

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

EXULTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION —EDWARD R. MURROW

VOLUME 9, NO. 2 • WWW.MYFAIRFIELD.NET • WWW.EMMITSBURG.NET • MYTHURMONT.NET • FEBRUARY 2017

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VHC acknowledges excellence

Each year the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) selects four members to receive outstanding service awards. The Hall of Fame Award, Member of the Year Award, President's Award, and Chief's Award were all presented to the selected recipients during VHC's annual award banquet held on January 7.

The Vigilant Hose Company's highest award was presented to an individual who has made lasting contributions to the department, community and the region. This year, the Hall of Fame Award was presented to Carl White.

White joined the Vigilant Hose Company in September 1982. White was the Captain in 1996, 2nd Assistant Chief 1997 - 2000, and Lieutenant 2001 - 2007. He also served the department's administrative needs by serving the role of Assistant Secretary in 1984, and served as a member of the Board of Directors from 2011 to the present. White was a Chairman on the Small Equipment Committee for many years and was also a Top Ten Responder and Top Ten LOSAP for several years. In addition, he also served on the Tower 6 Truck Committee and the Squad 6 Committee.

White can be described by many

in the Department as the quiet guy who looks for no recognition. He participates in all aspects of the Department and assists with 95% of all fundraising activities. He is still an active responder and EMT, and is also a certified CPR Instructor.

The second award of the evening, the Member of the Year Award, was given to Matthew Boyd, an individual who has shown the most initiative in making the company the best it can be.

Joining the Department as a member of VHC's Explorer Post, Boyd "hit the ground running," earning his Firefighter I certification while still an Explorer. Boyd made the company believe he would be something special, and VHC members can proudly say they were not wrong.

Boyd rarely misses an event or function and has remained a top responder. "No task is too big and he accepts any challenge thrown his way. He is a self-motivator and sets a great example for other young members. He always steps forward when there are visitors in the station to make them feel welcomed and answer their questions," states Tim Clarke.

The President's Award was presented to Randy Myers, who, for



Carl White, a 35-year veteran of the Vigilant Hose Company, was presented with the company's Hall of Fame Award by President Frank Davis.

the past several years has volunteered to chair one of the most important VHC committees. It is a year round job and requires many hours of behind the scenes work including scheduling, planning and coordinating of events. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Fundraising Committee and will be entering his second term as a member of the Board of Directors. Clarke replied, "Without the hard work and dedication of Myers and his committee, we would struggle financially and not be the successful department that we are."

The final award presented was the Chief's Award, received by Josh Brotherton. Brotherton joined the

Department 6 years ago. Over the span of six years he has obtained many certifications and awards for exceptional service. Brotherton was recognized by the Department as a talented individual who has committed himself to the business of public safety and through dedication and hard work he stands ready for whatever comes his way. Fire Chief, Chad Umbel said of Brotherton, "His remarkable ability to work with people, effectively organize tasks and priorities have made him a model for others to emulate and earned him the respect of his peers."

See page 22 for photos of local fire company award banquets.

Home builders show set to showcase skills

The Builders Association of Adams County (BAAC) is preparing for its 37th annual home show. The show will open with an increased floor plan, providing plenty of room for exhibitors from across the region.

There will be a wide variety of contractors and services including area builders, remodeling and home repair services, landscaping, a/c and heating, electronics, certified green specialists, and many other helpful services. Admission and parking are free.

"It's an opportunity for local industry businesses to display and share their expertise, and, to display their new products and techniques," said former president and BAAC board member, Ross Brownley. The two-day event will be held at the All Stars Sports Complex, 2638 Emmitsburg Road on Friday, February 17 from 4 - 8 p.m. and Saturday, February 18 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The show will also feature a student design competition featuring architectural plans. The main prizes will result from judging by local tradesman awards of \$500 for first, \$300 for second and \$200 for

third place. Determined by attendees' votes will be the \$100 "People's Choice" award of the show's Student Design Contest. Students from all of the county's school districts are eligible to enter.

The Builders Association of Adams County is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the building trades and education in the local community. To that end, they have dedicated their efforts toward the students in the seven county school districts.

BAAC president Guy Ketterman said, "I feel the building industry trades are an important part of our kids' future, and I'm proud that we can be a part of the supporting efforts here in Adams County." Since the year of their first home show in 1980, all proceeds from the show go toward Student Activities.

Monies set aside in a Trust Fund are administrated by Adams County National Bank. They are loaned out interest-free, to students seeking higher education in a building related field. Since the Student Loan Program started, over 100 students have used the funds. Some have gone to trade schools, some to



The BAAC's 34th Annual Student Scholarship Program's Outstanding Students pictured from left to right: Biglerville, Ira Ambrose; Gettysburg, Miles Crebs; New Oxford, Nolan Poust; Fairfield, Dawson Sanders.

four-year colleges. All have pursued building related fields.

The BAAC also began a Student Scholarship Program. This program gives a \$1,000 scholarship to one graduating senior from each of the seven county schools. The student must apply and attend a certified trade school studying carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, ma-

sonry, or drafting. "The foundation of our organization is our annual Home Show, it establishes a baseline for the remainder of the year," said Ketterman.

Applications for both programs are available through the schools and from the Builders Association of Adams County at 717-337-5144 or visit www.adamscountybuilders.com.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Town may lose tourist attractions

The precarious nature of the tight rope that town leaders often find themselves on, between fulfilling their responsibility to release information of importance to the public and or keeping privileged information private until such time as the responsible parties release it, came into a sharp light as a result of Mayor Briggs' comments at January's Town meeting.

In his opening comments, a thoroughly enthusiastic Mayor Briggs outlined plans by the Kentucky Rifle Association to host an exhibit of 18th Century rifles made by Emmitsburg native gunsmith John Armstrong at the Maryland Visitors Center this spring and summer, and the selection of Emmitsburg to be the home of the proposed National Civil War Memorial, the later of which Briggs said, could bring over 1.5 million visitors to Emmitsburg yearly.

Unfortunately, both events were still in the early planning stages and their premature release to the public may have derailed them for good, or at least could have hindered Emmitsburg serving as their home.

Nationally recognized historical sculptor Gary Casteel, who was chosen by the Town last year to oversee the restoration of the Doughboy monument, was genesis behind both initiatives. Following the repair of the Doughboy, Gary reached out to the Kentucky Rifle Association about hosting an ex-

hibition of Armstrong rifles in Emmitsburg and proposed a bronze memorial honoring Armstrong as well as the gunsmithing trade of the period.

Due to the extreme value of the rifles, (in excess of \$100,000 per rifle) a secure location was needed to host the exhibition. The Town offices were initially selected, but when the Town Council turned down the request, the Maryland Visitors Center on Rt. 15 was approached.

Preliminary discussions with the state to secure the Visitors Center were well underway and all was looking good, when Briggs broke the news. Within 24 hours of Briggs "jumping the gun", the Maryland Visitors Bureau withdrew from the negotiations citing premature release of information about the event and potential safety concerns related to having rifles in a state building - concerns that Casteel and the Kentucky Rifle Association had been in the process of addressing. As we go to press, the status of the exhibition is "on hold".

"Like all negotiations, whether in politics or business" Casteel said, "we need to keep the information on these events close to our chests before releasing them to the general public. I informed Mayor Briggs as a matter of courtesy, but never authorized him to release the information, nor was I informed of his intentions to do so the night of the Town meeting."

The proposed National Civil War

Memorial was to be sited on 25 acres of vacant land on the east side of Rt.15 just opposite the Visitor Center, and efforts had advance to such a point that negotiations were underway for the transfer of land to the non-profit National Civil War Memorial Commission. As part of the project approach, Casteel was in the process of negotiating for studio space within the Visitor Center, with the goal of allowing visitors to observe the making of the memorial and to assist in the fund raising element.

While negotiations for the use of the space within the Visitor Center were moving along smoothly with the state, they had not yet been formalized. Upon Mayor Briggs' well intended, but premature release of the memorial project and Armstrong rifle exhibition, the state of Maryland formally withdrew its support for the use of the Visitor Center for both projects. The Maryland Tourism Office however said it still supports the Civil War Memorial project and has informed Casteel that they will work with the Maryland Journey Through Hallowed Ground program to see if there is a more suitable site for the placement of the memorial and sculptor's studio.

According to Casteel, he still hopes the memorial will be cited in Emmitsburg. As to the studio, a highly visible site on Rt. 15 near the project area is ideal. "This is why the Visitors Center was such a good location."

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Letters to the Editor, notice of upcoming events, news stories, and interesting and creative articles are welcome and may be submitted via regular U.S. Mail to P.O. box 543, Emmitsburg, MD 21727, or by email to editor@emmitsburg.com.

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Emmitsburg firefighters support Presidential Inauguration

Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) First Responders played important roles on Friday, January 20th in Washington, DC, during the Presidential Inauguration. Neither political nor partisan in nature, their public safety duties included filling in at a District of Columbia fire station.

The VHC's First Responders were called to duty on this particular occasion because Washington, DC's normal call volume can increase three-fold on Inaugura-

tion Day plus many DC emergency service units become committed to responsibilities directly associated with the day's public events (from which they cannot be easily released). After the responders were cleared to serve by the U.S. Secret Service, the DCFD and the Frederick County Government / Department of Fire and Rescue Services, they were sent on their way.

Frederick County provided a total of four ambulances, two engines, two all terrain vehicles (ATV) and

a Battalion Chief. VHC Members staffed Emmitsburg's Engine 63 and were assigned to DC Fire and EMS Station 20 located in the Tenleytown section of the City (on Wisconsin Avenue just south of Tenley Circle in upper northwest).

VHC Chief Chad Umbel, who for weeks helped plan the support effort, said, "It was a great honor for our small department to be selected and our people were treated very well." "Their day started before 4 a.m. not getting back home

until 9 p.m. followed by clear up of the unit," said Umbel. He added, "It was something our personnel are certain to always remember."

Leading the crews were VHC Lieutenants Alex McKenna and Doug Yingling along with President and former Chief Frank Davis who drove the Engine. In addition to Davis, McKenna and Yingling - staffing Engine 63 and accomplishing related duties in the

Nation's Capital were VHC Firefighters Matt Boyd, Vance Click, Greg Sterner, Shawn Wetzel and Dave Zentz.

Adequate coverage on the home front, in Emmitsburg, was planned for in advance knowing that a number of VHC's operational response personnel were helping to assure an orderly transition of American power - a hallmark of the nation's democracy.

PNC bank robber still unknown

On January 17, the PNC Bank in Emmitsburg was robbed by an un-armed assailant. The man made off with an undisclosed amount of money, and a \$5,000 reward is currently offered by PNC for tips that could help the Frederick County Sheriff's Department make the arrest.

The robbery was reported at

around 1 p.m. on the 17th. A photo posted online taken by surveillance cameras in the bank pictured the man wearing a white glove on his left hand and a gray hooded sweatshirt. The man was also described as being between 20-30 years old. The robber walked up to the tellers at the bank and demanded cash, but never showed a weap-

on or indicated that he had one.

As we have gone to press, the suspect is still unknown and the sheriff's office asks anyone with information about the robbery to call Detective Josh Stears at 301-600-6403 or 240-674-7677. Tips may be left anonymously on the sheriff's office tip hotline at 301-600-4131.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Liberty Township residents still unsatisfied with police

Residents of Liberty Township are still unsatisfied with the availability of the Township's Police Department. The January 3 meeting housed a room full of residents in the community still concerned about the lack of police coverage seen in the Township.

This topic was brought up during the December meeting, but many of the same residents attended the January meeting to once again voice their concerns. Those who attended the meeting said they are still noticing decreased police coverage within the Township, several re-citing recurrent offenders of speeding, and question where the Township's Police force is. On Tract Road, several residents have made complaints concerning a local who drives too quickly and recklessly in a green dump truck and pick up truck. Police Chief

Brand Briggs has spoken to the dump truck driver, but has not personally seen him driving yet.

Residents still say the speeding and reckless drivers are out of hand and will inevitably end up hurting someone if something isn't done. After having addressed this topic in December, some members of the community still question why they are continuing to see the same offenders without penalization.

Supervisor Chairman John Bostek replied to resident's concerns stating that he has seen officers present on Tract Road, as he resides on that road. A few residents also spoke in defense of the Police department noting that they have seen officers present in the Township as well. One resident spoke out saying that others must remember that Liberty Township only has one full-time officer. The number of

hours he has been putting in is a third of the time that Carroll Valley's three full time officers are working. Therefore, in ratio they have been equally covering each other.

During the January 10th Carroll Valley Borough meeting, Police Chief Richard Hileman, spoke in regards to the reported 236 calls Carroll Valley made to Liberty Township. He mentioned that the number 236 might be misleading, as it is a "top line number." Carroll Valley made 96 unassisted calls to Liberty Township excluding traffic stops and assists, and made 121 traffic stops in Liberty Township during the course of 2016. On the other hand, Liberty responded 65 times, unassisted, in Carroll Valley and Fairfield.

Hileman also went on to explain the "Police on Duty Program" which was set up in 1994

as an expansion on the partnership between the municipalities of Carroll Valley, Liberty Township, Fairfield and Hamiltonban Township. It was a program set in place that allowed for "neighbors helping neighbors," in an area of the county where municipalities are so "cut up" in nature. The program was installed with the idea of rapid response for short-term issues. It was not intended for long-term investigations outside of a municipality's normal jurisdiction. Liberty Township is the only Township Carroll Valley participates in this program with, as they are currently contracted with Fairfield and Hamiltonban doesn't have a police department. Within this agreement, Liberty covers Carroll Valley and Fairfield.

Residents of Liberty Township still wonder if it would it make

sense to hire the Carroll Valley police department and do away with some of their part-time officers? Would this be a more economical move for Liberty? In answer to their questions, Bostek said, "I don't think you want your taxes raised." Bostek said that several years ago the offer from Carroll Valley was, for 40 hours of on call service, approximately \$80,000 per year. Carroll Valley Police Chief Hileman reported: "I do not believe we ever arrived at a final number in our discussions and any current determination of cost would have to be current. However, we are always willing to assist and find ways to work with our neighbors. If Liberty wishes to talk about more about it, we are certainly willing to do that, but we respect them and would wait for their request for any further info from us."

Carroll Valley Borough building update

The much-anticipated Carroll Valley Borough building is coming close to its opening date, which is slated for March 1. The Borough Council discussed the last leg of expenditures during several meetings in January.

The first estimate given to the Borough for furniture, equipment and last minute fixtures, all of which were not included in the contract, was \$212,000. The Borough only anticipated spending \$150,000 for furniture, equipment and fixtures. Borough Manager Dave Hazlett spoke to the Council: "I'm shocked by the quotes that we received, these are not numbers that we anticipated,

but part of what you've been given is quotes for how we would like to see the new facility operate. I don't think their quotes are fair. The packet, with the itemized estimates, is under no means a recommendation from myself, but was presented to the Board so you know what we're currently faced with."

However, according to the contract, Borough staff only has 45 days to clear the old building before the construction crew moves in to demolish it. Furniture is at the top of the list of priorities in order for the new building to be move-in ready and functional. So it was pertinent that Council

come to some sort of decision before the end of the month in concerns to the new furniture.

The estimated cost for furniture was \$90,000. This cost included new furniture with the idea that little to no furniture from the old building would be re-used in the new building. Dave Hazlett spoke to say "We never anticipated bringing the furniture to new building."

The Council held two additional special meetings in January to further discuss the furniture and equipment for the new building. By the January 24th meeting, the total expenditures for furniture was expected to be \$54,650,

a great downsize from the previous \$90,000 estimate earlier in January. The Borough has already placed an order on some of the furniture including desks. The desks have actually been a cost savings because the original measurements were inaccurate, so when ordered the sizes were decreased which made the price lessen.

As far as equipment, Wi-Fi is still being researched and negotiated, and at the present time no cost is known, but the Council hopes to receive one during the February meeting. Chief Hileman, who has been in contact with potential vendors for Wi-Fi, noted his dissatisfaction with

Morefield's quote of \$19,661 and believed it to be excessive. He is currently working with other vendors in hopes of finding a more appropriate cost for the service and equipment. Hileman wants to ensure that the Borough is receiving the best price for the equipment and services offered, and as Wi-Fi isn't a top priority for the opening of the building, he wants to make sure the time is spent researching options.

The Borough is pleased to say that the prices for furniture and equipment seem to be continuing to decrease as they work with different vendors. The cost of furniture has already dropped by about \$35,000, and staff is hopeful that they can continue to keep the total of other purchases lower.

Fairfield area news-briefs . . .

Call for firefighter and EMS volunteers

During his annual fire and EMS report, Fairfield Fire Chief Bill Jacobs reiterated the necessity for volunteers. There is a real need in the community for volunteers of all types, not just firefighters and EMT's. Statisticians, fundraisers, computer savvy individuals are all needed. The volunteer fire department saves the town hundreds of thousands of dollars every year through their services, but will not be able to stay operational in that same way if more volunteers don't step up. Fountindale Fire Chief, Dave Martin agreed with Jacobs concerning the necessity for volunteers of all facets in the local fire departments. If you wish to volunteer, contact your local department for more information.

Carroll Valley Borough Council position open

During the January 10 Borough Council meeting, Council members accepted the resignation of previous President Janis Ashman. The Borough will be accepting applications to fill the vacant Council member seat through February 8. Applicants

are asked to submit a letter of interest, similar to a resume with schooling, related experience etc. All applicants must be registered electors in the Borough of Carroll Valley for at least one year.

Iron Springs Plaza update

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted to add some missing items in the Iron Springs Plaza project agreement on January 3. The developer for the project, David Sites, is asked to deposit \$600,000 into escrow account when the bid for the project is accepted. Additionally, the date of June 30, 2019, was chosen for completion of the infrastructure of project. This expiration date is concurrent with the expiration date of the \$550,000 CFA Grant that was received in August of last year. However, the 2019 completion date doesn't guarantee the total completion of the Plaza, it only requires the completion of the entire infrastructure for the shopping center. Sites has advised the Board that the preparation for preparing the bids for the project is underway and should be completed within 30 days.

After the pre-bid work is done, the bids will be advertised.

Strawberry Hill receives \$837,000

After months, Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve has finally heard word of their potential partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). In December, word was received that DCNR awarded the Conservation Fund \$837,000 to help purchase 484 acres from Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. As part of this agreement, this land will be transferred to Michaux State Forest, who will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the land.

The \$837,000 was only a portion of the \$1.2 million purchase by Michaux. The land should be part of Michaux in a year, according to Kyle Shenk, Pennsylvania state director for The Conservation Fund. All programs run by Strawberry Hill will remain as they were, and the additional funds should help contribute to the expansion of nature education. However, official word concerning Strawberry Hill's planned use for the funds received is yet to be announced.





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THURMONT NEWS

All-inclusive playground coming to Thurmont

The Thurmont Board of Commissioners approved Phase 1 of an all-inclusive playground located within East End Park during the January 3 Town meeting.

The multi-phase, \$280,000 project will consist of a one-of-a-kind playground, the only one in the area like it. Once completed, children of all abilities will be able to enjoy it. The playground will be accessible to children with varying physical, emotional and behavioral related abilities. New swings, a teeter tunnel, a cruise-line, and a utility rocker are some of the new features coming to the park.

Back in 2015, the Catocin Civitan Club first approached the Board of Commissioners about the idea of an all-inclusive playground that would replace some of the deteriorating equipment in East End Park. Members of the Club, with the goal of helping people with developmental and intellectual disabilities in mind, noticed that Thurmont parks weren't all wheelchair accessible. This posed a concern for many members, so they brought some sketches and ideas to the Board.

Since that time, the Town has received a \$25,000 grant from Program Open Space and the Catocin Civitan Club received an additional \$50,000 grant from their parent organization, Civitan International. Phase 1 of the project consists of demolition, grading, installation of new equipment, a new sidewalk and rubberized surfacing, all ADA accessible.

When designing the new playground, contractors kept in mind the idea of keeping the existent playground open and functioning. The first phase of the project can be completed without interrupting the functionality of the current playground. If there should be a gap in between the phases, due to funding, then the playground can still be functional as it already is.

After receiving bids from various contractors, the Town looked more closely at Playground Specialists Inc. who bid Phase 1 of the project at \$70,969. The Town's Chief Administrative Officer, Jim Humerick, requested that the Council award Phase 1 of the project to Playground Specialists of Thurmont and piggyback onto Westminster's Playground Contract that they already have existing with Playground Specialists. Phase 2 and 3 are not yet funded, but a grant application through Maryland Department of Natural Resources has already been submitted and an

additional application through Program Open Space will be submitted soon. The Catocin Civitan Club will also continue to gather funds through fundraising.

Mayor Kinnaird and Commissioners Buehrer and Hooper supported the bid and Playground Specialists as the contractor, so the motion was carried. The phase 1 start date has yet to be announced, but will begin sometime in this spring. Mayor Kinnaird said, "this will be the very first all-inclusive playground in Frederick County, right here in Thurmont, something for us to be very proud of."



Repair work on Roddy Road covered bridge



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February 25
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For the complete listing of events go to: thurmontmainstreet.com

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<p>PLATINUM VODKA 1.75 Liter</p> 	<p><i>Paul's Pit Stop</i> DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR Website: m.paulspitstop.net</p> <p>150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727 301-447-6262</p> <p>Monday-Thursday 9 am-10 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 am-11 pm, Sunday 11-8 pm</p>		<p>RUSKOVA VODKA \$16⁹⁹ 1.75 Liter</p> 

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

February 1917

February 2

Use of Cigarettes Have Increased

Consumption of cigarettes in 1916 reads the highest mark ever recorded. The tremendous increase - more than 40% over 1915, is attributed to three main causes: 1) increased prosperity of the country, 2) recognition of the positive health effects of cigarette smoking, and, 3) the growth of cigarette habit among women. Dr. Jamison says there's no better way to cure the common cold than two or three packs of cigarettes.

Mr. Conrad Saffer Enjoying Rest

Mr. Conrad Saffer, one of the oldest residents, is enjoying a much-deserved rest. Mr. Saffer has worked at St. Joseph's for 50 years, without ever having been absent one month. This winter, the sisters allowed him to remain home three months and he gets full pay during that time. The faithful old man is anxious to return to his occupation and thinks March 1 cannot come soon enough.

Musselman Canning Expanding

The Musselman Canning Company, which has a large plant for the canning of apples in Biglerville, announced that plans for the enlargement of that plant and the installation of new lines to work, which will keep all the employees busy during the months of the year when the apple business does not require their time. Almost 300 men and woman are employed at the factory to handle the apples during August, September, October and November.

February 9

Minister Attacked

The appearance of Benjamin Tarman at Fairview, a short distance from Emmitsburg, near the Frederick County line, probably saved Rev. Brechbill from the hands of three highwaymen who were pursuing him with revolvers and stones. At the sight of Tarman, the pursuers disappeared. Rev. Brechbill, who is Pastor of the Blue Rock United Brethren Church, near Waynesboro, conducted services as usual on Sunday evening and later he was paid a portion of his salary, nearly \$50. It is supposed that the men discovered that the minister had some money and they evidently planned to

rob him. The names of the highwaymen are not known but they are supposed to be denizens of the mountains in close proximity to the church.

Falls From Ladder

Robert Harner sustained a fracture to his leg Tuesday afternoon after falling from a ladder, when a wire, which was supporting it, broke. Mr. Harner was engaged at repairing something about a force pump at his home and was working from a ladder, which he leaned against a wire attached to the structure. Mr. Harner was about 12 feet from the ground when the wire gave way and he was thrown violently to the ground. Dr. Stone and Dr. Jamison, of this place, were summoned and set the fracture.

Weather

The maximum temperature during the week was 46° on Thursday and the minimum was 2° below on Monday. Many icehouses were filled this week. The ice on the creeks is unusually good and is about 6 inches thick. Meanwhile, the severe windstorm on Sunday night and Monday did considerable damage in and near Emmitsburg. Many windows were broken and numerous trees were toppled.

Diplomatic Relations With Germany Broken

On Saturday, February 3, Pres. Wilson notified Congress that he had severed diplomatic relations with Germany over Germany's decision to conduct unrestricted submarine warfare. As evidence of their patriotism in support of the President and the present crisis, many buildings in town this week displayed the stars and stripes.

Trolley Line in Gettysburg to be Abandoned

What is believed to be the first practical step towards the abandonment of the trolley line on the battlefield of Gettysburg has been taken in the introduction and Congress of the bill authorizing the purchase of the right-of-way in the National Military Park. The National Park's commission has never regarded, with special favor, the presence of the electric line on the field. For 23 years the cars have been run in the desultory manner, and for the last year or two only one car was used to cover the route. The line was never a financial success.

February 16

Frederick to Revive Whipping Post

The revival of the whipping post, the registry of purchasers of revolvers, the utilization of convict labor and the elimination of street corner loafing were among the recommendations made Wednesday by the Frederick County Grand Jury to the Frederick County Commissioners. The whipping post was suggested for the numerous petty cases, including wife beating, drunkenness, etc. it is expected that the County Commissioners will look favorably upon these recommendations in hopes of addressing the growing drinking "epidemic" in the northern part of the county.

Charles Shuff Dies

Charles Shuff, a well-known resident of Emmitsburg, died after a lingering illness with chronic nephritis, at his home on E. Main St. Monday morning at the age of 55. Mr. Shuff moved to Emmitsburg in 1879 and spent the balance of his life here with the exception of a few years spent in Thurmont. His chief occupation was the furniture business, but for a number of years he another store.

What Else Could Have Happened?

Henry Weaver of Detour was trimming the tree over a pigpen when he fell off a branch onto a pig and killed it, breaking both his legs at the same time. A frightened colt jumped the fence, running into a clothesline fastened to a post, which was hurled through the air, striking a cow killing her. The colt then ran into a barbed wire fence and was so badly cut it will die. When the veterinarian arrived to attend the colt he ran over Mr. Weaver's dog and killed it.

February 23

Boozers Wives Endorse Whipping

Wives' of Former-Former Boozers rallied on the Square Sunday calling for the Frederick County to endorse whipping for public drunkenness and suggested that Emmitsburg alone could keep the whip hot. The rally was led by Anna Kline of Harney, whose husband spent the jar of cash discovered in their field last month buying round-after-round for Boozers all month long. "I've nagged and nagged that man better than any women can nag a man, but

Purity is a Great Thing, Friend!

My folks down South keep telling me: "Be clean and sweet and pure." And I'll bet you I am just about the purest cigarette ever made!

Why, the SOVEREIGN factory is dusted every morning, just like a lady's parlor. That's the sort of home I have. And I've got to make good all the time—in

the look of me, and the smile of me. The finest, whitest, cleanest home you ever saw. Only the purest, sweetest, richest Virginia and Carolina tobacco enters there. And when I come out, wrapped in the daintiest of white imported paper—don't you know I am proud to be a SOVEREIGN?

You Folks of the South KNOW good blood!
You Folks of the South KNOW good tobacco!

Next to good breeding is good dress and good taste—and I have them all. That's my claim to your friendship. I can't say more, except—

I am guaranteed by *The American Tobacco Co.*—Buy me. If you don't like me return me to your dealer and get your money back. I have said it. A Southern gentleman is known the world over for keeping his word, and I have given you mine.

Sovereign Cigarettes
FOR THE GENTLEMAN OF THE SOUTH
"King of Them All"

he still will not listen." she told the assembled crowd of whining prohibitionist. "Maybe a good whipping with a 'cat-o-nine' tail will get through to him."

Boozers sat impassionedly on the steps of the Hotel Slagle, passing around a bottle, trying to ignore the women. But apparently, calling for whipping was one thing, subjecting the men to the singing of prohibitionist songs was too much. Cat calls of "stop beating those cats," and "put some grease on those bearings," soon put an end to the prohibitionist rally, and the men returned to their God given, constitutional, right drink all they wanted.

High School Debate

On Tuesday evening the most credible public debate was held in the auditorium of the high school in the presence of a very appreciative audience. The subject for discussion was: "which will be more beneficial to the United States, the proposed tariff or free trade?" Careful and thoughtful preparations characterize the address of each speaker who received well-earned applause. Generous praise is due to this group of promising young people for the merit of their performance and equal credit belongs to our worthy principal, Miss. Mary Schuff for her excellent training and equipping the youthful contestants with so remarkable a success. Both sides in

the contest showed an intelligent grasp of the subject and manifested rare resourcefulness and skill in advocating their respective claims and refuting the points of their opponents. Only two full points a percentage stood between the winning and losing teams, but a margin sufficient enough to give victory to the affirmative with a prize of five dollars.

Hog Cholera Returns

Paul Karl Rove has made his appearance on the two farms of Joseph Musselman, near Fairfield station. During the past week he has lost 12 hogs on the one farm. At one farm there are now 10 cases and six at the other.

Smoker at St. Anthony's

At the request of Rev. Pastor, the gentlemen of the parish were invited to a smoker in the basement of the parish hall. This being the first smoker ever held at St. Anthony's, the Pastor was happy to see most of the gentlemen of the parish turn out and take advantage of it. A high point in the event was the unveiling of a new dartboard recently purchased by the parish. Heretofore the dartboard was hired for a commission but now the parish owns its own board.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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Pondering A New Pad?

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

County Council President Bud Otis

In honor of the brave and victorious Battle of Iwo Jima which began on February 19, 1945, I'd like to share additional information on how to support our veterans.

One of the new ways is if they are in legal trouble is to connect to our newly formed Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) held on the 4th Wednesday of each month in Judge Scott Rolle's Courtroom, 100 W. Patrick St., Frederick, 3rd floor, court room #4 at 9 a.m. The VTC's Mission is to promote public safety and reduce criminal justice costs by assisting veterans through a coordinated response in collaboration with the veteran's service delivery system, community based services, and the court system. The main goal is to honor veteran participants' service to country, link them to mentors and available treatment support services, and reduce criminal recidivism. (Judge Rolle has applied for formal MD State approval to be recognized as an official VTC.)

If you are a veteran or know of a veteran in need of this support, you may request the attorney, public defender, or an advocate to refer you to this program. There are eligibility requirements. Once accepted, you will be seen with other veterans on the VTC docket.

A wonderful example of how

one of the first veterans to participate in this program which began October 26 is being supported – he explained to Judge Rolle that he had just been accepted into a job training program out of town that assured him of employment upon completion. He did not have the funds for the travel or stay. One of the great people in the audience took this as an incentive to donate the needed financial support, anonymously. This is giving a young veteran the specific help critical to his success in life. Bringing those who support veterans, from the full spectrum, into the courtroom to listen to the life situations brings a welling up of desire to assist their journey to get and remain on the right track in life. They need a hand up, not a hand out. That is exactly what happened here. Thanks You to the tremendously generous anonymous donor. Your gesture honors his service to our country and exemplifies the military code of honor, duty and commitment.

There is a new Frederick Veterans Community Access Center (CAC) at the Department of Aging, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick. Another Veterans CAC is located at Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick. They offer free and completely confidential services to combat veterans and

their families focusing on counseling, PTSD, alcohol and drug assessments, suicide prevention referrals, etc. POC is Gregory.Edens@VA.gov and Director is Dr. Heather West, Heather.West2@VA.gov 304-263-6776. Both locations are open on Tuesdays by appointment.

