

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Up County Center closing on May 31

Having been saved once from closing by the Frederick County Commissioners when a major funding source ended, the commissioners weren't willing to step in again when the same thing happened to the Up County Family Partnership in Emmitsburg.

They voted unanimously in April to close the Up County Center rather than use \$254,000 additional tax dollars to fund a center that has been deemed underutilized. The center's last day of operation will be May 31.

The Maryland Department of Education cut its funding for the center for the fiscal year that starts July 1. The \$254,000 cut was more than half of the Up County Center's \$506,140 a year operating budget. The money cut came to the center through the Maryland Family Network, a non-profit organization that runs 23 family partnership centers in Maryland. It is the center's largest funding source currently. Currently, Frederick County pays \$210,331 a year to the support the center and the remainder comes from a United Way grant and the Town

of Emmitsburg.

The Up County Center provides parenting programs and educational programs for people who want to earn their GED. It also offers day care for children while their parents are using the center's facilities and programs.

Emmitsburg Commissioner Glenn Blanchard said, "It is services that are needed. It's not something you can cross a line through and say, 'Okay, it's done.'"

Emmitsburg Mayor James Hoover called the closing "a sour pill to swallow" in his newsletter, but that he could see why the county commissioners saw the need to do so.

"It was reported that the center is currently serving eighteen families; the State requires that the family support center actively serve a minimum of 32 families. Year to date the center is operating at 40 percent below the State's minimum requirements," Hoover wrote. A family is considered actively served when they use the Up County Center at least five times a month. Emmitsburg Commission President Chris called it an unre-



April showers may bring May flowers, but May brings its own pleasure in the shape of the 2nd annual His Place Car Show. (See page 44 for more information)

alistic threshold for the center to meet given the population density of the area.

Staiger also said he was disappointed that the town hadn't been included in the discussions between the county and Family Partnership to see if a way to keep the center open could have been found. He doesn't feel that the county commissioners tried too hard to keep the center open. "I'm not sure how committed the commissioners were. I believe that [the funding cut] gave them cover to remove their funding without any pain."

Frederick County saved the Up County Center from closure in

January 2009 when it took over the funding that Catholic Charities had been providing. At that time, the center's employees became county employees and the county made some improvements to the center's assets.

With the decision to close made, the Up County Center has stopped taking new clients and the county will offer the six full-time and four part-time employees severance packages and unused leave that totals \$30,000.

Current clients can still continue using the center's services, but they will have to travel to Frederick to do so.

Adams County candidates to face off at Fairfield firehall on May 4

Find out what the ten candidates for Adams County Commissioner think about the subjects that are important to you at a commissioners' candidate forum on Wednesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. The candidates will face the public at the Fairfield Fire Hall in Fairfield.

Though all the candidates haven't RSVPed yet, Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris, who will be one of the moderators, said, "We know most of them will be there and we are hoping all nine will be."

Running in the Democratic Party Primary are: current County Commissioner Lisa Moreno Woodward of Mount Joy Township, Marty Qually of Cumberland Township, Carlotta Chucki Strevig of Union Township, and Paul Kellett of Freedom Township.

Running in the Republican Party Primary are: current County Commissioner George Weikert of Cumberland Township, Keith Stanley of Mount Joy, Randy Phiel of Cumberland Township, David Reindollar of Cumberland Township, Da-

vid Lawrence of Littlestown, and Jim Martin of Biglerville.

The first part of the forum will include candidates responding to pre-selected questions from the moderators. "We e-mailed all of the candidates the questions so they won't be caught off guard," said Fairfield Mayor Robert Stanley, who will be one of the moderators.

The first question the candidates will address regards the reassessment of properties last year in Adams County. This reassessment, the first in 20 years, angered many residents because of significantly high assessments than were expected and a confusing appeals process. This issue spurred some candidates to enter the commissioner's race.

The second part of the forum will consist of audience questions. As the audience assembles, they will have the opportunity to write a question of their own. The questions will be grouped by topic and then posed to the candidates, who will respond immediately.

This is an opportunity for residents to find out more about their political candidates. Last year over 100 people were in attendance. This year we are hoping for a even larger audience. Residents can also discover more about three candidates—Lisa Moreno, George Weikert, and Marty Qually—on pages 8 and 9 from their position articles.

The primary election is May 17. Voters will select two candidates from each party to move onto the general election on Nov. 8. With only two members from each party moving forward, neither party can win all three open seats. This is because state law is designed to ensure a minority party representative.

★ Adams County Commissioners Candidates' Forum at the Fairfield Fire Hall on May 4 at 7 pm ★

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NEWS

Around the Borough

Carroll Valley Borough Councilman Daniel Patton gave his fellow council members and town staff a quick lesson in family preparedness training during the borough's April 12 meeting.

He pointed out that since September 11, 2001, there have been 461 declared natural disasters in the United States and nine of them have been in Pennsylvania. Also, there have been 17,028 acts or thwarted acts of terrorism across the world during the same time period.

"If you don't think it could happen here, think again," Patton said.

He pointed out that U.S. 15 is a chemical transport route, Site R is nearby as are Camp David and Fort Detrick. All of them could be sites for a terrorist act that could affect the region.

He urged families to put together a "what if" plan and practice it. A "what if" plan is essentially when a family sits down and tries to figure out how they should react in various scenarios.

Another thing he recommended was for families to have emergency supplies stored to-

gether in a safe area and also a 72-hour emergency kit should the family be forced to evacuate their home.

"You need to prepare for emergencies like you prepare for a vacation," Patton said.

Financial considerations

Rising fuel prices could soon have an effect on the Carroll Valley Borough budget. Prices are considerably higher than the price that was budgeted for this year, which could lead to much higher levels of spending on fuel later in the year. The borough fared all right during the first quarter of this year, but if gasoline hits the \$5 or \$6 a gallon mark as some experts predict, the budget will be in trouble.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett also provided the council with figures showing that is costing borough residents about \$42,000 a year to maintain Lake May. He is preparing numbers for the other two lakes—Lake Kay and Lake Carroll—and expects them to be around the same number.

"Quite frankly, I was surprised at how high it was," said Councilman Bill Reinke.

Hamiltonban Township has sent the borough a letter expressing a desire to re-examine the share that the municipalities supported by the Fairfield Fire Department and Ambulance Company pay for workers' compensation for the emergency services workers. The percentage that each municipality pays is based on the percentage of population that each of the six municipalities represents. Currently, Carroll Valley pays 20 percent, but the figure is based on data from 1991.

"We've grown tremendously since then," said Hazlett.

Councilman Frank Buhrman added, "They're not renegotiating because they think their share will go up."

Board of Health's future up in the air

The Carroll Valley Borough Council is considering disbanding or restructuring its Board of Health. The committee has not had a quorum since 2009 and there has been no doctor sitting on the committee. The major duty of the board, inspection of restaurants and food facilities, is not done by the Pennsylvania De-



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Fairfield Notes

Members of the Fairfield Borough Council expressed some surprise at the flooding conditions that the town experienced on April 16 when the area got more than six inches of rain in a short period of time.

"It's the first time I've ever seen the stream under Spring Street come over the top," said Mayor Robert Stanley.

The overflowing streams filled the sewer system to capacity so water trying to run off the streets had nowhere to go.

Several inches of water flooded the streets of Fairfield and then it began running into people's basements.

Stanley and Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris met at the Fairfield Fire Hall that evening and activated the FREMA emergency plan, which allowed them to coordinate cleanup and rescue efforts in the area from the temporary command center in the fire hall.

"We know FREMA works," Stanley said.

Councilor Carroll Smith said

that the council should learn from the flooding and remember it when it came time to plan for future development.

Borough now in charge of maintaining street signs

The Fairfield Borough Council was informed during its monthly meeting on April 26 that the town is now in charge of maintaining stop signs and speed limit signs on the town's streets to the state's reflectivity standards. This is a function that had been performed by PennDot, but has now been passed off to local municipalities. The borough will also need to complete an in-

ventory of all the stop signs and speed limit signs in the borough by 2012.

While disbanding the board could be complicated, the Borough Council is also consider-

ing merging the Board of the Health with the public safety committee and combining their functions.

Council concerned over workers' comp negotiations

The Fairfield Borough Council was notified that Hamiltonban Township was pulling out of a cost-sharing agreement to pay the workers' compensation premiums for the Fairfield Fire and Ambulance personnel. According to the discussion among the councilors, Hamiltonban wants the apportionment of the premiums to be by the number of calls in each of the six municipalities that the company serves.

The other municipalities are satisfied with using census population data to determine what percentage each municipality should pay.

Councilor Carroll Smith wanted to know if the withdrawal meant that the fire and ambulance companies no longer had to answer calls in Hamiltonban. He was assured that the notification was simply Hamiltonban following the process for reopening negotiations and in any event, the municipality had paid its portion of the workers' compensation premium through the end of the year.

Around the Town

No splash park this year

The Emmitsburg town commissioners decided against approving a plan to fund a splash park to replace the baby pool at the Emmitsburg town pool. The baby pool needed costly repairs so it was decided to close it and construct a new splash park instead.

Paddock Swimming Pool Company in Rockville won the contract to build the park for \$58,906, though that amount was going to increase to \$62,146. The would have included the splash park features—water jets and a large mushroom centerpiece—, a water connection and containment system.

The original plan had been to use Program Open Space money for the project, but state budget cuts have also cut that idea for this year at least. Plan B was to use funds from surpluses in tax equity funds from Frederick County and real estate tax revenue along with some money from the town's rainy day fund to pay for the project.

As the commissioners discussed the proposal during their April 4 meeting, concerns about whether the park would be done on time and if the money could be better spent elsewhere for now were raised. In the end, they decided that it would be better

to wait until a source of funds, other than the town's, could be found to pay for the park.

The town pool is still scheduled to open on June 15.

Water ban penalties approved

The Emmitsburg town commissioners approved the penalty schedule for the year-round outdoor water use ban the council approved in March.

Residents on the town's water system are not allowed to use water from the system to water lawns, shrubs, flowers and gardens from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The ban was passed in the hopes of avoiding the seasonal restrictions that the town tends to make in late summer.

With the approved penalty schedule, first-time violators will be given a warning. Violators receive a \$25 fine for a second of-

fense and a \$50 fine for each offense, thereafter.

Town still has a water deficit

Despite getting 6.7 inches of rain in March, Emmitsburg is still in a water deficit for rainfall from October 1 to March 31. The av-

erage rainfall for that time period is 21.2 inches and Emmitsburg had only 16.7 inches. However Town Manager Dave Haller noted that with all of April's rainfall, the town should be closing that deficit.

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No casino in Gettysburg

For a second time the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board has denied Gettysburg businessman David LeVan a Category 3 gaming license to operate a slots casino within a mile of the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Mason-Dixon Resort and Casino, which would have been located at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center was competing against Penn Harris Gaming in Hampden Township, Woodlands Fayette in Wharton Township and the Buskill Group in Middle Smithfield Township for the license. The Gaming Control Board awarded the license to Woodlands Fayette, which operates the Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort on April 14 before a crowd of 200 people at the State Museum in Harrisburg.

The Gaming Control Board's vote

was 6-1 with Commissioner Ken Trujillo voting against the motion. However, since all four legislative appointees and at least one of the three gubernatorial appointees approved the motion in favor of the award to Nemaacolin, the decision met the guidelines of the qualified majority vote provision required to approve a casino license.

"This was a challenging decision, but when all was said and done the Board felt the Nemaacolin project best fit the intent of the Gaming Act and was best overall for Pennsylvania," said Chairman Gregory Fajt. "This decision was the result of a tremendous amount of work by our staff and many citizens of the Commonwealth who took the time to provide the Board with their views both pro and con on each of the projects."

Both the Cumberland Township board of supervisors and the Adams County Commissioners voted last year to support the project because they said it would provide \$1 million in yearly revenue to the jurisdictions.

Preservation organizations had campaigned against the project. Civil War Trust President Jim Lighthizer said in a statement, "By stating that the hallowed ground of America's most blood-soaked battlefield is no place for this type of adults-only enterprise, they have reiterated the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's commitment to its priceless history and upheld its obligation to protect such sites from wanton and unnecessary degradation."

Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort offers 335 rooms, suites, cabins or luxury homes, 31,000 square feet of

meeting and banquet facilities, and numerous guest amenities including golf, cross country skiing, an antique car museum, a shooting academy, wildlife habitats, mountain bike trails, an equestrian center, a spa and fitness center, and five swimming pools. In addition, Nemaacolin has 14 retail stores in a 55,000 square foot shopping arcade.

Isle of Capri Casinos will manage the Lady Luck Casino for the resort. Officials from the proposed casino resort said during its public hearings that the casino is expected to generate \$37 million in annualized tax revenue from slot machines in its first year of operation. In addition to the slot machines and table games, the casino plans to include two restaurants to the resort.

According to the Gaming Control Board, the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act presently permits the board to award two

Category 3 licenses to well-established resort hotels in order to create an additional patron amenity. A Category 3 license permits a casino to have a maximum of 600 slot machines in operation. A \$5 million license fee must be paid to the Commonwealth for that license. In addition, the casino can petition the board to operate up to 50 table games at the casino. That can only happen after the board has held public hearings on the request and paid an additional \$7.5 million fee for the approved table games certification.

With the Woodland's award, the Gaming Control Board has now awarded 13 licenses. One license to the Foxwoods Casino was revoked in December. Ten casinos are in operation, six Category 1 licensed facilities at horse race tracks and four Category 2 stand-alone casinos, all of which can operate up to 5,000 slot machines and 250 table games.

Mount solar farm agreement signed

Mount St. Mary's University has now signed its agreement to host a solar energy farm on campus that will provide sustainable energy to both the university and the state.

University President Thomas Powell signed the agreement with Constellation Energy. Under the terms of the agreement, the Mount will lease 100 acres of the campus east of U.S. 15 to Constellation energy, which will create a solar photovoltaic power farm that will gen-

erate 22 million kilowatt hours of clean electricity. According to a Mount press release, "The amount of clean electricity generated compares to the same amount from non-renewable sources or 15,800 metric tons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of the emissions of more than 3,000 cars."

"This unique partnership with Constellation Energy strengthens Mount St. Mary's University's commitment to our stewardship of the land and the creation of clean ener-

gy, and it continues the 'greening of the Mount,'" Powell said. "Our students will be on the forefront of responsible land use and creation of renewable energy resources. The county and the state will benefit not only from our generation of clean energy but also from the reduction of dependence on more traditional use of coal, natural gas and fossil fuels."

The solar farm is the latest in a series of efforts to create an eco-friendly campus. Other efforts include campus-wide recycling and

a new student dorm heated and cooled with geothermal energy.

An observation deck and research area will be built for Mount students and the community to watch construction and operations at the farm. This will allow solar technology to be incorporated into Mount's academic curriculum.

"The solar farm project proves that the Mount is concerned about the natural resources around us," says Katie Folberth, president of the Mount's environmental club. "We

live in a beautiful area, and this is an enormous opportunity to show our neighboring communities that we are very active and involved in energy conservation, and perhaps this will encourage more natural resource conservation across the area."

Constellation Energy is also endowing \$50,000 in scholarships for environmental science majors.

Groundbreaking for the Mount St. Mary's/Constellation Energy project will be June 2011 with completion by December 2012.

Fire museum now open

A huge 2 1/2-ton bell cast in remembrance of the firefighters and policemen who died on 9/11 tolled the hour in Emmitsburg on April 2 as the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Museum opened for the public.

"It's something we have probably been talking about for over 30 years and has been in the planning stages for 10 years," said Clarence "Chip" Jewell, fire historian and director of Frederick County's Emergency Communications Center.

Dozens of people filed into the former Emmitsburg Ambulance Company building on South Seton Avenue.

The old ambulance bays now hold antique fire engines that were used by fire companies in Frederick County restored to pristine condition. The former social hall area has firefighting artifacts, paperwork, badges, equipment, uniforms, and more. The former social hall also show-

cases an 1835 Rumsey hand pumper used to fight the courthouse fire in Frederick in 1861.

"We're trying to get it back in working shape so that we can recreate the Frederick courthouse fire that it helped put out in 1861," said Gary Fredericks, chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department.

Jewell said there is something from every company in the county on display in the museum.

"It think this has turned out very good," Jewell said of the museum. "It's due to a lot of hard work from a lot of people."

Guests and representatives from the county fire and rescue companies, National Fire Academy and Emmitsburg town government were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Afterwards, everyone was invited in to tour the museum.

"It's important to preserve these aspects of our history," Fredericks said.

A portion of the social hall will also be used in the future to house the National Fire Heritage Center, which will have an archive of America's fire service in the same way the Army Heritage Center in Carlisle, PA, maintains materials relating to the army. Some major fire service organizational and private collections have already committed to donating their memorabilia to the proposed center.

"This is our beginning," said Fredericks. "This is our stepping stone to having our national archive."

The Frederick County Fire and Rescue Museum is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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NEWS

April storms cause flooding and closures

They say that April showers bring May flowers so this month should be gorgeous considering all of the rain and rain damage from April.

The storms that swept through the area last month are gone, much to the relief of residents. During the rains, they dealt with flooded roads and basements. Even after the rain stopped falling, they still had to deal with closed roads and the damage caused by flooded basements.

In addition to the heavy rains seen throughout the region, the National Weather Service reported that Frederick County had three tornado touchdowns on the western end of the county. While Adams County did not have a tornado touchdown, a tornado watch on Saturday evening caused

a countywide alert with fire sirens sounding at all of the fire stations in the county. The purpose was to alert residents that they needed to turn on their radios and televisions for emergency information.

The National Weather Service reported that the areas had 4.16 inches of rain on April 16, which caused rivers and creeks to flood, which also led to mud and debris being spread across roads and bridges. At least 20 roads were closed in Frederick County on Saturday, April 16, with many of them staying closed until Monday. Nine of those roads were in the Emmitsburg and Thurmont area.

The Emmitsburg-area road closures were:

At one point, of the four major routes into Emmitsburg, three were closed because they were flooded, according to the Emmits-

burg Town Commissioners.

In Adams County, reports said that Route 15 was closed at Marsh Creek in both directions.

Frederick County had five water rescues during the day. Adams County had a 28 water rescues including one in Latimore Township where the Maryland State Police helicopter in Frederick County was called in to assist a motorist who was stranded by the flooded Latimore Creek and was trapped in a tree.

In another incident along Fairfield Road, a group of Boy Scouts who were camping had to be rescued by boat when they were trapped in the second floor of a building. Fairfield Fire and EMS performed another boat rescue in Carroll Valley with the assistance of departments and personnel from Emmitsburg, East Berlin, Lake Meade and Woodsboro.



Tom's Creek flooding at Tom's Creek Bridge

News Briefs

Gettysburg Festival coming in June

The annual 10-day Gettysburg Festival begins on June 10 and offers more than 75 events celebrating American arts, culture and cuisine. Highlights for 2011 include Straight No Chaser, a musical group reinventing the style of a capella; Bob Newhart, performing beloved comedy sketches with new material; and The Presidents of Mount Rushmore, a performance by the top four presidential impersonators. More than half of the Festival's 75 events are free and open to the public.

Tickets are now available online at www.gettysburgfestival.org or by calling the Festival office at 717-334-0853.

Fallen firefighters badge retired

The badge of William E. Chase, vice president of the Fairfield Fire Company, was retired during a memorial service April 13 at the fire hall. Chase died at his home on April 8. He had served as vice president of the fire company since 2007 and received the President's Award in 208.

EMI surpasses 22 million trained

The Emergency Management Institute is the largest and oldest training institution for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and it recently trained its 22 millionth student. The institute is on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg where it incorporates all functions of emergency management (preparedness, protection, response, recovery or mitigation) into its comprehensive curriculum.

"This milestone is significant and bodes well for how effectively our nation can respond in times of disaster," says Vilma Milmoie, Acting Superintendent of EMI. "The training we conduct at the Emergency Management Institute, whether classroom-based or online, prepares our students by teaching them to work better together. Our national training database has more than five million individual active training accounts comprised of students from all levels of government including tribal entities as well as our part-

ners in voluntary agencies and the private sector. This demonstrates how EMI is helping to increase our nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity."

Mount raises more than \$61 million

Mount St. Mary's University recently completed its Generations Campaign for the Third Century, raising nearly \$61.4 million. The campaign started in 2002 with a goal of \$60 million and many experts at the time thought that would be unattainable.

President Thomas Powell, who started his tenure in 2003, thought a proposed \$30 million goal was too low.

"Primarily because of the love and dedication that people have for Mount St. Mary's," he said. "I think even though we're going through one of the toughest economic times since the Depression, I think people understand the historic nature of the Mount."

The money raised through the campaign will fund scholarships, professorships and improvements to facilities, including the Terrace

Residence Hall renovation, Waldron and Straw stadiums, Our Lady of the Meadows softball field, Founder's Plaza, Veterans' Walkway, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center and the Chapel of Immaculate Conception renovations.

All of the projects are finished except for the Chapel of Immaculate Conception, which is expected to be completed in the summer.

For Powell, the only disappointment from the campaign is that the university didn't raise enough money for a visitor center at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

"We're still about a million dollars shy for that, but that will hopefully take on a program all of its own," he said.

Seton Shrine hosting masterworks concert May 22

On Sunday afternoon, May 22, at 4 P.M., the 60 singers of the acclaimed Frederick Chorale and Dr. Elizabeth Krouse, organist for the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine, will present a special concert featuring the works of J.S. Bach and Antonio Vivaldi. This concert is FREE and open to the public. A goodwill offering will be requested, to assist with the extensive repairs the Shrine's or-

gan is currently undergoing.

The music in this concert represents the highest art of the Baroque Period (1600-1750), in all of its energy and joyful exuberance.

For further information about this concert call 301-447-6066.

Incarnation United Church of Christ hosts concert to benefit Kenya Mission Trip

The Incarnation United Church of Christ at 124 West Main Street in Emmitsburg will host a Spring Concert, "Singing Worship," on Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m. at the church. All churches of the Emmitsburg community will be participating in this afternoon of special music. Also, different choirs will be performing including a children's choir and a teenage choir, a handbell choir, solos, an ensemble, an original composition for the occasion, a praise band, and, best of all—there will be a combined choir directed by Cheryl Carney from Elias Lutheran Church. Refreshments will be served following the service. All donations will be used for the Council of Churches Kenya Mission trip in July 2011.

For more information, contact Pastor Jon Greenstone at jsgreenstone@verizon.net or 301-447-6239.



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Evolution of baseball

Since 1845 baseball has been generally accepted as the national sport, and has improved steadily and grown in popularity until it has eclipsed all other outdoor pastimes. Here are just a few important facts relative to the improvement of the game as played in the early days.

Underhanded pitching was enforced until the early 80s because the catchers worked without gloves and could not hold swiftly thrown overhand-balls without serious injury to their hands. In the very early days, balls were made of closely wound yarn. Later, small pieces of skin were sewed over this for cover, and still later, a small block of wood was placed in the center of the ball to make it harder and less liable to be batted out of shape.

The first bounce was considered out up to the late 50s, when the game then most popular from one end of New York City to the other gained its first real healthy start, and rules were made that compelled the players to show more skill in both catching and batting. Its popularity spread rapidly, and with the assistance of the papers, which began promoting it more, it became a nationwide sport not long after the close of the Civil War. It would take pages to tell all the other interesting things about the game's early history, and old-timers no doubt remember that in 1857 there were 49 clubs represented at the national Association of Baseball Players.

A War Claim for Emmitsburg

Emmitsburg ought to have a war claim. In fact no town without a war claim can be called progressive. All places near us are coming forward with the reasons why their people should be reimbursed for something or other that happened during the "recent unpleasantness."

It is up to Emmitsburg to "go while the going is good." A merely cursory review of this town's claim reveals the fact that the small sum of \$973,432.23 will square matters up to date - not figuring back interest cost.

Here is the basis for our claim to date: 62 settings of Minorca eggs adled and 513 quarts of Guernsey cream soured by the cannonading at Gettysburg on the first day of the fight; 17 citizens suffer loss of appetite; 324 loss of sleep; 19 maiden ladies loss of eyesight try to pick husbands from among the retreating confederates; the Burgess of the town broke his right arm and a \$10 bill endeavoring to keep tab on the number of drinks imbibed by Union Officers while resting within the Corporation; nine road supervisors lost their voices asking which way the troops were coming; one man had his wooden leg chopped up to make a campfire; three poker games with a \$64.38 jackpot were broken up.

These with minor claims such as those of stolen horses, destroyed crops, cattle killed, property appropriated and other items included in schedule is yet to be examined, largely run the amount beyond that asked for. But Emmitsburg cares nothing for trifles

and a few hundred thousand more or less matters for a little. As her claim is just a merely nominal one, however, the people here would not hesitate to request that it be given precedence over all other business in the House when it is presented. In the meantime, while the Bill is being prepared, we advise all citizens of the community who were incommoded by the "struggle" to hand in their accounts in order that they many be included.

Damage done by Monday's storm

The storm on Monday uprooted many trees in the Grove in front of Mount St. Mary's College, took half the roof of Mr. George Miller's barn near town, blew down a silo on Mr. Annan's farm, and wreck several chimneys in town. Mr. Manahan's barn was struck by lightning but suffered little damage. The ornamental top of Mother Seton's well was destroyed by the wind, which was particularly strong out the pike. The thunderstorm brought a 30° drop in temperatures.

Wivell barn destroyed last night

Mr. Frank Wivell's barn and out-buildings burned down last evening at around 6:30. Mr. Wivell lives on the old Warner farm which he purchased a short time ago, and quite recently had made extensive repairs on the buildings destroyed yesterday.

Accidents

A horse driven by Messrs. Walter and Harry Baker ran off Monday morning near Mount St. Mary's College. Aside from losing their lunch, no damage was done. The gentlemen were driving to St. Joseph's, where they are working on the new larger building now under construction. Last Saturday Mr. John Murray's automobile struck a wagon loaded with stones on the pike near the college. The machine was badly injured, but the occupants were more fortunate.

Improvements

Mr. Harry Stokes is having a cement walk laid on his property. Mr. Richard Zacharias has repapered his ice cream parlors, and the new Ashbaugh building is now under roof. Not everyone is working on improvements, however; calcimining artist had been busy on backyard fences hereabouts during the last two weeks.

License tangle straightened out

The objections to granting a license to Lawrence Mondorff, proprietor of the Hotel Slagle, presented by certain citizens through the Anti-Saloon League, was overruled by the court and the license was issued.

Mr. Mondorff succeeds his stepfather, the late Mr. James Slagle, and enjoys a splendid reputation here where he has lived for a number of years. Intimately associated with the former proprietor in the business of this well-known establishment, Mr. Mondorff will have little trouble maintaining the hotel up to the standard set by Mr. Slagle, who built up the business. The objections raised against the granting of his license were technical and in no

way reflected on the character or reputation of the young man in question.

Condition of the fountain

Can anyone tell why the fountain in the public square, the most conspicuous point in town, is allowed to remain in its present condition? It would seem that something is radically wrong with the pipes leading to it, which should drain the water from it. The result is the stagnant water that has been in the basin for nearly a year.

The tablets recording the movement of the troops of the Union in the Civil War have not been replaced since they were broken several months ago. All these things, including the condition of the grass and rusty appearance of the ironwork, are witness of the indifference of the Burgess and commissioners in connection with this, the most prominent spot in the town. A little attention, a small amount of money and a bit of care will transform what is now an eyesore into a thing of beauty, and every stranger entering Emmitsburg would become impressed with the pride the citizens of this place manifest in the appearance of their town.

May 12

With so much good material at hand the wonder is that Emmitsburg no longer has a baseball club. It is remarked on every side that in former seasons, with the exception of a few years, the people here supported an amateur nine that more than held its own with any team with which it crossed bats. The sentiment prevails that Emmitsburg should once more come to the front with a winning team. There is no town for miles around that patronizes the games more regularly and more generously. Under the circumstances, those who can play and who in playing to ride and gives such enjoyment would be manifesting a spirit worse than indifference should they fail to come forward and organize for the summer.

Improvements

Mr. Charles Landers has had his house and stable painted. Painters have been busy on the property of J. Stewart Annan and the house of the Miss Annan.



Even 100 years ago, spring rains caused Tom's Creek to routinely flood streets around the area, as shown in this photo taken by the old covered bridge, headed South on Old Frederick Road (South Seton Ave).

Mr. Zacharias has had the interior of his store and ice cream parlor repainted. A tin roof has also been put on the stable at the foot of the property. The improvements at Mr. Toppers barber-shop are now completed. The painters are now at work. Mr. Ashbaugh is having a cement pavement laid and Mr. Harner is having a new fence put around his lot on Frederick Street.

Mr. Harry Stokes, familiarly known as Squire Stokes, died at his home Saturday morning after a long illness. Services were held at his home on Monday afternoon. The interment was made in Mountain View Cemetery. Mr. Stokes was born in Mechanicstown in 1825. For a time he worked in the wool mill, but left to come to Emmitsburg in 1846 where he began the saddlery business, which in 1889 he turned over to his son.

In 1867 he was appointed magistrate and served in a judicial capacity continuously. His prominence in the community of his adoption is early evident. Elected school commissioner in 1854 he served for many years. For several terms he was a town commissioner and two times his fellow citizens elected him Burgess, the last time in 1884.

It was he who offered the resolution to pike Main Street in 1861. Before the contract was given out, the fire of 1863 swept over part of the town and the work was delayed. He was one of the original members of the Cemetery Co. and was proud of his membership in the Reformed Church, where as a member of the church's consistory, his influence and advice were felt and highly prized.

For learn more about the history of the Emmitsburg area, visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

May 19

Runaway team and injured driver

On Wednesday morning Mr. John Matthews was injured slightly in a runaway accident. He was driving a pair of horses in his ice wagon and near Zacharias' store lost control of the horses. When the animals were over the concrete crossing at the west side of the Square the tongue struck the ground and Mr. Matthews was thrown against the top of the wagon and his scalp was cut, but he continued to hold the lines in an effort to drive the frightened horses around the fountain. In making the turn, the wagon collided with a tree. Freed from the wagon the horses ran until they were caught near Mr. Hopp's store.

May 26

Harry Stokes dead

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Kirby Delauter

The definition of Ethics as defined in the Webster's dictionary is "The moral principles that govern a person's or group's behavior". As many of you know I have an issue that was resolved but is now ongoing with the Frederick County Ethics Commission. This started when I was elected Frederick County Commissioner December 2nd, 2010. I immediately addressed the Ethics Commission and asked for an opinion as to whether or not I could bid / perform County Capital Improvement projects, since my company has a long history of doing so in the past. Capital Improvement Projects are projects that are "taxpayer" funded. These are sealed bids that go directly to the purchasing department and are opened and read aloud in an open setting. The ethical question I posed was "Was I able to continue bidding on these types of taxpayer funded projects?"

The Commission interviewed me, along with many County Department Heads and we discussed if my request could

be honored. There were several variations discussed as well as private contracts that do not involve taxpayer funds. The County system is set up so that if a private person, or Developer hires a contractor to do County sewer or water work, the Contractor must enter into a separate contract with the County for the sewer / water portion of the work. This then is considered a "County Contract" but is not taxpayer funded; it is funded by the private owner. This is where it gets interesting.

The Ethics Commission in their first ruling, gave an advisory opinion that my company could not do County CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) and we could not bid any private developer or privately owned work as well, even though no County tax dollars were being used to fund these projects. They also added that I could not be involved with anything privately funded that involved County inspections. I immediately appealed that decision and was granted a second hearing.

During the second hearing, my

Attorney addressed both issues of bidding and or performing CIP taxpayer funded work and the private developer funded work. We agreed that CIP taxpayer funded work would not be bid upon by my company if for no other reason, just the appearance of partiality may exist. We strongly refuted the private developer funded portion of their advisory opinion.

As my Attorney laid out the list of people they have now excluded from running for public office in Frederick County, the list includes anyone that is inspected by the County, which is virtually all of us in one form or another. Basically if you own a business, or have any inspections whatsoever in your home, you can not run for County office, according to the broad opinion they provided in my case. Once the Ethics Commission heard the evidence presented by our Attorney, they reversed course and rescinded the privately funded portion of their first ruling and allowed my company to perform privately funded work within the County.

Now, it only gets better from here. In mid March, I received an email that stated the Ethics Commission met again, for a third time. This meeting took place in a closed session, without notice to myself or my Attorney. In this third meeting, the Ethics Commission went well beyond my inquiry and ruled further that my company could not enter into contracts for any construction work in Frederick County, even if the work was funded entirely by private property owners, with no public money involved. The fact that this decision was reached with no notice to myself or my Attorney, and was based on evidence apparently presented to the Ethics Commission that neither I, or my Attorney were made aware of and did not have the opportunity to refute, which is the violation of due process about which we have complained.

Per my Attorney, "the Constitutions of both the United States and the State of Maryland require that before a governmental agency can hold a hearing which concerns the personal or property

interests of a citizen, that person must be provided prior notice of the hearing and the opportunity to participate. This is a fundamental tenet of the Bill of Rights. These constitutional rights are not forfeited by one merely because he or she has won an election. The Ethics Commission owes the same duties of fairness and due process to Commissioner Delauter as they do to anyone who comes under their purview, whether those people agree politically with opponents of Commissioner Delauter or not".

In closing all I can say is that per the definition that is given of Ethics from Webster's dictionary at the beginning of this article, "The moral principles that govern a person's or group's behavior", maybe the Frederick County Ethics Commission should incorporate that into their mission so in the future other people will have the opportunity to defend their rights without having a rogue Commission decide their fate behind closed doors and without due process that is guaranteed by our Bill of Rights.

From the Desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

Once again, April saw a busy month with many changes for our community – some bad and some good. We also were forced to cope with Mother Nature and the flooding throughout town on Saturday, April 16. At one point, all roads into town were water covered – many to an impassable degree.

County government has continued its retreat from the North County area by de-funding the

successful Up County Family Partnership. This program has served families and children from the Walkersville / Lewis-town areas up through Emmitsburg for almost thirty years. The previous county board took over funding from Catholic Charities, who discontinued their participation approximately three years ago. The Town has also participated through a reduced fee structure for the building rental

as well as an annual contribution of \$12,000.

It should be noted that the town's contribution to the program, as a percentage of our budget, is 12x greater than the county contribution as a percentage of their budget. However, the removal of funding by a Baltimore based non-profit set the stage for the current board's decision to end county funding also. Even if the county had decided to make up the difference, their new contribution (as a percentage of their budget) would still have been less than Emmitsburg's current contribution. Instead, this worthwhile program joins the list of reduced services provided by county government – from local Community Agency School Services, to the local library, to the local Senior Center, to the local Head Start Program.

With little fanfare, the town has also (finally) passed an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance based of the Frederick County document adopted by the previous county board. While this ordinance does recognize the hard transportation realities of the local area, it draws the line at overcrowding our local schools. Un-

like the current county board proposal, the town will not allow a financial contribution (never to be seen again in Emmitsburg) toward future county school construction in order to promote development that drives local attendance over 100% of CURRENT capacity.

The Town Council has also begun to assess permit fees and other charges in an effort to determine if some may be re-formatted, reduced, or eliminated. While many fees are less than those of communities of similar size, I would still question why we charge based on estimates of staff time required to review, process, and approve when we have already budgeted to hire a person specifically to fulfill those types of activities! When you come into the town office to utilize a service your taxes are already funding, why should you as a resident or business owner have to pay an (additional?) fee? I can understand a pass though charge related to advertising costs or legal fees related to a specific review – or other such costs not already budgeted for. The town council will continue to discuss these possibilities next month...

