

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Welcome Center to reopen

The State of Maryland has begun to open selected, strategic welcome centers along key highways in the hopes of generating an increase in tourist trade.

One of the centers slated for re-opening was identified on March 20 at a briefing held at Catocin Mountain Orchard as being the Emmitsburg area, Route 15 Mason-Dixon Discovery Center, which could be re-opened by the end of May.

The local center has sat idle for the past couple of years, with only its parking, restrooms and vending machines remaining accessible to travelers and truckers.

Hannah L. Byron, assistant secretary of Tourism, Film and the Arts with the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, said March 20, "It has been a difficult road. I did not want to shut down the (Emmitsburg) center at all."

Forced by economic cuts to finally pull the plug on the facility, Byron said, "Re-opening Emmitsburg was my number one priority."

The ongoing Civil War sesquicentennial, including the upcoming, 2013 commemoration of the

150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, provided impetus to get the "key" Route 15 center back on-line.

Byron said the state is expecting to have the center back in operation on Memorial Day weekend.

John Fieseler, executive director of Tourism Council of Frederick County, said the re-opening was the result of a "creative effort" on the part of Tourism, Film and the Arts.

To accomplish a re-opening, the state and county representatives have pursued grants and sought volunteers, and are also exploring the possibility that a portion of the center complex will be used for state storage "and other opportunities."

Byron said "some negotiations are ongoing" to help keep the center open, for at least four days a week. "Hopefully, as time goes on, more than that."

A number of state visitor centers were closed over the past several years as Maryland plunged into economic woes leading to dramatic budget crunches. Among the casualties was the Route 15 welcome center.

Catocin Mountain Orchard



owner Robert Black has been credited with his persistent effort to inspire the state to reopen the Emmitsburg area facility.

"I guess I got tired of going by the center (and seeing it closed)," he said. "I could hardly stand that, and decided to make a little noise and get things (a possible re-

opening) back on course."

Fieseler explained that state visitor centers became an early victim of economic downturns. "Obviously the state has been hit (with spending constraints). Tourism was cut back. You have to have money to spend it."

"Civil War" looms in Fairfield

"The 6th U.S. is cut to pieces; there are less than a hundred of them left." - Union cavalryman (Battle of Fairfield)

The Fairfield Sesquicentennial Committee (FSC) continued to fine-tune proposed Civil War-related activities to be held this spring in the borough.

The three-day event is being held in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War, which activities planned for each year of the five-year commemoration..

The actual Battle of Fairfield's 150th anniversary will be in 2013, the same as Gettysburg's, and had been fought in conjunction with the Gettysburg Campaign in 1863.

This year, FSC has scheduled its event to be held on May 4 through 6, and will focus on "pivotal events that occurred in the village of Fairfield during the Civil War."

Some highlights of the event, which will continue to undergo fine-tuning in April, include a reenactment of the Battle of Fairfield, a clash that occurred in and around the town around 2 p.m.

on July 3, 1863, as the massive Confederate cannonade commenced in Gettysburg, preliminary to the so-called "Pickett's Charge."

Also planned are numerous speakers addressing various war-related topics about the Battle of Fairfield and the conflict in general, a living history encampment, a performance by the South Carolina String Band at a bonfire gathering at the Fairfield Inn, and presentation of the roll of honor (reading of all the citizens of Hamiltonban, Liberty and Fairfield that participated in the Civil War), lunch with Mrs. Lee, and a Taste of History (1860s period food).

Activities will be held in various locations in the town, including Fairfield Inn, while the battle will be held at Landis Field.

The battle in Fairfield took place after Confederate General Robert E. Lee ordered several Virginia cavalry units to secure passage of the Hagerstown Road, leading to their arrival in Fairfield on a collision course with the 6th U.S. Cavalry.

The U.S. Cavalry was in the



process of reconnoitering to verify reports that Confederate wagon trains had been reported in motion in the area.

The battle produced a decisive Confederate victory, with Union forces suffering 232 ca-

sualties (more than 50 percent of their forces). Confederate casualties consisted of eight killed, 21 wounded, and five missing.

A complete schedule of events and times will be announced.

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NEWS

Town may avoid 2013 tax increase

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners is exploring ways to avert a tax increase for 2013, although it would likely result in reduced services or capital expenses for possible projects.

Town staff was directed by the board at their March 19 meeting to produce a draft budget that would cut town expenditures by potentially \$140,000, a cut that would translate into property owners not seeing a tax increase in 2013.

The request to produce a budget slash stemmed from discussion generated by the state's recent constant yield rate for Emmitsburg which claimed that the town had a net assessed real property base of \$168,149,433.

The state Department of Assessments and Taxation reported that, as a result of that real

property base amount, the town could expect \$717,107 in revenue if it established a tax rate of 0.4265 cents per \$100 of assessed real estate value.

The current tax rate is 0.36 cents per \$100 worth of real estate.

Because of the recent reassessment which generally reduced the values of properties, the anticipated revenue would not really increase with a tax hike.

However, the increase in taxes would be needed to maintain the amount of incoming revenue from real estate taxes at the current level.

Board President Christopher V. Staiger suggested the town explore an option of not increasing the tax burden, and simply trying to get by with the reduction of revenue in 2013.

In spite of concerns over what the impact of cutting the 2013 budget might entail, the board agreed that the town staff should produce a balanced budget draft "based on 36 cents (per \$100 in real estate value in taxes)."

"I can't imagine we're going to get by without cutting spending," the board president stated. "We've got to step up to the plate too (along with the state and county governments)."

"We can't just throw up our hands," Staiger said. "That's my challenge to you (mayor and town staff)."

"Once you've done that (produced a draft budget), then it's going to be on us (the board, to approve or reject it)," he said.

Staiger said he did not want to see any staff considered, though, as a result of the reduction in revenue.

No fee increase for town pool

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners took no formal action at their March 5 meeting on any of the several options available to help finance the management of the town swimming pool.

According to town records, the pool has not been self-sufficient over the course of the past six years.

Revenues generated through event fees and pool use permits have averaged between \$18,000 and \$21,000 during that six year period, nowhere near the needed cost of maintaining and operating

the pool, as operational and maintenance costs have averaged between \$42,000 and \$62,000.

After deducting the revenue generated, the town has been operating the pool at a "loss" of \$17,000 to \$44,000, meaning the town taxpayers have been picking up that portion of the tab.


Emmitsburg staff presented the commissioners with several options that would result in a self-sufficient operation, including increasing the pool use fee from the present amount of \$3 to \$12, charging a household recreation fee of

\$13.50 a quarter, or increasing the town tax burden .03 cents per \$100 of real estate assessment value.

Staff also suggested lesser amounts of each if only the annual deficit were to be addressed, and not the entire operations and maintenance costs.

However, Board President Christopher V. Staiger noted, "The reality is the town government has always subsidized the pool. The pool revenue has never covered the costs. It stands out now because money is tight."

Staiger also pointed out that the



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town does not always recoup expenses for services performed.

In conclusion, the board declined to initiate any increase in taxes or fees, and agreed to continue having the town pay for the deficits.

Splash pool approved

The Board of Commissioners also

approved a \$69,491 contract with Paddock Pools to install a "splash pool" at the site of the town swimming pool.

The project will be paid for in part by a Program Open Space grant in the amount of \$45,000, which leaves the town paying \$23,491.

Emmitsburg sets sewer rate increase

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners formally adopted a proposed sewer rate increase at the conclusion of a public hearing held March 5.

Necessitated by the need to construct a new wastewater treatment plant, the increase will enable Emmitsburg to meet state mandates.

The hearing was continued from the previous public review held on February 20. Opposition to the rate increase was expressed by only one citizen, who

was present for the hearing on both dates.

The new sewer service rate could possibly increase fees by 80 percent, or even more for some users.

The new wastewater treatment facility is expected to be online in "late summer of 2014," with construction slated to begin in 2012, will be located in the area of the current treatment plant east of Route 15 on Creamery Road, and will cost around \$20 million," according to Town

Manager David Haller.

Haller stated at the March 5 hearing that if the town was able to find additional grant money to help pay for the cost of the project, the rates could be adjusted proportionately.

Of the anticipated \$20 million price tag, \$14.5 million will be provided to the town via grant money from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the federal Department of Agriculture (DOA). In addition, the DOA will be pro-

viding the town with a \$5.5 million loan bearing a 2.4 percent interest rate payable over 40 years.

The commission also voted to implement the increase in two separate phases, each representing half of the 80 percent needed to pay for the balance of a new wastewater treatment plant that will not be covered by grant money, and for any accrued debt service.

The first phase of increase will go into effect April 1, while the

second 40 percent increase will go into effect in July 2014. Individual customers may experience a rate increase below 40 percent or above 40 percent in each of the two phases, depending on their average gallon usage.

The full 80 percent increase in anticipated revenue is expected to generate \$1,105,923 by the time the new plant goes online.

The motion to increase the rates was made by Commissioner Glenn Blanchard, seconded by Commissioner Clifford L. Sweeney, and adopted unanimously (Commissioner Patrick A. Joy was absent).

Emmitsburg area news briefs...

Mayor: Vigilant supports new county 'chief'

Emmitsburg Mayor Donald N. Briggs stated at the town Board of Commissioners' March 5 meeting the local fire company supports the appointment of the new fire director for Frederick County.

Tom Owens, who has served as the chief of the Fairfax City (Virginia) Fire Department since 2003, has been appointed by the Frederick County Board of Commissioners as the new county director of the Division

of Fire and Rescue Services.

The appointment was effective on February 1.

Assistant County Manager Barry Stanton served as acting director since the retirement of Director Gene Mellin on May 12, 2009, according to the county.

Literacy resolution adopted

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners formally adopted a proposed resolution recognizing Financial Literacy Week at their March 5 meeting.

Financial Literacy Week will be held April 15 through 21.

The annual event is held generally nationwide to educate interested individuals about financial decision-making and practices.

Insurance resolution passed

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners approved a proposed resolution accepting a change of board members of the town's insurance carrier at their March 5 meeting.

The Town of Emmitsburg is

a member of the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), and as a participating member, must "rubber-stamp" proposed changes to the LGIT trust

agreement.

The changes proposed by the LGIT concerned board member reorganization at the LGIT level.



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Carroll Valley lowers pavilion fees

The Carroll Valley Borough Council adopted changes to pavilion use charges at their March 13 meeting which resulted in a general lowering of the rates users had been previously charged.

Regarding changes to pavilion use, rate adjustments were approved for the use of the Cortner Pavilion, the Cortner Community Room (with kitchen), and full use of the Cortner Pavilion.

The new rates apply to Monday through Thursday use of the facility, excluding holiday usage.

The borough previously created several "classes" of users, not all of which are affected by the changes.

Class I users consist of local, state or federally sponsored events. There has previously been no charge for the use of the pavilion for those events, and free use will continue.

Class II users are comprised of borough sponsored events, and for service providers who are located within the borough or service providers who lie outside of the borough but provide a service to one or more borough residents.

There has previously been no charge for the use of the pavilion for those events, and that will also continue.

Class III users consist of borough residents. Prior to the adoption of the new rates at the March 13 meeting, residents were charged \$100 per day for pavilion use, \$150 per day for pavilion community room and kitchen use, and \$200 per day for the full facility use. These has now been changed to \$50, \$75, and \$100 respectively.

Class IV users are comprised of individuals or groups who do



not qualify for any of the other three classes. They were previously

charged \$150 per day for pavilion use, \$275 per day for pavilion community room and kitchen use, and \$375 per day for the full facility use. Those rates have now been changed to \$75, \$150, and \$200 respectively.

The council also conducted some "housecleaning" by re-asserting the late fee for unpaid sewer service bills through a resolution passed at their March 13 meeting.

Past due accounts are assessed a ten percent late fee.

The late fee assessment has existed for a number of years, but failed to be included in the 2012 fee schedules when it was adopted.

Township clamps down on social media

Hamiltonban Township supervisors adopted a policy Tuesday evening that governs how township employees may use social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and others during work hours.

The policy also includes guidelines on how employees may discuss or refer to the township on social media sites during personal time.

The policy prohibits all township employees, including staff, elected officials, and members of township committees, from accessing social me-

dia sites during work hours through township computers or personal devices.

Township employees who identify themselves as such on social media sites are instructed to make clear that their statements do not represent the official position of the township and that they are not authorized to speak on behalf of the township unless authorized by the board of supervisors. The policy prohibits employees from using the township seal, logo, or letterhead, or posting links to the township website with-

out supervisors' permission.

The policy also forbids employees from using social media to "pick fights or spread false information or malicious rumors," or to "create a hostile work environment." Those who violate the policy are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Supervisors also voted Tuesday to amend the township's cell phone use policy to regulate personal calls and text messages during work hours.

The updated policy prohib-

its personal calls, texts, or other messaging on township-issued cell phones. Employees who need to make personal calls during work hours must direct those calls through the township office.

The previous cell phone policy allowed employees to make personal calls on township cell phones if the personal calls did not result in overage charges.

The amended policy also makes employees liable for any vehicle citations or accidents that occur due to the use of a cell phone.

Also on Tuesday, supervisors adopted a public comment policy for township meetings.

Residents are now allowed five minutes to address supervisors, and a group of residents may choose a spokesperson to comment on their behalf. The public comment period of each meeting will be limited to 30 minutes.

Public comment priority will be granted to Hamiltonban Township residents. If all residents have had a chance to speak and time remains in the 30-minute public comment period, others who live outside the township will be permitted to address the board.

Fairfield storm water rules drafted

At their March 12 meeting, the Fairfield Borough Planning Commission received a proposed ordinance that would generate new storm water run-off regulations.

The draft ordinance was prepared by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, and is based on new storm water regulations prepared by the county and signed-off by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

County Planner Robert Thaeler reviewed some of the ordinance content at the planning commission meeting, but a detailed discussion was put off to allow commission members to study the draft in preparation for their April meeting and to obtain input from the borough engineer.

One important aspect addressed at the March 12 meeting was that the borough will need to develop a process for

reviewing and granting some of the minor storm water permits, and to decide if a single administrator or a board will review and approve (or deny) them.

Thaeler suggested that Storm water plans for large-scale development projects could be reviewed as part of a subdivision and land development (SALDO) review.

However, he also said that exempt projects and small-scale projects would require a process of their own.

"It's these projects that could be exempted (as well as small-scale projects that would not involve a full-blown, development scale storm water review) that are the ones we're going to have to figure out how to deal with," Thaeler said.

He suggested that those that could be exempted would simply be subjected to filling out a form, but that small scale projects—those requiring a zoning permit or a land use permit—could have their storm water

plans reviewed concurrently with the rest of the project.

"There is going to have to be some decisions made on how each municipality is going to administer this, administratively or by boards and councils," he said.

"I suspect every municipality (in Adams County) is going to handle that differently," Thaeler noted.

The now-state-approved storm water regulations governing Adams County were promulgated to reduce the impact that the Monocacy Plan rules were having on small property owners and developers as the result of excessive, Monocacy Plan-driven engineering requirements.

Discussions regarding the new storm water regulations will be continued at the borough Planning Commission's April 9 meeting at 7 p.m.

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NEWS

Work continues on Emmitsburg Hotel

Work on renovating a gutted historic hotel in Emmitsburg was renewed again after a prolonged hiatus.

Work crews began to off-load

dry-wall and other supplies in mid-March at the old Emmitsburg Hotel, located at 2 East Main Street at the Town Square and owned by owned by David George, while oth-

er work progressed inside the previously burned structure.

The observable work marked an end to a perceived extended lull in renovating the old hotel which had been intentionally torched around 5:59 a.m. on April 3, 2010.

The fire was started by 43-year-old John W. Bushman, Sr., a resident of one of the 17 apartments the hotel had been converted to. Bushman was subsequently sentenced to eight years in prison for the arson.

Stavro's was the only business located in the building at the time of the fire, and was able to reopen at its previous location last year. Only the top three floors of the hotel had been involved in the fire, while the remaining building below sustained smoke and water damage.

No one was seriously injured in the fire, but a number of pets died before they could be rescued. The fire was fought by over 125 firefighters until it was brought under

control about three hours after it had commenced.

Reconstruction of the burned roof was commenced in 2010, and new trusses and shingles and a third floor porch was reframed as part of the "phase one" permit issued by the Frederick County Department of Permits and Inspections, according to Pam Moulton, the department's customer service supervisor.

Subsequently, Moulton stated, a second permit was issued in the fall of 2010 for structural repairs to the upper floors and building, the work having been completed before the end of that year.

An additional permit was issued in 2011 for dry wall and ceiling work, and the replacement of light fixtures, which has also been completed, the supervisor said.

This year, work was slated to continue into spring, which included installation of a sprinkler system. The hotel had no sprinkler system in place when the fire broke out.

According to Michael Hillman, president of the Emmitsburg Area Historical Society, the hotel's roots, quite literally, can be traced back to before the 1820s when "Mrs. Agnew," whose first name has been lost to posterity, operated the first hotel, known as the Eagle Hotel, where the Emmitsburg Hotel is presently located. Daniel Wile purchased the structure from the woman's estate in 1853, and had the structure torn down and resurrected as a four story hotel in 1858 on the foundation of the former hotel and called it the City Hotel. Wile's hotel was burned to the ground in the great fire of 1863, when the east side of Emmitsburg's caught fire only two weeks before the Battle of Gettysburg. Undeterred Wile rebuilt his hotel, and over the year it has gone by various names including: the Western Maryland Hotel, the Slagel Hotel, the Morndorff Hotel, and most recently the Emmitsburg Hotel.



David George, Jr., son of the hotel owner, and Blane Bidle, Midview Properties, help with the ongoing renovation of the Emmitsburg Hotel.

Praise for local veterinarians

Two Emmitsburg area veterinarians have been recognized for their efforts to produce solar energy at their Littlestown animal hospital.

Julie L. Holland and Gary J. Kubala, co-owners of Littlestown Veterinary Hospital, 5010 Baltimore Pike, were recently awarded for a solar energy operation established on their property which provides electricity to the overall power grid in Pennsylvania.

Honoring the clinic for its solar in-

stallation, the environmental team of the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce awarded the animal hospital the 2011 Environmental Stewardship Award in March.

The presentation was made at a breakfast held at the Gettysburg Hotel, where the clinic also received a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for its solar energy installation.

At the recommendation of Hol-

land's father, Donald Lindsay, the veterinarians began to explore the possibility of generating solar power at the animal clinic. Holland's father spearheaded the effort, which eventually led to the installation of 105 "Pennsylvania-made" solar panels on the roof of the clinic. The system includes monitoring capabilities that allows the animal hospital staff to track power production and usage associated with the system.

The 23 megawatt-generating system cost around \$150,000, the cost of which was partially offset by a USDA rural small business grant, which ultimately contributed \$20,000 to the project.

Based on the clinic's own energy savings as a result of their ability to produce electricity for the overall power grid, it is expected the system will pay for itself over a five-year period.

The almost imperceptible layer of solar panels on the roof, which continues to generate electricity even on heavily overcast days, helps to main-



Julie L. Holland and Gary J. Kubala, co-owners of Littlestown Veterinary Hospital, and staff. Courtesy of Astrum Solar.

tain the historic dignity of the more than 100-year-old barn that serves as home to the clinic.

Drs. Holland and Kubala purchased the century-old structure in 2008. Upon acquiring the property, the pair invested an additional \$250,000 in building improvements and cutting edge veterinary equipment. In doing so, the two seasoned and well loved vets and are able to provide customers state of the art veterinary services while maintaining their reputation for fair

and reasonable prices. Needless to say, their client base is growing by leaps and bounds.

The reuse of the barn has also been recognized for the effort to maintain its historic essence.

On presenting the Environmental Stewardship Award, the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce noted, "Overall, the Littlestown Veterinary Hospital is energy conscious and environmentally aware. It resides in an historic building, which in itself, poses a challenge for new technology."

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HISTORY

One hundred years ago this month

April 5

Fireman's Festival

On the evenings of April 12 and 13th the Vigilant Hose Company invites the public to the Emerald Hall to their Chicken and Oyster Supper. Dancing on Saturday evening.

Improvements

The roof of the building occupied by Mr. Guy Topper has been repaired. The Elder building is being repainted. Mr. Harry Hopp is making extensive improvements to the interior of his dwelling house. Alterations to the interior of the house now occupied by Mr. C. T. Zacharias had been made by Miss. Columbia Winter. Mr. Galloway's has painted his new house on Frederick Street.

Mailboxes

The Post Office Department has asked patrons of all rural routes to paint their mailboxes white in order that they may be renumbered this spring. The carriers feel assured that while this is not a demand it will nevertheless be carried out by those who enjoy the privilege of free delivery.

April 12

Power Plant Assured

Those interested in having an adequate supply of electric current for power and light purposes in Emmitsburg will be particularly interested in the action of the public service commission which granted permission to the Frederick and Hagerstown Power Company to issue stock for the purposes of building a power plant to furnish electric current to local communities, including Emmitsburg.

With the money obtained by this sale of stock a 3000 kW turbine plant will be erected a Security, Washington County, and it is expected to be completed by October. The building will contain machinery from the start with a capacity of 8000 kW and space we reserve for the addition of as much more, doubling the capac-

ity of the plant was little additional expense beyond the cost of the machinery. When completed this will be next to the largest power plant in the state and the largest in the state outside of Baltimore city.

Aeroplane at Frederick

And opportunity will be given to the people of this county to see an aeroplane sailing in our own blue skies. The exhibition will be given at the fairgrounds on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 7 and 8. A demonstration of aerial navigation is rare not only in this section, but in all parts of the state.

Annex to Hotel Slagel

Mr. Lawrence Morndorf has rented the Lansinger property on E. Main St. as an annex to his Hotel Slagle. This will greatly increase the capacity of this popular hotel.

Big Easter Dance

A delightful Easter dance was given on Monday night in the Emerald's Hall, on Frederick Street. This was a Leap Year dance, being given under the auspices of the young ladies. Many persons were present from Baltimore, Gettysburg, Frederick, and Waynesboro. The Middleburg Orchestra furnished excellent music. Much credit is due the young ladies who had charge of the affair.

April 19

Appalling Sea Disaster

"The Titanic foundered at 2:20 AM April 15 Southeast of Newfoundland." This dispatch recorded the most appalling sea disaster in history. The vessel was the largest steamer afloat and on this, her maiden trip, carry 2,120 persons. Of this number 685 were saved by liners hurried to the rescue after receiving the wireless message that the giant of the sea had been rendered helpless in a collision with an iceberg.

The collision occurred at 10:25 Sunday night and four hours after nothing remained of the ship but a few splinters and the lifeboats with the comparatively few who escaped the doom suffered by the 1,534 who were drowned.

The first vessel to reach the scene of the disaster was to Carpathia. She picked up the survivors. The vessel sank in two miles of water.

The first detailed reports were brought to Newfoundland by the steamship Bruce. This vessel attained her story of the disaster from wireless messages picked up from several of the ships which had been in closest touch with the last hours of the mammoth White Star liner and which were afterwards in the zone of communication with the Bruce's apparatus.

When the Titanic struck the mountain of ice that sent her to the ocean's bottom within four hours after the impact, she was steaming at a rate of 18 knots an hour. The shock almost demolished the proud ship, which her builders had boasted and her captain had believed nothing could master.

Hitting the impenetrable ice mass fairly with her towering bows, the ship was almost rent asunder at the first blow. Her decks were ripped and torn, her sides and bulkheads were split and shattered from the bow to a point almost amidships.

Her upper works and some of her boats were splintered, while shower of debris from her spars fell upon the decks like giant hail. Though the ship hit the monster obstruction head-on, as her bow rose clear of the water, smashed to a unrecognizable mass of bent and shivered steel, the vessel listed heavily to port and threatened to turn turtle before the recoil slid what was left of her back to an even keel.

The Titanic had forced her giant bulk up on a submerged spur of the iceberg, a phenomena which is not infrequent in the most disastrous collisions. In mounting upon the jagged ice spur and in sliding back from her position the ship had torn out many of her bottom plates from the midships section forward to the bow.

April 26

The Big Show a Success

The Library Benefit performance given in the Opera House last Fri-



The Titanic sunk 100 years ago this month. Be sure to check out the article on page 39.

day and Saturday evening was one of the most successful functions of its kind ever given in Emmitsburg. The attendance too, was a record-breaking size and Emmitsburg Public Library has realized a nice little fund for its use.

The preparations made for this performance were most elaborate. The Opera House interior was refurbished, decorated and, for the first time in the history of Emmitsburg, brilliantly lighted with electric lights, footlights, drop lights and wall lights. New scenes and a new drop curtain were noticeably among the improvements.

Upcoming Election

At a town meeting held on Monday evening at Fireman's Hall nominations were made for the vacancies that will occur in the present Board of Commissioners and for the Burgess to succeed Mr. Samuel Rowe, who declines re-nomination. Vincent Seybold President and Mr. Charles Gillelan acted as Secretary. The following nominations were made:

For Burgess - Enoch Frizell and Edward Rowe.

For commissioners - Eugene Zimmerman, H. Ashbaugh, Henry Stokes, Lewis Rhodes and Edward Chrimer.

Since the town meeting the name of Mr. Shuff has been handed in as a candidate for Burgess and Mr. Zimmerman declines to serve in elected.

Business For Sale

The old established and well-known firm of J. M. Adlesburger

and Son, offers for sale on private terms, its goodwill, tools, fixtures, materials and stock on hand, and will rent to purchasers its complete plant.

Riding Accident

Mrs. William Roberts met with what might have proved a very serious accident yesterday morning. While riding horseback on the Gettysburg Road she was thrown to the ground. At first Mrs. Roberts thought she was unhurt but Dr. Jamison found upon examination that both her collarbones were fractured.

Death of William Ashbaugh

On Wednesday, William Ashbaugh a respected and honored citizen of Emmitsburg, died at his home on Gettysburg Street at the advanced age of 75 years. Mr. Ashbaugh was a resident of Emmitsburg since 1866. He served for 35 years as a deputy sheriff and county constable. He refused reappointment under the newly elected sheriff on account of his rapidly failing health.

In 1876 Mr. Ashbaugh was made Town Constable, which office he held, in connection with his other duties, for 19 years when his health made it imperative for him to give up the town office. Ten days after his election as Town Constable he was appointed County Constable. In December of 1876 he was made deputy sheriff, serving all three offices for 19 years.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

Well, Spring has sprung – let's hope it's a long one and not a quick jump into summer! March saw continuing discussions between the Mayor, town staff, and the Board of Commissioners on budget topics, sewer and water funding, and some house-keeping issues. A number a loose ends have been tied up which will allow us to move forward on a variety of fronts.

Town Planner Sue Cipperly has completed a grant application to 'The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area' for funding related to studying improvements on the town square. In early April, an application to the Maryland Sustainable Communities Program will

also be completed. Participation will allow us to take advantage of a wide range of state programs offering financial support for public, private, and commercial improvement efforts.

The Board of Commissioners approved new sewer service rates that have often been discussed in this space. The rate changes related to sewer service go into effect April 1 and will be reflected in your June 30, 2012 statements. While these rate increases will add to residents' financial burden, the new structure is still competitive with neighboring municipalities – many of whom have yet to address the costs associated with implementing state and feder-

al clean water mandates.

Mayor Briggs and staff proposed alternate funding options to generate the income required to support our municipal pool. These included an to increase user fees, or a general tax increase or a new 'recreation fee' charged to each dwelling unit suitable to collect the necessary revenue. The reality is that the pool costs the town more to operate on a daily basis than providing police coverage – and the pool is only open for a few months. I think these were fair questions to ask elected officials to take a position on and were necessary to plan another challenging budget.

The Board of Commissioners has reviewed funding for the operation of the town pool and will continue using general fund revenues to cover the gap between entry fees and operating costs. The cost of running a municipal pool is very high, but elected officials for many years have seen value in continuing to offer this service to the community through this funding mechanism. I appreciate that this is an expenditure with a pretty narrow focus, but I believe we can do better to expand this opportunity and make it more attractive to a wider base.

One improvement we have sought for a number of years is finally close to realization. State monies have been received to help underwrite the cost of a "Splash Pad" to replace the defunct baby pool. The Board has released funds from our 'rainy day fund' to make up the balance. Construction will begin this Fall after the close of this summer's season. The new facility with a fountain and jets will be safer, more widely accessible, cleaner, and more reliable than the traditional baby pool option.

The town government has also declared the week of April 15-20 to be Financial Literacy Week. This request initiated by Commissioner O'Donnell is meant to highlight efforts to increase awareness about the importance of financial education and the serious consequences that may be associated with a lack of understanding about personal finances. Please look for events at our local library and Mount St. Mary's during that week!


Supporting yet another O'Donnell initiative, the Board has approved outlining/flagging an intermediate difficulty mountain biking and hiking trail in the Rainbow Lake area. The beginner

trail is nearing completion and this approval will allow for a smooth transition in volunteer efforts to expand the project. This trail system will open town watershed lands to a greater variety of uses while maintaining a priority for traditional hunting. Best of all, it hasn't cost the taxpayer a dime

The Board has also adopted Architectural Guidelines that identify and seek to preserve the 'old town' character of our historic district which encompasses most of the downtown area. While these guidelines don't create mandatory requirements or an architectural review board, they do clearly state the preferences of our community and can serve as a basis for negotiation for projects requiring zoning review and approval.

Lastly, the town government has begun to examine the costs associated with building a second water plant on the east side of town in order to balance our sewer capacity and allow for future growth. This may require some changes to the fees charged to commercial and residential builders. No decisions have been made at this time.

As always, I encourage your participation and feedback to your elected officials! Sincerely, Chris Staiger



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Blaine Young

I've been watching politics in Maryland for a long time and I can honestly say I have never felt as uneasy – and almost physically ill – as I do now watching what is going on in Annapolis.

The absolute domination of this state by one political party, which seems to know no limits to how far they are willing to exploit their monopoly of power, is taking us all for a ride that I am afraid will end up in a massive and fiery crash and burn.

The extraordinary majorities the Democrats possess in both houses of the General Assembly give them carte blanche to do as they please with our financial, moral and even physical wellbeing. And more and more of them every year seem to be more concerned with their own personal political prospects than with what is best for the State of Maryland.

In addition to all of the tax increases being tossed into the arena by our governor, we have the legislature crafting bill after bill to restrict our ability to grow our county and municipal economies, and to suck more money out of our bank accounts and send it to Annapolis so they can pass it on to their liberal constituencies and campaign contributors. The money game being played by the Democrats in Annapolis, much of which involves our money, is absolutely appalling, and shows no sign of slowing down.

It seems to me that there is very

little real prospect of Republicans gaining enough seats to overturn the Democrat majority in either the House or the Senate. Their majorities are overwhelming numerically; and, with their further gerrymandering of the legislative map, it will be next to impossible to gain a significant number of seats. Our legislature is going to be Democrat, liberal and clamoring for our money for as far into the future as the eye can see.

It seems the only way to do anything about the one party monopoly in Annapolis is to do something in the Governor's Mansion. Bob Ehrlich proved 10 years ago that although it is against long odds a Republican can win the Governor's Mansion. This strategy, though daunting, at least from a historical perspective, is achievable with the right candidate and the right campaign that focuses on the excesses and arrogance of the one party rule in Annapolis. If voters truly are tired of being dictated to by a political monopoly, it is much easier for them to switch over to the other side of the ballot in the statewide race than to vote against their local delegates or senators, who many of them have met and may know well.

If we can see lightning strike again and put a Republican in the Governor's Mansion, the numbers are on our side. Instead of having to overturn gigantic majorities in the House or the Senate, we only have to change

one vote. A veto from the governor's office takes care of pretty much all of the problems. The legislature can't go anywhere without the governor signing the bill; and, with the right Republican in office, none of those confiscatory taxes, fees or growth stopping bills would ever become law.

Now, I know many are going to say that with the majority they have, the legislature can override any governor's veto. Theoretically that is true, but a governor has a lot of power in this state. With the right horse trading, a strong resourceful governor can probably secure enough votes to stave off an override. It is much easier to get the minority necessary to override a veto than it is to get a majority to pass or kill legislation.

In my experience, and anyone please tell me if I am mistaken, I cannot remember a single instance where the Maryland Legislature overrode a governor's veto of an increase in taxes. Therefore, when it comes to new and higher taxes and fees, one vote from the governor's office can block them all.

This is why it is so important that the Republicans get serious about the 2014 Maryland gubernatorial campaign and start thinking about and doing what is necessary to try to win back the Governor's Mansion. You say it's only early 2012, and there is still plenty of time to think about an election 2½ years from now? Think again!

