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Herald-Mail file photo

High-school marching bands representing Washington County Public Schools gather on the field at School Stadium in Hagerstown for the grand finale of the Showcase of Marching Bands in this October 2011 photo.

150th Anniversary of Washington County Public Schools

In commemoration of its sesquicentennial, Washington County Public Schools looks back at its roots and forward to the future of education in this special publication. See the following list for contents.

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Washington County Board of Education



Donna Brightman

has served on the board since 2007 and is currently president of the board. A graduate of Oak Ridge High School in Tennessee, Mrs. Brightman studied business at Bauder College and studied business and political science at James Madison University. She is a horticultural consultant, landscape designer and project manager in Maryland, Northern Virginia and Pennsylvania.



Justin Hartings

has served on the board since 2008 and is currently the board's vice president. A graduate of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Mr. Hartings earned a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Notre Dame. He earned master's and doctoral degrees in applied physics from Yale University. Mr. Hartings is president and owner of Biaera Technologies, an aerobiology-related technology company.



Jacqueline Fischer

is in her ninth year on the board. A graduate of South Hagerstown High School, Mrs. Fischer earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Frostburg State College. She earned her master's equivalency in teaching primarily from Western Maryland College. Mrs. Fischer retired after teaching English and journalism for 32 years at Williamsport, Smithsburg and Clear Spring high schools before serving as a substitute teacher for two years.



Michael Guessford

is a Washington County business owner who joined the board in 2014. He is a graduate of Williamsport High School. Mr. Guessford is owner of Applause Catering in downtown Hagerstown and co-owner of the Academy Theater in downtown Hagerstown.

Each year, there is a student member who serves on the board to represent student concerns.



Karen J. Harshman

is a retired WCPS English teacher who has served on the board since 2010. She is a South Hagerstown High School graduate. Mrs. Harshman earned an associate degree from Hagerstown Junior College and a bachelor's degree in language arts comprehensive from Shepherd College. She also earned master's equivalency credits in education from Frostburg State College and Western Maryland College. She taught English at Hancock and North Hagerstown high schools, Clear Spring Middle School and Washington County Technical High School.



Wayne D. Ridenour

is a retired WCPS teacher who has served on the board since 2004. A graduate of South Hagerstown High School, Mr. Ridenour earned a bachelor's degree in history from Frostburg State College. Mr. Ridenour taught history and government for 30 years at Boonsboro High School, where he also coached basketball and baseball. He is a certified residential real estate appraiser for James L. Randall.



Melissa A. Williams

is a retired WCPS teacher who has served on the board since 2012. A graduate of North Hagerstown High School, Mrs. Williams earned an associate degree in education from Hagerstown Junior College and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Shepherd College. She has a master's in reading with certification as a K-12 reading specialist from Hood College. Mrs. Williams worked for the school system for 35 years as a teacher and administrator. Since retiring, Mrs. Williams has worked as an educational consultant in the area of school reform for the Maryland State Department of Education and as a Frostburg State University adjunct faculty member.



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By Colleen McGrath

Heather Baker, left, a fifth-grade teacher at Smithsburg Elementary School, helps student Sage Calimer solve a math problem on an interactive whiteboard during the last week of the 2014-15 school year.

Tech 'explosion' changes learning dynamics

The use of computers, widespread access to the Internet and other innovations have had a major impact.

By JANET HEIM

In the 150 years since its founding, the goal of administrators at Washington County Public Schools has been to keep up with state standards for instruction.

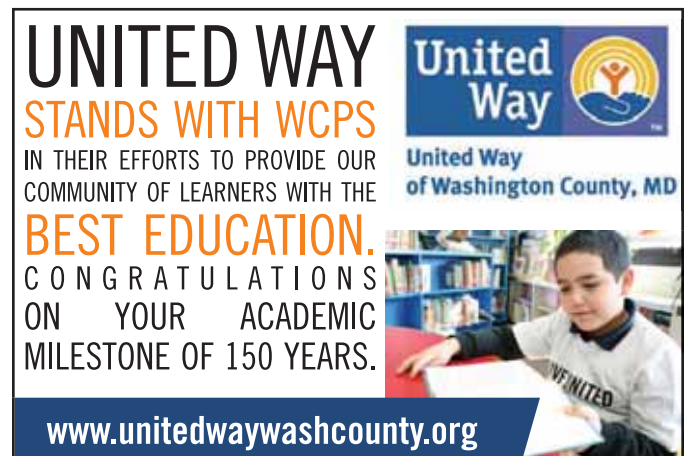
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By Ric Dugan

James Corns, chief operations officer for instructional technology for Washington County Public Schools, talks in July with teachers from Maugansville Elementary School about the basics of MacBook laptops.

Curriculum based on the Maryland College and Career-ready Standards is what drives instruction in the school system, said James Corns, the system's chief operations officer for instructional technology.

Where blackboards, slates and chalk were the primary tools for teachers and students long ago, the tools of the trade have advanced from inkwells to ink pens, from pencils to mechanical pencils, from slates to paper. Textbooks continue to be a classroom resource, but are one of a growing list of tools that "are on the tool belt of the teacher," Corns said.

Overhead projectors have been replaced by laptops and LCD projectors. Dry-erase whiteboards have given way to interactive whiteboards, and bulky desktop computers have evolved to sleek laptops and handheld electronic devices in the form of iPads.

The innovations that have affected education and how teachers teach have been most significant in the past 16 years, Corns said. The use of computers and widespread access to the Internet have changed how quickly information is transferred.

"One of the main moves forward with instructional technology is that we are moving toward a personalization of learning, which is allowing students to have access to re-

sources at their own time in a dynamic manner," Corns said.

It was 16 years ago that the school system received a TIMS (Technology in Maryland Schools) grant to wire schools for computers.

"The state wanted to get networking into buildings," Corns said. "It was money to buy actual wire to put into schools. It was the first true acknowledgment that the Internet was here to stay, and was a profound impact on education in schools.

"That put us on the fast track."

Technology explosion

But it has been in the last 10 years that the use of technology in schools has "exploded," Corns said.

That initial network wiring now is "almost last year's model," with the push now being wireless access and increasing capacity to allow for an array of devices to be used.

The TIMS grant allowed for one or two computers in a classroom, as well as a school computer lab as the primary access point.

"Now, we're looking at what if those computers were on wheels, what if we take laptop carts and iPads into classrooms," Corns said.

The networking infrastructure started initially with a T-1 line that allowed for a 1-megabyte (MB) connection, which, in time, was not enough capacity for instructional demand. Now, a fiber-optic line provides 10 gigabytes (GB) of capacity, a 10,000 percent increase.

To highlight the growing demand, Corns said in October 2014, the school system used 300 MB of Internet. By the end of the 2014-15 school year, the demand for access to the Internet and online resources more than doubled to 700 MB.

For years, cellphones, laptops and other personal portable devices were off-limits to students during the instructional day. But administrators realized they could expand access to the Internet by allowing students to use their personal devices for instructional use.

The WCPS Acceptable Use Policy has just been revised to allow for that, calling it Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). The wireless network has been built with a guest network to allow students to use their own devices.

“That’s a great benefit,” Corns said. “The board encourages use of it. That’s been an interesting shift.”

In classrooms of the past, students were taught the same thing at the same time, known as synchronous learning. That is shifting to asynchronous learning, where students do the work when it’s convenient for them.

“We’re moving toward a personalization of learning, where the delivery system is electronic,” Corns said.

The next progression is for every child in a classroom to have a device assigned to them “so learning could occur with every child simultaneously wherever they needed it.”

Learning environment shifts

At Funkstown School for Early Childhood Education, Emma K. Doub Elementary School for Integrated Arts and Technology and E. Russell Hicks Middle School, all students have their own school-issued iPads. Students at Hancock Middle-Senior High School use laptops as their primary devices.

“Those schools are utilizing those devices to enhance instruction to allow their teachers to provide resources in a way that have not been available before,” Corns said.

Emma K. Doub and E. Russell Hicks students and staff members use Google Drive, an online cloud resource

“We’re moving toward a personalization of learning, where the delivery system is electronic.”

— James Corns,
chief operations officer for
instructional technology
for the school system



Herald-Mail file photo

for storage and file backup, to store documents, and to transfer them back and forth with their teachers. Many students in other county schools also use Google.

Work previously done on school computers was stored on file servers locally, and students had to be on school premises to work on documents. Using Google Drive allows students to access their work at home.

Whereas technology was something separate from the classroom, the push is to make it an integral part of classroom instruction.

“The instructional practice is always going to drive the technological practice,” Corns said.

He said the learning environment is shifting in those schools, as students learn with devices that travel with them. Now, students sit on the floor in small groups working toward a goal, using devices that travel with them.

‘A dynamic time’

One thousand MacBook Air laptops were distributed to teachers at five county schools this summer, “refreshing” their computer inventories. Corns said electronic equipment has about a four- to five-year lifespan before the capacity to access it is slower.

See INNOVATIONS, page 113

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School system was considered national leader in new teaching method of '50s

By JANET HEIM

Washington County was considered a national leader of pioneering instructional television in K-12 school classrooms.

A formal proposal was accepted by the joint sponsors on May 24, 1956, under the direction of William M. Brish, the county's superintendent at the time, with two high schools and six elementary schools using the closed-circuit television network.

The system was expanded until by September 1963, every public school in the county was linked to the television circuit, according to "50 year Educational Television Reunion 1956-2006," a booklet that the reunion committee put together about the county's instructional-television history.

Brish became known as an expert in the field of using television for instructional purposes, based on the county's closed-circuit television program that was developed and instituted during his tenure.

It began as a five-year pilot project, financed by the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers Association and the Ford Foundation's Fund for the Advancement of Education, with help from the Chesapeake and Potomac (Bell) Telephone Co.

A skilled staff of hundreds, operating five television studios, created live and pre-recorded television lessons.

Early on, TV Guide published a school edition with a weekly schedule of classes televised by Washington County.

By the mid-1980s, the program had been downsized to two television teachers and one TV director. Some interactive TV instruction remained after that time.

Charles Holder of Rohrsersville taught Advanced Placement U.S. history and AP European history via television for 10 years.

During a telephone interview, Holder said his classes were interactive, meaning he could see his students on a split screen and they could talk to him. He would fax them their homework, and they would fax their completed assignments back to him.



Courtesy of Bill Moore

Students at North Potomac Junior High School participate in an interactive television learning class at the school in this 1968 photo.

Holder taught from a studio at Williamsport High School, and his students were at Boonsboro, Clear Spring, North Hagerstown and Hancock High Schools.

"It was quite an interesting time to do that," Holder said.

He said the instructional lessons were broadcast over the cable system, so local people could tune in to programming, as well as the students it was designed for.

One time, when he went through a drive-through, the employee at the window recognized his voice from TV.

Source: "50 Years of Instructional Television in Washington County" at www.i4weather.net/tribute.htm.

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Food Service



By Colleen McGrath

Smithsburg Elementary School students eat lunch in the school's cafeteria during the last week of the 2014-15 school year.

Schools offer healthier, tastier options

Washington County Public Schools plans to offer regional concept lines that will serve Italian, Latin-American and other foods during the 2015-16 school year.

By **JULIE E. GREENE**

Peggy Clark can remember her mother cooking lunch on a stovetop in the attic of the four-room Keedysville School and carrying the food downstairs

to serve it to students so they could eat at their desks.

Later, a dumbwaiter would be installed so it was easier to get the food downstairs, she said.

"I can remember her frying chicken on a skillet" on a large industrial stove, said Clark, who used to be a food-service worker for Washington County Public Schools.

That was the 1950s, and the school system doesn't use stoves anymore, said Clark's daughter, Becky Anderson, manager of the regional kitchen based at Smithsburg High School. Instead, large kettles and ovens are used to cook food for large numbers of students at several schools.

But the school system is getting back to doing some home cooking, though it's healthier fare than fried chicken.

Students also are eating school meals that involve more locally grown produce, said Jeff Proulx, the school system's food and nutrition services supervisor.

The Jane Lawton Farm to School Act passed in 2008 in Maryland, with the objective to find ways to increase local foods — produced in Maryland or bordering states — in public- and private-school meals, according to a University of Maryland Extension fact sheet. The law was named for the late Lawton, a proponent of farm-to-school and farm-to-table, Proulx said.

State and federal laws have played a major role in the provision of school meals and their substance.

A July 26, 1946, Associated Press report in The Morning Herald noted that Maryland Gov. (Herbert) O'Connor authorized the state's superintendent of schools to arrange for participation in the National School Lunch Program, "provided the Federal Government does not interfere with the State school system."

Much of the federal grant, \$750,000 for the entire state at the time, would be used to buy food "to be distributed without cost to needy students. Furthermore, under the system, the children receiving the food without cost will not be known, as a ticket system makes it possible for this fact to be undisclosed," the article said.

Washington County Public Schools eliminated the ticket program more than 15 years ago, going to a digital program, Proulx said.



By Colleen McGrath

A freshly prepared salad made by the cafeteria staff at Smithsburg Elementary School is shown before it is distributed for the Meals on Wheels program.

In August 2013, the school system began piloting a federal program that provides free meals to all students, regardless of their family income, at five schools. The program reduces paperwork and, hopefully, the stigma some students feel about receiving subsidized meals, Proulx has said.

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The program was expanded in August 2014 to include seven more schools, Proulx said.

Healthier, tastier options

The school system had been working to make school meals healthier before the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. That act called for providing larger servings of fruits and vegetables; limiting milk offerings to low-fat or nonfat; moving toward all grains being whole grains by a year ago — something this school system accomplished in August 2013; and banning trans fats except for the natural trans fats that occur in meat, officials said.

While there already were calorie minimums set for school meals, the act sets calorie maximums as well, Proulx said.

The federal act also set benchmarks for sodium reduction, with the last one for the 2022-23 school year.

The school system already is ahead of schedule with sodium reduction, having met the benchmark for the 2016-17 school year, Proulx said.

The school system's culinary team has gone through various trainings related to working with prepping and cooking fresh produce on a large scale, as well as taste-testing healthier options in an effort to create healthier dishes students want to eat.

This summer, the school system was prepping and processing fresh produce, using tomatoes to make marinara sauce. The sauce was cryovaced and stored for use during the school year.

Concept lines

The marinara will be one of the sauces available in an Italian concept line that high-school students will see in their cafeterias shortly after the start of this school year, said Jody Francisco, the school system's manager of culinary development.

The initial concept lines, which will rotate in and out, are brunch, Latin-American cuisine, Italian cuisine and a baked potato bar, Francisco said.

"It's based on the concept of Chipotle, where the kids



By Colleen McGrath

Dwayne DuFresne, a kindergartner at Smithsburg Elementary School, carries his lunch tray away from the school's cafeteria line during the last week of the 2014-15 school year.

can come up to the line and choose ... ingredients to make up their dish instead of us giving them what it's supposed to be," Francisco said.

For the Latin-American concept, students can select a whole-grain tortilla, whole-grain nacho chips or cilantro-lime brown rice as their whole grain; beef taco meat, chicken carnitas or southwestern pinto beans as a protein, and then choose among toppings such as Mexican-style corn, fresh salsa, roasted jalapeños, shredded romaine or Boston lettuce, and — for an extra charge — guacamole, Francisco said.

The marinara could be used on spaghetti and meatballs or chicken Parmesan subs during Italian cuisine week. Other sauces on the Italian concept line include a pesto sauce — minus the nuts — and a much healthier, tasty Alfredo sauce, Francisco said.

See FOOD, page 110

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File photo

The Boonsboro High School marching band performs during the Showcase of Marching Bands at South Hagerstown High School in this October 2012 file photo.

Schools provide noteworthy education

Washington County Public Schools tries to fit music classes into crowded school schedules while taking advantage of technological advances.

By C.J. LOVELACE

In many ways, music is a representation of culture. It offers a glimpse into the lives of others. It conveys emotion. It recalls history.

Dating back 150 years, music in some form has been found in Washington County Public Schools.

The importance of music in the schools was evident even in 1865, when a report published in the Hagerstown Herald and Torch Light detailed local public-school examinations that were “interspersed with dialogues and songs.”

“We are greatly in favor of singing in schools and we hope that in the future it will be more generally practiced,” the report said.

About six decades later, a former supervisor of music in the then-Hagerstown public-school system talked about the benefits of offering music programs, as well as arts in general, to help improve an “undeveloped taste” in popular music of the time.

“We might assume that this is a musical nation,” Electa Zeigler is quoted as saying in *The Daily Mail* newspaper, dated Dec. 8, 1927. “But these compositions are not music of a high-type nor is the satisfaction that they give deep and genuine. Music in the public school offers a correction to this perverted taste.”

Although times have changed considerably in recent decades, the accomplishments of young musicians in Washington County are vast over the years — from numerous band and choral honors at state and national levels to members of county marching bands earning coveted spots in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City.

“There was a time when Western Maryland was known across the East Coast for marching bands,” said Rob Hovermale, principal at Barbara Ingram School for the Arts in downtown Hagerstown. “I still think that Western Maryland is known throughout the state — maybe not as having those really, really big bands that they used to — but they still do really, really well against the other bands across the state.”

Music programs in the county remain “very healthy, very strong,” but the number of students involved has declined overall compared to past decades, according to Hovermale, who also spent a number of years working as the district’s supervisor of visual and performing arts.

“The quality is definitely still there,” he said. “You still have kids that are just phenomenal.”



Courtesy of the Washington County Historical Society

The South Hagerstown High School band marches in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York in November 1960.

Today’s music challenges

One of the major reasons why participation in music programs has dropped is simply a matter of time.

State and federal initiatives are requiring stricter academic coursework for graduation, often limiting a student’s ability to schedule elective music classes, such as band and chorus, especially during the high-school years.

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“It is a juggling act, and there are so many more things coming in,” Hovermale said. “That’s probably one of the biggest challenges we’re hitting now across the county. Kids can’t schedule it in for all four years (of high school).”

Needless to say, gone are the days of 200-piece high-school marching bands and class schedules with more fine arts than academic or college-prep courses.

The six-period day also makes it difficult for music students, especially if they need to load their academic schedules with Advanced Placement classes, “which are like double periods,” to get into their desired colleges, said Ruth Ridenour, a musical theater teacher at Barbara Ingram.

“I’m not saying that’s bad, but it does limit the amount of electives,” she said.

Hovermale said the overall quality of music programs has increased over the years, evidenced by more music teachers at all levels in the school system, but education mandates passed down to the local level continue to pose challenges for music and the arts.

“The six-period day, for example, works great for Common Core, but it limits the options for kids,” he said.

Another contributing factor to a decline in participation stems from today’s youths simply having more options outside of school, something that varied distinctly during Ridenour’s years at South Hagerstown High School in the 1970s, she said.

“We didn’t have a lot of options of other things that we were doing,” Ridenour said. “Some of us worked, but mostly we worked over the summer. Then, we didn’t work

during the year, so we were playing sports or we were in the fine arts. We didn’t have those other options. I didn’t have a car, so you didn’t have to worry about paying the insurance or those kinds of thing, so that’s a huge difference.”

Technology, academic benefits

Music instruction has not changed much over the decades, but advances in technology have created some efficiencies for teachers and students in the classroom.

The use of computer programs and items such as iPads have created a new avenue for teachers to give assignments, teach how to tune instruments and even help students compose music, but technology never will be able to replace old-fashioned practice playing an instrument or singing, school officials said.

“It doesn’t take the place, but it can help in the process,” Hovermale said.

Despite a lapse in elementary-school music programs from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s due to financial cuts, music continues to be a means to teach students about different cultures, along with discipline, self-control and how to explore thoughts and emotions, according to school officials.

It also can have academic benefits.

Hovermale and Marianne Gooding, a longtime orchestra teacher at E. Russell Hicks Middle School, touted music courses as a major influence on a student’s ability to perform academically.



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Herald-Mail file photo

Ruth Ridenour, right, former music department chairwoman and drama coach at Williamsport High School, leads members of the “Les Misérables” cast in rehearsal in this 2003 file photo. She now is a musical theater teacher at Barbara Ingram School for the Arts in downtown Hagerstown.

There are “major studies how music has improved academics,” Gooding said.

Over the past 10 or 15 years, a number of studies have shown higher grades and SAT scores among students who participate in music classes as well as other fine arts, Hovermale said.

“The students, they really become committed, and they build this culture around this professional learning,” he said, specifically about his 300 students at Barbara Ingram. “And everything starts to be part of that; all their classes.”

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Courtesy of the Washington County Historical Society

The former North Street School in Hagerstown is shown in this picture circa 1950. Black students from throughout Washington County went to the school through the mid-1950s, when the school system was desegregated.

By most accounts, integration came about quietly in Washington County

Before the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education ruling, black students in Washington County attended North Street School.

By **DON AINES**

The board of education's decision to desegregate Washington County Public Schools appeared in a July 1955 edition of *The Morning Herald* under the headline, "Plans Announced Here For School Integration."

The story ran on page four. Page one featured stories about school-construction projects and a mix of national, international and local news, including "Expansion To Be Needed at Post Office Because of Increase In Business."

About 14 months earlier, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ruling, which declared state laws establishing separate public

schools for black and white students to be unconstitutional.

At the time, black students in Washington County, regardless of what town they lived in, attended the former North Street School in Hagerstown. For many black students prior to desegregation, North Street was the only school they ever attended, having all grades from elementary through high school.

Cora Thompson of Chambersburg, Pa., graduated from North Street in 1954, the year before integration got under way in earnest.

"We didn't have a lot of what the other schools had, but to me, it was a nice school," Thompson recalled.