Also, Commissioner Tim O'Donnell deserves recognition for his work to secure grant funding for a Multi User Trail in the vicinity of Rainbow Lake. The trail is primarily designed for mountain biking but may also be used for hiking – this will complement the paved, walking trail system the Mayor has developed for Community Park. Tim is working hard to organize and obtain independent grant funding to cover all construction costs while also establishing a network of volunteers to conduct oversight and maintenance. The town council has approved these efforts with the understanding that no construction can be undertaken prior to public review and approval of a design concept.

Lastly, the Town Council is sensitive to community concern over the flooding that periodically prevents access to the Northgate subdivision every four years or so. While we have reviewed the history and considered possible actions previously as a body (although some faces may have changed), we are now attempting to officially inquire as to Fire and Rescue capabilities when this situation arises. I believe Public Safety, in terms of the provision of emergency services, is the first question that must be better answered. I am certainly willing to discuss past actions and possible future actions with area residents – and encourage them to share their concerns with the Town Council. We may not be able to resolve the situation to everyone's convenience, but we certainly have an obligation to make sure everyone is as safe as possible.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

Charter Government: Yes? No? . . . Maybe?

Ellis Burrus

If you've seen a number of people walking around in the county recently, clutching clipboards and asking strangers, "Excuse me, are you registered to vote in Frederick County?" they are volunteers collecting signatures on a petition. This petition is for the creation of an elected charter writing board.

What?

Frederick County is moving towards changing our form of government to one that will give us more local control: a charter government.

Here's a little background: in Frederick County we elect county commissioners. That's the kind of government that all Maryland counties used to have. Since the end of WWII most counties have adopted either Code Home Rule or charter government so that they can have more local control.

The way it works now is that our commissioners are restricted in their ability to enact local legislation. Every year they make up a wish list of local needs that our delegation takes to Annapolis

where it goes before the Maryland House of Delegates and the Senate. If those bodies pass our legislation then it goes to the governor to be signed into law. It's not a good way to run our county.

Code Home Rule allows some more local control, but charter government provides the most autonomy.

To get a charter government, we have to write a charter, which, like our constitution, distributes power between parts of government and between government and citizens.

The current Board of County Commissioners has appointed a board to write our charter. Many citizens feel that something this important should be done by an elected rather than an appointed Charter Board. According to the Maryland constitution, there will be a special election if 2,000 registered voters petition for such an election.

There is concern among Frederick County citizens that the appointed Charter Board favors a strong executive -- one person would wield most of the govern-

ment's power. That form of charter is just ONE of MANY that could be formed. There are many, many options. We need to explore and discuss them and be open to the best one for the Frederick County community.

For example, while I was out petitioning, I asked a man if he wanted to sign my petition for an elected charter writing board. He responded, "I don't like charter government. I don't want some over-paid county executive telling us how to run things." Well, that's the same as if I'd asked him if he wanted some ice cream and he said, "No, I don't like chocolate mint."

Clearly, there's a misunderstanding: ice cream comes in a lot of different flavors. So does charter government.

Charter government is definitely not the same as "...some over-paid county executive telling us how to run things." Actually, there doesn't even have to be an elected executive at all. There could be a county council that appoints the executive. At this point, nothing is set in stone. That's what the char-

ter writing board is supposed to do: examine all the possible forms of charter government, listen to citizen comments, and then write a charter that describes the best form for our local needs.

Many of us feel that the appointed board is heavily weighted towards the one flavor: the strong county executive form of charter government. The candidates who are on the petition are more open to the kind of government described below.

So, what should a good charter look like?

I think that the charter should describe an open government where decisions are discussed and voted on in public meetings. There should be a council that represents all areas of our county. The executive and the council should work together without one dominating the other. There should be strong ethics provisions to guard against abuse of power. Finally, there should be provisions that prevent influence of special interests. It should also be short, i.e., it should not be pages and pages of detailed instruction.

It should not try to micro-manage the future.

Another concern is that the charter could be defeated again. Yes, it was twenty years ago that a charter was presented to the voters and rejected. A slogan that helped defeat it read, "Charter government: yes. This charter: NO!"

If a straight chocolate mint charter describing a government run by a strong executive is presented to the voters there will be many who will fight against it. If it's defeated, we'll be set back at least another four years -- maybe another twenty years-- in our attempts to get some more local control through charter government.

So, if you see a petitioner, please sign their form, give 'em a pat on the back, maybe buy an ice cream cone for them (any flavor). Just remember: if nothing else, they've got you thinking about the charter government process now.

If you would like to sign the petition you can get a copy by emailing: FredCoCharterPetition@gmail.com.

Commissioner Blaine Young on Charter Government

Do we need one person in charge or not when it comes to the executive functions of the county government, much like a President, a Governor and/or a Mayor or Burgess, or do you want five people in charge? That's the question. It's that simple. That is the major question and the first hurdle you have to get over when you decide if you are for or against Charter Government. That is what Charter Government is and that one person in charge is called a County Executive.

Right now all the executive and legislative powers and responsibilities are shared equally among the five county commissioners. With Charter Government the legislative powers would be assumed by a county council much like a congress, a state legislature, or a town council. All of our 12 municipalities in Frederick County have the charter form of government already, lead by a Mayor or Burgess performing the executive function and Town Councils, Town Commissions or a Board of Aldermen performing the legislative function. It has been about 20 years since the last time we had the debate about Charter Government and the voters had the opportunity to cast their votes on whether or not they wanted to change to Charter Government for Frederick County's future. Now for the record, the voters have said, "No," four different times when the question was placed on the ballot; twice for Charter Government (1970 and 1991) and twice for Code Home Rule (1968 and 2002).

So, what has changed in the twenty years since the last time the voters said, "No," to Charter Government on the ballot? In my opinion, Frederick County is at a cross-

roads and we need one person in charge with a defined vision for the future whether I/we like the vision or not. We need to know what our plan is for our infrastructure whether it is school construction, roads, water and sewer, waste to energy, and/or other major capital projects. Also the buck stops with one person regarding whether or not the county government is operating effectively and efficiently. That person would be the County Executive.

Right now we are lucky that we have a clear majority of Commissioners on the Board who are in agreement on the direction for the county. But that has not always been the case and at times the County Commission has operated like a five-headed monster with no clear direction. At election time, when casting your vote for commissioner, you pick the issues that are important to you and figure out which candidates stand the way you want on those issues. Then you pick a majority of candidates and try to pick and vote for a good Board of Commissioners. There are those people who single shot (vote

for only one candidate) and that is great for the ego but means nothing to the candidate who sits without a majority on the Board.

While the Frederick County Charter Board works through the process of deciding what to include and exclude in the proposed charter, contact them to let them know whether or not you want a strong executive or a weak one. You can reach them by e-mail at charterboard@FrederickCountyMD.gov and/or visit the county website to learn more about what type of charters can be adopted. For instance you can have an elected County Executive or you can have a County Executive appointed by the elected County Council. This is just one example of the different type of charters that can be written.

I would also like to say a few words about holding a special election to choose members for the Charter Board. Yes, it is their right under the State Constitution if they can get 2,000 valid signatures on the petition. But before you sign the petition to hold a special election, ask yourself sev-

eral questions. First, do you have a major problem with the majority of the current Charter Board? What are those differences and do the people on the petition satisfy those differences? Are you for or against charter government? Because if the required 2,000 signatures are gathered, and a special election is held, it will cost Frederick County citizens at least \$250,000 to hold that special election. A quarter of a million dollars is a lot of money, especially during these tough economic times. If you are against charter government, don't sign the peti-

tion. You can just wait until the Presidential Election in 2012 and vote against charter government for FREE. Let the debate begin, free of charge. We don't have money to waste.

The next meeting of the Charter Board is Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. on the third floor of Winchester Hall or you can watch it on Frederick County's Cable Channel 19. You can view all meetings by visiting <http://frederick.granicus.com> and choosing the appropriate meeting under Other Boards and Commissions.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner George Weikert

The responsibility of a Pennsylvania County Commissioner is very broad and complex. Pa House Representatives and Senators write the law and County Commissioners are charged with providing the services required to support the laws which the Legislature creates.

Some of those services include space and staff for the Commonwealth Court, a Sheriff's Dept. to serve Court bench warrants, supervise and transport inmates, Public Defenders to represent those who cannot afford council and District Attorneys who prosecute those who commit crimes. Domestic Relations caseworkers who help families through divorce and domestic violence, Children and Youth staff who care for abused, neglected and troubled children. Probation Services help adult and juvenile offenders through their troubled times and aide them in returning to their homes, jobs and communities. Counties must provide a prison to house those awaiting hearings and trials and a longer term home for those convicted of crimes of a local short term nature. The 911 Emergency Management System is built, maintained and staffed 24/7 by County Government so as to assure the safety and welfare of all county residents and

to direct and protect all emergency responders through out the county.

Counties also must establish and maintain an accurate value for all land parcels in their jurisdiction. They must record and archive all deeds, criminal and civil court records, issue marriage licenses, passports and right to carry gun permits. Counties are also required to provide planning support for local municipalities and also a mapping system where all land parcels and subdivisions can easily be identified.

Counties may support a Conservation District, which I'm proud to say Adams County does. Conservation Districts provide financial and technical support to the agricultural community, make sure our soils are not eroded, our streams stay high quality and our drinking water remains pure.

County Commissioners need to support the economic development of their jurisdiction. We all need to secure a good paying job so that we can raise a family, own a home and enjoy our lives as we wish. The Adams County Economic Development Corporation is supported by your commissioners and works hard to retain and develop new businesses throughout our county.

Tourism and Agriculture are

the two major industries in Adams County and we must do our best to help support and grow those businesses. We can do this by bringing new businesses that support those efforts. Agriculture has become high tech, we need equipment sales and support to help our farmers upgrade and maintain their machinery. We all should buy local, residents and businesses alike to assure our farms stay productive and our farmers can earn a good living. Our local agriculture community is capable of producing all the fruits, vegetables, meats and grains to fill our shelves with food. All we need to do is support them by buying our food from local vendors.

The 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War will bring millions of extra visitors to our communities over the next three years. The Gettysburg National Park and Eisenhower Historical Site has and always will be a historic traveler destination. We need to provide updated lodging, restaurants, shopping and infrastructure so our visitors have an unforgettable visit and return to see us on a regular basis.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg College, Harrisburg Area Community College Gettysburg Campus, Well Span Gettysburg Hospital

and The Gettysburg Area School District provide highly recognized education, healthcare and employment for many county residents.

Today's successful businesses are pulling back from brick and mortar projects and promoting their employees to work from home. Many County residents are connected to their employers via high speed broadband connectivity. Many employees report to their jobs one or two days a week and complete the remainder of their work from home via their computer. Many residents can't access high speed data connections from their homes and still rely on dialup connections which are not adequate for home office use.

We need to promote the deployment of high speed broadband services throughout Adams County. If you can't get high speed data in your neighborhood simply call 1-888-436-7841 and you will receive information on how to get broadband service for you and your neighbors.

Open space, agricultural land and green space preservation are essential to continue the beautiful, rural and refreshing lifestyle which we all cherish and adore. We need to direct our residential development toward designated growth areas where public wa-

ter and sewer are available. This will allow us to control noise and traffic, keep our water clean and preserve open rural vistas and beautiful open country sides. Open space and farmland require less roads, schools and public services than residential development. Farmland and open space easements are one time costs while residential development will forever place increasing tax burdens on all county residents.

So why reelect George Weikert as your Adams County Commissioner? I have worked tirelessly to preserve, protect and promote our beautiful county. I have helped reduce the size of county government and balance the county budget with no county tax increase in the past two years, all during the worst economic slow down since the Great Depression. The county ended 2010 with a \$1.4 million capital reserve and a \$3.6 million cash balance, which enabled county operations to continue into this spring without the need to borrow funds to pay the bills.

I LOVE ADAMS COUNTY. I have the background, experience, knowledge and energy to help lead Adams County into the future, and with your support I am ready, willing and able to serve you in a second term as your Adams County Commissioner.

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

The month of May is filled with many events such as the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes race and the Indianapolis 500 to name a few. Mother's Day falls on Sunday, May 8th and on the last Monday of May, May 30th; we commemorate all the soldiers who died while in military service. This holiday was formerly known as Decoration Day and was first enacted to honor Union and Confederate soldiers. After World War I, the name was changed to Memorial Day and the honor was extended to all Americans who died in *all* wars. May is also Skin Cancer Awareness month.

As you may already know, skin cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer surpassing lung and prostate cancer. The weather is warming up and the dark days of April are being replaced with the sunny days of May. There is a need to be careful when out in the sun. One of the major causes of skin cancer is long periods of exposure to sun. The month of May for our local government means primary elections. We have races going on for borough council seats, commissioners, school boards, tax collector and magisterial district justice. The Pri-

mary election will be held on Tuesday, May 17th. In Carroll Valley, there are two polling places. One located at the Children's Learning Center in the Liberty Mountain Resort & Conference Center complex and the other at the Carroll Valley Borough Office. Be sure to visit the appropriate polling place to vote. It is based on where you live in the Borough. The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Hope to see you at the polls.

At the last Council meeting, I was asked if I was prepared for an emergency. I, as well as most of the council members, responded with a "No" to the question asked by Council member Dan Patton. Dan was briefing the council members and audience on how to be prepared and make your family safer when a disaster strikes. The three basic steps are: (1) Make a Family Plan, (2) Build an Emergency Kit and (3) Be Informed. The entire briefing was recorded by Community Media and can be viewed on the Carroll Valley website. To launch the recording, go to www.carrollvalley.org, click on *Videos* on the menu bar at the top of the home page and select the *April 2011* meeting. As ex-

plained on the Ready America website, "Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count." Thank you Dan for explaining why we need to plan for the unexpected. For further information, go to www.ready.gov.

One important aspect of knowing what to do during an emergency is *communication* that is "keeping informed". In our regional area, you can tune into two radio stations: WGET (1310 AM Gettysburg) or WGTY (107.7 FM Gettysburg). If you are watching television, you may want to turn to the Weather channel or pay attention to the Emergency Alert System message that interrupts the broadcast to notify you of an emergency. If the emergency warrants it, coverage is broadcasted on channels 8, 21, and 43. If you would like to get emergency information sent to you via email and/or text messages to your cell phone, sign up for AlertPA. AlertPA provides you with real-time updates about the emergency. This is what I use and recommend it. To sign-up for AlertPA, go to alert.pa.gov and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Alert

System home page will be displayed. Click *New User* on the left side of the home page and the AlertPA Registration page is displayed. Complete the registration and you are on your way to receiving alerts and emergency notifications.

Did you know that the Adams County Department of Emergency Services has been compiling a list of all persons located in Adams County who need special assistance when an Emergency arises such as fire, floods, tornados and evacuations. This information is added to the E-911 Telephone System, so when the Emergency Services receives your call for help, the system will automatically identify your disability and the type of assistance needed. Please know that the use of this information does conform to the Privacy Act regulation. If you are interested in signing up, you can pick up the Special Assistance Needs form from the Borough office or call the Adams County Department of Emergency Services at (717) 334-8603 and ask them to send you one. Emergency Services will send you the form with a stamped returned envelop.

On May 4th, a Commissioners' Forum will be held at the

Fairfield Fire & EMS hall from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. All the candidates running for commissioner will be there to answer questions. The Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA) will be holding their Yard Sale on May 7th (Saturday) from 8:00 to 11:00 am at the Ski Liberty parking lot. On Sunday, May 15th the Fairfield Fire & EMS will be holding their Open House from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. If you play golf and want to help us raise money for our July 4th

Celebration, please consider playing in the 5th Annual July 4th Fund Raiser Golf Tournament being held by CVCA on June 9th. Pick up a registration form at the Borough office. This year the tournament is being play on the par 71 championship Carroll Valley Golf Course. The Borough will be holding the following meetings in May: *Planning Commission* (Monday – May 2nd), *Borough Council* (Tuesday – May 10th), and *Recreation & Parks* (Wednesday – May 25th). If you have any questions, please contact me by email at mayor@carrollvalley.org or by cell at (301) 606-2021. Be careful driving on the road. We need to slow down.

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Lisa Moreno

Deciding to run for an elected position is no easy task. But, when you have a deep care and concern about a county that you grew up in, all things come together. I want to have that opportunity again to make a difference in my county, and be a part in preparing Adams County for the future.

At this time I would like to announce my candidacy for a second-term as Adams County Commissioner. I have over 17 years of direct county government experience, with four of those years as a current Commissioner of this wonderful county. I am a graduate of Gettysburg High School and Harrisburg Area Community College with an Associates Degree in Legal Assistant Studies. I had the honor in 2010 to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award from Harrisburg Area Community College. I also graduated in the Fall of 2010 from the County Commissioners Association of

Pennsylvania Academy for Excellence in County Government by taking a number of core and elective courses.

I have to be honest with you last year was an extremely difficult year not only for the Board of Commissioners, but for all who were involved in the reassessment process. Let me remind everyone, the reassessment process had to be undertaken. The County settled a lawsuit, agreeing to proceed with a reassessment, marking 20 years since the last reassessment was completed. Time tables were set, the process began, and the values were certified last year.

Property owners still have the right to appeal their taxes every year to the board of commissioners. Currently the County is still involved in a lawsuit for a different issue of the Reassessment. Hopefully we can settle the remaining issue and move on to other county business.

Well, I have to be honest with

you the current Board of Commissioners have worked quite well together, tackling issues that need to be addressed as a unified board, functioning with the Chairman running the meetings. And yes, we are not always going to agree and believe me, we don't, but there is a lot of compromise and a great deal of respect for one another. Sometimes in government compromise is the only way to get projects accomplished. Work together for the good of the community. That is what I have decided to do, and may be others should think about working that same way too.

So you ask what has been going on county government. Well I can assure you that we have addressed many issues, and are preparing the county for the future. With the future in mind, the financial state of the county rises to the top. For quite some time the county has sought out a tax revenue anticipation note. This borrowing of funds would hold the county over until real es-

tate tax revenue was received. Well, for the 2011 budget year the county has a \$2.8 million fund balance and a \$1.4 million capital reserve budget carryover to support operations until the tax revenue is received. Let me tell you this is quite an accomplishment.

My topics of discussion during the 2007 election cycle was properly managing resources, employing a county administrator, allocating support to green space program, tackling water issues, creating housing opportunities were just a few topics of my discussion, and I can proudly say, by working together, all of these topics were accomplished. For example, the Board created the Water Resource Advisory committee and the Housing committee along with the hiring of a well-qualified county manager.

So what do I see for the future of Adams County? The county is in the process of replacing the 911 radio system due to the equipment be-

ing obsolete, and this is a huge undertaking. We will be purchasing the St. Francis Xavier School for the future expansion of government offices. The county was awarded a grant from PHMC for an itinerant architect to assist the county with the organization/processes of county records. The board takes part in many different projects on a daily basis.

The next board of commissioners will be challenged immensely, as we have been challenged this last 3 1/2 years. There is one thing that I know holds true, county government is not going to get any easier, government will be even more challenging as time passes. Drastic funding cuts are occurring at the federal level, from the state level leading eventually to the county. Who is left to pick up the pieces, county government? We need to plan appropriately for the future of Adams County, and have the right people in county government. I ask for your support as I seek a second term as an Adams County Commissioner.

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Marty Qually

Four years ago I ran for County Commissioner and almost won, or at least that was how I liked to say it. I won the Democratic Primary in 2007 along with Lisa Moreno and became one of four candidates vying for one of the three County Commissioner seats. The truth is that I didn't almost win, I came in last place. A lot of people after that shelacking would pack up their tent and just go home. Well, I didn't start caring about my community when I decided to run for office in 2007 and I didn't stop when I lost. The truth is, all I lost in that election was the election. I never lost my will to serve, I never lost my ability to listen, and I never stopped caring about my community.

Caring about our community isn't just about living here for all of your life, some of us are new or have returned. For me much of my love of community came from my large family and local upbringing, as much as it comes from a desire to see a better future for our children. While most of my brothers and sisters have moved out of Adams County, all seven of us graduated from Saint Francis Xavier and Delone Catholic High School. After retiring from the United States Army, my father became a Business professor at Mount Saint Mary's University. It was a great professional opportunity for him, but in truth his children reaped the best benefit, as now we could afford a college education. In the end five of us attended and graduated from Mount Saint Mary's University. My wife, Tanya, and I live in Cumberland Township, where we raise our eight year old son Lucien. Helping to improve our community for my son was

one of the reasons why I ran for County Commissioner in 2007 and that concern to make our community better is still with me. I loved growing up here and I want to help keep more of our families in Adams County.

Over the past four years I have tried my best to serve our citizens in whatever capacity possible. I have served on the Adams County Housing Committee, working with non-profits to help create and preserve affordable housing. In 2008 I was appointed by Governor Rendell with the consent of State Senator Richard Alloway to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Crane Operators. And lastly in 2010 I was appointed by the Adams County Court of Common Pleas to become one of three Adams County Auditors. These positions are not glamorous or headline news, but they are important. I do not believe that I was appointed to any of these points for my expertise in the area, but for my ability to work well with others and to get the job done.

Recently, the people of Adams County have been faced with many challenges and have tried to make their concerns heard by the Commissioners. In many cases these concerns have gone unheard. I do not believe that our Commissioners have stopped caring for the citizens, just that they have emphasized the "office" in public office, more than the "public". In transforming the position of County Commissioner into a bureaucratic 9 to 5 management job, the citizens of Adams County have become an afterthought. Accessibility to the Commissioners has become limited and the best way to be heard is to become a paid consultant

hired by the Commissioners. During the Reassessment process 21st Century, the consultant hired by the County, was given more credibility that citizens or County staff. During the process of selling Green Acres, our County operated adult living facility, County staff and citizen comments were given back seat to input from a paid financial consultant. Most recently the Commissioners voted to support swapping preserved land, paid for by the citizens of Adams County, without asking for their comments. This last one just sounds like the John Kerry gaff, "We were for the land swap before we were against it." In all of these cases my primary concern is not where we as citizens stood on the issues, but instead that we were given little or no voice to state our case. The first job of any elected official is to listen to the public and in that job our County Commissioners have failed. Our Commissioners remain dedicated officials and I know they care about Adams County, but this style of leadership must go. Maybe its just part of coming from a large family, but I truly believe that we do better when we work together.

Adams County government has been through some dramatic changes over the past few years. For the first time in our County's history a County Manager has been hired, a long overdue Reassessment has painfully been completed, we have seen an inordinate amount growth in housing without the tax relief that comes with economic development, and now we are faced with tight budgets and no help in sight. I am not going to lie to you, we need to change the way we do business in order to survive in these try-

ing times. More of the same 9 to 5 micromanagement that got us into this mess is not going to get us out. County Commissioners need to begin getting out of the Courthouse and listen to citizens, community leaders, and municipal officials in determining the direction of our County. With the addition of a County Manager to complement our already knowledgeable and competent County employees, this transition is possible. It is only by becoming more involved in the County outside of the Courthouse that our Commissioners will find solutions in these challenging times.

It is time to accept that there will be no life line from the State or Federal government to

keep our taxes down, in fact it seems the more they "help", the more it costs us. It is time to realize that wastefully hiring consultants to tell you what you want to hear is a disservice to County staff and local experts. We can do more with less, we can keep our government a manageable size, and we can keep our taxes and debt down, but only with new elected leadership willing to listen to the citizens. We need elected officials with the courage to represent all of Adams County.

I am ready to serve Adams County. I am ready to listen to your concerns. And together we will move our County forward. I would appreciate your vote on May 17th.



Tanya, Lucien, and Marty Qually



Adams County Auditor



Good Neighbor

Marty Qually for Adams County Commissioner

The people of Adams County have spoken. They want County Commissioners who are strong enough to put the people first, will listen to their concerns, and have the courage to work with others and get the job done.

Your Input and Support Strengthen County Government. As Your County Commissioner I Will Listen to Your Concerns and Ideas. Together We Can Do What is Best for Adams County.

A County Commissioner for the People...

- Is accessible to the public
- Works for the People not just as a 9 to 5 bureaucrat
- Respects Community leaders by listening to them

A Representative of the People Serves...

- The "Will of the people" not the "Will of the paid consultants"
- To become a link between the public and the government
- By empowering county staff to do the people's business

A Team Player for Adams County...

- Acts with the consensus of the Adams County Team
- Protects our rural heritage while planning for our future
- Works with Business Community and brings more Revenue to Adams County

★ ★ VOTE QUALLY ★ May 17th ★ 7am - 8pm ★ ★

Marty Qually for Adams County Commissioner

Friends of Marty Qually ★ PO Box 3163 ★ Gettysburg, PA 17325
Marty@MartyQually.com ★ 717-339-6514 ★ www.MartyQually.com

Paid for by Friends of Marty Qually

COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Shannon Bohrer

Lately there has been a lot of news about public employee unions and the need for reform of these unions because of the deficits in municipal, local, state and federal governments. The PEA party (People for Ethical America) must have been asleep because we thought the deficits were directly caused by a financial meltdown, the one where our government bailed out the banks. It was our opinion that the recession was responsible for the deficits, we were not aware that it was the public employees that were taking us broke. It is just amazing what you can learn when you watch television!

“It used to be that public employees were underpaid and over-benefited. Now they are over-benefited and overpaid compared to their private-sector counterparts.”

Governor Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota

The argument is that if we allow the public employee unions to exist, they will eventually take us broke. These unions have direct access to the elected officials that pass laws. The direct access results in higher salaries, benefits and pensions. It has been reported that they are higher than private industry. This is why the public employees make so much money. This is amazing that we are just now coming to the realization and we really need

to address this issue.

“Average government workers are now making \$30,000 a year more than the average private-sector worker.” Former Governor Mitt Romney of Massachusetts

Our local state and federal governments cannot continue in this direction. If public employees have access to our elected officials, who else could have access? What would happen if big business, oil companies and financial industries had access to our elected officials? Wait a minute, they do have access, but does their access relate to bloated salaries? The government does not regulate salaries of private industry, so access to government by private industry does what?

In the oil companies (and this was a surprise to me), their access gives them subsidies - can you believe it? The subsidies are in the form of nine different tax breaks, written just for oil and gas companies. The oil company subsidies amount to 45 billion (that's right - 45 billion) over the last 10 years. During that same time period, the last decade, the big five oil companies made about 1 trillion (that's right) 1 trillion in profit. The argument in congress is that the oil companies need the subsidies and without them oil production would slow down.... I think the argument is weak. In fact energy production in all areas has been up for the last two years. What's really amazing is that

one oil company has made industry record profits for the last two years. After we tackle the public union problems maybe we should look at the access the oil industry has, just maybe. If we don't - how far will they go?

After doing extensive research on the oil companies (about 10 minutes on Google) I did some research on the financial industry, specifically Hedge Funds. I did know what a Hedge fund was, but I had heard on the radio that Hedge fund managers only pay 15 percent on their income tax because it is *capital gains*. You may recall that Warren Buffet (the investor and one of the richest persons in America) testified that he had a lower tax rate than his secretary, because his income came from capital gains. It turns out that if you invest your own money in something and earn, say, a million dollars, you only have to pay 15 percent in taxes. I don't know why, but I would say it has something to do with the financial industry having access to our elected officials - just a wild guess.

In 2010, the top 25 Hedge fund managers made 25 billion in income (not millions, but billions) and one manager made over 4 billion - and they all paid 15 percent in taxes? I did find this a little confusing. You see capital gains tax of 15 percent is for capital gains and capital gains is money you make from investing your money. The confusing part is that Hedge fund manag-

ers are investing other peoples money and yet they only pay the 15 percent? My intuition tells me that the Hedge Fund managers also have access to our elected officials. If the PEA party can find this out in 15 or 20 minutes on the internet, who else has access to our public officials and what is this costing us?

I do wonder what the oil and financial industry have done with all that money. The oil industry is always running advertisements on television about how safe drilling is and how many jobs the industry provides. Forty five billion dollars should provide a lot of jobs, and there might be enough left over to pay for the television advertising. I do not ever remember seeing an advertisement for Hedge funds. The extra money they make by only paying 15 percent in taxes probably goes to bonuses. After all, without paying bonuses you can not keep the best and brightest.... Of course you can always donate to your favorite political campaign....

Having done some additional research on the issues, because of being a little more than slightly confused I found a briefing paper on “Debunking the Myth of the Overcompensated Public Employee,” by Jeffrey Keefe. The research was done by the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. According to the paper, government workers are actually paid less than private workers, by about \$6,000. Not only are they paid less, the government worker is bet-

ter educated, 54 percent having a college degree. If we do not stop the influence that public employee unions have on our elected officials, the public employees will soon make as much as their counterparts in private industry. Of course if their counterparts in private industry also continue to have influence with our elected officials, they can stay ahead of the public employees - with subsidies and tax breaks, I think?

In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one part of the citizens to give to the other. Voltaire (1764)

As the official spokesperson for the PEA party, I must admit that both members are a little confused. We agree that too much influence with elected officials can have negative consequences. Then again it is written, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

To read past editions of Words from Winterbilt, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net

To The PEA party's official position is that access to elected officials is not the problem. It seems that everyone who has access to the elected officials' benefits - except those of us who do not have access - we think.

View from the Track

Kip Hamilton

Let me begin this month with some sad news. On Friday, April 8th, Fairfield Fire & EMS suddenly and unexpectedly lost our friend and Vice President, Bill Chase, who, just the previous night had been doing what he loved...working the grill in the kitchen at our Thursday night Bingo. Bill was a rock of strength around the station, a friend to all and he will be greatly missed. Also, please plan on stopping by the firehouse in Fairfield on Sunday, May 15 from 1-4 for our EMS Open House in recognition of National EMS Week. There will be some great demonstrations! The kids will love it... even the adult ones!

If you recall last month the question was raised whether ours was a single, democratic country. We talked about how the founders had established that each of our states was a separate, sovereign state united for a common purpose. But, what about that democracy thing? Remember back when you were a kid and having playground disputes settled with a loud chorus of “Majority Rules!” That's a democracy in action... So is a lynch mob.

Even though a great many politicians, teachers, journalists and citizens nowadays believe that our Founders created a Democracy; that is absolutely not true. The Founders knew full well the differences between a Republic and a Democracy and they repeatedly and emphatically said that they had founded a Republic....“if we could keep it”, as Ben Franklin said once.

Article IV Section 4, of the Constitution “guarantees to every state in this union a Republican form of government”. Madison warned us of the dangers of democracies with these words, “Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security, or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths...”

Democracies always self-destruct when the non-productive majority realizes that it can vote itself handouts from the productive minority by electing the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury. When there are no longer enough producers to fund the legitimate functions of government and the

socialist programs, the democracy will collapse, always to be followed by a Dictatorship. 47% of the households in our country pay no federal income taxes. What do you think will happen when that number reaches 52% or 55%?

Currently, only 43% of adults in our country are working and paying taxes, yet we are told that we are not doing enough. They say that “The Rich” are not paying their “fair share” and in order for the system to be more “equitable” that the people who are working and paying taxes must pay more. What??? How much is enough for these guys? What about the half of the country who are not working and being supported by those who are? Where is the equity in that?

We are told to do our “patriotic duty” and go along with the higher taxes. Like someone said, Socialism works fine until you run out of other peoples' money. In 2007, just 4 years ago, our national debt was \$167 Billion for the entire year. The amount of debt our career politicians incurred this past February was over \$260 Billion in one month! They are now spending EIGHT times the amount of money they receive. If your family made \$100K a year,

that's like putting \$800K on your VISA. We borrow around \$4 Billion each day. How are we ever going to pay this back?

Standards & Poor, the national credit rating agency just lowered their evaluation of the US Government's official ability to maintain our AAA rating to “Negative.” Unless Congress and the White House stop the fiscal shenanigans and get serious about cutting both the deficit (the year-to-year shortfall, now over \$1 trillion) and the national debt (above \$14 trillion and soaring), the “full faith and credit” of the United States is in danger of becoming an international joke... if it isn't already.

Why have we reached this close to the edge of collapse?

Apathy. That's why. Each one of us is to blame because we have allowed this nonsense to continue. We keep re-electing politicians to office who have been proven to be abject failures in directing this country. Why? Every day we hear of totally outrageous bills proposed, votes taken, money wasted, statements made by our career politicians and what do we do? We just shrug and shake our heads...maybe give that little “what the heck” laugh...you know the one... and that's as far as it goes. Then we go back to doing whatever we were doing. Folks, we cannot do this any lon-

ger. We must get involved. ‘Don't think there's anything you can do?’

Were you paying attention last November?

The primary election for 2011 is being held in PA on Tuesday, May 17th. Our patriotic duty is not to pay ever-increasing taxes, which will insure our once great country plunges over the cliff. Our single patriotic duty is to cast a vote...and not a vote for the status quo. We must start paying attention and take our representative duty seriously. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Your vote does matter. You can make a difference. We must replace these career politicians who have grown over time to represent not the citizens who live in their districts, but the bankers, the unions and the corporate lobbyists who insure their re-election. We need to get back to our constitutional roots now more than ever. This movement needs to start with the local and state elections.

There are no more important elections in the history of our country than the local elections of 2011 and the national election next year. The very survival of our republic as we have known it hangs in the balance. If you don't do anything else, make sure you are properly registered, and on Tuesday the 17th turn off the stupid TV and GO VOTE!

Pure Onsense Chinese Aggression?

Scott Zuke

Having just recently overtaken Japan to become the world's second largest economy, China has taken the reigns from the Soviet Union as the first nation in the post-Cold War era with the potential to rise to superpower status, and many Americans who see international relations as a zero-sum game view China's ascendancy as a threat to US power and prosperity, particularly with the amount of our debt they hold and their increasing pressure on world oil supplies.

While US policy has been to welcome the emergence of prosperous and peaceful China, the relationship has frequently been strained over issues including the status of Taiwan, China's undervaluing of its currency in order to maintain competitive economic advantage, and its human rights record. Add to that their friendly relations with the likes of Iran, Burma, and North Korea, and their provocative military exercises, including destroying an orbiting satellite (the debris from which nearly crossed the path of the International Space Station recently), and it's a wonder that we still manage to maintain such close relations in so many other regards.

The question at the heart of determining appropriate policy toward China is whether they are acting irrational and aggressively, or rational and defensively. I argue the latter to be the case.

Consider some of their apparently aggressive actions in recent years. China has been accelerating the modernization of its nuclear and conventional arms technologies in order to be able to project its power further beyond its borders, raising concern among US allies Taiwan, Japan and South Korea, among others in the region. While not openly accusing it of aggressive intentions, American diplomats seek from China what they call "strategic reassurance." In the words of Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg, "China must reassure the rest of the world that its development and growing global role will not come at the expense of security and well-being of others."

To understand the typical Chinese response to statements like this, it's important to understand China's history. Weighing heavily on the country's cultural recollection is memory of its "century of humiliation," a period from the mid-19th century through WWII during which China was carved up and exploited by foreign imperial forces

from western Europe and Japan. Sovereignty against foreign influence and territorial security are thus deeply ingrained in China's political decision-making process. The US fanned China's fear of external coercion in the 1950s by using "nuclear blackmail" to restrict its involvement in the Korean War. In this light, China's relatively small nuclear program, developed soon thereafter, can be seen as a rational and defensive response to coercive foreign policies that threatened its sovereignty.