The MD Department of Veterans Affairs has an office in downtown Frederick at the Courthouse, 100 W. Patrick St., Suite 2120. They assist with disability compensation, pension, nursing home, cemetery, and other veterans' benefits. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., closed daily for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.. Phone number is 301-600-2155. Walk-ins are welcome. A number of additional programs are available on their website including employment opportunities, tax preparation, financial coaching, homeless services, claims support, etc. www.Veterans.Maryland.gov.

Call 2-1-1 for various health and human services. It is a MD clearinghouse of information for anyone to access, www.211md.org.

Veteran Service Organizations Offering Assistance with Claim Representation:

American Legion 410-230-4420
AMVETS (American Veter-

ans) 410-230-4430

Disabled American Veterans 410-230-4440

Military Order of the Purple Heart 410-230-4460

Veterans of Foreign Wars 410-230-4480

Paralyzed Veterans of America 410-230-4470

These non-profit Veteran organizations offer other services: Building Veterans, peer recovery program in Brunswick, www.buildingveterans.org email: Bob-Wyatt@buildingveterans.org; The Purple Moon Project, mentoring program in Frederick, www.purplemoonproject.org email Craig Tyler at Craig@purplemoonproject.org; and Operation Second Chance, immediate needs support for combat Veterans www.operationsecondchance.org Cindy McGrew Cindy@operationsecondchance.org (Germantown, serving our veterans as well).

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, www.VA.gov has many services available for veterans and their loved ones including the Veterans Crisis Line operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at 800-273-8255 (Option 1 for Veterans), a Homeless Veterans Hotline 877-424-3838. Also see www.Vets.gov

The VA's Medical Center in

Martinsburg, WV has a Community Based Outpatient Clinic at 1433 Porter St., Fort Detrick Army Garrison, Fort Detrick, 21702. Services available: Primary Care, Women's Health, Laboratory and Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Mental Health, Podiatry, Orthopedics, Dermatology, and Telehealth. You need to go through the Fort's Security gate for access on Post, so please consider adding about 15–30 minutes to your arrival time.

Your Congressional representative (check www.mdelect.net) has district offices with dedicated caseworkers to assist you with veterans and other issues. For MD District 06 Congressman John K. Delaney, please call his Hagerstown District Office at 301-733-2900 or his Gaithersburg District Office 301-926-0300. For MD District 08, newly elected Congressman Jamie Raskin's office is 202-225-5341. Or you may contact your Federal Senators Ben Cardin (www.Cardin.Senate.gov) or newly elected Chris Van Hollen (www.VanHollen.Senate.gov). It is strongly recommended to contact only one federal representative's office as they all utilize the same liaisons within the VA.

If you would like more information or have additional references to share, please contact my Executive Assistant, Diana Modelski at dmodelski@frederick-countymd.gov 301-600-1101.

County Councilman Kirby Delauter

The newest government over reach coming from the Jan Gardner administration is the Monocacy River Land Grab. The Council will talk and deliberate

in public meetings like they actually give a damn about what you think, but in reality, all decisions are made behind closed doors long before they get to the dais.

As for the Monocacy River Land Grab, it is an egregious government over reach that tramples personal property rights. The concept of possession was formed as a means to avoid civil disorder. When you own property, it is yours, not the government's, not your neighbor's, not a sightseer's, and not an appointed board's. It is yours. The most usual way of acquiring an interest in property is as the result of a consensual transaction with the owner, for example, a sale or gift. If a transaction is not consensual between parties, then it would be considered theft. Now that we've determined the basics of property rights and the fact that in America our Constitution protects those rights, I will now explain why this Monocacy River Land Grab is all wrong.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determines flood zones within waterways in the US. Along the Monocacy, FEMA has designated areas typically based on elevation differences to outline the "flood plain" or areas prone to flooding during what is considered a 100 year storm event, or a storm of such severity that is happens only once every 100 years. Property owners know this and understand why it exists.

The Monocacy River Land Grab Board has decided that from an environmental standpoint, it

would be a good idea to draw a big yellow line through properties that border the river and designate this area within this yellow line as a "River Buffer Zone". This red zone is much larger than FEMA's 100-year flood zone. They did so with no input from property owners, no public hearings and with direction from County staff. Once the word got out that this was happening, the property owners became outraged, and for good reason. In one case a landowner has 29 acres, this new yellow line plan took 26 of his 29 acres. Several landowners had the yellow line shown through their houses, and all landowners questioned what this would do to their property values? I agree this is outrageous, over reaching and a violation of personal property rights, and it needs to stop, now.

I've sent an email to Jan Gardner, the County Executive requesting this be stopped. Her reply was that it is not her doing, she has no role in this and she will review once the unelected board makes their recommendation to steal your land. My email was clear to County Executive Jan Gardner. She does have control, she does have a role and this needs to stop, now. Two years ago I asked for an ethics ruling to see if as a Council member I could bid on county projects, just as our business has done for 60 years. The ethics board determined that yes in

fact, I could do so with no ethics violation. Jan Gardner swiftly, the very next day issued an Executive Order over ruling the ethics board and prohibited me from bidding on county projects. I've requested that she issue an executive order and over rule this Monocacy River Board and stop this Monocacy River Land Grab on Monday, January 23rd, 2017. By the time you read this, we will have an answer as to whether she will issue this order. She replied to my email stating she has no role in this effort. That is not exactly accurate. As she controls all county staff, she can order Tim Goodfellow the county staffer that is advising this board, to cease working on this project. She refuses because I think from behind the scenes, she is agrees with the plan. If she weren't, she would do the people's will and listen to the landowners and farmers who will be affected by this disastrous plan, and put a stop to it.

Don't be fooled by the current leadership of the County. They are in fact, big time think tank liberals that think they know what is best for you and your land. They are using environmentalism (the new socialism) to control every aspect of your lives. After all, who doesn't want clean water, who doesn't want a "protected river," who doesn't want sunshine, rainbows and unicorns? They use this environmental platform to take your rights in the name of clean water. It is bogus, it is wrong, and it needs to stop, now.

MELISSA M. WETZEL

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Executive Jan Gardner

The proposed Monocacy Scenic River Management Plan, as drafted by the Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board, has raised concerns among property owners along the river as to how this plan might impact the use and value of their properties.

The Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board (River Board) consists of five citizen members from Frederick County and five citizen members from Carroll County. The River Board has existed for many years and held its first meeting in 1978. In fact, a citizen board has been involved with planning and advocating for the Monocacy River since 1949, when it was then called the Monocacy Watershed Council.

For over 60 years, there has been a coordinated and collaborative effort to protect the watershed and preserve its natural resources. The River Board does work that virtually no one opposes such as conducting an annual litter and tire removal clean-up effort along the River.

A proposed updated draft River Management Plan was released in October of 2016. The draft Plan is a revision and update to the 1990 Monocacy River Study and Management Plan, created by the River Board and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The plan describes the river, inventories its environmental attributes, and makes 77 recommendations—some to Frederick and Carroll Counties, some to the City of Frederick, and some to

the town of Walkersville. Multiple public meetings about the plan were held in November, December and January, and a copy of the plan was available in local libraries and on-line.

The River Board heard from numerous property owners opposing the plan, primarily due to the proposed Resource Protection Area. While 77% of the area is in the 100-year FEMA flood plain, the boundary does extend beyond the flood plain in a number of areas. Property owners have expressed concern that their ability to use their property beyond the flood plain would be regulated and restricted in the future.

Concerns have also been expressed that the plan would allow public access to private property or would create a public trail through private property. The proposed plan does not include anything about public access to private property or a trail or bike system. If either Frederick County or Carroll County wanted to provide additional access points to the Monocacy River for recreational use, it would need to be on public land.

The River Board is holding its next regular monthly meeting on February 1, 2017 at 7 pm in Winchester Hall in downtown Frederick. Some River Board members have said they expect to modify the draft plan based on public input received.

It is important to note that the River Board is an advisory committee. Thus, they can only make suggestions or recommendations to the



County Councilman Kirby Delauter, County Council President Bud Otis and County Executive Jan Gardner share a laugh at the Vigilant Hose Company's Annual Banquet. All three representatives congratulated the Company members for their service to the community which they all said was invaluable.

elected officials in both counties. Nothing that has been proposed is legally binding or regulatory. For any of the proposed recommendations to become local law, it would require a separate public process and approval by the local legislative bodies in each county. In Frederick County, the legislative body is the County Council.

This plan was developed entirely by the River Board with no input from me or other elected officials. It is a citizen-recommended plan.

Once the River Board approves its recommended plan, it will be forwarded to the elected officials in both coun-

ties for their consideration and adoption. In Frederick County, this will go to the County Council for their review, consideration and approval. If approved by the County Council, it will then come to the County Executive for my consideration.

The District 5 Council Member has suggested that I can issue an Executive Order to stop the public hearing process for the plan. This is not true. This advisory board is created under state law, and the Secretary of Natural Resources administers the program. Since this is a State program, I do not have authority to stop the work of the River Board.

The Council Member is suggesting the county squash public input and end a public process that disagrees with his point of view. This would simply be un-American. Silencing a viewpoint one disagrees with violates the public process and violates our U.S. Con-

stitution. I will always uphold people's right to free speech, including the right to dissent.

An open, transparent, and public process is happening. There is opposition focused on one or two recommendations out of the 77 made by the River Board.

Civil discourse is fundamental to our democratic processes. I appreciate the concerns and the participation of the public in the development of this plan update. This public process has existed for many decades and does work. I trust that public participation will make a difference to the outcome.

You can find more information and updates about the plan on the county webpage at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/monocacyriverplan2016

I welcome public input on any topic. You can contact me at jgardner@frederickcountymd.gov or at 301-600-3190.

“Frederick County is More Than Just Frederick City”

Justin M. Kiska

So many things have happened since last month's edition of the paper, that I wasn't quite sure what to write about in the February issue. We have a new president, the Maryland General Assembly has begun their 2017 session, and closer to home, a funny Tweet cost a Frederick County Public School employee her job. There are national issues to talk about and there are local issues to address. But one thing, for whatever reason, has been nagging at me.

When I was President of The Golden Mile Alliance, I used to say on a regular basis, “The City of Frederick is more than just downtown.” Let me change that a bit and say, “Frederick County is more than just Frederick City.”

Naturally, the City, being the second largest in the state and the seat of our county government, and the most populated municipality in said county, is the 800 pound gorilla in the room. But they don't always have to be. The City of Frederick has about 67,000 residents, give or take. The county, on the other hand, has a little more than 240,000. The City only makes up a fraction of our county, yet there is always the focus of so much attention.

What am I getting at?

Not too long ago, it was announced that the Department of Social Services was moving from its location in downtown Frederick to North Market Street. As soon word began to circulate that the department was looking to move further north, not even out of the City for that matter, just out of downtown, it sparked a flurry of activity from local officials to keep the agency, if not where it was, somewhere downtown.

Why?

Would it have been so bad for the Department of Social Services to be located in Walkersville? Why not Middletown? OK, I understand that those examples wouldn't work because neither of those towns had the type of building the agency would need but this isn't the first time something like this has come up.

Years ago, when the Board of Education was getting ready to relocate from its Church Street headquarters, the thought of it moving out of the City, let alone downtown, horrified people. The school system had a perfectly suitable property on Hayward Road which could have become the new seat of the county's education system, but it wasn't downtown any longer. Instead, prime real estate was used and a brand new build-

ing rose . . . downtown.

If constructing a new building wasn't an issue, why couldn't the Board of Education look to move to Thurmont or Mount Airy? It would certainly have cost less. But no, they needed to stay in the City of Frederick.

Why?

Even the Frederick county Chamber of Commerce has decided to move back into the city. The current office, just off Monocacy Boulevard on Gas House Pike, apparently wasn't close enough. Why does the county's Chamber of Commerce have to be located within the City limits?

I'm not saying there is anything wrong with the City of Frederick. My business has been located there, albeit on the Golden Mile, since it first opened. And yes, many things gravitate to the bigger population centers. But why can't government agencies and organizations along those line spread out across the county? “Spread the wealth,” so-to-speak. Who knows? Had the Board of Ed built a new headquarters in Walkersville, it could have spurred a mini economic boom and some new development.

It's not even the economics of it that bothers me the most. It's the symbolism. Frederick County is more than just the City of Frederick.



Frederick County Government Boards and Commissions Volunteer Opportunities

The Frederick County Executive invites interested persons to volunteer their time to serve on several boards and commissions that include the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, Public Library Board, Sustainability Commission and many others. To view a complete listing of the vacancies, please visit Frederick County Government's website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/boards.

Persons having a desire to serve must be residents and registered voters of Frederick County. If interested in serving, please submit a letter of interest and a current resume to:

Joyce M. Grossnickle
Office of the County Executive
Winchester Hall - 12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701
301-600-1102 - fcbboards@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2017. Frederick County Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

This is February and you know what that means "A challenge to keep those resolutions!" February is also the month to remember loved ones. February 14th is Valentine's Day. Fathers, Uncles, Grandfathers, you are invited to spend a semi-formal evening full of music, dancing, food, and fun with the special girl in your lives. Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Daddy Daughter Fairy Picnic scheduled for Saturday February 11th 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Fire & EMS Banquet Hall. Seating is limited. Pre-resignation is required. For more information or to register go to cvj4events@gmail.com or call 717-642-8269. February 27th is "Fat Tuesday", which is the day before Ash Wednesday and the last day of Mardi Gras. It was the custom of the German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania to use up all the fat in their house prior to Lent by making the fastnacht. It is a square doughnut without a hole, fried in fat. Hope you enjoy your fried cakes.

Dr. Lisa Wolkind and Councilor Sarah Skoczen told me that New Year's Day 2017 started with a happy dance. "Drain Kitty" had been

reunited with her family! So, who is "Drain Kitty"? She is a very special cat who created a stir along Fairfield Road. Several months ago, new free roaming cats were noticed near Dollar General in Hamiltonban. One kitty was hit by a car, rescued by a good Samaritan, taken for veterinary care, and is still hoping to find his lost family. "Drain kitty" found shelter in the drain pipe along 116. Fortunately, Dorothy, a dedicated animal lover, took responsibility for feeding this cat every day. The Adams County Community Cats TNR team and Abby Avery, the SPCA shelter manager became involved. Multiple people visited drain kitty and tried to gain her trust by sitting with her in the culvert and feeding her. This is by no means a normal sight in Fairfield! Concerned citizens reacted by summoning emergency services to make sure that the people in the culvert were not injured. Many thanks go out to these unknown people and to the emergency services who were so patient with us. A photo of Drain kitty was taken and shared on community Facebook pages. Within a few days of posting, the owners

were found! Drain kitty's true name is Muffin Jr. She is deaf and escaped in June 2016. Now, how is that for a happy way to start the New Year?

Volunteering means something different to each individual that gets involved in local government. The simplest definition may be "an individual that becomes part of something without any expectation of receiving anything in return." I just know without the selflessness of our residents we could not accomplish many of the tasks that have made Carroll Valley a quality place to live and raise a family. The Carroll Valley Borough is currently looking for resident volunteers to fill vacancies on several boards/committees. There are two vacancies on the Parks, Recreation & Environmental Advisory Committee. There is one vacancy (member) on the Finance Committee and one vacancy (alternate) on the Zoning Hearing Board. There is also a vacancy on the Borough Council. Please consider offering your professional skills and talents to have a positive influence on our community by volunteering to help or serve. Contact the Borough Manager Dave Hazlett or the As-

sistant Borough Manager/Secretary Gayle Marthers at 717-642-8269. If you are not interested in becoming a committee/council member but willing to help with a particular event such as the Fishing Derby or Easter Egg Hunt, make the call.

New year brings change. Pennsylvania automobile gas price increased by 8 cents. This is the last of three increases in four years. Funds generated are forecasted to be used for road and maintenance projects across the state. PA motorists pay a gas tax of 78 cents per gallon. PA license registration stickers will be replaced with Automated License Plate Reader. This means that registration is still required but no sticker will be sent to the customer. Online customers will renew and save a copy of and print a registration card on demand. Those who use snail mail will receive a card. However, in both cases, you will not be placing a sticker on the license plate indicating that you have registered your vehicle. Pennsylvania received an extension by the federal government to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act until June 5th 2017. This extension allows PA residents to continue to use their driver's licenses as identification to enter federal buildings through June. This

extension gives PA lawmakers more time to come into compliance with federal requirements in a cost-effective manner. Without this extension, residents would have needed additional photo ID, such as a passport, to gain access to federal buildings starting January 30th.

As President of the Adams County Boroughs Association (ACBA), I had the privilege to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Andy Strausbaugh. The script on the plaque reads "Thank you for your outstanding service as Treasurer since 1983. Your 33 years of diligence, dedication and commitment is gratefully appreciated. The Borough will be holding the following meetings in February: Planning Commission (Monday - Feb 6th), Borough Council (Tuesday - Feb 14th), Parks/Recreation Committee (Wednesday - Feb 22nd) and Public Safety Committee (Monday - Feb 27th). The Borough Office will be closed on Monday - Feb 20th for Presidents Day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net or by cell at 301-606-2021. Be careful driving on the trails. We need to slow down. Watch out for ice especially at night.

State Senator Richard Alloway

It was an incredible honor Jan. 3 to take the oath of office to begin serving my third term in the Pennsylvania Senate.

Serving in the Senate is a solemn duty, and I am deeply honored that members of our local communities have entrusted me with the responsibility of representing their interests in Harrisburg.

I was further honored with my selection to be part of the Senate Republican Leadership team.

As always, I look forward to working with all community residents to advance the priorities of our region

while making state government more efficient and effective.

The beginning of the 2017-18 Legislative Session offers a fresh start on a number of issues considered by the General Assembly over the past two years.

One issue involves the state's two public employee pension systems that are in dire need of an overhaul. While it is critical to ensure the retirement benefits already earned by current employees and retirees are fully protected, the current system is unsustainable.

In the previous legislative session,

the Senate passed several bills designed to move new employees away from the generous defined benefit system and into a defined contribution system that is similar to the 401k retirement plans that are common in the private sector.

In addition, I believe it is essential that any pension reform plan treats legislators the same as any other employee. I recently signed as a cosponsor to a bill that would require all legislators to participate in a 401k-style system. I will continue to work to ensure that lawmakers do not force new employees into any system that we are unwilling to participate in ourselves.

A second issue that is near and dear to my heart is animal protection legislation.

Protecting pets against neglect and abuse was a high priority for me in the previous legislative session, and the Senate advanced an historic proposal last year that would have extended a broad range of new steps to punish individuals who mistreat our furry friends.

The bill, which was approved by the Senate with broad bipartisan support, would have created a new definition and classification of animal abuse to ensure offenders receive tougher punishments; prohibited prolonged tethering of animals

without access to shelter and water; or during periods of extreme weather; added horses to the list of animals included under Pennsylvania's animal protection laws; and provided for the forfeiture of animals who are abused.

It is extremely disappointing and unfortunate that the House of Representatives failed to vote on the measure before adjourning for the year, despite having ample opportunities to do so. However, I firmly believe that this setback is only temporary.

I will never stop fighting to enact these reforms and ensure people who abuse animals are held accountable for their actions, and I am fortunate to be joined in this effort by an amazing group of grassroots organizations and supporters who share my passion for pet protection. I am confident our joint efforts will yield real results on this issue in 2017.

A third issue is sanctuary cities.

Lawmakers made significant progress last year toward addressing the dangers posed by sanctuary cities - municipalities that refuse to comply with detainer requests from immigration officials when an illegal immigrant is arrested. When an illegal immigrant is arrested for committing a crime, it is incomprehensible that local authorities would turn that person back onto the streets with a detainer request pending from federal authorities.

I authored a proposal in the previous session that would ensure the

municipalities that refuse to enforce federal immigration policy would be ineligible for state grants for law enforcement purposes and could be sued for negligence for releasing an individual with a detainer who subsequently commits another crime.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives passed bills aimed at addressing the problems posed by sanctuary cities. Reconciling the differences between the various proposals will be a priority in the new session.

Finally, I'll continue to advocate for protection of Second Amendment rights.

Over the past several years, I have worked diligently to ensure our Second Amendment rights are protected. Lawmakers approved a law I championed in 2014 that would prevent municipalities from targeting gun owners with restrictive ordinances that conflict with state laws.

Unfortunately, the law was overturned by the Supreme Court on procedural grounds, requiring legislators to pass the bill again in order for the measure to become law.

Municipalities do not have the authority to create and enforce ordinances that contradict state statutes and the Constitution, but it can be extremely difficult to hold municipalities accountable when they unilaterally decide to trample the Second Amendment rights of citizens.

Oftentimes gun owners who are accused of violating local ordinances lack the time and financial resources to engage in a lengthy and costly legal battle necessary to overturn unconstitutional gun regulations at the local level. In the coming year, I will continue to work to pass a law that puts the onus on the municipality to defend its actions instead of placing this burden on individuals whose rights are being infringed.

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Bill Elker

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Marty Qually

I have a shelf in my office with tokens from various events from my first term in office. There's a ribbon from the Apple Harvest Festival, a booklet from the 150th commemorations in Gettysburg, or the baseball from the first and only ceremonial first pitch I've thrown in a game. I've started to notice it filling up with funeral service programs for business leaders, municipal officials, public officials, teachers, etc... Sometimes these are leaders I knew personally, other times they were leaders who I always respected but only had the chance to meet once or twice. This year my shelf became more personal - two people close to me passed away. One was a previous boss and the other a close friend's father. These two taught me the value of hard work and teamwork, lessons that have served me well as a public official. I would like to use my column this month to share a little about them and ask that you take a few moments to thank or remember those who have helped you throughout the years.

Robert "Reds" Hance, 55, of Fairfield passed away on November 23rd. While he was an Adams County resident, he spent most of his time in Emmitsburg, Maryland running the Carriage House restaurant. He grew up working in his family's restaurants, but it is an oversimplification to say that is all he was. As the business grew, so did Reds' involvement in his community. To put it simply, if the Carriage House had been in Frederick or Gettysburg, his passing would have been on the front page of the either paper. I could take all day writing about his commitment to his kids and family, especially his wife of 20 years Dana Lee Hance, but I would like to focus on how his work mattered beyond his own family.

Family restaurants are a microcosm of how the world should work. For people who have nev-

er worked in a restaurant, it is difficult to explain the sense of comradery that your team develops. To me, the parallels between a fast paced kitchen and County government as a tool for community prosperity are inescapable. There is a team working together towards a common goal. There is always more work than can possibly be completed in the time given. Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines. Emergencies pop up, no matter how much endless planning and preparation there is. In the government and in the kitchen, your job is to serve the public and when there is a complaint, listen. In the end, when all the players and pieces line up just right, there is also a deep and meaningful sense of accomplishment.

The first time I ran for Commissioner, one of the persistent slights against my candidacy was "He's just a cook, what does he know about government." Reds' always got a kick out of that. He accomplished so much in his community, simply by using the lessons of being a small business owner - more than most elected officials I know. Ask any community leader in Emmitsburg, and they will back this up. The only difference is that he chose to operate in a smaller pond.

Col. Kurtz Miller, 96, was the father of a close friend. He passed away on December 26th in his cabin in the back woods of West Virginia. He served his country in the US military deployed three times in Germany during WWII, twice in Vietnam, and once in Laos. In Laos he served as the senior military attaché during the critical years of 1967-68. Just as in the case of Reds, it would be an oversimplification to define Mr. Miller as just a distinguished veteran. I met him in high school, as the snoring "guard" in the living room, the one we had to sneak past because we came home too late. No matter if he heard us or

not, the next morning was always the same. Breakfast was on the table and the day's work list was right beside it.

Upon retiring Col. Miller aspired to be a gentleman farmer, so he bought a farm close to General Eisenhower's farm outside of Gettysburg. I cannot attest to his productivity as a farmer, but I can say that he found a way to motivate some pretty lazy teenagers.

For anyone who has worked on a farm, you know what I mean when I say, "the work is never done". For those who know me, I have a pretty short attention span. Well for Col. Miller, that just meant he gave us a longer list. We would spend Saturday's mowing, painting rails, baling

hay (not the driving the tractor part, but two kids standing in the wagon catching bales and trying to stack them before the next one hit you in the back), burning trash, fixing the driveway, etc... It really never ended, except for those "right" sorts of days when the list was pretty much done, and the work day could be cut short to go fishing. For the most part Jesse and I weren't very good fishermen, but it was his dad's way of giving us an A for effort. Sometimes it is easy to get caught up in the "list" of things that must be accomplished and to forget to take a break. Today, every now and then my wife and I play tourist and take the time to enjoy our community.

In the end I bring up these

two gentlemen to illustrate that throughout our lives people influence us in subtle ways. At the times when I was close to these gentlemen, I saw them as simply a boss and a friend's dad. Now upon their passing I am confronted with the reality that they were far more. Our lives and communities are filled with these people. Every day I meet community volunteers improving our County, but too often their efforts go unnoticed. There just aren't enough awards banquets or proclamations to account for everyone, so it falls to each of us to take the time and thank those that matter.

Reds Hance, thank you for your commitment to community and for teaching me the value of teamwork.

Col. Miller, thank you for your military service and for teaching me to stay on top of my lists.



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THE PASTOR'S DESK

Nothing is impossible with God!

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

As we read the New Testament, we find three words that really summarize what God wants to instill in our lives. Three little words, reflecting three qualities that really matter today and truly last for all of eternity. In the passage, most well-known as the "Love Chapter" the apostle Paul tells us in his first letter to the church in Corinth, "Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13). Now we like to think of these three as great and noble feelings, but I believe that's taking the wrong approach. You see, feelings are not the point in light of eternity. In the span of forever it doesn't matter what you feel or don't feel. What truly matters is what you do with the time that you have. And so until your feelings are demonstrated through your actions they don't benefit anyone other than you.

I truly believe that the greatest hindrance to God working the impossible in our lives is the idea that it's all about a feeling. You see, faith, hope, and love are three qualities that we need to aggressively pursue so that they become living realities in our lives. Our goal as a community of believers is to become people grounded in faith, driven by hope, and demonstrating the love of

God in all that we do. That's not something that you can feel in the pit of your stomach and so we can't go through life waiting to feel faith, or to feel hope, or to feel love; anticipating that if or when the feeling becomes strong enough that something good will follow. Therefore, even when you don't feel faith you keep expressing your faith through your faithfulness, even when you don't feel hope you dare to keep fighting for God's best in your life, and even when you don't feel the kind of love you want to feel, you put your feelings aside and remember that love becomes real when it becomes an action.

Now with all the joy that Valentine's Day brings we must also expect that there are those who won't share our feelings. Undoubtedly for many, February is accompanied by a myriad of feelings, challenges, and anxieties. Therefore, I like to remember a time long ago when love truly was in the air because of the announcement of the impending birth of Jesus Christ and with that announcement came a very powerful promise. In the Scriptures, Luke's Gospel records, that when the angel came to Mary and told her that she would soon give birth to a child, she asked the obvious question, "How is that possible since I am a virgin?" The angel with all of the insight of one who frequented the throne room of God replied, "Nothing is im-

possible with God" (Luke 1:37). Those five words remind us that the coming of Christ was a demonstration of faith, hope, and love. And in that glorious event, the birth of Christ validates the powerful truth that nothing is impossible with God.

Now intellectually we may struggle with the supernatural, but innately we all know it to be true, because the Bible states that God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what is been made, so that men are without excuse (Romans 1:20). Therefore, if God can create the universe, he can also override the rules that govern the universe; because he has no limits, he's not bound by time or space, and he's able and willing to do the impossible to accomplish his purpose to reveal his nature to love to his creation. This is good news and we can be confident knowing that there are no problems that we'll face that will take God by surprise and we can be assured that he has a plan for our good in every situation.

Historically we've seen this played out ever since the fall of Adam in the garden when God revealed his plan to reconcile and redeem a sinful humanity. With all the omniscience of sovereignty, before God even created the world, love was in the air, there was a twinkle in his divine eyes, and he incorporated a plan that revolved around his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus who marked our calendar with his coming, to whom the prophets pointed, and through whom we find the true mean-

ing of love, came to fulfill the will of his Father in heaven. In love, he abandoned the praise of angels and came to redeem a fallen and broken humanity, a reality which is true in the big picture of history as well as on an individual and personal level. Our Savior is so awesome, so loving, and so powerful that he has a plan for the whole world, for all of history, and that includes your personal life and history. Now, you may think that you've made too many mistakes along the way, that God couldn't love you, and even if God could or did have a plan for you, that you've wandered so far off course that it would be impossible for him to redeem your life. And yet that's what's so exciting about the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary; "Nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). And so maybe you've messed things up, you've taken some wrong turns, and you're not even sure where you want to be or where you ought to be, but God has a plan and he can pick up wherever you are. When you get off track, he simply adapts to your new situation so that you can still attain his purpose for your life. You can be assured that God has a plan to make something beautiful out of your life and he can do it because "nothing is impossible with God".

I pray that God will make himself known to you in a greater way; that he will open your spiritual eyes to see his hand at work in your life, making all the details fall into place, and getting you exactly where he needed you to be all along. And so maybe for you that means getting serious about follow-

ing Jesus, moving from no church or maybe casual church attendance to becoming a fully devoted disciple of Jesus. Wherever you are I want to invite you to join us at Christ's Community Church to discover God's plan for your life. You see, he is leading you to where he needs you to be, to do what he needs you to do, but ultimately the impossible doesn't become possible in your life until you arrive at that place, that moment of surrender at the appointed hour. We find this illustrated in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ; both Mary and Joseph reached the place of surrender to the will of God and as a result the impossible became possible. Because of their obedience they became part of a great miracle, a virgin gave birth to a Son who was more than just a great man, more than just a great teacher, he is in fact the Savior of all people everywhere, in every nation, and every generation. Now 2000 years later, hundreds of millions of followers of Christ throughout the world know that there is no limit to what God can accomplish in their lives when they, like Mary and Joseph, completely surrender to the will of God. Now that doesn't mean that life is without challenges, but as you surrender to God's will, you know that there's meaning behind everything that happens, and that in all things God works for the good of those who love him and who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28). And so the point being that God can do great things with a life that is surrendered to him, because nothing is impossible with God!

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Extraordinary marriages



um composed by the parish clerk on the occasion.

On the 5th February, in the eighteenth year of Elizabeth (corresponding to 1576), Thomas Filsby, a deaf man, was married in St. Martin's parish, Leicester. Seeing that, on account of his natural infirmity, he could not, for his part, observe the order of the form of marriage, some peculiarities were introduced into the ceremony, with the approbation of the Bishop of Lincoln. The said Thomas, for expressing of his mind, instead of words, of his own accord used these signs: first he embraced the bride with his arms; took her by the hand and put a ring on her finger; and laid his hand upon his heart, and held up his hands towards heaven; and, to shew his continuance to dwell with her to his life's end, he did it by closing his eyes with his hands, and digging the earth with his feet, and pulling as though he would ring a bell, with other signs approved.

Some of the most remarkable marriages that have ever taken place are

those in which the brides came to the altar partly, or in many cases entirely, divested of clothing. It was formerly a common notion that if a man married a woman en chemisette he was not liable for her debts; and in Notes and Queries there is an account by a clergyman of the celebration of such a marriage some few years ago. He tells us that, as nothing was said in the rubric about the woman's dress, he did not think it right to refuse to perform the marriage service.

In 1767 a young blacksmith of Bedford was paying his addresses to a maiden, and upon calling to see her one evening was asked by her mother, what was the use of marrying a girl without money? Would it not be better for him to take a wife who could bring £500. The blacksmith thought it would, and said he should be 'eternall obliged' to his adviser if she could introduce him to such a prize. 'I am the person, then,' said the mother of his betrothed, and we are told that 'the bargain was struck immediately.' Upon the return of the girl, she found her lover and parent on

exceedingly good terms with each other, and they were subsequently married. The bride was sixty-four years of age, and the bridegroom eighteen.