The Democrats are way ahead. Attorney General Doug Gansler has over \$4 million in the bank, and there is no question he is going to run for governor. Comptroller Peter Francho has raised more than \$1 million. Howard County Executive Ken Ullman has also raised over a \$1 million, and Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown has raised more than \$800,000. The primary election is two years from this June, and from experience I can tell you, when you are trying to raise money, that two years will go by awfully fast.

From Republicans we've heard some talk but haven't seen much action. I have heard some say that they will make a decision late this year or early next year. Based on what the Democrats are doing, that will be too late. Republicans had better get serious now, and start working to raise the money which will be necessary to compete with whichever Democrat comes out of what should be a very interesting and contested primary.

Many probably know that I am considering a run for governor of Maryland as a Republican. I am going to get this going over the next few months with an exploratory committee, and open a campaign account to raise money. My message will be very simple: One Vote Stops It All. One vote from Gov. Blaine R. Young will block any and all future tax and fee increases in the State of Maryland.

And I promise I will use that one vote to veto.

If I do decide to throw my hat in the ring, I will do the same thing I did in 2010 when I ran for Frederick county commissioner. I will tell you what I am going to do if I am elected and I will keep my word. I will treat the taxpayer with respect and stop treating Maryland taxpayers like walking ATM machines.

In just over a year my colleagues and I on the Board of County Commissioners have done just that. We have kept our word that we gave on the campaign trail that we would rein in wasteful spending, and because of our decisions Frederick County not only does not have a deficit but has a projected \$29 million surplus for the next fiscal year.

A governor can keep his word to protect the taxpayers just like a county commissioner can. Unfortunately, it has rarely, if ever, been done by the endless parade of free spending, free taxing Democrat governors we see in this state.

It is going to take an extremely aggressive, organized and energetic campaign to compete with the well-funded career politicians on the Democrat side. If I decide to take a stab at it, you have my word right now: that is exactly the kind of campaign I will run and the kind of effort I will put forth.

At the risk of sounding repetitive, you have my word.

From the Desk of Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

The people of Emmitsburg and all of northern Frederick County have the opportunity to enhance their say in the education of our children. Former mayor of Emmitsburg, James E. Hoover, is running for one of two open seats on the Frederick County Board of Education. Yes, one of us has stepped forward. This is a rare opportunity for us and we need to take advantage of it. The primary is on April 3, 2012. Jim has an extensive background in management and

now more than ever we have to use diminished resources and somehow turn them into more than enough for the most valuable part of our community, our children. Please go to Jim's website, hooverje.com and learn more about him. If you like him, and I think you will, vote for him.

Emmitsburg received a wonderful compliment from Middletown (Emulation is the highest compliment). Middletown recently strengthened its loitering law by making it a fine-

able offense to loiter which would include curfew violations. The impetus of their action was the Emmitsburg precedent setting loitering ordinance. From the seminal effort of an Emmitsburg citizen work group, the Sheriff's Department and town staff came a strengthened loitering-curfew and fine ordinance. Previously, in Emmitsburg, it was only a misdemeanor to loiter which to adjudicate was very expensive and therefore not done.

At the March (monthly) Board of County Commissioners and municipal officials meeting the collective energy of all in attendance was raised by the agenda item, "Delegation of Authority Ordinance for Frederick County". The subject of which is, should the current County Fire and Rescue Director be given the authority to match his responsibility? If so what will this mean to volunteer companies like Vigilant Hose Company? Surprisingly VHC a fully volunteer

fire company who should be extremely wary of any consolidation of accountability by the county are in favor of it.

From the Frederick County Sheriff's Office a reminder that it's the season for "scammers offering to do home improvement work like driveway sealants, chimney repair, duct cleaning or hot tar roofing. Reputable contractors will be able to provide a company name, address, telephone number, credentials through MHIC (Maryland Home Improvement Commission) and references.

Congressman Chris Van Holland, Maryland 8th District U.S. House of Representatives, recently visited our town. Chip Jewell, Frederick County Emergency Communications Bureau Chief and I accompanied him on a tour that included visits to the Fire Museum and Firefighter's Heritage Center, the town office, the Carriage House then up to the Square to Rebecca Pearl's Gallery, Holy Grounds Coffee Shop and Vigilant Hose Company. He is a gentleman who thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of our town.

The town commitment to rejuvenation of the historic downtown Emmitsburg streetscape was again manifested with submission of an application for a Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area study and design grant. Also in the works is a Maryland Sustainable Community designation application for which, among other things, grants and low interest property improvement loan opportunities will be available through the State.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Randy Phiel

The Adams County Board of Commissioners has been busy keeping their pledge to keep the residents informed with good communications initiatives. The monthly "Commissioners Show" on Freddy's Breakfast Nook has a new look and format. Each month one of the commissioners will appear on the show addressing a pertinent county subject. They will be accompanied by directors, staff or local partners to examine, discuss and explain the issue. This should provide a better program and product for everyone. On Wednesday evening March 7, Democracy for America sponsored an Evening With The Adams County Commissioners discussion panel at the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary. The following evening the first of six planned Commissioner Community Forums this year was held at the East Berlin Community Center with the topic of Economic Development in Adams County.

Planning Director Nick Colona and Adams County Economic Development Director Robin Fitzpatrick participated in the forum. During the Wednesday Commissioners bi-monthly public meetings in the historic courtroom, county directors now publically present agenda items involving their department. We will also continue our practice of writing monthly Commissioners Corner arti-

cles in the Emmitsburg News Journal to get the word out in southwestern Adams County. This Board of Commissioners embraces the concept that good communication is vital for good government. We intend to consistently follow that philosophy by reaching out and communicating to the residents by various initiatives.

The critical 800MHz Radio Project has reached the contract review and contract approval stage. At the March 21st Commissioners Meeting the Board approved and authorized the signature of contract agreements to Motorola (Radio System), Alcatel-Lucent (Microwave), JG Contracting (Towers). The \$25M project will replace our counties 30 year-old failing analog system and bring Adams County into compatibility with surrounding areas, other agencies, and into Federal compliance for future funding. Most importantly it will enhance the protection of our responders and our families. The next step will be project design with construction expected to begin this summer. Completion and full implementation is expected to take 18-24 months. We have added some community members at large to the radio project work group to create more diversity and additional oversight.

Last week your commissioners spent the day in Harrisburg address-

ing potential radio grant funding and Clean & Green legislation. In the morning we had a group meeting with Senator Alloway, Rep. Tallman, Rep. Moul, staff from Senator Toomey & Casey's office and PEMA attempting to find radio funding assistance. The bottom line is that grant money is very tight - but the group is still hoping to find some funding. In the afternoon we met with Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Director Doug Wolfgang at the Department of Agriculture to discuss Clean & Green issues. Fairness and equity in the application of Clean & Green legislation, with correlated tax implications, has become an issue that is concerning to many county residents and is also being reviewed by this Board of Commissioners. We will be examining county practices and procedures, re-evaluating the application process, and looking to promote potential legislative reform that makes sense, has a contemporary foundation, is firm, fair and easier to interpret and enforce.

In the past two weeks we learned that State funding for Human Services (like Children & Youth Services addressed below) may be cut 20%, approximately 250 million from the state cigarette tax may be shifted away from Farmland Preservation to the state general fund and we signed a letter of state legislative support for increasing

the county "pillow tax" or "visitor impact fee" from 3% to 5%. All of these have the potential of having significant impact to our county in different ways.

April is Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness Month. The need to protect our children from abuse has never been greater! Child abuse is a major public health issue. Knowledge is power and the more our county residents are aware of child abuse, how to recognize it and ways to prevent it, the more this public epidemic can be alleviated. Citizens can become involved in understanding risk factors and warning signs of child abuse and how to immediately report suspicions of abuse. Understanding not only the economic impacts of child abuse, but more importantly, the physical and emotional impacts to victims and subsequently to their futures, will encourage citizens to become involved in prevention programs as an investment in our future through protecting our children.

Adams County Children and Youth Services is a public, non-profit, government funded agency with the responsibility of ensuring that the children of Adams County are safe and receive the basic needs of life. Our dedicated staff performs valuable and what is most times difficult work. This department pro-

vides services to any child under the age of eighteen years who has been abused, neglected, or found to be without proper parental care and control. Children are referred to the agency through telephone calls, letters, emails, walk-ins, and from Child Line, a division of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare (DPW) located in Harrisburg, that provides the central registry for abuse and neglect complaints for the State of Pennsylvania.

The role of child welfare is to protect children and preserve the family unit. Our children are entitled to a safe, nurturing, and stable environment. It is the rights of parents to raise children according to their own value systems providing the child's physical, emotional, and social needs are met. Government and county intervention is justified when the family cannot or will not provide for a child's basic needs, safety, and welfare. The mission of Adams County Children and Youth Services is to ensure that each child in Adams County has a safe and permanent home. On Tuesday, April 17, I will be appearing on WGET/Fox Freddy's Breakfast Nook, with several Adams County Children & Youth staff members, for a program related to Adams County Children & Youth Services and the issues they face in Adams County.

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Spring has sprung! Hope you made it through the pranks and hoaxes of April Fool's Day. Rumor has it that the origin of April Fool's Day has something to do with the stubbornness of the French. They didn't want to switch to the Gregorian calendar which shifted the observance of New Year's Day from March to the first day of January. So people who continued to celebrate New Year's Day on March 20th, the beginning of Spring, were made fun of. This is not a hoax. Be aware that on April 2nd you will see a traffic light on Fairfield Road in Cumberland Township as PennDOT repairs the Marsh Creek Road Bridge. The project is forecasted to be completed by October 26th. Be sure to anticipate a delay going into Gettysburg. When you change your clocks "Spring Forward", it is time to check your smoke alarm batteries. Did you? Batteries should be replaced twice a year. While you are at it, you should also check your carbon monoxide detector too. Check out www.carbonmonoxidekills.com for understanding the dangers of carbon monoxide.

If you live within the boundaries of the area served by the Fairfield Fire and EMS then you should be receiving information very soon, if not already received, the annual membership application for Ambulance Service. For a very reasonable rate of \$40 per family or \$25 per individual you and/or each resident family member are entitled to emergency service transport to the nearest appropriate medical facility, within a 75 mile radius. Emergency service is defined as an injury or illness for which an ambulance is the only

suitable means of transportation for a patient to reach medical care. Emergency and non-emergency transfers between medical facilities, or from facilities to home, will be provided when manpower and equipment are available. Service beyond the 75-mile limitation will be billed to the member at Fairfield Ambulance rates. Non-emergency requests for ambulance service by a member shall be honored only for medical necessity when manpower and equipment are available, and with a referral from a doctor, hospital, medical center or health agency. Please note that the membership is available only to those living in the Fairfield Ambulance first due area. The money generated from this Spring membership drive is dedicated solely for the Fairfield Ambulance program. The Fall Fire Solicitation is similarly dedicated solely to the firefighters and their equipment. Volunteers are always needed. Bingo nights and other fund raisers take manpower. If you wish to help or have questions about membership, please call (717) 642-8842 and get involved.

I had the pleasure to join Cub Scout Pack 76 of Fairfield, PA, at their Blue and Gold Banquet on March 4th, at the Fairfield Fire and Rescue hall. The theme of this year's banquet was "The Magic of Scouting." Tables were decorated with black top hat centerpieces, magic tricks, and magic wands. Departing Cub Scouts also received top hat goody bags with all kinds of treats in them. A magician also provided entertainment that was fun for all. This annual celebration of the birthday of American Boy Scout-

ing and the achievements of the Cub Scouts and leaders and other volunteers of the Pack opened with a flag ceremony that included one scout from each den who was selected by his fellow den members as the scout who most represented the spirit of Cub Scouts. These scouts were Tiger Scout Lucas Stoner, Wolf Scout Alphonse Cisar, Bear Scout Anton Mackey, and Webelo Scout Jeremy Whitmore. A "History of Cub Scouting" presentation/reading was given by Cub Scouts chosen from each of the dens. These scouts were Tiger Scout Will Gisriel, Wolf Scout Ross Clements, Bear Scout Kayden Fields, and Webelo Scout Christopher Toscano. The winners of this year's Pinewood Derby were presented with their trophies. Winners were: First Place Overall Pack - Jeremy Whitmore, Tigers Winner - Lucas Stoner, Wolves Winner - Nathan Shah, Bears Winner - Zak Kritsberg, Webelo Winner - Jeremy Whitmore. During the presentation of awards, Tiger rank advancements were awarded by Tiger Den Leader Justin Gisriel to Will Gisriel and Lucas Stoner. Wolf rank advancements were presented by Wolf Den Leader Ken Kozack to Adam Kozack, Alphonse Cisar, Ross Clements, Colby Fitzgerald, Holden Gibson, Hayden Moore, Nathan Shah, Nate Snyder, Nicolas Toscano, and Sebastian Toscano. Bear rank advancements were presented by Bear Den Leader Gail Wolcott to Anton Mackey, Kayden Fields, Bryce Jensen, Zak Kritsberg, and Kellan Schneider. Webelo rank advancements were presented by Webelo Den Leader Joe

Whitmore to Jeremy Whitmore, Clayton Cupp, Cody Houck, Colton Houck, Christopher Toscano, and John Whitcomb. A special Arrow of Light ceremony celebrated Webelo II John Mackey's receiving the highest rank in Cub Scouting. He was presented with an Arrow of Light plaque from his parents as well as his Arrow of Light patch for his uniform shirt. Four Webelo II scouts also were received into Fairfield Boy Scout Troop 76 in a special bridging ceremony during which they received their new Boy Scout handbook, neckerchief, slide, and their Scout rank for having met the requirements for the first rank of Boy Scouts. The Pack 76 Webelos bridging to Troop 76 were Clayton Cupp, Cody Houck, John Mackey, and Christopher Toscano. After the awards presentations and a wonderful meal, the banquet was ended with a touching flag folding and presentation performed by Arrow of Light recipient, John Mackey, and his older brother Brendan D. Mackey, A1C, USAF AFSPC 83 NOS/DOEO. John's brother serves in the U.S. Air Force and was honored with a standing ovation from the Pack families for his service and the service of all of our soldiers serving in the U.S. armed forces. If you want to see the pictures taken during the banquet, go to www.ronspictures.net. While you are at the ronspictures website, check out the pictures taken on March 10th at the Fairfield Fire Awards Banquet. I had the pleasure to present a Certificate of Appreciation to the Fairfield Fire & EMS president, Bob Fitez, Sr. for their ser-

vice to the residents of Carroll Valley. I also would like to congratulate Gayle Marthers, our Carroll Valley Borough Secretary, for receiving the 2012 Fairfield Fire & EMS President's Award.

Mark your calendar on April 7th to attend the 12th Annual CVCA Easter Egg Hunt at 2 pm at Carroll Valley Commons. Areas will be set aside for ages 2 and under; 3 to 4; 5 to 7 and 8 to 10 years olds. I am sure everyone will walk away with at least one egg if not more. On April 19th (Thursday), the Adams County Conservation District will be holding a "Drinking Water Testing Clinic" at the Carroll Valley Pavilion from 1 to 3 pm and again from 6 to 8 pm. The clinic will provide education on proper location, construction, testing, maintenance, protection and treatment of private water systems (wells, springs, and septic systems). Do not forget to vote in the Primary on April 24th (Tuesday). The Borough office will be closed that day. On April 28th (Saturday) the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal from 10 am to 2 pm at the Fairfield Fire Hall. The Borough will be holding the following meetings: Planning Commission (April 2nd); Finance Committee (April 9th); Borough Council Meeting (April 10th); the Sewer/Water Authority (April 23rd) and Parks & Recreation Committee (April 25th). Please slow down while driving in the Valley. If you have any questions, contact me at mayor@carrollvalley.org or (301) 606-2021.

FAIRFIELD FIRE COMPANY'S AWARDS BANQUET



Fire Officers for 2012 : Chief Koons, DC Jacobs, AC Millstein, Captain Adam Kuykendall, Lieutenant Kyle Benner, Lieutenant Jesse Sanders



New Junior Members for 2012



Top Fire Responder for 2011 - Assistant Chief Dave Millstein, Deputy Chief Adam Jacobs, Recipient Bill Jacobs



Fairfield Mayor and Mrs. Jim Stanley



Chief's award for 2011- Assistant Chief Dave Millstein, Recipient Chuck Haynes, Deputy Chief Adam Jacobs



EMS Officers for 2012 EMS Lieutenant and Top EMS Responder Chad Fogel, EMS Captain Kip Hamilton, EMS Sergeant Zach Sites



Third Top fire responder for 2011 - Assistant Chief Dave Millstein, Recipient Ken Kepner, Deputy Chief Adam Jacobs



EMS Captain's Award - Recipient Bill Jacobs



President's Award - Recipient Gayle Marthers, President Bob Fitez



EMS Officers for 2012: Kelli Benner, PHRN, Patrick Henry, Neal Abrams, Paramedic, EMS LT Chad Fogel, James Moe, Bill Jacobs, Charlee Marthers, Christy Birkhead, EMS CPT Kip Hamilton, Kyle Harne, EMS SGT Zach Sites, Paramedic, Kyle Benner, Paramedic, Brad Hartdagen, Jesse Sanders



Board of Directors and Administrative Officers for 2012: Director Derrick Martin, Relief Association Treasurer Ed Kane, Director Jim Phillips, Director Larry Schneider, EMS Secretary Betsy Bucher, Director/Vice President Bill Jacobs, Membership Secretary Dianna Ratliff, Director Dave Millstein, Treasurer Gayle Marthers, Secretary

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REALTOR®

COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Spring, dogs and cave paintings

Shannon Bohrer

Have you ever noticed the enthusiasm that we often feel in the spring, an appreciation for what lies ahead with the arrival of a new season? You don't have to be a farmer or a gardener to appreciate the longer days, growth of new grass, leaves on the trees, flowers and the smell of spring. When you think about it, man has been on this earth for millions of years and every spring we experienced the changes in the seasons. Since our own experience is similar to those of our ancestors, there is a connection with the past and at the same time a connection with the future. If you go outside at night and look up at the stars, you are seeing the same stars that your ancestors saw millions of years ago, the same stars your descendants will see a million years in the future.

If anthropologists are correct, our ancestors actually placed a very high value on the changes of the seasons and they even knew and marked the solstices. Unlike our ancestors, we have clocks and calendars to keep us informed of these events. Of course our ancestors used the stars as their clock and calendar, and we have used their examples to evolve and develop more efficient technology. Without this knowledge, gardening would be next to impossible:

you can't just plant something because it is warm outside. Well, actually you can plant anytime, but if you want it to grow, timing of the planting is important.

Since human beings have been on earth for millions of years, you would think we would have greater knowledge of our own species: how they developed, what languages and tools they used, etc. While anthropologists and archeologists have examined every corner of the earth and have gained a lot of evidence, artifices and theories, they seem to have very little factual information. The only real facts, in general terms, that we do know are as follows: man has been on earth for millions of years, man painted cave walls 30,000 years ago, and man's progression into modern man only began about 10,000 years ago.

Why has man been around for millions of years and yet only developed into the modern man in the last 10,000 years? Was this a natural progression in nature's development? Maybe anthropologists and archeologists have not yet made the earlier connections that would give more credit to earlier man. Another view could be that something happened around 10,000 years ago that assisted and/or facilitated human development. While there are many theories of man's development, none

that I have read include one specific, significant change that took place around 10,000 years ago. That significant change was the relationship between man and dog. According to anthropologists, man and dog developed a relationship about the same time that modern man started to evolve into the humans that we are today. Coincidence? I think not.

Let's put things in perspective. Man lived in caves in large groups and hunted and gathered for their food. Man knew that just outside the cave's entrance, there were other hunters (animals) waiting to eat them. Man also had the knowledge of fire, and as long as the fire burned at the entrance to the cave, man could sleep. Of course this also required someone to remain awake all night to keep the fire burning. Along comes dog, and man discovers the first intruder alarm. Of course, at first dog just hung around waiting for man to discard some unneeded bones. At some point, dog barked at a saber-toothed animal, and man witnessed the saber tooth animal running away. From that point in history, man made sure that dog got all of the discarded bones. Eventually, dog followed man on hunts and became a constant companion. With dog around, man could sleep at night, explore further from the cave and

even converse with neighbors. Man now had more time to discover new tools, hunt and forage for food, and even build houses (caves were becoming scarce). Before long, languages were created, man had hunting tools that were efficient and that resulted in more spare time, which man put to use by creating alcoholic beverages and fishing boats out of short logs (hollowed out logs came much later). It is my belief that without dog, man might still live in caves, or at least not have progressed to the level that he has.

It is understandable if some of you disbelieve my theory of the development of man and dog, but I think it is both reasonable and very possible. Additionally, a very well known archeologist, Dr. Apreil Firste Yoke, recently talked about the open mindedness we must have in order to fully understand our ancestors. According to Dr. Yoke, new discoveries frequently challenge what we thought we knew. Dr. Yoke, an expert on cave paintings, made a recent discovery that demonstrates this point.

For over thirty years Dr. Yoke had a life size copy of a certain cave painting in his home. On the opposite wall from the painting was a fire place. He viewed that painting and studied it for over thirty years, often in the dark with the only light coming from the fireplace. He wanted to see the

cave painting as the cave men saw it. The long believed theory was that cave men painted the animals they killed, and then repainted them when they were successful again. This theory was similar to the known culture of the extinct Gatchis tribe, which inhabited what is now New Zealand.

With the advent of new computer technology, Dr. Yoke had his cave painting reproduced in 2010, this time with the texture and colors identical to those of the original. He had the reproduction mounted in the same place where the painting had hung. To Dr. Yoke's amazement, when the lights were turned out and the fireplace lit, the animals in the painting seemed to move. The animals not only moved as the fire-light flickered, but the movement was also enhanced when the viewer moved side to side. Of all the theories that have been put forth about the significance of cave paintings, none of them have ever touched on or mentioned this possibility. Dr. Yoke had studied the cave painting for almost 30 years and he said that "it was purely accidental that this was discovered."

According to Dr. Yoke, "We now believe that cave paintings were created, at least in part, for entertainment. This entertainment may have been the forerunner of the wide screen television. If the relationship between man and dog did not develop, men might very well still be living in caves, watching cave paintings for entertainment."

Some cave men still exist...

Pure OnSense

Burma: Just skidding

Scott Zuke

Some are calling it "Burma burn-out." In South-East Asia, one of the world's most repressive societies (also known as Myanmar) appears to be trying to turn a corner, but is finding that 50 years of failed policy isn't easy to shake off. A reformist mentality has overcome the authoritarian government, which has suddenly put so many wheels in motion for political and economic liberalization that the country's weak institutions are being pushed to their breaking point trying to keep up.

The rest of the world is watching with cautious interest. Burma has been under painful economic sanctions since the 1990s as punishment for human rights violations and its blatant disregard for legitimate, democratic governance. What most people might know about Burma already is the story of Aung San Suu Kyi, the female head of an opposition party that won a landslide victory in elections in 1990, but who was placed under house arrest by the ruling military government for 15 years, during which time she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Suu Kyi was finally released in 2010, and continues to pursue political reform

with broad popular support from the Burmese people.

Lesser known, however, is the man who is most immediately responsible for leading the recent push for reforms, President Thein Sein, who came into power in March 2011. Sein, with a long military career as a bureaucrat, had previously served as prime minister. It's not clear whether the junta knew that he would be such an energetic reformist and moderate once taking on leadership as a civilian. Since taking office he has held high-profile meetings with Suu Kyi and with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who restored diplomatic relations with the country in January, a crucial step toward negotiating the lifting of US and European sanctions.

The sanctions have undoubtedly put significant stress on Burma's economy, which has stayed afloat largely through trade with neighboring China, but its deepest economic wounds were self-inflicted decades earlier. The country is rich in natural resources, including oil, ores and gems. During its period as a British colony it became the world's leading rice exporter. By the late 1960s, however, Burma could no longer feed itself. What happened?

First, World War II found Burma as a battleground between Britain and Japan. The infrastructure built by the British to extract and transport resources was destroyed. After the war and the gain of independence, Burma followed the strategy popular amongst other post-colonial nations at the time, turning toward a moderate form of democratic socialism. Things turned for the worse in 1962, when a coup led to a far more rigid socialism that mistakenly focused on industrialization and urbanization in a country where 2/3 of the population was agricultural. The economic growth strategy was highly inefficient and led to low living standards, low wages, and isolation from other economies. Black markets had to be formed as a source for consumer goods, and were so well-known that some were even taxed by municipalities.

By the late 80s, Burma had been declared a 'Least Developed Nation' by the United Nations, a demoralizing moment for what was once a vibrant Asian economy. Around the same time, what little industrialization had been established was wiped out by an unregulated influx of cheap, high-quality manufactured goods from China. Burma was forced to open its borders to Chinese and Thai logging operations, which had recently been banned in their respective countries due to the ecological damage they caused.

For a brief time, foreign investors eyed Burma for its low-wage, literate, and docile workforce, but after the international sanctions started cutting the country off from the rest of the world, they took their money elsewhere. And in the meantime, the military-led government has sadly neglected its citizens. In its 2011 budget, about 24% of spending is allocated to the military, while education and health constitute just over 5% combined. Even if sanctions are lifted, it will take a long time to recover from the consequences of a generation of uneducated and unhealthy workers.

Nevertheless, there are signs that justify some cautious optimism. The International Monetary Fund recently reported that Burma could still become "the next economic frontier in Asia," if it works to take advantage of "its rich natural resources, young labor force, and proximity to some of the most dynamic economies in the world" (namely China). Prominent economist Joseph Stiglitz declared, "It is clear to me that this moment in Myanmar's history represents a real opportunity for permanent change - an opportunity that the international community must not miss." Stiglitz favors a quick repeal of sanctions against Burma in order to help it get its economy back on track.

Not everyone in the West is ready to take the pressure off of Burma quite yet, though. Freedom House,

a non-governmental organization that advocates for democracy and human rights around the world, has ranked Burma among the "Worst of the Worst" nations for civil liberties and political rights for more than twenty years. While acknowledging the rapid reform process that has begun in the last year, the organization says it is not clear how far it will go, and points out that there are significant issues that remain unresolved, such as armed skirmishes with ethnic minority militias. Security concerns stemming from one such conflict were cited as cause for postponing by-elections, scheduled for April 1, in the northern state of Kachin.

After decades of failed economic policy and repeated disappointments to those hoping to see political and social reforms, Burma may finally be on the verge of accomplishing real and meaningful change. The best policy may be to get out of its way: gradually release sanctions, conditional upon human rights and political reforms. At the same time, the global community should watch carefully for signs that Burma may be reforming too fast. Like an overloaded truck, a country weighed down by weak political institutions may only be able to change course so abruptly before it skids out of control and topples over.

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

The Delegate

No wake

Dr. Michael Hargadon

When I was younger, I did the one thing that many residents in the Chesapeake Bay area dream of: I bought a boat. For many, the two happiest days are when you buy a boat, and when you sell it. Between those two days there is great fun, but there are also rules. One very common rule is: "No Wake!". Simply put, this means that if you race your engine which produces waves in creeks that damage docked boats or land areas, you will be held responsible. This damage can be significant enough that some land owners have built bulkheads in the water, to break the wave action before it reaches their docks.

We land owners also love to complain about the waves of tyranny, the swells of war, and economic white caps. Just as there are marine laws, there are government rules. Our constitution is our primary rule, and exists to avoid the damaging governmental wake. The constitution also provides a

bulkhead, in our Bill of Rights, to protect us from our government.

This same sense of accountability for boaters sending walls of water onto people's property, also applies to voters in electing "leaders" to represent us, and defend our constitution. If we elect candidates out of willful ignorance, laziness, or in defiance of our common sense, we become accomplices to government abuse and the destruction it creates. An obvious example is the Iraq War.

Only few, like Pope John Paul II or Ron Paul, spoke-out emphatically against this unprovoked invasion of a sovereign nation. Now, many more try to distance themselves from this futile mistake: a mistake that has left over 115,000 civilians, (men, women and children) dead, just from violence in the anarchy that developed when we invaded Iraq, and dismantled their police force. We were lied to by our government, and terrorized by our main stream media (MSM). Ultimately, there were no weapons of mass destruction (WMD). There are indications

that we were being sold this undeclared war, through later reported intelligence briefs, and the inability to find any WMD.

We will be held accountable by God for this destructive wake of humanity. If our upcoming vote is based solely on the tripe we are fed from the major media outlets, than we might consider not voting. We may have become MSM zombies, fed on a diet of partial truth, deletions, and lies. This crisis of truth spreads all the way to our national candidates. Mitt Romney, in a 2008 televised debate, stated that we went to war with Iraq because, "Iraq would not allow the U.N. inspectors into the country". The truth is, we had to tell the inspectors to get out of Iraq, because the decision had been made that we were going to invade. Do you want this guy running our ship-of-state?

If we learned anything, it should be that we cannot trust the MSM. Before we vote, we need to educate ourselves, and do our own research. In Tuesday's primary, Santorum is being sold as a fiscal and social conservative, when his record says different. He expanded the size of government five times, by voting to increase the debt ceiling. He sold-out his life principles when he endorsed pro-abort Spec-

ter over a proven pro-lifer. He voted for No Child Left Behind and Medicare Part B. He weakened our second amendment bulkhead with his endorsement of anti-gun Specter, and passed federal gun control schemes and regulations. He trashed our Bill of Rights by voting for the Patriot Act and re-authorizations, which removed our 4th amendment bulkhead. Santorum expressed delight with the assassination of scientists in sovereign nations, thereby taking a plank from the bulkhead of due process. If a candidate's record does not fit the sales pitch, reject him. You will be responsible for the damage in his wake.

In Frederick County, our vote for president, may be as important as who we elect for the House of Representatives in the new 8th district. For the hard core Republican constitutional conservative, who is tired of these endless wars, there is really only one choice.

I believe Shelly Skolnick removes himself from the conservative pool, by labeling himself as a moderate. Timmerman openly preaches that we have been at war with Iran since the Jimmy Carter hostage days. One has to wonder what other countries we have been at war with? He boasts of being an "investiga-

tive reporter" as if that position is second only to the author of the Bible. I guess his investigation missed the report from the head of U.S. intelligence, James Clapper and 16 U.S. intelligence agencies, that Iran is not a nuclear threat. He also believes the Patriot Act, which stripped our 4th amendment bulkhead, is necessary. Mr. Wallace is your typical establishment Republican. One of those who liked the way Ron Paul spoke of liberty, so they hijacked his tea party. They learned how to say "liberty", but never managed to say "peace".

Gus Alzona however, makes no attempts to dodge the issues. He agrees with Ron Paul to bring our troops home. He has personally seen the evil that lurks in the belly of the Federal Reserve and he wants it exposed. As a past two term Montgomery County Republican Central Committeeman, he knows the state GOP machine. Gus is outspoken about the attack on our traditional morals, and as a first generation immigrant, he understands our nation's immigration problem.

Let's stop this destructive governmental wake. Vote for candidates who will enforce our constitution, and insist on protection from our Bill of Rights.

Down Under

The whole world in chains

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne Australia

"Why should a man be in love with his fetters, though of gold?"
—Bacon, *Essay of Death*, 1648

One of the best Wizard of Id cartoons ever done was when the King of Id was asked by the priest if he believed in the golden rule. He replied that he did indeed. "He who has the gold makes the rules."

And he was so right. This has never been more true than today, especially in America, your amazing country that is reported to hold, in variously located secure vaults, some 90% of all the gold that has ever been mined. It's not all yours, of course - some belongs to the U.K., Germany and other fortunate nations, but it's still a hell of a lot of lucre, a lot of history, and has an almost mythic power. Gold has been the touchstone of society for thousands of years, and until 1951 gave surety to the American dollar. The dollar supreme, the one every county used for trade; you couldn't go wrong if you had greenbacks in your portfolio. The gold standard was, of course, based on all that gold - at about \$200 per ounce.

Ah, but was it enough? Could it ever be enough? Tricky Dicky thought not. At least not enough to pay for one of the most ex-

pensive undertakings in history, the latest essay against the spread of that most pernicious anti-capitalist scourge, communism. That is, the Vietnam war. More expensive bombs were rained down on that small country than in any previous war, and the cost of getting them there was enormous. More than treasury had, more than any defence budget allowed for. So he did what all presidents do, he took advice. Lots of it from the masters of economic science, but it boiled down to one thing. Cut the dollar loose from gold, float it on the ocean of American power, productivity, and invincibility. He could pay for that war and more - and keep the change.