And so, when US diplomats today call for China to "reassure" the rest of the world that they have benign intentions with their growing military capability, it's no surprise that their response is along the lines of, "If you don't have to, why should we?"

China is similarly defiant when it comes to criticism of its human rights record. The US regularly submits to the UN critical reports of the nation's human rights abuses, from imprisoning and executing political dissidents to widespread severe poverty. While I don't mean to downplay the importance of securing these human rights, when considering China's history and defensive posture, this approach is clearly flawed. The Chinese government is understandably paranoid about internal social unrest and sees human rights rebukes as either external or internal attempts to delegitimize the government and spark a revolution.

Its response has been to release

its own counter-report on the human rights record of the United States, pointing out all of our own flaws, from economic and racial inequality to high crime, high rate of incarceration, all the way down to such things as the average age in which children are first exposed to internet pornography.

The comparisons are fairly weak and unjustified, but that's not really the point. The point can be seen in one recent report's closing statement: "We hereby advise the U.S. government to take concrete actions to improve its own human rights conditions, check and rectify its acts in the human rights field, and stop the hegemonistic deeds of using human rights issues to interfere in other countries' internal affairs."

With a vast and regionally isolated empire, the Chinese central government has felt forced to exert stricter control over its populace and to prioritize certain development goals (namely economic growth) over others (political freedom and social well-being). It fears that the restrictions and alternative priorities being promoted by the West (which, after all, also once followed different value priorities) unfairly restrict its development potential. In this light, China's defiance toward foreign chastisement can be seen as defensive and reasonable.

I believe the same understanding can be applied to other areas of tension and suspicion between the US and China. The implication of this hypothesis is that

coercive policy toward China is unwise and will be ineffective, as China has consistently managed to outmaneuver these strategies. Instead, if China is asserting itself as a coequal power on the global stage and effectively resorting to disobedience when that status is challenged, then I believe the best way to bring about a better state of affairs would be to treat it as such by "cutting it some slack" on such things as human rights and military expansion, and to actively grant it greater influence in global economics. As Bergsten et al. suggest in *China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities*, we should consider establishing with them a "G-2" economic relationship and recognize, "the new role of China as a legitimate architect and steward of the international economic order."

Since China has successfully worked around US coercive or isolationist policy to become a strong and influential force on the global stage, its time to work with them, as two equal adults working in partnership, rather than as a parent scolding and setting boundaries for a rebellious teenager. Granting them greater respect and stewardship over global affairs would hopefully lead them to voluntarily move in policy directions that coercive policies have failed to bring about.

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

Down Under Friends and relationships

Lindsay Coker

A man, sir, should keep his friendships in constant repair
James Boswell, 'The life of Samuel Johnson' July, 1762

The United States of America is the most powerful nation on earth.

This has been the case for some fifty years, and many countries and peoples around the world are better off, even alive, because of it. The ways in which this came about are well documented and very interesting, but this month I want to talk more about the future, because it is the future we have to look to – as I wrote many years ago, 'the present is us always trying to catch up to what is ahead.'

Australia was part of the British Empire, that conglomerate that made the tiny island nation supreme for a few hundred years. Like colonials everywhere, we had little choice except to go along with their sometime benevolent rule, but unlike many other countries that made up that empire, we were unable to rebel, work toward ending their rule, or extract ourselves from it.

We didn't want to, anyway, not just because they were the mother country, but more importantly because they were our protectors, marketplace, source of legal and fiscal light, and our culture. But all that changed in 1942. That was the year that Singapore fell into Japanese hands and those would be conquerors started their great drive south and east. Australia was suddenly facing conflict on its own shores for the very first time, and the prospect was so frightening that our leaders appealed to their home base, Britain, for help. That was refused. Not only that, England demanded we send more troops to Europe and Burma to help stem the tide of advances by the axis powers.

Disaster. We had over 100,000 troops already in action, and in one of the great turning points in our history, we defied Churchill's 'request' and brought many of them closer to home. The motherland link had been broken, and while we continue to revere the queen (well, a minority of us do), the idea of England as protector has vanished as the mist.

In one of the first displays of its might, the United States had already taken on the role of defend-

ers and liberators of the western pacific, including Australia, with our forces playing major and crucial roles in the success that ensued. This formed the basis of our new relationship with your country, which kept growing even when the war was over. Although there was enormous anger over the way Britain dumped us, there was equal joy at this new and dynamic friendship.

As friends we can grumble about your culture, food, crazy monetary plight, and shake our heads in disbelief at your self-serving foreign policies, but all that fades away when we again realize just how much we need you. So this is not a true friendship, for we command all of 3% of world trade – nearly all of it being the export of minerals – and have such a small defense budget that should we be threatened with attack once more we would again throw up our hands in horror and appeal to our friend and ally, you guys. In return we sign free trade agreements, watch your sitcoms (argghh), pretend to help willingly where we can in the wars you get involved with, and buy more of your armaments than our financial situation can afford, but much less than we need.

Now here is today's question: Would you heed our call to fend off an enemy?

So here's the other end of the telescope: No matter what your

hawks say, or your 'America will always be the best, strongest nation on earth' brigade, a situation is developing that is probably going to put those ideas to the test once and for all.

That situation is China.

The state of affairs in this enormous country with the biggest population in the world has never occurred before. There is no precedent for a country that is dominated by a modified communist ideology that has also embraced capitalist values. Not when this country was, until the early 20th century, an inward looking elite/peasantry one that had little inclination to trade or mix with the west.

And how that has changed.

There are many strands in this transformation, but the cloth those strands are weaving is painting this picture: China is not going to be content with being the underdog in world affairs for long. At present it has no match for the vastly superior technology and strategy that America has, but already it defies the U.S. navy to stop them going wherever it wants in seas around it. It is taking an increasingly proactive role in world affairs, but in contrast it cannot do without its markets, for its power is based on manufacturing, just as your was. In this there is a symbiosis, but only so long as the United States demonstrates it can and will remain rich enough

to remain in front.

So what will you do if, as seems likely, China continues to flex its muscles?

If push comes to shove, will you parade your might and say 'Stop!' or will you take a diplomatic stance?

For, you see, it matters greatly to us which course you take. We depend on trade as well as everyone else. A war between you and them would quite literally bring all that trade to a grinding halt, without any certain victory but with the certainty of enormous losses. Would it be possible that the United States of America and China could agree to share the pacific?

That's not so daft, but please, if it does occur, make sure we're part of your hegemony.

No one really wants to be part of the Chinese way of life – except the Chinese, and they are unable to dissent.

Difficult times lie ahead. It is going to take a real statesman to make equitable and realistic decisions, one that is not bound by the sniping of party politics, and one that has vision for the whole world.

We're holding our breath down under, and asking these questions as friends.

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Those who go to the mountain come back changed

Rev. Katie Penick
Incarnation UCC, Pastor

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2*

I've always liked being near the mountains, maybe because I was raised in the Midwest, where the land is flat. You have to drive a long way before you bump into a mountain range. But now, when I sit out on my deck, I can look at our mountains, offering shelter and security. When I go to visit my aunt and uncle in Northern California, he lives up in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Now — those are mountains, towering as high as the eye can see! As we drive higher and higher, the air changes... It really does feel like you are closer to God.

So it doesn't surprise me that mountains are so important to the narrative of our faith. When God is ready to give the people the Law, Moses climbs high up the mountain. He stays there for 40 days, close to God... literally in the presence of God. And when he climbs back down to the people, he carries with

him the stone tablets that contain the laws to live by... all that the people needed to know in faith.

Jesus went to the mountain top too. "He took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves." (Matthew 17:1). The Please wait

Image not available

The disciples were weary as they started their trip up the mountain with Jesus. They were exhausted by the non-stop demands of the crowds. Just a short time ago, they had been simple fishermen, content with their simple lives. But, then they met Jesus and everything changed dramatically. Now they were people catchers! Jesus had taught them remarkable things and now they were given power and authority to go out into the needy crowds that followed Jesus everywhere: To go out into the crowds and heal... to cure... to proclaim. Now, no matter where they go, the crowds follow them, just like they follow Jesus... pressing closer and closer, looking for a miracle. Finally, Jesus promises them some time alone, but even then the crowds press on, following them. The disciples beg Jesus to send them away. Enough is enough! But we know what happens next — fish

and bread for thousands! Wonders and miracles everywhere, more than anyone could take in. The disciples need a break!

Finally, Jesus takes his three closest friends up to a quiet mountain-top to pray. Up high, away from the crowds, peace and quiet. It seems like, once on the mountaintop, Jesus is doing all the praying. Exhausted, the disciples can barely keep their eyes open. But before sleep overtakes them, something remarkable happens. In a time when miracles and healings seem to be daily occurrences, even this seems to be beyond any expectations. The disciples are startled awake by a sudden flash of radiance and the disciples behold the glory of God. And then, suddenly Jesus is not alone, surrounded by the radiance, he is accompanied by two men: Moses and Elijah (Matt. 17:2-3). Moses and Elijah are two of Israel's greatest heroes. Moses represents the Law and Elijah the prophets. Both Moses and Elijah were called to lead God's people in a new direction. Jesus shares this prophetic call with them. In Moses, Elijah, and Jesus, the disciples catch a glimpse of life in the reign of God to come. What could be more glorious than that?

Most of us do not have Mountain-top experiences like this. We do not come face to face with God. We do not get the opportunity to see long dead heroes of the faith. But we have faith, none the less.

But, can you imagine what it would be like to be up there, with Peter and his friends? Peter grasps helplessly to hold on to this awe-inspiring moment: "Let us build three tents, one for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus, and stay here" (Matt. 17:4).

Peter wants to hold on to this moment and never let it go. Hold on to the beauty and the power. He doesn't understand that this is impos-

sible. Faith can never be contained in a box or a tent. It is only when we accept its presence as part of who we are, so we can move forward and live the lives that God calls us to. After hearing God proclaim: "This is my son with whom I am pleased. Listen to Him!" the disciples must leave the mountaintop and move on.

Leaving the mountaintop must have been so difficult. Leaving that beautiful, peace-filled, place where God's glory shone... leaving to face the sweaty pushing crowds, always demanding a miracle... leaving that moment of glory behind, knowing that Jesus had told them of his own suffering and death. Knowing the risks that each of them faced as they continued to do God's work.

But they also were changed by that mountaintop experience. They received a better understanding of God's plan: "This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased," (Matt. 17:5). God calls out, "Listen to him!" All the healings and cures and miracles were pieces of one beautiful puzzle. A puzzle when completed shows us the reign of God.

And with this vision of God's reign, faith takes hold and grows.

Martin Luther King Jr. in his famous speech told us all about his mountaintop experience:

We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop.

And I don't mind.

Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!

And so I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man! Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!! (I have a dream speech, Aug. 28, 1963). Martin went to the mountaintop



and God opened his eyes. The light in his heart shone out into the darkness, just as Paul said, because he had faith.

Faith is what happens when God opens our eyes and we begin to see as God sees. And you remember how the Bible describes what God sees, don't you? No more children dying young, every person filling out his or her days. Every person enjoying the fruit of the vine, the shade of the fig tree. The lion and the lamb lying down together. Swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks. No more mourning or crying or pain any more. A table spread with enough food for everyone; hunger forever banished. Perhaps if enough of us have enough faith that these things are possible...that the world God sees is reality, then perhaps this world will be the one that everyone sees. That's the power of faith. That is our mountain top experience!

Martin Luther King told us that he had been to the mountain. Moses had been to the mountain. Jesus had been to the mountain. Those who go to the mountain come back changed and empowered. They come back ready to work for God's vision: to make that vision a reality. That is God's call to each of us, no matter how close to the summit we get. Mountain top experiences are carried in the heart and are sustained when we share what we have experienced with each other.

So, my prayer for each of you today is that you will go out and climb to the mountain top. Climb as high as you can go and when you arrive to the very top: rejoice and hear God's voice call out: "This is my child with whom I am pleased. Listen to Him!"

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Blood's attempt on the Crown Jewels



The year 1671, witnessed one of the most extraordinary attempts at robbery recorded in the annals of crime. The designer was an Irishman, named Thomas Blood, whose father had gained property, as an iron-master, in the reign of Charles I.

When the English civil war broke out, the son espoused the cause of the parliament, entered the army and rose to the rank of colonel. At the Restoration we find him reduced to poverty, his money and property having been confiscated by the Crown.

In 1770, Colonel Blood formed the extraordinary design of stealing the Crown of England. The regalia were at this time in the care of an aged but most trustworthy keeper, named Talbot Edwards, and Blood's first aim was to make his acquaintance.

Accordingly, one day in April, he went to the Tower, in disguise of a Parson, with a woman whom he represented as his wife, for the purpose of visiting the regalia. After they had seen them, the lady pretended to be taken ill, upon which they were conducted into the keeper's lodgings, where Mr. Edwards gave her a cordial and treated her otherwise with kindness. They parted with professions of thankfulness, and a few days afterwards the pretended Parson returned with half-a-dozen pairs of gloves, as a present to Mrs. Edwards in acknowledgment of her courtesy.

An intimacy thus gradually arose

between Blood and the Edwardses, who appear to have formed a sincere esteem for him; and at length he proposed a match between their daughter and a supposed nephew of his. It was accordingly agreed, at Blood's suggestion, that he should bring his nephew to be introduced to the young lady at seven o'clock in the morning on the 9th of May, and he farther asked leave to bring with him two friends, who, he said, wished to see the regalia, and it would be a convenience to them to be admitted at that early hour, as they were going to leave town in the forenoon.

Accordingly, at the appointed time, the old man had got up to receive his guest, and the daughter had put herself into her best dress to entertain her gallant, when, behold! Parson Blood, with three more, came to the jewel house, all armed with rapier blades in their canes, and every one a dagger and a pair of pocket pistols. Two of his companions entered in with him and a third stayed at the door, for a watch.

At Blood's wish, they first went to see the regalia, that his friends might be at liberty to return; but as soon as the door was shut upon them, as was the usual practice, they seized the old man, and bound and gagged him, threatening to take his life if he made the smallest noise.

Edwards persisted in attempting to make all the noise he could, upon which they knocked him down by a blow on the head with a wooden mallet, and, as he still remained obstinate, they beat him on the head with the mallet until he became insensible; but recovering a little, and hearing them

say they believed him to be dead, he thought it most prudent to remain quiet.

The three men now went deliberately to work; Blood placing the crown for concealment under his cloak, while one of his companions, named Parrot, put the orb in his breeches, and the other proceeding to file the sceptre in two, for the convenience of putting it in a bag.

The three ruffians would probably thus have succeeded in executing their design, but for the opportune arrival of a son of Mr. Edwards, accompanied by his brother-in-law, a Captain Beckman, who, having exchanged a word with the man who watched at the door, proceeded upstairs to the apartments occupied by the Edwardses. Blood and his companions thus interrupted, immediately decamped with the crown and orb, leaving the sceptre, which they had not time to file.

Old Edwards, as soon as they had left the room, began to shout out, 'Treason! Murder!' with all his might; and his daughter, rushing out into the court, gave the alarm and cried out that the crown was stolen. The robbers reached the drawbridge without hindrance, but there the warder attempted to stop them, on which Blood discharged a pistol at him. As he fell down, though unhurt, they succeeded in clearing the other gates, reached the wharf, where horses were ready for them, when they were overtaken by Captain Beckman.

Blood discharged his second pistol at the captain, but he escaped hurt by stooping, and immediately seized upon Blood, who struggled fiercely; but finding escape impossible, when he saw the crown wrested from his grasp, he is said to have exclaimed, in a tone of disappointment, 'It was a gallant attempt, however unsuccessful; for it was for a crown!'

The king, when informed of this extraordinary outrage, ordered Blood to be brought to Whitehall to be examined in his presence. The singularity of the crime, the grand impudence of the offender, united perhaps with a fear of the threatened consequences, induced the king to save Blood from the vengeance of the law. He not only pardoned the villain, but gave him a grant of land in Ireland, by which he might subsist, and even took him into some degree of favour. Blood died on the 24th of August, 1680.

The imperial crown now used by the British monarch on state occasions is different from that so nearly purloined by Colonel Blood. It was constructed in 1838, with jewels taken from old crowns, and others furnished

by command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

It consists of diamonds, pearls, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, set in silver and gold; it has a crimson velvet cap, with ermine border, and is lined with white silk. Its gross weight is 39 oz. 5 dwts. Troy.

The lower part of the band, above the ermine border, consists of a row of 129 pearls, and the upper part of the band is a row of 112 pearls, between which, in front of the crown, is a large sapphire (partly drilled), purchased for the crown by King George the Fourth. At the back are a sapphire of smaller size and 6 other sapphires (three on each side), between which are 8 emeralds.

Above and below the seven sapphires are 14 diamonds, and around the eight emeralds 128 diamonds. Between the emeralds and sapphires are sixteen trefoil ornaments, containing 160 diamonds. Above the band are 8 sapphires, surmounted by 8 diamonds, between which are eight festoons, consisting of 148 diamonds.

In the front of the crown, and in the centre of a diamond Maltese cross, is the famous ruby said to have been given to Edward Prince of Wales, son of Edward the Third, called the Black Prince, by Don Pedro, King of Castile, after the battle of Najera near Vittoria, A.D. 1367.

This ruby was worn in the helmet of Henry the Fifth at the battle of Agincourt, A.D. 1415. It is pierced quite

through, after the Eastern custom, the upper part of the piercing being filled up by a small ruby. Around this ruby, to form the cross, are 75 brilliant diamonds. Three other Maltese crosses, forming the two sides and back of the crown, have emerald centres and contain, respectively, 132, 124 and 130 brilliant diamonds.

Between the four Maltese crosses are four ornaments in the form of the French fleur-de-lis, with 4 rubies in the centre and surrounded by rose diamonds, containing, respectively, 85, 86, 86 and 87 rose diamonds.

From the Maltese crosses issue four imperial arches, composed of oak leaves and acorns; the leaves containing 728 rose, table and brilliant diamonds; 32 pearls forming the acorns, set in cups containing 54 rose diamonds and 1 table diamond. The total number of diamonds in the arches and acorns is 108 brilliant, 116 table and 559 rose diamonds.

From the upper part of the arches are suspended 4 large pendant pear-shaped pearls, with rose diamond caps, containing 12 rose diamonds, and stems containing 24 very small rose diamonds. Above the arch stands the mound containing in the lower hemisphere 304 brilliants and in the upper 244 brilliants; the zone and arc being composed of 33 rose diamonds. The cross on the summit has a rose-cut sapphire in the centre, surrounded by 4 large brilliants and 108 smaller brilliants.

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Old memories, new hopes, and the search for wisdom

Bill Meredith

The days of our years are three-score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. Psalm 90.

In other parts of the world there are earthquakes, floods and revolutions, but in Emmitsburg spring has come gently, at least so far. It is my favorite season. As I write this, April is half gone and the trees in our front yard are at the peak of bloom. The most beautiful of them is the "Ickie Tree," the weeping cherry my aunt gave us 22 years ago when we built our house. It always blooms in the Easter season; it is pink instead of white, but otherwise it is the personification of the poem A. E. Houseman wrote in 1896:

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.*

*Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.*

*And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.*

The 20-year-old in the poem is identified as "A Shropshire Lad," and he must have been wise beyond his years to recognize how fast the next 50 years of his life would pass. I am looking at cherry trees from the other end of life's spectrum, closer to the fourscore mark, but wisdom still eludes me. The trouble is that wisdom is so hard to define that you never can be sure whether you have it or not.

Examples of what passes for wisdom are easy to find. Some are based on old adages; Cy the Cynic, who lives in Frank Stewart's Bridge Column, once said, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket; they'll keep better in the refrigerator." Some verge on silliness; today's crossword puzzle produced the statement that "Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad." I used to think wisdom involves making choices and decisions, but now as



I proceed into old age I am not so sure. I have been told my choices of a wife and a career were wise, and indeed they did turn out well; but the former was done in a state of complete bewilderment and the latter was entirely the result of the chance of being in the right place when opportunities occurred. Rather than wisdom, my life may simply illustrate the old adage that even a blind pig sometimes finds an acorn.

Wisdom is a paradox. Mourning doves are among the stupidest of birds, and this morning I watched three males flying into each other and bouncing off tree branches as they pursued a female who wanted nothing to do with them. Eventually one of them will overcome her indifference, and they will build a rickety nest and raise their young; thus, without conscious planning or even awareness, their species will continue. In an even more improbable example, a week or so ago the white-throated sparrows that have entertained me all winter responded to the lengthening of spring days by molting into their breeding

colors, and soon they will fly away, migrating several hundred miles north to raise their families.

Some of them have made the trip before and will remember landmarks along the way, but they have neither choice nor awareness of when or whether they will leave; nor is there knowledge that if they survive they will come back next fall. All of these things happen because of hormone secretions and genetic patterns pre-wired in their brains, and yet it works. It's enough to make a person wonder if wisdom is really necessary... or, perhaps, did we miss something in our effort to define it?

Earlier this week I received a packet of old family photographs from my cousin, now 89, who still lives in West Virginia. One of them, in the sepia tones that pre-dated true black and white film, shows her at age two with our grandfather, about to go for a ride in a horse-drawn buggy. She values the old photos, but does not dwell in the past; we communicate regularly by e-mail. Perhaps some wisdom is there.

While cleaning up the yard last

fall I noticed that our grapevine appeared to have succumbed to the summer's heat and drought. I felt a sentimental attachment to it; it had belonged to my wife's parents, and was already old when she was born. They transplanted it twice when moving from place to place in the 1960s, and we brought it to Emmitsburg when her mother died in 1984. All that remained was a single leafless branch, a quarter of an inch thick and four feet long.

My wife, less governed by sentiment, told me to throw it away and forget about it; but when I pulled it up one root seemed alive. I remembered a movie in which a California vineyard burned up and the owner, an old Italian immigrant, recreated the family's fortune from the remains of one surviving sprout, so I transplanted it to a more favorable spot and forgot about it until yesterday, when I came upon it while raking up the winter's debris. Most of the four-foot vine was dry and brittle, but just at ground level was a bud, green and starting to swell. On one level, it symbolized determination; on another, hope; and on a third, perhaps the two combine into a form of wisdom.



This May I will watch the blooming of cherry trees and the passage of spring for the 78th time. The psalmist offers another two years, but in fact I know no more than the sparrows about when I will fly away. Wisdom, even for those who have it, doesn't go that far. But I heard that the oldest man in the world just died at the age of 114, so determination and hope may allow me to see the cherry tree bloom a few more times. However many more springs there may be, I will look forward to them; I will even look forward to fall, when there may be grapes to enjoy. And the greatest hope will be that, if wisdom comes along, I will recognize it when I see it.

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A bird of a different color

Ranger Jen Miller
Cunningham Falls State Parks

Have you ever dreamed of what you would do if you were granted three wishes? Would you wish for super powers, a secure nest, health or unending happiness? I'm not sure how I would commit all my wishes but I know one for sure. And that one, I have a sense, would answer many of the dreams just mentioned. I wish I was a bird, a kestrel to be specific. Kestrels are not only gifted with flight, but possess "super powers", are colorful, courageous, and beneficial to the world at large in spite of their small stature. Kestrels are the rare mixture of grace, power, and pure spunk.

The American kestrel, sometimes known as the Sparrow Hawk, is the smallest falcon in North America. It belongs to the genus *Falco*, which separates its lineage from that of hawks despite the similarities in appearance. A few key physical adaptations separate falcons from their brethren and make them finely tuned hunting machines. The term *falcon* comes from the Latin word, *falx*, meaning sickle. The sickle shape is echoed throughout the formation of the falcon's talons, beak, and wings. Falcons have long, slender toes with piercing talons. The beak has a thin, sharp tip and is notched. The notch acts like a tooth and is used to pluck the feathers of the favored food source – other birds. The wings are more aerodynamic and slender than that of hawks and allow falcons to reach incredibly fast speeds. In fact, the Peregrine falcon is the fastest animal on Earth as it dives at speeds of 200 mph in pursuit of fleeing prey.

All of these adaptations are apparent in the American kestrel housed at the Aviary in Cunningham Falls State Park. This kestrel, a male, will most likely announce your presence to the rest of the Aviary's residents with the characteristic cry, *killy, killy, killy!* The call is punctuated with a quick head bob and flip of the tail as he



sways authoritatively on his swing. We know that he is a he because of his coloring. Kestrels are one of the only birds of prey that display sexual dimorphism. This means that there is a visible difference in the coloration and/or markings between the sexes. Male kestrels have bluish-gray wings and a solid cinnamon tail, while females sport black barring on the wings and tail and are more cinnamon colored overall. The striking contrasts of black, blue, and rusty brown partnered with the telling head and

tail bob make the American kestrel easy to identify in the wild.

Kestrels are often seen along Rt. 15 perched on power lines that are incorporated into agricultural lands. Edge habitats such as wooded areas next to farms and orchards make perfect habitats for wild kestrels. The birds hunt insects, small birds and rodents in fields and nest in the cavities of dead trees in the surrounding woods. These tiny raptors can be a successful component of an integrated pest management plan

and are a beautiful alternative to pesticide use. Strategically placed man-made nest boxes are often utilized by kestrel pairs and can encourage their presence in a farmer's field. Nest box plans can be found at http://hawkmountain.org/index.php?pr=Kestrel_Nestboxes

Unfortunately, our captive kestrel didn't get to spend much time in the wild. As a fledgling, he flew into a barbed wire fence and severely damaged one of his wings. A partial amputation of the wing was performed by a veterinarian.

Kestrels have a unique ability to hover in mid-air as they search for food. This is accomplished by flying at equal speed with the opposing wind current. Studies have shown that kestrels are not just looking for prey items but can also see ultraviolet radiation. Talk about super powers! This ability is put to a practical use as they are able to visualize urine trails left by moles marking their underground tunnels. Because of his injury, the kestrel can not fly well enough to hover and successfully hunt.

It is an unfortunate trend that less and less kestrels are being found in the wild. Although, they are still considered a "common" bird species, scientists and wild life rehabilitators across the country have noted a sharp decrease in wild populations. The exact cause has yet to be determined but two likely culprits are loss of habitat and toxicity related to the ingestion of pesticide laden insects. Kestrels and many other bird species need dead trees for shelter and/or for food. Public lands don't just offer hiking trails, camping, and swimming for people but also precious habitat for wildlife. Dead and downed trees are an important component of that habitat. What can you do?

- Report kestrel sightings to the University of Minnesota, Raptor Center at: http://kestrelwatch.ahc.umn.edu/kestrel_home.cfm.
- Learn more about sustainable agriculture and ways that you can support it and/or practice it!
- Leave dead trees to the birds. Make sure that the tree is not a safety hazard then sit back and watch the tree become a "log hotel".

As I finish this article I am reminded of the many mornings I have gone to open the Aviary in rain, snow and sunshine. Before the gate was even opened, the kestrel would let his and my presence be known. To have that occurrence as a daily routine is a dream come true.

To read other articles by Jen Miller, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net



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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

I can't dance and it's too wet to plow

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

I've heard that expression many times over the years and never understood it until this April. I can't dance and it certainly is too wet to plow! So I sit here, surrounded by 90 pounds of seed potatoes, wondering when they'll begin to rot. Or if my tomato and pepper starts are going to be overly leggy before planting time.

The pea season's mostly gone by, though I may take a shot at a fall planting, to feed the deer and rabbits. I'm feeling some regret for the wildlife around the acre/someday garden. I'm sure they will consume more of our efforts than we will. However, I will harvest something from that ground, be it tomatoes and beans or venison. I'm not much for killing things, especially mammals, but I'm going to take what is offered. (Besides, it's ridiculous being a bow hunter safety instructor/archery coach who's never taken a deer!)

While we await the call, "Come help me hook the plow to the tractor." I'm left with little to do but cogitate about all that can go wrong. I've been raiding the public libraries with the hope I'll catch a clue from some book on gardening! So far, Gene Logsdon has had the most practical advice for dealing with wildlife in the



garden, kill it and eat what you can of it. I can't say that's cheered me up as the rain pelts down and the "high water" sign goes up on our street. (Even if the acre had been plowed, we'd not be able to work it because of the rains.)

When I'm not reading about farming (gardening an acre is not farming, but working that much ground requires some farming tools so I'm sort of farming.) I think about why anyone would bother farming

in the first place. It's so much easier to just buy groceries.

All this cogitatin' has led me to conclude, at what should be a comfortable age of 56; I've enough years behind me to see some things have gone seriously wrong. My grandparents' generation had members living into their 90s. Not a few such long-lived, but an average! In my parent's generation, the aunts and uncles aren't faring as well, their children even less so.

Air and water pollution come into play with the shortening of my family's life spans. All my grandparents and most of their siblings grew up on, lived on and raised their children on farms, far from city pollutions. My parents' generation grew up with the automobile and airplane. My generation couldn't live without aerosol cans of spray everything and air cooling systems in houses, cars and work places. I suspect the pollutants of the last several generations will be with the human race as long as we last on this rock.

I also see a change in our food. The stock market can rise or fall with little impact on me, politics don't require

my input as politicians usually ignore me, but what I eat affects me as soon as I bite into it! The soils our foods are grown in, the chemicals we use on the soil and plants, and the genetic manipulations of plants have all changed what we eat in comparison to what my grandparents grew and ate!

While some manipulations of vegetable genetics have produced varieties that concentrate certain vitamins or minerals, it is obvious that our modern factory farming methods have seriously reduced the nutritional value of the foods we consume. The drive to produce more at less cost had to be balanced by something. Quality is the easiest factor to dump from the equation. Just as it usually is in most factory models.

Growing plants for food quickly depletes a soil of nutritional value. Farmers use to move on to virgin soils when their cultivated land was exhausted. Manuring became a natural and practical means of rebuilding soils once virgin land became scarce. Allowing a soil to lay fallow for a few seasons also restored some of its nutritional value. As

those methods are seldom practical on modern factory farms, nutrients have to be returned to the soil by some reliable, convenient method. Since the advent of petrochemical fertilizers most farmers have given up the older, more natural methods of fertilizing. They've reduced, or stopped altogether, the spreading of aged feces and vegetative matter on the soil. (I'm referring to factory farms mono-cropping thousands of acres each year. It is impractical for such operations to haul manure to their fields.) With most of America's cropland depleted, or being depleted, of nutritional value and heavily supported with manmade chemicals, the top of the food chain has been separated from the rest of us animals. (The top of the food chain is not human. It's microscopic.)

Soil, flush with diverse microscopic life capable of growing healthy plants that are nutritionally complete in their natural form is becoming rare in this country! Our demand for more and more food, at cheap prices, led to our poisoning the country's most productive soils after we depleted them of their natural essences. The use of unnatural fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides may have made some small sense 60 years ago had they been applied sparingly or only from absolute necessity.

If the top of the food chain has been disrupted, everything below it has to be in chaos. We went for quick, cheap and convenient over natural, balanced and mindful of those who follow us. (By the bye, "convenient" is among the most evil words in our dictionaries.) Today, manmade chemicals are still allowing the production of unimaginable quantities of low quality food, but the payment Nature commands is coming due.

So, what can I do to change all that I think has gone wrong? Actually, not much. I believe we are doing just what we're supposed to be doing. Do I understand that? No. But I don't understand much of anything, though I struggle to grasp the thinking of others studying all this "grand design" and our place in it. "Saving the planet" can't be done. The planet will save itself if it needs saving. Saving myself might be something I can achieve, if I ever figure out whether or not I'm worth saving.

So it's back to school boy. Only this time the classroom is an acre of ground, the goal is education and understanding, not the control and manipulation I suffered the first 12 years of schooling. Sadly, most of the books I'm reading on this topic are all about controlling me! Still, some miniscule grains of truth sift out of them. Whether I'm smart enough to spot them, comprehend them and pass them along so my family's future generations might live as well, and as long, as the past ones did remains to be discovered.

We come from the soil. If we don't understand what soil is we understand nothing else.



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'A great bunch': Boy Scout Troop 76

Katelyn Phelan

Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent: these are the qualities that twenty-six Fairfield boys pledged to embody on April 19th at their bi-monthly Boy Scout meeting.

These boys range in age from ten to eighteen and are, as one dad described them, "a great bunch." When I asked one of the younger boys and newest members of Troop 76, David Randall, what kinds of activities the troop does, he enthusiastically responded, "all kinds!" After speaking with many members of the troop, I would have to agree. The range of activities that this troop participates in is impressive, to say the least.

Gail Wolcott, secretary for the troop, attested to the volume of activities and involvement in the community of this group. She said, "this troop is much busier and more involved than some of the other troops in different areas my son has participated in."

So what do these boys do? For one, they are very involved in the community. They are all trained in first aid, an asset to any community. But this troop has also done everything from organize blood drives, to gather toiletries for the local homeless shelter, to collect food for the Fairfield food bank. One memorable activity involved work for the Eisenhower farm. In exchange for a free guided tour of Eisenhower's home and farm in Gettysburg, Troop 76 white-washed the fences that surround the property. All members of the troop participated in these activities equally, but specific members of the troop, those attempting to become Eagle Scouts, are responsible for organizing community outreach activities to fulfill project requirements.

Matthew Benjamin, the senior patrol leader, spoke of helping on Eagle Scout projects as some of his most memorable experiences in scouts. Each troop member attempting to rise to the rank of Eagle Scout must complete a series of vigorous requirements, one of which is a community service project. Benjamin has helped other potential Eagle Scouts in their projects. For example, he assisted in the restoration of the storage shed on Fairfield baseball field.

Benjamin has found these experiences particularly rewarding because each time he sees his work, he is reminded that he helped another scout achieve an important accomplishment as well as contributed in an important way to the community. Benjamin's own Eagle Scout project will be the creation of a "fit trail." This will include inserting various plaques around a mile-long trail which will offer directions for various aerobic activities. His goal is to help improve the physical level of the community.

Another rewarding aspect of scouts that Benjamin spoke of was its emphasis on character building, especially leadership. Benjamin says that is one of the areas in which he has grown as a result of scouts. He has learned to



Fairfield Boy Scout Troop 76

"look out for guys above and below" just by being in scouts. He has also had to opportunity to participate in leadership training which has given him great confidence. In the troop he is the senior patrol leader, and as such, practically runs the scouting meetings. He authoritatively called several times for the boys to stop talking and "put their [boy scout] signs up." When an adult leader stood to lead to boys outside for an activity, Benjamin instructed the boys: "be attentive, be respectful, pay attention."

Leadership is something that the adult leaders emphasize in Troop 76. The adults undergo special training which helps them to allow the boys to lead their own troop. Adults are of course present, but they let the boys lead themselves. The adults are there for guidance, for safety, and for transportation, but the boys lead many of the activities in the troop.

This is not to say that there is a lack of adult involvement in Troop 76. In fact, nine adults are heavily involved with this scouting troop, which is a huge asset to the boys, according to Scoutmaster Jay Stroup. These adult volunteers hold jobs which cover a diverse range of professions. Some parents are involved with the military, while others are nurses, scientists at Fort Detrick, or deal with energy resources. Yet another leads the Fire Department. These adults with various skills and backgrounds certainly help to enhance the group as a whole, but also give the boys many different role models. The adult leaders are a "great resource for these boys in determining what they want to do with their lives," said Stroup.

These parents are clearly busy, with demanding jobs as well as home lives, so why do they give their time to support scouts? Many volunteer because they have sons in scouts and want to help the worthwhile program succeed. Gail Wolcott, secretary of the troop, says she's involved because she just tries to do what she can, when she can, and she believes that's why the other adult volunteers are there also. Stroup also spoke of his role in helping shape these future leaders of America; these boys will "replace us in our jobs, and they need training and life skills. They also need to know the value of charity, community service, and leadership." With this focus on the future

of America, it is no surprise that citizenship is also an important part of the Boy Scout mission.

