



Passport Times

March 5, 2026

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Rebel State Birds!

By Linnea Tarr



You may have seen images of a new Rebel logo and wondered what it is. I'm here to tell you.

The rebel loon emerged as a symbol of resistance after the people of Minneapolis faced violence from ICE, and it was created as a way to unite the Minnesotans.

About the logo

The bird in the rebel loon is the Minnesota state bird, the common loon. The logo itself has drawn inspiration from two fictional **bird** symbols. The first is the mockingjay, a symbol the people from the

districts used to unite themselves against the capital in *The Hunger Games*. The second is the starbird that the Rebel Alliance used to unite itself against the Empire in *Star Wars*.

Even though what I just told you about is fictional, historically, birds have been used as symbols for all kinds of things. For example, the dove is a widely recognized symbol of peace. Owls are symbols of knowledge and wisdom. Ravens have been omens of death.

State birds are symbols of state pride, and are usually birds that are common and native to that state. So the loon makes an excellent choice for a regional symbol.

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Dear Dr. Donaskmi

Dear Dr. Donaskmi,
I am a chocolateer and need help coming up with new branding and marketing for my chocolate.
-Choosy Chocolateer

Dear Choosy,
I think that you should put worms in all your chocolate and call it "spaghetti chocolate". Tell no one. Serves them right for eating so much candy.
-Dr. Donaskmi

P.S. You can also put golden tickets into five chocolate bars, and the children who find them don't have to go to your factory.



Need advice?
Send your questions to Dr. Donaskmi:
publications@passporttolearning.org

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Comics

Zorbo the Alien

By Juniper Tarr



Next Issue: Zorbo at the Aquarium...

Gnome Coffee

By Amy Baumert



Woofington

By Max Nodelman



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Book Review

By Ethan Ehrhardt



This month's book: *My Side of the Mountain*, by Jean Craighead George

Have you ever been so frustrated or angry that you just want to leave your family and home forever? In *My Side of the Mountain*, Sam Gribbley runs away from New York City to the Catskill Mountains because he doesn't like the city life AND he doesn't like being dependent on things that can go wrong. Sam survives by hunting & foraging with only a knife, ball of cord, 40 dollars, flint and steel. He befriends many animals in the mountains including a falcon, a weasel, and a raccoon. In the beginning of the book, the animals are the only companions that Sam has. This is important because Sam was very lonely when he first runs away from home. Later in the book, Sam befriends many people including Bando the schoolteacher and Matt the newspaper boy. Bando is important in the book because he works together with Sam to help him survive in the wilderness. Matt is important to Sam because he is trusted to keep his secret as the "Wild Boy" of the mountains out of the local newspapers.

Sam was an adventurous character because he learned to do lots of things in the wilderness. First of all, he learned how to make his own clothes from freshly hunted deer hide. Next, he was able to build his own shelter in a tree. Finally, he tamed several wild predator animals from the mountains. I really enjoyed reading this book because the author's writing was so descriptive and well-written. It made me feel like I was actually with Sam on every single adventure. I could see everything that Sam saw and I could experience all that he experienced. I felt like I was really living in the Catskill Mountains with Sam the whole time!

If I could change anything in the book, I wish that the book had colorful illustrations. The author included black and white line drawing pictures which are a good start, but I wish that they were more colorful and more detailed.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I give *My Side of the Mountain* 4 ½ stars because it is a daring, exciting, fully action-packed tale of survival. There are several scenes of suspense that kept me wanting to read more. This is book #1 of a 3-book trilogy and I can't wait to read the rest. Anyone who loves the outdoors, animals, or adventure would love this book!

* Fun Fact: My mom Dana used to babysit the author, Ms. George's grandkids



Rebel Birds, cont. from cover

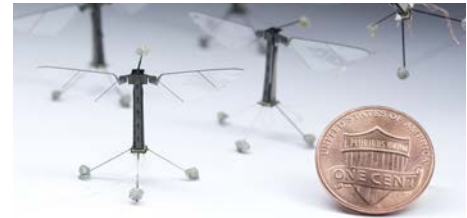
Since the creation of the rebel loon, people from all different states have been creating their versions of the rebel logo with their state's bird (Maryland is the oriole). Logos are a great way to unite people and are easily recognizable; you just have to remember that logos aren't simply enough. Logos are a great start, but after you are united under one, you have to take action and use it to encourage others to take action too. If this article intrigues you, I recommend doing further research.

In Minneapolis, people are resisting the efforts of ICE to assault and detain their friends and neighbors. If this cause calls to you, how can you take action here in Maryland to protect your own neighbors?