Not so momentous, was it? After all, it would solve the problem, ensure America's pre-eminence for decades to come, and everyone would be better off. At first all those prognostications were so true, so right, that such a horn of plenty should never have too much regulation, too much public scrutiny, or too many controls - and it was overseen by the Federal Exchange, so it had to be kosher, didn't it? But the dollar is not created by the Fed, that's the provenance of the banks - and boy, did they create!

And what a strange creature emerged forty years later - a beast with the ultimate power - an alliance between financiers

and the military that was invincible. A beast of many heads and rapacious needs. A beast that sent American debt soaring, a beast that hid its flames behind a smiling face as it invited every American to join it. And a beast that gave the hawks, those that believe might is right, the power to impose their will on not just their perceived enemies, but on anyone, any nation that might think of opposing them.

Sometime later, up steps friend and ally Saddam Hussein. This guy is no fool, and he's been happy to support American interests while making his regime rich beyond dreams, but he's become disillusioned with the power of the dollar and decides he can do something about it. He has the oil, he will dictate the terms. So he goes ahead and does the unthinkable - he talks to the Germans, he talks to Brussels.

Why not price his oil in Euros, eh?

Consternation at the White House. Dismay, anger and then decision. He could not be allowed to get away with that, he must not, no one must be allowed to challenge the power of the greenback. So - he was suddenly a tyrant, producing Weapons of Mass Destruction, he was anti-democracy, and he had to be stopped. Friends and sycophants - including Australia - rally to the cause. Roll up to the Gulf Wars! Make the world safe! Establish democracy! Don't forget, he kills his fellow citizens. Funny, that, because he'd always been a tyrant and non-democratic- that's how the

country worked - he really had no WMD, and he was not the only one killing citizens - but the power of the hawk is mighty, and is vested in the banks, the media, and uses smoke, lies and deception as its first line of attack.

Some people wondered why the war was really begun, and were allowed to assume that underneath the lies lay nothing but ensuring continuity of the oil supply; but no, it was the reputation and power of something far more important: the American Dollar. No matter that many, many allied troops would die, that myriads of civilians would be killed, that enormous quantities of oil were would be destroyed, or even that the debt levels would reach new heights, the aim was just. The dollar had to remain floating on its sea of unbridled power.

For what also happened was that the mountain of American debt was reaching so high that it was becoming greater than all the money in the world. But no matter, the treasury notes - the IOU's in effect - were guarantee of ultimate repayment, weren't they?

No, not really. The truth was that the debt could never be repaid. But those country suckers who had borrowed from Uncle Sam had to repay everything, including interest, or else. Yes, down Saddam's path. And who better to enforce the demands than the bailiff, also known as the IMF? Those in charge might keep the borrowings for themselves, but as repayment had to be made, it would be the peo-

ple who shouldered the burden. Again.

Not just foreigners, but Americans of less than substantial means. Here's a pretty picture: Borrow money to buy shares that have to increase in value because the dollar is invincible. You'll be rich for the rest of your lives. Rich, that is relative to the dead, because if you want to play with the tiger you need a very long pole. It really is a form of madness and self-delusion. But the shackles still closed around the masses at home and abroad.

So here we have a world in chains to the dollar. Oh, it's collapsed in value, has it? Never mind, it'll be all right soon. Not. So we live in a world in terror of being annihilated by an unreasoning and angry war monger dropping destruction from the skies, the one area of the world America has controlled ever since the second world war and is never loath to use? Not to worry, look at all that gold.

As Francis Bacon said long ago, why admire your shackles, even if they are made of gold? The world is going to be a very different place in a fairly short while, so will you join me in the fight for individual liberty, for lives that can be lived without terror, for a world in which love may be shown and simple acts of kindness and charity are not punished?

I'm indebted in part to Debt: The first 5,000 years by David Graeber, for some of the information and ideas above. It is a book that needs to be read by everyone, everywhere.

PASTOR'S DESK

Preparation for ministry

Rev. James Donohue, C.R. Ph.D.
Theology Department, Chair
Mount St. Mary's University

The last column on the gospel of Mark focused on the place and time and purpose of its writing. Beginning the gospel proper, we are greeted with a type of prologue: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God" (Mk 1:1). This is, as it were, a clear statement about the identity of Jesus—he is the Son of God. In a sense, at the beginning of the gospel, we are given clear information about who Jesus is. At first thought, it might seem clear to us what it means to be the "Son of God" or to be the "Messiah." However, as the gospel plays out, we find ourselves—like the disciples—wondering what these terms might mean. For instance, many of our images about God have to do with God's almighty power and

yet the God made flesh in Mark's gospel suffers and dies on a cross.

We might even be caught off guard by the first thing that Jesus does after his baptism—he goes into the desert. If he is the Son of God, should he not have an inauguration or a parade or a great celebration? But, here, he is "driven by the Spirit" into the same place where Moses and the Israelites wandered for forty years as they were radically tested. Jesus endures his own his confrontation with Satan, which will continue throughout the gospel as he brings healing to those who are sick and possessed. The temptation of Jesus in the desert might be our first clue that we might not understand what it means to be the Son of God, at least in terms of power.

As an aside, it is interesting to note that Jesus is in the desert "with the wild beasts." Any hearer or reader of Mark's gospel in Rome could well

imagine what it might be like to be in the presence of the "wild beasts." After all, as the Roman historian Tacitus reports, some followers of Jesus in Mark's community were torn apart by wild animals during a persecution under Nero in 64. Members of Mark's community could well identify with Jesus who shared the same temptations and sufferings as they had.

Included in the prologue are the stories of the preaching of John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus. The reader is greeted by a description of John who is dressed in camel hair with a leather belt around his waist. Those familiar with the Old Testament will probably make the connection between John and the prophet Elijah, who was dressed in a similar way. Look, for instance, in 2 Kings 1:7-8. King Ahaziah asks the messengers why they have returned. The messengers reply that a man had come up to them, asking them to return to the king with the message that the king would die because he was seeking out Baalzebub, the god of Ekron. To this report, the king asks what this man was like. The messengers reply: "Wearing a hairy garment with a leather girdle about his loins." Once he hears this description, the king exclaims: "It is Elijah the Tishbite!"

Clearly Mark is trying to make a connection between the prophet Elijah and John the Baptist. Many believed that Elijah—who did not die, but was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot—would return to prepare the way for the messiah. The prophet Malachi says as much at the end of his book when he foretells: "Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day" (Mal 3:23). Indeed, Jesus himself speaks of John the Baptist as Elijah who has already come when his disciples ask why it is that the scribes say that Elijah must come first: "But I tell you that Elijah has come and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him" (Mk 9:11-13).



By connecting John the Baptist to the prophet Elijah, Mark is making a clear statement about the long awaited day of the Lord—it is here! This message is repeated in the story of Jesus' baptism by John. The story itself has three elements: the heaven opens, the dove appears, and a voice proclaims, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." All three elements contain allusions to other Old Testament texts. For example, the opening of the heavens harks back to a text in Isaiah, where the prophet Isaiah gives voice to the frustration of the people of Israel, who fear that the Lord has forgotten them: "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you" (Is 63:19)! The Marcan text suggests that God has finally listened to God's people and "has come down" in the person of Jesus. The day of the Lord is here!

Similarly, the dove hovering over Jesus reminds the reader of two other passages from Isaiah about the spirit of the Lord and how it will rest upon a shoot from the stump of Jesse—"a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord" (Is

11:2). The dove hovering over Jesus alludes to another passage in Isaiah that looks forward to the one who is anointed "to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release of prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn" (Is 61:1-2).

Finally, the voice that proclaims that Jesus is God's Son alludes to another passage in Isaiah, where God notes that this "is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am well pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit" (Is 42:1).

All in all, the stories of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus function in the gospel to alert the reader to the good news that the long awaited day—that day that had been long foretold by the prophets—has been prepared for by John and has finally arrived in the person of Jesus, the Son of God, who has been anointed to bring good news of God's compassion and fidelity. Our next column will indicate how the ministry of Jesus announces this good news in both his words and his deeds.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Turnspit dogs



A few months ago the writer happened to be at an auction of what are technically termed fixtures; in this instance, the last moveable furnishings of an ancient country-house, about to be pulled down to make room for a railway station. Amongst the many lots arranged for sale, was a large wooden wheel enclosed in a kind of circular box, which gave rise to many speculations respecting the use it had been put to. At last, an old man, the blacksmith of the neighbouring village, made his appearance, and solved the puzzle, by stating that it was a 'dog-wheel,'—a machine used to turn a spit by the labour of a dog; a very common practice down to a not distant period, though now scarcely within the memory of living men.

Besides the blacksmith, the writer has met with only one other person who can remember seeing a turnspit dog employed in its peculiar vocation; but no better authority can be cited than that of Mr. Jesse, the well-known writer on rural subjects, who thus relates his experiences:

"How well do I recollect in the days of my youth watching the operations of a turnspit at the house of a worthy old Welsh clergyman in Worcestershire, who taught me to read! He was a good man, wore a bushy wig, black worsted stockings, and large plated buckles in his shoes. As he had several boarders as well as day scholars, his two turnspits had plenty to do. They were long-bodied, crook-legged, and ugly dogs, with a suspicious, unhappy look about them, as if they were weary of the task they had to do, and expected every moment to be seized upon to perform it.

Cooks in those days, as they are said to be at present, were very cross; and if the poor animal, wearied with having a larger joint than usual to turn, stopped for a moment, the voice of the cook might be heard rating him in no very gentle terms. When we consider that a large solid piece of beef would take at least three hours before it was properly roasted, we

may form some idea of the task a dog had to perform in turning a wheel during that time.

A pointer has pleasure in finding game, the terrier worries rats with eagerness and delight, and the bull-dog even attacks bulls with the greatest energy, while the poor turnspit performs his task with compulsion, like a culprit on a tread-wheel, subject to scolding or beating if he stops a moment to rest his weary limbs, and is then kicked about the kitchen when the task is over."

The services of the turnspit date from an early period. Doctor Caius, founder of the college at Cambridge which bears his name, and the first English writer on dogs, says:

"There is comprehended under the curs of the coarsest kind a certain dog in kitchen service excellent. For when any meat is to be roasted, they go into a wheel, which they turning about with the weight of their bodies, so diligently look to their business, that no drudge nor scullion can do the feat more cunningly, whom the popular sort hereupon term turnspits."

The annexed illustration, taken from Remarks on a Tour to North and South Wales, published in 1800, clearly exhibits how the dog was enabled to perform his curious and uncongenial task. The letterpress in reference to it says:

"Newcastle, near Carmarthen, is a pleasant village; at a decent inn here a dog is employed as turnspit; great care is taken that this animal does not observe the cook approach the larder; if he does, he immediately hides himself for the remainder of the day, and the guest must be contented with more humble fare than intended."

One dog being insufficient to do all the roasting for a large establishment, two or more were kept, working alternately; and each animal well knowing and noting its regular turn of duty, great difficulty was experienced in compel-

ling it to work out of the recognised system of rotation. Buffon relates that two turnspits were employed in the kitchen of the Duc de Lianfort at Paris, taking their turns every other day to go into the wheel. One of them, in a fit of laziness, hid itself on a day that it should have worked, so the other was forced to go into the wheel instead. When the meat was roasted, the one that had been compelled to work out of its turn began to bark and wag its tail till it induced the scullions to follow it; then leading them to a garret, and dislodging the skulker from beneath a bed, it attacked and killed its too lazy fellow-worker.

A somewhat similar circumstance occurred at the Jesuits' College of La Flèche. One day, the cook, having prepared the meat for roasting, looked for the dog whose turn it was to work the wheel for that day; but not being able to find it, he attempted to employ the one whose turn it was to be off duty. The dog resisted, bit the cook, and ran away. The man, with whom the dog was a particular favourite, was much astonished at its ferocity; and the wound being severe and bleeding profusely, he went to the surgeon of the College to have it dressed. In the meantime the dog ran into the garden, found the one whose turn it was to work the spit for that day, and drove it into the kitchen; where the deserter, seeing no opportunity of shirking its day's labour, went into the wheel of its own accord, and began to work.

Turnspits frequently figure in the old collections of anecdotes. For instance, it is said that the captain of a ship of war, stationed in the port of Bristol for its protection in the

last century, found that, on account of some political bias, the inhabitants did not receive him with their accustomed hospitality. So, to punish them, he sent his men ashore one night, with orders to steal all the turnspit dogs they could lay their hands upon. The dogs being conveyed on board the ship, and snugly stowed away in the hold, consternation reigned in the kitchens and dining-rooms of the Bristol merchants; and roast meat rose to a premium during the few days the dogs were confined in their floating prison. The release of the turnspits was duly celebrated by many dinners to the captain and his officers.

A curious political satire, published in 1705, and entitled The Dog in the Wheel, shews, under the figure of a turnspit dog, how a noisy demagogue can become a very quiet placeman. The poem commences thus:

'Once in a certain family,
Where idleness was disesteemed;
For ancient hospitality,
Great plenty and frugality,
'Bove others famous deemed.
No useless thing was kept for show,
Unless a parrot or so;
Some poor relation in an age,
The chaplain, or my lady's page:
All creatures else about the house
Were put to some convenient use.
Nay, ev'n the cook had learned the knack
With cur to save the charge of jack;
So trained 'em to her purpose fit,
And made them earn each bit they ate.

Her ready servants knew the wheel,
Or stood in awe of whip and bell;
Each had its task, and did it well.'

The poem as it proceeds describes the dogs in office lying by the kitchen fire, and discussing some savoury bones, the well-earned rewards of the day's exertions. The demagogic cur, entering, calls them mean, paltry wretches, to submit to such shameful servitude; unpatriotic vermin to chew the bitter bones of tyranny. For his part, he would rather starve a thousand times over than do so. Woe be to the tyrannic hand that would attempt to make him a slave, while he had teeth to defend his lawful liberty—and so forth. At this instant, however, the cook happens to enter:

And seeing him (the demagogue) among the rest,
She called him very gently to her,
And stroked the smooth, submissive cur:
Who soon was hushed, forgot to rail,
He licked his lips, and wagged his tail,
Was overjoyed he should prevail
Such favour to obtain.
Among the rest he went to play,
Was put into the wheel next day,
He turned and ate as well as they,
And never speeched again.'

To read more articles by Robert Chambers visit *The Book of Days* section on emmitsburg.net.

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Spring is here, I hear

Bill Meredith

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of what the young women have been thinking about all winter."

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson

"Beware the equinox, my son... the jaws that bite, the claws that catch..."

—Lewis Carroll

For those who are sticklers about tradition, the Vernal Equinox arrived at 1:14 a.m. on March 20 this year. The news media dutifully informed the inhabitants of the Northern Hemisphere that spring is here, and as with Groundhog Day, recited the abundance of absurd traditions that must be discussed and tested on that date. For example, since the sun is directly over the equator, it

is believed by those who believe such things that eggs, given the opportunity, will readily balance themselves on end, and brooms will balance themselves on the tips of their straw ends when stood up on the kitchen floor. I never tried the brooms... that seemed more likely to be possible at the fall equinox, which was closer to Halloween... but I remember trying to balance eggs in my grandmother's kitchen. I recall being amazed that my Uncle Fay could do it, and I was much disillusioned later when I found he had carefully broken the eggshell to make a flat place on the end of it.

Anthropologists tell us that ancient peoples, from the builders of Stonehenge in England to the creators of the Anasazi Sun Dagger in New Mexico, were able to date the equinox with precision, although they didn't even know the earth is round. It has

been an important date throughout human history; before Julius Caesar standardized the calendar in 45 BC, the equinox was widely regarded as the beginning of the New Year, and was marked by festivals celebrating fertility and new growth. Christian cultures still use it to determine the date of Easter, and in some Islamic cultures it still marks the feast of Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

Things change. What was important to one generation may not be so to another. The census of 2010 shows that 84% of the U. S. population now lives in urban areas; of the other 16%, perhaps only a third are actually farmers. So to 95% of the population, equinoxes are only a curiosity. But at the 1930 census, three years before my birth, we were 44% rural, and in 1900, around the time my parents were born, the figure was 60%. My grandmother, who was the source of many of my early beliefs, was born in 1868, and the equinox was an important date to her. It was time to start getting ready for gardening, which in the course of time would determine how well the family ate in the coming year. She knew there would still be hard frosts and occasional snows, but the garden had to be plowed and seeds saved from last year's tomatoes had to be started in pots on the kitchen

windowsill. Knowing that potatoes could stand some cold weather, she allowed Grandpa to express his Irish heritage and plant them a few days before the equinox, on St. Patrick's Day (provided that it didn't fall on a Sunday).

I don't know how much of the urge to make a garden is encoded in my DNA and how much is the product of conditioning in childhood, but I do know the urge is real. It can be triggered by a number of environmental factors. This year the background was laid by global warming, which got things started blooming at least three weeks early. It was the second week of March, and I was standing out in the yard watching the buds swell on the Bradford pear tree when someone over across town turned on the carillon at St. Catherine's and the bells started playing "People will say we're in love." I looked around to where the garden used to be before we built our house, and there, leaning on the gate was Shirley Jones, humming the Bowdlerized version of Tennyson's poem as she watched Gordon MacRae come riding up Lincoln Avenue through a field of corn that was high as an elephant's eye. The urge to make a garden would have overwhelmed a much stronger man than I, so I forgot about whatever I had intended to do that day and headed for the shed where my garden tractor hibernates. The aged machine started without putting up too much of a fight, and I plowed the first third



of the garden. Later that week, when St. Patrick's Day arrived, the potatoes were planted in accord with 150 year's-worth of family tradition.

Success in gardening has always been subject to the whims of the weather, and each year that seems to become more erratic. Last year we had a prolonged dry spell in midsummer, basically ruining my garden; then the fall was so wet that we ended up with over 20 inches more rainfall than average. So far this year we are about 3 inches below our average rainfall, and the early onset of plant growth will speed up water loss from the soil unless rainfall increases. The stage is being set for problems with insects. I see a few bumblebees and other pollinators, but their populations are still low because of disease; meanwhile, the less beneficial insects are looking forward to a good year... bird populations seem to be down and bat populations are crashing because of the white-nose fungus disease. The southwestern part of the country has still not recovered from last year's drought, heatwave and fires, and no improvement is in sight. The environment is in worse shape than the economy of Greece, but it is getting very few of the headlines.

Things don't look good, but Emmitsburg is still a good place to be. The Great Depression was at its worst when I was born, and Grandma taught me to hope, and to look for signs. King Solomon probably had someone else to dig his garden for him while he wrote the prototypical poem to spring: "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." Those words, written in Jerusalem nearly 3,000 years ago, are a good description of the state of things now. We could still get snow, but probably won't; winter is past. Crocuses, daffodils, forsythia, and several kinds of flowering trees decorate my yard, having appeared on the earth several weeks ahead of schedule this year, and, walking to the Post Office today, I saw at least a dozen species of wild flowers in bloom. Juncos and white-throated sparrows are singing as they lay on body fat to sustain their migration back to the north, and two fine male towhees appeared at my feeder today, having just arrived from the south. We don't have real turtle doves, but the mourning doves are trying to sing... a poor effort, to be sure, but they're doing their best. And so must the rest of us. As Lorenz Hart said, you can hear that spring is here.

To read past editions of The (retired) Ecologist, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Busy as a bee

Kay Deardorff
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

Don't these warm spring days make you want to jump into spring housecleaning chores? OK, maybe not! But there are some ladies that have been very busy since the temperatures began to climb. Those industrious females are worker honey bees. Forced by cold weather to stay inside the hive throughout the winter, they maintained a core temperature of 95°F. Living on stores of honey stocked in the fall, they are eager to get to work outside. There's housecleaning to do. Approaching an active beehive in the spring (or observing it from a distance) reveals the discards of dead bees, dirt, and debris accumulated all winter. Since the entire hive only consisted of female, or worker, bees and ONE queen, there is much to do to transition into the warmer season. The workers make sure the cells in the hive are repaired and ready for Her Majesty, the queen, to lay eggs.

Although the bees' life span in the warm months is only 4 to 6 weeks most of them survive the entire winter because the work load is not as taxing to their systems. Let's follow the life of a worker honey bee as she does numerous duties. The jobs change as the colony works together to not only survive but to thrive in their surroundings. There are three distinctive phases within the hive. The newly hatched worker spends her first week as a "nurse bee", requiring her to prepare the brood cells and later feed the larvae with a honey and pollen mixture. As she grows, the female enters the "domestic" phase which also lasts about a week. At this time, she cares for the others by storing honey, building and repairing the comb, and cleaning the hive.

Finally, at the mature age of fourteen days, the worker advances to a "field" bee or forager. She searches the neighborhood, flying an approximate 2-mile radius to find nectar, which is turned into honey; pollen, which is protein and fat for nourishment; water; and propolis, or bee glue, used to seal small openings in the hive. The nectar collected from flowers is stored in her "crop" or honey sack where enzymes convert it into honey. The pollen (from flowers) and propolis (from buds of trees) are carried in "pollen sacs" on her hind legs and fed to the larvae in the cells within the hive. If production of nectar and pollen, known as the "honey flow", is weak, the worker may have to travel up to 5 miles to acquire her treasure before returning to the hive. The life of the female in this final phase of her life requires much energy and she most likely will die in the field.

As they return after their hard work of foraging from flowers and trees, they enter the hive and announce to the others what they have found by doing a waggle dance. Witnessing this first hand in an ob-

servation hive like the one at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve in Fairfield is thrilling and educational without the fear of experiencing their unpleasant stings.

When the numbers within the colony greatly increase and cause overcrowding, swarming is a natural process of the bee kingdom. The colony prepares to rear several new queens which are the offspring of the mother queen. Since she is too heavy to fly, the worker bees take on the task of a professional trainer and guide her into a workout designed to get her into shape to lead about 10,000 bees (nearly 2/3 of the colony) in a swarm to a new home. As one duty of the workers is to feed the queen, they regulate her diet. They treat her with mild hostility. They shake, push, and lightly bite her causing her to constantly move around the hive. With reduced food and increased exercise she loses 25% of her body weight. This causes her to get in shape for moving day.

The workers do the opposite of what they expect of their mother queen. They gorge themselves with honey and increase their body weight about 50%. This supplies them with the energy they need to leave home. A new colony is created with the mother queen, leaving a daughter queen behind with the remaining workers to carry on the functions of the old hive. The daughter queen is now ready to take a "mating" flight. She will be involved in the process of producing the drones, or males, that have been absent in the winter. The females actually feed the larvae in such a way to produce males whose function is to inseminate other virgin queens in the neighborhood.

We, humans, look for the perfect spot for our homes. Well, the honey bees are no different. Scout bees will search the area within a 3-mile radius for just the right place to lead the swarm. When the hive is ready and the weather is favorable, the scouts perform a "dance" to tell the others about the new place they've found. They make a piping sound

among the bees to encourage warm up time, thus preparing them for flight. Finally, sensing the readiness of the swarming hive, the scouts lead the way as the now excited workers and the mother queen take off for their new destination. The bees fly in a circular pattern, forming a cloud approximately 30' - 60' in diameter. The scouts fly over the cluster, pointing in the direction of the new site. A few bees settle in a beard-shaped cluster on a nearby object. Workers are drawn to the object by the queen's scent and the lemony odor released by some of the bees. This swarming cluster may remain on the object for a few hours or a day or two. It is usually just a resting place rather than the final goal. Don't panic if you discover a bee beard in your backyard as they are usually rather docile at this time. They are not aggressive since they have no hive to protect and probably won't sting since they are gorged with honey.

Meanwhile, back at the original hive, the remainder of the colony nurtures a new queen. They will spend the rest of the summer producing a new generation of workers and drones thankful for the newly acquired breathing room.

During the month of June it is not uncommon to see a swarm of honey bees on a shrub, bush, or tree. If you are fortunate enough to witness this natural phenomenon, don't worry about what to do with them. Contact Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve at 717-642-5840 or your local agricultural center to give you a number of a local beekeeper who will promptly remove the swarm. Hopefully they will be happy with their new home in his bee yard and will reward him with "sweet" gratitude. Strawberry Hill is also in the middle of a 4-part beekeeping workshop. Spanning an 8-month time frame, bee-ginners can learn about those industrious critters. Covering topics such as hive installation, collecting swarms, harvesting honey, and overwintering the hives folks are gaining an appreciation of these precious pollinators. Check out www.Strawberry-Hill.org for this and other exciting events at the Preserve.



Bee swarm on a tree

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IN THE COUNTRY

Start planning this year's deductions

This year start a new tradition! Adopt a resident of the Scales & Tales Program! All donations are tax deductible.

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Adams County Land Conservancy month

As we celebrate Land Conservancy of Adams County Month, we should pause to review the history of the Land Conservancy and to honor our citizens who have had the foresight, passion, and dedication to establish an organization through which we can preserve the rural character and beauty of Adams County.

Interest in land preservation throughout our nation, and indeed, the world, began growing in the middle of the last century, particularly after the establishment in 1951 of The Nature Conservancy.

In January 1990, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board was established in Adams County by the Adams County Board of Commissioners through the authority of legislation passed by the State in 1981 and amended in 1988. John Corris, the original director of the county Agricultural Land Preservation Program, and Hal Greenlee, one of the original members of the board, shared an interest in promoting a land conservancy, defined as "a committee or organization concerned with preservation of historical or natural resources." Together they laid the groundwork by visiting other communities with land trusts and by gathering information concerning negotiating for and monitoring of easements, financing, mission and purpose statements, and bylaws and policies.

When Ellen Dayhoff became director of the county AgLand Program, she occasionally had lunch with Dean Shultz, with whom she discussed land and resource preservation. One noon, as they were having lunch at Hartzell's (now Ping's), Dean remarked, "You know, Ellen, what we need in Adams County is a land trust."

The passion of a local landowner launched the conservancy from the idea stage into reality. Gary Sterner desperately wanted to donate an easement on his property to a non-profit organization and felt frustrated that there was no such organization in Adams County. Once landowners themselves felt the need, the time had come to put ideas into action.

A small group of citizens – Hal and Vicki Greenlee, Dean Shultz, Dick Schmoyer, County Commissioners Harry Stokes, Dick Waybright, and Tom Weaver, County Solicitor John White, Bicky Redman, and Ellen Dayhoff – met February 1, 1994, to discuss how to get the organization up and running. In September 1995, Attorney John Wolfe assisted with the creation of the bylaws and with filing all the appropriate forms for the Land Conservancy of Adams County to become a 501(c)(3) organization. On June 25, 1996, the first board of directors met and elected officers:



President, Dean Shultz; Vice-President, Gary Sterner; Secretary, Jim Paddock; Treasurer, Allen Haar.

The Adams County Commissioners have been supportive of the Land Conservancy since its inception and continue their support to this day through in-kind services and monetary donations. In 1996, they funded the hiring of Alan Muselman as consultant to the Conservancy. He suggested a "Founding Member Campaign," and by the end of the campaign in 1997, 137 businesses and individuals had donated a minimum of \$250 each to become Founding Members of the Land Conservancy. A plaque commemorating these special people and organizations is now located in the lower level of the Ag Center, outside the LCAC office. In 2008 the Commissioners created the Green Space Program, which has been, ac-

ording to Pat Naugle, President of LCAC, "a huge success."

The citizens of Adams County have also demonstrated their support of land and resource preservation. On November 4, 2008, the voters of Adams County approved overwhelmingly – by a 75% majority – a referendum to fund the Water and Land Protection Bond issue for \$10 million for preservation of land in Adams County – open space, forest, watershed, and agricultural land.

The first easement donation was from Tom and Doris Cole (8.349 acres), and the first in fee donation was given by Alma Diehl and is named Pigeon Hills Nature Preserve (6.4 acres), located in Berwick Township. The LCAC has now helped 95 landowners protect 7,428 acres with more than 115 easements on properties throughout Adams County.

When Tom and Doris Cole entered an easement agreement with LCAC their intent and expectation was that their land would be preserved in perpetuity – a very long time indeed. From the very beginning of LCAC, the organization has been preparing for this long term commitment to the Coles and to all the other landowners. The Conservancy established two funds, the Stewardship Endowment Fund and the Endowment Fund, in which the organization accumulates monies for the future. This year LCAC also created the Stewardship Circle to ensure that the organization will be able to monitor and, if necessary, to defend all easements. From its inception, LCAC has recognized stewardship as an essential part of its fulfillment of its mission – to preserve the rural lands and character of Adams County.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

March madness?

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

March madness? I couldn't believe I was hearing that phrase on the radio. Had the world flipped over? Are we finally in the "end of days" and enough people are planting gardens for a local radio station to be blathering excitedly about March madness?

My mind began sorting through the madness March inspires in me. I wonder if anyone else has such chaotic thoughts as the weather warms. Especially this March, with the fruit trees blooming weeks early and pollen doing things in my nose and eyes that shouldn't be. How many new gardeners are experiencing their first March madness? That month between the arrival of seed catalogs and the first planting of onions and peas, when seed orders are finally in and garden planning begins in earnest. Perhaps they are still frantically selecting and rejecting the offerings of more than 30 seed catalogs delivered to their doors, or maybe they are trying to puzzle their way through the hundreds of catalogs listed on the internet "Garden Watchdog" site, which rates companies doing gardening business mail-order style.

It's certainly madness to plan a garden on paper that never looks like what ends up on the ground. Mine never do. Yet I plan to plan them each year, knowing I'm wasting paper and time. Madness.

Madness to think we'll get enough ground ready before the next rain to plant the pounds of taters and onions we just bought, or that it will rain again after they are in the ground! Madness to think this year we'll plant enough peas so the deer will eat their fill and leave us some!

Then I hear Ian Anderson singing "And you snatch your rattling last breaths/with deep-sea-diver sounds/and the flowers bloom like madness in the spring."

I know I'm in the throes of madness anytime I hear a Jethro Tull song in my head. The flowers are blooming!

The acre needs much attention from me, and it ain't gonna get it. Not this year, perhaps not next. We have about 6,000 square feet we rototilled last year. I'm hoping we can work that tiny block of ground again. The tractor and plow, if available at all, isn't likely to get on the ground before mid May and that is simply too late for peas, onions, cabbage and the like. Heck, it may be too late for tomatoes, peppers and melons, all of which I plan for this season and agonized over last. How do I manage this garden with my walk-behind tiller? Grass has found its weedy way onto the bare ground of last fall. Having to churn that under while loosening the settled soil is going to beat me to misery if experience means anything. What to do?

Order a \$215 tool of course! A broadfork to be specific. (I sure hope DW is up to working the fork, but not so hard as to break it as she

has garden forks in the past.) \$215 for a hand tool might seem madness, but getting the ground ready for a pea planting isn't likely to happen without it! To test my resolve to garden, the universe conspires against me, yet again.

I try to place my broadfork order online. Three times my billing information is rejected. I'm now thinking I have gone mad as I struggle to control my temper. I never try three times to order anything online! If I run into a glitch I dump the website and find what I want somewhere else that makes it simple to give my money away. Whatever madness has possessed me over this tool causes me to call the credit card company (something I never do!) to find out why my card information isn't working. As soon as I hang up the phone, it rings. I'm in no mood to talk to anyone, but I answer it hoping I can snarl at a telemarketer.

The Valley Oak Tool Company called to take my order over the phone! They knew there was some glitch in the software and didn't want to lose a customer who'd tried three times to place an order. I thanked them, but insisted I place the order online as I hate talking business (I can't read credit card numbers aloud without mixing them up) on the phone. Two more tries didn't get the

order through and I had to get away from the computer before I started smashing things. DW gave me her well-practiced look of disgust and sat down to place the order herself. Fine by me! Obviously, March madness had me so befuddled I couldn't type my address correctly. Two tries later, DW sighed and shut the computer off. Obviously, the madness had touched her too.

The following day I got another call from the tool company. Would I like to order the fork over the phone? Nope. I was going to write a letter and mail a check if that was alright by them. It was. They told me they'd send the fork out the day they got the check. Madness! Nobody does that! (Well, I do for my Etsy.com customers and one of them did burn me, but not for \$215.)

While I'm waiting on the fork, I get an email from a Yahoo group member looking for 'Chinese Red Noodle' long beans. She has 'Green' cottonseeds to exchange. I'm sure I have 'Red Noodle' seeds somewhere in the fridge if I can find them! I'd just sorted through the mess of seeds trying to decide what to plant this year, this April specifically. I know I saw a new packet of 'Red Noodle' beans that I set aside thinking next year might be better as I've been seeing the Brown Marmorated stink-



bugs and figure they'll be at least a generation ahead of schedule this year and lay waste to any pole beans I might plant. It may well be a struggle just to get bush beans and tomatoes in before the little suckers reach such a population level as to make any non-petrochemical gardener take up animal husbandry.

