

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Candidates line up for new government

A second candidate has announced their intent to run for the recently created position of Frederick County executive, making for a total of three that have stated they are running.

Republican Commissioner David Gray, 74, has announced December 10 that he will seek election as executive in the November 2014 election. Democrat and former Commissioner Jan Gardner officially announced her intentions to run for the position of county executive on November 9.

Republican Commissioner Kirby Delauter, of WF Delauter & Son, Inc., Emmitsburg, announced November 20 that he will be seeking election to the North (5th) District seat on the new Frederick County Council.

The voters in Frederick County approved the proposed change of governance from a board of commissioners form to a charter form in the November 2012 election, with the new seats created to be filled in the November 2014 election. Those elected to the new seats will assume their positions in December 2014.

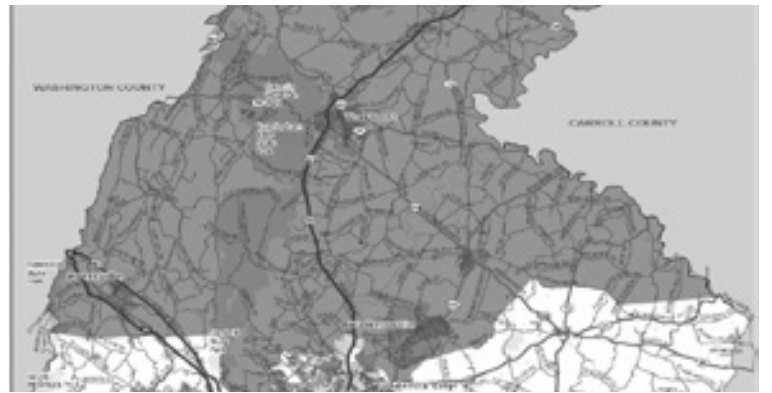
Under the charter, the new county council will consist of elected representatives from five districts, the creation of which were established based

on population density, and two "at large" seats not representing any specific district. Each of the seats will be a four-year term, and no council member may serve for more than three consecutive terms.

The approved charter also established a county executive position as well. The county executive will serve a four-year term, and the elected individual cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Why the change? Advocates noted that, in a county commissioner form of government, commissioners possess both executive and legislative powers, and what the board of commissioners can do is more limited than it would be under a charter form. The commissioners also must defer to the state when it comes to making certain types of executive or legislative decisions.

Under a charter form of government, the executive powers and the legislative powers are separated, consisting of a county council with the legislative powers, and a county executive holding the executive powers. The county is then actually managed by the executive who, among other responsibilities, is also charged with executing legislative decision made by the council.



Under the new charter government, one person will represent all of northern Frederick County in the county council.

The advocates of the change also pointed out the county is better represented at the state level under a charter form of government than it has been the case under a county commissioner form.

County residents voted nearly two-to-one to replace the county's colonial form of governance with a charter-based government.

County Commissioner Blaine Young noted, on the heels of the victory of those proposing the change of the form of the county government, "Out of nearly 100,000 ballots cast in the charter referendum question, 62,469 of us, or 63 percent voted in favor, and 37,368, or 37 percent, vot-

ed in opposition."

Addressing the impending transition between the forms of government, Young stated, "The goal of this (sitting) board of county commissioners was to foster in a new era with a single elected executive to lead our great county, along with legislative check and balance in the county council, all the while maintaining a lean, small and efficient government of, by and for the people."

"Whether or not the philosophy will continue of maintaining a lean, small and efficient government will be up to the voters in who they elected as the first county executive and first county council," he said.

County names award after local mayor

The Adams County Boroughs Association (ACBA) has a new, annual community service award for public officials. The award is named in honor of a local mayor. The award, known as the Ronald J. Harris Award, was named in honor of Carroll Valley Mayor Ronald Harris.

Harris, who is also the current president of the ACBA, was also named as the first recipient of the award, which was presented to him by the ACBA at the organization's November meeting.

Harris told the News-Journal, "I was very thankful and appreciative, and was shocked that they would name the award after me."

Debbie Shearer, Abbottstown, former secretary of the ACBA, told the News-Journal that Harris was credited with the growth of the organization, and opening participation to the townships in the county as well.

"When I started to first go eight years ago, there were maybe ten people who showed-up from the different municipalities," Shearer stated.

"Harris came along and volunteered to be the president in the second or third year that I had been going there," she said, at which time Harris commenced to generate enthusiasm among other local government officials to attend.

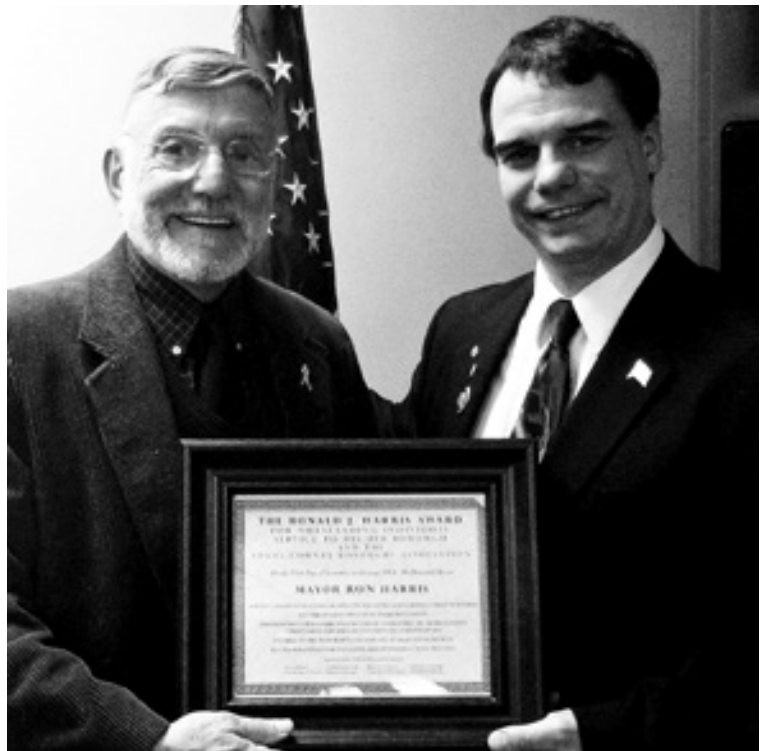
Now, she said, as a result of Harris' efforts, "I believe Adams County is the largest among the state-wide boroughs association, at least when it comes to the most people who show up at every meeting. Sometimes 30 to 40 show up, so we have a big attendance."

Harris not only serves as the mayor for Carroll Valley, and volunteers as president of the ACBA, but he is also the board president for Community Media of South Central PA.

As indicated by the accompanying document presented with the award, Harris has been active in innumerable activates including in involvement in various governmental bodies such as the ACBA, Adams County Tax Collection Committee, York-Adams Tax Bureau board of directors, Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association, Adams County Council of Governments, and the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, several of which he has risen to positions ranging from board chairman to president.

Carroll Valley Borough Manager David Hazlett announced at the December 10 meeting of the borough Council that the mayor had been honored by the ACBA, stating that Harris' accomplishments in public service exceeded those enumerated in the document accompanying the award.

Originally from East Harlem,



Adams County Boroughs Association's David Bolton presents the Ronald Harris Award to award namesake Carroll Valley Borough Mayor Ron Harris.

New York City, Harris moved to Carroll Valley in 1994 and he and his wife, Patricia, have two grown children, one living in Carroll Val-

ley and the other in Virginia.

He was recently elected to his second term as mayor of Carroll Valley Borough.

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NEWS

Town solar farm lease signed

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance at their December 3 meeting that ratifies a lease agreement with a solar energy corporation.

The lease agreement between the Town of Emmitsburg and the UGI Development Company, the company who will be operating the solar power installation to be located on the town sewer treatment plant site on Creamery Road, was signed on December 11 following the approval of the ordinance.

The lease itself was actually approved by the Board of Commissioners at their September 23 meeting, but town Attorney John Clapp, who had reviewed the lease, felt that it would be appropriate to create an ordinance to acknowledge the lease terms.

In the past, other municipalities that had established long-term leases were successfully challenged at later times, primarily because the leases had not been sanctioned

through the establishment of an ordinance.

The lease establishes an agreement between the town and UGI to operate the solar facility for a period of 20 years, renewable at the end of the lease for another five years. The lease does provide for "opt out" escape clauses for both parties for specified reasons.

The amount for the lease is a one-time payment of \$100, since the facility will be providing the town with a percentage of the overall energy production.

Jack Copus, director of business development at Rockville-based Standard Solar, previously presented an overview of the project to the town Board of Commissioners at their September 3 meeting, regarding the specifics of the proposed project.

Standard Solar was appointed by the town as the project EPC (engineer-procurement-construct manager) through a previously held competitive bidding process.

As the project EPC, Copus stated at the September 3 briefing, "We helped develop this project as far as its current form. We will do the engineering, the procurement, the construction, and we'll also operate and maintain the array once it's up and running."

"We have developed a 1.1 megawatt ground-mount which is going to be at Creamery Road at the existing wastewater treatment facility," Copus told the board. "It is estimated to produce about 1,400 megawatt hours on the first year, which is 1,425,000 kilowatt hours."

"The economics of this project for phase one, the way we've designed it and analyzing the current load for 20 meters throughout town, we'll be able to provide electricity for about 86 percent of the town's needs," the project manager stated.

Work has already commenced on the site and the first phase is scheduled for completion this month.

Mount goes to single-stream recycling

Mount St. Mary's University has continued its sustainability efforts by adopting single-stream recycling on campus.

Single-stream recycling eliminates the need to separate recyclables into separate commodities such as paper, plastics, and metals. The collection and processing systems are designed to handle the mixture of recyclables, which are separated for reuse at a materials recovery facility.

"Through the efforts of the Mount's Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Committee, and the cooperation of administration and staff, we are offering single-stream recycling on campus — allowing the university to recycle much more material," said David Wehner, associate professor of English and chair of the Mount's recycling committee. "In the past, we couldn't recycle glass, or paperboard boxes and certain plastics, but we can through the single-stream process. The more we recycle, the better it is for the en-

vironment."

"The impact of single-stream recycling reduces the amount of recyclable material that would usually be thrown into the trash and instead properly manages recyclable materials so they can be reused and prevent further waste from polluting the environment," said Tony Oquia, C'14, president of the Mount's student-led Environmental Club.

According to Wehner, single-stream recycling increases participation and produces, on average, at least 50 percent more collected

Mount opens new housing for students

The Mount's newest housing opportunity, the Residential Cottages at Alumni Court, are now open for students. As the university continued to grow, the Mount community recognized the need for additional student housing.


It was determined that suite-style living would best accommodate the needs of incoming students. Robert Brennan, Vice President for University Advancement at the Mount, explained, "Amenities are a big consideration in college decisions. These

are individual houses designed specifically for needs of students today. The residential cottages are a great way to transition from being college students to living on their own."

Built by Warner Construction of Frederick, the four cottages provide a unique housing option for students. Mount St. Mary's Executive Vice President Dan Soller said, "The Residential Cottages at Alumni Court are designed to offer students a premier living and learning space to enhance their educational aspirations and goals. The Mount

is proud to offer these academical-themed cottages, housing students in their own private room while also being part of community living through exceptional common lounges, kitchens and outside venues. The residential cottages help complete the Mount's housing renovations and construction vision, which has included providing a wide array of options for campus living and maximum flexibility for our students."

In addition to their handicap accessibility and perks like breakfast



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recyclables. With the goal of making recycling easier for students and sending less refuse to landfills, the Mount hopes to inspire others to "go green" by adopting this system.

The legacy of environmental stewardship at the Mount began in 2007 when University President Thomas H. Powell pledged as a charter signatory of the American College & Uni-

versity Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), a national initiative with a goal of carbon neutrality at member institutions.

The Mount employs Waste Management Inc., North America's largest recycler of post-consumer waste. Waste Management Inc. is hoping to process more than 20 million tons of recovered materials annually by 2020.

living the good life!"

Each cottage is named after a group that raised as much as \$150,000 for the effort. The groups include: Mount St. Mary's Classes of 1964, 1968, and 1973, The Board of Trustees, and the Alumni Association, which funded the renovations of the Summit House, now called the Alumni House. The support of these groups has helped reduce the costs of construction significantly.

To make a donation toward the cottages, contact Robert Brennan at 301-447-7432 or brennan@msmary.edu.

Emmitsburg news briefs...

EBPA award winners

The Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) held its Annual Holiday Awards Evening on December 6 at the Carriage House Inn.

Bob Hanse, owner of the inn and president of the EBPA, said Dorothy "Dot" Davis received the Extraordinary Community Service Award.

In addition, Libby Briggs, wife of

Mayor Donald Briggs, was presented with a plaque for her town beautification effort, Hance said.

Hanse stated that the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company was also presented with a life time membership in the EBPA "for all of their support the food bank. They hold bingo games specifically to benefit the Emmitsburg Food Bank."

Town still ahead on water supply

Although Emmitsburg received less precipitation than the average for the time of year, the town water supplies are still showing a surplus of supply.

Town Manager David Haller reported this month that the area received approximately 2.6 inches of precipitation in November, down from the average of 3.0 inches).

In spite of that shortfall, the water

supply has accrued a surplus of two inches over the past six months.

The average precipitation for the period from June 1 thru November 30 is 23.1". "We have received 25.1" for that period," Haller stated.

Plant overwhelmed but no spills

The Emmitsburg wastewater treatment plant exceeded its permitted treatment capacity twice in November, but there were no associated spills.

In his town manager's report for November, David Haller stated that the plant exceeded its permitted ca-

capacity on November 26 (processing 1,526,000 gallons, and on November 27 (processing 1,231,000 gallons).

The facility currently has a permitted treatment capacity of 800,000 gallons per day.

None of the excess water resulted in any wastewater spills. Haller noted that of the total incoming wastewater the facility treated in November, about 29 percent represented "wild water," or (generally stormwater runoff) water that had infiltrated the collection system through cracks or breaks in the pipelines feeding the plant.

Hamiltonban passes budget, approves fire tax

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors approved at their December 3 meeting the township's 2014 budget with municipal no tax increase, as well as the fire tax. The budget package includes \$724,006 for the general fund, \$604,005 sewer, and \$105,592 in state liquid fuels revenue. The inflated sewer fund budget is due to the need to construct a wastewater pumping station, for which the township will be reimbursed through the

Community Facilities Grant upon completion of the project. The current tax rate will remain unchanged at 1.2359 mills. The last tax increase imposed on township residents occurred in 2005 in conjunction with the 2006 budget. The board also approved a municipal fire tax at their December 3 meeting in a 3-2 vote. The tax will become effective in January 2014. In a statement issued by the supervisors, the board said, "During these past eight years, your board of supervisors has

planned and worked with in the current revenue tax base to give you the best possible service with no increase in taxes." "This is a practice that we feel very strongly about and hope to continue as long as is possible. Therefore, we have not proposed any tax increase that would increase the revenue spending of the township. For the eighth consecutive year, there will be no general fund township tax increase in 2014," the supervisors stated. The *News-Journal* mistak-

enly reported that the tax was passed at the November meeting. The board had actually only approved the inclusion of the tax for adoption as part of the then-proposed 2014 budget package. The supervisors set the fire tax rate at 0.25 mills, which amounts to a tax of 25 cents per \$1,000 of real estate value. For example, a homeowner owning a property valued at \$200,000 would pay an annual fire tax of \$50. Voting in favor of the fire tax were superintendents Robert

L. Gordon, Coleen N. Reamer, and Douglas Woerner. Superintendents Harry Rood and James Grinder voted against the measure. Regarding the fire tax, the board stated, "The tax cannot be spent by the municipality and is not technically part of the township budget. The township must maintain a separate account for the funds, and only distribute monies to the fire companies when the township is presented with legitimate receipts for their operational expenses."

Amendments proposed regarding vegetative growth

The Carroll Valley Borough Council is proposing changes to the existing unlawful vegetation section of the municipal regulations regarding tree and plants in the borough. The purpose of the changes is to clarify cutting undergrowth where it is occurring on vacant lots and into public right-of-ways. Borough Manager David Hazlett told the *News-Journal* that the revisions were made because, "We felt the existing version was ambiguous in its regulation, and

the ordinance was amended to clarify its intent." "The existing code referenced the health of occupants of a neighboring property, and of potential fire hazards. This was being interpreted to cause vacant property owners to maintain their property in a way contrary to which would permit a natural forest ecosystem to exist," he stated. The existing unlawful vegetation rules prohibit any vegetative growth, including trees, hedges, bushes, and shrubbery,

within five feet of the edge of a roadway. The proposed rule in this regard allows for vegetative growth within five feet of a roadway, and thus within the right-of-way, if that growth does not exceed 12 inches in height. Vegetative growth within the right-of-way may not however interfere with vehicular or pedestrian use of that right-of-way, or interferes with drainage. Regarding the current regulations of the growth of noxious

weeds (as defined by state Noxious Weed Control Law), conditions of impact, such as "creating a clear and convincing nuisance or health hazard to the occupants of a neighboring property..." will be struck and replaced with a less verbose, general prohibition forbidding the presence of such growth, period. The borough also proposes to strike references to the accrual of "trash, garbage and debris" on properties which could pose a fire hazard from the regulations

which otherwise only regulate unlawful vegetation. Concerning vegetative growth on developed properties, the rules applicable to these sites will essentially remain unchanged, as will the sections concerning removing the nuisance growth, enforcement, and penalties. The borough Council voted at their December 10 meeting to authorize town staff to advertise the proposed changes for possible adoption at the board's January 14 meeting.

Fairfield well ordinance progresses

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission continued to work at their December 9 meeting on a draft ordinance to regulate geothermal installations and other aspects of well use. The draft could proceed to council for consideration for adoption if the draft wrapped-up by the commission at their December 9 meeting is approved by the borough staff and the solicitor.

While the borough has not had a well ordinance, the county Office of Planning and Development recommended that all municipalities should adopt one, based on a draft ordinance the county produced in March at the direction of the state. Although most new construction in Fairfield Borough would almost certainly connect to public water (thus not needing a well), there is nothing "on the books" which would

prevent a property owner from establishing an open-loop geothermal system which does discharge to wells or other water bodies. Thus, one of the proposed regulations concerning geothermal in Fairfield's draft ordinance prohibits the installation of open-loop geothermal systems, while authorizing closed-loop geothermal systems. Geothermal systems use heat pumps to tap into subsurface heat

naturally generated underground for heating, and provide a means of discharging heat into the ground for cooling. Basically, the primary difference between open-loop systems and closed-loop systems is that open-loop systems discharge used water back into the environment, directly or through disposal wells, while the water employed in a closed-loop system is recycled within the system

and never discharged into the environment. The planning commission voted at the December 9 meeting to send the draft ordinance to Land & Sea Services, LLC, who act as the borough's zoning authority, and to the borough Solicitor Matthew Battersby. If Land & Sea and the solicitor can find no further issues with the draft, the draft ordinance can then proceed to the borough Council for possible adoption.

Fairfield area news briefs...

Carroll Valley approves budget, fire tax
The Carroll Valley Borough Council approved their 2014 budget, set the tax rate, and adopted the fire tax at their December 10 meeting. The 2014 budget was approved in the amount of \$2,001,906, representing an increase of \$181,683, or 9.08 percent, over last year's budget of \$1,820,223. The budget also permitted to borough to maintain the current tax rate of 24.5 cents on each \$100 of assessed real estate value for 2014. However, borough residents will receive a tax increase in the form of a fire tax set at 0.25 mills, which amounts to

a tax of 25 cents per \$1,000 of real estate value, also approved by the council at their December 10 meeting. **Ambitious 2014 roadwork proposed**
The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors will be considering a number of projects relating to roadwork in 2014 as submitted by township Roadmaster John A. Harbaugh. Projects to be considered include repair of a bridge on Gum Springs Road, stormwater runoff work along Cold Springs Road, berm and paving work on Bullfrog Road, seal coating on Hickory Bridge and Gum Springs roads, paving on Sour Mash Trail, and

prevent a property owner from establishing an open-loop geothermal system which does discharge to wells or other water bodies. Thus, one of the proposed regulations concerning geothermal in Fairfield's draft ordinance prohibits the installation of open-loop geothermal systems, while authorizing closed-loop geothermal systems. Geothermal systems use heat pumps to tap into subsurface heat naturally generated underground for heating, and provide a means of discharging heat into the ground for cooling. Basically, the primary difference between open-loop systems and closed-loop systems is that open-loop systems discharge used water back into the environment, directly or through disposal wells, while the water employed in a closed-loop system is recycled within the system and never discharged into the environment. The planning commission voted at the December 9 meeting to send the draft ordinance to Land & Sea Services, LLC, who act as the borough's zoning authority, and to the borough Solicitor Matthew Battersby. If Land & Sea and the solicitor can find no further issues with the draft, the draft ordinance can then proceed to the borough Council for possible adoption.

Assistant Chief Dave Millstein noted that, regarding the fatal fire, "Indications were that there were no working smoke alarms in the structure at the time of the fire. It is unknown if a working smoke alarm would have changed this unfortunate situation." However, he stated, Fairfield Fire and EMS decided to make an investment into the safety of our community following this tragedy and established a Community Risk Reduction Program "that is centered around the installation of smoke alarms and batteries as well

as basic residential fire safety education for our community." "As a free service to our community, we will provide batteries, smoke alarms, installation, testing, and fire safety education to residents within our coverage territory," Millstein said. To obtain additional information, schedule an installation or inspection of your new/existing alarms, or to make a donation to the Smoke Alarm Program, please contact to Assistant Chief Dave Millstein at 717-642-8842 or dmillstein@embarqmail.com.

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NEWS

Thurmont to consider new recycling location

At their December 3 meeting, the Thurmont Board of Commissioners discussed their options at the regarding the county's re-launch of local recycling stations.

The county closed the former Eyer Park recycling facility at least two years ago, and stopped maintaining local recycling centers.

Regarding the closure of the county facilities, Mayor John A. Kinnaird said, "One of the main reasons they gave up on the county-owned ones is because they found refrigerators and mattresses and freezers and television sets and gigantic foams material at almost every one of them."

"In fact," he stated, "the county had a crew that did nothing but go around and pick up trash that should not have been dropped off for recycling."

Now the county is looking to re-establish county-sanctioned, local recycling centers once again, making sure in the process that the local municipalities monitor and deal with illegal dumping.

"Basically the county is going back to having municipal recycling centers that mostly they are funding. They have asked us to provide a location for it," Kinnaird said.

The commissioners received a proposed County Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU), but county plans called for the MOU to go into effect July 1. "It's a little bit behind the times," Kinnaird said.

According to the proposed MOU, "We're obliged to provide operate and maintain a public recycling center consisting of one or more dumpsters, which we have, for single stream recycling," he said. The town, he noted, must also "reasonably monitor the public's use of the facility."

The mayor said, according to the terms of the MOU, "The town provides the roll-off or roll-offs, the county pays for the tipping, and also proposes giving the town

\$10,000 per year to operate the center."

He said that the \$10,000 can be used for staff costs and to help pay for the disposal of any illegal dumping. Any cost overrun would be the town's responsibility to pay.

Although a roll-off container has been housed behind the town office for municipal purposes, a number of local businesses have been permitted to use it, and some residents have been using it as well.

Kinnaird said that location has been discussed as a potential location for the new county-sanctioned site. "The last really in-depth dis-

ussion we had about it, it was staying out here at the town campus, back behind where the trucks aren't anymore."

Commissioner Martin A. Burns said, "The devil is in the details of the MOU. I want to make sure we just cover ourselves, and that we have a way out," adding that he might be willing to try a county recycling site at the proposed location "for six months, or a year" to see how well it goes.

The board took no formal action on the issue at their December 3 meeting in order to obtain additional information from the county before making a decision.

Three vying for Thurmont commissioner's seat

Several candidates have been approved for running for election to a remaining two-year term on a four-year vacant seat on the Thurmont Board of Commissioners.

The seat available on the board was vacated when former board of commissioners' member Mayor John Kinnaird was elected to his current position in the election held October 29.

Three candidates were approved by the Thurmont Candidate Nomination Convention December 10 were Wesley Hamrick, Randy Cubbage, and William Blakeslee.

Hamrick, 51, who moved to

Thurmont in 1969, is a Catoctin High School graduate, an active member at Weller United Methodist Church and Thurmont Lions Club, and a lifetime member of the Guardian Hose Company. He is employed as a manager for AT&T for several decades and works part-time for Stauffer's funeral homes.

Hammock told the *News-Journal*, "This my first run for a public office. As far as what I would bring to the board, it would be a fresh face and a fresh perspective, and fresh ideas. I'm a conservative at heart, socially and fiscally."

"I have high people and com-

municator skills," he said. "It's done very well for me in the business world, working with people at all levels.

Cubbage, 57, is a current chairman of the Thurmont Planning & Zoning Commission. The candidate is a native of Winter Park, Florida, and attended Seminole Junior College, Seminole, Oklahoma, and retired after 29 years in 2013 from the U.S. Park Police. Move to Thurmont 1993.

This represents Cubbage second run at a commissioner's seat.

Cubbage told the *News-Journal*, "I'm looking to bring a little bit of experience in planning

and zoning to the board...and (the governing administration) stays within our master plan of growth for Thurmont."

The candidate said he would like to serve as the "continued voice on the board" for the master plan as the demographics face change in the future, and bring a little bit of the law enforcement knowledge in dealing with issues regarding the police."

Blakeslee, 67, was a former Thurmont commissioner and former town chief administrative officer. He also had served on a number of town boards and committees, including the parks and planning and zoning com-

missions, as well as the charter review board.

He was discharged under unknown circumstances as the chief administrative officer in 2013, and did not run for reelection to the board of commissioners in the October election.

"I bring a lot of experience, and have been involved in many, many things in Thurmont, including the Main Street program, successful grant applications, the new police building, (even) negotiating lower electric bills."

A special election will be held January 7 to place one of the candidates on the town Board of Commissioners.

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Woodsboro Bank promotions

Gary Delauter, Jr. was recently promoted to AVP/deposit services manager at Woodsboro Bank. In this newly created position, he will manage the bank's daily deposit operation functions. Delauter joined the financial institution in 1999 and most recently served as its information systems generalist.

Bonny Hurley was recently named AVP/electronic services manager at Woodsboro Bank. In



this new position, she will manage the bank's growing electronic services. Hurley, who has been an

employee of the bank for 26 years, previously served as AVP/ATM and online banking coordinator.

<p>Captain Morgan Spiced Rum Limited Edition 750 ML \$19⁹⁹</p>	<p>Happy New Year! 2014</p>		<p>Coors Light 18 PAK Bottles \$13⁹⁹</p>
<p>Warsteiner Premium Beer From Germany</p>	<p>Special! Smirnoff Vodka 2 Flavors - Kissed Caramel & Root Beer Float 1.75 ML \$14⁹⁹</p>	<p>Largest Selections Of Wines In The Area! WINE TASTING Every Monday Through Thursday!</p>	<p>Miller High Life 18 PK 16 Oz. Cans \$11⁹⁹</p>
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One hundred years ago this month

January 2

Christmas in Emmitsburg

Probably no community of this size had a holiday more thoroughly enjoyed than Emmitsburg. A few days before Christmas the schools presented formal programs of entertainment that were exceedingly interesting and in keeping with the spirit of the approaching festival. The decorations were essentially Christmasy and candy and fruits were abundantly distributed to the scholars.

Nearly every household in the town graciously responded to the suggestion about placing lights in the windows, and, in consequence the streets presented a cheerful and friendly aspect, greens and brilliant lights were in evidence everywhere.

Another Man Loses His Right Arm

John Fisher, age 21, son of Cornelius Fischer, of Rocky Ridge had his right arm torn into pieces while operating a fodder shredder, Tuesday afternoon. He, along with a number of other young men, were working at the farm of Mr. Harvey Ogle, of Loy's Station. Dr. Maurice Birely, of Thurmont, was summoned and amputated the injured arm. This is the second unfortunate accident that has befallen Mr. Fisher, his left hand having been severely injured two years ago.

Two Holdups On 'Black Bridge' On Gettysburg Road

Within the past 10 days there have been two holdups at what is known as 'Black Bridge', on the Gettysburg Road about a mile and a half from Emmitsburg. Charles Hardegon, who lives near Fairplay, was stopped in the bridge early in the morning about a week ago and was relieved of all the money he had on his person, a sum of \$1.60. It was extremely dark and in the covered structure Mr. Hardegon was unable to see who his assailants were.

The second person to be stopped with the evident purpose of being robbed was Mr. Allen Planck, who driving to Emmitsburg for a doctor around seven o'clock Sunday night was commanded to stop. Mr. Planck urged his trusty horse 'Luke' on, and contin-

ued on to town. He reported the occurrence and secured a revolver. Returning to his home around nine, just as he approached the bridge, the bridle of his horse was seized. He discharged the weapon on either side of the horse's head and escaped.

January 9

Electric Light in Emmitsburg

The long expected electric lighting and power service of the Emmitsburg Electric Company was inaugurated on December 30, and the streetlights were switched on on the evening of New Year's Day.

The street lighting service now in operation covers only a portion of the town and consists of 25 forty candle-power tungsten lamps. The extension of the lighting system to include the outlying portions of the town, which are as yet still relying on old oil lights, is contemplated at an early date. At this writing several private customers are connected up and more are being reached as the service lines are extending.

Electric power for lighting and other purposes is now offered in being sold in Emmitsburg at 11.6 cents a kilowatt hour or about one third of a cent an hour for a common 20 candlepower lamp. It is hope that now that cheap and constant power is available small manufacturing industries may be located here, and that the improvements usual to the taking of a forward step of this kind will come to benefit of the old town.

Trash Receptacles

The Civic League of Emmitsburg is to be commended and congratulated on the move it has just made to free the streets from rubbish. The receptacles for waste placed at convenient distances throughout the town, under the league's offices, fill all long felt want and their introduction meet of approval of the residents of this community. Nothing is more unsightly than paper littered streets and sidewalks; nothing is more dangerous than fruit skins in the path of the pedestrian. There is now no excuse for either. All one has to do is exercise a little thoughtfulness.

Death of Isaac Fisher

Mr. Isaac Fischer of Motter's Station died Monday from Bright's disease, he was 61. Mr. Fisher was at one time tax collector for Frederick County. Shortly after he retired from that office he was paralyzed, and this left him somewhat crippled for the remainder of his life. Notwithstanding his handicap Mr. Fischer for many years conducted a grain and feed business, and general store at Motter's Station in Rocky Ridge. He was regarded as one of the heaviest shippers of the County.



If you think it takes too long to get the streets plowed now, it has to be better than in 1914 when removing snow from the streets was done by hand, no matter how deep the snow was.

January 16

Cold Wave

A cold wave accompanied by high winds saw the thermometer dropped to two below. 10 inches of snow fell in the Eyer's Valley. Nearby creeks are in splendid condition for skating and large parties have been out every night this week. Prohibitionists agitators have done their best to stop any drinking, but thankfully, the men of town, who have intelligently prevented women from getting right to vote, have ensured that the constable spend his time doing more important tasks then breaking up a man's right to enjoy himself.

Equal Suffrage League

The Equal Suffrage League held its regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Annan on Friday. According to the women the program was very interesting. According to their husbands gathered at the Hotel's Slagle's bar, the pool tournament was more interesting.

January 23

St. Joseph's Adopts Electric Lighting

When viewing the interior of St. Joseph's Church last Sunday morning one could hardly realize that at one time was lighted by coal oil lamps. Feeling that these were inadequate, acetylene lights were installed. Upon the introduction of electric lights in Emmitsburg, Rev. Hayden decided that some improvement was needed.

The old gas fixtures were remodeled for the electric current and re-installed so as to give a perfect distribution of light. The system includes a switchboard that gives control of all the lights. At present there are almost 100 bulbs in service including the concealed bulbs which illuminate the painting behind the main altar. The current was tried out last Saturday evening and everything found in perfect condition. The official turning on took place Sunday morning at high mass.

January 30

Trash Cans Removed

The receptacles for waste paper recently put up by the Civic League of Emmitsburg have been removed by the order of the Burgess who considers them a nuisance. The cans were 'arrested' and taken to the jail until a final decision could be made on their fate. Members of the Civic League expressed outrage and asked if the cans can be bailed out? Or will they be fine for misdemeanors whilst other cases are passed by, such as rowdiness on the streets, not to mention men who 'fail' to get into their vehicles at midnight, and swearing and quarreling in front of women and children. The civic league noted that the cans were only placed on the streets after the town fathers approved them. Yet no notice or justification was given the Civic League for their removal.

Runaway

There was an exciting runaway on West Main St., Saturday night. A young's spirited horse took fright at a passing automobile, broke loose from the hitching post and returned to the home of its owner several miles in the country. The owner, being jollified by autocar owning friends, turned the tables on them when he offered \$50 to any owner who's car could make it home by itself. "Everyone knows a drunk man with a car will always find himself in a ditch. However a drunk man with a loyal horse will always find himself safely home."

Town Authorizes More Electric Street Light

There have been more people on the streets at night for the past week than many old timers can recall. Apparently the brightness of the new electric streetlights are drawing people out to enjoy the crisp evening air. The favorable public reception to electric lights has led the town to authorize the purchase of 14 additional streetlights which will be equally divided to extend the lighting of both West and East Main Street.

Several contracts have been signed this week for the wiring of houses for electric lights. There are four contractors operating in town and all seemed to be busy.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago This Month visit the Historical Society Section of emmitsburg.net

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Happy

New Year!