Crane Flies are Alien Drones. You Should be Scared*

By Celeste Bernasconi

Have you ever noticed a Crane fly following you? Or many Crane flies invading your house? Well I have, and I hate to break it to you but they are Alien drones collecting data on us for their invasion. You may think "No drone could be that small." Oh yes they could, with alien technology and even with earth technology. For example Harvard's RoboBees. "Insect-inspired robots with potential uses in crop pollination, search and rescue missions, surveillance, as well as high-resolution weather, climate, and environmental monitoring" ("RoboBees: Autonomous Flying Microrobots") Which in this passage you'll notice they list surveillance as a possibility, and on top of this they resemble Crane Flies, not bees. In the article "RoboBee comes in for a landing" the author says "The Harvard RoboBee has long shown it can fly, dive, and hover like a real insect." (Anne Manning) Again, proving that its movement resembles Insects. So, the tech is there. Another piece of evidence is that sometimes electric swatters are used in removing these bugs. Why? Because the electric shock breaks the little robots circuits effectively deactivating them.



Now why would Crane flies spy on us? For their alien overlords naturally. It's clear to me they are planning on invading earth in either spring or fall because Crane Flies emerge in spring and fall so they must have narrowed down their invasion to a specific time frame and we may only have a few years to prepare before they attack.

Sources: "[RoboBees: Autonomous Flying Microbots](#)," by Rob Wood
"[RoboBee Comes in for a Landing](#)," by Anne J. Manning

*(*Don't worry! Celeste has a great imagination!)*

Rumor Mill at Passport

All Rumors, No Reality

By Amy Baumert

Whispers in the hallway... secrets that were never meant to be heard... or were they?

Welcome to Rumor Mill at Passport, where the truth takes a back seat and the drama is delightfully fake. Ready to uncover this week's juiciest (and totally made-up) tales?

A little birdie told me that Miss Kim has a secret. She has been known to pull almost anything out of her pockets of unknown depth. From TV remotes to airplanes, we don't know what she could be hiding in her pockets. As a mother, she always seems to be prepared for anything. Sticky hands? She has wipes. Need to prank your friend? She has Silly String. Potty accidents? She has undies! Got pranked by your friend? She has you covered. Is this just a woman who is armed and ready, or a kleptomaniac in disguise? Who's to say!

Following the clothing theme, Sully is not what he seems. He is actually three somethings in a trench coat. Three what? I don't know. Ask him, if you dare.

Have you noticed that a lot of folks have been missing passports recently? Have you noticed your sibling or other family members have been sluggish? Have you noticed those around you looking a little green? If so, word is going around that they have probably been turned into zombies! It could be tiredness or zombieness! They could have a stuffy nose and a cough, or they could be spreading zombie cooties throughout the world. You might consider wearing a mask and carrying enough hand sanitizer to drown a small horse.

Winter Foraging in Winter & Early Spring in Maryland

By Linnea Tarr

RIDDLES

BY VERITY BROOKBANK

Riddle 1:

You cannot keep me
until you give me.
What am I?

Riddle 2:

I have four legs, but
only one foot. What
am I?

Riddle 3:

I have many eyes, but
I can not see. What
am I?

Answers: A promise, a bed, a
potato

In the winter, almost everything alive and green has retreated to where it shelters in the winter or just withers away. The trick for foraging in the winter is to follow where the plant's energy goes. For the little annual plants that wither away in the winter, that won't work, but for bigger perennial things like trees, it will. For example, in the early spring, it may still feel like winter for you, but the trees are just waking up, their sap starts flowing, and even though you can't eat any green leaves, you can tap into the new energy flowing through them.

Maple syrup

The maple, or, second best if there are no maples, the black walnut. In early spring, you can drill a small hole in the tree, hammer in a spile (a small metal tube), and hang a bucket from it. When you do this, you will start to see drops of sap coming out of the spile, and once you have a bucket or two of sap, you can boil it down into your very own maple syrup.

Chickweed

One of the only green things that I have found in the winter, chickweed is a bright green small plant with opposite teardrop shaped leaves. You can find it in spots like your garden, a field, or in moist shady spots, i normally see it growing right next to a stream near my house. You can eat them raw and they taste great.

Sassafras tea

The root of the sassafras makes a yummy tea and even if it isn't much in the winter, the tea is still quite comforting, the only problem is getting to them when the ground is frozen.

Animals

Meat will probably be your best bet in the winter, if you can catch an animal that will make a great nutritious meal.