This disparity of years is comparatively trifling. A doctor of eighty was married to a young woman of twenty-eight; a blacksmith of ninety (at Worcester, 1768) to a girl of fifteen; a gentleman of Berkshire, aged seventy-six, to a girl whom his third wife had brought up. The husband had children living thrice the age of his fourth wife. At Hill farm, in Berkshire, a blind woman of ninety years was married to her ploughman, aged twenty; a gentleman of Worcester, upwards of eighty-five, to a girl of eighteen; a soldier of ninety-five, 'who had served in King William's wars, and had a ball in his nose,' to a girl of fifteen. In 1769 a woman of Rotherhithe, aged seventy, was married to a young man aged twenty-three—just half a century difference between their ages. A girl of sixteen married a gentleman of ninety-four—but he had £50,000.

To read other selections for Robert Chambers' Book of Days visit www.thebookofdays.com.

February 15

It is usually considered a noteworthy circumstance for a man or woman to have been married three times, but of old this number would have been thought little of. St. Jerome mentions a widow that married her twenty-second husband, who in his turn had been married to twenty wives—surely an experienced couple! A woman named Elizabeth Masi, who died at Florence in 1768, had been married to seven husbands, all of whom she outlived. She married the last of the seven at the age of 70. When on her death-bed she recalled the good and bad points in each of her husbands, and having impartially weighed them in the balance, she singled out her fifth spouse as the favourite, and desired that her remains might be interred near his. The death of a soldier is recorded in 1784 who had had five wives; and his widow, aged 90, wept over the grave of her fourth husband. The writer who mentioned these facts naively added: 'The said soldier was much attached to the marriage state.' There is an account of a gentleman who had been married to four wives, and who lived to be 115 years old. When he died he left twenty-three 'children' alive and well, some of the said children being from three to four score. A gentleman died at Bordeaux in 1772, who had been married sixteen times.

In July 1768 a couple were living in Essex who had been married eighty-one years, the husband being 107, and the wife 103 years of age. At the church of St. Clement Danes, in 1772, a woman of 85 was married to her sixth husband.

Instances are by no means rare of affectionate attachment existing between man and wife over a period longer than is ordinarily allotted to human life. In the middle of the last century a farmer of Nottingham died in his 107th year. Three days


afterwards his wife died also, aged 97. They had lived happily together upwards of eighty years. About the same time a yeoman of Coalpit Heath, Gloucestershire, died in his 104th year. The day after his funeral his wife expired at the age of 115: they had been married eighty-one years.

A stranger scene took place at St. Dunstan's church on one occasion, during the performance of the marriage ceremony. The bridegroom was a carpenter, and he followed the service devoutly enough until the words occurred, "With this ring I thee wed." He repeated these, and then shaking his fist at the bride added, "And with this fist I'll break thy head." The clergyman refused to proceed, but, says the account, "the fellow declared he meant no harm," and the confiding bride "believed he did but jest," whereupon the service was completed.

A still more unpleasant affair for the lady once happened. A young couple went to get married, but found on their arrival at church that they had not money to pay the customary fees. During his walk the lover changed his mind, and never returned to the church. The young girl waited two hours for him, and then departed, — 'Scot free,' dryly remarks one narrator.






A bridegroom was once arrested at the church door on the charge of having left a wife and family chargeable to another parish, 'to the great grief and shame of the intended bride.'


A wedding once took place in Berkshire under remarkable circumstances: the bridegroom was of the mature age of eighty-five, the bride eighty-three, and the bridesmaids each upwards of seventy — neither of these damsels having been married. Six grand-daughters of the bridegroom strewed flowers before the 'happy couple,' and four grandsons of the bride sang an epithalami-



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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

February – the Presidents' month & lessons

Shannon Bohrer

It's February, one of my favorite months of each year. I like living where you experience four distinct seasons each year. One has the experience of each season, while looking forward to the next. In my little mind, February means that winter is past the mid-way mark and while still enjoying it, I am also looking forward. I guess in some ways it analogous or similar to life. I believe one should appreciate the present position they are in, reflect on the past - and at the same time look forward.

Of course February is also special because it's president's month. We have Lincoln's birthday, President's day, Washington's Birthday and my birthday. I believe we are fortunate to live in a free country and we can celebrate our Presidents. There are many countries that do not want to celebrate some former leaders. The United States of America is 241 years old this year. And a large part of our continued existence as a free nation is because of our founding fathers. They created the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, two documents of immeasurable importance. February is a good month to reflect on the wisdom of former Presidents and the documents they created. What are some of the lessons from them?

The Declaration of Independence

includes; "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,"

Those words were written in 1776 and for over 240 years we have celebrated the document, the words and the founding fathers that wrote them. I particularly like that the government derives its "... powers from the consent of the governed." We have the right to vote, to give our consent.

The Constitution was created after we won our independence, but that did not diminish or overshadow the Declaration of Independence, it added to the implied and implicit intent of the founding fathers.

The Constitution includes; "We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Prosperity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America"

From my perspective the wording in the Constitution mirrors the meanings

in our Declaration of Independence and cements the purpose of our democracy by using the words; "We the people," basically telling us it is our country. The purpose of the government with the Constitution is clear; "...establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessing of Liberty to ourselves..." Words with noble meanings.

The opening words in both documents are very meaningful and they give us the perspective and vision of the founding fathers. The words and intent has not changed and the meaning of those words is just as important today as they were when written - maybe even more so today.

In our Constitution we also have the Amendments, which were deemed to be necessary to ensure ratification by the states. The very first Amendment gives us the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, a free press and the rights of people to assemble and petition the government. The insights of the creators of the document to include so much in that first Amendment are instrumental to our continued democracy.

Our first president George Washington, said; "If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

Knowledge is power and without a free press, I don't know if our democracy

would have continued for all this time. We are often told that we should not believe the press, yet it is our free press that ensures all of our freedoms and holds those in power accountable. Of course lately, we have segments within the press that produce phantom news stories, so it is good to be skeptical. But it was the free press that exposed the fake news.

In January of 1838, long before he was elected President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln gave a speech on "The Perpetuations of our political institutions." Part of the speech reads;

"...At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant, to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never!—All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.

At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free-men, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

I find those words very powerful, not just in 1838, but also in 2017. And I believe he was correct. As a nation we seem to have segments with social habits of being fearful, especially of others. I believe it is healthy to question the motives of politicians and groups that want

to divide, rather than unit. I agree with Mr. Lincoln, that if our nation would ever fail - it would be from within.

While it is good to be skeptical of the press and the government, maybe we should be mindful of President Franklin Roosevelt's words; "Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country."

In some ways it does not matter who in in charge of our government, we know that the leadership will change, just as the seasons change. During my lifetime I have heard a lot about how bad our government is, as if it should be expected. And yet our government continues to fulfill the words and meanings in our Constitution. The process has been long, fought with both progress and setbacks, and we still have a long road ahead of us.

As President Dwight Eisenhower said; "This world of ours... must avoid becoming a community of dreadful fear and hate, and be, instead, a proud confederation of mutual trust and respect."

We as a nation seem to be good at dividing ourselves – rather than uniting. Our history is our lesson and it is important to understand where we came from, where we are and the direction we travel. Our history is our map forward. Fear, anger and mistrust can divide us, could that be our enemies from within?

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Common Cents

Rolling plunder

Ralph Murphy

Interest rates on savings or demand deposits have hovered near zero since the 2008 financial crisis in the mortgage market. With new, pooled money access, banks don't compete for private sector funding as they did previously. In much of the world - commercial lenders also have to pay negative interest rates to store cash with their central banks. Before sympathy is felt or expressed - it should be noted that this type of lending also applies to those central bank loans - and negative rates mean they can afford the loan, but also must pay the bankers who take the money.

The Swiss used negative interest rates in the 1970's, but quickly discontinued the practice before adopting it again with a return to the Franc in 2015. There are different types of central bank - linked interest rates to include a target rate that stood between -1.25 and -.25 percent - usually linked to interbank lending. Cash deposits are closer to the stated policy objective of negative rates, forcing bankers to invest in the private sector as they would have to pay for the storage. As the system has developed.

That storage is now "running" from the central banks and into Central Securities Depositories (CSDs) that allow brokers and finance managers in Europe and elsewhere to control the assets. The money is privately controlled while still having access to central bank funds. Again, it appears with negative rates the select few access agents as bankers who

are able to receive "loans", and securities afford the negative rate as do repo's direct cash transfers that are paid that rate. The lower the interest rate - the more they will be paid.

Negative rates were a little noticed or practiced technique until recently as they flout conventional economics and would be consistent with a very short-term emergency measure linked to oversupply in central bank storage. They have prevailed, but none of the nations employing them have reached their growth targets. They are similar to central planning and seldom reflect the supply and demand needs of cyclical, near term concerns. Sweden, which runs its own central bank outside the 19-nation European Central Bank (ECB) eurozone, has used negative rates for deposits and more recently withdrawals since 2009. Again the Swiss employ negative rates, as does Denmark. All three European nations are outside the shared currency zone. As European Union members - they are, however, bound to the European System of Central Banks, which help coordinate the various currencies almost as if they were eurozone members.

The ECB formally adopted negative rates in June 2014 affecting both deposits stored in their Frankfurt, Germany headquarters and the central bank securities linked to the eurozone member nations' domestic issue. A whole transfer and storage structure was created as the Asset Placement Program (APP) with tied delivery of payment (DVP) leading to its CSD private control and investment. Many of the principle owners

likely didn't or don't know their securities have been outsourced. It's surely illegal as practiced, but since the 2009 Treaty of Lisbon, Brussels officials - presumed omniscient "gnomes" - can write any law they want to cover their tracks. Banks should compete for funds and investments. Right now, as to the CSD link - the only real competition seems access and that for "theft".

The Americans have a CSD arrangement tied to an emergent United States Depository Trust Company (DTC) with assets vaguely described as over \$2 trillion in a New York based fund. Harboring over 100 nations' "security assets," it also qualifies as an International Central Securities Depository (ICSD) common in Europe to facilitate cross border transactions. The United States doesn't employ negative rates from the Federal Reserve, but Chairperson Janet Yellen recently said the action would not be ruled out.

The Bank of England is a major storage center for reserve currency, and while interest rates for the pound have dropped, officials there have discounted a negative rate - for now. The Bank of Japan went the European "route" with the host yen a valued reserve currency, and negative rates for their Japanese Government Bonds (JGBs) at -10 percent since last February.

"Insider" data is very difficult to discern from available data. The volume and nature of what amounts to draining vast amounts of stored wealth by the very few with central bank access and being paid for it - does affect just about everyone. It's doubtful the "bankers" can explain what they're doing with what should be invest-



ment capital to those who earned it.

It is ironic that the people and businesses with the most to lose are also the top producers. Given banking services are vital to developed economies and their actions reveal a great deal about the economics and even the societies that harbor them. The relative trust that disciplined Americans place in those institutions just doesn't exist abroad where savings are kept apart on a regional basis.

Germans use nonprofit municipal linked Sparkassen (Public Savings Banks). Bank investment beyond that is very slight. There may be cultural blocks or past theft issues. Japan is another major economy that relies on local bank storage. The regional "keiretsu" (i.e. informal business groups) share stock with close production affiliates - often for a single major producer. All are linked to one, local bank that serves their area.

In Europe, the Danes were reportedly issuing checks to mortgage holders rather than receiving the payments as the negative rate effect has spilled into the open. Storage of personal or confidential data

such as economic interests shouldn't be a point of contention as to control interests - no matter the medium of transfer. There are countless ways to access stored wealth. At this point, the government policy has to be one of regulation as to propriety and competence - not storage - as it is simply stolen.

Banking is a very unique industry as the input source of production isn't owned by the producer. It borrows the money that is of very high social value to invest and produce. But, they have to return it. They can't if they don't have access to it, and that's an emerging problem as the drawdown does continue from pooled central bank funds that are too vast to immediately notice the losses. Banks should remain in the private sector, but the Federal Reserve founders were wise to single that industry out for oversight because lost capital due to faulty investment is routine in an environment of opportunism and theft.

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

The Wealth of Nations

Monocacy land grab

Earl Bell

An attack on citizen's property rights is in the works that will harm residents and farmers in Frederick and Carroll counties.

The Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board (whose members are appointed by the counties) is tasked with recommending governmental policies related to The Monocacy River. More recently, The Board released their draft "2016 Monocacy River Management Plan."

The title sounds benign, but the plan is a killer. Shockingly, it recommends the counties take 8,000 acres of private property along the Monocacy River - to be under government control.

To many of us, our property is our biggest financial asset for which we've worked our entire lives. It's where we have our homes, our farms, and raise families. What The River Board is recommending in essence, is land confiscation through government regulations!

This is no small matter. Because when the government unnecessarily takes land or reduces the property rights of some citizens - it diminishes the freedoms and property rights of all citizens.

This action will devalue owner's properties; impose unnecessary & excessive regulations; restrict reasonable land use; hurt the farming community and land own-

ers; and intrude on privacy. All without compensation to owners and without regard for individual property rights. This goes way beyond the boundaries of reasonable governance.

There's a legal term for this called "regulatory taking" of land. There's a layman's term too - it's called stealing. Any politician that supports this confiscatory and harmful plan NEEDS TO GO. They should be voted out of office or for disrespecting citizens, The Constitution, and individual property rights.

To be clear, I'm not anti-government. I believe our Republic by the people and for the people, is the best form of government in the history of the world. Having served as a Colonel in the Air Force, I devoted my career to protecting our nation. And as a citizen, I'll continue to defend American freedoms, including property rights, that so many have sacrificed so much to protect.

Here's the bottom line. There's a right way and a wrong way for the government to obtain private land they covet. The right way is to buy the land. The wrong way is to take it through a sneaky, backdoor tactic of "regulatory taking." This is what is happening here.

A River Plan recommendation that's causing an uproar - is the creation of a large, regulatory land setback/river buffer, extending deep into private property on

each side of The Monocacy.

The buffer size is said to be 300 to 500 feet - but it goes way beyond 500 feet wherever the FEMA 100 year flood plain exceeds 500 feet, extending thousands of feet into private property in "numerous locations." (Chapter 10-1).

It cuts through farms, private land, and even encompasses people's homes, including my family's residence. This is appalling!

The Board claims taking this large swath of private property for government control, is necessary for clean water purposes. This is a false premise without scientific basis.

An expanded land setback is unwarranted as effective river buffer requirements of approximately 50 to 150 feet, already exist. And scientific research from Yale University; The Army Corp of Engineers; and others, show smaller buffers are more efficient than larger ones (which have diminishing returns). For example, a 62 foot buffer filtered 89% of sediments, whereas a 160 foot buffer filtered only 4% more.

Moreover, the primary source of pollution to The Monocacy does not come from private property along the river - but from urban run-off and the 900+ square mile river basin. Additionally, countless regulations already exist that are successfully improving water quality. There is simply no need for additional regulations or a confiscatory land setback!

It's evident this huge river buffer does nothing to solve the real problem - and instead, causes undue harm to property owners and farmers.

According to Mr. Byron Madigan (Water Resource Supervisor for Carroll County), "Putting a large buffer on a river already carrying polluted water isn't going to clean the water." Additionally, he stated there's no scientific backing for the current proposed buffer width to support improved water quality.

Since a regulatory land setback makes no sense...what is this really about?

It's about a Government Land Grab for no genuinely justifiable reason!

It's vital to stop such government over-reach, which breaches The Constitution and sets a terrible precedent. It's also causing alarmed citizens to wonder, who's land is next? Yours?

There's a reason why The Frederick County Farm Bureau; The Frederick County Association of Realtors; The Walkersville Town Council and numerous concerned citizens, are AGAINST the 2016 River Plan before it's finalized and submitted to the counties...it's a very bad plan!

So far, County Executive Jan Gardner, and The River Board have been dismissive regarding valid citizen concerns. They say the plan's recommendations are suggestions - so best to wait and see what the final plan looks like after it's submitted to the counties for adoption.

But afterwards is too late! "Rec-

ommendations" need to be good (not bad) before the plan's finalized. As a member of the County Zoning Board, I know The River Plan's "recommendations" are not mere suggestions. They're a framework for developing county land use, building, and zoning laws. Like the previous 1990 River Plan which was adopted, they end up becoming laws that directly affect citizens.

Folks are urging The Board to remove any land setback (regulatory or voluntary); The hypothetical ESA boundary lines; and other harmful recommendations negatively impacting property owners and the agricultural community. The plan also needs much clarity, as the language is vague - leaving provisions wide open for government action that could cause significant damage to owners.

For example, owners could be denied the ability to farm or build additions to homes since land use restrictions include "grading and construction" within the setback area. It also allows for "recreational opportunities" in the setback area which could include bike paths, trails, etc.. After sensibly connecting the dots, many believe the huge setback is really about a bike path and public access. Creating public access on private property (also known as trespassing) is unacceptable!

To our founding fathers, property was the front line of liberty. John Adams said "Property must be secured or liberty cannot exist." I fully agree, and hope you do too.

To view the River Plan, see: www.frederickcountymd.gov/monocacyriverplan2016.

Down Under

The journey of a lifetime

Lindsay Coker

Melbourne, Australia

And now, we can see a new world coming into view. A world in which there is the very real prospect of a new world order.

—George W Bush, March 7, 1991

Someone once likened the 20th century to a runaway train. We knew where it was headed, but the stations kept flipping past so quickly that we barely had time to register the names. Of course they were talking about technology, but it was an apt simile; from tape recorders to CD's to bluetooth, wifi; from satellites to www to smart phone to tablets to facebook, twitter, the cloud, the spinoffs and lots in between. We just had to go along for the ride. We enjoyed it, the rush, the sheer wonder of it all, we declared a new day had dawned. New friends, new liberty, new information, new connections.

Someone else wrote, as a follow up to the first observation, that the rate of this change was gathering pace so quickly that it would soon be approaching infinity. No one knew what that meant, where it would fin-

ish up, or the turns it would take - and once again they were right and it would prove to be the ride of a lifetime.

What they could not predict was the cultural shock that some of the new developments would bring; the rise of the algorithm, the robot takeover, the automated rise of the elites or the alienation of an increasing percentage of citizens. Above all they could not have predicted the development of things like Stuxnet or the cyber warfare that is now sweeping the world. Add a reawakening awareness of the possibility of atomic warfare, and the result is societies that are no longer able to absorb the feelings of intense anxiety that have been generated. Understanding and adjusting to the incomprehensible realities this new age is introducing is nigh on impossible, making either numb resignation or free ranging rage the norm.

Up to now we have managed to cope with the new, we had time to familiarise ourselves with it and learn to use it. Any threats were external - terrorists, manic gun toters, ISIS, even government policy - but these new developments are permeating the skin, lodging in the brain like aliens, and no one can explain

them or suggest ways we will be able to handle them.

Here's some of the known known's: Within the next ten years robotics will destroy 80% of the work currently done by humans. (The first fully roboticised accountancy office has just opened in Tokyo. This will be replicated as fast as possible. Robots cost very little to run).

Information will be further tailored to suit the powerful. Dissenting opinions will be corralled. The net will close around freedom and be drawn tight. Cyber security, already compromised, will remain a shadowy and increasingly dangerous battleground for supremacy and survival.

Algorithms will decide our fate. Their use is already causing acute distress, financial ruin and impossible demands to be met. We here have just been faced with pensioners receiving algorithmic generated demands for repayment of supposed overpayments, many so ludicrous as to cause a media storm. Algorithms are also the instant traders of the neo-capitalist system, helping cement the top 10% in their spot.

Automated warfare will be used far more indiscriminately. Pilotless drones are already the weapon of choice, with robot controlled artillery and driverless vehicles soon to follow. The threat of atomic weapons will rise, with no real means of dealing with it.

The swing to the right is already heading toward totalitarian states - in your place, ours, in Europe, Russia, South America, while it will continue unabated in China.

This goes way beyond politics. It is also goes beyond nations, meaning it affects most of the population of the planet. And this is not scaremongering. It's as certain as death and taxes.

Which raises the next conundrum: A decline in the number of workers means a decline in taxation revenue. The rise of the right means business will be taxed less. Where will the money come from for government to function? Where will the money needed for something more than the minimum of existence come from? If there is no disposable income who will buy the goods produced? How will the elites make their profits except from each other? Gifting is being tried - where the governments hand out money to citizens to keep the economy running - but is almost certainly unsustainable. Add to this the refugee crisis that is going to increase as pacific islands become uninhabitable, and a very dark picture emerges. There are no experts in the overall field; plenty in the individual pieces of the jigsaw, but no one, so far as I can find, who can talk to the whole picture of post-capitalism.

So in a strange way it may be the best for America to have Mr. Trump

in charge. Certainly the establishment seems to have no handle of the future - except more of the status quo - while he, unschooled in those ways, may by some miracle begin to pull rabbits out of hats. That's unlikely, of course, as this really is a brave new world with dystopian scenery, but who knows.

The rest of today's problems seem trivial by comparison, but as societies across the world are being dropped into new shapes with unknown stresses and strains, an odd possibility emerges: A new union of cultures could emerge. Humanity has a long history of coming through cataclysms and as a result produce new societies. Nationalities would remain but have so much more in common with each other that a new sense of brotherhood might emerge - the rise of the right across Europe could well produce political and philosophical rapport with the U.S.A. and become a new world order. Maybe president Bush was indeed prescient.

Not one any liberal would want, but the tectonics of society are as unpredictable as those of the earth's shifting plates. Thank heavens I won't be here to experience the earthquakes.

From the (old) New World

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

The way we were

Bill Meredith

"I believe it is better to tell the truth than to lie. And I believe it is better to know than to be ignorant."

—H. L. Mencken

It was a Saturday evening, which meant there was nothing worth watching on television, and it was raining, which meant there was a soft, soothing whisper of white sound in the background. I had finished the crossword puzzle, so I picked up a book that a friend gave me several years ago and I had been meaning to read as soon as I got around to it. It is a good book; but this was the time for thinking, not reading. I got almost half-way through the preface before I dozed off.

I didn't exactly wake up, but I gradually sensed that I was not alone in the universe. The particular sense that informed me was my nose; it told me there was a skunk somewhere in the near vicinity. I opened one eye and scanned around the room; nothing appeared to be out of place, so my mind wandered off on its own again. The skunk, I decided, must surely be a male who had moved into the abandoned groundhog hole behind our house a couple of months ago. He would have gone into hibernation, knowing that when January came the temperature would be well below freezing and snow would be at least a foot deep. Apparently he woke

up to find it was nearly 50 degrees F., and raining; so he must have thought he'd overslept and it was March already, or maybe even April. He must have gone into a panic. Even under the best of circumstances, a male skunk is in a bad mood when he wakes up; he's hungry and thirsty, and he has responsibilities to take care of. He has to explore the neighborhood until he finds the den of a female skunk, and then he has to persuade her to let him move in with her... and here he was, in the rain and two months behind schedule. So off he went, grousing all the way; and it must have been just then that a stray dog or cat approached. He must have turned around and given it both barrels, hence the smell that woke me up. I could read his mind: "Things aren't like they used to be. Life was better in the old days. And simpler. We had real winters then; you could depend on your biological clock to wake you up when it was time. The world is in a mess."

Of course, I couldn't really "read his mind." To put in in the most abhorrently correct English possible, I think I can safely say that I think some animals can think, but I don't think they think the same way I think. Over the past 40 million years, the ancestors of my skunk survived by repeating certain patterns of behavior in situations that they encountered regularly; and these behaviors became ingrained in their brains as nerve

connections that were passed on by heredity. For example, the diet of skunks is primarily insect larvae (grubs), which they dig up from the soil; baby skunks know how to dig instinctively, but they get better at it with practice. In other words, they can learn by trial, error and repetition, but they don't actually think about it. A wild skunk will recognize a human as something dangerous, and will defend itself by spraying when approached; but skunks raised by humans from infancy can be house-broken and make good pets. They are smart, as animals go; but they cannot use logical thought to deduce that walking down a highway at night is dangerous. We will see the evidence of this in a few months when they all come out of hibernation.

Sometimes I find myself thinking the same thoughts I just attributed to the skunk in my yard. "Things aren't like they used to be. Life was better in the old days. And simpler. We had real winters then, but they made us tougher. They built character. It's not like that any more. The world is in a mess." But those thoughts don't stand up under analysis. I have read enough history to know that things never really were "the way they used to be." Life wasn't better then; it was just different. The average life expectancy in the early 1930s was barely 60 years; now it is around 80 years. The newspapers and radio regularly reported outbreaks of polio, smallpox, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis; and I remember when one of our neighbors died of "blood poisoning" after scratching his finger on a piece of rusty barbed wire. The good old days?

The underlying reason things were different when I was born was the size and composition of the population. Around 1910, when my parents were children, the population of the U. S. was about 92 million, 54% of whom were rural. When I was a child in the early 1930s, the



population of 123 million was 44% rural; and now, the population of 319 million is 19% rural. Those are the underlying facts; from them, as I try to understand, I make the following conjectures. From the time of our country's founding until 1945, our basic values did not change much. The majority of the population stayed near their ancestral homes, raised children locally on basically traditional rural values... mind your manners, go to church, obey your elders, study hard, work hard, live honestly. Of course those ideals were not followed universally... people moved, sometimes in waves, as the west opened up, and as conditions became more urbanized. We had inventions... railroads, telegraph, electric lights... the Civil War, Mexican War, World War I... mechanization... cotton gin, assembly lines... economic booms and bank failures... the Dust Bowl and the Okies... the Great Depression... all those things I learned about in school. But after 1945, as urbanization accelerated, the old rural values began to be abandoned. Even though H. L. Mencken was born and bred in Baltimore, what he was writing in the 1930s was the credo of our rural forbearers had lived by since the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. Today, when the news seems to be based mainly on tweets, internet hacking, and "alternate facts," he sounds hopelessly idealistic and naïve.

It was only a couple of weeks ago that I dozed off, smelled the skunk, and started thinking when I was half asleep. The scrambled mixture of ideas de-

scribed above are the product of that nap.

If Mencken were still around, he would say I am the one who is hopelessly idealistic and naïve; and he would be right. I still believe it is better to tell the truth than to lie, and better to know than to be ignorant.

I am stuck with the values I grew up with, and am too old to change, even though it limits my ability to understand. To me, the skunks are a metaphor of the world as I knew it. When I was young, there were skunks around literally every night; our dog always had a faint odor of methyl mercaptan about him... and sometimes it was more than faint. Occasionally something would kill a young chicken, and skunks always were blamed for it (there were weasels and foxes around, but we rarely saw them, and they didn't stink). But even so, some skunks were loveable. Pepe LePew in the movies was a hopeless romantic who always lost at the game of love, just like teenage boys; and Miz Ma'm'selle Hepzibah in the Pogo cartoons was a cultured French lady skunk who spoke in a fractured French accent and was constantly bewildered by the attention she received from every male creature except Pogo himself. And one spring, a mother skunk had five babies under the porch of the house where we waited to catch the school bus; we saw them come out and play every morning, and they were cuter than kittens. Even back then, the world was a mixture of good and bad. Maybe Ecclesiastes was right after all.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Amorous animals

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

February is synonymous with love. With Valentine's Day fast approaching we humans will be putting the final touches on gifts or planning out thoughtful romantic gestures, if we've been diligent. Perhaps you're not as forward thinking, and you'll scramble at the last second to pick up a dozen red roses, a sappy card, and some chocolates in a heart shaped box. Either way these are part of a larger ritual display. While we're all familiar with the birds and the bees, animal reproduction is as diverse as the kinds of critters that copulate.

Encyclopedia Britannica defines courtship as "in animals, behaviour that results in mating and eventual reproduction. Courtship may be rather simple, involving a small number of chemical, visual, or auditory stimuli; or it may be a highly complex series of acts by two or more individuals, using several modes of communication." In humans we tend to think of courting behavior in the context of social customs and cues. Animals, on the other hand, do everything instinctually without the help of Cupid or conversation heart candies.

Some customs are well known, but are actually less common than originally thought. The female Praying Mantis is known for devouring the head of the male after the act is complete. However, this is not necessarily always the case. When two mantises meet and care very much for one another they perform intimate rituals. They will gently caress one another's antennae and dance together. After the courting is complete they get down to business. About a third of the time the female will eat the head of the male. Researchers still are unsure of the reasoning behind this behavior, but it is likely to provide nutrition for the newly expecting mother. Others think it's simply because the female gets confused and mistakes the male for prey. This practice mostly occurs in captivity and entomologists rarely see the same behavior in the wild. Either way females will usually only perform sexual cannibalism when starving. The Praying Mantis isn't the only one with a robust sexual appetite though.

Black Widows are a well known species of venomous spider. Male widow spiders, which are much smaller than their counterparts, will prep for the intimate embrace by spinning a small web coated in sperm. After coating this web in semen he will coat his palps, small appendages adjacent to the mouth, with his sperm. At this point he will set off into the world in search of Mrs. Right. Once he finds her he will serenade her by performing a vibratory song—dancing and plucking the strings simultaneously. As this progresses he will slowly approach her and tenderly tap on her body. Eventually he will insert his palps into her reproductive organs. Once the relationship has been con-

summated the female will make the male into a snack. While male widow spiders are busy bees spinning a web of love some suitors are overly eager and suffer a premature ending from their efforts.

The Honey Bee recently has been noted for their dwindling population numbers. While science hasn't come to a definitive answer for the reason behind falling numbers they have found out one reason for the demise of a male bee. Generally speaking male honey bees exist to serve one purpose – to mate with the queen. The male bee, called a Drone, will give up his life to serve his purpose in a form of sexual suicide. When ready the queen will take flight, and males will give chase and swarm around her. A male will eventually grab a hold of her and insert himself. The drone will then inseminate the queen with a contraction so powerful his genitalia breaks off inside the queen and he will fall to ground where he will die shortly thereafter. The queen will take several mates throughout this airborne adventure, which will take place only once in her life. From these lucky suitors she will store the sperm up to use throughout the rest of her life.

Great Horned Owls are an oddity in the animal kingdom in that once they pair off they will stick with that mate for life. Nesting for these raptors will begin in January or February. The rite is initiated by hooting to each other, and then when they are close will bow to one another with drooped wings. This is all followed by mutual beak rubbing and preening of feathers. Once eggs are laid, usually in a group of two to four, the female will

incubate them for approximately a month. During this time the female will do little else, and the male is responsible for catching prey and bringing it back to her. About six to seven weeks after the eggs have hatched the young will begin to venture out of the nest and onto adjacent branches and will learn to fly. Young Great Horned Owls will stick around the nest for a few more weeks while they are slowly weaned, and begin to search for a new territory all their own! A pair of Great Horned Owls will generally claim a territory about one square mile in size. It's not uncommon for the young to stay near or even within this area for the first year of its life. Although after that the young will be considered competition for the parents and will need to seek all new territory.