FROM THE DESK OF . . .

County Executive Candidate Jan Gardner

Frederick County is a special place. And it's the people who live here that make it special. They are generous, take care of each other, and enjoy a high quality of life

I love Frederick County, and I'm excited to be running for County Executive. Working together, I know that we can have exceptional schools, a safe community, a vibrant economy, fiscal responsibility and a wonderful quality of life. Our best days are ahead.

Job #1 will be restoring ethics and trust in county government. I propose the creation of a truly independent ethics commission, and stronger ethics laws that ensure our elected officials cannot profit from their position or doing business with the county. I also want to reinstate penalties (removed by the Young Board), so there are consequences for serious ethics violations.

Another key goal is making sure citizens have a meaningful voice in county government. I first got

involved in local government as a parent concerned about overcrowded schools. I know firsthand how important it is to empower people to make a difference in the public process. Government functions best, and makes better decisions, when the legitimate and sometimes competing interests of the community are balanced.

We must restore fiscal responsibility. This means not squandering our county's assets by selling county facilities for significantly less than their value, and making sure privatization does not cost county taxpayers more. It means long-term, conservative budgeting to keep the AAA bond rating earned during my term as President of the County Commissioners.

During the last two years of the Gardner Board, the county actually adopted budgets that were lower than the year before. The budget was balanced without raising taxes, spending was controlled, and the county was left with a \$10 million surplus. The Gardner

Board maintained its commitment to public education, public safety, and the human service safety net.

By contrast, the Young board has increased taxes, raising the fire tax on the rural areas of the county including Thurmont, Sabillasville, and Lewistown. Spending has increased every year while many effective services that helped people have been cut – Head Start, human service non-profits, and the indigent elderly. The county budget has grown to more than half a billion dollars. Much touted reductions in the number of county employees have not saved the county money. Privatization has cost more. And, taxpayer money is being spent to underwrite the cost of new development.

Protecting county taxpayers means managing our growth responsibly. Development should happen in a way that benefits our community, without placing additional costs on existing taxpayers or diminishing our quality of life with overcrowd-

ed schools and congested roads.

In 2010, after a long public process, the Gardner Board adopted a comprehensive plan for the county's growth that included enough zoned land to accommodate 20 years of projected residential growth and business development. This plan ensured that new development would pay its way, and that current residents would not be stuck with the bill.

But a massive wave of new rezoning has increased the housing pipeline beyond what is needed to meet 20 year population projections and will convert thousands of acres of farmland where infrastructure will be expensive to provide.

Under the current board, the county has entered into several long term contracts with developers. Called Developer Rights and Responsibility Agreements, these contracts have been written to provide great benefits to the developers at the expense of county taxpayers.

One contract actually allows a developer out of a prior agreement to

build a school addition worth \$8 million. The deal for the Jefferson Tech Park shifts 100% of the property tax revenue for the next 20 years to the developer. The county will receive no property tax revenue to pay for needed teachers, firefighters, police or snow removal

I will work with the new county council to restore a functional Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) so the county will once again require infrastructure – schools and roads – to be in place or provided concurrent with new development and avoid shifting costs to taxpayers.

As the county transitions to charter government, we must have strong leadership to ensure ethical government, promote public participation, establish a positive image for Frederick County, and restore fiscal responsibility.

Working together, we can ensure a prosperous future for Frederick County. Our best days are ahead.

To the Citizens of Thurmont

Thurmont is a town I hold very near and dear to my heart. Other than my first seven years of life, I had the privilege of spending my youth and young adulthood in this town, returning to Thurmont in 1996 after relocating from Atlanta, GA with AT&T. This town and its citizens helped shape and influence the person I have become and, if elected, I will have the opportunity to serve and give back in the capacity of town government.

Thurmont is not about the buildings, its streets, the parks or the other amenities that are its physical characteristics. It is about its people. It is the remarkable citizenship of this town that is the true heart, soul, character and essence that makes this town so unique and special. This town is where my wife and I chose to return to raise our family.

I am a social and fiscal conservative who believes in low taxes, controlled low growth, small government and minimal government regulations. I will support a vigorous approach to obtain grants and maximize the funding available. The quality of life for its citizens and its businesses is paramount.

Church life and the ministries of the church have been an integral and important part of my entire life. I commend and support the efforts of the Thurmont Ministerium and the outreach it provides to the citizens of this town and surrounding communities, such as the Clothes Closet and Food Bank. I am an active member of the Thurmont Lions Club and am involved within the club and its fundraising efforts for worthy causes and organizations. I am also a Life Member of the Guardian Hose Company. Although my days of running on call ended years ago, I am still involved

with fundraising events such as the annual carnival.

I have been employed with AT&T for over 33 years with the last 28 years in management positions. The years of corporate experience have afforded me considerable managerial experience. I have the solid reputation of being a team leader, team player, project leader and collaborator. For the last seven years, I have held a part time staff position with Stauffer Funeral Homes.

If elected, I will serve this town and the people of Thurmont with full integrity, honesty, openness, transparency and ethics beyond reproach. I am a principled man who is guided by these attributes and I will not be swayed or influenced in any manner that compromises those values. I will hold myself and the entire board accountable to the people of Thurmont. My main focus and effort will be what is best for the residence of Thurmont and the fu-

ture of this great community.

In closing, it would be an honor and privilege to serve as your Commissioner and I will bring to the job the best of my abilities and talent

for the betterment of our community.

Wes Hamrick
Thurmont, MD
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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Kirby Delauter

It is my understanding County Executive candidate Jan Gardner is contending that when she left office as County Commissioner in 2010 that she left the County with a balanced budget.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Here are a few facts I've gathered directly from the finance department of Frederick County Government. When the current Board of County Commissioners began its term in office we found an \$11.8 million budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2012 and a \$31 million base structural deficit.

The \$11.8 million dollar deficit came from two primary sources. An \$8 million underpayment to Urban and Suburban Fire Tax districts, and a \$2.7 million dollar underpayment to the County's "Other Post Employment Benefits System" (OPEB) which includes county employee retirement system. Since the Suburban and Urban Fire Taxes are a separate tax, the shortfall came from the Fire service expenses be-

ing more than the taxes collected. General fund revenues made up the shortfall year after year.

Instead of raising the Fire tax to make revenues equal expenses, the Gardner Board simply took revenue from the general fund to make up the shortfall. This was nothing more than a shell game and a claim that they didn't raise taxes when in fact they were merely stealing from the general fund to offset the Fire Tax shortfall. Voodoo accounting at best, done simply to hide their inability to deal with reality.

The Gardner Board began to fund the OPEB deficit in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 by pre-funding about \$2.5 million. The original concept was to follow a five-year ramp up (20% per year) over the FY 2008 through FY 2012 time period. The intent was to eventually fully fund the county retirement system. However, this was never followed through on. Instead there were fluctuations in funding from year-to-year due to budget considerations, with OPEB being under funded by about \$5 mil-

lion in FY 2011.

OPEB expenses grows as more employees retire and since a county employee can retire after twenty years in the system, some have actually retired in their mid/late 40's. As plan retirees grow, so does the need to fund the increases. Previous boards acted like OPEB was the crazy uncle in the room, they knew it was there but didn't want to deal with it. This current board deals with issues head on. We requested the numbers and made changes to ensure that the county employees were treated fair and the taxpayers were also treated fair. We made it a priority to address these issues and a lot of unpopular decisions were made.

This Board did not run to win a popularity contest, we ran to fix issues like OPEB that had not been properly addressed by previous Boards. The County pension was about 64% funded when we took office and is projected to be 92% funded when we leave office.

Now as to the "Structural Deficit" - A structural deficit is when expenses ex-

ceed revenues on a recurring basis. In simple terms, you and your wife earn \$50,000 annually from employment; your mortgage, car payments, credit card payments, daycare and everyday living expenses equal \$60,000 - your Structural deficit is \$10,000. You either have to cut expenses or find another revenue source; it's not rocket science.

Being in business I go back to an old saying that is somewhat true but humorous as well. It's when a business owner sits down with his accountant and the business owner asks the accountant "How do my books look this year?" The accountant gets up, shuts the door and answers, "How do you want them to look?"

In our first year in office we had two different County accountants giving us two conflicting reports on what was actually the "Structural Deficit". In government you can get conflicting answers on what is actually a surplus or a deficit in structural terms. The county budget office relies on projections from two main sources of revenue, the property

tax and the income tax. Both can sway wildly up or down depending on the overall economy.

Another issue on the expense side is unfunded mandates the State of Maryland may throw your way, such as Teacher Pensions, the Rain Tax, and cutting Frederick County's piece of the highway user revenues. All of these are unknowns that can swing a budget recommendation wildly in short periods of time.

But, there is an answer that is correct at a certain point in time, and the point in time I reference is when we took office in 2010, there was a \$31 Million structural deficit left to us by the Gardner Board. That structural deficit is now history. We addressed it by making some tough budget calls - in short, we balanced the county budget.

Please feel free to contact the County Budget/Finance offices to verify that what I am stating is in fact, true.

Aside from the deficits being a disaster for the Gardner Board, the general consensus within municipalities on Jan's tenure was no better, as exemplified by the fact her Board was being sued by every municipality in the County over land use issues.

Thurmont Town Commissioner Marty Burns

By now I hope everyone has enjoyed their Christmas break and prepared to head into a great new year. After 12 years as Mayor I am settling into my new role as a town Commissioner. I'm thankful to the residents who voted for me to continue my service to our town. You may not always agree or fully understand my decisions but know every single one is made based on what's best for the town.

Mayor Kinnaird asked if I would continue to be the liaison for the County anti-drug initiative, and assist in getting the plans completed for the new town hall.

Regarding the Drug initiative, the County, along with the School Board, municipalities, Health Department, and Delegate Schultz are planning a host of informative presentations to be provided to parents across the county. The presentations will be held at local schools. If

you care about drugs in your community, and if you're a parent who cares about learning about signs of potential illegal drug use by your kids, then these meetings are for you. Please look for a press release for when and where these meetings will take place. There will also be a poster contest throughout the school system where kids can create an anti-drug poster. The winner will have their poster displayed across the county to try and show a standard front against illegal drug use. The inspiration for the poster contest was borne from the idea of Ms. Suzie Free.

The countywide effort above continues in large part, what was done by The Thurmont community, and spawned a new organization called "Thurmont Project Hope". This group of concerned parents is trying to leverage all ways to combat drug use, and to try and get

treatment for those who want/need help. The first Narcotics Anonymous meeting was held in Thurmont and from all accounts it was well attended and a great event.

The construction plans for the new Town Hall are firming up. If you remember we purchased the property at 215 East Main Street and are putting in new bathrooms and making the building Handicapped Accessible. The drawings should be complete in a week or so and we hope to bid the projects shortly. After those projects we will send out another Request For Proposals for new Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning for the entire building. Finally, after that we will bid out the rest of the building. Most of the projects are grant funded and little if any tax dollars are going into them. Obviously we'd like to be in as soon as possible, but executing multi-

ple construction projects may take longer than we'd hoped for. The sooner we move out of the current town office the sooner the Food Bank can move into their new home. Stay tuned.

Since Mayor Kinnaird was elected as the Mayor, the town has a vacant seat on the Board of Commissioners. That means that there is a two year term left on his Commissioner's position. Based on our Charter we have to hold a "Special Election" to fill his remaining two years remaining on the Board. That Election will be held on January the 7th at the Guardian Hose Company Activities Building.

On the official ballot are Wes Hamrick, Randy Cubbege, and Bill Blakeslee. Each one of the candidates has their own individual strengths and weaknesses. It's your responsibility as residents and voter to educate yourself on each candidate and cast your vote for who you believe will be the best to work with the Mayor and

Board of Commissioners on running the town.

I highly recommend you reach out to each and ask them questions, talk to people who know them, see where they stand on any given position. It's important to make an educated decision.

It's pretty sad to say that I'm relatively happy with the historical turnout of voters in Thurmont elections. Last Election garnered approximately 26%, unfortunately that's fairly good in any election, but is truly sad that 70% of registered voters simply don't care enough to vote. There are countries that have fought and died for the right to vote in their country, and it's truly sad that most people don't think it's important enough in ours.

Thanks to everyone who does take the time to vote, it can certainly make a difference in taxes, fees, growth, and how to prioritize spending town revenue. So please don't forget to vote in the Special Election held on January 7th.

Until next time,
Martin A. Burns

Commissioners' Report

On December 19th, the Frederick Board of County Commissioners presented a comprehensive report on the state of the county in commemoration of the board's three-year anniversary since taking office. The strategic goals approved at the beginning of the board's term continue to set the stage for actions in areas highlighted in the report.

Board President Blaine Young said, "This year's state of the county presentation provides a snapshot in time of where we stand today. In spite of continuing challenges to the economy, Frederick County is addressing the structural deficit and long-term fiscal challenges, yearly county income has increased, total employment has increased, unemployment continues to remain under six percent, new housing demands have increased, and school construction projects have been moved up in the funding process.

The complete report on the state

of the county is available on the Board of County Commissioners' webpage at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/bocc or on emmitsburg.net.

"We are making good progress and heading in the right direction as far as budget, jobs, public-private partnerships, public safety, agricultural preservation, land use, housing, transportation and many other areas. We have made many tough decisions over the years, because we were determined to live within our means and that is now the norm for Frederick County Government.

"Frederick County is on stable, healthy ground. Compared with other jurisdictions, we're in a position of stability with regard to our bond rating, our retirement fund and other post employment benefits. Our accomplishments over the last year have much to do with our cooperative relationship with our municipalities and the business community. We have made our point that we are 'open for business' in Frederick County.

The complete report on the state of the county is available on the Board of County Commissioners' webpage at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/bocc or on emmitsburg.net.

Highlights of the report include:

- The County saw an improvement in its bond rating due to the board's commitment to address structural imbalances.
- The crime rate in Frederick County is less than one-half the national average.
- Frederick County Public Libraries saw circulation of books, library visits (1,105,952), total patrons served (158,708) and Summer Reading Program participants (10,013) increase.
- Frederick County Public Schools had the state's fourth highest graduation rate at 92.8 percent and the second lowest dropout rate at 3.6 percent; SAT scores continue to surpass state and national scores.

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is January and you all probably know what I am about to share. Have you heard the expression "Ring out the old, ring in the new?" After some research, I come to find that January gets its name from a Roman god of beginnings and transitions called Janus. This Janus is a two faced god that looks back in the old year and forward into the new year. I guess this is where "resolutions" come into play. A resolution is a pledge or promise to one's self to make the new year a better one for ourselves and hopefully those all around us. The tradition of making resolutions at the beginning of a new year may have come from this two faced god. And, if these resolutions are not too unrealistic, we may even be successful in achieving them.

Some resolutions may even be prompted by others. For example, I resolve to get rid of all of my old computer peripherals prompted by a loved one in my household, my wife. Problem is how to accomplish the task. Please be aware that by law, Park's Garbage is not allowed to collect your electronic waste. The Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA) is now to be followed. This means only approved certified recyclers can accept all electronic/electric

items for recycling – basically anything with a cord as long as the item does not contain any Freon, oils or fuels.

In Adams County, the Adams Rescue Mission at 2515 York Road in Gettysburg is an approved CDRA certified recycler and will accept computers, monitors, peripherals and televisions. If you are unsure whether the Adams Rescue Mission will accept an item, you can reach them at 717-334-7502. If you would like to get a copy of the Adams County recycling pamphlet, contact the Adams County Environmental Services Department located at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg or send me an email and I will reply with a pdf copy of the pamphlet.

The next resolution given to me to accomplish was to get rid of the old oil and antifreeze I have stored in the garage. Well, for residents of Carroll Valley and Fairfield, you can deposit all in Carroll Valley behind the Municipal Services Building at 14 Ranch Trail. You can pour your waste oil, hydraulic oil and transmission fluid into the flat black tank marked waste oil next to the building. The anti-freeze should be poured into the blue drum next to the black waste oil tank. You are asked

that all empty containers be placed in the large dumpster.

Based on the diligent work of our Carroll Valley Police Department, three Gettysburg men have been arrested for 19 burglaries committed in Adams County with the majority occurring in Carroll Valley Borough. Our PD with assistance from Cumberland and State Police cleared most of the open burglary cases in Carroll Valley and those committed in other municipalities. Now our police force is investigating reports of items taken from vehicles in Carroll Valley and surrounding municipalities. Thefts were specifically reported on Franklin Street in Fairfield, Tract Road in Liberty Township, and on Janet, Mile, and Walnut trails in Carroll Valley. If you see something suspicious or you have any information regarding these thefts, call 717-334-8101. Please lock your car even if it is parked in your driveway.

Patrolman Dustin Miller was given the Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Association Top Gun Award. This group is a professional organization which is working to address the Pennsylvania DUI prob-

lem in all of its many stages — from prevention to enforcement up to, and including, adjudication and rehabilitation. The award recognizes excellence in the area of DUI enforcement. Patrolman Miller joined several dozen officers from around the Commonwealth who collectively removed over 5,000 impaired operators from the streets in one year. He was the only officer to receive this award in Adams County. We are very proud of his accomplishment.

Don't know if you are aware of the work being done on a portion of the gabion wall used to stabilize the shoreline of Lake May. Gabion is a cage or box filled with rocks or concrete used for erosion control. In this case, the erosion occurred beneath the gabion. The repair cost is being funded by Liberty Mountain Resort & Conference Center based on an agreement between the Borough of Carroll Valley and Liberty Mountain. The agreement benefits both entities. The Ski Resort pays the Borough \$25,000 a year to draw water for their winter operations. In turn, the resort working with the Borough maintains the lake. Living

up to their responsibility, Liberty Mountain is spending approximately \$200,000 to repair the Tom's Creek gabion wall. Thank you. If this agreement was not in place, this expense would have been a burden for the Borough.

At the Council meeting on December 10 Council considered an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would have amended the standards for Cluster Development. Council decided that the proposal would need additional work and referred it back to the Borough Planning Commission for deliberation. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, at 7 pm in the Borough Office. A Fact Sheet has been developed to help facilitate understanding of the details of the ordinance revision. To get a copy of the fact sheet, go to www.carrollvalley.org.

Borough meetings in January are: Reorganization Borough Council Meeting (Jan 6th), Planning Commission (Jan 7th), Borough Council (Jan 14th), Parks/ Recreation Committee (Jan 22nd) and Sewer/Water Authority (Jan 27th). If you have any questions call me at 301-606-2021 or email me at mayor@carrollvalley.org.



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The Fairfield Community Volunteer Fire Company thanks the municipalities of Fairfield Borough, Carroll Valley Borough and Hamiltonban Township for supporting the volunteer emergency services by enacting a dedicated fire tax.

For the first time in our history we are able to budget a dedicated dollar amount annually. We have existed on donations and fund raisers. Unfortunately, donations are not guaranteed and can only be anticipated.

The age of our volunteers working to raise funds is increasing and younger members of our community have not come forward to take over the responsibilities.

The money received from this fire tax will cover about 1/2 of

our operating budget. Members will run more than 65 bingo's, raffles and other events to cover the remainder of our expenses and to maintain our long-term capital expense account. This dedicated tax gives our volunteers breathing room reorganize for a changing volunteer emergency services in cooperation with our municipal leaders.

Highland Township, although not enacting the tax at this time, has agreed to provide the same funds to the volunteers that the 1/4 mill fire tax would have generated. Highland Township supervisors join Fairfield, Carroll Valley and Hamiltonban leaders in fully recognizing their responsibility and the importance of our volunteer emergency services. Their decision to provide financial support is

also greatly appreciated.

Thanks must be given to the Adams County Council of Government for enacting the study that brought to light the serious situations our volunteer Emergency Services are facing and the responsibility that the municipalities have for providing these services. Working together we will be able to keep the cost of providing emergency services manageable and keep the volunteer fire and ambulance service viable and professional.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for the respect and concern you have shown for our volunteer firefighters and emergency medical providers.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Marty Qually

In my October article I invited you to join the County Commissioners for Adams County Connected's (ACC) final report presentation on internet connectivity in Adams County. You can read the report on the County website at www.adamscounty.us, or better yet since you are reading this already, I offer this brief summary of the report's five key recommendations.

The county needs to extend the task force or create the next generation of the Adams County Connected effort. The new taskforce needs to transition from a fact-finding entity to a task oriented entity. Clearly define task force goals that are directly tied to the County strategic vision and goals. The task force needs to collaborate with state and federal resources already engaged in ACC to fully leverage greater resources. The task force needs a funding model not just by the county, but all entities within the county who have a stake in economic development and educational opportunities. In short the fact finding academic phase is over and it is time to step it up a notch.

Create a marketing presence on the task force for ACC. There's a strong belief that Adams County has the potential to cultivate existing and new business as well as serve as a bedroom community to all points North and South; as we build the infrastructure

and create strong lasting partnerships throughout the county there needs to be economic leadership ready to capitalize on both opportunities. Appoint a sub-committee to take responsibility for the branding and presence of ACC and its web presence to continue mobilizing community members through a digital and social presence. As a community service ACC has helped to educate residents, especially seniors, in the very confusing field of technology. The more people know about ACC, the better they will understand the technological services and tools around them.

Over the past year Scott Wehler of the Adams Electric Cooperative has done an excellent job working with internet providers to get a better understanding of the internet infrastructure in Adams County. Now that the groundwork of understanding what services are available in Adams County is complete, this committee must begin to focus on more issues to get services to the public. This goal should begin by formalize a meeting schedule to strengthen and grow the relationships with the providers. While the providers have plans to grow the market on their own, ACC can be a great community partner in improving that effort. The committee with the guidance of the Adams Coun-

ty Economic Development Corporation should invite all internet providers and municipal planners to be a part of that committee serving as a conduit for economic development policy recommendations.

Explore the use of county towers to see if there is a financially sound endeavor to create revenue and provide improved connectivity throughout the county. Working with county and municipal planners, the committee must draft modern internet and communication service ordinances in Adams County. Lastly, work with Adams County to use existing County resources to lower smaller municipality's costs for their internet expenses and assist them in increasing the availability of community services via the internet. Promote and market the recent expansion of Internet services amongst providers to the community to help ease connectivity struggles while lowering costs!! And lastly once new and improved services are realized in Adams County, this committee must help to market these solutions outside the county to increase economic development.

The forth priority is to create a sub-committee of the task force focused on educational opportunities, gaps in education, and develop a long term educational strategy. The Internet 101

courses have been a huge success but we know we have not begun to scratch the surface of Adams County resident needs. School districts are looking to create value for their taxpayers and have the facilities to hold these classes. In the effort to inform and educate County tax payers on becoming a connected community it is a natural fit to partner school districts and higher education providers. While many schools are already working to provide affordable technology to their students for educational purposes, the ACC education sub-committee must continue to educate the public in the need to reduce the "digital divide" caused by a lack of technological resources to our children. While education for education sake is rewarding, we need to also have students prepared to face the economic realities of a modern world.

Lastly, ACC needs to improve two way communication and tailor dialogue to multiple segments of our County population. This year we learned that different segments of our population have drastically varied needs in regards to the internet. Now, we must focus the discussion with each of these groups to determine how best to help them achieve their goals. The following segments or user groups should be the focus of an improved communication effort:

Education, Government, Tourism, Agriculture, Financial, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Professional Services, Retail, Residential, and Small Business. It is only through improved communication that the ACC can act as a truly county-wide liaison between our residents, business interests, public institutions, and the private for-profit internet companies. With the support of the County Commissioners ACC is in a unique position to a conduit for knowledge and action.

As you can see in this last section and throughout the recommendations, this year ACC will be strongly focused on an unwritten goal of economic development. This is not by accident, but rather by design. It has become plain to the County Commissioners that internet connectivity is as vital to business retention and improvement as roads, water, sewer, and electricity. Not only do all businesses now need the internet to be competitive, but also to attract the new businesses that service the internet. While most of us grew up with computers and the internet as a luxury, in today's world they are necessary and Adams County Connected has been and will continue to be a truly great resource.

If you have any questions regarding Adams County Connected or if you would like to help them achieve these goals, do not hesitate to email me at mqually@adamscounty.com.

State Representative Dan Moul

On the House floor, I had the pleasure recently of presenting a House citation to James Robert Kirby, superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park on his retirement after 40 years of service to the federal government. As superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park, Kirby collaborated with state representatives and the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monument Project for the repair, restoration and endowment of the Pennsylvania monuments at the Gettysburg battlefield.

The most significant piece of child protection legislation to make it through the General Assembly in recent memory is now on its way to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

House Bill 726 defines what constitutes child abuse in Pennsylvania, providing the basis on which all future child abuse cases will be judged. The bill received unanimous approval in the House on concurrence following recent passage in the Senate. The bill clearly defines child abuse, giving police officers, medical professionals, teachers, child care workers and others who are mandated to report suspected abuse, and individuals who witness suspected abuse, specific criteria on which to base their claim.

The current definition of child abuse in Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law does not cover many activities that most people would consider abusive and, regrettably, children have died because the law was not sufficient to protect them. As vice chairman of the House Children and Youth Com-

mittee, I am committed to strengthening our child protection laws and it begins with a clear definition. This legislation will provide our best hope of protecting this vulnerable population.

Six additional child protection bills are now on their way to the governor's desk, including legislation to update the definition of a perpetrator, clarify mandates for reporting child abuse and accountability, and establish protections for false claims of abuse. In addition, the House

Children and Youth Committee positioned several more bills for consideration by the full House including measures to allow electronic reporting of child abuse, require health care providers to report illegal substance effects in newborns, and a bill to protect those who report child abuse in good faith from employment discrimination and termination.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.pahousegop.com/ChildProtectionMeasures.aspx>.

Following a series of public hearings this year, the Special Education Funding Commission is recommending a new special education funding formula based on student needs. Nearly 270,000 children – one out of every seven students – receive special education services in Pennsylvania's public schools at a cost of nearly \$1 billion per year. Funding for special education has not increased since 2008-09. Meanwhile, the House Education Committee approved a bill to create a Basic Education Funding Commission to determine how basic education funding increases will be distributed.

Three bills to aid in the cooperation between business and education sectors to help build and improve student skills moved through House committees. House Bill 1816 would enable teachers, guidance counselors and other school

administrators to receive necessary education credits if they visit certain manufacturing facilities for in-person tours and orientation programs. House Bill 1725 would establish the CareerBound program, which would join local workforce investment boards, businesses and schools in an effort to develop innovative school-to-work pilot programs. The seven pilot CareerBound programs would be eligible to compete for more than \$10 million in tax credits for contributing businesses. House Bill 1878 would create the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Strategy, coordinated through the Department of Labor and Industry, which would provide tax credits to businesses that organize and collaborate with each other to address similar personnel and training issues. The bills now go to the full House for consideration.

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Bill Eiker

COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

It's a New Year—time to learn something new

Shannon Bohrer

My New Year's resolution this year includes eating well, getting enough rest, enjoying my spare time, catching up on my reading, and taking time for general reflection. I know it seems like a full plate, but I do feel that general reflection is so important. General reflection is unlike a specific reflection; general reflection covers a lot of topics. It is my hope that through general reflection I can assist my loyal readers with introspective views of world events, political matters, and other non-important topics.

A critical element of general reflection is that of introspective thought, which requires openness to learning. In very simple terms, some things we believe to be true are sometime not true. Sometimes our strong beliefs get in the way of learning. A good example of this is politics, where both sides believe the other side is wrong just because it is from the other side. Another critical element of general reflection is that when examining problems, sometimes good solutions are nonexistent. In general, we tend to think of problem resolution as a way to solve problems. Yet, some problems are not easily resolved and some may not be solvable at all.

The recent foreign policy issues with Syria are a good example of a problem that may not be easily resolvable. In a previous article I discussed the problem for the perspective of our alternatives. Basically the alternatives of siding with the anti-Assad rebels would mean siding with known terrorists. Conversely, not doing anything would be siding with the Syrian government, or Assad. On the face of this we have two choices, one being bad and the other being bad. Of course with the divide in our politics, both political parties will espouse that their choice is better than the other!

Another reality of general reflection is that even when faced with choices that will not solve the problem, we have no way of knowing what will happen no matter what choice we make. Egypt is a good example of this. As soon as we take one side, we are seen as the enemy by the other side. The road to a true democracy can be long and difficult. Our own war of independence was eight years and there are much longer examples in European history. Sometimes democracy only takes root after everything else has failed—and sometimes it still fails.

We, the United States, along with European allies supported the reb-

els against the Gaddafi forces in Libya and the rebels won. When a bad leader is ousted the world seemed relieved and a temporary joy occurs, that is until a new reality takes place. Is Libya a stable country? Has a democracy taken hold? Does it look like it will, or has eliminating the Gaddafi regime allowed other terrorist to take control? I don't think anyone can, at this time, tell us what form of government Libya will have in the future.

What seems to be a long term problem for the United States is Iran. The problem as stated is that if Iran is allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon we and our allies could be at great peril. It might be wise to first ask if this threat is real. There are currently eight countries that have nuclear weapons, including North Korea and Pakistan. I am certainly not an expert in world affairs, but I would think that North Korea and Pakistan would also be of great concern, maybe more so since they already have the weapons. However, even with the other nuclear states Iran could still be a threat. The sanctions against Iran appear to be working in that they say they want to negotiate. However, there are interested sides that say we cannot trust the Iranians.

Examining Iran's recent history might be helpful in looking at the situation. The Iranian Revolution began in 1978 with demonstrations against the Shah (our friend). The Shah fled the country because of strikes and demonstrations and in 1979 Iran became the Islamic Republic. This was supported by a referendum. In December 1979 a referendum approved a theocratic constitution. These were very bloody times in Iran but many Americans only remember the takeover of the American Embassy and the hostages that were held until January in 1981. Since that time the United States and Iran have not been on good terms.

Also in 1980, our dear friend; Saddam Hussein, of Iraq, invaded Iran to take back some property he stated belonged to Iraq. Even with the help of weapons from a super power (Us), the Iraqi forces were eventually held to a long stalemate. Saddam Hussein was our friend when he invaded Iran, but he was our enemy when he invaded Kuwait. Of course since that time we invaded Iraq, which shares a border with Iran, and captured Saddam Hussein. Also, since that time we invaded Afghanistan, which also shares a border with Iran. With U.S. troops on both sides of

Iran, Iran started a process that could lead eventually to building Nuclear weapons. Also at that time The U.S. also had a policy of pre-emptive strikes. Maybe Iran looked at North Korea and said to themselves since they already have the bomb; nobody is going to attack them!

Iran now says they want to negotiate and we still have politicians that say we should not trust them. What would these politicians want us to do, more sanctions, attack, invade? I think there are just as many Iranians that say they cannot trust us. Maybe we can't trust them, but the alternatives are what? Reflective thought would say we really don't need another war, especially one that we have no idea what the outcome will be, how long it would be and what would it cost. We have already lost too many servicemen and women and we have too many disabled servicemen and women from our current involvements, we don't need anymore.

There is the unknown of not negotiating and the unknown if we do negotiate. However, with the lessons from our recent involvements and invasions of other Middle Eastern states, the negotiation option might be the better choice. Learning something new is a good idea, learning from previous mistakes can also be good.

To read past editions of *Words from Winterbilt*, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Common Cents

Control space

Ralph Murphy

The Chinese landing of roving vehicle Yutu in early December was met with interest and trepidation by the international community who appeared worried about the event's earthly implications, particularly as it relates to military technology applications. China's space program is nothing new, nor is travel to the moon as the Americans have walked on it since the 1960's. What is of current concern is how China, largely alone in developing its own space technology, will use it.

The successful unmanned moon landing as a world event is largely eclipsed by the Americans two actively working vehicles currently traversing Mars. The "Opportunity" and the "Curiosity" have been sending pictures and data since their respective landings on the red planet in January of 2004 and August of 2012. That after about a six month flight from earth. Total cost for the Curiosity was placed at 2.5 billion dollars. These successful endeavors were preceded by other American rovers as early as the American Viking probes in 1976 which sent back over 4500 pictures from that planet's surface.

From its inception China's space program has been belligerent. Concerned by the American threat of atomic weapons use in Korea, China under Mao sought a deterrent with missiles carrying nuclear warheads. Russia aided the program at its inception with the "Fifth Academy of National Defense Ministry" founded in 1956, leading to the Ballistic Missile Program and subsequent 12 year plan for Chinese aerospace.

The Soviet Union provided China with R-2 weapons technology, much of that gleaned from the German V-2 weapons system. China managed to launch a rocket code named the T-7 in 1960, and developed medium range nuclear missiles further that year. The program stalled with frosty relations between China and the USSR under Nikita Khrushchev.

The Peoples Republic of China, or PRC, did manage an experimental rocket in 1964, followed by an ICBM in 1965 with a reported range of 12,000 kilometers. In 1966 a nuclear tipped rocket was launched and detonated over Chinese territory. The missile technology appeared to have been derived from domestic sources, as the Chinese had few external friends, and limited

espionage capacity as regards acquiring and successfully using pilfered information.

In 1970 China successfully launched a satellite into space. Unrelated political turmoil followed, but space technology was eventually given a boost with the creation of "China Ministry of Aerospace" in 1988. That same year witnessed the success of a submarine launched missile with a range of over 2000 kilometers.

In October, 2003 the Chinese became the third nation in the world to successfully undertake a manned space flight with three "Taikonauts" completing a 21 hour mission into orbit. That was relatively inoffensive, but followed by a successful October 2007 unannounced destruction of one of that country's orbiting satellites. The resulting space debris was said to have downed a Russian satellite in the area.

