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AUGUST 2026

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Canines of Maryland
Present and Past

8



Local Company
Celebrates 35 Years

20



Emmitsburg Community
Heritage Day Winners

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9/11 Memorial Ceremony

Friday, September 11 at 6:30 PM

Featured Speaker: Daryl Byrne
Former Connecticut Fire Department (CTFD) Firefighter

Dedication of the Gold Star Family Monument

Sunday, September 27 at 5:30 PM

The Gold Star Family Memorial was created by Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams to remember those families who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

*Reception immediately following the ceremony at the
Thurmont American Legion*

Memorial Park, 116 East Main Street Thurmont

~ Bring Chairs or Blankets ~

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

CATOCTIN BANNER FANS:

Summer may be coming to an end, but we're wrapping up the season by celebrating some of our favorite outdoor memories in this month's Fishy Pics feature. Once again, you amazed us with your submissions! We love seeing so many anglers—young and old—making memories on the water. Be sure to check out all the great catches beginning on page 22.

Another summer tradition, Emmitsburg Heritage Days, was a tremendous success. After some uncertain weather, the skies cleared just in time for a fantastic celebration of community. Congratulations to all of this year's winners! Read more and see photos from the event on page 26.

As families begin preparing for a new school year, it's also a wonderful time to celebrate the accomplishments of the young people in our community. From scholarship recipients to art contest winners, we are proud to recognize the incredible things our local students are doing. Be sure to browse the Community and School News sections to see some of their inspiring stories.

As students head back to school, it's also a great reminder to support our local food banks. School-friendly items such as applesauce, crackers, fruit cups, and pudding cups can make a big difference for families packing lunches, as well as breakfast essentials like cereal, oatmeal, and breakfast bars. Every donation helps ensure children in our community have the food they need to succeed.

Of course, I would be amiss to not remind you to patronize our advertisers. There are lots of remaining summer events to attend to help support local non-profits. If you are considering doing some updates or renovations around the house this fall, reach out to the many advertisers. Without their support, we could not continue to bring you a free newspaper. Make sure you tell them you saw them in The Catoctin Banner!

— Alisha Yocum,
Publisher



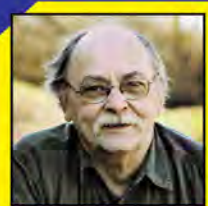
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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$37.00

Factoid

EMMITSBURG

In 1976, Emmitsburg had a district courts commissioner assigned to the town. Guy Baker, Jr., as district court commissioner, could not hear cases, but he could get bond and issue warrants. His duties shortened the time that the local police spent in Frederick and helped them operate more efficiently.

Factoid

FRED. COUNTY

On July 3, 1976, at midnight, bells rang throughout Frederick County to celebrate the United States' Bicentennial. Locally, as part of the "Festival of Freedom" festivities, two dances were held in Emmitsburg at the Mount Saint Mary's Student Union building.

Factoid

THURMONT

Thurmont held its bicentennial and homecoming celebration July 22, 1951, through August 1. During the celebration a bicentennial queen and her court reigned over the festivities. Special musical programs, building tours, and a movie screening of "Thurmont on Parade" were all part of the celebration.

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Thurmont is Celebrating 275 Years

BY JAMES RADA, JR.

While the United States celebrated its 250th anniversary this year, Thurmont is celebrating its 275th anniversary.

Mechanicstown, as Thurmont was originally known, considers 1751 its founding year. This is when the first permanent group of Pennsylvania German settlers, who established a community along Hunting Creek, set down roots.

The first families—the Kriegers and Wellers—were attracted by fertile limestone soils, abundant timber, and Hunting Creek, which provided water power for mills. Other families joined them, and a community, actually communities, grew.

Some of the early structures from that era, such as Apple's Church and Catoctin Furnace, were built and can still be seen, tying the area's present to its past.

The Maryland legislature officially incorporated Mechanicstown in 1831. The Western Maryland Railway reached the town in 1871 and

connected it to larger cities along the railroad. While this was a good thing for Mechanicstown, it also connected it to towns with similar names like Mechanicsburg, Mechanicsville, and Mechanicstown.

This created confusion for the railroad and post offices. Because of this, the town voted to change its name to Thurmont in 1894.

To celebrate the town's anniversary, the Thurmont 275th Anniversary Committee is sponsoring two big events during the town's anniversary weekend.

Now and Then Community Display, Saturday, September 26, 2026, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

You can see displays of historic artifacts, photographs, and more at the Vault 1891. Community members are encouraged to bring labeled photographs to share on poster boards. The Thurmont Historical Society and JAK Photo Displays will provide historical artifacts for the event.

If community members are interested in displaying artifacts other than photos at the event, they should contact Dominic Curcio, Thurmont Historical Society Curator, at friends@thurmonthistoricalsociety.org or call 301-271-1860.

Community Picnic, Sunday, September 27, 2026, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The community will get together in Community Park for a picnic, with the Thurmont Lions Club providing the food. There will be free children's activities, commemorative objects will be for sale, and there will be a commemorative program.



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The following report of the shooting of Edward O. Smith is taken from the *Waynesboro Herald*, August 9, 1906.

Man Shot through the Heart

Bloody murder has spread its lurid mantle over the little, quiet region between the ranges of South Mountain, known as Harbaugh's Valley. There in the mountain, about half past one o'clock yesterday afternoon, young Fred Debold, 11-year-old son of John Debold, a farmer of that region and formerly a citizen of Waynesboro, shot and instantly killed Edward O. Smith.

Smith had gone from his home in Hagerstown that morning for the purpose of picking blackberries. He went to the home of his father, George Smith, living about a mile southeast of Sabillasville and whose farm joins that of John Debold, father of the murderer. Smith had picked his bucket full of berries and left it standing in the fence corner along the public road.

Debold and his sons were working in a field close by, and whether as a result of any provocation or words of contention between Smith and the Debolds, Smith picked up a double handful of stones, scaled the fence, and ran over to where the Debolds were working. Debold, the father, warned him not to approach and to get off his land, but Smith persisted and the report says that he threw several stones at the Debolds. Seeing that Smith persisted in the assault, Debold dispatched his son Fred to the house for his gun.

The son soon reappeared with the weapon, a double-barrel shotgun, and when Smith refused to leave the premises, he aimed directly at his heart and fired, the

■ continue reading on Page 7

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heavy charge taking effect and practically blowing Smith's heart out. He fell on his face in the grass and never drew another breath.

It was after seven o'clock in the evening that Deputy Sheriff Hauver arrived on the scene. He at once arrested John Debold and his son Fred and took them hustling to Frederick, where they were locked in jail. The deputy sheriff also gave orders for the removal of Smith to his father's home.

The victim of the tragedy lives in Hagerstown and was about 30 years old, has a wife and four children. It is said that he was heard remarking yesterday morning that he had come over to "do up the Debolds."

More from *Catoctin Clarion*: Mechanicstown (now Thurmont), Maryland, August 16, 1906.

It seems that the Smiths and Debolds have been on very bad terms lately and had a lawsuit at Frederick, the Debolds charging that the Smiths had stolen a calf from them. It was this feud between their families that fired the younger Smith, and it is believed that he sought the quarrel in order to avenge the family grievance.

Young Fred Debold is remembered here as a tow-headed tot, much after the German pattern of his father. The family removed from here to the mountain farm below Sabillasville three years ago this spring. When here, Debold lived on South Fairview Avenue (Waynesboro), and operated a stone quarry on his land at the corner of Hamilton Avenue and Fourth Street. It will be recalled that while putting off a blast one day, the charge

prematurely exploded and shot him twenty feet in the air.

He was a hardworking man but was constantly embroiled with his neighbor and had many suits before the local magistrates, pro and con.

That it was homicide is quite certain, but whether felonious or justifiable is for the jury. So far as the facts have been gathered, it is plain that Smith was a trespasser and had actually committed an assault with force and arms. Just whether the shooting was a necessary resort will be for the jury, but in the face of the facts, it ought not be difficult for the Debolds to secure an acquittal.

Funeral services were held on Friday afternoon at Sabillasville, Rev. G. I. Rider officiating.

Follow-up from *The Citizen*, Frederick, MD, Friday Morning, September 28, 1906

The trial of Frederick Debold and his father John Debold for the killing of Edward O. Smith of Hagerstown, which occurred on August 8th near Sabillasville, this county, began on Monday. The traversers were represented by Messrs. Harp and Etchison. They claimed that the shooting was in self-defense and no doubt the evidence tended to show something like that condition, for on Wednesday the jury acquitted the elder Debold and could not agree in the case of the son. The story of the shooting of Smith by Frederick Debold was told in *The Citizen* at the time. It is probable that a new trial of Frederick Debold will be held during the present term of court.

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BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON



Canines of Maryland | Past and Present

The appearance of the ancestor of all canines, or canids, may not have occurred had it not been for an immense meteor which struck the earth some 66 million years ago, triggering a “nuclear winter,” lasting for more than 25 years, during a time frame known as being the Cretaceous Period.

As a result of this impact, it has been estimated that some 2,000 gigatons of pulverized rock was ejected into the atmosphere, thereby blocking out the sun and plunging the earth into a near ice age, which then resulted in the extermination of more than 75 percent of the species then living on the planet, including the dinosaurs.

But one group managed to survive, that being the first mammals, who had begun to appear on Earth more than 200 million years ago, but remained rather insignificant among the fauna, as long as the dinosaurs ruled the earth. When the dinosaurs were removed from the scene, the mammalian evolution exploded.

The rapid domination achieved by the mammals paved the way for *Miacis*, an early stem carnivore that served as an evolutionary ancestor to the canids.

Maryland's Oldest Canines

So very little is known of what mammalian creatures had inhabited Maryland until much later in time ... that when the last ice age had locked up so much surface water on Earth, the seas that had once covered Maryland then receded, thereby exposing hundreds of miles of land that would quickly serve as home to extensive tundra, marshlands, and forests of conifers, such as spruce, fir, and pine trees.

As a result, most of the post-Cretaceous vertebrate remains that are found in Maryland tend to be those that are preserved in caves.

One exception, however, appears to be findings of the remains of a circa 12-million-year-old canine, *Cynarctus*, dubbed “Bone Crushers” because their teeth were clearly adept at smashing the bones of their no-doubt sometimes sizeable prey—whether live-killed or scavenged—to smithereens, presumably to gain access to the bone marrow.

Only a few teeth of the coyote-sized *Cynarctus* have been recovered from the escarpments along the western shores of the Chesapeake, known as the Calvert Cliffs. While these cliffs are primarily clay, marl, and sand beds deposited in the oceanic Salisbury Embayment, occasionally, the remains of land animals are found, whose teeth and bones had been washed into the ocean via rivers and streams, in which proximity the animals had then lived and died.

From the Miocene, one needs to flash forward to the Ice Age, before encountering any prehistoric bone deposits containing canine remains, and the Cumberland Bone Cave in Allegany County has proven to be explicitly just such a site.

Among the finds there were the remains of the Armbruster's wolf *Canis armbrusteri*, a wolf that may have been the ancestor of the more infamous dire wolves of the California Le Brea Tar Pits. The species is sometimes referred to as *Aenocyon armbrusteri*.

The Armbruster's wolf thrived in Maryland until around 250,000 years ago. The best remains found of the Armbruster's wolf occurred in the form of a nearly complete skull, less the lower jaw. Armbruster's wolves were large and robust animals, as compared to other members of the canids, weighing at an estimated 125 pounds and were as tall as the modern-day gray wolves.

Remains of a second prehistoric wolf, the cave wolf (*Canis priscolatrans*), also known as the Port Kennedy cave wolf, were also found in the Cumberland Bone Cave, and may have been ancestral to Armbruster's wolf. Some authorities have argued that the species' name is synonymous with *Canis edwardi*, a “coyote-like” canine.

The cave wolf appears to have been about the size of the modern-day red wolf, weighing as much as 55 pounds. Referred to as being a “cave wolf” in the Smithsonian Institute's publication *Middle Pleistocene Cumberland Bone Cave Local Fauna, Allegany County, Maryland* (2025), the animal may have originally been dubbed a cave wolf simply because the remains were discovered in

caves. The true cave bear (*Canis lupus spelaeus*) remains have only been found in Europe.

The *Canis priscolatrans* became extinct in Maryland and elsewhere around 300,000 years ago.

Canines in the Present Times

Based in part on information provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), red and gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) once inhabited Maryland but were exterminated in the state in the 1800s as the result of hunting, trapping, and bounties.

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is found throughout Maryland and generally measures up to three feet in length and weighing 10-15 pounds, and easily identified by their rusty-red coat, bushy, white-tipped tail, and black “socks.”

The gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) also ranges throughout Maryland and is generally a little smaller than the red fox, being up to 44 inches in length and weighing up to 15 pounds, and is gray with some reddish colorization, and additionally, lacks the white-tipped tail of the red fox.

Eastern Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) occur statewide in Maryland, initially occupying Cecil, Frederick and Washington counties. According to the MDNR, “Coyotes are a relatively new addition to local ecosystems and were first documented in Maryland in 1972.” However, *Canis latrans* actually occupied Maryland tens of thousands of years ago, according to the Cumberland Bone Bed finds.

Coywolves are hybrids of coyote and wolf, and in some

■ continue reading on Page 9



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cases domestic dogs, and as being somewhat omnivorous (eating meat and vegetative materials), and generally attaining a length of four feet or more, and weighing between 30 and 40 pounds, and have been reported as being seen throughout much of Maryland.

It should be noted that some authorities claim that all of Maryland's coyotes are, in fact, coywolves, but nevertheless, the issue continues as a matter of debate.

And now for Fido... All domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*), including the Maryland ones, are the descendants of wolves, and species-wise, are classified as a sub-species of wolf (*Canis lupus*).



domesticated as wolves, sometime before the advent of agriculture, when wolves attached themselves to hunters and gatherers, at first to take advantage of hunting leftovers, and then subsequently, to “adopt” the community of humans as fellow providers. In turn, the settlements then gained “guard-dogs” as the result of the wolves protecting “their territories” by encompassing the human villages.

(As per *The Origin and Evolution of Cats*, by Xuan Jia, Institute of Life Science (animalscipublisher.com), recent research suggests that domestication led to changes

in behavior, resulting in “many genetic mutations related to social behavior and diet...,” and that over the thousands of years, had created enough difference in the domesticated *Felis silvestris lybrea* to transform them into a new species: *Felis catus*.)

Scientists maintain that, over time, domestication can even lead to genetic changes, eventually resulting in a new breed of animal, as per the findings of Xuan Jia, Institute of Life Science (animalscipublisher.com), thus explaining the evolution of dogs, *Canis lupus familiaris*, from the wolves.

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The Smithsonian Institute noted, in an article entitled Thousands of genomes reveal the wild wolf genes in most dogs' DNA (written by staffers Audrey T. Lin and Logan Kistler and published on November 24, 2025), “We found the presence of wild wolf genes in most dog genomes and the presence of dog genes in about half of wild wolf genomes. The sign of the wolf was small but it was there, in the form of tiny, almost imperceptible chunks of continuous wolf DNA in dogs' chromosomes. About two-thirds of breed dogs in our sample had wolf genes from crossbreeding that took place roughly 800 generations ago, on average.”

So, when did dogs become domesticated? Well, they didn't exactly become domesticated as dogs. They had originally become

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TOWN HALL REPORT

BY JAMES RADA, JR.



THURMONT

For more information on the Town of Thurmont, visit www.thurmont.com or call 301-271-7313.

Municipal Parking Lot to be Improved

The Thurmont Mayor and Commissioners approved a bid of \$170,995 to make improvements to the municipal parking lot. Huntzberry Brothers of Smithsburg will remove and replace the current asphalt; make street improvements to the surrounding streets and alleys; and add landscaping, benches, and trash cans. The improvements will also add 17 additional parking spaces to the lot. A Main Street Improvement grant will pay for \$125,000. The remaining funds will come from the town's Highway User Funds. It is expected to be completed well before Colorfest.

Thurmont's 275th Anniversary

The Thurmont Mayor and Commissioners agreed to forward funds for some of the projects that the Thurmont Historical Society is planning to celebrate the town's 275th anniversary. The town will extend up to \$7,500 to the historical society to pay for souvenirs, such as a challenge coin, blanket, and t-shirt. As the items sell, the historical society will reimburse the town. The amount over the funds borrowed will be used to support the historical society.

Make Sure to Complete Your Lead and Copper Survey

If you have not already uploaded a picture of your water service line coming into your home to Thurmont's online survey, make sure to do so. State law requires the town to collect this information for the Maryland Department of the Environment. The town will also be sending out annual notifications via mail to any property that is currently classified with an "Unknown" water service line material. Even if you have already submitted a photo of your service line using the online survey, you may still receive an "Unknown" service line status letter. This may be because the portion of the service line that is connected to the water main may still be yet to be determined.

County Discussing Plans for County-operated Childcare Facilities

The Frederick County government is having discussions about creating county-operated childcare facilities to close gaps in childcare suggested in a county study. Frederick, Thurmont, Middletown, and Walkersville are some areas needing additional childcare, according to the Child Care Feasibility Study conducted last year in a partnership between Public Consulting Group, a consultant, and the Divisions of Family Services and Parks and Recreation. The study found that county families spend an average of nearly 19 percent of their income on childcare. The federal benchmark is 7 percent.



From the **MAYOR**

THURMONT Mayor John Kinnaid

This year, the Town of Thurmont celebrates its 275th anniversary; and, yes, we are 25 years older than the United States of America. Way back in 1751, our forefathers decided to settle here because of the running streams, ample wildlife, and rich soils. After several years, the community adopted the name Mechanicstown in recognition of the many small workshops, mills, and tanneries that had sprung up along Hunting Creek and Owens Creek.

In the 1870s, the railroad arrived in Thurmont and brought with it many changes, the biggest of which was the request to change our name. In 1894, by an act of the Maryland General Assembly, our town was renamed Thurmont. The railroad heralded the growth of businesses served by rail as well as an expansion of summer homes and vacation destinations. The Hagerstown and Frederick Railroad arrived in the early 1900s, offering easy transportation from Thurmont to Frederick, Hagerstown, and all the stops in between. The H&F Trolley served our community through both great wars before succumbing to the automobile and closing for good in 1956. The Western Maryland served our businesses and provided express passenger service to Baltimore, Hagerstown, and beyond before it, too, cut passenger and then freight service in the early 1960s. All the modes of transportation we have adopted, starting with horses, to trains, trolleys, buses, and automobiles, have had a large impact on our community. We started as a small wilderness outpost with self-sufficient shops then became a powerhouse of local businesses that employed hundreds of local workers and manufactured goods shipped across the country and have now become a bedroom community for residents that work down the road. Although we have seen many changes over the past 275 years, we are still a community that values small-town living and supports our local organizations, schools, sports teams, churches, businesses, and, most importantly, our fellow residents.

As we celebrate our 275th Anniversary, I invite each of you to explore our shared history. There are great resources available in the Thurmont Historical Society and the Thurmont Regional Library. I recommend reading George Wireman's book, *Gateway to the Mountains*, available in print or online at emmitsburg.net. The Historical Society printed a small booklet several years ago titled *Thurmont, A Guide to Its Homes and Buildings*, giving a wonderful background of many of the buildings in Thurmont's downtown. If you are a trolley fan, there is a wonderful book about the H&F Railway and how it served Thurmont called *The Blue Ridge Trolley*. I also invite you to visit my photo website at thurmontimages.com, for over 6,000 views of Thurmont and the surrounding area from the 1890s onward. There are several great old films, including *Thurmont on Parade* from the mid-1940s showing scenes from around Thurmont. Also available are a couple of short films featuring the Western Maryland and Hagerstown & Frederick rail lines. We are planning several evenings to view these books and films, so watch for those dates coming soon.

There are also many local sites to visit and explore, including the Catocin Furnace Iron Works, our amazing orchards and farmland, two wonderful State and Federal parks, and our beautiful welcoming streets filled with small town life. You can also visit local churches that have played a significant role in our community's success. They include Apples Church, Trinity United Church of Christ, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, The Graceham Moravian Church, Wellers Church, and others. History lies within the walls and grounds of each of these houses of worship. A visit to the Thurmont Main Street Center on Water Street will bring you into the old Moravian Church building, constructed in the late 1800s.

We are planning a large community picnic on September 27, at the Community Park. There will be demonstrations, games, food and drink, and a fun time for all. Be sure to bring your friends and family to this community event. There will also be other small events scheduled in the coming weeks. Several 275th souvenirs will be available in the coming weeks, including a re-issue of the popular Thurmont Blanket, featuring local buildings and scenes.

I hope you take the time to learn about our shared history and join us as we celebrate 275 Years of Gateway Heritage.

Questions or comments? I can be reached a 301-606-9458 or by email at jkinnaid@thurmont.com.

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From the **MAYOR**

EMMITSBURG

Mayor Frank Davis

I am writing this month's newsletter from Sandbridge Beach in Virginia. If you have never had the opportunity to visit this small island of paradise, you should add this to your bucket list. While small, it has the amenities you need for the perfect vacation. My favorite part of the day is heading to the mom-and-pop grocery store around 5:30 a.m. to get freshly made donuts. The kids give me their orders the night before, and the donuts are on the table waiting for them to get their day started. The smiles are worth a million dollars.

So, what is happening around town?

I am happy to report that our water supply sustained very well throughout the hot temperatures and the lack of rain during the months of June and early July. Rainbow Lake stayed at the spillway level, as the small streams continued to run on the top of the mountain.

You will notice that we have installed several "speed reminder" devices around town. We are taking steps to deter speeding, and these devices are just one of several steps that will be implemented in the coming months.

With the approval from the town commissioners, the town is exploring the possibility of purchasing the property at 304 East Main Street. We are applying for grant funding to make the purchase. I feel that this property could have a major impact by bringing a refreshed look and additional business to the east side of town. I will keep you updated on the progress.

We have just received the project schedule for the North Seton Avenue construction project. Work will begin September 8, which is four months later than expected. The good news is that the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. If all goes as planned, the project will be wrapped up in 12 months instead of the 18-month projected schedule. A copy of the timeline will be posted soon.

Please keep October 17 open on your calendar. The town will be hosting the Emmitsburg Fall Festival in E. Eugene Myers Park. A full day of events is planned, including food trucks, crafts, contests, and a performance by The Reagan Years.

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



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TOWN HALL REPORT

BY JAMES RADA, JR.



EMMITSBURG

For more information on the Town of Emmitsburg, visit www.emmitsburgmd.gov or call 301-600-6300.

Town Moving Toward Property Purchase

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners recently approved a resolution to make an application of the Strategic Demolition Fund to get funds to purchase 304 East Main Street. The property has been considered an eyesore on East Main Street for years, detracting from the town's efforts of beautification. The expected cost of the property is expected to be around \$400,000.

If the town purchases the property, it will then take bids for a developer to remodel the property and add to the town's revitalization efforts.

