed.

The Thurmont mayor, town commissioners, and staff were all in attendance to show their support for the new business.

“This building was Super Thrift for 20 years and Hobbs' Hardware for over 30 years. I am hoping you will have a successful and long run as the previous tenants,” Mayor Kinnaird said, as he shared some of the history of the building.

As you browse the store, you will find a wide variety of items, from pool supplies to a large

selection of patio and pool furniture to outdoor décor. The store also offers pool services, including pool openings and closings, maintenance, leak detection, equipment repairs and upgrades, and more. In fact, a pool will be installed in the back of the building to train service staff members.

Be sure to stop in and check out all they have to offer! Pools, Patios & Porches is open Tuesday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, you can visit their website at [www.visitppp.com](http://www.visitppp.com) or follow them on



Mayor Kinnaird presents a certificate to owner, Paul Gorgol.

Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok. View their advertisement on page 41.

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# A Stitch in Time: Sew n' Place Makes a Home in Emmitsburg

BY ALISHA YOCUM



(left) Sew n' Place offers sewing machine sales and repairs, fabric, and other accessories.



(right) Michael Sneeringer, owner of Sew n' Place, is excited to expand with a retail location in Emmitsburg.

Photos by Alisha Yocum

Emmitsburg's newest business is bringing excitement for local quilters and crafters alike. Sew n' Place, which opened in March at 101 Silo Hill Road (near Jubilee Foods), offers sewing machine sales and repair, along with a wide selection of fabric, thread, and accessories for sewing enthusiasts.

The shop is owned by Michael and Hether Sneeringer, second-generation operators of Sew n' Place, which has an established location in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania. As Gettysburg residents, the Sneeringers were already familiar with Emmitsburg and saw an opportunity to expand when retail space became available. Its convenient location near the highway also makes it easily accessible for customers traveling from Frederick and the surrounding areas.

Sneeringer's father worked for Singer, the well-known sewing

machine manufacturer, from 1960 to 1982. After the company closed its store, he went on to start Sew n' Place. Following in his father's footsteps, Sneeringer began repairing sewing machines at just 14 years old and later became president of the company at age 25.

The Sneeringers are excited to share their knowledge with the local community.

"We've had locations in different places over the years, but we've never been in such a welcoming community as Emmitsburg," said Sneeringer. "We're really happy to be part of it."

While some may view sewing as a fading skill, Sneeringer believes it is experiencing a resurgence—particularly among younger generations. He notes that many millennials and younger individuals are embracing hands-on creativity with hobbies such as sewing, canning, etc.

In addition to retail and repair services, Sew n' Place plans to expand its offerings in the near future by introducing sewing classes for the community.

Stop by and browse their wide variety of fabric and sewing machines on Tuesday through

Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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# Businesses Past...

Closed

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON

## Hershey's Five and Dime

Hershey's Five and Dime (also known as Hershey's 5 & 10) was located at 9 Water Street in Thurmont, but the actual building that housed the store is no longer there, being replaced with a newer structure.

By the 1950s, Raymond (Ray) H. Boarts owned and managed Thurmont's Hershey's 5 & 10, along with his wife, Corrine. At the time of his death on March 19, 1966, *The (Frederick) News* reported that Boarts and his wife had operated the store for the past 15 years (since circa 1951).

By the early 1950s, Boarts had begun to expand his operations beyond Thurmont. Boarts had not only owned the Hershey's Five and Dime in Thurmont but had also owned and operated a Hershey's 5 & 10 in York, according to *The (Frederick) News* in an article published in the February 23, 1952, issue. The article had also stated that he had purchased the Novelty 5 & 10 cent store on the square (from owner, John O'Donoghue).

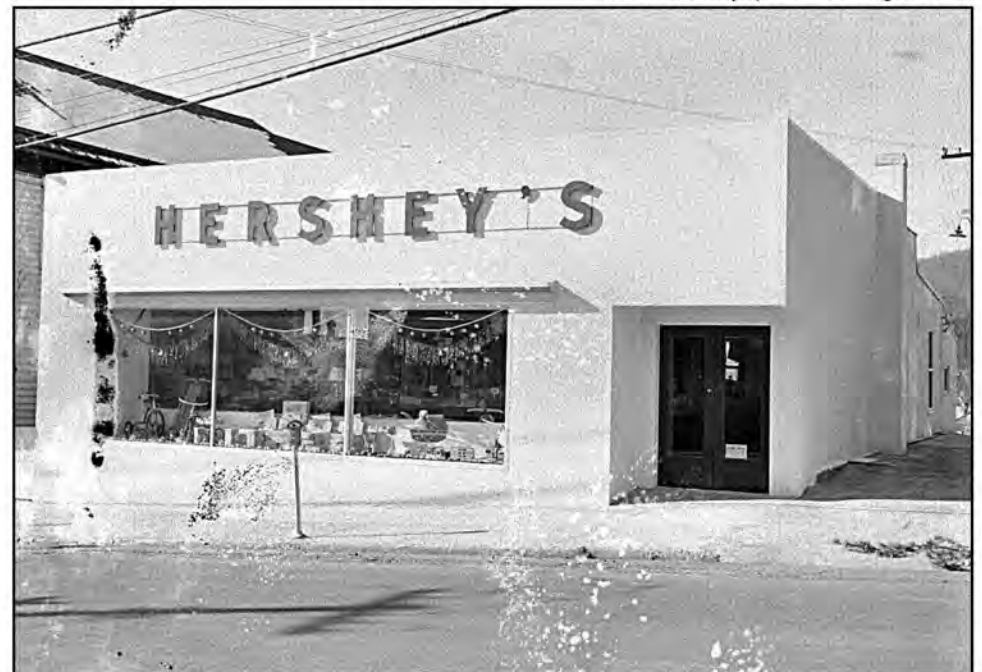
Unfortunately, the article did not state which town square, but it did state that he "will take possession on March 20 and will open his newly acquired store on March 28." However, the same information that appeared in the February 23, 1952, issue of *The (Frederick) News* had reported the item in their Emmitsburg news column.

An advertisement placed by Hershey's in the August 26, 1938, edition of *The Carroll Record*, offered school supplies, such as shoelaces, notebooks and paper, mucilage (rubber cement), ink, etc., from 4 to 10 cents, and a chance to win a \$6,000 contest for buying school supplies.

A legal advertisement published in the January 29, 1949, edition of *The (Frederick) News* reported that a new lease had been issued to Hershey's, reporting "The Thurmont Bank has released (re-leased) a store property in Thurmont to Hershey's 5 & 10 Store, Inc., at \$1,100 annual rent."

A Christmas advertisement placed in the December 20, 1957, edition of the *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, had only mentioned the Thurmont store. The advertisement listed holiday decorations and gifts, featuring Christmas tree light-sets ranging from 98-cents to \$3.69, with outdoor-light sets for \$2.59, latex-rubber "ponytail" dolls for \$4.95, as well as other female child gifts, such as play-dish or aluminum cooking sets for 98-cents each, and toy trucks for the boys, ranging from \$3.95 to \$5.95.

In 1955, a thief broke into the Thurmont Hershey's, as well as a number of other area businesses, as was announced in the September



Hershey's 5 & 10 depicted in this 1951 photograph.

14, 1955, in *The (Frederick) News*. According to the article, State Trooper H. J. Brown had reported that John Wesley Peary, 39, had been arrested on August 31 in the Thurmont home of Mary Waesche, where he had gained entry under the influence of liquor. Trooper Brown reported that Peary confessed to breaking into Hershey's 5 & 10, Camp Cozy, Mount Jerry's Place, and Charles Hobbs East End Grocery, but that nothing of great value had been taken.

Ray H. Boarts passed away on March 19, 1966, at the Frederick Memorial Hospital, according to *The (Frederick) News* of the same date. He was interred in the Blue Ridge Cemetery in Thurmont. The Hershey's 5 & 10 closed around 1970-ish, according to Mayor John A. Kinnaird.

"I remember the squeaky floors, the musty smell, the long tables with stuff on them, the big selection of candy, and the big front windows with colored peeps at Easter. The tall lady that worked there also sticks in my mind, but I can't remember her name. I think it was Catherine (Lewis)," Mayor Kinnaird recalled.

Apparently, the most frequent memory of those who recall having been to the old 5 & 10 was the dyed (living) chicks that were sold during Easter.

"Everybody remembers the Easter chicks! So colorful," Thurmont resident Penny Moser said. My dad would not let us have them. We raised our own chickens back then. He didn't want those in with his."

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## Emmitsburg New Business and Development Briefs

The following are the statuses of new businesses and development coming to Emmitsburg from the town planner's report:

- **Christ Community Church** (Creamery Road) — Awaiting the submission of updated improvement plans.
- **Emmit Ridge** — Road closure and street cut plans have been received and reviewed. Improvement Plan is currently being reviewed by the Catoctin Soil Conservation District.
- **Brookfield Phase 5** — The deeds of easement have been recorded. Final subdivision is approved. The developer will now be walked through the next steps.
- **519 W. Main Street Renovation** — A variance application has been received and reviewed. The property owner is seeking a variance to get a relief from setback requirements for the renovation of an attached rowhouse.
- **Patriot Crane** — The sketch plat for a crane company warehouse and maintenance building at 3 Creamery Way has been reviewed.
- **Seton Center Subdivision** — The town is coordinating with the applicant. Awaiting the submission of a formal application.

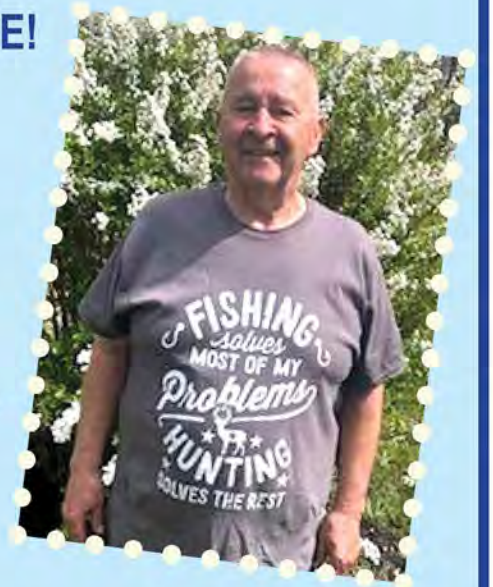
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# CARNIVAL

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NOW AVAILABLE

**\$25** RIDE FROM  
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## Thurmont Grange Recognizes Community Citizen & Grange Membership

The Thurmont Grange #409 held its annual Community Citizen and Grange Membership Awards Dinner on Monday, April 13. In addition to recognizing Grangers who have reached milestones in their years of membership, the Grange honors an individual or group that strives to make a difference by giving back to our community.

This year, Vickie Grinder, Thurmont's Economic Development manager, was recognized with the 2026 Community Citizen Award. Thurmont Grange President Niki Eyler commented that Vickie has worked with the Grange over the years to gain exposure through the Thurmont Business Expo, Farmers Market, window displays at the Main Street Center, and the Channel 5 Zip Trip.

Vickie was also instrumental in assisting the Grange in obtaining grant funding for roof repairs. Since 2016, Vickie has obtained grant funding for organizations and businesses in Thurmont, exceeding \$2 million. She manages town events that benefit local individuals, families, businesses, and organizations, such as the Art & Wine Stroll, Christmas in Thurmont, Gateway to the Cure, and the Business Expo, and she oversees our Farmers Market and the Thurmont Business Network.

Wes Hamrick, president of the Catoctin Medical Group Board, spoke about Vickie's involvement in

securing \$146,000 in grant money to make the medical center ADA-compliant. Additionally, Thurmont Commissioners Wayne Hooper and Bob Lookingbill complimented Vickie on her commitment to Thurmont and her hard work that has made Thurmont a wonderful community with so much to offer its residents.

Thurmont Granger, Cheryl Lenhart, was also recognized with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thurmont Grange Gold Award, which honors Grangers who do so much, not only for the Grange, but also within our community. Cheryl has been a Thurmont Grange member for over 50 years. In addition to the Grange, Cheryl is or has been involved with the Catoctin FFA & Alumni, the Great Frederick Fair, the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show, Woodsboro Lutheran Church, the Eastern Stars, Lewistown Mtn. View 4-H Club, Frederick County Shooting Sports Club, and the Burall Brothers Annual Scholarship Breakfast, just to name a few. Thurmont Grange President Niki Eyler commented that Cheryl's involvement goes beyond showing up for a meeting or two. She holds offices; sits on committees; and is always helping, planning, and volunteering her time, knowledge, and muscle any way she can. No matter what you ask Cheryl to do, she is always ready to step up.

Several Thurmont Grangers received awards to recognize their



Courtesy Photos

Recipient of the 2026 Community Citizen Award, Vickie Grinder, Thurmont's Economic Development Manager, presented by Thurmont Grange President Niki Eyler.

years of membership. Robin Portner, Sherry Ramage, and Jeremy Ramage received their 5-year certificates; Chuck and Susan Crone, Bob and Carol Long, and Tyler Wolf each received their 10-year certificates; and Daniel Myers received his 15-year certificate. Recipients of National Grange membership awards were Jessica Zentz Ridenour (25-year Silver Star Certificate), Dale McNair and Bobby Myers (40-year membership seal), Alan and Ethel Brauer (55-year membership

seal), and Sandy Moser (65-year membership seal).

Peggy Long was honored with the 75 Years of Steadfast, Faithful and Devoted Membership Award, presented by Maryland State Grange President and National Grange Lecturer, Dr. Richard Stonebraker. At 18 years old, Peggy joined Lewistown Grange, which disbanded in 1965. At that time, Peggy, along with her husband Cap, became members of Thurmont Grange.

■ continue reading on Page 25

**ROCKY RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. PRESENTS**

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 Combos [\$13]  
 Sandwich, Chips, Coleslaw & Applesauce  
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Throughout the decades, she was the Grange secretary for 15 years, a member of the Pomona Grange Drill Team, participated in events and community service projects, and baked many cakes and cookies for dinners and fundraisers. In addition to the Grange, Peggy devoted much of her life to the Lewistown Mountain View 4-H Club, one of the oldest and largest clubs, not only in the state but also in the nation. Peggy was a farm wife to Cap for 69 years. They began milking cows in 1956 and raised their six children together. She could always be found working long hours on the farm, cooking for a dozen people, chaperoning a school field trip, or volunteering her time. She was also involved with the Frederick County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, the Great Frederick Fair 4-H Dairy shows, the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show, and

is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Utica, where she taught Sunday School for many years. Peggy and Cap often attended National Brown Swiss conventions, Farm Bureau conventions, and state and national dairy cattle shows. They bred several national champion Brown Swiss and were inducted into the Maryland Dairy Shrine. Peggy turned 94 on April 12, and she continues to devote her life to agriculture and promoting and supporting youth involvement in agriculture and our community. Thurmont Grange was honored to recognize its members and citizens who strive to give so much back to our community.

Peggy Long receives her 75-year Membership Award, presented by Dr. Richard Stonebraker (Maryland State Grange President and National Grange Lecturer) and Thurmont Granger Rodman Myers, who was a member for 77 years.



(from left) Recipients of the 5-year membership Award Jeremy and Sherry Ramage, and 10-year award Carol and Bob (not pictured) Long and Chuck and Susan Crone, presented by Niki Eyler.



(from left) Recipient of the 25-year Membership Award Jessica Zentz Ridenour, accepted by her mother Candy Zentz, and 40-year Award recipients Dale McNair and Bobby Myers, presented by Thurmont Grange President Niki Eyler.

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**MOTHER'S DAY**



**\$5 OFF WINGS**  
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**HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS**  
M, W, TH F, 3:30-5:30 PM

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# Today's Volunteer Fire Service and Reaching Our Youth and Community

BY THOMAS MINNICK

Thomas and Colton Minnick reviewing RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) Techniques for downed firefighter rescue.

Have you ever considered being a part of something that is bigger than any of us? Something that makes a true difference in our community and people's lives.

Being a member of Guardian Hose Company is not just about answering emergency calls and participating in fundraising events; it is about being a part of something bigger than yourself. Every alarm we respond to is a chance to make a real difference in our community and neighboring communities; it's a chance to protect lives and property and stand shoulder to shoulder with a team that feels like family. The feeling of rushing to help in someone's greatest moment of need, the pride of mastering lifesaving skills, and the fulfillment of knowing you are making your neighborhood/community safer, all combined into an experience unlike any other. At Guardian Hose Company, you do not just volunteer, you grow, you lead, and you become a protector in your own community. Every day brings new challenges, new lessons, and the deep satisfaction that comes from serving with courage, compassion, and pride.

While some local departments continue to grow rapidly with young volunteers, the overall trend is that the volunteer fire service is shrinking as a whole. In the early 2000s, we saw a minor decline in riding members. Nonetheless, we were still decently staffing most rigs for a majority of calls. If we look at the recorded statistics 21 years ago (2005), there were approximately 832,000 volunteer firefighters in the United States. Ten years ago, that number was 814,000. Five years ago, that number dropped to 677,000. So, in the past 10 years alone, we have lost 130,000 volunteer firefighters in the United States, and the numbers aren't getting better.

As we move forward, the volunteer fire service has seen many changes and challenges. The standards for being a firefighter/EMT in 2026 are much different than the early 90s and 2000s.

The one thing we must ask ourselves is: What can we do to reverse this trend? I believe all hope is not lost. And the better news is that with some dedication and catching the younger generations, I think the volunteer fire service can trend in a positive



Courtesy Photo

direction of growth with programs like junior firefighters and overall general membership recruitment. I believe that to have successful recruitment and retention as a department, you need to have a presence in your community at events, by running ads, through open houses, on social media posts, and by getting out and visiting our youth in schools. It is easier to catch the attention of middle and high school students when they have a better understanding of what we do.