The PRC is party to the United Nation's "Committee on Peaceful Use of Outer Space", and hasn't been proven to have violated it. That hasn't kept the U.S. Congress from prohibiting American concerns from working with Chinese state enterprises or entities, and in March of 2013 Congress passed a law requiring a waiver of certain Chinese nationalities to enter a NASA facility.

China's relative independence in space development has



also made it hard to police. Air Force General William L. Shelton claimed "There's not an operation conducted anywhere at any level that is not somehow dependent on space and cyberspace." He indicated China is strong in areas such as jamming and lasers which are of concern to US security interests. China reportedly continues to develop in those areas of concern with a PRC reported budget of 93 billion dollars a year, but American estimates place at closer to 183 billion dollars.

The PRC launched a module in September of 2011 which that country hopes to be a first step toward a space station about 2020. A three man crew docked with the module, which subsequently fell to earth, but a new one should orbit earth by 2015. That "go it alone" streak is what's worrying governments and pri-

vate industry with satellites and space tourism goals at stake. The International Space Station (ISS) is due to be decommissioned at about the time the nascent Chinese station would be complete. Another potential source of friction if used as an unchecked base of control for that nation's interests.

USDIA director Lt. General Ronald Burgess claimed "Beijing rarely announces direct applications of its space program, and refers to all satellite launches as scientific in nature." There still haven't been space wars, but unless China and others can be successfully regulated the potential is there for an incident which if sourced could easily spark a costly confrontation on earth.

To read past editions of *Common Cents* visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

COMMENTARY

Pure OnSense

What's at stake in Ukraine

Scott Zuke

Since November, hundreds of thousands of protestors have taken to the streets in Ukraine's capital city of Kiev to express their anger with the leadership of President Viktor Yanukovich. Mass street protests have taken place so frequently across the world in recent years that Ukraine's could easily fall under the radar, especially since the policy that sparked it isn't something that readily excites the imagination of an international audience.

The Arab Spring and the ongoing demonstrations in Egypt since last summer's 'democratic coup' were dramatic, easily romanticized showdowns between democracy and authoritarianism. Ukraine's protests, on the other hand, are ostensibly in response to the president's decision not to sign a free trade deal with the European Union—not exactly the makings of the next *Les Misérables*.

Although, on the surface, the trade deal lacks the poetry of universal values like liberty, justice, or equality, it would have had a very real impact on Ukraine's economy and the daily lives of its people. The country was rocked by the global economic downturn in 2008, and had never really landed on its feet since achieving independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Instead, successive leaders contributed to forming what analyst Andrew Wilson calls a "parasitic economy," stuck in a low-income trap in which economic gains are captured by a small group of wealthy oligarchs. The resulting income disparity is stunning: "Ukraine's fifty richest citizens control almost half the country's GDP," Wilson says.

"Even in oligarch-heavy Russia, the fifty richest people control less than 20 percent of GDP"

It's not only the wealth that found its way into the hands of a select few, but political power as well. Ukraine has had multiple democratic elections, and various leaders have tried to address corruption by altering the laws and constitution. Nevertheless, almost every move has turned out to benefit the oligarchs in the end.

The last time Ukraine captured the world's attention was in 2004's "Orange Revolution," which drew thousands into Kiev's central square to rally against what they claimed was a fraudulent presidential victory for Russia-backed Viktor Yanukovich. The negotiations that brought the demonstrations to an end left Viktor Yushchenko as president and Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister, as well as the members of the Orange Revolution feeling victorious.

They were quickly disappointed. Tymoshenko's government collapsed within a short time, and President Yushchenko appointed his rival, Yanukovich, as her replacement. A year later, Yushchenko feared Yanukovich was consolidating power for himself and forced him out of office, reappointing Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister.

Yushchenko fell severely short of fulfilling his promises to the Orange Revolution, leaving the people so disillusioned that he was easily defeated in the 2010 election, and was replaced by Yanukovich, who moved quickly to centralize power, manipulate the justice system, and send his other rival, Tymoshenko, to prison on politically-

motivated charges.

There are, of course, other political players involved in Ukrainian politics, but the fact that so much recent history can be covered by only mentioning these three underscores just how small the group of empowered elites really is, and it's hard to know who to root for.

As in the time of Cicero during the late Roman Republic, most of the political elites seem to be being charged with, and likely guilty of, corruption or other violations of the law at any given time. This is partly by design. As Andrew Wilson explains, the law is structured so that the entire population is constantly, unavoidably in violation of it, leaving those in power with the ability to selectively prosecute those they wish to suppress, or to grant clemency to those from whom they seek favor.

So far, then, we have seen that Ukraine is severely lacking in the "universal ideals" of both equality and justice. What about liberty? Larger even than the narrative about Ukraine's economic suffering or problems with corruption has been the storyline of how the nation sits on the fault line between Russia and the Western world, and has therefore become a proxy battleground for the escalating standoff between Russian President Vladimir Putin's neo-authoritarianism and Western democracy.

This aspect of Ukraine's fate really matters most to Putin and Russia, who view it as a Russian territory perhaps in the same way that Americans view Alaska or Hawaii. That is, they're not critical to the economic well-being of the continental states, but we would be seriously disturbed if they decided to pursue closer independent ties with Russia or China, in effect casting their ballot that their economic and political systems are superior to our own. Putin's response to the long-negotiat-



ed trade agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, then, was to bully Yanukovich into killing the deal by threatening sanctions, and offering a no-strings-attached bailout instead.

That bailout turned out to be a \$15 Billion investment and cheaper oil prices. The IMF has voiced concerns that, without requiring Ukraine to undertake financial austerity measures, that money is as good as wasted. Putin, however, is not making a financial investment like the IMF, but rather an investment in political capital. If his bailout gets Ukraine's leaders off the hook with demonstrators and reelected in 2015, he will have gotten what he wanted.

It's unclear how much the democracy vs. authoritarianism or Russia vs. the West debates really do or should matter to the average Ukrainian citi-

zen. Having lived in a hybrid system of government for the past two decades, their faith in either the Western or Russian models is understandably thin. "Only 5 percent of young Ukrainians express the desire to become involved in politics," Wilson says.

Violent suppression of dissent could change that. There have already been at least three instances of security forces assaulting rallies since November. As one protester told the *New York Times* when asked why he's chosen to remain in the streets: "I have no choice. I fought the police. If I go home now, I will go to prison." For him, and many others, this is no longer just about a missed trade deal.

To read past editions of *Pure OnSense* visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Down Under

The world of magic

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne, Australia

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.
—Arthur C Clarke, 1962.

'Tis true; there's magic in the web of it.
—Shakespeare, *Othello*, act 3 sc. 4

Happy magic year to you all. After a black cat and broomstick year we surely could do with a few happy wizards at Hogwarts, better known as The White House. Yes, I know you believe that your leaders are people of logic, science and cold reason, just as you believe that science and technology sets the world on its course daily, that somehow the sun rises and the world runs its space through the heavens because the laws of physics say so, and that's the end of it; but there's more to it than that. Today's world is actually run by magic, particularly in politics.

Arthur C Clarke surely got the picture correct when he wrote the above

quote, because today it is necessary to stop asking 'how does it do that?' and just apply the apps to our daily lives ad lib. No one can tell us the 'how', because these magical things have developed from increasingly arcane discoveries. Put all together in a hat with stars on it, shaken not stirred, they let us wave our finger in the air and call up the spirits of deep technology, including the odd black meow and flailing broom.

And isn't it wonderful? No more trips to the library in the rain, no more difficulty in setting down ones thoughts and suppositions, just a box of biscuits that someone else has baked for our enjoyment. Critical reading not required. We can tick the wisdom displayed, even if it is from the flat earth society or the killing fields. If it looks right, is biased to our biases, and reinforces our narrow prejudices, it is good magic indeed.

And there's more to come. The present magic has a price – the envelopes of our private life connections may be opened and their contents proclaimed, unclouded in the cloud,

available for unscrambling by the descendants of 1984 – but at least our thoughts are still private. Aren't they?

This is where the wizards really shine, and, depending on their mood, can introduce things you believe are good, or otherwise. No one person, or even a group, understands where this will all finish, but the rate of change in our new technology is on the vertical rise. The workings of an iPad, satellite system or facebook will seem as simple as heavy water, and the brave new world of the mind mine is going to outdo anything even Aldous Huxley could have dreamt up. For this newest magic will detect our brain waves at a distance, send our synapses into spasm and reveal our intimate musings.

We already see parents wiring their toddlers up to the TV in all its big screen glory, and this new world will also prefer a brain to have placidity. Child will not have to cry, 'Mummy, I feel sick' because mummy will already know, the thought having appeared on the monitor as it was formed. But 'mummy, I hate you,' will not usually get comfort, and 'the government sucks' will be dealt with by the Nasty Snoops Academy.

The trouble with magic is that there are always two kinds, exciting and neutral, or terrifying and

invasive. One can morph into the other as we watch, just as social media turned into a spy agency's wet dream. A brainwave will be more than a good idea, it will be the magic link between us and the robot. Unlike Mr. Asimov's hope, the robot will win, because it won't care. And neither will the robot's masters. Fortunately, it's a couple of decades away, so we have time to run. To see the outcome, read Alfred Bester's 'The Demolished Man.' It's funny how the magic of SF is the new reality, even to laser propulsion – yes, no more rockets, just the magical force of coherent light. No, I'm not making these things up. The prototypes are being tested, so imagine the thrill of zipping off into space in comfort as a robotic symbiosis. Ah! Progress.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, the era of the expert will continue to guide our policymakers. You remember the expert, do you not? Someone who knows more and more about less and less until he knows everything about nothing. One will still set social policy, another fiscal, another foreign. And yet another will advise the president. Maybe that has already happened, how else explain the hex woven over health care? This is something most countries put in

place over the past century or so, allowing time for the bugs to appear and be stamped on, keeping the running costs within bounds, and acknowledging the need to address human frailty at a national level.

In some past era America became spellbound at the idea of universal DIY, which is fine if all can do it, but uncivilized if they cannot. And believe me, they cannot. But to bite the bullet of health provision for those who cannot pay in your profit driven nation, with the need to 'do it now!', allows the cracks to appear all together. Experts cannot be expected to deal with problems, can they?

But – there is one good fairy who at least has waved her wand and brought the reform into reality. A great nation cares for its citizens. Great leaders are humane. And in the tangled weaving of society, now and into the future, may we determine the truth of Shakespeare:

There is magic in the web of it.

Lindsay, hoping you have a year of beneficial wizardry,

In Down under.

To read past editions of *Down Under* visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Catch the vision

Gary Buchman
Emmitsburg Community
Bible Church

In the Book, A Savior for all Seasons, William Barker tells the story of a bishop from the east coast who, over a 100 years ago, paid a visit to a small mid-western religious college. He stayed at the home of the college president, who also served as a professor of physics and chemistry. After dinner, the bishop declared the millennial reign of our Lord could not be far off, because just about everything about nature had been discovered and all inventions conceived. The young college president disagreed and said that he believed that there were many more things to be discovered. The Bishop began to get angry and strongly disagreed and challenged the young president to name just one possible discovery or invention. The President said that he felt certain that within the next 50 years, man would learn how to fly. "Nonsense," said the bishop, "only angels are intended to fly." The Bishop's name was Wright who had 2 boys at home who would prove that they had greater vision than their father. Orville and Wilbur Wright lived in the same home under the same sky, but they didn't see the same horizon.

Every year at this time millions of Americans make resolutions for the New Year. These resolutions, usually include personal goals, like weight loss, and exercise. Perhaps you have made some others, like reading more, or reading through your Bible this year. (You can if you read 3 chapters a day and 5 on Sunday), or praying more, or spending less. Maybe, you will come up with a Bucket List (things you want to do before you kick the bucket).

However, I want to challenge

you to develop a vision. I am not talking about something mystical, but rather a goal, a passionate desire to see something done or to make something necessary happen. Maybe something that would be impossible without God in it. Ask God to give you the faith to dare to do something extraordinary, like Robert Woodruff.

Robert Woodruff was a man of vision. He served as president of Coca-Cola from 1923-1955. Following WWII, Woodruff said his vision was that before he died, he wanted every person in the world to have tasted Coca-Cola. He nearly accomplished it. Where can you go and not find Coca-Cola?

I don't know about you but I don't want to just drift through life. George Bernard Shaw, once said, "Some men see things as they are and ask, 'Why?' I dream things that never were and ask, 'Why not?'"

The Lord Jesus had a vision. His vision was that every person in the world would hear the wonderful story of His life death and resurrection, so they can have forgiveness and eternal life. That vision included building communities of caring people (called the Church) who would love each other as Jesus did. These communities would push back the gates of hell, releasing men and women from Satan's power and deception and grow like a snowball rolling down a mountain. He never intended that Church just be a place to go to on Sundays, but to be a living force of world changing people who love God, and love the people Jesus died to rescue.

Sadly, many have lost the Vision. A primary purpose for the church is to do what we can to make our Lord's vision, a reality. Many have succumbed to just maintaining a religious establishment. The Church is who we are, not where go. We are the special

unique group of people set apart by the Holy Spirit to minister as Jesus Christ in the world.

Paul was a man who caught the Vision. Always a man of passion, Paul was zealous as a Pharisee, and a Persecutor of Christians, until he was confronted by the Savior. We have no idea how many people he injured, jailed or destroyed, but after He met Jesus, his passion was to make Jesus' vision a reality. In Romans 15, Paul tells us that his goal was to take the gospel message where no one else has ever taken it.

I often tell our church, that God has two purposes for saving us. First, is a subjective purpose; that is, to give us gifts such as complete forgiveness, eternal life, an eternal home, peace with God, adoption into His family, a new earthly family (the Church) and more. Paul would say, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

The second purpose is objective; that is, God wants something from us in return for His gifts to us. He wants us to catch the vision and continue the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus. Each of the four gospels tell us to go into all the world and tell people about Jesus. Acts 1:8-9 tells us to do the same.

The Lord Jesus told Paul in Acts, "I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." This is the same reason He rescued all of us.

Twenty years ago, there was a movie called, The Shadow. (After the old radio drama) The Shadow would rescue people from danger



and then give them a ring and tell them that their lives now belonged to him. When their rings glowed it meant that he wanted them to help him in some way and they were obligated to do it. Well, Jesus rescued us and our lives now belong to Him and we are to help His vision become a reality. When He was first confronted by Jesus Paul asked, "What would you have me do, Lord?" Have you asked Him that question?

Robert Woodruff wanted every living person to taste Coca-Cola. Jesus wants every living person to taste the Water of Life, What can you do? Here are just a few suggestions:

A lunch time Bible study where you work, once a week.

An evangelistic Bible study in your home for your neighbors. It can focus on the Person of Jesus, What God says about money, marriage, parenting etc.

Invite the families on your street to your church or the children to your Sunday School, youth group.

Invite one unchurched family each week or month to attend with you and then invite them for lunch and discuss their understanding of Jesus and how to get to heaven.

Learn how to share the Gospel so you can tell people about Jesus.

Start a prayer ministry in your neighborhood. Ask your neighbors what you can pray about for them. Tell them how God answered prayers for you.

Fix a dinner once a month or once a quarter and invite the less fortunate to attend.

Visit an assisted living or nursing home and ask if there are any folks who don't get visitors and go love on them for Jesus.

With a friend or two, each week, over coffee or lunch, pray for pastors, missionaries, and lost people.

Use your home and yard to have a backyard Bible club for unchurched children.

Find a young man or woman who needs a Godly influence and mentor them for God.

Catch the Vision. Ask God what you can do in 2014 to make the Vision of our Lord Jesus, a reality, at least in your neck of the woods.

Have a great New Year everybody.

If you have any questions or what like to know more about being a Christ Follower call me at 301-447-6565 or visit us at 10 on Sunday at the Emmitsburg Elementary School at 300 South Seton Ave. Emmitsburg, or write to me at pastorgarybuchman@gmail.com.



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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Unlucky Days

That peculiar phase of superstition, which has regard to lucky or unlucky, good or evil days, is to be found in all ages and climes, wherever the mystery-man of a tribe, or the sacerdotal caste of a nation, has acquired rule or authority over the minds of the people.

All over the East, among the populations of antiquity, are to be found traces of this almost universal worship of luck. It is one form of that culture of the beneficent and the maleficent principles, which marks the belief in good and evil, as an antagonistic duality of gods. From ancient Egypt the evil or unlucky days have received the name of "Egyptian days." Nor is it only in pagan, but in Christian times, that this superstition has held its potent sway. No season of year, no month, no week, is free from those untoward days on which it is dangerous, if not fatal, to begin any enterprise, work, or travel.

They begin with New-Year's Day, and they only end with the last day of December. Passing over the heathen augurs, who predicted fortunate days for sacrifice or trade, wedding or war, let us see what our Anglo-Saxon forefathers believed in this matter of days.

A Saxon manuscript gives the following account of these days - "Three days there are in the year, which we call Egyptian days; that is, in our language, dangerous days, on any occasion whatever, to the blood of man or beast. In the month which we call April, the last Monday; and then is the second, at the coming in of the month we call August; then is the third, which is the first Monday of the going out of the month of December. He who on these three days reduces blood, be it of man, be it of beast, this we have heard say, that speedily on the first or seventh day, his life he will end. Or if his life be longer, so that he come not to the seventh day, or if he drink some time in these three days, he will end his life; and he that tastes of goose-flesh, within forty days' space his life he will end."

Astrologers say that six days of the year are perilous of death; and therefore they forbid men to let blood on them, or take any drink; that is to say, January 3rd, July 1st, October 2nd, the last of April, August 1st, the last day going out of December. These six days with great diligence ought to be kept, but namely [mainly?] the latter three, for all the veins are then full. For then, whether man or beast be knit in them within 7 days, or certainly within 14 days, he shall die. And if they take any drinks within 15 days, they shall die; and if they eat any goose in these 3 days, within 40 days they shall die; and if any child be born in these 3 latter days, they shall die a wicked death. Astrologers say that in the beginning of March, the seventh night, or the fourteenth day, let the blood of the right arm; and iii the beginning of April, the 11th day, of the left arm;

and in the end of May, 3rd or 5th (lay, on whether arm thou wilt; and thus, of all the year, thou shalt orderly be kept from the fever, the falling gout, the sister gout, and loss of thy sight.'

In a comparatively modern manuscript of the time of Henry VI, one page is filled with the following, of which we modernise the spelling:

These underwritten be the perilous day's, for to take any sickness in, or to be hurt in, or to be wedded in, or to take any journey upon, or to begin any work on, that he would well speed. The number of these days be in the year 32; they be these:

In January there be 7: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 10th, and 15th.

In February be 3: 6th, 7th, and 18th.

In March be 3: 1st, 6th, and 8th.

In April be 2: 6th and 11th.

In May be 3: 5th, 6th, and 7th.

In June be 2: 7th and 15th.

In July be 2: 5th and 19th.

In August be 2: 15th and 19th.

In September be 2: 6th and 7th.

In October is 1: 6th.

In November be 2: 15th and 16th.

In December be 3: 15th, 16th, and 17th

After the Reformation, the old evil days appear to have abated much of the ancient malevolent influences, and to have left behind them only a general superstition against fishermen setting out to fish, or seamen to take a voyage, or landsmen a journey, or domestic servants to enter on a new place--on a Friday. In many country districts, especially in the north of England, no weddings take place on Friday, from this cause.

**January 22
Seventh Sons And
Their Seventh Sons**

There has been a strong favour for the number Seven, from a remote period in the world's history. It is, of course, easy to see in what way the Mosaic narrative gave sanctity to this number in connection with the days of the week, and led to usages which influence the social life of all the countries of Europe. But a sort of mystical goodness or power has attached itself to the number in many other ways.

Seven wise men, seven champions of Christendom, seven sleepers, seven-league boots, seven churches, seven ages of man, seven hills, seven senses, seven planets, seven metals, seven sisters, seven stars, seven wonders of the world, —all have had their day of favour; albeit that the number has been awkwardly interfered with by modern discoveries concerning metals, planets, stars, and wonders of the world. articles

Added to the above list is the group of Seven Sons, especially in relation to the youngest or seventh of the seven; and more especially still if this person happen to be the seventh son of a seventh son. It is

now, perhaps, impossible to discover in what country, or at what time, the notion originated; but a notion there certainly is, chiefly in provincial districts, that a seventh son has something peculiar about him.

For the most part, the imputed peculiarity is a healing power, a faculty of curing diseases by the touch, or by some other means.

The instances of this belief are numerous enough. There is a rare pamphlet called the Quack Doctor's Speech, published in the time of Charles II. The reckless Earl of Rochester delivered this speech on one occasion, when dressed in character, and mounted on a stage as a charlatan. The speech, amid much that suited that licentious age, but would be frowned down by modern society, contained an enumeration of the doctor's wonderful qualities, among which was that of being a 'seventh son of a seventh son,' and therefore clever as a curer of bodily ills. The matter is only mentioned as affording a sort of proof of the existence of a certain popular belief.

In Ireland, the seventh son of a seventh son is believed to possess prophetic as well as healing power. A few years ago, a Dublin shopkeeper, finding his errand-boy to be generally very dilatory in his duties, inquired into the cause, and found that, the boy being a seventh son of a seventh son, his services were often in requisition among the poorer neighbours, in a way that brought in a good many pieces of silver.

In Scotland, the spae wife, or fortune-teller, frequently announces herself as the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter, to enhance her claims to prophetic power. Even so late as 1851, an inscription was seen on a window in Plymouth, denoting that a certain doctress was 'the third seventh daughter,'—which the world was probably intended to interpret as the seventh daughter of the seventh daughter of the seventh daughter.

Handsel Monday

The first Monday of the year is a great holiday among the peasantry of Scotland, and children generally, as being the day peculiarly devoted in that country to the giving and receiving of presents. It is on this account called Handsel Monday, Handsel being in Scotland the equivalent of a Christmas box, but more specially inferring a gift at the commencement of a season or the inducting of



After 6 years of running a monthly selection from Robert Chambers' The Book of Days, I thought it would be nice to run an image of author, Robert Chambers, who labored for years to pull together this monumental masterpiece of English literature. To learn more about the book, visit www.thebookofdays.com.

some new garment. The young people visit their seniors in expectation of tips (the word, but not the action, unknown in the north). Postmen, scavengers, and deliverers of newspapers look for their little annual guerdons.

Among the rural population, Auld Hansel Monday, i.e. Handsel Monday old style, or the first Monday after the 12th of the month, is the day usually held. The farmers used, to treat the whole of their servants on that

morning to a liberal breakfast of roast and boiled, with ale, whiskey, and cake, to their utmost contentment; after which the guests went about seeing their friends for the remainder of the day. It was also the day on which any disposed for change gave up their places, and when new servants were engaged. Even now, when most old fashions are much decayed, Auld Handsel Monday continues to be the holiday of the year to the class of farm-labourers in Scotland.

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Another Christmas passed

Bill Meredith

“...mama in her kerchief and I
in my cap
had just settled our brains for a
long winter's nap...”
—Clement Moore, 1823

Several years ago, when the effect of global climate change on our local weather was becoming obvious, I created a calendar with a new season. Autumn was defined as ending on The Day the Leaves Come Down. That signaled the beginning of the new season, yet to be named; it would last until The Day of the First Real Snow, when winter would officially begin. The length of the new season would be flexible, at least for a while until the climate changes became stabilized. This seemed to me like an eminently sensible arrangement; after all, the old seasons were invented back when everyone was outside a lot, farming, harvesting, hunting, or cutting wood, and in those days everyone knew about equinoxes, phases of the moon, and astrological signs. But nowadays everyone is indoors watching TV or playing computer games in the evening, so nobody knows when the seasons change anyhow... they aren't even related to daylight-saving time... and very few folks can even define “equinox” any

more. So I thought the new calendar would be readily accepted, and I published it in this paper's predecessor - The Emmitsburg Dispatch in 2000, to celebrate the Millennium. I even offered to sponsor a contest to name the new season, but, sad to say, there were no entries. In fact, the whole idea of a new calendar was a big disappointment. So far, I think I'm the only person who goes by it.

Nature, of course, ignored both my calendar and the old one, and this year passed with its usual irregular regularity. Sometime in August the average temperature began dropping steadily by 2 ½ degrees each week, while the actual daily temperatures bounced up and down like a ball of silly putty as frontal systems passed. On the whole it was cooler than usual, and in the rest of the world there were droughts, floods, typhoons and tsunamis, but here in Emmitsburg nothing much happened. Then, despite public indifference, The Leaves Came Down on November 7 and the new season arrived. For a month it lived up to its lack of a name... nothing much happened... but then, on Sunday, December 8, The First Real Snow came. It began falling about 10:30 am, and by noon we had over five inches. Church was cancelled, and the snow came down in big, soft flakes that stuck to the trees

HARPER'S
NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. XCL.—DECEMBER, 1857.—VOL. XVI

A Christmas Garland of American Poems.

[From "THE POETS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY," etc. Beautifully Illustrated, Harper & Brothers.]



A VISIT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS.

and made you want to sit by the window and watch it pile up while you dreamed of the good old days. The new calendar worked. By evening we had over 8 inches of snow. The equinox was still two weeks away, but it was winter, and it was beautiful.

Folks of my generation cannot watch a scene like that without thinking about Clement Moore's poem, “A visit from St. Nicholas.” I wonder if children now memorize it as I did, and whether they understand any of its imagery. I guess they still hang stockings, although most of them can't do it by the chimney with care, because most homes don't have fireplaces any more. The poem was published 110 years before I was born, but when I was a child its language and imagery still made sense. The old house Grandma lived in actually had a mouse hole in the living-room baseboard, and you could usually hear them stirring about at night. Most houses, at least where I lived, lacked central heating; there were open fireplaces in every living room, and the

flue led directly up the chimney, so it took no imagination to see how Santa got in. There was a mantel over every fireplace; it always held a clock, some candlesticks or oil lamps, and a picture or two, and its front edge was perforated by pinholes that had supported Christmas stockings in years long past. When it snowed, and it always did, the roof would remain covered for weeks because there was no heat from inside to melt it; Santa's sleigh could land there quietly. Most families had a car then, but the unpaved country roads were often impassable, so every child had seen a team of horses pulling a sled loaded with sacks of grain from the feed store, or hauling hay from a haystack to the barn. My uncle actually had a sleigh, built like a buckboard with runners instead of wheels; he kept a riding horse named Ginger, and a set of harness with bells. A lot of people still slept in nightcaps and wrapped hot bricks in towels to keep their feet warm at night; sometimes if you left a glass of water by the bed it would

have ice in it by morning. I wouldn't want to go back and live like that again, but it sure made great memories. I wonder what the kids who are growing up now will have to tell their grandchildren about.

When you get a snow like that, it gives you a chance to experience what a silent night really is. The traffic noise abates, and for a while you only hear the things that are supposed to be there, like the great horned owl that hooted in the woods behind our house. If you bother to look, snow can also remind you that even when you live in town you have to share the environment. There were deer in the yard; I didn't see or hear them, but they left tracks for me to find the next day. Our chipmunks dug a tunnel under the walk in front of the house and spent the past month stocking it with sunflower seeds from the bird feeder; they settled in for their long winter's nap, but after I shoveled the snow off the walk, the sun warmed it enough to wake them, and they came out and left a few tracks. Squirrels, of course, are everywhere; they couldn't get past the barrier I put on the pole that holds the bird feeder, so they climbed up to the window sill and jumped to it.

For those that survive, there is a lot to learn when it snows. A young squirrel, probably born late last summer, couldn't jump across the four-foot void from the window to the bird feeder, and hadn't learned yet that she must dig into the snow to find seeds that were spilled on the ground. She sat and shivered miserably until one of the older ones dug a few holes; now, two snows later, she digs clumsily, always in the same place. The Cooper's hawks that chased pigeons and starlings around town last summer produced two young ones that are hanging around now; they are clad in brown feathers, but will molt into gray next spring if they survive. They are full-size and fly like bullets, but still miss their prey more often than they catch it. The male came tearing around the corner of the garage the other day and struck in the middle of a flock of sparrows under the feeder. A cloud of snow and sparrows exploded in all directions, like fragments from a hand grenade, while the hawk sat there in his impact crater, empty-taloned, with a look of frustration on his face. I hope he learns.

By the time this essay reaches you, Christmas will have passed and a new year started. We expect about a dozen assorted children, grandchildren, and in-laws for dinner; I hope the snow will fall everywhere except on the roads, and they all can make it. We will burn a mighty yule log in the fireplace, and if any small visitors appear I will show them the tracks of birds, rabbits, and squirrels in our yard, and tell them how Christmas used to be. I will remember friends and family who are no longer here, and Pogo, who said, “...for Christmas is a life-long dream, and dreams, the stuff of years. The gentle journey wanders on, through laughter, love and tears.” May it be so.

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It's a marshmallow world

**Tim Iverson, Naturalist
Cunningham Falls State Park**

The lyrics of a popular holiday song describe the typical scene for us during the winter months: "It's a marshmallow world in the winter, when the snow comes to cover the ground." While this can be the typical scene for northern climates during the winter months many are not fond of it. Animals have three options when confronting this prospect: hibernate, migrate, or adapt. Basically it's a love it or leave it prospect, and the hardship that comes during the winter months can be hard to contend with and survive. Through one of these choices each animal stakes their survival and future.

Hibernation seems like a wonderful concept. Personally, I can't stand the cold so to sleep off the winter is very enticing. Hibernation is an evolutionary adaptation that helps mammals and reptiles alike survive the winter months. During hibernation metabolic rates essentially come to a grinding halt. Heart rate can drop to as little as 3% of normal rate. For example, a chipmunk will go from 200 to 5 heartbeats per minute during hibernation. Breathing can slow to half (or more) of the usual rate, with some species stopping breathing entirely. Every living thing burns energy all the time simply by being alive. It takes energy to walk, sleep, breathe, and even to think! Mammals spend a lot of their energy just regulating body temperature. So in order to get enough energy to do all these things we eat. But during the winter plants stop producing fruit and food is all around a lot harder to come by. So, in order to conserve energy mammals and reptiles will hibernate.

Animals can't undergo this pro-

cess without a lot of work and forethought though. They must spend a great deal of time building up fat reserves to feed off of throughout this ordeal. During the summer and fall months animals will voraciously eat in order to build up those fat reserves and even store food in close and easily accessible locations to eat during the winter if they can't build up enough fat reserves for the entire time.

Hibernation isn't really very similar to sleep though. These animals virtually lose all consciousness and are nearly impossible to wake up. When they do eventually come out of hibernation they often exhibit signs of sleep deprivation, and may need to dedicate a substantial portion of time to sleep. The primary difference between sleep and hibernation basically boils down to what the body is doing. During sleep there are minor physiological changes to the body, it's mostly mental change. It's also very easy to wake up from sleep, whereas hibernation is nearly impossible making these animals susceptible to predation. Brain activity is actually very similar during hibernation compared with normal active brain activity. Hibernation just brings animals to the lowest possible metabolic rates they can stand so they require nearly no energy. Animals are given natural cues to start hibernating when the days get shorter and colder. This is the same time that other animals, mostly birds, begin travelling south.

Taking a vacation to warmer climates is another appealing way to spend the winter if you're not able to hibernate. If you can't find enough food to survive where you are then you can go somewhere else to get it. Birds and insects, like the Monarch Butterfly, can travel thousands of miles to find suitable wintering grounds. Year after year

these critters find the same locations. Scientists believe this is done by navigating with the sun, moon, and stars. They also seem to have the amazing ability to sense the magnetic field of the earth, which they use like a compass. It's not just birds or insects who migrate south though. Fish, whales, elk, and some species of bats also migrate south. Instead of migrating south earthworms migrate deeper. They can go down to as far as 6 feet under the top soil, where the temperature is much more regular and habitable for them.

The final way to survive the winter months is to just adapt. Easier said than done I'm sure. These animals will have to make serious changes and work even harder during these tough winter times to survive. It varies from species to species what it will take. Deer and rabbits forage underneath snow cover to find food. If the temperature drops significantly deer will gather close together in dense tree stands using body warmth to wait out the cold. Shrews which during the summer months eat primarily berries, mushrooms, and insects will hunt exclusively for prey during the winter. Hawks, Owls, and fox, will also continue to hunt for their food. Beavers and squirrels will store up food during the summer and fall months to snack on throughout the long cold winter months.

Other ways animals prepare for this time is by putting on extra weight. Most animals add an additional layer of fat that helps to insulate the body against the cold. Many animals will shed their fur or molt their feathers and grow a thicker winter coat to assist in insulating body heat. Some animals, like the mountain hare, will even change the color of their coat. By changing the color of their coats from brown



Although chipmunks hibernate, they do not store fat. Instead they slowly gnaw away at their summer bounty throughout the winter.

to white they can now camouflage in the snow to avoid getting preyed upon by others.

Whether you weather the weather by hunkering down, relocating, or by simply toughing it out the forest will be bustling with activity again in just a few short months. Personally the migrating option sounds best to me. If Mon-

archs can hang out in Mexico for 3 months, why can't I? If you are stuck here for the winter just remember that, "the sun is red like a pumpkin head; It's shining so your nose won't freeze."

To read other articles by Tim Iverson visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Life in the winter forest

Kay Deardorff
Naturalist, Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

With the holidays in the past and anticipation of what the New Year may hold, the outside world seems barren and quiet.

But humor me as I ask you to put on your imagination cap and take a journey with me into the forest. You lie deep in the mud in your cozy bed. It's so nice and quiet. No need to worry about predators. No bills to pay; no laundry to do; no snow to shovel. Winter is not such a bad time after all. For months all you need to do is sleep, dreaming of warm summer ponds filled with lily pads and tasty flies to eat. Who says it's tough being a frog?