Bid Approved

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners recently approved a bid of \$127,807 to Yingling Construction, Kelco Plumbing, Mick's Plumbing, and Coblentz Electric for the construction of a concrete pad and pole building that will be used as a laboratory for the wastewater treatment plant.

Easement Agreement Approved

The Town of Emmitsburg approved an easement for parcels in the Brookfield subdivision. This will allow the town access over, under, and across parcels C, D, and E in order to provide for storm drainage systems and stormwater management facilities. The town purchased the easement for \$5 from R.J.D. Development Corporation.

Changes Made to Town Charter

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners held a number of public hearings recently to make changes to the town code concerning elected officials. They involved the following:

If a commissioner's qualification to maintain their office comes into question, the commissioner in question will be allowed to vote on their own qualifications.

To fill a vacancy on the board, the commissioners will receive applications from qualified candidates seeking to fill the vacancy and shall hold a public hearing to interview such candidates within 45 days of the creation of the vacancy. If a majority of the remaining commissioners cannot agree on a qualified candidate to fill the vacancy and more than 180 days remain before the next regular election, the commissioners will call a special election to fill the vacancy.

If the vacancy on the board is created because a sitting commissioner is elected mayor, the vacancy on the board shall be filled by the person who received the next highest number of votes for a position on the Board of Commissioners in the same election but did not receive enough votes to win a seat.

Various outdated items that were listed as part of the town commissioners' enumerated powers are proposed to be removed.

To carry out their enumerated powers, the commissioners cannot add a fine exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment of more than six months.

The board seeks to add the office of Vice President of the Board of Commissioners.

The mayor will appoint the heads of the town departments with the advice and consent of the board of commissioners. The employees in the departments are appointed by the department head with the approval of the mayor.

The board of commissioners approved the changes following the hearings.

New Grant Received

The Town of Emmitsburg recently received a \$75,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the engineering design at 113 South Seton Avenue to create a mixed-use park. There is no local match needed for the grant.

Accidentally play bumper cars?!



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From the **BURGESS**



WOODSBORO
 Burgess Heath Barnes

Summer is quickly passing by, and I hope everyone has enjoyed it so far. With the end of summer approaching, it means schools in Frederick County will be back in session by the middle of this month. I encourage you to take caution on the streets and roads as the children start returning to school and the school buses will be out again.

Our town's food truck events have been quite successful this year. There are two remaining on August 10 and August 24 at the fire hall parking lot. We moved them there this year so that people can enjoy their meals inside the air-conditioned fire hall. We invite you all to come out from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. each evening at 2 South 3rd Street in Woodsboro for good food from local area food trucks. In addition, there are a few more ice cream socials left as well. They will take place on August 9 and August 24 at the fire hall, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. each evening. Come on out and cool off with ice cream, and support the local fire department.

We have obtained a grant to replace the fence around the park with a more permanent type of fencing, rather than the cable we currently have. The goal is to start the project in the early fall, so be aware of some construction that will be occurring. I hope everyone is enjoying the new path lights that we installed in the park. They are very nice, and with the warm evenings, they allow people to enjoy the park later in the evening.

On June 24, we held a public hearing meeting regarding a proposed 89-townhouse development. We had standing room only in the meeting room. Voices were heard, and town residents spoke loudly and clearly about their thoughts on a development of this magnitude. I encourage everyone to stay alert for the next meeting about the topic.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) if you have clothes or food donations, as they are always in need of items for members of the community. For more information, please contact GVCS by email at gvcs.inc@verizon.net or 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 or by phone at 301-401-7164.

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 location for meetings 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.


THOUGHTFUL PANDA

The Thoughtful Panda College Scholarship Fund

The Thoughtful Panda, Inc is a 501C3
 EIN:83-2738077

SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW OPEN!

Deadline to Apply: August 31

"If you can't pay it back, pay it forward"
 Born from kindness and the belief that small acts of kindness matter, this one-time scholarship helps ease the cost of college essential books, lab fees, parking, uniforms, and more.

More information on Facebook and our website: www.thoughtfulpanda.org



A Lamp's Journey

BY JOAN BITTNER FRY

"The eyes are the lamp for the body. If your eyes are sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eyes are no good, your body will be in darkness. So if the light of you is in darkness, how terribly dark it will be!" – Matthew 6:22-23

In my yard sale heyday, one stop was St. Stephen's Reformed Church in Cascade, Maryland (cornerstone 1892). The church at that time was a member of the Sabillasville Charge, consisting of St. John's Reformed Church (where I am a member) in Sabillasville and Jacob's Reformed Church in Fountaindale.

While browsing at the yard sale, I came upon a large oil lamp. Since electricity had not been available when the church was first built, this lamp had been its original source of lighting.

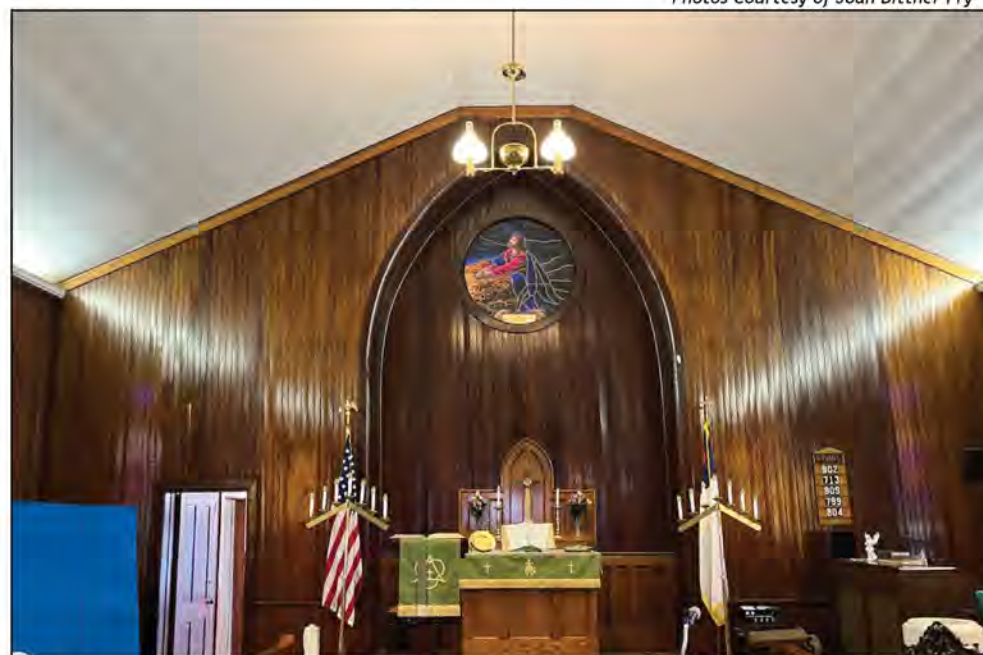
That day, Pastor Vernon Firme and his wife, Helen, told me that the lamp had been in storage at the church and that the church wanted to sell it. Giving it a good look over, I decided against purchasing it. However, I attended their worship service the next morning and bought it from the Ladies Guild for the asking price of \$35.00. My check was dated June 14, 1987.

I took it home, where my daughter, Emily, tirelessly held it as I tried to envision it next to my

fireplace. We then took it to St. John's parsonage and various other locations that might accommodate the lamp. It was too large.

The Brass and Copper Shop in Frederick brought it back to life, polishing the brass and preserving it—but not electrifying it. The owner of the shop offered to buy it for \$350, plus his refinishing fee. Pondering what to do, I brought it home, wrapped it in a blanket and placed it on my upper porch where it stayed. Out of sight, out of mind.

In 1988, I asked our pastor, Rev. Galen Hahn, if he would ask St. Stephen's if I could donate it back to the church. Sight unseen, they accepted. Bill Winebrenner, Warren Grove, and others in the congregation were instrumental in reestablishing the lamp. They electrified it; provided the proper shades, which were missing; installed a dimmer switch; and found the place in the church ceiling from where it had originally hung. It was connected, and it worked after a lot of labor on their part!



The lamp today, back home in St. Stephen's Community Church in Cascade, Maryland.

The next time I saw the lamp, it was in its rightful place, hanging in St. Stephen's Church. On April 30, 1989, the church celebrated its 97th anniversary. The lamp was dedicated at that time. This was a memorable day for me, made even more special since it was the last time I took communion with my father, Harold Bittner, who died June 3, 1989.

On my next visit to the Brass and Copper Shop, the owner asked

what had become of the lamp. When I told him, he responded that it had been a generous gift since the lamp's value was more than his offer. I just smiled, since monetary value had never been considered.

In every challenge we face, we can find solace in knowing that God's light is ever-present. It guides our choices, comforts our hearts, and empowers us to be changemakers in the world.



Joan's daughter, Emily Fry, holding the unfinished lamp in 1987.

TOWN OF EMMITSBURG

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY

September 29, 2026

300A South Seton Ave

Emmitsburg Community Building

In the Gymnasium

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Seat

&

One Commissioner Seat

Up for Election

- (3) year-term for both

If you would like to run as an Election Candidate, the last day to file is August 28, 2026. Please reach out to Sabrina at sking@emmitsburgmd.gov.

*To vote in the Town Election you must be registered with Frederick County by August 28, 2026.

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Oversized 2 Car Garage



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**12245 WARNER RD,
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\$775,000

4 Bdrm/2.5 Baths/ Estate
Property/2.41 Acres w/ Add'l
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Garage/2nd Lg Bldg/Barn/
PoultryHouse/Fenced Rear yard



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**6866 WHISTLING SWAN
WAY, NEW MARKET, MD**

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Flrs/ Lg Deck



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MD, PA & WV



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UNDER CONTRACT



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\$399,900

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Lg Deck/ Brick Patio/
Fenced Back Yard/



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\$329,000

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Mantle/ Beautiful Mountain Views/
Metal Roof/ New Electric Panel
Wiring/ Oversized One Car Garage



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MD, PA & WV

UNDER CONTRACT



**6650 GRANVILLE CT,
FREDERICK, MD**

419,900

3 Bdrms/ 2 FBaths/ 2 HBaths.
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Many Updates/ Move in
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240-291-1746
MD



J&B Real Estate, Inc.

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320 S Jefferson St, Frederick MD 21701

FOR SALE

NEW LISTING



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Water Boat Slip/Open FlrPln/
Private Balcony



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MD & PA

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**12814 BRICE ROAD,
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\$369,900

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COMING SOON



**12235 WARNER RD,
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\$149,900

4.11 Acres/Wooded Lot/Well
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Covered Front Porch w/Scenic
Setting/Several Storage Sheds/
2 Run-In Sheds



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MD, PA & WV



**17124 SABILLASVILLE
RD, SABILLASVILLE, MD**

\$289,900

3 Bdrms/1 Bath
Cape Cod/1+ Acres/
Hardwood Flrs/Stone
Fireplace/Paved Drwy/
Detached Garage



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Beth Ohler
240-315-5376
MD & PA



**5706 RIDGE RD,
CASCADE, MD**

\$99,900

1.41 Acres/Wooded Lot/
Near Ft Ritchie/Public W/S
Available



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MD, PA & WV



**1545 COTTAGE LN,
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\$335,000

3 Bdrm/2 Bath/Brick End
Unit Townhome/Hdwd Flrs/
Finished LL/Fenced Rear
Yard



Call
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MD & PA

UNDER CONTRACT



**17016 SABILLASVILLE
RD, SABILLASVILLE, MD**

\$115,000

2 Bdrms/1.5 Baths
Historic Charm/Log Home/
.33 Acre Lot w/Beautiful
Views



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MD, PA & WV

UNDER CONTRACT



**131 CODY DR #12
THURMONT, MD**

\$300,000

2 Bdrms/2 Baths/Albert Courts
55+ Community/Secure Bldg/
Elevator Access/Private Patio &
1 Car Garage



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UNDER CONTRACT



**915 CENTER SQUARE,
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Wrap Around Porch/Seasonal
Retreat-Weekend Get-Away/
Wooded Setting



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MD, PA & WV

UNDER CONTRACT



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\$398,000

3 Bdrms/1 Bath/1/2 Acre
Lot/2 Car Garage/Backyard
Lined w/Mature Trees/
Detached Workshop



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MD & PA

COMMERCIAL



**12408 OLD GERMANTOWN
RD, WAYNESBORO, PA**

\$235,000

Climate Controlled
Commercial Bldg/Open Flr
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Handicap Accessible/Security
System w/ Cameras



Call
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301-401-8620
MD & PA

Lions Club Sandwich Sale

The Thurmont Lions Club will be selling its pit beef, pork, ham, and turkey sandwiches on 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. View the advertisement on page 6 for more information.

Rocky Ridge Carnival

Stop by the Rocky Ridge Carnival on August 10-15 at Mt. Tabor Park for delicious food, nightly bingo games, and live music. The parade will be held on Thursday, August 12, starting at 7:00 p.m. Purchase tickets for a 250th Patriot Quilt (winner drawn on August 15) or Cash Raffle tickets throughout the week. For a full list of live entertainment and more information, visit the advertisement on page 40.

Splash Back to School Event

Join Apples Church of Christ for its Splash Back to School Event on August 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event features lots of fun activities, including water fun and splash zone, nature trail, crafts, and prayer and encouragement. RSVP using the QR code on the advertisement on page 43.

Cash Bingo

Join the Thurmont Ambulance Company for a Cash Bingo on Sunday, August 23, at the Thurmont Event Complex. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Bingo begins at 1:00 p.m. This is their Friday Night Bingo on a Sunday—no tickets needed. The kitchen will be open with regular menu items. Bingo cash prizes up to or over \$1,500. View the advertisement on page 47 for more information.

St. John's Festival

Join St. John's Reformed Church for its annual Festival in Sabillasville on August 15, starting at 3:00 p.m. Enjoy delicious food and music by CB Pickers. For more information, view the advertisement on page 44.

Rocky Ridge Sportsman's Dinner

Grab your tickets for the Rocky Ridge Sportsman's Dinner on Saturday, September 26. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., with dinner served at 6:00 p.m. Drawing begins at 7:00 p.m. The cost is a \$30.00 donation per person. For a complete list of prizes and more information, view the advertisement on page 50.

PET OF THE MONTH

SEND IN YOUR BEST PHOTO OF YOUR BEST BUDDY!

Pets make us healthier, they keep us active, they brighten our mood, and so much more!

Send in your "best photo" of your "best buddy," and your pet could be "Pet of the Month" in a future issue! Make sure your photo is high resolution.

PLEASE include pet's name, pet's owner's/family name(s), breed, age, personality traits, and any other fun details that you would like us to know about your best buddy, to: news@thecatocinbanner.com.

send to: NEWS@THECATOCTINBANNER.COM



AMVETS Post 7 Quarter Auction

Come ready to bid at the AMVETS Post 7 Quarter Auction on Sunday, August 30. Doors open at noon, and the auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a variety of great items to bid on, lots of raffles and 50/50, and food available for purchase. This event is open to the public, and children are welcome. View the advertisement on page 29.

Roy Rogers Fundraiser Night to Benefit Harriet Chapel

No need to cook! Stop by Roy Rogers in Thurmont on August 6, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and support Harriet Chapel. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the church, but you must mention Harriet Chapel when placing your order. View the advertisement on page 38.

Tuesday Night Bingo at the AMVETS

There will be no Tuesday Night Bingo in August, but join the Thurmont AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary for the first Bingo on September 15. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$20.00 and includes jackpot. Bring a friend and receive a free extra jackpot and dauber. All proceeds benefit the Veterans Hospital Programs. View the advertisement on page 37.

Classic Car, Antique Tractor Show & Peach Festival

Come out to Baust UCC Church in Taneytown for its Classical Car, Antique Tractor Show & Peach Festival on August 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event features a food stand, bake table, ice cream and peaches, raffles, and a children's area. View the advertisement on page 35 for more information.

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 36.

Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show

Come out and support agriculture in our community at the 70th Annual Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show at Catocin High School. Entry of exhibits will take place on Thursday, September 10, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Friday, September 11, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. All Baked Goods will be auctioned off on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday buffets by Thurmont Kountry Kitchen on Saturday, from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. (roast turkey & baked ham); Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (broasted chicken and pulled pork). There will be a variety of animal displays, exhibits, and activities for all ages, including the Livestock Sale at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday. View the advertisement on page 34 for details.

Emmitsburg Lions BBQ

Stop by for some delicious BBQ Chicken on September 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the Vigilant Hose Activity Building to support the Emmitsburg Lions Club. The meal includes a half chicken, potato salad, apple sauce, and chips for \$14.00. Credit cards are accepted. View the details on page 6.

Tractor Ride

Drive your tractor down to Mt. Tabor Church Park on August 8 for their annual Tractor Ride. The lineup begins at 10:00 a.m., with the ride starting at 11:00 a.m. All tractors are welcome—clean, dirty, old or new. For the full route and more details, view the advertisement on page 34.

Graceham Moravian Church Events

Graceham Moravian Church will hold its monthly Served with Grace Free Dinner on Monday, August 3, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Join them on August 29 for a Vendor, Craft & Food Sale. Breakfast and lunch sandwiches will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. View the advertisement on page 32 for more information.

Dine & Donate Night at Kountry Kitchen

Come out to Thurmont Kountry Kitchen on Wednesday, August 24, between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to support Sabillasville Environmental School, Inc., as well as have opportunities to purchase tickets for a variety of raffle baskets. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the school. View the advertisement on page 43.

Frederick County Fall Recreater Now Open

Registration for Frederick County Parks and Recreation Recreater is now open. Sign up for exciting programs for the whole family, including fitness, sports, history, dance, cooking, nature, and more! To register, go to www.recreator.com or view the advertisement on page 31.

Mountain Fest

Save the date for the 50th Annual Mountain Fest on October 10 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and October 11 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at Sabillasville Environmental School. The event will include a Car Show on Saturday (Rain date: Sunday), Tractor Show all weekend, and Touch-A-Truck on Sunday (11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.). Admission is free. The event is currently looking for vendors. View the advertisement on page 55 for more information.

Tom's Creek UMC Community Yard Sale

Join Tom's Creek UCC for its Community Yard Sale on August 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is rain or shine. Vendor spaces are \$10.00 each. Contact Kathy at 301-471-2585. View the advertisement on page 28.

Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company Bingo

There is no August Bingo! Mark your calendars for the next Bingo at the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company in Rocky Ridge on Saturday, September 12. 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 20.

St. Mark's Block Party

Join St. Mark's in Sabillasville for a free community event on Saturday, August 29, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for food, games, face painting, and Remix Worship Band. View the advertisement on page 57 for more information.

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT & GET A WRITE-UP IN AROUND TOWN
alisha@thecatocinbanner.com

Pippinfest

The 2026 Pippinfest will be celebrating 250 years of freedom at their annual outdoor festival on September 26 and 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (rain or shine). The day includes crafters, food, live music, car show, quilt exhibit, and kids' entertainment corner. View the advertisement on page 18 for more information.

Town of Emmitsburg Elections

The Town of Emmitsburg will hold elections on September 29, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., in the Emmitsburg Community Building Gymnasium. Elections are for Mayor and one Commissioner seat. Candidates interested in running for election must file by August 28. View the advertisement on page 13 for more information.

Annual Big Picnic

Mount Tabor Church Park will hold its annual Big Picnic on August 8, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. The event will include a Baby Show at 3:00 p.m., music by Tall in the Saddle from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., a tractor ride at 11:00 a.m. (line up at 10:00 a.m.), a yard sale from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., and lots of delicious homemade food. View the advertisement on page 9 for more information.

St. Paul's Utica Cash Bingo

Come ready to play Bingo on Sunday, August 16, at the Lewistown Fire Hall. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and games begin at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. Bring a non-perishable food item and receive one free quickie game. For more information, view the advertisement on page 9.

Thurmont Art & Wine Stroll

Spend the evening strolling Main Street, meeting local artists, listening to live music, grabbing a bite from a variety of food trucks, and sipping wine and beer from local distilleries on Friday, August 21, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come dressed in your best red, white, and blue attire! 10 Tavern will host a Patriotic Costume Contest at 8:30 p.m. Prizes awarded to the top five best dressed. For more information, view the advertisement on page 7.

9/11 Ceremony & Dedication of the Gold Star Family Monument

The Thurmont Lions Club will be hosting two events at the Thurmont Memorial Park. On September 11 at 6:30 p.m., a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony will be held with guest speaker Daryl Byrne, a former firefighter at the Connecticut Fire Department. On September 27, the club will hold a Dedication of the Gold Star Monument at 5:30 p.m. The monument is a dedication to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. A reception will be held immediately following the dedication at the American Legion. View the advertisement on page 2 for more information.

Tom's Creek UMC Events

Join Tom's Creek UMC for its summer events! Stop by and browse the Community Yard Sale on August 22 (at the Promised Land), from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. On August 29, the church will host a free concert, featuring the Down East Boys (at the Promised Land). This includes a free dinner at 5:00 p.m. and the concert at 6:00 p.m. View the advertisement on page 5 for more information.

Photos by James Rada, Jr.

The Briefing Room is a Place to Unwind & Relax

BY JAMES RADA JR.

(right) The Briefing Room, housed in an original “finger building,” stands on the historic grounds of Fort Ritchie in Cascade, once home to the U.S. Army’s Military Intelligence Training Center during World War II.



(below) Owners Jerome and Corrie Kiefer stand inside The Briefing Room, created to be a place where people can come and relax, enjoy craft cocktails, and eat from an elevated small-plate menu.

The Briefing Room at Fort Ritchie opened on July 4, as the former Army base, which served as a military intelligence training center during World War II, continues its revitalization into a small civilian community and small business center. The bar is located in one of the original “finger buildings” on Barrick Avenue.

“This building was originally one of the kitchens when the National Guard was here,” co-owner Jerome Kiefer said. “When it was part of the Army base, it was an administrative building.”

And prior to the Kiefers opening the Briefing Room, the building housed the Sweet Time Bakery.

Although Fort Ritchie already has a taproom and winery, Jerome had a different vision for a bar, where people could drink craft cocktails and eat from an elevated small-plate menu.

“We wanted this to be a cozy place where people could talk,” said Corrie Kiefer, Jerome’s wife. “This is the perfect night spot.”

And so far, that seems to be working, as customers comment on the “different vibe” the Briefing Room has.

Entering the Briefing Room, you feel as if you are entering an intimate lounge, where you can relax after a hard day’s work. The seating is comfortable. You can order a drink and an appetizer and just unwind.

“Everyone who comes in is impressed with the building and the vibe here,” Corrie said.

They have been drawing customers not only from Cascade but also from Waynesboro, Hagerstown, Gettysburg, and Penn National. They also attract tourists who come to the base for an event or to visit the museum.

“You have to go to Frederick to find a nice cocktail bar like this,” Jerome said.