Guardian Hose Company responds to approximately 600-700 calls of service each year, and covers about 47-plus square miles of the Catoctin Mountains. The challenge is clear that times have changed. Our world is busy; people are busy. They have multiple jobs and families, leaving minimal time to volunteer or take the required training to become a firefighter/EMT.

We are always looking for volunteer firefighters/EMTs and Social Members who simply want to help with fundraising activities throughout the year. To join, you must be 14-16 years old for our Juniors Program and 16-plus years old for Active Emergency Operations and Social Membership. I am making a valiant effort as the Membership Chairman of Guardian Hose Company to rejuvenate our junior program and to get more of our town's younger generation involved in the department. We will provide everything for you. All the training is provided under the University of Maryland Fire Rescue. You will get all the gear needed and, most of all, the camaraderie to last a lifetime. We are currently reimplementing our junior

program to allow 14-16-year-olds to get an early start at what firefighting may entail, from monthly hands-on training to classroom review and history lessons.

Being a father and sharing my passion for the fire service with my son, Colton, who is a Junior Member of our department, is something special to me. I get to pass everything I have learned down to him and watch him fill my boots. Our department is filled with many generations of families—fathers, sons, daughters, husbands, and wives—with some of those members having 50-plus years of service and still volunteering today. I believe rebuilding our volunteer membership and our junior program to further our volunteer organization for years to come is important. Equally important is remembering our past and present generations who got the department to where it is today. I love this department; it's my home. I love the service of helping others in this community and the surrounding area. Even on their worst day imaginable, I want our town to know we are coming, and they can count on the volunteers and career staff of Guardian Hose Company. Our doors are always open to show the kids the trucks or just to provide our community members with an understanding of our day-to-day operations.

Are you interested in becoming a member? Email [Membershipghc10@gmail.com](mailto:Membershipghc10@gmail.com) or stop by Guardian Hose Company at 21 North Church Street in Thurmont and pick up an application. You can also schedule a tour to meet with our Membership Committee.

View the advertisement on page 5.

# Apples Church Celebrates 250 Years

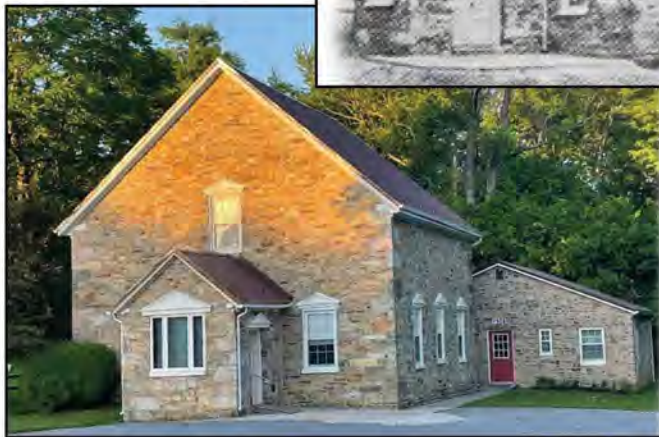
BY RICHARD TROXELL

Courtesy Photos



**1826-1912**

**1912-1966**



**1966-Present**

As America celebrates 250 years, here in Thurmont on Saturday, June 6, we celebrate the Bicentennial of Apples Church and the Community. What better way to celebrate 200 years of the Apples Church Stone Sanctuary than by having an old-fashioned Heritage Day Celebration followed by a concert at 6:30 p.m., "The Voices of Apples Church" with local opera and film star, Richard Troxell and Friends. Join them from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, for games, stories with local celebrities (including John Kinnaird and more), horseshoes, face painting, moon bouncing, church tours, food and beverages, classic and antique cars, some old-fashioned fun, and a family church photo. Then, bring a lawn chair, a blanket, and your favorite concert "fare" as they did in 1926 at the centennial, and join them for a beautiful summer evening concert at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn of the church grounds.

The historic stone church building was completed on April 13, 1826, but Apples Church has been in existence and a part of this community for over 260 years, first as a log schoolhouse/church. Then, in 1765, a log church was built on the 1-acre lot deeded by Peter Apple. Lawful use of the church was granted in 1768, and in 1770, the church was formally recognized for the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations.

Over the next 60 years, the log church experienced extensive repairs, new pews, the purchase of a parsonage, new "glazed" windows, and new galleries to increase the seating. But with the congregation continuing to grow, the decision was made to build a new stone church. The cornerstone was laid on April 13, 1826. This year, we celebrate 200 continuous years of a living, breathing, relevant congregation, where all are welcome. So, come join us for food, fun, fellowship, and an evening of Apples Church Voices. View the Apples' Church advertisement on page 45.



## Emerald Crossing Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 22 – Thursday, June 25

6:30 – 8:15 PM

Journey through Ireland in Emerald Crossing, where Psalm 23 comes to life! Kids will explore God as Shepherd, Guide, Comforter, Provider, and King through David's story, hands-on activities, and apologetics. From Donegal's green pastures to Dublin's Viking history, each day reveals how God leads, protects, and provides. Join the adventure!

Grades K-5 Welcome!

REGISTER HERE



Emmitsburg Community Baptist Church



**Sunday Worship , 10:00 AM**

*Come be a part of our family.*

We welcome you to come worship with us as often as you can. God loves you and made you one of a kind. He has great plans for you. He wants the best for you.

*I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' Psalm 122:1*

**Come discover His goodness!**

EmmitsburgCBC@aol.com / EmmitsburgCBC.org

Seton Square Office Complex , 17750 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg, MD

# FUN RUN/WALK AT THE FORT

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Run/Walk!

- 1 mile, 2 mile, or 5k
- \$10 pre-reg fee for ages 7+
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- \$15 same day registration



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**8 AM - 11 AM**



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## Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day:

## Save Our Fireworks!



Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day is a cherished event for residents and visitors alike. For some, the day's highlight is the mouthwatering chicken BBQ, while others look forward to the early morning breakfast at the Vigilant Hose Company Activities Building. Children and grandchildren enjoy activities like the raw egg toss, pie eating contests, and a full day of pool fun. However, the true grand finale is the dazzling fireworks display that lights up Community Park after dark, which has created unforgettable memories for everyone for the past 44 years at this annual festival.

### Funding the Fireworks

Many people are unaware of the efforts undertaken by the Community Heritage Day Committee to make the fireworks possible. In addition to year-round fundraising, the committee requests donations from local businesses and organizations. Since 2022, the cost of the fireworks has increased by almost \$4,000, making community support more important than ever.

### Join Our Pub Crawl Fundraiser to Support Fireworks

To ensure the fireworks tradition continues this year on June 27 (the last Saturday in June), a Pub Crawl fundraiser has been organized to take place on Saturday, May 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This event is generously hosted by sponsors, including the American Legion, Carriage House Inn, Dave & Janes, the Ott House Pub, Rubes, and the VFW. Community members are encouraged to participate and enjoy the festivities, all while supporting the fireworks. Registration is available online, with a link provided in our advertisement in this issue on page 19, on our Facebook page "Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day," or through Emmitsburgevents.com. For questions or more information, contact Cliff Sweeney at 301-447-1712 or by email at Clsweeneycommish@comcast.net

### Other Ways to Contribute

Individual donations are also welcome and can be sent to Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day at P.O. Box 1112, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Your support will help keep the fireworks tradition alive for years to come.

See You at Heritage Day! Mark your calendar for Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day on June 27 and join in this wonderful traditional celebration!

### Free Vendor/Crafter Show

w/Refundable Registration fee of \$35

Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day Festival  
Crafter Show (juried in)



**E. Eugene Myers  
Community Park**

**Saturday  
June 27, 2026**

**12:00<sup>NOON</sup> - 4:00 p.m.**  
Set up @ 9 a.m.

Registration Deadline:  
June 19, 2026

To register contact:  
Jennifer Joy  
eburgheritage@comcast.net

Tel: 240-446-2583

To register online or print application &  
For more information on  
Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day  
**EMMITSBURGEVENTS.COM**

### Graceham Moravian Church

Phone: 301-271-2379, 8231-A Rocky Ridge Rd.  
Thurmont, Md. 21788

Sunday Worship Service 10:30am.  
Sunday School 9:15 am.

### 2026 Calendar of Events

- May 4, Served With Grace Free Dinner 5:30 to 7pm
- June 5 & 6, Yard & Food Sale, Breakfast & Oyster Sandwiches 8am to 2pm
- Aug. 29th, Vendor Craft and Food Sale Breakfast & Lunch Sandwiches 8am—3pm
- Oct. 8-9-10, Colorfest Yard Sale & Food Sale Breakfast & Oyster Sandwiches 8am to 4pm
- Nov. 14, Oyster Platter Carry-out 11am till 4pm or till sold out

# CASCADE UPDATE

BY GERALDINE OTREMBA

Cascade Resident, on Behalf of the Committee to Protect Our Mountain

The Washington County Planning Commission held a public hearing on Monday, April 6, at 6:00 p.m. on a proposed Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) that would prohibit small box variety stores in the County's Rural Village zone within 1,000 feet of a property of historic significance, filed by County resident Danielle Eyer Durning.

Durning filed the ZTA after the Washington County Circuit Court twice ruled that the county's board of appeals had twice improperly approved a Dollar General Mart just outside of historic Fort Ritchie's Gate 2 on McAfee Hill Road.

"This ZTA is needed to clarify that a cookie-cutter box store is not consistent with the Rural Zone's purpose of protecting the unique rural or historic character of the County's Rural Villages," said Michele Rosenfeld, who has represented Durning and others in two board of appeals hearings and three court cases, including one now pending in the Maryland Appellate Court, with a decision expected in the next several months.

During the planning commission hearing, planning staff recommended against adoption of the ZTA, arguing that it would inhibit new small box stores throughout the county, inhibiting economic development and limiting access to shopping in rural areas.

ZTA supporters disagreed. The ZTA application described it as "narrowly written" to implement the purpose of the Rural Village zone and still allow these stores in the vast majority of the county that is not zoned Rural Village.

Impassioned testimony from 14 witnesses stressed the rural character of Cascade, the need to protect the historic character and revitalization efforts underway at Fort Ritchie, the economic and tourism boost from the Ritchie Revival, the generations of families who have made Cascade their home precisely because of its unique rural and historic character, and the financial and economic damage that would follow in the wake of box store development.

John Krumpotich, owner and developer of Fort Ritchie, testified

that he had turned down requests for box stores to locate at Fort Ritchie as out of character with Ritchie Revival and Cascade, instead selecting varied, small business owners with a compatible vision of Cascade's location, history, and population.

Supporting testimony also pointed out that the newly adopted Washington County Comprehensive Plan calls for the preservation of rural character while managing economic growth.

The commissioner did not allow questions to be addressed to witnesses but did request clarification about elements of the proposed ZTA from Rosenfeld.

The commission is scheduled to deliberate the merits of the ZTA and vote on a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Monday, May 6, at its 6:00 p.m. hearing.

The BOCC subsequently will schedule its own public hearing on the ZTA before voting on the application.

# BAKER

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This image shows William McGill working with a group of younger students at Philip's Delight School. He was the teacher and principal at the school, which was the last one-room school in Frederick County. It was located off an old lumber trail surrounded by thick woods on Catoctin Mountain. Before the school closed on February 1, 1955, the families on the mountain had had their own school since 1800.

Different buildings had served as the school over the years. The last one was brought into the area from Foxville. William Stump, writing for the *Sun Magazine*, said that the final building was "a dull, weather-beaten building, and the years have made it swaybacked, like an old plowhorse." Inside, McGill created a space for learning with cards, charts, wall maps, textbooks, test materials and library books. Although the school got electricity in the years before it closed, it never had indoor plumbing. The students used nearby outhouses.

During its existence, Philip's Delight School never had more than a few dozen students in grades one through seven. When the school finally closed, it only had 13 students.

McGill retired from teaching in 1958 at the mandatory age of 70. He died at age 85 in 1973.

Using HitPaw FotorPea, the original image gets colorized, sharpened, and repaired to let you see history more clearly.

### Pre AI Retouching



Photo Courtesy of Thurmontimages.com

### Post AI Retouching



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# Community Foundation Invites Public to Nominate Local Community Service Leaders

Nominations for the 2026 Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism and Youth in Action Awards will be accepted May 1 through May 31

The Community Foundation of Frederick County is inviting the community to help shine a light on those who quietly make a difference.

Throughout the month of May, nominations will be accepted for the 2026 Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism and the Youth in Action Awards—honoring individuals whose time, talent, and dedication strengthen Frederick County in meaningful ways.

These awards recognize the people who often work behind the scenes—those who give generously of themselves without seeking recognition, but whose impact is deeply felt across our community.

“Having seen this work up close for so many years, I can say with certainty that our community is shaped in powerful ways by people who simply choose to give of themselves,” said Elizabeth Y. “Betsy” Day, Community Foundation President and CEO. “These awards celebrate those individuals who are quietly moving Frederick County forward, whose generosity of time and spirit often goes unseen, but never unfelt—and remind us all of what’s possible when care is put into action.”

The nomination form, as well as information about the awards and past awardees, is available at [FrederickCountyGives.org/WertheimerAwards](http://FrederickCountyGives.org/WertheimerAwards). Nominations must be submitted online, and individuals only need to be nominated once to be considered.

Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year, the Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism Award honors the legacy of the late Janis Miller Wertheimer, a respected businesswoman and dedicated volunteer. Made possible through The Janis Miller Wertheimer Endowment Fund, the award recognizes an adult volunteer (age 18-plus) whose service has made a lasting impact.

The Youth in Action Award, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, celebrates Frederick County students in grades 9–12 who are leading the way through service and making a difference in extraordinary ways.

Award recipients will be honored at the Community Foundation’s Annual Report to the Community on November 19. Wertheimer Fellows are awarded \$25,000 to establish or grow a permanent fund with the Community Foundation to support the nonprofit or causes they care about, while the Youth in Action honoree will direct a \$2,000 grant to a local nonprofit of their choice.

If you know someone whose quiet commitment is helping move our community forward, now is the time to recognize them.

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**August 8 • 1 - 8 PM**  
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# The Catoctin Banner

## Stars, Stripes & Celebrations Youth Art Contest

In partnership with the Town of Thurmont and the Town of Emmitsburg



Help us celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States through the power of art! Young artists in grades K-12 are invited to showcase their creativity by submitting original artwork that reflects their love of country, freedom, history, community, or what America means to them.

Whether it's bold and colorful or thoughtful and reflective, we want to see your unique perspective.

Artwork may be created in any medium—drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery, mixed media, and more—and can be completed on paper, canvas, or other materials.

★ **Entries Due June 6** ★

Entries may be submitted at the following locations:

Thurmont Town Office: Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4 pm  
Thurmont Main Street Arts & Gifts: Saturdays, 10 am - 4 pm  
Emmitsburg Town Office: Monday-Friday, 7 am - 5 pm

Judging will take place the week of June 8  
The panel will consist of local elected officials and artists!

Questions? [news@thecatocinbanner.com](mailto:news@thecatocinbanner.com)

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**K-2<sup>nd</sup> | 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> | 6-8<sup>th</sup> | 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

*First Place winners of each category will have their picture and short write-up on their artwork in the July Issue of The Catoctin Banner*

# Closing the Colorectal Cancer Screening Gap in Rural Maryland

BY ERIC WARGOTZ, MD, FCAP  
MedChi President – The Maryland State Medical Society

In rural parts of the state, including Western Maryland, patients face a persistent reality: the health care they access is often determined by geography, not by medical need. Some patients in rural communities must travel more than an hour just to see a gastroenterologist. For individuals juggling hourly jobs, caregiving responsibilities, or limited transportation, that distance alone can determine whether screening happens at all.

Colorectal cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Americans under 50. Yet this disease is highly treatable when caught early. Patients diagnosed at a local stage have a 91 percent five-year survival rate. For those diagnosed after the cancer has spread, that rate plummets to approximately 15 percent. The difference between these outcomes is not luck; it is screening.

In Maryland, approximately 2,700 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed this year, and 980 will die from the disease. Too many of these cases will be advanced at diagnosis. Rural patients face unique barriers to traditional screening methods. A colonoscopy often requires travel to a gastroenterologist's office, specialized preparation, and recovery time. When screening becomes logistically impossible, it does not happen. Patients delay. Years pass. By the time symptoms appear, the cancer has progressed.

Working in medicine, I have seen this pattern repeat: patients in rural areas are screened at lower rates, diagnosed later, and face poorer outcomes.

Innovation offers a pathway forward. Guardant Health's Shield blood test, the first and only FDA-approved blood test for primary colorectal cancer screening for those 45 and older at average risk, represents a breakthrough for rural communities. It is just a blood draw, something our patients can have done at their local primary care clinic during a routine visit, without

preparation or need to travel too far. When screening fits into patients' lives rather than requiring their lives to pause, more people get screened.

As physicians, our obligation is to meet patients where they are, literally and figuratively. In rural Maryland, that means recognizing that the current infrastructure leaves entire populations behind. This is not about replacing colonoscopy, which remains a critical tool for those who can access it. It is about ensuring that no one in Maryland who is eligible goes unscreened simply because they live in a rural area. It is about recognizing that the distances between Baltimore and a small town in Garrett County are not measured only in miles but also in mortality rates.

I encourage my colleagues to discuss screening options with their patients, particularly those in rural areas. Educate them on their options. Patients deserve to know that screening exists and that it fits their lives.