To the mere human the forest appears to be empty of life. But on a closer look, there are many

exciting discoveries to be made by the nature adventurer. The most exciting "gifts" aren't delivered by Santa and placed under the tree. (Besides, there are no fireplaces for Santa to make his appearance deep in the forest!) There are a lot of interesting things to discover in the winter that indicate to us the evidence of wildlife.

Winter is the best time of year to engage in the practice of animal tracking. When snow blankets the forest floor, the animals leave many clues behind that tell of their presence. Even though the animals themselves may not be seen, by following their tracks left in the snow, the careful nature detective can learn much about the woodland denizens. Often, an entire story unfolds before your eyes. For example, the tiny paw prints of a mouse closely followed by fox



The Barred Owl has an extremely varied diet composed mostly of small mammals, especially small rodents, along with a good percentage of birds, and unfortunately - chipmunks.

tracks and ending abruptly with a few drops of blood informs us of how the animals themselves track each other.

Even without snow, the passageways of many animals can be found by examining the winter weeds and shrubs. Be alert for weeds that have been trampled or pushed aside. Look for tunnels through the shrubs and vines. Most animals have regular territories with favored foraging and sleeping places. It is much easier to spot such places in the winter.

Aside from animal tracks, be on the lookout for other signs of life such as feathers, pieces of fur snagged on thorns and shed antlers from deer. Best of all, animal scat (their poop) is especially well preserved at this time of year!

Bird life is very interesting to observe in winter. While a num-

ber of local birds have flown south to warmer climates, many others remain with us all year. Winter also brings some new bird species to Strawberry Hill. The Dark Eyed Junco, commonly known as the "Snowbird", flies south in the winter, but to this bird, Adams County is south. After spending the summer nesting as far north as Canada, the Junco spends the colder months in our area.

At night, the winter forest is anything but dull. Many of our larger animals such as deer, raccoon, bobcat and coyote are still very active. In fact, for our common barred owl this is the busiest time of the year. The courtship activity of owls begins in the winter months. Owls start nesting earlier than other birds, because their young take much longer to develop. When the owlets finally do

head out on their own, springtime has arrived, making it much easier for them to find food.

Many other animals, such as frogs, toads, turtles and snakes, spend the winter hibernating. When you walk by a frozen wetland in winter, you are walking above literally thousands of creatures. Many rocks or old logs shelter a hibernating salamander as well as the cocoon of a caterpillar. Some butterflies hibernate under pieces of tree bark. So even in the winter, animal life is all around us.

If you don't have a forest in your backyard that you can explore, Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve is a fabulous place to come and make discoveries noted in this article. Instead of spending the winter indoors, bundle up (because you don't have a fur coat to keep you warm like the coyote or fox) and venture into the woods. Even the honey bees that are huddled together in their hives will come out on a warmer winter day and do a cleansing flight before returning to their home to wait for spring to arrive.

Similar to the animals, some plants are active and others are dormant in this season. Signs of life include swelling tree buds and sap running in the sugar maples. Keep your eyes open for announcements about our Maple Sugaring programs that will begin mid-February through early March.

To learn about all the nature programs offered at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, check the calendar on our website at www.strawberryhill.org or call the office at 717-642-5840 for further information. Remember the trails are open dawn until dusk everyday with the exception of hunting season. Come out and see what you can discover in our forest in the winter.

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A low wage slug speaks up!

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."

—Ray Bradbury

It's at the factory grumbling about something the bosses had told me to do. No surprise that I can't recall what I was going on about, but it led to my demanding the union leader call a strike! (We organized about last week and became the Master Stammers, Debossers, Stackers, Sprayers, Dyers, Splitters, Skivers, Scrap Trimmers and Maintenance Workers United- Local No. 1) Getting the union to even listen to my grievances is about as difficult as getting the bosses to listen. It just seems some people let positions of power go to their heads and they usually forget it's the little guy (okay, so I'm the biggest guy in the shop) who needs be taken care of so he can get the work out. No work, no money. We aren't like the government; we can't just print the stuff! (Well, we probably could, but none of us are smart enough to forge checks let alone US currency.)

So, after days of arguing with the union leader we finally call a strike! I can't wait to walk a picket line. That's always seemed so cool, getting paid to goof off- I mean hold a sign declaring the unfairness of having to work- I mean not getting paid enough or whatever it was we went on strike for. I arrive at the factory in the cold dark of 5:50 on a late fall morning, eager to take my place and rail against the man! No one shall cross the picket line while I'm on it! Blood will be shed! Oo-RAH!

DW looks at me and shakes her head. "Will you open the door? It's cold out here."

"Hell no, we wont go!" I bellow waving my arms (someone forgot to make the signs.) I look about for the other strikers. It's so dark I can't see them. But I know they're there, backing me to the hilt!

She sighs, turns her sighted eye on me and squints. "Do you want to sleep with the dogs tonight?"

I mumble something about the dogs not liking me well enough to share their kennels with me. I'm stalling so the rest of the picketers can come to my aid.

"Open the door Jack. Now."

"Yes dear."

And so went our first strike. We voted for a change of union leadership as soon as I got the shop lights and heaters turned on, but as I'm in a union of one, I ended up being re-elected.

I never did think much of unions anyhow so I voted to kick the union out of the factory, not that anyone noticed. So I'm back to being just a plain stamper, debosser, stacker, sprayer, dyer, splitter, skiver, scrap trimming maintenance slug, but only because no one else in the factory does any of those jobs. Nor do they want them.

I'm trimming out a box of scrap leather, leaning over the edge of the wooden crate that had held 500 pounds of leather, gathering splinters in me belly (which is too big anyhow) when it occurs to me I'm lucky to have a minimum wage job. (I think I'm paid minimum. I never see the front of the check DW says to sign and take to the bank.) I mean how many indoor jobs are there for high school dropouts over the age of 59? As I cut my fingers with the scissors again I regret not paying attention in kindergarten- Oh, I didn't go to kindergarten. No wonder I can't trim leather without snipping my fingers occasionally. (DW says she's going to start docking my paycheck if she has to keep buying Band-Aids for me.)

I get to thinking about all those people who keep telling me I am a burden on society because I don't pay my fair share in taxes and cost the state money to care for my simple needs. I don't know how much more I should be paying in taxes. I know taxes are withheld from my paycheck, even if I never see how much. I know we pay taxes on the phone bill, the grocery bill, the electric bill, the gasoline bill, the wine bill and I know we pay taxes on the house because DW snarls every July. She also snarls in February when she figures the income taxes. Me and the dogs usually find some place to curl up and wait for her to tell me to "Sign this and take the forms to the PO."

I started working in 1969. From that year until now I've drawn less than two months of unemployment and on at least one occasion the bosses had to trick me into signing up for it. The only way they convinced me into signing up last winter was by yelling at me. "WE'VE BEEN PAYING INTO THE FUND FOR 40 YEARS! TAKE SOME OF IT BACK!"

To which I replied, "But I don't want it."

DW gave me that one eyed squint. "Do you want to eat?"

"Well, there are the dogs and cat... Okay! I'll sign the damned paper!"

Evidently, I'm also a burden on the taxpayers because I don't have health insurance. That one really puzzles me. I see a doctor and I pay the bill. I go into a hospital and I pay the bill. (I seldom buy the drugs the doctor recommends so paying the druggist is moot.) If I can't pay the bill, I don't go to the doctor or the hospital. How is that a burden to the taxpayer?

"But what if you get cancer, or have a stroke, or a heart attack? Then the state has to pay your bills!"

Not if I can die before I get taken into a hospital against my will. (I hate tattoos, but I'm thinking of having one done across my forehead: LET ME DIE!)

"But you'll change your mind when the time comes! Everyone does!"

No, everyone does not. I didn't the night I slammed a motorcycle into a four-wheeled cage. As the tires screamed in protest to my locking



As can be seen from this 1920-era photo, our author comes from a long line of union Rabble-rousers.

the brakes I knew it was too late to avoid the flippin' vehicle and hitting it at 45 MPH was the last thing I was ever gonna do. That I was about to die didn't bother me in the least. I was pissed I couldn't avoid it, but I wasn't worried about the dying. We all die. My time had come. I was going to see what was next on the Wheel.

Fives days in the hospital and six months in a cast. The hospital asked that I get the county to pay my bills, but we set up a plan and paid the debt in full. (I'd asked the EMS people to leave me in the gutter but they refused. They should have paid the bill as I didn't want to go to the hospital!)

If I'm a burden to anyone it would

be to DW. I earn too little, eat too much, rant too often and loudly, curse too much and complain more than needs be. If she can put up with me the state sure as hell hasn't a gripe!

To read other articles by Jack Deatherage, Jr., visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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PETS LARGE & SMALL

I need to talk about declawing cats

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal
Shelter

We've had more than one story in the recent past where people have adopted a cat, had him or her declawed and returned the cat not long after because the "personality" had changed.

Man, that frustrates me, so I want to talk about the nature of cats.

In the wild, a cat will use his claws as a defense mechanism. I actually think it's almost ingrained in the psyche of a cat. "My claws are my weapons and will keep me safe."

In fact, wild cats will use their claws for a wide variety of feats. Climbing, for one. Cats can make their way up just about any object, as long as they can dig in with their claws.

Balance is crucial to cats because they are constantly jumping and landing rather gracefully. Claws, believe it or not, are a pretty big factor a cat's ability to balance properly.

Cats in the wild use their claws to tear apart food, so they can eat. Claws are also used to mark territory, so predators and other cats will know to stay away.

Cats get a real sense of power from their claws. They are weap-

ons, utensils, climbing mechanisms and even stabilizers.

To take this away from a cat should be a decision that is not made lightly. Declawing is something every pet owner needs to contemplate for themselves. While it's illegal in the UK, it is not illegal in the United States.

With that said, none of my felines are declawed and yes, I have the evidence on the furniture to prove it. I have spoken to a number of people over the years who are vehemently opposed to declawing and if you google what the operation actually looks like on a cat's paw, the photos are stomach-turning.

I don't agree with it and I would never do it to my cats, but because it's not illegal, I can't stop others from making the decision.

But -- and truly, you had to hear that coming from a mile away -- if you do opt to have the procedure done, please understand it could alter the behavior of the cat. And these changes could emerge even months after the procedure.

Removing a cat's claws will sometimes mean that a cat will look to other parts of the body for "weapons." A lot of cats who have been declawed will bite much more than they did before the procedure and sometimes



Carl will be turning two years old at the beginning of 2014 and we are hoping he gets his birthday wish early! Want to know what that wish is? If you guessed a new home and a loving family, you would be correct! This handsome white and black boy has an outgoing and friendly personality. He seems to get along well with other cats. If you can help Carl make his birthday wish come true, stop by the shelter today!

the biting can be quite intense.

Some cats won't be as apt to jump or play because their balance has been changed. Some cats may not be as affectionate as before.

Bathroom habits can most definitely be affected. The litter granules may feel odd on a paw with no claws and as a result, the cat could very easily stop using the litterbox.

Change of any kind is difficult for cats. They are one of the most sensitive creatures I know -- and I mean that quite sincerely. Altering any part of the routine can send some cats into a tailspin.

I hung a picture my sister got me for Christmas last year and one of my youngest cats, Dee Dee, who had no idea of the change in the room, walked in, looked right up at the picture, jumped to the headboard of the bed and started slapping at it.

I kid you not, it freaked me out that she even realized something was different.

Being realistic, I have to say declawing doesn't necessarily negatively affect every cat. I know some people who've had the procedure done and have had no problems at all. And if you have declawed cats, please don't take this column as a renouncement of your pet-lover status. It's truly not.

It's just those who would then give up a declawed cat that get to me.

Here's the thing. If, as pet owners, we decide to have a cat declawed, we should also be fully willing and ready to accept any changes that it can bring about. If we do something to alter the physical make-up of our pets -- and truly, most declawing is done to protect a human being's

furniture (there is absolutely no health reason to declaw a cat) -- then we need to accept the consequences.

I would be remiss in not adding here that a declawed cat should never -- and I truly mean NEVER -- be allowed outside. Taking away a cat's only line of defense and then letting him out into the elements is just awful.

Declawing a cat and returning him to the shelter because he's "changed" and "different" is equally galling and incomprehensible to me.

As a society in general, I often wish we would take responsibility for our actions more than we do.

As pet owners, I think it should be a requirement. If you declaw a cat, keep him inside and be willing to handle whatever fallout might arise for the rest of his life. If you make such a monumental decision for a being completely dependent on you, please don't then abandon him when the procedure has negative affects or brings about behaviors you don't like.

After changing his life so drastically, you owe your little feline at least that much consideration.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvas-comm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org. CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

This is the only thing I can give...
The love I left behind.

-- Author Unknown

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PETS LARGE & SMALL

Nashville

Dr. Kim Brokaw

Every year the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has a large conference. About 3,000 equine veterinarians, vet techs, and others from the horse industry attend the conference. The conference provides over 90 hours of continuing education lectures; enough to meet the continuing education requirements required for veterinarians to renew their licenses. In addition to numerous learning opportunities, it is also a time to catch up with friends and share ideas and treatments with other equine veterinarians. As it also a social event, the location rotates every year to allow for veterinarians from different parts of the country to attend. Previous destinations for the AAEP conference have included Anaheim, Las Vegas, San Antonio. This year, Nashville was the site for the conference.

I'd decided that Nashville was close enough that rather than fly to the conference, I would drive down. While flying could have been faster, it worked out for the best that I drove. While at the conference, I talked with a vet who had her flight delayed because of the weather, and ended up missing the first day of the conference. Driving was the definitely the right choice. I would have been very frustrated if I had spent a large sum of money on a flight and hotel room, and then missed the first day of lectures.

Nashville is a very fun town with live music in every bar and restaurant. Nashville is also the home of the Grand Ole Opry. There was a lot to look forward to after the long days of learning. I attended numerous lectures on varying topics from neurology to anesthesia to lameness. A huge number of topics are covered at the AAEP conference, and most of the topics relate to general equine practice. After hours of lectures, I still found the energy to go out

and enjoy music downtown. Every day I sent my boss text messages about new things I'd learned that he should know, as well as a poorly lit bar photo of some band, so he would feel jealous that I was having fun.

My first day back at work provided an opportunity to use some of my newly acquired knowledge. The horse, who I'll call Tennessee (yes I lack creativity) had injured his eye earlier in the week. The owners been diligently treating the eye every day, and while it had looked like it was getting better, suddenly it was swollen again. Frequently I will try to figure out the most likely diagnoses of a horse before I even get to the farm, based on what the owner has told me. This helps to ensure that I bring the correct medications with me and also is a good skill to develop for those times when an owner declines to have me come out to examine their animal but wants some advice over the phone. I arrived at the farm ready to do a thorough eye exam.

Tennessee is a 15 year old appaloosa gelding who, when one of my colleagues saw him earlier in the week, had a scratch on the cornea of his left eye. As the eye was more swollen, after days of seeming to improve, Tennessee's attentive and observant owners called me out to examine him again. In my mind I had decided it was likely one of two things. Either the scratch was getting worse despite the treatment or as Tennessee is an appaloosa, co-existing uveitis was likely.

Upon examination I noticed that the left eye was a bit swollen and was sensitive to light. Luckily the owners had kept a fly mask on which helped to protect the eye from the light. I applied some stain to the eye and noted that while the scratch was healing, it still wasn't fully healed. I also saw some inflammation in the eye. Using a technique I learned at the AAEP conference, I dilated the pupil by injecting a colic medication into the vein. This allowed for a more rapid and more thor-



AAEP's 2013 President Dr. Ann Dwyer, DVM, Dipl. ACVO (hon)

ough exam of Tennessee's eye, than I would have been able to do with just using the traditional eye ointment to dilate the eye. Not only was there a scratch on the cornea but also uveitis in the left eye. The right eye had a cataract and while the owners didn't recall any previous episodes of uveitis, the cataract was a likely sequela from that previous, unrecognized, episodes of uveitis.

I advised the owners that Tennessee would likely be more susceptible to uveitis flares for the rest of his life. However, they needed to make sure that they didn't just assume that any time his eye was swollen it was uveitis. The common treatment for uveitis involves putting an eye ointment with steroid in the eye. Using steroid in an eye that does not have uveitis can cause serious problems. Had the owners put steroid in the eye while the corneal scratch/ ulcer had been there, they could have potentially created a situation where the horse lost his eye. To further complicate matters, the tubes containing the two different ointments (one with steroid and one without) are practically identical. Owners must be extremely careful to use the correct ointment for the condition that they are treating. I took extra time with the owners to point out that while the two tubes look almost the same and in fact have two of the medications that are the same in them, it was extremely important that the

ointment with dexamethasone (steroid) was not used when the cornea was damaged. Steroid containing eye meds should only be used if they have been recommended after an exam by the veterinarian.

Luckily, Tennessee's eye scratch healed well, and he is being treated successfully for uveitis. He is a good patient and allowed the owners to put the medication in his eye multiple times per day without putting up too much of a fight. This was good because, while one of the lecturers at AAEP was a huge advocate of the subpalpebral lavage device to assist with treatment of eyes, I was not looking forward to putting one in. These devices are great for making sure that the medication gets in the eye, but are very annoying to manage in a non hospital environment. This is an example of one of the many times when in hos-

pital care varies from field treatments. While I didn't use the lavage device, I was happy with the results of using the injectable medication, as advised at the AAEP meeting, to get a good eye exam.

When your veterinarian heads off to the AAEP annual meeting, and is gone for almost a week, it is tempting for clients to have disparaging thoughts that the veterinarian is off having a good time instead of working hard at the practice. While I admit that veterinarians do have fun at the annual meeting, the continuing education really is important. We really do strive to keep up to date so that the animals we see, can get the best care possible.

To read other articles by Dr. Kim Brokaw, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Winter is for the birds!

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener,
Selected best bird feeder by the
birds along the Mason-Dixon Line!

Winter has made its appearance early this year! The cold temperatures and snow cover has taken me back to when I was a kid and every winter meant snow. Playing and shoveling was a common activity of my youth. But many recent winters have been a dazzle of snow here and there and low temperatures now and again. I'm not sure what the winter stores for us, but if December is any indication of what January and February will be like, I may become a bear and hibernate!

Although I may want to hibernate, the birds do not. When looking across the meadow and through the trees, lots of sounds and activity are happening. Bringing them close to us is an easy challenge you may want to take on!

When my husband and I first met – 28 years ago – he was an avid bird watcher. I was 20, he was 24, and I thought this was an activity for old people. But being young and enamored at the time, I thought I'd give this hobby of his a chance. As we dated, (some of our activities were bird related) then married, his hobby of bird watch-

ing never stopped and my interest increased. Although I was never and still am not a "bird watcher", I really enjoy "watching the birds" in and among my plants, trees and shrubs as well as at our winter feeders. The activity they bring to a property is beautiful and enjoyable.

Watching birds in the winter is enjoyable and fun to do. During the dreary days, we can lift our spirits by watching the little creatures flitting around the feeders and seed heads of perennials, and in and out of evergreen trees and shrubs. At our house, the feeders are outside our living room window window, and I can watch the activity for quite a long time as the birds visit different feeders.

Many types of birds visit in any given period of time. Woodpeckers (red-bellied and downy), chickadees, juncos, white-throated sparrows, house finches, cardinals and tufted titmice grace us with their presence. An occasional bluejay will scare all the other birds away as he pigs out. An assortment of feeders and feed will attract a larger variety of our flying friends.

Plant Life: When planning for winter visitors, plant things that have seed heads that can remain through the winter months. Common perennials such as black-eyed susans, coneflowers, and asters will provide seeds. Evergreen shrubs and trees, like ink-

berry holly, American holly and white pines will provide shelter for the birds. Deciduous shrubs like viburnums, winterberry holly and sumac provide berries.

Supplemental Food: We can supplement this natural food source by providing additional seed through bird feeders. Many styles of feeders are available, from tubes and platforms to nets and hoppers. The more variety of feeders you provide, the more variety of visitors you will have. Tube feeders typically attract finches, while the platform feeders will attract larger birds like cardinals and blue jays and the netting can be filled with suet for the woodpeckers.

Knowing the bird's preference will help in your choice of feeder and feed. Some like to feed from the ground like doves and sparrows. Woodpeckers will cling onto the feeder, so suet feeders are fantastic for attracting the woodpeckers. Platform feeders will bring in little birds like titmice and chickadees, while tube feeders with nyjer seed will attract the goldfinches.

Just as there are a variety of feeders, so goes the types of feed. Millet, sunflowers, corn and peanut butter



Winterberry Holly is a great plant for birds through the winter.

can all be a food source for birds. The most versatile seed is the black oil sunflower seed. This seed can be mixed with peanut butter and put into suet feeders to attract woodpeckers; it can be used in hoppers as well as platform feeders for the cardinals, chickadees and titmice. The least useful is millet. Typically when buying a bird feed mix, the millet is what the birds will scratch to the ground and discard. It's mostly just a filler to add weight for

the bag. Nyjer (thistle seed) is used in the tube feeders for the finches. These are tiny seeds and are typically on the pricier side, but the birds just love it!

A winter tradition in our family is to smear peanut butter onto pinecones and hang them on the trees. We also use orange and apple slices, string them together for ornaments and have an outdoor Christmas tree for the birds all winter long! Even at 20, my oldest daughter still enjoys coming home to this holiday tradition.

Water: For best bird activity and bird health, not only should you provide a food source and shelter, but you should also provide water. A heated birdbath can provide that. There are many types of bird baths and heaters on the market. Small fish ponds, or just a clean dish of shallow water set out each morning can provide this source of water as well. On our deck, we have a tub, or very large pot with no holes, that we keep fish and water plants. Through the winter, we put a ball in the water for the evening and throughout the night, then take it out in the morning. This provides some water for our feathered friends during the day.

Shelter: Planting the right plants that provide shelter is certainly important, but have you thought about using your Christmas tree for shelter? After the Christmas season, some of us may have a Christmas tree we are discarding. These cut trees make a great shelter for the birds. Shelter not only protects the birds from weather, but also keeps them safe from predators, like hawks and the local tom cat. Our Christmas tree goes outside for winter protection till spring comes, then is grinded up for mulch. Our plant choices also provide the shelter needed for the birds, as we have white pine, chamaecyparis and inkberry hollies providing that evergreen shelter.

Enjoy the quiet of the winter and the flurry of bird activity. Introduce your kids and grandkids, neighbors and friends to this easy winter activity. Grab a winter bird identification guide and start to identify your visitors. Enjoy the relaxation now, because spring is just around the corner!

To read other gardening articles visit the Gardening section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Winter Adam County Master Gardener Gardening Programs

This winter brings us lots of opportunities to learn about many types of gardening. Three garden series will be presented.

Are you interested in vegetable gardening? Wondering what to do with the harvest? This four week course will take you through selected vegetable families. Each session will be broken into plant groups. We will cover the "hows and whys" of vegetable gardening which will include location, care, and harvesting of the vegetables. In addition, you will learn about how to prepare what you have harvested, to include food demos and tastings. We will help you incorporate your love for gardening and cuisine into a healthy lifestyle. This course will take you from garden to table in four weeks!

Garden To Table: Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30 February 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the Agricultural and Natural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. To register, go to: <http://www.cvent.com/events/garden-to-table/event>. The fee for the series is \$45 prior to January 23, late registration is \$60.

As a gardener, there is nothing more exciting than to see a garden design that started on paper develop into a living expression of color, texture and space. It's incredible to think about the expanse of knowledge we are exercising when gardening: from the arts to the sciences, to research and physical activity. Gardening is truly all inclusive.

As we enter the spring of the year, we often reflect on our garden – what we did right, and what didn't go so well. February is a great time to start to figure out what changes you can make when the weather begins to warm. Plants come and go. If we make the right decisions in advance by planning before implementing, our plant selections will thrive longer, and we will enjoy

our gardens longer with less frustrations.

Each week, we will focus on a specific topic. February 19: Basic Garden Design. As with many great gardens, design begins on paper. Thoughts and ideas can be sketched to make the outdoor space flow so the use of the space is enhanced. This basic design class will cover design elements, and run through the design steps from conceptual drawings to the finished plan.

February 26: Shrubs and Trees. As with most garden designs, the structure is the most important part, and trees and shrubs become our outdoor structure. We will talk about different plants, what soil, sun and moisture they need, making your choices a bit easier when plugging the plants into your design. We will talk about specific plant's assets as well as some of the problems that may occur when using specific plant species.

March 5: Perennials. These herbaceous plants become the accents of most gardens, and, although may not be the most important when it comes to structure, they become the plant group we focus on when viewing or living in an outdoor space. You will learn information about specific plants, where they grow, and how to care for them.

March 12: Specialty Gardens. After use and structure of a garden are determined, we often find niches to fill that require a special touch. Whether it's a water garden, a courtyard, or any other micro-climate that may be created, sometimes insight on the special needs of a site are necessary. We will touch on water gardening and container gardening in this class, along with information on wildlife gardening. You can pick and choose which classes you would like to take or participate in the entire series for a complete overview of orna-

mental gardening. The fee for each class is \$10.00. Registration deadline is one week prior to each session. Registration is required.

Garden Design Series: Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:00 February 19, 26, March 5 and 12 at the Agricultural and Natural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Get-

tysburg. To register, go to: <http://www.cvent.com/events/garden-design-series>

Gardening In Your Environment: Thursdays, February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10 from 6:30 – 8pm at the East Berlin Community Center. To register, go to: <http://www.cvent.com/events/gar->

dening-in-your-environment-east-berlin.

For more information on any of these gardening classes call 717-334-6271, or stop by our office at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Suite 204, Gettysburg. Cost for the series is \$60 prior to February 7. Late registration is \$75.

Small Town Gardener Face it and embrace it

Marianne Willburn

If you ask the average person bent double under the burden of yet another winter, there can be little beauty found in a season characterized by bitterly cold winds, lifeless gardens and roads speckled with the ashy white of salt residue. There is no doubt that winter toughens us and makes us stronger; but the more winters one lives through, the less likely one is to take out a journal and wax poetic over the extraordinary perfection of an ice sheet coating one's windscreen at six AM.

Bottom line, this is not a season that encourages us to forgo the pleasures of hearth and recliner for greater pleasures outside. It doesn't promise the easy charms of a summer night, the seductive fragrance of sun-warmed foliage, or the blissful indulgence of ultraviolet rays upon your shoulders. And, admittedly, it is challenging to recognize the beauty of a snowstorm when contemplating the ways in which you could die of exposure if your car broke down on the way to Grandma's house.

But while the teeth-clenching temperatures and shortened days are not exactly conducive to sitting on the porch every evening admiring the bronzing of evergreens, an opposite state of affairs – that of a severed connection to the winter world outside – is to be avoided if we wish to get through this season without feeling like we are being ruthlessly and endlessly punished. In short, one must embrace the season for what it is, not reject it for what it isn't. Short of visiting St. Moritz on a three month package holiday, here are three ways one can do this on a weekly, if not daily basis:

Wrap-Up!

This seemingly obvious solution is surprisingly not so obvious to a general public bent on fashion at all costs. When I look around at this time of year, I very rarely see people properly outfitted for the cold. Believe me, I am an ardent follower of the "one must suffer to be beautiful" regime – but I'd rather apply the philosophy to three-inch strappy sandals in June.

Don't let yourself get cold in the first place. Hats, scarves, gloves, coats, vests, long underwear and thick socks are to be used liberally

and without shame. Wrapped up well, you are far more likely to linger a little longer over outside chores and feel the invigoration of cold air against your cheeks - perhaps noticing a bit of beauty in the season while you are at it. When in doubt – layer.

Heads Up!

One of the things I noticed when I moved to New York City years ago and went through my first East Coast winter, was the tendency of people to literally put their heads down when travelling from Point A to Point B. With your head down, your shoulders braced against the wind and your teeth clenched, you are doing battle with the season. This is a sure sign that you are not warm enough and you probably haven't sorted out your footwear either. When your head is up and looking around, you are more likely to notice the stark outline of a lone sycamore, or the brilliantly crimson berries on a Holly, or the ice coated branches of a otherwise homely Bradford Pear. Do this enough in fact, and you may find yourself wishing that you brought your camera on your daily commute.

Take a Walk

This directive can only be followed after one has paid attention to the previous two. When temperatures grow chilly, the love affair we were carrying on with our outside space during the warmer months is suddenly and cruelly ended. Joggers stop jogging. Walkers stop walking. Don't be a fair weather friend to the outside world. The trees are still there, they just changed their clothes. The birds are not as plentiful, but the ones that are still hanging around are fascinatingly busy. And best of all, the people who threw down this paper in disgust about five paragraphs ago are curled up in their recliners and giving you the opportunity of traversing your favorite summer walk in blessed winter solitude.

We're always going to have a favorite season. Skiing and skating aside, I'd be lying if I said this one was mine. However, it is pointless – not to mention childish – to spend three to four months of the year pouting. Get yourself warm, get your eyes open and get out there.



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CIVIL WAR

The forgotten mountain gap of Cashtown

John Miller
Civil War Historian
Emmitsburg Historical Society

The northern most gap or pass on South Mountain that was vital to the Confederate Army was that of Cashtown Gap. Cashtown Gap is located along the Chambersburg Pike and can be accessed by Old Route 30, which passes by the Cashtown Inn. Cashtown Gap was the main mountain gap used by the Confederate Army marching toward Gettysburg, with the exception of two infantry divisions that were part General Richard Ewell's Corps as they marched northward toward Carlisle and Harrisburg.

After the Battle of Gettysburg, Cashtown Gap was again used by the Confederate Army. The bulk of the Confederates marched through Monterey Pass to the south, but many wagons containing the wounded and its escorts of cavalry, infantry and artillery marched through Cashtown in order to get safely into the Cumberland Valley, and from there taking the direct route to Williamsport. Although there was no major battle fought at Cashtown Gap, it did see a few minor skirmishes.

About one month after the Maryland Campaign concluded

with the Battles of South Mountain, Antietam and Shepherdstown in September of 1862, Confederate General JEB Stuart was tasked with moving his cavalry into the north in what is known as the First Chambersburg Raid. General JEB Stuart with 1,800 troopers and Major Pelgram's Battery of two to four guns made their way to the Potomac River and on October 9th, crossed at a ford near Clear Spring, Maryland.

General Stuart received orders from General Lee not to harm or seize any property in Maryland, instead he was to capture equipment that the Confederates needed, to disrupt communication lines, destroy parts of the C&O Canal, and also take out parts of the B&O Railroad near Chambersburg. This was also a diversion, keeping the Federals from being re-enforced in the Kanawha Valley (West) Virginia in order for the Confederate Army of South Eastern Virginia to take possession of the valuable salt mines in that area.

By October 10th, General Stuart was in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and had captured a Federal arsenal. Items in the arsenal included clothing such as great coats, socks, and drawers, along with supplies that the Confederate Army so desperately needed.



General Stuart ordered the arsenals to be burned, destroying excess items that they could not carry. General Stuart was worried about crossing the Potomac River, since torrential downpours may have caused the Potomac River to swell and fording the river could be a problem. Another cause for Stuart's concern was that the bridge they had been sent to destroy was made of iron, making it impossible for the Confederates to demolish.

The next day, on October 11th, orders were given to mount

up, and the Confederate cavalry left Chambersburg. General Stuart realized that the Federal cavalry may be pursuing them, as retaliation against burning the Federal arsenals at Chambersburg. Needing an escape route, General Stuart detoured, traveling in an eastern direction toward South Mountain. That afternoon, General Stuart made his way into Cashtown passing by the Cashtown Inn. At this time General Stuart was about seven miles away from Gettysburg. Stuart and the five-mile long column

then turned southeast, taking the old Fairfield Road and then traveled to the Mason Dixon Line.

During June of 1863, the Confederate Army invaded Maryland and Pennsylvania. This campaign is known as the Pennsylvania Campaign. While portions of the Union Army took to the South Mountain passes in Maryland, the Confederate Army took to the northern passes.

By dawn on June 23rd, members of the 14th Virginia Cavalry captured several horses in the Cashtown area. By 2:00 pm in




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CIVIL WAR

the afternoon, this detachment of the 14th Virginia Cavalry headed to Caledonia Iron Works. They were pursuing a small detachment of Union troops. Roughly two miles past Caledonia, the detachment of Confederate cavalry saw that the Federal troops had blockaded the road.

Lieutenant Herman Schuricht of Company D noted that he was ordered by Major Bryan to approach the barricade with nine men. Lieutenant Schuricht directed four men to approach the barricade to the right of the road, while Lieutenant Schuricht and the rest of the men took to the left of the road. About 25 Federals were waiting in ambush and disappeared as Lt. Schuricht drew nearer. The barricade was quickly removed while Captain Moorman charged, with 25 men in pursuit of the Yankees. Lieutenant Schuricht soon followed in the chase.

The Federal detail took refuge behind a company of Union cavalry that was positioned in the woods. The Federal cavalry turned their horses heads as the 14th Virginia Cavalry came upon them. Shots rang out striking Private Eli Amick. Soon afterwards, Major Bryan called off the pursuit and returned to Caledonia Iron Works. The 14th Virginia Cavalry traveled back to Greenwood where their rear guard was located.

General Early entered Pennsylvania on June 23rd, marching toward Waynesboro. Once at Waynesboro, General Early marched north on Black Gap Road. He traveled past the little towns of Quincy, Mont Alto, and arrived at Black Gap around the 25th of June, near the present day intersection of Route 30. General Early and his division changed directions, and began heading east on the Chambersburg Pike. On June 26th, east of Black Gap, General Early's troops burned the ironworks at Caledonia.