The Briefing Room offers signature and classic cocktails, including the “Ritchie Revival,” True Standard Signature Vodka infused with Earl Grey, honey, lemon, and thyme. There is also a variety of local small and craft beers and wines. Even if you don’t drink, you can enjoy a variety of mocktails while still enjoying the ambiance of the place.

The appetizers include a deviled egg sampler plate, charcuterie, Reuben empanadas, and more.

As the Kiefers continue to try to grow their business, they are considering adding live acoustic music, history talks, and private events.

“We are trying to make this a place you want to come visit,” Corrie said.

The Briefing Room is open Thursday through Sunday. To find out more information, visit their website at www.thebriefingroomfortritchie.com.



2026 Pippinfest

Celebrates 250 Years of Freedom

SEPTEMBER 26 & 27

9 am - 4 pm

RAIN OR SHINE

Annual Outdoor Festival

Pippinfest is a delightful outdoor craft festival celebrating community, harvest, and tradition. Nestled in the small town of Fairfield, Pennsylvania, this event is a haven for artisans, crafters, and enthusiasts alike.

Yard Sales (Sat. Only)

Crafts • Food • Live Music • Car Show • Quilt Exhibit

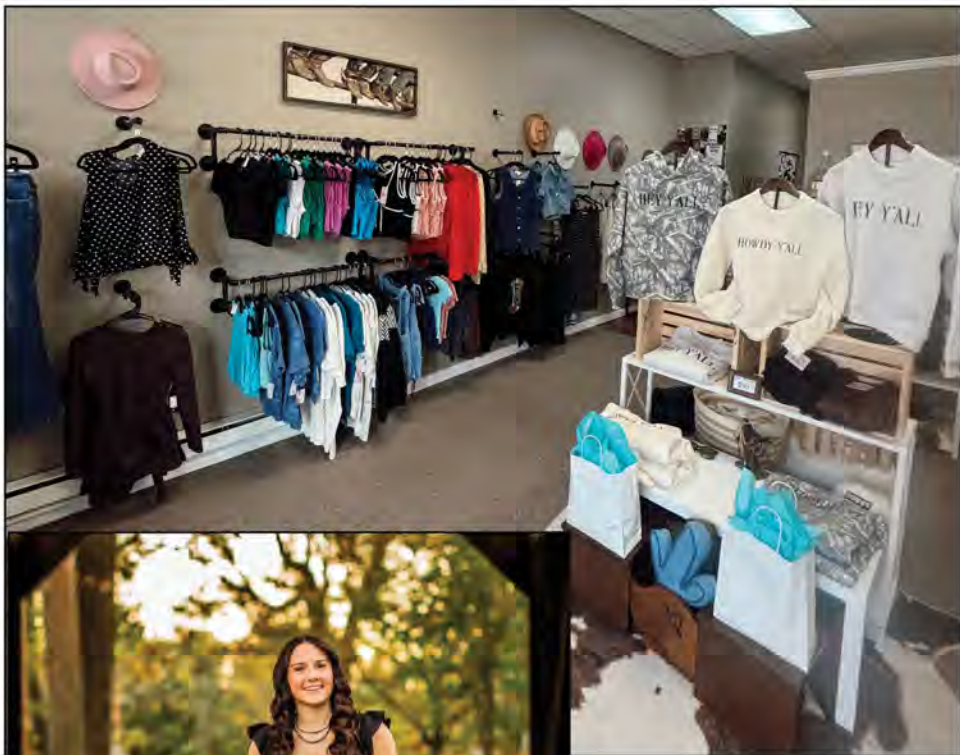
Kids Entertainment Corner

For More Information: 717-642-5640 www.pippinfest.com Follow Us Online!  



Howdy Y'all Boutique Opens in Thurmont

BY ALISHA YOCUM



(above) Howdy Y'all Boutique in Thurmont, offering hats, denim, tops, jewelry, dresses, and country-inspired style.

(left) Morgan Eyler, owner of Howdy Y'all Boutique located in Thurmont.

Courtesy Photos

Downtown Thurmont is now the new home of a western boutique at 1 East Main Street. Howdy Y'all Boutique is bringing hats, denim, tops, dresses and country-inspired style to the community. Behind the new storefront is one of Thurmont's youngest entrepreneurs, 21-year-old Morgan Eyler, whose welcoming smile and enthusiasm greet customers as they step through the door.

Eyler, who started the business online three years ago, has now expanded to the storefront giving customers the convenience of online or in-person shopping. Customers who place orders online have the option for in-store pickup or local delivery.

Eyler said she has always loved western fashion, especially glam western style. She began by creating custom jewelry three years ago, which she still handcrafts today, before adding a Hat Bar and eventually expanding into clothing.

The Hat Bar allows customers to customize western or trucker hats to their style using feathers, patches, pins, charms, hat burnings, flower, bullets, and more!

Eyler said she wants to offer both affordability and a comfortable setting for people to shop. "I don't want to just be a boutique," she said. "I want this to be a spot where people can come in, hang out, and chat."

As a young entrepreneur, Eyler encourages others who dream of owning a business to never give up. She also uses her social media platform to help other small businesses and boutique owners grow their online presence.

If you're looking for your next outfit—or a one-of-a-kind custom hat—stop by Howdy Y'all Boutique, open Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or shop online at howdyallboutique.com.

Emmitsburg Resident Opens Mobile Dog Grooming Business

BY ALISHA YOCUM

Courtesy Photo



Woofie's of Frederick, owned and operated by Emmitsburg resident Christy Turner, celebrates its grand opening at Baker Park on July 4: (from left) Angela Verhine, Lydia Best, Christy Turner, William Turner, Carolina Gerwig, and Wes Dongarra.

Woofie's of Frederick, a provider of mobile pet grooming, dog walking, and pet-sitting services, celebrated its grand opening during Frederick's 250th Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, July 4, at Baker Park. During the event, the company handed out complimentary emergency pet wallet cards while supplies last.

The wallet cards are designed to provide first responders and caregivers with important information about pets during emergencies.

Christy Turner launched the business to combine her lifelong passion for animals with her entrepreneurial experience. Turner, who spent childhood summers in Emmitsburg and is restoring her family's 1910 farmhouse there, returned to the area after a 28-year career in human resources, customer experience, product management, marketing, information technology and telecommunications.

The business offers mobile pet grooming through a fully equipped grooming van, along with dog walking, pet sitting and other in-

home pet care services throughout Frederick County. Clients also have access to real-time GPS tracking, service updates, photos and scheduling through the Woofie's mobile app.

"Our customers care about their pets passionately," Turner said. "We want clients to trust us not only as pet care professionals, but as neighbors. Training and education are a core part of what we do, with the safety of both pets and our team being paramount."

Turner, who operates the business alongside her adult sons, Christian and William, is Pet Tech trained and works directly with clients. The company's team members undergo background checks and receive professional training to recognize potential health and safety concerns while caring for pets.

Founded in 2004, Woofie's began franchising in 2018 and is the first pet care franchise to combine pet sitting, dog walking, and mobile pet spa services under one brand. Today, the company operates more than 80 locations across the United States.

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The Catoctin Banner Newzine exists due to the advertising support of those featured in each issue.

■ www.catoctinbanner.com ■

Mick's Plumbing & Heating Celebrates 35 Years

BY ALISHA YOCUM

Courtesy Photos



Mick's Plumbing & Heating in Thurmont celebrates 35 years in business (pictured from left): (back row) Shawn Fox, Debbie Bachtell, Alan Covell, Jim Thomas, Owner Mickey Late, Kenny Haines, Tracie Cody, and Matt Alvord; (front row) Haley Mullins, Tiffany Free, Owner Holly Late, and Terry Peter.

Mickey Late, owner of Mick's Plumbing & Heating, still remembers the Isuzu truck he used to launch his business 35 years ago. What began as a one-man operation has grown to 64 employees and a fleet of 49 trucks.

Late says he started the business out of necessity. He was working for Thurmont Plumbing at the time, but the economy slowed, and he had just purchased a house and had a baby on the way. When work dried up, he decided to venture out on his own.

Working from his garage, Late focused primarily on residential plumbing, relying on the skills and knowledge his uncles had taught him over the years.

As the business grew, it wasn't long before he needed to hire employees and find a larger space. In 1998, Mick's Plumbing & Heating moved from the family garage to its current location at 27 Howard Street in Thurmont, where it continues to operate today.

Over time, Late recognized a growing demand for commercial plumbing services and expanded the business beyond residential work, which his wife, Holly, said has been a big part of the company's 35 years of success.

"It's more than that," Mickey said. "Fair prices and standing behind your work are the keys to success. If you don't do those two things, you aren't going to make it."

The Lates are also quick to credit the employees, who have helped build the company over the past three and a half decades. Several team members have been with Mick's Plumbing & Heating for more than 25 years—a reflection of the company's commitment to treating its employees well.



Mickey Late started Mick's Plumbing & Heating out of the Isuzu truck pictured above.

Holly, has been with the company since 2005. "It is a really good balance—he focuses on the contracts, and I handle the financial side"

As Mick's Plumbing & Heating celebrates its 35th anniversary, the Lates remain grateful to the customers and community that have supported them along the way.

"Thank you so much for 35 years of support and confidence," Holly said. "We would not be where we are today without our customers and the community."

Giving back has become an important part of the company's mission, and the Lates explain that supporting the community that has supported them is one way they can show their appreciation. You will see them supporting sports organizations, schools, and more throughout the community.

To learn more about all of the plumbing and HVAC services the company offers, visit micksplumbinghvac.com, call 301-271-2488, or follow them on Facebook.

ROCKY RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

NO BINGO IN AUGUST!

NEXT BINGO - SEPT. 12, 2026

DOORS OPEN @ 5 PM

GAMES START @ 7 PM

Make sure you're hungry!
Food is available for purchase.

ROCKY RIDGE VOL. FIRE CO.
13516 Motters Station Rd. Rocky Ridge, MD

Businesses Past...

Closed

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON

Glade Valley Milling Company

The Glade Valley Milling Company, Woodsboro, is the only “identified” flour mill structure remaining in Woodsboro, according to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

The mill was also referred to as the Glades Valley Milling Company in a state archive document, dated March 29, 2007, and entitled Frederick County Mills. The plurality of Glades was not encountered in any other documents or newspapers accounts. However, this same document contained other errors as well.

The operational Glade Valley Milling Company Mill and the associated mill house were located at 100 and 102 Creagerstown Road and, according to the MHT, were in the early 20th century one of the town’s most important industries.

According to the MHT, the flour mill was initially founded in Troutville by Daniel P. Saylor, “but was subsequently purchased by Anderson Etzler and moved from Troutville in the 1890s to Woodsboro (a trip of about two miles)” to take advantage of the proximity of the Woodsboro site to the West Maryland Railroad.

Only one reference was encountered regarding the Troutville mill and the move to Woodsville, which suggests the move may not have been simply to take advantage of gaining access to a nearby railroad, that being the A Historic Context for the Archaeology of Industrial Labor in the State of Maryland by Robert C. Chidester (heritage.umd.edu), which stated, “The Glade Valley Mill in Troutville burned in the late 19th century and subsequently moved to Woodsboro, leaving

Troutville in decline...” The mill was then a two-and-a-half-story structure and had been named the Etzler Mill (Etzler also purchased the J.M. Powell and Company mill in Thurmont in 1912, according to the October 04, 1912, edition of *The News*).

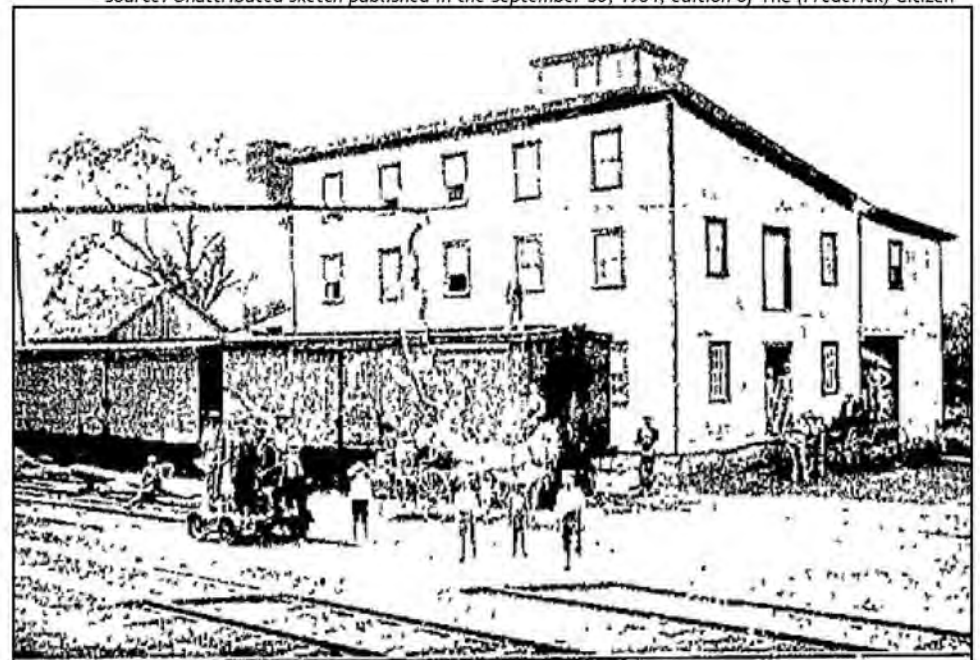
Around 1904, the Glade Valley Milling Company acquired the Etzler Mill, as per the MHT. Etzler served as the company’s president. Etzler was also serving at the time as the vice president of the Woodsboro Savings Bank, according to the September 30, 1904, edition of *The (Frederick) Citizen*, Historical and Industrial Edition. Although frequently cited as a flour mill, *The Citizen* stated that the mill produced roller process flour, corn meal, and chops, and additionally dealt in grain, feed, and bituminous and anthracite coal.

In 1904, not only did the company add an additional story and a half to the top of the Woodsboro mill, making it a four-story structure, but it also initiated a quest for space for additional production, resulting in the Glade Valley Milling Company obtaining the facility in 1904 in Walkersville. The Walkersville plant was also equipped with more modern machinery, according to *The Citizen*.

The Frederick News-Post reported in an article in the February 22, 2014, edition that an associated four-bedroom, two-story framed mill house was built around 1900 and was located on 5,250 feet of land and consisted of 1,150 square feet of living space.

Flour production ceased in the late 1950s. The last advertisement placed in the newspapers that

Source: Unattributed sketch published in the September 30, 1904, edition of *The (Frederick) Citizen*



Sketch of Glade Valley Milling Company as it appeared in 1904.

mentioned the Woodsboro mill was placed in 1968, which offered feed and coal. Apparently, after milling flour and cornmeal had ceased, milling feed continued into the 1970s (at least until 1976, according to a 1976 article in the June 25, 1976, *The Frederick News-Post*).

The mill was offered for sale again in 1987 when the building was occupied by the Glade Valley Mill Antique and Furniture Stripping Business (also known as the Circuit Rider Stripping and Antique Shop) and the associated house, with an asking price of \$360,000 (later, by 1990, it decreased to \$239,900), according to an advertisement placed in *The News*. The antique shop was established within the Glade mill sometime in 1973.

According to an article published in the February 22, 2014, edition

of *The News Post*, the historic mill house was sold at auction in 2014 to resident Jason Boyer, who currently uses the mill space for his woodworking business, JSB Woodworking, Inc.

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FISHY PICS



**Our
COVER PHOTO**

Hudson Carr trying to catch fish for his summer break!

Great Times Outdoors!



Liam Miller proudly shows off a smallmouth bass that he caught on the Monocacy River on July 16!



Collin Doyle with his biggest bass of the year!



Claire Smith, proud of her little sunny, fishing with her brothers, cousins, and grandparents at Fort Ritchie!

Gone Fishin'



Parker Hahn with his catch from Thurmont!



Tim and Charlotte Berry. "Fishing with Dad, and I caught a bigger fish than him!"

New Discoveries



Landon Robinson's white perch catch at Solomons Island!



Thank you to all our wonderful readers who sent in their Fishy Pics! We received a large number of photos, which we love! But, unfortunately, we don't have space for all of them. We hope everyone enjoys viewing the fishy pics as much as we did!

Happy Fishing!



Tyler Davis and Dusty Hahn catch a 19 lb. and 30 lb. blue catfish during a 12-hour tournament in D.C.!



Gone Fishin'





Savannah with her little fish!



Carter Staub doing what he loves: reeling in a big catch!

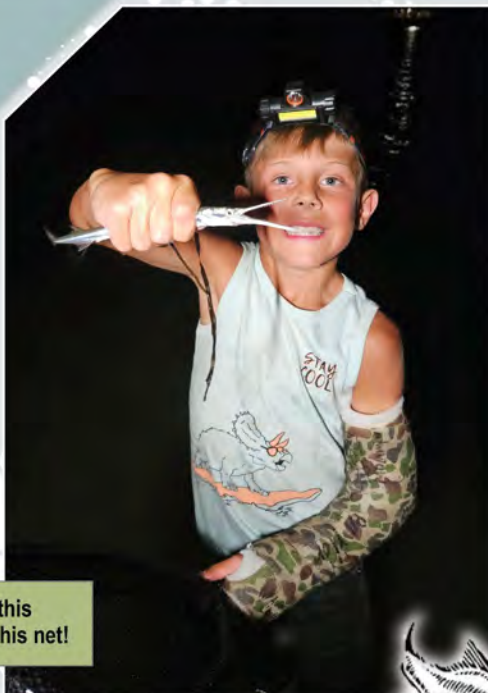


Lauren's big bass she caught this spring!



Caleb Lynn with his catch!

fishing



Baylor catches this needlefish with his net!



Payton Fritz catches sharks in Assateague!



Kinsley and her first ever fish!



Chris Yingling with his catch, loving life!



Paul W. Gladhill catches this catfish right before the 4th of July!

Gone Fishin'



Wesley C. with his 21-inch trout!



Carson fishing in Sabillasville!



Maureen Schildt finally catches a fish!

New Discoveries



Lillyan Phillips with her catfish from Liverpool, PA!



Clayton Orndorff fishing at Fort Ritchie!

fishing



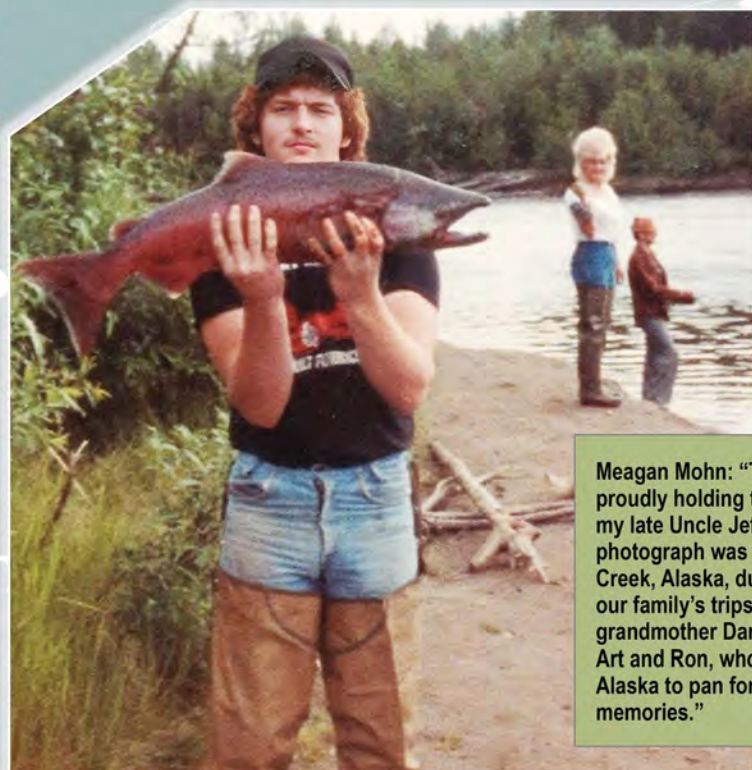
Tye of Sabillasville catches this flounder on vacation this summer at Delaware Seashore State Park!



Mason Norris and Steve Dorough with Mason's awesome striped bass!



Sara Kephart catches this rockfish on the bay!



Meagan Mohn: "The young man proudly holding the salmon is my late Uncle Jeff Mohn. The photograph was taken in Bear Creek, Alaska, during one of our family's trips to visit my grandmother Darlene's brothers, Art and Ron, who had moved to Alaska to pan for gold. Wonderful memories."



Kashton with his first fish on his first cast of the day!



Elias Wahl catches this trout!



Ryan and Rachel pull a couple of snakeheads out of the Gunpowder River!

Gone Fishin'



Cooper Reed, 5th grade, catches this sun fish—10 inches!



Fun Outdoors



Madison Shank at the fishing rodeo!



Fishing Memories



Cayla Thomas catches a horseshoe crab on vacation in Ocean City!

Memories!



Collin Doyle's biggest cat ever at 17 pounds!



Gemma pulls in this little crab using a crab pot!



Blakelyn Hartdagen and her dad, Brad, at the Fishing Derby, hosted by Sons of American Legion Post 121.



Remi Nusbaum catches this fish with her pappy at his pond!



New Discoveries



Mason Kokoski enjoying a day of fishing!



2026 Emmitsburg Community Heritage Day Winners

Submitted by THE EMMITSBURG COMMUNITY HERITAGE DAY COMMITTEE

Courtesy Photos



Greased Pig Chase winner (age group 17 & up), John Paul Legare.



Greased Pig Chase winner (age group 1-6), Jacob Cool.



Greased Pig Chase winner (age group 7-11), Silas Wahl.

All Emmitsburg residents and visitors who attended this year’s Community Heritage Day on Saturday, June 27, were the real winners, from the delicious breakfast at the Vigilant Hose Activities Building on Creamery Way to the last fireworks as they lit up the night sky after a wonderful, cool day! We hope you enjoyed it throughout.

Listed below are the specific names of the winners of the contests held all day. Thanks to all our wonderful sponsors and all the organizations who made the day possible. We will see you next year!

Greased Pig Chase Winners: Age group 1-6 — Jacob Cool; Age group 7-11— Silas Wahl; Age group 12-16 — AJ Martinez; Age group 17 & Up — John Paul Legare.



Sack Races: Ages 1-4 — (1st) Luna Ridenour, (2nd) Luke Calis; Ages 5-8 — (1st) Gemma McCoy, (2nd) Ariana Ridenhour/Roman Iravalle; Ages 9-12 — (1st) Jackson Cichocki, (2nd) Lily Whitlock; Ages 13-16 — (1st) Xavier Myers, (2nd) BZ Hahn; Ages 17 & Up — (1st) Adam Myers, (2nd) Miranda Cincotta.

Three-Legged Race: Ages 5-8 — (1st) Breann & Brailey Hammack, (2nd) Colton with Brantlee Young;

Watermelon Eating Contest (ages 9-12) 2nd place winner, Penelope Buta.