In colorectal cancer prevention, rural communities in Maryland have waited long enough. Innovation is here; access must follow. If we act now to expand screening pathways, we can ensure that geography no longer determines who survives this preventable disease.



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HAPPY *Birthday*

**Glenna Willhide will be celebrating her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 27th!**

**We want to take a moment to honor her and her lifelong dedication to serving others. To us, her kind and gentle spirit has always shone brightly. A loving mother to her four children—Missy, Greg, Todd, and Steve—she is also a devoted grandmother to eleven grandchildren and eleven great grand grandchildren.**

**Glenna was a dedicated wife to Richard Willhide for over 60 years, and his memory continues to be a meaningful part of her life.**

**As a longtime member of St. John's Lutheran Church and the Guardian Hose Company, Glenna has blessed her community through many years of service and charitable acts. Please join us in wishing her many more years of love, health, and happiness.**



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to all moms, even those in Heaven.

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## Charles Rodman Myers

April 9, 1934  April 23, 2026

in loving   
Memory

Charles Rodman Myers, 92, of Thurmont, Maryland, passed away on April 23, 2026, at Gettysburg Hospital. Rodman was the husband of the late Madeline Jean Ogle Myers, and they were married on August 27, 1955. They owned and operated, along with their children, Catoctin Mountain View Farm in Thurmont, Maryland.

Born in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on April 9, 1934, Rodman was the second of seven children, and the oldest son of the late Charles Frederick Myers and Helen Alma Stonesifer Myers. He was a graduate of Thurmont High School Class of 1952, served on his class reunion's planning committee, and always enjoyed the monthly class luncheons.

In his youth, Rodman was a member of the Creagerstown Boy's 4-H Club and Thurmont FFA Chapter, and has continuously supported 4-H, the Catoctin FFA & Catoctin FFA Alumni & Supporters' many programs and activities. Rodman met his wife, Jean, through 4-H, as she was a Creagerstown Girl's 4-H Club member.

Rodman's proudest accomplishment was his devoted love for his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Throughout his lifetime, Rodman was proud to be a farmer, as he served his community and loved the company of family and friends. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren at their activities, such as showing cattle or sports events, and always loved family gatherings at the farm. Rodman enjoyed taking family and friends on tours through his farm and the area's orchards, while talking about the crops and local history, then driving through the Catoctin Mountains' beautiful views and scenery.

Rodman was an avid sports fan of the old Washington Senators and Washington Nationals baseball teams, Washington Capitals hockey team, Washington Commanders (formerly Washington Redskins) football team, the Maryland Terrapins, and Mt. St. Mary's College basketball teams. One of the many ways he instilled his love of sports was by taking his children to Mt. St. Mary's College basketball games, just as his parents had taken him.

When Rodman was 14 years old, he joined Thurmont Grange #409; his parents were founding charter members in 1946. He was a member of the Frederick County Pomona Grange, Maryland State Grange, and a 7th Degree member of the National Grange. In 1961, Rodman and Jean served as the Maryland State Grange Young Couple, and in 1974, he was named the Maryland State Granger of the Year. He was the Master/President of the Thurmont Grange, Frederick County Pomona Grange, and Maryland State Grange Master/President from 1978-1982. Over the years, Rodman and Jean attended many National Grange Conventions.

In 1957, Rodman Myers was the Thurmont Grange Master/President, and William Baker was his Thurmont High School Agriculture Teacher. Together, they co-founded the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show, which will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2026, and is the largest community show in Maryland. Rodman has served as president for many years, and the Community Show is held annually at Catoctin High School on the weekend after Labor Day. The Community Show is sponsored by the Thurmont Grange, Catoctin FFA Chapter, Catoctin FFA Alumni & Supporters, Maryland State Grange, and the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board. Rodman was always so grateful and proud of all the sponsoring organization's volunteers and community support through exhibiting entries, supporting the annual Baked Goods Auction, and overall wonderful community support of the show!

Rodman was a Charter and Life Member of the Catoctin FFA Alumni & Supporters, and helped with their annual butchering, along with many other activities. He served as both a board member and past president of the Thurmont Cooperative, Inc., and a director of the following dairy cooperatives: Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers, Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers, Penmarva, Lehigh Valley, and Atlantic Dairy Cooperative. Rodman received the FFA's Honorary American Farmer Degree in 1982 and the Maryland Agriculture Teachers' Agricultural Advocate Award in 2003.

Rodman served as a past board member of the Maryland Agriculture Commission, Maryland State Fair, Maryland Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Thurmont Branch of Farmers & National Bank (now PNC Bank), and Frederick Soil Conservation District. He also served as past chairman of the Frederick County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board, Maryland Ag Week, Maryland Agriculture Safety & Health Federation, and the Warren G. Myers Maryland 4-H Livestock Endowment Fund. Rodman was a charter member of the Frederick County Farm Museum, and a member of the Frederick County & National Holstein Associations and the Frederick County Farm Bureau. As a lifetime member of St. John's Lutheran Church, he served on the church council and several church committees.

In 1968, Rodman was the recipient of the Maryland Outstanding Young Farmer Award from the Maryland Jaycees, and the 1978 Master Farmer Award from the *Pennsylvania Farmer Magazine*. In 1991, the Rodman and Jean Myers family were one of the first three farm families inducted into the Maryland Agriculture Hall of Fame. Rodman received the 2013 Wertheimer Fellow Award for Excellence in Volunteerism from the Community Foundation of

~ Obituary continued on page 35



# Charles Rodman Myers

Frederick County and the 2016 Agriculture Advocate Award from The Great Frederick Fair. He was honored as the 2016 Maryland Fair Person of the Year by the Maryland Association of Agriculture Fairs & Shows.

Rodman is survived by his children, Cheryl Lenhart & husband Bob of Thurmont, MD; Robert Myers & wife Karen of Thurmont, MD; and Andrea Mannix of New Paltz, NY. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean, in 2014, and daughter, Patricia Johnston, in 2023. Rodman is also survived by son-in-law, David Johnston of Hagerstown, MD, and grandchildren, Stephanie Ott & husband Davey; Kevin Mannix & wife Shannon, Daniel Myers & wife Abbey, Kristen Myers, Denise Mannix & fiancé Jack Leskowsky, Matthew Lenhart & fiancé Emily Surabian, Eric Myers & wife Rachael; and great-grandchildren, Madison Ott, Owen Ott, Chase Myers, Cameron Mannix, Makayla Myers, and Colton Lenhart. He is also survived by special friend, Barbara Roderick.

Also surviving are sisters Becky Linton and husband Don, Gladys Baker and husband Jim, brother Lyman Myers and wife Connie, brother-in-law Harold Bowers, and many nieces and nephews. Rodman was preceded in death by his brother Eugene Myers and wife Carol, sister Gloria Angleberger and husband Ken, sister Juanita Bowers, and special friend, Doris Dougherty.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to all of our family members and friends for their love, prayers, and support, and to the doctors, nurses, and staff at Gettysburg Orthopedics and Gettysburg Hospital for Rodman's excellent care.

The family will receive friends at Stauffer Funeral Home, 104 East Main Street, Thurmont, MD on Saturday, May 2, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., and Sunday, May 3, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at Stauffer Funeral Home, 104 East Main Street, Thurmont, MD, on Monday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m., with the with Rev. Joe Herb officiating, followed by interment at Blue Ridge Cemetery in Thurmont. For Rodman's funeral, his seven grandchildren will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, 15 North Church Street, Thurmont, MD 21788; Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show Improvement Fund, c/o Tyler Wolf, 9042 New Cut Road, Rocky Ridge, MD 21778, or to the Community Foundation of Frederick County, 312 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 ([www.frederickcountygives.org](http://www.frederickcountygives.org)) for any of the following three funds: Thurmont High School Alumni Scholarship Fund, Maryland Master Farmer Scholarship Fund or the C. Rodman and M. Jean Ogle Myers Fund for grants, which support the Frederick County 4-H Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program & Maryland FFA Foundation, Inc.

Expressions of sympathy may be offered to the family at [StaufferFuneralHome.com](http://StaufferFuneralHome.com).



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hello  
Spring



Lisa P: "Maryland Day in Annapolis!"



Jennifer, Kaitlin, Everleigh, Addyson, and Karleigh enjoying a Mother-Daughter tea party!

## Out & About



Two home runs in last weekend's game!

### New Discoveries



Cooper, Lucy, and Kinsley Carter show off their eggs at the Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt in the park!

### Togetherness



Emmett taking Godzilla for a check up!

## Good Times, Good Vibes

### Making Memories



Crew taking a pony ride at his birthday party!



Kelsey, Ensley, and Easton having dinner at Kountry Kitchen for a fundraiser for The Success Academy FCPS!



Kam strutting his stuff!



Skylar and Roxy hiking the Catoctin Mountains!

Making Memories!



Tina Smith: "Our crazy Aunt Beanie at a family reunion. We love her!"



The whole Sanders crew celebrating Easter together; and, yes, the Easter Bunny was a Sanders, too!

Out & About



Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company Asst. Chief Alan Hurley takes a picture with the Easter Bunny at Easter Cash Bingo on April 4!



Weston is focusing on making a wish!

Togetherness



Krislee Brashears enjoying her field trip to ESSL!

hello Spring

Making Memories



Addison Gue with her new baby sister, Bristol Davis!

Making Memories!



Owen Ott, 13 years old, with his 10.5 pound Trout caught at Frank Bentz Pond!

Good Times



Myles and Lainey enjoying a 3-mile hike!

## MSMU Sophomore Breaks Track Record

The Mount St. Mary's University (MSMU) Track & Field team recently competed in both the Messiah Invitational and the JMU Invitational in April.

During the meets, Sophomore Camryn Jones-Howard broke the school record in the triple jump with a distance of 12.45 meters. She surpassed the previous mark held by her teammate, Madelyn Valpy, who recorded a 12.25-meter jump last season and equaled that distance again this year. The two now rank second and third among competitors in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

To follow the MSMU Track & Field team, visit [www.mountathletics.com](http://www.mountathletics.com).



Courtesy Photo

Camryn Jones-Howard breaks Mount St. Mary's University's record in the Triple Jump.

## Smith Pitches No-Hitter



(left) Taylor Smith celebrates with her teammates after pitching a no-hitter.

Photos Courtesy of University of Virginia



(right) Taylor Smith pitching during the University of Virginia's 8-0 victory over NC State.

Taylor Smith, a former Catoctin High School softball player, pitched her first no-hitter of her collegiate career.

Smith, a freshman at the University of Virginia, struck out three and walked three batters in the team's 8-0 win over NC State on April 25.

"She was executing on both sides of the plate and was super competitive—that was the key," Head Coach Joanna Hardin said.

The team's record places them 23<sup>rd</sup> with a record of 35-12, 12-10 ACC.

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# Catoctin's Newest State Champions and National Champion



(left) Olivia Baker running her way to the state title.



(right) Kaila Jones throwing her way to the National Title.

Courtesy Photos

The MPSSAA (Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association) Indoor State Track and Field Championship was held on February 17, 2026. Catoctin High School came home from the meet with two state champions!

Freshman Kaila Jones won the shot put with a throw of 36 feet 11.75 inches. This was a personal best, and she broke her own school record in the process.

Senior Olivia Baker won the 800-meter run with a time of 2 minutes 20 seconds (2:20.87). This time was a personal best. Olivia also placed third in the 500-meter run, with a time of 1 minute 19 seconds (1:19.69). Olivia holds the school record in the 500 meters.

The Adidas National Indoor Track and Field Championships were held March 20-22, 2026, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Kaila won the freshman division of the shot put with a throw of 36 feet 6.75 inches.

Congratulations to all the members of the boys' and girls' track teams who qualified and competed at Nationals and States this year. This indoor season saw numerous personal bests and school records broken.

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**May 17<sup>th</sup> • 10 AM - 4 PM**

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**Sunday:**  
Worship Service at 8:30 AM  
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# SPORTS TALK

WITH MICHAEL BETTERIDGE

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## This Team Is Fun

Sports teams develop a personality. It develops as the challenges of the season unfold. Injuries, tough losses, big wins, and unexpected developments can mold the “vibe.” After a little over a month of softball, you can pretty much see and feel the personality of our Cougars softball team.

Catoctin softball is young. Even younger than when the season started! What does that mean?

Well, there was only one senior on the team, Kassidy Kreitz. Kassidy experienced a non-sports-related injury that ended her season. But only on the field. She is there at practice and in the dugout during

the games. She continues to bring her passion, energy, and excellence to the team, but no more postgame handstands, for now. Most players would give up in her situation...but not Kassidy! With Kassidy off the field, there are no seniors.

That leaves four juniors, seven sophomores, and two freshmen to suit up. But don't confuse youth with inexperience. Many of these young ladies played in a softball state championship last year.

“Good teams are self-regulating. They hold each other accountable. This team plays with a level of maturity beyond their years,” Coach Valentine told me.

Recently, from the sidelines, I witnessed something rare in team sports. Right in front of our broadcast tent, Charley Keilholtz had trouble in left field tracking a routine fly ball in the sun. When she dropped it, her teammates surrounded her, encouraged her, challenged her, and told her they knew she would get the next one. The next play, Bralyn West threw a rocket to home plate to get the third base runner out from deep center field. That was a “college” outfield throw! Charley turned toward her and shouted, “Great throw, Bralyn!”

The next five fly balls that came to Charley in left field were all outs, and they were not easy plays! Coach Valentine said, “These girls pick each other up, and that translates directly back into performance.”

You can say that again, Coach! Our Catoctin Lady Cougars ran off nine wins in a row, five of which were shutouts.

“This group is truly enjoyable to be around. I was recently told that every time I talk about them, I just light up, and it's true. I love these kids and everything they are bringing to this program. They make coaching fun, and they

represent what it means to be part of a team,” Coach Valentine said.

Winning is fun, and that is exactly what these young ladies do. They are winners on the field and off. From their pink uniforms to support breast cancer to the crushing hitting in their lineup. The Walkersville softball coach, Randy Hinkelman, told us: “They have power hitters from the beginning of their lineup to the end.”

And don't forget their pitching and defense. Right now, they have the number one pitcher in Frederick County, Caitlyn Stambaugh, who boasts a .90 earned run average with a defense behind her that doesn't let many runners across home plate. Caitlyn was one of the players there last year at College Park in the state championship. She spent last season relieving Taylor Smith. Caitlyn followed a legend, and she's never looked back.

This team is fun to watch. They are humble and yet confident. For them, it's all about the journey.

After careful analysis of this team's personality, I have to agree with Coach Valentine.

This team is FUN!



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# BRSA Makes Donations to Local Archery Teams

Courtesy Photo



The Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association presents a check to the Emmitsburg Elementary School and Thurmont Middle School Archery Teams (from left): (back row) Rick Sharer, Mike Perdum, Matt Weddle, Gary Burgess, Kevin Ditch, Paul Krietz, Dave Paige; (front row) Bristol Cope, Shelby Baker, Addi Lingg, Jack Wivell, and John Clements.

The Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association (BRSA) recently made a donation of \$1,500 each to the Emmitsburg Elementary School (EES) and Thurmont Middle School Archery Teams. Both teams have students who will be advancing to the National Competition in May in Kentucky. BRSA President, Kevin Ditch, says it is important for the organization to support things that get kids enjoying the outdoors.

Best of luck to the archers as they head to Nationals!



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## EHS Alumni Association Offers Four Scholarships

The Emmitsburg High School Alumni Association is accepting scholarship applications. Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in May to deserving students.

Any Catoctin High School senior or graduate who is enrolled in an institution of higher learning is eligible if he/she resides in the Emmitsburg School District. This includes Emmitsburg 21727, Rocky Ridge 21778, and Taneytown 21787 (Taneytown boundary is determined by Bridgeport on Rt. 140). Applicants may apply each year as long as they are enrolled in an institution of higher learning.

Selection is based on having a 3.0 or higher GPA, being a full-time student, presenting two letters of recommendation, and pursuing higher education (four-year college, community college, or technical school). No GPA is required for full-time technical school.

Applications may be obtained by contacting the Guidance Department at Catoctin High School at 240-236-8082 or Phyllis Kelly at 717-642-6963). You may also pick up an application at Jubilee in Emmitsburg.

All applications must be received by May 5, 2026.

## Nominate a CHS Graduate Making a Difference

The Distinguished Graduate Organization was established to recognize the graduates of Catoctin High School (CHS) who have made a difference locally, in the state, and/or in the nation.

These men and women are nominated in five categories: Academics, Arts & Humanities, Athletics, Business, and Service (community, military, or public).

Nominated graduates will be mailed an application to complete. Honorees are selected from those applications returned to the committee. All nominees must be graduates of Catoctin High School. Students who attended CHS but did not graduate from CHS are not eligible for recognition.

The Distinguished Graduate Organization would also like to recognize former Catoctin staff members who have had a significant impact on the graduates of Catoctin High School. The community can nominate former cafeteria workers, custodians, instructional aides, secretaries, administrators, or teachers. The earliest a former staff member can be nominated is two years following their departure from CHS.

To submit a nomination, complete the form at <https://forms.gle/hUw6ZssRadFduovW8>.

If you have any questions, please call 227-203-3150. You may also reach out by email to [Lacee.Andrew@fcps.org](mailto:Lacee.Andrew@fcps.org) or [Rebecca.Hurley@fcps.org](mailto:Rebecca.Hurley@fcps.org).