I'm going to take a shot at growing 'Pride of Wisconsin' muskmelons for Jim Welty this year. (For Mom D too as she wishes she could taste again the melons her dad used to grow.) Based on what Mr. Welty told me of the melons, and what I found online about them, I suspect Mom will be pleased with them. If I manage to get some of them past the stinkbugs, the leaf-footed squash bugs, the deer, the raccoons, hail,

and whatever other disasters the Mother can hurl at my attempt to create chaos/madness in her perfect world.

Then I realized the radio guys weren't talking about spring gardens, or any gardens. No, they were spewing about college basketball. What a belly drop. What kinda people get excited about sitting in front of an idiot box watching a bunch of overgrown kids bouncing a ball up and down? Really? That is what stimulates enough people to get a radio station all fired up to talk about it? Obviously, I've missed something, and I thank the gods for it!

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Finding love in the strangest places

Jennifer Vanderau
Community Outreach Coordinator

The cynic in me just sighed loudly and rolled her eyes, but hang on a second. I swear I won't get all Danielle Steele on you. Trust me, I gave up believing in happy-ever-after a long time ago.

I'm actually talking about pigs. Yeah, that likely didn't help, but don't turn the page yet, I swear I have a point.

A few years ago I saw a show on Animal Planet called "A Pet Story." In it, people talked about tales of their animals – how they came to be included in their lives and what they mean to them. This episode talked about, of all things, a potbellied pig.

Now when I first saw this animal, I thought to myself, good heavens, what a mess. Its snout was big and wiggly. It snorted non-stop and quite frankly, what little hair covered its head looked rough and coarse. My initial reaction was, how could this be a pet?

But you want to know something? That little porker really did become a pet. The woman on the show talked about how she had always wanted an animal growing up, but was unfortunately allergic to dogs and cats. So, she set her sights on a pig. Her mother, as would stand to reason, said once she turned 18 and moved out of the house, she could

fill her life with pigs, but until then, no dice.

Well, once the woman moved out of the house, she did, indeed, get herself a potbellied pig as a pet. And she really loved that little guy. Unfortunately, her allergies proved that it wasn't just dogs and cats she had a problem with and eventually, she had to take her pig to a huge farm where he lives out his days with other pigs and appears quite happy.

And I have to tell you, as I watched this little pig follow people around – just like a number of canines at the shelter have done with me – I felt a little tug at my heart. The little guy was obviously happy to be around people and wanted to be loved.

When I told a volunteer about this story, she said to me, "Oh sure, I could see how you could love a pig. I would be able to love anything that had feelings and would love me back."

And you know what? She's right. I mean, can anyone out there read Charlotte's Web and not tear-up at the end? Little Wilbur was one of the sweetest creatures in children's literature and even Templeton, the rat, made the right choice by helping Charlotte at the end.

Seriously, though. Tell me you can read or hear "It is not often someone comes along that's a true friend and good writer. Charlotte

was both." without sniffing a little.

That book really has some fantastic lessons for adult and children alike.

I had a similar learning experience at the shelter a few years ago. We had a Chihuahua here named Pedro. This dog was an absolute disaster. He was hairless (as in, not a strand) from his front shoulders to his little rump, but from his shoulders to his head, he was covered in an oddly textured black hair. To look at him, you'd think, my word, it's a Gremlin. Dear Lord, don't get him wet.

But the coolest thing about Pedro is that you could get him to smile at you. No joke. If you called his name in a firm tone, he would lift his lips, showing you his upper and lower teeth. He smiled. And it was hilarious.

And he loved just about everybody. He'd come tearing down the hall after you just to plant a sloppy Chihuahua kiss right on your mouth.

He was tough to housetrain, though. I took Pedro with me to one of the nursing homes and when I found a wet spot not two feet from him on the carpet, I looked at him



Farley is a 5-year-old pitbull/boxer mix who is incredibly friendly and loves attention. This poor soul hates living in a cage, and he has slightly hurt his nose by trying to push his way out of the wires. He also has some skin and joint issues and he is a little thin. Farley needs a loving home where he will be truly cared for and be free to get out of cage life.

and said, "Pedro did you do that?"

He made eye contact and grinned his special little smile at me.

It was so adorable, I had to pick him up for a snuggle. See? Not really proper house-training etiquette, but my word he was just so dear.

Well, as you could imagine, little Pedro became a favorite at the shelter,

despite his bedraggled appearance. Indeed, once he got on a steady diet of good food, even some of his hair started to grow back.

On the day he got adopted, the staff agreed we would really miss that weird-looking little guy.

The lesson to be learned from the pet pig on Animal Planet; Charlotte, the spider; and Pedro is that you can find loyalty and dedication anywhere, no matter the outside package. The old adage "don't judge a book by its cover" is really appropriate here.

I know it's human nature to make snap decisions about what we initially see, but a lot of times, taking a deeper look will actually show us the true character of a person -- or even an animal.

Sometimes it's the animals that make people go "What is that?" or "What were you thinking?" or "What in the world happened to him?" that can be the most faithful friend you'll ever find. Indeed, a lot of the dogs that have had the roughest life will turn out to be the most dedicated pet for the right person.

Serious love and devotion is out there – even in places that may seem strange to others – and you can find it if you look with an open mind and an open heart.

Jennifer Vanderau is the community outreach coordinator for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvasadmin@innernet.net. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 263-5791. Animals available for adoption can be viewed at petfinder.org. CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Pet Sitters

Dr. Kimberly Brokaw
Walkersville Veterinary Hospital

As anyone who owns pets knows, one of the challenges of going on vacation is finding someone to watch the pets. While some dog owners will put their dog in a boarding kennel while they vacation, horse owners don't have that luxury. Add to the equation 20 birds (chickens and guinea fowl, not parrots), and a dog and it suddenly becomes more practical to have someone stay at the house and take care of them. My clients frequently ask me who I have pet sit when I go on vacation and if I can recommend anybody for them to use. While I always tell them my family watches my pets, I'm not sure that I would recommend them. None of my pets have died in their care but there have been some close calls. That being said, I don't think I would trust anyone else with my pets. Even when I lived at the clinic I would take all my pets with me on vacation rather than have someone there watch them for me. As word of my neurotic nature has spread, people who had previously volunteered to watch my pets have rescinded the offer for fear that they wouldn't do a satisfactory job. Hence I still request that my family watch the pets.

Work always picks up in the spring as people are getting their horses ready to compete and foals are being born. Due to the cyclic nature of large animal work, the clinic prefers that I take my vacation either in the summer or winter but not during spring. As I prefer to spend my vacation days riding my own horses, the policy of taking vacation when the weather is cold and snowy is not appealing. For that reason, this past winter, I decided to take the horses to Florida for winter vacation. Florida has many large parks with well maintained horse trails. It is a perfect spot for a vacation with horses.

In preparation for the trip I gave the horses booster vaccinations for the various communicable and mosquito spread diseases. I prepared

health certificates and put the original copies of the coggins tests in the truck, so we could enter Florida uneventfully. I made sure my parents and sister were able to rotate pet sitting duty and I took the truck in for servicing. My trailer had already had routine maintenance only a few months before so theoretically was in good shape. By taking my rig, I was hoping to avoid the trailer tire issues of the last camping trip. We made it to Ocala, Florida uneventfully. The weather was perfect and the parks were beautiful. I stayed with a long time family friend, and had a great time with her. On the way home, things didn't quite go as planned in that my truck and trailer had electrical issues with the trailer lighting. While it was nothing major, I still found myself stopping at traffic lights and telling my "copilot" to get out of the truck and go kick the trailer lights to see if they would come back on. They didn't but luckily only the ones over the wheel well were out and only the last half hour of the drive was in the dark.

The vacation was lots of fun and basically uneventful. I came home to find that things had not gone as smoothly as expected at home. I had called home every other day to check in on things. While two of the horses had come with me on vacation, and hence were fine, the dog and poultry didn't fare as well.

Never underestimate the value of a good petsitter. While my family pet sits for free (or rather works in exchange for veterinary services), they don't always provide the best of care. While I was in Florida, my dad called to tell me that he had bought a purple martin house to put by the pond. There are numerous work benches in the outbuildings, but he had decided to put it together in the house while watching TV. The "work bench" used was my antique chest that I use as a coffee table. Not surprisingly, the surface now has scratches. To date that is the only thing that has not recovered from the Florida trip. Luckily the important things (i.e. my pets) only

required a few medications and were back on their feet.

While my dad had called to say that one of the chickens (Clusterfluff) had been eaten by a fox, fortunately he was mistaken. I came home to find that Clusterfluff was fine and happily wandering about the property with the rest of the chickens. However, Mudslide was sick. I found her in the back of the bank barn nestled in some straw. She was running a fever, had diarrhea, and was neurologic. I picked her up and put her in the treatment cage. She would spend the next two weeks in the cage receiving supportive care and antibiotics. While currently she still has a slight gait deficit, she is out with rest of the chickens free ranging in the yard.

While one almost dead chicken would be bad enough, the dog was also sick. There is nothing like returning home from a long trip to multiple piles of vomit all over the floor and a dog looking at you with an expression that says "I feel nauseous." She was vomiting uncontrollably when I got home and had to be started on medications. I called my parents on the phone and while I like to think I was pleasant, I'm sure the conversation was more like a police interrogation with me yelling at them and demanding to know what they did to my pets. My mom thought about it for awhile before saying "You know your sister had a headache and threw up too yesterday."

Apparently Joe (and we can use his real name as he is my sister's fiancé and needs to be publicly humiliated so he doesn't poison anyone else) had brought over some pot roast. He was going to eat it, and was actually upset that my sister and the dog had eaten the left overs without him. A round of food poisoning later and I'm sure he was no longer bothered by being left out. Anyway three days later the dog was back to normal (my sister was fine too). This brings up a good point not just on selecting a pet sitter that won't eat rancid food with your dog, but on appropriate food handling. The majority of the time when people say they had a 24 hour bug, in fact it was food poisoning.

Plates and utensils used on



raw food need to be thoroughly washed with soap and hot water before putting cooked food on them. Once food is cooked, it needs to be put in the fridge in a timely manner for storage. Food should not be left sitting on the kitchen counter "cooling" for more than 2 hours. At the 2 hour mark, it should be referred to as incubating, rather than cooling! Ideally all leftovers should be consumed within three days. In a household where multiple people are shopping, cooking, and eating, all leftovers should be dated. Two of those rules weren't followed for Joe's pot roast. The pot roast was transported between houses and not kept cold enough while in transit. It was then eaten almost a week after it had been originally prepared. The end result was a

vomiting dog and a vomiting sister.

Based on the last experiences you would think I would find new pet sitters. However, my family loves my pets, and the pets always get lots of playtime and attention. Therefore, it is hard to bring myself to get new pet sitters. While I will continue to have a family member stay at the house and provide most of the care for my pets, I will also have one of the vet assistants swing by the house and check up on the pets. My one vet assistant always says that her job description is "other duties as assigned" so counting chickens, and making sure the dog is healthy can be included in those duties.

To read other articles by our Virginia Tech educated vet Kimberly, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Step into Spring gardening

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

As I'm writing this, the weather is unusually warm and sunny for mid-March. The phone at the extension office is ringing off the hook with questions concerning anything from when to plant seeds to pruning to soil testing to bugs and everything in between. I'm still waiting for the question "when can I plant out my tomato plants?" and "how do I keep it from getting too tall?"

As an extension educator, it is my job to help those folks – which I love to do. Encouraging people to garden and helping them to garden the right way is very rewarding. However, as a small roadside shop owner, the weather is putting a bit of a crunch in my schedule. Just as all gardeners are wanting to plant, and have questions they need answered immediately, I also need to be prepared to open as soon as the soil is warm and the try to hurry the plants along so they are ready too.

Part of my job as an educator for Penn State is to open people's eyes to the environment and how to care for it. I enjoy teaching and sharing information about vege-

table gardening, using Integrated Pest Management techniques in the garden, and planting the right plant for the right place as well as utilizing this information and learning more in my own business and garden.

Since it appears as though spring is visiting us early this year, there are some things we should think about.

1. Take a soil test before planting or adding fertilizer to the soil or turf. It's always good to know what you are starting out with before dumping lime or other nutrients into any garden. Excess nutrients can do more harm than good.
2. Compost can be spread in any garden. If it's a vegetable garden, work it into the soil. If it's a perennial or shrub garden, you can use it as a top dressing to help manage weeds.
3. Cool crops should be in the ground. Broccoli, cabbage, lettuce and other greens, peas could have been planted as early as March 10th.
4. Even though it appears as though many garden plants should be planted now, don't.



The warm crops like green beans, corn, cucumbers and melons, tomatoes and peppers that are susceptible to colder soils and frosts could be lost. Remember that in Zone 6B, all of Adams County and parts of surrounding counties, still have a chance of a frost as late as May 15. I can't tell you how many calls and questions I have received over the years concerning what to do with the garden plants that have been ruined by frost, or how many bean seeds have rotted in the ground because the soil was too cold. These early warm temperatures get us excited as gardeners, but we do need to learn self-control and wait until the soil and air is just right.

creates a barrier for the weed seeds so they don't germinate. If you miss the window, you will have to spot treat the crabgrass after it comes up.

7. Remember to plant the right plant for the right place. When we go to garden centers this time of year, staff is very busy. Often times, we neglect to ask the right questions as a result. Plants always look so nice and can really get us excited about our future garden, but if we don't know if we have the right spot for it, we could be wasting our money.

Every plant has certain requirements, whether that is shade, sun, acid soil, moist soils, or dry. Very few properties can provide all these needs to the plants, so be sure you know what your environment is requiring of the plants, so you can select the plant that is going to have the best chance of survival. This is probably the hardest choice of any gardener, because as gardeners, we not only want at least one of everything, but are convinced that we can grow it. I've been burned on this many times.

For instance, I've tried bog rosemary. This is a lovely plant, low growing, with little pink flowers. It is native to the north eastern US, but

doesn't like clay soils, which I have, and likes lower acidity, which I don't have – but it's the cutest little plant. So I bought three. Needless to say, I learned my lesson quickly as they all three died by the second growing season.

8. Go native. Although the bog rosemary was a native, and didn't work for me (they are not adapted to clay), there are many other native plants that will and have grown exceptionally well. Growing native plants that are adapted to your soils will give you success and pleasure. Try plants like chokeberry, inkberry holly and winterberry holly. Chokeberries have red or black berries, depending on the species, and grow to about 4 – 5 feet. Inkberry holly is an evergreen shrub, with many cultivars reaching 3-4 feet, making it a great foundation plant selection. The winterberry holly has nice red berries in the fall, with a great fall color.

Add native perennials to your gardens. Not only will they grow well, but they will provide the needed food for our native insects and wildlife. Remember to plant single flowers as opposed to double. Hybridizing for better petal development often takes away the nectar needs for the insects. Try coneflowers, garden phlox, or bee balm for sunny areas. For the shade, try ginger, ragwort, or native ferns. For wet spots, turtlehead and cardinal flower are a great choice.

If you're looking to plant some shade trees, look at the red maple, or white oak. Stately trees for sure, and will grow well in our soils. If smaller growing trees are the need, check out plants like river birch, serviceberries, and redbuds. Interesting bark is the highlight of the river birch, and lovely spring flowers enhance your garden on the serviceberries and redbuds.

9. Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This is a term often thrown around, but it simply means know what your plants are, what your pests are, and manage them accordingly. Always get proper identification on any pests that may be attacking your plants, whether it's in your vegetable garden, perennial bed or shrubs and trees.

Often times we can manage our pests by simple pruning, or moving the plant to the right location. For instance, if you have an azalea growing in full sun, that plant will inevitably be infested with lacebugs. Move it to the shade, and

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THE MASTER GARDENER

The Small Town Gardener A Forsythe saga without the strife

Marianne Willburn

Several years ago, I was planting a rambling rose in the corner of the garden and wasn't being terribly careful about it. A small piece of cane snapped off in my hand and instead of throwing it away, I absentmindedly stuck it in the dirt next to its newly created (and probably slightly bemused) parent. A week or two later while watering, I was surprised to see one of the nodes producing tiny leaflets – and cautiously pulled the stem out of the soil to see what was going on. A tiny network of threadlike roots greeted my surprised eyes.

Thrilled, I gave the little guy his own pot, and in the fall found a new home for him. Today, he is a strapping example of a healthy twenty foot Rambler, clothing the south side of my house in a thousand fragrant blossoms at the end of May. Ironically, his parent plant ended up in a retirement bed, and steadily deteriorated into hospice care by the end of that season.

Imagine the effect a success such as this had upon my frugal heart! To that point I had enjoyed the self-propagating tendencies of true self-seeders and had reveled in the occasional offshoot from a vigorous rugosa or an enthusiastic syringa. I had divided perennials that begged for the sting of a sharp spade and had nurtured hundreds of tiny tomato seedlings on the top of more than one washing machine. But this? This was magic.

Well, it turned out that as with many things in life, I was suffering from a bit of beginner's luck. My propagating efforts did not produce hundreds of cloned plants to grace my garden for several reasons and all of them were squarely my fault.

First, plants do not uniformly offer up their cuttings at the same time – one has to pay attention to specific schedules and growth patterns and take shoots accordingly. I am rarely paying attention to anything other than the next meal I have to make or how many times I have had to pick the hand towel off the bathroom floor that day.

Second, if the planets align and I actually remember to take cuttings at the right time, I invariably leave them sitting on the garden bench; intending to pull out the vermiculite, pots and rooting hormone

and fail miserably when children come outside at nine o'clock begging me to start dinner.

Third, if I actually got to step three, I would pot up my little cuttings, slap on a plastic bag for humidity and pray for the Watering Fairy to take it from there. Like the Tooth Fairy, she was fairly elusive, and in the end most of my cuttings walked the long green mile.

And then I discovered the Forsythe Pot. Unlike other modern gardening miracles, I didn't have to buy anything, and, assuming that I managed to make it through step one successfully, my prospects in the propagation department began to brighten considerably.

The Forsythe Pot (with apologies, no doubt, to John Galsworthy) is a pot within a pot. An average glazed terracotta pot is filled with vermiculite. A second smaller pot with its drainage hole plugged (unglazed this time), is nestled down into the vermiculite and filled with water. Fresh cuttings lightly dusted with rooting hormone are placed in the vermiculite "ring" between the two pots.

Over the course of a day or two, the water will slowly seep from the walls of the inner pot, keeping the vermiculite at a constant state of ideal dampness – perfect for getting those cuttings off the ground and rooted. Once the cuttings have put out a fragile system of roots, they can be potted up and hardened off outdoors.

The Forsythe Pot has literally revolutionized my propagation efforts. I still start hundreds of seeds in the spring and divide perennials until my hands ache; but now when I am in a friend's garden and a bewitching green-shooted tempter gives me the come-hither at the right time of year, I know that the cutting I take has a very good chance of living to a ripe old age. I keep my little replica factory on my windowsill and the rooting hormone within dusting distance.

Armed with a decent book on softwood cuttings and a Forsythe Pot of your own, you too can have all the happy endings you wish. If I could just make a pot big enough to clone myself, I might never have to pick up another hand towel ever again.

your problem will decrease by many. If a tomato has septoria leaf spot, prune out some of the leaves to provide good air circulation. Water at the ground level and not on the leaves to avoid water splash and spread of the disease.

Don't use pesticides haphazardly. Use them as a last resort, after trying other types of control. Understanding what the pest is, what it feeds on, and what feeds on it can help you to manage any crop of plant effectively and efficiently.

10. And lastly, enjoy your garden, whatever it may be. Learn as much as you can about what you are growing. Techniques, plant varieties, styles, and fads

are always changing and it is fun to try to keep up with all of them. Take advantage of local growers that know and understand what they are growing. Support those local growers and garden centers instead of buying from the big box stores.

Take advantage of your local extension offices, as Master Gardeners and educators can help you through some of your problems or questions. Take time out of your busy schedule to enjoy your work, because as gardeners, we often just enjoy the work instead of the results. I know. I'm a gardener too!

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

The Fight at Quebec Schoolhouse

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society Civil
War Historian

Last month I wrote about the Catoctin Mountain Battle of Braddock's Gap. This is a continuation of a separate fierce skirmish that took place just moments after the Braddock Gap fight had died down. As portions of Confederate General Wade Hampton's Brigade withdrew through the streets of Middletown during the late afternoon of September 13th, 1862, the skirmish that developed at Braddock's Gap was finally dying down. General JEB Stuart ordered General Wade Hampton to take the cavalry supply wagons to Burkittsville as quickly as possible, which was about five miles away to the south. From there, General Hampton could join up with Colonel Thomas Munford, who was guarding the approach to Crampton's Gap. General JEB Stuart himself, along with Hart's battery, and the Jeff Davis Legion made their way to Turner's Gap upon South Mountain where General Daniel H. Hill had an infantry brigade deployed, ready to defend the gap.

Upon arriving at Turner's Gap, General Stuart's cavalry commanded the National Road forcing Colonel Alfred Colquitt's brigade to move along side of the road. It was reported that a few brigades of Union infantry had broken through the Catoctin Mountain and were situated in the Middletown Valley. From there Stuart continued onward toward Boonsboro. What Stuart didn't know was that the rest of Union General Jesse Reno's Ninth Corps, soon followed by General Joseph

Hooker's First Corps, were in route to Middletown.

After the Confederate cavalry had withdrawn from Middletown, portions of Union Colonel John F. Farnsworth's cavalry brigade had pushed through Middletown to the Catoctin Creek, where the rear of Stuart's forces had set fire to the covered bridge. It looked as if the tired Union troopers were finally going to have a rest after a hard days' fight. While the pursuit was still going strong through Middletown, several citizens of Middletown informed Major William Medill of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry about a Confederate wagon train that had just left town moments before their arrival.

As Major Medill tried gathering troops to go after the baggage train, time ticked on and the wagon train advanced further out of their grasp. Major Medill managed to get two companies, A & G of the Eighth Illinois, and two companies, E & F of the Third Indiana, totaling about 230 troopers. William Pickerill of the Third Indiana recalled: "As the cavalry dashed into Middletown two companies of the Eighth Illinois and two companies of the Third Indiana, E and F, were detached and directed to pursue a rebel wagon train, which the citizens of the town told us had gone southward down the valley."

Finding the wagons wasn't going to be an easy task. As stated in my article "The Union Soldier during the Maryland Campaign," weather conditions proved extreme from the heat on the march toward Frederick to a cold front that had pushed through producing rain. With the ground still being damp, no dust

would be kicked up by the wagons; therefore their location could not be seen in the distance.

William Pickerill described the Middletown Valley as his unit moved on toward Burkittsville. "We were in the midst of its most fertile farms. Fields of ripening, waving corn were on every hand. Orchards were the background of many a cottage with its shrubby-bedecked lawn. In the distance were the mountain crests wreathed in the blue haze of a perfect Autumn day's loveliest sunshine."

As the Union troopers pressed on, General Hampton found a road paralleling the main the route to Burkittsville. Hampton later recalled: "On the road to this place I discovered, on a road parallel to the one on which we were, a regiment of Yankee cavalry." The Union cavalry had been spotted. William Pickerill also remembered seeing the wagon train as well. He later wrote "This detachment after a hot pursuit came in sight of the wagon train as it was slowly winding its way up a mountain road, but in its rear was a battery of brass guns and enough rebel cavalry to have swallowed the pursuing force." These bronze guns were that of Chew's Battery guarding the rear of the wagon train.

Pickerill continued "The detachment was satisfied with observation and decided that it did not want that wagon train anyhow, and started to return to the command which it had left at Middletown by a short cut down a winding stony ravine, hemmed in on either side by a very crooked worm fence, so that this particular route answered for the channel of a stream and a country road at the same time."

What the Union cavalry did not realize was that General Hampton detached Cobb's Legion of cavalry commanded by Colonel Pierce M.B. Young to pursue them. At a little schoolhouse called Quebec, Saturday classes were in session. The children and the teacher would soon witness something they would never forget.

Cobb's Legion had taken cover



in the brush to conceal themselves along the main road to Burkittsville, lying in wait. William N. Pickerill recalled "Quebeck schoolhouse stood at the head of this ravine, and just as Company F of the Third Indiana, the rear company of the detachment, had entered the ravine Cobb's Legion of rebel cavalry, commanded by Col. P.M.B. Young, dashed down the mountainside past the schoolhouse, charging us with sabers and pistols, and for a few minutes a desperate little cavalry battle ensued."

As the Union cavalry appeared, Colonel Young's men waited. As soon as the Union soldiers had passed, Cobb's Legion charged after and surprised them. After wheeling, Young had come in from the south while Captain Gilbert Wright's company attacked from the north. Hampton later wrote: "I directed Lieut. Col. Young to charge this regiment. The order was carried out in gallant style." The Union cavalry responded firing into the Confederate horsemen. Company F of the Third Indiana, the last unit in the column was trapped in a ditch when Cobb's Legion charged.

Pickerill recalled "The column halted and fired an oblique volley into the charging rebels and then the clash came and Yankees and rebels, horsed and unhorsed, mingled, in-

discriminately shooting at each other and using their sabers in the same reckless manner, until the men at the head of the column tore down the fence on the side of the ravine next to the attacking force and went at them in such splendid style."

During the first few seconds of the fight, over two hundred carbines were discharged and the scene became wild as men fought desperately to get out with their lives, while Young's men screamed for their surrender. Captain Gilbert Wright of Cobb's Legion recalled "Give 'em hell, boys" as he succumbed to injury. The legion crossed sabers with the Union cavalry, and as several accounts state sabers were used rather freely. The accounts of saber wounds are listed on several of the muster rolls of those injured. Some of the troopers were killed when sabers smashed the skulls of their opponents.

Fearing that he might be separated from Hampton's and Munford's forces, Cobb's Legion called off the engagement and pulled back leaving their dead and wounded in the hands of the Union cavalry. Hampton stated that he had four killed and nine wounded in the fight at Quebec Schoolhouse. Among the Confederate wounded was Colonel Young. Hampton also wrote that the Union casualties were thirty killed and wounded, and five prisoners taken.

After the fight, the Union cavalry moved back to Middletown, bivouacking under the stars. The Union cavalry had a hard day of fighting both at Braddock's Gap and Quebec Schoolhouse. The Union cavalry had secured the way for the Union infantry and by morning, the sounds of cannon and infantry musketry would echo throughout the Middletown Valley, as the Union infantry advanced on South Mountain. This would change the war both socially and politically, and force Lee to issue orders for his army to concentrate at Sharpsburg.

Next month we will continue with part three of this series as I discuss the action that took place near Jefferson Pass upon the Catoctin Mountain.

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Staff Sergeant John Leister: Man of Honor

Julia Mulqueen
Battalion Commander, AROTC
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“Eisenhower made a mistake,” he said to me with memories glistening in his eyes. “We shouldn’t have gone in right after that storm.” I was sitting across from Mr. John R. Leister in his comfortable home in Harney. He was transported to a different time, a different place, away from his tiny dog, Tigger, away from the calm of present day. Mr. Leister served for a little over two and a half years as an infantryman in Company D of the 116th Infantry Regiment. He was part of the Battle of Normandy and received a Purple Heart for wounds incurred during his time in Europe. What follows is his incredible story, full of courage, honor, and optimism despite it all.

Mr. Leister grew up down the road from his current house in Harney. He lived on a farm and attended school up until the eighth grade. Years passed and worked on the farm. One day he received a fateful letter in the mail. He was drafted. He can still remember how it read, with the words, “Your friends and neighbors have selected you for service.” He laughed, saying, “I thought, to hell with these friends!”

After basic training, he boarded the Queen Mary to England with 24,000 other soldiers. Each soldier had a bed only ever other night due to a shortage of space. The nights the soldiers were without beds, they simply slept on the floors of the ship in sleeping bags. People were throwing up everywhere. By the time the boat docked in England, it was horribly dirty. Leister chuckled, saying, “I wouldn’t of cleaned that boat if they’d given it to me!” They remained in England for a year, training and preparing for combat.

June 1944 came. The night before the scheduled invasion there was a massive storm, which churned the already rocky waters and kicked up waves. This was why Leister thought Eisenhower made a mistake; it was a terrible day for an invasion.

A few of the boats surrounding that which Leister was aboard crashed into iron posts with bombs on them. The posts were hidden under the water, and upon impact they would explode. 30 men or more would be lost at a time.

It was breaking day. The large vessel Leister was on had smaller boats on it, which were released into the water with a crane. Those operating the crane let it down “too fast, and it knocked a hole in the boat. The mortars and everything had life preservers on them so we didn’t lose them.” The lieutenant had to scramble up the ladders leading the platoon back onto the larger vessel as the boat sank. Because of this, Leister and his fellow soldiers were half an hour late for the first wave of the invasion. They moved to another boat, and this time, were lowered slowly into the water.

They neared Omaha and realized the boats had amphibious tanks on them. “Going in, they didn’t tell us they were on the boats

and they’d pop outta there and go down.” There was canvas under the tank and water would flow “under the whole tank and lift it back up. They’d turn the propeller on and go in.” In fact, “that’s how a lotta boys got in; they walked aside the tank.”

As Leister and his fellow soldiers waded toward the beach, they noticed great bomb holes everywhere. He looked down and saw that “the water along the edge of the Channel was red with blood. That about makes me cry yet.” Over 10,000 men were killed or wounded just on that first day.

Leister continued, “We got in and got going. The Germans would use wooden pellets to cripple you. Our men told us not to stop moving. German snipers were good.” They were so good in fact that they killed Leister’s best buddy as he stooped to play with a dog. Leister paused for a moment, collecting himself.

He continued, recollecting an attack that was days after the initial invasion. “So we made an attack one morning.” They would move along a road toward a little town, take fire and fall back. They would reorganize and try again. On the way back, Leister saw a wire on the road leading toward the tanks. He thought, “what the hell?” and cut it with a pair of pliers. He did not realize until later that there was a German sniper in the local church tower. When Leister cut the wire, he cut the sniper’s communication, doubtless saving himself and his buddies.

He then added a side note. His commander wanted to be the “first fellow in Saint Lo, France and he was. He was on a stretcher dead, but he was first and he didn’t even know it.”

Leister moved from this story to the story of his second wound. They were heading into a town and “a piece of shrapnel jumped up and bit me!” He had been wounded previous to that, but does not recall the date of his first injury. The date of his injury incurred from shrapnel was 5 August 1944. This second injury was severe enough that he was sent back to England. The surgeons removed it from his knee. At first he was going to be relieved from his service, but eventually he was sent back to the same unit.

Upon his return, the soldiers hit Brest, France. They came up and the townspeople shut the doors on them. They could not get in, so they took a “159 howitzer and shot point blanks right into that door and they bounced off like popcorn.” The Germans heckled them saying, “you Americans are gonna have to do a better demonstration than that!” Time passed,

and finally, they raised the white flag. There were a couple hundred people living there. Leister remembers all of France fondly. “The French were nice to us; they always received us well, especially the girls.”

Here in his story Leister interrupts himself for a moment to talk about General Patton. “I was under the best commander ever born. By God, he wouldn’t tell you to do anything that he wouldn’t do himself.” During a battle in which Leister was involved, General Patton was in the first tank of the convoy. He would “get out...shells coming across...he’d look around and say to hell with these krauts. He was tough.” He was the ideal leader.

Leister picked up with a story about an early morning attack in Germany on 5 April 1945. It was two or three in the morning. “We were walking up a narrow road. We were hit to our left. It missed my radio-man and hit my left hip and went almost clean through the right hip; that’s where they took it out.” His buddies drug him to a farmhouse off of the road and left him, assuring him, “medics will come and find you.” He had not bled one drop outside. He lay on the floor of the farmhouse feeling “scared and weird.” He watched the sun come up, and eventually he heard someone. Leister took his weapon off safe. He did not know if they were German or American. All he could do was lay there as he was paralyzed from the waist down. He heard a jumble of words. He was unable to make them out until he heard his name, John. It was a captain and four or five Germans. One of the Germans carried him back and put him in the Red Cross’ “meat wagon.” Here, Leister started to laugh as he remembered, “I had to pee so bad!”

They took him back to a great big tent where they operated on him. The floor was grass, and there were a few boards set about for people to walk on. He was there for a month to a month-and-a-half. He was completely disabled at first. He became sick with pneumonia and his weight dropped from the 140s to 92 pounds. He was sent back to England for three or four months. After that, he was sent to Cambridge, Ohio where he was discharged as a staff sergeant. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his wounds incurred during combat.