The North American Black Bear operates on a different set of standards. Mating season for the black bear can run from May to August. During this time black bears (both males and females) will have several different mates. A female will leave scent trails by marking trees, small plants, and more in order to attract a mate. Males will follow these scent trails to find the female bear. Occasionally more than a single male will follow a trail, which leads to a fierce confrontation. After a male does eventually locate the female he will spend several days edging closer and closer to her while she becomes accustomed to his presence. Eventually the two will get close enough and they will begin to nuzzle one another and communicate. It's after this ritual when their relationship is consummated. The male and female will generally spend two to three days in throes of love mating several times. Once their amorous



Four or five years ago, this great horned owl was rescued as a fledgling after it had been chased by birds into the lake at Cunningham Falls State Park. Lifeguards rescued it from the water, and it was checked over by the animal care ranger, fed well, and allowed to rest for a day. It was released back near the lake the following evening. The parent owls should have returned to it and continued to care for it, but they did not. It was turned over to Owl Moon Raptor Center in Boyds for rehabilitation and care. Then, it was taken to the Virginia Wildlife Center to prepare it for release back into the wild, but eventually it was determined that it could not survive in the wild and it was turned over to the Maryland Park Service to be cared for at Tuckahoe State Park aviary where it is now part of the Scales & Tales program.

behavior has ceased they will go their separate ways in attempts to find another new suitor. Most incredibly a female bear may have fertilized eggs, but they will not develop or attach to the womb until she settles down for hibernation. It's in late January and February that one to three cubs will be born and will nurse from their mother until they emerge in spring. These cubs will stay with their mother for approximately one year. After this period they will then set out on their own in search of new territory.

Cupid's arrow isn't limited to just mankind, but pierces the heart of even the beasts of the wild. From demonstrating amorous intentions to wild es-

capades that end ones' life, love takes many forms. Either way we all do what comes natural and Valentine's Day is just one of our more complex courting behaviors that aims to achieve the same things as wafting pheromones or massaging antennae. Don't forget to show your mate you care by whatever means is appropriate to the species. Grab a bottle of wine, snag a card, and share a candlelit dinner because after all a little romance never killed anyone – except widow spiders, honey bees, and praying mantises.

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

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REAL SCIENCE

Energy production update

Michael Rosenthal

We are constantly searching for ways to provide energy when we need it at lowest prices, with easiest access, and with the least impact on environment. An interesting and potentially useful technique to support this goal is called cryogenic storage. Cryogenic storage stores power provided by renewable energy sources or at off-peak generation by chilling air into liquid form at minus 190 degrees Centigrade, storing it in an insulated tank, and then allowing it to warm up at a later time to expand it and drive a turbine to produce electricity. The pressure of the warming air is great, as it expands to some 700 times the volume of the liquid. Such a plant exists in Manchester, England, and can produce power for up to 5,000 homes for three hours or so. In England, more dependence is now being made on renewable energy – almost 25% at this time. England is moving away from historically dominant energy sources, especially away from coal.

England is fond of hydropower as well, but like the United States, you can only produce energy from hydropower in certain situations like Niagara Falls. I remember my first visit to Niagara Falls on a family vacation, and the awesome sight of the power of that moving water. I think I was converted to my future respect of hydropower even then!

Lithium batteries can of course be used to store energy, but they have yet to be engineered to be cost-effective to the needs of a town or city. We need long-duration storage that has easy access at the time we need it. This technique may make important contributions of that sort.

Nuclear power is a wonderful source of energy that does not have the climate impact of oil, coal, and gas which enable carbon dioxide release. We've written before on nuclear power, and twice I and my family have lived safely not far from nuclear power plants. America has never had a life-threatening nuclear malfunction, such as took place at Chernobyl or Fukushima. There have been some incidents, but they were safely resolved. One nuclear facility that has generated much discussion is the Indian Point Energy Center, some 30 miles from Manhattan in New York City, in Buchanan, NY. The New York Times recently reported that the operators of Indian Point, Entergy, based in New Orleans, have come to an agreement with New York state officials regarding the shutdown of the aging facility. Under the agreement, it reports, one of the reactors will shut down by April 2020 and the second one by April 2021. The impetus for this shutdown has been led by Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York, who worries about the facility's proximity to New York City. It is fair to mention that there has never been a situation at this facility that posed danger to New York, such as the scare due to partial nuclear meltdown at Three Mile Island on the Delaware River in 1979. The Three Mile Island incident ended without anyone being hurt or the environment being seriously damaged; though the clean-up took many years and the financial cost was a billion dollars.

The solution of one issue, however, provokes another. How does one replace the 2,000 megawatts of inexpensive power that Indian Point provides to New York City and Westchester County, some



Cryogenic storage stores power provided by renewable energy sources or off-peak generation by chilling air into liquid from minus 190 degrees Centigrade. It is then stored in an insulated tank, and then allowed to warm up at a later time, to expand it and drive a turbine to produce electricity.

25% of their electric power consumption? Governor Cuomo says the State will invest in wind farms and other renewable energy sources, and that they would add transmission lines to carry hydropower from Quebec. And there are other impact issues. The Indian Point plant provides some \$4 million annually to the county's tax base. The taxes from the plant provide close to one-third of the school system's operating budget, keeping other taxes for residents down significantly. State officials, however, say the impact on ratepayers will be negligible, and estimate that no more than \$3 per month would be added to local electric bills. In the United States, only Hawaii pays higher rates for their energy than New York City. Some 1,000 people are employed at the plant; the company has expressed willingness to offer the opportunity to relocate them to one of Entergy's other facilities.

When the plant closes, one will have to dismantle the reactors, removing and safely disposing of its spent fuel rods, which normally are stored in flasks. This opens the issue of nuclear waste disposal, which we will address at another time. There was a third reactor at Indian Point, which shut down in the mid-1970s. The fuel rods from that reactor are stored on the Indian Point site.

Modern nuclear plants have improved designs over older ones, making them much safer, and we do not have to worry about major earthquakes (such as occurred in Fukushima, Japan). Newer nuclear plants are built differently than old ones, with much more safety, and Entergy had promised to make repairs and introduce modern upgraded safety devices if they could remain operational, also agreeing to safety inspections as demanded by Governor Cuomo and other government and environmental groups. Entergy

had been seeking a twenty-year license renewal since 2007, but New York State, and most importantly Governor Cuomo, did not agree.

Nuclear power is a topic that strongly polarizes opinion. On the one hand, it produces lower cost energy without any adverse environmental effects such as the burning of coal or oil. On the other hand, there is the possibility of accident and the problem of nuclear waste disposal. I will keep alert to the ongoing development of this issue and report it here.

In a related story, the first large-scale clean coal facility was opened this month near Houston, TX. What makes it "clean" is that carbon dioxide from the coal combustion is captured and utilized to force oil from the ground. In the initial act, some 100,000 tons of CO₂ was captured and piped to an oil field 80 miles away. This rate translates to 1 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. This technique, if applied to other existing coal burning facilities, can help justify the continuing use of coal. It also can help keep the coal industry alive and save the jobs of coal miners. There are currently 21 carbon dioxide capture projects worldwide, but only a few are in the power generating sector. This project, which cost \$1 billion to initiate, is called Petra Nova, and it has worked with \$190 million of Department of Energy grants. The International Energy Agency and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are strong proponents of carbon capture and storage to curb the effects on climate.

And finally, a quick update on plastics. The State of Michigan has banned any laws that restrict, ban, or impose fees on the use of plastic bags in its municipalities. Idaho, Arizona, and Missouri have similar laws.

To read past articles by Michael Rosenthal visit, the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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If I had a hundred dollars

Jack Deatherage

If I had a hundred dollars for every time someone told me I need to open a bakery I'd still not have enough cash to do it. One of the bread books I have, by a baker willing to share his start up experiences, relates his first bakery ate \$75,000 before it failed. Oo baby. Not this boy.

What started out as a desire to taste the bread Mom made in 1960 turned into an adventure that left me cursing in frustration as multiple failures plopped onto counters in three different kitchens. Groaning over scientific explanations of what goes on in a fermenting dough, and later in a hot oven, left me scratching my head when I wasn't thumping it on a kitchen wall. Some small enlightenment dawned when I picked up a book on the history of wheat and learned that the flour Mom had used isn't available today. Nor is the cream rich whole milk she used.

Abandoning that hopeless loaf I took to trying my hand at artisan breads and with encouragement from local Librarian Sue, I managed a few loaves worth eating. The adventure found me consistently shuffling good loaves from the oven. I felt confident enough to begin experimenting with the recipes. To my delight, even my mistakes tended to come out edible. (I'd also begun building breads on Saturdays for a very early Sunday bake so I could take them to the Frederick IWLA youth program for the kids who devoured them as if they would never again sample their like.) All the while I kept reading bread books hoping to find the secret to what I considered the perfect bread.

The Mad One was the first to tell me I had reached a level worthy of opening a bakery. "But not in Emmitsburg." She declared. "Emmitsburg doesn't deserve good bread. Come to Bulgaria. My people still appreciate bread. You could make a good living in Sofia"

I laughed. I wouldn't move to Frederick to open a bakery, and any town smaller than that wouldn't support the effort (Thurmont didn't), no matter how good the bread might be.

Onward I went, experimenting with flour, water, salt, yeast, temperature and time. The breads became better and then I seemed to peak. I simply could not reach what I thought of as perfect. I was close, oh so close. And then I decided to take a former baker's advice. I built a sourdough culture. And another one when I killed the first one. And a third when I killed the second.

Bah! I switched back to commercial yeast and went off exploring flours made from grains other than wheat. And as often happens, someone needed such bread. An

Iranian Bear (Coach Ben) asked, well, told me to make salt free bread for him because such bread, when he could find it in the stores, was disgusting.

"Make me some salt free bread with whole grains, and nuts, and dates, and, and anything to give the loaves some flavor!"

I groaned at the the thought, but I plunged my hands into the dough buckets because building loaves in quantity would give me the practice I needed should I ever totally flip out and decide to bake for a living. The first few loaves were horrible, though they were eaten out of desperation by the carb starved Bear. A few tweaks to the recipe and suddenly the Bear tells me, "This is great bread! You need to open a bakery!" I laughed at him as well, when I was out of his reach.

After months of cranking out multigrain, salt free breads I got bored and went back to building a sourdough culture. This time I managed to keep the starter alive and built it up to its full strength. Sha-ZAM! The adventure moved a leap closer to perfection! I built the second best pizza I've ever eaten from my favorite focaccia dough fermented with a sourdough starter.

Inspired by that monumental success I began building every bread with sourdough. Not that even half of them turned out as well as that pizza did, but they led me to seek out information on bread building that I had ignored because I wasn't ready for it, or simply hadn't been aware of it. One source of info was a baker in Florida who builds his breads using Old World techniques, mainly sourdough.

To my surprise, I was asked by this professional (so into his passion that he vacations in France, studying their bread techniques)

if I had encountered anyone suffering from gluten allergies. I allowed I knew two people who had nearly died from Celiac disease and I have a mild wheat allergy. I was told the French bakers have never heard of wheat allergies and from what I've read on the subject, neither have the Italian or German bread builders.

A BBC documentary on bakers in the Victorian era reports that the average family of six ate 55 pounds of bread a week! The average laborer burnt 6,500 calories a day, most of them from bread! Which makes me wonder, what bread were they eating? It certainly wasn't any of the white flour loaves I've been building!

And why am I having adverse reactions to the breads I build, especially just as I get good at building them?

Stephen Yafa, author of "GRAIN OF TRUTH, the real case for and against wheat and gluten" may have found the answer. Though it comes as no surprise that his hunt for the truth leads him through the industrial food complex (that unsustainable model of man-made chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and hybridization designed for machine harvesting and modern high speed factory bread making requirements) that temporarily saved much of humanity from mass starvation. Oo-RAH! Norman Borlaug, the hybridizer who gave us modern wheat!

Unfortunately, Norman's wheat also replaced the hundreds of locally grown races, cultivars or strains (whichever scientists call them) and in conjunction with the ever growing desire for soft, white bread (like the wealthy once ate exclusively), and the invention of roller mills that replaced grinding stones- Well, we demanded, and got, a flour that has been



We just learned as we went to press, that Jack has been appointed Dean of the University of Harney's Culinary Department where he will oversee the baking for all state occasions at Windsor castle via his Facebook account.

eroding our quality of life instead of being the staff of life our ancestors thrived on. We got starch and gluten.

According to Jeffrey Hamelman (Bread: a baker's book of techniques and recipes) slow, sourdough ferments allow the bacteria in the mix to neutralize the phytic acid that prevents humans from absorbing the minerals locked in the grain's bran as well as building flavor that isn't possible in a quick rise yeast recipe. Bran? What bran?

Meanwhile, Yafa writes of wheat that taste of vanilla or chocolate. He explores small farms that pro-

duce ancient grains and millers who invent new ways to turn the grains into flour without destroying their nutrition. And he's fired me up to acquire some of these grains and flours to trial on my own, if I can convince DW to let go five or six dollars a pound for them!

She does agree that a nutritious bread makes more sense than one that bloats my belly and- We'll leave it at bloats.

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



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PETS

Certain things in life I just don't get

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

I will never understand wearing pants that hang down to your knees. I mean I try to get pantyhose to not do that and yet in some circles, it's a fashion statement. I mean, to each his own, but that just doesn't look comfortable. I don't get it.

I also don't understand crazy spicy foods. I mean a little heat from time to time is okay, but there are limits. I don't know how I'm supposed to enjoy a meal when my face is burning off. I just don't get it.

And I really don't get why Aiden is still at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. Allow me to explain.

In November, we had some folks who could no longer afford to care for their 3-year-old lab/basset mix pup. They surrendered him to the shelter in the hopes of finding him another home.

His name is Aiden.

Oh my word, Aiden is EXACTLY what you would think of when someone says lab/basset mix – it's the cutest thing. He has the basset legs – short and kind of turned out – and the head and ears of a lab.

And his personality is just amazing. He loves to chase balls. The only issue is that he's a little on the pudgy side, but I mean, hey, who isn't? So the ball chasing will only go on for so long before he has to stretch out and rest. It's hilarious!

I took him with me to visit with college students last semester to give them a break from studying for finals. What a ham he was! The kids tossed the ball for him all afternoon and he would chase it, grab it and turn around to see if everyone was watching. He's quite a character.

Our shelter manager says if he were human, he'd be a stand up comedian. I can totally see it! He's kind of the canine Kevin James.

Our friends at the Emmitsburg Journal were cool enough to use his photo on the front page of the paper last month. He had a ball in his mouth – naturally – and looked like the sweet boy he is.

So now to the part I don't get. I have no idea why he is still at the shelter. It's odd. Sometimes this happens, though. We have amazingly awesome animals who when I first meet I think, "oh he won't be here long," only to find he's still with us months later.

We also have some special felines who have been looking for homes for a while now.

We have five cats who aren't in our adoption area due to their, well, special nature.

First we have Griffin. He lives in our executive director's office. When Griffin first arrived at the shelter, he threw a fit the likes of which we hadn't seen in a while. It turns out he just couldn't handle all the other animals. Once he was alone in a space by himself, he turned completely around. He loves attention and purrs all day. He sits high atop his cat tree and surveys his land. He's quite the king.

Then we have Dingo. Dingo was in our adoption area, but he started being quite a devil when visitors and volunteers would try to put him back in his cage. No one could really blame him – I wouldn't want to be put back in a cage, either – but it started getting worrisome. He lives in our shelter manager's office and roams the halls. He's kind of like the greeter for our office area. He's quite a character.

Our office manager has a friend in her office named Hedwig. Hedwig actually looks like a spotted owl. No joke. Hence the name for you Harry Potter fans out there. She looks like someone took a wet paint brush and shook it over top of her. Hedwig can be incredibly shy when she first meets someone – shy to the point of hissing. Once she settles down though, she becomes an incredibly loving cat.

Hedwig is what cat people would know as a "bush dwelling" cat. I know it sounds made up, but there are some cats that don't like to be up high. They prefer to find cave-like places to hide and hang out. Hedwig is one of those cats. She absolutely despises being picked up. She actually shakes if you even try. She's never been up on the desk and the chair is as high as she'll go.

Hedwig and Dingo are kind of dating. He'll roam down the hall and hang out in front of her place and she'll pretend to ignore him, but she keeps a close eye on what he's doing.

Smokey Mechu and Savannah live in our treatment room. Their inevitable partnership was quite a tale.

Smokey Mechu was surrendered to the shelter because he wasn't getting along with the new baby in the house. He's a 3-year-old, all gray boy who is quickly becoming quite well-known for his "cat look."

Smokey put on a few pounds while he was here and kind of outgrew his cage. Also, we knew he needed exercise and just wasn't get-

ting in our adoption area. He wasn't terribly fond of other cats that he could see, so he wasn't happy and getting more and more stressed.

A little gray-and-white girl came in around the same time as Smokey. We named her Savannah. For some unknown reason, she didn't get adopted and continued to stay in her cage. The longer she was there, the more upset this made her. She actually paced back and forth in her cage. It got to the point where we realized she needed space, too.

So both Smokey Mechu and Savannah came to reside in our treatment room. During the overnight hours, they each have their own large, stand-up cage, but during the day, they are free to roam the room wherever they wish. Now our treatment room is kind of the hub of activity at the shelter. Meds are dispensed there, charts are monitored; we even temperament test there on occasion.

Smokey and Savannah have pretty much taken over. They get involved in just about everything that goes on there. They "help" with the paperwork by trying to push the pen. Each morning, they have to play in the water in the sink – it must happen.

They've actually become quite adept dog testers. By this I mean they seem to be able to tell how a dog will do with cats. If Smokey and Savannah are on the floor while the dog is in the room, the pup will be completely fine with cats. If they are on the counter, it may be questionable as to how the dog will respond to cats. If they are on top of the refrigerator, the pup is a no go with cats.

Isn't that wild?

Savannah is the escape artist. She gets out of that room and can be found wandering the halls. We think she feels the need to perform inspections every few days to make sure everything is running smoothly. She's even been known to wander into dog areas – nothing really phases this cat.

One of the most hilarious things about this set up is that during the day, Smokey will use Savannah's litterbox. Seriously. He won't use his own at all. We're convinced this is so his will be clean at night time when



Smokey Mechu was surrendered to the shelter by his owners in March 2015 and he was already neutered when he came to us. He's a four-year-old, all gray guy who is looking to get out of a shelter and into a home. Smokey can be a bit of grumpy gus from time to time, but if you give him his space, he really is a wonderful companion.



Aiden is a three-year-old lab/Basset hound mix, who was surrendered to the shelter because his owners could no longer afford to care for him. He's such a sweet boy who needs a second chance. As you can tell from the photo, he loves chasing balls. And seriously, doesn't he look exactly like a lab/Basset mix? Because of his activity level and chase drive, Aiden should go to a home without cats and with children older than eight. If you can help get him out of a kennel and into a home, stop out and meet him.

he has to go back in his cage.

Only a cat, you know? That just cracks me up.

All of these special sweethearts are looking for their forever homes and the one way to make sure that it happens is to talk about them. So that's what I plan to do and you can help.

If you know anyone who is looking for a special companion, please let them know about these babies.

There are a lot of things in life I don't get and likely never will, but when it comes to adopting animals, that's one that I will always under-

stand and want to help make happen.

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

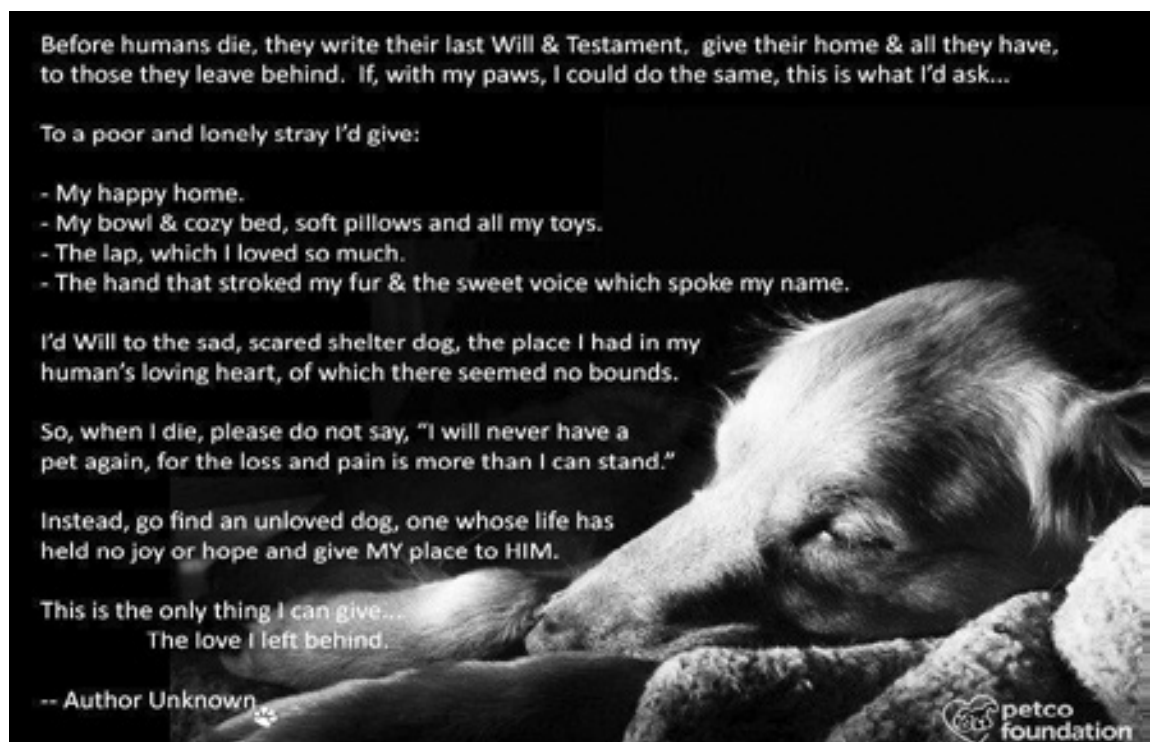


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Preventing winter colics

Kimberly Brokaw DVM
Walkersville Vet Clinic

Most horse owners have experienced colic in at least one of their horses. Colic can range from just a mild upset stomach that is quickly relieved by pain medication to a severe illness with a twisted intestine and death. I, like many vets, would say that I treat more colics in the winter time. This is often related to inadequate water intake. Horses don't always want to drink cold water. Sometimes their water is frozen so they can't drink. Then they colic. Much of the year, horses get part of their daily water intake from green grass. The green grass is dormant in the winter so horses eat more dry hay instead of grass. This can also be a risk factor for colic. Some horses don't receive enough hay or other forage to keep their guts active. Inadequate forage is one more risk factor for colic. While many colics can be prevented through good animal husbandry, other times the colic is caused by cancer, or an intestinal twist/torsion and nothing could have been done to prevent it.

While most people know that their horse should have access to fresh water at all times, sometimes various oversights lead to a horse being without water. On one of the cold spells this winter, I was called to a farm to pull blood for routine testing. The horses were field boarded so I walked with the owner to the field so she could catch the horses for the blood test. As we were taking blood, I saw one of the other horses chewing the ice on a frozen water trough. I pointed out to the owner that the water trough was frozen. She promptly told me that was okay as they had just installed brand new automatic waterers three days ago so the horse could drink from that.

She seemed oblivious to the fact that horses don't usually chew on

ice and this was a sign that either the horses didn't know how to use the waterer or perhaps the heating element in the waterer wasn't properly grounded and the horse was getting electrocuted when he tried to drink. I told her to go get a bucket of water and immediately that horse, as well as her other three horses came to the bucket and drank it dry. They had also chewed a foot deep hole in the ice in the water trough. After pointing out those things to the owner, plus the obviously very thirsty horses, made the owner realize that something wasn't working properly with the waterers. She assured me she would look into it, hopefully before all of her horses coliced.

It's situations like those that always make me inquire into animal husbandry when I get called for a colicing horse. Just last week an owner called to tell me both of his horses were colicing. He said they'd been fine the night before but now neither of them would eat and the one was acting painful and trying to roll. I'd been out to the owners farm before and while I knew he was a knowledgeable horse owner, I also knew he had health issues. I was guessing that he most likely hadn't given the horses non-frozen water last night and that was why he now had two colics at the same time.

When I arrived at the farm I found the owner. One of the horses was in a stall while he walked the more painful horse so he wouldn't lay down and roll. As the owner was walking the horse I noticed that the owner walked with a distinct limp. I was getting more convinced that my theory about him not providing water was correct. I was wrong. I asked the owner about the water and food situation for the horses and was pleasantly surprised. He had one large water trough with a heater in it and also another water trough that he kept

without a heater but broke out the ice every day. He told me that the heater was properly grounded with no stray currents yet he found the horses preferred the non-heated water so he kept both troughs for them. He also told me that the horses were fed alfalfa pellets and beet pulp soaked in warm water twice daily with their grain. He also gave them as much hay as they wanted. I looked at the food and none of it looked moldy. While I don't usually believe in coincidences, it was looking like it was simply bad luck that both horses coliced rather than mismanagement by the owner.

I examined both of the horses and treated them. Before I even left they were feeling better and eating grass. Both the owner and I wished we could figure out what caused both of the horses to colic, but were happy that they seemed better now.

The basics of winter colic prevention include making sure horses always have two sources of water that is not frozen. Electric waterers and heaters must be properly grounded, as horses are very sensitive to even small amounts of stray electrical current. Horses benefit from large amounts of good quality hay. Getting extra forage and extra water into a horse by feeding soaked hay cubes, or wet alfalfa, can be helpful.

Even when you do everything right, an owner should be prepared to deal with colic. Any time a horse is not eating, or looks uncomfortable, check his temperature. Then, call the vet for instructions. Many times, your vet will have left an emergency dose of Banamine or other pain medication with you. After checking the temperature, give the medication as instructed by the veterinarian. If the horse is not completely back to normal within an hour after giving the medication, or if the pain returns, call your vet a second time. Tell the vet if you would want the horse to have surgery, if it was necessary to save the horse's life. The vet will then often have you ready your horse trailer to take your horse to a surgical clinic, while your vet is en route to assess



After having nearly electrocuted one of their comrades as a result of improper wiring, the editor's horses now closely scrutinize all work done on their outside horse waterer. Access to warm water during cold winter periods is a critical component to minimizing cold weather related colics.

and stabilize your horse. Hopefully, you have familiarized yourself with the route to the Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, or whatever surgical center you choose to use. Many times, surgery can be avoided by intravenous fluids and other treatments at the surgical facility. If surgery is necessary, your horse has a much greater chance of survival if he arrives at the sur-

gical center quickly.

Colic is dreaded by most owners. Unfortunately, it is common and can be devastating. Do everything you can to prevent colic, and promptly call your vet to treat it when it is not preventable.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Starting seeds

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener
Coordinator

For the gardener, January brings us many seed catalogs, and if we didn't receive enough in the mail, we're probably asking other gardening friends to look through their copies of catalogs. It's also the month that many garden centers will begin stocking their own seed racks. As you pour over these catalogs and dream about spring when visiting the garden centers, consider starting your own seeds. Now is the time to get those seeds purchased so you are ready to when the time is right.

Starting your own seeds gives you the advantage of a bigger selection of more unusual varieties of flowers and vegetables. Garden centers and nurseries often carry the more popular and common varieties of flowers and vegetables in plants, making it sometimes difficult to get unusual varieties. Take advantage of seed catalogs for information as well as an opportunity to purchase unusual seeds.

One of the biggest mistakes in seed starting is timing. Often we get anxious for spring, and we start our seeds much too soon, especially if it's a mild winter. When buying seeds, be sure to look on the back of the seed packet for how long it takes the seeds to germinate. Seed catalogs often give this information as well. Count back from the time that you are able to plant seedlings outside. Allow for one to two weeks of growing time after germination and you'll have your start up date.

For instance, I have a seed packet of red and yellow pear tomatoes. On the pack, it tells me that it takes 7-14 days for the seeds to germinate. In our area, you can safely plant out tomatoes by mid-May. Counting back two

weeks for the transplants to grow and another two weeks for the seeds to germinate, I'm looking at starting these seeds in mid April. Giving a little time for mistakes or possible replant, the seeds should be started indoors by early April. How often we hear "What do I do with my tomato plants? They're getting so tall and I can't plant them out for another month!" If you time properly, this can be avoided.

After determining when the seeds should be started, giving the seeds the requirements they need becomes most important. Seeds need four things: light, water, oxygen, and heat. Getting to know your seeds makes this an easy step. Again, reading the seed packet will tell you the depth to plant the seed – this is the light requirement. Keeping the seeds evenly moist and the soil temperatures between 75°-85°F should provide just the right environment for these seeds to germinate – this is the heat and water requirements. The oxygen comes from the soil. Use a light soilless mixture that is formulated for seed starting. This will give your seeds and roots the oxygen that is needed for good germination and growth.

There are a few seed starting set ups that you can implement in your home. One such set up is to use a heat mat under your seed tray. Heating cables work well too. A mat or cable is put under the seed tray. This provides the needed warmth of the soil. Above the seed tray, mount some florescent lights and lower them so they are just above the tray. This will provide the needed light for germination. As the seedlings grow, the light will need to be raised.

Before planting your seeds, find out if they need any scarification or stratification before planting. Scarification refers to breaking the seed coat. This



If you are planning on finally getting your garden started for spring, you might be surprised to find that you should begin planting when it's extremely cold out. Indoor planting, that is. Seed-starting indoors has numerous benefits: it will increase the success of your plants as they have an easy start indoors, and it also allows you to extend your growing season.

is sometimes needed for quicker germination of some seeds. For instance, morning glory and gourd seeds germinate quicker if you soften the seed coat by soaking overnight. This allows for the embryo to break through the seed coat faster. Stratification refers to the temperatures required for the seed to germinate. An example of this would be some types of acorns. It needs a cold period, winter, in order for the seed to break dormancy.

After the seeds begin to grow, they will send up what appears to be leaves. This first set of "leaves" is called cotyledons. Next to develop are the true set of leaves.

The true leaves take on the identification features of the plant. At this point, the seedling can be transplanted into a larger container or planted into the garden, if soil and air temperatures are adequate.

Before putting the plant out, you may want to "harden-off" your plant. This means that the plant needs time to acclimate to the outdoors. This is done simply by setting the seedlings outside in a protected area for a few days to one week, then planting them in the ground. Be sure there is no danger of frost if you are keeping them outside overnight. You could bring them in-

side each evening if you are hardening off the plants during the time of possible frost damage.

Now you plants are in the ground growing, producing flowers and seeds or fruit. You're thinking about collecting seeds for next year's crop or to sharing with a friend. If you are collecting seeds from vegetables, and you're hoping for the same hybrid that you grew this year, don't bother. Hybrid plants are produced by crossing two parent plants. Therefore seed collected from these hybrids will have a mixed set of genes, making the outcome of the seeds variable.

Also plants will cross-pollinate

This four week series will enable you to have a successful vegetable garden. Each class will focus on specific gardening practices, and after attending you will be prepared to garden for a great harvest. There will be special giveaways at each class to help you be successful!

March 23: For the Starter Gardeners - This class focuses on how to start a new vegetable garden, from soil to planting. You'll walk away with an understanding of what it takes to grow a vegetable garden.

March 30: Plant Rotation and Companion Planting - This class focuses on nutritional needs of vegetable plants and natural ways to manage fertilization and insect management. After attending this session, you'll have a better understanding of soils, compost, and plant management.

April 6: Early Spring Crops - Gardening can begin as early as March, if the weather permits. This class will cover the spring crops: leafy greens, peas, potatoes, and brassicas. After this class you'll want to start digging! We will also talk about how to manage these same crops in the fall.