As his division marched through the South Mountain pass of Cashtown on June 26th, local citizens shot a Confederate soldier. General Early became

outraged by this act and ordered the bushwhackers to be hunted down. He even threatened to burn the town of Cashtown in order to bring justice for the shooting of one of his men. The guilty party was never found and Cashtown was not burned.

As General Richard Ewell's Corps continued its march northward and eastward, General A.P. Hill's Corps was the next to come into Chambersburg. Following behind Hill's Corps was Longstreet's Corps. On June 28th, once Lee found out about Hooker's resignation, the appointment of Meade, as well as the concentration of the Eleventh Corps and portions of the third Corps at South Mountain to the South, Lee felt that he needed to concentrate his army. He issued orders for Hill to move east from Chambersburg to Cashtown crossing South Mountain. He then ordered Ewell's Corps to begin marching southward toward Gettysburg. Longstreet's Corps was ordered to proceed into Chambersburg. Lee, feeling that Meade would attack him via the rear, felt that his army should concentrate at Gettysburg, and from there he could swing southward keeping South Mountain between his Confederate Army and the Union Army, threatening Baltimore or even Washington. However, Longstreet's scout did not stay long enough near Turner's Gap to see that Meade was not going to pursue Lee, but rather hit him head on and issued orders to those Union troops at South Mountain to move to

Frederick, where they would begin their march northward on the 29th of June.

On July 1st, Hill's Corps proceeded toward Gettysburg as ordered, allowing Longstreet's Corps to cross South Mountain via Cashtown Gap. As Hill's Corps approached Gettysburg, the famous Battle of Gettysburg would begin. The majority of Lee's wagon train was parked near Cashtown with General George Pickett's Division guarding them. During the day, General John Imboden received orders from General Lee, instructing him to relieve Pickett's Division by July 2nd so that they could begin their march toward Gettysburg. General Imboden was ordered to guard the wagons, put soldiers on picket duty, and keep Cashtown Gap open for communications.

On July 2nd, Imboden's cavalry began to occupy Cashtown Gap, and by midnight the majority of his cavalry was concentrated around Cashtown Gap. General William Jones and his cavalry marched from Greencastle to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where they encamped briefly that night. Hearing rumors about Imboden's command being captured, Jones' and Robertson agreed that they should go to Cashtown to observe the area and the situation.

Early in the morning on July 3rd, General Jones' Brigade and General Beverly Robertson's Brigade of North Carolina Cavalry entered Cashtown Gap, and were surprised to see they were greeted by Imboden's pickets wearing

civilian clothing. The majority of Imboden's men were camped along the western slope of South Mountain, the entrance way to Cashtown Gap.

During the day, Lee had feared that Union cavalry would try to attack in that area. Around noon, Lee met with Imboden about the situation, and what his concerns were. General Jones received an order stating that there needed to be a force of cavalry to form a battle line near Fairfield. Complying with the orders, General Jones traveled the road leading from Cashtown to Fairfield. Following behind Jones was the brigade of cavalry under Robertson. As Jones approached Fairfield, his advance guard came in contact with Federal cavalry under the command of Major Samuel Star, who was leading the 6th United States Cavalry.

After the Battles of Gettysburg and Fairfield, Lee knew it was time to prepare for the withdraw of the Confederate Army. Just after midnight, General Imboden met with Lee to discuss the retreat from Gettysburg. Imboden was to lead a 17 mile long wagon train of live-

stock, wounded, supplies, and ordinances through Cashtown Gap to Greencastle, and from there to Williamsport, where the Confederate Army would cross the Potomac River. While Imboden led the wagons out of Cashtown, Jones volunteered to lead General Ewell's wagon train over South Mountain at Monterey Pass. At approximately four o'clock in the afternoon, Imboden's column of wagons were set forth in motion and began to ascend South Mountain. Jones had several pieces of artillery, Hampton's Brigade of cavalry, and his own brigade to guard the trains. He also had infantry with him as well. That night's march would ring loud in Imboden's ears, for the cries of the wounded he would never forget. The rain fell in torrents, heavily intertwined with the flashes of lightning and the crack of thunder, and still those cries of the wounded could be heard. Imboden would safely clear Cashtown Gap by July 5th.

To read other articles on the Civil War visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.



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HISTORY

Glimpses of Fairfield Area's Past

Interesting Facts About Early Times

Part 7

The largest employer in the community in recent years has been the shoe manufacturing business. In the early 1940's Mr. L. E. Beaudin, using the old Methodist Church, built the first shoe factory on West Main Street. Mr. Beaudin sold the shoe factory in 1948 and the Fairfield Shoe Co. was formed in enlarged quarters with Mr. Carl Filsinger serving as superintendent. In August of 1952 this factory burned to the ground leaving 300 to 400 people unemployed. The shoe company rebuilt, but this time at the western edge of Gettysburg. Mr. Filsinger, having a great admiration for Fairfield, built a new factory at the extreme end of Balder Street, which has been sold to Kinney shoe co. who manufacture and sell shoes all over America.

Along with the manufacturing plants that thrived in Fairfield, a most important part of the commu-

nity has been the retail establishments - some short lived, others of long duration. No specific data can be found by which to establish the identity of stores in pre-Civil War days. It is believed the only building remaining is the one story structure at the corner of Main Street and Miller Drive. This building is believed to date back to the very early 1800's. The first merchant in this building was Mr. G. W. Wortz. Then followed a partnership of Mr. Wortz and Mr. John Musselman who carried on business before the Civil War for some years. During the war, business was carried on under the name of Sullivan and Reinhart and was raided by the rebels as they passed through town. This was followed by a partnership of Mr. John Musselman and Mr. J. U. Neely. At this time the post office was also housed in this building.

As the national leadership changed so would the postmaster - one being a Democrat, the other a Republican.

After this partnership was dissolved in 1888, the store remained much the same in appearance with its shelves on both sides to the ceiling and a counter running the full length of the store on both sides. This business remained in the Neely family until its final closing. J. U. Neely conducted the business until 1906. He was followed by his son, George M. Neely, who ran it for the next 40 years. When Mr. Neely was appointed postmaster in 1935, the business was carried on by his son, James (Doc) and daughter Sara. The entire stock was disposed of in 1947 and the ownership of the building was transferred to

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Myers who conducted a restaurant for some years. Since that time it has housed a 5 & 10 cents store, a shoe outlet, as well as several real estate offices.

When the partnership of John Musselman and J. U. Neely was dissolved, Mr. Musselman built a new store at



The old Fairfield Post Office.

19 West Main Street. Nine years later, in 1897, he was joined in the business by his young son, William. After Mr. John Musselman's death in 1929, the business was continued by his son until his death in 1967. This store has since been remodeled for modern office space.

The next general store in Fairfield had its beginning about ninety years ago when Mr. John McCleaf and Samuel Barton entered into a partnership at 112 West Main Street in the first floor of the old Odd Fellows Building (now the Village Apartments). Soon the partnership was dissolved and Mr. McCleaf built his own store at 102 West Main Street and remained there until his death in 1940. For the next fourteen years the store was conducted by his son, Robert. This store too remained much as it was when it was built with its high shelves filled with cloth, boots and various articles of clothing on one side and groceries on the other. To the back of the store were the molasses barrel and the kerosene tank which were hand pumped into containers provided by the customer.

A fourth grocery store, at 107 East Main Street has also been conducted since some time in the 90's. One of the early proprietors, and a very successful one, was G. W. Wortz. To him is credited the building of a number of homes, some on Main Street, others on Centennial Street, so named because the building of houses was carried on during the Centennial year, 1876. This place of business was the center of an extensive "huckster" trade, which covered the surrounding countryside. One of the very active hucksters was J. Blaine Waddle, who later became the proprietor of this store.

During his time of occupancy the place of business was greatly enlarged. Mr. Waddle sold the store in the 1940's to John A. Shultz, who in 1963 sold it to Mr. Ed. Snyder, who conducted business there until 1968. Its present owner is Les Morton, who conducts a paint store and decorating business at the East Main Street address.

Newman's Super Thrift had its beginning in 1927 when E. H. Newman bought the butcher shop and slaughter house of the late Cleve Seiferd at 30 West Main Street, where the Village Wash House is now located. Mr. Newman had as his partner his wife, who ran the shop while her husband did the slaughtering and delivered meat in nearby communities. In 1941, after Mr. Newman became ill, Bob joined his parents in the business. In 1945 an addition was built to the butcher shop, which housed Newman's Self Service Food Store when Tom, returning from the service, joined the partnership.

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OBITUARIES

The present partnership of Tom, Bob and Bill Newman was culminated in 1949 when Bill bought out his father's interest.

Another of the older businesses in Fairfield, still growing and doing business at the same location, is the hardware business. In 1885 J. Jacob Reindollar came from Frizzleburg, Md. and established the town's first hardware store in the brick building located at 115-117 West Main Street, now Rombins' Nest Gift Shop. In 1900 he built the present store property at 105 west Main Street. At his death in 1919 the business was continued under the partnership of Robert S. and Carroll B. Reindollar, to 1924. Thereafter the business was carried on by Robert S. Reindollar until his death in 1938. At this time his son, John J. Reindol-

lar, enlarged and modernized the store to the point where it was one of the finest in the area. In 1968 Mr. Reindollar sold the business to Paul Metz. Mr. Metz also has greatly enlarged and modernized it to more nearly meet the demands of the day.

Fairfield community has had two newspapers since 1900 - The Fairfield Herald, being published in the very early 1900's, and in the late 1960's The Adams County Illustrated Press of which Mr. Edward F. Grout was editor.

Other than these few years, local news was told and retold in the local business places. One of the best places for this was McGlaughlin's Barber Shop. Mr. Earl McGlaughlin took over the shop of Mr. Ira Stoops in 1916. After serving his apprenticeship

under Mr. Ted Lowe, for over fifty years he cut the hair, shaved the faces, and provided a warm loafing place for several generations of gossip.

Another fine place to loaf and catch up with the news was the cobbler shop next to 27 West Main Street. Opening around 1900 and continuing until about 1945, it had two owners in that period - Mr. Calvin Seiferd and Mr. John Myers. Both of the men could provide many interesting tales which entertained both young and old.

One of our most recently established, though mostly widely known businesses, is Rombins' Nest Gift Shop, located at 117 West Main Street. Along with the gift shop, Ruth and Bill operate a catalog mail order house, buying gifts from all over the world and selling to customers all over America.

Let us end our travels at the Fairfield Inn, part of which was the original home of the Squire Miller family and later enlarged by members of his family and others into a tavern and hostelry for weary travelers, as well as many famous early Americans. Over the years the inn was neglected and altered to suit the owner's purpose. In recent years however we are pleased that Dr. and Mrs. Hammett have renovated and restored this once popular hostelry, as nearly as possible, to its original late 1700 appearance.

We could go on and on talking about the many other early businesses, but time and space are running out. Do you remember these - Brown's Dairy, Dan Rock's Tin Shop, Hattie McCreary's Millinery, Cal Baltzley's Feed Store, Moore's Drug Store, Hartzel's "Star" Car Agency, Dick Riley's wood business, Allison's ice business, Bream's Watch Repair and Print Shop and Eph. Swope's Shoe Store?

Yes, Fairfield is America, from candle to kerosene to electricity, from wood to coal to gas and oil, from back packing trader to store to supermarket, from horse and buggy to automobiles and planes, Fairfield has been and will continue to be a part of America on the move, while still cherishing its historic past.

Part 8 next month

To read more articles on local history visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.



Old livery stable on Main Street.

Sterling E. Bollinger



Sterling E. Bollinger, 86, of Thurmont, died Monday, December 23. He was the loving husband of Linda Nash Bollinger to whom he was married for 63 years.

Born November 17, 1927, in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Elmer and Eva Stitley Bollinger. After graduating from high school, Sterling entered the Air Force.

Sterling attended the University of Maryland majoring in Dairy Science. Upon completion of his schooling, he started Bollinger Dairy and operated it from 1951-1958. In 1958, he purchased and operated Ideal Farms Dairy and Eberts Ice Cream Company. Later, Sterling purchased an insurance agency in Thurmont in 1970.

Sterling served as a County Commissioner of Frederick County,

Maryland for 12 years as well as 59 years of service to the Kiwanis Club of Frederick. Sterling served on several civic, social and business associations including the Frederick County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, Maryland Board of ACS, Brute Council Knights of Columbus, Francis Scott Key Memorial Foundation and the 4H program supporting the Beef, Sheep and Swine Club of Frederick County. Later in life Sterling owned and operated Gateway Candyland and Farm Market in Thurmont.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his nine children, Sterling E. Bollinger Jr., Maggie Doll and husband John, Katrinka Martin, Paula Gills and husband John, Lee Bryan and husband Carl, David Bollinger and his wife Shelba, Joseph Bollinger and wife Lara, Mary Sweeney and husband Hal, Sam Bollinger and wife Jodie and a sister, Dolores Kipe. In addition he is survived by his 20 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Anthony Shrine Parish. Interment was in Mt. Carmel's Cemetery.

James "Butch" Topper



around, and helping people. He loved pizza and rock 'n roll, especially Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Surviving are siblings, Sam Topper and wife Jeannie, Ronald Topper and wife Marjorie, and Laura Brown and husband Richard, all of Emmitsburg, John Topper and fiancé Wanda Small of Littlestown, and Wanda, Helen, and Patrick Topper, all of Fairfield; and many nieces and nephews.

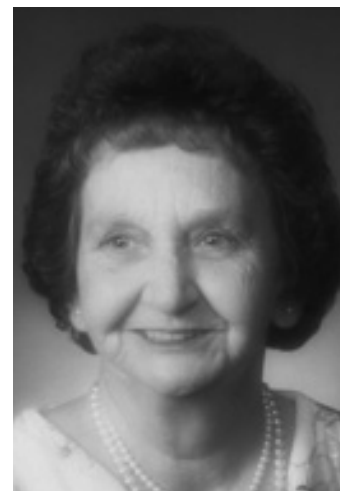
A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, Dec. 6 at St. Joseph' Church. Interment was in New St. Joseph Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to help defray funeral expenses may be made to Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, P.O. Box 308, Emmitsburg, MD, 21727. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

James Anthony "Butch" Topper, 49, of Emmitsburg died unexpectedly Sunday, Dec. 1 at his residence. Born Nov. 2, 1964 in Gettysburg, he was the son of the late Theodore and Nancy Ride-nour Topper.

Butch was a self-employed farmer and handyman. He enjoyed the outdoors, growing things, driving

Frances Rose Ebaugh



Frances Rose Nash Ebaugh, 82, of Keyville, died peacefully at her home, December 7 surrounded by her loving family.

Born March 10, 1931, in Smock, Pa, she was the daughter of the late Michael Freeman and Julia Cholibska, and the step-daughter of the late Benny Nash. She was the wife of Robert Wilson Ebaugh, who died in 1974.

She retired after 23 years as a coil-winder on the assembly line at the Black and Decker Company in Hampstead. She had worked previously at Cambridge Rubber Company in Taneytown. After retirement she worked in a variety of positions at Mount St. Mary's which included duties in the priests' kitchen.

She was a member of Keyville Evangelical Lutheran Church. She enjoyed spending time with her family, playing bingo, Scrabble, card games of all kinds, doing crossword puzzles and bowling. She enjoyed going on cruises, playing slots at Charlestown, and vacationing in North Carolina and Florida with family and friends.

Surviving are children Sharon Graham of Keyville, Charlotte Guyton and husband Don, of Littlestown, Richard Ebaugh and wife Debbie, of New Midway, Dennis Ebaugh and wife Elaine, of Emmitsburg, Phillip Ebaugh and wife Nina, of Fairfield, Brian Ebaugh, of Keyville, Donald Ebaugh, of Keyville, and Nancy Miller and husband Tom, of Taneytown; a sister, Viola Thomas, of Masaryktown, Fla.; 16 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild, and sister-in-law, Dorothy Ebaugh, of Westminster. She was predeceased by a son, Bruce Edward Ebaugh, in 1976; and siblings John, Sophie, Marie and George.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Hospice of Carroll County, 292 Stoner Ave., Westminster, MD 21157; or to Keyville Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7301 Keyville Rd., Keymar, MD 21757.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

China's Cold War

Commander John Murphy,
USN Ret.

I was a government, Sovietologist for most of the Cold War. When the Cold War ended with the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991... the need for specialists like me pretty well dried up. Still, I cannot avoid viewing current events through the prism of an old, Cold War, Sovietologist. When I recently heard about events in the East China Sea where China was asserting control over the sea lanes and airspace around the Senkaku islands against neighboring states such as Japan and South Korea... my old Cold War reflexes kicked in. "Here we go again".

In my mind, the Chinese were back to their old "bluff and bluster" of the 1950s. Shades of our confrontations with them over Taiwan and the small, offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu. Or over sea and air lane rights in the Tonkin Gulf and South China Sea in the 1960s.

I was at NSA in 1958 when the Chinese gave us their 40th, "last and final warning" to keep out of their way in the Taiwan straits. Then they never did anything. They backed off and bided their time. "Nothing new here." They made bellicose statements, but took no direct action against our forces. Unlike the Soviets who would back up their "words" with violent acts such as aircraft shootdowns and ship collisions at sea.

While serving at the Center for Naval Analyses in Washington in the early 1970s I documented over 150 incidents in which the Soviets intentionally confronted our forces at sea. Of course the riskiest venture of all was the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 when they took us to the brink of nuclear war. As a naval intelligence analyst during that period and throughout the Cold War, I learned that you always were trying to understand an enemies capabilities, but were hard-pressed to understand their intentions.



When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, its second full-size aircraft carrier, the Varyag, was under construction. In 2001, it was sold to China. With an operational carrier, China now had the ability to project power beyond its borders.

Especially when it came to the Soviets. For that, you had to work with your available psychological profiles that were slim at best.

The Soviets, were unpredictable and great risk takers. From their Premier Nikita Khrushchev on down. The Chinese however, were different. They did not seem to take unnecessary risks. They would issue warnings, but that was about it. So why the recent East China Sea and the Senkaku islands incidents? I have no answer for that one. After all, I was a Sovietologist...and that was what the Cold War was all about right? The Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies versus the U.S., and the NATO alliance nations, the West vs. the "Commies" ... mostly in Europe. The USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Albania. These were our real Cold War adversaries... oh, and yes... throw in minor, client states such as Cuba - if you wanted.

But the Pacific nations... China, North Korea etc.? Minor nuisances. Distractions. Not the real Cold War. Then was then and now is now. So today, there is no USSR... no Warsaw Pact. Okay, there's still Cuba hanging in there, but most of my Cold War adversaries have disappeared from the scene.

Post Cold War in Russia and China

I now realize that we Sovietologists tended to have a euro-phobic view of events. We were obsessed with the Russian Bear and not the sleeping Asian Tigers- such as China. Frankly, I must admit that I am disappointed with the Russian transition to a free-market economy in the post-Cold War period. I, and many Russian specialists went to Russia in the early '90s with the intent of helping them transition from a state planned economy to a modern, free-market economy. Sure, they wanted the "good stuff" - the high salaries, modern apartments, dachas, TVs, computers, fancy automobiles (well, at least one with windshield wipers that worked), home appliances, fancy clothes (especially blue jeans) and Adidas running shoes.

But, in their ancient struggle between Westernizers and Slavophiles,

the Slavophiles appeared to be winning. Deep down the Slavs feared the West and it's ways. They had chosen the way of Lenin and Stalin over that of Peter the Great. The Czechs and Poles seem to have adapted much better since 1991. I think it's because they welcomed their Czech- American and Polish-American cousins to come in and help them in their transition from Communism. The Russians did not have such "country-cousins". Most Russian-Americans that had come to the U.S. over the last 50 years, we're Jews. And they didn't want to go back to the People's Paradise.

So why has China succeeded where the Russians appear to have failed? I believe it's because the current leadership is still in the old, Communist mindset of top-down, state planning. Sure, the poorest Russians are better off than the poorest Chinese. But that isn't saying much.

Modern China's Evolution

The 20th century Chinese writer Lu Xun once noted that the Chinese consider themselves to be "inferior or superior to foreigners, never equal." China is essentially a mono-racial society. Their language and writing system creates a barrier. Chinese script is about 3700 years old and its alphabet a bit older. They pride themselves on the fact that they have a 5000 year history. But, so do the Egyptians and Indians.

The Chinese have been subjected to foreign conquest throughout their history while maintaining their unique identity. The Chinese tend to have an inflated sense of power and importance. This led to conflict and humiliating defeats in the Opium Wars of the 1840s and 1860s and the Boxer Rebellion of the 1890s. These humiliations at the hands of foreigners were part of the roots of the Cultural Revolution of the 20th century.

In the 18th century, during the Ming Dynasty, there was an ambivalent attitude towards overseas trade and maritime activity that was further aggravated by a traditional Confucian disdain, even hostility, towards merchants and traders. I am not an economist, but think I see some parallels with today's events and the events during the Opium Wars.

The British East India Company

had a Royal charter to trade in the Orient. They also had a monopoly of the production and export of Indian opium. Chinese law forbid the importation of opium. Through complex and forceful maneuvers, the British were able to bring opium into China- although it was banned by the Chinese. Opium was not illegal in England at the time. To make a long story short, the Chinese Navy began boarding British ships and destroying opium. The British responded in a very muscular way by dispatching Royal Army and Navy units to China where they overwhelmed the Chinese at major ports such as Canton.

During the second Opium War in 1860, a joint Anglo-French force assembled at Hong Kong and mounted an amphibious invasion of mainland China. A swift and humiliating victory led to a Chinese surrender and the opening of many new ports to British trade. Modern Chinese must have found a certain, sweet Irony in the fact that they were able to introduce drugs and drug addiction into our forces in Vietnam in the 1960s... 100 years after the Opium Wars. A gift that the troops would bring home with them to America. Talk about a long-range sense of history.

China in the 21st-century

Scholars believe that what the Chinese need now is a sense of "burning truth" about their history. Only when they have this, will they be able to take their proper position in the 21st-century. Modern China really began in 1949 with the founding of the People's Republic of China. This was followed by decades of strife between the Chinese Nationalists under Sun Yat-sen and Chiang Kai-shek who became our ally during the Sino-Japanese war from 1937 to 1945. Chiang Kai-shek also became the leader of the Nationalists in the Chinese Civil War from 1946 to 49 and fled to Taiwan in 1949 where he established the Republic of China in exile.

I remember when studying communism in the 1970s, we were told that the Chinese had a unique, long range view of history. That their history worked in 300 year cycles. That they saw themselves as a more ancient culture and civilization than most other



A cartoon from the late 1890s shows helpless China being divided among Britain, Germany, Russia, France and Japan.



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COLD WAR WARRIORS



Absolute and total indoctrination were the keys to Mao's success. Here, youthful devotees of Mao are studying his "Little Red Book," which more than anything else personified his rule.

death in 1953, China and the USSR began to drift apart. The Chinese felt that the Soviets were taking them for granted and using them. Chairman Mao felt that China should pursue its own dreams.

By 1958-59 Mao was leading China through the "Great Leap Forward" which led to widespread famine and killed up to 30 million Chinese. He oversaw the brutal Great Cultural Revolution-Red Guards movement in the 1960s. Also, China was an important ally to Vietnam during the Vietnam War throughout the 1960s. Then, commencing around 1970 with the Presidency of Richard Nixon, there was an important change in Chinese-U. S. relations. This became known as "Ping-Pong Diplomacy". Then came a cease-fire and an end to the Vietnam War.

1976 was a very important year in modern Chinese history. It began with the arrest of the "Gang of Four" (top Chinese Communist officials from the Cultural Revolution), followed by the death of Chiang Kai-shek in Taiwan and the death of Mao Zedong in China. Mao was replaced by reformist Deng Xiaoping who led China's economic reconstruction efforts in the 1960s following Mao's disastrous, Great Leap Forward. He also opened China to foreign investment and limited private competition. He is generally credited with raising the standard of living of millions of Chinese citizens and transforming China into one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

In large measure, China's success in its transition to a free-market economy was Deng's "bottom up" approach that contrasted sharply with Mikhail Gorbachev's "top-down" approach that was used in the Soviet Union. In 1978 the Carter administration shifted diplomatic ties from Taiwan to Beijing. By 1987, the Gorbachev liberalizing policies in the USSR (glasnost' and perestroika) were being felt in China. In 1989, China harshly suppressed democratic protests in Tiananmen Square. Also, in 1989 came the fall of the Berlin wall and Communist governments in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania. Then, the Soviet Union disappeared in 1991. In 1997 Hong Kong was handed back to China. Also Deng Xiaoping died.

Much has transpired in China since

the death of Deng Xiaoping. The appointment of Zhu Rongji as Premier in 1998 signaled a policy of "economic pragmatism". Zhu was the Mayor of Shanghai and the 5th Premier of the PRC (1998-2003) who played an important role in China's double-digit economic growth.

In 2000, the U.S. granted China "permanent, trade relations status" that allowed them to enter the World Trade Organization. This was a source of enormous pride and importance to the Chinese people and its economy. China was also chosen to host the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, another source of national pride and prestige.

Some experts see China as the world's future, leading superpower. Whether they achieve this, will be largely determined by their ability to control their politics, as well as their business practices. Both the Russians and the Chinese need to get control of their rampant corruption. They also need to raise their moral and ethical standards. If they do not, they will lose their standing and stature in world economic circles

At times, it seems their politicians are trying to drag them back into the Cold War of the 1950s. Such seems to be the case in strategically unimportant locations such as the Senkaku islands in the East China Sea.

Our changing world...

So here we are in the 21st-century. Where is the world heading? What is the same? What is different? Sadly, I think what is at issue... is the nature of our politicians. They seem less principled and moral than they were at the beginning of the Cold War in the 1940s and 50s. Less idealistic.

And yet we are living in a world

of great technological growth and change. Particularly as to how we communicate. A world of modern, Information technology. I can now sit and communicate with a business partner in Moscow or Shanghai via my phone, tablet or laptop while at breakfast. Language is no longer a barrier- an excuse for a lack of communication. I am as comfortable communicating in Mandarin Chinese as in Russian, Turkish, or German. This is mostly due to modern, information technology. Of course the same technology can also put dangerous weapons in the hands of terrorists whose minds are still functioning in the 10th century.

For better or for worse, technology will have a major impact on how nations deal with each other in the future. Technology is making what we used to call Eastern and Western culture more and more the same. Europhobes, such as myself, are slowly being forced to see the world through Oriental eyes. If our politicians will let us, our future conflicts may be more in the marketplace than on the battlefield. Also, people of the east and middle east... the progeny of ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, Mesopotamia, and China... need to recognize that their cultures are more the same than they are different.

Might we be heading towards a better conclusion to the Cold War? Where former 20th century, adversaries turn the swords of the Cold War into the plowshares of the 21st-century? It worked with the Japanese and Germans in WWII! Why not now?

To read past editions of Cold War Warriors visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

peoples in the world. "If the times don't seem so good right now... be patient - things will get better." Towards the end of this same course, the professor was asked; "Professor... you have told us a great deal about Lenin, Marx, and Stalin, but what about Mao Zedong and the Chinese?" To his credit, he responded, "I beg ignorance!" I was impressed. If "Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." What about China? And, we were dealing with about 4000 years more of history than we had with the Russians.

When you think about it, China was the first nation to fall to the Communists after World War II. At the time, they were just coming out of a two decade, Civil War of their own. A war that resulted in two nations claiming the title "China". The Nationalist - or Republic of China on Taiwan and the Communist - or People's Republic of China on mainland China.

The two factions took time out from their Civil War during World War II and formed a united front against the Japanese invasion of China. They went back to their full-scale, civil war in 1946. In 1949 the Communists tried to take over tiny Quemoy island near Taiwan. Chiang Kai-shek, from his new capital

at Taipei, Taiwan, asserted his government to be the sole legitimate government in China.

By 1950, the Communists controlled mainland China and Hainan island in the South China Sea. They conquered Hainan Island in 1950 following an amphibious invasion. By the late 60s, as we conducted our air strikes over North Vietnam, the Chinese were always screaming at us for violations of their air defense zone over Hainan Island. Also in 1950, Chiang Kai-shek, took over the offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu. This led to several crises with the communist in the 1950s and 60s. "The Taiwan Strait crises".

They began when the mainland Chinese relentlessly pounded Quemoy and Matsu with artillery fire. In the mid 1950s the US Congress authorized the Eisenhower administration to defend the ROC and the Taiwan Strait against attack. Mao Zedong eventually backed down and stopped his protests. Some say, because his Soviet allies would not support them properly by threatening to use nuclear weapons if China was attacked.

For many years, China's foreign policy was closely aligned with that of the Soviet Union. However, with Stalin's



Ground Zero for the next Cold War? The photo above depicts the disputed islands in the East China Sea known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

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MOM'S TIME OUT

Strangers

Chandra Bolton

Never talk to strangers!

Wanting our children to understand and appreciate being an American, we decided to study our history. How did America come to be the way it is? Especially, we wanted to visit historical sites, see demonstrations, and surround them with the feel of the way it was. And of course, Mom would be there to lecture them on the meaning of it all. Surrounded by so many Civil War (War Between the States) sites, we decided to start with those.

First, we took them to Gettysburg. After climbing on the rocks at Devil's Den, we began the hike up Little Round Top. Before I could start my lecture on important events and famous people,

the man behind us began talking about his tour of duty in Vietnam. "It was hot and humid at the fight here. Just like my time in Vietnam." He went on to describe how it felt to carry that heavy pack, just as the men who charged up this hill would have. He reminisced about the uneven terrain, rough sleeping conditions, not knowing where you were going or what was coming next. Just like the men who came to Gettysburg. He couldn't tell friend from enemy. Just like the confusion of uniforms in this war. The kids were fascinated by his experiences.

But, never talk to strangers.

Next we went to Antietam for patriotic music and fireworks. The old-hands packed everything for their picnic in disposable

containers. After the concert, they tossed it all in the trash cans and hiked, unencumbered, back down the hill to the cars. Being newbies, we had a cooler, blankets, and our 5 little kids. We waited in line for the bus...and waited....and waited. Our ten-year-old asked why the fireworks were out in the countryside, so far from our house. I hesitated, trying to form a coherent answer while juggling a sleeping toddler and keeping tabs on the other three children. The elderly man in line behind us spoke up. He explained about the battle fought here. Then went on to tell us about his grandmother who had lived in the town of Sharpsburg while this fight raged around her, along Antietam Creek. He shared her memories of the horrible aftermath, seeing the carnage and living with the smell.

Never talk to strangers.

Later we headed into Virginia for a reenactment at Petersburg. There was so much going on that day. We stood in the parking lot try to decide what to do first: the army camp with a taste of hard tack; live cannon fire demonstration; life of a Civil War doctor? Then we heard a man behind us tell a group of army officers that he would be stopping with them at several spots on the driving tour to explain tactics and how the battle unfolded. Of course, we hopped into our car and followed them on the driving tour, shamelessly eavesdropping on his brief lectures. His stories of individual courage and also incompetence, stayed with us long after the tactics faded. The kids' favorite story is of a man named Reece who crawled through a long tunnel to



relight a fuse on a bomb placed under Southern fortifications. It was a great risk, for if the bomb had exploded too soon, he would have been "Reece's pieces." A graphic, but memorable

image, especially to little boys!

But, never talk to strangers.

These strangers: the Vietnam vet, the elderly grandson of an Antietam eyewitness, and the Army professor, gave us a connection to history. I hope it helps the kids to understand that real people struggled to create and preserve our country. All these battlefields are parks now. Hard to imagine what it was like to be there. Walking the ground the soldiers and citizens walked, listening to real people tell of their experience, helps bring it to life. (The live cannon fire demo was amazingly loud.)

When our oldest children were little, Stranger Danger was THE topic at parenting groups. How do we keep our kids safe from the monsters who seem to be normal people? Yet we don't want fear-filled kids, afraid to even talk to people, seeing others as a threat. These encounters with strangers, people who shared their past, their memories, their knowledge, have enriched our lives. They helped us see that there are real people behind those plaques on the battlefields. Those stuffy, solemn men and women in the old photos felt the heat and exhaustion, smelled the carnage, and did their duty even when it terrified them.

Never talk to strangers? Perhaps it is time for a new saying....

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THE GRADUATE

The silver linings mindset

Megan Kinsella
MSM Class of 2013

One Friday, about a month ago, a friend gave me a ride home from work so I could eat a quick lunch. I had gone out to start my car earlier that morning and, much to my chagrin, it wouldn't start. The engine turned over and over but just wouldn't catch. It was one of my busiest days of the week, as I had meetings to go to, bible studies to lead, errands to run, and a retreat coming up that weekend that still needed planning. So, I got a ride in to Our Lady of Wisdom where we work, and got busy. The morning was a whirlwind of phone calls, making reservations, and meeting with students about different events going on at the Catholic Student Center.

My teammate John dropped me off at home for lunch and as he drove away I walked to my front door, only to realize that my apartment keys were on the same key ring as my car keys—which were hanging on the hook right inside my locked apartment door. Rolling my eyes, I pulled my cell phone out of my backpack to call my roommates who were still at work. Seeing that my cell phone was dead, I repressed a frustrated scream and huffed down onto our front stoop. Having nothing better to do, I took a deep breath, sat down, and looked up into the sky. It was the first time during my busy day that I actually had time to take a deep breath and simply *BE*.