Upon finishing his story, Mr. Leister looked over at me and said, “It was exciting a lot of times. It was hell a lot of times, but we had some breaks, especially in the towns they made beer!” Then he stood up, set his cane against his chair, and scooped his dog Tigger up. He sat back down and smiled as



his scratched Tigger’s head. We chatted for another hour about everything from the chickens he hauled as a truck driver after the war to Tigger accidentally pressing his Life Alert button the other day. I even learned that he is a Charter Member of the Harney VFW, which was created in 1948.

Eventually, we stood up and walked outside. As I drove away, I

waved to Mr. Leister, who was waving back with Tigger tucked comfortably in the crook of his arm and a warm smile lighting his face.

A very special thank you to Mr. John R. Leister for sharing his story and Mr. Frank M. Rauschenberg for introducing Mr. Leister and the author, as well as accompanying her on the interview.

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Part 3 of many

Interview with Nathaniel Rowe

The Chronicle reporter, John Mr. Nathaniel Rowe, lives in his cozy home on Main Street, where he has lived continuously for 65 years. The house is one of the oldest in Emmitsburg, hav-

forever," as faithfully as when its time was young.

"They don't make them like that nowadays," said Mr. Rowe. "Things were made solid and good in the old days; they were made for service, not for show; they had no factories and the trust then."

started Mr. Rowe. "We suffered some hardships, but not more than many a boy does now who lives on the farm. It wasn't very comfortable, for example, to get up on a winter morning and step with your bare feet into a pile of snow that had sifted in through the cracks in the walls and roof. I helped about the place, took care of stock and went to school - a little."

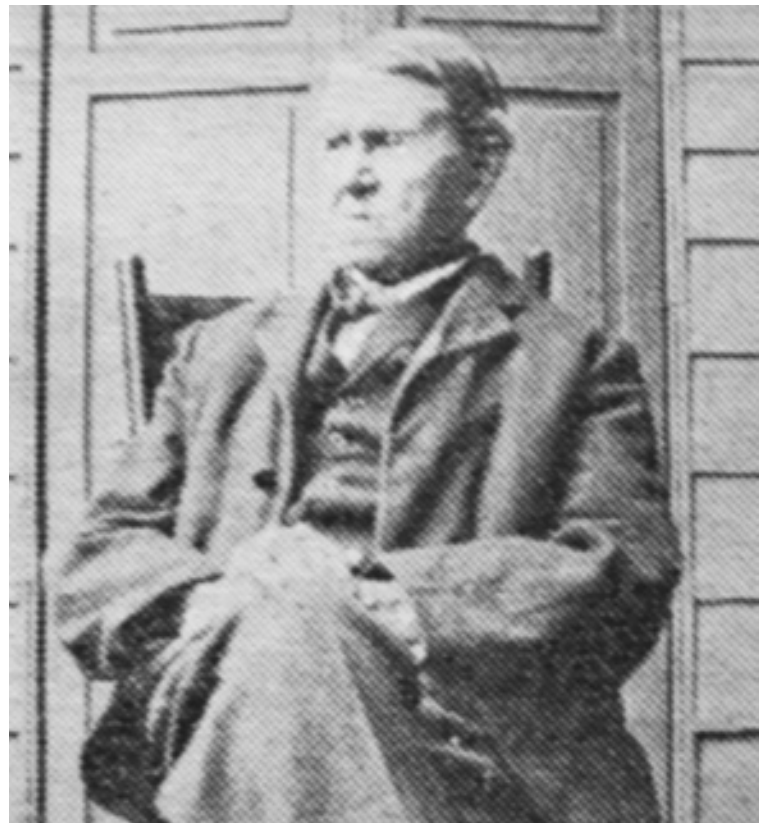
"What do they teach you in school?" asked the reporter.

"Oh not much of anything. A little grammar, writing, reading and ciphering- that's about all we got."

"Did the master ever flog you?" inquired the reporter.

"Yes, like the Devil," responded Mr. Rowe, with fervor, as though he had a lively recollection of the fact. "I remember one teacher named Haas who I used to be afraid of. He had a leather strap cut into four or five thongs with a tight knot on the end of each thong. It was called taws and let me tell you, it could bite if it was laid on right. When the boy had been caught at any mischief in school, the teacher would throw the taws to the boy and he had to carry it to the teacher, who then applied it where it would do the most good. Once he threw the taws to me when I hadn't been doing anything bad. I picked it up, ran out the door with it and went home, and never went back to school while the teacher was there.

We had another Master, William Stone, who turned the tables on us once when we were trying to play a joke on him. It was the custom on the last day of



Nathaniel Rowe

school before the Christmas holidays, for the teacher to give the boys a treat - an apple and a piece of gingerbread to each boy.

Well, on this day we barred the door on the inside and nailed the windows fast. Presently along comes teacher and wanted in. We told him he could stay out. "I'll see about that." Says he, so he climbed up the roof and stopped the chimney.

We had a big fire on the hearth and presently the room began to fill with smoke. We coughed and sneezed and gasped for breath. The door and windows were nailed so fast that before we could get them open we were almost suffocated."

"What did the teacher do to you," enquired the reporter anxiously. "Nothing. He just said, 'Boys, I guess I'll have to treat you anyhow.'"

"Well, when I was about sixteen I came to Emmitsburg to live. The town didn't look very different than from what it does now. It was built up about the square, but with an indifferent class of improvements. There were then many log houses in town. They were warmed with big open fireplaces and wood stoves. We knew nothing about coal. We lived

well and comfortably, however. Locks on the doors were unknown - we had no thieves. There were no butchers or bakers. We ate pork more than any other kind of meat. Once in a while a farmer would kill a calf and divide it up amongst the neighbors, each taking his turn at butchering. We wore homespun clothing. Everybody had his own patch of flax.

To prepare the flax for spinning, the straw was first passed through the breaker, which loosened the woody part of the stem; then it was scutched in a hand machine to take out the 'chive' and waste matter. Next, it was buckled by combing to take out the tow. The women spun the flax by the big fireplace in the long winter evenings and then it was taken to the country weavers to be made into linen cloth. That made the fine shirts I have some of the old country-woven linen yet. I can't say much for the breeches they made out of the tow. They were mighty uncomfortable, but they wore well.

We raised our own sheep and, of course, had our own wool. There were lots of little woolen miles around the country driven by waterpower. I remember three that were near Emmitsburg. The cloth was mostly of three shades:



Rowe's shoe store on West Main St.

ing been constructed of logs like so many of the first buildings in the town. It was rebuilt many years ago and is now comfortable as a modern house can be, while retaining something of the atmosphere of the long ago. In the dining room is a clock Mr. Rowe's grandfather had built 140 years ago, which is still ticking out "Forever-never; Never-

"Now Mr. Rowe," said the reporter, "would you tell the Chronicle about those good times so that the boys and girls in Emmitsburg may learn something of the way their grandparents used to live? What was Emmitsburg like when you were boy?"

"I lived the life of the average country boy in those days,"

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gray, brown, and black. The town tailor made our clothes for us and if they were not stylish, they were at least warm and comfortable. As for shoes, the farmers would buy a side of sole leather at the tannery and take it home until the traveling shoemaker, who went around the country with his bench on his back, should arrive. When he came, he would make shoes for the farmer and his family. They weren't very comfortable and they didn't keep the water out, but we had to get along with them the best we could.

We didn't have many games. I only remember two: Alleyball and Longball. The former was played with a soft ball, which was knocked against the side of a house with the bare hand. The fellow who could keep it going longest without it touching the ground won. The alley alongside of Mr. Motter's house was the favorite place for playing this game. Longball was played in the street with an iron ball about the size of a croquet ball. It was generally played for the drinks- the one who rolled the shortest distance had to buy. It wasn't much of a game and was dying out when I came to town to live."

"Oh, yes. We knew what whiskey was in those days," replied Mr. Rowe to the reporter's inquiry. "It was good whiskey, too. There were lots of distilleries around here. Whiskey only cost 20 cents a gallon and sold in the taverns a gill for a fip. A fip was a Spanish coin worth six and a quarter cents, about the size of an old three cent-piece. Most all of our silver was Spanish. But about the whiskey. It was usually bought by the barrel for household use and everybody could help himself when he wanted a drink. Ah, those were good old times. There was much less drunkenness than there is now in spite of the fact that whiskey then was almost as cheap as Emmitsburg water is now."

I was apprenticed to a gunsmith named John Armstrong. We used to buy the barrels and make the stocks and other parts. The first barrels were made by welding two bars of iron around a solid core. Later, old horseshoe nails were made into gun barrels. Some of the barrels we



Armstrong's rifles

bought in Lancaster, Pa., and some were made around here. We bored out the barrels ourselves, testing the accuracy of the work by squinting through the bore at a bright light; any inequality would cast a shadow on the opposite side of the barrel. When I first apprenticed, the old flintlock muskets were quite common, but they were rapidly being replaced by the percussion-cap guns. The choke barrel was unknown in those days. We had lots of game to shoot. Partridges and pheasants were plentiful and the wild pigeons came in clouds. There were deer and wild turkey on the mountains, too.

I must tell you a story- I used to hear the old folks tell about a preacher in the Lutheran church in the days when the services were held in German. He used to tell his congregation that if they were not careful to mend their ways, sermons would someday be preached in English in their church. That was to scare them into good behavior. We were good churchgoers. The farmers mostly came to church on horseback with their wives perched up behind them. The sermons were longer than they are now, but I don't know that they were any better."

"Mr. Rowe," said the reporter, "you have drawn a most interesting picture of the old times.

Now tell which you like best - the old ways or the new?" Mr. Rowe thought for a moment and then, slapping the reporter on the knee, said emphatically, "The old ways for me- I like them best. I guess I can't help it. I was raised that way. I won't say that the world hasn't grown better in some respects, but I liked the simple life we lived. Everybody was independent. We raised our own flax, our own wool, and our own food. We made nearly everything we used.

There was no stealing and very little drunkenness. Gossip and slander were almost unknown, and children were more obedient and respectful to their parents than they are now. But I have no complaints to make of the world as I know it now. I enjoy good health. I can, with the aid of my glasses, read all day, and when the weather is fair I go out for a walk every day. I don't feel good unless I get my exercise in the open air every day. My hearing is a little heavy and I have to be careful about what I eat, but for a man eighty-six years old, I am doing pretty well. I am going to pay the Chronicle a visit sometime and then maybe I will tell you more stories of the old days."

Interview with Nathaniel Rowe - Part II
The first "oldest inhabitant"

The Chronicle man met was Mr. Nathaniel Rowe, who was sitting under his vine and fig tree, which is a horse chestnut tree in front of his house. "Mr. Rowe," said the reporter, "the readers of The Chronicle want some more of your `reminiscences.'" Mr. Rowe then replied, "Well they can have them and welcome. Since you stirred me up to thinking about the old times, much has come back to me that I had forgotten, and now I can talk to you to some purpose. How would you like to hear about an old fashioned corn-husking?" "Nothing better, it's all good," said the reporter.

Farm Life

"In the first place," said Mr. Rowe after he had led the way into the cool, dusky front parlor, "I want to say to you again that I don't think these latter days are such a wonderful improvement on the past. Take harvesting for example. Many a time I have seen my grandfather reaping grain with a sickle. He would take a great armful, just the right quantity, and cut it off about three inches from the ground with

a slashing stroke of the blade; it would fall as exactly and neatly as if laid down by a reaper. And he made good speed, too. Not as fast as the machine would do it, of course, but we had plenty of time then and we weren't crazy to go through everything we had to do at a breakneck pace. We thought more about doing our tasks well and thoroughly than in getting done in a hurry. I don't say we should go back to the sickle and the cradle, but I do love the days when a man was of more importance than a machine.

Our methods of thrashing were as primitive as our reaping. Horses trod out the grain as the oxen in the scriptures did. The heads were piled in a big circle on the barn floor and four horses, two and two, walked around and around on them until all the grain was trodden out. We had to keep turning the mass with a fork so as to inquire a thorough job. That was cold work. We always thrashed in the wintertime and we boys would have to ride the horses to keep them on the grain. Thus we did with wheat and oats. Rye and buckwheat were thrashed with flails, two men striking together. There was a knack about that and if you didn't understand how to do it, you were liable to get a crack on the head you would remember. Of course in both methods, the grain was passed through a mill to winnow out the chaff.

But I must get to the corn-huskings. We generally held them in October when the moon was full. In those days it was the custom to allow the corn to ripen thoroughly on the stalks and it therefore plumped out better than when the stalk is cut and shocked with the ears on. A cornfield after it had been topped was a pretty sight. When the corn was fully ripe the ears were pulled off and hauled to the barn. The stalks were allowed to stand through the Winter, and in the Spring were pulled up and burnt. We generally seeded a field to oats after it had been in corn.

To be continued next month

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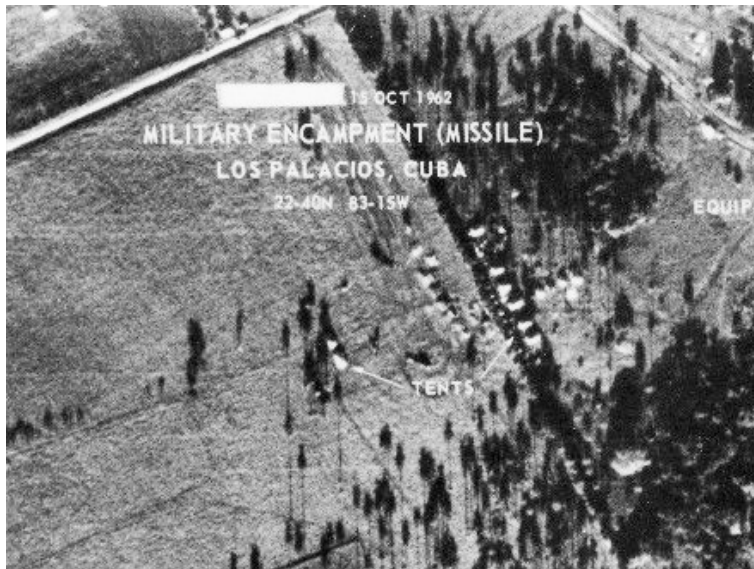
Spies like us

Major Ted Streeter, USA Ret

In my last article, I recounted my adventures with Ursula, the young German woman whom I supposedly sheltered from the East German Secret Police and who, ultimately, got me kicked out of my safe house for allegedly running a whorehouse. A gripping tale of intrigue set in Cold War Germany. Before moving on to the more serious side of HUMINT (human intelligence), I'd like to recall another incident that would probably cause James Bond to renounce his 007 badge. Let us call it - Spies Like Us - Two.

Anyone who was around at the time will recall not only the assassination of president John Fitzgerald Kennedy on November 23, 1963, in Dallas, TX, but will tell you exactly where they were and what they were doing on that date. I was stationed then with an army U.S. Army intelligence unit in Kaiserslautern, German Federal Republic (West Germany, at the time). A bunch of us were at a friend's house for pizza and beer when the call came in from the unit informing us of the JFK assassination and ordering us to report immediately for duty. US forces in Europe were placed on a higher alert status under the assumption that the assassination could be the opening move in a Warsaw Pact invasion of western Europe. Nobody knew what was going on.

The picture was confusing. You will remember that JFK was in office in April 1961, during the failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, by Cuban exiles, supported by the CIA. Cuba, under the dictatorship of Fidel Castro, subsequently began to drift into the Soviet orbit until it became a gem in the Soviet crown, a place in the



Soviet missile site in Cuba

western hemisphere from which the Soviets could launch the Marxist revolutionary doctrine into Latin American countries. Eighteen months later, in October 1962, the Soviets introduced Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBM) into Cuba - nuclear armed missiles with a range to that could reach over half of the United States. As a person who has also worked in that field, I can state that Imagery (Photo) Interpretation came of age during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

One of the more useful tools in photo interpretation is pattern analysis, i.e., how things are laid out. As an example, if you take an aerial photo of a vehicle depot full of trucks, say, you can tell by analysis whether the depot is civilian or military. If civilian, the vehicles will be generally randomly parked, in no particular order or pattern. If military, however, they will all be aligned, sorted by category, etc. The same is true of weapons - in that different weapons are laid out according to a pattern particular to that weapon. So, when a routine photo reconnaissance flight detected a weapon system laid out in

a star shaped pattern, we immediately knew that we had found a Soviet SA-6 Air Defense missile site. The command center was in the center of the star, with the missile batteries at each point. The question then became what the SA-6 system was defending. It didn't take a great deal of further investigation to spot the warhead storage bunkers and assembly sheds, characteristic of an IRBM site.

The Soviets had been importing this equipment into Cuba by ship, with much of it being stored on deck, visible, packed in crates, a practice that spawned the Cold War photo interpretation science of "crateology". Again, by example, in the civilian world, certain types of gases are stored in unique containers. One can tell from the size and shape of a container whether it contains liquid natural gas, hydrogen, etc. Similarly, by measuring the dimensions of a crate, noting its shape, etc., one can pretty well guess what's in it.

Armed with this evidence,



Lee Harvey Oswald

Kennedy, in October 1962, issued the ultimatum to the Soviets to remove the missiles from Cuba. For the next ten days the world stood on the precipice of nuclear war as the two sides stared at one another until a "face saving" bargain was struck. The Soviets removed their missiles from Cuba in exchange for which the US dismantled and removed some aged ICBMs from Turkey and promised not to invade Cuba. The US also imposed an embargo on Cuba which lasts until this day.

Although the immediate crisis was resolved, there now existed, for all practical purposes, a state of war between Cuba and the US. Cuban exile groups, based in Florida and reportedly trained by the CIA, conducted continual raids on Cuba. Several alleged CIA-sponsored assassination attempts on Castro, (including an apocryphal famous "exploding cigar"), were reported. And, undoubtedly the Cubans retaliated against Kennedy, although to my knowledge, no

attempts were publicly reported. Kennedy also continued his hard line approach against the Soviets by, among other things, increasing the US commitment to South Vietnam, then under attack by the Communist north.

The assassination immediately produced a state of confusion as to who initiated the deed. Was it the Castro Cubans? That seemed the obvious choice. Was it the exiled Cubans who resented Kennedy's promise not to invade the island and free their homeland? The Soviets? The Mafia, which had lost millions of dollars in income generated by its casinos and other interests in Havana through Kennedy's refusal to compromise with Castro? Was it a far right-wing military-industrial plot which stood to lose untold profits should Kennedy do as he was reported to be contemplating, i.e., severely limiting US support to the South Vietnamese.

In the end, as we know, the Warren Commission arrived at an ab-



President Kennedy, just moments before his assassination.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

surdly simple conclusion: That Lee Harvey Oswald had, on his own, purchased a mail order rifle, for which he paid \$13, and positioned himself in the window of the Texas School Book Depository building from which he shot the president. Not many people believed that. Conspiracy theories abounded and exist to this day. In my personal opinion, I also don't believe the Warren Commission. Oswald may have pulled the trigger alone, but I believe he was influenced by other forces to do so. I have no proof other than circumstantial evidence, so I'll leave it at that. My theory is one of many and would fill a substantial amount of space.

All of the foregoing serves to bring us back to that historic afternoon in November, 1963 - in Kaiserslautern, West Germany. Since no one knew what was happening, anything was possible. And, so we were tasked by our headquarters to immediately follow up on any leads and talk to any person who claimed knowledge of the assassination. Now, these were the days before communications satellites, twitter, email, instant messaging or any other form of communication that we now take for granted, so the possibilities were remote at best that anyone would come forward.

You can imagine our surprise when we received a call from Landstuhl Army Medical Center,



Landstuhl Army Medical Center, Germany

located not far from Kaiserslautern, informing us that someone out there had prior knowledge of the assassination. So, a buddy and I jumped into the car and went to interview this person. When we arrived we learned that the individual in question was a psychiatric patient. This didn't bode well. But, sworn to duty as we were, we conducted the interview only to learn that the person claimed to be able to divine the future by

reading three comic strips - Li'l Abner, Pogo, and Mary Worth, and that it was by digesting the contents of these three strips that he could foretell the assassination of President Kennedy. Well, what do you do? You follow orders. We had been instructed to report anything, and so we wrote up our report and submitted it up the line.

Somewhere in the bowels of US intelligence archives, bear-

ing my signature, lies a report describing how a psychiatric patient in West Germany foretold the assassination of a president by deciphering hidden messages in comic strips. Who knows? It's probably as good as many of the other reports in that stack.

In my next and final article I'll turn to the more serious side of human intelligence to discuss the importance of personal vulnerabilities and the

patience required to exploit them. Stay tuned for Spies Like Us - Three.

Ted Streeter is a retired U.S. Army Major with 22 years service and an additional 13 years service with the federal government, all in the field of intelligence and national security. He retired from the Gettysburg Borough Council on December 31, 2011, after 14 years service: seven as Council President.

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TIMMERMAN RESPONDS: I am honored to announce that Frederick County Delegate Michael Hough (R-3B) has endorsed the Timmerman for Congress campaign. Mike is a proud advocate for Maryland taxpayers against the big spenders in Annapolis, and is working hard with a growing bi-partisan coalition to bring the new same sex marriage bill to referendum in November.

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STAGES OF LIFE

Mom's Time-out

Mary Angel

Spring is in the air. One warm day and I am ready to get outside. Whether it be working in the yard or trying to come up with activities for the kids it is like someone has lit a fire under me. This feeling will die down in a few weeks. I will go from "what a beautiful day" to "when did it get so HOT" in a matter of seconds. But, for now I am excited to get moving and so are the kids. The funny part is they aren't necessarily obsessed with just outside activities, it is truly just getting active that fills their thoughts. I absolutely love spring in this area because there are so many things close by to do with kids of all ages. If you don't mind a little drive you have greatly expanded your spring time options. So, to jumpstart spring I am going to share

some of our favorite activities.

The other day it had been pouring down rain for quite a while when it finally slowed down a bit. My 10 year old son looked out the sliding glass patio door and asked, "When can we weed the garden?" Alright, I will admit most kids probably don't look forward to weeding the garden. Truth be told even this excited little boy will lose his enthusiasm as the weeding season gets into full swing. But for this one day I found myself, my son, and my oldest daughter out in the drizzling rain weeding what was left of last year's garden (and loving it). My four kids love being outside, the activities that they choose may be different for each of them, but just being outside is wonderful to them all.

One of the great joys of springtime weather, since I was a little girl growing up in Carroll County, is having

lunch at the Community Pond in Westminster. The other day I was on my way to meet a friend for lunch at Salsaritas in Westminster when my friend texted me and asked if I would grab lunch and meet her at the pond. It was wonderful! There were kids all over the playground, couples in love at the picnic tables, families feeding the ducks and coworkers laughing over their lunch break. I enjoyed the weather almost as much as the time with my friend and boy did it bring back memories. On this particular day it wasn't even actually spring yet, but oh so beautiful outside.

Last night my family took advantage of the warm weather and the daylight that is lasting into the evenings and we made a fire. We have a small round fire pit that can be purchased at any home improvement store and many discount stores around town and it has given us years of enjoyment. Once the fire gets going well, we break out the marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate bars...and voila s'mores for everyone! My husband and I sit by the fire and chit chat while we watch the kids run around and pretend to be spies. It is wonderful.

This is also the time of year when the kids start riding bikes, scoot-

ers and anything else that will move. They also start nagging about going to a park. There are so many wonderful community parks around with swings, ball fields, tennis courts, or ponds. Their favorite would have to be Kids Kingdom in Hanover, PA. When we get there they take off in different directions and the fun begins. Between the amazing fort, swings, sand box, slides, balance beam and everything else, they could stay for hours. We have even taken a picnic but that seems to be a bit of a waste, since they eat like birds waiting for the green light to go play.

One of my favorite places to take the kids is to the zoo. I love to see their faces when they catch a glimpse of all the wild animals. If I want to drive quite a bit I might take them to the Baltimore Zoo or the free Washington Zoo, but usually we just go locally to the Catoctin Zoo in Thurmont or the Deer Haven Mini Zoo in New Midway. They are close and have more than enough animals to thrill the kids for many hours. Not everyone has such wonderful little zoos right around the corner and we feel really blessed to be able to have these two. The Catoctin could be a full day trip for us and the Mini Zoo makes a wonderful half day excursion. And if that isn't enough animals for you, we also have The Land of the Little Horses in Gettysburg, PA. All four of my kids have enjoyed going there repeatedly over the summer months

and seeing all of the animals and the shows. For many years we even had a family membership that included member only events.

Recently we took our girls to Explore and More in Gettysburg while the boys were at a birthday. Between climbing inside a giant bubble, dressing up, painting, building, glowing in the dark, milk art, or playing in the backyard play area we almost had to drag them out. Thank goodness the place closed or the girls might have never wanted to leave. This is not to mention their gift shop that has some really neat and fascinating gift ideas for that next birthday present you need to buy.

Whether it is in our own backyard or a short drive away there are so many fun activities in this area it is almost impossible to run out of things to do. I have mentioned a few of our favorites but there are still others - like Hershey Park, Dutch Wonderland, Kings Dominion, Busch Gardens, the Smithsonian, the Spy Museum, the DC Cherry Blossoms, Colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown, Jamestown, the Gettysburg Battlefields, the National Aquarium, the Science Center, Port Discovery, and so much more. Have a great Spring and Summer!

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



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A TEEN'S VIEW

New season of mind



Olivia Sielaff

Recently I've noticed a change in myself. You could probably notice a change in me, as well, since I finally had the guts to get a new hairstyle after six years. But that's not what I'm referring to. In the past few months, I've noticed a change that wasn't unexpected, but of which the unfolding results have been a surprise to me.

College has a way of quickly changing a person, for better or for worse. You can choose to slack on studying and writing papers, hang out with the wrong crowd, not call your parents (they get nervous if you don't), sleep through your 8am classes, etc. On the other hand, there are plenty of opportunities for students to succeed in the classroom and around campus. You can study for the hard tests, complete the extra credit, join a student club, and

do weekly volunteer work. The more there is to do on campus, the busier your schedule gets, and the more you need to organize your time and talents. That's the part I was expecting. But what I hadn't anticipated, at least this soon, was a change of mind.

Perhaps 'change of mind' isn't the right phrase. It's not like I've done a complete 360 and revamped my entire mindset about life. I could just imagine if I came home for Summer Break as a hippie or something. My mom would have a fit. No, my mind hasn't been changed from the convictions I hold or the knowledge I've come to possess. Rather, my mind is being expanded. I know that seems like a silly way of putting it, but let me explain.

Going to college has a great impact on widening one's mind. Sure you stretch your brain muscles whipping out a paper the night before it's due, and you read so many books you think your mind is going to explode.

Exercising grey matter is one thing. But widening the mind's scope is another. Whatever makes you think about something from a different perspective or something you've never considered before contributes to this expansion of your mind – with its thoughts, convictions, experiences, and knowledge.

There are so many opportunities in college to do just that. In fact, the college setting practically hands you those opportunities. There have been many times, at lunch, late at night, or on walks, that I've had memorable conversations with my friends that have helped me learn about others and reflect on who I am. Within the course of a day on campus, I can be talking politics at the lunch table, sitting in on a student meeting, and then sharing my struggles and joys with my close friends. The enthusiasm and passion of other students inspires and motivates me to learn more about the society I live in, the world

around me, and grow in a deeper understanding of myself.

Not only do my friends and fellow classmates at college expand the horizons of my mind, but the classes I'm taking do so, as well. My professors really encourage us students to go deeper into what we're learning. Rather than just completing homework and coming to class, they motivate us to write papers on what interests us or discuss popular social issues in and out of the classroom. Many of the subjects I'm studying intertwine, which shows me that the things I'm learning really do play a larger role in the grand scheme of things.

But college hasn't just lent itself to an expansion of my mind. It's allowing me to open my mind to concepts and realities that, otherwise, my closed-off mind would have ignored in the past. Through the relationships I've built and the courses I'm taking, I am reaching out and opening myself to the things unknown to me. Partly out of curiosity and partly out of love of learning, I jump at the chance to learn something new or talk to others about a complex topic.

However, I can't keep my mind open to everything; I don't think I could remember it all. There is a point where I must close my mind on something and concentrate on it, in order to perfect my knowledge of it. This is how I'm approaching college. I take in all that is presented to me with a rigorous passion and then decide on what to focus.

Within this short amount of time, college has begun to help me independently expand the limits of what I can know. I'm opening myself to new ideas; widening the peripherals of my mind; building relationships with new people; and going out of my comfort zone.

Like each season of the year brings new and different foliage, there are seasons of our lives with new ideas and goals budding in us. I'm entering into a new season of my life where I'm noticing these sprouts rooting themselves in my being. Who knows how they will come to fruition or what they will look like. But for the time being, I will continue to branch out and hope that this new season of mine will be very fruitful.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Emmitsburg Elementary

As we head into spring, we may wonder what happened to winter. As of now, we have not had any snow days or any late arrivals. This has been a great year for continuous instruction and learning at EES. Having a full week of spring break this year will allow everyone to be energized for the remainder of the school year. April and May are busy months at our school.

Report cards for Term III will be distributed on Friday, April 13, 2012. Report cards are one communication method between teachers and parents. When report cards come home, it is a good time for parents to talk with their children about the importance of attending school and doing their best every day. If there are concerns about grades or remarks, parents are encouraged to contact the teacher to discuss the issues. Conferences between parents and teachers should be on-going and not happen just at the dates in the school calendar.

The Emmitsburg Public Library is hosting an event for all children in our community. The Dream Big, Night

Time! Event will take place on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 6:00 pm. There will be three stations for the children to participate in activities to promote literacy and the many, valuable resources available at our local library. We hope that you will join our local librarians at this wonderful opportunity.

A Catocin Feeder area elementary school band concert will be hosted by Emmitsburg Elementary school. This is an exciting opportunity for the students from the surrounding area elementary schools to showcase how their diligence and hours of practicing have proven effective. We have many talented students in the Catocin Feeder schools. Our students and schools are also served by two talented musicians and teachers, Mr. Kurt Nigh and Mr. Barrett Irons.

During the month of April, our second and fifth graders will be involved in local and state testing. After MSA testing for students in grades 3, 4, and 5 in March, it is now time for our second graders to shine. They will be taking the SAT-10 assessment in read-

ing, math, and environment after spring break. Our fifth graders will be taking the science component of MSA later in April. Historically, our fifth graders have done very well on this assessment and we expect nothing less from this year's class.

Mrs. Sherman, who is our school's Test Coordinator, wrote a great article last month about testing and why students participate in the assessments. When the scores from the assessments are returned to the school, the staff uses the information to plan for instruction for the entire school, as well as for individual students. The data is used from these assessments and county-level assessments to create the EES School Improvement Plan (SIP). This plan is used as a guide to measure progress on the areas that need improvement within our school. This year's SIP goals focus on attendance, math, and family involvement. We are very proud of the progress we have made in achieving the identified goals.

Good things happen at Emmitsburg Elementary every day.

Connecting our Children to Nature



The Catocin Forest Alliance (CFA) is offering a one day conference at Mount St. Mary's University Marion Burk Knott Auditorium on May 4, 2012 from 8:00am until 4:30pm. The focus of the meeting will be to raise awareness of the importance of connecting our children to nature for their health and well being as well as for the future health of the environment.


Our keynote speaker will be Richard Louv, author of *The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in the Virtual Age* and *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*. Founding chairman of the Children & Na-

ture Network, Louv is well-known for supporting the idea that "The future will belong to the nature-smart — those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need." To learn more about Mr. Louv go to www.richardlouv.com.

Additional featured speakers at the conference include: Julie Dieguez Coordinator of the Maryland No Child Left Inside Coalition, Mary Hardcastle EE Manager Parks and People Foundation, Gary Hedges Science Specialist for Maryland Dept. of Education, Mel Poole Superintendent Catocin Mountain Park, Joe Richardson Owner Bart Ranch & Mountainside Challenge and Retreat Center, Nita Settina Superintendent Maryland State Parks, Britt Slattery DNR Director of Conservation and Education, Coreen Weilmister President Maryland Assoc. Environmental & Outdoor Educators (MAEOE)

Come to the conference to light your environmental education fire, hear about how teachers are bringing environmental literacy into their classes and get ideas for bringing your children closer to nature. Experts from throughout our State and region will share their knowledge. Teachers will be sharing their success stories. This is an opportunity to increase awareness of the importance of environmental literacy. Connecting our children with nature is not only beneficial for their own health and well being; it is critical to the health of the environment. Our children are the future stewards of the land and they won't be able to care about and protect the environment unless they know and better understand nature.

Light morning refreshments and lunch included. General admission \$35 CFA members \$30 Students \$15. On line registration is available at www.catocinforall.org/mom.