Although North Street might not have been as modern or well-equipped as the county's other schools, she noted that some of its graduates would go on to become doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

Out of 15,746 students in public schools, 307 were black, according to a report contained in the minutes of a 1954 county board of education meeting. Out of 90 school buses in the county, just two were used to transport black students, the report said.

"We had students come in from Hancock every day," Thompson said, noting the long rides some students had to endure.

"It was a long ride ... at least an hour," said Leon Brumback, who rode the bus from Hancock on a route that also picked up black students from Big Pool, Clear Spring and Williamsport on the way to Hagerstown.

A period of transition

The Maryland State Board of Education issued a statement in 1954 regarding the Brown decision that was included in the Washington County Board of Education meeting minutes for Sept. 14, 1954.

"The Supreme Court of the land has spoken," the statement read. "It is the duty and responsibility of the State Board of Education to do all within its power to work out the problem ... in such a manner that no individuals are impaired by arbitrary or capricious methods."

Included in the same meeting was a report to the Maryland Department of Education "concerning the reaction of the Board members to segregation questions."

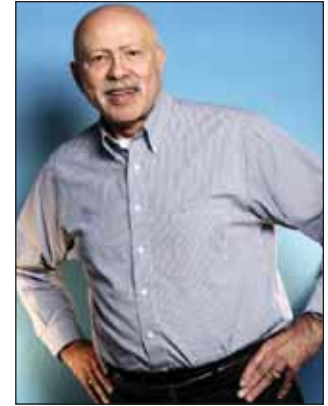
From the report, it appears the board members were "firmly in favor of the decision and feel schools should be gradually combined, taking into consideration places which need more preparation." In the report, the board indicated a consensus that the most effective method of integrating schools was to keep existing school boundaries and "adopt a permissive policy of letting children who want to go to the closest school regardless of race."

On June 23, 1955, the board appointed a committee of 13 people — composed of a chairman, Philip A. Rauth, along with six white and six black citizens — to make recommendations to the board on how to desegregate the school system, according to meeting minutes. The committee met July 7 and made its recommendations to the board of education the following week.

The board issued a statement that facilities could accommodate more students, although a number of schools were overcrowded and "it will not be possible to make full adjustments until after the completion of several buildings that are now under construction." The statement said the 1955-56 school year would be a period of transition.

"Not being able to graduate from North Street with the classmates I had for 11 years was kind of a bummer."

— Leon Brumback, who spent his senior year at Hancock High School



Herald-Mail file photo

"During this period the schools of the county will be open to both races to the extent that facilities are available," the statement read. "The Board of Education will continue to operate the North Street School (formerly all colored) in Hagerstown for all pupils who wish to attend. Negro pupils living outside of Hagerstown will be offered the opportunity to attend the local schools in their neighborhood. Those pupils from the county who wish to continue at North Street School will be permitted to do so."

In September 1955, Superintendent William C. Brish reported to the board that "integration in Washington County got off to a calm start" in the nine schools that enrolled both black and white students, according to meeting minutes.

On April 10, 1956, the board unanimously approved a resolution eliminating the high-school grades at North Street School before the start of the 1956-57 school year, meeting minutes said. The minutes noted that a "survey of schools desired by negro pupils showed that none of the pupils wished to continue at North Street and that all wished to enter the former all-white high schools."

See DESEGREGATION, page 112

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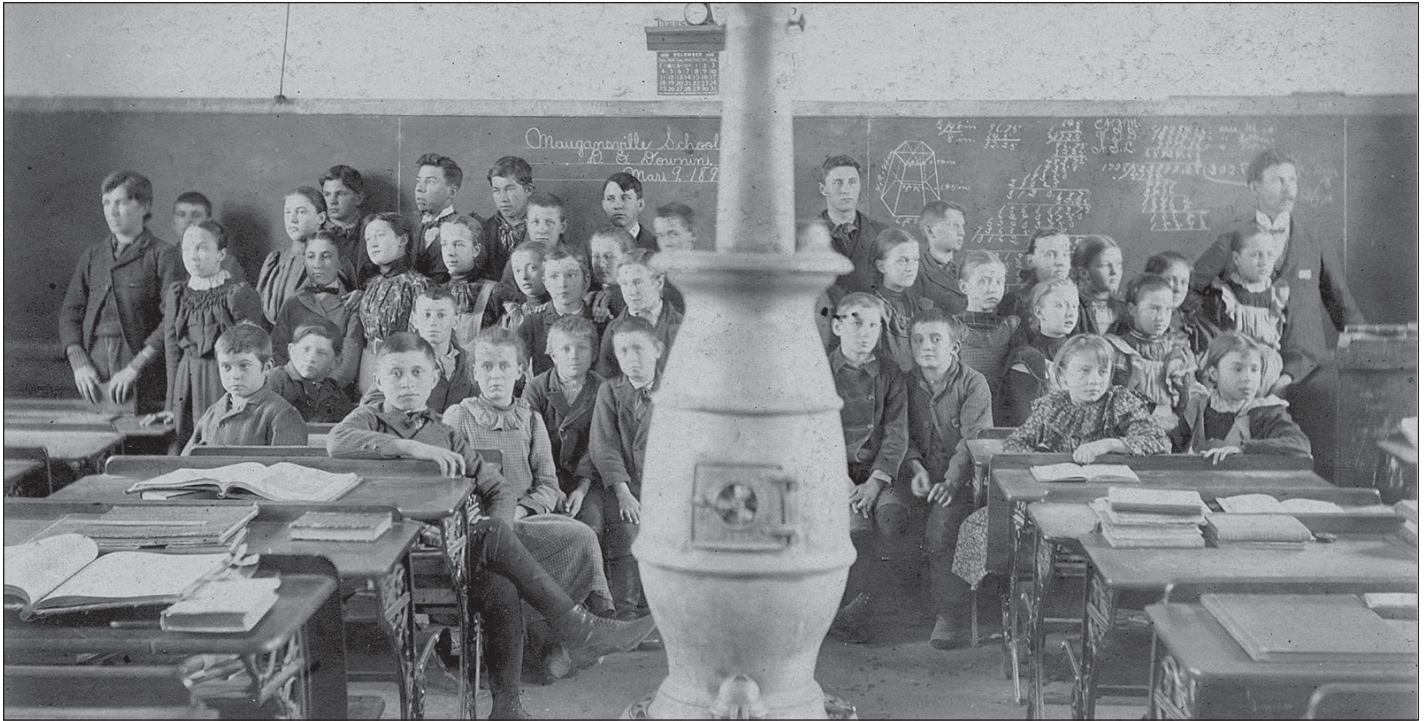
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One-Room Schools



Courtesy of the Washington County Historical Society

Students are shown gathered behind a pot-bellied stove at a one-room schoolhouse in Maugansville in 1899.

Schools hearken back to olden times

Washington County's one-room schoolhouses didn't have the technology that today's schools have, but they have their place in history.

By DAVE McMILLION

It still smells like a classroom, that familiar scent of old paper and pencils, and hearkens back to a time when water for the classroom came from a neighbor's well and heat came in the form of a pot-bellied stove.

Displays of old maps, examples of correct penmanship hanging over the blackboard and the cozy feel of the place with old wooden desks and hardwood floors show not only what everyday school life was like in the former Beaver Creek School, but in many one and two-room schools that once stood across Washington County in the 1800s and 1900s.

One-room schoolhouses existed before the current public-school system started in 1865, and they stem from an era when communities decided to build their own little schools, said Linda Irvin-Craig, executive director of the Washington County Historical Society. The communities paid the teachers, and someone in the community usually offered teachers housing and meals, Irvin-Craig said.

Many of the schools became part of the current school system, and in the case of Beaver Creek School on Beaver Creek Church Road, east of Hagerstown, students attended school there until 1961.

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The Washington County Historical Society acquired the brick building after it closed and turned it into the Beaver Creek School Museum.

Life at Big Pool School

Irvin-Craig knows what it was like to be a student in one of the county's small schools. She studied at Big Pool School, a two-room schoolhouse on what used to be Big Pool Road in Big Pool.

Irvin-Craig remembers one of the tricks to learning in the small environments.

Because three grades were taught at one time in school rooms, a motivated student could listen in on the subjects he or she would be studying in coming years and get a leg up on her education, said Irvin-Craig, who took advantage of the opportunity.

"By the time I was in sixth grade, I had a lot of free reading time," Irvin-Craig said.

When it was time for recess, teachers joined in on the exercise, Irvin-Craig said.

Irvin-Craig recalled one game in recess that could be a little rough.

Her teacher would tie a sandbag to the end of a rope and swing it around in a circle so students could jump over it. The teacher gradually raised the rope, "until he clobbered you in the leg," Irvin-Craig said. "Actually, it was good physical exercise."

Irvin-Craig said she remembered it always was cold at



Herald-Mail file photo

It always was cold at Big Pool School, "except in the corner where the stove stood."

— Linda-Irvin Craig, who attended the two-room schoolhouse on what used to be Big Pool Road

Big Pool School, "except in the corner where the stove stood."

The pot-bellied stove at Beaver Creek School sits in the middle of the room, and its pipe runs to the front before disappearing into the wall above the teachers' area.

At the back of the room sits a crock with "Water Cooler" stamped across its front. A steel cup is attached.

That is how water was stored in many of the small schools, said Irvin-Craig, who added that water often was obtained from a nearby neighbor's well.

"They had little chlorine tablets they put in it," Irvin-Craig said.

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'Everybody knowing everybody'

Washington County Board of Commissioners member John F. Barr was among the students who attended Beaver Creek School.

Barr, who was enrolled in second and third grade at the school just before it closed, said he remembered teachers struggling to lead three grades at a time. Barr said he also recalled "everybody knowing everybody" in the small environment.

Barr said students brought their own lunches, except on Wednesday, when the teachers pulled out a little hot plate and a kettle and boiled hot dogs for the students.

"That was the highlight every Wednesday," Barr said.

Beaver Creek School, where multiple grades were taught, dates to 1829, when the first structure was built from stone. A second school was built of brick in 1879. That structure burned in 1903, and the current one was opened in 1904, Irvin-Craig said.

The school is shown by appointment, and is popular among groups when school starts up in the fall, Irvin-Craig said. Older people also like seeing the school, especially those who have "a little bit of memory" of that type of school life, Irvin-Craig said.

Thanks to the Clear Spring District Historical Association, there still is a record of one-room school experiences.

The society has historical books that feature stories from teachers who taught in the small schools.

Teachers' experiences

Lillie McDonald Fiery wrote about her experiences of going to work in 1919 in the one-room school known as Indian Spring School on U.S. 40.

Fiery talked about her first day at the school, contained in the book titled "Days Gone By," published in 1977 by the Clear Spring Alumni Association.

She recalled "the school room was in good order. Flowers on the teacher's desk (purple asters and golden rods), the windows had been raised and the fresh air from the woods came floating in."

"I saw a long rope hanging from the belfry. It was nine o'clock — so I rang the bell and school was in session," Fiery wrote.

Mabel McDonald Weller recalled being appointed to teach at Lanes Run School, a one-room school on Lanes Run Road in the Indian Springs area.

Weller recalled in the book "Seems Like Yesterday" about commuting to the school by horse and buggy and enjoying a beautiful ride over Fairview Mountain.

"I usually stabled my horse one-fourth mile from school and walked the distance to the school through all kinds of weather, having to make the fire before students arrived," Weller wrote.

A number of the small schoolhouses still stand around the county, although Irvin-Craig said she was not sure how many.

"A lot of the schools have been repurposed, some as houses, some as community buildings," Irvin-Craig said. ■



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Longest-Serving Teachers



By Joe Crocetta

Sisters Carol Thompson, left, a physical-education teacher at Smithsburg Middle School, and Diana Christian, a physical-education teacher at North Hagerstown High School, are the longest-serving teachers in Washington County Public Schools. Thompson started her job in 1968, and Christian began her career in 1969.

Sisters share bond through education

Carol Thompson and Diana Christian began their jobs as physical-education teachers in the 1960s and have seen many changes through the years.

By **CARLEE LAMMERS**

A lot has changed in Washington County Public Schools since sisters Diana Christian and Carol Thompson got their start more than 45 years ago, but one thing

has remained the same — their love for students.

Thompson, 72, has worked as a physical-education teacher at Smithsburg Middle School since the fall of 1968.

Christian, 68, got her start as a physical-education teacher at North Hagerstown High School in the fall of 1969.

The two haven't left their first jobs in the school system and currently are the county's longest-serving teachers.

"I love kids. That's why I've stayed this long," Christian said. "It's the school. I love the kids, I love the kids I was working with. I coached for my first 10 years, and I made a lot of great friends that I'm still in contact with that I taught and coached. I love it. I love kids — and they keep you young."

Thompson and Christian are natives of Fairmont, W.Va. They attended Fairmont State College, which now is Fairmont State University.

Thompson, who has experience teaching in Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia, said she was encouraged to apply for a job in Washington County by one of her sorority sisters who already had moved to the area and taught in Boonsboro. She said she applied for the job in Smithsburg because of her love of kids and staying active.

A year later, Christian followed her sister's footsteps to Washington County and accepted a job at North High.

"We did this for the love of what we do," Thompson said.

The two self-proclaimed "old-school" teachers said they still can remember their first days on the job. They remember old school buildings, first-day jitters and a time when "physical education was a place kids went to let off a little steam."

They said they have seen changes in grading systems, computer technology and even the physical-education curriculum throughout their years as teachers.

"Now, they want physical education to be geared toward English, the academic classes," Christian said. "We're supposed to include that in our teaching of physical education now."

By the end of the 2015-16 school year, Thompson and Christian said, they will retire from teaching, a decision that isn't easy because of their love for students.

"I love the kids I was working with. I coached for my first 10 years, and I made a lot of great friends that I'm still in contact with that I taught and coached. I love it. I love kids — and they keep you young."

— Diana Christian,
physical-education teacher
at North Hagerstown High School


"When I retire, I'll miss it," said Christian, who now works with many of her former students.

Throughout their careers, the sisters said they have come to build close relationships with their students. They have enjoyed encouraging them to lead active lives and seeing them succeed.

"I think I do have a special bond with kids that a lot of times you don't find nowadays," Thompson said.

Thompson and Christian live together in Hagerstown. Once they retire, they said they plan to keep busy by continuing to breed dogs.


"It's been my whole life," Thompson said. "It'll be strange waking up in the morning and not going to school." ■



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Dr. Obidi is a Board-Certified Pediatrician and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He completed his pediatric residency at SUNY Downstate Hospital, Brooklyn, New York in 2004 and also has a Masters degree in Public Health (MPH) from Columbia University, New York.

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By Ric Dugan

David Robinson Sr. dusts a light cover at Northern Middle School. Robinson has been a custodian with Washington County Public Schools for 41 years and will retire in October.

Working tirelessly behind the scenes

David Robinson Sr. has worked as a custodian for the school system for 41 years, while Dale Martin has been a computer technician for 46 years.

By **CARLEE LAMMERS**

For more than 40 years, Dale Martin and David Robinson Sr. have worked behind the scenes to make sure things run smoothly in Washington County Public Schools.

Martin, a computer technician for nearly 46 years, and Robinson, a custodian for nearly 41, said their love for what they do has kept them with the school system all these years.

Robinson, 60, started working as a custodian in the county while he was a senior in high school. During the day, he would attend high school classes in Martinsburg, W.Va. After school, he would commute to Washington County Technical High School to work from 3 to 11 p.m.

“It was a little rough there for a while with school and work,” he said. “I was in my senior year. I was determined to finish.”

Robinson, who now works an after-school shift at Northern Middle School in Hagerstown, said he plans to retire in October.



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By Kevin G. Gilbert

Dale Martin has worked for Washington County Public Schools for 45 years. He is a computer and smart-device technician at elementary and middle schools in Hagerstown's West End.

"It happened so fast. I didn't realize it had been so long," he said. "Time went."

Martin, 62, a Boonsboro High School graduate, accepted a job after high school servicing the county's closed-circuit instructional television service.

Today, he works as a computer and smart-device technician at elementary and middle schools in the city's West End.

Martin said he always has been interested in technology, so a job servicing televisions seemed like the perfect fit right out of high school — such a good fit that he has continued to stay, even as technology has changed.

"It's evolved over the years," he said. "It's more complex, not more difficult. There's more changes, but we get the training and the knowledge we need to support the teaching staff."

Throughout the years, Robinson said, technology also has changed his work as a custodian.

Robinson, who spent 31 years at North Hagerstown High School, said technology has changed the way inventory is

ordered. Other changes through the years include the size of schools and some of the cleaning supplies used on the job.

Although it's hard work, Robinson said his job as a custodian is rewarding. Over the years, he's made strong connections with his fellow custodians and school staff members.

Martin said he has not made any definite plans to retire and hopes to continue doing the work he loves so much.

Because he works with a small group of schools, Martin said, he has come to make connections with teachers, staff members and students. While a lot has changed throughout the years, one thing has remained the same — the power of education — he said.

"There's nothing more important than educating a child. It's something that they're always going to have with them forever. It's going to provide for them, protect them. (I like) working with the people who do the teaching," he said, "It's been good for me. I know I'm an asset to the system. It's really been a great experience." ■



Teacher of the Year

Herald-Mail file photo

Sally Irwin, left, a teacher at Washington County Technical High School, works with students Jenna Massie and Seth Brown. Irwin was named Washington County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2015-16.

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Herald-Mail file photo

Students at Paramount Elementary School near Hagerstown arrive for the first day of school for Washington County Public Schools in August 2014.

Busing students changes with the times

School-bus drivers are the unsung heroes who make sure students get to class on time in Washington County through good weather and bad.

By **CALEB CALHOUN**

Carole Yeakle of Clear Spring recalled sitting in classrooms in elementary school on snow days knowing she would be getting out of school early.

Yeakle, 71, who grew up in the Dam No. 5 area,

said, if snow was coming down, the driver of her bus eventually would make his own decision to pull her, and anybody else who rode the bus, out of school early.

Sure enough, when she was called out of class, Roger Yeakle, her future father-in-law, would be at the school waiting to take her home.

He would say, “I don’t think I want to wait any longer to try to get these children home safely,’ and so we were usually the first ones that got to get out of class early,” she said.

Having no way to predict the weather was one of the many ways that transportation for Washington County Public Schools was different in the first half of the 20th century.

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Herald-Mail file photo

Washington County Public Schools buses now are outfitted with cameras to record vehicles that pass the bus while it is loading or unloading children while the bus' stop sign is fully engaged. This photo was shot in July 2013.

Yeakle drove full time for 42 years for Washington County Public Schools until 2010 while her husband, Terry Yeakle, was a school-bus contractor. She said all bus drivers were required to carry chains on their buses, and students might have had to help push the bus if things got too rough in bad weather in days past.

According to other school-system bus contractors, there used to be no mapped bus routes, and that required a lot of flexibility.

Yeakle's route was in the Resh Road area. Initially, before going to Conococheague Elementary School, which was her ultimate destination, she would have to meet with another bus driver and unload high school students she picked up while taking students going to Conococheague from that same bus.

When she first began driving the route, Yeakle said, she was told to head down to Huyetts, up Greencastle Pike and onto Resh Road until she found the first student, who then would tell her where to go after that.

"That was all the information I had, and I got to the top of that hill, and that student didn't go to school that day," she

said with a laugh. "Fortunately, in the semi-darkness, I thought I saw, maybe a quarter of a mile up the road, someone standing, so I went up, and sure enough, that was the second stop."

There were no route sheets to pick up students in rural areas.

The same held true for Paul Moats Jr., who works in Hancock and has driven buses for 28 years.

"It used to be it was basically all word of mouth," he said. "You took over a route and it was like, you go to a first stoplight, it was John Doe's, and from there, you just go down this road and this road, and you just get a routine."

Moats, 58, is a second-generation contractor after his mother did it for 38 years into the mid-2000s.

Bus-route roots

A third-generation member of Washington County bus contractors, Yeakle said school-bus contracting can be traced back to 1929, a year after Clear Spring High School was built. She said it always has been a useful way for the school system to have buses in small towns outside Hagerstown.

“The school board needed lots of buses for in-city work,” she said. “But it was too expensive for them to be taking buses and running them out into the farmland areas, so if we had someone who owned a bus and kept it out there in that area right there where the children were going to be picked up, it was so much more economical for the school board.”

The contractors own and maintain buses and have certified drivers.

There currently are about 70 contracted buses with 35 to 40 contractors, according to officials with the Washington County School Bus Contractors Association.

Association President Glenda Rohrer, who has five buses in the Smithsburg area, said contractors can build a sense of community.

“Sometimes, you have the same kids from kindergarten through the whole way until they graduate because we’re in that same area the whole time,” she said.

Before Clear Spring High School was built, Yeakle said, her uncle would take a buggy to go to high school in Hagerstown.

“It was the very beginnings of getting into higher education,” she said.

Yeakle’s grandfather, George Millard Kretzer, was a farmer and one of three people contacted to get a vehicle to get students to Clear Spring High School after it was built. They had Spickler Carriage Company off Spickler Road build them a bus, which initially was green, but eventually became yellow.

“We now have cameras in buses. We have Zonar systems in buses that they can track them and know exactly where they are, how fast they’re going and all those sorts of things.”