The sky was so clear and deep blue, the sun was magnificent and warm, and there was a tiny bird singing in the tree next to our car port. It was all so very simple, but it was exactly what I needed. In the middle of my hectic day, God helped me slow down. He locked me out of my apartment so I could take a thirty minute break, because He knew I wouldn't give myself one otherwise! Although I had a mile-long "to do" list, I had absolutely no control over the situation. I very easily could have gotten stressed and frustrated, but instead God allowed me to see my self-diagnosed plight in a better light; the silver lining to my "cloudy" day.

Over the past couple weeks I've been thinking a lot about silver linings. We all know that old saying about every cloud having one. It is such good imagery, and very practical. No matter what, we will always have clouds in our lives: car trouble, sickness, frustrating relationships, financial struggle, and on and on. But, no matter what, those clouds are always brightened by the little slivers of light shining behind them. It's up to us, though, to decide whether we pay more attention to the cloud or its brighter counterpart. We can't control the things that happen to us, but we can control how we react to those things! Looking out for the silver linings in every situation is what makes all the difference.

At the beginning of the semester, my teammates and I were working nonstop, full speed ahead from the very beginning. We were so busy that we weren't getting enough sleep, not eating right, and not exercising at all.



After a few weeks of completely running myself into the ground, I caught the flu and was stuck in bed for a week. At first, I was annoyed with myself for not taking better care of myself, and frustrated that everyone else was doing all the work and I couldn't help at all.

I lay in bed pouting for the whole first day, feeling miserable for myself. My roommate, playing the "mom card," walked into my room and asked how I was feeling. I told her that I felt miserable and angry. She laughed at me, gave me a hug, and told me to take advantage of being sick while I could—rest up now while you have an excuse. BOOM, there it was... the silver lining! I was obviously sick for a reason, so instead of being angry and trying to pretend I wasn't sick, I had to realize that God was giving me the rest that I so badly needed—and He had to make me sick to realize how bad I really did need it! So, for the rest of the week I drank gallons of chicken noodle soup, read the books that had been piling up on my "to read" list, and let my roommates take care of me. Naturally, in the weeks following, I had more en-

ergy than I can ever remember.

In middle school, we used to bring treats in for our birthday every year to share with the class. It always made you feel so special when you could stand up in front of the class, tell them all about your pink, frosted cupcakes and why they are your favorite, and then walk among the aisles passing them out. My birthday is on December 19th, which means it usually falls on a day when we were already off school for Christmas break. I remember only two times that we actually had school on my birthday, which made those two times so much more special.

I was in fifth grade when I turned 10, on Friday the 19th... and it was the last day of school before the Christmas holiday! My mom and I slaved away in the kitchen for hours the night before, making chocolate chip cookie bars smothered in peanut butter icing. I was so excited that I could hardly sleep that night. The next morning I woke up early, put on my uniform, sprinted downstairs, threw the door wide open, and stopped short. What I saw brought big fat tears rolling down my cheeks.

Thick drifts of snow covered the grass, trees, and roads, and it wasn't anywhere close to being finished snowing. I collapsed into a little heap of tears on the carpet and my parents, to no avail, tried to console me.



It was that morning that my parents introduced me to the silver-linings-mindset. My mom told me that, "Yes honey, it might be very sad that you can't give your treats out at school today, but there are so many other fun things that you can do on your snow day." I very soon forgot my sadness and was playing out in the snow with my older brother and sister. In the afternoon my dad walked me around to all the neighbors' houses to knock

on their front doors and hand out my birthday treats—it was even more fun than handing them out at school! That snow day was one of many of God's birthday gifts to me that year.

This January, in the snow and ice and wind, I urge us all to concentrate on the positives rather than the negatives. The silver linings are always there for us to find, all we have to do is look for them! God bless you all in this New Year.

Megan graduated from Mount St. Mary's in May and is now a full-time missionary for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. She is serving at the University of Louisiana Lafayette for the 2013-2014 school year, working primarily with student-athletes.

To read other articles by Megan visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

What's new at your library

Erin Dingle
Emmitsburg Branch Library

Cheers to 2014!

Welcome to the New Year at the library. Did you make a resolution? The best way to stick to your plan to save money or lose weight or stop stressing is to do research and all the best research should start at your public library. Trained library staff have the skills and know-how to search for exactly the books, magazines and DVD's to help you create (and stick) to a plan. And no matter what your resolution was, we can guarantee that you'll save money because our help, our materials and our time will cost you nothing. We are the best free resource available and located conveniently right in Emmitsburg. Maybe you didn't make a resolution but you're interested in reading a new author or finding new recipes or thinking about how to lay out your garden when the summer sun comes back. You are never limited only to what is on

the shelf in your local branch. Daily delivery to all branches insure that any book on a shelf in Frederick County will get be delivered for you within just a day or two. And the really great thing about being a library customer in Maryland is that you can get just about any book on any shelf in the entire state within a week or two through Marina, Maryland's inter-library loan system. You find Marina right on our library website or you can ask a librarian to help place your order.

Mount St. Mary's Professor Hosts Spanish Storytime

Lesia Zuke, Children's Librarian at the Thurmont Regional Library, found a recent study showing that the best time for a child to learn a second language, especially in developing authentic pronunciation, is in the first three to four years of life. And since the U.S. is the second-largest Spanish-speaking country in the world, right after Mexico (37 million people ages 5 and older in the U.S. speak Spanish at home) learning

Spanish is certainly a logical choice.

And here at Frederick County Public Libraries, we are pleased to support Spanish language learning by offering a special storytime in Spanish presented by Cynthia Fraga-Canadas from Mount St. Mary's University. A gifted natural teacher with three young (and bilingual!) children of her own, Ms. Cynthia provides a delightful program each month at the Thurmont Regional Library to children ages 2-5, that includes a variety of songs, dance, games, and stories-all in Spanish. Registration is required. Register online or by phone (see number and website above) for the next two sessions to be held Friday January 24 and February 28 10:30 am in the Thurmont Imagination Zone.

Donating Gently Used Books to Help the Friends

For the first time ever this summer, the Friends of the Emmitsburg Branch Library will participate in the town's annual Community Day celebration by hosting a Used Book Sale. The Friends are seeking donations for the sale from the public but are asking you to hold to them until early June due to a lack of space to store books. The Friends cannot accept VHS tapes, text books, encyclopedias and magazines. The book sale

and numerous other activities throughout the town will be held the last Saturday in June. In addition to the sale, President Noreen O'Donnell shared that the Friends are planning additional fun activities on the front lawn of the library and she invites community members who love their local library to save the date and volunteer to help.

Love your library?

Join the Friends

How important to you is the public library? The most recent Pew Internet survey was released in mid-December shows that most Americans understand that a library in a community is important. Here are just a few of the numbers from Americans ages 16 and older who say that public libraries play an important role in their communities:

95% of Americans ages 16 and older agree that the materials and resources available at public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed;

95% say that public libraries are important because they promote literacy and a love of reading;

94% say that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community;

81% say that public libraries provide

many services people would have a hard time finding elsewhere.

(Source 12/11/13 <http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/12/11/libraries-in-communities/>)

If you are part of that 95% that says the public library, keep using your public library and join us for a brief Friends of the Library meeting on Tuesday night, January 28 at 6:30. Planning for the special open house in February as well as this summer's book sale event will be on the agenda. Your local Library Friends not only support the branch financially but they advocate for the library as a central community hub for the Town of Emmitsburg. There's so much more we can do together. There is no membership fee to be a Friend. See you there!

Little Ones and Library Literacy Every Week!

Kick off the New Year by engaging your little one in literacy programs every week. We offer specialized morning programming for every age group. Visit a program to try it out and the register to attend every week. Your child's literacy level will and interest in books will grow and you'll meet new friends from the community. As stated above, 95% of Americans agree that using a public library with your child will instill in them a love of reading. All learning starts with a solid reading skills. Here's our regular storytime schedule:

Babies with Books – Every Wednesdays at 10:15

Transition to Two's – Every Mondays at 10:30

Time for Two's – Every Wednesdays at 11:00

Preschool Storytime – Every Thursdays at 10:30

Other Free Programs at the Emmitsburg Library:

Saturday Library Fun at 11 a.m. for Elementary & Tweens

1/11 – Got Snow? Have a "snow"tacular time at the library with frosty fun! Learn facts about snowflakes, experiment with snow, play winter games, and create a frosty friend.

1/18 – Invention Conventions. Television. Waterskis. Earmuffs. All invented by kids! Celebrate Kid Inventor's Day by creating your own special project using household items. Materials supplied. Registration required.

Teens Make Art on Tuesdays at 4 pm – Registration Required

1/14 – Aboriginal Rock Painting. Register at www.fcpl.org.



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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

2014 school board priorities

Katie Groth
Frederick County School Board

As we do each year at this time, the Board of Education of Frederick County assembles a document that puts forward our legislative priorities for the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly. The General Assembly opens in Annapolis on January 8 for its annual 90 day session.

One of the very important roles of the elected board of education is to lobby for legislation that will enhance and enable our efforts to provide excellent educational opportunities for our 41,000 students who attend our county public schools. Much is done through legislative initiative that provides funding and enables programs to move forward in our planning process.

We want to stay in frequent communication with our elected representatives, and they tell us they want to hear from us on behalf of our students, families and our staff. Our elected school board members will be in Annapolis as it is necessary to put forward our priorities.

Another important reason we communicate with our legislators is to help them understand about what are called "unfunded" or "underfunded mandates." These mandates, or laws, require boards of education and other government entities to provide services, staffing and support to citizens without providing the necessary funding to operate such programs. It is

easy to see that mandating or requiring us to do things without any money to do them is a hardship. There are many examples of these "unfunded mandates," but it is fair to say that we implore the members of our legislative delegation to keep these proposals from becoming law. Our message has been clear and strong – no more unfunded mandates.

Examples of unfunded mandates include requiring new programs, procedures and reporting requirements. The huge new testing and reporting requirements, for instance, that accompany the roll out of the Common Core State Standards is a good example. The CCSS has been a financial and programmatic burden on local school systems, but little or no extra funding has come with the new CCSS requirements. Other examples are the expansion of mandated pre-kindergarten and the mandating of expanded physical education. While these are laudable programs with laudable goals, they cost money to implement. When no new funding comes with these new laws, it results in school systems having to take from other existing programs to put the new ones in place. School systems can maintain this only so long before everyone, including students, feels the pinch.

We also feel very strongly about maintaining our local authority to design and implement our own curriculum. There are curriculum programs mandated by the State of Maryland,

but we maintain the right and responsibility to see that we design programs for our local school system that reflect the priorities of the community. The State Board of Education establishes state standards, local school systems develop the curriculum that aligns with the standards and the state's testing protocols. It must be emphasized that our local board of education feels strongly about maintaining control over the curriculum we deliver to our students.

Another issue that the Frederick County Board of Education has placed on its list of priorities for the legislative delegation is the request for continued funding of school construction and renovation projects. Since the year 2000, Frederick County has received over \$232 million in school construction funding from the State of Maryland. The Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County has been generous in funding some of these projects as well, even "forward funding" projects that were to have been paid for by the State. We are asking the State to repay what was "forward funded," this amount being \$12.8 million. Members of our delegation have voiced support for this repayment and will support a continued request for construction funds to support our growing student population as well as to build additions to existing buildings and renovating those older buildings that must be brought up to current

educational standards.

We will be at work for our citizens in order to continue to provide adequate funding as well as excellent programs for Frederick County Public Schools. If any members

of the public want to contact BOE members with their thoughts and ideas about proposed legislation, they are welcome to be in touch with any of us through the website at www.fcps.org.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Written by Robert Chambers in 1864, *The Book of Days* is exactly what its long-winded subtitle states: *A Miscellany of Popular Antiquities in Connection with the Calendar, Including Anecdote, Biography, & History, Curiosities of Literature and Oddities of Human Life and Character. A veritable wealth of random information for the curious mind, we set our writers out to explore what anecdotes, biographies, etc. they could find attributed to their own birthdays. Though the lists of names and events are longer than what could reasonably fit in these articles, the writers have nonetheless unearthed some tantalizing tales for you to enjoy.*

Freshman Year

My day in history

Leeanne Leary
MSM Class of 2017

As I sat down to write about what happened in history on December 19, my birthday, it seemed a happy coincidence that my birthday was the very next day. As a result, I woke up with the fresh knowledge that my birthday may be unique to me, but for so many others, this day holds a different meaning, one of celebration or remembrance.

Of course my birthday has always been special to me: cake, presents, and time when it seemed to be all about me. While many would think it's difficult having a birthday close to Christmas, it never felt that way for me. My dad made sure of that; since I had a birthday so close to Christmas, we never bought a tree, decorated, or did anything "Christmas-y" until after my birthday. I always had a birthday countdown starting 90 or 100 days out, a tradition that I continue to this day, so it's strange to think that a day so unique and special to me can have such an important history behind it. Grow-

ing up, it was almost a competition in school to see which famous person had the same birthday as you. I remember only ever being able to say, "Well, my birthday is six days away from Taylor Swift's." As it turns out, December 19 may not have been the most popular day for pop singers to be born, but it certainly was an important date in history.

After a little research on thebookofdays.com, where every event is linked to a calendar day, I found a couple December 19 birthdays. I found a world-renowned chemist, Charles William Scheele, who was born in 1742 in Stralsund, and Captain William Edward Perry, an Arctic navigator who was born in 1790 in Bath. Even if I could never claim the same birthday as Katy Perry or Taylor Swift, I found these men, who left their mark on the world in different ways. Scheele is credited with the joint discovery of the essential element Oxygen, the composition of the first known sample of what we now call Chlorine, and much more. Captain Perry blazed trails in a different way when he attempted one of the earliest

expeditions to the North Pole in 1827. He reached 82°45 North Latitude, setting the record for the farthest North human exploration that stood for nearly five decades before being surpassed at 83°20'26". It didn't stop there; after delving a little deeper into the history of this day, I found the following:

December 19, 1732

Benjamin Franklin began publishing *Poor Richard's Almanac*. The only American of the colonial period to earn a European reputation as a natural philosopher, he is best remembered in the United States as a patriot, diplomat, and statesman.

December 19, 1776

Thomas Paine published his first American Crisis essay with the famous line, "These are the times that try men's souls." The first of a series of 16 pamphlets called *The American Crisis* were widely distributed and encouraged the Patriots' cause throughout the American Revolution. He also wrote essays for the *Pennsylvania Journal* and edited the *Pennsylvania Magazine*. After the war he returned to his farm and family in New York.

December 19, 1843

Charles Dickens published *A Christ-*

mas Carol. Dickens is considered one of the world's most popular, prolific, and skilled novelists. He wrote largely from his own experiences.

December 19, 1972

Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, ending the Apollo program of manned lunar landings. Apollo 17 was the final mission of the United States' Apollo lunar landing program, and was the sixth landing of humans on the moon.

December 19, 1998

President Bill Clinton was impeached on two counts by the House of Representatives. The impeachment trial overshadowed all other activity in Washington for a good portion of 1998 and Clinton was forced to respond to continued problems with Iraq at the end of the year. For example, in December, Saddam Hussein blocked a weapons inspection by the United Nations. The UN responded with airstrikes that continued on a nearly daily basis for the next three months, and then off and on through the spring and summer. Iraq taunted the U.S. and its allies by shooting at jets patrolling the no-fly zones set up after the Persian Gulf War, further escalating the situation.

December 19, 2003

Muammar al-Qaddafi of Libya announced that his country would discontinue development of weapons of mass destruction. Libya signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968, ratified it in 1975, and concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1980. The United States and the United Kingdom assisted Libya in removing equipment and material from its nuclear weapons program. After the announcement on December 19, Libya consented to the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2004 and began destroying its chemical munitions later that year, but missed the deadlines for converting one chemical weapons production facility to peaceful use and for destroying its stockpile of mustard agent.

This year December 19 will not just be in celebration of my birthday, but also in celebration of peace, space programs, works of literature, justice, and much more. It's intriguing in the truest sense of the word to take a moment and imagine what went on in years past, on this day in history.

To read other articles by Leanne visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore Year

The bodyguard

Lydia Olsen
MSM Class of 2016

When snowflakes first begin to fall from the sky, everyone gathers in anticipation. Around the window, families huddle closely and watch as the snowflakes start to cover the outside surfaces. The road, the trees, and the grass effortlessly begin to vanish behind a white cloth. The family remains inside, safe from the frigid air and the

impending winter storm. Outside, the snow continues to fall, creating a barrier with every flake.

These first snowflakes have an important role. Not only do they signal the approaching weather and evoke excitement, but they also protect. These snowflakes create a wall of snow that separates what lies beneath it from an even more intense cold. The base layer of snow that is created by the first snowflakes retains heat and conducts it slowly. Similar to a piece of wool clothing in which the heat from the body is retained rather than dissipated, the beginning snow of a snowfall retains heat rather than letting it go. It appears that this is a scientific phenomenon that farmers and gardeners know and understand well, so they welcome the snow as a protective barrier for their plants. In the 1800s, however, this concept was relatively new and frequently reported about in local newspapers.

On March 7, 1858, there was a large snowstorm near Market Weighton. The Yorkshire newspapers contained a story in relation to this storm in which a woman became trapped beneath the snow. The story recalls that a woman was overtaken by the snow already fallen outside and was then gradually snowed into her position underneath a solid blanket of white. She was unable to move and was trapped with only a small breathing place near her head. The woman was hidden for two days until a man traveling across the moor spotted a woman's bonnet on top of

the snow and went over to investigate. Much to his surprise, he found that a living woman was beneath the bonnet.

This story is similar to the story of Elizabeth Woodcock. In the winter of 1799, Elizabeth was traveling from Cambridge to her home in a neighboring village. She is said to have dismounted for a few minutes during which the horse ran off without her. She continued on her way back to her house until she grew tired and sat down under a thicket. It started to snow, but Elizabeth was too exhausted to rise from her position. By the time morning came, two feet of snow had accumulated above Elizabeth's head. There was very little that she could do to help her situation. However, she found a twig and tied her handkerchief at the top of it. She then pushed the twig and handkerchief, acting as a signal, through the snow above her head. Night and day passed and Elizabeth was still trapped beneath the snow. She was unable to move and had nothing to eat, but she was able to hear church bells and sounds from the nearby village, which gave her a sense of time and kept her sane. For four whole days Elizabeth remained trapped under the snow.

On the fifth day the snow began to thaw, but Elizabeth, even weaker than before, was unable to remove herself from her position. It wasn't until she had been under the snow for eight days that her handkerchief signal was spotted by a villager. By this time, many other villagers had been wondering where Elizabeth had gone since she was not at home and hadn't been seen around town. The villager who spotted the handkerchief approached the spot in which it was and stooped down to

say, "Are you there, Elizabeth Woodcock?" She had just enough strength to reply, "Dear John Stittle, I know your voice. For God's sake, help me out!" John Stittle did just that. He was able to help Elizabeth get out from underneath the snow and helped her return to her home. Unfortunately, Elizabeth passed away half a year after the incident from mismanagement of frostbitten toes. However, it is fully believed that no one, unless fully surrounded in snow, could live eight days and nights in such a place without any food.

Interestingly, though these two women wouldn't have needed saving if it weren't for the snow, the snow is also what saved them. The snow kept the women warm enough under its protective barriers, so that the women were able to live in extreme conditions. After reading these stories, I remembered a documentary I had watched in middle school about Otzi the Iceman in which snow is given credit for being an excellent preserver for the body of a mummy.

Otzi was discovered in September 1991 by two hikers. These hikers spotted a frozen body within the mountains in between Austria and Italy. The body turned out to be over 5,300 years old and the oldest frozen mummy ever found. The body was taken to Austria, where scientists were able to analyze him. Multiple investigations began at the site of Otzi's discovery. After many stories about Otzi's life and cause of death, the mystery was finally said to be solved in June 2001. A report stated that Otzi was attacked and shot with a stone arrowhead that embedded itself in his shoulder while Otzi fled. Otzi reached the top of the mountain and was exhausted and bleeding heav-

ily. Unable to go any further, Otzi lay down and died. However, the most recent theory suggests that Otzi's scene of discovery was not that of a murder but was actually a burial sight. Facts such as the pollen in Otzi's gut and the pollen found in the ice support the theory that Otzi died prior to his journey up the mountain and was later carried up the mountain for burial. This theory, like the other theories about Otzi's life and death, has its flaws and cannot be proven to be completely true.

Although the details about Otzi are not yet figured out, it is fact that the reason his body was so well-preserved is due to the amount of ice and snow he was found in. The environment in which Otzi's dead body last rested and the environment in which he stayed for many years allowed for it to stay very well-preserved, even when it was discovered thousands of years after his death.

In all of these stories, the snow is the central force that protects and preserves each individual. It appears that the snow is a precautionary measure that shields everything from the approaching cold, so when those snowflakes begin to fall and your family gathers to look out the window, remember that you might owe a bit of thanks to the snow for the safety it is trying to bring. Think of the snow not as a burden to shovel or maneuver through, but rather as a great barrier that keeps you safe and guarded. Just remember when my twentieth birthday rolls around on March 7, especially if it happens to bring a snowstorm with it, to please check outside for bonnets!

To read other articles by Lydia visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Junior Year

A leader through the ages

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

In many cultures, the idea of a birthday is an important one. Not only is it a time to celebrate bringing a child into this world, but it is also a time to celebrate the people who have come before us. Birthdays are often seen as a bridge between the past and the present. The date is important not only because it is distinctly yours, but also because it simultaneously belongs to the great figures that came before you.

My quest to understand the importance of my own birthday began a while ago. As a child, I have no memory of when the idea of my birthday became important. In my tiny little mind it was always just a day when people who were much taller, bigger, and smarter gathered in large groups to give me shiny gifts. I never had room to complain. There was always something sweet for me, like a brand new scooter that gave me the freedom to cruise down my driveway at Mach 5. It was the source of countless high-speed adventures and skinned knees for me, and many breathless prayers for my mom. Then there was the miniature chemistry kit that came with a tiny microscope and different anomalies trapped in slides of glass. I spent

so many afternoons just lying on the green shag rug of our living room scanning everything from camel fur to preserved mold for the tiniest, most minute details. Then, of course, there were the parties themselves.

While it was tradition for me to receive one large gift from my entire family (like a scooter), my family didn't have a ton of money when I was growing up. We never went to a play land or mini golf course to celebrate like many of my friends did. Instead, my parents kept the party at our home. They used to spend hours with sheets of scrap wood and permanent markers, turning pieces of dead trees into everything from targets for footballs, to cork boards for bean bag tosses, to sweet interactive puzzles. My parties were the envy of my friends; everyone wanted to see what my parents would come up with next and how far we could stretch the resources of an inch into fun times that stretched a league or more. In this way, my birthdays were a celebration of the present. They were times when my family could gather, and although I didn't know it at the time, they were times when ripping open a myriad of colorful boxes meant a whole lot more than I thought it did.

As time went on, I started to realize that March 31 had a little bit

of significance outside of the strange gatherings of people. At some point along the way I realized that we were gathering together to celebrate the fact that I had survived another year on this planet (a fact that astonished some of my family members, especially given my penchant for emergency room visits). However, it wasn't until I learned about someone else who shared my birthday that I began to understand that it was an event meant to connect me with others.

This is when I had the chance to go to thebookofdays.com and see who else throughout history shared the same date of birth as me. I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised to find that I shared March 31 with one of American History's greatest and most controversial leaders. While my birthday is some time from now, it is my wish, (and hopefully my gift) that this man who shares something with me shall not be forgotten. You know the date, but now here is a little bit about the man himself.

John C. Calhoun was a titan of states craft and American politics. The son of Irish immigrants, John C. Calhoun rose to power in South Carolina in the early 1800s and became the Vice President for James Monroe. He was renowned as a powerful voice for his state and the people that he called kin. He, along with other Southern Politicians like Henry Clay, helped lead a resurgence of southern politics.

Despite these fantastic accomplish-

ments, what make Calhoun a controversial figure are the disputes that he had with President Andrew Jackson. Of these arguments that he had with the president, one dispute stands head and shoulders above the rest: the role of state sovereignty and how it conflicted with the wishes of the government. That's right, before anyone suited up in blue or grey, before anyone thought about brother fighting brother, John C. Calhoun was raising hell in the Senate about the needs of the people.

What's shocking to me is that, at a time when the idea of the Confederacy was a distant storm cloud on the horizon and the Civil War was a future event in the annals of history, this man was raising Cain. While some people would see sharing the same birthday as this man as something negative, I can't help but see it as something amazing for two reasons. One, despite whatever else Calhoun did in his lifetime, he was still a great leader. People still looked

to him for wisdom and expertise; they trusted him with their hopes and dreams, their fears and ambitions. Love him or hate him, Calhoun was a force to be reckoned with in his time. Two, Calhoun is sort of forgotten by history teachers and students. He becomes just one more figure that is glossed over when compared to Lincoln, Douglas, and Lee. It's moments like this, a cursory search of thebookofdays.com, that give me the chance to rediscover one of America's early political giants.

Hopefully this has been a testament as to why our birthdays are important, and also an incentive for you to go and learn a little bit more about what happened on the day you were born. Hopefully, you will discover something different about yourself, history, or the world around you. I'm Kyle Ott. Won't you sit and read for a while?

To read other articles by Kyle visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior Year

Leaving a Literary Legacy

Nicole Jones
MSM Class of 2014

Anyone familiar with the world of poetry, who has studied the German language, or who has visited the Goethe-Institut in Washington, D.C. has probably heard the name Johanne Wolfgang von Goethe. His German works are the equivalent to Shakespeare's literary contributions. However, who among you is familiar with the name Karl Theodor Körner? I'm sure very few hands just went up, if any at all.

An acquaintance of Goethe's, Körner was born in Dresden, Germany in 1791, and, like myself, his birthday is September 23. Though once a sickly youth, Körner soon grew to be quite the symbol of manliness becoming adept at music, dancing, fencing, and horsemanship. (Being of German heritage and sharing a fondness for literature and horses myself, it's hard not to draw parallels. Perhaps there's something to be said for sharing a birthday.)

A rather relatable character, Körner did not desire to study law as his father wished him to. Instead, Körner went to Freiberg where he studied mining and geology. Like any indecisive youngster, Körner discovered that mining was not what he wanted to do with his life and in 1810 he transferred to Leipzig and from Leipzig to the University of Berlin, where he remained and published his first set of poems, *Die Knospen*,

"The Buds."

And dare I lay my offering at thy shrine,

And dare my muse with mingled hope and fear

Breathe all her secret longings in thine ear?

The humble tribute wilt thou not decline?

(An excerpt from "With the Buds.")

From Berlin, Körner made his way to Vienna, where his poetic contributions began to flourish. His poems were increasingly more patriotic, so when the drums of war began beating in 1813, it was only natural for Körner to answer their call.

The storm is out; the land is roused;
Where is the coward who sits well housed?

Fire on thee, boy, disguised in curls,
Behind the stove, 'mong gluttons and girls!

A graceless, worthless wight thou must be

No German maid desires thee,
No German song inspires thee,
No German Rhine-wine fires thee.

Forth in the van,

Man by man,

Swing the battle-sword who can!

(An excerpt from "Man and Boys.")

The Napoleonic Wars were a time of great German patriotism when Friedrich Wilhelm III, King of Prus-

sia, gathered the many small Germanic nations under one flag to rise against French occupation. Literary figures like Körner were an integral tool in developing a united German identity. Now it was time for Körner to participate directly in the battlefield as a lieutenant of the Lützow Free Corp. That is not to say that the war stopped his literary efforts. On August 26, 1813, mere hours before his death, Körner wrote a final patriotic piece titled, "The Song of the Sword," which he read aloud to his companions:

Sword, on my left side gleaming

What means thy bright eye's beam-

ing?

It makes my spirit dance

To see thy friendly glance.

Hurrab!

"A valiant rider bears me;

A free-born German wears me:

That makes my eye so bright;

That is the sword's delight."

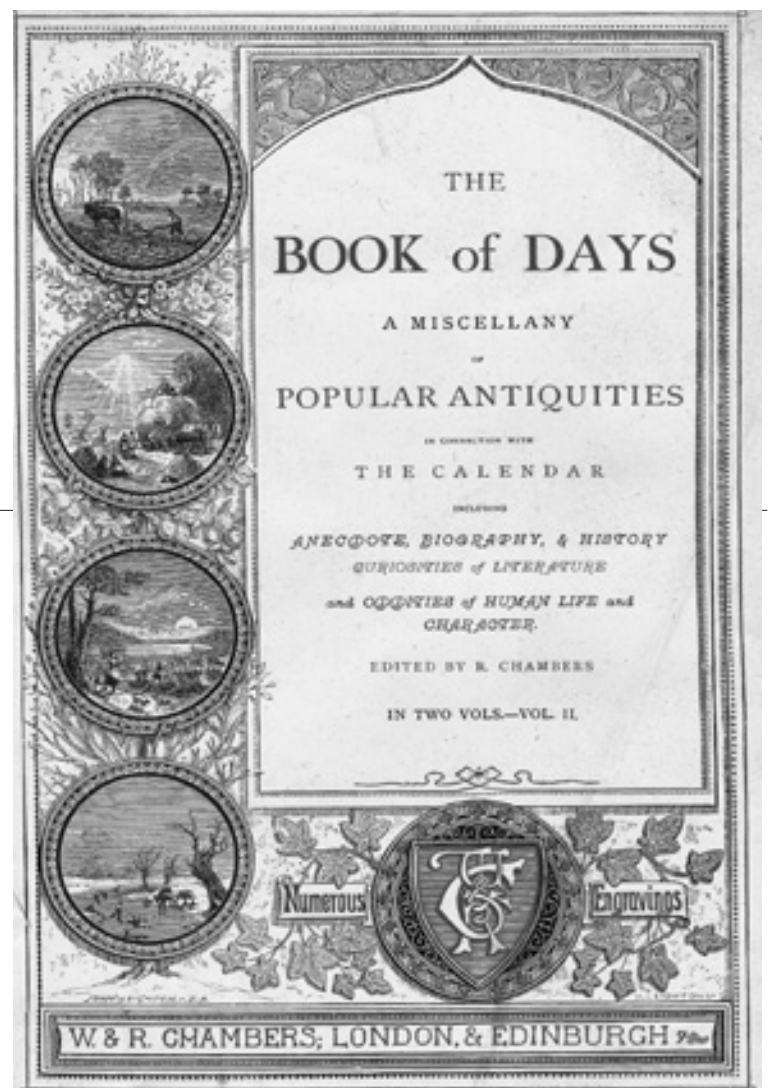
Hurrab!

The Prussian cavalry pursued enemy lines into a thicket of woods and directly into the line of fire. Sharpshooters hidden in the brush showered the cavalry with bullets. One of them found its mark through the neck of Körner's horse and continued through the abdomen and backbone of the rider. Körner's comrades carried him to a quiet spot in the woods, but he never regained consciousness after the delivery of this mortal wound. He passed away minutes later.

The deep wound burns, -- my parched lips coldly quiver; --

I feel, by my faint heart's unsteady beating,

That the last pulse of my young life



is fleeting, --
God, to thy hands my spirit I deliver!
How sounds of coming death all harshly sever
The fair dream-music, whose bright forms were meeting!
Yet, courage! what hath give my heart true greeting,
I shall yet keep to dwell with me forever!
An all towards which my worship here ascended,
What my hot youth, with fieriest zeal defended,
Now viewed in Freedom, --once with Love all blended,
I see, as a light seraph, o'er me flying, --
And whilst each fainting sense is slowly dying,
It wafts sweet airs with Heaven's morn-frao-rance sighing!
(“Leave-Taking from Life”)

It seems fanciful that such a romantic character existed, living and dying in the very dramatic fashion in

which he once wrote. Though few people now know his name, Körner was once very popular and successful throughout the Germanic states. His poems, prose, dramas, and tragedies gained recognition in the Austrian capital, and he was appointed poet of the Court Theatre. When he joined the cavalry, his fellow soldiers already knew his name and revered him for his works.

Körner's legacy illuminates the power of words. They can quite literally bring together countries or tear them apart. They can build a reputation or destroy one. I think this is a lesson all of us can apply in our daily actions. Though we might not have the opportunity to say, gather the Germanic states into a unified country, we do have the opportunity to say a kind word to someone. When is a better time to take advantage of that opportunity than this fresh New Year?

To read other articles by Nicole visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

COMMUNITY NOTES

BSA Venture Crew 76 gets new leadership

Mark Greathouse

As Boy Scout Venture Crew 76 chartered by Camp Eder in Fairfield gets ready to begin its fourth year of operation, it welcomes Mr. Gene Blinn as the new adult Crew Advisor. Area residents might be familiar with the Venture Crew by virtue of the 35-foot climbing wall featured at the last three Pippinfests and furnished by Appalachian Outdoor School.

Blinn has been contributing to Scouting in the Fairfield area for several years, most notably as past

Scoutmaster of Troop 76 chartered by the Fairfield Lion's Club. His son, Andrew is an Eagle Scout, Fairfield HS graduate, and sophomore at Penn State University. Blinn's daughters, Abby and Lydia, are Fairfield HS students and Venture Crew 76 members.

Blinn replaces Mr. Mark Greathouse in the Crew Advisor role. Greathouse has a 25-year history with Scouting with Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Explorer Posts, and Venture Crew. Himself an Eagle Scout, his teen sons Michael (Grove City College) and Matt (HS senior) are both Eagle Scouts

and Venture Crew members. As Blinn and Greathouse will attest, Scouting is often a family affair.