The boys learn important skills like how to fold the American flag, but they are also doing some reading about our country. Troop 76 is currently reading 5000 Year Leap which deals with the Constitution and the principles of freedom laid out in the document by our founding fathers. The boys "have really taken to the book," Stroup says.

They will be commemorating local history by participating in the sesquicentennial commemorations in Fairfield. They will be performing a special Flag Ceremony to honor those who

have fallen. In the past they have honored heroes of this country by placing luminaries at Antietam Battlefield and remembering those who died in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Boy Scouts is not entirely about doing service, learning, building character, and reading, though. They also have fun and release energy. The boys began their April 18th meeting with a game of ultimate Frisbee, and they incorporate physical activity on a regular basis. The troop has spent a great deal of time hiking, walking a total of 37 miles just this year! Other outdoor activities have included: canoeing, swimming, rock climbing, and camping. Many of these scouts cited

this last activity as their favorite. Here, they enjoy the brotherhood of scouting and create close bonds with their fellow scouts. They also learn wilderness skills, like how to start a fire without matches, put up a tent, pack a backpack, and other important outdoor skills. While in the woods, they naturally develop a concern for the environment, as well.

Conservation, or care for the environment is "a theme that resonates through all of scouting," says Stroup. Scouts are taught very young the importance of taking care of the community and nature. They learn that "scouts are the keepers of the earth."

Between the community service, excellent leaders, character development, citizenship, and physical activity, Troop 76 is an asset to these boys personally as well as to the community at large. Benjamin summed it up best when he said, "there are good and bad scouts, but we still learn more than the average person. You know a scout is willing to go above and beyond what is expected." It seems that this troop is composed of some of the best people of the area, both scouts and leaders, all of whom are devoted to their organization and their community.

Boys ages 11 to 17 or who are 10 years old and have completed the 5th grade and interested in joining Troop 76 should contact Scoutmaster Jay Stroup or Assistant Scoutmaster Matt Hull at 717-642-6593 (hull@vikacapitol.com).

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Growing container vegetables

Steve Bogash,
Penn State Extension
Regional Commercial
Vegetable Educator

The interest in growing plants in containers has been growing due to the increased awareness of growing our own food. Knowing where our food came from and how it was grown has become a conscious effort for many individuals in the past five years and the interest is growing all the time.

However, with limited space, it becomes difficult for an individual to grow their own food, making container gardening a huge interest.

Trial plantings in 2008 and 2009 took place at the Penn State Southeast Research and Extension Center near Lancaster, PA and the Franklin County Horticulture Education Center in Chambersburg, PA. Many fruiting vegetables were trialed in containers. Following are the recommendations for growing container vegetables as a result of those trials.

1. Start with large enough containers. Containers no smaller than 14" should be used for vegetables. The larger the better. The large soil mass helps to anchor the pots in the wind, provides enough volume for the large root systems of fruiting vegetables, and with so much fruit and foliage, the larger volume will help to hold enough water to get through sunny days when the plants are large. Be sure your pots have plenty of drainage holes in the bottom

and are nearly as tall as they are wide. Shallow, wide azaleas pots do not make good vegetable pots.

2. Use great potting media (soil) and the right potting media. Look for mixes that are labeled for larger pots as they usually contain coarser bulking materials such as composted bark or coir (at least 25%). Unlike peat moss, coir, the waste product of coconut processing, degrades very little during a single growing season. One of the real challenges in keeping plants in pots for a long time is the biological decomposition, thus compaction of organic materials like peat moss. Some peat moss is good, but mixes made primarily of peat moss are much better used for producing young plants for replanting than for large containers. Water retaining crystals may be helpful as they will help to hold water that can be available on hot summer days when plants go through water quickly. You should be able to find potting media mixes designed for large containers in any good garden center.

3. Vegetables will not grow without nutrients (fertilizer). One of the big advantages of using soilless media is how well they drain excess water which greatly reduces the opportunity for soilborne diseases to get started as well as encourages excellent gas exchanges in the root zone. However this same

attribute also reduces the ability of the media to hold onto nutrients. Most mixes come with enough fertilizer blended in to get through about two weeks. Based on our experience with other large pots, we applied a pelleted, time release, fertilizer when we planted the pots. We used the rate on the package, which is based on the pot size.

An important note on time release fertilizers: the time that they last is based on temperature (usually 70F). The warmer it is, the faster they release nutrients. A 4-5 month pelleted fertilizer may only last 2 months if the temperatures are above 85F).

Look for soluble liquid fertilizers that are designed for fruiting vegetables such as tomato fertilizers. If you prefer using organic fertilizers, try using a combination of fish emulsion, kelp meal extract, greensand, and bone meal. Kelp extracts and meal are very advantageous as they are good sources of micronutrients.

4. Start with pot-friendly varieties. Look for varieties that are labeled for containers or described as compact. In general, the seed companies' descriptions are accurate.
5. Watering and irrigation. At home, hand watering plants as needed rapidly becomes a daily task as the plants bulk up. Water until it runs out the bottom of the pots. As the plants fill the pots and start making fruit, they sometimes required twice daily watering. This need for water is especially high with tomatoes. It is not usually recommended to place trays under pots outside, but it may be necessary under tomatoes if you can only water once a day in July and August.

Specific Plant Needs: Tomatoes

Tomatoes are probably the #1 container vegetable that interests gardeners. There are some excellent varieties that are easy to find in seed catalogs and garden centers to get you started in producing great flavored tomatoes.

Variety Comments:

Bush Early Girl: Excellent variety. It has real tomato taste, good size for slicing and good yields. While relatively compact, the plants really need to be supported as the fruit load gets heavy enough to break branches.

Patio Princess: Good flavor in a saladette-sized fruit. Excellent yields for a compact plant.

Window Box Roma: Large quantities of past-type tomatoes.

Bushsteak: while it took a long time to get any ripe fruit from Bushsteak, the fruit were large and meaty with a fully balanced tomato flavor. This variety may benefit from the use of row covers early in the season to promote faster growth. This variety must be supported.

Super Bush Hybrid: the earliest yielding of the slicing container tomatoes in the trial. Good flavor and good yields in a medium sized slicer. Must be supported.

Tumbler: Very small plants with minimal flavor. You can plant as many as three plants in a 14" post. No support required.

Container tomatoes benefit from upright support. Since container varieties tend to be shorter, conical wire trellises with two rings have been sufficient. Be sure to install these in the container shortly after planting or you are likely to damage the plants by installing them once they are really needed. Some of the smaller cherry type tomatoes are so small that no support is required.

While insects are seldom a big problem with tomatoes, diseases are common due to our generally humid summers. Septoria leaf spot occurs on all tomatoes and

requires attention or it will defoliate the plants just as the fruit is really coming on. This disease is very easy to diagnose. It starts as scattered speckles or lesions on the lowest leaves. The speckles then become larger and more numerous and spread upward, eventually leaving dead leaves behind. Without those leaves, the plant cannot produce sugars and the other compounds that go into creating flavorful fruit. Eventually this disease will kill the plants. For the first flower buds, apply either Chlorothalonil (Daconil and Fungonil in garden centers) or copper solutions weekly. If the weather is dry, you can reduce fungicide application to every two weeks.

Harvest your tomatoes as they ripen completely. This timely harvest allows the plant to move resources to other fruit. Never leave rotten or overripe fruit on the plants as they will degrade other fruit. For the best flavored fruit, leave them on the vine until fully colored. At the first sign of frost, harvest any fruit that looks even somewhat ripe, then toss the plant, or cover the plant with row covers during cool periods. The row cover will increase the heat and protect the plants from frost until it gets below 25F.

Specific Plant Needs: Cucurbits

Cucurbits (cucumbers, zucchini and squash) are probably not the first choice for many gardeners when it comes to growing container vegetables. However, the convenience of having one cucumber or zucchini ripe nearly all the time and easy to harvest at your kitchen door makes growing your own container cucurbits worth consideration.

Unlike more standard garden varieties, you may have to hunt around for a greenhouse that grows these varieties or start the plants yourself. Look for varieties that are labeled compact or for containers. The cucurbits take up lots of space, so you may want to consider a trellis



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THE MASTER GARDENER

The Small Town Gardener War on Weeds

Marianne Willburn

In the early hours of the morning at this time of year, you can find me in one of two places. Either I am sitting at the writing desk in my living room, senses keyed to the sound of juvenile footsteps on the staircase, or you will spy me kneeling in the flower beds, pulling out wild violets and chickweed by the fistful, blissfully unaware of juvenile footsteps on the staircase. This morning, while occupied in the latter pursuit, I began to ponder this task we call weeding.

In a sense, the word "task" seems inadequate when describing what is, in effect, a war into which we gardeners find ourselves accidentally drafted. You may win the battle in a particular part of the garden - but don't congratulate yourself too quickly. Turn around and the enemy is crawling up on your left flank, armed with thorns, or tap roots or seed heads that violently explode as you touch them, scattering seed shrapnel fourteen feet into freshly hoed soil.

I am not going to insult your intelligence by insisting, as most DIY writers do when writing about a particularly unpleasant task, that it is therapeutic. If ironing, emptying dishwashers, sanding drywall, weeding, or any one of a number of mind-numbing tasks were indeed therapeutic, the therapists would all be out of business, and I would have been paid by someone desperately needing psychoanalysis to do the finish work on my bedroom walls last week. All that said, weeding can be a satisfying activity, and a gratifying one at that - as long as we understand that there is no quick victory in sight.

As a student of history and a particular observer of the ways in which wars are waged and won over the course of human events, I realize that the first step in any war must be to demonize the enemy. Weeds are no exception. It's no good thinking about their desires and wishes as just another plant in God's great creation. Sure, they want to propagate themselves - just as your phlox wants to do. Is it their fault their flowers aren't as showy and pleasing as the Iris they currently envelope? Can they be held accountable for growth habits that take advantage of the tiniest bit of moisture, the smallest ray of sunlight? After all, a weed is just a plant growing in the wrong place. It's a living manifestation of the synergy between sunlight, soil and water. Can't we all just get along?

Nope. Get those soppy, schmaltzy sentiments out of your minds completely. It's war out there gardeners, and I need all hands on deck here. Weeds are the enemy. They are nasty, manipulative competitors for the nutrition, sunlight and water that your darling baby plants need to survive. See those wild violets out there in the trenches? Yes, the ones with the sweet purple flowers in the early spring and the heart shaped foliage in great mounds of deepest green. They're working you gardener. They're trying to take advantage of your eco-heart and plant-hugging sensibilities. While your trowel hesitates in sympathy, they are

sending out networks of underground rhizomes and great waves of seeds by the metric ton. If they could get into your house they would. They're laughing at you gardener. Take care of it.

But don't go out there without full body armor and a plan of attack. Any weeding foray (aside from the most casual plucking in a spare minute) should involve several pieces of equipment: a good sharp trowel or hoe, a pair of gloves, a small basket or tote, and, depending on the strength of your knees - pads or a mat. In this part of the world, a gnat-hat is also mandatory as far as I am concerned, but it does double-duty as a sunhat. There's nothing those weeds like better than seeing you faint dead away over a particularly brutal dandelion, and I for one won't give them the satisfaction.

Let's say, for the most part you are overrun by weeds in your vegetable and flower beds and you don't know where to begin. The very thought of it is sending you back into the house for a restorative beverage. Don't panic gardener. The plan is to break the whole into parts. First, if you have one, mow the lawn. It is impossible to visualize victory when you have to put on hip waders to reach the battlefield. Good.

Now come to terms with the fact that you probably won't finish today - set small goals and stick to them. However, one of those goals must be to make a dent in your emergency weeding and remove all the flowering weeds before seed heads develop and scatter their progeny to the far reaches of your kingdom, leaving you in tears next season. When you've temporarily won this battle then you can approach beds individually.

Weeds are a bit like the heads of the Hydra - if you merely chop off the crown, you will often end up with two - or one with a stronger root system. Some weeds, like clover, are tender seedlings and can be scraped off the topsoil very efficiently, but don't try this with poke weed, or dandelion or plantain (or horror upon horror - Ailanthus). These warriors sport tap-roots that must be dug up.

Finally, do your research and know your enemy. Understand the growth-habits of each of the mercenaries that visit your garden every year. Some weeds are far easier to pull if you let them grow a bit - others, like Bermuda Grass, will accept that as an invitation to annihilate your flower beds. There are weeds that you can eat (like chickweed and purslane) and weeds that can kill you (like jimson). Before you head once more unto the breach dear friends, read, read, read - arming yourself with knowledge as well as that sharp trowel I talked about earlier. After all, chemical warfare is strictly against The Geneva Protocol.

lising system to grow the vines on so they don't take over your deck or patio or set them on an overturned pot to raise the containers a bit.

Variety comments and recommendations:

Spacemaster Cucumber: Short hardy vines with slender dark green fruit.

Salad Bush cucumber: this All-American winner produces full-sized, garden-type cucumbers on compact plants. Somewhat tolerant of Powdery mildew.

Sugar Crunch: this is a very sweet cucumber. Very high yielding and somewhat compact.

Cucumber Bush Champion: full-sized cucumbers on a compact, bushy plants. Very high yielding.

Picklebush: very compact plants that produce large quantities of pickling-typed cucumbers.

Zebra Zuke Zucchini: Summer squash hybrid as versatile as any zucchini. Best when very young, about 7-8" long. High yielding and compact.

Golden Scallopini Bush: saucer shaped, golden colored fruit with scalloped edges. Very tender and ideal for stir fries when picked young.

Sweet Zuke Zucchini. This has a nutty flavor and tasty both cooked and fresh. Heavy yields. Relatively compact plants with fast ripening fruit.

lots of leaves with very few flowers. They will start bearing fruit after about 45 days, depending on the variety, and will get worn out quickly. To keep fruit coming, be prepared with new planters started 4-6 weeks after you started your first pots. This second planting should keep going right up till the end of the season.

Cucumber beetles will beat a path to nearly any cucurbit by mid-June. Look for spotted or striped slender beetles then start a management program. For just a few, try squishing them in our fingers. They are not always easy to catch and like to hang around in the flowers. Through feeding, these beetles will transfer a bacterial disease that will kill you plants. Since bees are required to pollinate cucurbit flowers, you must be very careful in your timing and choices of cucumber beetle control. None of the current conventional or organic pesticides are bee-friendly. Carbaryl is very effective, non-organic choice. Liquid formulations are somewhat less damaging for bees than dusts.

Using row covers by completely enclosing the plant, will control the beetles; however they must be removed at flowering or bees cannot pollinate the flowers.

Other vegetable plants that respond well to containers are egg-plant and peppers. Follow the general planting instructions above and you can have a great garden on your patio or deck!

When growing cucurbits, be very careful using high nitrogen fertilizers, as they respond by producing

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

“A Dog’s Life”

Jennifer Vanderau

Days pass and nights go by and nothing ever changes for him. He’s started to realize it’s actually possible to get used to something the longer it’s experienced. You just adapt. Because you have to.

He has fleas. Has had them for years. Living outside, tied to a dog box like he is, it’s not unusual. He remembers early on when he was first tied out - after he’d had too many accidents in the house - the fleas used to drive him almost out of his mind. Crawling all over his skin. Making him itch.

In that first year, he had scratched out huge clumps of his hair just trying to get some relief and his skin would be bare in patches. He doesn’t know if the lack of hair helped or made it worse.

Now it’s like the fleas have almost become a part of him - who he is, if you will. He’s not sure he’d recognize himself without them. They lesson somewhat in the winter months, but he thinks there are generations of fleas living on him. And he feels like a part of history or something.

It’s strange the thoughts that come to him on random afternoons.

He supposes in a way, he’s luck-

ier than most. His fur has grown back from the fleas and it keeps him warm in the winter months and his box is situated under a huge tree, so he’s shaded in the summer. His chain never gets tangled - he’s got a good five-foot stretch of dirt worn down around his house from pacing. He gets food every day and a fresh supply of water.

See? Lucky.

The family talks about having him for protection, he’s heard them from time to time, but he’s haunted by the question how can he protect anything when he’s tied to the box in the backyard?

Every now and then, he’s seen dogs and cats running around trying to scavenge for food - they’re thin, obviously malnourished - clearly starving, bones poking almost out of the skin. They have a look in their eyes that speaks of desperation, a frenzy, a need beyond what they can even comprehend. And he thinks, at least he’s not hungry.

He supposes he should count his blessing where he can find them.

But some nights, especially those cold, winter evenings, he sees the warm light on inside the house where he used to live. He sees the family at the table. Watches them laugh and

play and share. It would have to be almost like heaven to get to experience that - even for just one night.

He thinks maybe if he could know what it was like—just for a little while—he thinks the memory of it alone would be able to keep him warm for years to come.

Sometimes he gets sick. The cold gets to him or a stray animal probably passes something off to him on their way through. The winter of 2003 was a bad one. He remembers how tough it was to force himself to crawl out of his house for food. No one seemed bothered by his lethargy. They filled his bowl and left. As per usual.

Now, he’s gotten to the point where he’s old. There’s gray in his matted fur and his joints ache just about every day. He can’t pace around his doghouse nearly as quickly as he once could and a few days ago, he realized his bark sounds weak even to his own ears. Although he suspects he may be losing his hearing. He doesn’t pick up on sounds the way he once could.

The kids visit him from time to time when they’re outside in the summer. They pat his head or say something to him, but those moments are quite rare and he finds himself wondering what his life may have been like if he hadn’t ended up where he did.

It’s probably his old age and nearing senility, but some days he can’t help but speculate if there might be a place in the world where someone would care -- about him. That he hurt. That he was lonely. That he really just wanted a hug and a warm fire and someone to ease his aches and pains.

He shakes his head at himself, at the insanity of the thought. Life has certainly taught him that places like that don’t exist for dogs like him. Still, it’s a nice idea as he watches an army of ants work their way across



Blue is a 5-year-old blue tick coonhound who definitely has the hound howl. He’s a gorgeous boy who’s bounced around from place to place -- he’s been back and forth, in and out of the shelter a number of times. He really needs someone to take a chance on him and give him his forever home. Are you the right person for Blue?

his wooden dog box one afternoon.

Oddly enough, at about the time this weird, somewhat out-of-place wishful thinking surfaces, something strange happens. It’s early one morning when he gets the energy up to bark at a deliveryman in front of the house. Whether from wear or luck, he’ll never know, but as he’s pulling at the end of his chain, he hears a snap and senses a give in the line that he’s never felt before.

It takes him a full ten minutes to realize he’s actually no longer tethered to his doghouse - the chain had broken and he’s free. His first steps beyond the circle of dirt are tentative. He’s not sure whether to believe.

When his paws actually connect with grass for the first time in literally

a decade, the most exhilarating sensation courses through him. He honestly didn’t even know he could have such a reaction anymore.

With a spring in his step that belies his age, he bounds across the yard, bypassing the house, not even considering stopping. He has a moment where he thinks this is it. He’s been given a second chance. He’ll get to know what is beyond his little tract of land where he’s existed for so long.

His feet fly under him in that initial adrenaline spike and race for freedom as he rounds the front of the house, just making it to the road, but he can’t hear the truck coming.

A few years ago, shelter staff picked up a mixed breed dog who had been hit by a car. The impact had killed him. He had obviously lived outside all of his life -- there were signs on his fur and skin of a hard existence. No one came for him. No one called. No one cared. This story is for him, that lost anonymous soul, whose name we never knew. If just one person reads these words and it makes a difference in one dog’s life, then it will be worth beyond measure.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg, Pa, and can be reached at cvasoc@innernet.net. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at (717) 263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org. CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg, Pa. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

It's our job to help them have a peaceful end

Dr. Kimberly Brokaw, BVM

One of the uncertainties of being on call is whether or not you will even get a call. The majority of nights I get to sleep without being awakened with an emergency. That being said, when on call, I don't usually make plans to do anything other than ride my horse and I don't even take him outside of the neighborhood. Inevitably, if I make plans to do anything, I will have calls all evening and night. Therefore, it is easier to not make plans.

Recently, my mom wanted to come up and visit me. As her work schedule involves a lot of evening shifts, the only evening that worked with her schedule was when I was on call. I told her that she was of course welcome to come visit but warned her that she might end up going out on a call with me. Luckily I had prepared her. No sooner had we finished dinner when the pager went off.

A horse was colicking. The owners had gone on vacation and had taken their horses to stay with a neighbor while they were gone. Now that they had brought them home, one had gotten sick with a tick-borne infection and the other was colicking. My colleague had been out earlier that day and treated both horses but the colicking horse was not improving.

I had caught a cold earlier in the week and while I felt fine, I was constantly having to blow my nose. As I usually go on calls by myself (or with a student), I was used to being able to take both hands off the wheel and drive with my elbows in order to blow my nose without being reprimanded by a passenger. However, my mother was alarmed by this behavior as I swerved in and out of my lane while blowing my nose. I tried telling her to relax and that at least I wasn't speeding (I had gotten a written warning earlier in the week for speeding and so am still paying close attention to speed limits). She continued to critique my driving habits, and gasp whenever I took my hands off the steering wheel all the way to the farm.

Even though the family regularly uses our clinic for vet care, I had not met them prior to my evening on call. As I drove down their long, narrow, unpaved road, I was not sure of what I would find. Their farm was tidy and well laid out. In the front pasture, I could see a large, shiny, mare, and "Colby" an attractive, older, palomino. Both were clearly well loved and

well cared for.

My patient, the palomino, was depressed and in pain. Despite his pain, he had a kind and pleasant expression. He allowed me to examine him fully without any fuss. Examination per rectum revealed distended bowel, which could mean a simple impaction/sluggish intestine. It could also mean that a lipoma/fatty tumor was obstructing the bowel and only major abdominal surgery at a surgical hospital could offer any chance of recovery.

Colby was older, and therefore at higher risk for complications and death from the surgery. Also, major abdominal surgery often costs between \$8,000 and \$15,000. Many owners are unable to afford colic surgery. Colby's owners said he was not a surgical candidate and to do what we could for him on the farm. I gave Colby some painkillers and put a tube down to his stomach to give him DSS, a laxative. I left the owners with additional painkillers and gave them instructions on what to monitor for. While I was suspicious of a strangulating lipoma, the only way to fix that is through surgery, so Colby was being treated for an impaction colic.

The next day the owner called again and requested that I come recheck Colby. Colby's owner said that he was acting better and seemed to be seeing some improvement. My physical exam was not encouraging. His heart rate was double what it should be. Colby's gums had started to turn a little purple, and when I passed a tube into his stomach I



drained a fair amount of reflux, indicating that his intestines had stopped moving and fluid was backing up into the stomach. After draining the reflux fluid off of Colby's stomach, his heart rate returned to normal and he was more comfortable.

I told the owner that Colby was dying and that he should call his wife home from work to be with him. I could see the tears welling in Colby's owner's eyes as I told him the bad news. Colby had been a member of the family for many years and was his wife's first horse. As Colby was acting

better, the owner was reluctant to have me euthanize him immediately. I left the owners with multiple injections of pain killers and told them they could give them to Colby as needed but when he got too painful, they would have to call me back to euthanize him. The next day I got a call from the wife. Colby had died peacefully at home.

Sometimes, it is hard to be a farm vet. As vets, we see a lot of sadness. While I was sad to see Colby suffer with something I could not fix, his owners and I were able to control much of his pain. We were able to help him have a peaceful end. Unfortunately, owning animals means having to deal with their loss. We get a lot of pleasure out of our animals during their lives. It is our job to help them have a peaceful end. I am happy to know responsible people like Colby's owners, who gave him a good, happy, life, and a good death.

Dr. Brokaw practices her love for animals at the Walkersville Veterinary Clinic.



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EMMITSBURG AND FAIRFIELD...

Rounding the bases with families & players

Spring has arrived and along with it, rain- and lots of it! However, despite the weather delaying or cancelling a few games, Little League in both Fairfield and Emmitsburg has begun! Teams of all levels and ages have had their swings at the plates and are off to a great start for the long season ahead.

Hopefully you have been able to catch the last two articles on the Little Leagues, if not be sure to check them out on emmitsburg.net. If you haven't been on board, two months ago we took a look into the lives of our dedicated coaches, and last month we checked out the local sponsors who donate their skills and money to keep the league running. There is just one small part missing in our run around the bases, and is probably the most direct line of support: the parents and players themselves!

Parents play a vital role in their children's lives, but also within the league. I was able to talk with some of the parents and grandparents who have players in the league. Each group I spoke with was so energetic and positive about what the league had to offer for their children, themselves, and the community as a whole. They, like most, appreciate the time and effort that the coaches and sponsors put into the league, and realize without them the league would not be alive the way it is today.

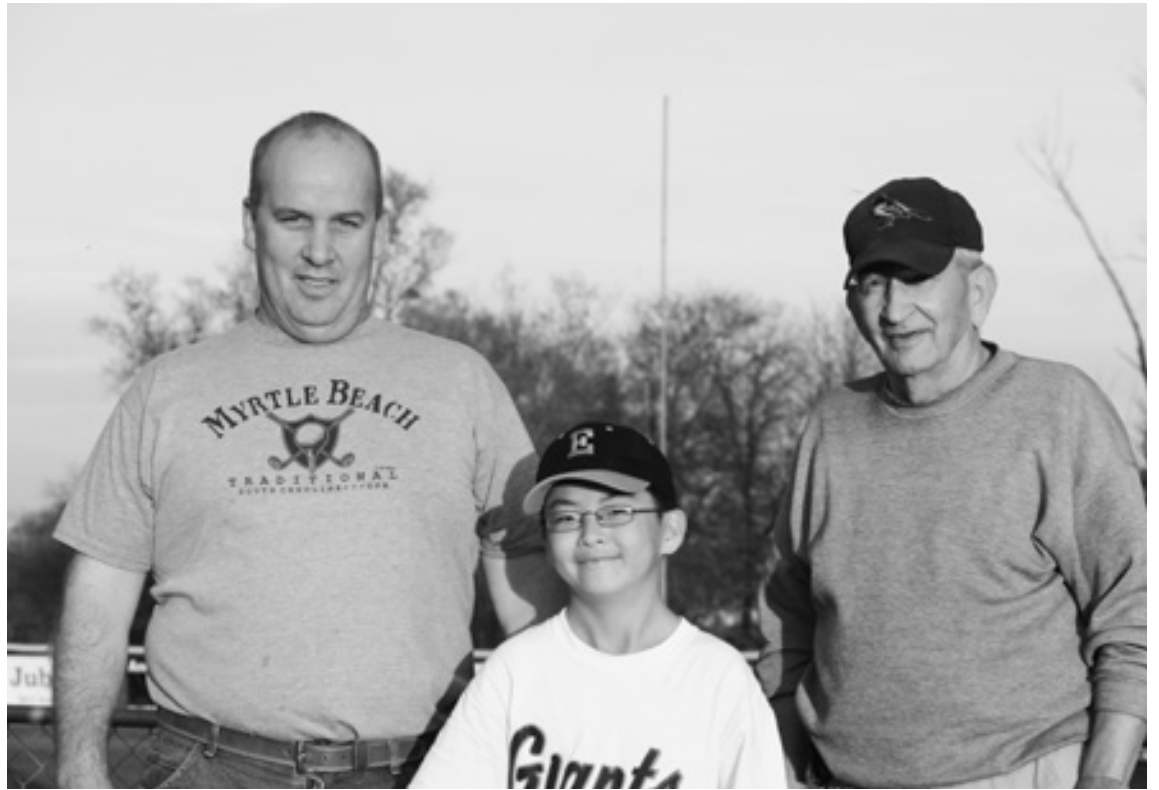
One couple who has much compassion for the league was able to give me some good insight from a grandparent's perspective. Both Art and Dot Damuth have lived in Emmitsburg forever and have incorporated Little League into almost every aspect of their lives. Art is a generational Little Leaguer,

having been involved in the start-up of the league. I was extremely fortunate to be able to speak with Mrs. Damuth about her and her husband's passion for the league.

She began by telling me about Art's history. "Art coached in almost all the leagues and has been involved in baseball forever!" Dot, Art's wife exclaimed. She continued to tell me what the league was like back in the day. "Years ago we used to have a food stand over at the park, the parents managed it and helped serve the food to everyone who came to the game. It's been great to see the wonderful community of baseball in Emmitsburg continue. I am happy to see these younger children playing baseball and being a part of the league!"

Currently, he and his wife Dot enjoy watching their ten-year-old grandson Jake, participate in the league for the first time. "It's a joy to just see the games, and Jake is so excited!" I thought I should mention they never miss a practice either! Dot and Art's truly appreciate those who impact the league. "My favorite part is going to see the coaches, the managers and umpires taking care for the kids. The way they give instruction and tell them what to do is amazing. It touches my heart to see the patience and all they have for these kids."

Mrs. Damuth can appreciate the patience exercised on the field, as she has previously been involved in the local schools for many years. "It takes special people to do these kinds of things, and these people are amazing. I know some of them because they were my students back when I was working in the school." If those coaching the leagues now were lucky enough to have Dot as a teacher, then I'm sure they learned the importance of patience and dedication from her be-



Doug Wivell, his son, Jacob, and his father and longtime Emmitsburg baseball fan, Art Damuth

cause she was quite patient with me asking her all these questions!

Dot also realized just how important it is for everyone involved to remain positive and upbeat with the players. She expressed that coaching is not an easy job, and couldn't stop telling me how impressed they were with how patient and positively the coaches dealt with the players. "I always say 'good job', after every game no matter if they win or lose. The coaches and managers say the positive things, and that's important. What matters is that they work hard and play hard, and that they work together in the process."

Working together on the field for players is always crucial in order for success. However it is nice to see that working together goes further than just those in uniform. Parents, coaches, and sponsors in particular work together every day in order to keep the league flowing.

Dot can tell you for herself from observing the league "I know a lot of the parents, coaches, and all, and the thing I love about it is that everyone is a family; it is not a couple of people here and a couple of people there- it's a family thing and everyone is together for the kids." I believe her perspective hits the message out of the park!

Not only are families and coaches important to the Damuths, the sponsors are also included in the line-up. "I think the sponsors are wonderful for being so involved in the community. It is touching to see the community come together to support the league."

Of course, on opening day Dot and Art were in attendance ready for their favorite time of the year to begin. Dot had tears in her eyes as they announced the managers and coaches of the teams. "They deserve a lot of credit, and it just warmed my heart!" Like many, the

Damuths hope to see the league continue the way it has in the past because it is something the community really needs for children today.

The Damuths passion for the league is evident. However, they are not alone in their dedication and appreciation for the league. Tara Wivell is a dedicated mother of four active children. Noah, Alex, and Emma are three of the four members of the Wivell family currently playing in the league today. The fourth is not yet old enough to play, but something tells me when the time comes for the youngest to play they will have to write one more team schedule down on the calendar.

While Mrs. Wivell excels as dividing and conquering her schedule, she enjoys many aspects the league has to offer. "The thing a good league teaches them the fundamentals of the game. I also think



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...BASEBALL & SOFTBALL LITTLE LEAGUES



Carly Trout and her "Angel" Softball wiz Kathryn

that sports in general teach life lessons, specifically sportsmanship, competition and fair play."

Competition is an important aspect for many of the players. Mrs. Wivell explained that although winning and losing isn't everything, it is often nice to have a good win. "My kids care about winning and losing in a good way- it pushes them to do their best because they want to win, and they love the game, which is why they want to do their best." A competitor herself, Mrs. Wivell's favorite part of having her children participate in the league include just watching the game and watching her own children play! "I love that when you go to the games you know virtually everyone. My sons have cousins on the teams and so do many of the other players. It truly is a community and family thing."

Not only is baseball in Emmitsburg and Fairfield a community activity, it is a generational as well. Mrs. Wivell shared a great story demonstrating this. She explained that her husband grew up in Em-

mitsburg and played on the exact same fields her sons are playing on now. When Noah was nine years old he hit his first out of the park homerun on the major league field. The first thing Noah said to Mr. Wivell wasn't an excited comment or high five; instead Noah promptly informed his dad that he beat his father's homerun record.

You see, when Mr. Wivell hit his first homerun he was ten years old, an entire year older than Noah, who wasn't afraid to boast about it! "Noah was excited about hitting his first homerun, but he was most excited about beating his dad!" Mrs. Wivell commented, "It was a cool thing to know Noah played on the same field as his dad played on. There are a lot of other families who have generations of kids playing. I often find my husband talking to other parents at the games saying, 'oh you were a dodger!', it's just pretty exciting."

Another proud parent, Laura Loyte has two children, Jayson and Jazmyne who are active in the league. She really enjoys the instruction her children receive.

"The kids are taught a lot and the coaches take the time to go over the sports, which help them advance to the next level." Like the other parents, she too appreciates what the game of baseball and softball teaches her children, especially commitment and working together.

"My favorite part is being at the games. With Jazmyne, I am in the dugout interacting with the kids, and with Jayson, I like being on the sidelines cheering for the boys." Mrs. Loyte also enjoys having getting to know the parents and families. "It is a wonderful thing to get to know the parents and people who are in the community outside of school functions. It's nice to do something different."

Mrs. Loyte is actively involved as a parent and would like to see other parents do the same. She explained that tee-ball needs more parents to be coaches in order to have more teams created. Right now, there are only four teams so the kids are playing the same teams again and again. She thinks it would be nice to see more interest from parents who would be willing to help ex-

pand the league.

She also sees the importance the league offers to the community. "Emmitsburg baseball helps everyone, if people cannot afford to join the league, they will work with the parents and let the child participate. No child is turned away." That is an amazing aspect about the league that I know everyone involved would like to emphasize. Mrs. Loyte also points out that Little League provides opportunities for children to interact in positive ways, and also does the same for the adults involved.

Sue Reaver is yet another proud parent who has a young athlete in the league. Having had an older son participate when he was younger and a son now playing for the Red Sox, Mrs. Reaver has a good perspective on what the league has to offer. "I think the league teaches them respect for other people, that is a big thing on the team right now, and it is expected to roll over into how you want to be treated in life."

"It's a nice community, and I know a lot of people who are involved, they really care about the kids." Mr. Reaver grew up in the area and has previously coached, which allows for the Reavers to know a lot of members in the local baseball community. "My favorite part is seeing my son play and watch the kids enjoy the game. Going to the games brings back a lot of memories for my husband, which is nice."

It is nice, all of it. The leagues in both Emmitsburg and Fairfield provide so much for the community, and it is all because of the generosity found in our neighbor's hearts. Kathleen Trout is an example of just how nice the league is. As a member of the 8U Angels softball team, Kathleen enjoys playing with all her friends. Everyone on her team gets a chance to bat and pitch, which helps them find their niche as they grow up in the league.

Kathleen's grandfather, Tim Humerick explains how happy he is

watching his granddaughter play in the league. He said he was thrilled to be watching his granddaughter, especially since he is a big fan of the sport. Kathleen's grandmother echoed her husband's thrill at watching the girls play. "It is nice to see them being active as opposed to sitting in the house playing video games!"

The proud grandparents continued to watch Kathleen play as the Angels enthusiastically chanted away as the opposition took swings at the plate.