Ages 9-12 — (1st) Mary Whitlock & Enza Buta, (2nd) Fred Hahn & Veronica O’Donnell; Ages 13-16 — (1st) BZ Hahn & Stella Mirabalie, (2nd) Mary O’Donnell & Naomi Hahn; Ages 17 & Up — (1st) Miranda Cicotta & Sarah Legare, (2nd) Sofie Legare & Mary Legare.

Egg Toss: (1st) — Joseph Hahn & Louis Turner; (2nd) — Peyton & Matt Myers.

Water Balloon Toss: (1st) — Peyton & Matt Myers; (2nd) — Adrian Phebos & Kynslee Miller.

Pie Eating Contest: Ages 1-4 — (1st) Chase Shaffer, (2nd) Rett Young; Ages 5-8 — (1st) Fred Hahn, (2nd) Brailey Hammack; Ages 9-12 — (1st) Mary Whitlock, (2nd) Leah Krom; Ages 13-16 — (1st) AJ Martinez, (2nd) Louis Turner; 17 & Up (1st) — Bruce Bryant, (2nd) Matt Knox.

Watermelon Eating Contest: Ages 1-4 — (1st) Chase Shaffer, (2nd) Luna Ridenhour; Ages 5-8 — (1st) Breann Hammock, (2nd) Brailey Hammack; Ages 9-12 — (1st) Brooklyn Putsky, (2nd) Penelope Buta; Ages 13-16 — (1st) AJ Martinez, (2nd) Jayden Putsky; Ages 17 & Up — (1st) Jack McCarthy, (2nd) Matt Knox.

Parade Winners: Overall Winner — Betsy Ross Float; Crowd Favorite — Winnie the Corgi in red wagon; Best Community Spirit — Remember & Honor/Home of the Free.

Lions 50/50 Raffle Ticket Winners: 1st Place — Grace Eyler; 2nd Place — Bonnie Konsen; 3rd Place — Kenny Cool.

Knights Grill Raffle Winner: Chris Stack.

SEE MORE HERITAGE DAY PHOTOS on Page 27



Three-Legged Race (ages 5-8) 1st place winners, Breann and Brailey Hammack.



Three-Legged Race (ages 5-8) 2nd place winners, Colton with Brantlee Young.



Watermelon Eating Contest (ages 1-4) 1st place winner, Chase Shaffer.



Three-Legged Race (ages 9-12) 1st place winners, Enza Buta and Mary Whitlock.



Water Balloon Toss 2nd place winners, Adrian Phebos and Kynslee Miller.



Watermelon Eating Contest (ages 9-12) 1st place winner, Brooklyn Putsky.



Sack Races (ages 13-16) 1st place winner, Xavier Myers.



Sack Races (ages 9-12) 1st place winner, Jackson Cichocki.



Pie Eating Contest (ages 9-12) 1st place winner, Mary Whitlock.



Sack Races (ages 1-4) 1st place winner, Luna Ridenour.



Sack Races (ages 9-12) 2nd place winner, Lily Whitlock.



Parade Best Community Spirit winner, Remember & Honor/Home of the Free.



Egg Toss Contest 2nd place winners, Peyton and Matt Myers.



Watermelon Eating Contest (ages 13-16) 2nd place winner, Jayden Putsky.

Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show's Annual Baked Goods Auction

Do you have a new recipe that you have been wanting to try? Is there a favorite family recipe that has been passed down over generations? Looking for something for the kids to do this summer? If so, get ready to bake away and enter your delicious baked items at the annual Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show in the Baked Products Department!

On our website, thurmontEmmitsburgCommunityShow.com, exhibitor entry information and premium list for all departments with their classes is available. Dept. 9—Baked Products is the department where all ages—adults, youth (ages 11-18), and junior (ages 10 & under)—enter their baked items, with classes for bread, cakes, pies, sugar free, gluten free, cookies, candy, cupcakes, etc.

A baking reminder that many entries, such as certain cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, candy, etc., can be made and frozen about a month prior to being entered in the Community Show. Many baked goods exhibitors bake their two-cake layers and freeze

them. Closer to the Community Show entry dates of Thursday and Friday, September 10 & 11, these baked good exhibitors thaw their cake layers, icing their two-layer cake right before their entries are due, for a potential prize-winning entry!

All baked goods entries will be auctioned at the annual Community Show's Baked Goods Auction on Friday evening, September 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Catoctin High School auditorium, immediately following the Community Show's opening ceremonies.

At 8:00 p.m., all Grand Champions & Reserve Champions will be sold for all ages! Prior to the start of the auction, bidder registration and bidder card number pickup will be on the auditorium's stage. Winning bidders can pay for their purchases by cash or check only.

In the Adult Baked Goods Dept., for ages 19 & over, the following baked goods will be auctioned to benefit these organizations: Grand Champion Cake—Community Show; Reserve Champion Cake—Catoctin

FFA Alumni & Supporters; Honorable Mention Champion Cake—Burall Brothers Scholarship Fund; Grand Champion Pie—Community Show; Reserve Champion Pie—Catoctin FFA Chapter; Grand Champion Bread—Community Show; Reserve Champion Bread—Thurmont Grange; Grand Champion Sugar Free Baked Product—Community Show; Reserve Champion Sugar Free Baked Product—American Diabetes Association; Grand Champion Gluten Free—Catoctin FFA Alumni & Supporters Scholarship; Reserve Champion Gluten Free—Thurmont Grange Scholarship; Decorated Cakes—the benefiting organization is the Exhibitor's Choice.

In the Youth Dept., for ages 11-18, the following baked goods will be auctioned to benefit these organizations: Youth Dept. Grand Champion Cake—In Honor & Memory of Mearl McCleaf for these three funds supporting our community's youth: Thurmont Grange Scholarship, Catoctin FFA's National FFA Convention Trip, and the Catoctin FFA Alumni & Supporters Scholarship; Youth Dept. Reserve Champion Cake—Catoctin FFA Chapter; Youth Dept's Decorated Cakes—the benefiting organization is the Exhibitor's Choice.

In the Junior Dept., for ages 10 and under, the following baked goods will be auctioned to benefit these organizations: Junior Dept. Grand Champion Cake—Thurmont & Emmitsburg Food Banks; Junior Dept. Reserve Champion Cake—Catoctin FFA Chapter.

A reminder for ALL baked goods exhibitors that premiums for the cake, pie, and bread classes in the Baked Products Dept. are: 1st Place—\$15.00, 2nd Place—\$13.00, and 3rd Place—\$11.00. Candy, cookies, miscellaneous, sugar free, and gluten free (in the adult department) are: 1st Place—\$6.00, 2nd Place—\$5.00, and 3rd place—\$4.00.

At the Community Show, due to lack of refrigeration, the following baked items are not accepted: meringue or custard pies, cheesecakes, cream cheese icings or fillings. Baked entries MUST be on disposable plates, and pies MUST be in disposable aluminum pans. No cake mixes or other mixes are to be used. Decorated cakes must have a cake base.

Bakers of all ages in the Catoctin school feeder area are encouraged to enter their baked goods at this year's Community Show and to possibly receive one of the many awards, ribbons, and prize premiums that are offered to exhibitors. Community Show Eligible Exhibitors are residents of Catoctin area feeder schools: Emmitsburg Elementary, Thurmont Primary, Thurmont Elementary, Thurmont Middle, Lewistown Elementary, Mother Seton School, Catoctin High School, and Home-Schooled students. Sabillasville Environmental School (SES) students need to be a resident of the Catoctin area feeder schools listed or be a SES's Youth Agriculture Club member.

The premium books will be located at Jubilee Foods and Dollar General in Emmitsburg and at Weis Market and Dollar General in Thurmont around the first part of August.

All baked good items for all ages are entered at Dept. 9—Baked Products. Entry of exhibits in the gymnasium and agriculture department is Thursday evening, September 10, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Friday, September 11, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Community Show opens to the public on Friday, September 11, at 5:30 p.m., with the Opening Ceremonies held at 6:30 p.m., including the annual patriotic Community Organizations Flag Ceremony. The Baked Goods Auction starts at 7:30 p.m., with all of the Grand Champions and Reserve Champions being sold at 8:00 p.m.

The annual Community Show Baked Goods Auction is the largest annual fundraiser of the Community Show. Let the baking begin!

View the advertisement on page 34.

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Thurmont Resident Wins Maryland Lottery's Second Chance Drawing

BY ALISHA YOCUM

Courtesy Photos



(above) Timothy Goenner poses with his recently delivered prizes from the Maryland Lottery.

(right) Timothy and Thanh Van phan Goenner got their chance to participate in the Warehouse Dash in Chicago as part of the Maryland Lottery's Second Chance Drawing.



Timothy Goenner and his wife, Thanh Van phan, of Thurmont recently won the chance to participate in the Warehouse Dash, which included a round-trip, all-expenses-paid trip to Chicago through the Maryland Lottery's Second Chance Drawing.

Maryland's Second Chance Lottery is part of the My Lottery Rewards program, a free loyalty program that gives players additional opportunities to win prizes with eligible lottery tickets—even if they didn't win the first time.

On the trip, the Goenners received free meals, a riverboat tour, and \$1,000 in spending money, in addition to the chance to participate in the Warehouse Dash.

For the Dash, the Goenners had two proxies who helped them in the race to grab whatever items they could in 90 seconds.

There was strategy behind the game. The day prior to the Dash, the couple had 30 minutes to walk the warehouse to plan what items

they were going to toss in the cart. In the end, anything from a computer to a weather station ended up in their cart.

The Maryland Lottery recently delivered the prizes directly to his doorstep via truck.

Timothy encourages everyone to scan their losing tickets for their second chance to win! This isn't the first time they've won. The Thurmont residents have enjoyed other all-expense-paid trips through the program.

For more information on the Maryland Lottery Second Chance Drawing, visit rewards.mdlottery.com.



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Catoctin Furnace Awarded Grant to Recreate Historic Ironmaking



Courtesy Photo

A digital projection of Catoctin Furnace's ironmaking process inside the restored furnace will soon be created, thanks to a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Program.

Visitors to Catoctin Furnace will soon be able to experience one of the most dramatic sights from the site's historic past, thanks to a new grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Program.

Governor Wes Moore recently announced 58 matching grants, totaling \$5 million for Maryland nonprofits, local governments, and heritage tourism organizations. Among the recipients was Catoctin Furnace, which received funding to create a digital projection that will recreate the ironmaking process inside the restored furnace.

The new exhibit will allow visitors to see a realistic projection of glowing molten iron flowing from the base of the furnace and into the casting shed, providing a glimpse of what workers would have witnessed nearly 250 years ago.

Established in 1776, Catoctin Furnace was one of Maryland's earliest iron-producing operations and played an important role in the nation's early industrial history. Enslaved and free skilled ironworkers produced cannons, cannonballs, stoves, firebacks, kettles, pots, and numerous other iron products at the site. Among its contributions were cannonballs used by American forces during the Revolutionary War, including at the Battle of Yorktown.

During the ironmaking process, iron ore was heated to approximately 2,800 degrees, creating brilliant streams of molten iron. Before the iron was tapped from the furnace, workers known as guttermen carefully prepared channels in sand across the casting house floor, directing the flowing metal into molds where finished products would take shape.

The upcoming digital projection aims to recreate this spectacular process. Along with vivid visuals of molten iron pouring through the casting house, the experience will include narration explaining each step of iron production and the ringing of the cast house bell that historically summoned moulders and their assistants to begin their work.

The project comes during a significant milestone for the historic site. In 2026, Catoctin Furnace is celebrating its 250th anniversary alongside the 250th anniversary of the United States, highlighting the community's important role in the nation's founding and industrial development.

Installation of the digital projection is expected to be completed during the winter of 2026, offering visitors a new and immersive way to experience one of Maryland's most significant historic landmarks.

For more information or to schedule a visit to Catoctin Furnace, call 240-288-7396.

Acacia Masonic Lodge #155 Holds Annual Strawberry Night

Courtesy Photos



Scholarship winners were presented with their checks by Worshipful Master Rob Reid. Current and previous winners attending were Tanner Seiss, Payton Evans, Olivia Baker, Tyler McCallan, Jared Turner, and Alex Hauk.

Acacia Masonic Lodge #155 recently held its Annual Strawberry Night, experiencing an outstanding evening celebrating its community, students, and members.

Scholarships totaling more than \$12,000 were awarded to the class of 2026. This year's recipients were Tyler McCallan, Payton Evans, Olivia Baker, and Jared Turner. The Community Award of \$5,000 was presented to Cindy McGrew, founder and CEO of Operation Second Chance in Sabillasville. Masonic Service awards were presented to Brother Robert Reid for 50 years of service in Masonry and Brother Chester Zentz for an amazing 70 years of service in Masonry.

Music was provided by their very own Brother Rocky Birely and ensemble. It was a great evening for Masonry and our community.

(right) Brother Chester Zentz is presented with his 70-Year Masonic Service Award.



(above) Past Master Brother Robert Reid is presented with his 50-Year Masonic Service Award.

(right) The Community Award is presented by Worshipful Master Rob Reid to CEO and Founder of Operation Second Chance, Cindy McGrew.



Local Storm Brings Large Hail to the Area

Sara Lee displays one of the large hailstones that fell at her Lewistown home during a severe storm in early July. The storm produced damaging hail that caused significant damage to homes, vehicles, and other structures throughout the area. As a long-time Maryland resident, Lee said she has never seen hail this large.

Photo Courtesy of Sara Lee



CHS Class of 1976 Reunion

The Catoctin High School (CHS) Class of 1976 Reunion committee is seeking information about the following people (listed below). If you know the address, telephone number, or email address of any missing classmates, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Donna (Hahn) Gills at 240-818-2964 or donna.gills76@gmail.com.

Classmates we are unable to locate: Kim (Fraley) Schuetzle, Susan (Walter) Warren, Dave Sanders, Robert Powell, Janet (Gorman) Tate, Leona Fay Dayhoff, Brenda Dujardin, Denise Herring, Laurel Hewitt, Teresa Hilton, Debra (Kline) Makinzie, Penny Otto, Teresa Sejhona, Tamra (Smith) Swisher, Edna (Hoff) Willard, and Roy Tanner.

We would love to see everyone on Saturday, September 19, at noon. The address is 13998 Tower Road, Smithsburg, MD 21783.

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Award-Winning Artwork Celebrates the Legacy of Dr. Seuss

BY ALISHA YOCUM

(left) Maria Mills selected Dr. Seuss as the historical figure to celebrate as part of the nationwide art contest celebrating America's 250th Birthday.

(right) Maria Mills is recognized as Maryland's Middle School State Winner in the art contest hosted by Freedom 250 and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).



When Maria Mills of Emmitsburg set out to create her entry for the national American Heroes Student Art Contest, she wanted to honor someone who had made a lasting impact on generations of children. Her choice was author Theodore Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, whose colorful books have inspired millions of young readers to discover a love of reading.

Mills' artwork earned her the title of Maryland's Middle School State Winner in the nationwide competition, which was hosted by Freedom 250 and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the nation's celebration of America's 250th birthday.

More than 1,000 students from across the country submitted original works of art highlighting historical Americans who have shaped the nation's history. State winners were recognized during a special awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., where their

artwork was also featured in a national exhibition.

For her mixed-media artwork, Mills surrounded a portrait of Dr. Seuss with many of his beloved storybook characters, including The Cat in the Hat. Bright, bold colors inspired by the pop art movement bring the piece to life, while the familiar characters appear eager to share the joy of reading with others.

"I chose to illustrate Dr. Seuss because he dedicated his life to writing for emerging readers," Mills wrote in her artist statement. "Without his work, children who struggle with reading wouldn't try to study harder. With his books, kids create a love of reading in their hearts early so that they can read throughout their lives."

Mills said she intentionally included some of Dr. Seuss' most recognizable characters because they were the "keystone" that made his books fun and engaging for young readers. She described The Cat in

the Hat character as representing the excitement and enthusiasm of sharing stories with others.

Her portrait of Dr. Seuss stands apart from the whimsical characters by being rendered more realistically.

"Theodore is drawn more realistically than his characters to show their importance in the hearts of kids," Mills explained. "He is pictured in his eighties to remind us that his work will last for centuries."

Mills also incorporated an American flag into the background of the piece to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary and to symbolize the lasting influence that Dr. Seuss has had on American culture.

The American Heroes Student Art Contest invited students in grades 3-12 to create original artwork celebrating one of the historical figures selected for the future National Garden of American Heroes.

Entries were judged on artistic excellence, creativity, historical

relevance, and the accompanying artist statement. Winners from each state and territory received recognition at a national awards ceremony and had their artwork displayed during the Great American State Fair in Washington, D.C.

Congrats, Maria, on showcasing your talents to the nation!

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Summer Program Promotes Love of Nature

BY ALISHA YOCUM



Kashton Baer and Saber Long tag-team finding insects and crayfish in the water.

On a warm day in July, children explored the stream, scooping up bugs and lifting rocks in search of crayfish. Each discovery was met with smiles and excited squeals.

The adventurers were part of the Thurmont Park & Recreation's "A Day in the Park" Summer Program, which offers three weekly adventures throughout the summer focused on nature.

Carrie Andresen-Strawn, a Park Ranger with Catocin Mountain Park, joined the group to help the kids identify the insects, crayfish, and other aquatic life they discovered in the stream. She also shared information about the wildlife that lives in and around the park's waterways.

September Jones has directed the summer program for the past three years. After spending many years as an elementary school teacher before transitioning to the corporate



Novalynn Ferrell enjoys playing in the creek during the A Day in the Park Summer Program.

world, Jones said she missed working with children. When the opportunity to lead the program became available, she knew it was the perfect fit.

"I wanted to get back to working with kids," Jones said.

For many of the campers, the friendships and outdoor adventures keep them coming

back year after year.

"My favorite part is playing in the creek and all the activities we do," Bond said. She has been attending the summer program for many years.

As Emerson Rickerd scooped up an insect from the water, she paused for a minute to share her favorite part of the program, which is hanging out with friends and making crafts.

Kevin Jones has also been helping with the program for the past three years and believes experiences like these are more important than ever.



Catocin Mountain Park Ranger & Education Coordinator Carrie Andresen-Strawn talks to adventurers, Addy Cross, Mara Bond, Hadleigh Baer, Kashton Baer, and Saber Long about local wildlife.

"Kids are missing out on the magic of nature," he said. "It's really important for us to understand the world around us and the role we play in it."

Each week has a different theme, including Wild Neighbors, Nature Makers, and Earth Adventures. Jones explained that while it can be challenging to come up with unique activities each year, she tries to make sure the adventurers who

are coming back year after year are always learning something new.

Through hands-on activities, exploration, and discovery, A Day in the Park continues to inspire children to unplug, get outside, and develop a lifelong appreciation for the natural world. For more information on the program, visit the website at www.thurmont.com or follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/thurmontpnr.



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The Power of a Daily Walk

BY ADITI DHANANJAYA, High School Student

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." ~ John Muir

In a world where health advice feels complicated, the simplest habits can make the biggest difference in one's life.

Exercise doesn't have to mean running marathons every day or spending hours at the gym. As a matter of fact, one of the most effective ways to improve your health may be as simple as putting one foot in front of the other. Walking requires no special equipment, expensive memberships, or even intense training. Whether it is a quiet stroll through the neighborhood, a walk around a local park, or just moving more throughout the day, taking a few steps can have a positive impact on your overall well-being. It can be done by people of any age and any fitness level and also for a variety of reasons. Those reasons may be as simple as doing it for quiet reflection or as a part of your daily routine. No matter the reason, it is more than just a way to get from one place to another. One of the reasons walking has remained so popular throughout the years is because it is accessible. It can fit into almost any lifestyle, unlike other forms of exercise. Some people enjoy beginning their mornings with a walk to start the day feeling refreshed, while others prefer evening walks to unwind after a long day.

One of the greatest benefits of walking is its ability to support physical health. Movement helps keep the body active and can also improve strength, endurance, and balance over time. Walking also engages a variety of muscles throughout the body. However, it does not put strain on the joints. These characteristics make it an approachable form of exercise for many people. Walking can help maintain flexibility and mobility as people age. Staying active through regular movement can make everyday tasks feel easier and more comfortable.

Walking can also provide important mental benefits. Spending time outdoors and taking a break from daily responsibilities can help reduce stress and create a sense of calmness in the house. A simple 15-minute walk allows

time to clear your mind. For a lot of people, a daily walk becomes one peaceful moment in a busy schedule. Walking also encourages people to unplug from screens and spend a little more time appreciating the world around them. Listening to the birds chirping, watching the sunset, or simply enjoying the fresh air, taking a walk allows for people to slow down.

Walking might also be a wonderful way to stay connected with others. Inviting a friend, family member, or neighbor can turn exhausting exercise into a social activity. Walking together creates time for meaningful conversations without the distraction of phones. It is a great way to spend quality time with your loved ones while also staying active. Walking with others can also help create a stronger sense of community. A friendly conversation during a walk can brighten someone's day and give them a chance to share stories. Simple moments of connection can make walking even more rewarding.

Another advantage of walking is how easily it can become a part of everyday life. It is not something that requires major changes or even an extremely strict routine. Smaller choices can add more movement

into the day. Choosing the stairs instead of the elevator, parking a little further from a store entrance, or taking a short walk after dinner are all simple ways to include more movement in a routine. These habits may not seem significant at first, but they add up over time. Starting small is often the best approach. A short walk is still a step towards building a healthier lifestyle. Over time, walks can become longer and more enjoyable.

As summer comes to an end and the seasons begin to change, August is the perfect time to appreciate the simple pleasure of walking. Cooler mornings and evenings provide opportunities to enjoy the outdoors while taking care of personal health. While walking may seem like an ordinary activity, its benefits reach far beyond the steps. It gives a chance to move, connect, and reflect on the world around us. Improving health sometimes begins with something as simple as putting one foot in front of the other. Good health is often built through tiny, consistent changes. Walking serves as a reminder that even simple habits can have a lasting impact on everyday life. By making time for a daily walk, people can invest in their physical and mental health, one step at a time.