"I have enjoyed the opportunity to help grow the Venture Crew here in Fairfield," notes Greathouse. "We've been blessed with a great group of energetic young men and women of good character sharing an enthusiasm for high adventure and teamwork. I thank the parents for their great support and especially thank my wife Carolyn." Greathouse will be continuing to serve as a Crew associate advisor. He also serves as a member of the Fairfield Area School Board.

He maintains an active web blog ministry, teaches business at Harrisburg Area Community College Gettysburg Campus, is active with the Gettysburg Adams Chamber, and holds board and executive positions with several businesses.

The 2013 Venture Crew president is Ms. Emily Whitcomb, a Fairfield HS student; while Mr. Jacob Arbutus (Eagle Scout and a recent Fairfield HS grad) is vice president; Ms. Abby Blinn serves as secretary; and Ms. Savannah Bollinger as treasurer (Girl Scout Gold Award and also a Crew past president).

Venture Crew is open to young men and women ages 14 to 21.

Venturing is a youth-led organization, and members have the opportunity to learn team and leadership skills and to share experiences that will serve them throughout their lives. Activities aimed at bolstering self-esteem and cooperation skills include camping, kayaking, rock climbing, bicycling, shooting, zip lining, and more. Like Scouting, Venture Crew has recognitions and rank advancements, healthy competitions, service projects, and opportunities to build lasting friendships. To learn more about Venturing and to join, call Battlefield District Executive Mr. John Blasius at 717-827-4571.

Tony Little honored

Lynn Taylet

Mother Seton School

When Tony Little accepted an award as Distinguished Volunteer by the Association of Fundraising Professionals on November 8 at Hollow Creek Golf Club, he did so on behalf of his siblings and especially his deceased parents, Jack and Shirley. "My first thought when I heard that Mother Seton School was nominating me was, 'Wow, this would make Mom and Dad proud,'" Little

said. Little, who is one-half of the real estate team Little-Moore, was honored for his work benefitting Mother Seton School through the annual Angels Above Alumni Golf Tournament that he and his siblings coordinate. The sixth event was recently held this past October and raised \$7800.

The tournament began as a promise made to his dying father that Tony and his family would do something to repay the generosity shown the Littles when they sent their six children to MSS in the

1970s and 1980s. Tony, a graduate of MSS in 1978, followed through with that commitment and launched the golf tournament as a means to raise money for the Jack and Shirley Little Scholarship Fund at Mother Seton School. To date, the tournament has raised over \$50,000 for the fund and helped numerous families afford the cost of tuition to MSS. "We want to continue to help Mother Seton School grow and thrive, and not have money be an issue (for families who wish to enroll their children)," he said.

"Tony and his entire family are great examples of living the values of our school's founder, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: faithful, self-sacrificing, and concerned about the Christian education of youth," said MSS principal Sister Joanne Goecke, D.C. "We are proud of them and grateful to them for what they have done for the school community." Jennifer Buchheister, Director of Advance-



The Little family donated \$7,800 towards the Mother Seton School scholarship named for their parents, Jack and Shirley Little. The donation came from proceeds from the annual Angels Above Golf Tournament that the family hosts. From left to right: Tony Little, Sr. JoAnne Goecke, D.C. (Principal), Pam Little, Bolin Little, Ed Little, Kim Bolin, and Mary Lou Little.

ment at Mother Seton School, agrees. "When the call for nominations came in, Tony was the first person to come to mind," she said. "Putting on an event such as

the golf tournament takes enormous effort, but Tony and his siblings do it with joy. Their faithfulness to their parents' wish is an inspiration."

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Season's Greetings

During the year, in the rush of events, we tend to overlook the important friendships that are the true basis of business relationships. One of the great pleasures of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to exchange cordial greetings with those whose friendship and goodwill we value so highly. In this spirit it is our pleasure to say "Thank You" and extend our sincere appreciation for the very pleasant association we enjoy with you. May a bright and prosperous New Year bring happiness to you and to yours.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Frederick County Master Gardener 2014 Training Class Forming Now!

If you love plants—growing them, studying them, talking about them—you can put your passion for plants to good use and make new friends by becoming a Master Gardener! The Master Gardener program turns avid (and aspiring) gardeners into expert gardeners who share their knowledge through community greening efforts, plant clinics, and a variety of outreach programs.

An important part of being a Master Gardener is contributing to the community. In their first year, Master Gardeners volunteer 40 hours to educate the people of Frederick Coun-

ty about effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities. Volunteer opportunities are extensive. Master Gardeners host "Ask a Master Gardener" Plant Clinics at The West Frederick Farmer's Market - identifying plants, plant diseases, and insects found in and around homes. They also share environmentally beneficial landscaping methods through the Bay-Wise program, by hosting a booth at the Great Frederick Fair, and by speaking to community groups. They offer gardening seminars to the public in the Spring and Fall. Master Gardeners

love to share gardening ideas through the Grow It - Eat It program. Master Gardeners write articles for local newspapers, and support greening efforts throughout the region.

Frederick County Master Gardeners base their knowledge on their own experience as gardeners, as well as both classroom and hands-on training provided by the University of Maryland Extension horticultural educators. Master Gardeners continue to receive training at monthly meetings, statewide training programs organized by the Home and Garden Information Center, and on field trips.

Training Classes for 2014 begin February 4, 2014 and run through the end of April. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. until noon, with a few longer meetings. Instructors are University of Maryland professionals, Master Gardeners, and other experts in their fields.

If all this sounds appealing and you

are a Frederick County resident, visit the Master Gardeners website at www.frederick.umd.edu/MG for more information. Applicants from other counties may inquire in mid-January. To enroll, contact Susan Trice at 301-600-1596 or email at stt@umd.edu as soon as possible to complete the application process.

Coats4Kids

The Holiday season will be a little warmer for over 180 area children thanks in part to The Good Samaritan Lodge#336 in Gettysburg. The Freemason's annual Coats4Kids program purchased dozens of new winter coats for needy children throughout Adams County.

Every child received a coat in their size. The lodge worked with Adams County W.I.C., the Gettysburg United Methodist Church's 'Clothing Closet' and St Francis Catholic Church. Each of those organizations provided the Lodge with the number and the sizes of the coats needed. The masons of Good Samaritan Lodge used their own funds to purchase every winter coat that's requested. The

coats were then given to each organization to distribute throughout Adams County.

This is the second year that the Good Samaritan Lodge conducted their Coats4Kids Charity. While the masons say they're proud of the program, they also expressed concern that the number of needy kids seems to have increased this year.

"Hopefully, it's because more people heard of the program and not because they're more kids in need of the program," said Coats4Kids coordinator, Tres Sapp. "Either way, we're happy to help."

Sapp said, "It warms my heart to know that we're helping keep a child warm, especially this time of year. Charity is what the holidays and freemasonry are all about. So for us, this program is the perfect fit."

All the coats were purchased at the Old Navy store in Gettysburg. Sapp said, "All the money we raised here in Adams County, stayed here in Adams County. Old Navy came through big time this year. We appreciate their help."

Most of funds the masons used to fund this project, were raised from the Good Samaritan Lodge's annual Golf tournament, held at the Mountainview Golf Course in June.

According to Sapp, "The Good Samaritan Lodge has been active in the community for 153 years. And when I say 'active,' I mean it. Our fraternity is dedicated to service, and I have no doubt that we'll do the same for another 150 years."

In addition to the annual Coats4Kids Program the lodge also provides scholarships to Adams County High school students.

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ARTS AND FESTIVALS

Nicaragua night and auction

Jeffrey Riou
Associate Director
Center for Public Service
Gettysburg College

Project Gettysburg- León (PGL) will hold its annual Nicaragua Night and Auction on Saturday, January 18 at Gettysburg College's Hauser Field House. Doors open at 5 p.m. A chili dinner will be served. PGL functions under the auspices of Gettysburg College's Center for Public Service.

The auction is PGL's main fundraiser of the year to support grassroots development projects in the Department of León, Nicaragua. Auction items include getaway vacations, signature meals, artwork, themed baskets, and a wide variety of services. Last year's event grossed \$50,000 and the goal for this year is \$55,000, according to auction chair Joyce Ettinger.

PGL began its relationship in 1985 with León, Nicaragua's second largest city, which in 1989 became a sister city of the Borough of Gettysburg. Since

then, more than 700 people from Gettysburg and León have visited each other's communities. PGL has worked with urban and rural communities on dozens of sustainable projects such as health centers, maternity centers, potable water systems, school and house building, rural electrification, and solar ovens and food driers.

In the past year, PGL has worked with the Young Growers Alliance of Adams County to train extension agents in Talolinga. Also, PGL organized a delegation to Nicaragua that included four Gettysburg Area and Upper Adams art teachers working to develop reciprocal art programs in Gettysburg and León. According to PGL spokesman Karl Mattson, the teachers are "hard at work incorporating their experience into the local public school art scene, involving their pupils in all kinds of exchange art, as well as fund-raising for destitute classrooms in Nicaragua."

This year PGL also provided teacher and material support for a school PGL built last year in Mon-



te Horet, and underwrote staff costs for "Las Tias", an organization working with at-risk youth and street children. In October, PGL organized its annual "Salsa on the Square," a Gettysburg celebration

of Latino heritage that drew more than 1,200 people.

Tickets can be purchased and tax-deductible auction items donated at the PGL auction website: www.gettysburg-leon.org/annual-auction.

Tickets are \$15 and children under 5 are free. Tables of 10 may be purchased. Those wishing to advertise in the auction booklet, read by approximately 600 auction attendees, can also do that at the same website.

Majestic outlook!

Jean Grubeský

The Majestic Theater is gearing up for a great spring season by adding two new shows which include the smash Off-Broadway spoof, "Forbidden Broadway" on Friday, January 10th at 7:30 pm. A rave with critics and audiences alike, Forbidden Broadway has people of all ages rolling in the aisles. The New York Times calls it "absolutely hilarious," and Time Magazine named it "one of the year's 10 best." Where else but at Forbidden Broadway can you see over 30 classic and current Broadway shows in 90 minutes with satirical vignettes of Grease, Wicked, Phantom, Les Mis, The Producers, and The Lion King, and more!

The second addition includes, Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter Kathy Mattea on Friday March 28th at 7:30 pm. Celebrate the Appalachian culture of Kathy's native West Virginia, alongside some of her noted hits like "Goin' Gone",

"Eighteen Wheels and a Dozen Roses", "Come From the Heart" and "Burnin' Old Memories".

And for children the season continues with two huge stage shows that are based on PBS KIDS TV shows! Dinosaur Train Live! is a journey back to Mesozoic when dinosaurs roamed the earth on January 23rd and Sid the Science Kid Live!, featuring Sid, May, Gabriela and Gerald on April 9th. These shows are made possible by an anonymous local donor.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us on February 14th with Glen Burtnik's "Summer of Love" as they recreate the iconic rock music from the period of time between the 1967 release of The Beatles revolutionary album Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and the famous Woodstock Festival in 1969. The concert includes music by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Dylan, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, Santana, Cros-

by, Stills, Nash and Young, Jefferson Airplane, and many more and also features Marc Rubinstein's Pig Light Show which is recognized as one of the most famous psychedelic light shows in rock history.

Returning on March 13, 2014 with their hilarious comedy team, The Church Basement Ladies present a brand new show "A Mighty Fortress Is Our Basement". The year is 1960 and a reformation is underway. The Church Basement Ladies are once again required to face change head-on. Against the changing tide, they stand like "a bulwark never failing" in their faith and friendships with great new songs and more lessons reluctantly learned!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with "Celtic Nights - The Emigrants Bridge" on March 16th. In this glittering new production, six of Ireland's most prominent vocal talents are complimented by seven of its most accomplished step dancers, creating an exhilarating picture of a proud people who dared to dream big and doggedly carved out a home in the New World. Created by Gael-force Dance, this show will transport you in time through traditional ballads and vivid choreography.

Our season finale is a Mother's Day Celebration on May 12th as "Judy Collins" presents her unique blend of interpretative folksongs and contemporary themes. Her impressive career has spanned more than 50 years. In 1961, Judy Collins released her first album, A Maid of Constant Sorrow, at the age of 22 and began a thirty-five year association with Jac-

Holzman and Elektra Records. She interpreted the songs of fellow artists - particularly the social poets of the time such as Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan. Now in her early seventies, Miss Collins is still writing, performing, and nurturing fresh talent and continues to create music of hope and healing that lights up the world and speaks to the heart.

To purchase tickets, call 717-337-8200, or stop by the Box Office, 25

Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday from Noon until 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Pre-show Dinners available by calling 717-259-9535.

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Remembering Spencer Watson

Caroline King
MSM Class of 2015

This month, I was informed of a much more somber occasion in the art community. It is with a heavy heart that I inform the readers of the death of Spence Watson, a local playwright, actor, and poet. I have been given the honor of writing about this devoted member of the Thurmont Thespians who passed away unexpectedly in the beginning of December. Spence Watson was a devoted husband, father, brother, and grandfather. The entire community will feel the loss of such a good man and a devoted teacher of the theatrical arts.

Watson was an active member of the Thurmont Thespians, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing plays to the community and teaching teens and children about the theater. Founded originally by his wife, Beth, Thurmont Thespians has grown in recent years. Watson was one of founding members and worked hard in his life time to help the Thurmont Thespians to grow into a successful theatrical group based on the principles of bringing a love of theater in young adults in children by being no cost to teens and children in the summer, giving everyone who auditions and attends rehearsals an onstage role, and helping the actors learn about a local charity. Watson made an impact on all the young actors' lives he touched, as well as those who attended the plays he helped put into production. He truly believed in the principle of teaching children about the theater as well as teaching them the importance of charity. Working together with St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thurmont, the Thurmont Thespians are able to give all of the profits from the performances to charity, setting an example not only for their actors and actresses but also for the community at large.

Watson's love of theater shone in everything he did. He put much time and effort into the theater group, being heavily involved in each project and performance the

group put on. He was not only the Treasurer of the Thurmont Thespians, but he also designed the lighting for each show and designed and constructed each set used in the plays. Watson maintained his wife's fervent belief that every child should have the opportunity to learn how to participate in good theater. Watson supported his wife in her teaching of all aspects of theater to children and assisted in getting the children fully involved. He was a director, playwright, and actor who dedicated his life to this perusal of the theater, something he and his wife enjoyed together.

Beth and Spence Watson had been performing together for 30 years. They have appeared in numerous local and regional productions since, including "Same Time, Next Year," "Love Letters," "On Golden Pond," "Not Now, Darling," "It Runs In the Family," and "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running." Watson was awarded Outstanding Actor in the 2003 Maryland State Community Theatre Festival for his performance in "Below the Belt" and as Tennessee Williams in the 2009 Pennsylvania Association of Community Theatres State Festival. Together, the Watsons have also received a First Place Award for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Ensemble Acting in the 2007 Pennsylvania Association of Community Theatres State Festival in the Blue Ridge Theatre Guild's production of "I'm Herbert." Their production also finished in Third Place in the Eastern States Theatre Association Regional Competition in 2007.

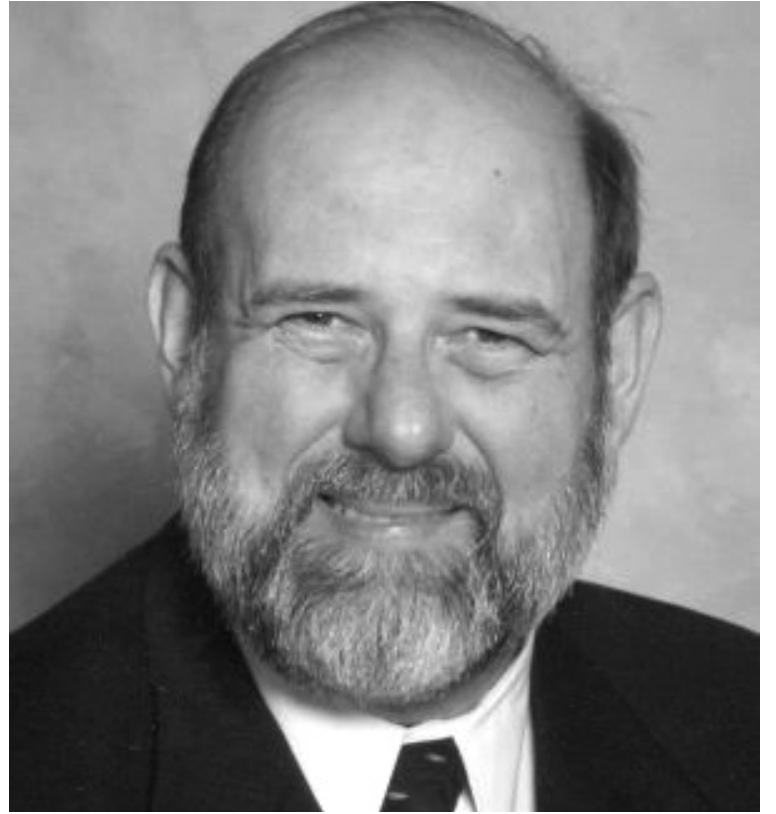
Watson recently received an Outstanding Performance acting award for his portrayal of Hanrahan in "Below the Belt" by Adjudicators Marian Myles of North Carolina, and Charla Rowe of the Tantallon Community Players in Fort Washington, MD. Just before his death, Watson finished his latest play, "The Adams-Jefferson Letters," which was set to premier January 10, 11 at St. John's Lutheran Church. This play was to feature Watson himself as President John

Adams, and a series of letters between Adams and Jefferson explaining topics of religion, education, and philosophy in that era. The play exists in writing, but due to this tragic loss, the play will be cancelled. The group hopes to reschedule and will announce the new performance dates if that is the case.

Watson was an inspiration to many, and after his passing the Thurmont Thespian Facebook page was flooded with notes and comments from individuals whose lives he touched. There were things like, "He was an inspiration to the community," and, "He will be missed by every individual he interacted with," as well as a link to his obituary and a touching five minute video featuring pictures of Watson at various stages throughout his life. The art community has truly lost a shining star with his passing, but his legacy lives on with the Thurmont Thespians and all who attended his plays, as well as with his wife, children, and grandchildren. The viewing for Spence Watson was held at Stouffer's Funeral Home on Thursday, December 5th from 2-4 pm, and 6-8 pm, with the funeral service being held on Friday, December 6th at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thurmont, at 11 a.m.

The Emmitsburg News Journal itself was close with Watson, having run several articles (all available on www.emmitsburg.net) featuring the Thurmont Thespians. Watson was committed to the organization he co-founded, making sure they had press coverage and exposure. This is just another example of his dedication to his theatrical work and love of theater and the organization.

In fact, if there were one word to describe Watson, apart from perhaps inspirational and talented, dedicated would be that word. With the countless hours Watson put in to each performance and supporting the Thurmont Thespians, he also was devoted to the theater in general, focusing on each of his own projects with a clear-minded dedicated spirit. He even went so far as to interview a firsthand witness to Bessie Darling's murder at length after he moved to the Thur-



mont area in 1997 in order to properly put on this local Thurmont story, directed by his wife. He interviewed Maizie Willard and taped the interviews, documenting the record of her memories. The Watsons went back several times and taped each time so their records are complete, all in the name of thoroughness for the performance. Watson's dedication to his plays was inspirational to everyone who experienced it, and he was committed to involving the whole community. In addition to wanting to teach children and teens about theater, many plays hosted open auditions to the community at large, including "Bessie Darling." The play itself called for one of the largest number of actors and actresses, upwards of forty members of the community. This kind of high shooting aspirations to bring the joy of theater into as many people's lives as possible really shows what kind of organization the Thurmont Thespians is, and how much it means to all the members involved. Watson dedicated his life to bringing theater to the community and following in his wife's belief in teaching children about theater and installing a love of the theater in them and the community.

Spence Watson leaves behind a legacy in every actor and actress he inspired to come to the stage, local or otherwise. In every play he has written, preformed in, researched, set up, directed, lighted, advertised, or produced, he has touched the lives of the community and those around him. He truly will be missed. The theatrical community has suffered a great loss with the passing of this man who was so dedicated to this passion. His family supported his passion to the end, asking that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations to be made to Thurmont Thespians, the organization he devoted so much of his life to. A poet, a playwright, a director, and an actor, Spence Watson was one of those rare types of men who lived his life with a passion, dedicated to the art of performing and the theatrical arts.

If you would like to find out more about the man Spence Watson was, the people's lives he touched, and ways to continue his legacy and support the organization he gave so much for, you can visit the Thurmont Thespians web page at <http://www.thurmonththespians.org> or their Facebook page at <http://www.thurmonththespians.org>.

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CREATIVE WRITING

Business in the bigger picture

Alexandra Tyminski
MSM Class of 2015

The owner of the paper sat all of us writers down and asked, "What does forex mean?"

Being the business major that I am, I bit my tongue, eager to answer the question. However, my eagerness to answer the question did not quite equal the actual answer. What was that about forex that my professor talked about in Intro to Business last semester?

"It means foreign exchange," he said.

Ah ha! Foreign exchange, that's what it means! Of course, I thought to myself, the foreign exchange market.

He began to ask us some more questions about business terms and how they relate to the newspaper. Soon, I began to see all the ties between good business and a good newspaper. But, then I began to laugh to myself as my thoughts wandered. I remembered thinking back to when I first declared myself a business major. It seems like so long ago, but as I prepare myself for my final year of college, I'm starting to see how essential business has become in every part of my life, including writing.

"I want you to write an article about business," he said. He loved to challenge us in positive ways that pushed our writing to exceed not only our limits, but our imagination. What a great businessman, a true leader.

"Can you do that?" he asked me, wide-eyed.

"Yes, yes, I can do that!" I said in a very ecstatic manner. Although I had many ideas about what to write, I was still a bit nervous about this article.

We left the meeting and walked down the library steps towards his car. A few other writers and I grabbed some newspapers and parted ways with stacks in hand to distribute throughout campus. As I headed towards the library, I started to get a little anxious about what to write.

"Business? Writing?" I said to myself out loud while chuckling. In my head, I thought it would

be easy because I was a business major. I knew enough about business to write something interesting about it. However, I was also a creative writer. So, I questioned myself, how does that work?

As I approached the library, I picked my heavy and tired legs up the steep steps once again. When I found myself inside the two large doors, I started to untangle the little plastic strand holding the stack of papers together. After taking the strand off, I smoothed my hand over the firmly pressed pieces of paper. I picked one up, looked to my right and my left, and quickly got a smell of the fine black ink. While rearranging the papers into an orderly fashion on the library counter, a random student passed by. I smiled, she smiled, and that seemed like the end of our conversation. But, something inside of me struck an even more verbal confrontation.

"Hey, do you want to take a newspaper? I write for them, and I promise the rest of the paper has some guaranteed excellent articles!" I smiled, hoping that she didn't think this was some type of sales pitch. However, in business, sales pitches are necessary when selling something essential to a client.

Her dark brown eyebrows squinted together and the corner of her lips began to perk up.

"Sure thing!" she said and grabbed the paper from my hand. She seemed like she was in a rush.

Before I could even grasp what I was saying, the words came out of my mouth and I sounded more professional than ever before: "Thanks! Glad you will read it. It was nice doing business with you!" I said back to the brown-haired girl.

Leaving the library, I once again found myself chuckling, but this time at my business comment to that girl and the fact that my next article was to be about business. Ironic, right?

...

Business is defined in the dictionary as "the purchase and sale of goods in an attempt to make

a profit." Business can also be defined as "an occupation, profession or trade." It can also mean, "a person, partnership, or corporation engaged in commerce, manufacturing, or a service; profit-seeking enterprise or concern."

Writing is something I consider to be my business. The newspaper is my business. I'm a writer, for this is my occupation. Our readers and advertisers help sustain the newspaper. I am also a person seeking to provide a service. My service is writing. Through my creative articles, I hope to bring joy to my readers. If I succeed, this is my biggest profit of all.

In the business world, business is about customer relationship management, providing accurate information about companies to investors or advertisers, managing employees, being loyal to customers, entertaining the purchaser with something of value, gaining profit, and maintaining high value in the business.

After analyzing the general business world and the business in my writing, I saw a bigger picture about business. It then raised questions about business that maybe no one really knows the answers to.

Here is my analysis on Business in the bigger picture:

The life that we live is one giant business. It is filled with opportunities and challenges. When these opportunities are grasped and challenges are overcome, the profit we gain at the end is bigger capital than we can ever measure. Business in the bigger picture is the business of life. The life lessons that are immeasurable capital. In the real business world, not everyone can really win because there are business competitors. Without business competitors, businesses would lack strong value and great customer service. The competition drives success and innovation. However, in the business of life, everyone's experiences and lessons are a huge profit. No one can lose when learning from their lessons. It is only an upward rise in their company, or their life.



The Life Business does not have a business logo or a bunch of advertisers, but I would say the supporters of life are enormous. If life were to have a business logo, it would have to have over 7 billion logos because of how many people life serves today.

Business in the Bigger Picture begins and ends in stages of people's lives. It goes from child to grandpa, first job to retirement, and a whole lot of lessons learned along the way.

Life's Business Plan Stage 1: Provide Laughter and Fun

This is the growing stage of the business when young children learn what the business, or life, is all about. They say silly things, tug your hair, smile for no reason, and tell jokes that you wish you thought of before they did. This is the stage in life when the value provided is laughter and fun with a guaranteed smile and warm fuzzies inside for the rest of us.

Life's Business Plan Stage 2: Provide Talent

This is the developing stage of the business where the young become teenagers. They develop their talents and in providing the value of talent, they discover new and guaranteed passions. Soon, these passions will further develop the business and shape the desires of their hearts.

Life's Business Plan Stage 3: Provide Experience

This is the implementing stage of the business plan. Young teenagers go onto college and become college graduates. They are asked by employers to provide examples of experience they have had in a past jobs. They shake the employer's hand, share their experiences, and finish the interview with another handshake. They have just been offered the job. Their provided experience just landed them a whole new set of life experiences.

Life's Business Plan Stage 4: Provide Leadership

A few years down the road, that

once-recent college graduate becomes a married person with a family. He or she leads by example when showing love and comfort to their children. They hold their children's hands so that they can walk without fear. They tuck them into bed at night so they can sleep soundly. These parents provide leadership so that their children are guaranteed a safe and secure home.

Life's Business Plan Stage 5: Provide Wisdom and Relaxation

The end of life's business plan rests in the evaluation stage. After working for so many years, it is time to relax. Retirement sinks in and now it is time for the elders to provide wisdom to the young based on their life lessons. They also provide relaxation to teach others that the goal in life is to live a healthy and happy one. The elders provide wisdom and relaxation so that others can be guaranteed a lesson in how to obtain complete peace. This lesson begins with learning that complete peace in one's business, or life, starts with developing a personal business plan.

We all take part in some type of business; a restaurant, a newspaper, mechanics, large corporations, retail, partnerships, sole proprietorships, and so on. But, it is so easy to forget that each of us are also employees of the personal life we live. Every transaction, or every opportunity, and every challenge is all part of our personal business, our life business. Through writing this article, I've discovered that there are not just a few definitions as to what a business is, but rather there are over 7 billion definitions.

So let me sit you down on this January day and ask you a question: What is your business plan? How do you want to live this life?

To read other creative works by Alexandra Tyminski, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COOKING WITH LOVE

New Year's resolutions

Brooke Hagerty Lurie
Chef/Owner Gunner's Grille at
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Happy New Year to each and every one of you out there! The New Year is traditionally a time to start anew with resolutions abound from the requisite "I'm going to lose weight and get in shape" to the "I'm going to spend less time working and more time with my family". According to studies most resolutions have been abandoned by week three of the New Year which leads me to my question; "What resolution can I make that will last at least through the year if not for a lifetime?" My January 2013 article concentrated on the first resolution to eat better and exercise. This year we will concentrate on the latter, how to spend less time working and more time with the family. In order for this resolution to take flight remember that in order to make something a habit you must do it for twenty seven straight days. So folks, here we go...twenty seven straight days of changing your year and possibly your life.

I might not be able to lighten your work load at the office but I can definitely help to lighten the load at home. And I am not just talking

about the cooking aspect of things; I am talking about the whole kit and caboodle. Of course food is definitely the biggest part of it but so are things like keeping the house looking spic and span and keeping your self-feeling spic and span!

Based on a five-day work week we all have the same twenty four hour day to work with so it is a matter of how we use those twenty four hours. Let's break it down a bit more..... seven hours of sleep, eight hour work day and an hour of commute time take up sixteen hours...how do we use the other eight hours? Wait a minute, who am I kidding? Those sixteen hours are really about eighteen hours, leaving us with just an additional six hours of family and me time. One way we can create the spic and span good feeling for ourselves is to start with a little cardiovascular each morning.

I have recently taken up hula-hooping (stop laughing) and I have found it to be great exercise and my waistline will tell you the same thing. Local sporting goods stores carry a four pound weighted hoop for about \$40. I usually pick up the hoop three days a week and have built myself up to twenty - thirty minutes at a clip. It is a lot harder than you think, so

again please stop laughing. I have coupled the hooping with walking three miles, five days a week (though I must admit I do not always get the five days in). What I have found is that the cardio workout is giving me extra energy so that now most mornings I am doing a little extra cleaning around the house in the mornings, thus giving me the spic and span house we all love to have. So, an extra hour to hour and a half in the mornings have made a huge difference in my physical and psychological well-being.

This gives us approximately four and a half to five hours remaining for family and food! A part of food is the shopping for food. Make your trip to the local market a family affair! Make your list together, clip coupons together and shop together. Remember when you are shopping to stick to the outer limits of the store; produce, fresh meats, poultry and seafood, frozen vegetables and dairy. The interior aisles of the grocery store are laden with processed foods filled with sodium, bad carbohydrates and high fat contents. None of these are good for you in the long-term. Buy fresh as often as possible, frozen when fresh is not available and canned (in most cases) as the last resort. The average time in a grocery store shopping for a family of four is one to one and a half hours once a week. I suggest doing your shopping Wednesday's as it has long



been revered as the day best to find the freshest of foods with the least foot traffic in the store. Use this day for your quick fix dinner by taking advantage of the deli section and salad bar available at most local stores. A nice dinner includes a rotisserie chicken with fresh salad. You can use the leftovers for lunch the next day by putting them in a wrap; add a piece of fruit and you have a well-balanced and filling lunch (a great time saving tip for the mornings is to prepare your lunch the night before).

Another great week night menu is Baked Catfish in parchment paper. This is a meal that takes very little prep time and only about fifteen to twenty minutes of cook time. If you

do not have parchment paper you can use foil (if using foil be sure to spray it with pan spray). Thin slice red potatoes and place in center of paper or foil with a sprinkle of Italian seasoning or your favorite dried herb. Place fish on top of potatoes with a little more seasoning and ½ teaspoon pat of butter. Take a small handful of baby spinach, halved grape tomatoes and place on top of fish. Roll ends up creating a "package", place on a sheet pan and bake at 375 degrees for approximately 15 minutes. Voila, you have a one pan dinner ready in no time with very little clean up.

Don't be afraid to use your crockpot during the day that is what it is designed for to slow cook with no worries all while you are out living your life. One of my favorite crock pot meals is beef stew. Beef Stew is very easy to prepare first thing in the morning. Take ½ inch beef cubes, toss in whole wheat flour and place in bottom of crock pot. Add red potatoes, baby carrots, green beans, mushrooms and/or whatever vegetables you choose. Fill the crock pot ¼ way with beef broth and another ¼ way with red wine. Add your favorite whole fresh herbs to the mix (my personal favorite is rosemary and sage). Cover your pot and cook on medium for 6-8 hours. Increase to high for one hour and serve with a crispy whole grain bread and Caesar salad for a great dinner!

Are you getting the idea? By using a little creativity it is very easy to come up with easy and nutritious dinners with leftovers for the next day's lunch. We have so many resources to pull from in today's world. Television shows, magazines and social media offer so many different ideas to choose from. Pick your favorite parts of similar recipes and make them your own in the New Year. And remember, we all have the same twenty four hours...how you use them is up to you!

As always, if you have an idea for an article or have any questions do not hesitate to contact me anytime at brooke@gunnersgrille.com or 410.756.1080.

From all of us at Gunner's Grille at Taneytown we wish you all the safest and happiest for the New Year!

Happy New Year! 

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MOUNT SPORTS

Lacrosse

Bridgette Nitza
MSM Class of 2015

Both the Mount St. Mary's University Men's and Women's Lacrosse teams are anxious to get out on the field and hear their spectators cheering them on to a win. With many new freshmen and an overwhelming list of achievements in past years, the Mount lacrosse teams are ready to take on whatever may challenge them in the coming season.

After speaking with one man and one woman from each team, it became obvious why any individuals from the Mount and/or Emmitsburg communities would enjoy watching these teams during the coming spring season.

The men's team is led by head coach, Tom Gravante, and assistant coaches, Travis Johnson and Anthony Golden.

Sophomore Nick Firman outlined the team and the coach's strategy: "Every year we go into the season working hard to give our team a chance in the playoffs. Coach Gravante always tells us to just make it to playoffs so we can settle it from there. You never know what is going to happen when championships are on the line. Some teams come together and some fall apart. With that being said, we want to make it to the NEC playoffs and settle it from there."

Firman addresses any doubt, "A lot of people would say that our youth is a weakness after losing guys like Andrew Scalley and Dan Stranix, but I think our youth will be our strong point because everyone is excited and ready to go."

This youth that Firman mentions has led to a healthy battle between the players for positions on the field. Nick Firman stated, "We don't have the veterans we used to in every spot and because of that, this fall has been very competitive; kids are fighting for spots that weren't previously available."