It should be clear that the time I spent talking with the parents and grandparents was a valuable part to understanding the importance of the leagues in our area. I was able to see just how much time and energy they dedicate to the league as well! It's not easy getting everyone dressed, fed, loaded into the car, and to practice and games on time, especially if you've got more than one child participating in the league! So players, if you're old enough to read this and understand- thank your parents! They do a lot for you, it's not easy cheering on the sideline every game and giving you some extra dollars for an ice cream after the game!

It is amazing to see how the coaches, sponsors, parents, players, fans, and everyone in between dedicate so much of themselves to the league. It has been a wonderful experience to be able to take a look into something so special in the towns of Emmitsburg and Fairfield. I encourage you to take some time and head down to the fields to show your support and find out for yourself how wonderful Little League is right here in our own backyards!

Stop by the next game to see some of the youngsters compete and learn lessons on the field which they will carry with them throughout their whole lives. Who knows, you may even see some of the players continue through the league and be a Division I Mountaineer for their hometown college right up the road!

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HISTORY

History of Harney

Part 3

J. W. Beck

Mills & Millers

We now leave this spot and follow the stream along the Mason Dixon line to its mouth. We look to the right of us and see Rock Creek, whose waters were tinged with human gore during the hard fought battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863. The waters come flowing gently down past the many fertile farms which are located along its banks.

Just as this stream leaves the Keystone State and flows into Maryland, Rock Creek and Marsh Creek unite and form the Monocacy. How this stream got its name is unknown; tradition has it that an Indian met a white man at Red Rock, our present position, and as they approached each other the, Indian said to the white man, "Memocacy down," meaning that he would not climb down over this cliff of rocks. After that the stream was called Monocacy. We passed on downstream for several hundred yards and we see an old mill which was built by a man by the name of Sheets in 1828.

At the time, Sheets owned a tract of about 700 acres of land surrounding this place. We are told that inexperienced hands were employed when the stone-wall for this mill was first built, and it fell down three times for them. Five masons worked on the job, and one morning they went down to their work and discovered that the wall had again fallen down. Three of them went back to the house which was some distance from the mill for their breakfast. The others gathered up their tools and carried them across the creek on the hill. Mrs. Sheets of course asked where the other two

were and was told that they had a little job of pointing to do before they could come, that it would get too dry if they left it. About this time the two gentlemen arrived, and the three left. After the two finished their breakfast they started back but none of them ever started to work. All of them 'skipped out' across the creek and left as rapidly as possible, without ever presenting their bill. and Mr. Sheets had to get another set of masons to finish the job.

Mr. Sheets carried on the milling business for a number of years, sometimes by employing a miller, and other times by renting the property. Afterwards he sold out to Daniel Sell, who rented the property for a number of years, and finally, it was by Peter Sell, who also rented the property until a short time before his death, when he sold it to its present owner, William Myers. In 1893, Myers began to think he was getting behind the times and had a full set of rolls put in. Today it is considered one of the finest mills in the county. During the present summer of 1895, Mr. Myers built a new house on the property, which without a doubt, is a very handsome and comfortable dwelling.

The fording at this point was very dangerous and after a number of horses, and a man by the name of Glosser had been carried down the stream and drowned, the commissioners of Carroll and Frederick Counties met and decided to build a bridge across the stream. In 1879, a large and handsome wrought iron bridge was erected with one long span of 200 feet across the main stream, and two short spans of 100 feet each, thus making the entire bridge 400 feet in length. During the summer of 1890, a terrific cyclone passed

through this region doing much damage to property, besides blowing this bridge down, but it was again rebuilt in the spring and summer of 1891.

We leave this spot into downstream nearly a quarter-mile further, where at the close of the last century, a little mill was built on the eastern side of the stream. We are unable to say who built this mill, but an old miller by the name of Shellhouse is the first we had any account of. We are unable to say how long he owned the property, but the next owner was Abraham Null. After some years the property went into the hands of his son Samuel, who built another mill. This mill was intended to hull clover seed, and we are told, did its work to perfection. Later on, probably in 1844, Mr. Null built a large foundry and employed quite a number of hands in the shop.

During this time the clover mill was torn out, and the building used for a blacksmith shop. In the foundry, Mr. Null made stoves, one of which Mrs. Lovina Shriver has in use at the present day. He also cast a great many plowshares, and did nearly all kinds of work belonging to the business. During this time, William Crapster built a store at this place. The store was at one time flooded, and much of the goods badly damaged. Sometime during this period, the mill was blown down but rebuilt soon after, made much larger, and quite an extensive business. The only trouble connected with this mill was in keeping the dam across the stream to supply the proper water power. The dam has been torn out quite frequently thus causing great expense to the different owners.

In 1893, while the mill was owned by Joseph Sterner, it caught fire, and burnt entirely down. The

property was then sold to Andrew Stonesifer, who built a fine roller mill, and also put in a new dam. Today this mill stand has a good trade and is quite a convenience to the farmers in that part of the community.

We now come back to the Lutheran Church Tower to take a look over the surrounding community. From this point, the first thing we say is that many hundreds of acres that were in woods at the beginning of our work have long since been converted into beautiful farms with their broad acres heavily covered with a rich and abundant harvest. As we look to the south we see in the distance the church spires of Taneytown. Coming nearer we notice the village of Longville, and upon coming still nearer, we behold the stream of Alloways hurrying rapidly towards the Monocacy. We behold upon its banks the site of an old mill that Charles Hess, grandfather of Mr. Daniel Hess, came from Germany to this country sometime during the Revolutionary war, bought a few acres of timberland on the banks of the stream, and built a flaxseed oil mill and lived in the mill, and they are all of a very superior quality.

Later on, he built a house and then put a set of choppers in his mill. Afterwards, a machine for grinding plaster was added and a sawmill was also built. We are not certain, however, that Charles Hess built all of these additions to his old mill. Some of them had been made after the property went into the hands of his son John, who milled for a number of years when the property was sold to Abraham Hess, who afterwards tore the mill down and devoted his time entirely to tilling the soil.

When we look to the east, we see in the distance the steeples of Littlestown, and as we come nearer we behold many beautiful farms along the way. As we take a glance to the north, we behold Gettysburg with this historic battlefield. Its famous Round Top, its Evergreen Cemetery, and its beautiful monuments. As we approach our present position from that section we see beautiful farms all along the way, and our entire surrounding presents a scene of peace and prosperity.

And now, before leaving this in the hands of some future writer, we desire to take one last look over the town, and we finally have 50 comfortable houses, 177 inhabitants, three stores, two cigar factories, three blacksmith shops, one coach repair shop, one boot shoe and harness maker shop, one barbershop, two hotels and two churches.

Progress in Building

In 1857 and 1858 the town seemed to be in prosperous condition. John Black built a new house on the Emmitsburg Road. E. D. Hess built on the lot situated between the Taneytown and Bridgeport roads, Donald Hess bought a track of land, and built on the Lit-

tlestown Road, and Jacob Kreglo built on the Littlestown Road near the square, thus making for new homes in a short time.

In 1860, George Fream built a full set of new buildings on a track of land purchased from his father's farm, and James Angel built on Littlestown Street. In 1861 James McIlhenny built a new Brick house on Gettysburg Street, but soon after sold to Polly Bowers.

About this time, David Bolinger bought Jacob Kreglo's property near the square, and commenced store keeping just across the street in the storehouse formally built by William Hiteshew. Here he carried on business until almost the close of the war, when he built a new storehouse on his own property, where he carried on business for some time, then sold his property to John Davis, who kept a saloon.

In 1864, E. D. Hess sold his property to J. Worthington Jones, and brought the James Angel and property on Littlestown Street. After moving there he built an addition to the house, and also a small shop, and started the cabinet-making business. Mr. Jones also erected a small building on his property and commenced store-keeping.

About this time, Philip Shriner sold his property on Gettysburg Street to Dr. Baer, and bought the Daniel Hess property on Littlestown Street where he moved in the spring of 1865, when the property was left to his wife for as long as she lived.

After Daniel Hess sold out to Shriner, he bought another tract of land on Littlestown Street, and improved it with a full set of new buildings. While living there, he and his son, John G. Hess, started the blacksmith business. Soon after, he built a new dwelling house on the corner of Littlestown Street and the road leading to Walnut Grove schoolhouse, adjoining his blacksmith shop, which he sold to the present owner, John J. Hess, who continued the business. After this, John G. Hess became famous as a coach builder, as today general manager of the famous Hess Manufacturing Co., of Hagerstown, Md.


Daniel Hess also moved away, and rented his property for several years and finally sold it to its present owner, D. T. Shoemaker, who greatly improved the place. It is now considered one of the most beautiful and convenient homes in the community.

In 1866 J. Worthington Jones quit store-keeping, and rented a room to Dr. E. B. Simpson, who bought out Dr. Bears large practice. Mr. Jones afterwards went into the butchering business, which he continued for a number of years. He was also at one time appointed Squire, but finding it to be a very provoking business, he resigned his commission, and lived a retired life. With his death in 1894, his estate was left to his daughter Miss Eudora V. Jones. In 1866, Unit-



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HISTORY



1915-era photo of Harney taken at the old school house looks West toward the square.

ed Brethren Church was built, a full history of which will be given later on.

In 1868 Daniel Shoemaker bought a lot from Polly Bowers and built a two-story frame dwelling house. Mr. Shoemaker was a small confectioner and also postmaster for a number of years.

In 1869 or 1870, W. F. Eckenrode bought a lot at the corner of Gettysburg and Emmitsburg streets, and built a large-frame house suitable for a store and dwelling. This house made quite an improvement to the town. Here Mr. Eckenrode kept shop for a few years and then sold the store to his father, Mr. John Eckenrode. The father went into business with his younger son, J. V. Eckenrode, and afterwards bought the property and continued merchandising until a few years ago, when he sold out and read to E. S. Eyer, who afterwards went out of business, and the store property was read to the present occupant, D. J. Hesson.

For several years following the building of the Eckenrode, the growth of the town seemed to come to a standstill. Business, however, kept gradually increasing until the people of the community began thinking the town could make a place of considerable importance. In 1875, Henry Kemper bought a lot and built on Gettysburg Street. In 1876, William H. Lightner bought his father's property, tore down all the old buildings and built a brick house and a good barn, thus making it a desirable home. Mr. Lightner lived here until his death in 1893.

In 1878, three new houses were built; one by Rufus Bishop on the road leading from this place to Bridgeport, one by Josaha Hawn, and another by Henry

Hyser, both of which are located on the road running from this place to Walnut Grove schoolhouse. In 1880, J. V. Eckenrode built a house on Emmitsburg Street. This house was rented until he quit business, at which time he moved into it himself. In 1881, William Shriner built on Littlestown Street. In 1882, two new homes were built, one on Gettysburg Street by Henry M. Null, and one on Littlestown Street by Daniel Hess.

In 1883, James H. Reaver built a fine frame house; here he carried on the boot, shoe and harness making business for sev-

eral years. Prior to this, Reaver had built a small frame house adjoining his new house on Gettysburg Street and S. S. Shoemaker's store property. He finally sold his property to Shoemaker, who lived in the house for several years. In 1884, T. J. Hess built on Littlestown Street and started a coach repair shop. In 1885, James H. Reaver sold his property and town to Abraham Hesson at about the same time he bought a tract of land at the edge of town, and put up a full set of new buildings.

In 1886, George W. Shriner built on Littlestown Street, and

Charles H. Hess built a house and carpenter shop on Gettysburg Street. This property was afterwards sold to C. F. Reindoller, who fitted the shop up for a drug store. Later it was traded to John V. Eyer who sold it to its pres-

ent owner. Miss Perry Eyer and Miss Sally Snider opened up a millenary store in the building. Mrs. Peter Sell also built an addition to her property on Gettysburg Street, thus making a great improvement. E. H. Shoemaker, during this time, also built a large and handsome house on the same Street.

The year 1887 is prominently noted for being the most prosperous of any single year in the history of the town. D. D. Hesson bought the old saloon and a small lot connected to it, and built a large and commodious hotel. Dr. John C. Bush built a beautiful house on Littlestown Street, which is considered the most perfectly built house in the town: everything was arranged to suit his own convenience. Unfortunately, he was not permitted to enjoy it for long. After his death in 1893, the property was sold to W. A. Snider, its present owner. Andrew Degroff built on a lot adjoining the United Brethren Church. Charles A. Cornell bought and built on Gettysburg Street; Cornell sold his property to Samuel C. Shoemaker, who built an addition to the house, and it is today a lovely residence.

S. S. Shoemaker built to the side and over the top of the store, thus making quite a large building. All these buildings were large and added very much to the appearance of the town.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

Whiskey on the Rocks

Captain Edmond D. Pope, USN Ret.

It was a typical dark, dreary fall day with continuous light rain and drizzle the entire drive from Stockholm to Karlskrona, some six hours of driving south from the Swedish capital and our first trip outside the confines of Sweden's largest city since our posting to the U.S. Embassy several months earlier.

Captain Dave Moss, the Naval Attaché, and I (the Assistant Naval Attaché and a Commander) and our families, had become close friends during the several months of language training and cultural studies in Washington D.C. before arriving in Sweden and assuming our posts.

This relationship could and did make a significant difference in our adjustments to surroundings in which we felt isolated even if not posted to assignments like many of our classmates who had been sent to Soviet, East European, Middle East or other hostile countries. Indeed, eighteen months after our arrival in Sweden, one of our classmates, US Army LTCOL Charles Ray, was assassinated on the streets of Paris by a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist.

I vividly recall Dave and I joking with the third person making that trip, our Swedish Navy escort officer, during the drive in late October 1981 about the impact this depressing weather must have on the well-known Scandinavian suicide rate in the winter months. Years later, I often wondered if Dave and Joan Moss and their family had chosen to move to the Seattle, Washington area after the Sweden assignment to maintain the normalcy of dreary weather in their lives.

We had chosen the trip to Karlskrona as our first in-depth look at the Swedish Navy at the invitation of Commodore Lennart Forsman, commander of the Karlskrona Naval Base. Lennart

had been the Swedish Naval Attaché in Washington D.C. during our preparatory months and we had become friends with him immediately.

Keeping with diplomatic regulations, we had requested and been approved for the visit by the Swedish government weeks before the planned travel. The depressing weather never let up as we arrived in Karlskrona and checked into our hotel for a good night's rest before the next day's visit. In our wildest imaginations, neither Dave nor I could have guessed at just how tumultuous and memorable a day that would be.

We were anxious and up early the next morning, downing several cups of strong Swedish coffee before the short walk to the Naval Base entrance. They were prepared for our arrival as expected and ushered us directly to Commodore Forsman's office. That is when we noticed the seeming confusion and hint of chaos among the normally calm and well-prepared Swedes. Lennart and part of his staff greeted us and offered more coffee. After a short while, disrupted by Lennart being distracted and having to leave the office for a few moments, he then returned and proceeded to present an overview of his assets, strategic and tactical operations and area of operations.

During the first hour of this presentation, Lennart was interrupted on several instances for "private" discussions, which we found out of character. At this point in the morning, Lennart's second-in-command, Karl Anderson suddenly made an appearance, briefly apologizing to us and then engaging Lennart in a short, hushed conversation. The look on Lennart's face immediately indicated a serious problem to us so we remained passive thinking it must be a sensitive personnel problem or operationally urgent issue that required his



In 1991, the Soviet Whiskey-class Submarine S-363 accidentally hit an underwater rock about 1 mile from the main Swedish naval base at Karlskrona. The boat was stuck on the rock for nearly 10 days. The Soviet Navy sent a rescue task force comprised of heavily armed destroyers and high sea tugs, an action that led to a standoff between Soviet and Swedish warships.

attention. Lennart then invited us on a tour of certain base facilities but clearly appeared distracted and unable to concentrate on his tour.

Finally, Karl Anderson once again appeared and engaged Lennart in a short whispered conversation. At this point, Lennart invited us into a small office space for a "discussion". Our interest in the distraction causing Lennart to be so off-balance then became a serious concern about what it was we were to be told. Lennart immediately proceeded to tell us that his staff had "...just confirmed the presence of a stranded Soviet WHISKEY-class submarine in a restricted area near the confines of the naval base!"

The ceiling falling on our heads could not have had a greater impact. Was he joking? After all, we had become good friends with him. After letting the impact of this statement settle in, Lennart went on to inform us of the little additional detail he

knew at that moment and then whispered to Dave "I know what this means and you are welcome to use my phone if you want to call your embassy". He told us that they had a report during the night of strange noises, primarily loud, straining diesel engine noises, but were unable to investigate until first light of day.

He had indeed been told of the first report indicating that a submarine was stranded on a rocky outcropping in the restricted area early in our meeting that morning but had been skeptical of such a seemingly ridiculous possibility and had dispatched his executive officer to investigate and report back to him. Even with this incredulous revelation, we all remained somewhat in doubt wondering if the submarine might not be a Swedish boat or had otherwise been misidentified.

In short order, we were allowed a brief discussion with Karl Anderson and the detail he had obtained from his personal observation only half an hour ago. We were then allowed to use a phone that had been offered by Lennart and contact the American Embassy in Stockholm to report this explosive bit of news. Similar to Dave and my first impressions, the Defense Attaché asked if we had enjoyed a bit too much Swedish aquavit the night before. We gave him our assurances of the high confidence we now had in this burgeoning incident.

Our day's planned schedule then changed like yesterday's burned coffee being thrown out a window. Confusion and excitement were the tone of the entire base, town and indeed the country almost immediately.

During our second call to Stockholm, the Defense Attaché informed us that the press was already reporting the incident and that the Swedish capital city was quickly being transformed into

a worldwide center of attention. The US Charge D'Affairs (the new US ambassador had not yet arrived in Stockholm) was already in touch with Washington DC and had instructed the Defense Attaché to order Dave and I out of Karlskrona as soon as possible and to "keep our heads below the gunnels".

Somehow, the Department of Defense learned of this order and in short order; this dictate to us was reversed. For the remainder of that day, we were relegated from one department head to another to maintain some continuity with our planned purpose but the day was also interspersed with frequent updates from Commodore Forsman, Karl Anderson and many others on what they understood the situation to be. We had to carefully weigh the information that was coming to us so as to avoid further confusion in the fast moving chain of events. We were also informed later in the day by our Swedish Navy escort officer that, since we had been approved for a full two day visit and departure after that, we should maintain that schedule and not plan on departing Karlskrona for two more days; this suited us just fine.

He would, he informed us, seek authority for us to then return to Stockholm when departing Karlskrona, rather than sticking to our originally scheduled visit to Navy facilities in nearby Malmo. Having a background in Soviet Naval operations and systems, I mentioned to the escort officer that night that they might want to take some measurements of the submarine as they were believed to sometimes carry nuclear weapons when on operational patrols.

Within the first two hours of that morning following the actual grounding (27 October 1981), the international press quickly and

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

unanimously dubbed the event "WHISKEY-ON-THE-ROCKS"; the name stuck to the great chagrin of Moscow. Keeping within its routine doctrine of the times, the Soviet Union initially denied the report but that became impossible for them when the first photographs began to appear in the press later that day.

We sat in our hotel rooms that evening watching world press reports describe what was known as well as what was conjecture. Listening to one "expert" after another from around the world describe what was going on seemed unworldly to Dave and I. All that day and the next, we had frequent contact with various Swedish Navy officials as well as with the Embassy in Stockholm and worked diligently trying to sort fact from fantasy. The adrenaline levels were high and we were fairly exhausted by the third morning as we prepared to depart and return to Stockholm.

Outside the direct excitement of the actual grounding of the submarine itself, a humorous event did transpire during that trip that Dave and I will never forget. During the third and final evening we spent in our hotel there, we walked into the bar to find the recently arrived Soviet Naval Attaché, Captain 1st Yuri Prosvirnin sitting with a senior civilian official from the Soviet Embassy. We had seen Yuri the previous evening with his Ambassador on Swedish television; they had little to say other than to demand that they be allowed to travel to Karlskrona immediately but were being inhibited by Swedish authorities.

As events transpired, Yuri was given permission and the second day of our visit, he arrived in Karlskrona. When he turned and spotted Dave and I that evening in the bar, it appeared to us that he might choke on his olive. Yuri was a combination of Soviet/communist dogma and Scandinavian physique: thin, athletic-looking, blond hair and features, arrogant, cold, always ready to exhibit his prowess whether asked to or not, but most obvious to us, always the first to complain when he perceived that his position or person was not given its due respect. He wasted no time in raising a loud cry about the two American naval officers presence. To further compound matters, Yuri had worn his uniform and in the confusion of seeing us and his haste to exit the bar, he had placed his hat somewhere and it had been stolen. He immediately blamed Dave for this.

Later on in private, numerous Swedish officers gave us insight into their dealings with Yuri and the great delight they took in rebuffing his protestations; even to the point of providing him with copies of our original request for the visit and its approval. They would take further delight by citing very strict rules of diplomatic protocol to Yuri that prohibited them from accelerating his

own travel to the scene. Over the duration of our two plus years in Sweden together, Yuri never had a kind word for Dave or I; this of course gave us great delight as well as the entire foreign attaché group which would never allow Yuri a moment's respite on those few occasions we would encounter him after that event.

Following the ten-day ordeal of the submarine's "visit" to Sweden, it was a full six months before any of us attaches saw Yuri. During this period of absence, many of the attaches would question the other Soviet attaches about Yuri's absence. Invariably, we would get the response "Yuri in Moscow; mother died." We were certain after several exchanges of this nature that Yuri's mother was at least part feline.

Yuri's first return to normal functions of the attaché group occurred during a Swedish organized trip to the Gulf of Bothnia and an overland cross-country ski march above the Arctic Circle. After arriving at our beginning point of this ski trip, it was discovered that most of the attaches had never been on cross-country skis before so naturally Yuri volunteered his services to demonstrate the technique to the entire assembled group.

With the group of approximately twenty foreign military attaches and six or eight Swedish hosts assembled to watch, Yuri climbed a nearby slope, put on his Swedish issued wooden skis and preceded down the hill. Unfortunately for Yuri, he was directly in front of the assembled group when he hit a rock hidden in the previous nights powder, which sent him tumbling, and broke his ski tip. Indignant and furious at being made a fool of by the events, Yuri stomped down the hill and immediately started a loud argument/complaint with Swedish officers.

While Yuri was thus occupied, I walked out to where his accident had taken place, dug down into the snow, retrieved the broken ski tip and held it high into the air as a tro-

phy. The assembled attaches raised a chorus of cheers and laughs. This, of course, further outraged Yuri and he demanded of the Swedish hosts for weeks afterwards that the ski tip be returned to him. Again in private, most of the Swedish officers who had been on that trip have recounted the great delight in watching Yuri rage on about the indignity he suffered. They of course professed lack of authority in forcing me to return it and, to this day, that ski tip hangs on my office wall and brings a smile to my lips.

Nineteen years later, as I sat in a Russian prison charged with espionage by Vladimir Putin's secret police, Dave Moss expressed the possibility that my ordeal might be concocted by Yuri to even the score with me for taking his ski tip. That certainly was not the case, regardless of how one may have perceived Yuri's anger. I seriously doubt that Yuri has much authority in today's Russia.

To this day, the truth of what resulted in the grounding of that WHISKEY-class submarine is not definitively known. The Soviets, now Russians, continue to claim that it was a simple navigation error in the poor weather conditions of that dark day over the Baltic. Unfortunately for them, I have seen three separate locations identified by them as to where they thought they were.

Additionally, before departing Sweden, I was shown a copy of the submarine's navigation logbook, which clearly revealed erasures and changes on the night of the grounding. Additionally, I was aware that secret Swedish torpedo testing had been underway off the coastline of Karlskrona during the time of the WHISKEY's grounding.

One book published in Swedish does go so far as to suggest, after discovering that Dave and I were present in Karlskrona during the first days of the event, that we were responsible for using a secret American device to spoof the navigation system and

thus "lure" the submarine into Swedish territory.

Maybe Ian Fleming or another fiction writer might consider using such a ploy in a fictional novel but it is inconceivable in the real world, certainly back then. The fact is that, based on the precise location where the submarine ran aground, they had to have known where they were or to have been incredibly lucky to navigate the shallow channel to arrive at the grounding site.

The subsequent determination and announcement by Swedish officials that the submarine was carrying nuclear-armed torpedoes fanned the emotions and outrage of the Swedes and produced a plethora of denials by the Soviets at the time. It has been subsequently confirmed by a former Soviet Navy officer that the accusation was factual.

Probably the one most significant thing that did transpire from the 1981 Whiskey-on-the-Rocks event was the radical change in Swedish public opinion regarding the then two super powers. Up to that date and after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, only 8 percent of the Swedish populace felt the Soviet Union was a direct threat to their peace, while afterwards Swedish public opinion changed to 34 percent seeing Moscow as a direct threat and a full 71 percent saw Moscow as an

unfriendly nation.

Captain Edmond Pope was the Assistant U.S. Naval Attaché in Sweden from 1981 to 1984. He retired from the Navy in 1994 after twenty-five years of service. Upon retiring, he accepted a job at Penn State University.

He had been closely engaged in former Soviet science and technology cooperation for the last three years of his active duty. During his 27th trip to Russia in 2000, he was arrested and charged with espionage by the newly elected Vladimir Putin government.

After being held in Moscow's infamous Lefortovo Prison for close to a year, he was convicted and given a twenty year hard labor sentence in Siberia in an event that can be characterized as nothing but a "kangaroo court". His "conviction" and sentencing was delayed until the outcome of the US 2000 election was finally announced. Within one week, he was "pardoned" and allowed to return home. He has since authored the book TORPEDOED.

Captain Pope is a close friend of Commander John Murphy a regular contributor to the Cold War Warriors column. He assisted Edmond Pope during his early travel to the USSR and Russia as a Russian language interpreter and translator. For read Cold War articles by John Murphy visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Diary of Joseph E. Wible, 1861–1862

John Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society Civil War Historian

Sunday, Dec 15 – This has been another beautiful day. William McIlhenny took the morning report in to Headquarters this morning and Hillery got a pass and went to Church. I went to town on official business about ten o'clock and spent a short time in camp.

Monday, Dec 16 – This has been to us a fast day not a day of prayer – for the men have employed the day complaining to our Quartermaster for not sending our rations which we should have received on Saturday but did not get until late today and even then received no sugar or bread nor candles. It was almost enough to make one want to swear.

Tuesday, Dec 17 – The day has been uncommonly warm. This afternoon about one o'clock we went on an expedition to Middletown with Captain Wilkins and Colonel Knipe as our leaders to shut up whiskey shops of this place. After giving them due warning and getting a good dinner at the expense of the officers we started for Headquarters again, where we arrived about half past five o'clock.

Wednesday, Dec 18 – This morning we were awakened from our slumbers long before daylight to carry dispatches to the different Regiments to prepare them for a forced march to Williamsport and to cook our rations for several days ahead. In a very short time we heard the roll of the drums at the different encampments of our Brigade and soon after the woods were lighted up as if by magic for cooking their three day rations. After all things were ready we were anxiously waiting for orders to move when a messenger arrived with a dispatch counter-manding the former orders and the hopes of the soldiers of having a brush with

the enemy at once fell to the ground. They were really indignant when we brought the orders around for them to unpack. The Fifth Connecticut of our Brigade left yesterday for Williamsport. They are about one hundred of the Home Brigade and Perkins Battery of Artillery. This afternoon we were relieved by a squad of the Michigan Cavalry and are once more back at Camp at Frederick City, cold and ill-humored.

Thursday, Dec 19 – Yesterday evening just as I had quit writing in my diary and was preparing to go to bed, the Company was called together and marching orders given to us about that time. Activity was considerable in our camp. Coles and our Company were both ordered to leave for Williamsport. We received orders to march about 8 o'clock (this morning) and at nine we were leaving town. We started off at the gallop and kept it up for about 4 miles. When we came to a halt until we should receive further orders. We halted opposite the Maryland First and reported to their Colonel Kenly. We were not long detained here however for soon we heard the drum beat, the First Maryland was moving and we started our journey for Williamsport. We arrived in Boonsboro about half past one o'clock in the morning where twenty of us halted (myself among the number) until Colonel Kenly arrived; in the meantime, however, we got supper for ourselves and horses after which we started for this place, or rather, for Williamsport where we arrived about half past five o'clock. We remained there about an hour when the Colonel sent us to the present place for forage for our horses. We had scarcely left Williamsport when daylight broke upon us and the cannon at Dams Nos 4 and 5 began to send their iron hail across the river to Dixie's Land. There was but little damage done at Dam No.4, but at Dam No.5 where

the fire was kept up all day, there was a number of the Rebels killed and wounded and a mill which was laid in ashes. There was a squad of men sent over and set fire to the building bringing out a few blankets and other articles as trophies of their victory. There was some men detailed from our Company as orderlies to Colonel Kenly at Headquarters. I was one of the number.

Friday, Dec 20 – Got up and washed this morning and then took a message by way of Downstown, to St. James College, to Colonel Murphy of the 29th Pennsylvania; and then returned again to Williamsport where I spent the remainder of the day until the evening returned to Camp.

Saturday, Dec 21 – Took my horse to town to get him shod and from there went to the camp of a Massachusetts' Regiment, about half a mile where several batteries of artillery were encamped; among which was Best's Battery (formerly Perkins) which battery George Meals, Gettysburg is now soldiering. This is a Battery of regular artillery. It commenced raining tonight and freezing as it fell. And the weather tonight is altogether very unpleasant.

Sunday, Dec 22 – This morning the woods looked like Christmas trees hung with diamonds. It was a beautiful sight and a dazzling scene – the trees all covered with ice and the ground a sea of glass. This has been the first Sunday that I ever spent in the woods, to the best of my recollection. It has been a day for me.

Monday, Dec 23 – Today a great part of our company moved to an old mill adjoining our camp.

Tuesday, Dec 24 – There was ten or our men detailed today to go to Dam No.5. The balance of our Company moved to the mill out of our old mudhole on the bank of the Conococheague. This evening about nine o'clock we were ordered to pack up for marching to "Old Virginney" but the order was soon countermanded.

Wednesday, Dec 25 – Today has been a very pleasant day. Was in town this morning; and, this afternoon was at home anxiously



looking for our Christmas presents which we expected the evening before, but which didn't arrive until this evening about six o'clock. Our men were wild with joy when they beheld the box and knew that the present was a reality. It exceeded all our expectations. There was cakes, pies, roast chickens and roast turkey in abundance and numerous other nice little things to cheer our hearts. There was many a heart filled with gratitude to the kind donors of the bountiful gift. I wish the ladies who sent the above mentioned articles could have been here to enjoy the good themselves in common with our Company.

Saturday, Dec 28 – We have not had much change this week; We have been standing guard around our camp and doing a little picket duty at Dams No's 4 and 5. We have had very good weather pretty much all week.

Sunday, Dec 29 – Went to Williamsport to Church today and as there was no preaching anywhere else in town, I went to Catholic Church. This has been a beautiful warm day – the sun shining brightly all day.

Monday, Dec 30 – Had an inspection of arms today. The weather still very mild and pleasant.

Tuesday, Dec 31 – Have been on guard today. The weather still

remains very mild. We received a load of our old things from Frederick today which we had left behind. Wrote a letter to Miss Yeager, a friend in Frederick.

Wednesday, January 1st, 1862 – Today commenced the year 1862. Another year has passed away into eternity. A new ripple on the sea of time is ebbing away and we go through our regular routine of duties as careless and unconcerned as though we had nothing at stake – as though we were placed here for no higher purposes than the beasts around. How solemn it is to reflect on this – how little can we think of having done the past year and oh! how much of evil might we have when, by observing the Golden Rule, we might have made a heart rejoice and caused a smile to light up the countenance of some distressed soul. What thoughtless creatures we are. How little wisdom have we acquired in the year that passed away, when we might have "laid rich stores of knowledge by" which would not only have benefited ourselves but have been a mite toward the enlightenment of the world at large.

To learn more about local Civil War history, visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net

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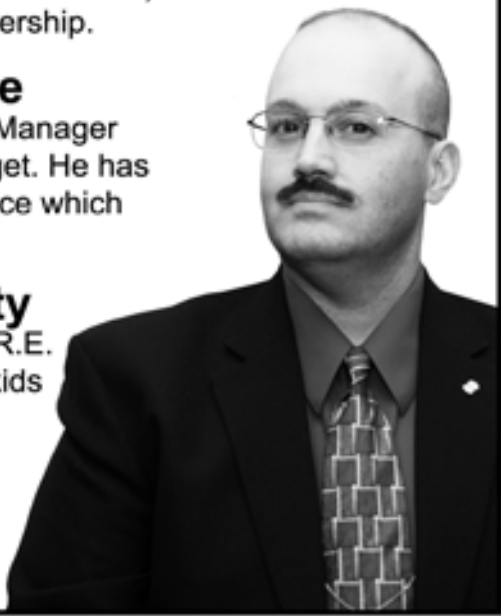
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STAGES OF LIFE

Mom's Time Out

Mary Angle

Mom, mother, mommy, mum, no matter how you say it she is still the one and only MOM! Mother's day is almost upon us and I find myself thinking of all of the mom's I know and how different each one is. When I think about my friends I rarely think, "Oh, this mom this", or "that mom that". I just think of them as my friends, or relatives, or both. Right now, however, it is a little different. I am thinking about what great mom's they are and that each one of them has something that makes her unique and wonderful as a mom. So this month I am going to tell you about these wonderful ladies and what I admire about each of them.

First will be my best friend for years. She tried for years

to have biological children and went through many medical procedures to no avail. During this time she also taught preschool, did daycare, got her degree in social services, and became a foster parent. After all those years of trying she adopted one of her foster kids (and a year later another). She fostered two children that had been abused repeatedly and then adopted them. And although it was a bumpy road, she stuck it out with all the love, patience, and discipline that a biological mom would have. She was truly amazing, she was their mom.

My next friend is a straight shooter. If you want someone to be honest with you, she is the one to go to. The other day she was telling me a story about how her daughter's friends think she is mean because she is a strict par-

ent. The funny thing is, this is what I admire about her. That she is strict and straight forward. Her daughters excel in school and each play two instruments and never go a day without knowing their mom is going to kiss them at least 5 times a day. Sometimes her kids get upset because they don't want to study or practice their instrument, but she never backs down. And when I stop by and they ask me to listen to the song they have learned, they absolutely beam because they do it so well. Or when they see their "A" at the top of a paper they are so very proud. When it comes to problems at school she is right in there telling the teachers how it is. She does not take any excuses from them or her girls, nor does she back down in any way. Some of my other friends (myself included) tend to let things slide a little too much. I would love to have a little bit of her spunk to get me going when the going gets tough.

One of my renewed friendships is with a mom who recently went on her second missions trip to the Dominican Republic. This is a mom who had a fast paced business career and gave it up to start her own business. Not because she didn't like her job, but be-

cause she wanted more time with her family. She has jetted off to another country to show orphans the love of a mom and changed careers for the love of her family. When it comes to this mom I wish I had half her courage and half her gumption.

Still another friend is constantly having kids over for these amazing sleepovers. My daughter and hers are best friends and let me just say that there are times when I am afraid to pick her up that she might tell me she is not going with me. There is "breakfast" for dinner, games, the playground in the backyard. Next there is a bubble bath followed by their own personal spa, and finally bedtime in the guest room with a movie to fall asleep to. On top of all of that she manages to keep her house looking like something out of a magazine. So just to recap, she is the "fun" mom and the neat and organized one too. I can't even begin to tell you what I admire here because I can't fathom being either one.