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Visit our website for details - ThurmontEmmitsburgCommunityShow.com

FREE Entry of Exhibits: Thurs., Sept. 10 - 5:30-8:30 pm & Fri., Sept. 11 - 8:30-11:30 am

Fri., Sept. 11 at 7:30 pm - Auditorium BAKED GOODS AUCTION 8 pm - Grand & Reserve Champions will be sold! <i>Come & support the largest annual Community Show Fundraiser!</i>	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Saturday Highlights</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Sunday Highlights</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> 10:30 am - Pet Show 6:15-7 pm - "The Noteables" Vocal Performance Gail Slezak, Director 7 pm - Beef, Sheep, Swine & Market Goat Sale </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> 11 am - Decorated Animal Contest Noon - Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull (Ages 5-10) 1 pm - Log Sawing Contest </td> </tr> </table>	Saturday Highlights	Sunday Highlights	10:30 am - Pet Show 6:15-7 pm - "The Noteables" Vocal Performance Gail Slezak, Director 7 pm - Beef, Sheep, Swine & Market Goat Sale	11 am - Decorated Animal Contest Noon - Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull (Ages 5-10) 1 pm - Log Sawing Contest
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SATURDAY & SUNDAY BUFFETS - THURMONT'S KOUNTRY KITCHEN Sat., Sept. 12 from 3 - 6:30 pm - Roast Turkey & Baked Ham Buffet Sun., Sept. 13 from 11 am - 2 pm - Broasted Chicken & Pulled Pork Buffet Food Vendors: Acai for Me, Cracken Catering, Glamourview Creamery & The Savagery <i>~ A portion of all food vendor and buffets sales benefit the Community Show ~</i>					
Free Parking, Admission & Entertainment! Sponsored by the Thurmont Grange, Catoctin FFA Chapter, Catoctin FFA Alumni & Supporters, Maryland State Grange, and the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board Food, Displays, Animals, Exhibits, & Activities for All Ages!					

Maryland on Stamps & Covers

50th Anniversary Lindbergh Flight

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON

Source: Collection of Richard D. L. Fulton

"Our messenger of peace and goodwill has broken down another barrier of time and space."

~President Calvin Coolidge, regarding Charles A. Lindbergh's solo transatlantic flight in 1927

A full-scale operative replica of Charles Lindbergh's *The Spirit of St. Louis* landed at College Park on October 24, 1977, as part of a nationwide celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Lindbergh's 1927 history-making first nonstop solo-flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

Various celebratory postal covers were created to celebrate the event. The example depicted was printed by the Western Heritage Association, Hacienda Heights, California.

The version shown here was canceled at Airport Station, College Park, while the plane sat on the tarmac at the Maryland airport.

In addition to an illustration of *The Spirit of St. Louis*, as well as a commemorative cancellation depicting Emile & Henry Berline's 1924 helicopter (the first test flights of which occurred at College Park), the cover was also "franked" with a 13-cent United States Postal Service's stamp, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Lindbergh's flight.

Lindbergh's introduction into aviation began in 1922 when he attended the Nebraska Aircraft Corporation to study

aeronautics. Up into 1924, he flew a plane engaged in "barnstorming (performing aerial acrobatics)"—the term "barnstorming" was originated by pilots flying their planes through barns via the opened doors.

According to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum's (NASM) website, in 1924, Lindbergh enrolled as a flying cadet in the Army Air Service, and subsequently, became an airmail pilot, flying mail between St. Louis and Chicago.

Airmail pilots at that time faced a dangerous and even deadly task in the old bi-wing airplanes they were operating, resulting in the airmail pilots of the 1910s and 1920s being dubbed "the suicide club," according to the United States Postal Museum.

Early in 1927, he obtained financial backing to compete for a \$25,000 prize offered by Raymond Orteig for the first nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. In today's money, that prize would be equal to more than \$481,000.

Lindbergh ordered a modified (for the proposed trans-oceanic flight) Ryan airplane produced by Ryan Airlines, San Diego, which, among other details, included the ability to carry a greater fuel load. In April 1927, the work on the aircraft was completed and was painted silver with black numbering and lettering, according to the NASM.

Lindbergh took off from New York on the morning of May 20, 1927, landing in 33 hours and 30 minutes at Le Bourget Field, near Paris, thereby representing the completion of the 3,610-mile trip.

According to the NASM, "On April 30, 1928, *The Spirit of St. Louis* made its final flight—from St. Louis to Washington, D.C., where Lindbergh presented



1977 50th Anniversary Lindbergh Tour commemorative cover.

the aircraft to the Smithsonian Institution."

The replica differed from the original in several respects: the length was a few inches longer, the wingspan was three feet shorter, the replica was about 1,000 pounds lighter, the replica had consumed about 130 gallons of fuel as opposed to 450 gallons consumed by the original, and the replica had a cruising speed of 95 miles per hour, as opposed to the cruising speed of the original at 100 to 105 miles per hour, according to the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).

During 1977, the replica of *The Spirit of St. Louis* made a total of 92 stops in 48 states during its

1977 national tour from June to October, landing in College Park on October 24.

"In 1987, the replica was shipped to France and flew into Le Bourget Airport in Paris to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Lindbergh's 33-hour flight across the Atlantic," according to EAA.

The replica was then retired and honorably placed in the Oshkosh EAA Aviation Museum.

As per the EAA, "...construction of the second flying replica, beginning in early 1990... it was completed by May 1991 and has made many appearances throughout the country since that time."

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Thurmont Little League All-Star Teams



Thurmont Little League 8-10 Team

Nothing says summer quite like Little League All-Star Baseball. The regular season ends, but for a select few the path continues through the hot days of summer. This year was no different as Thurmont Little League fielded four all-star teams. While none of the teams advanced past District 2, the teams gave fans quite a few nailbiter games. Congrats to all the teams on their post-season play.

10-12 All-Star Team*: Elijah Barrett-Carter; William Fltecher; Gage Fout; Payton Fritz; Harry James Hewitt; Brooks Otto; Holden Ruiz Beach; Blake Testa; Julian Thompson; Garret Troxell; Jerome Turner; William Wheeler; Riley Workma; Manager, Darryl Dextrateur, Assistant Coaches, Josh Workman; Nathan Fritz, and Jason Fout.

9-11 All-Star Team: Knox Axline; Jackson Boyer; Brayden Constable; Knox Devries; Tripp Emert; Jace Fisher ; Ethan Hernandez; Aiden Koontz; Ethan Marsh; Devin Riffle; Brantley Steinour; Wade Wolf; Bryce Youcm; Manager, Jacob Fisher; Assistant Coaches, Jason Boyer, Justus Yocum, and Casey Constable.



Thurmont Little League 9-11 Team



Thurmont Little League Emory Frye Team

8-10 All-Star Team: Jet Derr; Beaux Grimes; Parker Ketterman ; Emmett Kline ; Theodore Kronback; Wyatt Murray ; MJ Puckett; Oliver Santos; Harvey Schildt; Lincoln Tankersley; Braden Wolfe; Manager, Kristin Wolfe; Assistant Coaches, Justin Wolfe, and Alex Kline.

Emory Frye All-Star Team: Jett Derr; Grayson Hoffman; Emmett Kline ; Maddox Kronback; Wyatt Murray; Oliver Santos; Harvey Schildt; Andrew Smith; Lincoln Tankersley; Alphie Turner; Braden Wolf; Manager, Alex Kline; Assistant Coaches, BJ Schildt, and Blaine Schildt.

*10-12 All-Star Team not pictured.

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Goodbye Futbol, Hello Football

August is the most difficult month of the year to write a high school sports column. Little League Baseball has ended, and high school fall sports open in the middle of the month. There is some 7-on-7 football competition being held with most Frederick County high schools participating, but it's been just too hot out this summer.

As a matter of fact, the heat is the real story for the 2026 summer vacation season. Newer cars have a dashboard digital outside temperature gauge, something my dad's 1967 Rambler station wagon was missing. Last week, my dashboard gauge read 107!

Dad was an HVAC guy, so he carried an old-fashioned bulb gauge with him in his pocket. He would routinely announce the temperature to the family during family trips. He bought an automobile air-conditioner from Sears and installed it in the family wagon. Every guy in the neighborhood showed up to help him put it in. They all laughed and joked under the shade of the oak trees while the delicate operation was underway to install A/C into the underpowered Rambler four-cylinder. When the time came to take a test ride, nine full-grown men piled into

the Rambler wagon and went on a "road test." It was the talk of the neighborhood for weeks. The Betteridges had an air-conditioned car! Unfortunately, our house did not. No one had air conditioning in the 60s. But my dad did! He would load the family into the wagon for the trip to grandma's in Long Island every summer. Now with the air conditioning, this summer trip would be the event of our childhood. An eight-hour trip to the end of Long Island in style. Coloring books, games, and reading in the cool comfort of a luxury road trip. There was only one problem. Dad would fire up that Rambler A/C on full blast, roll up all the windows, and light up one of his favorite big green stogies as we barreled down the New Jersey turnpike. Like the cigar, the kids in the back were green too. We begged him. We pleaded. But, to no avail. He was on vacation, and he was in charge. Today, childhood protective services would probably be involved.

I went hiking with a friend in the Wilderness area of Virginia back in the 90s in the heat of summer, and the trail markers were wrong. The trail was marked as a seven-mile hike, in and out. But when we arrived at the turnaround marker, we realized it was seven miles in and seven miles out. It was late, and we had to make it out before sunset. I handed the water bottle to my friend and said, "Keep up. I'll get us out." The local streams were marked "do not drink." There was an outbreak of giardia in the area, a nasty intestinal parasite. We made it out before dark. Later that evening, I began to shiver and became very cold. No matter what I did, I couldn't get warm. I went to the emergency room, and the doctor said I had malignant hyperthermia, a serious and deadly form of heat stroke. I hadn't hydrated properly that day in the heat, and now my body was shutting down at

a cellular level. He shoved two IV's into me, and we waited. Obviously, I recovered, but I share this with you because I never knew that you could reach a point of no return with heat stroke without even knowing you were in peril. Lesson learned! Don't go out in the heat without sufficient hydration, and don't take it for granted that you'll be all right. The doctor told me, "Next time drink the water." An antibiotic beats heat stroke any day.

The World Cup has been a huge sensation here in America, and the first thing visiting teams remark about America is our wonderful air conditioning. We take it for granted. They do not. They practiced in giant, temperature-controlled indoor arenas for the first time during their visit. During press conferences, over and over, you hear players say, "We love America!" They talked about Walmart and Costco and huge McMansions everywhere. In their world, air conditioning and box stores are scarce.

I had a chance to chat with a friend of mine who is a high school soccer coach. I asked him his impression of the level of play in the Cup and why America couldn't compete. His answer was simple. We don't yet have the infrastructure here to support youth soccer. Youth football and baseball are huge, but soccer hasn't yet filtered down to the grassroots level. American soccer skills are way behind international levels. That's because of the "pay to play" barrier that forces out young, talented players from lower-income families. Kids play soccer here in our area at an elite level for travel teams, which function like exclusive country clubs for sports parents. Unlike football and baseball, you will rarely see a "pickup" game in the park, which my soccer coach friend, Sam Sasu, said is everywhere in Europe. Most high school soccer players have attended camps and played on travel teams, which actually stifle player development, according to Sam.

I think the World Cup introduced soccer to many Americans in 2026. If anything, Americans love a good party, and that's what the Cup brought: pageantry and fun.

But for now, with August upon us and the World Cup finished, we say goodbye to futbol and hello to football!

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Catoctin's FFA Attends the 98th Maryland State FFA Convention

Thirty-three Catoctin FFA members attended the 98th Maryland State FFA Convention on June 23-25 (pictured right). The state convention was held in Garrett County at Garrett College and The Wisp. This year's theme was Unwritten. All students attended workshops and sessions, industry tours, and participated in CDE/LDEs (contest), getting to network with over 550 members, volunteers, judges, and ag leaders from across the state!

Ag Issues: The agricultural issues forum allows students to research and present current agricultural issues to public audiences, promoting professional ethics and standards. The team consisted of Gabby Brauning, Marcus Kuhn, Valeria



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Lake, Lizzie Schuebel, Addy Smith, and Quamari Willard. This team created a presentation about the use of solar panels being used on agriculture land. They placed 2nd in the state.

Agriculture Sales: The Ag Sales team placed 1st in the state. This team had to research different types of chainsaws. They then had to sell the different products to potential consumers. Team members included Grady Abruzzese, Simon Burrier, Faith May, Grace May (2nd ind.). Ryleigh Ruch participated in the

contest as an individual. The team will be traveling to the National Convention this fall to represent Catoctin and Maryland on the national level.

Ag Marketing: Makayla Comer, Makayla Eckenrode, and Sophie Wagaman are members of the ag marketing team. This team worked with Cherry Hill Construction and Restoration, a local agriculture business that restores old barns. They developed a business plan for the

■ continue reading on Page 39

Harriet Chapel, Catoctin Episcopal Parish

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business. They had to present their plan in a live presentation, while working collaboratively to research, analyse, and deliver marketing solutions tailored to Cherry Hill Construction and Restoration. This team placed 2nd in the state.

Conduct of Chapter Meeting: The Conduct of Chapter Meetings team placed 3rd. The team consisted of Avery Harbaugh, Josie Harbaugh, Jada Morgan, Kayla Kieffer, Jordyan Ohler, Wes Shultz, and Kylee Thomason. Members assume various officer duties (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, and advisor) during the event presentation that is evaluated by a team of judges. Additionally, each participant is challenged by a written exam about officer duties, meeting room preparation, and parliamentary procedure. This contest is designed for 9th grade members.

Environmental and Natural Resources: This event fosters student interest, promotes environmental and natural resource instruction in agricultural education, and recognizes skills and competencies gained through such instruction. Students engage in various activities and practicums, working under challenging conditions to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in environmental and natural resources management. This includes soils, water, ecosystems, waste management, navigational mapping, and environmental monitoring skills through GPS. Team members consisted of Preston Clark (9th ind.), Caleb Krantz (4th ind.), Blake Smith (2nd ind.), and Connor Smith (7th ind.). The team placed 1st in the state and will be traveling to the National Convention in October.

Employment Skills: The employment skills event helps FFA members develop, practice, and demonstrate essential skills needed for employment in the industry of agriculture. The event simulates real-world activities used by employers, providing participants with practical job search and interview experience, helping them prepare for future careers in agriculture. Connor Giove participated in this event.

Extemporaneous Speaking: Blake Smith participated in this event. He picked a topic out of a hat and had 30 minutes to write a four-to-six-minute speech about the topic. They were allowed to use five resources. Blake placed 4th in the state.

Dairy Evaluation and Management: Members assess pedigrees and herd records, conduct management exercises, evaluate live dairy cattle, and present oral justifications for their decisions, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the industry. Team members included Leah Morgan (3rd ind.), Carly Nowell (4th ind.), AJ Schuebel, and Lizzie Schuebel. The team placed 2nd in the state.

Livestock Evaluation: Students in this event had to evaluate livestock, including beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. They had to make accurate observations, determine desirable traits, and make informed decisions based on these observations. They also had to define their decision, understand industry standards, and effectively communicate using industry terminology. Team members included Logan Grimes, Josie Harbaugh, Landon Kelley, Will LeGore, and Ainsley Savage.

Prepared Speaking: Grady Aburzzese and Faith May participated in this event. They each had to write a six-to-eight-minute speech, present it to a panel of judges, and answer questions about it. Grady's topic was about Water Runoff into the Chesapeake Bay. Faith's speech was about The Critical Infrastructure Crisis (the battle between power lines and data centers and farmland). Faith placed 8th in the state.

State FFA Degree: Carly Nowell, Ryleigh Ruch, and Qumari Willard earned their state degree. This is the highest degree our state can bestow to its members. Fifty-one members in the state earned this degree.

American FFA Degree: Ella Burrier, Caroline Clark, Owen Cook, and Colt Sanders were recognized for being American FFA Degree candidates. Less than 1 percent of National FFA membership achieve this degree. As the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, the American FFA Degree shows an FFA member's dedication to his or her chapter and state FFA association. It demonstrates the effort FFA members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience and the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement they exhibited through their FFA career.

Retiring 2025-2026 MD State FFA Treasurer: Katilynn Bentz served this year as the 2025-2026 MD State FFA Treasurer. She served MD FFA by advocating for agriculture education, presenting workshops, hosting conferences, and traveling to different states. During the convention, Katilynn lead sessions and presented a retiring address entitled "Behind the Walls." She challenged FFA members to persevere

and to never let their past determine their unwritten futures.

Catoctin's FFA would like to thank everyone who helped them to get there: coaches, volunteers, chaperones, bus drivers, and community support members. They had a great week. A special shout out goes to Mrs. Clements for coming to visit them at the state convention!



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Mother Seton School Announces Appointment of New Principal

The Board of Directors of Mother Seton School is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Joseph M. Fanning (pictured right) as the principal of Mother Seton School. Mr. Fanning will be only the second lay principal in school history.

Mr. Fanning began his career in law enforcement before discovering a calling to education. He taught English and Social Studies in Maryland and Florida, where he was a finalist for Teacher of the Year. His leadership experience includes serving as Assistant Principal at Montgomery Blair High School, Consulting Teacher and Pupil Personnel Worker for Montgomery County Public Schools, and, most recently, Staffing Coordinator for MCPS.

Mr. Fanning is excited to get back to his educational roots in Catholic school. "My older siblings and I all attended Catholic schools," he says. "I not only had an exceptional education, but I also met incredible people. I am most looking forward to working closely with students, families, and staff in a faith-centered setting to make each student's experience a positive one."

He will be replacing Dr. Kathleen J. Kilty, who is staying on at Mother Seton School as the school's first President. She says of his selection that, "(Mr.



Courtesy Photo

Fanning's) breadth of experience, along with his gifts as a leader and mentor, made him an outstanding choice for this role. He also brings a strong Catholic identity and personal commitment to the faith that will enrich our mission at Mother Seton School. I look forward to working with him."

Mr. Fanning holds a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, an MBA from the University of Notre Dame (Indiana), and an M.A. in Teaching from Salisbury University.

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18th Annual Catoctin Community School Supply Program

Area churches and businesses in Emmitsburg, Lewistown, Rocky Ridge, Sabillasville, and Thurmont are working to provide students in need with school supplies for the 2026-2027 school year. This program is for the students attending the Catoctin Feeder Schools. These schools include Emmitsburg Elementary, Lewistown Elementary, Sabillasville Environmental School, Thurmont Primary, Thurmont Elementary, Thurmont Middle, and Catoctin High.

The 18th Annual Catoctin Community School Supply Drive Distribution Day is going to be held on Tuesday, August 11, from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., at the Graceham Moravian Church, located at 8231 Rocky Ridge Road in Thurmont. Backpacks will already be packed with basic supplies.

If you would like to donate to this program, please drop off school supplies, cash donations, or gift cards (Walmart) to the church on August 4, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Coordinator Jennifer Harbaugh by phone or text at 301-639-9970 or by email at catoctinschoolsupplydrive@aol.com.

The Thoughtful Panda College Scholarship

Born from kindness and the belief that small acts matter, this low-barrier award helps ease the cost of college essentials—books, lab fees, parking, uniforms, and more! In order to assist as many students as possible, this one-time award will not exceed \$2,500 per student.

The application opened on June 1 and runs through August 31. It can be downloaded from the website at www.thoughtfulpanda.org or requested via email at thoughtfulpandainc@gmail.com.

Scholarship recipients will be notified no later than September 12, 2026. The award will be paid directly to the student. This scholarship is for the Spring 2027 semester. If requirements are met, requests to use funds for winter mini-mester are considered.

The Thoughtful Panda is a Maryland-based 501(c)3 organization. For more information, visit www.thoughtfulpanda.org.

View the advertisement on page 12.

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The Catoctin Banner Newzine

AUGUST 2026

The Catoctin Banner

Sons of the American Revolution Essay Contest



Courtesy Photo

Three students from Sabillasville Environmental School were selected as winners in the Sons of the American Revolution Essay Contest: Quinton Runion, Harper Holmes, and Evan Matthews (pictured above). This year's essay topic focused on Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a wealthy Maryland planter, delegate to the Continental Congress, and the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the patriotism and sacrifices of the men and women who contributed to American independence. Through education, historic preservation, and community service, the organization promotes patriotism and inspires future generations to learn about the founding principles of the United States.

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Pride is a common problem for us today. We hate to be told we are wrong. To the modern adult, telling them that they are wrong is commonly seen as an attack, so we tend to avoid even broaching the subject in the first place. Easier to avoid the conflict than to have to deal with the fallout of letting somebody know they are wrong. This is a sign of societal-level pride: a level of pride so widespread that it is easier to assume that others have it than not.

We are not writing simply to complain about society, though. Instead, we would like to humbly suggest self-examination from the reader. The Bible tells us not to be wise in our own eyes. **Proverbs 3:7: Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.** Pride is a sin which in many ways is more destructive than any other, because it blinds you to itself. If you steal, the act of theft does not blind you to the sin, but pride will blind you to almost anything.

The Bible has a simple solution for the problem of pride: introspection. **2 Corinthians 13:5: Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!** Honest self-assessment is difficult. But we should be doing it frequently so we do not fall into the trap of pride!

What do we do when we find pride in ourselves? Humble ourselves of course! **James 4:10: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.** If I catch myself believing myself to be something, I must remember that I have failed, and often! Even when I have succeeded, it has been because God has allowed me to. **Luke 17:10 So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'**

We hope you come to worship Christ with us soon! We would love to meet you.

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From Calf to Show Ring

An FFA Project Series

BY MAKAYLA COMER

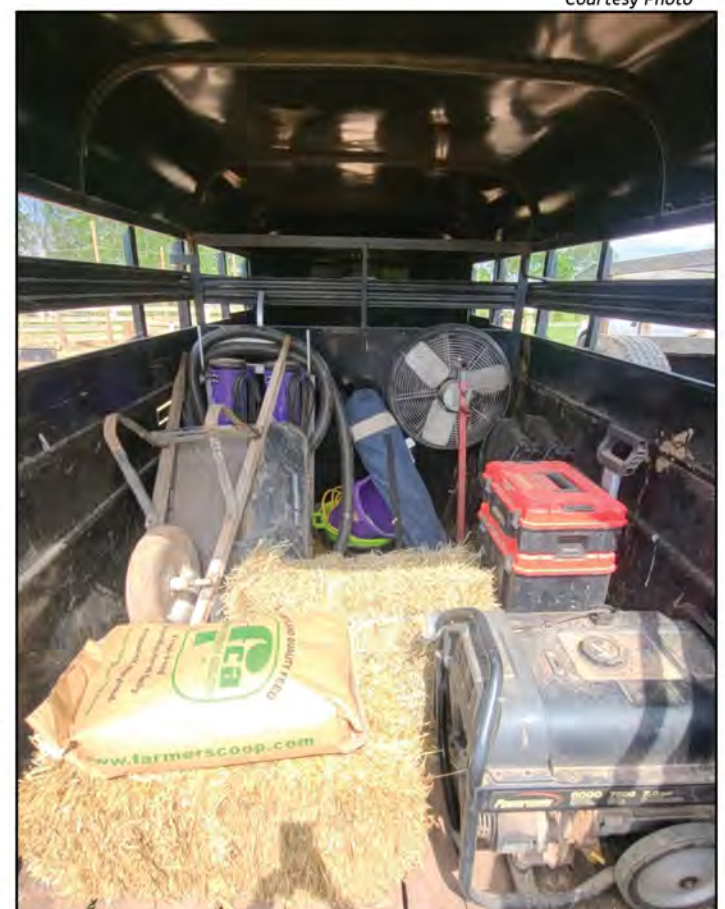
Makayla Comer is a junior at Catoctin High School and a member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA). She is serving as the 2025-2026 Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show Ambassador and currently serves as Social Media Coordinator. In this monthly series, Comer will take readers behind the scenes of 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.