— Lisa Hoffman,
school-bus contractor
for the school system for 28 years

Supplemental income

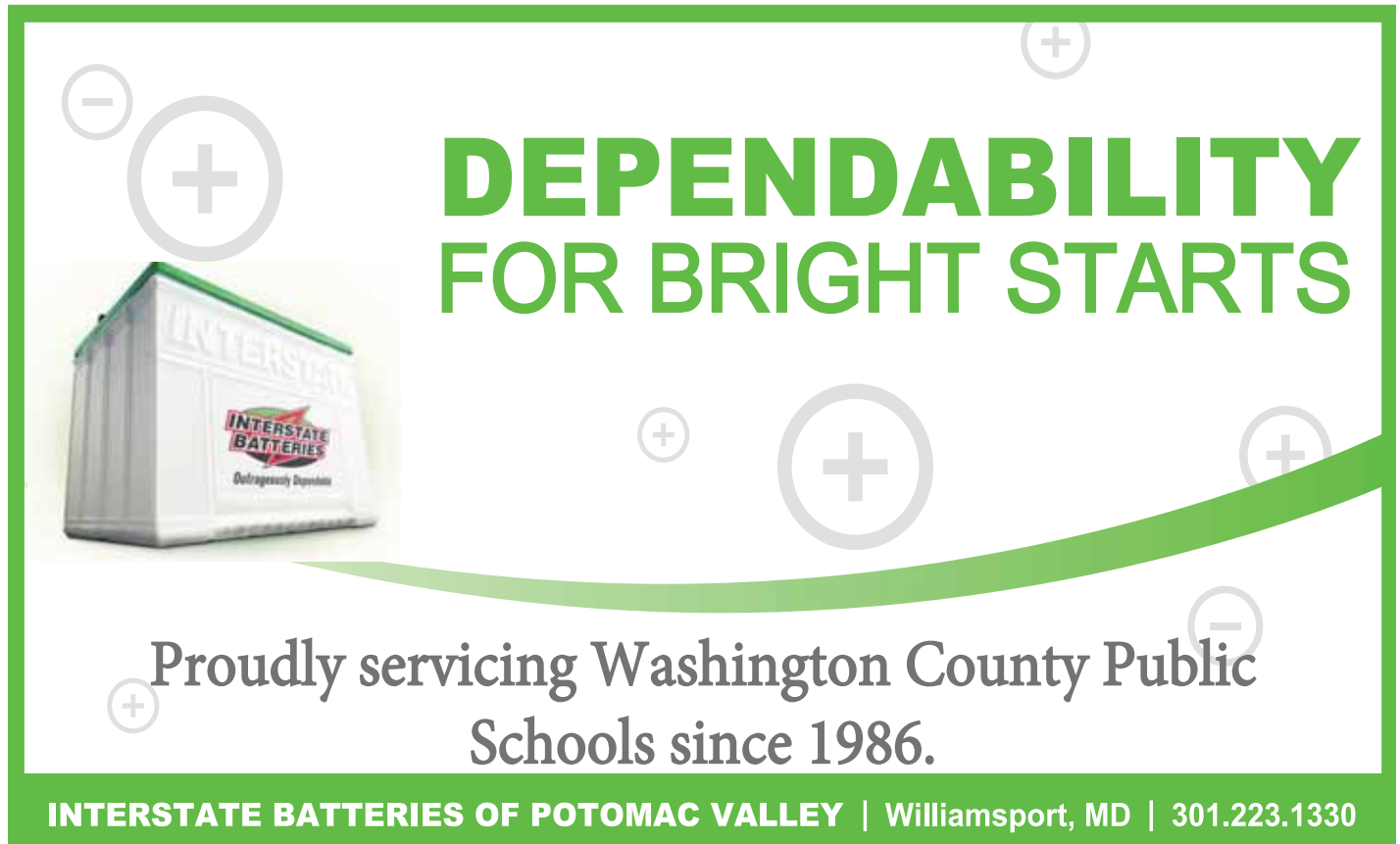
Like the other drivers of the time, Yeakle said, her grandfather was a farmer who drove a bus for supplemental income, which her mother remembers him being so appreciative of in 1929 and into the 1930s.

“It was a great help to them during the Depression years,” she said.

In 1941, Yeakle’s uncle took over, but he sold the route to Roger Yeakle, whose son eventually would become her husband.

He was her bus driver all 12 years she was in grade school and would have his son, Terry Yeakle, bring in treats for bus riders sometimes.

See **TRANSPORTATION**, page 114



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Dave Williams, left, a library-media specialist with Washington County Public Schools, hands a new iPad 4 to E. Russell Hicks Middle School seventh-grader Michael Hawbaker, right, in February 2014.

Technology changes teaching duties

School-system educators and support staff face myriad challenges in adapting to ever-changing technology and new state testing standards.

By **DAN DEARTH**

When Megan Dodd started teaching 15 years ago, 23 children had to share a single desktop computer in her classroom.

Now, it's not uncommon for students to have their own. "They have access to iPads and laptops, which really allows them to find information on the spot," said Dodd, who is principal at Fountaindale Elementary School in Hagerstown. "If our students have a question about habitats, or our students have a question about becoming a democratic society, they're able to find that information in a few seconds, and then, our teachers are able to facilitate learning."

Fountaindale hasn't let go of all of the classic learning tools. The letters of the alphabet still adorn the classroom walls, and teachers continue to read literature to their students.

"They still hang on every word," Dodd said.

But instead of thumbing through textbooks to find answers, children now have Google accounts and get their answers electronically.

Dave Warrenfeltz, a fourth-grade teacher at Fountaindale, a magnet school, said his students recently used “Minecraft” technology to simulate building a Hawaiian city. In their design, the students included underground tunnels and a water reserve that would help inhabitants get through a natural disaster, he said.

Warrenfeltz said he also uses the Internet after school and on the weekends to answer questions from his students while they work at home. The new technology, he said, helps “break down classroom walls.”

“That’s really what our job is as a teacher,” he said. “We facilitate that learning and support the passion in our students.”

Cultivating learning

Dodd said technology is changing so fast that it’s hard to keep up.

“We realize that we are educating our society and our community in that these kids will be looking for jobs that don’t even exist,” she said.

“Our job here is to teach them to be lifelong learners. Our job is to cultivate a sense of curiosity, to cultivate a sense of creativity, to give them the tools and the techniques that they can apply no matter what that technology is,” she said. ■



Herald-Mail file photo

Susan Starsinic, a counselor and school-testing coordinator at South Hagerstown High School, walks students through the PARCC assessment test as 11th-graders test the system in this March 2014 photo.



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Laptop learning

Herald-Mail file photo

Corah Klein, left, and Wyatt Hammond, third-graders at Conococheague Elementary School, confer during indoor recess in this January photo. They were using the STRIDE program that helps teach according to each student's academic level.

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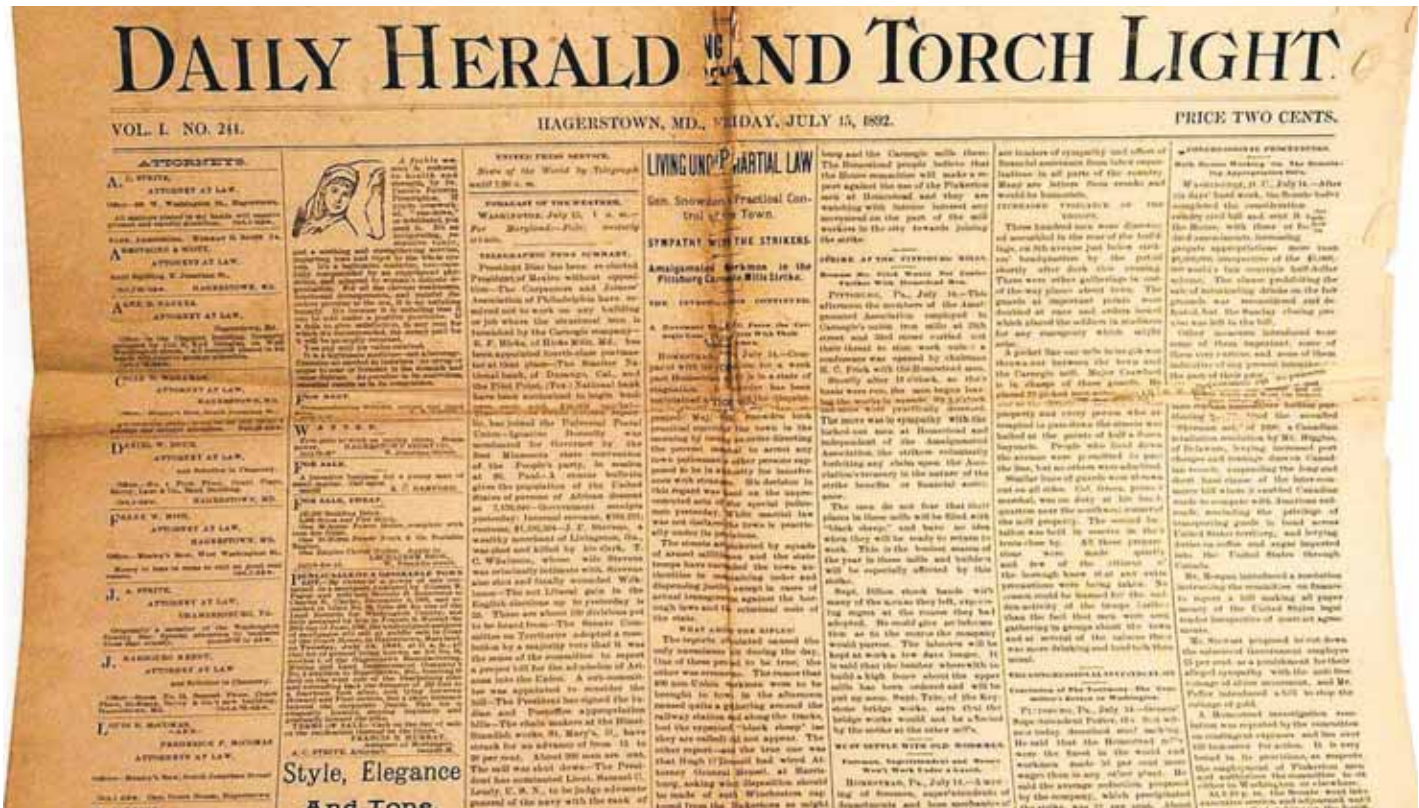
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The Hagerstown Herald and Torch Light newspaper was a major source of news for Washington County residents in 1865, when the Washington County public school system was born. The edition shown above was published in 1892, but gives an idea of what the paper looked like years earlier.

When the school system was born ...

Stories that made news included the opening of a new family grocery store on Public Square in downtown Hagerstown and a proposal for a skating pond in the city.

By SHERRY GREENFIELD

It was 1865 in Washington County, some three years after the Battle of Antietam was fought in nearby Sharpsburg, leaving more than 20,000 men dead or wounded. The year marked the founding of a public school system in Washington County, a historic moment that didn't make the front pages back then.

In what turned out to be a historic year for education in the county, other newspaper headlines illuminated concerns of the day. Small-town elections were held, livestock sales were commonplace and new businesses

opened their doors for the first time. As reported in the Aug. 23, 1865, Hagerstown Herald and Torch Light newspaper, Z.C. Clark opened his new family grocery store on the northeast corner of Public Square in downtown Hagerstown. The "new cash grocery store" specialized in fine sugars, molasses, coffee, tea, salt fish, bacon, dried fruit, cider and vinegar, according to the story.

The Hagerstown Herald and Torch Light was a major source of news in 1865. The paper served as a forum for local information, events and opinions, relying on its subscribers to bring them the news. Reporters, as they are known today, were unheard of.

And, like its subscribers, the newspaper also struggled to recover in the wake of the Civil War.

In the Nov. 29, 1865, publication, the paper's management announced that due to higher printing costs, it was forced to stop extending credit to its subscribers and advertisers. The paper asked those with an outstanding debt to "promptly" settle their account.

“The publication of the Herald and Torch Light costs more than doubled now than it did before the war and we are compelled to (enforce) prompt settlements,” the paper said.

A skating pond

In that same edition, the paper threw its support behind a new skating pond in Hagerstown. The pond would “yield a handsome profit during the winter at a very small outlay.” During the summer, the pond could be used for agricultural purposes, the paper said.

Stories on farming, livestock and agriculture dominated the news in 1865, as it was the largest industry in the United States.

The lead story in the Nov. 29 edition was an epidemic that caused the deaths of “large numbers” of hens in the Funkstown area, along with an epidemic in Clear Spring that killed herds of cattle.

That same year, G.F. Bailey & Co’s largest traveling circus came to Hagerstown. The paper described the circus as a “magnificent collection of rare beasts and reptiles including a gigantic hippopotamus.” Admission price was 50 cents per ticket and 25 cents for children younger than 10.

“The grand procession will enter the town at 11 a.m., preceded by the gigantic hippopotamus drawn by a team of elephants (four in number) followed by Wither’s Washington Opera Band, the grand menagerie and the circus troupe,” the paper said.

The advent of the automobile was some 20 years away, so it was accidents by horse and buggy that were widely reported.

In the Oct. 25 edition, a story ran on the clerk of the circuit court and his niece, who were traveling to Boonsboro when their horse ran off the road, “upsetting and breaking the carriage.” They both survived with slight injuries, according to the story.

Land sales in Washington County, such as the October 1865 sale of 231 acres in Hancock, also dominated the news.

The Washington Board of County Commissioners held the “collector’s sale” in front of the courthouse in Hagerstown, the paper said. The Hancock property was auctioned off by D. Oswald and J.B. Bachtell. Another 72 acres in the Hancock District would also be auctioned off. Only cash from the highest bidder would be accepted.

Elections and crime

Local elections also made the news that year. The Oct. 25 paper ran a small story on the Tuesday, Nov. 7, election for one judge and one clerk to the Circuit Court of Washington County. All five county commissioners and the sheriff also were up for re-election that year.

Crime often made the headlines in 1865.

On Sept. 20, the Herald And Torch Light ran a story detailing what it called a “murderous assault” between two men in Leitersburg.

The altercation occurred between a local store owner, Abraham Mourey, and resident, G.W. Poll. Following an argument between the two men, Mourey went home, got his revolver and came back to town looking for Poll, the paper said.

Mourey followed Poll into a store, fired one shot, scarcely missing Poll’s head. Poll was able to escape unharmed to a nearby tavern. Mourey also escaped to Waynesboro, Pa., but had yet to be arrested, according to the paper.

Finally, national and state issues also had their impact in Washington County.

For example, the paper reported that according to the Baltimore American, Washington County was the only county in Maryland whose Union Convention did not pass resolutions against “negro suffrage,” or voting rights for black men in 1865.

And, with the end of the Civil War just months away, the Washington Board of County Commissioners held a draft on Feb. 6, 1865. Needing to fill a quota, commissioners offered \$200 to each volunteer who enlisted. Another \$300 from the state also would be given to each volunteer.

“Let each man that escapes the draft go to work and fill the quota of his district without delay,” the paper said. ■



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Teacher of the Year

Herald-Mail file photo

Courtney Leard, left, listens to Sumer Ardinger while teaching her second-grade class at Fountaindale Elementary School. Leard was named Washington County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2014-15.

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From diamond to court, stars shine

Washington County Public Schools has been the starting point for a number of baseball players, and other sports have had their fair share of stars.

By **BOB PARASILITI**

Welcome home, Heather Aleshire, Lynne Vantz Nelson and Donnie Dotter.

In mid-July, their athletic careers came full circle. They were inducted into the Washington County Sports Hall of Fame.

For this trio and the vast majority of the inductees of the 28 previous classes, this honor signified that they are some of the finest athletes produced in the 150-year existence of Washington County Public Schools.

There is something pretty significant about being one of the best the county and the school system has had to offer.

Since 1865, many have worn county school colors. Some have graduated from those schools, others have spent short times in the system before taking their talents elsewhere.

Not all of them have been mainstream professional athletes in a list that obviously doesn't account for every single one of them.

Yet, there have been many standouts.

Washington County Public Schools has produced more than their share of baseball players, but it also has seen a number of runners reach the tape, basketball players pull up for significant scores and a few football players go the extra yard.



Herald-Mail file photo

Williamsport High School pitcher Nick Adenhardt delivers a pitch against North Hagerstown in Monocacy Valley Athletic League game in 2004. Adenhardt rose to Major Leagues Baseball with the Los Angeles Angels.

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And then there are others who excelled in other disciplines to become great athletes.

There are many standout names.

Baseball

A steady stream of baseball players have played in Washington County in an effort to make it to the Major Leagues. Many of the names are more contemporary, but some local forefathers took the field with the local Boys of Summer.

The most recognized in the current era would be **Nick Adenhart**.

Adenhart, a Williamsport graduate, had a short career with the Los Angeles Angels, ending tragically in a fatal car crash. It happened on an April night after pitching his finest game as a major leaguer.

Although he doesn't have many stats to prove it, Adenhart is one of the most memorable athletes to come out of Washington County schools, after being selected by the Angels in the 14th round of the 2004 draft despite facing Tommy John surgery.

His presence still is felt by many professional players and fans six and a half years after his passing.

Among the other baseball players who have had an impact on the county are:

- **Mick Billmeyer** — Billmeyer (North Hagerstown) was a second-round pick of the Baltimore Orioles in

the 1985 secondary draft and spent time playing for the Hagerstown Suns. He also played in the Texas Rangers and California Angels organizations, spending most of his time at the Single A level. He currently is the bullpen coach for the Detroit Tigers after spending a number of years with the Philadelphia Phillies in the same position.

- **Vic Barnhart** — Barnhart (Hancock) played for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1944 to 1946 as a second-generation player. He accepted Hall of Fame honors in July for his late father, Clyde, who also played for the Pirates.

- **Clyde Barnhart** was born in Pennsylvania but attended Hancock. He spent nine years with Pittsburgh and played on the Pirates' 1925 World Series championship team.

- **Ike Powers** — The Hancock native played two seasons with the Philadelphia Athletics.

- **Garrett Stephenson** — Stephenson (Boonsboro) played eight seasons in the majors from 1996-2003 with Philadelphia, Baltimore and St. Louis.

- **Leo Burke** — Burke (Hagerstown High) played in seven Major League seasons for Baltimore, California, St. Louis and the Chicago Cubs from 1958 to 1965.

- **Boots Poffenberger** — Poffenberger (Williamsport) pitched three years in the majors for Detroit and Brooklyn from 1937 to 1939, with a 16-12 career record.

- **Mike Draper** — Draper (Williamsport) was drafted in the 26th round by the New York Yankees in the 1988 draft. He pitched one season – 1993 – for the New York Mets, going 1-1 with a 4.25 earned-run average in 29 games.

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Heather Aleshire, seen here in her Hagerstown Police Department uniform, is the Tri-State area's all-time leading girls basketball scorer. The 1995 Clear Spring High School graduate poured in 2,418 points during her high-school career, and went on to become the all-time leading scorer at Hagerstown Community College.

- **Kerns family** — The Hancock clan of Danny and Gene and his son, Mickey, all had successful baseball runs. Danny was drafted in the 12th round by Baltimore in 1966 and spent three years in the minors. Gene spent 1960-65 in the minors before becoming Hagerstown Community College's baseball coach and a top Major League scout for a number of organizations. Mickey went to Alabama and was drafted by Kansas City and spent time in the minors from 1992 to 1996 before returning to the area to become a high school coach.

- **Dave Cole** — Cole (Williamsport) played six years for four Major League teams, accumulating a 6-18 record.

- **Jim Scholossnagle** — Scholossnagle (Smithsburg) has become one of the premier college baseball coaches in the country at Texas Christian University, leading the Horned Frogs to three College World Series berths.

- Other former school-system students have either graduated or spent some time in Washington County Public Schools. Currently, **Josh Conway** (Smithsburg), **Christian Binford** and **Brandon Glazer** (Clear Spring) are toiling in the minor leagues. **Derek Hoffman** (Hancock) played at HCC and Maryland. **Rick Christian** (North Hagerstown) played in the St. Louis system.

- Some of the other recent players in the minor leagues include **T.J. Hose** (North Hagerstown), **Louie Ross** (Han-

cock) and **Adam Mills** (Clear Spring). Others with a chance to follow include **Andrew Yacyk** (North Hagerstown) and **Riley Lazich** (Clear Spring) after NCAA Division I careers.

Basketball

Heather Aleshire had a large impact on women's basketball in her day, playing at Clear Spring and HCC.

The 1995 Clear Spring graduate averaged 32.3 points per game en route to becoming the Tri-State area's all-time leading scorer with 2,418 points. She was named to the Maryland all-state team in her senior year.

Aleshire followed it up by becoming HCC's all-time women's scorer with 1,216 points while becoming a two-time second-team All-American selection. She finished her college career at Richmond.

Others who fared well in the world of basketball include:

- **Cathy Parsons** — Parsons (North Hagerstown) is coaching at Howard University. She spent time at Christopher Newport University and was an assistant at Providence College and with the WNBA's Washington Mystics. She was the all-time leading scorer at West Virginia.

- **Helen Mency** — Mency (North Hagerstown) starred at Providence College. She currently coaches South Hagerstown's girls basketball team.

• **Bo Pearman** — Pearman (South Hagerstown) was a four-year starter at Maryland from 1980 to 1984 and later became an assistant coach under Chris Weller. She went on to coach in the Atlantic Coast, Big East, West Coast, Atlantic 10 and Northeast conferences.

• **Dee Mency** — Mency (North Hagerstown) played at Merrimack, scoring more than 2,000 points.

• **Carla Houser** — Houser (Williamsport) is the associate head coach of the Cal State Northridge women's basketball team. After graduating from Williamsport, she played at James Madison before heading to UCLA. She played professionally in Greece and France, and also had a role in the movie "Love and Basketball."

• **Will Taylor** — The 6-foot-6 Taylor (Williamsport) graduated after playing at HCC and went to Cal Poly. He continued his career playing internationally in Portugal.