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SCHOOL NEWS

Mother Seton

R. Schmidt & L. Tayler

Happy Spring! The unseasonably warm weather this past March has put us all in a joyous mood. The break in the bleakness of the winter coincides beautifully with the ending of Lent and the celebration of the Resurrection during the Easter season.

MSS Science Fair

After as much as a year's preparation, on March 8th students of Mother Seton School (MSS) presented, with enthusiasm and excitement, their 2012 Science Fair Projects for adjudication by ten highly qualified judges. Participation in the Fair was mandatory for grades 5, 6, and 7 and optional for Grades 3, 4 and 8.

The event was considered a great success by judges Brandon White, a recent graduate from Mount St. Mary's Biology department, Lance Dockery & Martin Senese, biology students at Mount St. Mary's University, Audrey Hillman, a Master Gardener who frequently visits MSS and assists with Green School projects, Edgar Hatter, father of MSS student Edison Hatter and a NASA scientist, Christine Nigida, the Science Fair Coordinator and a microbiologist, Bob Kenyon, a retired nuclear physicist, Bernice Culver, a public health nurse and educator, Ron Schmidt, a retired public health administrator and a teacher, and Sharon Schmidt, a microbiologist, certified medical technologist and health educator. Both new and returning judges reported having a positive experience judging the Fair and delighted in the efforts presented by students.

While all of the participants in this year's events are deserving of accolades, several merited special attention. Those include the following prize winners:

3rd Grade: 1st- Natalie Bosche, 2nd- Matthias Buchheister, 3rd- Marshall Mott; 4th Grade: 1st- Ana Hand, Tied for 2nd- Lea Roberts and Grace Blanchard; 5th Grade: Tied for 1st- Aiden Cliber and Jack Walker, 3rd- Emily Longenecker; 6th Grade: 1st- Maya Hand, 2nd- Edison Hatter, 3rd- Noah Wivell. Honorable Mentions: Stephen Hochschild and Eric Weber. 7th Grade: 1st- Cecelia Bosche, 2nd- Paige Orner, 3rd- Zach Milbourne, and Honorable Mentions- Brendan McCormick and Leah Morgan.

The U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology states that "Despite our historical record of achievement, the United States now lags behind other nations in STEM (science, technology and mathematics) education at the elementary and secondary levels..."

The Nation lacks clear, shared standards for science and math that would help all actors in the system set and achieve goals. As a result, too many American students conclude early in their education that STEM subjects are boring, too difficult, or unwelcoming, leaving them ill-prepared to meet the challenges that will face their generation, their country, and the world."

All the more reason to recognize

Mother Seton School, where young people are encouraged and rewarded for their interest in math and science, and where faculty and volunteers are committed to sharing their love of those fields with students.

For this year's Science Fair, Mount St. Mary's University students joined the judging process, and they had a great time. MSS is happy to have such a close working relationship with the Mount, and its students and seminarians. All who were involved in this process - students, teachers, and judges alike - are contributing to an atmosphere of learning in these highly valued and necessary fields for tomorrow's competitive world.

MSS Service Learning

MSS students spent the Lenten season

reflecting not only on the idea of sacrifice, but in taking care of others. The annual Rice Bowl collection benefited Catholic Relief Services' missions overseas. The school also participated in an annual food drive for the Seton Center. Students brought in hundreds of pounds of non-perishable goods. The lesson of taking care of others both home and abroad is universal, and these activities gave the children and their families a way to make a tangible difference in someone else's life. They truly espoused this year's Lenten message of charity and we are proud of their efforts!

Each class spent time at the Sister's Chapel to pray at the Stations. Families were also invited to join the students for a special "Stations Walk to the Shrine". Praying at the Stations of the Cross is an important way to connect oneself with Christ's suffering and to truly be in his presence. Often,


the commercialization of Easter, with its chocolate bunnies and jellybeans, overshadows the essential meaning of the season. Through works of charity and devotional prayer, we can develop a deeper relationship and connection with our Lord. Our school is blessed to be able to offer such opportunities to our students, staff, and families!

We would like to take a moment

to thank our Home School Association and community for their support in making both our 1st Annual Bull Roast and 2nd Annual Warm the Heart Tea so successful! The money raised through the silent auction and raffle items directly benefits our school community. We hope to see you at next year's functions!

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1. Leadership: We have a new superintendent. It's important that the board work in partnership with her administration leadership so that we can provide the best education to our students.
2. Budget: As the state continues to reduce funding we will need to bring our communities and schools together to examine all options that will support sustainability and promote future growth of education.
3. Curriculum: We need to excite and challenge our students at all levels of learning. We need to provide teachers and students with the tools and resources that will engage them in learning.

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A Spring awakening

Kyle Ott

As the cold blanket of winter slowly recedes and the frosty wind which bit our cheeks and the tips of our noses returns from whence it came, it seems like the entire world has shaken off the old season, just as the surrounding buildings and trees have shaken off the last vestiges of snow. Everywhere I look, Mount St. Mary's is bursting with life and vibrant energy. The first thing I see when I wake up in the morning isn't a sky that's angry and gray but a sky that shines a brilliant royal blue and grass that shines a lustrous green. As I walk to class I notice that my classmates have shed their winter coats both literally and figuratively. Dark jackets have been replaced with pastel t-shirts; snow boots have been traded for streamlined

sandals, and sundresses have begun to pop up like the wildflowers that line the sidewalk.

But it's not just what my friends and peers are wearing that heralds the arrival of this wondrous time of year, but the activities of our students indicate the change in season. While we were in the depths of winter, Mount St. Mary's resounded with stern silence, as eager college students sat huddled in their rooms braving the cold with time spent around the television watching whatever happened to be on and clinging to steaming cups of Ramen noodles for warmth. Now that the cold has finally retired permanently, the students on campus are out in force. Instead of silence ruling the quad, legions of students have swarmed to the open ground to play football, baseball, soc-

cer or an epic game of Frisbee. Near the Terrace there's a yellow tightrope strung between two trees that students walk across like giddy acrobats. Even when nothing is being done, people are taking advantage of the warm climate by lounging on chairs, picnic tables, grass and sidewalk to soak up the sun and feel the caress of a warm breeze.

Even the nature of our schoolwork has changed for the better. Students have migrated en masse from the twisting labyrinthine halls of the library and the quiet confines of the dorm lounges into the warm light of the spring day. At any given moment you can easily hear the sound of dedicated fingers typing on a keyboard over the din of a soccer game. And you can just as easily find a person writing a thesis statement for an upcoming research paper under the shade of a tree as see a person playing the guitar.

For myself, I'm taking advantage of this drastic new change of weather and making the most of it that I possibly can. Instead of falling into my old win-

ter routine and moving to the same desk in the library to do my work I decided to go outside, and found myself in for more than the calm morning I expected. The day in question was one that was dominated by blue skies, a shining sun, and gale-force winds capable of blowing skin off bone. As I made my way towards an empty picnic table, I couldn't help shake the feeling that a grappling hook and climbing gear would have been more suited to studying than the laptop and pencil I brought. Even after reaching the table I was forced to engage in a veritable juggling act, trying to avoid losing my book to the mini tornados that seemed to come in waves. Adding to the difficulty was the distinct lack of heavy objects to hold down the books, papers and binders that were at constant risk of being hurled off the table.

Despite all my struggles I couldn't help but realize how positive an experience it was. Yes, I almost lost my hard-written responses to Alexander Pope's *The Rape of the Lock*. And

Other Poems, but I had gained a fun experience. (I continue to joke that anyone who wants a fresh perspective on the works of Pope or any other poet should experience them while the wind takes cheap shots at your term papers and your face.) Which brings me to the point of what is obviously a dramatization of the experiences I had on one of my first spring days here on Mount St. Mary's campus. Something that had seemed as rote and routine as doing my homework for a class took on a whole new light thanks to what can only be described as a drastic change in weather. With that in mind it's quite easy to look forward to other challenges, new experiences and fresh perspectives that Spring will bring. So no matter where this new season takes you hopefully you'll make the most of what is a brand new awakening. I'm Kyle Ott; won't you sit and read for a while?

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

Sophomore Year

Illusions in Springtime

Carolyn Shields

So spring is here! And it is horribly affecting my work because I consider it a sin to be in the library when the sky is blue, the trees are blossoming, and my nose is tingling with allergies. Last Tuesday when I should have been writing my five-page annotated bibliography paper that was due the next day, Kathy my sister sent out a text to play volleyball at 3:30. Ten minutes later, I was barefoot and frolicking to Tommy on the grass, shouting "It's spring! It's spring!" when he was in the distance, and hugging him because I lost a dare. Occasion #1 where Carolyn sounds stupid in this article. Kathy and Beverly were literally rolling on the ground laughing at my embarrassment as we walked back together.

Volleyball ensued. Kids in the distance were walking on a rope they strung between two trees which is the new thing to do at the Mount. Some girls who didn't see our eye

rolls were sun bathing near the seminary, and some incredibly ingenious guys carried their flat screen TVs and sofas out to the patio to take advantage of the sunny weather. Book bags and, say, those five-page annotated bibliographies are put aside until the stars came out. It's a hard life...this thing people call college.

These first few days of beautiful weather were much needed on my part. I was feeling overwhelmed with the amount of work I was and wasn't doing. But furthermore, I've been feeling so conflicted about my prayer life. For two weeks I missed a few daily Masses because I was a) writing papers or b) sleeping, and I just had to tell myself that daily Mass is a gift, not a requirement. Mostly, I know there will be a time when I don't have access to daily Mass whether it's because of work or volunteering in another country, so I'm taking advantage of it now.

But I've also been praying so much that it's exhausting. I don't mean just spiritually. But there's this overwhelming truth that no matter what we do, no matter how much we thank God, for climbing in trees with friends, for the deadline of that five-page annotated bibliography being pushed back two days, it will never be enough. Even when we get to heaven, we can always love God

more. We simply can never love Him enough.

So at the end of this week was a silent retreat that I signed up for. I've never been frightened by the concept of silence before, and since I'm helping to lead the Kairos retreat the following weekend, I wanted time to prepare. About fourteen women signed up, and we spent two days at the Shrine.

During one afternoon, I sprawled out beneath a pine tree on the Basilica's grounds. I was sketching Pierre Giorgio Frassati from that black-and-white photo of his where his right arm is lackadaisically draped over his friend's shoulder, a lock of his black hair falls in front of his eye, and his mouth opens wide in a full-belly laugh. The sun was incredibly warm and comforting, and the grass was thick and spongy, fresh and green. I stopped drawing and lay on my back. Within moments I was asleep.

When I woke up, my arm was sprawled over my head, my mouth was open, but in that hour, the world didn't change. The birds were still chirping; the sun hardly even moved. And for once, I didn't shower God with praises. I didn't feel the need to pull out my rosary or my notebook to work on my Kairos speech. I simply let God love me. I remained lying down but rolled over onto my stomach and let the grass cushion my cheek. God knows I love Him, but for once I let myself experience the reflection. I let God love me more in that moment than I have ever al-

lowed before.

The retreat ended a few hours later, and when I went back to the Shrine's White House to pack up my things, I went inside the pristine bathroom. When I twisted the doorknob, it wouldn't open. I wiggled and shook and pulled and messed with the lock but it wouldn't budge. I shook the door, thinking it was just stuck.

'My life,' I think, and all I could do was pull on the door with all my might. Occasion #2.

Then on the other side I feel someone trying to pry open the door. Lizzie! I was worried that she left with the others, but it was just us two left in the house. Because our time for silence hadn't ended, we worked quietly a few minutes until I began snickering, and then we both laughed.

I was stuck in a bathroom. It was bound to happen sooner or later in my life.

"Uhm, do you want me to get Sr. Liz? I don't really know what she'll do..." Lizzie said quietly on the other side.

"Uh, I guess so," I said, unable

to stop the sporadic chortles. I was more desperate to open the door. I would look like such an idiot. Besides, there weren't any screws on the lock...it was that old.

When I heard Lizzie go, I crawled on top of the heater and pried open the window. A two-story drop. Dang it.

I elbowed the door. I rammed by shoulder into the door, hoping it wasn't stuck. Finally, I was able to put all my strength into the lock and then I found myself back into the world, sweaty and hot.

So anyway, uhhh...let's tie that story in with trusting in God. Trust is beautiful; life is beautiful. Spring. I think that works. Or you know what? I guess it can just be a little humor I'm injecting into your day, you oh anonymous audience...

As the infamous Doc always says when he visits me at St. Philomena's, "Do you want to see something funny?"

"Yes, Doc."

"Look in the mirror."

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SPRINGTIME AT THE MOUNT

Junior Year

Springtime college cookout

Samantha Strub

Light the Fire! Take out the burgers, buns, tomatoes, lettuce, cheese, ketchup and mustard. Open up a cold refreshing drink.

Then the smells of a delicious cookout will drift towards the open windows of the apartments. You run to the sill to discover what the delicious smells are. You see your friends with total strangers gathered around the grill and picnic tables. Your friends wave and yell at you to come down and join the fun. The warm weather is just too tempting. Your course work gets set aside and forgotten, as you wander down the apartment stairs and step outside into the sunshine.

The world is finally blossoming into the warm and inviting weather of spring. The snow and the cold crisp winds have left, and the sun beams down. People crawl out of their hibernating slumbers into the light. The windows are open to let in the warm breeze, the birds chirp, and the sun shines. The warm weather is too tempting to sit inside for long. It just beckons you outside into spring's embrace.

Once you wander down the apartment stairs and open the door, the warm fresh air greets you with many stimulating aromas. The smells pull you in, along with the cheers of your friends who have been trying to beckon you out into the sunshine to relax.

Your voice of reason chimes in, telling you that you really need to finish your work. However, you cannot bring your feet to move anywhere near the doors of the apartments.

Instead, your feet guide you to the grill, where the wonderful scents come from. You place your order and chit-chat with your friends. Your feet continue to move further into the sunshine. You end up on the lawn where you slip off your shoes and bury your feet in the cool grass. Your friends have already sprawled out. You lie down next to them and bask in the sunshine while gossiping about all the hot campus news.

You are living in a moment in time when there are no cares at all in the world. Life is simple; you are lying out and enjoying the sunshine. The cheeseburger you ordered is brought to you, and your shoes are thrown aside and forgotten about. Staring up at the clouds

slowly floating by, you realize that this is exactly what you need—time to relax and escape reality.

Springtime is blossoming out from under you, and you are completely missing out. Amid all of the studying, projects, papers and lesson plans that you have to do, you have forgotten about the raw enjoyment of relaxing with your friends at a cookout. It was a spontaneous event that you've forgotten about since freshman year. When you were a freshman, spontaneous events took place all the time, cookouts, tanning sessions, pickup games, snowball fights and snowman building at midnight. As you progress through your major and life becomes chaotic, the spontaneous events happen less and less often. When the sun is shining and the weather is nice, I look at all of the freshmen out in the quad, and I cannot help being saddened by how much free time I used to have. I wish that were still the case.

Now, the only time that I can get out in the sun is when I bring my homework with me. I do not have the leisure to lie outside with a pleasure book or play a pickup game. Instead I'm trying to work diligently while reminiscing about our underclassman days.

As I'm munching on my cheeseburger, lying in the grass, chit-chatting with my friends, I realize that we all must be dragged outside for a springtime cookout. It is a much-needed break amidst all of the hustle and bustle. The springtime air, good friends, and the smell of grilled food dragged me outside.

These cookouts provide relaxation, good times and lasting memories. There are always stories about the springtime apartment cookouts. Who knows, maybe someone will bring out a TV again . . .

To read other articles by Sam, please visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior Year

Spring is here!

Julia Mulqueen

Spring is positively the best time to visit the Mount Saint Mary's campus. The school is abuzz with activities. Students are outside soaking up the sun's rays, and the cherry blossoms are in full bloom.

Naturally, I cannot sit inside doing my homework on a beautiful, sunny day. I cannot squander the 80 degree weather sitting at a desk. For me, every time the sun is shining, all bets are off. I temporarily rescind my personal commitment to complete my homework and allow myself to wander outside. I promise myself that I will be responsible and return to my homework in an hour...

I stroll outside of the Mount's newest dorm building, Bicentennial, and make my way to the quad. The sun is high in the sky and deliciously warm. By the apartments, juniors and seniors are lighting charcoal and preparing to grill. Laughter envelops the towers, and faces are lit with smiles.

I take a deep breath and fill my lungs with the fresh spring air. I gaze up and to my right at the volleyball court. A game is going on with five on each side. I walk closer and realize that I know all of the people playing. My roommate Dasha calls out to me once she sees that it's me. "Julia, come play with us!" I stroll up the grassy slope to the edge of the court, slip off my sandals, and dig my toes into the warm sand. I gaze up with false shyness. "Dasha, you know I'm awful at volleyball! And I'm terrified of the ball!" She smiles, and the game begins again.

After a few minutes, I sink down into the lush grass, leaving my toes buried deep in the sand. Now, the game is tied and one of my friends says she has to leave. Apologizing, she moves off the court and heads back to her dorm. Dasha's head snaps to the left to look directly at me. "Now we definitely need you!" she says. "Otherwise, the teams will be uneven."

I look at my sandy toes. I have a

deep and completely illogical fear of volleyball. It stems from my childhood when I used to watch my cousins play in their backyard. I am one of the youngest cousins; most of them are at least 10 years older than me. Whenever they played volleyball, they played with passion. I, being 10 years their junior, would watch from the sidelines as my cousins spiked the ball again and again, narrowly missing each other's heads. I would jump in every once and a while, and my cousins would playfully tease me about the shrill screams that would emit from me whenever someone spiked the ball.

I snap out of my reminiscing as I realize that Dasha and the rest of my friends are calling my name. So I brush the sand from my toes, stand up and join them on the court. We start playing, and to my surprise, I soon realize that I am not as terrible at volleyball as I had remembered. I am not good, no doubt, but I am good enough to hold my own. I start to actually enjoy myself, and I begin to ham it up, calling out the only volleyball-type catchphrases I know, "Set me up!" and "Power shot!"

We play a close match, 24-22, and I decide to wander back toward the apartments where another group of friends are throwing a Frisbee. Passing the guitar player, the group of sunbathers and the cluster of people trying to study but getting nowhere, I make it to my friend Ashley. "C'mon, Jules! Don't go back inside and do homework! We can study later; play Frisbee!" she shouts with characteristic enthusiasm. "Well, if I must" I reply jokingly. I join the circle happily, and we play for what



must be an hour. The sun starts to dip lower and lower in the sky, casting brilliant streaks of gold, crimson and plum across the sky. "This must be what heaven is like," I think to myself.

As dusk begins to settle in, I look around the circle knowing the impending darkness means it is time for me to finish-ehem, start-that homework of mine. I bow out and make my way back to Bicentennial. As I walk back, I think about that fourth pillar of the Mount, community. The first three are faith, discovery and leadership. I never really understood until this moment what the big commotion was about them. I knew they were important, but what I have failed to realize until just now is that they are the attributes which set apart this wonderful university. Where else would I have been so lovingly accepted into a community? This day has taught me that the community here is the school's greatest achievement, and now-a-days, community is not to be taken for granted.

As I walk I realize another reason why the community is so special. When I thought earlier, "This is what heaven must be like," I was actually closer to the truth than I first realized. Drenched in the beauty of the setting sun and enfolded by the arms of the community, I could not help but think that way. Will not heaven be a community gathered? A peo-

ple worshipping together, in perfect unity? So in this way, Mount Saint Mary's with her amazing community of students, faculty, staff and townspeople is imaging heaven on earth; she is helping all who cross her path to live life to the fullest.

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THE GRADUATE

An adolescent's development

Katie Phelan
MSM Class of 2011

The odd, or I guess completely normal thing, about adolescents is that they're just like everybody else—unique. However, despite this overall individuality, there are some trends, as anyone who's been around a teenager knows. Adults can anticipate that teens are often moody and taciturn, sometimes bubbly and enthusiastic, and sometimes combative, especially with parents or siblings. Adolescence is a time of moving away from the safe and familiar settings and expectations of childhood and moving toward the individuality and responsibility of adulthood.

This semester I've been studying adolescence in a course through Wilson College on my way to achieving my teacher certification. The course is "Adolescence development and cognition" and many people in the class are adults who are in the process of leaving their current job in order to become teachers. As such, many of them are still spending their days in computer labs or administrative buildings. They don't have the opportunity (or is it a punishment??)

to observe adolescents all day long. However, as a new teacher, that's exactly what I do all day.

I teach a wide range of teens—two of my classes each day are freshman courses, while my other class is comprised of juniors and seniors. Because of this, I am able to compare the vast differences between the two age groups, which can be very interesting, entertaining, and occasionally frustrating.

Let's start with freshmen. At the beginning of the year freshmen have no idea where they are. They're petrified of doing something wrong or getting in trouble. As a result, you can basically tell a freshman anything you'd like. You don't need to expend much energy on discipline because at the beginning they're scared to do anything wrong, but on the other hand, you need to be more careful about things that you say, because they can also be more sensitive.

However, by this point in the school year, most freshmen have grown accustomed to their new lofty status as high school kids, and have therefore coaxed their egos into ones of monumental proportion. This makes them chatty in class and confident that they're not only cool, but

always right. They've almost completed an entire year of high school, and they've figured out their way around things and people. They can also almost taste the release from the last thing that's holding them back—the title of "freshman." Soon they'll be sophomores (which literally means "wise foolish ones," by the way) and they won't be at the bottom of the high school heap anymore; they're moving up.

In contrast, juniors and seniors are much different. They've embraced the "cool scene" and thrived with that status attribution or else just grown accustomed to their position as high school elders. For most of them, high school isn't the "be all and end all" anymore—there are too many other pressures. For one, the end of high school is fast approaching and many have options barreling after them—job or college and a major—which are demanding a decision. These decisions are often made more difficult, or at least pressure-laden, by concerned parents breathing down their necks. Some of them also have jobs in order to pay for things like cars, cell phone bills, or general leisure activities. In general, high school juniors and seniors are feeling the pressure of the future, but they're confident where they are. In terms of the classroom, that means they could care less about anything and therefore want to cause as much chaos as possible or they do care about learning and are interested in the material and want to do some work.

These two different attitudes create some different approaches to classroom management, but the mindsets of these two groups mean differences in actual learning also. For example, I experienced varied results teaching poetry to the freshman and juniors/seniors. With the freshman I did a poetry unit for the year. We talked about form and technique and also looked at several examples. I



did a similar unit with the juniors/seniors in creative writing, also looking at form, technique, and examples, but with more focus and in greater depth. With both groups I read parts Dante's Inferno and gave both groups a similar assignment.

Reading this epic poem with these two groups was interesting because of the questions they asked and the areas they focused on. The freshmen tended to be much more concerned about literally what was going on at any given point. They wanted to know what was happening and why it was that way. For example: why is a particular circle set up in such a manner? Why are the souls there punished that way?

The juniors and seniors sometimes asked those kinds of questions, but were in general more accepting of the basic logistics. They tended to ask questions about the fuller picture, for example, how is Dante's world of hell, purgatory, and paradise set up? How do purgatory and hell differ? Who are the different souls in the various categories? They tended to

want to fit the selections I had chosen into a broader framework. They also asked more historical questions about the significance of the work—how did the Catholic church react to this at the time? How do they react to it now? How "true" to the text of the Bible is this? And so on.

Honestly, it is more difficult to teach the older students because they asked much better and deeper questions than the freshmen did. This isn't an indication of inherent intelligence, but just of the different ways they are able to comprehend information at this point in their development. Things which are easy for a senior to do are sometimes much more difficult for a freshman. And to an even greater level, what's easy for me to do is sometimes very difficult for the freshmen to accomplish. This is part of what teaching is—encouraging this development of skills through practice and lecture, while acknowledging that in pushing them to learn and expand their minds, sometimes what we ask the students to do, isn't possible for them yet. Some of the more difficult concepts go right over their head.

I'm anticipating and almost fearing this truth for the next few weeks as I teach the freshmen Shakespeare. We're reading Romeo and Juliet, and I'm anticipating that while I understand Shakespeare's words, they probably won't, and explaining the Bard's language is likely to be a difficult task.

But I anticipate that some of the fun of teaching will be watching how these freshmen grow and develop as they go through high school. Maybe I'll be lucky enough to have some of them again as juniors or seniors and be able to see for myself how they've changed and grown in intelligence and curiosity. The goal for everyone is, of course, to never stop growing, developing, or learning throughout life. This goes for myself, and is something which I strive to keep after with each day, and let me tell you, teaching certainly helps with that.

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TIME IS ON MY SIDE

Family's first spring

Jackie Fennington
MSM Class of 2010

I cannot help but think how lucky Lucy is to have two parents who love her unconditionally and think she is just the greatest living thing on Earth. We will not turn into the parents who obnoxiously brag about their kids being the best at everything, but we are incredibly fond of our little one for valid reasons. If you have met Lucy, you already know.

With Spring blooming all around me, allergies inevitably surfaced, but worse than ever before. I surrendered to the air conditioning a bit early for my liking, but it helped keeping the pollen out. Lucy also showed signs of allergies and had trouble sleeping, bringing us back to her early days of life when we spent all night awake together. It was the most pitiful thing to watch Lucy try to put herself to sleep by sucking her thumb like she does every night, only this night she could not breathe out of her nose with her thumb in her mouth. You could see her frustration. When I heard Lucy having difficulty breathing, I knew it was going to be an all-night affair, but it did not bother me one bit. I was just happy to be able to comfort Lucy while she was sick. Every kid wants their mommy when they are sick and it felt good being the mommy this time rather than the sick kid.

Lucy is now becoming a pro at sitting up, rolling from one side of the room to the other, screaming at the top of her lungs and "walking" with assistance. Mom and Dad are developing a few more tricks up their sleeves too...

Mr. Mom

During March I worked a weekend job while Sean stayed home with Lucy. I never doubted that Sean could take care of Lucy without me. I knew he would be fine, but I was still pleasantly surprised by just how well he did.

When you go through a daily rou-

tine you develop a rhythm to make things go smoothly. In my daily routine I make sure to wash Lucy's dishes after she's done eating, but still sitting in her highchair so that they are ready for the next feeding – you never know what will happen in the next hour or two to prevent you from doing the dishes you left in the sink. There's a method to everything – diaper changes, laundry, baths, feedings, etc. – and sure enough, Sean came up with own methods as well.

We have been trying to make sure Lucy gets a full 24 oz. of milk throughout the day, per the doctor's recommendation, and I had been having trouble with it during the week. It seemed like Lucy was just not hungry and would not eat as much as she was supposed to. I warned Sean about it before I went to work and said good luck, hoping it would go okay. On Sunday night we

talked about the weekend and how everything went.

"How much did Lucy eat today?" I asked, expecting to hear a number around 18 or 20 oz.

"Yesterday she had 25 oz. and today she had 26," he said.

"What?!" I was ecstatic and shocked at the same time. The surprises continued... "Did she spit up a lot?"

"Nope," Sean said proudly. "She didn't spit up once all weekend!"

I was shocked and so happy. Dad figured out the magic touch. He went on to explain how he would feed Lucy and the trick to each different bottle design. It was funny listening to Sean explain these intricate details of bottle-feeding, some I never thought of. I could not help but call him Mr. Mom.

The CPR Fake-Out

Introducing new foods to Lucy's diet is a treat for all – Lucy and spec-

tators. Every green light we get from the doctor to try something new makes me feel like Lucy is growing up so fast. First it was the rice cereal and now we are on to fruits, veggies and even juice. Keep in mind every new item is liquid or mush, but it still feels like it will be no time before Lucy is sitting at the table eating our food cut-up into tiny little bites.


I kept hearing how much Lucy is going to love all these new things like adding fruit to her cereal and giving her a sippy cup with juice, but her reaction was far from loving it every time we introduced something new. The day I got the green light from the doctor to try a fruit or vegetable mixed with her rice cereal, I was ecstatic and could not wait to get home and puree an apple for Lucy to try.

Dinner time rolls around, Dad is home from work and Lucy is in sitting in her highchair anxiously waiting for her green bowl of yummy rice cereal – arms flailing and legs kicking out of excitement. Little does she know it contains a very special treat. I mix up the cereal and apple-mush, Dad gets the

video camera ready and we give Lucy her first bite of "real" food. She looks at us in utter disgust – mouth open, but not smiling – and lets the food just trickle out her mouth. If you have ever seen the movie Elf, Lucy's facial expression was similar to Will Ferrell's when he sprays perfume in his mouth. Being the mature parents that we are, we could not help but burst out laughing at the ridiculous face she made.

I try feeding the second bite and this time she eats it, but then immediately starts gagging. I freak out and go into panic mode thinking she is choking. I immediately want to rescue her from her highchair and perform CPR. Sean reassures me that she is fine and Lucy then gives a devious smile while still letting out little coughs. This happens on repeat and every time Lucy gags with the taste of new food my heart skips a beat thinking she is choking. And sure enough, she smiles big every time while still coughing. She's such a little trickster, faking out her parents. Lucy is taking on quite the persona and has all the accessories and facial expressions to match it.

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ARTS

Expose yourself to Shakespeare!

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2012

I'm sure most of you have read at least one of Shakespeare's plays in school before, and I'm sure most of you remember the groans from some of the students (maybe even you) as they tried to comprehend the old-fashioned vocabulary and the artful language for which he is famous. Shakespeare is one of those people who can cause mixed reactions from people, but if you really look deep into his works, you will be amazed at the impact they can have and even how they can be related to the modern day.

I had the pleasure of attending the Maryland Shakespeare Festival's (MSF) performance of *The Merchant of Venice*, which was a part of their first Bare Bard Repertory Season. The season included performances of *Julius Caesar*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. As I flipped through the playbill that was given out at the play, I saw the program note that explained all that went into making the season possible. Some of the main things that I admired so much about the play were exactly the things that they had hoped would have such a powerful effect on the performance. So I would definitely say that they were extremely successful and

their artistic vision became a reality!

To really get the effect of what Shakespeare's plays were like in his time, the program explained that "the lack of technical elements such as lighting and scenery simplified each production." This was actually one of my favorite parts of the performance. We are so accustomed to plays with over-the-top scenery and costumes, but the simplicity of those things in MSF plays helps accentuate the acting, the passion, the humor, the emotion, and the storyline itself. This way, the surrounding details do not distract us, but rather we are drawn in by the characters and the plot, as if the events are happening for the first time before our very eyes. You are captivated by what is occurring right in front of you, and that is what plays are all about, after all.

I also loved the actors' improvisation and interaction with the audience members. They sat with us, talked directly to us, asked us questions, and made the play more relatable. The acting in general mesmerized the audience, but the interactive nature of the play made us feel like we were a part of it. It was obvious that the superb acting had formed strong emotional bonds between the audience members and the characters,

which was made apparent when the audience erupted in cheers when Bassanio won Portia's hand.

Another thing mentioned in the program was the fact that "the same core group of actors" was used for each production. Amazingly, the actors barely get any rehearsal time to prepare for these performances because they are based on improvisation, and yet I could immediately sense the camaraderie between the actors in the play. From the second they made their first appearance, the audience was blown away by the ease with which they interacted and brought the play to life. You could tell that they mesh well as a group, yet at the same time, every individual monologue was just as powerful. The actors were strong as individual parts and as a whole, which made the overall effect of the play that much more riveting.

Most important of all, the actors looked like they enjoyed every single moment of the performance. They showed such emotion and expression through their acting, using strong gestures and facial expressions to really convey their characters' roles. John Bellomo, Artistic Director of the company, explained that the actors are of a wide range of ages and levels of experience, but most of them have been acting for a while. And I can vouch for

the fact that you can tell that they are all very experienced, because it shows in their performances!

Bellomo explains that the goal is to "go back to the roots of Shakespeare's plays to bring new vitality to these classic stories" and remind the audience of the ultimate goal of Shakespeare's plays, which is "enjoyment for everyone." But the MSF doesn't stop there. This summer, the MSF will be touring *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to outdoor venues all throughout the state of Maryland. In their Good Will Summer Tour, many of the performances are free of charge for the audiences and a great event for the family. The performances include live music, interaction with the audience, and captivating storytelling that will entertain people of any age. The MSF will also be putting on Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid* at the Frederick Cultural Arts Center this fall.

Through June 1st of this summer, the Shakespeare Alive! School Tour 2012 will be taking place throughout the state. An interactive introduction to the world of Shakespeare, this series is a highly theatrical production put on by the professional company members. For middle school students across Maryland, the performances will bring Shakespeare's plays to life, as they are filled with humor,

passion, and expertise. The MSF describes the performances as "fast-paced and engaging" ways to learn valuable information about the world of Shakespeare and explore the language he uses. The tour pays special attention to the plays that are a part of the Maryland Middle School Curriculum, and it highlights Shakespeare's "greatest hits." It is meant to help students have a better understanding of his plays and really learn something from them, ultimately hoping that they will want to learn even more about Shakespeare as a result!