April 13: Summer Crops - Warm season vegetables bring a different set of issues than any other season of veggies. Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and melons can be the most difficult plants to grow. The temperatures and moisture play a huge role in these crops and what diseases and insects attack them. This class focuses on best practices for growing these widely used and grown summer crops.

Registration Fee: \$75.00 . To register visit www.extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/events or call 717-472-0261

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener

Forcing is a beautiful thing

Marianne Willburn

It may be cold. And windy. And fairly miserable at six in the morning when you've misplaced the car scraper. But let me remind you that we have already passed the shortest day of the year mark and there is hope yet ahead.

If my words seem empty (they certainly do to me at the moment), perhaps you just need a few blooms to focus your mind on the kinder, gentler days of spring.

If you follow the Facebook page for Small Town Gardener, you might have seen the gentle reminder to pick up a bag of tulips, or paperwhites or hyacinths during the autumn back-to-school/work/life scramble. If you ignored that advice and have a tendency towards bitterness, you may want to move on to another article. If you bought a bag of bulbs, or would like to know why you should have, let's get started.

The first thing to remember when forcing bulbs is that this will be a short term fling twixt gardener and bulb – a one-sided relationship if you will. The bulb will give you all its pretty years carefully stored in that young curvy body, and you will ruthlessly use it for its beauty, give it nothing but water, heat and light, and just as ruthlessly toss it aside when it grows old and grey and full of sleep.

You are not to feel guilty about this, or before you know it you'll be nursing spent, withered bulbs in the garage in February and bolstering spent withered

bulbs in a back bed of the garden in March which will then be eaten by plump, happy voles in September. Remember, if you have a compost pile (The Holy Absolver of Guilt) – nothing is wasted. After many years of self-flagellation on this issue, I am finally at peace and want nothing more than to help you avoid yet another horticultural opportunity for self-reproach.

Second, you do not need soil to force bulbs, nor do you need special containers. Granted, the sight of a burgeoning hyacinth bulb perched on the narrow waist of a forcing vessel with roots flowing gracefully into a reservoir of life-giving water, is one of the reasons I like to get up in the morning, but it is actually unnecessary. Any tall, sealed pot/vase/mason jar will do – the taller the better so as to give support to leggy bulbs like paperwhites. Glass is often preferred in order that you can adequately monitor water levels and have the fun of watching the roots develop.

Now, select your bulbs. Hopefully this involves opening the door of the cold garage/potting shed or fridge and getting the package out. If you've inadvertently stored your bulbs in a warm space, and they have already sprouted and twisted, you may be out of luck.

Sort the bulbs and pick the plumpest specimens with no sign of fungal disease or rot – discarding the others (remember: one-sided relationship). Of those you have selected, put some back in the fridge to start in about two weeks' time. (February is very grim, remember?)

Fill your container one third full of gravel and place the bulbs firmly into that base, covering ever so slightly (for ballast) with a bit more. Try to keep a tiny amount of space between bulbs to discourage rot. Add water to a level that is just at the base of the bulbs, and keep that level constant during the life of this love affair.

Some experts will tell you to then stow the container away in a dark place. I have never found this to be necessary, and besides I'm in a pretty dark place as it is in February. There is a great deal of joy to be reaped by watching these bulbs develop into spring flowers and I wouldn't want to waste it on the contents of my linen closet.

These vessels make a fantastic centerpiece for a dining room or foyer table, and provide a conversation starter while everyone is chomping their root vegetables and wondering when local asparagus will hit the markets. They are far more economical than a bunch of greenhouse flowers, and make you look like a plant whisperer – which as we all know is half the battle when it comes to gardening.

It's a win-win. For the gardener that is. For the bulbs, not so much. Still, *il faut souffrir pour être belle*, and when we want something outside the parameters of its natural season, you can bet it will come at a price.

Marianne is a Master Gardener who writes from Lovettsville, VA. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com

nate, allowing genes from parent plants to produce a different "hybrid". Insects, wind, or other pollinators will transport pollen from one plant to another plant of two different hybrids or varieties. This is often noticed in tomatoes and squash. Before committing to collecting seeds, just be sure your plant is an open pollinated plant. These are sure to resemble the parent plant, and you won't be disappointed in your product next year.

If it is an open pollinated, fruity vegetable like a melon, tomato, or cucumber, allow the fruit to ripen completely on the plant before collecting. Harvest the fruit when completely ripened, and separate seeds from the pulp as best you can. Then allow the seeds to dry completely.

ly. Store the seeds in a cool, dry place. Your refrigerator is a good place, as long as apples are not stored with them.

In late winter, you may want to check the viability of the seeds. This is done by counting out ten seeds, planting them, and observing what percentage has germinated. Then you will know what to expect from the seeds you've collected, and you'll be ready to go again in the spring.

If you have the desire to try unusual plants this year, consider starting your own seeds. You'll find it rewarding, and keep you gardening even during the cold, winter months!

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

Frederick County Master Gardeners winter seminars

February 4

"Orchids in our Homes and in our Woods." Presented by Dr. Clark Riley, MD Orchid Society. A two-part presentation by an orchid expert concludes with an orchid potting and repotting demonstration. The presentation will cover: 1) 50 Years of Orchid-Growing Mistakes – Dr. Riley will discuss the mistakes he has made and the plants he has killed, like every other orchid grower and, most importantly, how he has changed his culture of his much-loved plants to overcome these difficulties, 2) Cinderella's Slippers Found! Cypripediums and Selenipediums – This illustrated talk offers an introduction to the biology, history and beauty of the hardy lady slippers (many native to Maryland) and their rare South American cousins, and 3) a demonstration on how to pot and repot an Orchid.

February 18

"Basic Vegetable Gardening & Seed Starting." This overview of basic vegetable gardening covers how to plan, locate, plant, and maintain your garden. We also will provide tips on succession planting. Find out which plants are best started from seed and when. See first-hand how to start and plant seeds, as we demonstrate.

For more information contact the Frederick County Master Gardener Program at 301-600-1594 or visit them online at <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county>.

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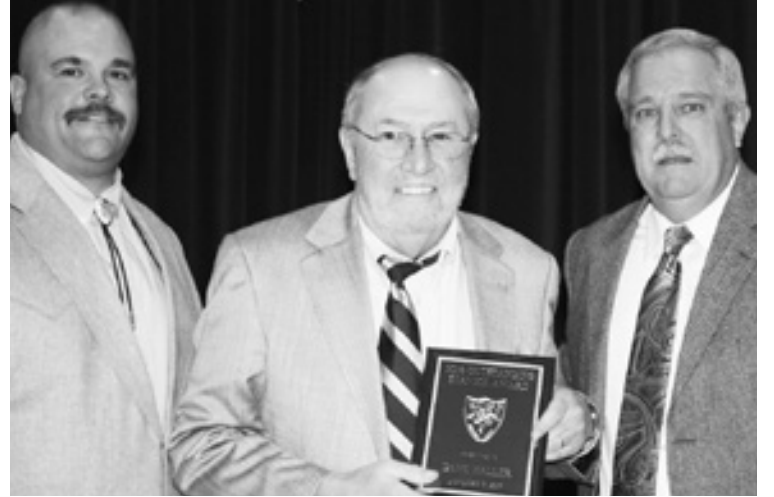
Vigilant Hose Company



2017 Administrative Officers: Seated (L to R)- Frank Davis, President; Dave Wilt, Vice President; Steve Valentine, Secretary; Tom Vaughn, Assistant Secretary; Steve Hollinger, Treasurer; Bill Boyd, Assistant Treasurer, Fr. Charlie Krieg, Chaplain. Standing - Board of Directors: Elyssa Cool, Carl White, Randy Myers, Doug Orner, Hugh Boyle. Missing from the photo is Dave Stonesifer.



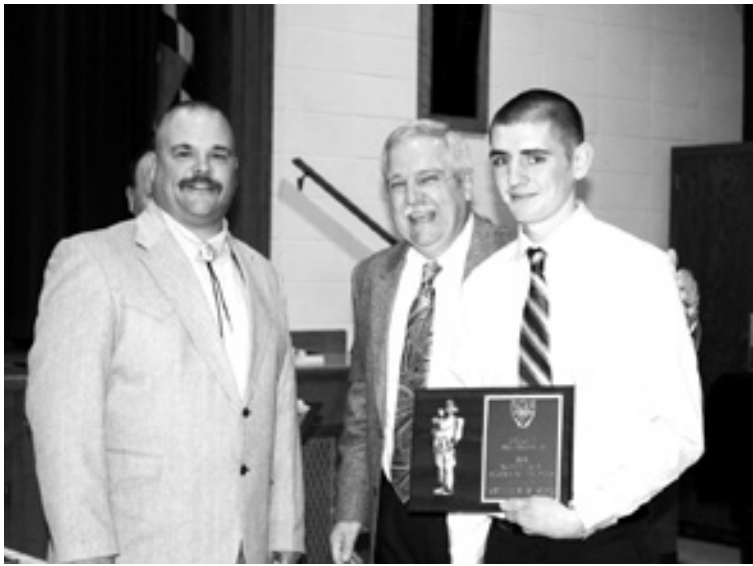
Chief Chad Umbel presented Josh Brotherton with the 2016 Chief's Award.



Dave Haller, flanked by VHC Chief Chad Umbel and President Frank Davis was presented an Outstanding Service Award for his assistance to the Vigilant Hose Company while he was Town Manager for Emmitsburg.



2017 Line Officers: Seated (L to R)- Chad Umbel, Chief; Jim Click, Deputy Chief; Chris Stahley, Assistant Chief; Josh Brotherton, Captain; Alex McKenna, Derek Rosensteel, and Doug Yingling—all Lieutenants. Standing: Fire Police: Lynn Orndorff, Captain; Steve Orndorff, 1st Lieutenant; Sam Cool, 2nd Lieutenant.



Member of the Year Award recipient Matt Boyd is flanked by VHC Chief Chad Umbel and President Frank Davis.



Randy Myers receiving the President's Award from Frank Davis.



2017 Auxiliary Officers: Tina Ryder, President; Sharel Boyle, Vice President; Jo Ann Boyd, Treasurer; Joyce Glass, Secretary; Mandy Ryder, Financial Secretary; Jennifer Boyd & Katie Davis, Co-Historians.

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 Vice President: David Wilt
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 Assistant Treasurer: William Boyd
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 Assistant Secretary: Thomas Vaughn

Board of Directors

Hugh Boyle, Randy Myers, Douglas Orner, David Stonesifer, Elyssa Cool, and Carl White

Line Officers 2107

Chief: Chad Umbel
 Deputy Chief: James Click
 Assistant Chief: Christopher Stahley
 Captain: Joshua Brotherton
 Lieutenant: Alex McKenna
 Lieutenant: Douglas Yingling
 Lieutenant: Derek Rosensteel

Fire Police 2017

Captain: Lynn Orndorff
 1st Lieutenant: Steve Orndorff
 2nd Lieutenant: Samuel Cool

Auxiliary Officers 2017

President: Tina Ryder
 Vice President: Sharel Boyle
 Treasurer: Jo Ann Boyd
 Secretary: Joyce Glass
 Financial Secretary: Mandy Ryder
 Co-Historians: Jennifer Boyd & Katie Davis

Rocky Ridge Fire Company



Top ten responders for 2016 - Seated (L to R) - Matthew Moser, Alan Hurley, Bonny Hurley, Christina Hurley. Standing - Larry Humerick Jr, Leon Stover, Craig Hovermale.



Outstanding Junior Award winner Brianna Kaas recipient, Linda Northrup presenting.



2017 Auxiliary Officers: Seated (L to R)- Auxiliary President, Betty Ann Mumma; Auxiliary Vice President, Nancy Summers; Secretary, Bonnie Sanders; Asst. Sec; Emily Grant; Standing - Asst. Treasurer, Helen Burrier; Treasurer, Betty L Mumma; Chaplain, Pat Haines-Riggs; Asst. Chaplain, Nancy Baker; Historian, Linda Northrup.

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 Betty Mumma
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 Andy Mathias

Line Officers for 2017

Chief: Alan Hurley
 1st Asst.: James Rice
 2nd Asst.: Larry Humerick
 Captain: Kevin Albaugh

Top Ten Responders for 2016

1 - Matthew Moser
 2 - Alan Hurley
 3 - Bonny Hurley
 4 - Christina Hurley
 5 - Larry Humerick

6 - Kevin Albaugh

7 - Leon Stover
 8 - Kerri Gasior
 7 - Larry Humerick
 9 - Craig Hovermale
 10 - Wesley Burrier

FIRE COMPANY AWARDS BANQUETS

Harney Fire Company



Harney Fire Company Officers for 2017: Standing (L to R) – Leonard Bowers, Lee Bowers, Bobby Baughman, Gene Curfman, Jennings Martin, Travis Dutterer. Seated – Richard Yingling, Jim Waybright, Donnie Yingling, Charles Blocher.



Leonard Bowers receiving his award as the #3 Top Responder for 2016 from Chief Donnie Yingling.



Installation of officers by Carroll County Commissioner Steve Wantz. From left to right: Secretary, Richard Yingling; Activity Treasurer, Leonard Bowers; Trustee, Lee Bowers; Chief, Donnie Yingling; President, Jim Waybright; Vice-President, Charles Blocher; Utility Treasurer, Gene Curfman; Chaplin, Jennings Martin; County Representative, Travis Dutterer; Recording Secretary, Bobby Baughman.



Interim Pastor at Mt. Joy-St. Paul Parrish, Peter Naschke and his wife.

Harney Fire Company Officers for 2017

Chief: Donald Yingling
 President: Jim Waybright
 Vice President: Charlie Blocher
 Activities Tres.: Leonard Bowers
 Utilities Tres.: Gene Curfman
 Secretary: Richard Yingling
 Recording Sec.: Bobby Baughman
 Chaplin: Jennings Martin

Trustees: Donald Yingling Jr., Lee Bowers, Larry Bowers, County Relegate Richard Yingling and Jeff Yingling

Top Ten Responders for 2016

- 1 - Kendall Bowers
- 2 - Donnie Yingling
- 3 - Donald Yingling Jr
- 4 - Bobby Baughman
- 5 - Lee Bowers
- 6 - Matt Nye
- 7 - Richard Strickhouser
- 8 - Jonathan Harman
- 9 - Joel Yingling
- 10 - Kyle Nye



James, Abby and Carolyn Yingling.



Line Officers: Larry Humerick, 2nd Asst-Chief; James Rice, 1st. Asst Chief; Alan Hurley, Chief.



Dale Kline presenting the President's Award to Dennis Mathias.



Jim Rice presenting the Top Responder Award to Matthew Moser.



Linda Northrup presenting the Charles Mumma Firefighter Award to Paulette Mathias.



Linda Northrup presenting the Honor Member Award to Ronnie Eyer.



Mrs. Helen - Rocky Ridge's gray maker.



Jimmy Glass receiving his 45 year pin from Dennis Mathias.

HEALTH NOTES

Getting closer every day

Kelsey Shupe
Frederick Memorial Hospital

Shortly after 11 a.m. on the morning of April 2, 2016, Brian Rapp was pulling a small, fiberglass boat behind his pick-up truck on the way to his vacation home in Lake Anna, Virginia. Rapp had purchased the used, 898 Nitro Bass Boat at a good price, and was happily anticipating another season of bass fishing on the large freshwater lake.

The 49-year-old remodeling contractor was airlifted to UVA Medical Center in nearby Charlottesville, where he underwent three extensive surgeries. Initially unable to walk, lift his head, or raise his arms; Brian transferred to a long term care facility specializing in orthopaedic rehabilitation near his Frederick home just fourteen days after his accident. Several months later, he went home with the support of FMH home-based Rehabilitative Services.

After several weeks of home-based physical and occupational therapy, Brian turned to FMH Rehabilitation Services to continue his recovery. Since July, he has been working through a

customized rehabilitation plan at the hospital's Aspen Ridge location under the care of a multidisciplinary team of physical and occupational therapists. Overseen by one of Brian's care team members, Physical Therapy Assistant Nick Harbaugh, his rehabilitation plan relies on evidence-based protocols, and the use of state-of-the-art equipment to strengthen his injured muscles, ligaments and tendons, increase his range of motion, and promote flexibility while decreasing stiffness.

On Mondays and Fridays, Brian works out with Nick using land-based equipment, including the AlterG treadmill. Recommended as the ideal way to exercise without impact or stress to joints, AlterG technology allows recovering patients to exercise "on a cushion of air," taking considerable weight off compromised joints. Using technology developed by NASA, the AlterG treadmill strengthens and improves Brian's muscle coordination, enhances balance and gait, and promotes a full range of motion.

"I could feel dramatic improvements in the earliest stages of my rehabilitation," says Brian. "During the

time I went from using a wheelchair, to a walker, to crutches, I felt daily improvement. But once I got to a certain point, it was harder to recognize very much forward progress."

All that changed for Brian in August, when his rehabilitation plan expanded to include aquatic therapy. Every Wednesday, Brian works with physical therapist Cindy Brendle for 60-70 minutes in the Aspen Ridge location's SwimEx pool. Also called a "resistance pool," a SwimEx hydrotherapy pool allows Brian's injured body to actively "rest" while he gains strength, stability, confidence, and range of motion.

"I do everything in the water that I do on land," says Brian. "But the resistance of the water is a game changer. It makes the work-out more demanding, and I can feel a big difference the very next day—my legs, arms and core feel stronger and more flexible. It's good for me physically, but it's also a good motivator. The more I feel myself improving, the more motivated I am to do more—and the closer I feel to getting my life back to the way it was before the accident."

Water is 600-700 times more resistant than air, allowing for significant strengthening of injured muscles, ligaments and tendons. Physical Therapy Assistant Cindy Brendle, Brian's aquatic therapist, says that it's the unique properties of water—buoyancy, hydrostatic pressure, viscosity and fluid dynamics—that provide Brian with the extra support, additional pain and spasm relief, and decreased swelling he needs to execute the exercises comfortably and effectively.

The aquatic portion of Brian's physical therapy uses the buoyancy, hydrostatic pressure, viscosity and fluid dynamics of water to help him gain strength, mobility and confidence while gradually increasing his weight-bearing ability. "The warm water—kept at a constant 94 degrees—



Using technology developed by NASA, the AlterG treadmill strengthens and improves Brian's muscle coordination, enhances balance and gait, and promotes a full range of motion.

relaxes Brian's muscles and increases blood flow to the injured areas," says Brendle. "The resistance builds strength, and the hydrostatic pressure of the water keeps the swelling down, takes the lactic acid out of the cells, and delivers it more efficiently to the muscle—that's why muscles exercised underwater usually will not feel as sore."

The SwimEx pool at Aspen Ridge has multiple water depths, a variety of workstations for stretching and core stabilization maneuvers, ledges for seated exercises, and variable settings for water speed and resistance. Brendle is able to program all the pool's conditions from one session to the next to keep baseline levels consistent, and accurately monitor Brian's progress over time. "The SwimEx pool is a very versatile piece of equipment," she says. "It is extremely beneficial in helping patients like Brian recover from serious injuries, but it has many other uses as well. Aquatic therapy helps build muscle strength and flexibility following joint replacement surgery. And it's an effective tool in managing medical conditions that affect joint or muscle integrity such as arthritis, fibromyalgia, amputation and other chronic conditions characterized by chronic pain."

Brian gives a great deal of credit for his continued progress to the multidisciplinary team he has been seeing for the past six months. "I'm motivated to come all the way back from this," says Brian. "I was always really active before, and I'm determined to get back to work and life as I knew it as soon as possible. And my therapists get that. They have taken their lead from me, and put together a plan for my treatment that I can feel working every day."

Considering that just seven months ago Brian couldn't walk at all, his progress has been remarkable. "Of course, I want to be 100% recovered yesterday," says Brian, "But I realize that it takes a while to come all the way back. And my doctor is extremely pleased with my progress. When I go in for my follow-up appointment, he just says 'Keep on doing what you're doing, because you're looking really good.' I'm working hard to get my life back to how it was, and I couldn't ask for better partners in doing that than the team at FMH Aspen Ridge."

To learn more about FMH Rehabilitation, visit fmh.org or call 240-566-3132 for more information.

To learn more about the FRHS Regional Cancer Therapy Center, visit fmh.org/cancerare.

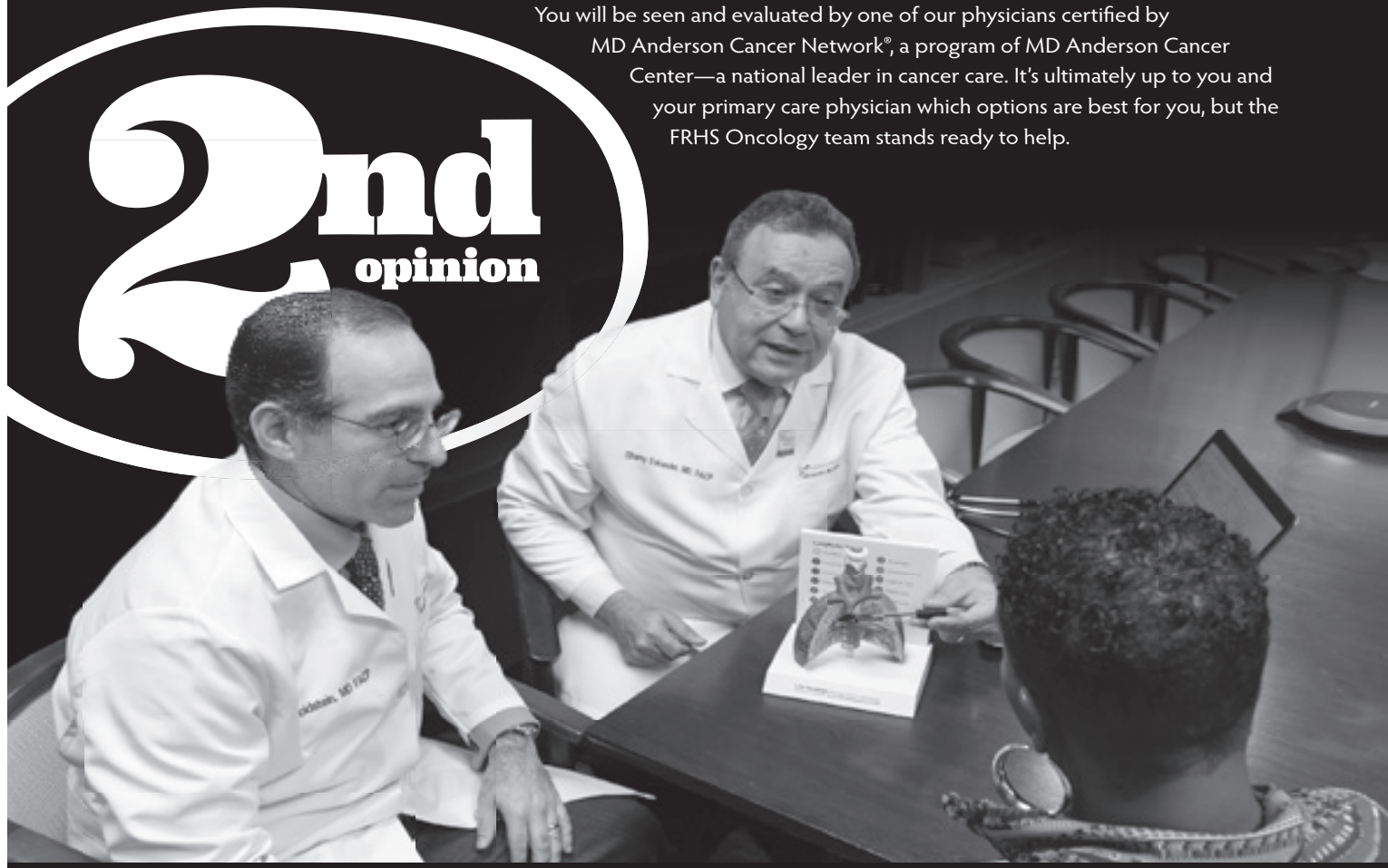
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2 Leading Centers

1 Mission

#endcancer

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It's maple sugaring time again

February and March welcome Maple Syrup Festivals in Adams County and Frederick County. Both Thurmont and Fairfield offer festivals celebrating this always anticipated sweet time of the year. What better way to celebrate wintertime than hot off the griddle pancakes smothered in fresh, warm maple syrup partnered with local craft vendors and maple sugaring tours? These festivals can be enjoyed by people of all ages, especially maple product connoisseurs.

This year marks the 47th anniversary of the Maple Syrup Festival in Thurmont. The festival is held annually at the Houck Lake Area of Cunningham Falls State Park. This year, the event will be held during the weekends of March 11-12 and March 18-19, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Breakfast is served both weekends starting at 9 a.m.

Contrary to popular belief, the first sign of spring is not the appearance of a robin, but is noted as the running of sap through Maple trees, and currently Maple sugaring is kicking into high gear in both counties. Making maple syrup is a fascinating process that dates back in some form to the indigenous peoples in North America. It includes tapping trees to harvest maple tree sap, collecting gallons of sap in buckets, and boiling off the water to get sap that has been concentrated into maple syrup. All maple syrup has the same amount of maple sugar, but the maple flavor can differ and syrup can vary in color and taste throughout the sugaring season, as it is called.

During each day of the Maple Syrup Festival, visitors can enjoy live maple syrup demonstrations. The demonstrations begin every hour and continue throughout the day. Live music will be provided both Saturdays and Sundays and hot food is available including pancakes, sausage, sausage sandwiches, and hot dogs. Maple syrup products such as maple syrup, maple cream, and maple candy can also be purchased.

A donation of \$3 per person is requested to attend the Maple Syrup Festival, in lieu of the usual park entry fee. Youth group members are \$2 and children in car seats are free of charge. All proceeds benefit the Cunningham Falls State Park and Gambrill State Park through their Friends group. The festival is a cash only event.

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, located in Fairfield, holds their annual Mount Hope Maple Madness on February 25 and March 4. The festival takes place at Camp Eder, which is located 1 mile from Strawberry Hill at the address 914 Mount Hope

Road, Fairfield. Every year, the event offers guests with delicious pancake breakfasts to feast on as well as maple products to try and purchase. Demonstrations and tours will be held, and local craft and art vendors will also be there.

The Pancake Breakfast at Camp Eder is offered between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., the cost for adults being \$8, \$4 per child, and children under 3 eat for free. Maple sugaring tours will also be given at Strawberry Hill from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tours leave Camp Eder every 45 minutes, with the last tour leaving at 12 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. A "sweet deal" package is offered which includes breakfast and a tour. Tickets for this package are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children.

This event is a very important part of Strawberry Hill's year at the Preserve. The pancake breakfast helps to raise money for the environmental education programs, and offers an opportunity to open up one of the most popular group programs to individuals and families. Strawberry Hill serves more than 6,000 school children annually, providing important hands-on learning experiences. They work hard to keep field trips fees low enough to be accessible by public schools, and fundraisers like Mount Hope Maple Madness are a means to that goal.

Each season dozens of spiles, tubes, and buckets are used to collect maple sap. Volunteers help split many cords of wood to keep the all-important fires burning. Countless hours are spent gathering from buckets and tending the evaporating pan as the sap condenses down into sticky, sweet syrup. It takes many gallons of sap to make a single gallon of syrup. Maple sugaring is a fantastic educational experience,



February and March welcome Maple Syrup Festivals in Adams County and Frederick County.

with significant links to history, chemistry, geography, and – of course – ecology.

Mount Hope Maple Madness began more than a decade ago as a small pancake breakfast to raise money for environ-

mental education. Over the years Strawberry Hill has been able to develop their maple-sugaring program and build a strong connection with Camp Eder and as a result, the pancake breakfast has grown into a festival that served

more than 300 visitors each day in 2016.

Be sure to stop by Mount Hope Maple Madness and/or the Maple Syrup Festival in Thurmont and enjoy a delicious and fun-filled morning!



March 11, 12, & 18, 19 • 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Cunningham Falls State Park – Houck Area

Welcome spring at Cunningham Falls State Park by learning how maple syrup is made from the sap of trees in the park. A pancake breakfast is available. The event supports Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. Follow signs from MD 77 west of US 15 at Thurmont, Md. For more information, call 301-271-7574.

For more to see and do in Frederick County, call 800-999-3613 or visit www.VisitFrederick.org



SATURDAYS, FEB. 25 & MARCH 4

TREE TO TABLE: learn the origins of maple sugaring and today's tricks of the trade (and practice tapping a tree!) with a 90-minute tour.

PERFECT PANCAKES for drizzling with real maple syrup, plus sausage, eggs, and more at our pancake breakfast!

LOCAL ART & CRAFT VENDORS showcase a variety of homemade goods.

WWW.STRAWBERRYHILL.ORG

Mount Hope Maple Madness

WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

America breaks diplomatic relations with Germany

February 2

Germany, in a note delivered to the Secretary of State on Wednesday, informed the United States that she would begin unrestricted submarine warfare on Thursday.

Germany says that the object of this move is to blockade England to starve her out, in the hope of hastily ending the war.

The German ambassador is quoted as expressing the opinion that he expects to be given his passport within 48 hours. He said that for three weeks Germany has been preparing for the blockade of England, locating submarines, to the number of 400 or more, at intervals of 20 miles around the islands, covering every port on the English and Irish coast.

In Berlin, the German Chancellor held a meeting with his ministers at which the entire war situation was gone over, and new steps planned by the Central Powers was considered. The Chancellor opened the meeting with: "We have been challenged to fight to the end. We accept the challenge; we stake everything and we shall be victorious."

In his address, the Chancellor said that ruthless submarine warfare would bring Germany nearer to victory. "The moment has now arrived," he said, "last autumn the time was not yet ripe, but today the moment has come, when, with the greatest prospect of success, we can undertake the enterprise. We must, therefore, not wait any longer."

"The most important fact of all for starting the submarine campaign now is that the number of our submarines has been very considerably increased as compared with last spring, and thereby, a firm basis for success has been established. The second reason is the bad cereal harvest of the world. This fact already confronts England, France and Italy, with serious difficulties, which by means of unrestricted U-boat war will be brought to point of unbearable. The coal question, too, is a vital ques-

tion in war. Already it is critical in France and Italy. Our submarines will make it still more critical."

The prohibited area for neutral vessels under Germany's warning is bounded by a line running from the center of the Netherlands coast, northward, blocking all of Denmark and the entrance to the Baltic, to the southern point of Norway; thence due west, skirting the southern part of the Faroe Islands; then west and south in a grand square 300 to 400 miles to sea off the British Isles, to the junction of Spain and Portugal, apparently leaving the latter country open and affording a 20 mile safety zone along the northern Spanish coast to the French border.

Practically the whole Mediterranean is declared prohibited except a narrow strip almost paralleling the African coast, to appoint directly south of Greece, from which a 20-mile path to Greek territorial waters is declared open.

Germany's solitude with Greece was interpreted in some quarters as indicating that despite the Greeks' acceptance of the Allied demands, Germany still hopes for change in the situation in that country. At present, however, this access to Greece is of little value, as the Allies still blockade that country.

On almost every side, Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back. Admittedly, the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of England with swift, staggering strokes in fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon in agency at her command to end the war quickly. She counts on the operations of an unheard of number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within 60 days.