Missing from the list are **Rodney Monroe** and **Dennis Scott**, a pair of Washington County players who played in the National Basketball Association, but didn't attend a county public school.

Football

Donnie Dotter (Williamsport) starred for the Wildcats before he went on to the University of Maryland. He lettered twice for the Terrapins and played in three bowl games, specializing in kickoff returns in the 1970s. He played on Maryland teams that had a combined 28-8 record during his tenure.

Washington County has not had any huge success stories in football since no player has ever made the NFL, but have had a number of athletes who went on to play in college.

• **Andy Reid** — Reid (Smithsburg) rushed for 3,821 yards from 1972 to 1974 for the Leopards. It still is one of the top all-time totals in Maryland. He played at the University of Maryland as a defensive back in the 1975 Gator Bowl and 1977 Cotton Bowl.

• **Phil Petry** — Petry (South Hagerstown) starred for the Rebels during their undefeated season in 1962. He spent three seasons playing quarterback for the University of Maryland.

• **Mike Moyseenko** — Moyseenko (South Hagerstown) was a walk-on quarterback at Maryland who led the Terps scout team. After graduation, he became an assistant football coach at Maryland, Shepherd University and currently Towson (Md.) University.

Track and field, running

Washington County continues to produce a number of strong track athletes, especially in the distance-running discipline.

Many have moved on to college careers, and there are many up-and-coming standouts for the second 150 years of the school system to talk about in the future, including recent graduates **Megan Grams**, **Maggie Sullivan** and **Emily Ward** to follow the footsteps — or running strides — of the following:



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• **Mike Spinnler** — Spinnler (North Hagerstown) turned his passion for track and field and distance running into a career. Ever the coach, Spinnler has been president of the Cumberland Valley Athletic League, along with being the director of the JFK 50, the oldest ultramarathon in the United States, since 1993.

The race is a national event that is run every November from Boonsboro to Williamsport along a 50-mile course on the Appalachian Trail, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath, and paved roads heading to the finish line.

Spinnler is a two-time JFK champion, winning in 1982 and '83 and the race's previous record holder.

• **Terry Baker** — Baker (Williamsport) finished seventh in the 1982 Boston Marathon, seven minutes behind Alberto Salazar, one of the sport's all-time greats. Baker, an Auburn graduate, also won the Cherry Blossom 10,000-meter race in Washington that year. He now is president of the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

• **Jeff Scuffins** — Scuffins (North Hagerstown) won the 1987 Marine Corps Marathon in a then-record time of 2 hours, 14 minutes, 1 second, lowering the standard by more than two minutes. He is a member of the Marine Corps Marathon Hall of Fame.

• **Lynn Ziegler** — Ziegler (North Hagerstown) was one of the top running performers in the 1980s.

See **ATHLETES**, page 106



Herald-Mail file photo

Williamsport High School's Mike McGill takes down Walkersville's Chad Cotterman in a 135-pound match during the 2004 Maryland state wrestling championships. McGill was a two-time state champion before going on to wrestle at the University of Maryland.

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Herald-Mail file photo

Antietam Academy at 40 W. Oak Ridge Drive in Hagerstown's South End is shown just before it opened in January 2011.

From The Academy to Zittlestown

Many schools have closed and some remain open, but Washington County has been home to a wide range of schools for all types of students.

By **JULIE E. GREENE**

Editor's note: *This is not a comprehensive list and many of the dates are those found or estimated by sources in an attempt to provide a good picture of Washington County's public schools during the past 150 years.*

Washington County Public Schools currently has 46

schools, but over its 150-year history, the school system has taught students in many more buildings.

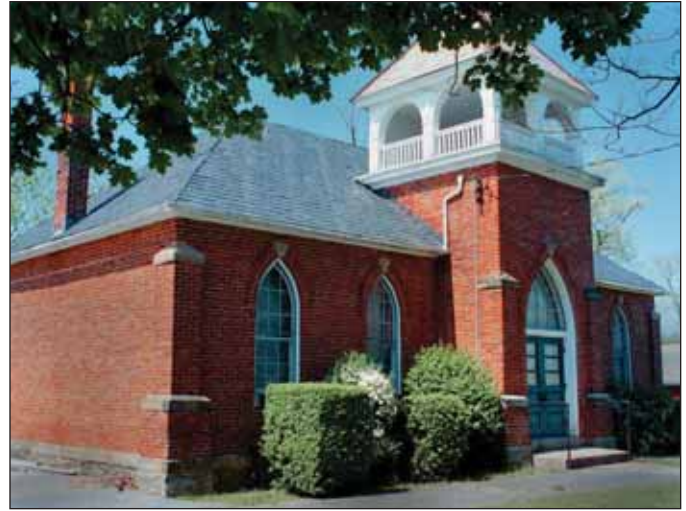
Early on, many students were taught in one-, two-, three- or four-room schoolhouses in small rural communities.

Several of those buildings have been torn down, but many still stand and some still are in use — housing businesses such as day-care centers and community centers. At least one now is a museum.

The same school building might have had different names over time.

While it's difficult to provide a comprehensive list with exact dates for when these buildings served as schools, here's an idea of how many schools there have been and when they were in operation. Schools with an asterisk currently serve as public schools.

- **The Academy on Academy Hill** behind the Western Maryland Railroad Station on property near Burhans Boulevard. Built in 1877, it served as a high school until 1908, when the Surrey School, a boys high school, opened. Sold in 1913 and demolished in the 1930s.
- **Antietam Academy**, 40 W. Oak Ridge Drive in Hagerstown's South End. Built in 2010 and opened in 2011.*
- **Antietam Furnace school** on Harpers Ferry Road south of Sharpsburg. Early 1900s.
- **Antietam School at Bridgeport**. Brick version built in 1875.
- **Antietam Street**, also known as Antietam Grammar at the corner of Antietam and Mulberry streets in Hagerstown, referenced in 1877. A 10-room schoolhouse as of 1886 that housed primary through grade eight. Addition was built in 1893. In 1894, became an elementary school housing grades one to four. Fifth and sixth grades returned in 1898 after an annex was added. Original building torn down in 1919. More modern building completed in 1920. Closed in 1968. The building was renovated into condominiums.
- **Bakersville school**, near Sharpsburg. Early 1900s. Closed in 1939.
- **Barbara Ingram School for the Arts**, 7 S. Potomac St. in downtown Hagerstown. Opened in a renovated building in 2009.*
- **Barnum School** for black students was near Huyetts.
- **Beaver Creek School**, 9702 Beaver Creek Church Road. A two-room schoolhouse in 1904 that closed in



Herald-Mail file photo

The former Beaver Creek School is shown in this 1998 photo. Students attended classes until 1961 at the school, which was acquired by the Washington County Historical Society and now is the Beaver Creek School Museum.

1961. Now is the Beaver Creek School Museum operated by the Washington County Historical Society.

• **Beaver Creek School** for black students was built in the 1870s.

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- **Becks school** in Chewsville. Early 1900s.
- **Bella Grove school** near Hancock.
- **Benevola school**, also known as Harmony Hill school. Early 1900s.
- **Bester Elementary School.** Last address was 30 E. Memorial Blvd. Built in 1965 next to South Potomac Junior High School. Two and a half years later, the elementary school expanded into the old junior high building. The complex of buildings was razed in 2014.
- **Bester Elementary School**, 385 Mill St. Opened in 2014, replacing the old Bester school.*
- **Bethel Street School** for black students was built in the 1870s in Hagerstown and used until 1889, when the first North Street School opened in 1888.
- **Big Pool School**, on Tedrick Drive. A two-room schoolhouse in 1931 that closed in 1955. Now a community center.
- **Big Spring school** between Clear Spring and Big Pool. Early 1900s.
- **Binghams school**, early 1900s.
- **Black Rock school**, east of Hagerstown. Early 1900s.
- **Blairs Valley school**, early 1900s. Closed in 1908.
- **Blue Mountain** near Pen Mar in the Ringgold area. A one-room schoolhouse in 1899 that closed circa 1938.
- **Boonsboro school** on Potomac Street, early 1900s.
- **Boonsboro Elementary School**, 5 Campus Drive. Built in 1950 and expanded and renovated in 1991.*
- **Boonsboro Middle School**, 1 J-H Wade Drive in Boonsboro. Opened in 1976.*



Herald-Mail file photo

The lobby of Bester Elementary School at 385 Mill St. is shown in this January photo. The school opened to students in the 2014-15 school year.

- **The old Boonsboro High School** was south of the current high school track. Built in 1926, the school expanded and became a middle school in 1958, when the new high school opened. Closed in 1975. The school was razed and there is senior housing there now.

- **Boonsboro High School**, 10 Campus Ave. Opened in 1958, and expanded and renovated in 1975. The science classrooms were renovated in 1997.*
- **Breathedsville school**. Closed in 1905 and reopened in 1908.
- **Bridgeport school**, early 1900s.
- **Broadfording school**, early 1900s. Closed in 1909.
- **The first Broadway School** was on the east side of Locust Street to the north of Broadway in north Hagerstown. Built in 1902. Served as a girls high school until 1927, when the girls and boys high schools were merged into the new Hagerstown High School. The original Broadway School later was dismantled to make way for the new Broadway School.
- **Broadway School** on Broadway in Hagerstown was built in 1930. It became a public preschool center in 1970, closing circa 1980. The school housed the alternative school program around 1980. It now houses the Barr Construction Institute.
- **Brownsville school**, early 1900s.
- **Buena Vista school** in Cascade. Early 1900s.
- **Burnside school**, early 1900s.
- **Carters or Carter school** on Round Top, early 1900s.
- **Cascade Elementary School**, 14519 Pennersville Road in Cascade. Built in 1924, expanded in 1965 and renovated in 1968.*
- **Cavetown School**. Circa 1924-1948.
- **Cearfoss school**, a two-room schoolhouse in the early 1900s that closed circa 1948.

- **Centre Hill School**, also known as Center Hill School, a one-room school on the former Potomac Edison site at the intersection of Downsville Pike and Rensch Road. Circa 1901-1928. There is a reference to one that closed in 1909 and one that closed around 1928. Uncertain if they were the same school.
- **Chapel Woods school** on College Road between Saint James School and Sharpsburg Pike. Early 1900s. Later razed.
- **Charlton School**. A one-room schoolhouse built in the 19th century near Dam No. 5 Road and Big Pool Road, southeast of Clear Spring. Closed in early 1940s.
- **Chestnut Grove school** in southern Washington County, early 1900s.
- **Chewsville School**, a four-room school built in 1925 and closed circa 1970.
- **Claud E. Kitchens Outdoor School at Fairview**, 12808 Draper Road, northwest of Clear Spring. Opened in 1978 and expanded in 1979.*
- **Clear Spring Elementary School**, 12627 Broadfording Road. Built in 1954 and expanded and remodeled in 2000.*
- **Clear Spring Middle School**, 12628 Broadfording Road in Clear Spring. Opened in 1979.*
- **Clear Spring High School**, 12630 Broadfording Road, Clear Spring. Opened in 1974 and expanded in 1989. The science classrooms were renovated in 1998.*
- **Clear Spring school**, early 1900s.

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Herald-Mail file photo

Eastern Elementary School at 1320 Yale Drive along the eastern edge of Hagerstown is shown in this July 2006 photo. The school was built in 1992.

- **Clear Spring School** on Big Spring Road. This school was built in 1929 and, as of a 1953 report, served grades one through 12. The building became a junior high when the new high school was built in 1974. The old school closed in 1978, when the middle school was built. Then, this school was dismantled. It now is the site of Clear Spring Park.

- **Clear Spring School** for black students was built in 1870 along North Martin Street and closed in 1930.

- **Cleveland Avenue school**, early 1900s.

- **Clevelandtown school**, early 1900s. Reference to the school still being open in 1936.

- **Conococheague Elementary School**, 12408 Learning Lane, west of Hagerstown. Built in 1960 and scheduled to close after the 2015-16 school year.*

- **Cox school**, early 1900s.

- **Cushen or Cushens School**. There is one noted as existing in the early 1900s and one noted as being a one-room school in southern Washington County that closed in 1948. Uncertain if they were the same school.

- **Dargan School**, a two-room schoolhouse. Built in 1914 and closed circa 1970. Now serves as a community center.

- **Dellinger or Dellingers school**, early 1900s.

- **Dittos school** near Clear Spring, early 1900s.

- **Downsville school**, early 1900s.

- **Downsville School**, a four-room schoolhouse built in 1939 that closed in 1971.

- **Dry Run School**, a one-room schoolhouse circa 1920-1937.

- **E. Russell Hicks Middle School**, 1321 S. Potomac St. in Hagerstown's South End. Opened in 1967.*

- **Eakles Mill school**, early 1900s.

- **Eakles Mill School** for black students was built in 1897 on Red Hill, south of Keedysville.

- **Eastern Elementary School**, 1320 Yale Drive, along the eastern edge of Hagerstown. Built in 1992.*

- **Eden school** for black students. Early 1900s.

- **Edgewood school**, early 1900s.

- **Elgin school**, early 1900s.

- **Emma K. Doub Elementary School**, 1221 S. Potomac St. in Hagerstown's South End. Built in 1967 and expanded in 1995 and 2000.*

See **SCHOOLS**, page 96



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My Favorite Teacher



“My favorite teacher was Marianne Hennesy, who taught fifth grade at Lincolnshire Elementary. She was pregnant that year, but was a very patient teacher, and the entire group of students and teachers collaborated well. It was a great year, and I remember looking up to her and wanting to be a teacher. I am now a teacher myself, and frequently see her and still look up to her.”

— Tara Myers,
second-grade teacher,
Williamsport Elementary School

“When I look back at all of the great teachers I had, Mr. Sam Houser, a chemistry teacher at Smithsburg High School, taught many life lessons. Stand when you answer, go to the board to show your work, never write under the word you are defining, someone is always smarter than you, dress the part — change your tie and so on. Thanks!”

— Virginia Draper Coleman,
intervention teacher, Smithsburg Middle School

“Without any doubt, Tom Kitchens was my favorite teacher in WCPS. He is not only why I teach, but why I try to be the best teacher that I can be.”

— T.J. Hood,
physical-education teacher,
cross-country assistant coach,
head indoor and outdoor track coach,
Smithsburg High School

“Carroll Reid, my high school football coach, is the reason I am teaching today. Coach had the unique ability to demand greatness while still showing that he cared about you as a person.”

— David Warrenfeltz Jr.,
Advanced-placement and International
Baccalaureate calculus teacher,
North Hagerstown High School

“Milton Hayes was my photography teacher at Clear Spring High School. He was my favorite teacher because he pushed me to find answers myself and to problem-solve.”

— April Shupp,
English teacher,
Hancock Middle-Senior High School

“My favorite teacher was my kindergarten teacher, Mrs. (Joanne) Wetzel. She was kind, patient, loving and fun. In my day-to-day teaching, I work my hardest to emulate Mrs. Wetzel.”

— Maria Bergan,
kindergarten teacher,
Maugansville Elementary School

“When I was a senior at Smithsburg High School (1999), Mrs. Elissa Twigg came to our school and was so much fun. Mrs. Twigg knew exactly how to help each student who may have been struggling with a project, and she gave excellent feedback that always motivated me to complete pieces of art that I felt were headed for a trash can. The way she taught me to draw a self-portrait is the same way I now teach my elementary students to draw. The woman exudes kindness, compassion and intelligence. The studio always was a comfortable place of design, collaboration and creativity.”

— Rachel Barnhart,
art educator, Emma K. Doub Elementary School

“My favorite teacher without a doubt was Mrs. JoAnn Hilton, my fourth-grade teacher at Emma K. Doub Elementary School, because she made me feel special. She chose me and a group of others to go to the board of education and be a part of Mrs. Perry’s music program. She was kind and patient. Just what I needed!”

— Heidi Harshman,
kindergarten teacher,
Conococheague Elementary School

“I had two favorites:

“Mr. Larry Wadel: He was always willing to help, and put in extra time to assist my efforts in calculus. He taught me the importance of building relationships with students.

“Mr. Harry Davis: He was passionate about his content (social studies), which sparked my own interest and led to me pursuing a career in social-studies education.”

— D.J. Clinger,
social-studies teacher,
Barbara Ingram School for the Arts

“My favorite teacher was Mrs. Pat Beard, a fifth-grade teacher at Funkstown Elementary. She was an inspiring teacher who made learning meaningful. She encouraged her students to always do their best.”

— Amy Renner,
first-grade teacher,
Old Forge Elementary School

“I attended Boonsboro High School, and above all, Michael Bair stands out as my favorite teacher. I had him as my English 9 teacher, SAT prep teacher, and I participated in his drama productions. Mr. Bair consistently brought life to his lessons and hooked even the most challenging student while maintaining academic rigor for high-achieving students like me. I still remember the vocabulary tricks he taught me in SAT prep 10-plus years later.”

— Jessica Z. Carr,
reading and math intervention specialist,
Antietam Academy

My Favorite Teacher

“Mrs. Leona Griffith (French) and Mrs. Hilda Worthington (math) were not only teachers, but mentors. They always had time for casual conversation or to answer questions about their subject. Bottom line, each loved their subject and cared deeply about their students.”

— Sandra Burger,
intervention teacher,
Salem Avenue Elementary School

“My favorite teacher was Aline Novak at Clear Spring High School. She brought biology ‘alive’ through cool dissections, labs and field trips. Every day, we learned something new and exciting.”

— Robin Papa,
math department leader,
Clear Spring High School

“Becky Elder (Daugherty), a fourth-grade teacher at Hickory Elementary School, was my favorite teacher because she was sincere, genuinely caring for the students in her classroom. Her smile brightened every day, and she believed in me!”

— Sommer Kretsinger (Eversole),
sixth-grade math teacher,
Smithsburg Middle School

“My favorite teacher was Mrs. Middleton, my third-grade teacher at Pangborn Elementary. She encouraged me to wear my glasses! School greatly improved when I was able to see the lesson.”

— Sharon Elkins,
English teacher, Williamsport High School



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“Rose Minnich from Salem Avenue Elementary School was my favorite teacher. She cared so much about all her students, and she pushed me to be the best person I could be, and had a great passion for teaching. I remember she cared about me so much that she put a handwritten note in my report card. Rose Minnich was a great teacher, and she inspired me to be a teacher myself.”

— Trey Cobb,
fifth-grade teacher, Smithsburg Elementary School;
head baseball coach, Smithsburg High School

“My favorite teacher was Mrs. April Crowl. She was fun and engaging. She empowered us to take on the world. She was passionate about her students. She is the reason I became a teacher!”

— Erin Harrell,
second-grade teacher,
Sharpsburg Elementary School

“My favorite teacher was Frank Clark, a math teacher at Boonsboro High School. Simply put, Mr. Clark was demanding, thorough, organized and had great classroom management!”

— David Long,
computer repair and networking,
Washington County Technical High School

“My teacher and coach, Eugene “Yogi” Martin, remains one of the most influential people in my life. He motivated me to want to become a teacher and coach because of his enthusiasm and drive. He encouraged all of his students to make an effort to excel. I continue to try to treat my students with the same love and concern I was given by Coach Martin when I was under his guidance.”

— Greg Slick,
physical-education teacher,
North Hagerstown High School

“My favorite teacher is Darlene Henderson (Dietrich), social studies. I had her for AP U.S. history and AP world history. She was always passionate, knowledgeable and straightforward with the subject matter, and made learning fun. She is definitely a contributing factor in my choice to teach social studies as well.”

— Tyler Fairley,
teacher and coach, Smithsburg and
South Hagerstown high schools

“Ms. Rebecca Bushey was my favorite teacher. She made learning in second grade fun and engaging. She is the reason I am now a second-grade teacher myself! :)”

— Jennifer Burke,
second-grade teacher,
Old Forge Elementary School

“Mrs. Tritapoe never missed an opportunity to celebrate her students’ successes, and she was a positive force in the classroom. She is the reason I became a teacher.”

— Catherine Harpster,
eighth-grade English and language-arts
teacher, Springfield Middle School

“Mr. Phil Wilkes was my favorite teacher. He taught us many music and marching skills. More importantly, he taught us to work together, work hard and have pride. He was inspiring!”

— Kelly Klein,
performing-arts teacher, Northern Middle School

Famous alumni



Photo is from his website at www.eugegroove.com. He is seen sitting with his saxophone in this publicity photo for his most recent album, "Got 2 Be Groovin'," which was released in 2014.

Euge Groove



Photo is from South Hagerstown High yearbook

Smooth jazz saxophonist Steven Grove, aka Euge Groove, graduated from South Hagerstown High School in 1980.

He is pictured third from right and sitting on the school sign with other members of the South Wind in the 1980 edition of the Quidnunc, the school's yearbook.

He has performed with Joe Cocker, Tina Turner, Richard Marx, Huey Lewis and the News, Tower of Power and Eros Ramazzotti. His first solo album came out in 2000.



Justin Warner



Herald-Mail Media archive photos

Justin Warner, who won the "The Next Food Network Star" in 2012, graduated from South Hagerstown High School.

Here, he works to create a popcorn ball during an October 1993 field trip with his Bester Elementary School class to the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in southern Washington County.