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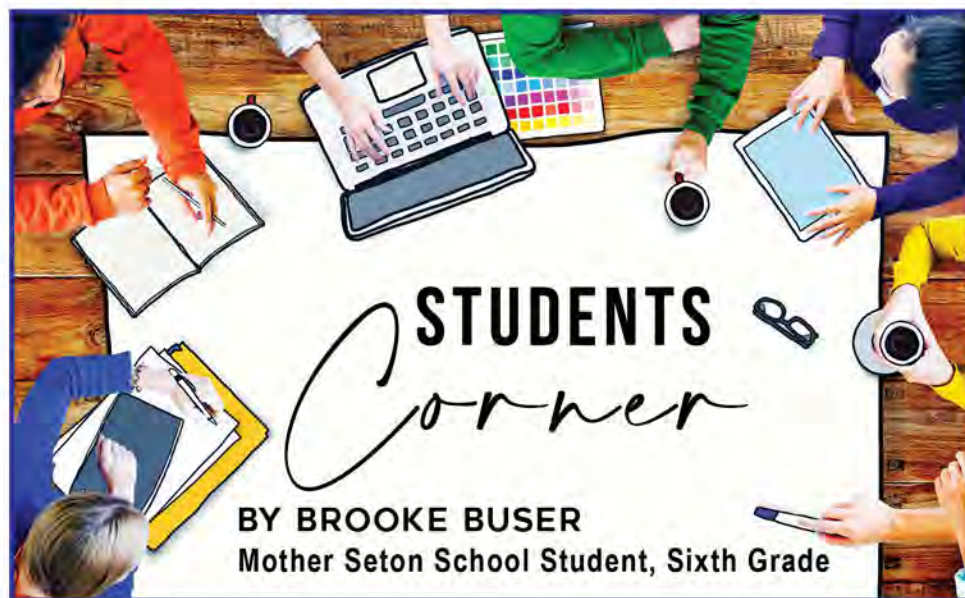
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Each month, students from Mother Seton School's Newspaper Club will be submitting articles from their perspective as a student.

## Earth Day Doing Our Part to Protect the Planet

Earth Day is such an important holiday that falls on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April every year. But not enough people celebrate it, or even know much about it! Everyone should do their part to save the Earth, not just on this special day, but every day.

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, when people began a protest about stopping pollution and other environmental issues. Today, Earth Day is celebrated in almost every country! This is wonderful because everyone should be able to learn how to make a positive impact on the world, no matter how small that impact is. Our Earth is home to millions of plants and animals, and we need to protect it.

Right now, you might be thinking, "I want to help the Earth, but I don't know how!" Here are a few easy suggestions to celebrate Earth Day with your family. If you love being outdoors, why not plant some flowers or a tree? Or if gardening isn't your thing, take a nature walk and pick up trash along the way! One of the simplest things to do (you can do this every day, too!) is to make sure you turn off the lights when you leave the room. Also, turn off the water while you are brushing your teeth. These may not seem like things that will change anything, but if everybody does it, it can make a huge impact. One way I celebrate Earth Day is to recycle as much as I can. If you finish a box of cereal, put it in the recycling bin, not the trash can. Then it can be reused.

What is your way of celebrating Earth Day? Try to do your part every day to save our only home!



Please make sure photos are high resolution

### Attention All Catoctin High School Graduates

Send Us Your Graduation Photos to Be Included in Our July Issue! Be Sure to Include the Full Names of Those Pictured.

EMAIL: [NEWS@THECATOCTINBANNER.COM](mailto:NEWS@THECATOCTINBANNER.COM)

# From Calf to Show Ring

## An FFA Project Series

BY MAKAYLA COMER

Makayla Comer is a junior at Catoctin High School and a member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA). She is serving as the 2025-2026 Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show Ambassador and currently serves as Social Media Coordinator. In this monthly series, Comer will take readers behind the scenes of what it takes to raise both market and breeding cattle, sharing her journey as she prepares to show at the Carroll County Fair and the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show in 2026. Comer and her family own and operate a cattle farm in Rocky Ridge, Maryland. Readers are invited to follow along as she shares the dedication, responsibility, and hard work involved in raising cattle.

For my 2026 market and breeding projects, all animals were born and bred on my farm. The steer I plan to take to the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show in September is a Maintainer named Fort Worth. Fort Worth was born on March 25, 2025, and was the last calf born on my farm in 2025. I also plan to bring two heifers to the community show. My Maintainer heifer, Montana, and my Shorthorn Plus heifer, Daytona.

On March 19, we had another calf born. She is black and from one of our Angus cross cows and my two-year-old bull. On March 22, we had another calf born, and she is red and white. She is also from one of our Angus cross cows.

On March 24, my Hereford cow Arabella had a Hereford bull calf. He is the first boy that has survived this year, and we are so excited. He will most likely be my show steer next year. And as we were coming from the PCA Jackpot Show, my cow Fluffy, who is a Maine, had a maintainer heifer calf. They are all happy and healthy, and only two more cows have yet to calve.

On March 20-22, we headed to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for the Mid-Atlantic Show. We had a great turnout, with me placing 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Intermediate showman, Montana, placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in her class, and Daytona placed 6<sup>th</sup> in their class. On market day, Fort Worth placed 4<sup>th</sup> in both rings. This show had two rings and two judges. Each judge has a different opinion and will place each class differently. The

following weekend, we headed up to Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, for the PCA Jackpot Show. This show is also a two-ring show with two different judges. I didn't place in showmanship, but Montana placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Daytona also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. And Fort Worth ended up placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in both rings. I also ended up placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the skillathon that weekend. It was a great turnout for both of these shows.

On April 11, I had my county's Beef Field Day. We were only allowed to take two animals, and I decided to take Fort Worth and Daytona. I ended up getting pulled and going in for senior champion in showmanship. Daytona won Reserve Champion Shorthorn Plus Heifer. Fort Worth placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class. Later that night, I attended the Maryland Shorthorn Dinner, where I was announced as the Maryland Shorthorn Lassie and Junior Secretary.

You've heard me talk about showmanship at the beginning of my article. In showmanship, it is mostly all about you and how you present your animal. Judges are looking for eye contact and correct feet placement. Those two things will bump you up into a higher place. You want your animal to set up immediately, so you don't waste time on their feet and not looking at the judge. The judge may ask you some questions regarding your animal, like how much it weighs, its date of birth, breed, and even what you are feeding them. Sometimes, they will just say, "Tell me about



(above) Reserve Champion Shorthorn Plus Heifer, EPL Daytona Reward at Carroll County Beef Field Day; Danette Comer is shown in back holding ribbons, and Makayla Comer is shown holding Daytona.

(right) Makayla Comer and Fort Worth in Showmanship at Mid-Atlantic.



your animal." Here, I like to list breed, weight, sire, and date of birth. You could even mention that it is bred and owned if you would like, if you are showing your own calves born on your farm. They might even make you switch your animal with someone else, or take away your showstick to see how well you actually work with your animal. My family likes to say I need to smile more in the ring. Well, smiling may knock you down as you don't look serious about showing

and just wanna goof around. They may take it as unprofessional. I personally like to smile when I go in for a hand shake and say thank you for my placement.

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# The King's Gambit

written by  
**JAMES RADA, JR.**

## 5: Seeking A Second Opinion

Lou Preston set aside his great-grandfather's leather-bound journal, its cracked spine and yellowed pages whispering of decades past. Harley Preston had plunged into a Civil War conspiracy so obscure that no historian had ever glimpsed it—secret peace negotiations between Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. That lack of recognition didn't render it impossible, but Lou needed hard proof: letters, official memos, anything beyond Harley's fevered scribbles. And if the talks had occurred, why had they vanished from history when the war still raged on?

A dull ache pulsed behind Lou's eyes. He rose and paced the study, each creaking floorboard a reminder of his indecision. This could be the

greatest historical revelation of the century—or a humiliating flop, like opening Al Capone's vault to find cobwebs.

His stomach rumbled. In the kitchen, he made a sandwich—crisp lettuce, tangy mustard, and a thick slice of honey ham—and settled at the window overlooking Little Round Top. The hot midday sun gilded the rolling fields, and an idle breeze stirred the old oaks. Lou closed his eyes and imagined that grassy slope during the Battle of Gettysburg, wondering if bloodshed could have been averted. Without that clash, 7,000 lives might have been spared.

Sandwich finished, he climbed the narrow stairs to the attic office. He retrieved Harley's journal and, from

a dusty shelf, two brittle battlefield maps. As he passed his desk, his elbow nudged a handcrafted chessboard. The wooden pieces teetered; the General Lee knight toppled, its lacquer chipped. A small irony, Lou thought: the Confederates fell in chess as they had in battle.

He unfolded the maps on his desk, fingertips tracing faded ink lines marking monuments and memorials. There were fewer than today, but enough to pepper the landscape. Legends claimed Gettysburg held more monuments per square mile than anywhere else on Earth. He turned each map in his hands: one dated from the 1870s, before Harley's tenure as the national military park superintendent, the other after. The post-tenure map showed additional markers, but also shifts—some older monuments drawn in new locations, marked with bold X's. Had Harley corrected the errors? Or was something else hidden here? The layout felt hauntingly familiar, as if he'd glimpsed it long ago.

He tapped the journal and the maps, wondering if they were connected. The journal focused on wartime intrigue far from Gettysburg; the maps chronicled the postwar memorial landscape. Their only link was Harley himself. Yet Lou could not shake the sense that they belonged together.

The map from Harley's time showed more monuments than the other map, but it also showed that some of the previously established monuments had been moved. Was it to make the placement more accurate? A third map showed moved of the markers covered with X's. Did that mean something good or bad? Lou still had the feeling that the map was familiar...that he had seen it before.

He pulled out his smartphone and called a number he hadn't called in years. After a few rings, an older voice answered, warm and steady. "Douglas Reaver." Douglas Reaver was a historian. He had been a young park ranger when Harley was getting ready to retire, and Douglas considered Harley his mentor.

"Douglas, it's Lou Preston."

A chuckle. "At my retirement party, wasn't it? Eleven years ago." Lou thought the old man's voice still sounded strong. Hopefully, that meant his memory was still good.

"I haven't forgotten."

"You retiring, too?"

Lou sighed. "Selling the house—Harley's house."

Another sigh. "I thought it would stay in the family forever."

"Tastes change. It's too large for me."

"Buyer lined up?"

"A retired Harrisburg politician. He overpaid."

Continue reading story on page 45

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# The King's Gambit

Continued from page 44

"Name?"

"Frank Parlaman."

"Ah, Parlaman—old railroad money." Douglas's tone hinted at memory.

"I'm surprised you know him."

"He was a young Philly councilman when I first met him. He would come to the visitor center wanting to be treated like royalty."

"Yea, it's probably one of the reasons the state budget is screwed up. Politicians and budgets... they're strangers."

"Why the call, Lou?" Douglas's voice turned harder and more rushed.

"I found attic treasures—maps of the Gettysburg battlefield. One from Harley's superintendent days, another older."

"Harley always said he was a pack rat. You looking to donate them to the park?"

"Maybe. Right now, I've been trying to figure out what they show."

"I thought you said they were battlefield maps."

"Yes, but some of the markers are wrong."

"How so?"

"Some monuments appear moved or misplaced. I can't tell if Harley corrected earlier errors or inherited Bachelder's mistakes."

John Bachelder was an artist and photographer who created three iconic maps showing each day of the Battle of Gettysburg. He served as the Superintendent of Tablets and Legends for the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association during the 1880s and is considered the person most responsible for the placement of monuments and battlefield markers on the battlefield. He developed the concept

of the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy."

His influence on the placement of the monuments put him in conflict with veterans who had been part of the fighting. For instance, he had to convince veterans of the 15th, 19th, and 20th Massachusetts to move their monuments from their advance positions at the Copse of Trees to their lines of battle on days two and three of the battle.

"Harley was equally exacting," Douglas said. "If he saw a misplaced marker, he'd shift it."

"I agree, but then if Bachelder moved them, he thought Harley was wrong."

"Not likely. Listen, why don't I come over and have a look at them. Maybe between the two of us, we can figure out that treasure map."

"Treasure?" Lou repeated. That was an odd word choice. It implied that the maps were hiding something.

"Yes, it's a puzzle to be unraveled."


They set a time to meet at O'Rourke's Restaurant in Gettysburg the next day.

"Anything else?" Douglas asked.

Lou thought about telling the older man about Harley's journal, but that seemed too personal, too controversial, to get into right now. And the truth was, until Lou finished reading the journal, he wasn't sure whether he even wanted Harley's story known.

It was another issue for another day.

"That's all," he said. "See you tomorrow."

 Stay tuned for Part 6 in our June issue!

# POETRY

Send us your poetry: [news@thecatocinbanner.com](mailto:news@thecatocinbanner.com)

## Rootsong

by MARIACLAIRE



*"As a resident of the Emmitsburg area, I have been inspired by the beauty of the local landscape and the rich history of this region. I have long enjoyed reading your publication and thought this piece might resonate with readers who appreciate the scenery, heritage, and sense of place that make this area so special."*



Take a walk with me  
down this patch of land  
that lays luscious with  
yesterdays.

Women, men, children,  
beechwood, birch,  
purple asters and yellow violets.  
All native hosts, my feet are led  
by their hospitality.

They call it the hollow. Her entire  
body of earth and water tucked  
under the hip of the Catoctin Mountains.

I meet the creek on the south side.

I dip a toe, then a foot, suddenly  
waist-deep—I watch. The smallmouth  
bass plunge the rock piles. The crawfish  
and minnows flicker about in a dash for survival.

I wave to the dove perched on a twig,  
then a heron. I am in love.

Seven years have passed since that first  
walk. Now stewards of this land, established  
by settlers in the 1770s, we are just a few lyrics  
in a much larger song. Where fate meets chance,  
our hands to yours.

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# GAMES

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Each month, you're invited to participate in our Where Am I? Photo Contest and Hidden Object Game. The winners of each game are announced in the next issue of *The Catocin Banner* newzine. Winners are given a gift certificate to the advertiser of their choice. To participate, call 301-241-9249 or email news@thecatocinbanner.com to record your guesses by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please don't forget to include your full name. Don't forget that you need to check the next month's issue to see if you won.

*Please note: The contests are not based on who gets their guesses in first. Each month, we put all correct guesses in a "hat" and randomly draw a winner.*

### Where Am I? Contest

For the "Where Am I?" Photo Contest, take a look at the photo to the right and tell us where it was taken. It is somewhere in or around our Northern Frederick County Area, which is defined as Rocky Ridge to Cascade, Lewistown to Emmitsburg, Foxville to Creagerstown, and everywhere around and in-between. Good luck!



April's "Where Am I?" photo was taken of the doors at the Village Book & Table in Fairfield. **The winner of the Where Am I? Contest for April's issue is Carol Horigan.** Carol, please select an advertising business from which you'd like your gift certificate. Then, contact *The Catocin Banner* at news@thecatocinbanner.com or call 301-241-9249, so we can mail you your prize!

### Hidden Object Contest

The Hidden Object Contest for April's issue was an Easter Egg Hunt. There were a total of 14 eggs hidden throughout the issue in ads and in photos. **The winner of the Hidden Object Easter Egg Hunt Contest for April's issue is Brandi Hoffman.** Brandi, please select an advertising business from which you'd like your gift certificate. Then, contact *The Catocin Banner* email news@thecatocinbanner.com or call 301-241-9249, so we can mail you your prize! Happy hunting for this month's hidden object!

This month's hidden object' is an owl  Good luck!

*\*Note: Hidden Object is always hidden in one of our advertiser's display ads.*

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## Word Search - MUSICALS -

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M L C V M F R T U H G P Q Q M H C H S E F Z B C I U B K R X  
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| CHICAGO   | HAMILTON     | MY FAIR LADY | THE LION KING   |
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## LOOK WHO TOOK US ALONG!



Sisters Linda, Kay, Patty, and Susie went on their annual family vacation on September 8-15, 2025. They have been going on their annual trip to Deep Creek Lake for 21 years.

And this time, they didn't go without taking the Banner along!



~Thanks for taking us along, Linda, Kay, Patty, and Susie!

*We appreciate you!*

## LOOK WHO TOOK US ALONG!



Cassie and Colin Weierbach took a trip to Arashi Beach in Aruba and didn't forget to take *The Catoctin Banner* along with them!



~Thanks for taking us along, Cassie and Colin!

*We appreciate you!*



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# LOOK UP

BY MITCHELL TESTER, College Student

## “THE EVERGREEN STATE”

In April, I got the opportunity to go on a trip with my good friends to a place I had never been before, somewhere that I did not know much about.

At four in the morning, we all wake up at my friend, Jake’s. We grab our bags, say goodbye to the cats, and head off to the airport. We buy our overpriced drinks and food once we’re in the airport, waiting for boarding to start. Although I have flown quite a few times, the \$10.00 bottled water still seems to surprise me. I hear the crackling of the speaker when my two friends and I decide to perk up, excited that we may finally start boarding, as the flight was delayed 20 minutes or so. “Hello, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Alaska Airlines, we would like to invite our first class to start boarding for flight 301, Dulles, Washington D.C., to Seattle, Washington.” After letting those who have a bit more spending money than we do go first, they finally called our group, group F, the last group. We all file into the cabin of the plane, packed like sardines. For the next five hours, we are greeted with turbulence, crying children, lukewarm soda, peanuts, and beautiful views out the window of the airplane.