The next mom I want to tell you about we girls like to refer to as "the Martha Stewart" of our group. She is the one whose house is decorated beautifully and by her own creative hand. But it doesn't stop there,

you should see the costumes she comes up with for Halloween. No matter what her kids want to be she is up for the challenge. Whether it be WALL*E, Padme', or a last minute dragon, it is going to look like it came from an expensive costume store. You can only imagine how school projects and plain old craft time goes... wow! Besides admiring how creative she is I also admire how soft spoken she is. She manages to keep her household running like a well oiled machine and all the while keeping her cool. This is something I admire but have little aspirations of obtaining.

The last mom I want to talk about is one who managed to raise two kids with very little money and a husband that often worked nights or far distances away. She took in a family member who didn't care for her (but grew to love her) because they needed a place to stay, made sure that no matter how little money there was that her children never went without or even realized that there was no money. This mom drops everything to drive four hours to baby sit for her daughter and son-in-law when their sitter falls through at the last minute (or hours). She works side jobs just to be able to spoil her grandchildren. And although she too is not perfect, in my eyes she sure comes close. Thanks Mom, I love you!!

So no mom is perfect, because every mom is human, but these ladies certainly have a lot of attributes to admire.

To read past editions of Mom's Time Out visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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STAGES OF LIFE

American Youth Soccer Organization

Fairfield Girls' Soccer

Becky Bequette

Well, if April showers bring May flowers, we're all in for a wonderful treat this month!

Region 709 suffered some major damage during the April 16th rainstorm. Ranch Fields in Carroll Valley flooded and left our younger players' fields strewn with rocks, gravel and debris. Six soccer goals were swept away by swift moving water and destroyed. Board members are now brainstorming how to get the fields back in playing condition and replace the goals.

With that in mind, our fundraiser in May has become even more important due to the unexpected capital expenditure the region is facing. American Youth Soccer Organization's (AYSO) annual Vera Bradley Bingo Fundraiser will be on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at Fairfield High School. AYSO is looking for volunteers for this event to help set up, hand out bingo cards and help with the food table. Please contact Darren Heberton at 717-642-5762 or mrdsh@hotmail.com to donate your time or a prize.

mail.com to donate your time or a prize.

AYSO's Kick Off Picnic also had to be moved due to the constant April rains. The new date is April 30th, with a rain date of May 7th. AYSO is providing fried chicken. We hope to see all of you out there.

In this month's volunteer write up, I'd like to discuss the backbone of AYSO soccer: our coaches. Coaches and Assistant Coaches are the front line in player interaction. Coaches are responsible for teaching soccer skills and sportsmanship through positive coaching. Soccer knowledge is not required, AYSO is ready and willing to train interested persons.

The weekly time commitment for a coach or assistant coach consists of one or two practices per week and a game on Saturday. My own daughter, now in U12, fondly recalls the time her U6 coaches put into teaching her how to play defense. To this day, she enjoys emailing them to let them know how her season turned out. To find out more about coaching, please visit WWW.AYSO.ORG and check under the "Coaches and Referees" tab.

Simply Maya



Maya Hand

One year ago, when I was nine, I wrote a piece of poetry about me and my mother. I found it stuffed in my drawer with a few of my books. I tugged it out and decided to include it in this year's May edition as a gift for my mother.

Just Me and My Mother

We sit, and swing, and sway through air,

We hear as a soft melody, the time that we share.

We sit and look and watch the stars,

We see a bright one, maybe Mars!

We hug and squeeze and whisper soft words, that lift each other's hearts,

Make them soar like the birds.

We watch a cat, who chases a moth, who flies away,

Thinking he is so tough.

He flits and flutters and flies through thin air, knowing something,

Just something's behind him... it's there.

Every once in a while, we will look back at each other,

We hold hands, giving kisses, just me and my *Mother*.

When I look back on this poem from a year ago, I am a bit shy and a bit self-conscious, because the poem seems young and a bit simple. No matter what I now think of these words from a nine-year old me, I find that there is a truth present then that I still find and think about today and every day, and that is how special and loving my mom is. My mom really goes out of her way to spend time with me to help me to pursue my dreams and help me through my struggles and worries. She takes time out of hers to walk me

through problem solving steps with whatever is on my mind and answer all of my questions. She makes tiny things like driving to the grocery store and looking through our Tuesday folders special. Whenever I am sad or stressed and she laughs or smiles, it makes my day.

Since modern is one of my favorite styles of dance, she took me to see the Alvin Ailey dance troop perform in Washington D.C. She also took me to listen to live Jazz at a restaurant in Ellcott City, knowing that I have always wanted to experience jazz rhythms in person, with the beat of drums from a stage and horns filling the air. As I wrote in an earlier article, she took me to see Maya Angelou speak for my birthday this past year. We have made so many memories together (many of them are "funny at the time" kinds of things) and sayings like "M&M time," for mommy and Maya time. We have had laughs together, talks together and many squeezes. There are times when we just look at each other for a while and I feel happy. I feel that I can tell her everything and she always makes everything seem like it will be okay. It's absolutely amazing how every day of my life, bad or good, hard or simple, my mom has, is, and will ALWAYS be there for me. Whenever I come home from a hard day at school every now and then, I can bury my head in her arms and cry and she will make everything fine again. There is nothing that can possibly explain how much I love my mother except maybe feeling the same way about yours, though I don't think that could exist...

Many times I take my mom for granted, but later think and wonder at how much she does for me. She pays for me to go to school, pays for the food I eat, makes me breakfast, lunch and dinner, buys me clothes, paints my room, takes me out places, checks my homework, pays for my summer camps, cleans the whole house (including my room at times), and I could just go on and on. It is hard to think about how hard it would be to have three kids roaring through the house, throwing their stuff everywhere that you just cleaned, you still haven't made their lunches, you have twenty-five clients who want their websites next week, everyone is about to miss the bus, you still need to help one study spelling, one study social studies and the other needs something for show-and-tell, you still need to pay all of the bills, a twenty-sixth client is coming today to have a conference about how they want a new logo because their other one "had too much detail," you haven't cleaned the house yet, you were up until 2:15 last night organizing the playhouse, and you are just about to pass out.

But somehow, mom makes it — she just does. She helps us study, makes our lunches, gets Nathaniel's show-and-tell, gets us to the bus on time, cleans the house, gets her client work done, makes her twenty-sixth client happy, pays the bills, goes through the day exhausted... she just does... and she doesn't ever let on how tired she must be. When we get home from school, the first thing she does is smiles at us, gives us a big, bright smile. She squeezes us tightly, and that's that. That is what makes her so amazing. She is amazing. I couldn't have a better mother.

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A TEEN'S VIEW

Judging



Kat Dart

At the end of the school day, students tend to get antsy—they're talking about what they're going to do that night, and what homework they have.

At 2:16 on a Friday, it's even worse. People are done with going to school, waiting anxiously for the bell to signal they are going to be off for two days.

They are usually talking about planned events, be it a two day trip, a party, or just working. They are talking when they are leaving and where they are going to go. Friends quickly make fast plans for sleepovers or going to the movies.

Finally, students are at their worst on the last day of school. Right before summer vacation, the tension is nearly tangible. After a year of early wake-up calls, homework, schoolwork, 'demonic' teachers and the monotonous routine of going from class to class in the same pattern everyday students are done with school. They are ready for the best time of year we lovingly refer to as summer vacation.

After a twelve-week vacation, the first thing I usually hear from my friends is 'oh my gosh, you've changed so much', followed by commentary about whether or not I've managed to tan versus whether I've burned, my newest hair color and style, and the pictures of trips I've taken that are on facebook.

I usually follow this conversation with how much better someone looks after not seeing them for a few months, then a fast comparison of schedules before going to class.

However, above is a fairly basic description of physical changes. Summer vacation is also a time for significant mental changes.

Early this year, going into sophomore year, I noticed that everyone I knew from freshman year had just calmed down. Most of us, I think, had matured enough to see that some of the things that were so important last year just didn't matter anymore.

As well as witnessing them in other people, I think it's amazing to actually have seen the differences in myself. I think in between freshman and sophomore year I became a lot less spastic and *definitely* a lot less high strung. I believe that I will continue to watch myself mature into a much calmer, collected person.

What about you? Can you see yourself changing through the years, through the influence of your friends and family and experiences? Do you see the differences in yourself from last year and now?

Because I think the best way to judge a person is not by first impressions and not by actions, but rather by comparing who they used to be to who they are now.

If a person has gone through many experiences, good and bad, and has come out stronger and better than before, that is a person I want to know.

If people admit there's a lot about their character to change and they need to change because they're not the people they want to be, those are the kind of people I want to know.

But how does someone get to be the person he or she is today?

Maybe it is because *life* is about learning and forming your own set of morals and own trains of thought. You develop these on your own, and they may be influenced by other people but not directed.

I believe a person usually has his or her own thoughts and ideals which (s)he will not allow to be bent because of anything anyone says—these are lessons that a person has learned on his or her own, not through any type of interference or lectures, not through teachers or peers or friends.

Following these personal ideals is what makes a person what (s) he is today, and as (s)he develops his or her ideals into solid and unbreakable fixtures, it becomes his or her creed or set of morals that he or she will follow, not to please anyone else but him or herself.

Sometimes, it is difficult to find what rules a person will follow without bending them. It may seem like a person doesn't have any at times. I have thought that about a few people, only to be surprised later when it turns out they have a loose set of rules to follow and will try to impose them on their group of friends.

For example, some people I know used to play a game on the bus, and I'll just leave the details at that. I rolled my eyes but couldn't interfere, as I had tried to before and it sure didn't work.

Imagine my surprise when I heard the group's supposed leader, someone I had considered a self-important jerk, shout, "No don't do that, there's small kids right there."

First impressions (and second, and third, and fourth) don't give a really good story of the person you're looking at.

The above story actually added a rule to my own personal list: You can judge someone based on a first impression, but don't set it in stone. Not yet.

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

High school grad



Olivia Sielaff

Before I sat down to write this article today, my mom asked me what I would miss the most about high school. Would it be the uniforms? My teachers? Pizza days? After pausing for a few seconds, I said that I didn't really know. It's not that I'm apathetic about leaving my high school years behind; it's just that I haven't taken the time to reflect on the past four years of my life. I figure now might be a good time to do just that.

My high school years haven't been what one would expect. I didn't go to public school, private school, or even Catholic school. I've actually been homeschooled since kindergarten. Gasp! Moreover, from 8th grade until now I've been attending a hybrid school called Christiana Homeschool Academy (CHA for short). That's the unexpected part. However, it's basically the same set-up as any school except it's only two days a week, so I'm still considered 'homeschooled' by the state. We have uniforms, teachers, crazy-hair days, prom, honor roll, etc. Contrary to popular belief, I am quite a normal high schooler. But I digress.

So what am I going to miss about being a homeschooled high schooler? Sleeping in late every morning? Doesn't happen. Staying in my pajamas all day? No thanks. Being bugged by my little brother? That's a possibility. However, all jokes aside, there are two aspects I

will really miss.

As the date of my graduation has been quickly approaching, I've been taking on more responsibilities as a young adult and for my future education. As a freshman and sophomore all that really mattered was finishing assignments while finding ways to manage my time for family and friends. Then as a junior, I needed to start thinking about college and jobs. Finally senior year was full of classes that were required to be completed, school events had to be organized, and college applications and interviews needing checked off my list of 'to-do before I graduate.' As I grew from a little teenager to a young adult, my list of responsibilities grew with me. In some ways I am going to miss not having to worry about so many things at once. Every year, more has been expected of me at school and at home. While I see that as a beneficial part of growing up, it's also an unwelcome part of letting go of my childhood carefree days. However, it must happen at some point, and I am prepared to be more independent and responsible.

I will also dearly miss my friends as we all go our separate ways to college. After spending four years with my close friends, I think it will take a while to get used to not seeing them every week. We've shared so many great times with each other at parties, school outings, football games, sleepovers, dances, and just plain old school days. My senior classmates and I (all five of us) have watched the past seniors graduate and start college life (we've learned a few tips from them, too). I thought this year I would be quite miserable since most of my friends had already graduated from CHA, except for my classmates; I mean, who wants to hang out with the freshmen and sophomores? On the contrary, senior year has been the best of my high school years! Besides the fact that

our teachers treat us more like adults, we also get to lead many of the school events. Also, there's prom, senior pranks, goofing off in study hall, graduation, and all of the other perks that come with being a senior. Plus, we're able to drive ourselves to friends' houses, increasing our chances of seeing each other outside of school. But all of the fun times spent with friends and the new adventures that come along with senior year still remind me of the fact that high school is almost over...

Without a doubt, I wouldn't trade my high school years for anything else. All of the things I've learned, all of the friends I've made, and all of the good times we've had, made me into the person I am today. Four years ago, I wouldn't have expected to grow and mature in such a short time; it's crazy to see the difference a few years, and a few more responsibilities, can make. But I can't imagine having spent these past four years of my life any other way. Everything – school, friends, family, happy days, rough spots – they've all lead me here to my graduation from high school.

Sure, I'm pleased with my grades, and yes, I'm ecstatic that I'll be going to the college I want to. But right now, especially this last year, those aren't the things that have been most important to me. I only get to experience high school once, and the greatest thing I could have done was to build solid friendships and improve my character. And I'm so happy to say that I've done just that throughout high school. Even though I will make new friends and keep growing into an independent young person, I am going to truly miss everything about being a homeschooled high schooler over these four years. But I will always have my memories and treasure the positive impression it has made on me for the rest of my life.

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

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Freshman Year

Points of Time

Carolyn Shields

I was standing around a bonfire beneath a sky penetrated with stars, trying to suppress my laughter with nineteen other Mounties as Alec began yet another rendition of "Jesus, Remember Me," and forced us all to sing along. We had been ready to start the Stations of the Cross four renditions ago. "Ok," Matt, a senior whose future will be beautiful, said before Alec could begin another round. "We will begin." Followed by a couple of chortles.

I was in a homeless shelter that smelled so strongly of cat that my nose kept running, but I was enthralled by the woman on the couch next to me who was in charge. I listened to her history, of her taking thirty homeless children into her house. Across from us, the schizophrenic resident recounted her years of living on the streets.

I was falling asleep in my chair at 2 a.m. as little peons and orcs ran across my computer screen while words such as "As you wish" and "We will destroy them, m'lord" emanated from it. The sounds were thinly overshadowed by Justin Bieber music in the background. Playing Warcraft had become a weekly tradition, but all I could think about was earlier that night when all of us went square dancing, clapping our hands, dosey-doing, and shouting, "Yee-haw!"

I was on top of Torture Hill in the heart of New York state where two beloved saints were brutally beaten by the Iroquois and where I lost a breath of my life. I still wear my bracelet to remember that fall pilgrimage, even though all of the icons have fallen off long ago.

I sat in my Globalization and Education class, listening to juniors and seniors discuss the role of the individual in Nlongkak, a region in Yaounde, Cameroon and hitting my head on the desk because I didn't know it was a capstone course when I signed up. There

was also that snowball fight at midnight, when Fr. Brian entered from the dark, declaring, "Thou who liveth by the sword must perish by the sword," and then a couple of guys tackled him. Then those Wednesday 10 p.m. Masses with Clint strumming the guitar and Judd playing the keys in the back of the cozy chapel, rain pitter-pattering on the roof. Even now, sitting in the library distracted by friends tapping the glass wall behind me until I turn and acknowledge them. My phone goes off with texts from people who were nonexistent to me one year ago, and I'm neglecting my Shakespearean research paper.

All beautiful moments from this year that are frozen in time, unable to be returned to, and lost to the past....Only the laughter echoes now.

Freshmen year is over.

God blesses us with time, but it's up to us how to spend it. Don't forget; don't lose those memories of complete bliss and happiness and laughter...I've had so many this year. Do not waste your time counting the minutes that pass by but feel your pulse. There's life beneath your skin hysterically begging to be lived. Life is a story, so cherish each chapter. You will fall in and out of love,

and you will fall in and out of love again a few chapters later on. You will see age creep around the corners of your parents' eyes, and you will face your future faster than you wanted to.

And of course you'll live life with some regrets tucked into your past. Times of remorse will be thorns in the beautiful garden made of your history. But these regrets will be eclipsed by shadows of gold that are memories you will one day share with Mary in heaven...when life is now your past. And according to scientists, if we discover the secret of time travel, it's more likely we'll be able to head to the future than the past (trust me, I already checked...). So don't live life dwelling on things the past has claimed and cannot change.

There will also be moments of suffering, when you stay up until 2a.m. pounding out that paper due yesterday, but St. Therese wrote that "With joy I kiss each heavy cross and smile with every tear that flows." Joy is to be found even in moments of trial. What a great way of living! In suffering there's happiness to be found! "To suffer and to love is the purest of all joys," St. Therese wrote. Of course, easier said than

done. I worked on this article for an hour and a half in the library, and you would think my liberal arts education has taught me how to save documents on the computer, but no. So as I retype it all, I'm trying really hard to be joyful through this suffering.

Besides, no one has suffered as much as that man on the cross, who bore the weight of the world on his shoulders. While doing it, he saw the future and how His church would crumble at times, how His children would turn away, how His kingdom on earth would come under attack...The one thing I want to get across is this: that man shouldn't have been on the cross. That should have been us up there. But He came so that we might live. So to end in the words of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, "To live without faith, without a patrimony to defend, without a steady struggle for truth, that is not living, but merely existing."

So start living it up for Christ! I was trying to avoid this cliché, but live each day as if it were your last. I can't believe my freshman year is already in the past, but I thank God every day for blessing me with all of the beautiful memories I've acquired this year.

And my life is just beginning.

Sophomore Year
Down to the wire

Samantha Strub

It's here again. It seems like only yesterday that we were moving in to begin our sophomore year at the Mount, and here we are getting ready to leave. It always amazes me to see how fast time flies. One minute you're moving in and going to your classes and meeting your professors for the first time and now in the spring of your sophomore year you are declaring

your major and registering for the fall, all while trying to finish strong in your classes.

That always seems to be the hardest part, keeping your life balanced. You have all these responsibilities like jobs and activities on top of school work, and you still try to have a social life.

Sometimes people wonder how I can balance everything that I have going on while still doing the best I can in my classes. I shock everyone when I say

that I thrive on being busy. Even when I'm stressed with a million things to do, I'm always so much happier and fulfilled when I have lots going on. If I only focus on schoolwork, I do not perform to the best of my abilities. I need to have a distraction, so to speak, something sports related or some other activity so that I can get my mind off all my stress and anxiety and realize what the most important things in life are.

Things can be overwhelming when you lay everything out that you have to do. If you try to do everything at once without any kind of break it becomes impossible to think rationally about it.

You need to take some time to relax and de-stress, even when you have a million things to do because if you don't you will be overwhelmed and won't be able to focus on anything. If you can step back away from your to-do list and then come back to the things that you have to do, it's always so much easier to perform to the best of your ability.

Now though it's crunch time for college students. There are papers and presentations. We have to read whole books and prepare tests for every class. All of the most weighted projects and papers are at the end of the semester. That makes the end of the year the most stressful. You

always have a million things to do all at the same time. Usually, that means a lot of late nights or all nighters in order to get everything done, which means the moment you get home for summer break you sleep in and relatives think you're lazy, but in reality you are just catching up on sleep from working so hard.

Somehow every single one of your professors decides to place all of their main projects at the end of the semester. Even if the largest project or paper is in the middle of the semester, they still place some kind of paper or presentation at the end of the year. They probably do this so we don't slack off at the end or to help those struggling to improve their grades. The only problem with that is that sometimes that last paper that is supposed to improve your grade actually brings it down. Professors never seem to understand that we usually have five classes; they all think their class is the only one we take.

When you sit back and look at everything you have to do, it becomes overwhelming because of the short amount of time. We sit and worry about how we are going to get everything done, but we really have to just take a step back, breathe, and then hit the books again. That's how we have to look at the last couple weeks of school. You have to just take a deep breath and dive right in in order to finish the semester off strong. Just remember you have all summer to recuperate. That should be enough of an incentive to prevent your becoming too overwhelmed and somehow allow you to breathe and get everything done.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Junior Year

Bucket list

Julia Mulqueen

It feels like just the other day I was racing around the neighborhood on my bicycle, but it still had training wheels on it. Sometimes I feel like I myself still have training wheels on. Every year that I move up in school, I am told that the next year my teachers and professors will no longer baby me. I am assured that it will be my most difficult year yet. Certainly, my senior year of college will be my most difficult year, but perhaps not simply because of schoolwork. I will have one more full year of peace and security before I will have to leave the comfort of both my home and the Mount behind. Soon I will be out of school and living completely on my own. What terrors await me! I will have to pay my own bills, balance my budget, and instead of going to classes, I will go to work. Fortunately, I know that I will have

a job as a soldier in the Army when I graduate from college. With my graduation, I will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. I will be sent to Officer Basic Course and then I will be launched into my career in the military.

This launch into the real working world will be bittersweet, however. My parents, although they will still be just a phone call away, will no longer be just a drive away. I will really and truly have to grow up. As I ponder this fact, I realize that the summer I am now entering will be the last one that I will spend while in school. That means that this summer needs to be spent well. Perhaps I should make a bucket list of sorts with several must-dos over the summer. The first two involve ROTC, of course.

The first thing on my bucket list is Leadership Development and Assessment Course or LDAC. This is a training and assessment course in Fort Lewis,

Washington, which consists of tactical exercises, land navigation, and physically exhausting obstacle courses. It is a course that every cadet must attend before he or she graduates college and is commissioned. The course tests cadets mentally and is used as a way to determine the rankings of each cadet. Thus, how well I do at LDAC directly affects the path of my career. I am looking forward to the opportunity, as well as the chance to experience some more hands-on training.

The next thing on my bucket list, which is also ROTC related, is Cadet Troop Leadership Training or CTLT. This is a program in which cadets are sent to a unit to shadow a platoon leader. It helps selected cadets experience some time in an active duty Army unit so that they can learn how things work. I myself was awarded the opportunity to attend CTLT in Germany. When I found out, I was absolutely overjoyed. I cannot wait for the chance to put my German major to some practical use and reward my palate with some good,

wholesome German cuisine. The experience will be rewarding I am sure, and I look forward to the opportunity to visit Europe for the third summer in a row.

The third, but perhaps most important, thing on my bucket list is spending time with my family. As I said, I am slowly realizing that it will be much more difficult to see my family as often as I would like in the upcoming years. I might soon be thousands of miles away from them, so it is imperative that I spend as much time with them this summer as I can.

The person in my family whose company I am most looking forward to is my oldest brother. He has been away from home for the past few years serving in the military. In fact, we have not been able to celebrate a holiday with him since his college days years ago. It will be so nice to finally have the chance to spend some quality time with him. Hopefully the two of us will not bicker like we used to!

The final thing on my summer bucket list is most definitely reading. It may sound like a odd thing for me to look forward to,

especially because I already read so much during the school year. The reading in which I will engage during the summer, however, will be mostly impractical. Will I read a few cheesy romance novels? Most certainly. Reading is such a calming activity for me though, and I miss the opportunity to read whatever fiction I wish during the school year. Thus, summer will be a nice time for me to soak up some vitamin D and flip through the pages of the works of my favorite authors.

So it seems my bucket list is complete. The only thing I would add to it if I could would be a little more time to live as a college student. Everyone has always told me that their years in college were the best of their lives. I thought it was mostly nostalgia speaking, but it turns out, they were all right. I cannot think of any other way that I would have wanted to spend these last three years of my life. So while I am excited to move into my career as a soldier, I know that my last year at the Mount will be something that I will always cherish.

Senior Year

“Graduation? But it feels like I just got here!”

Katelyn Phelan

When I reflect on certain periods of my life, I nearly always jump to the conclusion that the time seems to have flown by. But when I slow my reflection down, I realize that day by day, the time passed slowly. Then I get confused, which is it? Slow or fast? Well, it's both, I suppose.

It almost seems as if these past four years at the Mount have moved by like a blur, in the blink of an eye. But then I remember all the nights I stayed up until 3 a.m. finishing my reading, the weekends I spent writing four or five papers, the exams I studied for, and the classes I went to, and I remember how at times, the days and weeks seemed to drag by. I remember my countdowns to the completion of certain classes or until break. When you're in it, you never think it goes quickly. Only afterwards do you realize how fast it's gone by.

When I think back to four years ago—my when I was preparing for my high school graduation and entrance into college—I have many of the same emotions as I have today. I'm excited for the future, but also apprehensive. I'm a little unsure, but confident that I'll figure it out. I'm ready to leave, and yet hesitant to do so.

Though I feel similar, in some ways, to my younger self, I am also quite different. I've changed and grown a lot in my time at the Mount, though I didn't realize it at the time. As Calvin says to Hobbes, “Know what's weird?

Day by day, nothing seems to change, but pretty soon...everything's different.” And it's true. I didn't notice myself changing, but here I am, at the end of my college career, noticing that everything's different.

One of the most important ways I've changed over the past four years is in confidence. I'm more confident in myself, both in what I've done and what I know I can do. This confidence springs largely from the tasks I accomplished at the Mount or experiences I had here. I've had challenging courses, but have learned new material and skills in order to succeed.

Because of the hundreds of pages I've written for classes, I'm confident in my writing. Because of the oral presentations I've given, I'm confident in my speaking skills. Because of research I've done, I'm confident in my ability to find the answers. And, perhaps most importantly, because of my interactions with professors, contact with my peers, and my time spent abroad in Italy, I'm confident in myself.

I'm also confident with the decision I made four years ago to attend the Mount. I haven't spent a single day here where I wished I attended a different university. One of the reasons I was drawn to the Mount in the first place was its small size. I've never been one to like huge places with little personal contact, so for that reason alone, the Mount was perfect.

I have certainly not been disappointed in that regard. I actually owe one of my majors—Fine Arts—to the college's small size. Fall of my

freshman year I took a painting class because I loved art and needed to fill a space in my schedule. Because of my work in that class, my professor encouraged me to major in art. Without her support, I never would have pursued that major on my own. This individual support and encouragement would likely not have happened if I was at a large university.

My art professor is one teacher I've grown close to in my time at the Mount, but I've also had the opportunity to work closely with many professors at the Mount, an opportunity I probably wouldn't have gotten at a big school. I've done several independent studies, and through them have worked closely with professors and developed close relationships with them.

I have also benefited from the Mount's extensive list of required courses. The Mount has a “core” set of classes; students must take about 60 credits of specific courses over their four years.

Many students have balked at taking certain required courses, myself at times included. But having completed all 60 credits, I have found nearly all of them to have been beneficial in some way. Even courses that I hated have given me a foundation in the subject and helped develop important skills, like writing. The core has encouraged me to try new subjects and to get a little taste of many courses of study.

My favorite core course was the non-west requirement. This requirement can be filled through a number of different departments. One could take “World Religions” through the theology department, “Stories of Islam” or “Latin American fiction” through the English department, or any number of political science or business options. I liked my non-west course so much that I decided to take another one. I think it's important for everyone to be exposed to

different cultures and ways of life, and the non-west course helps to do that.

I also chose to expose myself to culture through study abroad in Italy, and that was one of my most influential experiences in college. It was unbelievable to see the art that I had studied in a Mount St. Mary's classroom, hanging on the walls of a world-famous gallery, or to walk to same streets that Dante Alighieri knew when he wrote his *Divine Comedy*. I was hesitant to go on this trip at first, but am so glad I chose to go.

Another decision I'm happy I made was to study hard and take as many courses as I could. There were semesters I took 21 credits, 2 classes over the average course-load. I took more than required because I wanted to get the most out of my time in college. I asked myself, when will I ever have to opportunity to take these

courses I'm interested in again? Probably never. That's one of the things I will miss most about being at the Mount, the opportunity to take a variety of classes and constantly explore new topics and learn new things.

I'll also miss my friends. Of course I'll still keep up with them and see them, but we'll never live together again or go on spur of the moment Sheetz trips at 2 in the morning. The Mount has allowed me to get a great education, make wonderful friends, and continue to grow into the person I'd like to be. I'm ready to leave the Mount, but hesitant to leave. At this moment, it seems like I started my freshman year just yesterday. Despite the times when the days seem to drag by, I'm amazed that in a few weeks I'll be receiving my diploma and leaving the Mount as a college graduate. Time really does fly.



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Fast forward

Chelsea Baranoski
MSM Class of 2010

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in awhile, you could miss it." It has been almost one year since my graduation from Mount St. Mary's University, and I have learned that Ferris Bueller's saying is definitely true. I feel like my life in the "real world" is moving in fast forward. Sometimes I wish that life had a rewind button so that I could go back to the peacefulness of Mary's Mountain and enjoy the little moments that I may have taken for granted: reading and analyzing literature, watching movies with my roommates, and strolling through the Mount's green campus.

In some ways, my life in the "real world" is not much different than my life at the Mount. One year ago, I was doing homework in a small apartment bedroom cluttered with paperbacks, textbooks, spiral notebooks, pens, and computer paper. Whenever I looked up from my laptop, I smiled at the cheery photographs of my friends that coated the walls. Today, my work atmosphere is not much different. The counter space of my cubicle at the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections is barely recognizable because it has so many documents strewn all over it. It looks like a tornado swept through and blew a million sheets of stark white computer paper and post-it notes all over. At least my red, black, and blue pens are organized in two Mount St. Mary's mugs. As was the case at the Mount, the more stressed out I feel, the messier my work environment becomes. Immediately after the Gubernatorial Elections, I found time to file my work and wipe down my cubicle with Clorox wipes. Now, my cubicle has become the victim of countless minutes, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and email print outs. Even though my cubicle looks like a tornado blew through, I can still click my ruby red heels and go back to the Mount in an instant. My cubicle is decorated with a Valentine's Day card from a roommate, a postcard of Mount St. Mary's, and pictures of my roommates and me from the Mount's Christmas dance and graduation. All of the Mount memories that now hang in my cubicle serve as my rewind buttons. Whenever I am the least bit nervous about an upcoming project or deadline, I look at my Mount memories and feel a sense of calm.

Sometimes, working at the Board of Elections reminds me of sitting in my English classes at the Mount. Part of my job is to write minutes for staff meetings. This means typing an endless supply of notes almost every day. The countless entries remind me of the notebooks filled with black and blue ink I have from my English classes. No matter which English classes I took, I always ended each one with a cramped hand and a notebook filled with writing.

The large amount of reading I do at work also reminds me of the pages and pages of reading I was assigned

for my English classes. In one particular English class, I was assigned approximately 100 pages of reading for each class. I thought this was a crazy amount. After all, I had four other classes that required reading and writing assignments! I never thought that such a large amount of reading could be applied to real life. But then I entered the workforce. I have read hundreds of pages of material during the last month since I am a part of the revision team for our office's SOPs. Recently, I finished reading and revising 85 pages of SOPs about processing statewide petitions. And the work isn't over yet! Detailed procedures must be written and revised for the Voter Registration Department, the Absentee Department, and the Election Worker Department. There are also SOPs that will be drafted for processing provisional ballots. The Mount definitely prepared me for the hours of reading, writing, and revising that lie ahead.

Working at the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections makes me feel like I traded places with one of my Mount English professors. All of a sudden, I am the person who revises the work of others. I have revised emails, letters, and procedures. I wield my red pen like it is a magic wand that dispels grammatical errors and formatting issues. Sometimes I feel like the "bad guy" because I mark up documents with so much red ink that one can barely tell that the page was white. It looks like ketchup was splattered all over and no one was generous enough to clean it up. I even had a discussion with one of my co-workers over comma usage. Indeed, I have felt like quite the English professor these last few months.

Busy. Busy. Busy. I always thought I was busy at the Mount; between class, work study in the library, working on the Mount's literary magazine, Lighted Corners, and participating in numerous clubs and organizations, I had little free time. I thought that some of the busyness would end with my final papers and exams. Little did I know that the "real world" brings a new level of busyness. I currently have over forty sets of minutes I need to write as well as all those SOPs I need to revise. Overtime is a pretty regular occurrence. And that's just my job at the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections. Add to that a few weekend shifts at Aéropostale and one article a month for the "Emmits-

burg News Journal." Don't get me wrong; I am not complaining. I am grateful for the opportunity to work and I like to be kept busy. However, sometimes the stress is a little overwhelming, especially since I am hard pressed to find a permanent job with benefits and to save money for "life" (a car and an apartment in Annapolis). Finances add to the stress. Even though I live at home with my family, I still need to write out checks every month for my student loans. I still need to budget money for the years ahead. I find myself thinking about my future a lot more now than I did while at the Mount. What will I be doing this time next year? Where will I be living? Who are the people that I will meet? Will I be financially stable? All of these questions remain unanswered.

The busyness of the "real world" has led to one drastic change in my morning routine: coffee. Last year, I never drank coffee. I believe the only coffee drinks I had ever consumed were a couple of frappuccinos during my freshman year and one flavored coffee drink from the dining hall. Ever since our office purchased a Keurig coffee maker, I have become accustomed to drinking a cup or two in the morning. I always thought that coffee was too strong; in fact, the only thing I ever liked about coffee was its rich aroma. Now, every morning, I venture to the office break room, turn on the Keurig, watch the steamy hot brown liquid drip into the Styrofoam cup, pour in two small blue packets of Equal, a spoonful of powdered creamer (or if I'm lucky, vanilla Coffee-Mate), and stir it up. The hot coffee keeps my tired eyes alert when I am reading documents at 8 A.M. and attending staff meetings. It also keeps me from freezing, since my corner of the office always feels like Antarctica. Drinking coffee also makes me feel older and more mature. Whenever I think of coffee, I think of intelligent people who carry briefcases and wear five-button suits. Coffee has transformed me from student to working woman.

When I was a student at the Mount, I left my family on the Pasadena peninsula to study on Emmitsburg's mountainside. After graduation, I left behind the friends that became family. I moved back home to Pasadena, and my roommates moved back to their hometowns as well. Living at home is quite an adjustment from living in a college apartment with two roommates. Now, whenever I want to talk to my roommates, I need to schedule a time



to call them. Last year, all I needed to do was walk into the adjoining bedroom or walk into the common room if I wanted to have a nice long girl chat. I miss sharing the events of the day with my roommates, dancing with them, and eating meals together. I am thankful that even though my roommates and I are separated by many miles, (one of my roommates lives on Long Island, while the other lives in Howard County) we are still very close. My roommates definitely became my sisters during my senior year. They comforted me during a break-up, encouraged me when I applied for my job, and congratulated me when I won the Mount's Creative Writing Award.

Even though living at home has turned me into quite the "grown-up," I am still a Mountie at heart. Thankfully, Pasadena is only an hour and twenty minutes away from the

Mount, so I can still escape the busy suburbs and bask in the serene countryside. Every time I return, whether it is for Homecoming or to bring my sister back to school, I feel at ease. My mother and my roommate's mother have said the same thing. There is an aura of peace at the Mount. Maybe it is because Elizabeth Ann Seton walked the grounds, maybe it is because Mary is watching over the mountain, or maybe it is because there are so many thoughtful personalities on campus. Whatever the case may be, the Mount has provided me with a wonderful escape from reality. When I am on campus, the rewind button is always within reach. I can close my eyes, breathe in the mountain air, and be instantly transported back to my days there. My life may have changed in the past year, but the Mount will always be in my heart.

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IN MY OWN WORDS

Take note

Jackie Quillen
MSM Class of 2010

It is almost a year after graduating from college and I can honestly say that life has pleasantly surprised me. I never thought I would be where I am today, which is high above the clouds on an airplane returning from a work trip.