Gina Groh

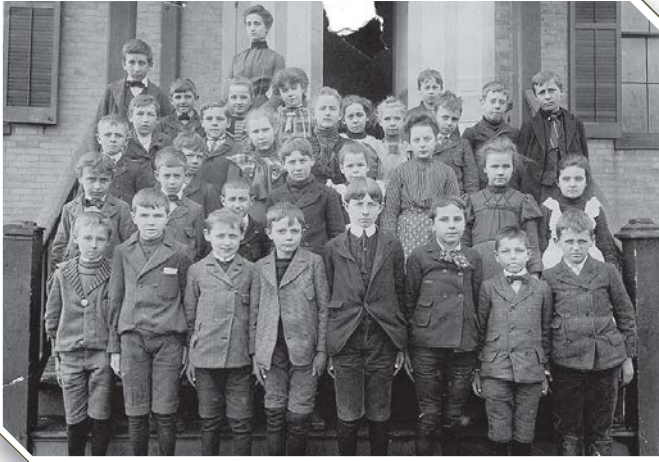


Photos courtesy of Judge Groh

Gina Householder graduated from Williamsport High School in 1982. She was vice president of the Student Government Association, editor of the school newspaper, and was class president for two years.

Householder, now the Honorable Gina M. Groh, became chief U.S. district judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, based in Martinsburg, W.Va., on March 18, 2015. She joined the federal bench in March 2012.

William Preston Lane Jr.



Courtesy of the Washington County Historical Society
Future Maryland Gov. William Preston Lane Jr., fourth from left in the front row, is shown in this 1898 class picture at Antietam Street School in Hagerstown.



Courtesy of the Collection of Maryland State Archives
Lane, center and holding the football, was a full-back on his Hagerstown high school football team in 1909. This photo was most likely taken at Surrey School, 535 Summit Ave. in Hagerstown. Built in 1907, it served as the boys high school until 1927.

Lane's first political office was as a member of the Washington County Board of Education in 1928. He also served as Maryland's attorney general before being governor from 1947 to 1951.

He was awarded the Silver Star for conduct during World War I, was president of The Herald-Mail Co. and was governor when the original Bay Bridge construction began and was finished, according to the University of Maryland's online libraries.

Russell P. "Scrappy" Hartle



Photos courtesy of Heidi Black, Hartle's first cousin, twice removed

Future Maj. Gen. Russell P. "Scrappy" Hartle is shown here, fifth from the left in the back row, in a Oct. 24, 1899, photo of third-, fourth- and fifth-graders at Chewsville School.

Hartle served as Lt. Gen. Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower's deputy commander of the European Theater of Operations and commander of American troops in Great Britain early in World War II.



Hartle also is shown with Queen Elizabeth, the late queen mother, in a Jeep near Belfast in Northern Ireland in June 1942, according to Western Maryland's Historical Library.

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- 1865 to 1868 — Thomas A. Boulton*
- 1868 to 1894 — Peter A. Witmer**
- 1894 to 1900 — George C. Pearson*
- 1900 to 1911 — John P. Fockler*
- 1911 to 1916 — W. Merrick Huyett
- 1916 to 1918 — Charles E. Dryden
- 1918 to 1920 — Raymond E. Staley**
- 1920 to 1940 — Byron J. Grimes
- 1940 to 1947 — Benjamin C. Willis
- 1947 to 1973 — William C. Brish
- 1973 to 1986 — Claud E. Kitchens
- 1986 to 1987 — Richard T. Whisner**
- 1987 to 1997 — Wayne F. Gersen
- 1997 to 2001 — Herman G. Bartlett Jr.
- 2001 to 2011 — Elizabeth M. Morgan
- 2011 to present — Clayton M. Wilcox

• Early superintendents were referred to as examiners, with references in news accounts changing from examiner to superintendent with John P. Fockler.

** Solely an acting superintendent

Sources: *Press archives, including Herald-Mail Media, The Daily News (Frederick, Md.), Hagerstown Herald & Torch Light and The Hagerstown Mail*



Herald-Mail file photo

Clayton M. Wilcox is the current superintendent of Washington County Public Schools.



Herald-Mail file photo

Elizabeth M. Morgan, who served as superintendent of Washington County Public Schools from 2001 to 2011, is shown in this 2010 photo.



Herald-Mail file photo

Claud E. Kitchens, who served as superintendent of Washington County Public Schools from 1973 to 1986, is shown in this November 1985 photo.



Herald-Mail file photo

Tyler Lewis, a 2014 graduate of Washington County Technical High School, participated in the electrical construction completer program offered through the county school system. He went to work for Ellsworth Electric right after graduation.

Programs open doors for graduates

Washington County Public Schools offers 43 completer programs, and they have helped many students on the pathway to well-paying jobs.

By **JULIE E. GREENE**

Editor's note: *This story originally was published July 24 in Herald-Mail Media's Back to School special section.*

Ellsworth Electric owner John Barr was so impressed

with the update Washington County Public Schools gave its electrical construction completer program a few years ago and with the young man he saw at a school awards ceremony that he offered the graduate a job on the spot.

"It was mind-blowing," 2014 Washington County Technical High School graduate Tyler Lewis said.

"First of all, for him to come up and even talk to me. But I definitely did not expect to have him offer me a job," Lewis said.

That was a little more than a year ago, and Lewis has been working for Ellsworth since, while also working toward completing his apprenticeship program through the Barr Academy.

Cumberland Valley Chapter's Associated Builders and Contractors' academy, also known as the Barr Construction Institute, is named for Barr's father, Jack Barr.

John Barr said Lewis was going over the coursework he completed at Tech High when Barr realized just how far along Lewis was. Barr said Lewis' education allowed him to start as a third-year apprentice.

"Frankly, I had to give him a raise before he even came to work," Barr said.

Electrical construction is just one of 43 career-technology completer programs the public-school system offers its high school students, in addition to the University System of Maryland completer.

"We're trying to meet the needs of students who have a broad range of interests and abilities and skills. ... We're also trying to plan programs that the industry needs in the regional Tri-State area so that our students are prepared to enter careers after leaving high school," Associate Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer Peggy Pugh said.

Among the new career-technology programs available for the 2015-16 school year are an interactive media and communication program at North Hagerstown and South Hagerstown high schools, and another homeland-security program — this one at the Public Service Academy on Frederick Street.

The new homeland-security program, like the one that began at South Hagerstown High School last school year, starts with Foundations of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. South High's program focuses on homeland-security science, including preparing a chemical and biological incident response plan, according to program information.

The program at the academy will focus more on communication and information technology, including what goes on at a 911 center, said George Phillips, the school system's supervisor of enrichment and career technology education.

In the first year, those students will learn how to use geographic information systems — using the same software that NASA and drones use — to study Maryland, Washington County and their school campus, according to Phillips and program information.

In the second year, they will learn more about 911 com-

"Frankly, I had to give him a raise before he even came to work."

— John Barr,
Ellsworth Electric
owner, on current
employee Tyler Lewis



Herald-Mail file photo

munication operations. Career technology officials met with a Washington County 911 center official earlier this summer to discuss what skills students need to learn to become entry-level employees, and found a great demand for 911 communications workers, Phillips said.

Making programs relevant


School system officials regularly review the career-technology programs to make sure they are offering skills that are needed in the labor market.

The school system no longer offers printing technologies at Tech High because the program didn't include much design work, and the need in the local market for such machine operations has "dried up," Phillips said.

Students in the former Tech High program did more actual production work, such as creating posters and huge banners, than students in the new interactive media and communication program at North and South, who will do a lot of design work, officials said.

Students pursuing the new program can choose advanced study work in interactive multimedia production or in simulation and gaming, according to program information.

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Herald-Mail file photo

Washington County Technical High School seniors Cody Gossard, left, and Ryan Bowers, right, work with teacher Harold Smith in the collision repair paint booth getting a 1999 Honda Accord ready for paint in this June photo.

Education officials also are trying to meet more current needs when it comes to computer and networking skills.

The school system used to offer a single advanced placement computer science course, but this school year, an information technology computer science program will be offered at Boonsboro, North Hagerstown and Smithsburg high schools, according to Phillips and information he provided.

The new program is a response to a need in the state for people who understand computer science on a “higher and broader level,” Phillips said. The courses include microcomputer operating systems, and ethics and the information age.

Other programs are being updated or adapted to meet changing industry needs and so that students are learning modern techniques, Phillips said.

Tech High’s computer repair and networking program is changing to focus more on wireless networking and cybersecurity because there no longer is a demand for wired networks, and many people find it cheaper to replace their computers rather than repair them, Phillips said.

Changes in the horticulture and landscape design program at Tech High began last school year to focus more on plant production and agribusiness with an emphasis on natural resource management, Phillips said.

The wide variety of completer programs includes traditional programs such as a teacher academy, culinary arts and carpentry, as well as high-tech career programs like biomedical sciences and computer game development and animation.

University completer

In addition to the wide variety of career-technology completer programs, the University System of Maryland completer also offers some specialized program options, Pugh said.

Those include the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at North High as well as the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts in downtown Hagerstown, Pugh said.

See **COMPLETER**, page 109

Washington County Public Schools completer programs

Washington County Public Schools has 43 career-technology completer programs or tracks that high school students can choose to earn their high school diploma in addition to the University System of Maryland completer.

The university completer also offers some specialized programs such as the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at North Hagerstown High School. The university completer certifies that the required coursework meets the minimum requirements for students seeking admission to University System of Maryland institutions.

Here are the career technology completer programs available for the 2015-16 school year:

- Computer game development and animation (Tech High)
- Digital communications (Tech High)
- Multimedia and graphic design (Tech High)
- Carpentry (Tech High)
- Electrical construction (Tech High)
- Pre-civil engineering and architecture* (Tech High)
- Cosmetology (Tech High)
- Culinary arts (Tech High)
- Environmental horticulture and landscape design (Tech High)
- Academy of Biomedical Sciences* (Tech High)
- Academy of Health Professions (Tech High)
- Early Childhood Professions (Tech High)
- Homeland Security-Criminal Justice (Tech High)
- Fire & Rescue (Public Service Academy/Tech High)
- Computer repair and networking (CISCO Academy) (Tech High)
- Automotive technology (Tech High)
- Collision repair (Tech High)
- Interactive media production (North Hagerstown and South Hagerstown)
- Hospitality and tourism management (North Hagerstown)
- CASE Agricultural Mechanics (Clear Spring)
- Homeland Security-Science (South Hagerstown)
- Homeland Security-Communication and Information Technology (Public Service Academy)

- Information Technology Computer Science (Boonsboro, North Hagerstown and Smithsburg)
 - Software Specialist (Boonsboro, Clear Spring, Hancock, Smithsburg, South Hagerstown and Williamsport)
 - Business Management (Boonsboro, Smithsburg, South Hagerstown and Williamsport)
 - Finance and Accounting (Boonsboro, Smithsburg, South Hagerstown and Williamsport)
 - Marketing (Boonsboro)
 - The Academy of Finance (Williamsport)
 - Career Research and Development (Boonsboro, Evening High, Smithsburg, South Hagerstown and Williamsport)
 - NCCER Carpentry*** (Boonsboro, Hancock and South Hagerstown)
 - Construction design and management (Boonsboro and Williamsport)
 - NCCER Heating, ventilation and air conditioning*** (Barr Construction Institute)
 - NCCER Plumbing*** (Barr Construction Institute)
 - Food and beverage management (North Hagerstown and South Hagerstown)
 - Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education (Hancock and Smithsburg)
 - General Agriculture (Boonsboro, Clear Spring and Smithsburg)
 - Horticulture (Boonsboro and Smithsburg)
 - Child care guidance and management (Clear Spring, Hancock, North Hagerstown and Williamsport)
 - Teacher Academy of Maryland (North Hagerstown and South Hagerstown)
 - Oracle Academy (South Hagerstown)
 - Manufacturing (Williamsport)
 - Mechanical engineering* (Williamsport)
 - Aerospace engineering/NASA* (Williamsport)
- * A Project Lead the Way program that provides a nationally accredited curriculum.
- ***National Center for Construction Education and Research provided the curriculum.



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Teacher of the Year

Herald-Mail file photo

Christina Hammer-Atkins, right, helps Joey Breeden with his classwork at Boonsboro Elementary School in this 2012 photo. Hammer-Atkins was named Washington County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2012-13.



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South High program already growing

The school's homeland-security completer program has grown by leaps and bounds since it was implemented, and 2016 will see its first graduates.

By JULIE E. GREENE

Editor's note: *This story originally was published in the March 29 edition of The Herald-Mail.*

Businesses shouldn't be able to use drones because machines malfunction and a drone could fall on someone, killing that person, one student argued.

But airspace is publicly accessible, except for high-security areas, and other machines, such as cars, can malfunction and cause incidents, another student pointed out.

Jesse Shirley and Sharyl Bashir were among several students in South Hagerstown High School's new homeland-security program who recently debated whether businesses should be allowed to use drones.

Security versus individual freedom is a frequent topic for the debates that have included the pros and cons of hacktivist groups such as Anonymous, which claims to support human rights, said retired Army Col. Laura Marfut, South's homeland-security teacher.

South Hagerstown High School added homeland security as its 10th completer program this school year. A completer is a track to earn a high school diploma.

Other completers at South include carpentry, the teacher academy, business management, food service and software specialist.

Principal Jeremy Jakoby said last year that some of the school's completer programs were "bursting at the seams," and in considering a new option, several students were interested in studying homeland security.

Jakoby said 55 students were in the program this spring, and more than 100 are expected to be in it for the 2015-16 school year.

Marfut, who was hired to teach the program and create its curriculum, has been working part time this school year, but because interest in the program grew this school year, her hours were increased this spring, Jakoby said. Next school year, she will become a full-time teacher, he said.



Herald-Mail file photo

Homeland Security class student Isaiah Moore launches a bean bag in spring 2015 in a "March Madness" game based on teams' research information about U.S. security agencies. The South Hagerstown High School class is led by retired Army Col. Laura Marfut.

There are sophomores, juniors and seniors in the program this year, and spring 2016 will produce the first graduates from the homeland-security completer, educators said.

Providing students with options

Bashir said he likes that the program is provided at his home school, and that it's a full completer program and not just a single course. Like several of his classmates,

he's interested in studying criminal justice or homeland security.

"The point of this program is to expose these students to the wide variety of careers that are out there in homeland security," Marfut said.

Several of the students said they are interested in careers such as law enforcement, intelligence, special weapons and tactics, and serving in the military.

Sophomore Jonice Boyce, who wants to be a police officer, said she plans to stay in the homeland-security program rather than switch to criminal justice because she believes the program provides more options.

Senior Damion Rhymes said before he started studying homeland security, he was thinking of being a teacher or police officer, and those still are the career options he's considering. But now, he wants to enter the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps first and become a military officer.

The program consists of four courses — Homeland Security Foundations and Emergency Preparedness; Homeland Security Science; Research and Applications; and an internship or capstone project in which a student either works with or does a research project involving a community partner related to the homeland security field, Marfut said. The field includes emergency services, intelligence and public health.

As part of their science course, 20 students already have become certified in the Federal Emergency Manage-




Herald-Mail file photo

Laura Marfut launches a video about U.S. security agencies to show to her Homeland Security class at South Hagerstown High School. Marfut is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army.

ment Agency's Incident Command Systems basic course, Marfut said. That's a certification required of many police officers, and public health and safety workers.

See **HOMELAND**, page 94


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Program trains future public servants

The school system's Fire & Rescue Academy and Criminal Justice Academy have moved into a renovated space with modernized training facilities.

By JULIE E. GREENE

Editor's note: *This story originally was published in the Feb. 15 edition of The Herald-Mail.*

Braxton Witmer and Jerry Moschel practiced a traffic stop scenario in a Sally port, while on the other side of the building Journie Bartles was pulling 300 feet of fire hose through the building to a storage barn in the back lot.

All three students attend Washington County Public Schools' new Public Service Academy on Frederick Street at least twice a week for practical lessons.

The roughly 17,000-square-foot building once served as a car dealership, and later as the school system's planning and maintenance offices. The school system budgeted \$500,000 last year to renovate the building to serve as a Public Service Academy, opening it in January. Approximately \$495,000 of that has been spent, not counting lockers that still needed to be installed in the changing rooms, facilities officials said.

Both the school system's Fire & Rescue Academy and Criminal Justice Academy, which now are using the 701 Frederick St. building, have been around since the 1990s, instructors said. But they both had limited space on other school campuses.

Instructors for both programs said the building gives their programs space to grow, and they expect the number of students to increase next school year.

The Criminal Justice Academy has 77 juniors and seniors, but expects to start taking in about 50 new students a year so it will have 86 students next school year, said instructor Dave Rizer, a retired Maryland correctional officer and a Hancock Police Department officer.

As of December, about 315 students still wanted to participate in the Criminal Justice Academy next school year, but that number will get whittled down through the application process and because some students will change their minds, he said.

The Fire & Rescue Academy has eight students this



Herald-Mail file photo

Vanesa Cuevas, left, and Tyler Moser, students in the criminal-justice program at Washington County Public Schools' Public Service Academy, demonstrate a knife-block maneuver with a shock knife in this February photo.

school year. While the new building will allow the program to grow to 30 students next school year, Coordinator Jamie Drawbaugh said 80 students have applied to enter the program in the fall.

The fire program had been using a portable classroom on South Hagerstown High School's campus, while the criminal justice program was based at Washington County Technical High School.

The new Public Service Academy is under the umbrella of Tech High, where students take their academic classes such as math, science, English and social studies. The school system is exploring the idea of building an academic hub in downtown Hagerstown that could serve the academy, the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts and other potential boutique schools that could one day be located downtown.

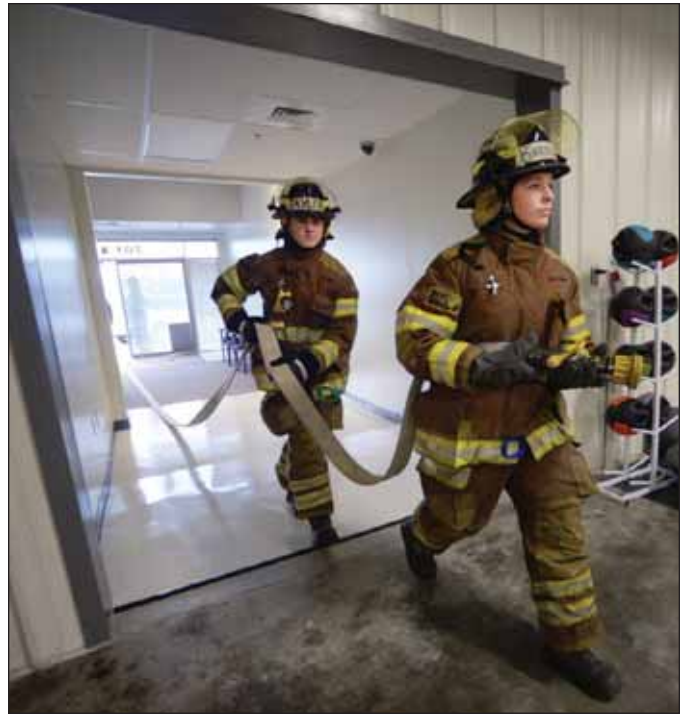
Co-coordinator Paul Neal said the fire and rescue students would do practical exercises at the Hagerstown Fire Department Training Center on Bowman Avenue, not far from the academy's new home, or in the parking lot at South High.

Now, he and Drawbaugh can teach a chapter in a classroom at the Frederick Street academy, have students do a practical exercise on the property and then return to the classroom, Neal said. The students still will go to the Bowman Street facility for certain training, such as working with actual fire, Neal said.

Leadership and teamwork




In February, students were learning hose-line management. They pulled long hoses off of a Long Meadow Volunteer Fire Co. fire engine, learned how to shoulder a hose, and how to get a hose line from the truck in front of the building, through the building and to a storage barn in the back lot.

See **ACADEMY**, page 89




Herald-Mail file photo

Journie Bartles, right, and Levi Taylor, students in the firefighting program at Washington County Public Schools' Public Service Academy, haul a fire hose during a practical exercise in this February photo.

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Josh Davis feeds Jersey Giant chickens in a barn near Clear Spring High School in this June photo. The school offers an agriculture program for Future Farmers of America students.

Clear Spring takes program to next level

Many schools offer FFA programs, but Clear Spring's Environmental and Agricultural Science Academy is the only one that has a working farm.

By JULIE E. GREENE

Editor's note: *This story originally was published in the Jan. 25 edition of The Herald-Mail.*

Earlier this month, teenagers Kory Zeigler, Hunter Harshman and Kyle Hammond made a presentation to the Maryland Grain Producers about an experiment to

reduce the damage that deer cause to corn crops.

The three Clear Spring High School juniors will write a research paper, one they will try to get published next month.

Clear Spring agriculture teacher Cody Pine said it's an aggressive publishing schedule, but spring will arrive soon, and there are other projects to do. Conducting research and publishing the findings can be a lifetime achievement for the students and give them real-world experience beyond traditional agriculture projects, Pine said.

The research project, the school's farm and its capstone projects for students are the result of agriculture teachers taking the Clear Spring program to the next level, officials said. The goal is to intensify the students' hands-on experiences so they are better prepared for college or a career, they said.

“We want to create real-world experiences for kids,” Principal James Aleshire said.

Clear Spring has had a solid ag program for years, said George Phillips, Washington County Public Schools’ supervisor of career and technology education. The program’s new leaders — Pine and J.D. Repp — have ambitious plans, Phillips said.

After community farmers used the school’s almost 15-acre field for several years, students used it the past two seasons, and will continue to work on the farm, said Repp, a 2009 graduate of the ag program. The program is expanding to do more with animal and crop science.

Several local public high schools have agriculture programs, but Clear Spring is the only school that has a farm, Phillips said.

Clear Spring’s program is an academy program — the Environmental and Agricultural Science Academy — so it’s the only ag program in the school system to which students can transfer to study agriculture, officials said.