We arrived in Seattle, Washington, in the morning, jet-lagged and hungry. Spending time in Seattle was only temporary, as we planned to rent a sprinter camper van and head out into the wilderness as soon as possible, the coast first to be exact. Our Uber driver, a Somalian immigrant, welcomed us to Seattle. He gave us the lowdown on Washington State, a place that was very much foreign to us. After talking for a bit on the way to the rental, he inquired where we were from. “Maryland,” we answered. His eyes lit up. Excitingly, he told us that he has never been to the East Coast. New York City was the place he wanted to visit next. Our conversation was cut short when we arrived at the rental place. We said our goodbyes and wished him luck, as he did the same. Familiarity plays a big part in traveling, since the less familiar something is, the more breathtaking it can be, and the more it catches your attention. Meeting someone who lives in such a beautiful place, evergreens as far as the eye can

see and snowy mountain peaks looming over the city, it made me realize that, although I have seen the same East Coast landscapes my whole life, there is still very much beauty and wonder here in the place I call home, so much so that even our Seattle Uber driver wants to travel across country to see our home, just as we did to see his.

The camper van rental was equipped with a shower, a sink, a stove top oven, and many more utilities that practically made it a home on wheels. For the next four days, my friends and I traveled around the most northwestern part of Washington State, and technically, the most northwestern part of the United States. We saw the coast, the rainforest, and the alpine lakes of snow-capped mountains in Olympic National Park. The landscape is so vastly different from anything I have ever seen, different from the desert outside of Las Vegas, different from the cliffside of Zion, different from the San Juan and Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and even more different than our home National Park, Catoctin. The sands of Kalaloch Beach are gray like ash, the evergreens looked like skyscrapers, and the Hoh Rainforest is so thick that, at times, the greenery, shielding the sun overhead, turned day into night.

My friends and I had a ritual of spending time by the campfire when we wound down for the night, as most campers do. When we were not talking,

(right) Inside our camper van, on the way to Hoh Rainforest.

I would sit reflecting on the day and what I saw. One thought always came back to me: Why is the landscape here the way it is? As an individual who has a love for astronomy, I spend a lot of time learning about the history of why planets, some very distant, are shaped the way they are. It can be thought of as the history of their life. Take the planet Uranus, for example. Why does it have such strange rings, oriented vertically, while most rings are horizontal (such as Saturn)? This can be explained by the planet’s history, a violent one at that. Uranus was most likely hit by something very large many years ago, which left its orbit changed and its rings as well. While sitting by those fires, I knew what I was doing once I got home, and it was answering the question of why the West Coast is so vastly different from the East Coast.

Geology is the history book for why and how Earth looks the way it does. One stark difference between the East Coast and the West Coast—or more specifically, the Pacific Northwest (where Washington State resides)—is that the mountain ranges differ vastly in age. Our mountains, the Appalachian Mountains, are much older than the mountains that exist out there, called the Cascade and Olympic Mountains. Our mountains are some 480 million years older than the mountains my friends and I climbed out in Washington State.

The Appalachian Mountains are so ancient, in fact, that they predate land animals, even the dinosaurs. Due to our mountains not experiencing plate collisions, there is no significant

tectonic uplift to help combat the erosion that naturally occurs. Over years and years of time, the erosion continues, while geologically, the tectonic plates underneath our mountains have stayed quiet. Now fast forward to any human’s lived experience of Appalachia; these mountains stand much shorter than what is found out west or in some other regions outside of the United States. In fact, it is said that many years ago (remember many millions), our Appalachian Mountains stood as tall as the Himalayas.

What stood out to me the most during my trip—primarily the time spent on the coast—was the ash gray sand that covered the beautiful cliffside beaches. The Pacific Northwest is much younger than the landscape we roam. The gray sand can be explained similarly to the rocks that reside in the state, by its geological composition, a land that is rich in volcanic basalt.

My whole goal with this column is to have people look up to the stars, learning about the world that exists just out of our reach. I believe that we can learn much about ourselves when we look up to the heavens. Sometimes, though, it is easy to take for granted what your eyes see every day, the landscape you see while driving to work, walking your dog, and taking out your trash. Traveling to me is not only seeing what is foreign to me—landscapes vastly different than what I call home—but traveling is also a way that you can gain a new appreciation of what you are used to seeing. Realizing that just like the places we spend traveling to are unique, our home is just as much so. Thank you for joining me this month, where we took a break from looking up to the stars and spent some time appreciating what is right in front of us.



Sunset on Kalaloch Beach.



## The Best Time to Start a Financial Plan is Now

BY TRICIA BUSH, CPA, CFP®  
Owner, AAA Advisory LLC



## SHOULD I PAY FOR MY KID'S COLLEGE?

As a financial advisor, this is a question that comes up often. But interestingly, it doesn't always start as a question. Sometimes, it begins as an assumption, something parents feel they're supposed to do. Other times, it's a vague sense of responsibility, paired with uncertainty about where to begin.

What I always try to do in these conversations is pause and reframe the discussion. Instead of asking how to pay for college, we first ask: Should you pay for it at all?

There isn't a one-size-fits-all answer. But one of the most important (and often overlooked) considerations is the behavioral impact on your child. When someone else is footing the bill, the experience, and the decisions surrounding it, can look very different than when they have some "skin in the game."

Let's walk through three common approaches, along with the pros and trade-offs of each.

### Option 1: Fully Fund Your Child's Education

There's no question that being able to fully fund your child's college education is an incredible gift. The most obvious benefit is that your child can start adulthood without student loan debt, which can be a major financial advantage.

However, there are some important considerations.

When students aren't financially invested, they may not approach decisions with the same level of intention. Are they choosing a school based on long-term value, or short-term preference? Are they fully engaged in their studies, or does the lack of financial

responsibility reduce their sense of urgency?

Another critical factor is your own financial stability. Funding a child's education should never come at the expense of your retirement. There are loans available for education, there are no loans available for retirement. Stretching yourself too thin financially can also create stress at home, which ultimately impacts the entire family.

If you are in a strong financial position and choose this route, one approach I often recommend is to delay the "gift." Let your child go through the process, applying for scholarships, comparing schools, understanding the cost, and even exploring loan options. Then, if you choose, you can step in later to help pay down or eliminate the debt. This preserves the learning experience while still providing financial support.

### Option 2: Contribute Partially

For many families, this is the most balanced approach.

Rather than covering the full cost, you set clear expectations around what you will contribute, and your child is responsible for the rest. This can take many forms:

- A fixed dollar amount.
- A percentage of total costs.
- Performance-based contributions (for example, maintaining a certain GPA).

This structure creates a partnership. Your child benefits from your support but still has meaningful responsibility in the process.



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**FINANCIAL QUESTION?**

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Your question could be answered  
in a future issue!

It also introduces important real-world financial skills, budgeting, evaluating return on investment, and understanding debt, before they fully enter adulthood.

### Option 3: Your Child Funds 100%

At first glance, this option can feel extreme, especially given the rising cost of higher education. But it can also be incredibly empowering.

I'll admit, I may be a bit biased here, as I paid for my own education. That experience shaped how I approached my career, finances, and long-term planning. It pushed me to choose a path that would allow me to be self-sufficient and intentional about my future.

There is real value in that ownership.

That said, this approach comes with an important caveat: not all debt is created equal. Taking on significant student loans without a clear plan can create long-term financial strain.

A college degree, by itself, does not guarantee financial success. What matters is the combination of education, career planning, and a strategy for managing (and ideally minimizing) debt.

For students taking this path, it's essential to:

- Research career outcomes and earning potential
- Compare school costs carefully
- Understand loan terms before borrowing
- Actively pursue scholarships and grants.

### How to Save: Understanding 529 Plans

If you decide that contributing to your child's education makes sense for your family, one of the most effective tools available is a 529 plan.

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment account specifically designed for education savings. Here's how it works:

- Contributions are made with after-tax dollars, but the investments grow tax-free.
- Withdrawals are also tax-free, as long as they're used for qualified education expenses.

Qualified expenses include:

- College tuition and fees.
- Room and board (for students enrolled at least half-time).
- Books and required supplies.
- Certain K-12 tuition (up to certain limits).
- Trade schools & apprenticeship programs.

Recent rule changes have made 529 plans even more attractive. Beginning in 2024, unused 529 funds can potentially be rolled into a Roth IRA for the beneficiary, subject to certain limits and conditions. This creates a powerful backup plan, if the money isn't used for education, it can still jumpstart your child's retirement savings.

For those in Maryland, there's an added benefit. You may be eligible for a state income tax subtraction of up to \$2,500 per beneficiary, per account owner. For example, a married couple with two children could potentially deduct up to \$10,000 in contributions annually.

### Final Thoughts

At its core, this decision isn't just financial, it's personal. It's about your values, your financial capacity, and the kind of lessons you want to pass on to your child.

*Disclosure: This article is for educational purposes only and is not intended as financial advice. Every financial situation is unique, and you should consult with a qualified professional before making decisions regarding your specific circumstances.*



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# LOOKING BACK

## A Man Was Left To Drown

BY JAMES RADA, JR.

At the end of March 1913, many people in Frederick County were watching the Midwest, where severe flooding was damaging property and taking lives. However, the county was not without its own devastating weather.

“Blown by a strong wind, a downpour of rain such as is seldom seen in these parts was driven from the heavens and continued for more than an hour, starting about 6 o’clock,” *The (Frederick) News* reported. “The rain poured down in sheets, and with the strong wind, it was blinding. In a short time every place was flooded.”

Streets became rushing streams, and streams became flooded rivers. Fields became swirling lakes, destroying crops.

Over the course of two days, two inches of rain fell, but half of that amount fell within a single hour, which is what precipitated the problems. Temperatures dropped 30 degrees in a day, from temperate mid-60s to freezing. At Brunswick, the Potomac River rose 16 feet in a short time. Worse yet, this storm was a preview of things to come, as the tragic storms in the Midwest were expected to move toward Maryland.

One good thing came from the storm, though. It stopped a large

forest fire on Catoctin Mountain. Firefighters were struggling to contain a fire that had so far burned 500 acres. Winds were driving the flames to consume even more, and the firefighters were losing the containment battle. Then the rains came in and doused the fire enough that the firefighters could gain the upper hand.

That didn’t help John Hoke, a carpenter at Mount St. Mary’s College. *The Emmitsburg Chronicle* noted in his obituary, “The splendid edifices which, in recent years, have been reared at Mount St. Mary’s and to which her authorities and alumni point to with great pride are to a great extent the monuments of his skill and handicraft.”

John finished work on March 27 and went into Emmitsburg to drink at a bar. When he decided to head home, which was two miles away, a friend worried that John wasn’t in any shape to walk so far.

The friend walked with John towards the edge of town and was convinced his friend was sober enough to make it home on his own. He said goodnight and headed back to town.

The next day, when John didn’t show up for work, a search was started to locate him. Townsman



Courtesy Photo

An old postcard view of Toms Creek near St. Joseph College.

and college students fanned out in the direction where John’s friend had last seen him.

Unrelated to the search, a young boy was walking near Toms Creek, which was still out of its banks, swollen from the rains. He saw a man clinging to a bush with one arm, waving the other arm, and calling for help.

For some reason, the sight didn’t alarm the boy. “The little fellow offered no help, and then the water was about waist-deep around the man,” according to *The News*. “The boy did not report that matter until night.”

The boy’s father had him show him where the boy had seen the man. There was no one there. However, the father noted it was also downstream from where most people had been searching for John.

The search resumed the next day once the sun was up. The searchers found his body near Sister’s Dam. He had been washed into a field and left in the mud when the water receded.

Coroner M. F. Shuff was summoned. He examined the body and determined an inquest wasn’t necessary. It was deemed an accidental drowning.

The belief was that John was perhaps not as sober as he had appeared two nights earlier. He may have walked to the edge of the flooded Toms Creek, which he needed to cross to get home. Deciding that he couldn’t do it, at least at night, he instead lay down near the creek and went to sleep or passed out.

“During the night the rain and the high water came and he found himself surrounded by water and in a dazed condition, and was unable to save himself,” *The News* reported.

He left behind a wife, married daughter, and four grandchildren.

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# My Two Cents

BY MICHELE TESTER



## The Second Time Around



Since May celebrates mothers, I thought it was only fitting that I write about my life-altering, magical, heartfelt experience: The birth of my first grandchild and becoming a grandmother.

The day my daughter and her husband came over to our house to tell us that she was pregnant will stay in my memory forever. They were just getting back from a weekend trip. We were all sitting out back on our patio. She handed me a gift bag and said, "I bought something for you, Mom." I opened it and pulled out a beautiful candle. I love candles. So, I opened the top to smell it, and pasted on the bottom of the top was a note in my daughter's handwriting, "Hmmm...smells like you're going to be a grandparent to me."

I jumped up, and I believe the whole neighborhood heard me scream. It was a single moment of such pure, unbridled joy that it will forever remain in my heart.

I've raised three children of my own, and I love them more than life itself. But let me tell you, holding

my granddaughter, looking down at her angelic, beautiful little face, the world just seems to stop, and I'm frozen in time.

There's something to be said for the second time around.

As of this writing, my granddaughter is now four months old. I'm already thinking of the tea parties we will share, the sleepovers at my house, all the books we will explore together, gardening, baking cookies, crafting, dancing with her to her favorite music in our living room, painting our nails, and all the wisdom I can hopefully pass on to her.

I did my absolute best to do all of these things and more with my own children, but the truth is, I was so busy, my hands so full with *raising* them, that I didn't always get to enjoy that quality time that I desired. Life happens. Life is fast. Carpools, homework, work, teachings, bedtimes, finances, activities, well, let's just say in the blink of an eye, they were all grown up.

There's something to be said for the second time around.

Another amazing experience I get by being a grandmother: Watching my daughter be a mom.

My daughter is a wonderful mother. Watching her growth and confidence as a mom from when she first had her baby up to now warms my heart. It can be, and absolutely is, so overwhelming when you have your first child. Your hormones are on a rollercoaster, you are physically and mentally exhausted, and you feel clueless and in uncharted territory. All the while, this small, precious creature is counting entirely on you for everything. I told my daughter that all those feelings are normal, and she will find her way as a mother. Trust her gut and trust her instincts. I

had all the faith in her, and I did not doubt the kind of mother she would be. I now witness my granddaughter light up when she simply hears my daughter's voice, her precious little face brimming with a radiant smile when she just looks at my daughter, the love and deep bond between them so apparent and strong, it brings tears to my eyes. I get the beauty of standing back and witnessing those magical moments.

There's something to be said for the second time around.

I've learned about tummy time and wake windows and baby-led weaning, and so many other things that, back when I was having children, I had no idea about. I have had the blessing of spending a great deal of time with my granddaughter already, and I am truly grateful for that. I have rocked her to sleep, fed her, sang to her, changed her, soothed her, read to her, and cuddled with her—simply enjoying every single moment with her. I already have an "our song" that I sing to her when I'm holding and rocking her, that instantly calms and soothes her: "Dancing Queen" by ABBA. I know, you wouldn't think, right? But she loves it.

Being a grandmother for the first time brings me profound joy, offering me a second chance to love unconditionally, minus the pressure of daily parenting. It has now been bestowed upon me the gift of a spoiler. I can't wait.

Aside from the absolute joy you feel by becoming a grandparent, there are also a great deal of health benefits that come along with the new, cherished title.

Research shows that being a grandparent offers substantial health, emotional, and social

benefits, including improved cognition, reduced depression, and increased longevity. Being an active grandparent, such as providing childcare, is linked to slower cognitive decline and a lower risk of Alzheimer's and dementia. That's one to take to the bank.

Research also shows that being a grandparent keeps you active, which is an essential part of overall good health and feeling young. Keeping up with children necessitates lots of physical movement, which is the best workout routine ever.

I am so looking forward to sharing family history, traditions, and culture with my granddaughter, along with the simple joy of just watching her grow and discover. I plan to be right there. She is my "bright spot" in a sometimes dim world. When I look at her, I see everything bathed in hope, pure joy, innocence, and the best parts of my heart.

There's something to be said for the second time around.

That's just my two cents.

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# VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON

## Henry B. Pecher First Adams' Pacific POW

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B-17 bombers in action.

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Henry Benedict and Margaret's Pecher's headstone in Saint Mary's and Saint Rita's Catholic Cemetery, located in Hamiltonban Township.

Fairfield resident, Henry Benedict Pecher, was born on February 10, 1919, to parents Jacob Henry Pecher, who was 35, and Helen Grace Sanders, and they had nine children (in order of birth): Paul Lafayette, Anna Agatha, Henry Benedict, Miriam Magdalena, Alfonsus J., George M., Francis Eugene, Joseph A., and Theresa V.

Pecher graduated from Fairfield High School. After graduation, he became employed at the Dave Oylor Motors Company in Gettysburg.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1939 at age 20 and served as a gunner on a "Flying Fortress" (four-engine Boeing B-17 bomber), after having been trained as an aerial engineer. He was subsequently assigned to the 19th Bomber Group at Clark Airfield in Manila, Philippines, according to an article published in May 21, 2004, edition of *The Gettysburg Times*, stating that he had achieved the rank of technical sergeant.

In the last letter his parents had received from Pecher on April 10, 1942, before he "went dark," he had written, "I hope and pray to the good Lord that I may live through (sic) this

war. I would like to come home and raise a nice little family. Please pray for us fellows over here and ask the Blessed Mother to deliver us from the enemy," according to an article published in the August 28, 1942, edition of *The Times*.

The next letter they received concerning Pecher was not from Pecher, but rather, from Major General James Alexander Ulio, in August, in which Ulio had written that Pecher had been serving in the Philippine Islands at the time of its surrender, and that, "I deeply regret that it is impossible for me to give you information, other than that which is contained in this letter (regarding the status of Pecher's whereabouts)," essentially declaring that the aviator was missing in action.

Subsequently, Pecher was identified as having been taken prisoner by the Japanese (making him the first Adams County man captured by the Japanese), and the details of how it had all come about began to appear in the press.