(left) Show box somewhat packed.



(right) Neatly packed trailer before getting to the show.



Courtesy Photo

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.

The Carroll County Fair is just around the corner, and if you know

feel so much better. This may also help with eating, as my animals will sometimes stop eating for a day because it is too hot out.

This month, I'm going to talk about all the stuff we bring to shows. In the tack box, we have everything we need. Show halters, neck ties, conditioners, sheer spray, brushes, show stick, hose, soap, and sometimes snacks. That's just some of the things we bring.

We also bring a stall divider, which is a form of identifying your space and keeping it nice; it simply goes

anything about fair season, it can get stressful—from finishing up your crafts to setting up the fair, and even making sure all your paperwork is correct. But the one thing we can't forget is that if you are hot, your animals are hot. Rinsing them off with water at least once a day will make them around the cows. The stall divider also can hold a fan when it is hot outside. After we get done washing our animals, we will need to dry them off before letting them lie down, so we bring a blower. The blower is like a super hairdryer. Some shows require us to bring a generator to run our supplies. And, importantly, we must bring feed and hay.

One thing that is required from each show is health papers; this makes sure that the animal that is going onto the fairground property is healthy and won't spread diseases to other animals. This is everything we bring to a show. It may seem a lot, but everything is necessary to make the show run smoothly. And when you get to work with your friends and family, it makes everything more fun and time efficient.

This is a short article this month, but once the Carroll County fair is over and I get done with the state fair and community show, there will be much to talk about.

There is only about one more month with Fort Worth, and I can't wait to see how he does at his last few shows. I hope to see you all at the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show on September 11-13!

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Back to School Tips

As summer winds down, families are preparing for the start of another school year. While shopping for school supplies is an important part of the season, a little planning can help students make a smooth transition back into the classroom.

One of the best ways to prepare is by gradually returning to a school-year sleep schedule a week or two before classes begin. Establishing consistent bedtimes and wake-up times can help students feel more rested and ready to learn on the first day.

Creating a daily routine is also important. Set aside time for homework, reading, extracurricular activities, and family time to help children develop healthy habits and reduce stress throughout the school year.

Parents should review school calendars, transportation plans, and any required paperwork before the first day. Labeling backpacks, lunch boxes, and water bottles can also help prevent lost items.

Healthy eating plays a key role in academic success. Packing nutritious lunches and snacks and encouraging students to eat a balanced breakfast each morning can improve focus and energy throughout the school day.

For younger children or those entering a new school, talking about what to expect can help ease first-day jitters. Encourage them to ask questions, meet new friends, and remember that it's okay to feel nervous.

Finally, make reading a daily habit. Even 15 to 20 minutes of reading each day can strengthen literacy skills, expand vocabulary, and foster a lifelong love of learning.

With a little preparation and a positive attitude, students can begin the new school year feeling confident, organized, and ready to succeed.

Here's to a safe, happy, and successful school year for students, teachers, and families alike!

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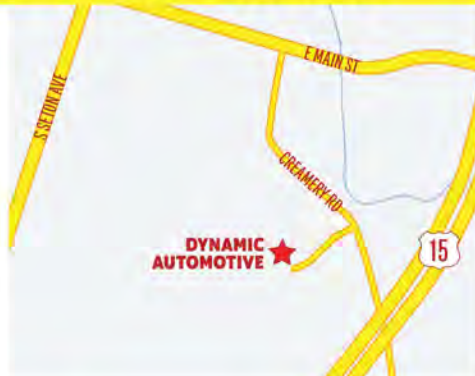
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The Catoctin Banner Brings You a Serial Fiction Story for Your Enjoyment

The King's Gambit

written by
JAMES RADA, JR.

8: Maps of Nothing

Lou Preston sat at the worn pine kitchen table of his family's Gettysburg homestead, steam curling from his chipped blue mug as he took slow sips of bitter black coffee. Morning light filtered through lace curtains, casting delicate patterns on the faded linoleum floor. All around him, the hush of the old house felt heavy, as if the walls themselves were holding their breath. Lou's mind spun with half-formed Civil War conspiracies and the family secrets he'd unearthed: hidden maps, cryptic journal entries, whispers of betrayal. He felt an equal mix of exhilaration and dread.

Above him lay the attic—its dusty gloom overflowing with decades of cast-off clothing, battered trunks, yellowed books

stacked uncertainly, and furniture draped in moth-eaten sheets. He should have finished clearing it out by now, but he'd gotten distracted by what he had found. Now the clock ticked down to the house sale. He sighed, wishing he'd started sooner, before each discovery felt like a frantic race against time.

His reverie shattered with the sharp trill of his smartphone. He set down his mug, the coffee's aroma lingering in the air, and answered.

"Lou, this is Douglas." The calm, gravelly voice belonged to Douglas Reaver, a retired park ranger who'd once apprenticed under Lou's great-grandfather Harley, Gettysburg Battlefield's superbly exacting superintendent.

"I've been looking over the photos of your great-grandfather's

maps," Douglas continued. "I enlarged some sections and thought about what the maps were showing... I think I've found something."

Lou's heart thumped. "What did you see?"

"I'd rather show you in person. Lunch at O'Rourke's?"

As they settled on one o'clock, Lou felt hope bloom. Douglas understood Harley's mind better than anyone. Lou briefly considered delving back into the leather-bound journal on the table, but the attic's remorseless clutter called him back.

He climbed the creaky stairs, pushed past cobwebs, and began sorting: he flung unwanted relics—stale fabric bundles, dog-eared paperbacks, half-broken chairs—out the attic window into a rented dumpster below. Each thud of discarded treasure on metal sounded final. Gradually, narrow paths opened amid the chaos, revealing dusty windowpanes that hesitantly admitted shafts of pale sunlight.

By late morning, the attic felt less like a tomb. Lou showered, dressed in jeans and a pressed shirt, then slipped the journal and the crumpled maps—the very artifacts Douglas might need—into a messenger bag. He dared not risk leaving anything behind.

O'Rourke's sat on a quiet side street, an unassuming white clapboard building with a coat of time-worn patina. Inside, dark

wooden beams crossed the ceiling. Vintage wartime posters tacked to walls, and a stout stone hearth crackled with gentle heat. The scent of sizzling onions and malty ale filled the air.

Lou spotted Douglas in a high-backed booth by a window, the last slanting rays of midday painting his silver hair gold. Lou slid in opposite him and ordered a smashburger—juicy, peppery, topped with melted cheddar—and a cold Yuengling, its foam whispering against the glass.

As the waitress set the beer before him, Lou's phone buzzed with a Ring alert. He swiped to view the porch camera: a courier in dark jeans and a branded jacket had deposited a small, unmarked box. Lou wasn't sure what it might be since he hadn't ordered anything recently.

Douglas cleared his throat. "Let's talk maps."

Lou pocketed his phone. Across the table Douglas unfolded a creased, grayscale reproduction of Gettysburg's roads that omitted every battlefield monument. Beside it lay an enlarged, sepia-toned scan of Harley's original drawing, the ink faded but the strokes unmistakable.

"See here," Douglas said, tracing a muddy ridge. "Your great-grandfather's map predates his official tenure at the park. He didn't plot these roads in his park—

 Continue reading story on page 45

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Willard Pavilion behind St. John's Reformed Church off Harbaugh Valley Rd. in Sabillasville, MD

The King's Gambit

Continued from page 44

superintendent capacity. As for the other map, it could have been made while he was superintendent."

Lou nodded, eyes narrowed. "Does that mean something?"

"I don't know. I'm just making observations." Douglas tapped the marked spots—tiny X's beside statues.

Lou had a feeling of familiarity about the map once again. He had seen it or something like it before. He stared at the troop placements. Had he seen this map before finding it in the attic? He shook his head. He didn't think that was it. It was similar, but not the same.

Douglas said, "Harley highlighted an equal number of Confederate and Union memorials. Odd, since Union monuments outnumber Confederate ones nearly nine to one. Wouldn't you expect Harley's marked monuments to be closer to that percentage? Even more, he only marked those south of town. Granted, that is where the fighting was heaviest and has the most monuments, but Harley wasn't interested in any others? I'm not sure about that. It makes me believe he had some purpose for marking those particular monuments."

Lou felt a chill. "So it wasn't random."

"Also, these are mainly monuments to individuals, and before you ask, it is just something unusual. I don't know what it means."

"So we're no closer to figuring out why Harley made these maps," Lou said. He took a big gulp of his beer, feeling frustrated.

Douglas frowned. "No, sorry. It seems like there should be something more here, like a key."

That would have been a good opportunity to bring up Harley's journal, but Lou didn't know if it was a key to the maps. It was definitely a personal account that was fast becoming an artifact of historical significance. He let the comment pass and ate his lunch.

After lunch, they parted with promises to share any breakthroughs. Lou drove down the tree-lined lanes back home, dusk

gathering in the sky. Pulling into the gravel driveway, he hurried to the porch—no package remained. The empty spot unsettled him; Gettysburg was quiet enough that porch thefts were almost unheard of, especially in the area where he lived.

Inside, he scrolled through delivery confirmations—nothing. He replayed the Ring footage: the courier's hurried steps, the slick black car idling out of frame, and behind him... a second figure, head bent as if scanning the house.

A knot tightened in Lou's gut. He moved through each room by flashlight—every floorboard's creak magnified in the hush. In the den, the chessboard sat on its stand, but the pieces rested in their opening positions instead of the mid-game nests he'd left. On the bookshelves, once-alphabetical rows now looked askew. Subtle but unmistakable: someone had rifled through his things.

Had they searched for cash or jewelry, they could have filled their pockets with Civil War artifacts appraised at small fortunes. Instead, they rifled through the den.

Lou was suddenly grateful he had taken Harley's journal with him. Otherwise, it would have been lying on his desk in plain sight. Could that have been what the thieves were looking for? Then Lou was just as grateful he hadn't told Douglas about the journal. Douglas was the only person, other than Lou, who knew about the maps, and he had wanted to meet at O'Rorke's. They had met at the house the first time, and the burglary or search had occurred while Lou had been at O'Rorke's. If not, he most likely would have been here when the burglars arrived.

A cold suspicion curled in his chest: Douglas was the only other person who knew about those maps. Did he know of the journal, too? Had he sent men to break in while Lou dined at O'Rorke's? Lou swallowed a hard breath. The real conspiracy, it seemed, was only just beginning.

Stay tuned for Part 9 in our September issue!

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Email us a photo (high resolution) of your pet for inclusion in a future issue! Include your pet's age, breed, personality traits, likes and dislikes, and any other fun details you'd like to add!

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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 15th 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!



July's "Where Am I?" photo was taken at Los Amigos in Thurmont. **The winner of the Where Am I? Contest for July's issue is Becky Rogers.** Becky, 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 for July's issue was a rubber duck. It was hidden on page 36 in the Thurmont Community Ambulance ad. **The winner of the Hidden Object Contest for July's issue is Jennifer Jones.** Jennifer, 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 a penny  Good luck!

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

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Email us a high-quality photo of you holding *The Catoctin Banner*, along with the information of where you traveled, name(s) of person(s) pictured, and any other fun details you would like to add, to: NEWS@THECATOCTINBANNER.COM.



Glenn and Judy Hood of Emmitsburg recently visited Sugar Creek, Ohio, and saw the world's largest cuckoo clock. Of course they took *The Catoctin Banner* along with them!



~Thanks for taking us along,
Glenn and Judy!

We appreciate you!



Brent and Jennifer Reynolds pose outside of Rick's Cafe in Negril, Jamaica, and didn't forget to bring *The Catoctin Banner* along!



~Thanks for taking us along, Brent
and Jennifer!

We appreciate you!

CASH BINGO

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LOOK UP

BY MITCHELL TESTER, College Student



For this month, I would like to take a break from the two-part "Time" series I started last month. "Q's" will be a new edition I do occasionally, where I have one or more people send in a question or questions, and I answer them. Of course, due to this being the first one, I will be using my friend Aiyana's question. They asked the following: What is a star?

This is one of the most fascinating topics I learned about when I started getting into astronomy and astrophysics. A star is actually quite similar to our own home, our neighboring planets, or most objects out there in the universe. Most known object creations in the universe are dictated by similar celestial makeup. This means the planets, asteroids, moons, and even black holes. To answer Aiyana's question, let us use two of the above-mentioned celestial objects and describe how they start and how they are eventually made: planets and black holes. These will solidify the similarity that the stars share with everything else in the universe. Astronomy teaches us everything is connected.

Before any notable object is made in space past the Big Bang, there sit massive clouds of gas and

dust at the very start of it. These dust clouds happen due to matter's natural attraction to other matter; this is what we call gravity. Gravity, within the dust cloud, will pull these particles as they pass. Gravity will also cause the matter in this disk to pull inward.

This spinning creates the above-mentioned disk, allowing for matter to exist not only in the center but elsewhere due to pockets of gas and dust existing before the spinning took place. What is created at the center will be discussed later. The outer pockets continue to accrete more and more matter, eventually forming solid cores, named protoplanets. Simply put, matter in the cloud got so close that it started to form the elements that make up what it is now.

Take our home in our solar system, for example. At 93 million miles from the center (1 astronomical unit) sits our home, Earth. Earth was once just a collection of dust and gas, but throughout time of it spinning and spinning with the protoplanetary disk, it formed a solid core, named a protoplanet, and then formed all the other layers that make it up. Simply put, matter in the cloud got so close that it started to form the elements that make up what it is now.

SPACE FACTS



Some Fun Space Facts You May Not Know:

Saturn can float in water because it is mostly made of gas.

Venus spins the wrong way compared to almost every other planet.

Olympus Mons on Mars is a giant volcano, nearly three times taller than Mount Everest.

Stellar-mass black holes are created from dying stars, while other black hole types, such as supermassive black holes, were created in the centers of protogalactic disks, massive disks that create the galaxies of the universe. Let us focus, though, on stellar-mass black holes (ones that come from stars).

Stars come in all sizes. Our star, the Sun, is about average in size. An average star, such as our own, will never become a black hole; it's simply just too small. However, for stars nine times the mass of our own and larger, when that star eventually dies, the core will collapse and result in a supernova explosion, leaving just the core of the former star. A core that is thousands of times denser than any star.

Stars, where stellar-mass black holes eventually result from, come from a spinning disk of matter just as our Earth did, just as the supermassive black holes came from their galaxies' spinning disks. At the center of protoplanetary disks, though, is what eventually creates stars. The sheer amount of matter at the center, compared to the smaller pockets on the outer parts of the disk, is what allows stars to form. So, to put it simply, planets and stars are made up of the same celestial ingredients; just one simply has more matter. This collection of matter, apart from the size difference, allows for nuclear fusion. Nuclear fusion is what results in a star creating energy: the energy that is created by the immense heat

and pressure in the core, constantly fusing hydrogen into helium. The light that guides our way during the day and what allows life itself to exist as we know it.

A star is a celestial object that has a mass of approximately 25,000 times the mass of the Earth. It is as simple as that.

I hope you all enjoyed the first edition of "Q's." If any readers of my column have a question they would like for me to answer and make its way to the next edition of "Q's," I have made an email for just that reason. Email me at lookupcolumncb@gmail.com. Please feel free to ask questions, tell your own astronomy stories, share your own astronomy pictures, or even tell me how I am a lousy writer and that I shouldn't quit my day job. Thank you for reading everyone, and tune in next month for Time: Part II.

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The Best Time to Start a Financial Plan is Now

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



TRUMP ACCOUNTS A New Way to Save for Your Child's Future

With the recent launch of Trump Accounts, many parents and grandparents are asking the same question: Should I open one?

Like many financial planning decisions, the answer is: it depends.

What Is a Trump Account?

A Trump Account is designed to give children a head start on retirement savings. The goal is not only to help build wealth over time, but also to introduce children to the power of investing, compound growth, and long-term financial planning.

Imagine having an additional 18 years of investment growth before you even begin your career. Those extra years can make a meaningful difference because time is one of the most powerful tools available to investors.

However, this is also where some confusion exists.

A Trump Account is not designed for current expenses, and it is not a replacement for other savings accounts you may already use for your children.

This Is Not a College Savings Account

A Trump Account is different from accounts many families are already familiar with, such as 529 plans and UTMA accounts. A Trump Account is intended specifically for long-term retirement savings.

Money contributed to a Trump Account is generally expected to remain invested until retirement age

(currently age 59½ unless another exception applies). In other words, this is not an account you should plan to use for college tuition, a first car, a wedding, or other short-term expenses.

Don't Miss the Free Money

One of the most exciting features of these accounts is the opportunity for an initial government contribution.

Children born between 2025 and 2028 may be eligible to receive a \$1,000 government-funded contribution simply by opening a qualifying account. In addition, some employers are beginning to offer contributions to employees' children's Trump Accounts as a workplace benefit. If your employer provides this option, it is another opportunity to take advantage of available benefits.

How Much Can You Contribute?

Contributions are limited to \$5,000 per year. This annual limit applies to the total contributions made on behalf of the child, meaning parents, grandparents, and others would all contribute toward the same limit.

One convenient feature is that contributions can be made through an easy-to-use app, making it simple for parents to add money and even invite family members, such as grandparents or other relatives, to contribute. This creates an opportunity for loved ones to participate in building a child's financial future.



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The Tax Advantage: Letting Money Grow

One of the primary benefits of a Trump Account is tax-deferred growth.

With some other types of accounts, investment earnings may be subject to taxes along the way. A Trump Account allows investments to grow without annual taxation, allowing the money to continue compounding over many decades.

Eventually, withdrawals will generally be taxable, which is why these accounts are considered tax-deferred, not tax-free.

The advantage comes from allowing the investment growth to continue uninterrupted for potentially 50 or more years.

Keeping Investments Simple

One feature I particularly like about these accounts is the focus on simple, low-cost investments.

Trump Accounts are limited to diversified mutual funds or ETFs with very low annual expenses. This helps prevent high investment fees from reducing long-term growth and encourages a straightforward approach to investing.

What Happens When the Child Turns 18?

When the child reaches adulthood, they take control of the account and become responsible for managing the funds.

Importantly, the purpose of the account does not change. The money remains intended for retirement savings and continues to follow retirement account rules. It effectively becomes an IRA account.

This creates an opportunity for young adults to begin managing and understanding investments early, something many people do not experience until much later in life.

A Potential Future Planning Opportunity

Because these accounts are brand new, there are still many planning strategies that will continue to develop.

One potential opportunity to watch is whether portions of the account could eventually be moved into a Roth account during years when the account owner has lower taxable income, such as during college or early in their career. If

future guidance supports this type of strategy, it could create significant long-term tax savings.

However, tax laws change frequently, and I would not make a decision today solely based on a potential future strategy. Instead, consider it an additional planning opportunity to monitor over time.

Should You Open One?

For some families, a Trump Account could be a valuable addition to their financial plan.

If your child qualifies for the government's initial contribution or your employer offers contributions, it may make sense to open an account simply to capture those benefits.

However, before contributing additional money, make sure your own financial foundation is strong.

Prioritize your own retirement savings, emergency fund, and other important goals first. While helping children build wealth is a wonderful goal, remember that children have options for funding education expenses. There are no loans available to fund your retirement.

Like any financial tool, a Trump Account is not automatically right or wrong. It is simply another option. The key is understanding what the account is designed to accomplish and determining whether it fits into your family's overall financial plan.

Disclosure: This article is for educational purposes only and is not intended as financial or tax 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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BY MICHELE TESTER

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It is said that laughter is the best medicine. I'm a firm believer in that. A good laugh heals the body and mind; add old friends to that, and you have a winning recipe for the rejuvenation of your soul, the lifting of your spirits, and the warming of your heart.

I recently got together with two very old friends of mine. We all went to junior high school together—way back before they started calling it middle school. I think they should have left it the way it was, but I digress.

We all three met down at the beach and spent two days together. We shared old stories, reminisced about people we knew in junior high school, talked about our children, discussed our lives now and our dreams of the future, gave each other encouragement and advice, and, most importantly, we laughed...a lot. I can't remember the last time I laughed so much and so hard that my jaw started to ache.

That first day we were together, we went out to dinner at a fancy restaurant in a hotel. My one old friend proceeded to try to embarrass me on the elevator. That sure brought back memories. It's not hard to embarrass me, and she knows it! We had a good laugh at that one, well, after it was over, I did. The second day we were together, we sat on the beach from early morning to late night. My other old friend commented, "I've never sat on the beach this long!"

We are bonded by years of friendship, by old memories that only we can share, by jokes that don't make sense to anyone else but us. We share a history. A deep-rooted bond. And time apart vanishes quickly the second we are together.

After our time together, and we had to say goodbye, I noticed something. I felt lighter. I felt rejuvenated. I felt at peace.

Old friends, I believe, provide a comfortable space where you

don't have to explain who you are. They already know. They know the younger version of you.

These old friends of mine are the living bridge to my past, to my youth, to my memories. And when I'm around them, I feel good, I feel accepted, I feel I am home.

I do believe that laughter is the best medicine for what ails you. I'm going to add to that my belief that old friends are the cure. Mix the two, and you're golden.

It's been proven that a good laugh releases feel-good chemicals in our brain, lowers stress, boosts immunity, eases anxiety, and relaxes tense muscles. Laughter is a natural stress-reliever and mood-booster.

So, call up that old friend of yours, the one that knew you way back when. Make a plan to get together.

I am uncertain about a lot in life, questions that I still have no answers to. But I do know this: Old friends are good for the soul.

That's just my two cents.

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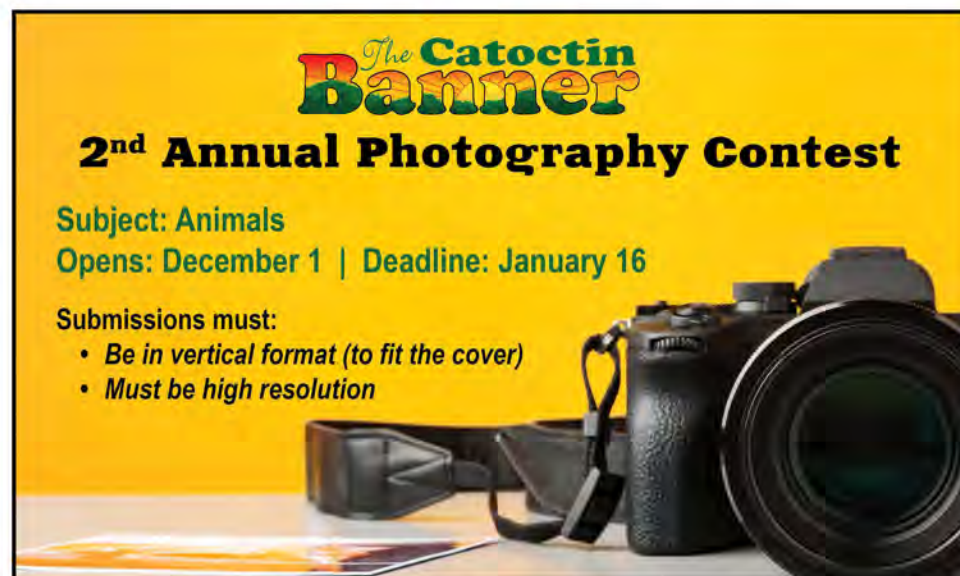
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On June 25, 1915, the Blue Mountain Express, bound for Hagerstown, Maryland, hit a Baltimore Limited traveling east from Hagerstown on the railroad bridge west of Thurmont. The reason for the wreck is believed to have been a problem with the telegraph lines so that information about the trains on the tracks didn't reach the dispatcher in time.