The Clear Spring program has about 170 students, freshmen through seniors, but program leaders are looking to expand offerings and participation because the school has room for more students, Repp said.

The horticulture section could expand next school year to include greenhouse management and floral design, Repp said.

Pine said there are people who think agricultural education is all about production agriculture — livestock and crops — but there’s much more to it.

Possible career avenues include agronomist, biologist,

conservation officer, veterinarian, veterinary technician, forester and natural-resource officer, the teachers said.

Students still learn about production agriculture. They decide what to plant and when, and they use a tractor with a no-till drill to plant seeds, Pine said.

They learn about nutrient-management plans, including analyzing soil and what fertilizers can be applied to meet those plans, he said.

Capstone projects

The capstone projects are about creating hands-on learning opportunities that students want to do, school officials said.

Harley Swisher, 16, is taking apart a 1979-era International Harvester tractor that has leaks in its hydraulic system. The junior is fixing the engine and installing parts, and will clean, paint and refurbish the tractor, Pine and Swisher said. An alumni supporter provided the tractor, and is footing the bill for the work, Pine said.

“I’m getting ... real-world experience,” said Harley, who lives west of Hagerstown and wants to be a diesel mechanic. “I’m hoping this ... broadens my range of where I could work.”

As more of a “hands-on person,” Harley said he’s looking to go to a technical school rather than a four-year college.

Sophomore Josh Davis bought a beef calf he was to raise from 5 weeks old until it’s about 18 months, and was to show it at this summer’s ag fair.

See **AGRICULTURE**, page 90

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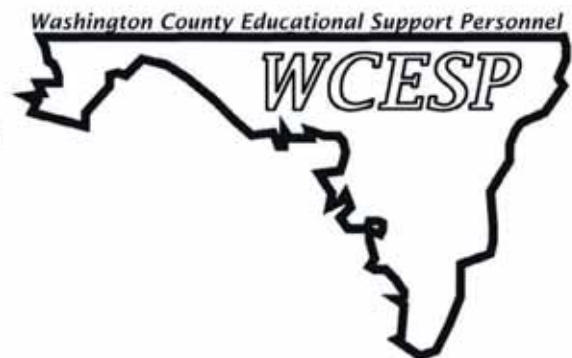
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'Beauty and the Beast'

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Julia Thompson, sitting, is the center of attention as she plays the lead role of Belle during the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts' 2012 performance of the Disney musical "Beauty and the Beast" at The Maryland Theatre.

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Chalkboard solution

Herald-Mail file photo

Stacy Welch, an eighth-grader at Smithsburg Middle School, works out a math problem on a chalkboard in this 1993 photo.



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Simulated summit

Herald-Mail file photo

Williamsport High School students hold a simulated summit to learn about international relations in 1992.

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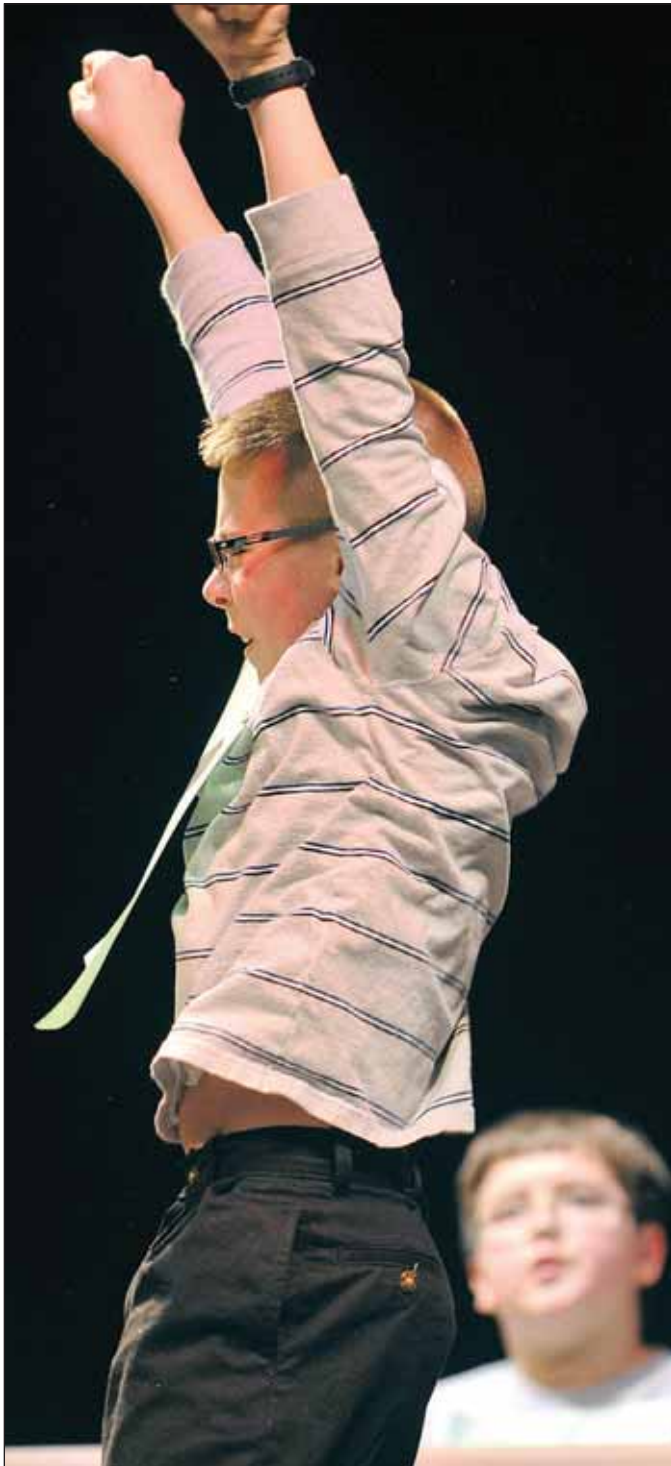
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Spelling Bee Champ



Herald-Mail file photo

Jared Swope of Smithsburg Middle School exults after winning the sixth-grade competition of the 2010 Washington County Spelling Bee at Hagerstown Community College's Kepler Theater. The competition lasted a lengthy 21 rounds.

Robotics Test



Herald-Mail file photo

Jayvon Fitz, left, and Liam Halsey, both seventh-graders at Smithsburg Middle School, operate robots for their team in the Washington County competition of the Vex Robotics Competition Toss Up sponsored by Volvo Group Trucks in February 2014 at Clear Spring High School.




Civil War collaboration

Herald-Mail file photo

Washington County school board member B. Marie Byers, left, signs a certificate of appreciation for South Hagerstown High School teacher John Priest in 1993. Priest collaborated with students on a book about the Civil War.

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Parris at Pangborn

Herald-Mail file photo

Maryland gubernatorial candidate Parris Glendening reads to Pangborn Elementary School students in 1993. Glendening was governor from 1995 to 2003.



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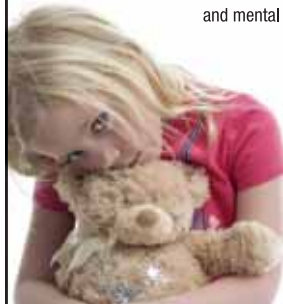
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Ayako Shiga, a language-arts teacher at Boonsboro High School, instructs her class on a game designed to measure understanding of the Japanese language. Shiga was named Washington County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2013-14.

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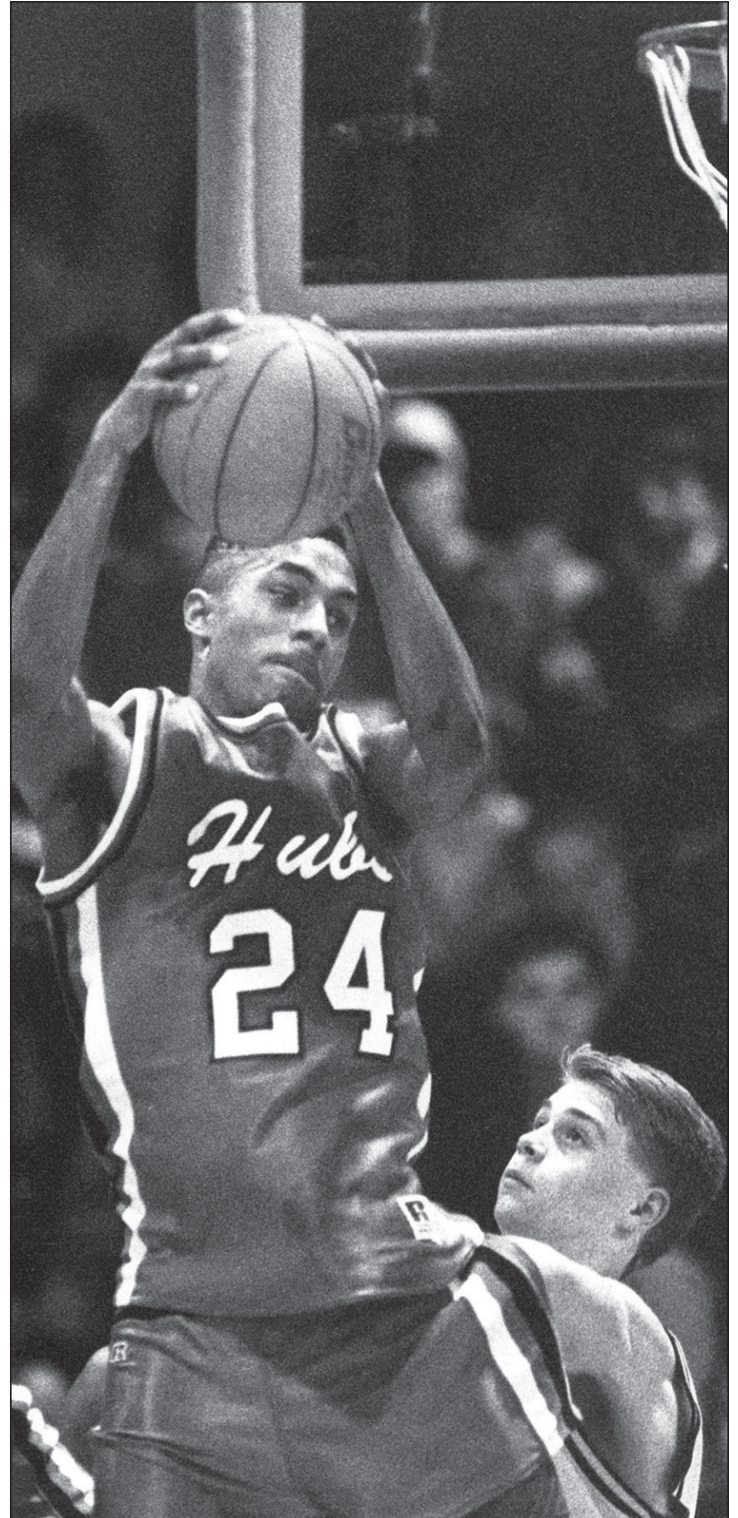
Herald-Mail file photo

Boonsboro's Cindy Barnhart and Williamsport's Tonya Shropshire both go for the ball in 1992.



Herald-Mail file photo

North High's Gretchen Grantham plays defense against a Francis Scott Key player in 1993.



Herald-Mail file photo

North High's Tony Ware pulls down an offensive rebound in 1992.



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Marching orders

Herald-Mail file photo

The Smithsburg High School marching band performs in 1983.

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Teacher of the Year

Herald-Mail file photo

Katharine Long, an eighth-grade social-studies teacher at Western Heights Middle School, was named Washington County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year for 2011-12.

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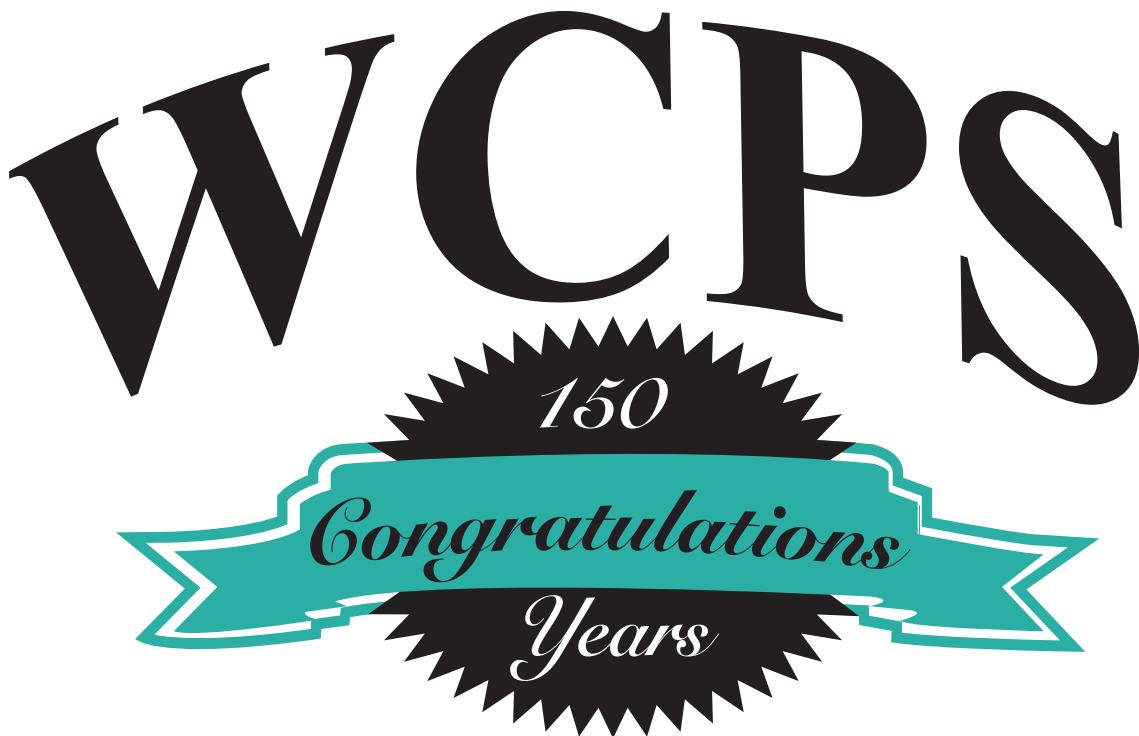
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ACADEMY

Continued from page 71

As they worked, Neal would inform them that the fire — there was no actual fire — had shifted location, so the students had to keep moving the hose.

During the exercise, the students also were learning about leadership, teamwork, communication and delegating responsibilities.

Senior Journie Bartles, 17, of Hagerstown got a job as an emergency medical technician with County Medical Transport in Williamsport after taking EMT classes through school last year. All of the fire and rescue students volunteer with a local fire company, which supplies their turnout gear. Bartles is a firefighter 1 with Williamsport Volunteer Fire and EMS.

Bartles said the new academy building is “awesome,” and the larger space allows students to do more exercises such as the hose-line training.

Criminal-justice students used a classroom at Tech High for book work, and took a bus to the Police Athletic League facilities at Fairgrounds Park, where mats were set up for them to learn defensive tactics such as Brazilian jiu-jitsu, said junior Alexandra Maust, 16, of Smithsburg.

The newly renovated space for the academy centralized training for the criminal-justice program this spring, when the academy got proper mats and the exercise

equipment was fully set up, said instructor Curt Wood, who was a Hagerstown Police Department officer for 29 years. Until then, students paid for Planet Fitness memberships so they could go there four days a week for workouts, and the students still go to Fairgrounds Park for defensive tactics on mats, instructors said.

The new building not only provides more room, but the Sally port allows criminal-justice students to bring vehicles into the building for skill exercises such as traffic stops, said Witmer, 18, of Williamsport.

“It really helps us get more things accomplished with crime scenes, too. We can set up full crime scenes,” Witmer said.

Superintendent Clayton Wilcox said the plan is to add a third public service program to the academy. Officials still are determining what that will be, though it might be a dispatch/communications program. Wilcox said the homeland-security program probably will remain at South High, where it began this school year.

School-system officials also are exploring an agreement with local law enforcement and firefighters so professionals can use the workout equipment at the academy either after school hours or, for second-shift workers, during the school day, Wilcox said.

Having students see professionals work out at the academy would help the youths understand “that staying in shape should be a way of life,” Wood said.

“We have the old saying, “When you become a police officer, you give up the right to be out of shape,” Wood said. ■



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AGRICULTURE

Continued from page 73

He is in charge of creating the calf's pen, which includes setting up a wooden fence around a small barn that the ag program purchased.

The project ties into his animal-science studies because he will learn to give the steer injections and medicine, and he is learning ways to train and handle animals, said Josh, 15, who lives in Clear Spring.

"It all ties into what I'm learning" and his career aspirations to be a veterinarian, Josh said.

Students are responsible for taking care of the animals on the farm, which include chickens, on off days such as holiday breaks, weekends and snow days, Repp said. While the farm had no animals this past summer, Josh is committed to taking care of his steer this summer, Repp said.

Junior Kory Zeigler lives in the attendance zone for Smithsburg High School, which also has an agriculture program, but he said he applied to Clear Spring's academy because the experience that Clear Spring's farm and field could provide would enhance his education.

"I want to go to college and major in agronomy," said Kory, who prefers the crop-production side of agriculture and wants to learn how to increase crop yields.

Research and data collection

Kory is one of the students involved in the corn experiment.

School officials found out about the Maryland Grain Producers' grant opportunities through Steve Ernst, a local seed consultant who is a supporter of Clear Spring's ag program, school officials said.

Last year's seniors put together a grant proposal, and succeeded in getting a \$5,000 grant from the grain producers' utilization board. It funded a research project in which students planted corn in different row spacings and with sorghum between the corn rows and the tree line to see if the sorghum would limit deer damage to the corn.

The field abuts woods on the Claud E. Kitchens Outdoor School at Fairview's property, and many deer come out of the woods to feast on the farm's crops. Because the woods are on school property, deer cannot be hunted.

The students and teachers expected deer damage to the rows of corn closest to the tree line, but they were surprised there was zero yield in those rows, Repp said, noting that rain prevented the sorghum from growing.

The row spacings also resulted in different yields, Repp said.

The students will do a similar experiment this season, using soybeans instead of sorghum to see how that might affect yields, Repp said.

The students are learning how to set up research and the importance of collecting data, Repp said.

The students went to Kent Island to present their findings to the grain producers on Jan. 8, and the producers gave the students their blessing to publish their findings through the University of Maryland Extension of Washington County, Pine and Repp said.

Students plan to continue their research on reducing deer damage, and they presented the grain producers with a proposal for a \$7,500 grant, Repp said.

One thing they would like to do with a new grant is set up a webcam so anyone can check whether deer are in the crop, teachers said.

Ryan Yetter, a 2014 graduate, is one of the students who helped get the project started.

Yetter said the courses he is taking at Penn State Mont Alto, where he is studying environmental engineering, repeat many of the things he learned at Clear Spring. For now, that makes the coursework relatively easy, he said.

A vision for the future

Clear Spring has had an agreement with Allegany College of Maryland, a community college in Allegany County, Md., for almost 10 years so its students can earn college credit for some of their agricultural high school courses. School officials said they want to expand such agreements to other colleges.

School officials also plan to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that could bring the program hundreds of thousands of dollars to improve its facilities.

The high school's current ag complex, behind the athletic fields and near the Plumb Grove museum, includes the field, a large bank barn now used for storage, an old milking parlor that housed broiler chickens until mid-January, a former storage shed that now houses a chicken coop and the new barn that Josh Davis will use to care for his steer.

Next to the main school building is an agricultural building that houses a classroom, greenhouse, office, restrooms, and a wood and metal shop packed with equipment, materials and student projects.

School officials said they would like to have a working barn, either by rehabilitating the existing big barn or building one, and they want to modernize the agricultural building.

In addition to studying production agriculture and mechanics, there are opportunities to study environmental science. Toms Run and an arboretum are on school grounds, and there is a pond on the outdoor school's property, the teachers said. The outdoor school also has a soil pit, which shows the different levels of soil, but educators would like to get one right on the farm.

"Our vision here is to be the agricultural outdoor education center," Pine said.

One day, fifth-graders studying at the outdoor school could end up visiting Clear Spring's ag center to see the operations, Aleshire said.

"We're really trying just to build on the great history of the program," Aleshire said. ■

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My Favorite Teacher



“My favorite WCPS teacher was my third-grade teacher, Miss Laurie Grier. She not only pushed me to excel in academics, but made me feel normal when I got my braces on and couldn’t talk well.”

— Kevin Sandell,
instructional technology/STEM Teacher,
Bester Elementary School

“My favorite teacher is Dwight Scott, retired physical-education teacher, coach and athletic director at Boonsboro High School. He was kind, caring and a role model who inspired me to become a PE teacher.”

— Jackie Semler Row,
physical-education teacher,
Williamsport High School

“My favorite teacher in Washington County Public Schools was Esther Fulk, who taught fifth grade at Antietam Street Elementary School. Mrs. Fulk was a small person, but she had a big personality.”

— Debra J. Catherman,
second-grade teacher,
Potomac Heights Elementary School

“As a 2006 alumni of South Hagerstown High School (and current SHHS teacher), my path in life, toward becoming a Social Studies teacher, was shaped by my AP European History teacher, Charles South. He presented history in a way I had never learned before and made it exciting and captivating. I immediately wanted to know more and teach others about the fascinating information to impose a love of history in them as he had in me!”