In the past, Germany had pledged to keep submarine activities within international law, but threatened a resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare if the United States did not succeed in lifting British restric-



Germany's decision to resume unrestricted warfare put America on the path to war with Germany. However, it would take the publication of the Zimmermann Note in March, which proposed a military alliance between Germany and Mexico in the event of the United States entering World War I against Germany, to generate support for the United States' declaration of war on Germany in April.

tions on neutral commerce to Germany. "Neutrals," said Germany, "cannot expect that Germany, forced to fight for her existence, restrict the use of an effective weapon if her enemies are permitted to continue to apply, at will, methods of warfare violating the rules of international law."

Immediate construction of 100 submarines, 80 for coastal defense and 24 fleet operations, was proposed in a special bill introduced today by Sen. Poin-dexter of Washington. These would be in addition to the 18 submarines proposed in the naval bill now pending in the House. If the bill is passed, the United States would have about 200 serviceable submarines and that would be a smaller number compared to other great navies.

February 9

On Saturday, diplomatic relations with Germany were broken off. The German ambassador was handed his passports and the American ambassador in Berlin was ordered home. In the ordinary intercourse of nations' severance of diplomatic relations is a forerunner of a declaration of war, though there are recorded instances where the step has been taken without actual war having resulted.

Peaceful continuation of German-American relations after the departure of their respective ambassadors appears to be very slight. Germany, so the Associated Press was informed, resorted to this measure after the shameful rejection by the Allied powers of her peace overtures, and only reluctantly took the step promising a speedy end to the war.

Spain formally notified the State Department today of its willingness to take over American interests in Germany. Holland has notified the State Department of its willingness to take over British interest in Germany formally represented by the United States. The Swiss government has announced that they will handle German affairs in the United States.

Whatever may be their feelings towards the United States, Germans have manifested consideration and courtesy towards Americans since the news was received of the breaking off of diplomatic relations. Aside from an occasional frank comment on the action of the American gov-

ernment, no acts of hostility or even unfriendly nature have been reported thus far, and many Germans are going out of their way to show friendly disposition towards Americans. The treatment of Americans brings encouragement to those who hope the breach between the two countries will go no further and the severance of diplomatic relations.

The American embassy pulled down the stars and stripes on Tuesday. The scene that morning in the embassy was chaotic. Crowds of anxious Americans blocked the corridors seeking the renewal passports, and advice for their future course in regard to possible routes back to America. All embassy rules went by the wayside for the occasion. Several secretaries were stationed in the corridors to answer questions. The passport department worked at full speed extending and renewing passports.

An interesting question already has risen regarding the status of the ambassador of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As an ally of Germany, it is expected that the Austrians will also employ unrestricted submarine warfare. If this is so, it is expected that the United States will also sever diplomatic relations with that country as well as Turkey and Bulgaria.

Norway, Denmark, and Sweden have not agreed to President Wilson's suggestion in regard to breaking relations with Germany. The Scandinavian countries, which had given full support to the President's piece move, said they saw no reason why a few weeks later they should follow Mr. Wilson and take steps that are generally considered to be a prelude to war. Spain also has refused to break diplomatic relations with Germany, as has Switzerland. "Having common frontiers were Germany and Austria" a Swiss newspaper stated, "we are already close to the battlefield, the dangers to which we should be exposed with the enormous and the United States would not be in a position to come to our rescue."

Allied diplomats have frankly expressed their hopes that the United States will not actually enter the war. Several of the Allied representatives have let it be known that they entertain a growing fear that Germany deliberately precipitated a break with this country to hold American munitions and supplies here, thus cut-

ting off imports to the Allies probably more effectively than any single step that the Central Powers could take.

Immensely gratified over the break with Germany and the moral condemnation thereby implied, the diplomats did not conceal their fear that military precaution may force the United States to keep at home a considerable part of supplies now prepared for shipment to the Allies. Such an outcome, they say, would more than compensate for a mere break in relations from the German viewpoint.

Even if the United States, in the event of war, should undertake to raise and equip an army for operations in Europe, it would require nearly a year of training, it is declared before that it would be wise to send the forces to the front. In the meantime, all the effort and energy that this country might be putting forth towards the military defeat of Germany would go into channels that could not lead to that end.

The greatest military aid hoped for from this country, in Allied circles in the case of actual war, is the safeguarding of American trade channels, including the American and other route to Europe. This is a matter of first importance and provided a heavy task for the American naval forces.

In ports under the dominion of the American people there are 105 German and Austrian vessels. Should war with Germany be declared, these vessels would be at the mercy of the United States. Their seizure by American authorities might provide a considerable, and much needed naval auxiliary for our fleet; as all experts agree that our navy could cross the ocean without being dependent on supplies upon auxiliary ships of other nations. However, there is no intention on the part of the United States to seize the German merchantmen laid up in American ports as matter now stands. Such a step admittedly would be an act of war, which the government has no intention of committing.

On Sunday, the crew of the German auxiliary cruiser, Kronprinz Wilhelm and Prinz Friedrich, were removed by the Commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard to safeguard the interned ships. Having voluntarily submitted to internment, these vessels actually are in the custody of the United States government, subject to such disposition of ships and crews as the government sees fit to make.

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FEBRUARY 1917

The Kronprinzessin Celille in Boston and the prize ship Appam in Newport News, were taken over by United States Marshals. These vessels were already technically in the custody of the US, but the crews have been permitted to live aboard and continue physical possession under bonds given by the German government.

Meanwhile, it was also reported that the American steamship Housatonic was sunk on Sunday by a German submarine off the Scilly Islands. All the officers and crew were saved. The ship carried 144,209 bushels of wheat and was bound from Galveston to London.

February 16

Germany is understood to have sent a note to the United States via Switzerland suggesting that the two governments discuss ways of preventing actual war between them. Germany is understood to make it clear that despite the fact diplomatic relations had been broken, she greatly desires that peace be maintained. Preliminary outlines regarding the communications do not indicate that it carries with it any suggestion that Germany may modify its submarine warfare. However, the note clearly invites this government to make suggestions regarding steps that might prevent war.

In seeking an exchange of views on the subject of preventing war between the two countries, the German government's move is understood to be predicated upon the willingness of Germany to discuss the safeguarding of American ships and American lives on the seas. Just how American interests will be however, and whether any specific means of preserving peace between the two nations is included in the communication has not been revealed.

One of the principal questions discussed at the Cabinet meeting late yesterday was to threaten the hampering of American industry by ships held up in American ports out of fear of risking destruction by submarines. Unless the United States government provides convoys, or guns and gunners protected ships, the American Line, owners of the steamships St. Louis, St. Paul and other liners, said they would not send them across the Atlantic. This decision was reached after the failure of efforts to provide their own defensive armament.

"As far as the American Line is concerned," said the President of the company, "we have done our best to secure the necessary guns and gun crews, but it does not seem possible that private corporations will be able to properly equip their ships with defenses. Unless the government decides either to provide convoys or to put on each of our steamers guns and train gunners essential to the safety of the passengers and crews, we will not sail."

The President of the company pointed out that French and British ships are sailing to the port without fear of German submarines because they are armed, but American Line ships have not even a single gun to protect itself in case of an emergency. "We should have the guns of six-inch caliber and crews to man them.

There are too many lives and too much property at stake to send ships out unprotected."

While it has been indicated at the State Department that there can be no legal objection to the government furnishing guns to American merchantmen, President Wilson is understood to be unwilling to take any steps that might give Germany the slightest ground for throwing responsibility for any future trouble upon the United States.

According to passengers arriving here on the Canard liner Andania; a funnel shaped zone of armored patrol ships, which extends 300 miles from the British Isles Westwards, has been established by the British Admiralty. Light cruisers, patrol boats and armed trawlers literally lined the course taken by the ship until she was safely out of the war zone it was said.

At times, the patrol boats were so close to the Andania that better passengers said they appeared to be separated by less than half a mile at the closest places. At the western end of the line however, the ships were more spread out. The Andania sailed from Liverpool January 31; the day of the German note of intention to resume unrestricted submarine policy was delivered to President Wilson. The Admiralty, according to the ship's passengers, apparently had anticipated this move on the part of Germany and had for weeks previously been equipping a large fleet of patrol boats to protect transatlantic liners.

Officers of the British merchantmen are more reticent, particularly in regard to the new and strange courses they must now follow in the eastern Atlantic in order to avoid the old established steamship lines. It is understood that British skippers, before sailing, receive sealed orders from the Admiralty which they open before taking her new observations and follow the course laid down by these orders unless they are changed by wireless. In this way, it is said, the British Admiralty knows approximate locations of every merchantman on the high seas.

A steel net designed to protect the port of New York from hostile submarines and other war craft, in the event of war, was put in place at the entrance to the harbor today. For the present, it will be kept in position only between sunset and sunrise and will bar all ships from entering and leaving the harbor during the night. The net was lowered to the bottom of the channel and anchors secured it to the bottom and buoys kept the top of the net near the surface. The old monitor, Amphitrite, will be in charge of the operation.

February 23

The Austro-Hungarian situation is perhaps more delicate at this time than any of the diplomatic negotiations of the United States have been since the war in Europe began. For the sake of the many Americans in Austria-Hungarian, Bulgaria and Turkey, who have not yet left those countries, the United States is extremely reluctant to sever diplomatic relations with Vienna. If such a break should come, a break

would also likely come, it is believed, with Bulgaria and Turkey.

Administration officials are taking stock today of an apparent growing discrepancy between Germany's words and Germany's deeds. The belief that the American sailors that have been captured have been released, and the fact that the American relief committee is not to be thrown out of Belgium forth with, and the belief that the American liner Philadelphia has passed through the submarine area without hostile action by German submarines against her, are circumstances which are being seen as rays of hope. There is, indeed, a well-defined opinion that the international situation created by Germany's threat offers a brighter prospect today than it offered two weeks ago. Nevertheless, it seems almost certain that President Wilson will go before Congress to ask for additional authority to protect American seamen and ships against the German submarine menace.

Officials believe, notwithstanding her threats, that Germany is endeavoring to avoid embroiling herself with neutral governments more than absolutely necessary. Friends of Germany point to the treatment of the crew of the Housatonic, the first American ship to be sent to the bottom after the beginning of Germany's new submarine warfare, by the German submarine that sank her.

The U-53 was the German submarine that suddenly appeared at Newport last fall and later sank several ships off of Nantucket. The captain of the Housatonic said the commander of the German U-boat treated him and his men with courtesy. The U-Boat commander expressed regret at having to destroy his ship, explaining that it was necessary, as she was carrying food supplies for the enemy of his country.

The sinking of the Housatonic took place about 20 miles off the British coast, the captain said, and at first the U-Boat commander was going to turn the Housatonic's crew adrift in small boats, but was prevailed on by the ship's captain to tow them towards the shore, which the U-Boat captain agreed to do. As they were being towed, a British patrol boat appeared on the horizon. The U-boat captain fired a shot across the bow of the British patrol boat to get their attention and when the patrol boat turned towards them, the U-Boat captain saluted the captain of the Housatonic, cut the lines with the lifeboats, and submerged. Leaving the crew of the Housatonic to be safely rescued by the British patrol boat.

Great Britain has announced a new danger zone, seeking to block practically all exit routes of the German U-Boat from their bases in Germany and Belgium. With the English Channel practically closed by an elaborate system of nets, mines and patrols, the means of exit for the submarines has been through the route north of Scotland and down the Irish coast. The new danger zone, designed to close that way out, is understood to have been strewn with mines.

A copy of the notice warned that shipping areas in the North Sea will be



America's demand for free access to the sea sparked the War of 1812 and played a critical role in our decision to join the Allies' cause in WWI. Followers of current events point to the South China Sea as the next flash point for a war as China tries to restrict free access to that sea.

rendered dangerous to all shipping by operations against the enemy and it should therefore be avoided. Another notice addressed tightening the blockade of the countries with which Great Britain is at war. The later notice required all neutral ships on the way to, or from, a port in a neutral country with means of access to enemy territory to stop at a British or allied port and be searched to determine if they are carrying goods for enemy destination or of enemy origin.

Premier Lloyd George said in a speech in the House of Commons this week that the stocks of food in Great Britain at the present time are lower than they have ever been before. It was essential for the life of this nation, he declared, that every possible effort be made to increase home production. Enormous sacrifices were necessary from the British public, said the premier. He stated that the government proposed to dispense with all non-essential importation to save tonnage.

Importers of American goods feel themselves particularly hard hit by the latest restrictions upon imports. The goods most drastically affected include agricultural machinery, typewriters and other office equipment, boots and shoes, cotton hose three, apples, wood cut timber. One notable exception, however, is tobacco ex-

porters. The British are now importing more tobacco now than prior to the start of the war.

The British claim they bagged six U-Boats with the aid of an under-sea microphone. Two microphones were set up just offshore, twenty miles apart. By triangulation between the two microphones, noises were located 70 miles from shore and the approximate position was established. Computations at intervals disclosed that the sounds were moving, the direction of the movement was determined, British naval ships were dispatched to the indicated position and six U-boats were discovered and sunk.

When it was certain that the sound heard was from a submarine, efforts to determine what the noise was resulted in finding that the rotation of motor made the rheumatic sound. A German spy alerted the German admiralty, which immediately withdrew all U-Boats in the channel. When their activities were resumed, it was found that the microphones did not record the rhythmic sound. The assumption is that the Germans had soundproofed the machines.

To read past editions of WWI News Reports From The Front, visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.



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HISTORY

The History of Emmitsburg

James Helman

Edited by the Emmitsburg Historical Society

Editors' Note: For some time we've been itching to run James Helman's The History of Emmitsburg, but given its length, finding enough space to run it has been an issue. To get around this issue, we've taken the liberty to truncate sections that would be only of interest to hard-core genealogists.

Helman's History of Emmitsburg, published in 1906 builds upon Helman's The Smith Family Record, which was published in 1896. The Smith Family Record, which is available in the Historical Society Section of Emmitsburg.net, chronologies the history of the Lutheran immigration into the Toms Creek Hundred area, as the current 21727 Zip Code area was once known.

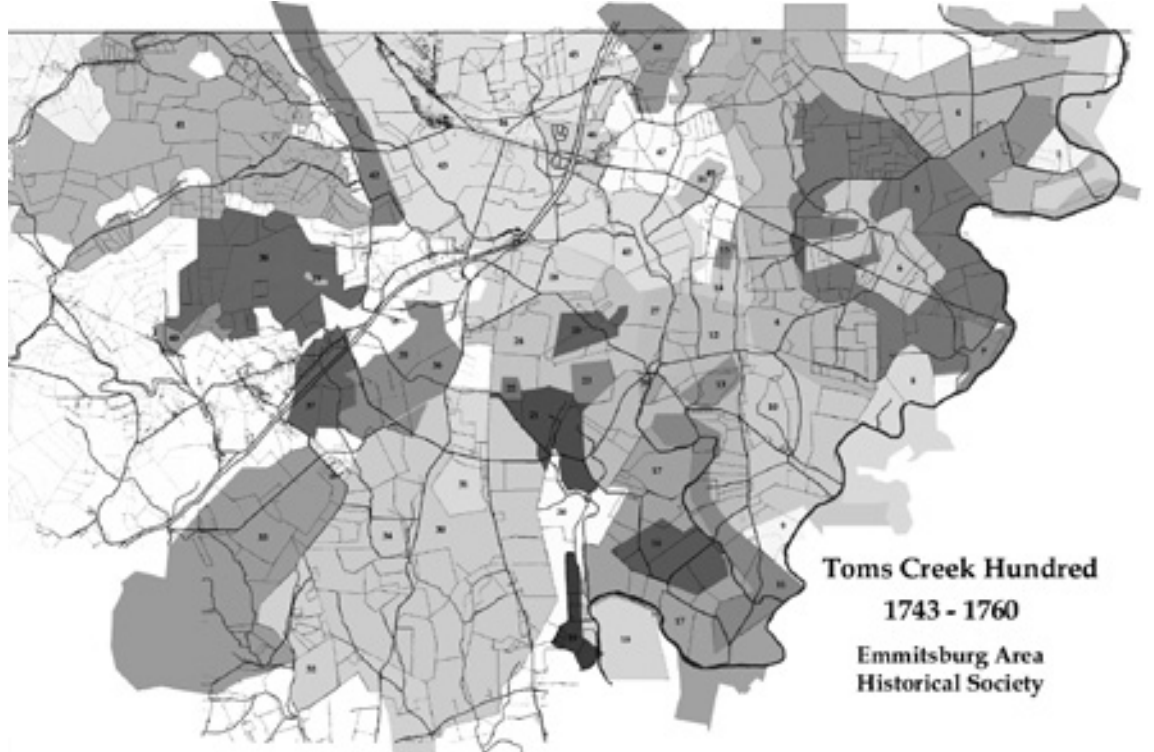
Following the publishing of his History of Emmitsburg, Helman frequently published historical articles in the Emmitsburg Chronicle updating and/or correcting its contents. The version that will appear in the Emmitsburg News-Journal over the coming year will reflect his corrections, as well historical inaccuracies indentified by subsequent historical research. For those interested in seeing the original, unedited version, you may do so at the Historical Society Section of the website, Emmitsburg.net.

Introduction

To write the history of the world, we commence at Adam. To write the history of the United States, we begin at its discovery by Columbus and the landing of the Pil-

grims at Plymouth. But to write a history of a state, county, or community, we are perplexed with various traditions that confront us, therefore we ask, who were the early settlers, and where did they come from, what induced them to settle where they did and what were the results? Who were the people? - The pioneers that settled in Frederick County, Maryland. They were Germans, the all important factor in the development of this county. They brought industry, art, intelligence, and perseverance. They brought school masters, who instilled into the children the principles of Christianity: they turned the wilderness of Frederick County from 1735 to a productive land; that it still holds the honor of being the most productive wheat growing county, not only in the State, but in the United States. This honor was awarded Frederick County in 1790. It still holds it.

The first German settlers in Maryland were amongst the Dutch and French Labodists, on Bohemia Manor, Cecil, then Baltimore County, in 1661. This settlement was prior to the coming of William Penn's German Quakers, 1720. They scattered and mixed amongst the other settlements in Maryland and Delaware. Daniel Partorius founded Germantown in 1684. For many years, Germantown was the rendezvous of German refugees fleeing from persecution, which devastated portions of Germany. From Germantown, this center of emigration, they spread over Southern Pennsylvania to Lancaster, York and Adams Coun-



Long before the 21727 zip code area was known as "Emmitsburg" it was known as the Toms Creek Hundred. 'Hundreds' was a term used in colonial America to represent a political governing body that was represented by 100 families. This map, which is available in greater detail on the Historical Society's website, shows the original Toms Creek Hundred landholders. All current landholders can trace their deeds to these original land holders.

ty, many of them finding their way into Maryland and Virginia. These, in turn, were reinforced by Germans from the Pennsylvania settlements. BY 1743 there were a number of flourishing German settlements in the Valley of Virginia. In 1748, when George Washington surveyed the lands of Virginia, he met men, women and children who followed him through the woods, who spoke German only.

These Virginia settlements were in regular communication with the settlements in Pennsylvania. We now have grounds to base the people and their nationality upon.

The reports of good land naturally enthused the new emigrants, and they were induced to follow on the trail the early pio-

neers. Sad to relate, all evidence has been destroyed by the hungry and heartless seeker after gold, and that which would be as Plymouth Rock to the Germans has passed into tradition more than history. In 1739, by order of the Lancaster County Court, a road was built from Wright's Ferry to the Maryland line, a distance of thirty-five miles, and thence by an act of the Maryland Assembly, it was continued to the Potomac River.

This road substantially followed the old Indian trail, and for many years was known as Monocacy Road. It was on this great highway from east to south and southwest, over which, in 1755, 150 wagons and 200 pack-horses secured in Pennsylvania by Benjamin Franklin, the first Postmaster General, transported their goods to Camp Frederick, where a

el from Germantown to Lancaster on to the Virginia settlements was over an old Indian trail, extending through York and Adams County, into Maryland, stopping at a point on the Monocacy River, where in 1734 they erected the first church in the county. On this route in 1729, the first German families drifted into Maryland. One report says as early as 1710 or 1712.

These people settled near Monocacy, and between 1732 and 1734 built the first German church in Maryland. It was situated on the west side of the river, ten miles above where Frederick town was laid out. Within fifty years, the recollections by a few, of the spot, could still be pointed out and there were indications of the burying place of these pi-

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HISTORY - OBITUARIES

part of the army was collected preparatory to the campaign of Braddock. It is said at this camp Washington and Franklin met for the first time. This was the route the British prisoners, captured during the Revolutionary war, were taken to the barracks at Fredericktown and Winchester, Va.; also the route used by General Wayne with his good patriots on the way to Yorktown.

In 1732, Lord Fairfax made an effort to direct German emigration to Virginia. The Governor ceded a tract of 25,000 acres to John Hite, a German, and Jacob Van Meeterf, a Dutchman, on condition they would settle 200 German families on these lands. Hite and Van Meeter traveled through Pennsylvania and New Jersey in search of Germans, and directed them by the Monocacy Road to Virginia. In 1732 Lord Baltimore, not to be outdone by the Governor of Virginia, offered 200 acres of land in fee, subject to a rent of four shillings sterling per year, payable at the end of three years, for every 100 acres, to any person having a family, who would within three years actually settle on the lands between the river Monocacy and the Susquehanna, and to each single person between the ages of fifteen and thirty years, one hundred acres. On the same terms, with assurance, these shall be as well secured in their liberty and property in Maryland as in any part of the British plantations in America, without exception.

"By the most authentic accounts, for many years past very large numbers of Germans have transported themselves into these British provinces of North America, the greatest part of them from Switzerland and the Palatinate, many from Wurteinburg and other places along the Rhine. Some few lately from lower Saxony, above thirty thousand, within the last ten years, and in 1750

more than ten thousand."

"The cause of their removal from their native countries was various. Some of them fled from the severe persecution they were exposed to, at home, on account of their religion, others from the oppressions of civil tyranny, and attracted by the pleasing hopes of liberty under the milder influence of the British government, others were drawn by the solicitations of their countrymen, who had settled there before them. But for the greatest part, by the prospects they had of retrieving themselves under their deep poverty, and providing better for themselves and their families in the provinces to which they respectively retired."

These men were mostly trained mechanics, masons, carpenters, vine dressers, hatters, bakers, shoemakers, tailors, butchers, blacksmiths, millers, tanners, weavers, coopers, saddlers, potters, tinnners and brick makers. With such a force newly installed in the colonies, nothing but progress was to be thought of; and adding the agricultural trend of these people, the timbers fell, and houses were erected, the land tilled, and plenty was the reward, with peace reigning in every locality.

The Germans, on their way from Pennsylvania to Virginia, seeing the rich lands of Frederick County, offered them on such terms, a rental of one cent an acre per annum, did not proceed further. In a few years, the prosperity of these people was an assured thing, and the Monocacy settlement was the result. From then they spread out west and south. The church at Monocacy was their meeting place for years. What a halo of German thought concentrated here. New comers were received with open arms. News from the fatherland was eagerly sought, then their social life unfettered by officials.

They were Reformed and Lutheran, scattered for miles in the coun-

ty, including the settlement at Fredericktown, all worshipping in this log church, until the congregation determined to move to Fredericktown in 1745.

We can now, with assurance, state from where the early settlers came. The earliest patents on the records are 1746, although many of these pioneers took possession of land and entered it in the clerk's land office at Annapolis, they did not receive their patents for some time. Jonathan Hays and Dulaney came from Philadelphia in 1730 and entered land. Hays, the farm now W. Moser's, died there, and is buried on the farm.

The Biggs land was entered at the same time. Mr. Hays found vacant land between him and Benjamin Biggs. He made arrangements to ride to Annapolis on a certain day and enter up this vacant strip. Biggs started a day ahead and entered the vacant land, it has been called Benjamin's Good Luck ever since. Jonathan Hays is the ancestor of the Hays family here. The first patent on record in this vicinity is to George Smith, March 21st, 1746, for 500 acres, now the land of Ohler, Eckard, Hockensmith and others. He was born 1720, died 1793. The survey is called Cattail Branch. He was the father of eleven children: four boys and seven girls. His son John was sergeant in Capt. Wm. Blair's Game Cock Company in the Revolutionary War.

He had two sons-in-law in the same company, John Crabbs, corporal, and Jacob Hockensmith, ensign. George Sheets settled where Sells' mill stands and built a mill. His son Jacob joined Washington when he passed through Taneytown; he returned safe. Conducting a mill until his death, he is buried in Lutheran cemetery in Taneytown. All the Sheets families east of town are his descendants. David Danner settled at Bridgeport, where Correll lived. He is the head of the Danner family. His tomb is the oldest in the community, 1768.

continued next month

Mildred Elomae "Millie" Vaughn



enjoyed spending time with her beloved family.

Surviving are daughter, Candace Lookingbill of Carolina Beach, NC; sons, Thomas Vaughn and wife Jamey of Emmitsburg, Terry Vaughn and wife Lori of Littlestown, John Vaughn and wife Laura of Thurmont, and James Vaughn and wife Liz of Gettysburg; sister, Charollette Livezy of Greenville, SC; grandchildren, Roy Lookingbill and wife Jamie, and Michael Lookingbill and wife Sarah, all of Carolina Beach, NC, Ashton Carovillano and husband Mark of Raeford, NC, James and Josh Vaughn of Thurmont, William Vaughn of Littlestown, and Jade Vaughn of Emmitsburg; great-grandchildren, Michael, Chase, and Beck Lookingbill, and Aubrey Vaughn; and many nieces and nephews. Millie was predeceased by sisters, Margaret Andrew, Doris Turner, Mary Welch, Josephine McKelvey, and Patricia Andrew, and 2 granddaughters, Mindy Kay Lookingbill and Trista Marie Kuhn.

Mildred Elomae "Millie" Vaughn, 86 of Thurmont, died peacefully on Wednesday, January 11. Born September 4, 1930 in Emmitsburg, she was the daughter of the late Irvin and Rita (Manning) Wetzel. She was the devoted wife of Earl Richard Vaughn, to whom she was married for 55 years.

Millie worked as a housekeeper at the former St. Joseph's Girls College in Emmitsburg. She was later employed at Cambridge Rubber Company in Taneytown, Freeman Shoe Company in Emmitsburg, and Moore's Business Forms in Thurmont. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg. Millie enjoyed sewing, and was widely known for her Barbie Doll clothing creations. She also enjoyed crocheting, baking, traveling, and collecting dolls. Most of all, she

Funeral service were held on January 16 at the Myers-Durbrow Funeral Home, Emmitsburg with the Rev. Charles F. Krieg, C.M. officiating. Interment was in the New St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 47 DePaul St., Emmitsburg, MD, 21727.

Death Notices

Walter "Chub" Biser, of Thurmont, died Dec. 31.

John Edward Hobbs, 79, of Emmitsburg, died Dec. 30. Born in Emmitsburg, he was the son of Maurice Henry and Eva Elizabeth (Stouter) Hobbs

Ralph Francis Sprague, 85, of Thurmont died Dec. 29.

Elwood Franklin Tyler, 74, of Emmitsburg, died Dec 28. Born in Emmitsburg, her was the son of Homer and Ernestine (Hays) Tyler.

Mr. Eugene Ellsworth Grimes, 71, of Thurmont, died January 7. He was a life member of Graceham Volunteer Fire Co and a longtime member of Thurmont Guardian Hose Co.

Edward H. Losiewicz, 86, of Keymar, died January 16. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Taneytown, where he formerly served as a Eucharistic Minister, Parish Council President, and Religious Edu-

cation Teacher. He was a member of the Taneytown Knights of Columbus for 20 years.

Kathleen Mary Schaible, 70, of Thurmont, died January 16. She was the wife of Danny Schaible for 50+ years.

Florence Wireman Stitely, 93, of Thurmont, died January 15. Born in Thurmont, she was the daughter of the late Earlie and Beulah Wireman. Florence graduated from Thurmont High School in 1940 and worked at the Emmitsburg Manufacturing Company as a seamstress for 11 years. She was later a waitress at Cozy Restaurant.

Gail Frantz of Fairfield, 79, died, January 10, She was instrumental in getting the new Emmitsburg Elementary built in the early 1970s and served as the school's first PTA president. In her senior years, she held positions in the Fairfield Area School District as a substitute teacher, as well as enjoying time as a math tutor.




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MOM'S TIME OUT

Role reversal

Michele Brown

Once upon a time there was a Princess born to a very poor family. Of course they didn't realize she was a Princess at the time, but as the years passed it would become apparent. Her family, as I stated, was very poor. They lived in a very bad area of town and as the young Princess grew up she began to be bullied. She was beaten up frequently on her way to and from school. All of this being true she never let it change her bright, cheerful outlook.

As the years passed her parents attempted to set aside a pittance each pay period, in the hopes of one day moving their family to a home in a safer area of town. This wasn't possible every pay period, but when they could they would no matter how small. Finally the day came when they were able to buy a very tiny house in a safer neighborhood. The house cost \$8,000 and seemed like a castle to them. This was when the young Princess blossomed and grew up with a bright outlook and eventually met a very handsome Prince. He immediately fell head over heels in love with her. In a short amount of time they were engaged and finally married.

As the years passed the Prince realized he had married a Princess and treated her accordingly. What she wanted he tried to provide. She never asked for too much and always appreciated everything she got. The Princess also never forgot the slim beginnings she came from. After being married for a while they decided it was time to start having kids. As time passed they had a son and then three years later they gave him a baby brother. As the boys grew up, they too came to realize that their mom was not only a Princess, but also a "Fancy Nancy." There was never a time when she didn't look her best. Her belief was that God had given her this one and only body and she should take care of it accordingly. She ate well and took vitamins and never left the house without her makeup done just right and something sparkly.

Some more time passed and both her sons got married and generously produced grandchildren upon request (many, many requests). There was never a more generous grandma. Her Princess ways poured over the grandchildren. She doted over the grandsons and when she finally had granddaughters she spent much time training them in her girly ways. She was the picture per-

fect image of a Princess, no matter her age.

Eventually sadness struck her world when her husband, the Prince, was diagnosed with cancer. He was given 6 months but held on for over 2 years. Again she emulated an amazing Princess as she cared for him until the end. When he passed she obviously mourned his passing however, she also thanked God for taking him before he had to suffer any more. She took great comfort in knowing that she would see him again in Heaven. As time passed she still missed him but was able to move on and enjoy life again, all while finding great pleasure in periodically reminiscing about their time together.

Approximately 5 years after the Prince passed the Princess started having trouble coming up with words when she was speaking. The words were mostly nouns and since none of her children's memories are 100% they didn't think much of it. A few months passed and she was getting progressively worse. This realization was worsened by several phone calls from friends of her relating similar stories. This was a difficult conversation for her children to have with the Princess. They wanted her to see a doctor and she believed it was just part of the aging process. They went the route of explaining that it was best to get a baseline with



Dealing with a parent suffering from Alzheimer's is difficult, but at the same time, rewarding. It gives "children" the opportunity to return the love and tolerance shown by their parents when they were children.

the doctor so if something eventually became a problem, or she developed more symptoms down the road we would have a something to compare to.

It was unclear if she agreed with their concerns, but she did agree to go see the doctor. Little did everyone realize that they were beginning quite a long process. The appointments are with a neurologist and they can be hard to come by. Once they saw

the neurologists their next step was to get some extensive neurological tests for the Princess. It can take months to schedule the test and then get back into see the neurologist. At the next appointment the tests were inconclusive. They simply showed that there might be a problem with the function of a section of her brain. The doctor suggested she get in for a scan of the functionality of the brain. The bottom line was that she had dementia, a very rare form of dementia.