"That kind of competition in the fall will lead to great things in the spring," Firman explained.

However, it is the team's preparation led by the coaches that will bring them home as champions. "We have a great coaching staff that always has us prepared for games. Whether through film, practice plans, or scouting, the coaches have it covered. This year, we are lucky enough to have former player and graduate student Anthony Golden coaching. He brings a new energy to the coaching staff. Like I mentioned earlier, the coaching staff is on the same page as us. We want a spot in the NEC playoffs and a shot at the championship," Firman concluded.

The men will start off their season with a game at the University of Maryland on February 8. Their first home game will be on February 25 against the University of

Virginia.

The women are looking forward to showing all that they have brought from the fall season to improve their game in the spring season.

Head coach B.J. Johnson, along with assistant coaches, Dana Cahill and Katie Schwarzmann, and Volunteer Assistant, Alexandra Burns, lead these confident ladies.

Junior Megan Clester is excited to be on the women's lacrosse team. "It may be my senior season, but this is my first year playing for the team. Some goals that I have for myself and the team are to keep improving. We have come pretty far just in this past fall season," she said. "As long as we keep getting better, faster, and stronger, the spring season should be a success."

Not only are the women ready to be successful on their own, but they will also encourage and support the success of other Mount teams. "My team's most prominent strength is our dedication to each other and to the game. Everyone is dedicated to seeing the team get better every single day through conditioning, lifting and practices. We had an awesome opportunity to coach in two clinics this past fall, which shows the team's dedication to helping young athletes develop their skills. Being supportive of our fellow Mount athletes is a pretty big thing for us too. We try to make as many games as we can," Clester explained.

It is apparent that this team has been inspired by the actions of their head coach. Clester emphasized, "Our coaching staff for this year is awesome. Coach BJ Johnson is present not only by making us better lacrosse players, but also by dedicating her time to each of us, both personally and academi-



MSM's 2009/2010 women's lacrosse ace Breana Waraksa.

cally. She's an awesome figure to have in our lives."

However, Clester has a special connection with another women's lacrosse coach. "Being a goalie, I have a great deal of contact with Coach Dana Cahill," said Clester. "She spends the most time on the field with us in individual sessions and just shooting on us. She's great at listening to what we need and making sure there is a strong voice pulling for the goalies in the scheme of the team."

Clester could not leave out two additional important pieces to the team's puzzle: "Coach Alex Burns and Katie Schwarzmann are huge contributors, as well. Both coaches have so much talent in the game themselves and set great examples as to what we all aspire to be. Also, Coach Jeff Dorito, our strength and conditioning coach, is a huge factor in the success we've had so far."

The women begin their season playing at home against Johns Hopkins on February 19. Their first away game will be against Lehigh on February 22.

The Mount St. Mary's lacrosse teams have a lot to work towards and be excited about. Three Mount alums have recently joined Major League Lacrosse after being selected by the 2014 Supplemental Draft. The Chesapeake Bayhawks chose T.C. DiBartolo, while the Rochester Rattlers picked Andrew Scalley and Bryant Schmidt.

As you can see, the Mount's lacrosse teams have proven to be very successful in the past, and the

current teams hope to build upon that momentum throughout the coming season.

Though all are welcome and encouraged to attend any or all games played by these Mount athletes, you can stay up to date on both the Mount men's and women's lacrosse teams, as well as those drafted to the Major Leagues through Mount athletics online (mountathletics.com) or through www.NECFrontRow.com.



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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

2014 – The Year of the Horse

Renee Lehman

The Chinese New Year (also called the Lunar New Year or Chinese Spring Festival), one of the traditional Chinese festivals, is the grandest and the most important festival for Chinese people. It originated during the Shang Dynasty (about 17th - 11th century BCE), and it is an important time for families to get together, similar to Christmas Day for westerners. It is also a time to hope for the return of spring, to welcome prosperity, wealth, and longevity, and a time to remove any negative qi (pronounced “chee”) from the past. There is even a tradition prior to the New Year for every family to thoroughly clean the house to sweep away any ill-fortune in hopes of making way for good incoming luck.

Chinese Calendar History

The Chinese calendar was originated by the Yellow Emperor Huang Ti, and has been in use for centuries. The Chinese calendar is called a lunar calendar, but is really a calendar based on the moon and the sun. The Gregorian calendar, which the world uses today (originated 430 years ago) is a solar calendar.

The Twelve Animals of the Chinese Calendar

The Chinese calendar is made of five, twelve-year cycles. Each of the twelve years of the Chinese calendar is appointed one of the following 12 animal's names (in this order): rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon (the only mythological animal), snake, horse, sheep, mon-

key, fowl, dog, and pig. The animal that rules the year of your birth is said to exercise a major influence over your life, and that year in general. *Much of the information used for this article is taken from The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes by Theodora and Launa Lau, 2007.*

The Horse

*I am the Kaleidoscope of the mind.
I impart light, color and perpetual motion.*

I think I see, I am moved by electric fluidity.

*Constant only in my inconstancy,
I am unshackled by mundane holds,
Unchecked by sturdy, binding goals.
I run unimpeded through virgin paths
My spirit unconquered—
My soul forever free.*

—I Am The Horse
(Lau & Lau, 2007)

Horse Personality

If you were born in one of the following years, your sign is the Horse (1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, and 2002). A person born in the year of the Horse is considered animated, cheerful, and popular, although his/her changeable nature may cause him/her to be hot-tempered, rash and headstrong at times (they may throw tantrums when situations don't go their way). The Horse personality is often willing to give as well as expecting a lot of liberty. People as a rule confide in a Horse person because he/she is honest, and sincerely interested in other's thoughts and feelings. Thus, they are able to help with both a wise words and

an action.

The Horse personality is extremely independent, confident, and quick-witted. They are intelligent, and able grasp new subjects with ease. They thrive when they are the center of attention, but even more, they like to be recognized for their skills and talents. They're also capable of multi-tasking however they don't always finish what they start because they're forever chasing the next opportunity.

Famous People born in the Year of the Horse

Neil Armstrong, American Astronaut
Clint Eastwood, American Actor and Director
Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federations
Halle Berry, American Actress
Thomas Alva Edison, American Inventor
Leonard Bernstein, American Composer
Nelson Mandela, South African President
Theodore Roosevelt, American President
Anwar Sadat, Egyptian President
Barbra Streisand, American Singer and Actress
Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State

General Predictions for the Year of the Horse

Last year, the Year of the Snake, was characterized by transformation on a body/mind/spirit, and the need for attention to detail (planting the seeds) for achieving the goals that you set in 2013.



Renee asked me to find a “great” photo of a horse to go along with this article, and I could only think of one: Commander Riker. Riker, the subject of numerous horse-related articles in this paper, passed away peacefully in December at the ripe old age of 26. He was a great horse.

The Year of the Horse which begins on January 31, 2014 will be a year of great energy and power for those who can grab hold and hang on (like riding a stallion). You won't get left in the dust if you've planted a lot of seeds in the 2013 Snake year. The 2014 Horse will want room to run so have big dreams and goals worthy of a powerful steed and you'll ride your way to success.

The upcoming 2014 Year of the Horse is going to be an optimistic year. The kind-hearted nature of this year will provide us with supportive friends who will be attentive to our troubles (and ready to help us in difficulties), and individuals who will be quick to react in protection of those who cannot stand up for themselves. It will be a year that gives us the opportunity to cope with financial hardships in the belief that good fortune will soon be on the way.

Quotes to Live By in the Year of the Horse

I'm an idealist. I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way. - Carl Sandburg.

“Honesty is the first chapter in the

book of wisdom.” - Thomas Jefferson

“It has always seemed strange to me... the things we admire in men, kindness and generosity, openness, honesty, understanding and feeling, are the concomitants of failure in our system. And those traits we detest, sharpness, greed, acquisitiveness, meanness, egotism and self-interest, are the traits of success. And while men admire the quality of the first they love the produce of the second.” - John Steinbeck

Independence is happiness. - Susan B. Anthony

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.” - Nelson Mandela

“There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.” - Nelson Mandela

Do any of these resonate with you? If so, write it down and place it somewhere you see it every day.

Be nimble, open-minded, and set big goals for success in the unbridled 2014 Year of Horse.

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Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer/
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Start the new year with a healthy commitment! One on One Personalized attention or bring a few friends and share the experience. I am in my 15th year of helping people improve their health and energy levels and change their lifestyle to live their best life possible.

Energy is one of the best benefits of a regular exercise program. While you may be a bit tired when you finish your workout, usually by the time you change clothes and

get to work or your next project of the day you feel energized. I'm sure you have heard that if you don't get up and move your body will stay at rest. Of course, we need to rest but sitting around most of the day will actually make you more tired than being active. Sometimes it is very hard to talk ourselves into taking a walk or getting on the bike or treadmill but once you finish a brisk workout you have more energy. Several of my clients tell me they really don't feel like exercising some days but after their session they are so glad they did. That is one of the benefits of going to a personal trainer. Many of my clients know that if

they did not have that scheduled appointment they would have skipped their workout that day. Talking yourself into doing something else instead of exercising is very easy to do. The hard part is talking yourself into doing some type of exercise each day. It is alright to give yourself a break once in a while but missing too many sessions can become a habit and interrupt the progress you are working toward.

People are hearing more and more about the importance of exercise. With today's automated world, people need to realize the short and long term health risks of this sedentary lifestyle. So many people work long, hard hours and don't take the time to care for their bodies. Exercise is as important as brushing your teeth or any of the other daily activities you do to take care of your body. If you don't maintain your bones and muscles, they lose their ability to function. Osteoporosis is one of the fastest growing problems for men,



as well as women, today. Proper diet and exercise help prevent this disease and many others, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol and even depression. The health benefits of exercise are unlimited. Along with improving your health, exercise also benefits many sports activities. Golf, baseball, archery, horseback riding or just about any sport or activity will be improved if your body is in its' best shape. Think about it.

Do something for yourself and

encourage family and friends to do the same. Come see what I have to offer and what you have to gain. I am conveniently located just minutes from you at 285 Boyle Rd. Stop by or call for more information or directions. 717-334-6009. If the open house date or time is not convenient for you, give me a call to schedule another time. Free consultation with a certified personal trainer! See you there.

Remember, Keep Moving.

Fitness Matters

George Puvel
Anytime Fitness Owner

Question: Is it wise to include supersets in my workouts and, if so, what are the advantages?

Answer: Supersets involve performing two exercises back to back with little or no rest in between. And if you're looking to change up your workouts a bit, they're definitely worth a try. There are numerous superset variations, but the most common types would be same muscle supersets or antagonistic supersets. As the name implies, same muscle supersets incorporate two different exercises for the same muscle group. For example, one set of dumbbell chest presses could be followed by barbell incline press. Antagonistic supersets involve opposing muscle groups, so you might combine biceps curls with triceps extensions, again with no rest in between sets. No matter what type of supersets you engage in, there are three obvious advantages to utilizing this method of training. First of all, doing supersets saves time, which is clearly advantageous when people want to get in and get out. It also allows an individual to train at a higher intensity, which can produce better results in the long run. And lastly, because supersets allows for increased workout intensity without using very heavy weights, the likelihood of injury decreases significantly. Give 'em a try and see what you think!

About the author: George Puvel is the Club Owner. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.

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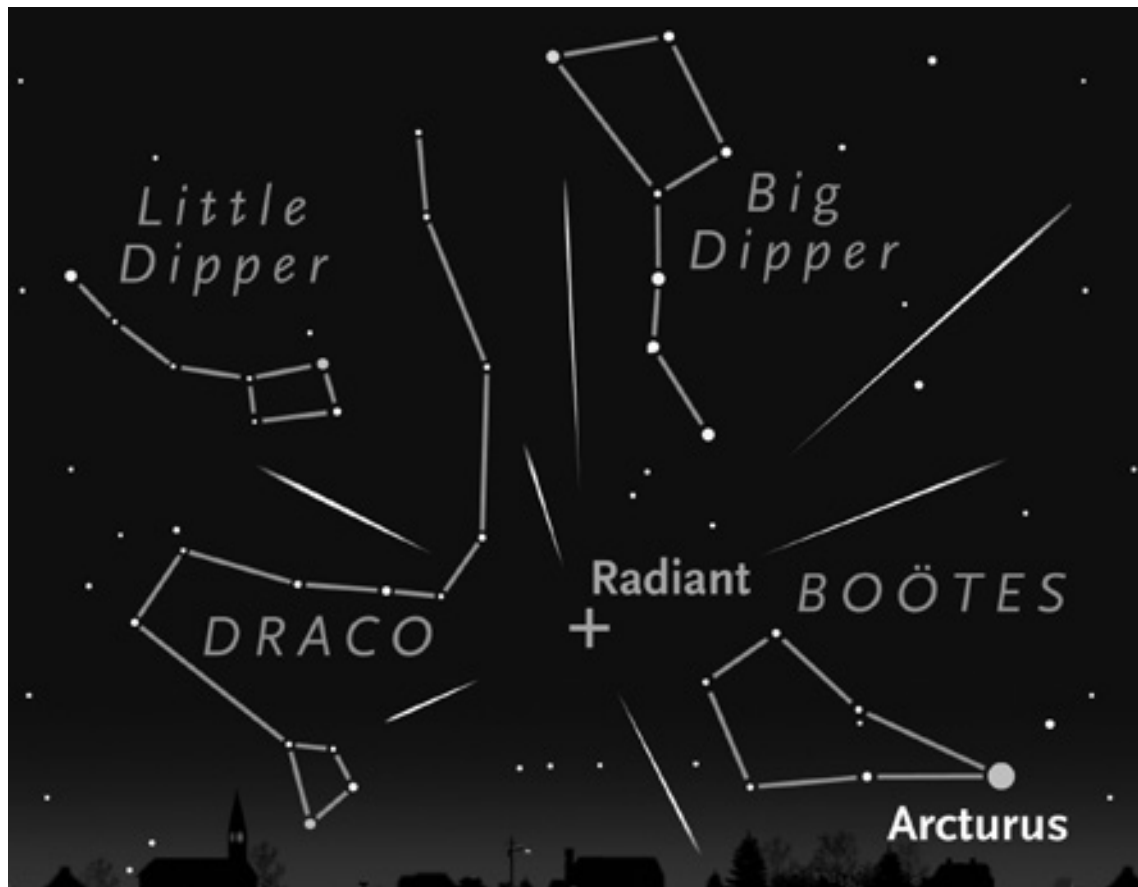
The night sky of January

Professor Wayne Wooten

For January 2014, the Moon will be first quarter on January 7th. It will not interfere with the peak for Quadrantid Meteor Shower on the morning of January 4th, with perhaps 30 meteors per hour coming out of the NE in the morning sky. The first two weeks find the moon waxing in the evening sky. The waxing crescent moon sits 4 degrees north of a very slender crescent Venus on January 2nd.

The full moon, the Moon of the breaking branches, passes 5 degrees south of Jupiter on January 14th. The last quarter moon is on January 24th. The waning crescent moon passes 4 degrees south of Mars on the morning of January 23rd, and then passes just south of Saturn on the morning of January 25th; this will be an occultation for those farther south. By the end of the month, Venus has passed between us and the Sun, and is joined in the morning sky on January 28th. The new moon is on January 30th, and begins the Chinese New Year. It has a nice conjunction with Mercury on January 31st, about 45 minutes after sunset; the moon will be just to the right of Mercury, a good photo op!

Venus is a very slender crescent, low in the SW right after sunset at the start of the month. It passes between us and the Sun at midmonth (but does not actually transit the sun's disk, alas!) and then moves into the dawn for the



next several months. Mercury moves into the evening sky at midmonth, and is at its greatest eastern elongation on January 31st, when it is joined by the waxing crescent moon. Mars is distant and faint, in the morning sky moving eastward in Virgo. It passes 5 degrees north of Spica on January 28th.

Jupiter is at its best this month, rising in the NE at sunset on January 5th. It lies in the middle of Gemini, south

of the two bright stars Castor and Pollux. Opposition also finds Venus setting about the same time Venus is rising as January starts, so you can spot the two brightest planets on opposite sides of the sky for a few days. It is our featured photo, with EAAA member Rick Johnston's photo of it showing the famed Great Red Spot, and the two inner Galilean Moons. These four moons are visible in any small scope, and their changing patterns in a matter of minutes are fascinating. Saturn rises about 2:30 AM as January begins, and will reach opposition on May 10th this year. It will be in the faint constellation Libra all year.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle

star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye.

M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the

seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place. You should be able to glimpse this stellar birthplace as a faint blur with just your naked eyes, and the larger your binoculars or telescope, the better the view becomes.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida. You must be in south Florida to spot Alpha Centauri on June evenings. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.

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"Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed."

—Cavett Robert (1907-1997)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Snow (1) turning fair and very cold (2,3,4). Heavy snow (5, 6) and windy with lake-effect snow (7, 8, 9). Fair and very cold temperatures cold once again (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17). More snow (18,19) and fair but rather cold (20, 21, 22, 23). Windy and cold with more lake-effect snow (24, 25, 26) with yet more snow (27, 28). Prepare for an Arctic cold wave (30, 31).

Full Moon: January's Full Moon will occur on the 15th. It has been called Hunger Moon because food was extremely hard to find at this time. It has also been referred to as

Wolf Moon because of the increased presence of wolf packs that boldly wander close to Native American villages and encampments in search of food.

Holidays: Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929.

In 2014, the official day set aside for his remembrance (the third Monday of January) falls on Monday, January 20th. Remember to honor him on his day and reflect on the great movement he began and how tragically early he was taken from us.

The Garden: Begin planning your spring gardening activities now. Buy an extra wall calendar and dedicate it to planting activities. Look ahead and record the last projected frost dates for your region and mark down

when to plant seedlings indoor. Check out this useful website www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone to determine local hardiness. Collect nursery and seed catalogs now and remember to place any orders early. Get together with other gardeners and combine orders to save on shipping costs. Try to time all your gardening and lawn activities with anticipated sales at local merchants. And now is the time to spoil those indoor plants! They not only brighten up the house but they also rid indoor air of nasty pollutants. Extra watering is required to keep them from drying out indoors. They also need to be rotated periodically to ensure they receive adequate sunlight all around during the winter months.

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"Resolutions are much easier to keep if you remember to strive for something you have the desire and capability of achieving"

COMPUTER Q&A

Essentials for your new computer

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SOFTWARE ESSENTIALS

Internet security is the single most important software you will need if you intend on keeping your computer in good working order. The software that we recommend is AVG Internet Security suite. You can call Jester's Computer services to purchase the software and they will even install it for free (aren't they great?). Without a good antivirus installed on your computer, you're likely to become a victim of spyware or viruses that can render your computer useless. No antivirus is 100% effective which is why you should also get your computer cleaned up at least once a year. With over 10 years of experience using and being a licensed AVG re-seller we highly recommend it. AVG does a great job of protecting your computer without taxing your computer's resources like most other antivirus programs do.

Internet browsing is the main reason why people use a computer most of the time. Internet explorer comes with your computer but did you know there are other browsers that use fewer resources and can even be faster? I personally recommend Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. There are tons of features in Google Chrome such as private browsing (great if you're trying to secretly order a gift). Both have the ability to use add-ons which can make your browsing more enjoyable by using pop-up blockers or a variety of browsing tools.

Microsoft Office is essential to students and professionals and can be quite costly but, there is a less expensive alternative! You can download Open Office 3 FREE of charge by visiting www.openoffice.org Once downloaded and installed you will be able to create presentations, spreadsheets, graphics, databases and even word processing. The best part about this software is it opens and saves in word format. The only thing you will need to do once it is installed is go into the settings for the program you are using and change the way it saves the file to word format. For example if your using the word processing program you would want to tell it to automatically save it in .doc format which is words format for saving word files. This step is only necessary if you plan on sending it to someone else with Microsoft products or if you plan on using it in a Microsoft program later.

Bloat ware or trial/unwanted software is pretty common from most streamlined manufacturers these days. It's strongly recommended that you remove unwanted software by visiting your computers add/remove application. Be careful to not remove anything Microsoft related or any-

thing that came from the manufacturer of your computer (Ex. HP, Lenovo, ASUS). If you are not sure, do a quick internet search and you can find out what the application is for. Only remove what you are able to recognize in the list or you can always have a professional remove it later on!

THE PHYSICAL ESSENTIALS

A mouse is something many people purchase even if they have a laptop. For laptops there are some really cool options. When purchasing a laptop mouse I recommend one that has a micro USB receiver. This receiver is sleek and will prevent the adapter from getting broken or damaged because it won't be sticking out of the side of the computer. I highly recommend doing your research on a wireless mouse before you make a decision. Find out the battery life, durability, and what surfaces the mouse will work on. Some of the mice look pretty cool but break easily or drain batteries like crazy. Oh, and I absolutely recommend Logitech, they produce wonderful products.

Wireless connectivity is becoming an essential especially if you

have a laptop or other wireless devices. You will need to have a wireless router to be able to connect your wireless device to the internet or to your home network. Be sure to match up the technology to what type of wireless connection your device supports. If you have a wireless N capable laptop and purchase a router that only supports wireless B or wireless G you are losing out on speed and range. Give Jester's Computers a call if you're in need of a wireless router or to inquire about having your network setup.

Printers are a necessity if you want to be able to print documents, pictures, or to have a hard copy. The thing about printers is that you really want to make sure you're getting your money's worth. I highly recommend Kodak printers because the ink is very inexpensive and today you need to have both your color and black cartridge installed or the printer won't work. I also recommend either using a USB cable or to connect your printer into your home network. Wireless printers are often more of a hassle than they are worth. Connecting your printer

into your network (via Ethernet cable) is the same concept as using the wireless in the sense that multiple computers can use the same printer without the computer connected to the printer needing to be on. If you feel the need to use a wireless printer be aware that if you do not have the address for the printer setup to stay the same anytime the power goes out you will have to change the settings on each computer to the new printer address.

Jester's Computer Tutor provides one-on-one training in your local home with your electronic devices for just \$40 per one hour session. Currently we provide assistance with Windows computers, Ipads, iPhones, android tab-

lets, and more.

NEW Jester's Computer Tutor is now able to provide one-on-one tutoring and support through our virtual classroom. Special discounted offers may be available for this service for a limited time contact Ayse at help@thecomputertutor.info or visit the Facebook page for more information.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday & Sundays

Gettysburg National Park's Winter Lecture Series - The Civil War in 1864. This year's series is a special look at the Civil War in 1864. Programs will explore Sherman's Army and the March to the Sea; Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay; the Battle of the Crater; the prisoner of war experience and much more. For a list of the programs visit www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124.

January 10

The Majestic Theater presents: The Best of Forbidden Broadway From Annie to the Phantom of

Broadway, this fall-down funny, satirical roast of over 30 Broadway hits features outrageous costumes, silly spoofs of the songs you know by heart and madcap impressions by a stellar cast! The Majestic Theater is located at 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

January 10 & 11

Christ's Community Church's The Art of Marriage Conference - A video experience from Family Life designed to help couples understand God's plan for marriage.

Pre-registration is required. \$55/couple includes lunch catered by the Carriage House. Childcare provided. For more information call Pastor John Talcott at 301-447-4224 or e-mail him at cccemmitsburg@gmail.com.

January 12

Taneytown's St. Joseph's Catholic Church's all you can eat country style breakfast buffet. Sponsored by Knights Of Columbus Council 11631. St. Joseph's social hall, 44 Frederick St.

January 16

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's

Full Moon Owl Prowl from 7 - 8:30 pm at the Preserve. Walk softly and carry a good flashlight - even though you won't need it with a full January moon! We will quietly explore the Preserve on a winter's evening listening carefully for the sounds of owl. We will also learn a bit about these mysterious feathered friends and just why they're calling at this time of year. For more information visit www.strawberryhill.org.

January 18

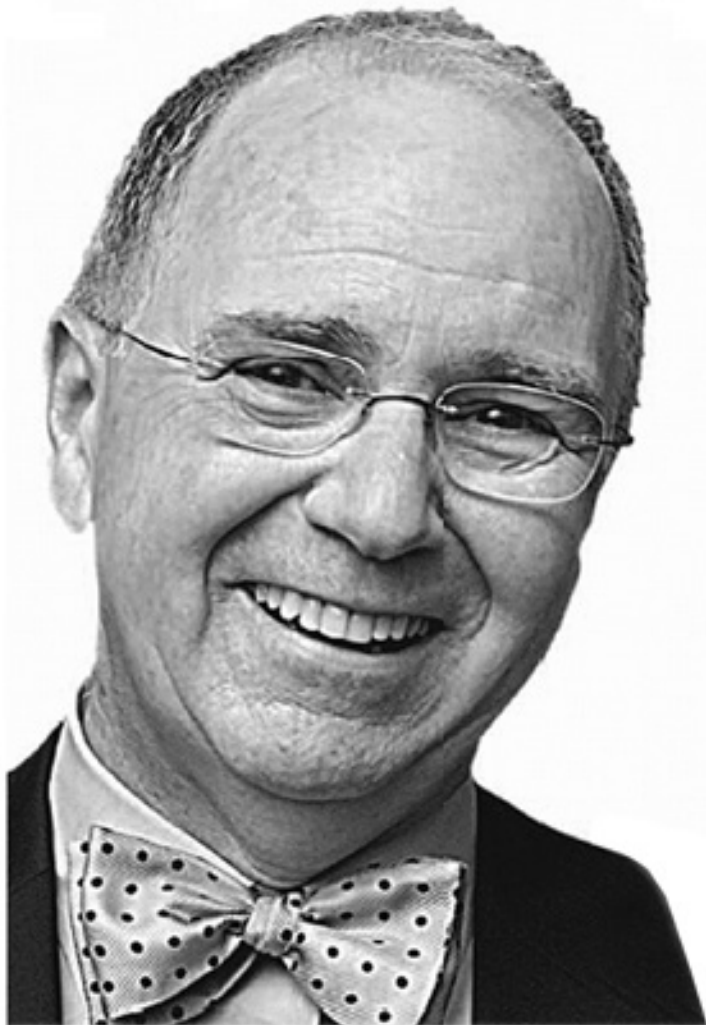
Gettysburg's YWCA Forth Annuals Indoor Triathlon. The triathlon will consist of a 500-me-

ter swim in the YW's indoor pool, a 9-mile ride on stationary bikes, and a 3-mile treadmill run. Entry fee is \$35 and all proceeds will benefit the YWCA aquatics department. To register, or for more information, call 717-334-9171.

Project Gettysburg-Leon Annual Auction - All proceeds support sustainable development projects in Leon, Nicaragua. Hauser Field House, Gettysburg College. For questions, or if you wish to donate, contact the Center For Public Service at Gettysburg College at 717-337-6490 or visit www.gettysburg-leon.org.

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5732 Buckeystown Pike, Evergreen Square, Frederick, MD 21704 ■ 301-668-1039

8429A Woodsboro Pike, Discovery Crossing, Walkersville, MD 21793 ■ 301-845-0809

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hausers after hours! Live music featuring The Al Parsons Band. Pay per plate dinners are served from some of the finest caterers in the area. Wine and Hard Cider are available by the glass or the bottle. For more information visit www.hauserestate.com.

January 23

The Majestic Theater presents Dinosaur Train Live! In this incredible live experience, kids will be transported on a journey back to the Mesozoic when dinosaurs roamed the earth ... and rode in trains! As only The Jim Henson Company can do, the popular PBS Kids television show will be brought to life through spectacular interactive multi-media, music and puppetry. Buddy, Tiny, Shiny, Don, giant Laura, teeny Tiny, and all of their friends and family will all be there in this exciting, original, musical story created just for the stage where the audience is always a part of the show. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit Gettysburgmajestic.org.

January 24

St John's Lutheran Church's Soup and Sandwich Sale. 8619 Blacks Mill Road, Creagerstown. To order please call 301-271-7851.

January 25

Hausers after hours! Live music featuring Winter Luau! with Island Fusion. Pay per plate dinners are served from some of the finest caterers in the area. Wine and Hard Cider are available by the glass or

the bottle. For more information visit www.hauserestate.com.

January 26

Mother Seton School's All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner. Fill your plate and your spirit at our Annual All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner. Bring a friend or two after church and enjoy a delicious supper, door prizes, and raffle. Proceeds bene-

fit the Mother Seton School Home and School Association. For tickets or more information, call 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

January 30

Mother Seton School's Academics in Focus. Academic excellence is not just a showy phrase—it's our mission. We invite you to see for

yourselves the talented students we have at Mother Seton School. Our program will include the awarding of named scholarships, a musical showcase of our students' talents, and a special presentation by the Student Council. Parents are invited to visit their children's class-

rooms after the program. For more information, contact us at 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

For more information on these and other upcoming events visit the Events section of Emmitsburg.net

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 FREDERICK COUNTY PROVIDES A NUMBER OF TEMPORARY LOCATIONS TO TAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE FOR RECYCLING:
 • Reichs Ford Road Yard Waste Recycling Site- 9031 Reichs Ford Rd, Frederick
 • Ballenger Creek Park (2nd parking lot on left)- 5420 Ballenger Creek Pike, Frederick
 • Kemptown Park (lower left parking lot)- 3456B Kemptown Church RD, Monrovia
 • Middletown Park (recycling site by maintenance shop) 7628 Coblenz Rd, Middletown
 • Point of Rocks Ruritan (parking lot, left side)- 1637 Ballenger Creek Pike, Point of Rocks
 • Eyer Road Park (fenced area on right)- 30 Eyer Rd, Thurmont
 • Heritage Farm Park (yard waste drop-off site)- 9224 Devilbiss Bridge Rd, Walkersville
 Please remember to remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel, garland, tree stands and plastic bags before leaving the tree at a collection site.
 For additional information, please call 301-600-2960 or visit our website: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle
 Except for the Reichs Ford Road Yard Waste Recycling Site, all locations are for residential use only, no commercial drop-offs. Thank you!

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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

REPAIRS NEARLY COMPLETE ON CHAPEL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The bell atop the Chapel of Immaculate Conception at Mount St. Mary's University began ringing again in December, just in time for Christmas. It had been silent since July, when the bell tower caught fire after being struck by lightning during a passing summer thunderstorm.

The fire caused nearly \$750,000 in damage, and repairs to the bell tower and roof took close to five months. R.W. Warner Inc. of Frederick handled the construction—the company that built the Richard and Mary Lee Miller Visitors Center at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on the Mount campus.

Replacing the chapel's slate roof and preserving the original look of the tower was one of the biggest challenges. Crews also had to work carefully to keep the chapel's structural integrity.

The structure's bell tower rings several times during the day and serves as a call to various religious services on campus.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A Night at the Delaplaine

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

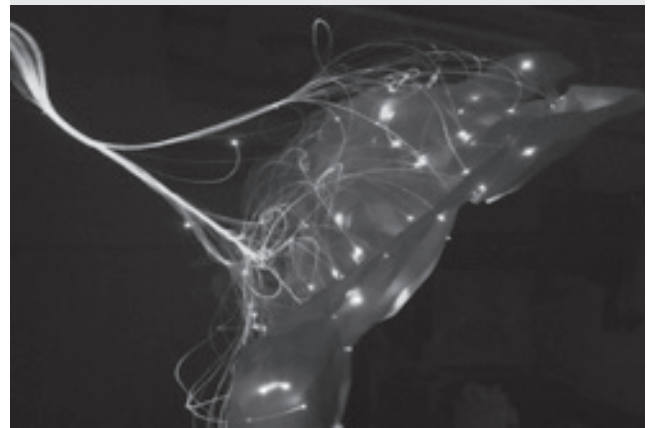
Another exciting semester of performances in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center opens with a concert by the Mount's music faculty. These professional musicians will perform works from their respective repertoires. Free admission.

Graduate Business Programs Information Session

Thursday, Jan. 16, 4-6 p.m.

Mount St. Mary's Frederick Campus, 5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick

Learn more about our graduate-level business degree and certificate programs. Choose from programs in business administration, health administration, project management, organizational development, logistics and supply chain management and more! Classes are held at both the Emmitsburg and Frederick campuses.



Art Exhibition by Nick Hutchings

Thursday, Jan. 23 – Friday, Feb. 21

Williams Art Gallery

Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

Artist Reception, Thursday, Jan. 23, 5-7 p.m.

Gallery Hours: M/W/F 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

T/TH 10 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2-4 p.m. or by appointment

Nick Hutchings, assistant professor of visual and performing arts, presents an exhibition of sculpture and drawings reflecting on the concept of the firmament as written in the chapter of Genesis in the Bible. The raqiya or firmament, also known as the second heaven in Jewish mysticism, translates as "to beat or spread out." Genesis says this expanse is where the stars of the heaven have been placed. Metaphorically, the firmament is the empirical limit of our universe. This exhibition explores the idea that the boundaries of our perception and the context of the experience, aesthetic or otherwise, are what frame our understanding of the universe and our place within it.



Class begins January 8!

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MEN'S HOME BASKETBALL GAMES

Sat., Jan. 11 vs. St. Francis Brooklyn, 2 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 16 vs. Wagner, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 18 vs. Robert Morris, 2 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 30 vs. Fairleigh Dickinson, 7 p.m., PNC Night

WOMEN'S HOME BASKETBALL GAMES

Mon., Jan. 6 vs. LIU Brooklyn, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 11 vs. Sacred Heart, 4:30 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 13 vs. St. Francis Brooklyn, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 18 vs. Wagner, 4:30 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 25 vs. Bryant, 1 p.m.

FOR TICKET INFORMATION, CALL THE BOX OFFICE
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