— Caitlin Myers
Social studies teacher,
South Hagerstown High School

“Mary Ann Enamait at Salem Avenue Elementary was funny, warm and made everyone feel loved by giving us special nicknames. (I can still remember the smell of her perfume!) Dave Warrenfeltz at North High always took the time to explain the most difficult math concepts in a thorough and meaningful way. These two wonderful teachers showed me the kind of teacher I wanted to be.”

— Sabrina (Harrison) LeHew,
intervention teacher,
Bester Elementary School

“Hands down that Mr. Rob Hovermale was the best WCPS teacher that I had. He brought so much passion and joy into every band class. By the time I was in eighth grade and starting to decide what career path I wanted to choose, I would instantly think, “Wow, if Mr. Hovermale is having that much fun every day, that’s what I want to do!” Needless to say, I currently teach middle school band in WCPS, and I love it!”

— Amanda Kline,
band teacher,
Boonsboro Middle School

“During my time as a student in Washington County, my favorite teacher was Kathy Thornhill. She was inspiring, compassionate and unique. I learned so much in her class!”

— Sara Sandeen,
seventh-grade ELA teacher,
Western Heights Middle School

“The late Mrs. Rose Shade was my favorite teacher. She was fun, loving and made each child feel special. She had the amazing ability to see each child for who they were, not just for how they acted or for where they were from. She was incredible. My goal is to continue her legacy.”

— Kathryn Toy,
fifth-grade teacher,
Boonsboro Elementary School

“My favorite teacher growing up was Mrs. Robison from Pangborn Elementary. She was my third-grade teacher (in the early 1990s). She is the reason I worked hard and pushed myself. She is the reason I became a teacher. I apologize that I do not know her first name, but she was fabulous.”

—Melanie Ebersole,
first-grade teacher,
Maugansville Elementary School

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HOMELAND

Continued from page 69

The online course, on which students spent a week in class working, explains how different response organizations work together — such as emergency agencies, the American Red Cross and faith-based groups — and goes over the chain of command and rules and responsibilities, Marfut said.

The certification course teaches students the skills to make order out of the chaos at an emergency scene.

‘Ready to learn’

It was in the Homeland Security Science class that students were debating drone use. Current events that could affect the nation’s security also are discussed.

“We spend a lot of time talking about all the man-made and natural threats to our nation that are out there and what we do about it. What are the government agencies that have the role of protecting our nation? How do they work? How do they work together? How does the intelligence community work? Who feeds them information? Then, we get a little more deeply into topics, the science of homeland security. We look at satellites, What kind of information do we get from satellites and how do they work? We look at drones. ... We pay close attention to current events. These kids are up on the news. What’s going on? What do these things mean for our national security?” Marfut said.

“The kids come in ready to learn every day,” Marfut said.

She said the students haven’t been shy about providing feedback, which she uses.

After a student suggested an activity be related to March Madness, she came up with a bracket listing the various agencies involved with homeland security.

She gives students a scenario, and they have to decide which agency in that particular bracket would be the appropriate one to respond to that type of emergency, she said.

The exercise helps students learn all of the acronyms and the types of things those agencies actually do, Marfut said. One bracket featured the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and WHO, the World Health Organization.

Marfut said she had 32 years of active and reserve duty time before retiring a year ago from active duty.

She has prior teaching experience, as an instructor for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College’s satellite program at Fort Detrick in Frederick County, Md. She also has three master’s degrees, including a master’s in education, according to her biography.

In addition to teaching and devising curriculum for the homeland-security program, Marfut expects to begin earning credits this summer so she can obtain a professional teaching certificate in Maryland. Due to state

regulations, she was hired as a provisional candidate.

The Washington County Board of Education supports locally sponsored state legislation that is attempting to establish an alternative teacher-certification program, especially to fill vacancies in critical or technical areas, Herald-Mail Media has reported.

Marfut said her certification requirements include needing to earn nine credits and pass a required basic skills test within three years of being hired.

Several students said they value their teacher’s real experience in the military and intelligence fields.

“She’s not just teaching out of a handbook, which sometimes is more difficult for the teachers,” junior Tim Heidtke said. “She actually knows what she’s talking about. She’s been there.”

Informational field trips

Marfut has brought a variety of guest speakers into her classes, including Washington County Sheriff Douglas Mullendore, an official from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Hagerstown Community College’s cybersecurity instructor, a U.S. Department of Defense polygraph examiner and South High Assistant Principal Robert Stike, who serves in the National Guard. An official from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is expected to speak to her students later this school year.

She also has taken the students on field trips, including to the Pentagon. At the students’ suggestion, she took them on a trip to the White House in February that also included a stop at the National Crime Museum. Marfut said the White House and Pentagon allow for public tours, but her experience allowed her to properly prepare the students for those trips.

The trips are fun, but they, and the curriculum, are about exposing the students to the various career opportunities in a growing industry, Marfut said.

Jesse Shirley, a sophomore, said the trips also provide useful information for class debates.

Shirley said the program isn’t just about homeland security. It also is about things the students can change in their own communities.

While touring the Pentagon, Marfut had her students look for security measures that had been added since Sept. 11. Then, they had to suggest security improvements for South High, and some of those suggestions were related to things they saw at the Pentagon, she said.

The program is pursuing a WCPS Education Foundation minigrant to, among other things, pay for luminescent exit arrows that can be placed on the school’s baseboards because Pentagon officials discovered during 9/11 that in smoky conditions, people could not see the exit signs that had been placed higher up, she said.

The students also could use grant funds for hallway roundabout ideas they have to relieve pedestrian congestion and to have their custom safety posters professionally made so they can be posted in the school’s hallways. The posters feature infographics about safety topics such as preventing bullying. ■



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Herald-Mail file photo

Fountain Rock Elementary School at 17145 Lappans Road south of Hagerstown is shown in this July 2009 photo. The school was built in 1970 and renovated and expanded in 2009.

SCHOOLS

Continued from page 52

- **Ernstville School**, a two-room schoolhouse in Big Pool that closed in 1941. Later converted to a house.
- **Euclid school**, a one-room school on Md. 491 between Smithsburg and Sabillasville. Also referred to as Mount Zion School. Early 1900s.
- **Exline school**, early 1900s.
- **Fairplay School**, built in 1868 on Fairplay Road.
- **Fairplay School**, built in 1913 on Fairplay Road. Closed in 1971.
- **Faiths school**, early 1900s.
- **Falling Waters school**, early 1900s. Closed in 1907.
- **Fiddlersburg school**, early 1900s.
- **Fort Frederick School** for black students was built in 1900 near Fort Frederick and Big Spring Road.
- **Fountain Rock School**. A one-room schoolhouse active in 1928. Closed in 1942.
- **Fountain Rock Elementary School**, 17145 Lappans Road, south of Hagerstown. Built in 1970 and renovated and expanded in 2009.*
- **Fountaindale school**, circa 1906.
- **Fountaindale school** built near the current Fountaindale school in 1920. Closed in 1941.
- **Fountaindale Elementary School**, 901 Northern Ave., Hagerstown. Built in 1949 and expanded in 1954 and 1968.*
- **Four Locks school**, previously known as Cedar Grove School, in the Big Spring area, late 19th century. Closed in 1943.
- **Friendship School**, early 1900s.
- **Funkstown School**, built in 1900 and closed in 1968. Building was razed and area later was used for parking.
- **Funkstown School** for black students was built in 1900.
- **Funkstown School for Early Childhood Education**. 23 Funkstown Road. Built in 1967.*
- **Gapland school**, early 1900s.

- **George Street school**, early 1900s.
- **Green Spring Furnace School**, a one-room school southwest of Clear Spring, between Big Spring and Big Pool. Closed in the late 1930s.
- **Greenbrier Elementary School**, 21222 San Mar Road, northeast of Boonsboro. Built in 1971.*
- **Greensburg School** northeast of Smithsburg, which closed in 1909 when the new school opened. Currently used as a home.
- **Greensburg School** northeast of Smithsburg was built in 1909.
- **Hagerstown High School**, 1200 N. Potomac Ave. Built in 1926. Open from 1927 to 1958, it was renamed North Hagerstown High School in 1956, when South Hagerstown High School opened. As of a 1953 report, it was serving as both a school for grades 10 through 12 as well as a junior college. Then renamed in 1958 when it became North Potomac Junior High School, closing in 1978. Razed in 1980-81 and became the site of housing.
- **Halfway school**, circa 1925.
- **Hancock Elementary School**, 290 W. Main St. Built in 1977.*
- **The first Hancock High School** was built in 1920 on West High Street and served students in junior and high-school grades. When a new high school was built in 1930, this school became an elementary school. After the new elementary school was built in 1977, the building on High Street was dormant for years before becoming what today is Town Hall.


- **The second Hancock High School** was built in 1930 in Widmeyer Park and served grades seven through 12. After graduating its last class in 1957, and with the new high school built in 1956, the building in the park became an elementary school until the new elementary school opened in 1977. This building later was torn down.
- **Hancock Middle-Senior High School**, 289 W. Main St., Hancock. Opened in 1956 and expanded in 1968. Renovated in 1995 and expanded in 2000.*
- **Hancock School for black students.** After a house was rented in 1872 for Hancock's black students, a new school was built in 1884 on the east end of town. The East Main Street building was converted and now is Roland's Garage and Used Cars. There is a reference to a Hancock school for black students closing in 1907.
- **Hickory Elementary School**, 11101 Hickory School Road in Halfway. Built in 1975.*
- **Highfield school** in the Cascade area. Circa 1894.
- **Hopewell school**, early 1900s.
- **Howard Street School**, an elementary school built in 1898 and closed circa 1967. Later was razed and became a parking lot.
- **Huyetts School**, a four-room schoolhouse along U.S. 40, west of Huyetts Crossroads. Built in 1931 and closed circa 1961. Now a Mennonite school.



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The Reading Corner at Lincolnshire Elementary School opened in May. The school in Halfway was built in 1954 and renovated in 1997.

- **Independence School**, a one-room schoolhouse that closed in 1938.

- **Indian Springs School**. There is one noted as being built in 1927 and one noted to be a two-room schoolhouse that closed in 1961. Uncertain if they were the same school.

- **Indian Springs School** for black students.
- **Keedysville School**. 1889-1922. Razed in 1922.
- **Keedysville School**, Mount Vernon Drive. Built in 1922 and closed in 1983. Now serves as a senior nutrition site and day-care center.

- **Keep Tryst school** in Sandy Hook.

- **Lane's Run school**, early 1900s.

- **Lappans school**, circa 1930s.

- **Leitersburg school**, circa 1906.

- **Leitersburg School**, a four-room school built in 1914. Closed in 1970.

- **Lincoln School** in Halfway. Built in 1920.

- **Lincolnshire Elementary School**, 17545 Lincolnshire Road in Halfway. Built in 1954, expanded in 1964 and 1997, and renovated in 1997.*

- **Locust Grove school**, a one-room schoolhouse

north of Rohrsersville. Circa 1865, the schoolhouse was taken over by the public-school system. Currently falling down.

- **Locust Hill school**, early 1900s. Closed in 1909.

- **Manor Church School** for black students.

- **Mapleville school**, early 1900s.

- **Marshall Street School**, 1350 Marshall St. in Hagerstown's West End. Opened in 1976.*

- **Martin's school**, early 1900s.

- **Maugansville school**, circa 1906.

- **Maugansville Elementary School**, off Maugans Avenue in Maugansville. Built in 1936 with additions in 1949, 1955 and 1968. Razed in 2008 and replaced with new school.

- **Maugansville Elementary School**, 18023 Maugans Ave. in Maugansville. Built in 2008.*

- **McLaughlin School**, a one-room school that closed in 1918. There also is reference to a McLaughlin School that closed in 1908.

- **Millstone school**, early 1900s.

- **Mixel school**, early 1900s.

- **Monroe School** near Boonsboro. Early 1900s.



Herald-Mail file photo

The auditorium/cafeteria at Maugansville Elementary School is shown in this August 2008 photo. The school opened to students for the 2008-09 school year.

- **Mooreville School**, also referenced as Moorsville School House, a one-room school west of Clear Spring. Closed in 1938. There also is reference to a Mooreville school that closed in 1907 and closed again in 1909.
- **Mount Aetna school**, early 1900s.
- **Mount Briar school**, early 1900s.
- **Mount Carmel school**, early 1900s.
- **Mount Lena School**, built in 1902 east of Hagerstown and closed in 1972.
- **New Eden School**, a one-room school north of Hagerstown that closed in 1937.
- **Mount Union school** along Leitersburg Pike near Miller's Church Road. The school board created the Mount Union school district in 1868 and there is a reference to it still being open circa 1919.
- **North Hagerstown High School**, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. in Hagerstown's North End. Opened in 1956 and expanded and renovated in 1992.*
- **North Potomac Junior High School**, 1200 N. Potomac Ave. in Hagerstown's North End. Originally Hagerstown High

School, this building became the junior high in 1958. Closed in 1978. Razed in 1980-81 and became the site of housing.

- **North Street School**, the first one at 109 W. North Ave., was built in 1888, expanded in 1924 and converted to a YMCA in 1947. Later served as a community center, first known as Memorial Recreation Center in the late 1960s and renamed the Robert W. Johnson Community Center in June 2013.

- **The second North Street School** at 131 W. North Ave. in Hagerstown also served black students. Built in 1949 to replace an older school that now serves as a community center. As of a 1953 report, the school served grades one to 12. North Street School closed in 1955, when desegregation began in the county and North Hagerstown and South Hagerstown high schools opened. The building now is the Martin Luther King Center.

- **Northern Middle School**, 701 Northern Ave. in Hagerstown's North End. Opened in 1980.*
- **O'Ferrill or O'Ferrell School** in the Hancock area. Closed in 1936.



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Herald-Mail file photo

Ruth Ann Monroe Primary School at 1311 Yale Drive along the eastern edge of Hagerstown is shown in this August 2011 photo. The school opened to students for the 2011-12 school year.

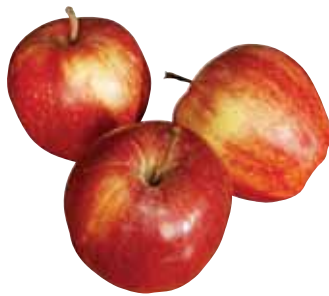
- **Old Forge Elementary School**, 21615 Old Forge Road, west of Smithsburg. Built in 1970 and expanded in 1995.*
- **Orchard Ridge School**, a one-room school between Hancock and Clear Spring that closed in 1942.
- **Pangborn Elementary School**, also known as Pangborn Boulevard Elementary School, 195 Pangborn Blvd. Built in 1955 and razed in 2008, when it was replaced by a new school.
- **Pangborn Elementary School**, 195 Pangborn Blvd. Built in 2008.*
- **Paradise school**, early 1900s.
- **Paramount Elementary School**, 19410 Longmeadow Road. Built in 1952 and razed in 1994, when replaced by a new school.
- **Paramount Elementary School**, 19410 Longmeadow Road, northeast of Hagerstown. Opened in 1994.*
- **Park Hall school**, early 1900s. Closed in 1908.
- **Peltons school**. Circa 1930s.
- **Philo school** northeast of Smithsburg. Early 1900s. Was razed.
- **Pig Skin or Pigskin Ridge school**, early 1900s. There is a reference to it later becoming Orchard Ridge School.

- **Pinesburg school**, early 1900s.
- **Pinesburg School**, a two-room school that was built in 1923 between Williamsport and Clear Spring. Closed in 1961. Now used as a church.
- **Pleasant Grove school**, early 1900s.
- **Pleasant Hill school**, early 1900s.
- **Pleasant Valley Elementary School**, 1707 Rohrerstown Road, northeast of Sandy Hook. Opened in 1960 and expanded and renovated in 1990.*
- **Point Salem schoolhouse** along Cearfoss Pike. Early 1900s.
- **Pondsville school**, early 1900s.
- **Potomac Heights Elementary School**, 301 E. Magnolia Ave., Hagerstown. Opened in 1970.*
- **Public Service Academy**, 701 Frederick St. Opened in 2015 in a renovated building that previously had several different uses, including housing school-system offices.*
- **Reid School**, a two-room school northeast of Hagerstown. Also referred to as Paramount-Reid School. 1924 to 1950.
- **Ridge Avenue school**, circa 1930s.
- **Ringgold School**, a two-room school built in 1921 and closed circa 1954. Building now used by Ringgold Ruritan.

- **Rock Hill school** in the Leitersburg area. Early 1900s.
- **Rockdale School**, a one-room school that closed in 1930. Later used as a church.
- **Rockland Woods Elementary School**, 18201 Rockland Drive, south of Hagerstown. Opened in 2008.*
- **Rohrersville School**. Built in 1916 and closed in 1978.
- **Ruth Ann Monroe Primary School**, 1311 Yale Drive, along eastern edge of Hagerstown. Opened in 2011.*
- **Saint Pauls school**, early 1900s.
- **Salem Avenue Elementary School**, 1323 Salem Ave. Extended in Hagerstown's West End. Opened in 1951; expanded in 1995, 2005 and 2006; and renovated in 2005.*
- **Salisbury school**, early 1900s. There are references to two different Salisbury schools on the same list of schools circa 1906-1908 with a note that one closed in 1907.
- **Samples Manor school**, early 1900s.
- **Sandy Hook School** was built in 1927.
- **Shank school**, also known as Cheese Hollow school, northwest of Smithsburg.
- **Shanktown School**, a one-room school between Big Spring and Big Pool. Circa 1930s and 1940s. There also is a reference to a Shanktown school circa 1906.
- **Sharpsburg Elementary School**, 17525 Shepherds-town Pike, Sharpsburg. Opened in 1936, expanded in 1967 and 1983, and renovated in 1983.*
- **Sharpsburg School** for black students was held at Tolson's Chapel in the 1870s until a new school was built on East High Street in 1900.
- **Sheppards school**, early 1900s. Closed in 1909.

- **Sledgetown School** on Virginia Avenue.
- **Smithsburg School** at the corner of South Main Street and Bishop Lane was built in 1915 and remodeled in 1930. As of a 1953 report, it served kindergarten through grade 12. After the elementary school opened in 1953, this school served grades six through 12. Used as a junior high after the new high school was built in 1965. When the new middle school was built in 1976, this old school was razed and senior housing was constructed on the site.
- **Smithsburg Elementary School**, 67 N. Main St., Smithsburg. Built in 1953 and expanded and remodeled in 1997.*
- **Smithsburg Middle School**, 68 N. Main St., Smithsburg. Opened in 1976.*
- **Smithsburg High School**, 66 N. Main St., Smithsburg. Opened in 1965, expanded in 1994 and 2006, and renovated in 1996 and 2006.*
- **Smoketown school**, early 1900s.
- **South Hagerstown High School**, 1101 S. Potomac St. in Hagerstown's South End. Opened in 1956. Renovated in 1967, 1989, 1999 and 2001 with the science classrooms renovated in 1985. Expanded in 1999 and 2001.*
- **South Potomac Junior High School** at the corner of South Potomac Street and Memorial Boulevard in Hagerstown's South End. Built in 1930 and served as a junior high until circa 1967, when it became part of Bester Elementary School. Razed in 2014.
- **Spring Grove school** on Jordan Road, early 1900s.
- **Spring Grove School** for black students, north of Spielman in southern Washington County, closed in 1941.

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Herald-Mail file photo

Springfield Middle School is shown in this April 2002 photo. The school at 334 Sunset Ave. in Williamsport opened in 1977.

- **Springfield Middle School**, 334 Sunset Ave. in Williamsport. Opened in 1977.*

- **Strites school**, early 1900s.
- **Sunnyside school**, early 1900s.
- **Surrey School**, 535 Summit Ave. in Hagerstown.

Built in 1907, it served as the boys high school until 1927, when the boys and girls high schools were merged into Hagerstown High School. Then, Surrey became an elementary school, closing in 1983. Became a child-care center in 1986 and still used for that purpose.

- **Sylvan Grove school**, early 1900s.
- **Tonoloway School**. Two-room schoolhouse west of Hancock. Built in 1918. Ceased being a school after a fire burned the building down.
- **Tummers school**, early 1900s.
- **Unsel school**, early 1900s.
- **Upper Blair's Valley School**, a one-room school north of Clear Spring. Built around 1850 and closed around 1914.
- **Vocational Shops** were off Memorial Boulevard, as of a 1953 report.
- **Washington County High School** was not a physical building, but was the term referred to for the graduating classes of the boys (Surrey) and girls (Broadway) schools in the early 20th century.
- **Washington County Job Development Center**, formerly known as the Kemp Horn Vocational Center, 22930 Federal Lookout Road near Smithsburg. Opened in 1971 and served students until the program moved to the Marshall Street School in 2004.
- **Washington County Technical High School**, formerly known as the Career Studies Center, at 50 W. Oak Ridge Drive in Hagerstown's South End. Opened in 1972, renovated in 1996 and 2006, and expanded in 2006.*

- **Washington Square school**, circa 1906.
- **Washington Street School**, along West Washington Street between Devonshire Road and Wakefield Road in Hagerstown's West End. Built in 1914. Sold in 1977. Now houses businesses.
- **Wayside School** was built in 1908 on the same site as Broadway School. It served kindergarten through grade two. Was razed.
- **Wellers school**, early 1900s. Closed in 1909.
- **Western Heights Middle School**, 1300 Marshall St. in Hagerstown's West End. Opened in 1976 and renovated in 2013.*
- **Western Reserve School**, a one-room school west of Cearfoss. Early 1900s. There is reference to a Western Reserve School closing in 1908 and a photo of a Western Reserve School class taken in 1915.
- **Weverton school**, early 1900s.
- **Weverton School** for black students, also known as Mount Moriah, was built in 1883 near Garretts Mill on Garretts Mill Road. Called Mount Moriah after the church rebuilt it. Closed in 1941. Currently used by the church.
- **White Oak Forest School** in Fiddlersburg. Built in 1924 and closed in 1961. Now a house on Antietam Drive.
- **White Hall school**, early 1900s.
- **Williamsport school**, circa 1906.
- **Williamsport School** for black students. Built in 1869 and rebuilt in 1873. Still stands along Artizan Street.
- **Williamsport Elementary School**, east of Artizan Street near the park. Built in 1920. Fire in 1923 and razed after 1978.
- **Williamsport Elementary School**, 1 S. Clifton Drive in Williamsport. Opened in 1959, expanded in 1965 and 2003, and remodeled in 2003.*

- **Williamsport High School**, 5 S. Clifton Drive in Williamsport. Opened in 1970 and renovated in 1995. An addition to the athletic facilities is being constructed in 2015.*

- **Williamsport Intermediate & Secondary School.** The intermediate building was built in 1920 and served elementary and junior high students as of a 1953 report. The high school building was constructed in 1939. Both were built on a site near the city park, which was used for athletics. Razed after 1978.