Since then she continued to deteriorate. Conversations with the Princess had become more of a sad game of charades. The words were disappearing at an astronomical rate and eventually the Princess was no longer permitted to drive. Surprisingly she didn't believe there was anything wrong with her (besides basic aging), especially not dementia. She began to get a little nasty with some of her comments and started blaming her medication for her issues. It was difficult for everyone concerned. This Princess who had been the sheer image of beauty and grace was starting to curse and argue with people, something she would have never done before.

Unfortunately, this story isn't going to have a happy ending. The Princess isn't going to get better and most likely will get much worse before it is all said and done. It has already begun that her children have to take the role of parent as she is behaving more like a child every day. As I come to the end of this story I would encourage you to be supportive of anyone who has dementia or Alzheimer's and also of anyone who is trying to care for a family member with these diseases. Don't let them feel like they are in this alone.

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

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Mission romance: breakfast in bed

Carol Cogliano
Hollabaugh Bros., Inc

Are you the “romantic” in your relationship? ...or are you lucky enough to be the recipient of romantic gestures, from your other half? Or...are you possibly like me: a romantic, who could be accused of getting a bit lazy about showing romantic gestures after 20 years of marriage? If you fit into ANY of these categories, might I suggest a simple gesture for Valentine’s Day?

Breakfast in Bed. That’s right – cook a special meal for your sweetheart. It doesn’t have to be fancy or overly involved. For some of you, this might be the first time you’ve cooked for your partner in years! Or maybe – dare I say it - ever! Let me assure you that if preparing a meal for your sweetie is something out of the ordinary for you to do, the brownie points that a simple breakfast in bed will earn for you will far outweigh the time and effort that you put into it.

For some of you, the biggest challenge will be getting up, unnoticed (or earlier than your partner). Once you’ve figured that part out, be sure to have everything ready to go, so you can keep things relatively quiet. Whether or not you involve children in your efforts...you might want to give your other half a “heads up” about what’s going on, so they stay in bed. OK – you’re up, you’re prepared, you’ve thought through what you’re going to make... you’re set!

If you’re comfortable in the kitchen, one of the following recipes would make for an amazing breakfast! All three of them can be prepared ahead of time, so that could save a bit of stress for you, the morning of the big breakfast. Think about what you’re comfortable making. Don’t try a crazy new recipe, if you’re an amateur in the kitchen. You know

the old saying, “It’s the thought that counts”? I would be much happier being greeted with a smile, a kiss and some toast & jelly, than burnt eggs benedict.

Of course, some strong coffee and a homemade card wouldn’t hurt, either. Have a Happy Valentine’s Day, and enjoy those brownie points!

In order to prepare this absolute favorite of mine, you will need to stop into Hollabaugh Bros., Inc. to acquire some of their delicious Apple Cinnamon Bread – but I guarantee you won’t regret stopping by!

All Recipe courtesy of The Hollabaugh Family Cookbook.

Hollabaugh’s Overnight French Toast

- Ingredients:**
 2 Tbl. corn syrup
 ½ cup butter
 1 cup brown sugar
 1 loaf of Hollabaugh’s Apple Cinnamon Bread
 5 eggs
 1 ½ cups milk
 1 tsp. vanilla
 ¼ tsp. salt

Instructions:
 Combine corn syrup, butter, and brown sugar in saucepan and simmer until butter has melted and sugar is dissolved. Pour into bottom of a 9x13 pan.

Place sliced bread on top. In a bowl, beat eggs, milk, vanilla, and salt. Pour over bread.

Cover and put in refrigerator overnight.

The next morning, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Uncover the French toast and bake for 45 minutes and serve immediately.

Broccoli Cheese Quiche

- Ingredients:**
 4 eggs, beaten
 1 ½ cups half and half
 ½ tsp. salt
 ¼ tsp. cayenne
 1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese

- 1 cup chopped fresh broccoli
 1 Tbl. flour
 1 9-inch unbaked pie shell

Instructions:
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Whisk together eggs, half and half, and seasonings.

Toss cheese and broccoli with one tablespoon of flour.

Put broccoli and cheese mixture in bottom of pie shell, pour liquid mixture over.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until set and pastry is golden brown.

Mocha Chocolate Chip Banana Muffins

- Ingredients:**
 1 cup butter
 1 ¼ cups sugar
 1 egg
 3 ripe bananas
 1 Tbl. instant coffee, dissolved in 1 Tbl. water
 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 2 ¼ cups flour
 ¼ tsp. salt
 1 tsp. baking powder
 1 tsp. baking soda
 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions:
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Blend butter, sugar, egg, bananas, coffee and vanilla in food processor for 2 minutes.

Add flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda, and blend just until flour disappears.

Add chocolate chips and mix with wooden spoon. Spoon mixture into 15-18 paper-lined wooden cups.

Bake for 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of muffin comes out clean. Cool on wire racks.

Carol Cogliano is the Director of Events at Hollabaugh Bros., Inc. Visit www.hollabaughbros.com for a full listing of their upcoming events and classes or call 717-677-8412 for more information.



Events at Hollabaugh Bros.

February 4

Breakfast in bed for your valentine – adult cooking class. Spoil your sweetie on Valentine’s Day by learning some new breakfast recipes that are sure to make their taste buds happy! Cost is \$30/person/class (due at registration) and includes all supplies – all you need to bring is you! Registration is required, so call 717-677-8412 today!

Kid’s cooking class – Breakfast in bed – Bring along mom or dad! Valentine’s Day is right around the corner, so bring along one of your parents, to learn a few recipes to spoil your other parent! For ages 8-13. Cost is \$30 per kid, per class (due at registration) and includes all supplies – all you need to bring is you!

February 11

Mommy and Me Valentine’s Tea - girls and ladies of all ages to join us at the market for a Valen-

tine-themed “Mommy and Me” Tea, where we will feast on yummy treats and visit with friends. We will enjoy a special time together, create a craft to take home and make lots of fun memories. This event is open to all ages, but is intended for children, their mommies and their grandmommies. Call today! Space is limited!

February 25

“Sunset Lovebirds” Paint-along event - includes all painting supplies needed to complete a 16 x 20” canvas panel, along with some light refreshments from Hollabaugh’s bakery! A professional artist will walk you through the entire painting process. The basic design is pre-drawn for you. Beginners are most definitely welcome! Bring a friend (or two) and enjoy an afternoon of creativity and fun, or meet some new friends at Hollabaugh’s!

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Frederick County Public Libraries

Mark your calendars for some big events coming up courtesy of Frederick County Public Libraries.

The 2017 Celtic Concert to be held at the Marion Burk Knott Auditorium at Mount St. Mary's University on Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m.. Featured band this year will be 'The Rogues' who last performed for us in 2012 and were so popular that we're bringing them back. Required free advance tickets can be picked up (limit four/person—while supplies last) at the Emmitsburg or Thurmont Libraries beginning Wednesday March 1, 10 a.m.. Patrons with advance tickets

will be seated between 6:30-6:45 p.m.. Seats are not guaranteed after 6:45 pm for advance ticket holders. Patrons without advance tickets are strongly encouraged to pick up numbered standby tickets in the concert hall lobby beginning at 6 p.m.. Any unoccupied seats, if available, will be filled by standby ticket holders between 6:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.. Due to no-shows, some seats are always available.

Frederick County Public Libraries' is proud to announce the 2017 Frederick Reads author is William 'Bill' McGuire Bryson. Bill Bryson is a best-selling American author of humorous books on travel, the English language and scientific sub-

jects. His works include, "A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail," "A Short History of Nearly Everything" as well as "In a Sunburned Country." Mr. Bryson's Frederick Reads appearances are FREE and open to the public. Sunday, March 5, Weinberg Center for the Arts. 7:30 p.m. – Speech with Q&A, 8:30 p.m. – Book signing. Monday, March 6, Frederick Community College, 11 a.m. - speech with Q&A, Noon – Book signing.

Library staff love to be out and about in the community to share all the good news about what the library does. If you have an event coming up in the local area this year and would like the Emmitsburg Branch Library staff to host an information table or a make & take craft table, just let us know. One event that all county libraries will be helping with in the spring is our annual Summer Reading Challenge Kickoff and we're happy to announce it will be held at Catoctin Furnace this year as part of the Spring in the Village/Art at the Furnace event on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7. Artists in the local area are encouraged to sign up right now to participate. Forms can be downloaded at www.catoctinfurnace.org/. You'll be hearing much more about this exciting family event in the coming months.

We are always interested in hearing from you! If there are programs you'd like to see offered at the library, please let us know. Here are some highlighted programs in February:

Kids' Programs

Brown Bear, Brown Bear 50th Anniversary Celebration (Ages 3-8): Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" through stories, crafts and activities. Saturday, February 4, 11 a.m.

LEGO Block Party (Grades K-5): Join us for an afternoon of LEGO fun! Wednesday, February 15, 4 p.m.

Star Reader Family Story Night: Join us for stories and crafts starring elementary school teachers as our star readers! Thursday, February 16, 6 p.m.

R.E.A.D. with Wags for Hope : The Reading Education Assistance Dogs listen to children read. *Allergy Alert! The dogs and cats are live animals. Tuesday, February 21, 5 p.m.

Steam Cafe: Sharpie Bookmarks (Grades 6-12). Come get creative with colorful sharpies and specialty paper. All supplies provided. Saturday, January 28, 10 a.m.

Special Adult Programs at the Thurmont Regional Library

Creative Writing Course presented by Frederick Community College: This 10 week course is appropriate for both experienced and novice writers. Participants may write in whatever

genre of creative writing they choose and then share, if they wish, what they have written. Writing can be wonderful way to form friendships. This course is presented at no charge courtesy of an FCPL partnership with Frederick Community College's Institute for Learning in Retirement. Every Tuesday at 1pm beginning February 7. Space is limited. Registration is required, please call 301-600-7212.

Curious Minds: Travel Makes You Richer - urious Minds is a monthly afternoon series for older adults to engage and learn together. While targeted at older adults, it is open to all adults interested in discovering new skills, ideas, and hobbies. This month discover river cruising, eco-travel and other options to see more of the world to enrich your life. Monday, February 20, 2-3:30 p.m.

Sound of Music Sing-a-Long: Attention all music lovers: On February 26, the Thurmont Regional Library will host a Sound of Music sing-a-long. Join us at 1:15 p.m. to sing along with this classic favorite. Snow date is March 5.

All Frederick County Public Library branches will be open on President's Day, Monday, February 20th.

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library Events

Standing Events

Monday - Lego and Wee Build Creation night!!! Let your imagination-show its genius! All ages welcome, 3-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday- Coloring Club 3 - 5 p.m. Release your inner Monet! All ages welcome.

Wednesday – Coffee club in the community room from 3-5:30 p.m.! Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, etc. Food donations appreciated.

Wednesday – VITT (very important teens and 'twens) night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 6 -7:30 p.m. Just hang out or play Wii, board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.! You never know what will be happening next.

Saturday - Join us at 11 a.m. for Story and Craft Hour and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book, a good snack, and a fun craft?



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LIBRARY NEWS / SCHOOL NEWS

Starting College in High School

Ken Kerr
Frederick County
Board of Education

The College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 (also known as Senate Bill 740) brought about many needed changes for secondary and post-secondary education in Maryland. Some of those changes have had a big impact on Frederick County high schools in the area of Dual Enrollment—not just the ten FCPS public schools, but St. John's Regional Catholic School and the Maryland School for the Deaf as well.

Dual enrollment in Frederick County gives high school students, who demonstrate college readiness, the opportunity to take college-level classes—right in their high school—and have those classes count both toward their high school graduation requirements and their college degrees. Additionally, they receive a 75% discount on Frederick Community College tuition, and tuition is waived for students on free and reduced meals.

The concept of high-school-based dual-enrollment had been talked about for years, yet it remained an idea that could not get off the drawing board. Everything changed in 2012 when Ed Schoder, an English teacher at Oakdale High School, came into my office, introduced himself, and said: "I have an idea to run by you." Over the next hour or so, Schoder and I talked possibilities. He went back to Oakdale and talked with (then principal) George Seaton. I sat down with (my then dean) Jerry Boyd. While Seaton and Boyd worked out specifics of what would happen in the office, Ed and I worked out what would happen in the classroom.

Because Ed Schoder had just completed a doctorate, he more than met the minimum requirements set by Maryland law for someone to be properly credentialed to teach college-level classes. The first step was to get him some experience teaching college English. Schoder came to work at FCC as a member of the adjunct faculty and taught English Composition on FCC's campus in the evening after finishing

his day at Oakdale High School. This is a model we like to use for all new FCPS faculty who teach college-level classes in the dual enrollment program. Additionally, FCPS dual-enrollment faculty receive professional development at FCC each summer prior to the start of a new academic year and are observed by FCC department chairs to ensure the same quality and rigor FCC students receive on campus is present in the high school based classes.

On January 25, 2013, Schoder met with his first groups of high-school based college students—36 in all. It was not until after those 36 completed their first semester that the gover-

nor signed Senate Bill 740 into law on May 16th. This new law required all Maryland public school systems to begin looking into the possibility of what FCC and FCPS were already doing and had developed on their own.

Now four years later, while most Maryland school systems and their community colleges are still finding their way, stumbling and false-starting, waging turf battles, and struggling to comply with the law, FCPS and FCC are leading the way. Two English classes, six math classes, Psychology, Chemistry, US History, Intro to Business are some of the classes Frederick County seniors can take without ever leaving their high

schools. There are currently about 2,500 high school students in Maryland taking dual enrollment classes, and 1,000 of them, forty percent, are in Frederick County. Without a doubt, we have the most well-developed, sustainable, and stable program in the state.

With PARCC assessments being given in 10th grade, it is possible that the program could be expanded to 11th graders who score college and career ready. One day soon, it may be possible for FCPS students to graduate from Frederick Community College in May and graduate high school a few weeks later in June. More information is on both FCC and FCPS websites under Dual Enrollment, or contact Beth Duffy at FCC or Michele Thornton at FCPS.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Four Years at the Mount writers send a “Happy Birthday” to some of our nation’s greatest historical figures who were born during the month of February!

Freshman Year

Blackwell’s message

Angela Tongohan
MSMU Class of 2020

“If society will not admit of woman’s free development, then society must be remodeled.”

—Elizabeth Blackwell

On February 3, 1821, Elizabeth Blackwell was born in Bristol, England. First working as a teacher, she eventually pursued a career in medicine. She went on to become the first woman to graduate from a medical school in the United States of America.

She was admitted to Geneva Medical College in 1847 where she ended up graduating first in her class. However, her very admittance to the school was met with much controversy. Her peers, who consisted entirely of men, thought the admittance to be some type of practical joke, whereas the public met the news with outrage.

During her time, women were still considered lesser than men. The idea of a woman doctor was silly to many of those in society because of the idea that women were thought to be less capable

and much less intelligent.

Even after becoming a doctor, Blackwell continued to be faced with the prejudices of sexism. At one point in her career, Blackwell founded a private practice in New York that struggled financially due the fact that many refused to be treated by a woman.

Yet Blackwell continued to fight. By the time she died on May 31, 1910, she had founded several establishments including the New York Dispensary for Poor Women and Children, the New York Infirmity for Indigent Women and Children, and the Women’s Medical College of the New York Infirmity.

Elizabeth Blackwell can very well be considered a brave and determined hero of her time. Her tenacity has helped pave the way for females of the present day to pursue a career in medicine, a feat that may be considered commonplace today but was met with great opposition a hundred years ago. She inspires women to break barriers like this one.

As a student who is pursuing a career in medicine myself, I can only imagine the difficulty of succeeding in a subject

that by itself is already notoriously vigorous and could only be made worse without the support of those around you. Being that it is only my freshman year; I can still tell you numerous stories where I have bonded with my fellow classmates over the mutual exhaustion we feel as we try and soak up the information in our very thick textbooks.

Despite my attachments to Blackwell’s career choice, I find that her success delivers a far broader message that may resonate with all those who have experienced prejudice. The obstacles she faced were mainly the result of societal preconceptions about women. It did not matter that Blackwell graduated first in her class, or that she had graduated from medical school, although both accomplishments would have fared her well if she were a man.

All that mattered was that Elizabeth Blackwell was a woman.

I would very much like to be able to say that these preconceptions are a thing of the past: That women and men have long since been considered equal. Unfortunately, that is not the case. As is evident in the current gender wage gap, the quality of a woman’s work is still considered lesser than a man’s.

But why? It seems ridiculous that a person be treated as lesser than another because of a characterizing feature

that the individual has no say in. This applies also to race, age, and ethnicity. We are not given an application to fill out before we are born where we get to choose what and who we are to be. We simply are who we are.

Though we are not given a choice on who we are to be, we are given a choice on how we treat others. Blackwell is correct. If society refuses to accept a person based on features that are unchangeable, rather than asking that person to change (which we have already concluded is not a possibility), society must change.

The reality is: society refuses to change.

It has become the norm to judge a person based on appearances. Racism continues to be as rampant now as it was back then.

Now how can such old issues continue to cause such controversy today? It is simple. We are still trying to change the unchangeable. Society is still treating woman as lesser, those with a different color skin continue to be viewed as outsiders, and older people are still regularly being replaced with younger faces.

It’s silly, isn’t it?

When we realize that trying to change what cannot be changed is a waste of our time, society will begin to progress. When we realize that discrim-

ination and prejudice against people for characteristics that they have had no part in choosing is unfair and cruel, society will begin to flourish.

Society must recognize that the solution to our problems cannot be met with continuous isolation and hate, but rather with acceptance and love. We must stand by those who are being oppressed unjustly and recognize that we have the power to make a change.

Discrimination and prejudice are a manifestation of false ideas exposed to us by a misinformed society. By accepting one another for who we are despite our appearances and the stereotypes connected with them, we can finally begin to evolve into a society filled with unity and peace.

Elizabeth Blackwell was a brilliant woman who did not let the negativity and prejudice of society hinder her from achieving her dreams. Just as she used society as a motivation to succeed, that same society could have easily brought her down.

Let us focus less on the outer appearances and features of a person, and realize that the greatest assets of each individual remains in their minds and in their hearts.

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

Sophomore Year

Birthday cheers to Charles Dickens

Michael Kenney Jr.
MSMU Class of 2019

“There are dark shadows on the earth, but its lights are stronger in the contrast.”

—Charles Dickens,
The Pickwick Papers

Charles Dickens is one of my favorite writers, and his Oliver Twist is one of my all time favorite books. If you have a taste for a satirical and heartwarming classic, Charles Dickens should be your go-to author. I admire his entertaining writing style,

historical impact, and inspiring life story.

When you read Charles Dickens, you may feel as if you are listening to an orchestra. His writing style is beautifully elaborate, and his stories evoke a sense of humor, mystery, pity, and passion. His novels cast a number of idiosyncratic characters, and their lives are always seamlessly—and brilliantly—intertwined.

Yet Dickens’ works provide more than just timeless entertainment. Dickens was an outspoken social critic and is often referred to as the first modern celebrity. He is largely re-

sponsible for the popularization of literature, as his wildly successful works helped make literature a source of mass entertainment. His verbose style also inspired other authors, including John Irving and Tom Wolfe, and Dickensian trends are common throughout J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series.

Dickens’ works provide insight into the societal conflicts in both American and British culture at the time, and they also reflect his personal hardships. In particular, Dickens’ works often reflect his love for the countryside and his struggle with industrialism, poverty, the upper class, and his marriage. When he toured America in 1842, he also became outspokenly critical of American toleration of slavery, violence, and lack of hygiene. He also took jabs at American culture which he described as being loud, rude, consumeristic, and extremely independent—a quality which Dickens thought pitted citizens against each other.

From a biographical standpoint, Dickens overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles; thus, his wild success as an author and social critic are a testimony to his hard work, resilience, and commitment to doing justice.

Dickens’ life story is a classic ‘rags to riches’ tale. It began at his birth on February 7, 1812 in Portsmouth, England. He grew up as the second of eight children, and although Charles’ father, John always aspired to strike it rich, money was tight in the Dickens household. Despite their poverty, the Dickens family was a happy one. That is, until they met rock bottom.

In 1824, the family moved from their enchanting countryside home to an impoverished London neigh-

borhood. John Dickens spent beyond their means, and consequently, the family’s financial situation grew even more desperate. In 1824, John was carted off to debtors’ prison.

In order to support the family, Charles, a young adolescent, dropped out of school and began working at a boot-blackening factory. Charles described this stage in his life as the end of his childhood innocence. He worked long, depressing hours in the factory all for a meager income. The little money he earned went straight into the vacuum that was his family’s dues. Dickens’ abject work environment and hopeless poverty became a source of his social commentary throughout his novels later on. His novels consistently depict the exploitation of the poor by an aloof and iron-fisted upper class. In particular, Dickens’ work at the boot-blackening factory inspired his Oliver Twist.

Dickens entered school once more when his father’s debts were relieved by a family inheritance. When Charles was 15, however, the Dickens family continued to face financial hardship, depriving Charles of his education once again.

Charles dropped out of school in 1827 and began working as an office boy. This humble beginning marked the launching point for the rest of his career. Charles’ work as an office boy quickly evolved into a freelance reporting job and then again into reporting jobs for two prominent London newspapers. Dickens submitted cartoons under the now famous pseudonym “Boz,” which Charles adopted from his brother’s nasally mispronunciation of his own name, Moses. His cartoons captured glimpses of everyday London. In 1836, Dickens’ drawings were compiled and pub-

lished in his first book Sketches by Boz. Sketches by Boz and The Post-humous Papers of the Pickwick Club, both cartoon series, became wildly successful.

Dickens published his second novel, Oliver Twist, in a series of monthly installments in a magazine called Bentley’s Miscellany. Oliver Twist was written as a veiled indictment of the Poor Law of 1834, which forced all charities to be run through destitute poor houses. The mass public crazed over the novel. Dickens continued to write 13 more works, including A Christmas Carol, Great Expectations, and A Tale of Two Cities, which has sold over 200 million copies.

Dickens continued to face tribulation despite his success. In the 1850s, Dickens lost two beloved relatives, and he ended his hardship riddled marriage of 20 years. In 1865, Dickens had a brush with death in the Staplehurst Railway Accident and was never fully recovered.

Charles Dickens died on June 9, 1870, but his legacy continues to have impact today. His socio-economic commentary remains relevant as the exploitation of the poor remains a stark reality for many people in the world. Scholars from around the globe continue to study his works, and over 300 film and television adaptations of his works have been made, including the 2009 Disney animated version of A Christmas Carol.

So, folks, mark February 7th on your calendars, and crack open one of Dickens’ timeless tales to celebrate his 205th birthday. Birthday cheers to one of history’s most acclaimed and inspiring authors!

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

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February Events*

Gettysburg Rocks!
Saturday, February 4th from 6pm-12am
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HISTORICAL FIGURES

Junior Year

Happy birthday, Mr. Steinbeck

Sarah Muir
MSMU Class of 2018

So spoke the classic American writer, John Steinbeck, "Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen."

A brilliant observation, but then again, you can always count on writers to supply the public with numerable similes and metaphors to explain even simple things, like ideas. Ideas make the world go 'round, but in the case of the writer, ideas make the world; they create the situations and circumstances necessary for the writer to work at their craft. Steinbeck's novels and stories reflect this and have withstood the test of time, many of them are now considered a part of great American classic literature.

It was on February 27, 1902 when John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California. His father, John Ernst Steinbeck II worked as a treasurer for the county while his mother, Olive Hamilton worked as a school teacher. She shared in and nurtured her son's love of reading and writing. Little did either of them

know that he would grow up to be a famous author and Nobel Prize winner.

The man that would later become a famous classic American author began in a small frontier-like town in Monterey County. Since a great deal of the area at that time had rich and fertile soil, he spent many of his summers working alongside migrant workers on local farms. It was there that he was inspired to write such works as *Of Mice and Men*, a novel that would highlight the grim reality of migrant labor and the shed light on the dark side of human nature. His characters were mostly the hard-working, everyday man, the kind he saw and worked with frequently.

He graduated in 1919 from Salinas High School and attended Stanford University near Palo Alto, to study as an English Major. He left school in 1925 without a degree and made his way to New York City, pursuing his plan on becoming a published writer. Unfortunately, he left New York a few years later after his works were rejected. He returned home to California where he worked as a tour guide and where he fell in love and married Carol

Henning in 1930. Even after their divorce in 1941, she remained an influence on his work, becoming the inspiration for the character Mary Talbot in Steinbeck's novel *Cannery Row* which would be published in 1945.

While he managed to publish novels such as, *Cup of Gold*, and other short stories, it was not until 1935 when he received critical acclaim for his novel *Tortilla Flat*. With the attention of this novel, Steinbeck received his first award and first medal from the Californian Commonwealth Club for best Californian novel. In another two years, he would write his most well-known novel, *Of Mice and Men*. The play adaptation of it would win him the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. In 1937, he wrote the *Grapes of Wrath*, a novel that would earn him the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1940.

Soon after his first divorce in 1941, he met and married his second wife Gwendolyn Cogner in 1943. While world famous for his novels, Steinbeck also traveled abroad to Europe and Africa as a World War II correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune* while at the same time, writing novels, stage-plays, short stories, and producing documentaries. In the early 1940's, for instance, he produced a documentary about Mexico called *The*

Forgotten Village and spent six weeks in the Gulf of Mexico with Ed Ricketts, a noted Marine biologist and good friend to Steinbeck, on a research expedition, and his work *Lifeboat* was nominated for an Oscar for best story.

Ed Ricketts was a long-time friend of Steinbeck. They both would take expeditions to the coast and they would even write a small book together that would be published as soon as the United States entered into the second World War. Due to the timing, the work did not sell well, but Ricketts and Steinbeck remained lifelong friends. Tragedy struck when Ricketts died in 1948 after a fatal car accident and Steinbeck fell into a period of depression that was punctuated by his second divorce. However, two years later he met his third and final wife Elaine Anderson Scott, and two years after that he wrote *East of Eden*.

It was December 20, 1968 when he died at the age of 66, leaving in the wake of his passing, a legacy of 27 books that highlighted man's struggle with himself and the light and darkness that exists in all of us. His writings also worked as a memory trapped in the pages and ink of his stories that served as a reminder to the California of his youth; the sights, smells, and the feeling that he tied to Salinas Valley.

It was sometime during my Junior year of High School when I first read Steinbeck. It was *East of Eden*, the same worn paperback version that my mother read when she was in high school; its pages yellow and fragile and the spine was nearly torn in half from years of use. It is still on my bookshelf, right next to a newer version. It has taken its place in my heart as one of my favorite American novels. Even Steinbeck labeled it his best work, a culmination of everything he had learned throughout his years of writing.

After decades of writing, he won the Nobel Prize in 1962 for his imaginative and realistic writing. However, this decision was heavily censured both by American and foreign critics. Even Steinbeck did not believe that he was the best choice to receive the award, but accepted it and took pride in the accomplishment. During his speech he said, "Literature is as old as speech. It grew out of human need for it, and it has not changed except to become more needed." Those who love literature, whether as a reader or a writer, know this to be true and know that with the passing of time the need for it grows ever stronger.

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

Senior Year

Honest Abe

Leeanne Leary
MSMU Class of 2017

From the time I was three and begged my parents to let me go to pre-school with my older brother, I have always had a, maybe strange, love for being in school. I loved everything about it. I cherished sitting in the classroom and listening to my teachers. I was in awe that a person could know as much as some of these adults did. I loved the hallways, lunch, everything. My brother and sister were the complete opposite. They would rather be outside running in circles. They would probably have rather shoveled snow for a day or had sauerkraut for dinner than sit in a classroom for even 20 minutes.

Naturally, they mastered the art of playing sick. Seriously, they were "sick" so often that I know my mother stopped believing them, but would buy them ginger ale nonetheless and let them stay home. Who knows what they did on these days, I still don't. In my mind, as I sat at my desk in class, they probably ate all the chocolate or played video games all day, but they swore by their illnesses and were in bed by the time anybody else got home. I watched this happen for eight years, until October of my 8th grade year.

The day had come, I needed to skip school. I had watched both of my siblings perfect this performance for years and I knew what I needed to do. Get just a little bit sick the night before, not sick enough to have to miss practice or go to bed early, of course, but sick enough to plant a seed. Maybe a headache or an upset stomach? I can't remember now what ailed me that night, but it must have worked because when I woke up the next morning and was "too sick" to go to school, my parents didn't question me. My mom brought

a glass of ginger ale to my night stand and told me to rest and call if I needed anything.

An hour or so went by and I heard the garage door shut slowly. I stood up, looked out my window, and watched as my dad's car turned left out of the cul-de-sac. I ran out of my bedroom, down the stairs, and grabbed the remote. I turned on the TV as quickly as possible and stood about four feet from it for a few minutes until I was sure I could turn and sit on the couch without missing anything.

I am utterly embarrassed now to admit to you what channel I turned to, so please, please, don't judge me for this.

I sat down and looked onward, the History Channel logo was at the bottom of the screen and I was filled with a joy and thrill that can only come to one 13-year-old who skipped school for the first time to watch an eight-hour long documentary on Abraham Lincoln.

I don't remember exactly when or how it happened, but at some point during an American History Class I had developed a sort of love for Abraham Lincoln. I was absolutely intrigued by everything about him. His life, nicknames, disposition, quirks, actions, philosophy, and more made him stand out, and so, I watched almost every minute of the documentary that day.

Even after eight hours of biographical information, my favorite things about Lincoln still weren't his road to the Presidency or his actions during his time in office.

I was drawn to Lincoln for various reasons, here they are:

Neighbors from his childhood are recorded saying that he would readily walk miles to borrow a book. Lincoln lived in Perry County, Indiana at the time. Reading materials were in short supply in this area, and neither of his

parents were literate. Lincoln's parents still encouraged him to read. To solve the obvious tribulation in play, Lincoln read his family Bible and he walked miles for books.

He literally comes from the middle of nowhere. The man was born in Kentucky and moved to the wilderness of Indiana. He started his adult life in physical labor and ended up rising to the highest possible position of power and guiding our country through its most trying time in History. If this doesn't convince you that you can do anything, I don't know what will.

He gained the popularity that eventually led to his first run in politics simply by being a great story-teller in the community. He was entertaining and friendly, and this led him to public office. This is appealing for obvious reasons.

He couldn't settle into one career; we have this in common, him and I. Lincoln worked in manual labor, he was a store keeper, a postmaster, a general store owner, a politician, a lawyer, a politician again, and finally the President. This gives all the young people in the world a little bit of hope.

Lincoln's cabinet, once elected President, was comprised almost only of his political rivals. He perfected "Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer," in his first days in office.

He had a little bit of spunk and a lot of defiance in him. He faced the same defiance from political opponents and even from those on his team, but he met it with the more of the same. In response to the siege of Fort Sumter, Lincoln distributed millions from the Treasury for war material without appropriation, he called for nearly 100,000 military volunteers without a declaration of war, and he suspended the writ of habeas corpus. Essentially, Lincoln did what he needed to do.

He had values that were unpopular, and he stuck by them. His motives in the Civil War and in the freeing

of slaves have their roots in his political and economic ideals, but he believed that all people, by the directive of our Founding Fathers, have certain rights. He fought to uphold these rights and was so revolutionary that he changed the face of our country forever. (Okay, this is an obvious one.)

Lastly, he coined, "A house divided cannot stand," a phrase that has nev-

er lost its relevance or importance.

On February 12th I will be enjoying my annual ice cream in celebration of the birthday of the only man who has ever been cool enough for me to skip school. Happy Birthday, Honest Abe!