According to an issue of *The Gettysburg Times*, Pecher was aboard several B-17s that had been assigned

to rescue General Douglas McArthur from Mandana Island following the allied armies' retreat from Corregidor. Pecher's B-17 was not so lucky, and flew low in order to detect the intended landing field in the dark, and in doing so, he "caught a wave and crashed in the water." The aviator sustained a broken nose and several head gashes, yet he was still capable of swimming for six hours to reach land, only to be captured by the Japanese.

After having been repatriated at the end of the war and after having been a POW for more than 40 months, Pecher reported that he and others had been subjected to "a heart-breaking diet of work, beatings, and starvation diets," according to an article published in the November 7, 1945, issue of *The Gettysburg Times*, noting that he had weighed 175 pounds before being captured, and weighed only 112 pounds when he was released by the defeated Japanese on September 7. For much of the War, he was held in

POW camps in and around Tokyo.

Following his return to the United States at the end of the surrender of Japan, he was then stationed at the Valley Forge Hospital for treatment and was on furlough from the military as of June 1946, according to the September 29, 1946, edition of *The Gettysburg Compiler*. While being hospitalized at Valley Forge, Pecher was presented with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, the Distinguished Unit Badge, and the Prisoner of War Medal.

Pecher then married Margaret Louise Hare of Waynesboro on June 22, 1946, and they eventually became the parents of seven children.

And yet, in August 1950, he re-enlisted in the Air Force.

Pecher passed away at the age of 71 on July 29, 1990, in Fairfield, and was subsequently interred in Saint Mary's and Saint Rita's Catholic Cemetery, located in Hamiltonban Township.

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Every Thursday is Bar Bingo at AMVETS Post 7! Enjoy cash prizes, drinks, food, and fun! Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Bingo is open to the public. Come early; it fills up quickly! View the advertisement on page 50.

Get ready for a Quarter Auction on Sunday, May 3 at 1:00 p.m. All bids are just quarters. All ages are welcome.

### American Legion Post 168, Thurmont

We hope that everyone has been enjoying the beautiful weather we have been having. It is so nice to see the flowers and trees blooming, although some of them do not last long enough!

The Easter Egg Hunt was a success again this year, even though the wind made it a bit chillier than it needed to be. We are looking forward to having it again, so keep us in mind for next year with the children and grandchildren.

We held a Veteran's Luncheon in April as well, and it was so nice to see returning faces and some new faces enjoying a hot turkey meal. Be on the lookout for our annual luncheon in November for Veterans Day.

May is Poppy month. Poppy flowers symbolize remembrance, stemming from their appearance on WWI battlefields. They represent both the sacrifice of fallen soldiers and the resilience of life. So, remember to wear your poppy with pride! Poppies can be found in various businesses around town or at the Legion!

Lots of things are happening at the Legion this spring! May 2<sup>nd</sup> is our Sportsman's Drawing. The Memorial Program at the Memorial Park is on May 30. June 19<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Golf Tournament at the Maple Run Golf Course in Thurmont. The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Community Day will be held on June 27, from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The 2026 membership year is winding down. If you have not paid your 2026 dues, please stop by the Legion (or mail a check to 8 Park Lane, Thurmont, MD 21788) to keep your membership current. There are some good perks that come with being a Legion member. Come to a meeting to learn more about how your membership can benefit you and the Veterans.

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There's a thin line between humility and insecurity. And insecurity is often the source of arrogance. One can see that in the life of King Saul. When we first meet Saul, he seems to be a humble man. When he is proclaimed as king before Israel, he hides himself. **1 Samuel 10:21-23: He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot, and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. So they inquired again of the Lord, "Is there a man still to come?" and the Lord said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward.**

Saul's actions may seem to be of a humble man. Although he already knew he was the King of Israel, he hides himself away from the people and they have to find him with the help of the Lord. But I would argue that Saul's actions here are of extreme insecurity and even pride. Ultimately, his actions show that he would prefer to hide from his problems rather than face them if he thinks they are too hard. Let's ask ourselves: does the humble man avoid doing what he thinks is hard, or does he do it anyway accepting that he is going to make mistakes and is going to need help?

Saul's actions show insecurity and fear of success, not humility. This is why when later in his life, he is driven mad by the song of his people praising him, but praising David even more. **1 Samuel 18:7: And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, but David his ten thousands."** This song drove him mad. It was his arrogance that caused him to later lash out at David, but what drove the arrogance? Insecurity. In both cases, he did not trust that God was with him.

Maybe you have some insecurities of your own. Isn't it time you stopped worrying about what people will think or that you won't be good enough? If Saul worried less about these and more about being pleasing to God, perhaps he would not have found himself in his pitiful final circumstances.

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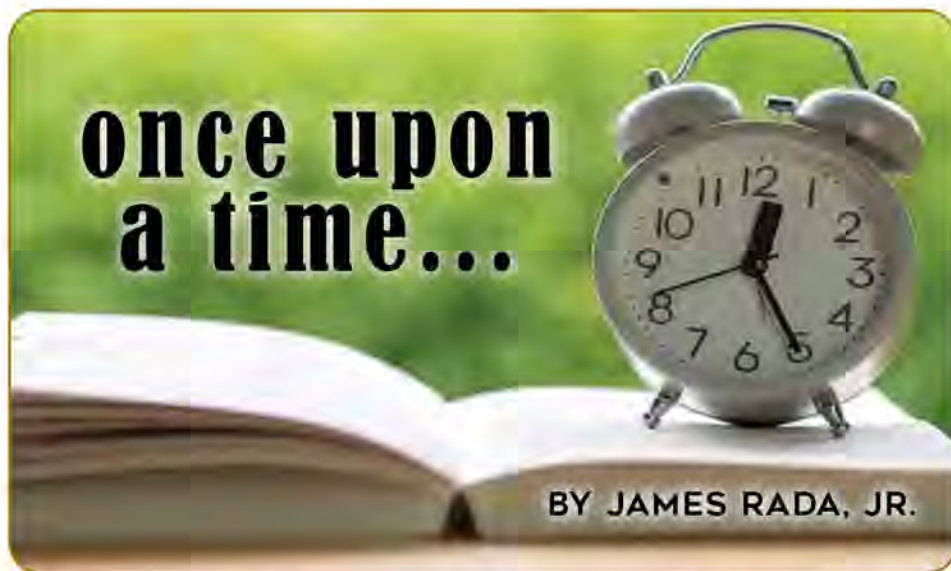
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Note: Newspaper excerpts are as they appeared in their respective issues.

## May 1926, 100 Years Ago

### Flames Unchecked As Fire Catoctin Mountain Rages

The Catoctin Mountain in the region between Catoctin Furnace and Thurmont was still a huge mass of flames today. Despite the efforts of scores of men Sunday the fire is still raging in such proportions that little hope is held out for extinguishing it in the near future.

The eastern limit of the fire that was established by fire lines Sunday held during the night and it is thought that there little danger of the fire spreading in that direction at present. Deputy Forest Warden C. Cyril Klein said this morning that he hoped to be able to hold the line that has been established along Hunting Creek above Catoctin Furnace and prevent the further spread of flames in that direction.

– *The (Frederick) News*, May 10, 1926

### Hog Cholera Near Westminster

A severe outbreak of hog cholera has occurred on the farm of the Western Maryland College. The case was reported to the County Agent, Tuesday evening, and Wednesday morning Dr. T. K. Hoffman, State Veterinarian, of Hagerstown, was on the premises. He found several of the animals in the advanced stages, and a postmortem confirmed his diagnosis. The officials of the college are to be commended for their prompt action in slaughtering and disposing of the sick animals and the treatment of the well with serum to prevent the spread of the disease in the neighborhood.

– *The Carroll Record*, May 7, 1926

## May 1951, 75 Years Ago

### Plans For Town Hall Progress

Plans for Emmitsburg's new Community Hall took a step forward Monday night when a committee met and drew up proposed bylaws to submit to a public meeting on June 5 for adoption.

Temporary Chairman Edgar G. Emrich presided at the session which was attended by representatives of various organizations of the town. Present were Mr. Emrich, Paul A. Keepers, Colonel Thomas J. Frailey, Albert W. McCleaf, Herbert W. Roger, Charles A. Elder, Thornton W. Rodgers, Guy A. Baker Sr., and Bernard H. Boyle.

– *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, May 11, 1951

### Oldest Resident Celebrates 95th Birthday

Mrs. Sarah Emma Nunemaker, Emmitsburg's oldest resident, celebrated her 95th birthday on Tuesday. Daughter of the late Joseph Smith and Ellen Waddles, she was born in 1856 about two miles east of Emmitsburg.

Mrs. Nunemaker moved with her parents, to the home she now occupies, 93 years ago. Her father was a merchant and operated his store in the East end of the house. She was born near the close of the administration of Franklin Pierce, of New Hampshire, the 14th President of the U. S., about the time of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. That period witnessed the struggle between the North and South for the possession of Kansas,

the rise of the Republican party and the opening of the first World's Fair held in the U. S. in the Crystal Palace in New York. Thomas Watkins Ligon, 35th state Governor, was then the chief executive of Maryland. The question of slavery was a current topic, which, with the secession - of the states, later resulted in the Civil War.

– *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, May 18, 1951

## May 1976, 50 Years Ago

### Summer Signals Sharp Rise In Dog Bites

The end of the school year always signals a sharp rise in animal bites to children, often with tragic results, warned Dr. Kenneth L. Crawford. Chief of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Division of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, the absence of protective clothing results in more serious wound lacerations in warm weather when children and their dogs are outdoors.

– *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, May 13, 1976

### Local VFW Receives Two Awards

Commander-in-Chief Thomas C. Walker, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has announced that V.F.W. Post 6658, of Emmitsburg, Md., has won two Awards of Honor given by the organization for community service.

Walker praised the Post and its Ladies Auxillary on winning the two awards and gold plaques. "Local V.F.W. members can be proud of this unique accomplishment. Through their activities demonstrate the V.F.W.'s concern of helping others."

The Post received one Award of Honor for its support of construction of a community swimming pool and the other for sponsorship of an ambulance service for use by local citizens.

– *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, May 20, 1976

## May 2001, 25 Years Ago


### 70-Lot Development Set

Ryan Homes has purchased several of the 70 lots of Pembroke Woods Subdivision and optioned out the balance. Ryan will start its on-site sales program immediately for delivery this September.

All the homes will be single family homes situated on 1/2-acre minimum lots. These lots will be substantially larger than the current minimum lots sizes in Town. To accommodate the lower density of the project there will be no curbed streets. Prices of the homes will start at \$182,000.

– *The Dispatch*, May 2001


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- 1949 Ford Tudor, R & H.

**SPERRY'S GARAGE**

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### Preston to Resign

After 33 years at the helm of the history department, former Emmitsburg Mayor and beloved Professor Robert Preston is departing the Mount to take a position as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

Preston, who has been a pivotal member of the Mount's faculty for over three decades, sent an e-mail out to his colleagues on Monday, April 16th, explaining his departure. He said that on a whim he applied for the Vice President position at Trinity, a small Catholic liberal arts college located across from Catholic University in D.C.

– *The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch*, May 2001

appearing in *Emmitsburg Chronicle*,  
May 4, 1951



## Recipe of the Month

BY MAXINE TROXELL

After submitting sweet recipes for the last two months, I decided to submit a savory recipe this time. This recipe comes from [grandmomsrecipe.com](http://grandmomsrecipe.com), and it is fairly easy to make by using Cheddar Bay Biscuit mix. I hope you enjoy it!

### Easy Cheddar Bay Chicken Cobbler

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded or diced
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 package (7.5 oz) Cheddar Bay Biscuit Mix
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 cup frozen mixed vegetables (carrots, peas, and corn)
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Fresh parsley for garnish

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. In a large oven-safe skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the frozen mixed vegetables and cook for about 5 minutes until tender.
3. Stir in the shredded chicken, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, and black pepper. Cook until everything is heated through.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk together the heavy cream and chicken broth.
5. Pour the cream and broth mixture into the skillet with the chicken and vegetables. Stir well until fully combined.
6. Sprinkle the shredded cheddar cheese evenly over the chicken mixture, allowing some to mix in for extra flavor.
7. In a separate bowl, prepare the biscuit mix according to package instructions. Typically, this involves adding water until a dough forms.
8. Top with Biscuit Dough: Drop spoonfuls of the biscuit dough over the chicken mixture, covering as much area as possible.
9. Place the skillet in the preheated oven and bake for 25-30 minutes or until the biscuit topping is golden brown and cooked through.

Enjoy!



## The Supermarket Gourmet

BY BUCK REED



### Get Your Patriotic Grill On



I don't care about your politics, race, creed, or religion. I don't even care how you voted. It's 2026, and it's time to celebrate our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. So, this Fourth of July isn't just another grilling holiday. This is the big one. Time to roll out the big guns and get something on the flaming charcoal.

A perfectly good, well-seasoned burger or a fire-kissed hot dog isn't an awful way to go, but this is a big kahuna holiday. You need something with a little flair, a little *wow* factor, which is, at our heart, an American virtue. Doing one better than the person down the street is, at the very least, The American Way. Yet, making his barbecue look sad and pathetic is, in fact, your patriotic duty.

Adding something with pizzazz to your grill is the order of the day. One thing that comes to mind is a whole grilled fish. I like red snapper, but trout or even a whole salmon is a good idea as well. Make sure it is ordered from your seafood counter, Pan Ready, and place some herbs like parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme (Simon & Garfield can't be wrong) in the cavity. Tie it up and give it a go.

Another favorite is Grilled Leg of Lamb. Carefully butterfly it out, and smear with olive oil, garlic, oregano, and paprika, and keep it moving on the grill. It might be Greek to some, but they make great American citizens and offer some great additions to our culinary melting pot.

Next, we have a salute to the Washington politicians and their spending habits by preparing pork belly. There are so many ways to go with this that I am certain you can find a spectacular recipe to braise it a few days before and reheat it over the hot coals. Add a tasty sauce, and you should be able to make something way better than any bill a congressperson puts forward to spend our money on.

I know I have mentioned this before, but it needs to be said again. I love grilled fruit and pineapple. It is a big favorite of mine. It easily accompanies almost any dish on the grill but is also a wonderful side dish or even a dessert. It's a game-changer, which is how Super Bowls are won—a concept that all Americans should be able to identify with.

Don't forget the smoker. Brisket is a good idea, but take a page from Ben Franklin and get a whole turkey. Plan ahead, brine your bird, and fire up the smoker early. For something a bit quicker, try smoking a variety of sausages. In the spirit of our diverse makeup, put some hot and sweet Italian sausages, brats, and chorizo in the smoker, and make a stunning platter of sliced, delightful morsels.

If you are going to add a new dish to your grill game on the big day, you need to practice at least once. Make a plan that General Patton would be proud of and execute it. It's how we beat the Axis and how you will make our 250<sup>th</sup> memorable. Just don't slap any buck privates (we should skip that tradition).



## CHRONIC PAIN: ROOT CAUSES and NATURAL SUPPORT STRATEGIES

### Part 1

BY DR. THOMAS K. LO, Advanced Chiropractic & Nutritional Healing Center

Everyone experiences pain, but pain becomes a problem when it's chronic.

Millions of people in the United States are living with some form of chronic pain, including low back pain, chronic headaches and migraines, joint pain, digestive pain, fibromyalgia, and autoimmune conditions.

Chronic pain can seriously interfere with your daily activities, work, studies, family life, social life, and emotional well-being. It may even lead to disability. By addressing the root causes of chronic pain and using natural support strategies, you may possibly reduce chronic pain and regain your health.

#### What is Chronic Pain?

Pain signals that there is something wrong with your body. It causes an uncomfortable or unpleasant feeling to signal that something is off and needs care. Pain is essentially a protective mechanism.

There are two types of pain: acute and chronic. Acute pain comes suddenly, and it is caused by something very specific. Acute pain may happen because of an injury, accident, surgery, dental work, burn, cut, infection, or other

specific events. Acute pain may last for a couple of hours, a few days, a few weeks, or in some serious cases, a few months. Acute pain gradually gets better over time and eventually goes away completely.

Chronic pain is pain that lasts longer than six months. It is ongoing, as either present and daily or comes back repeatedly in flares. It may start with a specific event, such as an injury or illness, as acute pain, but it just stays around without completely going away. It may happen without a specific trigger or known reason. In both cases, your body's pain signals stay active for months or years.

#### Chronic Pain Symptoms

Symptoms of chronic pain can range from mild to severe. They may change throughout the day, week, or month. They may be debilitating and lead to disability.

There are different forms and symptoms of chronic pain, including: headaches and migraines, muscle tension and pain, joint pain and arthritis, back pain, pelvic or bladder pain, nerve pain, Fibromyalgia or widespread body pains, and cancer-related pain.

Chronic pain may cause tense muscles, low energy, changes in appetite, limited ability to move your body, fatigue, and poor sleep.

It may greatly affect your emotional well-being by contributing to anger, mood changes, anxiety, fear of reinjury or certain activities, and depression.

#### Chronic Pain Causes and Risk Factors

Chronic pain may develop for a variety of reasons. It is often unclear or complex. The following factors may cause or increase your risk of developing chronic pain:

- Poor posture
- Sleeping on a poor mattress
- Lifting or carrying heavy objects

- Wearing high heels
- Traumatic injury
- Being overweight or obese
- Overuse injuries and unattended injuries
- Congenital conditions, such as scoliosis
- Aging and degenerative changes of the spine
- Being female
- Injuries or surgeries
- No obvious physical cause

There are various health issues that may cause or increase the risk of chronic pain, including:

- Osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Fibromyalgia
- Chronic fatigue syndrome
- Interstitial cystitis
- Endometriosis
- Vulvodynia
- Temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMJ)
- Multiple sclerosis
- Stomach ulcers
- Gallbladder disease
- Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)
- Irritable bowel diseases (IBDs)
- Other autoimmune and chronic diseases
- Cancer
- AIDS

#### Chronic Pain Root Cause Factors

To improve chronic pain, first, you must understand the root cause factors of your pain. The following factors may or may not directly cause your pain, but can certainly contribute to underlying health issues that can increase your risk of pain.