The impact crumpled some cars and knocked others off the High Bridge over Owens Creek into the ravine 100 feet below. Six people died in the wreck, and 12 people were severely injured.

This picture shows the Blue Mountain Express on the High Bridge after the crash. The Baltimore Limited had already been removed by this time.

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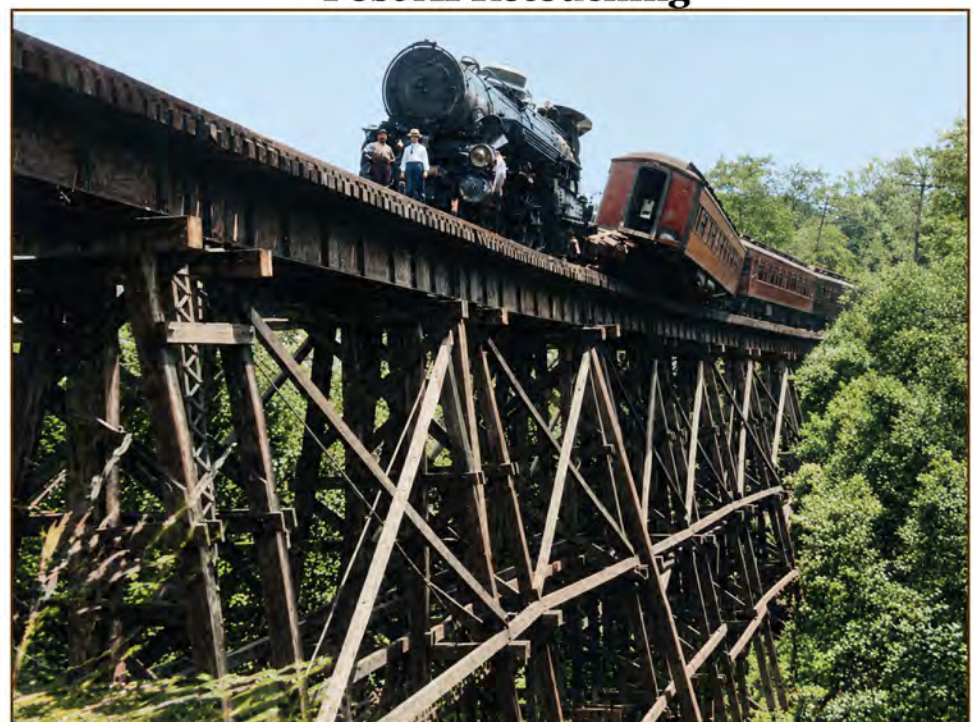
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LOOKING BACK « When the Babe Came to Town

BY JAMES RADA, JR.



(above) Babe Ruth gets ready to bat at a baseball game.

(right) Babe Ruth autographs baseballs for kids at a game.



Photos Courtesy of the Library of Congress



People were buying up so many tickets for a single baseball game that temporary seating needed to be added to Henninger Field in 1929. Even then, it didn't look like it would be enough to seat the record crowd.

Henninger Field, at the corner of Vine Street and Riddle Alley in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, had been built as Wolf Park in 1895. It had been renamed in 1920 in honor of Clay Henninger, the Chambersburg businessman who formed the Chambersburg Maroons baseball team. The New York Yankees purchased the Maroons in 1929, which is what led to the Yankees coming to town for an exhibition game.

It wasn't so much the Yankees' arrival that caused all the excitement in town, though. Babe Ruth was coming to Chambersburg. Despite the Yankees being the reigning World Series champions, the Babe was the only player who was named in the advertisements for the May 31, 1929, exhibition game. The ad headlines read: "N.Y. Yankees with Babe Ruth vs. Chambersburg Young Yanks." Even the great Lou Gehrig wasn't mentioned in the ads.

A second game between Chambersburg and Martinsburg was on the schedule as well, although no one would remember watching that game. They came to see baseball's living legend play.

The Yankees reserved twelve double rooms and a sample room at the Hotel Washington, though they weren't spending the night. On game day, the Yankees bus arrived from Washington, D.C. just after noon. The seventeen players, coaches and entourage headed into the hotel to rest up for the 3:30 p.m. game.

Because of the big turnout expected at the game, most of the town's businesses had decided to close down for the afternoon so that the clerks and employers could "meet and swap peanuts on the bleachers," according to the *Chambersburg Public Opinion*.

The team rested up in their rooms and left for Henninger Field at 2:15 p.m. The crowds were already waiting outside of the hotel for a chance to meet Ruth. As the Babe climbed into a car to leave, kids swarmed around it, "then one braver than the rest, walked to the car and shot out his hand to the famous ball player. Ruth seized it with avidity and a moment later the remaining children, emboldened by their companion, surged around the car to receive a handshake," the newspaper reported.

Ruth was used to the attention. It was part of the connection that he shared with his fans. When the caravan of cars reached the ball field, the players found around 2,600 fans waiting for them,

including people who hadn't been out to see a baseball game in years.

"The big fellow's magnetism drew the crowd to him from the time he entered the park and started his warming up exercises along the right-field bleachers and after the game he was the center of a wildly admiring crowd at the rear of the grandstand," the *Public Opinion* reported.

The crowd of 2,600 was the largest turnout ever at Henninger Field. All the seats were filled and people were standing along the fence. Temporary bleachers were brought in and placed on land owned by Augustus Wolf.

Ruth's young fans lined the temporary fencing around the field on the right side, hoping for a chance to talk to the Babe while he played first base. To reward his young fans, he would toss his baseballs to the boys after his between-inning warm-ups. That would send them scrambling in a heap for the ball. He also exchanged a lot of good-natured banter with the crowd between innings.

During the second inning, boys shifted around to find a seat on the makeshift bleachers that had been added to accommodate the crowd, "but within a few moments fans who had a view of the structure were horrified to see it collapse with its human weight. Boards

flew in the air amid screams of the youngsters who a moment before had been watching the game."

One young boy was injured slightly in the crash, but not enough that the game had to be postponed for a significant amount of time.

Ruth hit his only home run of the game in the fifth inning. It came with Gehrig and Andrew Durst on base.

"The ball soared high and far over the centerfield fence, traveling about 400 feet," according to the *Public Opinion*.

Though it was Ruth's only home run during the game, he hit many more over the fence in his pre-game warm-up, including one that landed in the stone quarry beyond the right-field fence.

Following the Yankees 8-1 win over Chambersburg's Blue Ridge League team, "he autographed baseballs until he was threatened with writer's cramp."

When he could finally make his way out of Henninger's Field, he was met with even more fans.

"After he had autographed more baseballs, he had to shove and push his way to a waiting taxi and then some of his youthful admirers swung onto the runningboard of the car to shake his hand."

Back at the hotel, the Yankees packed up their things and boarded the bus to go onto Chicago and their next game.



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

August 1926, 100 Years Ago

City and County Swept by Severe Electric Storm

A severe electrical storm, accompanied by wind and rain, swept Frederick and Washington counties Thursday evening, between 5 and 9:30 o'clock. Hail fell in different sections of both counties. The downpour was heavy and many telephones were put out of commission by lightning.

... Thurmont was visited by a heavy rain and some hail. Lightning disabled a number of telephone lines. A near-cloudburst was reported at Foxville, a few miles northwest of Thurmont.

— *The Frederick Post*, August 13, 1926

Truck Wrecked

When the steering apparatus locked on the Ford truck, owned by George F. Late and Sons, butchers, of Thurmont, on the Thurmont road between Blue Ridge Summit and Sabillasville, Wednesday, the truck hit an embankment, turned completely around and turned over. Two youths and the driver of the truck, George Stunnell, of Thurmont, were badly shaken, but escaped serious injury.

— *The Frederick Post*, August 28, 1926

August 1951, 75 Years Ago

Local Family Tells of Trip and TV Shown

An interesting account of their appearance on the "Strike It Rich" television show is given by an Emmitsburg family which appeared on that program from New York last week. Mrs. Elizabeth Bowers and daughters, Paula and Loretta, in a letter to this paper give some interesting highlights of the trip which took place last week.

No doubt most everyone about Emmitsburg was watching. First it was a most pleasant trip. But an experience you'll never forget. To see a show put together, controls to tend, cameras to plan and fix into position, try outs, rehearsals, then the momentous moment; nerves tight; contestants talking over the whereofs, and ifs. Then Ralph Paul, announcer, at his mike, everyone in place, the down-drop of Producer Walt Framer's hand, then the M. C. Warren Hull, most likeable, congenial friend to all, comes out. Contestant after contestant tells why they'd like "to strike it rich." Some receive more than others because some people are more cautious than others. But it is truly what they say, a program with a heart. I received as prizes \$140 cash for answering questions.

— *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, August 5, 1951

Old Home Week Opens With Parade Thursday

Emmitsburg's gala Old Home Week, the first since 1909, will get under way officially next Thursday night when the mammoth parade, scheduled for 6:15 o'clock, takes off for a tour of the main thoroughfares of the town.

Thousands of Emmitsburgians and visitors are expected to view the spectacular parade which promises to be the largest ever held here.

Final plans for the 10-day affair were disclosed at a meeting of the committees in charge held in the Fire Hall Wednesday night, presided over by Edgar G. Emrich, president of the Memorial Hall Assn., and Samuel C. Hays, president of the sponsorer

of the event, the Emmitsburg Chamber of Commerce. Twenty-one local organizations and churches have worked diligently in supporting the program and have lined 'up a series of activities that will keep residents hustling to view them all.

— *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, August 24, 1951

August 1976, 50 Years Ago

Boy Drowns in Mount Pool

The body of a 14 year old boy was found on the bottom of the swimming pool at Mount Saint Mary's College Tuesday afternoon.

The boy, later identified as Charles Benjamin Marshall III, of Baltimore, had been reported missing at 8 a.m. on Monday, from the Maryland Council of the Arts at St. Joseph's College after he failed to attend courses Sunday.

Chief Henry Filler, of the Emmitsburg Police Dept., and security guards at St. Joseph's conducted a search of the immediate area Monday afternoon. Students attending a basketball clinic at Mount Saint Mary's College noticed a pile of clothes under the diving board of the fenced and locked pool. After contacting a college authority, the body was found lying on the bottom of the pool in about 14 feet of water.

— *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, August 12, 1976

Town Cited on Comm. Center

At the Town Meeting on Monday, Aug. 2, James L. Bryan, County Administrator and County Commissioner Donald L. Lewis told the town commissioners that they were violating the terms of an agreement by not hiring a security guard for the Emmitsburg Community Center.

The Town Council was told that it has been over two months since that post has been vacant and that the town's agreement for the use of the building was that security would be provided seven nights a week.

Bryan pointed out there has been complaints from the Health Department about unauthorized use of its section and reminded the town fathers that it was being funded money on the basis of service.

Some of the complaints about conditions at the Community Center were that windows were being left open, lights being left on, doors left unlocked, cigarette butts and ashes being left in the Health Dept. section after it had been cleaned, and that authorized entry was being made into the building.

— *Emmitsburg Chronicle*, August 12, 1976

August 2001, 25 Years Ago

Emmitsburg Hosts Maryland Tournament

The eyes of those following the Maryland Little League Junior Softball State Tournament were on Emmitsburg as opening ceremonies began at Memorial Park the morning of July 21st. The double elimination tournament stretched over five days ending Wednesday evening the 25th with the State Championship belonging to the District 5 team Rising Sun. The final game completed an 8-0 record for the Rising Sun team, which swept both the District and State tournaments.

According to their manager, Al Price, the girls have averaged 15 runs while giving up 4 1/2 runs on average over the eight game stretch.

— *The Dispatch*, August 2001

New F&M Bank ATM Installed at the Emmitsburg Jubilee

A new drive-thru automatic teller machine (ATM) will soon be in operation in Emmitsburg. It will bring 24-hour banking convenience to the Emmitsburg community at a handy, free-standing location in the Jubilee grocery store parking lot off East Main Street. With safe, easy, drive-thru access, customers will not have to get out of their cars to bank at this new ATM facility.

Farmers & Mechanics has been serving the Emmitsburg area since 1962, at its full-service, downtown Center Square office which also offers drive-thru banking during office hours.

— *The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch*, August 2001



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VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

BY RICHARD D. L. FULTON

Joseph Wood, Jr. Founder of Woodsboro

**THANK
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Joseph Wood, Jr. was born on September 17, 1743, at Bohemia Acres, Cecil County, to parents Joseph, Sr., and Sarah Wood.

Wood had one sister, Mary Greene, via Sarah. Following the death of Wood's mother in 1747, he subsequently acquired two half-brothers, Abraham and John, and five half-sisters, Catherine, Elizabeth, Rachel, Rebecca, and Ruth, as a result of his father's second marriage to Catherine Hedges.

Wood married Eveline Buress Reed in 1769. They had four daughters, Mary, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Catherine, and one son, Joseph Wood, III. Wood's wife had apparently died while giving birth to Wood, III; the date of her death and the birth of their son is given as taking place on the same day: January 9, 1781.

Shortly after Wood's marriage to his second wife in 1769, he constructed his farm and built a Georgian-style manor house in Northern Frederick County in 1770 on land that would become the future site of Woodsboro. According to the state Department

of Planning's Maryland Historical Trust website (MHT), Wood's patented "Woods Town Land," which was located on part of the former Monocacy Manor, and he had laid out a village he called "Woodberry," located on the east side of the Monocacy River.

Some plats recorded the village's name as "Woodsberrytown," according to the Historical Marker Database (hmdb.org).

However, regarding the actual date of the manor house's construction, the Historic Register (of the National Park Service [NPS]) website stated, "Whether he built the house at the time he was married in 1769 prior to his purchase of the land, or in 1772 after the purchase, is not clear, although it was not uncommon during this period for land to be occupied prior to actual ownership."

The MHT also noted that the homestead had included an associated smokehouse and an early-19th century brick end bank barn.

But whatever the case may have been, life at Wood's homestead would become impacted by a little dispute with England ... called the American Revolution.

On January 6, 1776, Wood was nominated by the Convention of the Province of Maryland to serve as lieutenant colonel of the 2nd Battalion of the Maryland Militia under Colonel James Johnson, according to the NPS.

As a sort of an aside, Johnson also established the Catocin Iron Furnace, which was supplying ammunition and artillery shells for use by the Continental forces at Yorktown, some of which, by happenstance, may also have been among the last of the ammunition



Woods Mill manor house, home of Joseph Wood, Jr.

Source: National Register of Historic Places via Wikimedia

fired by the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War.

In July and August 1776, Wood served as an enlistment agent in Frederick County for the "Flying Camp" of Maryland. During the summer of 1776, General George Washington had sought the formation of a flying camp, comprised of 10,000 men with the intent that they defend the middle colonies. Frederick County (which at the time encompassed a much larger region) had supplied a massive contingent.

What is a Flying Camp? According to the Mount Olive Cemetery, "A 'flying camp'—in the military terminology of the day—referred to a mobile, strategic reserve of troops," or in other words, it was a military unit capable of rapid deployment.

Subsequently, Wood, as lieutenant colonel, led the 37th Battalion of the Maryland Militia along with Colonel Johnson, which had been established in 1777 to primarily function "as a home guard for Western Maryland, and

was instrumental in putting down local Loyalist uprisings." The unit had originally been formed as the Second Battalion of the Frederick County Militia in 1776.

By 1780 Colonel Wood commanded the Frederick Battalion of the Maryland Militia, according to the NPS.

The town of Woodsberry, and/or Woodsberrytown, was eventually changed to Woodsborough, and finally, to Woodsboro, which was incorporated in 1836.

Wood passed away in 1788 in Woodsboro, and he was buried in the Grace Rocky Hill Lutheran Church Cemetery in Woodsboro.

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Good Luck!

Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, Thurmont

Come out to Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, located at 26 Apples Church Road in Thurmont, for lunch and dinner every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m., with weekly specials Wednesday through Saturday, from noon to 7:00 p.m. Check out the Friday Night Special: Bucket of Domestic Beer and an appetizer for only \$20.00! Follow them on Facebook for the weekly menus, featuring a variety of delicious food! View the advertisement on page 50.

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!

Mark your calendar for AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 7's new Tuesday Night Bingo on September 15. There will be no Bingo in August. On September 15, doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy tip jars, raffles, cash bar, and delicious food available for purchase. Bring a friend and receive a free extra jackpot and dauber! Bingo benefits Veterans Hospital Programs. View the advertisement on page 37.

You won't want to miss AMVETS Post 7's Quarter Auction on Sunday, August 30. Doors open at noon, and the auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Event features a variety of great items to bid on, raffles, and 50/50! Food available for purchase. Auction is open to the public; children are welcome. View the advertisement on page 29.

Are You a Veteran? Do You Know a Veteran?



VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

If you are a Veteran or you know a Veteran who would like to share their experiences in the military for publication in The Catoctin Banner, please contact us at:

news@thecatocinbanner.com



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Saturday, October 10th | Sunday, October 11th
9 AM - 5 PM | 9 AM - 4 PM

- FREE Admission & Parking -

Join us for this family fun event!

• Vendors • Live Demos • Kid's Games
• Food Trucks - The Savagery / Old Fireman's BBQ
Antietam Dairy

• Live Music -

Saturday - Matt Metz (11 AM - 1 PM) | Mike Kuster (1 PM - 3 PM)

Sunday - Hannah Ponce (11 AM - 1 PM) | Seneca Creek Bluegrass (1 PM - 3 PM)

CAR SHOW



Saturday, October 10th (Rain Date, October 11th)

11:00 AM - 3:30 PM, Registration starts at 10 AM

\$10 Entry Fee

Dash Plaques for First 50 Registrants • Trophies Awarded to Best Car,
Truck, Motorcycle, Custom, Kid's Choice and People's Choice

TRACTOR SHOW



Both Days of the Event

No Entry Fee

Contact Brad Brauning for Drop-Off Information at 443-375-9766

TOUCH A TRUCK



Sunday, October 11th

11:00 AM - 3 PM

Come touch, learn and explore a variety of
construction, emergency, farm, and military vehicles!



All proceeds benefit the Sabillasville Environmental School Parent Teacher Organization

Sabillasville Environmental School
16210 Sabillasville Road, Sabillasville, MD
www.sesclassical.org



Natural Approaches to Autoimmune Conditions: Part 1

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

One in every 10 people is affected by an autoimmune condition. There are currently over 80 different kinds of known autoimmune diseases.

What is Autoimmunity?

The job of a healthy immune system is to protect you from infections and diseases. Your immune system does this by attacking viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens that are trying to enter and harm your body. A normally functioning immune system can tell pathogens from cells that are part of your body, and they harm only pathogens.

However, if you have an autoimmune condition, your immune system has trouble differentiating between foreign pathogens and parts of your body. It will end up attacking your cells, organs, and tissues instead of pathogens by mistake because it confuses them with foreign invaders.

Certain autoimmune conditions only affect one organ or one area of your body. For example, autoimmune hepatitis affects your liver, and alopecia areata causes hair loss.

Other types of autoimmune conditions may affect various areas and multiple organs.

Rheumatoid arthritis may affect multiple joints across your body but may also affect your eyes and lungs.

Systemic lupus erythematosus can

cause widespread problems, including joint pain, rashes, hair loss, kidney issues, mouth sores, and more.

The most common autoimmune conditions include:

- Celiac disease
- Hashimoto's thyroiditis
- Graves' disease
- Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBDs)
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Reactive arthritis
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Addison disease
- Sjögren syndrome
- Type I diabetes
- Psoriasis
- Multiple sclerosis
- Pernicious anemia
- Myasthenia gravis

Major Factors Causing Autoimmune Conditions

The exact cause of autoimmune conditions is unknown. It seems that rather than one cause, multiple factors may play a role. Some autoimmune conditions tend to run in the family, so genetics may play a role.

Besides genetics, though, several dietary, lifestyle, and health factors

may increase your risk of developing an autoimmune condition. Some of the major causes are listed below.

Leaky Gut and Low Stomach Acid Levels

Your gut affects your entire body, including your immune system. Poor microbiome balance or gut dysbiosis may increase digestive issues, chronic inflammation, and the risk of autoimmune conditions.

It can also cause poor nutrient absorption, increase toxin build-up, and reduce detoxification.

Stomach acid is a digestive fluid created in your gut to help you digest food. Its main component is hydrochloric acid (HCL), along with potassium chloride and sodium chloride. With the help of HCL, your stomach can transform a large solid meal into a semi-liquid soupy substance called chyme that can move through the rest of the digestion process without a problem.

If your body doesn't produce enough HCL and stomach acid, it won't be able to provide a healthy gut environment, so the body won't be able to break down and digest food properly. It may increase digestive issues and gut microbiome imbalance, increasing the risk of leaky gut syndrome.

Leaky gut syndrome is one of the major root cause factors behind immune dysfunction. Under normal circumstances, your gut lining is semi-permeable. It's able to allow micronutrients to pass through into your bloodstream, but stop bigger food particles, toxins, and pathogens.

However, if you are following a poor diet, exposed to too many environmental toxins, experiencing high stress, dealing with low stomach acid levels disrupting healthy digestion, and dealing with poor microbiome balance, it may cause the small semi-permeable holes to become bigger. When your gut lining has a bigger hole that allows toxins, microbes, and large food particles to pass into your bloodstream, we call this leaky gut.

When toxins, microbes, and food particles enter your bloodstream due to leaky gut, your immune system will

recognize them as harmful invaders. It will attack them to protect you.

Unless you do something about it, these particles will keep on flooding your bloodstream. Your immune system will keep on attacking them, leading to chronic inflammation.

Over time, your immune system will become overwhelmed and confused. Eventually, it won't be able to differentiate between unwanted substances and your body, leading to autoimmune issues. Also, leaky gut syndrome may increase food sensitivity.

Consuming foods that you are sensitive to will increase inflammation.

High Toxin Load

Our world is full of environmental toxins, including exhaust fumes, air pollution, cigarette smoke, chemicals in cleaning, personal hygiene, body, and beauty products, plastics, toxins in tap water, pesticides, and so on.