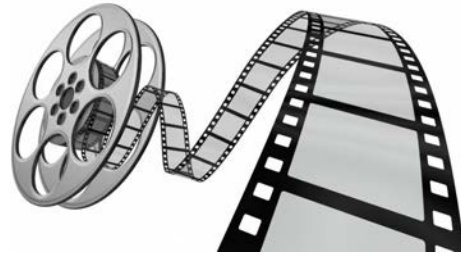
Even though there are a bunch of things you can forage in the winter, looking at it from a survival standpoint its probably best to just preserve food the rest of the year. On the other hand its very clear that if you are just a casual forager that if you know where to look, you can forage all year long.

Coloring!



Movie Review

By Abigail Bowders

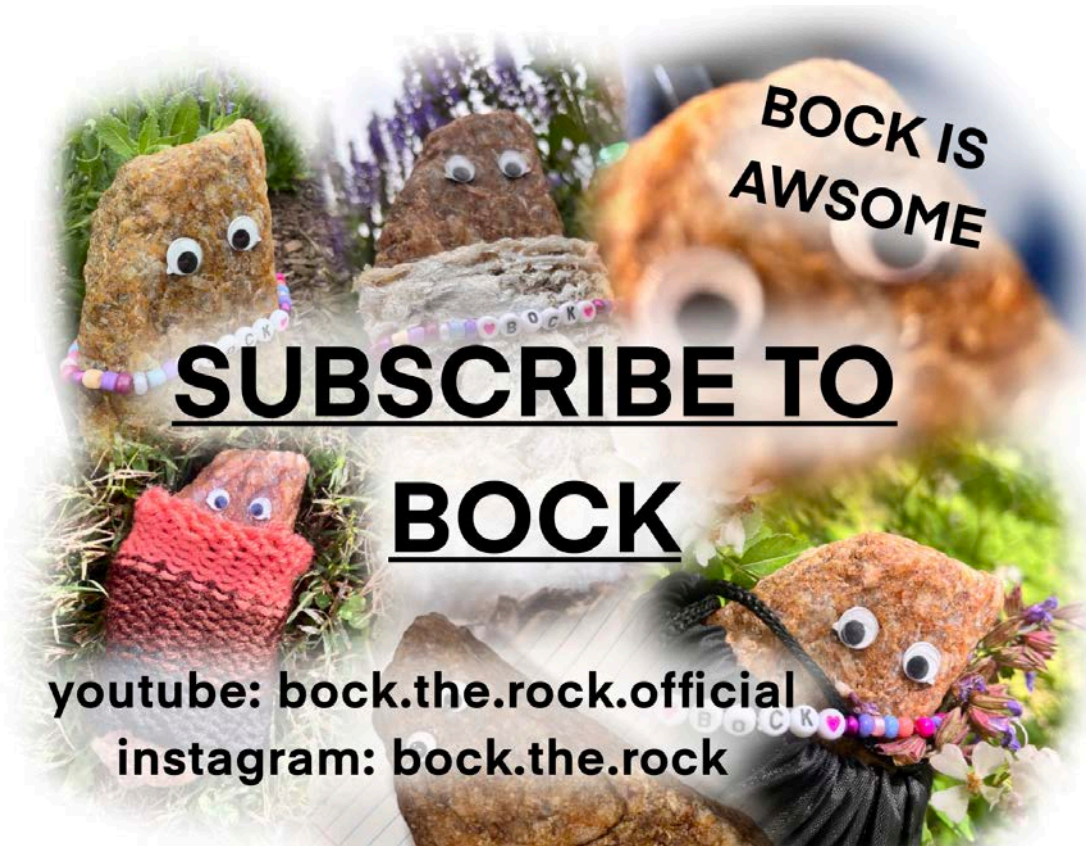


The Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG-13) is an amazing film about an introverted highschool freshman named Charlie (Logan Lerman), who struggles making friends until he meets two seniors, Sam (Emma Watson) and Patrick (Ezra Miller).









They become a tight knit group of friends—Sam and Patrick taking him to all kinds of places. The story follows Charlie as he deals with his traumatic past and overall struggles as a teenager.

The film has amazing music scoring and is sure to pull at your heartstrings. Something I like about the movie is that they never straight up tell you Charlie's exact trauma. You experience it with him, in a way. The movie is overall quite sad and depressing. It definitely made me cry.

In my opinion it sends a very important message and is a worthy watch. Who knows—it might help you better understand something or someone.



MARCH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
2	3 	4	5  Passport.  Retro day!	6	7	8  SPRING FORWARD Change Your Clock	
9	10	11	12 Passport.	13	14  HAPPY π DAY	15	
16	17  HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY	18	19 Passport.  Eid al-Fitr	20  SPRING EQUINOX	21	22	
23	24	25	26 Passport.	27	28	29	
30	31  INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY MARCH 31	National Cherry Blossom Festival, Mar. 20-April 12				Calendar compiled by Verity Brookbank	

Passport is on Spring break April 2!