#### Trauma and Injuries

Trauma and injuries, including accidents, falls, physical attacks, and sports injuries, first result in acute pain. However, in many cases, symptoms may drag on and lead to chronic pain.

You don't need to suffer from a serious injury, traumatic injury, or traumatic brain injury to have chronic pain.

Sometimes, people have a difficult time achieving full recovery after surgery or an acute small accident.

In other cases, ignoring the problem, not taking a rest, not seeking physical therapy, or not making posture or lifestyle changes can cause chronic pain.

If you continue to push through the pain without strengthening your body and correcting imbalances, you may end up with chronic pain.

#### Chronic Inflammation

Chronic inflammation is an underlying problem in most chronic health issues. Chronic pain is often a warning sign that you are dealing with chronic inflammation.

According to a 2021 article published by *StatPearls*, you may develop chronic inflammation if you miss eliminating a pathogen causing acute inflammation, have been exposed to low-level environmental toxins, are dealing with an autoimmune issue, your cells are experiencing oxidative stress or mitochondrial dysfunction, your cells have trouble mediating inflammation, or you have recurrent episodes of the same acute pain.

Many inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, IBDs, lupus, and fibromyalgia, are characterized by chronic pain.

#### Insulin Resistance

Insulin resistance means that your body is unable to respond to insulin well and convert glucose

■ continue reading on Page 57

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properly for energy. This will cause your pancreas to overwork and create more insulin. Over time, this can lead to blood sugar issues, prediabetes, and type 2 diabetes.

Insulin resistance is one of the main underlying causes of chronic inflammation, a possible link to chronic pain.

There is increased evidence suggesting that insulin resistance may be one of the culprits behind fibromyalgia.

A 2019 report published in *PLoS One* has found that insulin resistance may be an underlying reason behind fibromyalgia and related chronic pain.

A 2017 review published in *Joint Bone Spine* has found a possible connection between insulin resistance and rheumatoid arthritis.

**Chronic Infections**

According to a 2021 article published by *StatPearls*, chronic infections may lead to chronic inflammation, which may result in chronic pain as well. These chronic infections may include viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic infections.

The Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) is a common culprit behind chronic pain.

According to a 2021 study published in *Frontiers in Immunology*, EBV infections may cause chronic fatigue syndrome, which is often characterized by chronic pain.

A 2021 study published in *The Spine Journal* has found that chronic bacterial infections may lead to chronic back pain.

A 2017 study published in *Frontiers in Medicine* has found that chronic musculoskeletal pain, sleep disturbance, fatigue, and depression are common in Lyme disease patients.

**Leaky Gut and Food Sensitivities**

Your gut is connected to your entire body. If your gut microbiome balance and gut health are off, it can increase chronic inflammation in your body and lead to various health issues, including chronic pain.

Leaky gut syndrome means that your gut lining has developed larger holes that can allow toxins, pathogens, and larger food particles to pass into your bloodstream along with nutrients.

This can cause gut microbiome imbalance, chronic inflammation, autoimmunity, and chronic symptoms.

Food sensitivities may also increase chronic inflammation, gut microbiome imbalance, chronic pain, and other chronic symptoms.

A 2017 study published in *Frontiers in Immunology* and a 2020 review published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* have linked leaky gut syndrome to autoimmune diseases. As you know, many autoimmune conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, IBDs, lupus, MS, and autoimmune thyroid dysfunction, can cause chronic pain along with other chronic symptoms.

A 2015 review published in *Mediators of Inflammation* has found a link between leaky gut and IBDs.

A 2020 study published in *Nutrients* has found that addressing dietary patterns, including food allergies and sensitivities, may help to address chronic pain.

A 2020 study published in *Nutrients* has found that addressing dietary patterns, including food allergies and sensitivities, may help to address chronic pain.

**Mold Toxicity**

Mold is a fungus that can grow on almost anything. It can thrive in many conditions, but most specifically, in warm temperatures and high moisture environments, both indoors and outdoors.

Mold loves to hide in your bathroom, kitchen, basement, behind wallpaper, behind drywall, and under your carpet. It can become a serious issue if you have a moisture leak or flooding, or live or work in an unkempt or old building.

Chronic mold exposure can lead to mold toxicity, chronic inflammation, chronic pain, and other chronic symptoms.

**Chronic Stress & Poor Sleep**

Chronic stress and poor sleep can increase chronic inflammation in your body. This can lead to

chronic pain and other chronic symptoms.

According to a 2017 review published in *Chronic Stress (Thousand Oaks)*, chronic stress and chronic pain may just be two sides of the same coin.

A 2015 review published in the *Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences* has found that chronic pain may increase during times of stress.

A 2011 study published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* has found that addressing emotions and emotional stress is critical when it comes to chronic pain.

A 2021 study published in *Science Reports* has found that chronic poor sleep can increase chronic back pain and related disability.

Moreover, chronic pain can increase chronic stress and interfere with your sleep. Poor sleep may also increase chronic stress and chronic pain. Chronic stress can

disrupt your sleep, increase chronic pain, and make it more difficult to deal with chronic pain emotionally.

**Vitamin D Deficiency**

Vitamin D is an essential vitamin that your body makes when the rays of the sun penetrate your skin. You can also get vitamin D through some foods and supplementation.

Vitamin D is essential for your body, including for bone, muscle, immune, brain, and mental health.

Due to our indoor lifestyle, vitamin D deficiency is very common, and it can lead to chronic pain and chronic health issues.

A 2018 systematic review and meta-analysis published in *Public Health Nutrition* has found a link between low vitamin D levels and chronic pain.

Source: [drjockers.com](http://drjockers.com)

\*Look for Part 2 in our June issue.

**Have you been tested for hypothyroidism?**

Are your results in the "normal" range but you're still feeling off?

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- Itchy scalp, hair loss
- Irregular periods, hot flashes
- PMS symptoms
- Sleep problems
- Difficulty tolerating cold
- Constipation
- Allergies
- Brain fog
- Puffiness in face and extremities



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BY JEFF YOCUM

## A Change of SCENERY

“A Change of Scenery” focuses on day trips from Thurmont that are within 150 miles (give or take). These trips will not include “Disney-level” destinations, but rather, lesser-known points of interest. The purpose of the article is to suggest venues for folks seeking a short, easily accessible change of scenery. In the process, hopefully something will be learned. Some will be historic, some cultural, and others just plain quirky. I confess an ulterior motive for writing this article: I have a wanderlust addiction.

### OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE...

I must admit, America’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday seems like it was just a few years ago. I was a clueless junior in college with nothing but an uncharted future ahead of me. Imagine my chagrin to realize that it was 50 years ago—nearly a lifetime! This year will be America’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

One of Maryland’s richest possessions is its front row/center seat to all of America’s unfolding history. From colonial times to the American Revolution to the Civil War to the western expansion to world wars to the present, Maryland witnessed it all. Beyond being a bystander, Maryland played key roles in events that were tectonic plates shifting international geopolitical landscapes.

One such nexus of history happened at Fort McHenry. In September of 1814, just 36 years after declaring independence from the world’s most powerful superpower, the United States found itself embroiled once again in another war with Great Britain. Having already raided and torched the upstart nation’s capital, the British set their sights on the major port city of Baltimore.

The British attack was two-pronged, with land forces landing at North Point and were to attack the city from the east. The British Navy was to deliver the sea-borne troops into the Inner Harbor—a classic pincer maneuver. The fledgling nation’s light was about to be snuffed out.

Except... the time between the raid on Washington and their arrival on the outskirts of Baltimore was spent in feverish preparation to meet the British with determined resistance. The land forces that disembarked



(above) Overlooking the Baltimore Harbor.

at North Point were met by Americans and engaged with serious losses before the Americans retreated to the hastily prepared positions of Rodgers Bastion. The British halted their advance. Meanwhile, the British Navy fared little better. It could not sail into the Inner Harbor because of Fort McHenry. The Navy’s guns had more range than the fort’s defender, but any ship testing the fort’s resolve was met with a mauling, as two ships could attest to.

The British Navy did the only option available, which was to stand off and batter the fort. It did so for 25 hours. All day and all through the night until the next morning, September 14, the oversized American flag could be seen through the morning haze. The Americans had prevailed over the British. A young nation defined and defended its identity. And, in the process, found its anthem.

A trip to Fort McHenry is a great way to spend a pleasant

day. The history of McHenry is not confined to a two-day event in 1814. The fort found roles during the Civil War and both World Wars. A 3,000-bed hospital complex was housed on the fort’s surrounding grounds for combat-wounded soldiers. Maxillary facial reconstructive surgery was pioneered at the hospital, offering soldiers with horrific facial wounds a chance of returning to a normal life.

If you go, think about bringing a picnic and enjoying lunch by the bay. You watch the ships traverse. The tour of the fort is inspiring. Perhaps the most gratifying moment of my most recent event came at the end of the Visitor’s Center presentation.

The message concludes with the playing of the National Anthem



Photos by Jeff Yocum

\*Correction to last month’s article: Meritus Health located at Ft. Ritchie is a Primary Care Facility and not an Urgent Care Facility as indicated in last month’s article.

while the shades are raised to reveal the Star-Spangled Banner hoisted above the fort, just as it had been on that morning in 1814. The real pleasure was seeing the dozens of school children standing up, respectfully, with their hands over their hearts. I found a measure of hope for our country.

## THURMONT SENIOR CENTER

BY TARA MILLER

806 E. Main Street • 301-271-7911

Photo by Tara Miller



Pictured are Deb Boisvert, Gloria Griffin, Tom Mullaney, Pam Robbins, Fran Hennessy, Tanya Ramsburg, Becky Urian, and Nancy Glass.

Spring is in full swing at the Thurmont Senior Center, and May is packed with activities, events, and opportunities to connect, stay active, and have fun!

We continue to offer a wide variety of weekly favorites, including Zumba Gold, Strength & Balance classes, Chair Yoga, cards and games, and creative gatherings like Craftin' in the Catocins and Stitch & Chat. Our popular 50/50 Bingo returns twice this month, always bringing excitement and friendly competition.

Be sure to mark your calendar for some special highlights! On May 7, join us for our Fundraiser Night and Bake Sale at Roy Rogers—a great way to support the center while enjoying a delicious meal. Mid-month, we'll celebrate our Monthly Birthday Party on May 15, complete with treats and good company.

One event we're especially excited about is our Scrabble Tournament on Wednesday, May 27, at 12:30 p.m. Whether you're a seasoned wordsmith or just enjoy a friendly game, this promises to be a fun and engaging afternoon. Come test your vocabulary skills and enjoy some lighthearted competition!

We're also offering a variety of informative and enriching presentations this month, including a Bible 101 overview, a Register of Wills Presentation, and visits from the Frederick County Department of Aging.

Did you know that the Thurmont Senior Center facility is available for rent? Our welcoming space is perfect for meetings, gatherings, and special events. Contact us for more information about availability and rates.

In addition, we are always looking for caring volunteers to help deliver meals to homebound seniors within a six-mile radius of the center. This simple act of kindness takes just about an hour of your week, yet makes a meaningful difference in someone's life.

The Thurmont Senior Center is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with lunch served daily at noon. If you're 55 or better, we invite you to stop by, get involved, and see all that we have to offer.

For more information, please call 301-271-7911 or visit us on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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May is the perfect time to visit the Emmitsburg 50+ Community Center! Starting off the month on Friday, May 1, is Maryland Legal Aid Law Day. This is a time for you and the attorney to review your Advance Directive, which determines your health care and end-of-life decisions. Please call 301-600-6350 to book an appointment. This program is sponsored by the Division of Aging and Independence and Maryland Legal Aid at no cost to you. The Veterans Appreciation Event at Frederick Health Village is on Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This is a free event.

Another exciting promotion this month is in honor of Older Americans Month. We will be offering Lunch Bunch at no cost every Monday in May (except Memorial Day). This is a great time to check out the lunch program or bring a friend. Please call the Center by end of day on Wednesday of the previous week to reserve a meal. We also have a special Mother's Day Lunch Bunch on Friday, May 8. For this special meal, please have your reservation in by 9:00 a.m. on May 1.

Feeling crafty this month? Join us on May 13 for painting the patterns of lace fabric on canvas. Our art instructor, Dorothea Barrick, will also be teaching a class on perspective on May 19. New and returning students are welcome! Please pre-register to ensure supplies. Some classes have fees.

For the plant lovers, join Emmitsburg Librarian Teresa on May 27 for a plant propagation how-to class. Learn the best way to grow a new plant from your collection of potted plants and succulents. Exercise programs also continue this month, including UnRulies Pickleball on Wednesdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m., Chair yoga to video is Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m., Open Gym, and much more!

We hope to see you in May. For details on all these activities, you can visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Virtual50](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Virtual50). We are always happy to answer any questions by phone, email, or in person. Please note, some flyers like calendars may not be available on our website until they are fully compliant with new ADA accessibility requirements. Print copies will be available in the Center. Email us at [EmmitsburgSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.Gov](mailto:EmmitsburgSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.Gov) or call us at 301-600-6350.



Your children are never too old for a solid piece of advice from their parent.

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
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 Saturday, May 30

Homemade Soups & Sandwiches,  
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# SLOTH ENCOUNTERS



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 SCHEDULE YOUR VISITATION AT  
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# PET OF the MONTH

## Astro




**meet Astro (Baby)**

Astro, more often called "Baby," is approximately 12.5 years old and is the cherished, beloved member of the Kovach family.

Baby has lived on the Catoctin Mountain his whole life. He was a feral as a kitten and young cat, but he has slowly become a "domesticated feral" over the years. As Baby has gotten older, he has replaced running around outside and climbing trees with spending time indoors, sleeping or lying on a lap and purring.



# Classifieds

Post Your Jobs, For Sale, Housing, Services, Wanted, For Rent, Pets, Yard Sales, Etc.

## WANTED

Responsible adult female seeking long-term affordable dwelling in the Thurmont Area. Will do elder care, gardening, house work, pet care, etc. Excellent references. Call 240-344-0982.

Yard Sale, Craft & Antique Vendors for Guardian Hose Company event at the Thurmont Carnival Grounds on Saturday, June 6, from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. \$20 per spot. Call Patty at 301-788-0432.

Antiques & Collectibles like crocks, jugs, postcards, photographs, advertising items, old signs, old dolls, toys & trains (pre-1965), quilts, political items, guns, old holiday decorations, hunting & fishing items, jewelry, and coins; gold, sterling, coin collections, etc. Will buy one item or a collection. 301-514-2631.

We buy gold & silver. Call 301-788-2626.

## SERVICES

Asphalt paving and seal coating by Frederick County Paving. Call 301-662-2820 for a free estimate or email [frederickcountypaving@comcast.net](mailto:frederickcountypaving@comcast.net).

Visit Quality Tire in Emmitsburg for super tire service at 17650 Creamery Road in Emmitsburg. Call 301-447-2909.

Rick Hurley & Son Small Engine Repair Service. Call 301-271-2117 or 240-285-2494 (leave message).

Thurmont Backhoe Services. Friendly. Dependable. Affordable. Call 240-698-0316 or email us at [Thurmontbackhoe@hotmail.com](mailto:Thurmontbackhoe@hotmail.com). We look forward to serving you!

Chance 2 Mowing is now accepting new clients for 2026. Spring yard clean-up, mowing, mulching, junk removal, and more. Call for a free estimate: 301-748-9745.

Rocky Top Music Man. Hire for your next party, get-together, club, wedding, home, or at the park. Golden Oldies, Country, or Rock. Call Kimberly Wiles at 410-714-3607.

Karen's Cleaning Service, in business 25 yrs., Excellent references. Call for a free in-home estimate. Call 410-736-0486. Serving the Emmitsburg/Thurmont area.

Mountain View Lawn Care: Call 301-271-2832 for all your lawn care needs.

Accounting services, tax management, and filing with Melissa Wetzel in Emmitsburg. Schedule your appointment today by calling 301-447-3797.

## FOR RENT

Looking for a storage solution? Storage units are available for rent in Emmitsburg. Call Dan at 301-788-2626.

## HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED AUTOMOTIVE MACHINIST, Part-time or full-time — pick your own hours. Gunther's Machining. Call 301-898-5840.

Now hiring! Chance 2 Mowing. Pay based on experience. Call Bob at 301-748-9745.

Apples U.C.C. in Thurmont is currently looking for a pianist/organist for Sunday service. The church holds a traditional service which lasts one hour. We have an average of 20 members. Music has always been a very big part of our church. We would ask that the applicant be a good sight reader even though that occurs very infrequently. Please contact Paula at [paulamathis65@gmail.com](mailto:paulamathis65@gmail.com) or call or text 240-446-6027.

Landscape Tech, Crew Leader, Fertilizer Tech. Must be reliable. Contact Mt. View Lawn at 301-271-2832 or email [MTVIEWLAWNS@AOL.COM](mailto:MTVIEWLAWNS@AOL.COM).

Los Amigos in Thurmont is now hiring servers. Apply within at 205 Frederick Road, Thurmont, MD 21788.

D&J Auto Enterprises, located at 12440A Creagerstown Road in Thurmont, is hiring for a skilled auto body tech and mechanic. Stop in and apply. [www.newbillsautobody.com](http://www.newbillsautobody.com).