Most surprising life events since graduating from college:

- 1) I got married and only spent two months planning the wedding (Job well done to all those involved in the planning).
- 2) I landed an internship with a law firm just three months after graduation and pursued a full-time position from that internship in another three months.
- 3) After eight months, I left my position at the law firm for another job offer with a smaller marketing agency.

I remember having a conversation about marriage with my Aunt Terry when I was no more than 10 years old. Aunt Terry said she married my Uncle Paul when she was 23 and I thought that was a perfect age to be married. As I grew older I thought this age seemed too early to be married, especially if I wanted to continue education or focus on my career for a while.

Some may feel that marriage gets in the way of focusing on things like further education, career goals or even travelling. It is more common now to wait longer to marry and start a family. It feels great to have taken the spontaneous route of getting married at 22 years old. I still have many goals I wish to accomplish that I feel even more motivated to do so because I have Sean's support. It feels like we can conquer the world together.

Though it all feels right, it is still strange to think that I am married and now have a husband. (That sounds so old!) I guess what I'm trying to say is that I always feel like a little kid still. The strangeness is the same kind I felt during other somewhat "big" events in my life – like getting my driver's license, going off to college, graduating from college, working my first real job. It all feels like one big field trip! Of course the reality of working everyday settled in and quickly replaced that exciting field trip with an exhausted routine.

I can safely say I am not exhausted by routine in my new job because of all the travelling I am doing. The travelling is only for the first couple months which I will be thankful for. My very first task was to fly to South Dakota for a conference about detention issues in Indian Country. The conference was more of a lis-

tening session between representatives from the U.S. Justice Department, representatives from Native American tribes, a U.S. district attorney and other representatives of the justice/detention system in Indian Country. Listening to the natives was the most eye-opening experience. One native in particular, Bernie, really impressed me with his outlook on life.

Bernie is a social worker in a detention facility for juveniles. He makes less than \$20 a day and has not received a salary raise in five years. He did not mention this in order to complain or receive sympathy. Bernie was pretty much telling the others to stop complaining about not having enough money and simply do it for your passion. I believe his exact words were, "I don't want to hear this whining crap." He discussed his passion for helping children to get on the right path in life and carry out the lessons their elders taught.

Bernie's words hit home to me as he talked so passionately about his daily struggles, especially when he said what an honor it was to be a part of the discussion because he is just a social worker. Just a social worker. Some may see it as "just a social worker," but I find his work incredibly admirable. I immediately thought back to my roommate's inspirational speech at graduation when she told us to go and quietly change the world. Follow our passions and quietly change the world. Bernie is quietly changing the world by helping children who have strayed from the right path with finding their way back. These children then grow up to be more influential leaders within their tribe, like Bernie.

The conference was a mix between people like Bernie, who wanted to make a difference in his own tribe and help others make a difference in their tribes, and people who used the conference to simply complain about the government to the members of the Justice Department. It seemed like the people who were actually hopeful, like Bernie, were the people seeing somewhat of a success in their tribes because they are putting their all into every day's work. Other people kept complaining about the lack of funding, which is an obvious issue that cannot be fixed after one conference.

The Justice Department did not organize a conference just to hear how much money each person needs, but to create an open environment to discuss hardships tribes experience and methods that may be helpful to implement in dealing with detention. When people started getting pessimistic rather than actually utilizing this opportunity for open discussion with the government, Bernie turned the discussion around to get people back on track. His optimistic attitude did not sugarcoat the still horrible conditions being discussed,



but simply got everyone thinking the right way – what can we do?

Of course Bernie's inspirational talk led me to contemplate my own life and how I am quietly changing the world. At first I thought how am I, the note-taker at this conference, possibly changing the world? But I am in fact doing a small deed that may make a small difference in the world, especially for Native Americans. I paid close attention to what everyone said during the conference, taking down the most important points, while another note-taker transcribed the entire conference, verbatim. The representatives from the Justice Department are taking our notes to form a bill to present to Congress. Hopefully Congress will pass the bill and provide more support to Indian Country to minimize the amount of crime and increase the availability of resources for detention and treatment facilities.

Though I left one marketing department for a position in another marketing agency, I still thought my new job would be a completely different realm from that of the law firm. At the conference, I realized my new job actually deals a lot with law and the

legal system, especially working with the Justice Department. In my last job I worked on improving my writing skills through my daily tasks of writing article blurbs and press releases. Every day got so busy that I could never actually spend quality time focusing on just one thing to improve. I ended up writing blurbs and press releases quickly just to get them off my plate, rather than spending the time to write them in a more creative way.

With my new job I will have the opportunity to improve my writing skills further by writing about things that strike some sort of passion in me. I never would have expected to feel passionate about Indian Country, but I acquired that passion just by being around others who are passionate about their own lives and careers.

One of Bernie's main themes was about working together – different tribes working together, Indian Country and the federal government working together, etc. If we all work together, quietly in our own world, we can help change the world. We just have to be patient and keep going, even when there are bumps along the way. Our passion should help guide us through this life.



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IN MY OWN WORDS

P.S. you'll always be my best friend

Sharon Racine

I had to ask my mom how and when Jackie and I met. You're probably thinking that I'm a terrible friend for this memory lapse, but I like to consider it a testament to the fact that I can't remember my life when I didn't know Jackie. As far as I'm concerned, she's been my best friend since before I can recall.

Come to think of it, I don't know many people who can vividly remember their kindergarten years, which is exactly when, as my mother informed me, Jackie and I met. I can picture our classroom perfectly in all its toy-strewn splendor, but the exact moments in my mind are tangled and simplified, like a dream I know I had but can't quite wrap my head around. I vaguely remember bonding in our kindergarten classroom, "cooking" together in the play kitchen or bickering over the best Barbie doll. We were both five years old and we both loved dolls, so naturally we became friends instantly.

Jackie hosted our first play date, and seeing as she had a pool, I was more than ecstatic to go to her house. I'm sure things began as they

normally do when you're five years old and making new friends – shy giggling eventually overcome by a mutual interest in whatever activity you're both engaged in – but believe me when I tell you that it ended much, much differently.

As Jackie's mother Joanne recalls, we were swimming in the back yard and my mother had just arrived to pick me up. Imagine their surprise when they returned to the backyard, only to find us splashing in the pool, sans bathing suits. When I asked Joanne about the story, she told me, "I just left the yard for a few seconds to bring your mom to the back of the house. When we looked out the window, all that we saw were two little white bottoms bobbing in the water like dolphins. I couldn't believe it! I was so embarrassed since I didn't know your mother very well, and immediately thought *Well, this will be the last play date with Sharon.* The two of you were laughing so hard."

Eighteen years later, and here we are. The Skinny Dipping Episode (as I like to call it) was only the beginning of many years of memories between Jackie and I. When my family still lived in Delaware,

both of our families would take our dogs (my golden retriever Sandy and Jackie's yellow lab Amber) to the park, where they would chase after kites. Whenever I would ask Sandy Do you want to go see Amber? her ears would perk up and her tail would wag frantically as she circled excitedly around my legs. Sandy and Amber are both gone now, but Jackie and I still like to think of their camaraderie as the doggie version of our friendship.

My time in Delaware was short-lived. When I was nine years old, my parents broke the news that our family was going to move out west to Montana. Montana? Where the heck was Montana, anyway? I had hardly even heard of the state at that point in my young life - imagine comprehending that distance at nine years old. Alas, the date was set, and on June 27, 1997, we packed up our U-Haul and headed out west.

Fortunately, as future English majors, Jackie and I were ready to write, and write we did. A good chunk of our friendship was maintained through letters, and we were darn good pen pals. Some of our memories I revisited through the diary that I've kept since I was six years old (writing has clearly been in my blood my whole life), and some are from the many letters Jackie wrote me while I was in Montana. I kept every single one of those letters, from as far back as 1997.

It's funny to look back on our pen pal years and have physical reminders of the strength of our friendship. As I paged through the early entries in my diary that recounted the happenings surrounding my family's move out west, I found the goodbye card that Jackie had given me before I left. Dated June 24, 1997, the simple piece of folded white computer paper is covered in tiny yin yang stamps, and a trail of hot pink stamped paw prints runs across the middle. Winnie the Pooh block letter stamps spell out "BYE" directly underneath the carefully written words *To Sharon, Love, Jackie.*

The hot pink paw prints continue on the inside of the card, where they surround the words, *I'll miss you when you leave. I hope you have a good time. I'll always think of you. I hope you won't forget me. P.S. You'll always [sic] be my best friend.*

When you're that young, you just say things – at nine years old, we weren't thinking about the future the way that we do now. Jackie and I always just assumed and I guess knew in a sense that we would always be friends. We had been each other's best friend for four years, so what was forever to us?

Our correspondence lasted for the two years that my family and I were in Montana, and the following years when we moved back to the East coast. We wrote to each other about just about everything, from



Our two authors Jackie Quillen and Sharon Racine on the night before Sharon's departure for the West Coast.

family (February 4, 1999 - *Do you feel really left out in your family being the middle child? I do! And I hate it. I feel like I'm an ant.*) to food (April 4, 1998 - *Did you have a good Easter dinner? We had ham with really good some kind of potatoes. Tell me what you had for dinner in your next letter!*). Yes, we had the mother of all long-distance friendships, but it never faded us. Our focus was solely concentrated on the next time we would be able to see each other.

We were even featured in the "Friends" section of the January/February 1999 issue of American Girl Magazine. Dubbed "The Buddy System," this particular "Friends" section featured six different girls from ages 9 to 12. Each girl's interests and hobbies were listed next to her photo, and the goal was to pick out which two girls were best friends. Jackie enjoyed fishing and collecting Beanie Babies, and she was a piano player and dog lover. I also happened to enjoy fishing and collecting Beanie Babies, and I too was a piano player and dog lover. Tough guess.

I could fill pages with the letters that we wrote back and forth, but one particular letter that Jackie wrote to me back in March of 2000 stood out to me. We had moved back East at this point, and my family was getting ready to move to Pennsylvania that summer. We were both going through that awkward pre-teen stage that everyone hates, but we found comfort in knowing that we could talk to each other. She wrote, *I miss you so much! I can't find a friend in Delaware that's like me or fits me at school or anywhere. You're my bestest friend forever, and I really mean that. I hope we always stay together forever!*

We really did stay friends together forever. Once I moved to Pennsylvania in the summer of 2000, our friendship picked up right where it had left off; a one hour drive seemed like nothing compared to the 2,500 miles that had separated us only months before. We talked all the time, visited each other often, and became friends with each other's friends from high school. Senior year came before we knew it, however, and pretty soon we were preparing to head off to college: Jackie to Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, and I to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Once again, our friendship was

stretched over countless miles of highways. Thanks to Facebook and e-mail, we didn't need to write paper letters anymore, but we still kept in touch frequently. The distance prevented us from seeing each other, sometimes for a year at a time, but we still remained close; true to our nine-year-old word, we were still always best friends.

Again, graduation came and went, but this time we were dumped headfirst into the real world. I hadn't seen Jackie in almost 2 years, and our busy schedules had prevented us from speaking to each other for quite some time. Neither Jackie nor I had jobs right out of college, so as we both spent our days searching for employment, we gradually reconnected over cover letters, resumes and interviewing tips.

And then she got me this gig at the Emmitsburg News-Journal. Now, don't think this is a clever plug for the newspaper (though it really does flow quite nicely), but I truly do credit my opportunity to write for the Journal with the revival of my and Jackie's friendship. As we worked together writing and editing articles, we contacted each other regularly again; since the newspaper was a shared component in our busy schedules, it was much easier for us to keep in touch even though once again, she was in Delaware and I was in Massachusetts.

I saw Jackie for the first time in two years only a few weekends ago, at her wedding. When she picked me up at the train station the day before the ceremony, it was as if we had never been apart. She hasn't changed a bit since we were five years old, and that's what I love most about her; she's the same Jackie today as she was when we were breaking the rules in her pool all those years ago. It's comforting to know that a good friend will always be the same every time the two of you get together, whether it's been a week, a month, or ten years. I feel truly blessed to have a friend who is exactly who she always has been, and I know that her husband Sean is a lucky man to have her by his side for the rest of their lives. I am so happy for the two of you, and I wish you everything that is beautiful in life – you deserve it!

Oh, and Jackie – P.S. you'll always be my best friend.

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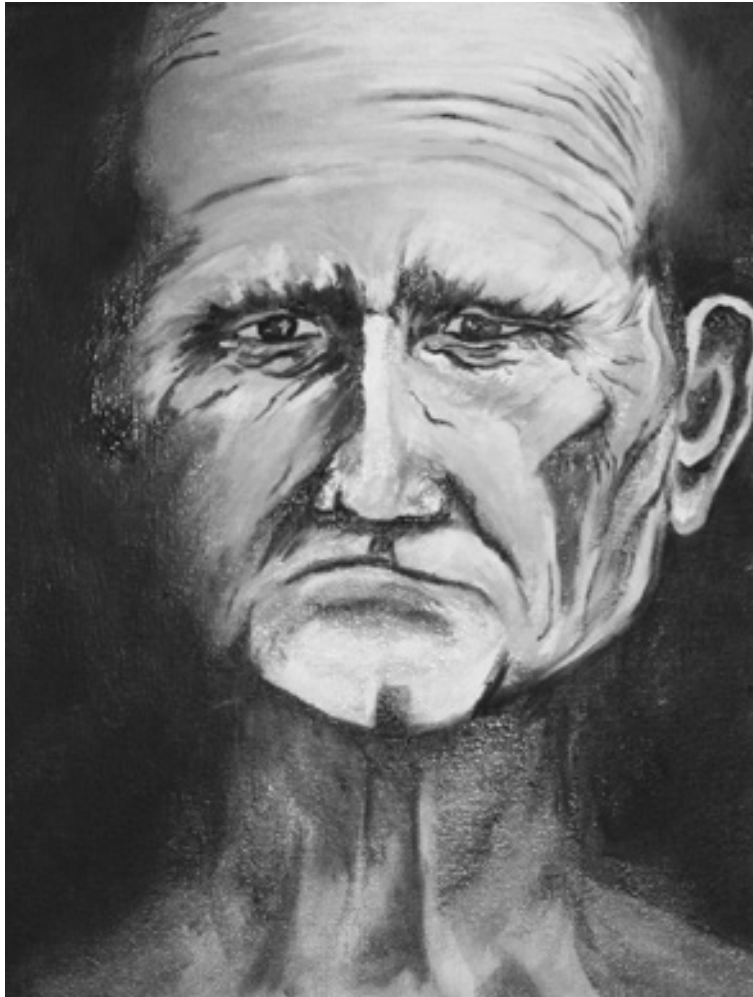
Seniors give a final bow

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

The time is fast approaching, the time that many of us students dread. It is the time when teachers assign last minute projects, essays, and group work to fit in as much work as possible before classes end and finals week begins. But for the seniors here at the Mount, the main thing on their minds (besides Senior Formal, graduation, entering the job market, and of course, the “real world” that lies ahead) is their senior projects. These projects are a way for them to celebrate their time here at the Mount and showcase their talents to the entire community. We are able to recognize the hard work that they have put in over the last four years. As the end of the school year approaches, we will get to enjoy more and more of these senior projects.

I had the pleasure of attending Gigi Gibilisco's senior recital, entitled “An Evening of Broadway.” The thing that made this performance truly unique was the fact that he made it into, as Gigi described, a “family affair.” He was able to fulfill his dream of performing with not only his brother Jaime, but also his father Lou, who is the head of the Performing Arts at Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, NJ. Accompanied by his father on the piano, Gigi and his brother Jaime performed a variety of Broadway songs that left the entire audience in awe. The performance ended with an incredible trio consisting of Lou, Gigi, and Jaime Gibilisco. This was Gigi's favorite moment of the performance, and he indicated that it was something that he will never forget.

The response to the recital was an overwhelming standing ovation, and the first question that was asked during the question and answer session came from a student



One of Katelyn Phelan's five paintings, “The Old Man,” oil on canvas, 12 by 10 inches.

wondering what was in the water where they lived to make them so talented!

Gigi's song choices for the performance were diverse and challenging, allowing him to practice his acting skills along with his singing. In addition to making sure his voice stayed healthy throughout the performance, he had to play the role of each character from the song selections, which came from twelve different Broadway musicals. “Each song had to do with human relationships in one way or another. The message of human relationship is a universal principle that can speak to every person,” he explained.

The experience was a learning lesson not only for those of us who had the pleasure of attending this

performance, but also for Gigi. He was able to see firsthand how much work actually goes into performances like these. “Other than learning the songs and connecting with the text and message, the logistics of putting on a concert/recital is what many people take for granted,” Gigi explained.

Gigi is pursuing a degree in the Mount's MAT program for a Master's in Music Education, but he hopes to make his living performing before he pursues a career in education. Plans to find a union job at Disney World are in the cards for Gigi, and eventually he would like to audition on Broadway in New York City. As the vocal and acting coach at the Performing Arts Summer Session at his high school, he is gaining experience while also making himself more marketable for jobs after he graduates. I'm sure we will see great things from Gigi in the future!

In the visual arts realm of the art world, senior Mackenzie Rich focused her project on creating work that showcases form and the beauty of material. She enjoys that she can allow the viewer to interpret each piece in his or her

own way. Her artwork is a way for herself as the artist to express her ideas while still allowing the viewer to participate in the work interactively. Each person could take away something entirely different from the pieces.

Mackenzie's approach to art strays from the traditional approach, but in doing so it provides a unique perspective for the viewer. “My work is about process and materials. While most artists become inspired by an idea and then decide on what medium to use; it is the material itself that inspires me. The materials I select dictate how they will be manipulated and what will be created,” said Mackenzie. She used found objects, industrial materials and other things that have been cast away, such as metal screening from vents, discarded plastic sheeting used to cover lumber, hardwood floor installation, and scrap galvanized tin.

As a result of working on each piece of her project, Mackenzie described that for her artwork, “there really isn't a finish. I can always continue to create and experiment. There are endless possibilities when one uses this kind of medium.” Through her project she was able to take these materials out of their original context and make people see the possibilities of each of the materials she used. A particularly interesting aspect of her show is the fact that the ways that her pieces are displayed may be changed based on space constraints. She is able to adapt her installations to the surroundings, which can therefore convey a whole new message each time they are displayed.

“This show has helped me to fully develop my artistic vision and what I want as an artist to accomplish in the future,” said Mackenzie. When asked about her project, she said, “Honestly, my favorite part of my process was finding the materials. My Saturday mornings were spent scavenging local junkyards or salvage warehouses looking for materials that inspired me. My greatest challenge was to not overthink. There would be times when I would get stuck if I didn't listen to the materials so to speak.”

Mackenzie plans on continuing to create art in hopes of showing it in galleries and developing a strong portfolio to use toward her

admission into a graduate program to obtain a Masters degree in Fine Arts.

Our very own News-Journal Senior writer Katelyn Phelan is another senior about to complete her time here at the Mount. Her senior project is called “Breaking the Cycle.” Her project focuses on the central tenants Buddhism, especially the emphasis on the inevitable suffering in life and the solution of detachment. Katelyn explained, “I was drawn to Buddhism because of its contrast with the American way of life, so that's certainly part of my message—that we tend to focus on material wealth, but happiness and contentment really comes from a simpler way of life and detachment from materials.”

In Katelyn's artist statement, she explains that she created a series of oil paintings that show “our choice in life, as Buddhism proposes. Three of the four small paintings show types of suffering in life—age, disease, and death.” In explaining the pieces in her project, she said, “I have arranged and depicted these aspects of Buddhism so as to show the thematic differences. The small paintings of suffering are in dull, earthy colors. Suffering is not the path the enlightenment, rather, the Buddha and mandala are. By following the Buddha and ridding oneself of attachments, one achieves freedom from samsara or the cycle of life and suffering. Buddhism is the way to break the cycle.”

Katelyn explained that endurance was one of the major things that she learned as a result of working on her senior project. Typically she can finish a work of art and then move on to something completely different, but with this project she had to base her entire body of works on a single theme. Deciding what to do for her project was a very important and difficult decision to make. “Picking the subject of my work was challenging, and it was something that was on my mind for months before I started,” said Katelyn, but she is mostly excited that she gets to display what she described as “the culmination of not only this extensive project but also of four years of artwork at the Mount.”

Katelyn has been very successful so far and will surely be successful after graduation, when she plans on continuing to make art for herself and for people she knows. She is considering pursuing mural painting, and I'm sure that she is a name to be on the lookout for in the future.

So with the end of the school year comes all of the stress, work, finals, and of course the yearning for summer vacation, but be sure to take the time to appreciate all of the hard work that these seniors, and all of the other seniors at the Mount, contributed to their projects. The past four years studying at the Mount have shaped them as students and as artists, and they have compiled their best works to show to their audiences. Their talent is inspirational to us all, and I'm sure they will be very successful as they pursue their dreams in the art world after graduation.

Express yourself!
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SUMMER CLASSES FOR KIDS	ADULT CLASSES
Pinch Pot Zoo: Creating Clay Animals - Ages 5-7 June 13-17, 9 am - 12 Noon & 1-4 pm - \$20 Materials Fee. Thinking 3-D - Ages 8-11 June 25-24, 9 am-12 pm - \$20 Materials Fee. Camp Abracadabra: All About Magic - Ages 8-12 June 25-24, 1-4 pm - \$25 Materials Fee (Magic Kit to Keep!) Decorate Yourself: Jewelry Making - Ages 8-12 June 27-July 1, 9 am-12 pm - \$10 Materials Fee. Art-a-Palooza! Fine Arts Exploratorium Ages 7-11, June 27-July 1, 1-4 pm - \$28 Materials Fee. Now You're Cooking Camp At The Links Ages 10-14 - July 11-15, 9 am to 12 pm - No Materials Fee. Dirty Hands Pottery Camp - Ages 8-13 July 11-15, 1-4 pm - \$10 Materials Fee. Cooking Around The World - Ages 8-10 July 18-22, 9 am-12 pm - \$50 Materials Fee. Includes: Food During Camp Each Day, Food Taken Home, And Recipe Booklet. Clay Jungle - Ages 7-11 July 18-22, 1-4 pm - \$10 Materials Fee. Time In The Rainbow - Ages 4-5 July 25-29, 9 am-11 am - \$83 Members, \$90 Nonmembers, \$20 Materials Fee. Explore The Rainforest With Art - Ages 7-11 August 1-5, 9 am-12 pm - \$12 Materials Fee. Exploring The Elements Of Art - Ages 9-12 August 8-12, 9 am-12 pm - \$12 Materials Fee.	Painting Outdoors May 25 - June 15, 5:30-8:00 pm \$119 Members; \$131 Nonmembers. Portraits & Landscape: Lighting & Composition June 2-23, 6:00-8:00 pm Engaging Creative Energy Through Writing & Art June 7-28, 6:30-8:30 pm Intro To Digital Photography July 7-28, 5:00-8:00 pm Outdoor Sketching August 2-23, 5:30-7:30 pm
SHORT TERM SEMINARS	
Bring Home The Bakin' At Pomona's Bakery Cafe - June 11, 1-5 pm \$48 Members; \$53 Nonmembers; \$10 Materials Fee. So You Think You Can't Cook - June 13, 3-7 pm \$48 Members; \$53 Nonmembers; \$20 Materials Fee. Silver Metal Clay Filigree Earrings - June 18 - 12-4 pm \$48 Members; \$53 Nonmembers; \$28 Materials Fee. Make It/Take It Clay Jewelry - July 13 & 20, 5:30-8:30 pm \$71 Members; \$70 Nonmembers; \$45 Materials Fee.	

See full course descriptions and register at adacarts.org

IMAGINATION STATION

Tuition for summer camp is \$125 for Adams County Arts Council members, \$135 for nonmembers. Materials fees are payable to camp instructors the first day of camp. Unless otherwise noted: Tuition for Adult Classes and Short Term Seminars is \$95 for Adams County Arts Council members & \$105 for nonmembers. Materials fees are payable at 1st class meeting. Classes meet at Imagination Station, 18 Carlisle St., Gettysburg unless otherwise noted. Register by phone at 717-334-5006.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Mount womens' softball

Megan Kinsella
MSM Class of 2013

Good morning, afternoon, evening (take your pick) Emmitsburg! Enjoying this beautiful, blissful month of May? May. That small, three-letter word holds more meaning than you might realize. I know for a fact that there will be approximately 2,000 students walking with a lighter step around May 14th, when exams are finished, dorm rooms are vacated, and sun-roofs are opened wide on the drive home for summer vacation. I'm getting a little bit ahead of myself, though. In the next two weeks, research papers will be handed in (you know, the ones we've supposedly been "working on all semester long"), group projects will be presented, exam study guides will be made, and all-nighters will be pulled. Not only does the end of the school year entail a heavy school work load, but the Mount's sports teams are still working hard, preparing for their championship seasons.

Last month, we covered the ins and outs of the men's baseball team here at the Mount. Going along with the same theme, May's sports section is highlighting the Mountaineer's softball team. In the 2010 spring season, the women went 25-25 overall and 7-12



Beth Everist steps up to the plate and blasts another home run, one of 17 career homers for the senior from Lansdale, PA. Everist is just one home run away from tying the Mount's all-time career record, set in 2006 by Danyale Goode. Although they were picked to finish 8th in this year's NEC preseason coaches' poll, the team has made some changes—including a new coach and revamped playing field—that have proven to be valuable in their ability to come from behind and surprise rival teams. In a pre-season interview, sophomore Alexa Tuck said that "compared to the 2010 season, this season is expected to be better in every way possible. We have an extremely talented team. All we have to do is tweak a few little things and we will become the ultimate underdog story."

Nagro Steps up as New Softball Skipper

Anna Nagro began her first season this year as the eighth softball head coach in program history. A four year letter winner and starting catcher at St. Bonaventure University in New York, Nagro knows softball. She says, "I believe in excellence on and off the field: fundamentals, hard work, dedication, and passion for the sport." After graduating with a degree in physical education, Nagro coached three seasons at D'Youville, a Division III school in Buffalo, New York, where she led her team to 42 victories. Lynne Robinson, the Mount's Director of Athletics, excitedly welcomed Nagro in the beginning of the year, saying, "Anna's collegiate coaching and playing experience perfectly position her to lead our program and we look forward to her joining the Mount family." Senior catcher Nicole Reeder, when asked about playing for a new coach, said that she is extremely excited about the impact that Nagro has already made on the program. "I believe she has made a huge difference to our team's attitude and my own. She is our coach, but truly cares about each of us as individuals as well, which is something the team has been lacking." Nagro's coaching philosophy, along with practicing hard and being a leader for her team, is that she wants the girls to get more out of their four years playing here than just wins and losses. "I want it to be an entire experience," she says. "I don't want the kids to come to practice every day, stay for two hours, then leave. I want it to be more than just softball practice, workouts, travel... I want to make an impact on their lives, I want them to enjoy being in college. Being a Division I athlete is not something that everyone can say that they did." It is safe to say that Nagro's presence here at the Mount as the softball team's new head coach is both refreshing and inspiring.

Our Lady of the Meadows Field

Not only does the team have a fresh face on the coaching staff with Nagro, but the entire program has a new image due to the renovation of their stadium and field. On Saturday September 25th, crowds gathered on the east side of campus for the dedication of Our Lady of the Meadows Field. The dedication of the newly revamped venue included a welcome address and speeches by President Thomas Powell, Director of Athletics Lynne Robinson, and head coach Anna Nagro, followed by a blessing of the field and players by Rev. Thomas Lane. After President Powell threw out the first pitch, the women went on to hand Hagerstown Community College back-to-back losses. The renovation of the field, which included a brand new back stop and grass outfield, all new dirt on the infield, bleachers behind home plate and along the first base line, and a state-of-the-art press box, was made possible by the generosity of Irv and Ella



The women stand tall, surveying their new ball field, to honor our nation before their match-up against Coppin State in March. Senior catcher Beth Everist (#20) prepares for yet another intense game.

Straw. In an interview at the dedication ceremony, junior Liz Christiansen was overjoyed and exceedingly grateful for the new venue: "Thank you so much, this is such a big deal for us, we now have a field just like the baseball team's and we really appreciate [the Straw's] donation." Irv, who graduated from Mount St. Mary's in 1952, donated money for the new fields because softball and baseball were his loves here at the Mount, and he wanted to give back to the place that gave him so much when he was here as a student. The new stadium and field have certainly been put to good use, as the Mount women hosted 21 games this season, including Northeast Conference match-ups against St. Francis, Bryant, Monmouth, Fairleigh Dickinson, and Central Connecticut State.

Season Highlights

As of April 20th, the women were 14-22 overall and 4-8 in Northeast Conference play. However, with 12 more games to play, including 8 conference games, the softball team is gunning for a fantastic conclusion to their 2011 season. Earlier in the spring, they traveled to Jacksonville Florida for a tournament over spring break March 11-13th, where they clinched an exciting victory over Alabama State and fought hard against Kansas, losing 2-3. Other non-conference victories in March included wins against George Mason, UMBC, Iona, North Carolina Central, and UMES. In their first conference match-up on April 2nd, the women traveled to Hamden, CT where they went 1-1 against Quinnipiac. Later, they crushed St. Francis in both ends of a double header at home on April 17th. At the end of April, the Mount women are keeping themselves busy, playing against Northeast Conference teams Robert Morris, Monmouth, Fairleigh Dickinson, and Central Connecticut State. Be sure to make your way out to support the girls in their last two home games of the season

on May 1st at the Our Lady of the Meadows Field. If you didn't get a chance to watch the softball team in action this season, be on the lookout for their fall 2011 schedule.

So Long Seniors

Graduating and moving on is always a hard thing to do, but the strides made by the softball team this past year make it that much more bitter-sweet for the team's seniors to pick up and move out. Five players will be graduating this May, including pitchers Beth Everist and Amanda Hanson, catcher Nicole Reeder, shortstop Jenna Zimmermann, and outfielder Courtney Zingle. "The seniors have been really great," says Nagro. "They've shown me around the school and told me the things I need to know. They've brought a lot of leadership to the team, which is huge and they are all leaders in their own way, which has been really important to us, too." Fellow player Alexa Tuck commented on the se-

niors' leadership, saying "The seniors this year have done an amazing job at stepping up and taking the place of those before them—it is extremely inspiring." The contributions made by these women over the past four years are monumental, and they will be greatly missed by the coaching staff and their peers alike.

Well folks, thanks for stopping by this month's Sports Scene! As you have hopefully gathered by now, I am a fanatic of all sports. I grew up playing soccer, lacrosse, basketball, and, only when the boys on the playground allowed it, flag football and dodge ball. However, my heart and my loyalties lie with my first love, the purest of activities, the Taj Mahal of all sports. Yep, you guessed it... running. Now that we got the boring sports out of the way (I jest, of course), be on the lookout for next month's Track and Field article. Until then, make it a great month, Emmitsburg!

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THE BUILDER'S NOTEBOOK

Who's on deck?

Andrew Wivell

Baseball season has started and this means that summer is just around the corner. In spite of the rainy weather we have been experiencing this April, I want to take the opportunity in this month's column to discuss a seasonal topic - Decks and Screened Porches. Now is a great time to begin planning your project in order to have it complete in time for summer barbecues. The following is a guide that can help you and your contractor maximize your return on investment with years of enjoyment by focusing on current trends in design and material, as well as tried and true construction elements.

In simple terms, a deck is a wooden structure, usually attached to the house, used to extend the living space of your home into the outdoors. In reality, a deck can be an integral part of your family's daily lifestyle and, therefore, should be designed and constructed with that lifestyle in mind. We begin by highlighting a few design elements you should consider when having your contractor draw up plans for the new outdoor area.

Access - How will you get to your deck? Most homes, especially newer ones, have a 2nd exit door on the side or the rear. Typically, this door will provide direct or indirect access to your new Deck. One Deck that I built had a side door. So, we constructed a 4' wide walk-way that butted up to an existing concrete stoop and wrapped the side of the house to the new Deck. These Owner's preferred this arrangement so that the new Deck would be on the North side of the House - providing cooler summer evenings. However, you don't have to limit yourself by existing door locations. On another job, we took a window out and replaced it with a single swing door and light (required by code).

Site Conditions - Your contractor will be excavating for footings and attaching the deck to the House, so consider the following in the design stage: Location of electric service, phone lines, gas lines, water/well lines, sewer/septic lines, etc. Make sure your Contractor has contacted Miss Utility (410-712-0056) before digging begins. They will mark most of the utility lines for you and this gives the green light for the contractor to start. Above ground, pay attention to dryer vents, heat pumps, furnace exhausts, electric meters, gas regulators, sump pump discharges, etc.

Lot Conditions - Which direction does your house face? Be conscious of prevailing winds and the setting sun. You might want to turn a portion of the deck into a screened Porch or strategically place a Gazebo to help shade or protect the rest. Know where your building restriction lines (BRL) are in relation to your house. Refer to your house location survey for this information. If you are tight on space, confirm with the prevailing jurisdiction that you can cantilever the deck over the BRL for added Deck space.

Building Codes and Homeowner's Associations (HOAs)- General-

ly, local building codes provide minimum and maximum requirements for different materials and life safety issues. For example, current code states that if you have more than 1 step (7.75" max. measured from the top of the threshold) out of the house, then the first step must be a minimum 3' x 3' landing. Most of the building codes obviously impact final design.

HOAs - Check with your HOA to see if they specify minimum or maximum sizes, materials, or location. You will also want to know what documents are needed to submit to the HOA for approval and how long the review process takes. Do this prior to any permit applications in case some modifications are required.

By taking the time to review all of the above items at the beginning of the project, you and your contractor will be able to come close to the mark on the initial designs and fewer modifications should be needed. This will save you both time and money.

After you have the design and size in mind, then it's time to consider what building materials are best for your project. It is extremely important at this point in the project to keep your budget in mind and make sure you have communicated this to your contractor. There are almost limitless possibilities in terms of styles and quality of products. Your contractor will be able to narrow down the overwhelming selection options by knowing your budget and your style preferences.

Structural Materials -

- The frame of your deck will most likely be built using pressure treated lumber. Pressure treated lumber is made by placing pine (usually southern yellow pine) into a horizontal cylinder. A preservative is then forced into the wood under pressure. The "treated lumber" resists rot and decay and can extend the life of the wood by up to 20 times.

An exciting new development in



treated lumber is treated laminated beams. These come in different thicknesses and depths and can be engineered to cover long spans. The advantage to these treated laminated beams is that some of the posts and footings can be eliminated. This can prove helpful if you have an obstruction in the way (gas line) or if you want a "cleaner" view out your basement below the deck. Not having to put a support post in the center of your walk-out basement door will improve the final design.

Finish Materials -

- Deck surfaces classified as wood include treated lumber, Cedar, Douglas Fir, and Ipe to name a few. Ipe is probably the least well known of this group. It is a South American hardwood that grows very slowly and thus is extremely hard, dense, and heavy. Although it is tough to work with because it requires pre-drilling and can dull blades very rapidly, Ipe provides a finished product that is beautiful and unique.
- "Maintenance Free" decking materials come in a wide range of styles and construction. Generally speaking, there are composites and PVC deck boards. The composites (a mixture of wood and polyethylene) behave more like wood. As compared to PVC, they tend to be a little less expen-

sive and look a little more natural (no shiny finish). The downside is that they tend to fade a little more.

- PVC decking, as compared to composites, will generally have a nicer raised "wood grain", resist fading better, and last longer. These are the three reasons why it has become the decking of choice for many builders and homeowners.