Led by the professional actors, Shakespeare Into Action! is a series of interactive workshops that really get students involved with the plays themselves. The workshops create opportunities for the students to use their own ideas and form their own interpretations of the plays, which causes them to have a deeper relationship with Shakespeare's stories and also the language he uses. The workshops are designed to follow the Shakespeare Alive! performances, but they can also stand on their own or can be altered to fit any age group.

Regarding this MSF school program, Managing Director Candace Sorensen says, "We perform in middle schools throughout the state and do 1-2 week residencies, funded by the Maryland State Arts Council. These residencies are curriculum-based and enhance the English state standards of education for 6th, 7th and 8th grades." The MSF has altered the way we study Shakespeare, and it has given us the opportunity to have a much better understanding of the plays, regardless of age or experience with reading them. By taking a step back and remembering the true meaning behind his plays, they have taken a step forward in terms of revitalizing their importance in our lives.

So now you must ask yourself one thing. To go, or not to go: that is the question. Before you groan and admit defeat when it comes to understanding the oh-so-confusing Shakespeare, give it a chance. When I went to see *The Merchant of Venice*, giggles, applause, and cheers replaced all of those groans that I was accustomed to hearing from my classes. Trust me, everyone should see one of the MSF plays, whether you are a fan Shakespeare or not, because I promise you that you will enjoy it, learn from it, and have a greater appreciation for Shakespeare as his plays are brought to life before your eyes.

For more information about the Maryland Shakespeare Festival and upcoming performances and programs, please visit www.mdshakes.org or call 301-668-4090.



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Onstage at the Mount

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

The arts are springing into action at Mount Saint Mary's University this month! Starting off the month is the final performance of the Spring Mainstage Production of Moliere's Don Juan, and congratulations, because you get to read an exclusive interview with the star of the show! Our very own "Four Years at the Mount" writer, Kyle Ott, is playing the role of Don Juan Tenorio, the title character of the play. Kyle was involved in acting all throughout his middle and high school years, taking part in plays and musicals whenever he got the chance. Upon entering the Mount, he began to pursue theater, and has already scored a major role in a play!

The main character, Don Juan, is a somewhat complex figure who is dif-

ficult for many people to grasp. His roots begin in seventeenth century Spain, and every generation seems to re-invent the man who always gives in to his every desire. Don Juan was known as a gigolo, a libertine, an insatiable lover, and a ladies' man. Moliere's version of the story is one of the earliest ones, and this thrilling play is full of statues coming to life and devils dragging characters to Hell. Needless to say, it will leave you on the edge of your seat!

In Kyle's words, Don Juan is "a habitual womanizer and a clinical narcissist who has no problems with what he's doing. He's eventually punished by heaven for his crimes at the end of the play." When asked about the process of making the play a reality, Kyle admitted that it has been a demanding process, but it is definitely worth it in the end. The cast rehearses for two and a half hours ev-

ery week from Monday to Thursday, and those who are extra dedicated (like Kyle) spend an hour to an hour and a half outside of scheduled rehearsal time practicing their own individual parts. After all, you know what they say: practice makes perfect!

Kyle says that the most challenging part of performing such a vital role in this play is "digesting the character of Don Juan in its entirety." He explains, "He has layers upon layers of depth to him. His relationship with the women around him, with his closest associate/servant Skanerelle and the relationship he shares with his mother [Dona Luisa] are all really important facets to the character." Another challenge he expressed was figuring out the way the lines should be delivered. He said, "Moliere [the man responsible for the play] layered each of Don Juan's monologues and every one of his lines with political, religious, and moral significance. Whenever I say a line I feel like I have to take it apart piece by piece just to get the general idea of what Moliere is telling us through Don Juan. I wouldn't be far from the mark saying that each of Don Juan's lines are so detailed and intricate that you could easily write a term paper on all but the smallest one."

As you can see, this is a play that will certainly make you think, keep you entertained, and bring you to your feet chanting for an encore. The last show is April 1st at 2:00pm in the Horning Theatre of the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center, located at Mount Saint Mary's University. All tickets are \$5.00, so come on out and see it while you still have the chance!

Another major set of events coming up is the set of Senior Art Shows. Meredith Birmingham is one of the seniors from Mount Saint Mary's University whose work will be showcased this semester. Meredith is an art education major at the Mount.

Describing the theme of her senior show, Meredith explained, "Throughout the course of my life I have been blessed with a supportive and loving family that has shaped me into the person I am today. My senior project is a culmination of not only my unique childhood but my family history, as well." Meredith wants to showcase her distinctive background through the use of her art, and she will do so through the use of a variety of mediums. She explains, "Through the use of photographs, illustrations, and quotes, I hope to give the audience a glimpse into my families past. My study of art at Mount St. Mary's has led me to develop a passion for not only street art but illustration as well. I chose to combine both of these passions into one distinctive work of art."

The painting classes at the Mount had the biggest impact on Meredith because she did not have much experience with oil paint prior to her time here at Mount Saint Mary's. Taking these classes introduced her to a new medium and broadened her abilities as an artist. She also formed a close bond with Professor Elizabeth Holtry, who was Meredith's painting teacher for those classes. Regarding Professor Holtry, Meredith said, "She has helped guide me through many of my art classes, and has helped me become a better artist." After graduation, Meredith hopes to be teaching in a middle school by the fall. I have been in Meredith's class and seen her work, and I know for a fact that she will be very successful in the art world. Her passion and expression when it comes to her art cannot be matched, and her skill level is amazing. I'm sure she will have a bright future and will inspire many young artists through her teaching.

The other seniors who will be showcasing their work are Sandra Andresson, Gracia Fourie, Elizabeth McIntyre-Danner, Gina Nino de Nighingale, Erin Shillenn, Jeff Valonis, and Kelsey Wailes. The first art show is on Thursday, April 26th at 5:00pm, and it will be located

in the Williams Art Gallery of the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center. The second show is on Thursday, May 3rd, also at 5:00pm in the Williams Art Gallery. The culmination of these students' hard work and growth over their four years at the Mount is exemplified in these creative and passionate shows, so these are shows that you don't want to miss! You will be able to see the hard work and progress that these students have made over the years, and their inspiration will be sure to inspire us all, as well.

Next on the lineup is a performance by the Comedy Pigs. This improv group has been featured on Comedy Central, and they regularly perform at the Maryland Ensemble Theater in Frederick. If you are interested in seeing a glimpse of their performances, visit www.youtube.com and check out some of their sketch work to get a better idea about what the group is like. Be prepared for some scenes from a hat during the performance! The show will take place on Friday, April 27th at 7:30pm in the Horning Theatre of the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center at the Mount.

Now you may love art, but the real question is: are you ready for a Super Art Fight? This group is the up-and-coming generation of live art entertainment, matching cutting-edge artists against each other in "the art of creative combat before a blank wall of canvas." Before the audience's eyes, the competing artists create incredible masterpieces. But then, the Wheel of Death comes into play, which "gives the battling artists new topics at timed intervals that must be incorporated into their piece," or else they will be forced to face the wrath of the audience! The audience is able to choose the winners of the combat.

Super Art Fight is taking the nation by storm through its "punk rock sensibility" and "entertaining live commentary," so this is sure to be a performance that you will be telling all of your friends about afterwards. Audience members can attend the workshop that will be offered in the afternoon, and they can see if they are prepared to go head-to-head with the "Baltimore creative heavyweights" from the Super Art Fight group. The battle will take place on Saturday, April 28th at 7:30pm in the Horning Theatre. If you would like to find out more about Super Art Fight, visit www.superartfight.com.

Starting off the month of May will be a Student Instrumental and Vocal Recital. An extremely talented group of Mount singers and instrumentalists from our very own Mount faculty will present an end-of-the-year concert that is free of charge. The concert will take place on Wednesday, May 2nd at 7:30pm in Knott Auditorium. All of that hard work that these musicians have put in throughout the year will be showcased through a series of masterworks, so don't miss out on the last big art event of the semester for the Mount!

For more information about the events and performances that will be put on by the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at the Mount, please call 301-447-5308.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Rosemier-Gussio makes a name for himself

Megan Kinsella
MSM Class of 2013

Well, Emmitsburg, I am excited to say that Spring has finally sprung! The flowers are in full bloom (along with my allergies), the days are longer, the grass is greener, and the sweet sound of sandals flipping and flopping can be heard all around town. Not only are the seasons of nature changing, but sports seasons have changed, as well. Here at the Mount, we thoroughly enjoyed watching the Men's and Women's Basketball teams play during the winter, but now it's time to stretch our legs and head outdoors.

Last month, I gave short previews of the softball, baseball, lacrosse, tennis, and golf teams, who are all off to very promising spring seasons. For April, I've chosen to write about something near and dear to my heart: track and field.

Most people don't see track and field as a team sport, which makes sense since every individual is competing to beat as many people as possible and win the gold. However, here at the Mount, our mindset is completely different. Here, we see every track meet as an opportunity to do our best so that the team will prosper; every

competitor as someone we need to beat because the team will be better for it. Just as a machine only functions correctly if each of its parts does its job and simultaneously work together, a track team will only be successful if every single athlete individually does his or her very best.

One part of the well-oiled Mount Track and Field machine, who has been an extraordinary addition to the team's efforts, is Coby Rosemier-Gussio, a freshman from Boonsboro, Maryland. Gussio ran track for four years at Boonsboro High School, where he qualified for the state championships each year, won gold at states in the 100m and long jump his senior year, and competed at Nike Nationals and New Balance Nationals his junior and senior years respectively. At Boonsboro, he competed in the 100, 200, and 400 meter races, as well as the long jump, and he holds a whopping 14 (yes, I said 14) school records. "I had great coaches and great teammates throughout my four years at Boonsboro," Gussio commented. "I was on varsity my freshman year and was captain both indoor and outdoor my junior and senior years. Throughout my four years there I achieved



stuff I never knew I could be capable of doing."

After being recruited by schools such as Syracuse, the Naval Academy, and Salisbury University during his senior year, Gussio decided that he felt most at home at the Mount. "The Mount was actually the last school to contact me," he said. "I found out that it was about 40 minutes from where I live and went on a visit and I'm glad I did because I love it here. I couldn't see myself anywhere else but the Mount. I'm really thankful."

And believe me... we're really thankful, too! Although he has only been at the Mount for 9 short months, Gussio has already written his name into the school's history books. At the Northeast Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships in February, Gussio finished second in the 200m dash, fifth in the 60m dash, fourth in the long jump, and was part of the Mount's winning 4x4m relay team. His spectacular performances earned him the title of the NEC's Most Outstanding Rookie Performer award, and helped the men's team to finish fifth overall at the meet.

A few weeks later, Gussio competed at the IC4A Championships, a prestigious meet for men's track and field teams on the east coast. There, his eighth place finish in the 200m dash earned him All-East honors, along with teammates Gigi Gibilisco (third in the 800m) and Tom FitzSimons (fourth in the Heptathlon). During the preliminary heat of the 200m dash the day before, Gussio broke the Mount's school record with a time of 21.40 seconds, crushing the previous record by over five-tenths of a second.

In March, the team traveled to Wake Forest for their outdoor season opener, and Gussio continued to blaze his trail. He finished in sixth place out of a field of 112 other athletes in the 200m dash, and qualified for the IC4A Outdoor Championships with his time of 21.64 seconds. He also raced the 400m dash, earning a 17th place finish out of a field of 101 athletes. For his efforts, Gussio was awarded the titles Northeast Conference's Outdoor Track Athlete and NEC Rookie of the Week for the week of March 21.

Due to his unbelievable ability to excel in a very diverse number of events, Gussio will be training to compete in the decathlon for the 2012 outdoor season. The decathlon is a two day event with ten different components that encompasses all aspects of the sport: running, hurdling, jumping, throwing, and pole vaulting. "I've never done the decathlon but I've been training with some of the best guys I've ever met," he said. "We push each other all the time and I'm glad that I get to work with them and learn and absorb everything they have to teach me."

When asked about his goals for the spring season, Gussio's response was simple: "My goal is to always better myself." This goal is made more manageable by having such a great chain of support, including fellow decathletes Tom Fitzsimons and Tim Nickas, long-jumper Quinton Hugley, and coach Jim Deegan. "They are a bunch of great athletes as well as people. Whether it's on the track, on the field, or in the weight room, we come prepared to put in the work and it pays off," said Gussio. "And training under Coach Deegan is great. He has coached some great athletes and it's an honor to be working with such an outstanding coach everyday at practice."

In closing, there is no doubt that Coby Gussio is a spectacular athlete; his hard work has obviously paid off so far, and he will undoubtedly continue to thrive here at the Mount. But, even more commendable than his athletic talent is the modest way in which he carries himself. "I'm just really thankful for it all," he said. He is extremely grateful for the opportunities that he has been given and does not take anything for granted. In that respect, I think we can all learn a little something from this freshman sensation.

Well that's a wrap, Emmitsburg. Don't forget to come out to the Northeast Conference Championships on the weekend of May 5-6 (it's here at the Mount this year) to cheer on Coby and the rest of the team, including yours truly!



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MOUNT CREATIVE WRITERS

Pier 54

Kelly Conroy
MSM Class of 2012

Part 3 of 3

Editor's Note: This story is continued from the past two issues of the Emmitsburg News Journal. Sean and Arlene Stuart were recently married in Belfast, Ireland. Arlene left to prepare their new life in America, joining an Uncle living in Emmitsburg; Sean and Arlene kept in touch by writing letters. Sean plans to join Arlene this month because he was given a spot on the Titanic as one of the crew to do any necessary repairs. This month commemorates the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

He's so lucky to be on that ship, Arlene rested her head on the back of her seat on the train. It was a long ride from Emmitsburg to New York, but Arlene didn't mind. She thought about the letters they had written. How he had called her beautiful. And how hard he had worked to earn a spot on the ship.

It's only a few days until I'll see my husband again, Arlene smiled. I'd never do things the way we did them again. I should have just stuck with him in Ireland until we could have traveled over together. Oh well, the waiting time is over now!

"One hour until the New York stop," Arlene overheard her neighbor on the train say.

Arlene's eyes slowly closed and she saw Sean's face: his shy smile and his bright red disheveled hair. He's going to like Emmitsburg, she thought to herself, and he doesn't even know about my other big surprise.

The next thing Arlene saw when her eyes opened was New York City. It was a Monday morning, April 15th. A dark fog hung over the city, but Arlene's face was cheerful.

There were tall buildings cramped close together and lots of people in the streets. Arlene picked up her bag and rushed to be the first one off of the train. She was so determined to be at the front of the pier when the ship pulled in, so she had arrived two days early. Since the Titanic was not due in until the 17th, her first priority, after locating the Titanic's pier, was to find a place to sleep until the Titanic arrived.

A strip of the latest New York fashion stores caught Arlene's attention, but she looked for a sign directing her to the pier. A crowd of people moved quickly past Arlene. Where are they going? Arlene wondered. She smelled fish and saltwater and knew the pier had to be close by. She made her way past tenant houses with clothes hanging out to dry, children playing baseball in the narrow street and factories that reminded her of the ones back in Ireland.

Arlene turned a corner and there was pier 54! Arlene loved the water. It was one of the things that

she missed most from Ireland. She walked down a gangplank to a floating dock and dipped her hand in the water and shivered. It was bitter cold. Then, a crowd of people further down the pier started shouting. Arlene recognized some of them as the people who had passed her on her way to the pier. In a second, Arlene was in the middle of the clump of people trying to make sense out of all of the talking.

"Listen up!" a well-dressed man shouted, "I'm a representative of the White Star Line. The Titanic has had an accident and is being pulled into port by the SS Virginian."

"When are they gonna git here?" a middle-aged man shouted, "My wife and kids are on that ship."

"I'm not sure," the White Star representative replied hesitantly, "probably still Wednesday."

"Probably?" the man demanded, "We're just supposed to wonder? I thought you had news and might be able to actually tell us something." The crowd grumbled and voices started shouting over each other.

Arlene slipped out of the group and sat down on the pier. A couple more hours isn't a big difference, she consoled herself. She grabbed an apple out of her bag and looked at the group of people still shouting. There were some young women like herself and old women who fanned themselves from the heat of the day. Children were playing jacks on the ground to pass the time. An old man in a hat kept pacing back and forth, back and forth. If I watch him anymore, I'll get nervous that something is wrong, Arlene turned her head.

Gradually the crowd lowered their voices and began to disperse. The middle-aged man who had yelled at the White Star representative sat down next to Arlene.

"I'm John," a gruff voice with a dark face introduced himself.

"Arlene," she replied, "So you're waiting for your wife and children?"

"Yes ma'am. I left them in Ireland five years ago."

Arlene's chin dropped, "Five years ago?" she whispered.

"Yup, ye heard me. No choice. I had no work and we had no money. I've sent every penny I've made back to them."

"I can see why you were upset with what the ship's representative said then," Arlene said.

"Yeah, I just want it to be perfect, ye know?" John's voice drifted off, "Who are ye waitin' for?"

"My husband, Sean," Arlene smiled, "We were married just a few months ago."

John and Arlene talked through the afternoon, sharing stories of loved ones in Ireland. The light was just beginning to fade when a bell began to ring and all eyes turned to the White Star Representative who was now standing atop of a large platform. Arlene and John ran over to be closer to hear him. "There is not an easy way to say this. I would spare you the pain if it wasn't the truth. So I'm just going to say it ...



we have received word that the Titanic sunk this morning at 2 am. Some of the crew and passengers have died. We don't know who."

Shrieks of anguish carried into the air even before the White Star Representative was done speaking. Sobs and sobs of desperate shock and despair overwhelmed the crowd. Arlene lost her breath and felt herself falling backwards. John caught her just before she hit the ground and slowly lowered her body to sit down.

"My baby!" Arlene cried.

"Your baby? I thought you were waiting for your husband, Sean?" John asked.

Arlene pointed to her stomach and closed her eyes.

"You're pregnant with Sean's child?" John was still piecing the facts together.

Arlene nodded. "But what about your wife and children?" Arlene finally remembered John's situation.

"The women and children were given priority on the lifeboats," the White Star representative shouted above the crowds. Arlene fainted again at his words and again John caught her.

How long she was out, she didn't know, but her first words to John were "I'm going to stay here until whatever ship he's on pulls in. I know he's on it. I can't live without him."

"The Travelers' Aid Society of New York has offered to give shelter for anyone waitin' for their family and friends from the Titanic," John explained, "I can show you the way."

Arlene soon found herself on a cot in a long line of cots in a long, bare room. All of these people are waiting for loved ones, Arlene looked around. Dear God, please keep Sean safe. I know he is. Please bring him home soon. Arlene tucked her bag underneath herself and tried to fall asleep. She was tired from the long day but couldn't wait for the next day to arrive. She tossed and turned thinking about the Titanic sinking. I can't believe that huge ship went down. It looked like it could handle anything in the picture . . . Arlene felt water creeping up from her feet to her waist to her side and it almost made its way to her mouth before she awoke with a start. Arlene crawled out of

bed and was halfway to the pier before the sun was up.

Arlene wasn't the only one at the pier for long. Slowly but steadily the pier filled with people. Arlene found her spot from the day before and sat down. She gazed at the people around her and listened to conversations.

"My three children were on that boat," a mother cried, "I came on a boat right before them but I thought the Titanic would be safer for them."

"I always thought I would see them again," a fifteen year old girl sobbed, "but now I'm not sure if my parents will make it."

"My brother was on that ship. I've been taking care of his family and mine until he could come over. If I know anything about him, I'd bet he'd be the last one off that ship onto the safety boats," a grown man gazed into the distance.

Water seeped into the crevices of Arlene's eyes as she looked at the people around her. Some of us will go home very happy and some of us will not, Arlene realized. Oh, is it selfish to hope that Sean makes it? Arlene questioned herself. She spotted John playing a game of catch with the children who were waiting at the pier and she thought about his own children. She looked out at the water but there was still no ship. Eventually she made her way back to the shelter, spent another restless night and returned to the pier. Arlene spent another day chatting with strangers about their loved ones on the ship and staring out into the water. She picked up an apple but then set it down. She opened a book but soon closed it. She trudged back to the shelter for a third night.

"It has been confirmed that the survivors will arrive tonight," the White Star representative shouted the following morning to the gathering crowd. Thunder grumbled and lightning flashed in reply. 40,000 people stood beside the pier waiting in anticipation as their bodies froze from the rain. At 9:30 pm, the Carpathia arrived at New York's Pier 54. Arlene squeezed her way near to the front of the group. She watched as men, women, and children shouted and hugged in joy. But she still couldn't find Sean. Arlene waited and waited, shout-

ed his name, and asked people if they knew Sean. Finally, Arlene returned to the shelter without him.

In the morning, Arlene continued her hunt. She was told that a list of casualties was being compiled. She ran into her friend, John, whose look of dejection told her that his family was missing too. After four more days of wandering the pier and the streets and asking questions of every person in sight, no news of Sean had been found.

On April 23rd, the list of casualties was finally released. John's wife and children were on the list. John covered his face with his hands and fell to his knees in tears. Arlene struggled to comfort him but she couldn't think of anything to say. Sean name wasn't on the list but he wasn't to be found.

"It's time for you to go home," John told Arlene, "You can't wait around any longer. Your family will be nervous about you."

"I can't leave without him," she protested.

"Just accept it and go back to the ones who love you," John replied.

"What are you going to do?" Arlene questioned through tears.

"Start over. Go back to my job. Begin again. And cry a lot," he said.

Arlene looked out the window of her train and shouted to John, "Thank you for your kindness." It's surreal, she thought to herself. How can Sean be gone? Why will John never see his wife and children again? Her whole body shook and her back ached. It had been a long 9 days.

The mountain and the fields told Arlene she was back home in Emmitsburg. She traveled through town center, saw the fountain but did not stop to say hello in Peter Burket's store. Her uncle's house was quiet as she walked to the front door. The lights were out and Arlene was careful to close the door without a noise.

As she turned, she found herself wrapped in Sean strong arms. He lifted her up and swung her around. "You never told me that you were going to pick me up in New York!"

"What? How? Baby!" Arlene shouted in joy, pointed at her stomach and fainted.

To read other articles by Kelly, please visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

SIMPLE SERVINGS

Recipes from the Titanic's last dinner

Sharon Racine

If you knew your next meal would be your last, what would you eat? I would imagine that few people have had the luxury of choosing their final culinary indulgences, but if I could, I would be sure to stuff myself with a delicious Thanksgiving-style feast, complete with homemade stuffing, jellied cranberry sauce, and fresh apple pie a-la-mode. I guess it's safe to say that Thanksgiving dinner is my all-time favorite meal.

Though fun to imagine, the idea of the "last meal" becomes suddenly chilling when placed in a specific context – for example, the sinking of the Titanic. As the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's first and last voyage approaches, I can't help but consider the thousands of passengers who enjoyed a sumptuous feast on that fateful night of April 14, 1912, completely unaware that it was their last.

The thought of this final feast's decadence becomes almost comical to us outsiders, analyzing the ins and outs of the Titanic's wasted grandeur. If the first-class passengers had known that their servings of poached salmon were the last main course they would ever enjoy, would they have even bothered? Or

maybe chewed a little slower? Savored a little longer? It's hard to say, but one look at the first-class dinner menu quashes any doubt that this multi-course final meal was indeed extravagant.

A first course* of oysters was followed by cream of barley soup, then poached salmon with mouseline sauce and cucumbers. Guests had a choice of filet mignon, sautéed chicken, and vegetable marrow farci for the fourth course, not to be outdone by course number 5: lamb with mint sauce, roast duckling with apple sauce, sirloin of beef, green peas, creamed carrots, boiled rice, and boiled new potatoes.

Full yet? Guests would have had to save room for a sixth course of punch Romaine, followed by roast squab and cress, then cold asparagus vinaigrette. The ninth course was a rich pate de Foie Gras with celery, followed up with the tenth (and best!) course of sweets, which included Waldorf pudding, peaches in chartreuse jelly, chocolate and vanilla eclairs, chocolate mousse, and French ice cream. Fruits and cheeses were served as the final dessert course.

Yes, this eleven-course feast, punctuated by endless glasses of wine and liqueur, is certainly one for the history books. The haunt-

ing question remains, however; if the Titanic had not sank, would we even think twice about the last eleven courses ever to be served in first class on the Titanic, April 14, 1912?

*Meals for each course obtained from www.armchair.com/recipe/titanic1.html.

Recipes from the Titanic, circa 1912

via Southernfood.about.com

Cream of Barley soup

Ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon dried leaf thyme
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 cup pearl barley
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1/2 cup leeks, chopped
- 3 ham hocks or 1/2 to 1 cup diced smoked ham
- 3 1/2 quarts chicken broth
- 6 tablespoons instant mashed potatoes
- 1 cup whipping cream

Preparation:

Combine all ingredients except mashed potatoes and cream in crockpot. Cover and cook on low 4 to 5 hours. Remove ham hocks, if used, and discard. Also, discard bay leaves. Add instant mashed potatoes, stirring well, and add cream. Cook on high for 15 minutes longer.

Poached salmon steaks with Hollandaise sauce

Ingredients:

Sauce:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 3 large egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- dash cayenne pepper or hot pepper sauce
- 2 tablespoons hot water

Salmon:

- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 small onion, sliced
- fresh or freeze-dried dill or parsley
- 3 to 4 peppercorns
- 6 salmon steaks

Preparation:

Heat the butter in a heavy sauce-



pan until hot and foamy, but do not let the butter brown. In a small bowl, whisk or beat egg yolks with 1 Tbsp lemon juice, 1/8 tsp salt, and cayenne pepper or hot sauce. Gradually beat in butter, then water. Return mixture to saucepan and beat over very low heat until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve immediately or let stand over warm water for up to 30 minutes. Makes about 2/3 cup of sauce.

Put 4 cups of boiling water in a large skillet; add 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1 Tbsp salt, onion slices, a few parsley or dill sprigs, and peppercorns. Bring to a boil; gently add the salmon steaks to the boiling mixture. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to a simmer. Cover and continue cooking for about 6 to 8 minutes, or until the salmon flakes easily with a fork. Remove carefully to a platter with a slotted spoon or spatula. Spoon 2 to 3 tablespoons of sauce over each salmon steak. Serves 6.

Guinea Hen with Raspberries

Ingredients:

- 1 guinea hen, about 3 pounds
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cups raspberries
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 3 thyme sprigs
- 1/2 cup port
- 1 tablespoon raspberry jam or jelly
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar

Preparation:

Preheat the oven to 425°F. Pat the bird dry and season it inside and out with salt and pepper. Set 1/2 cup of the raspberries aside and place the rest inside the hen. Truss it,

then smear the skin with the softened butter.

Place the hen and the thyme in a Dutch oven or flameproof casserole. Pour in 1 cup water, cover, and place in the oven. Cook for 1 to 1 1/4 hours or until the thigh juices run clear when pierced with a skewer or an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thigh reads 165°F. Transfer the hen to a platter, breast down, and cover loosely with aluminum foil.

Skim off the fat from the cooking juices and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Add the port, raspberry jam or jelly, and vinegar and bring back to a boil, then boil for 3 to 5 minutes, until reduced to 1/3 cup. Add any juices from the resting hen and check the seasoning. Strain the sauce through a sieve into a sauceboat and add the remaining raspberries.

Remove the trussing string, from the guinea hen. Carve and serve with the sauce.

French Chocolate Mousse

Ingredients:

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 4 egg yolks
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 7 oz bittersweet chocolate, melted and kept lukewarm

Preparation:

Heat 2/3 cup of cream in small saucepan until it just begins to steam. In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg yolks and sugar, and then add half of hot cream, whisking constantly, until the mixture is thoroughly combined. Add the warm egg-cream blend back into the hot cream in the saucepan and cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture reaches 165 degrees on a digital candy thermometer. Remove from the heat and stir in the vanilla extract and melted chocolate. Chill the chocolate custard thoroughly.

Beat remaining 1-1/3 cups of cream in a separate bowl until stiff peaks form. Thoroughly stir 1/2 cup of the whipped cream into the chilled chocolate custard, and then gently fold in the remaining cream. The chocolate mousse is ready when the chocolate custard is thoroughly incorporated into the whipped cream, and no marbling shows. Serve chilled. Makes 8 servings.



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Emmitsburg teens take the stage

Leslie Kelly

This month, Catoctin High School will present their annual spring musical, and several Emmitsburg teens are taking part in a big way. *Once Upon A Mattress* is a hilarious re-telling of *The Princess and the Pea*, and is set in a far-away kingdom where a wicked queen holds on to her power by refusing to allow her son to marry. All the princesses in the land come to try to win the prince, only to be ruled-out by the queen's impossible tests.

Into the royal court comes the loud, adorable Princess Winifred the Woebegone (aka Princess Fred) played by sophomore Megan Kelly. Megan, who has lived in Emmitsburg for five years, is no stranger to the local stage. Having performed in several shows at Thurmont Middle School, she started landing leading roles as soon as she moved up to Catoctin. Named "Rookie of the Year" by the drama department last year, she also received a "Best Performance in a Leading Role" nod for her turn as the deadly Papa Ge in *Once On This Island*. Kelly's powerful alto singing voice combined with great stage presence make her Princess Fred a comedic heroine to root for. Per Kelly, "Fred is a great role and is a lot of fun to play. In one of my favorite songs, I

get to run around on stage singing at the top of my lungs that, deep down, I'm terribly shy!"

Another sophomore, Maggie Kaetzel, plays Lady Larken, who desperately wants to get married, but can't until the prince does. Maggie has lived in Emmitsburg for nine years and is also a TMS drama alum, having played Dorothy (opposite Kelly's Wicked Witch) in *The Wizard of Oz*. Like Kelly, Kaetzel has also quickly become a major part of the drama program at CHS, having landed roles in every show since she started her freshman year, which surprised even her. "I was very surprised because I was a freshman and I figured that lead roles were impossible for me." Kaetzel's soaring soprano singing voice has also won her coveted spots in All County and All State Choruses for several years.

Junior Robin Wivell, an Emmitsburg resident for seven years, is playing the comedic role of King Sextimus. The role of the king is an iconic one in musical theater. He has some of the best lines in the show...but doesn't speak! His character has been struck mute by a curse and he spends nearly the entire performance pantomiming everything from jokes, to musical numbers, to a discussion of the birds-and-the-bees with his son. Says Wivell,

"This is the first time I've ever had a role where I haven't been able to speak, so using motions to portray what I'm trying to get across to the audience and the other characters has been a challenge." Wivell credits a unit on pantomime, taught in the school's drama class by teacher Karen Stitely, for helping him prepare for this role.

Though she has performed in several productions since her freshman year, senior Brittany Beene is wearing a different hat this time. The Drama Club president, Beene is also the student director of *Once Upon A Mattress*, and is using the skills she's learned in previous shows and in drama class to help her guide her fellow classmates. Beene is convinced that her experience in drama will help her with all aspects of her future. "You learn skills in here that you can use for almost any kind of job. Being in the performing arts makes you think on your feet."

The youngest member of the Emmitsburg group is Maddie Weigelt, a freshman who also came from a strong theater background at TMS. Weigelt plays one of the ladies of the court, and is also the lovely Nightingale of Samarkand. Weigelt has enjoyed her Catoctin experience so far, crediting Mrs.



Maddie Weigelt, Robin Wivell, Megan Kelly, Brittany Beene

Stitely, with a great introduction to high school dramatics. "Mrs. Stitely has been great. She knows so much about a variety of shows and different styles and makes it all so much fun."


Though they are playing different roles, all of these talented teens have the same request of the community. "Please come see the show and support CHS drama," says Wivell. Beene adds, "Bringing your kids out to see the show is a good way to get them interested in the arts. And it's a lot of fun!" Weigelt concurs. "Mattress is hilarious, all of the characters were perfectly

cast and everyone will have a great time with the jokes and music." And, per Kelly, "Financial support for the arts has taken a major hit in recent years. We've worked really hard on this show and would truly appreciate having supportive audiences to entertain."

Once Upon A Mattress will be performed at the Catoctin High School auditorium Thursday-Saturday, April 12-14, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 and discount coupons will be available to local middle and elementary students. For more information, contact Mrs. Stitely at 240-236-8100.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Hunting for hidden sugar

Renee Lehman

This is the third of three articles discussing sugar usage in America. February's article dealt with the amount of sugar that Americans consume and its effects on the body. Last month's article dealt with Traditional Chinese Medicine's view of sweets. This month's article deals with hidden sugar in foods and alternative sweeteners.