## YARD SALES

Very Large Yard Sale: May 7-8-9, 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 16143 Kelbaugh Road, Thurmont. Household items, many yard items, too many things to list! Come check out the treasures!

Apples UCC Spring Yard Sale: Friday, May 8 & Saturday, May 9, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 7908 Apples Church Road, Thurmont.

Gigantic Indoor Yard Sale: May 23, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Thurmont Lions Club, Bell Hill Farm, Rt. 15, Thurmont.



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\*Service classifieds require a paid display ad



- 1.....You Dine, They Donate: Supports the Friends of Thurmont Regional Library, Thurmont Roy Rogers, 203 Frederick Rd., Thurmont. 5-8 p.m.
- 1..... Bingo (every Friday night), Thurmont Event Complex, 13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont. Doors open 5 p.m.; Bingo 6:45 p.m. Tip jars; food; jackpot up to \$1,000. Benefits Thurmont Community Amb. Srv. [www.thurmonteventcomplex.com](http://www.thurmonteventcomplex.com).
- 1..... Zumba (Fridays), Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 9:30 a.m.
- 2..... Lions BBQ Chicken, 17701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg. 10 a.m.-until sold out. Includes half chicken, potato salad, apple sauce, chips & bun. \$12. Credit Cards Accepted. Call Lion Dianne 301-676-1561 if you need a delivery made (local only).
- 2..... Friends of the Thurmont Regional Library Book Sale, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10 early access 9-10 a.m. Fill-A-Friend's Tote Bag 3-4 p.m.
- 2..... Emmitsburg Community Chorus at Lewistown United Methodist Church, 11032 Hessong Bridge Rd., Thurmont. 3 p.m.
- 3..... Sons of AMVETS Post 7 Quarter Auction, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. Noon.
- 3..... Emmitsburg Community Chorus Spring Concert, St. John's Lutheran Church of Creagerstown, 8619 Blacks Mill Rd., Creagerstown. 3 p.m. Free event. Good will offering will be collected. 301-898-5290.
- 4..... Served With Grace Free Dinner, Graceham Moravian Church, 8231-A Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. 5:30-7 p.m. [www.gracehammoravian.org](http://www.gracehammoravian.org).
- 4..... Balance & Strength (Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.), Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 10:15 a.m.
- 4..... Stitch & Chat, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 1 p.m. Also: 18.
- 4-8 . An Ole Time Baptist Camp Meeting, Old-Fashioned Tent Revival, 15231 Foxville Church Rd., Sabillasville, MD. 7 p.m. Speakers: Pastor Tom Fry, Evangelist Larry Gibbs & more. Gospel singing. Sponsored by Ambassador Baptist Church. 301-620-PRAY (7729).
- 5..... Yoga (Tuesdays), American Legion Post 168, 8 Park Ln., Thurmont. 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- 6..... Bingo, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 1 p.m. Also: 20.
- 6..... Chair Yoga (Wednesdays), Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 10:15 a.m.
- 6..... Queen of Hearts Drawing (Wednesdays), American Legion Post 168, 8 Park Ln., Thurmont. 7:30 p.m.
- 6..... Cornhole Tournament(Wednesdays), American Legion Post 168, 8 Park Ln., Thurmont. Doors open at 5 p.m.; games at 7 p.m.
- 7..... Bar Bingo (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m. Open to the public. 301-271-3371.
- 7.... 7 of Hearts Drawing (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. Open to the public. Must buy ticket by 6 p.m. 301-271-3371.
- 7..... Craftin' in the Catoctins, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 1 p.m. Also: 12, 18, 26.
- 7..... Roy Rogers Fundraiser & Bake Sale, Roy Rogers, Thurmont. 5-8 p.m.
- 7..... Bingo (Thursdays), American Legion Post 168, 8 Park Ln., Thurmont. 7 p.m.
- 7..... Line Dancing (Thursdays), American Legion Post 168, Upstairs, 8 Park Ln., Thurmont. 7 p.m.
- 7-9 . Very Large Yard Sale, 16143 Kelbaugh Rd., Thurmont. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Lots of items. Come check out the treasures.
- 8,9.. Huge Yard Sale, Apples UCC, 7908 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Tons of great stuff for sale. Hot dogs & baked goods available. 240-385-7617. Benefiting Apples Church and the community.
- 9..... Bingo, Rocky Ridge Vol. Fire Co., 13516 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge. Doors open 5 p.m.; games 7 p.m. Food available for purchase.
- 9..... Vigilant Hose Co.'s Spring Fling, 17701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg. Gates open at 10:30 a.m. Drawings begin at noon. Rain or shine. No payout less than \$500. \$100/ticket (good for two people / food & drink). Bring your own tents, canopies & lawn chairs. [www.vhc6.com](http://www.vhc6.com).
- 10... Mother's Day Buffet, Carriage House Inn, 200 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Reservations required. 301-447-2366. [www.chouseinn.com](http://www.chouseinn.com).
- 11.... Seated Dance Exercise Class, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont.
- 14.... Westminster Ringers in Concert, A Maryland Community Handbell Ensemble, Tom's Creek UMC, 10926 Simmons Rd., Emmitsburg. 7 p.m. 301-447-3171; [www.tomscreekumc.com](http://www.tomscreekumc.com).
- 14.... Bar Bingo (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m. Open to the public. 301-271-3371.
- 14... 7 of Hearts Drawing (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. Open to the public. Must buy ticket by 6 p.m. 301-271-3371.
- 14.... Seated Massages, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 15.... Thurmont Main Street Art & Wine Stroll, Thurmont. 5-8 p.m. Spend an evening strolling thru Thurmont & meet local artisans; sip local wine, spirits, and handcrafted beer; enjoy multiple food vendors; and listen to music. Come dressed in your best Preakness Hat, with a Hat Judging Contest at 8:30 p.m. at 10 Tavern (prizes awarded for top five hats).
- 15.... Monthly Birthday Party, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 12:30 p.m.
- 16.... Big Money Cash Bash, Thurmont Community Ambulance Event Complex, 13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont. Gates open at 10 a.m. Drawing begins at 11:45 a.m. (winner every 5 minutes). Must be off premises by 8 p.m. \$20/person. Food, beer, wine coolers & soda included. Tickets: 301-748-5359 or 301-271-3820 or [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).
- 16.... Department of Maryland AMVETS Auxiliary Cash Bingo at Post 10. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.
- 16.... Fun Run / Walk at the Fort and Health & Wellness Fair, Fort Ritchie Community Center, 14421 Lake Royer Dr., Cascade. 8-11 a.m. All ages welcome; furry friends welcome. \$10 pre-registration fee for ages 7+ (free for ages 6 & under). \$15 same-day registration. More info.: call 301-241-5085 or online at [thefrc.org](http://thefrc.org).
- 16.... Emmitsburg Community Chorus at Apples United Church of Christ, 7908 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 4 p.m.
- 16,17.... Visit Historic Harriet Chapel During the Maryland Iron Festival, 12625 Catoclin Furnace Rd., Thurmont. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Enjoy free Docent-led Tours of the building, delicious food, yummy baked goods & free crafts for kids. [www.harrietchapel.org](http://www.harrietchapel.org). 301-271-4554.
- 17.... Veterans Breakfast, AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. Veterans eat free.
- 17.... Face of America's Annual Bike Ride, The Promised Land, 10918 Taneytown Pk., Emmitsburg. 8:30-11 a.m. A Tom's Creek UMC tradition to host a rest stop for wounded warriors. Bikers greeted with applause, waving banners and flags, snacks & beverages. 301-447-3171; [www.tomscreekumc.com](http://www.tomscreekumc.com).
- 17.... Cactus Flats May Birthday Celebration for Wayne Wiles (Former Owner of Cactus Flats), 10026 Hansonville Rd., Frederick. 5-8 p.m. Featuring Ernie Bradley & The Grassy Ridge Band.
- 17.... Ladies Tea After Church, Weller UMC, 101 N. Altamont Ave., Thurmont. 11:45 a.m. Free event. 301-271-2802.
- 17.... Emmitsburg Community Chorus at Homewood at Cruiland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd., Frederick. 7 p.m.
- 19.... Emmitsburg Community Chorus Performs National Anthem at Frederick Keys Game, Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium, Frederick.
- 19.... Bible 101 Discussion, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 12:30 p.m.
- 20.... AMVETS Post 7 Ladies Auxiliary Bingo (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month), 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. Doors open at 5 p.m. Open to public. Door prizes. Pull tickets. Food available to purchase.
- 21.... Potluck Senior Lunch (55+), St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 17015 Sabillasville Rd., Sabillasville. 11:30 a.m.
- 21.... Bar Bingo (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m. Open to the public. 301-271-3371.
- 21... 7 of Hearts Drawing (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. Open to the public. Must buy ticket by 6 p.m. 301-271-3371.
- 22.... Register of Wills Presentation, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 12:30 p.m.
- 23.... Pub Crawl to Save Our Fireworks, begins at Emmitsburg VFW, 12 W. Main St., Emmitsburg. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. \$30/person. Tickets available online or at [Emmitsburgevents.com](http://Emmitsburgevents.com) & Facebook or in person day of at the

- VFW (from 11 a.m.-noon). First and second place for best hands; third place for worst hand. Enjoy extras: finger food, specialty drinks, jars & raffles.
- 23...Rocky Ridge Vol. Fire Co. Drive-Thru Pit Sandwich Sale, 13527 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge. 11 a.m.-sold out. Pit beef, pit ham, pit turkey. \$8/each. Combos \$13 (sandwich, chips, coleslaw & applesauce). Call to preorder: Penny 240-674-9834; Dave 240-385-6682; Rob 301-271-7780; Bonny 301-788-0311; or online at [www.rockyridgevfc.com](http://www.rockyridgevfc.com).
- 23...Gigantic Indoor Yard Sale, Thurmont Lions Club, Bell Hill Farm, Rt. 15, Thurmont. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 23...Thurmont Lions Sandwich Sale & Gigantic Yard Sale, Bell Hill Farm, Rt. 15 (north of Thurmont on west side of Rt. 15, Thurmont. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or sold out.
- 23....Thurmont Farmers Market Starts (Saturdays), Thurmont Community Park, 19 Frederick Rd., Thurmont. 9 a.m.-noon. Locally raised beef, chicken, and pork; huge variety of fresh produce, fruits & mushrooms; home-baked goods; local sauces; local fresh roasted coffee beans; local honey, and so much more. Food trucks. [www.thurmontmainstreet.com](http://www.thurmontmainstreet.com).
- 24....77<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting & Memorial Service of the Utica Cemetery Assoc., Inc., St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Utica, 10625 Old Frederick Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.
- 26-30....Thurmont Comm. Amb. Co.'s Carnival, Thurmont Event Complex, 13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont. Nightly entertainment, homemade food, fireworks (May 29), rides, games, raffles & more. Pre-sale ride tickets avail. for \$25: buy at Event Complex; Woodsboro Bank (Thurmont); Kountry Kitchen; Weis Markets; Direct To You Gas Station. [www.thurmonteventcomplex.com](http://www.thurmonteventcomplex.com).
- 27....Scrabble Tournament, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 12:30 p.m.
- 27-30....Mother Seton School's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Carnival, 100 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg. 6-10 p.m. Live music, games, rides, raffles & more. Fun for whole family.
- 28....Bar Bingo (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m. Open to the public. 301-271-3371.
- 28...7 of Hearts Drawing (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. Open to the public. Must buy ticket by 6 p.m. 301-271-3371.
- 29....Solo Aging Meetup, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 E. Main St., Thurmont. 12:30 p.m.
- 30....Strawberry Festival & Yard Sale, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 17015 Sabillasville Rd., Sabillasville. Homemade soups & sandwiches, strawberry pies, sundaes, shortcake, variety of baked goods. [www.tmarkssabillasville.org](http://www.tmarkssabillasville.org). 301-241-3287.
- 31....Spires Brass Band Concert, St. John's Lutheran Church of Creagerstown, 8619 Blacks Mill Rd., Creagerstown. 3 p.m. Free event. Good will offering will be collected. 301-898-5290.
- 31....Designer Bag Bingo, Biglerville Fire Co. Auxiliary, 111 S. Main St., Biglerville, PA. Doors open at noon. Bingo starts at 1:30 p.m. Gift card with each purse. \$25/person. Games of chance, raffles & door prizes. Tickets sold at door. To reserve a table: call 717-586-1808.

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## YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

### THURMONT

- 3..... The Force Has Arrived! An Intergalactic Celebration, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.
- 4..... Out of this World Karaoke with DJ Brian Mo: An Adult Adaptive Program, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 11 a.m.
- 4..... Anime Afternoon (Ages 10-17), Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 5:30 p.m.
- 6..... Resource Fair!, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. Noon.
- 7..... Elementary Explorers: The Magic School Bus- Inside a Beehive, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.
- 7..... Teen and Tween Open Chess Play (Ages 9-18), Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 5:30 p.m.
- 10.... Sunday Funday: Science & Surprise — Color Mixing & Coffee-Filter Flowers, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.
- 11.... Teen Intro to Story Building & Participation in Dungeons and Dragons (Ages 13-17), Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 5:30 p.m.
- 13.... A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m.
- 14.... Elementary Explorers: Animal Adaptations-Birds! Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.
- 14.... Tween Tabletop Time (Ages 9-13), Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 5:30 p.m.
- 17.... Sunday Funday: Create & Craft Poppy Pins, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.
- 18.... Offsite: Pop up at the Thurmont Senior Center, Thurmont. 10 a.m.
- 18.... Teen Dungeons and Dragons: Session 0 (Ages 13-17), Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 5:30 p.m.
- 18.... Junk Journaling Workshop, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 6 p.m.
- 20.... Antiques and Collectibles: Just the Basics, Please, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 6 p.m.
- 20.... Drop-In Digital Learn, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 10 a.m.
- 21.... Elementary Explorers: I Survived... The Destruction of Pompeii, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.
- 21.... Tween Paper Airplane Engineers (Ages 9-13), Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 5:30 p.m.
- 27.... Boot Scootin' Line Dancing: An Adult Adaptive Program, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 11 a.m.
- 28.... Elementary Explorers: Build It—Vehicles, Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.
- 28.... Teen Gaming Hour: Switch Edition (Ages 13-18), Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 5:30 p.m.
- 31.... Sunday Funday: Let's Go to the Movies! Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd., Thurmont. 2 p.m.

### EMMITSBURG

- 2..... Plant Swap — Leave a Plant, Take a Plant, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 11 a.m.
- 2..... America 250 — Maryland Cooking: Cookbooks & Recipes from MD's Past, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 2 p.m.
- 5..... Mount St. Mary's Reading Buddy at the Library, Emmitsburg Library, 300 South Seton Avenue, 6 PM
- 5..... Teen Gel Air Freshener (Ages 9-18), Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 5:30 p.m.
- 6..... YMCA STEM Quest @ Emmitsburg Library, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 5 p.m.
- 7..... Mount St. Mary's Reading Buddy at the Library, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 3:30 p.m.
- 7..... Family Fun: Art Night!, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 6 p.m.
- 9..... Saturday STEMtacular: Science at Your Fingertips, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 2 p.m.
- 13.... Make Your Own Bouncy Balls, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 3:45 p.m.
- 14.... Family Fun: Read with WAGS for Hope, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 6 p.m.
- 19.... Teen Ready, Set, Grow Plant Studio (Ages 9-18), Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 5:30 p.m.
- 20.... My Plate Bingo: An Adult Adaptive Program, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 11 a.m.
- 20.... Family Fun: STEM Night, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 6 p.m.
- 26.... Straight Talk with Mayor Davis, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 7 p.m.
- 27.... Plant Propagation at the Emmitsburg Senior Center, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 11 a.m.
- 27.... Make Your Own Bath Bombs (Ages 9-13), Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 3:45 p.m.
- 28.... Family Fun: Pajama Storytime, Emmitsburg Library, 300 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg. 6 p.m.

### Did you know?

#### Random Facts You May Not Know!

- It takes roughly 540 peanuts to make a jar of peanut butter.
- At around 22 months, elephants have the longest gestation period of any mammal on earth.
- Actor Roy Scheider improvised the iconic line, "You're gonna need a bigger boat," in the 1975 film *Jaws*.
- The average adult blinks approximately 14 to 17 times per minute, totaling over 13,000 to 16,000 times daily.
- Human teeth are the only part of the body that cannot heal themselves.



# trout's Jubilee foods

## MOTHER'S DAY SALE!

JOIN US MAY 8TH & 9TH  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

BECAUSE MOM  
DESERVES A LITTLE EXTRA....  
EVERY MOM RECEIVES A  
*complimentary*  
**FLOWER**  
WHILE SUPPLIES  
LAST!

STOP IN & SHOP LOCAL!  
*Make Mother's Day*  
EASY, meaningful & DELICIOUS!

10 LB. KUNZLER  
**BACON**  
\$37.00/BOX

MOTHER'S DAY  
**FLOWERS**  
ASSORTED BOUQUETS  
ASSORTED  
**SWEET TREATS**  
AND MORE!

**LIVE  
LOBSTERS!**

CALL EARLY TO  
RESERVE ONE  
FOR MOM!



5 LB. SACK OF OUR  
FRESH HOMEMADE  
**COUNTRY SAUSAGE**  
\$3.99/LB.

**CHOCOLATE  
COVERED  
STRAWBERRIES**  
\$12.99/4PK



LOOKING FOR THE  
PERFECT DINNER?  
**FILET MIGNON**  
\$19.99/LB.



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THESE GREAT PRICES ARE ONLY AVAILABLE FRIDAY, MAY 8<sup>RD</sup> AND SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> - WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!