- **Williamsport Primary School** was built in 1930 on East Church Street. Now used for apartments.

- **Wilsons School**, a one-room school built in the 1850s on Rufus Wilson Road, near U.S. 40 and Conococheague Creek. Taken over by the Washington County Board of Education in 1885. Operated until the mid-1950s.

- **Winter Street School** built in 1893. Torn down in 1952 because new school was built.

- **Winter Street Elementary School**, 59 Winter St. in Hagerstown's West End. Opened in 1953, expanded and renovated in 1973, and scheduled to close after the 2015-16 school year.*

- **Woburn School**, also referenced as Wooburn School, at Dam No. 4 Road and Woburn Road near Downsville. Early 1900s.

- **Woodland Way Junior High** was built in 1931 and expanded in 1938. Served as a junior high until 1957, then was an elementary school. Closed in 1983. Now used as a church.

- **Woodmont School**, west of Hancock. There are separate references to a Woodmont School that opened in 1907 and one that closed in 1908 on the same list of early 1900s schools.

- **Yarrowsburg School**, a two-room school built in 1882 and closed in 1961.

- **Zittlestown School** near Boonsboro. Early 1900s. Closed in 1909. Later razed.

Sources: Washington County Public Schools Educational Facilities Master Plan and current and past facilities fact sheets; a photo album of Washington County schools in the early 1900s provided in memory of school board member William L. Bushey and a photo album of schools that was compiled by Downs and Louise Hewitt — both of which are in the John Clinton Frye Western Maryland Room of the Washington County Free Library; “Long-Range School Building Program” produced by educational consultants Engelhardt, Engelhardt and Leggett and referred to above as the “1953 report”; the Robert W. Johnson Community Center website; Herald-Mail archives; Hancock Historical Society President Emeritus Don Corbett; Deputy Superintendent Boyd Michael; Board of Education member Wayne Ridenour; retired board member B. Marie Byers; Smithsburg Historical Society President John Jacques; the Washington County Historical Society documents and the society’s executive director, Linda Irvin-Craig; and information from Denny Unger, who has collected information about old schools in the county. ■

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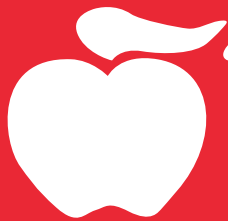
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Smithsburg High School's Sara Rishell lands after a kill against Williamsport in a Monocacy Valley Athletic League volleyball match in 2009. Rishell led the Leopards to state volleyball championships in 2009 and 2010, and went on to play collegiately at American University and the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

ATHLETES

Continued from page 47

- **Dwayne Freeman** — Freeman (South Hagerstown) might be better known for football, especially since attending the University of Tennessee. But he held many of the Rebels' track records. Freeman currently is South's track coach.

Volleyball

If baseball is what Washington County is best known for, volleyball is a close second.

Since the late 1980s, Washington County schools have dominated the sport, as Smithsburg and Williamsport have won multiple state titles. North Hagerstown has won its share of crowns in recent years.

Among the county's top volleyball players are:

- **Carey Brennan** — Brennan (Smithsburg) was Wash-

ington County's player of the year in volleyball and basketball before heading to Maryland. She played volleyball for four seasons with the Terps and earned all-ACC and all-region honors. She holds Maryland's all-time records in kills and attacks.

- **Sara Rishell** — Rishell (Smithsburg) led the Leopards to state championships in 2009 and 2010. She signed with American University and was a two-time all-Patriot League middle blocker. She transferred to the University of Alabama-Birmingham in 2013, where she earned all-Conference USA honors and was selected to the USA Volleyball Collegiate National Team program.

- **Kristi Hart** — Hart (Williamsport) played two years at HCC before going to Penn State for two years. She earned all-academic honors with the Nittany Lions. She is a member of the HCC Hall of Fame.

- **Kari Belin** — Belin (South Hagerstown) played at Seton Hall for two seasons, gaining Big East all-conference and all-academic honors in 2001.

- **Heather Ashley** — Ashley (Smithsburg) spent four years as an outside hitter at Connecticut.

• **Selena Wilkes** — Wilkes (Williamsport) was a four-sport athlete who went on to captain the volleyball team at Catawba College, where she is a member of the school's Hall of Fame. She later played on the LPGA Futures Tour.

• **Kelli Myers** — Myers (Williamsport) was a multisport athlete before heading to Maryland, where she was all-ACC twice and was captain of the 1991 U.S. Olympic Sports Fest team. She became an assistant coach before taking head coaching jobs at Connecticut and Wheaton College.

• **Cayla Broadwater** — Broadwater (Williamsport) led the Wildcats to three consecutive conference titles and a state title as a freshman. She spent three seasons at Connecticut before transferring to Colorado State for her senior year.

Wrestling

• **Mike McGill** — McGill (Williamsport) was a two-time Maryland state champion before wrestling at the University of Maryland.

• **Jimi Massey** — Massey (Williamsport) was the Washington County football defensive player of the year in 1996 and the 189-pound state wrestling champion in 1997. He became a two-time ACC champion at Virginia in 2001 and 2002.

Golf

• **Dirk Schultz** — Schultz (North Hagerstown) has taken his love for golf and turned it into a profession. He

has been the club pro at Black Rock and Beaver Creek, playing in a number of PGA regional and tour events. He also coached golf at HCC.

• **Ashley Grier** — Grier (Smithsburg) won the Maryland girls state championship in 2000. She attended Jacksonville University before transferring to Central Florida. She has played on the LPGA Futures Tour and won the 2006 Maryland Women's Open.

Other sports

• **Doug Bigelow** — Bigelow (Boonsboro) played football for the Warriors and now is the owner of an Ultra4 racing and rock-crawling team.

• **Denny and Wes Bonebrake** — The father and son are championship dirt-track racers. Denny has won 10 track championships and is in the Dirt Track Racing Hall of Fame.

• **Bryant Wallizer** — Wallizer (Hancock) is a rifle marksman who recently placed third in the men's 10-meter air rifle competition at the Pan Am Games. He helped lead West Virginia University to an NCAA rifle championship, and has competed and medaled in international events.

• **Lynne Vantz Nelson** — Vantz Nelson (Hancock) started shooting rifles while in school. She later became a record setting weightlifter, starting at age 40. She has competed nationally and internationally, and holds a number of lifting records to become one of the most recent inductees to the Washington County Sports Hall of Fame. ■



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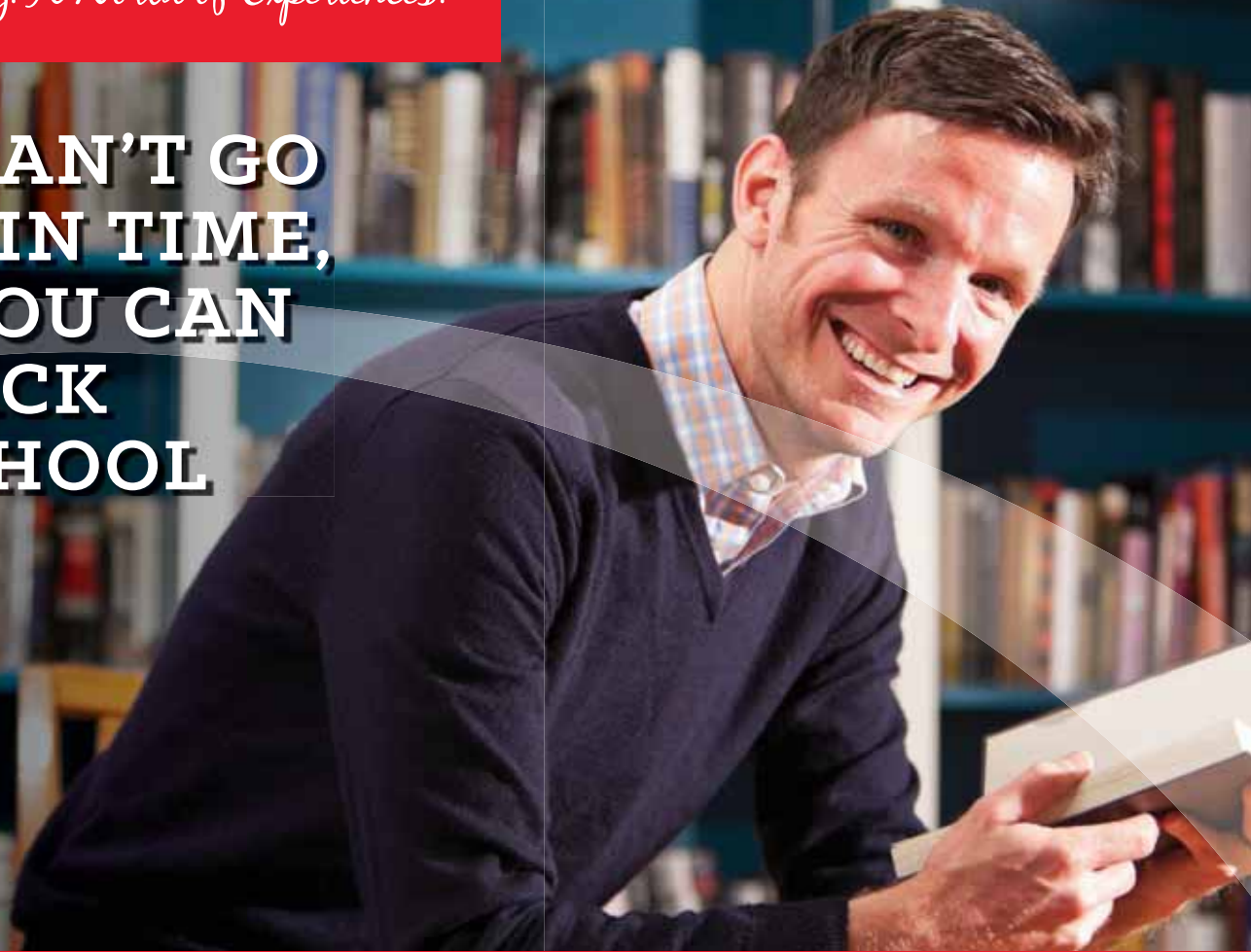
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COMPLETER

Continued from page 64

The downtown arts school offers programs for dance, instrumental music, literary arts, theater, visual arts and vocal music.

The IB program, created by International School of Geneva educators, provides rigorous academics, and promotes international understanding, according to the International Baccalaureate Organization's website.

The school system also has a joint program called the STEMM Technical Middle College in which eligible students take their courses at Hagerstown Community College, Pugh said. STEMM stands for science, technology, engineering, math and medical. Those students can earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree.

South High's Academic Leadership Academy also is a university completer program.

Student options

While many of the career-technology programs are offered at Tech High, each comprehensive high school offers at least a few different programs.

Boonsboro and Williamsport high schools offer con-

struction design and management, a program that began last school year and includes learning 3-D modeling, according to Pugh and the program courses.

Sophomores apply to attend Tech High, in Hagerstown's South End, for their junior and senior years. Juniors can apply to get in their senior year if there is an opening, but there is a high demand to get into Tech High, officials said.

Students also can apply to attend another high school to be in a completer program if their home school doesn't offer that program, officials said.

While the school system provides bus transportation from home schools to Tech High or Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, students attending other high schools other than their home school must provide their own transportation, officials said.

Lewis, 18, of Smithsburg said he enjoyed Tech High's electrical construction program, which he learned about from a friend in one of the school's other career-technology programs.

He said his father, Brian, used to be an electrician, and would teach Tyler as he did things around the house, such as installing a ceiling fan for Tyler's mother.

"I was always one that learned by actually working with my hands rather than reading out of a textbook," Lewis said.

The electrical construction program "helped me to focus better in school. I got better grades academically while I was there as well," he said.

"I love my job. I love what I do," Lewis said. ■



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By Colleen McGrath

Rebecca Anderson, left, and her mother, Peggy Clark, are shown in the cafeteria at Smithsburg Elementary School during the last week of the 2014-15 school year. Anderson is manager of the regional kitchen based at the school, and Clark was formerly a food-service employee for Washington County Public Schools.

FOOD

Continued from page 15

Manufacturers have worked hard to meet federal guidelines, and have come up with an Alfredo sauce that still is tasty but doesn't have as much sodium or fat as the regular sauce, he said.

The brunch line will include pancakes, waffles and French toast — all made with whole grains; strawberry and blueberry sauces for toppings; scrambled eggs students can use with a whole-grain tortilla to make a breakfast burrito; pork sausage patties; applewood smoked pork bacon; yogurt; and tricolored home fries.

School meals and menus have come a long way since Clark's mother was cooking at Keedysville School.

Clark said before her mother, the late Roselea Stump, cooked for the school, the students all brought packed lunches, so they didn't have hot food.

"I can remember (Stump) picking turkey off the bone

for the turkey meal. Just like at home," said Stump's granddaughter Becky Anderson, 57.

Clark was working for the school system in the mid-1970s, when she helped close up the kitchen at Pleasant Valley Elementary School. The kitchen equipment was sold, and the school system began delivering food to the school from a regional kitchen at Boonsboro High School.

The school system still uses a regional kitchen system, with food-service workers cooking or heating up the food before packing it in warmers to be trucked to nearby feeder schools.

For example, Smithsburg High School's regional kitchen prepares food for students at Smithsburg Middle, Smithsburg Elementary, Old Forge Elementary and Cascade Elementary schools.

But the school system is getting back to having cooking equipment at schools with satellite kitchens because cooking food on site provides a better product, Proulx said.

Starting with the construction of the new Maugansville, Pangborn and Rockland Woods elementary schools in 2008, schools now are being built with kitchens that use cooking equipment again, Proulx said. ■

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DESEGREGATION

Continued from page 21

A senior heads to Hancock

Brumback, who spent 38 years as an educator, spent the first 11 years of his education at North Street School. As a result of the board of education's desegregation plan, he was able to attend Hancock High School for his senior year.

"Not being able to graduate from North Street with the classmates I had for 11 years was kind of a bummer," Brumback said.

At least in Hancock, integration happened without incident, he said.

"None whatsoever," Brumback said when asked if there were any incidents.

Hancock, he said, was a small community, and the black students and black families knew white youths and their families.

During his senior year, Brumback played basketball for Hancock and against his old schoolmates at North Street, splitting the two games.

"Hancock was loaded that year, and so was North Street," he said of the talent.

It also was, he recalled, one of the first athletic contests

between North Street and a school that was predominantly white.

"North Street did not play white schools" before integration, Brumback said. There had been a circuit for black schools, with North Street playing black schools from Cumberland and Frederick, among other towns, he said.

'It wasn't the easiest'

Reginald Keyes of Hagerstown spent the last three years of his education at South Hagerstown High School.

"It wasn't the easiest," Keyes said of the transition from an all-black to a predominantly white school. "The teachers were fine, but some of the students gave you a hard time," especially some from Hagerstown's West End, he said.

"They didn't give me a hard time," but some black students had a rough time, Keyes said. "I never got called that 'magic name' or anything."

"We got it straightened out after about a year," said Keyes, who went on to serve a stint in the U.S. Air Force and on to a long career at Mack Trucks.

However, Keyes felt that he and other black students were at an educational disadvantage when they got to South High.

"When we were at North Street, it was a good school, but it lacked a lot," Keyes said.

Textbooks were older and secondhand, and some advanced classes were not offered, or were offered in later grades, he said. ■

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INNOVATIONS

Continued from page 10

“It’s a dynamic time. That dynamic where teacher and student can learn from each other,” Corns said.

Looking into the future, there is a virtual high school, based at Western Heights Middle School. Called Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities (MVLO), students can take extra courses online and get credit for them.

Some teachers will offer a blend of online and classroom instruction, Corns said.

The school system is working to build online courses with an immersive 3-D environment, using characters in costume for the time period. Internships for Washington County Technical High School students will allow some of them to be involved in the process, Corns said.

New tools such as Oculus Rift, an interactive 3-D headset, and Google Cardboard, which can turn a cellphone into a virtual-reality headset, will continue to change the way education happens. Wearable technology such as the Apple Watch is sure to make its way into school-system classrooms in the near future, Corns said.

“We are teaching students who have a radically differ-

ent understanding of what the world is. So our jobs as educators is to prepare our students for that level of access,” Corns said. “We’re transferring knowledge at the speed of light now.”

Challenges and changes

This shift in instructional technology comes with its own set of challenges. Storage of documents and other school work created on computers was a problem until Google Drive offered unlimited storage.

The growing list of electronic devices used in the classroom has created a need for more electrical plugs for charging devices and batteries, as well as the need for innovative processes for keeping devices charged.

A charging station with 16 ports will be in every middle school and high school media center, hopefully by the start of the 2015-16 school year, Corns said.

Besides classroom instruction, communication with parents has changed dramatically. Parents now can access their child’s grades online, allowing parents to monitor progress daily, instead of having to wait for parent-teacher conferences.

Now, when parents arrive at the conference, they know how their child is doing, and the time with the teacher can be spent discussing how parents can help their child succeed in the classroom. ■



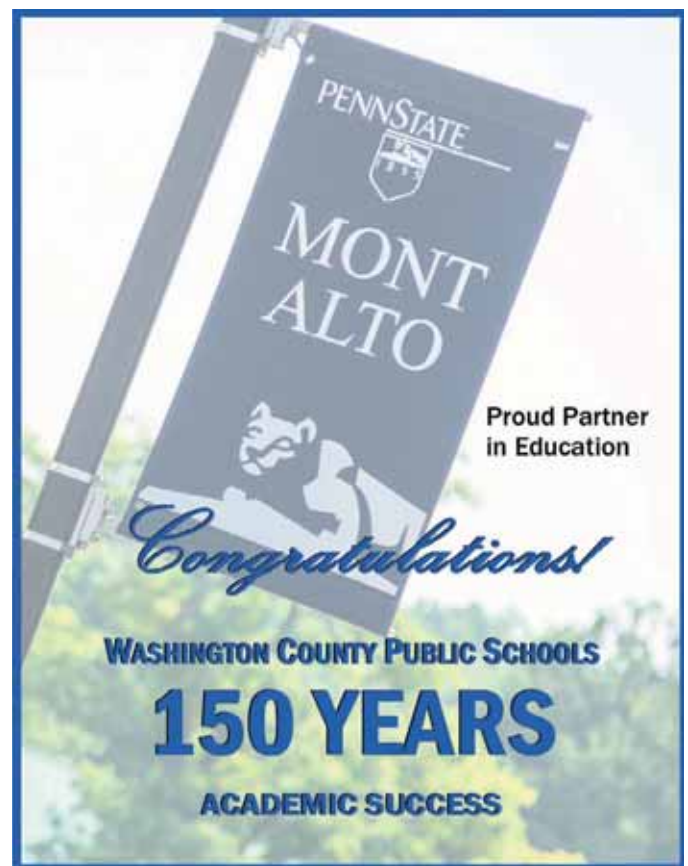
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Continued from page 34

“I had no idea that was going to be my future husband,” she said of Yeakle’s son, who passed away last Christmas. “While I was so excited to see him on the bus, he told me years later he absolutely hated the idea when Dad told him he had to go along and hand out these treats to the kids on the bus.”

Bus contracting stayed in the family, as their daughter, Lisa Hoffman, has been a contractor for 28 years, a secretary for 17 years and spent the past two years as treasurer for the Washington County School Bus Contractors Association. She owns four buses, and despite no longer working full time, Yeakle helps her with the buses.

Hoffman said one of the biggest changes from when contracting began is that there now are female drivers, as opposed to the all-male farmers who drove then.

“They would milk their cattle, and they would do some work at the farm, and then they would go drive a bus, and then they would come back and do some work at the farm and go out and drive the bus again, so it kind of was like a supplemental income to the farmers in the area,” she said. “That’s originally how it

started, and then it became more complex.”

Newer and safer buses

Hoffman said she has seen many changes in the technology on buses.

“We now have cameras in buses. We have Zonar systems in buses that they can track them and know exactly where they are, how fast they’re going and all those sorts of things,” she said. “The licensing has gotten a lot more difficult than whenever I started. The size of the buses have gotten much larger.”

Hoffman said another change is the design of the buses. They initially were one bench seat in the center and then seats around the outer sides.

Moats, former president of the contractors association, said different programs such as classes at other locations and after-school programs also have changed schedules.

More year-round programs have eliminated the summers they would have off as well.

Rohrer said she used to drive up to Fort Ritchie when it was in operation to take students to Smithsburg High School.

One of the things Rohrer said she still does is keep chains on her buses on the mountain despite them not being required anymore. ■

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