Basic Conversions

Before we start hunting for hidden sugar, let us go over a basic conversion that you need to know. Pull out a bag of sugar, a measuring teaspoon, and a small dish. Measure out one teaspoon of sugar into the dish. That one teaspoon equals four grams of sugar (1 teaspoon of sugar = 4 grams of sugar). A 12 ounce can of soda has 40 grams of sugar in it. Therefore, it contains 10 teaspoons of sugar! So, in your dish, put 9 more teaspoons of sugar. Look at that! Finally, 4 grams of sugar (1 teaspoon) is equal to 16 calories (1 teaspoon of sugar = 16 calories). So, that 12 ounce can of soda has 160 calories in it, all from sugar.

Understanding Labels

You may not be surprised about the high amount of sugar in sodas. However, you may be shocked by the number of foods that have sugars hidden within them. When you read a food label, all of the sugars are lumped together, including the naturally-occurring sugars (like lactose in milk and fructose in fruit) within foods. This can make deciphering the label a little confusing. So, for example, when looking at a label on a gallon of low-fat milk, it will list the amount of sugar per cup as 13 grams even though it contains no "added" sugar. Or, when reading nutritional information about a typical tomato (that is 100 grams in weight and has 21 calories), it has 3.92 grams of naturally-occurring sugar.

Plus, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has refused to add an "Added Sugars" line (in grams) within the "Sugars" section on the nutrition facts label. Instead, the added sugars are only mentioned in the ingredient list, and are only mentioned in decreasing weight order, not by percentage of calories.

So, you will often see a variety of added sweeteners on the label of a product. No matter what these sweeteners are called, they all do the same thing to food (make it taste sweeter). To understand how much sugar has been added to a food, look for the following common sweeteners in the ingredients list:

Sugar, white sugar, brown sugar, confectioner's sugar, raw sugar, beet sugar, cane sugar, turbinado sugar, brown rice syrup, corn syrup, high fructose corn syrup, corn sweeteners, honey, invert sugar, maple syrup, evaporated cane juice, malt syrup, molasses, dextrose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, fructose, galactose, glucose, hydrolyzed starch, and fruit juice concentrates.

Foods with Hidden Sugars

So what foods have hidden amounts of sugars? You might not expect the following examples! Brand names are not included so as not to indict a particular product.

Ketchup: One serving (1 Tbsp) has 4 grams of sugar (1 tsp); 20 calories total (16 of which come from sugar)

Peanut Butter: One serving (2 Tbsp) has 3 grams of sugar (approximately 1 tsp); 190 calories total (16 of which come from sugar)

Iced Tea: One bottle (16oz) has 46 grams of sugar (11.5 tsp); 200 calories total (184 of which come from sugar)

Fruit Yogurt: One container has 26 grams of sugar (more than 6 tsp);

170 calories total (96 of which come from sugar)

Cream of Chicken Soup: One serving (1/2 cup of the condensed soup) has 7 grams of sugar (almost 2 tsp); 80 calories total (almost 32 of which come from sugar)

Favorite cracker: One serving (5 crackers) has 1 gram of sugar (1 tsp); 79 calories total (16 of which come from sugar)

Apple Sauce: One serving (1 cup) has around 23 grams of sugar (almost 6 tsp); 100 calories total (96 of which come from sugar)

Diced Peaches in light syrup: One serving (1cup) has 18 grams of sugar (4 1/2 tsp); 80 calories total (72 of which come from sugar)

Cereal Bars: One bar has 12 grams of sugar (3 tsp); 130 calories total (48 of which come from sugar)

Instant Oatmeal, Cinnamon flavored: One envelope has 13 grams of sugar (over 3 tsp); 160 calories total (more than 48 of which come from sugar)

A "healthy" Oat Bran Cereal: One serving (3/4 cup) has 15 grams of sugar (almost 4 tsp); 200 calories total (48 of which come from sugar)

Fat-Free Chocolate Milk: One serving (16oz.) has 54 grams of sugar (13.5 tsp); 300 calories total (216 of which come from sugar)

100% Vegetable and Fruit Juice: One serving (8 oz.) has 26 grams of sugar (6.5 tsp); 110-120 calories total (104 of which come from sugar)

Sports Drink: One bottle (16-20oz.) can have as much as 42 grams of sugar (10.5 tsp); 310 calories total (168 of which come from sugar)

Sesame Teriyaki Chicken Frozen Meal: One serving has 15 grams of sugar (3.75 tsp); 380 calories total (60 of which come from sugar)

Hard Peanut Butter Granola Bar: One serving (2 bars) has 11 grams of sugar (almost 3 tsp) 190 calories total (48 of which come from sugar)

High Protein Bar: One serving (1 bar) has 20 grams of sugar (5 tsp); 270 calories total (80 of which come from sugar)

Vanilla Soymilk: One serving (1 cup) has 8 grams of sugar (2 tsp); 100 calories (32 of which come from sugar)

Are you surprised by the amount of sugar that can be found added to typical food items? Often, sugar is added to low-fat foods to make the product taste better, and to give the product a longer shelf life.

Alternative Sweeteners

Non-nutritive sweeteners such as aspartame (Equal or NutraSweet), and saccharin (Sweet'N Low) which are commonly found in diet sodas and other "diet" products, have been connected with health issues including tinnitus, headaches, nervous system disorders, and certain types of cancer.

Sucralose is known for its claim to be made from sugar. However, it is nothing like sugar. According to the book Sweet Deception by Dr. Joseph Mercola, sucralose is made when sugar is treated with many chemicals including chlorine. The presence of chlorine is thought to be the most dangerous component of sucralose, since chlorine is considered a carcinogen. A more accurate name for the structure of sucralose would be trichlorogalactosucrose. Say that three times!

Splenda is a product that contains sucralose, but that is not all that it contains. Sucralose is 600 times sweeter than sugar, so very small amounts are needed to achieve the

desired sweetness. Because so little sweetener is needed, dextrose and maltodextrin are added to increase the bulk of Splenda. Both of these are carbohydrates and do have calories. Therefore, one cup of Splenda contains 96 calories and 32 grams of carbohydrates, which is often unnoticed due to the label claiming that it's a no calorie sweetener.

Alleged symptoms associated with sucralose include gastrointestinal problems (bloating, gas, diarrhea, nausea), skin irritations (rash, hives, redness, itching, swelling), respiratory irritations, chest pains, palpitations, anxiety, anger, moods swings, depression, and itchy eyes (www.medicinenet.com).

The Aztecs used agave nectar (pronounced ah-GAH-vay) thousands of years ago and praised this syrup as a gift from gods. This is a product of the Agave plant (large, spikey plants that resemble cactus or yuccas, but are actually succulents similar to the familiar Aloe Vera), and tastes similar to honey. It is not low-cal (it has about the same calories as sugar), but it is sweeter, so you need less of it to sweeten food (1/4 cup of Agave would substitute for 1 cup of sugar). Also, use it sparingly because it can be processed in a way that makes it a lot like high fructose corn syrup.

Stevia is a shrub native to Paraguay, now grown in many countries. The steviolosides from its leaves (refined extracts) are approximately 300 times sweeter than sugar. The actual Stevia powder or extract sold in the store is 30-40 times sweeter than sugar. Stevia has been used commercially in everything from soft drinks to soy sauce in Japan for decades. However, it was not until 2008 that the FDA granted approval for sweeteners made from Stevia extracts. So you may have been seeing this product (as a powder or liquid extract) in the grocery store more recently. It has no calories and doesn't raise blood sugar. However, it may have a bitter aftertaste if too much is used.

Some name brands that you may have seen include: PureVia and Truvia (made by Whole Earth Sweetener Company/Pepsi and Coke/Cargill, respectively). They are made from stevia and other products like the sweetener erythritol. Avoid the white powder and clear extracts because they have been highly refined and lacking vital phyto-nutrients (Healing with Whole Foods by Paul Pitchford).

Finally, all sweeteners have little nutritional value, so use them sparingly. If you crave something sweet, eat something more natural. Fruit or sweet vegetables (like carrots, beets, sweet potatoes, parsnips, etc.) are your best bet.

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 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

Spring is just around the corner

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer/
Therapist

Your body may not be up for the job but your yard may be in need of spring cleanup. The winter may take its toll on you and you may not be ready for the task ahead. Spring is the time people get outside and realize they should have been walking on that treadmill instead of piling their clothes on it. This is also the time they jump into activities their body is not ready for. I'm sure when you start cleaning up all those branches, spreading the mulch over the flower beds and raking those leaves that are left from last fall you will feel a difference in your back, arms or legs. Take it slow, work will wait for you. Think of the saying, the work will be there tomorrow, but if you start too quickly you may not be able to do it. Exercising over the winter was a great idea but somehow you never got around to it. Does this sound familiar?

Maybe it's too late for last winter's exercising but a great time to get started so you have a little

time before you get out to that yard work. Start now and that spring clean up may be a little easier. In fact, use the spring clean up as part of your exercise program. Do a little each day and before you know it the yard will look better and you will look and feel better. Get the family involved and the work will go faster and everyone will benefit from the exercise. I'm sure your spouse and kids could use a little more exercise since they have been inside all winter. People usually think of exercise as something you schedule time for and sometimes that makes it harder to work into their schedule. Exercise does not need to be a program, it can be playing outside with your kids. Take your dog outside and play with him while picking up the branches. Make a game of it and challenge your children to see who can have the biggest pile of leaves. They may not realize they are exercising and helping you clean up at the same time. Be inventive, that makes work and exercise easier. Push yourself on those days you just don't feel like it and you will feel

better after the job is done, both mentally and physically.

I know all of this sounds easy and I realize it is not. Today everyone is so busy and life is stressful so we need to find some kind of balance now more than ever before. Each person needs to explore their own lifestyle and see where and what kind of exercise will fit them. Exercise, as I said before does not need to be a schedule event although, most of the time you need to make time for it or it is the first thing postponed because something else comes up. We tend to think other things are more important but we do not realize that if we take care of ourselves we feel better and are in good shape then the other demands may be easier or less stressful. Many of my clients tell me that they feel better and are able to handle everyday happenings a little easier than they did before they were exercising. Many of them tell me they can do things without the ache or pain they used to have and now the task doesn't affect them as much.

The outside of your house is not the only thing that we think of for spring cleaning. Spring house cleaning is also a big chore but can be a very good source of exercise. Vacuuming, dusting and washing



windows are great ways to exercise and get the house cleaned at the same time. These activities also tell us how out of shape we are when our back starts to ache and we get a cramp in our leg. Everyday work, as simple as it may be, is usually made a little easier if we keep our body in good shape. Cleaning is also something that we can use as exercise while doing something that needs to be done anyway. Believe it or not, cleaning can be used for a little strength training session. Pushing the vacuum, carrying the step ladder to the window, or carrying the items you need to clean with can be a substitute for the dumbbells. Try to think of how you can use the everyday items and jobs you

do to improve your strength and cardio. Try stretching before you start cleaning and that flexibility may make the task a little easier and less stressful on your joints and muscles.

Spring clean up can be a little easier and less stressful if you start slow and try to make a challenge out of it instead of looking at it as an overwhelming job that you have to do. Start slow, work steady, involve family and have fun while you work. Hopefully by the time the yard looks good and the house is cleaned you will feel better and look forward to moving more and making exercise a daily part of your life.

Remember to Keep Moving, it will make life just a little easier!

Fitness Matters

Inga Olsen
Anytime Fitness
Personal Trainer

Question: I love fast food, but I am trying to lose weight and improve my health. Is it okay to eat fast foods while on a diet program?

Answer: Yes, but as always, there are a few important points to keep in mind. We all know fast food isn't necessarily the healthiest meal in town, but we also know that setting realistic goals is an important component of any successful weight loss program. Therefore, it doesn't make sense to completely deprive yourself of fast food, especially if it's appropriate for your specific situation. In other words, if you're crunched for time, fast food may be the only reasonable option. That said, if an occasional trip turns into four or five weekly trips, your weight loss efforts and health goals will likely suffer as a result. The key is to become a savvy shopper and watch out for calorie-laden foods with added sugars, sodium, and fat. Look for a Nutrition Facts pamphlet in local restaurants and educate yourself on their menus. If you make the effort, you'll be able to find a sensible meal no matter where you go. Remember, balance, variety, and moderation are the words to live by when it comes to food. If you apply these principles regularly, you won't have to sacrifice your health and wellness goals when eating out.

Question: I've heard some people say dieting just doesn't work, and that you should focus on exercise if you want to lose weight. Is this true?

Answer: No, this is simply not true. If you've ever looked at food labels and compared them to the calorie counters on your exercise equipment, you'll likely come to some startling conclusions. It is much easier to decrease your calorie intake by 300-500 calories

per day than it is to expend that many more calories each day through exercise. Researchers have addressed this issue as well, and it is generally accepted that diet is the more important variable when it comes to weight loss. Exercise is still beneficial however, and actually plays a much more prominent role in weight maintenance. Here's the bottom line... incorporate both healthy eating and exercise no matter where you are in the weight loss process.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of April

For April 2012, the Moon will be full on April 6th; this is the Paschal Moon, the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox, which sets the date of Passover and Easter Sunday on April 8th. The waxing gibbous moon passes eight degrees south of fading Mars on April 3rd, and the waning gibbous moon passes six degrees south of Saturn on April 7th, with both rising about an hour after sunset.

The last quarter moon rises at midnight on Friday the 13th. The waning crescent moon passes six degrees north of Mercury on the morning of April 18th; Mercury is then at its greatest western elongation, which makes it as far away from the sun and easy to spot as possible. The new moon is April 21st. The waxing crescent passes 2.5 degrees north of Jupiter on March 22nd, but they will be so close to the sun this will be hard to spot. By April 25, the waxing crescent passes 6 degrees south of Venus, and with Venus near greatest brilliancy, you may be able to spot both with the naked eye in broad daylight perhaps 2-3 hours before sunset with a clear day.

Mercury lies to the west of the Sun in the morning sky this month, but early rises can spot it an hour before sunrise about midmonth, with the waning crescent moon passing 7 degrees north of it on April 18th. Venus dominates the evening sky in the west, with Jupiter now vanishing behind the Sun by the end of the month. She passes just south of the Pleiades cluster on April 4th, a fine grouping for binocular viewers. Through the telescope, Venus now appears about half lit and sets about four hours after the sun at the beginning of April. But



she is catching up to the slower moving Earth, and in retrograde motion will set earlier and earlier by month's end.

In May she appears as a large but thin crescent in binocs and telescopes, and historically on June 5, 2012, starting about 5 PM CDT, she will transit the Sun, passing directly between us and the Sun. She will not do so again until December 2117, so hope for clear skies to enjoy this one! Mars is still bright red in Leo in the eastern sky after sunset, but not nearly as big and bright as it was at opposition in early March. Jupiter rapidly disappears in the sun's glare low in the west now, to reappear in the morning sky in June. But Saturn is at its best in the east in Virgo, just northeast of bright Spica, rising at sunset on its opposition date of April 15th. This is the best time to observe the most beautiful object in the sky.

When viewed with a telescope, the rings are open 14 degrees or about half as wide as at its solstice

in 2017, and Titan and several smaller moons fall on either side of the most beautiful telescopic sight in the sky. In addition to its glorious rings, Saturn hosts a huge moon, Titan, visible in most any telescope, and several smaller ones needing at least a 6" scope to spot. Our photo this month shows about how large scopes will show the planet this month.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the northwestern sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great

Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope. In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky as darkness falls. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye.

To the northeast, look for the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars of the bowl, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Look for Mizar-Alcor, a nice naked eye double star, in the bend of the big dipper's handle. Take the pointers at the front of the dipper's bowl south instead to the head of Leo, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star", but brighter still is Saturn, just east of Regulus. Mars gets almost back to Regulus by midmonth, but halts its

retrograde motion on April 15th, just a little east of Leo's brightest star, and starts heading rapidly eastward by month's end, and will head into Virgo in May.

Now take the curved handle of the Big Dipper, and follow the arc SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of the spring sky. Recent studies of its motion link it to the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a companion of our Milky Way being tidally disrupted and spilling its stars above and below the plane of the Milky Way, much like dust falling away from a decomposing comet nucleus. So this brightest star of Bootes the Bear Driver is apparently a refugee from another galaxy!

Now spike south to Spica, the blue-white gem in Virgo rising in the SE. Virgo is home to many galaxies, as we look away from the obscuring gas and dust in the plane of the Milky Way into deep space. To the southwest of Spica is the four sided Crow, Corvus. To the ancient Greeks, Spica was associated with Persephone, daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. She was abducted by her suitor Pluto, carried down to Hades (going to Hell for a honeymoon!) and when Jupiter worked out a compromise between the newlyweds and the angry mother-in-law, the agreement dictated Persephone come back to the earth's surface for six months of the year, and Mama Ceres was again placated, and the crops could grow again.

As you see Spica rising in the SE, it is time to "plant your peas", and six months from now, when Spica again disappears in the sun's glare in the SW, you need to "get your corn in the crib"...so set our calendar of planting and harvesting in antiquity. In the arms of Virgo is a rich harvest of galaxies for modern astronomers. And of course Saturn lies just to the northeast of Spica now, retrograding slowly westward but not quite reaching Spica.

Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Fair and cool (1,2,3) with cloudy and mild weather (4,5,6). Showers with severe storms in the northern part of the region (7,8). Fair and mild (9,10) with more storms in the north and cooler temperatures (11,12,13). Fair and warmer (14,15,16,17) with more showers and severe storms (18,19,20). Fair and cooler (21,22,23) with more showers in the north, cloudy in the South (24,25,26,27). Yet more showers and storms (28,29,30).

Full Moon: April's Full Moon will rise on Friday, April 6th at 2:19 PM EST. Many Native Americans referred to it as Pink Moon because of the many flowers and trees that turn pink and bloom during the month of April. It is also has been known as Fish Moon because fishing begins to pick up in most regions where the weather starts to warm.

Special Notes: Earth Day is observed on Sunday, April 22nd. Make a special effort to go easy on Mother Earth that day (and throughout the

entire year!). To find activities in your area, call the Earth Day Network at (202) 518-0044 or go to www.earthday.net.

The Garden: Spring is just about here and now is the time to begin your annual cleanup. Remove dead foliage from garden beds, old mulch from around shrubs, and rake debris from the lawn. Treat the lawn with pre-emergent crabgrass killer right after forsythia bloom and you will prevent problems later in the season. Spread ample amounts of fresh compost or mulch where needed. Begin planting indoor seedlings outdoors making sure to harden them off first with several short days outside or in an unheated garage. Spray fruit trees with dormant oil when temperatures exceed 40 degrees F. and before they start to leaf out. Test your underground sprinkling system by monitoring a full cycle to make sure it is still operating correctly. Inspect all sprinkler heads for cleaning, adjustment, or replacement. Set out annuals, perennials, and other bedding plants in late April and remember to apply a balanced fertilizer.

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COMPUTER Q&A

Cut, copy & paste: back to basics

Ays Stenabaugh
Jester's Computers
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There's always a right way to do something and a wrong way to do something but, when it comes to using windows, there is almost always more than one way to complete the same function. This month we are going to explore the various ways to cut copy and paste in windows*.

What does the copy function allow me to do?

You can use the copy function to duplicate text or files within your computer. When you copy text or a file it does NOT remove the original that you are copying it only duplicates the original. When you copy an item it is placed on an imaginary clipboard. The last item you copied will remain on your clipboard until you restart or log off the computer. For example; if you copy text and then later copy a picture to your clipboard when you go to paste later on the text no longer remains on the clipboard and the picture will be what is pasted.

What does the paste function allow me to do?

Pasting text or a document allows you to take something that you have cut or copied and place it into a new location. Only the last item that has been cut or copied can be pasted elsewhere however, you can paste both text and images if they were copied simultaneously (for example if you highlighted an entire website that had text and images).

What does the cut function allow me to do?

Now that you know what copying and pasting does you can better understand the concept of cutting. Cutting performs the same function that copying does except that it also removes the text or file from its original location. An easier way to understand the cut function is to think of cutting a picture out of a magazine. Once you cut it out you are (highly unlikely) to put it back to the same location, thus you are removing it and pasting it elsewhere. When you cut a file in Windows it will show the file dimmed or grayed out to symbolize that the file is being cut.

How to copy in Windows

There are several ways that you can copy text and/or files in Windows. First you need to highlight or select what you want to copy. Text: If you are copying text you will place your mouse cursor at the beginning of the text and hold your left mouse button down until you reach the end of the text you wish to copy. The text that you se-

lect will appear highlighted (usually in blue) so that you know what you have selected.

Files: If you are selecting a single file or document you can click on the file so that it is highlighted. You can also highlight multiple files several different ways. If you are going to be selecting files that are consecutive you have two options to selecting the files. If you click and hold your left mouse button and drag a box around the files you want to highlight you can select multiple files. Another way to accomplish the same thing is to click on the first file you wish to copy and hold down the control and shift keys on your keyboard while you click the last file in the row. If you are trying to copy multiple files that are not consecutive you choose specific files to be selected without selecting ones you don't want. Hold down the control key while you click each file. (Note: you do not have to hold down the control key unless you are selecting pictures however, if you let go of the control key and click on anything other than the blue highlighted selection it will deselect your files and you will have to select them again.)

Now that you have made your selection we can perform the command that will copy the files or text for later use.

Method 1: Right click in the selection (highlighted area) and select copy from edit menu
 Method 2: Choose edit from the program menu and choose paste
 Method 3: Use the keyboard shortcut by pressing the Control and C keys at the same time

How to cut in Windows

As I said previously the purpose of cutting is to move the file or text to a new location without leaving a copy behind. Using the cut function keeps you from having to delete multiple instances of the same file. Cutting involves almost the same methods as copying you will first want to highlight.
 Method 1: Right click in the selection (highlighted area) and select cut from edit menu
 Method 2: Choose edit from the program menu and choose cut
 Method 3: Use the keyboard shortcut by pressing the Control and X keys at the same time
 Method 4: You can also perform the same cut operation using a click and drag method. Hold your left mouse button down and drag your selection to

the new location. When you release the mouse button your text or file will have moved to the new location and will no longer be located in the old location.

How to paste in Windows

Once you decided what it is you want to cut or copy you will need to tell the computer to paste the file or text to the new location. There are several methods you can use to paste something in windows.

Method 1: Right click in the selection (highlighted area) and select paste from edit menu
 Method 2: Choose edit from the program menu and choose paste
 Method 3: Use the keyboard shortcut by pressing the Con-

control and V keys at the same time
 Now you know how to perform the basic windows operations of cut, copy and paste.

*note all methods may not work for all versions of windows

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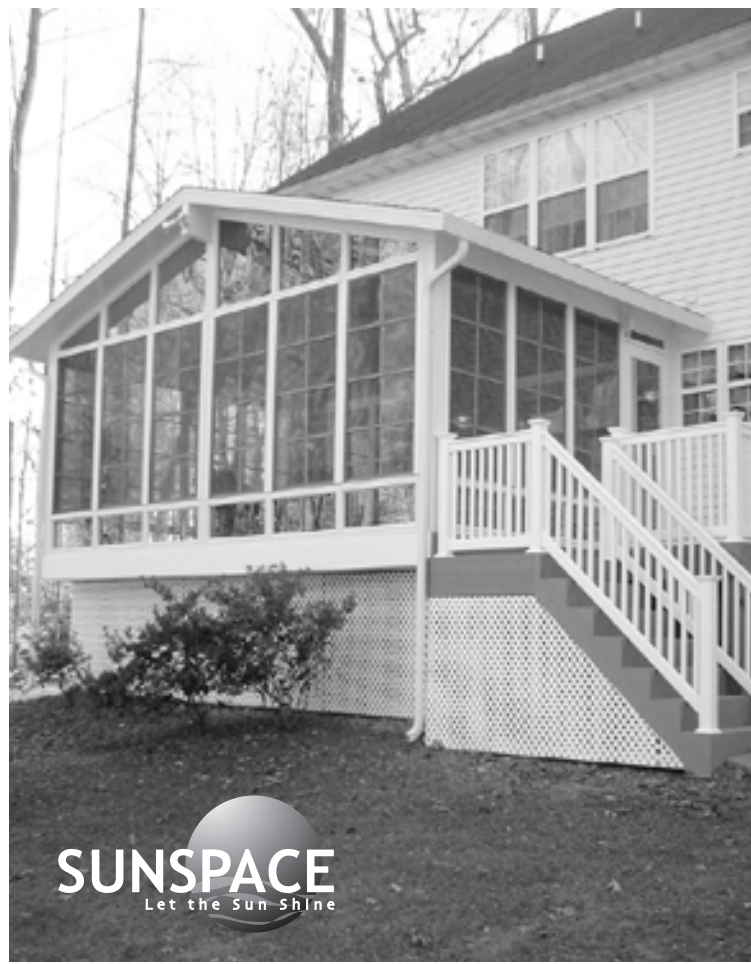
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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1
Music, Gettysburg! presents Copland's Appalachian Spring. Lutheran Theological Seminary Chapel, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-338-3000 or visit www.musicgettysburg.org

April 4
Adam's County Master Gardeners will be teaching an hour long class on cool season crops. This is the first class of a series of Wednesday evening workshops that will focus on topics for the vegetable garden. This is the time of year to plant cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, and other cool season crops in your garden. Learn how to manage these crops for best production results. There is no fee, but please call for a reservation. 717-334-6271

April 5 & 19
"Bike Night at Sanders Square, Fairfield. Come show off your ride or just come to look at all the styles, shapes and colors of the bikes that show up. Join us for good food, ice cream, camaraderie and hopefully sunshine. Note: April 5th, Blessing of the Bikes at 6:00 p.m. For more information, please call, 717-642-6767

April 5 & 6
Vigilant Hose Company's annual Seafood Bonanza from 11:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. The menu consists of crab cakes, oysters, fried shrimp, fried fish, steamed shrimp, and crab soup. For more information or to place an order, please call (301) 447-2728.

April 6 - 24
Adams County Arts Council's 17th Annual Recyclable Art Contest. The contest, coordinated by Ann Walsh, is open to all Adams County schools, home-schoolers, Scout troops and other student organizations grades K-12. Entries will be on display at a new location this year, the Arts Council's Arts Education Center at 125 South Washington St., Gettysburg. For contest guidelines, visit adamsarts.org or call the center at 717-334-5006.

April 8
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve - Investigating Vernal Pools. Just what exactly is a vernal pool? We'll follow the traces of winter and learn all about the marvels of these temporary forest ponds. Shake off your winter blues and come take a closer look for signs of spring!

April 14
Growing Backyard Fruits - presented by the Adams County Master Gardeners. This session will focus on site selection and design as well as plant selection. Learn how you can design your own fruit garden and see the plants beyond production. Care of dwarf and semi-dwarf trees will be discussed. After focusing on the design, we will take you into the garden and show you how to prune espaliered fruit trees and take a look at other pruning needs in the fruit garden. For reservations call 717-334-6271

Frederick County Master Garden-

er's lecture - Join self-proclaimed lazy gardener, Ted Lambert, to experience some of the hands-on practices he has talked about in his many seminars. He will show you techniques that will have you succeeding with your garden with minimal effort. Visit www.frederick.umd.edu/mg for more information.

April 15
15th Annual Art Auction benefiting the Land Conservancy of Adams County. See ad on page 15 for more information.

April 18
The The Majestic Theater presents the Best of Momix - Know internationally for presenting works of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists led by Moses Pendleton, one of America's most innovative and widely acclaimed choreographers and directors. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org

April 20
The Stars of HOPE Relay For Life Team's 5th annual Cash Bingo. For advance sale tickets, call Jennifer at 301-271-3129. All proceeds from this event will benefit the American Cancer Society April 21

Cunningham State Park's 2nd Annual Youth Fishing Rodeo Come spend a few hours on the water with your young fisherman/ while they enjoy a day of fishing for stocked trout at Gambrell's Rock Run Pond.

For more information regarding the event please call the Cunningham Falls State Park office at 301- 271-7574 or email asimmons@dnr.state.md.us.

April 22
Kirtan Comes to Gettyoga - In honor of Earth Day, Gettyoga, 304 York Street in Gettysburg, will host the York-based Pranava Kirtan Ensemble for a yoga-style Kirtan—a musical celebration of life, spirituality, and community. With the lush sounds of guitar, tabla, flute, cello, and vocals, Pranava will lead the audience in a Kirtan, blending ancient song and story. Suggested donation for the event is \$5, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information, please contact Skye at Maria@pranavakirtan.net or Julie Aha at Julie@gettyoga.com

April 27 - 29
14th Annual Greyhounds in Gettysburg. The 2012 Greyhounds in Gettysburg weekend is dedicated to celebrating the adoption of retired racing greyhounds. For more information call 717-337-9705 or visit www.greyhoundsingettysburg.com

April 28
Sabillasville Elementary School PTA's Community Bingo at the Blue Ridge Mountain Fire & Rescue in Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. For more information please call Missy Worth @ 301-241-4384 or Tina Cooley @ 301-416-0000.

Saint John's Lutheran Church Fried Shrimp and Roast Beef Dinner. 8619 Blackmill Road, Creagerstown, MD

For more information on these and other events, visit the Upcoming Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

A TALE OF TWO FOUNDINGS: An Open Letter to President Barack Obama

Dear Mr. President,

Mount St. Mary's University has special reason to treasure religious liberty. Father John Dubois could have stayed in France in the late 18th century, as long as he didn't try to practice his faith. But he was called to live his faith in service to others. So, fleeing the persecution of an overreaching secular government, Fr. Dubois arrived in a new nation, one founded on basic principles of freedom – most notably the fundamental right of religious liberty.

In 1808, Fr. Dubois founded Mount St. Mary's, and today, America's second oldest Catholic university remains true to his vision: "mindful of its role in the Church's mission to the world and respectful of the religious liberty of all."

We are saddened to see that religious liberty is under threat in the United States today.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued rules requiring the provision of sterilization, contraception and abortion-inducing drugs in all health care plans as part of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. This would require many religious Americans, and other men and women of goodwill, to act against their conscience, but the HSS has refused to grant the standard and expected religious exemption called for by the First Amendment.

Compelled by the Catholic teaching on human dignity, Mount St. Mary's has a longstanding commitment to providing quality health care benefits to employees and students in need. The mandate compromises our ability to provide health care in accord with our religious mission. The Mount St. Mary's University Board of Trustees, along with the entire Mount community, protests in the strongest possible terms this unjust and intrusive mandate.

As engaged citizens, we appeal to you for help. We call on you to provide for an immediate religious exemption for all Catholic institutions and other employers.

We appeal to you, Mr. President, and all those with responsibility in government, to preserve the religious liberty at the heart of our university's, and our country's, founding.

Respectfully,

Eugene M. Waldron, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Thomas H. Powell
President



MOUNT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 5-9: UNIVERSITY CLOSED

The University is closed for Easter Break, please join us for Easter Services at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes.

APRIL 12 – "RACE TO NOWHERE"

7 p.m., Knott Auditorium
A film and call to mobilize families, educators and policy makers on preparing the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens.

APRIL 23 – SOL GOLDSTEIN

7 p.m., Knott Auditorium
A soldier during World War II, Goldstein helped liberate the Buchenwald concentration camp, one of the largest camps established by the Nazis. He will talk about his experiences during the war.

APRIL 30 – REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR MAY 4 - CONNECTING OUR CHILDREN TO NATURE CONFERENCE

This day-long conference will raise awareness of the importance of connecting our children to nature for their health as well as for the future health of the environment. The conference includes a lecture by keynote speaker Richard Louv, author of *The Nature Principle and Last Child in the Woods*.

University schedule of events available online at www.msmary.edu/calendar



Want to keep up-to-date with Mount happenings? Follow us on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/MSMUniversity

NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTTO OF LOURDES

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 1

Noon Mass, Blessing & Distribution of Palms

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Noon Stations of the Cross followed by Sermon-"The Seven Last Words"
3 p.m., Solemn Passion Liturgy, Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and the reception of Holy Communion
Confessions: 10-11 a.m. and 4-5:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 7

Confessions: 10-11 a.m. & 12-1 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 8

6:30 a.m., Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service
7:30 a.m., and Noon Easter Sunday Mass

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Noon Mass followed by Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament
2 p.m., Divine Mercy Holy Hour, Readings, Litany, Reflection, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Grotto schedule of events available online at www.msmary.edu/grotto