According to the Environmental Working Group, there are over 80,000 toxic chemicals used regularly in the United States.

The body has a built-in metabolic detoxification system to address this problem by converting fat-soluble toxins into inactive water-soluble metabolites. Unfortunately, with so many toxins and chemicals around, our bodies get overwhelmed. So, high exposure to environmental toxins and poor detoxification may increase chronic inflammation and oxidative stress.

Pesticides & Herbicides

Pesticides and herbicides such as glyphosate are some of the major environmental toxins that may affect you and increase your risk of autoimmunity if you are exposed to them in the food you eat.

Pesticides are chemicals used in farming to kill, prevent, reduce, destroy, or repel pests. Herbicides are used to manipulate or control undesirable vegetation.

**Look for Part 2 for more major factors in our September issue.*

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Recipe of the Month

BY MAXINE TROXELL

Can you believe August is here already? To beat the summer heat, I wanted to find a refreshing dessert that I could take to family gatherings, picnics, or family reunions. Fresh peaches are delicious this time of year, but instead of a regular peach pie, I wanted something more refreshing. I found this recipe on Food.com. I hope you enjoy it.

Fresh Peach Pie

Ingredients

Crust

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoons salt
- 1½ tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- ½ cup oil

Pie Filling

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 1 (3 oz.) package peach gelatin
- 3 cups peeled ripe peaches

Directions

For Crust: Mix all ingredients with a fork and press into a 9-inch pie plate. Prick all over with a fork. Bake at 400 degrees for 12 minutes.

For Pie: In a saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch, and water until smooth. Cook and stir over medium heat until bubbly and thickened. Remove from heat; stir in gelatin until dissolved. Cool. Arrange peaches in crust; pour filling over peaches.

Chill until set, for about 2 hours. Serve topped with whipped cream.

Enjoy!



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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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DOCTORLO.COM

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.

TO THE MARKET WE GO

You don’t have to go to France to get a taste of French cuisine. Save yourself the expense of foreign travel and simply go to the award-winning Thurmont Main Street Farmers’ Market on Saturday morning. Grab a crepe from the Macizo Taste tent for a real treat. Supplement your crepe with a cup of coffee from the Red Envelope trailer for a truly satisfying breakfast.

If crepes are not your thing, check out some of the other food vendors as you stroll around in the shade. Perhaps an apple turnover is more to your liking to start your day. Some of the vendors specialize in bakery goods. Trying to eat healthy? Visit produce vendors for fresh veggies and fruit. How about something a bit more carnivorous? Look for the locally raised beef, chicken, or eggs. Have you ever tried goat soap?

Don’t worry about bringing the kids along. The Market is in the Thurmont Community Park, adjacent to the picnic shelters and playground. Stroll a little bit. Play



a little bit. Eat a little bit. Perfect for a young family outing that costs as little or as much as you want.

The Market runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon every Saturday, from May 24 through September 27, 2026.

Perhaps you’re interested in investing a few hours once a week to market some of your own goods. Go to: Farmers Market | Thurmont, MD – Official Website.



(top) Fresh fruits and vegetables at the Thurmont Main Street Farmers Market, the largest farm market in Frederick County.

(right) Vernon McNece of Macizo Taste shows off a freshly made crepe.

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THURMONT SENIOR CENTER

BY TARA MILLER

806 E. Main Street • 301-271-7911

August brings creativity, music, and community to the Thurmont Senior Center.

Summer may be winding down, but the fun is still going strong at the Thurmont Senior Center! August is filled with opportunities to stay active, learn something new, get creative, and enjoy the company of friends—old and new. Whether you're already a regular at the center or have been thinking about stopping by for the first time, there's never been a better time to see what we're all about.

One of the biggest highlights this month will be our special performance by Celtic Pierogi on Wednesday, August 26, at 1:00 p.m. This talented Frederick-based group combines lively Celtic and folk music with storytelling, comedy, audience participation, and energetic clogging to create an entertaining afternoon that's sure to leave everyone smiling. It's a unique performance you won't want to miss!

Creativity continues to flourish through our popular Craftin' in the Catoctins gatherings, where participants enjoy making seasonal home décor and unique handmade projects.

Looking to stay active? Our fitness schedule offers something for everyone. Strength & Balance classes are held throughout the week to help improve mobility and confidence. Chair Yoga provides a relaxing way to stretch and strengthen. We're also thrilled to continue offering free Zumba Gold every Friday at 9:30 a.m. through the end of August.

Friendly competition is always on the calendar with our twice-monthly 50/50 Bingo, along with card games, Stitch & Chat, and plenty of opportunities to socialize. We also celebrate our August birthdays with our monthly birthday party on Friday, August 21, because every birthday deserves to be celebrated with friends.

Throughout the month, we'll also welcome special guests and educational programs. On Tuesday, August 4, we'll host a presentation on "The Life of Jesus." On Friday, August 28, our Solo Together gathering offers friendship, conversation, and support for those aging independently.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our monthly Roy Rogers Bake Sale Fundraiser on Thursday, August 13, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. As a nonprofit organization, fundraisers like these help us continue providing quality programs, activities, transportation services, and a welcoming place where older adults can stay active and connected. We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our community.

The Thurmont Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for adults 55 and older. Lunch is served daily at noon for just \$7.00, with reservations requested in advance. We also provide home-delivered lunches and transportation services for eligible seniors within our service area.

Whether you're interested in fitness, crafts, educational programs, music, games, or simply spending time with friends, you'll find a warm welcome waiting for you at the Thurmont Senior Center.

For more information about membership or upcoming events, stop by the Center at 806 E. Main Street in Thurmont, call 301-271-7911, or follow us on Facebook.



Picture from left are Theresa Tremble, Linda LaFianza, Billy Motter, and Carol Long.

EMMITSBURG 50+ CENTER

BY CAITLYN KIRBY

300A South Seton Avenue • 301-600-6350

Summer programs continue this August at the Emmitsburg 50+ Community Center! Starting out the month on August 5 is the Driver Safety Course offered by AARP. This is a classroom-learning experience designed to refresh your knowledge of the rules of the road and how to make driving adjustments due to age-related changes. The class is 9:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and costs \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-members. Also, check with your car insurance company to see if they offer a discount for completing the class. Pre-registration is required by calling or emailing the senior center by Monday, August 3.

We also have some arts and crafts upcoming! We will have a two-week mosaic course on August 12 and 19 to learn how to design, tile, and grout a mosaic tray (\$10.00).

On Tuesday, August 25, our art instructor, Dorothea Barrick, will be back to teach a collage class for \$15.00 (all materials provided). Then, on August 26, Emmitsburg Library will join us to instruct a free craft, beaded plant stakes to add some bling to your garden.

August also brings many opportunities for socializing! Every Monday, we have the weekly Lunch Bunch, a time to enjoy a nutritious meal with friends. Just contact the center to sign up by Wednesday for the following Monday. This month's special meal is the Luau Lunch Bunch on Thursday, August 13. Sign up at least one week in advance for this tropical treat. Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., we have coffee and conversation time, where you can drop in for a hot beverage and chit-chat. We also have space to play games; if you have a group who would like to play or teach a new game, let me know!

Fitness also continues all summer long. Mondays at 1:00 p.m. is Chair Yoga with instructor Christina Green. This class uses standing and seated movements that are adaptable. You are invited to try out your first class for free, then drop in for \$4.00 per class. See what our class is raving about! We continue to have open gym on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. UnRulies Pickleball for fun and exercise is on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and select Fridays at 1:00 p.m. Please call the center if you are interested in playing on Fridays, so we can see if there are enough players. Free exercise to video continues Monday through Thursday at 9:15 a.m.

We hope to see you at an upcoming program! For details on all these activities, you can visit our site at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Virtual50, and we're always happy to answer any questions by phone, email, or in person—just drop by!

Find us at 300 South Seton Avenue in Emmitsburg, Lower Level. Contact us at 301-600-6350 or by email at EmmitsburgSeniorCenter@FrederickCountyMD.Gov.

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The Cat Nobody Notices

At Cuddles Cat Rescue, kittens often receive the most attention, while adult cats, shy cats, bonded pairs, and special needs cats can spend much longer waiting for homes.

Some cats are overlooked simply because they are quieter or take longer to warm up to new people. Others may be passed by

because they are older or bonded to another cat. While they may not always be the first cats noticed, volunteers say many of these cats become incredibly loving and loyal companions once they feel safe and comfortable.

For shy cats especially, patience can make all the difference. Small moments like accepting pets for the first time, playing with a toy, or curling up beside a volunteer are huge milestones in their journey toward trust.

Every cat deserves the chance to feel loved and wanted, regardless of age or personality. Sometimes, the cats who are noticed last leave the biggest impact.

Interested in helping cats in need? Consider volunteering or adopting through Cuddles Cat Rescue.

Learn more at cuddlescatrescue.com or follow them on Instagram at @cuddlescatrescuethurmontmd and on Facebook at Cuddles Cat Rescue.

PET OF THE MONTH

Email us a photo (high resolution) of your pet for inclusion in a future issue! Include your pet's age, breed, personality traits, likes and dislikes, and any other fun details you'd like to add, to:

NEWS@THECATOCTINBANNER.COM



FREDERICK COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL & PET ADOPTION CENTER

MOLLY



#26-2169
AGE: 5Y
GENDER: FEMALE
BREED: DSH

BIG TIME



#26-2327
AGE: 6Y
GENDER: FEMALE
BREED: TERRIER X

FOR MORE INFO CALL, 301-600-1546
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PET OF the MONTH

Butterscotch



Butterscotch & Her Work Boots

Butterscotch is the cherished and adored pet of The Butler Family!

"Meet Butterscotch! We adopted her last year from the Waynesboro Humane Society. She is approximately two and a half years old and the sweetest and softest kitty we've ever had. She loves boxes and knocks on a device on our stairway door, so she can sit on the steps. Sad to say, with the rising cost of almost everything, we had to put her to work!"



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Classifieds

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

YARD SALES

August 22, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Tom's Creek UMC Community Yard Sale, 10918 Taneytown Pike, Emmitsburg. Rain or Shine.

HELP WANTED

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 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.

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.

FOR RENT

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

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Pet Of The Month



Tell us all about your pet: name, breed, age, personality traits, likes, and dislikes! Don't forget to give us the pet owner's name(s)!

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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

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

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

Karen's Cleaning Service, in business 25 years. 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

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

DONATE TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS!

The local food banks are seeing increased demand. Please consider donating non-perishable items to the local food banks.

Here are some suggested items:

Cereal
Canned Soup
Canned Ravioli
Canned Fruit
Granola Bars
Meal Kits
Vienna Sausages
Tuna

Canned Chicken
Vegetable Oil
Cake Mixes & Icing
Rice
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Crackers
Sugar

Baby Food
Soap/Shampoo
Toothpaste
Saran Wrap
Ziplock Bags
Feminine Hygiene Products
Disposable Razors



AUGUST Community Calendar

So Many Great Things Happening In Our Communities

- 1.....Thurmont Lions Club's Sandwich Sales, Bell Hill Farm, Rt. 15, Thurmont. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (or until sold out). Pit beef, pork, ham & turkey sandwiches.
- 1.....Catoctin Mountain Orchard Peach Festival, Rt. 15 at N. Franklinville Rd., Thurmont. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Live music (11 a.m.-4 p.m.), food trucks, local artisans, boutiques & small businesses, crafts & petting zoo. Fresh peaches, desserts & more. Fun for all ages. Admission required. Tickets: www.catoctinmountainorchard.com.
- 1.....Thurmont Farmers Market (every Saturday), Thurmont Community Park, 21 Frederick Rd., Thurmont. 9 a.m.-noon. Food trucks: Acai for Me, Kevins Bistro, Red Envelope, Snowball Waterfalls, The Savagery. www.thurmontmainstreet.com.
- 1.....Church Picnic Fundraiser, Church Picnic Grounds, Garfield United Methodist Church, Corner of Brandenburg Hollow & Garfield Roads, Smithsburg. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Food, drinks, baked goods, live music, yard sale, craft sale & much more. Cash or checks only.
- 1.....Grace "Rocky Hill" Lutheran Church Strawberry Festival, 3:00 p.m. 10825 Coopermine Rd, Woodsboro.
- 2.....The Annual Long Reunion, St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall in Creagerstown, 8619 Black's Mill Rd., Thurmont. 1 p.m.
- 3.....Served With Grace Free Dinner, Graceham Moravian Church, 8231-A Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. 5:30-7 p.m. www.gracehammoravian.org.
- 5.....Queen of Hearts Drawing (Wednesdays), American Legion Post 168, 8 Park Ln., Thurmont. 7:30 p.m.
- 5.....Cornhole Tourn. (Wednesdays), American Legion Post 168, 8 Park Ln., Thurmont. Doors open at 5 p.m.; games at 7 p.m.
- 6.....Bar Bingo (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m. Open to the public. 301-271-3371.
- 6.....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.
- 6.....Harriet Chapel Fundraiser at Roy Rogers, Thurmont. 5-8 p.m. Mention Harriet Chapel when ordering & a portion of the proceeds are donated to the church.
- 7.....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.
- 8.....Thurmont Farmers Market (every Saturday), Thurmont Community Park, 21 Frederick Rd., Thurmont. 9 a.m.-noon. Food trucks: Acai for Me, Kevins Bistro, Red Envelope, Snowball Waterfalls, The Savagery. www.thurmontmainstreet.com.
- 8.....Thurmont Community Ambulance Summer Gun Bash, Thurmont Events Complex, 13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont. Gates open at 10 a.m. \$20/person. Food, beer, wine coolers & soda included from noon-5 p.m. Drawings begin at 11:45 a.m.; winner every 5 minutes. Bring your lawn chairs & canopy. Tickets: 301-748-5359 or 301-271-3820 or any Friday Night at Events Complex 5-10 p.m.
- 8.....Tractor Ride, Mt. Tabor Park, 13616 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge. Line up at 10 a.m. Pull out at 11 a.m. All tractors welcome: clean or dirty, old or new. No wagons. One person per tractor.
- 8.....Annual Big Picnic, Mt. Tabor Park, 13616 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge. 2-8 p.m. Baby Show at 3 p.m. Music by "Tall in the Saddle" 4-8 p.m. Tractor Ride (line up at 10 a.m.). Yard Sale: Sat. 1-7 p.m. Soups, sandwiches, fries, iced tea & ice cream. Cash only.
- 9.....Lewistown Ruritan Chicken BBQ, 10 a.m. until sold out, 15 North & Fish Hatchery Rd., Thurmont.
- 10-15...Rocky Ridge Vol. Fire Co. Carnival, Mt. Tabor Park, Rocky Ridge. Carnival food, nightly bingo, games, live entertainment & more. Parade on Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. www.rockyridgevfc.com.
- 13...Bar Bingo (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m. Open to the public. 301-271-3371.
- 13...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.
- 15...Thurmont Farmers Market (every Saturday), Thurmont Community Park, 21 Frederick Rd., Thurmont. 9 a.m.-noon. Food trucks: Acai for Me, Kevins Bistro, Red Envelope, Snowball Waterfalls, The Savagery. www.thurmontmainstreet.com.
- 15...St. John's Reformed Church Festival, Willard Pavilion, Behind St. John's Reformed Church off Harbaugh Valley Rd., Sabillasville. 3 p.m. Delicious food. Music by CB Pickers.
- 15...Splash Back to School, Apples UCC, 7908 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free for all families. Water fun & splash zone, nature trail, crafts, and prayer and encouragement. Please RSVP: <https://form.jotform.com/261937592401056>.
- 16...St. Paul's Utica Fundraiser Cash Bingo, Lewistown Vol. Fire Dept., 11101 Hessong Bridge Rd., Frederick, MD. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Bingo begins at 2 p.m. \$25 in advance or \$30 at door. 20 games, 3 specials & 1 quickie. Bring a non-perishable food item for food bank & receive one free quickie game. Door prizes, raffles, tip jars & concessions. Tickets: Billie Jo 301-639-3199; Carol 301-606-6921; email cdevilbiss@splutica.org.
- 20...Bar Bingo (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m. Open to the public. 301-271-3371.
- 20...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.
- 20...Potluck Senior Luncheon (55+), 11:30 a.m., St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Sabillasville.
- 21...Thurmont Main Street Art & Wine Stroll, Thurmont. 5-8 p.m. Spend an evening strolling through Main Street in Thurmont; meet local artists; sample wine from local vineyards & distilleries, along with handcrafted beer; enjoy the many food trucks & live music. Come dressed in red, white & blue: Contest at 10Tavern at 8:30 p.m. (prizes for top 5 best dressed).
- 22...Community Yard Sale, Tom's Creek UMC, The Promised Land, 10918 Taneytown Rd. / Route 140, Emmitsburg. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Contact Kathy Imirie 301-471-2585 or kitherapy@yahoo.com. www.tomscreekumc.com.
- 22...Classic Car, Antique Tractor Show & Peach Festival, Baust UCC Church, 2940 Old Taneytown Rd. (Rt. 832) near Taneytown, MD. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Food stand, bake table, ice cream & peaches, raffle & children's area.

Community Calendar.....continued on page 63



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23...Cash Bingo, Thurmont Event Complex, 13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont. Doors open at 11 a.m. Bingo starts at 1 p.m. Friday Night Bingo on Sunday – No tickets needed. Kitchen open for regular menu items. Tip jars, Bingo Balls games. Benefits Thurmont Amb. Company.

24...Dine & Donate Night at Thurmont Kountry Kitchen, 17 Water St., Thurmont. 4-8 p.m. Dine in, carry-out, or curbside. A portion of proceeds will be donated to Sabillasville Environmental School, Inc. Raffle Basket tickets available.

22...Thurmont Farmers Market (every Saturday), Thurmont Community Park, 21 Frederick

Rd., Thurmont. 9 a.m.-noon. Food trucks: Acai for Me, Kevins Bistro, Red Envelope, Snowball Waterfalls, The Savagery. www.thurmontmainstreet.com.

27...Bar Bingo (Thursdays), Thurmont AMVETS Post 7, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. 7 p.m. Open to the public. 301-271-3371.

27...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...Free Concert: The Down East Boys, Tom's Creek UMC, The Promised Land, 10918 Taneytown Rd./Route 140, Emmitsburg. Free dinner at 5 p.m. Concert at 6 p.m.

www.tomscreekumc.com. 301-447-3171.

29...Thurmont Farmers Market (every Saturday), Thurmont Community Park, 21 Frederick Rd., Thurmont. 9 a.m.-noon. Food trucks: Acai for Me, Kevins Bistro, Red Envelope, Snowball Waterfalls, The Savagery. www.thurmontmainstreet.com.

29...Vendor Craft & Food Sale, Graceham Moravian Church, 8231-A Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Breakfast & lunch sandwiches. 301-271-2379.

29...St. Mark's Lutheran Church Block Party, 17015 Sabillasville Rd., Sabillasville. 3-6 p.m. Free community event. Games for

everyone, Remix Worship Band, Cracken Catering, face painting, delicious desserts & more. Bring your family & friends.

30...AMVETS Post 7 Quarter Auction, 26 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont. Doors open at noon. Auction starts at 1 p.m. Lots of items to bid on. Raffles & 50/50. Food available for purchase. Open to public. Children are welcome.

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YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES



THURMONT REGIONAL LIBRARY

76 E. Moser Road, Thurmont

- 1.....Gentle Flow Yoga: A Beginner Yoga Class. Noon.
- 2.....Sunday Funday: Uno Tournament. 2 p.m.
- 3.....A Morning with Go Team Therapy Dogs: An Adult Adaptive Program. 11 a.m.
- 3.....Anime Afternoon (Ages 10-17). 5:30 p.m.
- 6.....Under the Sea: Walk the Deck Party! 2 p.m.
- 6.....Teen and Tween Open Chess Play (Ages 9-18). 5:30 p.m.
- 7.....Offsite: Storytime and Tyke Hike at Catoctin Mountain Park, Visitor Center 14707 Park Central Rd., Thurmont. 10:30 a.m.
- 8.....Gentle Flow Yoga: A Beginner Yoga Class. Noon.
- 9.....Sunday Funday: Let's Go to the Movies! 2 p.m.
- 10....Teen Dungeons and Dragons: Session 3 (Ages 13-17). 5:30 p.m.
- 11....Hearts of the Herd. 6:30 p.m.
- 12....A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly. 7 p.m.
- 13....Community Explorers: Meet a Park Ranger. 2 p.m.
- 13....Project H.E.A.R.T.S. Emotionally Strong (ages 9-18). 5:30 p.m.
- 13....Meditation on the Deck with Thorpewood. 6 p.m.
- 15....Gentle Flow Yoga: A Beginner Yoga Class. Noon.
- 16....Suzanne Metheny Program Series: All Things Bats with Strawberry Hill Foundation. 2 p.m.
- 17....Offsite: Pop-up at the Thurmont Senior Center. 1 p.m.
- 17....Junk Journaling Workshop. 6 p.m.
- 19....Stop the Bleed Training. 5:30 p.m.
- 20....Offsite: Drop-In Digital Learn, Thurmont Senior Center. 10 a.m.
- 20....Community Explorers: Tiny Town. 2 p.m.
- 20....This Old House Workshop - Thurmont Historical Society Speaker Series. 6 p.m.
- 22....Gentle Flow Yoga: A Beginner Yoga Class. Noon.
- 23....R.E.A.D with WAGS. 2 p.m.
- 24....Teen Planner Making (Ages 13-17). 5:30 p.m.
- 27....Community Explorers: Tiny Town Trains. 2 p.m.
- 27....Tween Gaming Hour: Board Games and Tabletop Games (Ages 9-13). 5:30 p.m.
- 29....Gentle Flow Yoga: A Beginner Yoga Class. Noon.
- 30....Sunday Funday: Giant Games! 2 p.m.
- 31....Teen Adaptive Gaming Hour: Switch Edition (Ages 13-18). 5:30 p.m.

EMMITSBURG LIBRARY

300 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg

- 1.....How To Be A Pet Parent. 2 p.m.
- 7.....Farm Yard Friends! 7 p.m.
- 7.....On-site at the FCPL Film Festival: Zootopia 2 (PG). 7:30 p.m.
- 10....Emmitsburg Senior Center Visit. 11:30 a.m.
- 12....Tween/Teen Back to School Bash! (Ages 11-18). 3 p.m.
- 13....Family Fun: Read with WAGS for Hope. 6 p.m.
- 15....Cell Phone Photography 101. 2 p.m.
- 19....Sweet Summertime Karaoke: An Adult Adaptive Program. 11 a.m.
- 20....Family Night: STEM. 6 p.m.
- 10....Emmitsburg Senior Center Visit. 11:30 a.m.
- 26....Beaded Plant Stakes at Emmitsburg Senior Center. 11 a.m.
- 27....Family Fun: Art Night! 6 p.m.

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