Brand Names - Here are some of the major manufacturers of the decking and railing products you and your contractor will most likely consider: Azek, Evergrain, Fiberon, Guarddeck, TimberTech, and Trex. In addition, you might look at Endurance or Superior for manufacturers of railing and posts.

Railing Materials - Most decking manufacturers will also make matching railing. A popular trend is to select a railing color that complements the decking surface, thereby creating a two-tone look. Another trend is to use clear glass panels between the rail support posts for a truly open look. These have become very popular, which in turn, has increased the availability and reduced the cost. Note: Building Code requires railing if the deck surface is more than 30" above the existing grade.

Under Deck Systems - These sys-

tems are installed to the underside of your deck. They create a dry area under the deck for a patio or another deck. They have a drainage and gutter system that directs the water away down and away from the house. Two of the most common on the market today are Drysnap and Dryspace.

If you already have your design in hand and are just looking for material, here's a peek at my list of preferred suppliers I use for all of my projects:

Kohl Building Products - Frederick: Jeff Smith

Leisure Specialties - Savage and Hampstead, MD: Wendy Kugel - 410-796-4439

N.Z. Cramers - Woodsboro: Bine Ochs

T.W. Perry - Various Locations: Dale Bidle

In conclusion, the sky, and your budget, is the limit when planning your deck and screened porch projects. A knowledgeable contractor can be the key to enhancing the functionality and style of your design, navigating the vast array of available products, avoiding costly mistakes, and keeping the project on budget.

As always, if you would like to learn more please visit our website at www.wivellhomes.com or email me directly at andrew@wivellhomes.com.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Meditation

Renee Lehman

What is Meditation?

Meditation has been around for thousands of years. It is a way to realign the mind with the physical body to create harmony within an individual (remember the dualistic way of looking at the mind and body that was discussed in the March article on You are Your Beliefs). Most meditative practices have come to the West from Eastern spiritual or religious traditions. Today, many people use meditation to decrease stress on the mind and body, and for general health and well-being.

Forms of Meditation

Basically, there are 2 categories of meditation. One category is classified as concentrative and the other is non-concentrative. Concentrative forms have the meditator focus attention on a single stimulus (for example, a sound, their breath, thought, or word) for a specific time. Non-concentrative forms have the meditator paying attention (or observing), in a nonjudgmental way to his/her thoughts (for example, observing a fear that comes up and not reacting to it, instead, just watching it). Keep in mind that all forms of meditation have the common objective of calming the activity of the mind (monkey mind) so that your focus can be turned inward.

This will then bring stillness, and you will experience peace and contentment that lies within you. See the table below for examples of these two forms of meditation.

Concentrative Forms: Transcendental Meditation (TM), Breath Watching, Walking Meditation.

Non-concentrative Forms: Mindfulness Meditation.

Transcendental Meditation (TM) was brought to the United States from India in the mid-1960s by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. It is relatively simple and involves the continuous chanting of a mantra (a word or sound) while sitting in a comfortable position. You can either repeat it aloud or in your head. The purpose of repeating the mantra is to prevent your mind from wandering. If other thoughts do enter your mind, be passive, and don't fight them. Let them come in and out of your mind and return to your mantra.

Breathing Meditation is about watching and being aware of your breath during meditating. Start by staying in a comfortable position and close your eyes and pay attention to your breathing. Take long, slow breaths through your nose to work your diaphragm and allow oxygen to the bottom of your lungs. Pause for a few seconds and then exhale slower than your inhale. As your mind wanders, re-



focus on the air going in and out of your nose and throughout your body.

Walking Meditation involves meditating while walking or even during a run. As your mind starts to wander, concentrate on the movement of body parts and your breathing. Pay attention to the feeling of your feet as it touches the ground.

Mindfulness Meditation originates from the Buddhist tradition. It is about focusing on what is happening around you and being aware of your thoughts and feelings during the process of meditating. There should be no judging of your thoughts. Rather, your thoughts should be observed intentionally and nonjudgmentally, moment by moment. You can start by watching your breath, then move your attention to the thoughts in your mind and even the sounds and sights surrounding you.

How does Meditation Work?

Practicing meditation has been shown to make changes in the body. Some types of meditation might work by affecting the au-

tonomic (involuntary) nervous system (ANS). The ANS regulates many organs and muscles, controlling functions such as heartbeat, sweating, breathing, and digestion. It has two major parts: the sympathetic nervous system helps mobilize the body for action. When a person is under stress, it produces the "fight-or-flight response": the heart rate and breathing rate go up and blood vessels narrow (restricting the flow of blood). While the parasympathetic nervous system causes the heart rate and breathing rate to slow down.

It is thought that some types of meditation might work by reducing activity in the sympathetic nervous system and increasing activity in the parasympathetic nervous system (nccam.nih.gov/health/meditation).

In one area of research, scientists are using sophisticated tools to determine whether meditation is associated with significant changes in brain function. A number of researchers believe that these changes account for many of meditation's effects (for example, Hölzel BK, et al. Mindfulness practice leads to increases in regional brain gray matter density. *Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging*. 2011;191(1):36-43.).

It is also possible that practicing meditation may work by improving the mind's ability to pay attention. Since attention is involved in performing everyday tasks and regulating mood, meditation might lead to other benefits (for example, Lutz A, Slagter HA, Dunne J, et al. Attention regulation and monitoring in meditation. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*. 2008;12(4):163-169.).

Chronic Disease

Chronic diseases – such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and arthritis – are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems in the U.S. They are prolonged and are rarely cured completely. In 2005 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that 133 million Americans – almost 1 out of every 2 adults – had at least one chronic illness. About one-fourth of people with chronic conditions have one or more daily activity limitations. Seven out of ten deaths among Americans each year are from chronic diseases. Heart disease, cancer and stroke account for more than 50% of all deaths each year. Four modifiable health risk behaviors—lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excessive alcohol consumption—are responsible for much of the illness, suffering, and early death related to chronic diseases (www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease).

Research on Meditation and Well-being

Evidence has been increasing that people with chronic diseases can gain benefit from using meditation. Currently, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is investigating the effects of meditation on post-traumatic stress disorder, on pain regulation, high blood pressure, stress reduction for urban youth, and depression (clinicaltrials.gov).

The 2007 National Health Interview Survey revealed that some 20 million U.S. adults use meditation for health purposes (nccam.nih.gov). Overall, meditation has been reported to reduce health care costs, strengthen the immune system, lower blood pressure (in people with high blood pressure), reverse cardiovascular disease, and reduce the affect of stress on the mind and body (anxiety, depression, and improve coping skills for cancer, HIV/Aids, and chronic pain).

So when will you try meditation? Start right now. Put down the paper for a few minutes and just focus on your breath. What have you got to lose? Oh, yeah, that's right – just your well-being!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 20 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Walking for health and fun

Walking is one of the best exercises we can do. I know finding time and a safe place to walk is sometimes hard to do, but very worth it in the end. Make an appointment with a friend, family member or co-worker and that may help you keep your commitment a little easier. That person will encourage you on the days you really don't feel like walking and may not have walked and you can return the favor on the days they may have skipped. I know from personal experience that having that person say, come on you'll feel better, is all it takes to get you out there. Even though you did not want to, you do feel better when you are finished. Maybe you are a person

that likes to walk alone and listen to music, a book on tape, go over the events of your day or organize what you need to do when you get home. Sometimes walking alone relieves the stress of the day and puts you in a better frame of mind for family time. Whatever you decide is right for you, the main thing is to get out there and walk. You will be able to find the time if you commit to it and you will receive numerous benefits from taking care of yourself. I'm sure you know many of the health benefits from exercise but I will mention a few such as weight loss, diabetes, heart disease, cholesterol, lung strength and depression. One you may not have known is helping relieve the

symptoms of a cold. Exercise can help with congestion and possibly reduce the numbers of days you have the cold. Many, many more health problems can be helped with exercise.

Another challenge is to find a place to walk in the inclement weather. One of my clients walks in his workshop. He has many obstacles to walk around but is still able to walk at a quick pace. Walking around things also works your mind. You have to watch out for anything that may be in your path. This will keep you alert and thinking all the time. Another of my clients prefers to walk outside and she hardly misses a day. Walking outside is always a plus for me too, but if the weather is not nice for

outside exercise find a way to keep up the routine inside. Using tapes or finding an exercise program on TV that gives you a challenge and that you enjoy is another way of keeping with an exercise program. There are many DVDs and programs out there. I'm sure you will be able to find one to your liking.

I mentioned earlier how walking is beneficial in the fight against many diseases and conditions both inside and outside of your body. Inside and outside can refer to where you get the benefits as well as where you walk or exercise. I know I have written other articles about walking but we can never hear it enough. We need reminders sometimes just to get us

started again or for the first time. We tend to put things like exercise in the back of our minds for a later time. We know we want to start but somehow we don't get around to it. The more we hear or read about an important subject like exercise, hopefully this will be the push we need to get out there and take the first step. All you need to do is take that first step and you will see how good you feel. Start a walking routine and stick with it for a few weeks and you will look forward to walking every day.

If you have any questions, give me call at 717-334-6009 and I will help you get started. Remember, KEEP MOVING, You'll be glad you did!

Fitness matters

Inga Olsen
Expert answers to your health and wellness questions

Question: I have a very simple question. In your opinion, what's the one BEST diet?

Answer: That's an interesting question and one that's harder to answer than you might realize. Put it this way—I think the optimal "diet" is one that accomplishes these three goals:

1. It gets you to your desired weight, assuming you have one;
2. It promotes health and helps to stave off chronic disease; and
3. It is sustainable for the long-term.

So if you want me to be specific, the optimal diet would provide plenty of water, 35-40 grams of fiber per day, and include ample amounts of whole grains, proteins, and poly- and monounsaturated fats. It would also include 8-10 servings of fruits and vegetables a day, a couple servings of fresh fish each week, a few servings of dairy, and would generally include more vegetarian options than the standard western diet. Added sugars, sodium, and saturated and trans fats would all be limited, though it's important that the diet is realistic and doable, so treats are certainly wouldn't be outlawed. I know you're looking for one diet to follow, but in all my years working in health and wellness, just about every diet is missing something, or places too much emphasis on this and not enough on that—you get the idea. Your best bet would be to track your food for just a few weeks, and gradually try to incorporate some of the recommendations above. I also recommend reading "The Way to Eat: A Six-Step Path to Lifelong Weight Control" by Dr. David Katz.

Question: I heard a personal trainer speak recently at a conference, and he said it's important to just move more when it comes to weight loss. The funny thing is I don't think he was talking about exercise per se.

Thoughts?

Answer: The trainer was right! We simply don't move enough anymore, and what he was likely referring to was NEAT, or non-exercise activity thermogenesis. Quite a mouthful, huh? NEAT is essentially the energy we expend when we're not eating, sleeping, or exercising. Unfortunately, with desk jobs, TV watching, and web surfing now the norm, the calories we burn doing general daily tasks has diminished greatly. Some researchers actually believe that the movement (pardon the pun) from a manual labor-based workforce to a desk-centric one has been the biggest factor in the obesity epidemic. They point to the fact that our collective calorie intake hasn't increased much at all in recent decades, despite the prevalence of French fries, potato chips, soda, and frothy, high-calorie Starbucks drinks. This particular issue is debated in the scientific community, but the fact remains. We are more sedentary than we've ever been before (we have low levels of NEAT) and we should do something about it. Break up your workday with mini-walks, keep the TV off for an hour

or two when you get home, and disconnect from cyber-world for a bit. These small changes will alter your movement patterns, which could ultimately affect your waistline and your overall health.

Question: When I'm motivated, my workouts and diet are rock solid. But that's my problem—motivation. Any tips to help me stay on track with my goals?

Answer: Absolutely! Even those of us in the health and wellness field struggle with motivation from time to time. We are certainly not immune. That said, there are several things you can do to keep yourself motivated. First of all, set small goals. It's important to know the big picture, but the journey to get there can be daunting, so break it up into smaller, more achievable chunks. Scheduling your activities helps a lot as well. If you treat exercise like an important meeting or like brushing your teeth, it's more likely to become a habit. Partnering up is also an excellent idea. It would be difficult to find a better motivator than a friend of family member keeping you accountable to your workouts, your diet, and your newfound lifestyle. And frankly, sometimes you probably need a kick

in the you-know-what. Last, but not least, pay for it! This may sound a bit odd, but if you have some skin in the game, the game dramatically changes. Buy a gym membership, join an online health website, purchase a credible book, or throw down some cash for a heart rate monitor. Making an investment in your health will pay

dividends in the long run.

About the author: Inga Olsen is the Certified Conditioning Specialist and Weight Management Specialist at Anytime Fitness in Thurmont. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at thurmontmd@anytimefitness.com.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May 2011, the Moon will be New on May 3rd. On the first, the waning crescent moon lies just above a fine grouping of four planets in the dawn. Mars sits atop Jupiter, with fainter Mercury just west of them, and bright Venus still farther west. Worth setting the alarm clock to see, about 6-6:15 AM CDT locally. The first quarter moon rises about noon on May 10th. The waxing gibbous moon passes about six degrees south of Saturn in the SE evening sky on May 14. The rose moon, the Full Moon for May, will be on May 17th. The last quarter moon is on May 24, and at month's end, the waning crescent moon again passes the dawn planets, above Jupiter on May 29, then above the alignment of Mercury, Venus, and Mars on May 30th and 31st.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up at the Galaxy arching overhead, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects all along the plane of the Galaxy. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about April 30th visit www.sky-maps.com website and download the map for May 2011; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Also available as the next month begins is wonderful video exploring the May sky, available from the Hubble Space Telescope website at: http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/to-nights_sky/.



Just South of the Big Dipper is the famed "Whirlpool Galaxy", M-51, and a smaller galaxy colliding with it.

Saturn is the brightest object in the southeast as darkness falls; it lies just above the bright star Spica in Virgo now. Its rings are now opened up to eleven degrees, much more visible than when they were edge-on during last year's Saturnian Equinox. You may also see some belts and zones on the planet's disk. The largest moon, Titan, will be seen in any small telescope, but others will need larger scopes to spot. As the planet is now only half are bright as when the bright rings are tilted more open, up to six moons may be spotted, in a straight line with the rings, with an eight inch telescope.

As noted earlier, the other four naked eye planets all lie just west of the Sun in the dawn sky. Several nice groupings of these wanderers occur in May. Mercury passes 1.4 degrees north of brighter Venus in May 8th, and Venus overtakes

Jupiter and passes .5 degrees south of it on May 11th, the two brightest planets about a moon diameter apart in the dawn, a nice photo op, since Mercury lies two degrees south of Jupiter at the same time. Then on the 18th, Mercury again passes 1.4 degrees south of Venus, then two degrees south of Mars on the 21st. Venus passes a degree below Mars on the 23rd, and the moon joins the four planets in the dawn by month's end. To bad all of this dancing isn't happening in the evening skies, but still some neat groupings for early risers.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night

sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the NW is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west. If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high.

Note the Egyptian Sphinx is

based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. Saturn lies just SE of the triangle of stars that mark Leo's tail this year. If you instead turn to the handle of the Big Dipper, just south of the end star you can find the famed "Whirlpool Galaxy", M-51, with large binoculars. The spiral arms are resolved with telescopes 8" and larger on dark, clear moonless nights. It has a smaller galaxy colliding with it, creating the tidal distortion as noted in our photo.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapley Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. As noted earlier, Saturn is the only planet now in the evening sky, and is located to the upper right of Spica, and more yellow in color and slightly brighter than Spica as well. Our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years away from us, just above Saturn.

Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Regional Weather Watch: Cloudy skies in the North with showers in the southern part of the region (1,2,3). Fair and cooler (4,5,6,7,8,9) turning cloudy and warm (10,11,12). Rain and stormy (13,14,15,16) with more clouds and warm temperatures (17,18). More showers and Storms, some severe (19,20,21,21). Warmer weather follows with severe Storms from the South (22,23,24,25). Yet more showers and a bit cooler (26,27) turning warmer with more Storms from the South.

Full Moon: May's Full Moon in 2011 occurs on the 17th at 6:09AM EST.

Not surprisingly, May was to become known as Flower Moon because of the multitude of blooms that appear in May (after all of those April showers!) Some Native Americans referred to it as Milk Moon because the production of milk typically increases during the month.

Special Notes: The first observance of Mother's Day was on May 10, 1908 during church services in Grafton, West Virginia and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In May, 1830, the first passenger railroad service in the United States began with service between Baltimore and Elliot's Mill, Maryland.

Holidays: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Thursday, May 5th and Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8th. Plans something special for her to show just how much you appreciate her role in making you who you are today. Honor our brave and dedicated soldiers on Armed Forces Day, Thursday, May 20th and Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th. Remember that without their many sacrifices today and in the past, we would surely be living in a much different world.

The Garden: Plant balled and burlapped shrubs any time the ground can be worked. To minimize weed growth and to help retain moisture after watering or rain, apply mulch around the shrub at least to 2 to 3 inches

deep making sure that the mulch stays a few inches away from its base. Fertilize existing, spring-flowering shrubs in late spring af-

ter they finish blooming. Prune evergreens when new growth starts to turn a darker shade of green. Start seeds for squash and

melons but hold off transplanting them until the end of the month to avoid any infestation of squash bugs and borers.

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COMPUTER Q&A

Wireless security & troubleshooting guide

Aysë Jester

Jester Computer, Fairfield, Pa.

Q: How can I tell if I am connecting to a secure network?

A: When you are connected to a network, secure networks will have a shield next to the signal strength. In Windows XP it will be notated directly under the network name if the network is secure. In most cases a network is secure if it requires a password to connect. If your connection is not secure and you have access to your router, read your router manual to find out how to setup security. Keep in mind that even if you are connected to a secure network there is always a possibility that you could be hacked. This is another reason why antivirus software is necessary.

Q: How can I determine if I am connected to the internet?

A: Depending on your operating system, next to the clock in your taskbar there will be an icon. You may have an icon with two computers which when hovered over it will display your connection status and speed or you may have to click on an arrow which will display wireless signal bars which when hovered over, will say "internet access" if you are connected. If "network access only" is displayed, that means your network adapter is working properly but your internet is not on, is not working, or is blocked.

Q: How can I determine if my internet connection is blocked?

A: In order to test your internet connection you will have to open the "run" command. To locate this in Windows XP click on start and "run" should be located on the right side of your menu. Windows Vista or 7 users can type "run" in the search box in the start menu. Alternatively, Windows users can also hold down the Windows key (located between the left ctrl and alt keys on most keyboards) and press the R key. This will also produce the run command box. In this box you will want to type "CMD" and press enter on your keyboard.

Once the command prompt window is open you see the file path on your screen. There will be a blinking cursor and you will type "ping www.google.com" and press enter on your keyboard. Your box will say pinging www.google.com with (#) Bytes of data. If your internet is working properly you should see reply from with a lot of data following it. If you are getting all packets of data but you can't go online or access your email, your internet connection may be blocked. If you see timed out and all packets of data are lost resulting in 100% loss then your connection is not working and your

internet most likely is not being blocked. If you are receiving little or no packets you may have a connection problem. See below for other options to troubleshooting your connection.

Q: What does it mean if my internet connection is blocked?

A: If your internet connection is working but your browsers or email can't access the email you may have software blocking the connection. Sometimes that happens because you have malicious software or viruses on your computer that are preventing it from connecting. If your computer is also running slow or acting strange you may want to seriously consider having your computer cleaned up (see end of article) and have any harmful software removed. Some antivirus programs can actually block internet connections because they think they are unsafe connections; this can be the case even for good connections. You may also want to find out more information on that or visit your local computer repair shop for further assistance. Internet connection problems can happen for a variety of reasons, continue reading for other possible solutions to your connection problems.

Q: What other ways can I troubleshoot my connection?

A: Your next option would be to reset the adapter, modem, and router if applicable. You may want to try your modem and router if you have one. You may not be able to perform this step if you don't have access to the devices. Your modem is from your DSL or Cable internet provider. If you have DSL it will be attached to a phone line, if you have cable the modem will be connected with a coaxial cable. If you have a router there will be a second box that is connected to the modem which will most likely have lights and antennas. Unplug both devices if you have them or just the modem if there is not a router.

Note: Only unplug the power cable do not unplug any other cables that are attached. Then plug in the modem which is the box with the phone line or coaxial cable attached. There will be different lights on your modem or router, you should wait about 2 minutes before going to the next step if you have both. If you have a modem, you may want to check your connection now, if it is not working move on to resetting your adapter. If you have a router, you will plug that in after the 2 minutes. The router (usually has lights and antennas) you will want to wait about 2 minute to allow it to start up. If your connection is not working properly try resetting your adapter.

To reset your adapter, you will have to access the control panel. In Windows XP click on the start button, it should be located on the right hand side. If it is not visible you may have a settings menu instead which should have the control panel inside. If you can't find the control panel you may not have access to it because of policies set by the administrator, you will have to contact the administrator for permission to use the application. If you are using Windows Vista or 7 you can click start and search for control panel in the search box and click on control panel. Inside the control panel if you are an XP user you will click either Network and Internet Connections or Network Connections or both.

In Windows Vista or 7 you will choose the Network and Sharing Center. In this window, if you see a red X over the network you can try clicking that red X to attempt to repair the connection. If that does not work, click the Change Adapter Settings on the left side of the window and then follow the XP instructions. XP users will click on the adapter they are using (your local area connection is your wired connection and if you have multiple wireless connections

choose one without the words virtual mini port underneath) You may have additional connection types depending on what you are using and if you are using a different connection type you will have to select one of those. You should then right click on the connection you believe you are using and choose repair. This should open a dialog box which will attempt to diagnose and fix your connection.

Q: What if none of these suggestions fix my connection?

A: There are many possible reasons why your connection is not working properly. You may have an outage from your provider or your lines may have a problem. If you contact the company and they have confirmed that their service is working properly you may want to contact a professional to diagnose your connection problems. For friendly professional computer repair you can contact Jester's Computer Services sat (717) 642-6611 they are located at 5135 Fairfield Road (RT 116), Carroll Valley Pa. They are open Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm. Saturday by appointment only.



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LIBRARY NOTES

Work among the stacks

Caroline Rock

A recent study shows that people who read emails, surf the net, and text while working can be more focused and more productive than those who do not. This dovetails nicely from a 2010 study suggesting that napping on the job can also increase one's productivity. And this follows a 2009 UK study which encourages people to take a "mental health day", a day when one does not come to work at all, but chooses a favorite activity, such as shopping, going to the movies, or visiting a spa, in order to refresh and rejuvenate one's emotional well-being, and thus be more productive on the job.

The Onion, the satirical news organization, once ran the headline, "Study Shows Working at Work Improves Productivity." The story parodied the studies I just mentioned, stating, "Perhaps even more shocking, the study reveals that not working significantly decreases worker productivity, sometimes even resulting in no work getting done at all."

I mention these studies and articles as a preface to the fact that the column you are reading was composed on a Fri-

day while I IM'd with my son, checked my facebook, read and replied to emails with my brother and sister, watched a marathon of *House*, posted on a writer's message board, and doubled my score in Bejeweled Blitz. Surprisingly, I woke up Saturday morning with my article still unwritten.

My husband, who has worked in supervisory positions most of his life, is fond of reminding his employees to have a 'sense of urgency', a *drive* to get the job done, a *need* to accomplish the task. This is not necessarily a motivation to work hard, as much as an incentive to work well, to be efficient and thorough, to get the job done in a timely manner, and to be mindful of the next person down the line who will be effected by your competence, or lack thereof.

While random studies on procrastinating to be more productive make headlines and cause news anchors to giggle and joke over their own lack of industry, the concept may not be so far-fetched.

I will admit that when I began this article, my intention was to point out the farce of allowing people to play and nap dur-

ing work hours. My very first job was in fast food. The manager, understanding that he was dealing with young people who had never worked before, believed that his chief duty was to instill in us a work ethic. Be on time, don't clock watch, give excellent customer service, and, above all, NEVER stand idle. There is always something that needs to be wiped or swept or filled or organized. If you feel the need to lean on the counter, clock out and take a break. As long as you are clocked in, your time belongs to the company.

This was a philosophy I carried from job to job. And when I would straighten up to wipe the grindstone dust from my nose, I took notice of my coworkers and wondered to myself, "Why I am the only one carrying two tote bags of work home with me? Why am I the only one at my desk on Saturdays and holidays? And, despite my extra effort, why I am still driving this beat up car and wearing these worn out shoes?"

Why?

Because I loved it when the boss would say things like

"My goodness, Caroline, you certainly are dedicated."

"We could use more workers like you around here!"

And, my personal favorite from those fast food days: "We're giving you a twenty-five cent per hour raise. That's the biggest raise we are allowed to give."

Greg Keller, a renowned expert on human capital management and effective workforce strategies, and president and founder of Kopler Strategies, believes that the sense of urgency in an office environment has been replaced with a sense of responsibility. The advent of computers and telecommunications in the



workplace has changed the world of work. The 9 to 5 mold has been broken and replaced with a more flexible, dynamic standard.

"The IT explosion," says Keller, "sort of hatched from a concept that no one cared WHEN or HOW work got done, as long as it was completed accurately and on time. Employees were encouraged to *enjoy* the office and thus, they would theoretically also enjoy their work."

Employees began to allow their workers to come in late, relax on the job, take a break with a video game or a nap in the lounge, and stay late if they needed to finish the job.

Keller says, "It bred more of a total immersion in the workplace experience. Couple this with the fact that virtually NO new company coming online since 1995 has offered its employees the long term security of a pension, the least they could do was let 'em enjoy the less than 5 years (on average) they stayed in one place!"

So the more relaxed, fun, casual workplace is a tradeoff for the loss of permanence and security. This brings with it a relatively new term, "management style." Managers can be fatherly, or dictatorial, they can promote independent thinking or teamwork, they can establish an atmosphere of delegation or fear. Perhaps the trick is to find the job, the manager, and the

workplace environment that suits you best. Sounds easy enough in this economy.

If you are spring cleaning, taking this new season for a fresh look at your life, and deciding it has to go beyond emptying a few drawers or closets, stop by the Emmitsburg Library. You might peruse our collection of books on finding a career, writing a resume, breaking into government job, and matching your style with the perfect profession.

Or check out our website at fcpl.org to find links to websites that will help you in your search. Careerbuilder, for example, gives you access to classified ads from newspapers all over the country, and emurse.com allows you to build an online resume and send its link to potential employers. You will also find links to test prep sites and small business resources. And because the Emmitsburg Branch manager has an easy-going, approachable management style, you will feel comfortable asking any questions of the library staff.

It is now Sunday evening, and my column is two days past its deadline. But I feel really good about myself and my level of productivity. However, it occurs to me that if I had finished it sooner, I might have had time to proofread for typos and incomplete.



Fairfield Fire & EMS

NATIONAL EMS WEEK MAY 15-21

OPEN HOUSE & EMS WEEK

Sun, May 15 - 1 to 4 pm

Spend an old fashioned Sunday afternoon at the firehouse!

Meet the people who respond when needed!

FIRE TRUCK & AMBULANCE RIDES!




A Fun-Filled Day of Activities For The Whole Family!

- Ambulances
- Fire Trucks
- Lifenet Helicopter
- Gettysburg Hospital Medic 28
- Police Departments
- American Red Cross
- Fairfield Regional Emergency Management Agency
- St. Mary's Parish Nurses
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Fire & Rescue Demonstrations
- Maryland Search & Rescue Demonstrations
- Search & Rescue Dog Teams
- Kids Can Spray Water From A Real Fire Truck
- Free Fairfield Fire & EMS T-Shirts For Kids



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Conveniently located at The Outlet Shoppes in Gettysburg





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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday
Bingo at the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company's Activity building. Voted the Best Bingo in The Tri-County area!

Saturday
Adams County farmers Market - Conveniently located in Downtown Gettysburg and at The Outlet Shoppes of Gettysburg. For ore information visit www.acfarmersmarkets.org/index.html

May 1 & 15
Saint Anthony Shrine Yard Sale and Flea Market located at corner of US 15 and St. Anthony Road, Emmitsburg. For more information, please call (240) 529-2737.

May 6
Adams County Arts Council's Imagination Station Art Show and Reception - Teachers and Students Exhibit their work. For more information call 717-334-5006 or vsiit www.adamsarts.org

May 6 & 7
Adams County Master Gardeners' Plant Sale. For more information call the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office at 717-334-627. Adams County Agricultural & Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg.

May 7 & 8
56th Annual Apple Blossom Festival - Highlights of this year's festival include: live entertainment, free orchard bus tours, wine tasting and sales, hun-

dreds of arts and craft demonstrations. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 615 Narrows Road, Route 234, Biglerville. For more information call 717-677-7444.

May 8
Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph Taneytown Council 11631 Country Style Breakfast Buffet. St. Joseph's Catholic Church Taneytown. Celebrating the vocation of Motherhood, all mothers will receive a Marigold flower in their honor. Every child will be given a flower to give to his/her mother in her honor.

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's Mother's Day Wildflower Walk. Treat Mom to a guided hike through the Preserve, led by local horticulture enthusiast Joe Breighner. You will enjoy the beauty of nature more deeply as you locate and learn about the local wildflowers. For more information visit www.straberyhill.org.

Music Gettysburg! Presnets the Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra with Thomas Pandolfi, Pianist. Lutheran Theological Seminary Chapel, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-338-3000 x2197 or visit www.musicgettysburg.org

May 9
South Mountain Audubon Society presnets "Wings, Sand & Song: Presque Isle's Habitat." The Society meets at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Building located at 670 Old Harrisburg Road in Gettysburg. The meeting is free and open to the public.

May 12
Fairfield AYSO, Region 709 Vera Bradley Bingo - Fairfield High School Cafeteria, Fairfield,. Food and baked goods available

May 13
Red's Tavern's Lunch and Dinner to benefit the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center. 10% of the kitchen tab will be donated.

The Majestic Theater presents Roy Clark - A Living Legend of Country Music! Majestic Theater, Gettysburg. For more infoamtion visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org

Elias Lutheran Church's Spaghetti Dinner -- 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. \$7.50/person or your generous donation. Carry outs available. 301-447-6239

Elias Lutheran Church's Gospel Cof fee House featuring Emmitsburg's own, Children's Praise Choir

May 14
Annual Emmitsburg Lions Club Chicken Barbeque and Yard Sale. Delicious chicken barbecue, cooked the way only the Emmitsburg Lions Club can do it! And this year, we're giving you a chance to buy or sell with a Yard Sale.

2nd Annual His Place Car Show on Saturday, May 14 to benefit Mother Seton School and Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center. For more info call Bill Kuhn at 800-529-5835 or stop by His Place, Inc. at 20 Creamery Way, Emmitsburg,. Rain date: Sunday, May 15.

May 15
All-You-Can Eat Community Country Breakfast will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Center. For directions or more information call the parish office at (301) 447-2367.

The Incarnation UCC, will host a Spring Concert, "Singing WorshipP," at 3:00 p.m.. All churches of the Emmitsburg community will be participating in this afternoon of special music. You will be entertained by various choirs, including a children's choir and a teenage choir, a handbell choir, solos, an ensemble, an original composition for the occasion, a praise band, and, best of all-- there will be a combined choir directed by Cheryl Carney from Elias Lutheran Church.

May 16
Fine Arts Night - Come and enjoy Mother Seton School's Young Artists and Musicians. The MSS Band and Chorus will perform and awards and certificates will be awarded. Artwork will be displayed throughout the school. An enjoyable event showing support for the Young Arts. For

more info: 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

May 21
The Lion Potter 7th Annual Spring Cleaning Sale - Our annual spring cleaning sale features the previous years' pottery inventory for half the price displayed on the outside. 855 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg. 717-337-0451 www.thelionpotter.com




May 22
Frederick Chorale and Dr. Elizabeth Krouse, organist for the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine, will present a special concert featuring the works of J.S. Bach and Antonio Vivaldi. This concert is free and open to the public.

May 23 - 28
Emmitsburg Carnival. Sponsored by Mother Seton School. An annual tradition in Emmitsburg.

May 30
144th Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies.



Rocky Ridge Vol. Fire Co. Auxillary
CASH BINGO
SUNDAY, MAY 1ST
Tickets: **\$20** In Advance **\$25** At the Door
Doors & Kitchen Open At 11:30am - Games Begin At 1:00pm
20 Reg. Games - \$50 • 2 Special Games - \$200 Each
\$500 Jackpot • \$1000 Jackpot
King Tuts • Holder Jars • Door Prizes
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& Info Call: **LINDA** at 301-271-9170

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SESSION I: MAY 31-JULY 1  SESSION II: JULY 5-AUGUST 5
REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

Session I - May 31-July 1, 2011

AMC 201: American Experience I
ASL 101: Beg. American Sign Language I *
BIOL 208: Nutrition
BUS 301: Business Law I
BUS 313: Principles of Marketing
BUS 360: Corporate Finance
CVSO 201: West in the Mod World: Ideas, Tech & Trends**
ECON 101: Foundations of Economics: Macroeconomics *
ENGL 370/ENNW 370: Latin American Fiction
FAAR 309: Graphic Design I
FAMU 200: The Story of American Musical Theater
GNSCI 101: Concepts in Physical Science
PHIL 211: From Cosmos to Citizen (5/31-6/23)**
PHIL 301: Moral Philosophy
PSCI 390: 7 Constitutional Questions: Current Controversies
PSYCH 100: Foundations of Psychology *
PSYCH 385/PSYNW 350: Cross Cult. Human Dev. (6/1-6/24)
SPAN 101: Beginning Spanish I (6/1-6/14)*
SPAN 102: Beginning Spanish II (6/15-6/30) *
SPED 433: Assessment in Special Education (5/23-6/2)
SPED 434: Special Ed Curriculum Design & Adaptation (5/9-19)
THEOL 200A: Foundations of Theology
THEOL 200B: Foundations of Theology
THEOL 200H: Foundations of Theology (Honors Section)

Session II - July 5-August 5, 2011:

AMC 202 A: American Experience II
AMC 202 H: American Experience II (Honors Section)
ASL 102: Beg. American Sign Language II *
BUS 302: Business Law II
BUS 307: Business Management & Organization
BUS 340: Management Science
CJUST 365: Drugs and Crime
COMM 230: Public Speaking
CVMU 201: West in the Modern World: Music**
ECON 102: Foundations of Economics: Microeconomics *
FAAR 310: Graphic Design II
GNSCI 102: Concepts in Biological Science
MATH 101: Elementary College Algebra *
PHIL 212: From Self to Society **
PHIL 301: Moral Philosophy
SOC 100: Foundations of Sociology *
THEOL 202: The Gospels
THEOL 205: Sacraments
THEOL 371*/THNW 371: World Religions

Session III - May 31-August 5, 2011:

BUS/FSY 311: Information Systems
PSYCH 207: Adult Development

* Courses available to qualifying high school students
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IT'S TIME FOR SPRING SPORTS, CHECK OUT ALL THE SCHEDULES ONLINE AT

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Crime Scene Investigation Camp

June 27-July 1, 2011 (Mon.-Fri.), 1-4 p.m.
Cost: \$179. (Current MSM Employee, Alumni or Senior: \$169.)

CSI Camp is an exciting, hands-on opportunity for adults and teens ages 15+ to learn about the criminal justice system in general and crime scene analysis in particular. During this week, participants will be introduced to the field of Forensic Science. Various disciplines will be discussed in terms of what information they can yield, how evidence is collected, how forensics fits into criminal investigations, and the role of forensics in the courtroom. The week will be a combination of discussion and practical exercises, and will include the participants conducting a practical crime scene investigation.



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