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



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FASHION

For the love of Fashion in NYC

Valerie McPhail
MSMU Class of 2015

New York is a winter wonderland, after the seasonal blizzard that shines a new beauty on Central Park: frost-tipped pine trees that comfort barren trees and the watery puddles found in the crevasses of the side walks are all classic images of the city dressed throughout the wintertime. The month of February is a landmark in the winter of the United States' fashion capital. By this time, fall/winter collections are in full swing, and Fashion week embraces New York at the beginning of the month. The hype from the runway hits the streets with water resistant down jackets and military boots. Come February, there is a lot of fashion to love and admire. New York admires all that appears dazzling and bright, and yet will not keep its attention too long away for its hustle and bustle.

Winter Fashion

Could it be that almost every woman is wearing a shearling motorcycle coat, jeans and black boots as every man wears an anorak, and with his everlasting L. L. Bean Duck Boots circa 2014? This style, that is as classic as a Hollywood version of a New York City winter wonderland, could not possibly ring truer.

As frost hits the sidewalks and slippery slush accumulates on the curbsides, New Yorkers break out their Sorrels and full length parkas to face winter's powder-filled gusts. And so they bundle up in pom-pommed beanies, wrap in blanket scarves and layer with down jackets. As much



The Shearling Moto Jacket communicates how New Yorkers stay fashionably warm and cozy.

as the city cultivates an interest in style, it simultaneously sustains a dependency on brand names: Canada Goose, Moncler and Mackage have created comebacks since last season, thus making a transition into timeless treasures.

How to layer without looking like a marshmallow:

Layering sweaters over cotton Brooks Brother's button-downs, like a young professional-meets J. Crew model look that is boyish, with a hint of androgyny is a look all that New York loses sleep over with adoration. The menswear interest in sporty-styled tracksuit zips is a way to add a layer of warmth in a subtle way. This sweat style continues strong with interest in men's athleisure wear — track suits storm strong with ecstatic pops of color. Easily add an extra layer to the light and hardly-insulated down jacket, or the "fashion coat" with colorful peacoats, dapper suit coats, or the bomber jacket with a zip-up. High fashion references from Christo-

pher Shannon and Gucci offer examples of how luxurious practical fashion can become.

The motorcycle shearling coat, now trending in popular colors of midnight black and dark denim shades of blue, have become another method of bundling up. The leather fabric with accents of shearling on the collars and the lapels create a look that is insulated in a fearless statement of fashion.

A new style of scarf has brought new attention to men's fashion. It is unlike a bow tie, or a handkerchief, as this accent romances the snow blankets of winter. The neckerchiefs that replicate the bandana-look no longer have to stay at the warm summer camp style — so try and keep cozy in a new scarf-style in the winter's wind. These pieces are also light enough to excite the bland, boring winter looks.

Weatherproof Ready

Waterproof pieces are a definite. Full length, down jackets appear as a functional piece for the weather, but assumptions for how weather-proof they are, are a risk when the storms rage. From personal experience, you find your work outfit unsaved from the protection of your winter jacket, now soaked. Water resistant is an easy find these days, and the true treasure is a water proof jacket. These finds are combative of any winter storm created by Mother Nature, and fashion itself. Doc Martins and Timberlands exude the punk rock fashions of the regenerated 70s style fashion, and are revisited this winter. Kanye West has spiced up the trend by integrating the 90s style to his sneaker brand Yeezus — offering the sneaker culture a large edge to the athleisure wear. Brave the winter with waterproof gear, with accents of street style fashion for a fashionable winter.



Front row views of New York Fashion Week.

NYFW: New York Fashion Week

This one week, launching this year on Wednesday, February 7th through Thursday, February 15th in New York is both exciting and, overwhelmingly stressful. It is the moment where the international industry gathers to preview the latest fashion. In this world, February marks the season for spring/summer styles. For the aspiring influencers and enthusiastic spectators, this is an opportunity to go out, dress up — vibrantly and outrageously with mixed prints, contrasting tops and bottoms, and provocative silhouettes of cut outs and short crops, and of course, statement shoes: heels, wedged boots and Stewart Wiezman thigh-high suede lace ups. Not only does it seem stressful to try and find that "break-out" outfit, but the competition to stand apart is active and real. But, optimism for the future of fashion displays itself on the runway. What New York loves most about Fashion Week is the crowd it brings.

The subways become a chattier spot where the business of fashion happens at the peak of market season, after the shows. Trends are exposed, as beautiful clothing is released at the shows. In this short time, the elegance pulsating from the housing studio spaces reaches the beat of the fashion industry enough to affect the atmosphere.

The edge, a brutish and unapologetic character of New York, makes New York Fashion Week unique, and sets it apart from the rest. Sporty statements via DKNY and Calvin Klein are suggestive of youth culture, rebellion and revolution. The crisp cuts of winter breezes and the icy accents complement the fashion New York has no choice but to embrace.

The love of fashion comes with a romance in the weather. Hollywood film has capture the city winters in the light of its beauty, and weathering these winter storms help fashion. How to love New York in the wintertime according to fashion: to play the part you must dress the part. Investing in fashion seems to always be the best option — trends fade, and the winter wears and tears low cost fashion. Waterproof, insulated pieces will create looks that remain. Runway shows and brand name labels add a sense of vitality to the cold-weathered atmosphere. February is a month to look forward to the fashion calendar because it offers excitement to the air, fashion collections bring beauty and share creativity. That is something to warm the hearts of New Yorkers, which the purchase of a fluffy down jacket can never offer.

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

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Sampson

Leeanne Leary
MSMU Class of 2017

As part of the Honors Program at Mount St. Mary's University, I am working to complete a senior research project. For this project, I chose to engage in a study of creative nonfiction, a relatively new genre with no standing definition yet, and its place in the poverty narrative.

Creative nonfiction is just what it sounds like: telling absolutely true stories, creatively. This genre opens the doors for history to be told a little differently than before. This genre upholds the idea of nonfiction, striving for accuracy down to the smallest details and the spoken word, but strives to fit into a narrative format. For the project itself, I am writing a series of creative nonfiction essays about my experiences in Haiti in an attempt to study this genre's capacity for telling these untold stories and revealing a little about this world. This is the first in a series of four essays.

Sampson

Market – Waste – Babies – Tents and Tarps – Peanut Butter – Bread – Red Hands – Love

The path was the same as always.

Walk out of the gate, turn left, make the first right, and head to the market.

Walk through the market, don't get hit, turn left at the second chicken stand.

Wind through the concrete buildings. When you get through the buildings, you'll end up on a hill of waste, don't fall down this hill. Turn your feet sideways at an angle perpendicular to the rest of your body; shimmy down the mound.

Okay, here is where it gets difficult. You have now made it to the ravine, and now you must cross it.

The ravine may have an inch of still water or a few inches stirring. If the water is still, you are in luck. There are rocks repositioned every day ready to be crossed. If the water is flowing and the waste is moving, just be careful. Don't fall in the water.

I say water as a euphemism for a liquid that more closely resembles oil in color and manure in odor. I say don't

fall because you put yourself at high risk for an infection, and then you waste a week in bed.

Once you've crossed the ravine, you have arrived, at the ravine. A little confusing, I know.

"The ravine" is the blanket term for the tent cities that line the waste ravine.

With no trash system, all waste gets piled and then burnt in man-made ravines, and the result is waste streams, also termed "the ravine."

The ravine that you have just arrived at is a tent city, and the poorest area in the capital. This tent city holds a hundred thousand Haitian people, all of whom own a tarp that has been carefully staked overhead, creating the image of thousands of small tents from an aerial view, hence the name.

Every day I followed this path, arrived at the ravine, made one stop with the Little Angels team right outside of the tent city, and then entered.

On one particular day, late in December, the path was the same as always, until we entered. I arrived at the makeshift church in the back of tent city and sat down on the single wooden bench. Sampson caught my eye first. He was wearing an oversized undershirt and nothing else, and ran up to me and jumped on my lap. I laughed and set down a bucket of vitamins as I saw him stumble as he ran, while others, young and old, peered past their blanket doors to see what the commotion was about.

Sampson was one of the first to enter the baby feeding program years earlier. The program, officially named Little Angels, was created to address a malnutrition rate of above 80% in babies ages 0-3 in this particular tent city. Now, with daily vitamins and two meals a day, the recorded malnutrition rate is below a miraculous 20%.

He jumped on my lap and my arms wrapped around him.

"Hi, Sampson" I said.

He turned quickly to face me and grinned baring his two teeth with the gap in the middle and said in Haitian, "Hi. Èske nou ka jwe jwèt la sou men?" In English, "Can we play the game of your hands?"

I laughed more and looked to my right as the team started to set up the

food buckets in anticipation of the hundreds of children who would soon be arriving once they realized the time.

I looked back at Sampson, rolled my eyes, "Amann." Fine.

He laughed quickly, jumped down and disappeared. He ran to get two of his friends who would inevitably also want to play the hand game.

They came back, announcing our arrival as they did, and families started to pour out of their tents. Sampson's brother Lerjard wanted to go first so I held my hands out and grabbed his before laying mine carefully on top on his. As soon as I felt his hands twitch I started to pull away, but I was too late, as always. I lose this game every single time. Every time they slap my hands and they turn a darker shade of pink every time until they turn red and we have to stop because I can't endure the agony. I'm weaker than my young friends, by far.

He hit my left hand first, looked at me to make sure he could keep going, laughed and spun around before grabbing my hands again. We were just getting started.

Meanwhile, moms, brothers, and sisters started to arrive holding their babies. They stopped once to get a daily vitamin, once more to pick up half of a hardboiled egg and a piece of peanut butter bread, and then once more to fill their own metal bowl with hot soup.

Over a hundred babies came, some held snugly by their mothers while others were drug along by a sibling not much older. At the end of it all, only about 45 minutes later, my hands were both bright red, the boys were satisfied, and there was a little bit of food left over. Although Sampson was one of the first boys in the program, he had long ago aged out of the program and now attended school where he got one meal every day. This day was the last day of Winter Holiday in Haiti, so school had been out of session for ten days.

Sampson realized that we were about to leave for the day, and started to grab his friends by their forearms and wander away. First, he looked back and smiled and said to Sherry, the cook, "Mèsi pou manje fanmi mwen," Thank you for feeding my family. As he always had.

Sherry smiled and asked him not to leave. We have extra today. She handed Sampson the remaining half of a

Make a Difference Month



The Emmitsburg Lions Club is sponsoring "Make A Difference Month" to help provide winter clothing to K-12 students. The Lions Club has set up winter clothing donation boxes at the Jubilee Food Store, Zurgables Hardware, PNC Bank, Ott House, Town Office/Public Library, and the Ambulance Company. The Lions Club is also planning to set up donation boxes at several local churches. The Lions Club is asking for donations of hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, shoes, boots, earmuffs, coats and other clothing to help make sure students are adequately dressed for the winter weather; clothing for the spring and summer months can also be donated as there is always a need for clothing in good condition. Please help "Make A Difference Month" be successful by leaving your donated clothing in the boxes at any of the above locations; the donated clothing will be picked up from these boxes and given to the Emmitsburg Public School for distribution to students on a weekly basis.

single hardboiled egg and told him she loved him. His eyes brightened, slowly at first, and he turned to call his friends back. "Rete tann!" Wait! He shouted. They came back as Sampson started to break the egg half into three, almost even, pieces. With all of the care he had, Sampson broke off the pieces and handed them to his friends, they took them, thanked the team, and turned to walk away, Sampson grabbing Lerjard's hand as James tucked the egg away, probably for later.

I turned quickly to my right to look at Jen, who was sitting a few feet down from me. From the ground I stared at her with no words. I know these kids. I know their birthdays and families, their likes and dislikes. I've spent days on end watching them shriek as they watch my hands turn red simply because theirs won't do the same, and they believe they have found the only difference between us. Yet, I'm in awe. I'm completely shocked and humbled and curious all at the same time. This

child, my Sampson, just split half of a hardboiled egg with his friends, not because he had to or was asked to, but because it was natural. He didn't hesitate, but also before the egg was in his hand he was shouting at his friends to come back. There was no hint of selfishness, no expectancy, and no greed. I don't know if Sampson had food that morning before he came, but I know that he had not eaten every day of this 10 day break. I know that he often felt hunger like I never have, and never will, and he, an eight year old, taught a lesson that morning that the world could use, and I can only think to attribute it to love.

I turned to follow the rest of the cook team back home, hesitating only for a second as I tried to process, and then followed the same path back home.

The path might have been the same as always, but the day certainly was not.

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

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ARTS

The Villalobos brothers make their debut

On Friday, February 10 at 7:30p.m., the Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater will present one of today's leading contemporary Mexican ensembles, the Villalobos Brothers. Their original compositions and arrangements masterfully blend and celebrate the richness of Mexican folk music with the intricate harmonies of jazz and classical music. The Villalobos Brothers deliver an intoxicating brew of brilliance, cadence and virtuosity that awaken the senses and mesmerize the listener.

The handsome Villalobos Brothers (Ernesto, Alberto and Luis) use their violins and voices to redefine contemporary Mexican music. They deliver a powerful message of love, brother-

hood and social justice. Artistic Director and guitarist Humberto Flores, drummer Rosa Ávila and bassist Leo Sherman complete the line-up.

The group's virtuosic performances have delighted listeners from Latin America, India and Russia to Lincoln Center's American Songbook, Carnegie Hall and the Latin Grammy Awards. Their work has been recognized by numerous awards including the Vox Populi Award by the Independent Music Awards and the Ultimate Winners in WNYC's 2013 Battle of the Boroughs. In 2015, the group was chosen as Musical Artist in Residence for Lincoln Center Education, 92st Y, Latino Arts, and The New York Bo-



tonian Garden's record-breaking exhibit "Frida Kahlo: Art, Garden, Life".

To purchase tickets \$34, \$31,

\$28, call 717-337-8200, visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org or stop by the Box Office, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. The Box

Office is open Monday through Saturday from Noon until 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Community theater announces arts classes

Chad-Alan Carr

Gettysburg Community Theatre will offer a variety of theatre arts classes for children and adults this winter and spring. The 2017 winter session will include the following courses that meet once a week:

"Let It Go!" – Voice I for 4th-12th Grade. With instructor Michelle Rose Gorski, this class will focus on the acting aspect of song preparation, including presentation of the song as an actor. "Don't just sing...act as well." Tell the story of the song with your performance after careful character and lyric study. This voice class is great for the beginner as well as students who have lots of singing experience.

Gonna Build A Mountain" – Acting I for 4th-12th Grade. With instructor Misty Coy Snyder, this class will use fun theatre games and warm ups that will help students learn to use their voices and bodies creating a sol-

id foundation of what "tools" the actor needs to create memorable characters. This class is great for the beginning actor as well as students who have lots of acting experience.

"My Favorite Things" – Creative Dramatics I for PreK (age 4)-3rd Grade. With instructor, Ann Walsh, students will explore their imaginations through creative dramatics utilizing fun hats and props, puppets, and musical instruments. Perfect for the beginner to be introduced to theatre arts.

February 18 will be Introduction to Shakespeare for Students (6th-12th grade.) Students will look at Shakespeare's iambic pentameter, use of sound to create emotional intensity, and basic stage-craft of the Globe Theatre. They will rehearse a scene of their choice from Hamlet or Much Ado About Nothing in pairs of two. Parents are welcome to come for the last twenty minutes of the workshop when students will per-



Have a child itching to learn theater? Then look no further than the Gettysburg Community Theater!

form their scenes together. Instructor: Anna Kurtz.

"I Won't Dance, Don't Ask Me" - Theater Dance I starting February 27th for 4th-12th Grade. With instructor, Michelle Rose Gorski, this class will work on the staging and choreography of songs from Broadway musicals. This class is perfect for the beginner performer, as well as those that have had dance training, but no dance experience is required to have fun in this song and dance class.

"Any Dream Will Do" - improvisation III/IV for 4th-12th

Grade. With instructor, Karen Land, this intermediate level improv class will have Improvisational Acting students continue learning about short form comedy as they work as an ensemble to develop team building skills in this verbally and physically fast-paced class. This class is designed for the intermediate level student who has already taken at least two Improv courses here at GCT with this instructor. Improv I & II required as pre-requisite for this course.

"Bon Voyage" – Creative Dramatics for PreK (age 4)-3rd

Grade. With instructor, Ann Walsh, students will explore the world around them and learn a few life lessons along the way as they hear and bring to life stories from around the globe. Perfect for the young actor who is has had at least one theatre arts class at GCT.

"Nice Work If You Can Get It" - Acting II for 4th-12th Grade. With instructor, Misty Coy Snyder, this class teaches techniques for communicating effectively on-stage with a partner through script study and performance of scenes from plays. This class is designed for the beginning/intermediate actor as well as students who have lots of acting experience. Acting I or a previous theatre arts course at GCT is highly recommended as pre-requisite for this course.

Students can register online at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org or by calling 717-334-2692 with credit card, or by visiting the box office with cash, check or credit card during box office hours 2-7pm Tuesdays-Fridays at GCT. Tickets are on sale now for Man Of La Mancha, The Diary Of Anne Frank, and GCT's 9th Annual Gala "Hooray For Hollywood".

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Thurmont art activities

Jack Williams
MSMU Class of 2017

Do January and February feel unusually long? Winter, from my and many others' perspectives, feels like the longest season of the four. I attribute this to feelings of boredom that we may experience during these months. Many of the activities and gatherings we normally hold outdoors would be uncomfortable during the month of February, making the whole month feel rather prolonged. Deyth Banger's *The Life of One Kid* sums up the sentiment rather well, where it says, "I find it interesting that time passes slowly when you're bored, yet when you're interested time passes fast." What can we do to counteract the boredom we may feel this month? How about visiting Thurmont?

I have spoken about Thurmont multiple times in the past; when covering the Thurmont Thespians, art shops present on Main Street, and most recently for their annual Christmas festivities. This month, the town of Thurmont is looking to relieve the boredom we may be experiencing, and has announced their art activities schedule for the months ahead. If you are interested in trying new things this year, and are searching for ways to channel this goal through the arts, then look no further than Thurmont!

In the month of February, the Thurmont Main Street center has announced two movie showings, both free and open to the public. These will take place on the second and fourth Saturday of the month of February. They will showcase two films that are both excellent and inviting in their own ways.

The first film is *Sully: Miracle on the Hudson*, starring Tom Hanks as the lead role Chesley Sullenberger, Aaron Eckhart performing as Jeff Skiles, Valerie Mahaffey as Diane Higgins and Anna Gunn as Elizabeth Davis. This film centers on the story of US Airways Flight 1549, which crashed less than three minutes after takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport on January 15, 2009.

After the lead pilot of the aircraft, played by Tom Hanks, struck a flock of Canadian geese after passing the George Washington Bridge, himself and his copilot needed to make an emergency landing in the Hudson River after the plane lost all engine power. A prompt investigation followed the successful crash landing in the Hudson, and the film centers on the all of these elements. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the pilot, is famous for saying, "I have delivered a million passengers over the last 40 years, but in the end, I'm going to be judged on 208 seconds." The film has received numerous accolades, being selected by American Film Institute and the National Board of Review as being among the top ten best films of the past year. It was produced and directed by Clint Eastwood, and is rated PG-13 for showing a traumatic situation and brief strong language.

The second film, being shown at the end of the month, is *The Secret Life of Pets*. It is a 3D animated comedy film, which displays, as its title suggests, the

secret lives of pets. It centers on the fact that, when the owners go away to work, their pets have separate lives of which the owners are completely unaware, speaking and spending time with pets from other apartments and homes and having their own adventures. This film was directed by Chris Renaud and Yarrow Cheney, and stars Louis C.K., Eric Stonestreet of the TV sitcom *Modern Family*, and Kevin Hart as some of the lead roles.

This is a very light-hearted movie that is entertaining for both parents and children alike. There are a number of different pets in the film, including rabbits, birds, dogs, cats, and gerbils. Different breeds of dogs and cats are present as well, making it a particularly fun story if you consider yourself to be a dog or cat person, with plenty of jokes and funny moments throughout!

Paul Echard, who organized the Main Street Matinee for the films being displayed this month, said he chose the films because they are good movies for all to see. I have seen both of these, and completely agree. The best part about the matinee is that they are both free, open to the public, and free popcorn will be available as well! The first of the two films, *Sully: Miracle on the Hudson*, will be shown on Saturday, February 10 at 2 p.m., and should wrap up by 4 p.m. *The Secret Life of Pets* will be shown on Saturday, February 24 starting at 2 p.m. and ending around 4 p.m. Both films will be shown at the Thurmont Main Street Center, located at 11 Water Street in Thurmont.

There are other upcoming events in Thurmont that are worth your notice as well! First, there is the live model drawing that will take place at the Thurmont Main Street Center. This event will be sponsored by John Nickerson, who owns Gnarly Arty in Thurmont. There is a misconception about figure drawing, where it is assumed that the models are naked and those who draw have gifted artistic abilities. This isn't true! In fact, there are plenty of figure drawings featuring fully-clothed models, many of whom are dressed in funny outfits.

This will be the case at the Thurmont Main Street Center. Figure drawing is not always an activity reserved for those in artistic circles. It can very much be an activity meant for all ages and all skill levels! Mr. Nickerson mentioned to me that many of the models used in these drawings wear fun outfits that will be very entertaining to draw. This event, hosted by Thurmont, is intended to draw as many people as possible to try their hand at something they may have never attempted before!

Check the Thurmont Main Street Center's website and Facebook for extra details! The first date for the drawing will be Wednesday, April 5th from 6 to 9 pm. This will be a recurring event, and if you'd like to participate, please bring your materials! This includes paper, or your sketchbook and easel, and pencils, pastels, charcoal, or whatever else you'd like to bring! The event is open to all, and entry fees (to pay the model) are expected to be around \$10 a person. This will be available every first Wednesday of the



Looking for something to do during these cold February days? Stop by the Thurmont Main Street Center for free movie showings and other arts events this month.

month, so be sure to check in!

Something sooner, on top of these other events, is the Digital Photography Sessions hosted by Russ and Cindy Poole. Russ and Cindy Poole are excellent photographers, and their affinity and love of nature is evident in their work. They will be hosting a series of photography seminars, where they will be teaching basic elements of photography and try out what they learned.

This is scheduled for the mid-spring, where Russ says, "Since there will be a lot of new flowers, young animals, warmer weather etc., folks will be better able to try out what they learn after attending." If you are interested in attending this free seminar, it will be offered on Monday, March 20th from 1:00-3:00 p.m.


I hope this helped expose you to some artistic activities that could challenge you this new year, and may-

be even relieve some boredom in the meantime! There are other events that the Thurmont Main Street Center is organizing, including Game Nights on Friday, February 10th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Friday, March 10th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Tune in to the Thurmont Main Street website and Facebook for additional details!

To read past articles by Jack, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net

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SPORTS

The Cougars end the drought

Sean Vietri

Going into the week before Christmas, the Catocin Boy's Basketball Team had not seen a win in a while. In the 2015-2016 season they won no games, and their record for the 2016-2017 season was 0-4. They were going to change that.

As the Cougars jogged onto the Court to face the Boonsboro Warriors, both excitement and competition filled the gym. After the Warriors' #2 T. Hanna won the tip-off and gave Boonsboro their first two points of the game, Warriors' #30 C. Price made the defensive rebound. Back up the court, Warriors' #12 L. Saunders shot from just inside the arc to make a basket. Warriors' C. Price again rebounded on defense, this time off a shot by Cougars' Dylan Reid. Boonsboro went on to make one of two foul shots after #42 M. Conrad was fouled while shooting. After T. Hanna came back to score an and-one, Boonsboro looked to have the momentum needed to win. Catocin came back, however, after Dylan Reid delivered a layup, giving his team their first points on the scoreboard.

On defense Jared Pawlus took a charge from L. Saunders for a turnover. Boonsboro continued to be aggressive, pushing defender Ryan Fisher for another turnover and two points scored on them

by Pawlus. The early gap Boonsboro had obtained began to close as Catocin stole the ball and sent it to Fisher who made two points. After the Cougars demonstrated good defense Cougars' Conner Orndorff was fouled while shooting and made one free throw. M. Conrad was then fouled and made both of his shots, to give Boonsboro a mere three point lead. After a hook shot went in after a creative play by Fisher and Brandon Morgan, Warriors' T. Hanna came back on fire, draining a three.

Boonsboro's early eight-point lead had dwindled down to a four-point lead, with a score of 13-9, Boonsboro at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter began with a foul by Boonsboro committed on Orndorff, who made both free throws.

After the Cougar's offense stole the ball from the Warriors, it was brought back up the court by Collin Watson, who drove it in for two points. Later, T. Hanna made two points and was fouled while doing so, but missed the foul shot. Pawlus pulled the Cougars ahead in score by making a three pointer. After T. Hanna had a violation with a travel, Fisher made two points. The Cougars stayed tough with good defensive rebounding and made another free throw, this time from junior Gavin Palmer. T. Hanna went for two more points followed by an-



Junior Ryan Fisher shoots for two.

other three pointer from Pawlus. Warriors' C. Price made a layup to allow his team to hold on to Catocin. Back and forth play went on until Ryan Fisher intercepted a pass and sent the ball to Brandon

Morgan to make a basket.

The second quarter ended with Gavin Palmer making a shot to pull the Cougars ahead, 24-19 at halftime. The second half began with a two pointer from Boonsboro's M. Conrad, followed by one from Catocin's Connor Orndorff. After that, Boonsboro went on to score four more points, but Orndorff lessened the damage by delivering a three for the Cougars. The Warriors' #35 J. Humbel then got his first two points of the game followed by three more combined points by Reid and Fisher. Boonsboro's T. Hanna and L. Saunders went on score a combined four points, but Cougars' Gavin Palmer, diminished their chances of leading with a three.

J. Humbel then made his second basket to allow Boonsboro to trail by just two points, 35-33, going into the fourth. As the third quarter was a bit shaky for Catocin, they would need an excellent last eight minutes to get the win. The last quarter started with Cougars' Dylan Reid being fouled and making both of his shots. Reid made another basket, but not before T. Hanna kept the game tight with two points. T. Hanna then blundered by traveling, and Catocin's Palmer made an and-one to reestablish the gap. After Fisher rebounded on defense, he had a break away but was fouled while shooting. Fisher went on to make both free throws. After each team committed back-to-back personal fouls, free throws were made, including two from Reid. Fisher took a charge and then made two points. L. Saunders was then fouled and made one of two foul shots followed by T. Hanna mak-

ing two points. Reid made another basket, followed by L. Saunders making a three. Reid was then fouled yet again and made both foul shots, going an impressive six for six in free throws during the last quarter. Catocin went on to make three points on free throws and two more points by Reid while Boonsboro made two more points on free throws and two points by J. Humbel to end the game 57-47, Catocin. The leading scorer for Catocin was Dylan Reid who scored fifteen points, followed by Gavin Palmer and Ryan Fisher, who each scored ten.

Fisher, who also had six rebounds and two steals commented on his role during the game saying, "My job was to go in, pump everyone up, and to do well." When asked how his team kept up their momentum after their halftime lead, he responded, "We kept playing good defense, passing the ball around, spreading the floor, and looking for good shots."

Catocin went on to lose four more regular games and two tournament games. The Cougars took on the Brunswick Railroaders on January 13. After a low scoring first quarter with only four points, the Cougars came back with 17 points in the second, bringing them to a 21-18 lead at the half. Brunswick outperformed Catocin in the third quarter, leading by five points going into the final eight minutes, but the Cougars had a chance to close the gap in the fourth, shooting 15 free throws but only making seven of them. For Brunswick, the Railroaders shot 13 free throws and made nine. The final score was 48-43, Brunswick.



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Mount baseball season preview

Kelly Smith
MSMU 2017

Batter up! The Mount St. Mary's Baseball season is soon to be underway at E.T. Straw Family Stadium in Emmitsburg, Md. The team has been prepping for their yearly competitive Spring Break trip to Florida and their goal of winning an NEC Championship.

Head Coach Scott Thomson, who is entering his 20th season at the Mount, commented on his expectations for the upcoming season and believes that with hard work and dedication, the team can make it to the NEC Championships.

"My expectations for this year's team is to compete at a high level, improve on last year's season and qualify for the NEC tournament. The fall seasons helps prepare for the spring by putting players in game situations and seeing how they handle success and failure. This is done by drills and scrimmages." Thomson continued, "The freshmen, junior college transfers and returning players will all contribute to the success of this year's team. Our expectations are to improve from week to week and game to game. It is important to peak at the right time, right before conference starts. This will help reach our goal of winning an NEC Championship."

The assistant coaches for the 2016-2017 season are Ben Leonard, Ivor Hodgson and Ryan Owens. For the 2016-2017 season Jordan Lawson, Will Enrico, Tyler Post and Mitch Sgrignoli will serve as the team captains. In regard to this year's captains, Thomson stated, "Jordan, Tyler, Will and Mitch will help guide this year's team back to its winning ways. These four men have been instrumental in the success of the Mount program over their years here and I look forward to watching them help lead us back to an NEC Championship."

Team captain, Jordan Lawson, returns for his fifth year at the Mount after suffering an injury last season. When asked if the team has any goals and expectations for the spring, Lawson said, "Our goal as a team for the season is earning a trip to the NEC tournament. Two of the past three seasons, we have been in the playoff hunt all the way until our final game of the season. Coming that close has shown us we have what it takes to get in the position, and we as a team believe that this will be the season we get over that hump and begin a trend of trips to the tournament for our program in the coming seasons."

Lawson said the team is also getting pumped for the Spring Break trip to Florida, "Spring break has been a topic that has come up between a lot of the guys frequently, and to say we are pumped for it is an understatement. The cool thing is that it's not because we are traveling as much as it is because we finally get to play ball. The work that we have put in on the field with our coaches, and those early mornings with the strength coaches, has everyone excited and very confident coming into this season."

The freshmen will also play a major role in the success of this season, "The freshmen this year have been great, and this will be the second season where

young guys will have opportunities to impact games in a big way," Lawson said. "From day one, they all dug in and worked just as hard as any other member of the team, and were eager to improve. They also brought some serious personalities. They all became part of the family quickly upon arrival."

As a captain, Lawson is excited for the team dynamic on and off the field, "The one thing I look most forward to is seeing everyone come together and perform at our highest level, day in and day out. This team has that right combination of young and older players, and it's going to be a dangerous combination." Lawson continued, "With last year's flurry of injuries, we also had a lot of young guys that got experience well beyond that of most underclassmen. I'm confident this will pay off in a big way this year. When you run down our depth chart, one after another, I have confidence in each name top to bottom to execute what our coaches have prepared us for. A few guys have expressed their excitement for the year over texts or conversations and we all agree that this is going to be a very good year for Mount St. Mary's Baseball."

In preparation for next season, Thomson also announced the eight members of the 2017-2018 recruiting class. The players announced are Jordan Geber, Brenden Kennedy, CJ Kozorosky, Matt Kephart, Myles Nicholson, Andrew Malone, Michael Yetter and Tommy Savastio.

Coach Thomson said, "We are very excited to announce our 2017 recruiting class. We have brought in eight young men who will help us get to the next level. I could not have done this without the help of Coach Leonard. He did a tremendous job of putting this class together as we have filled a lot of our needs by adding speed, power and quality arms." The Mount continues to successfully fill the spots of those who graduate each season.



Mount Baseball gets pumped up before a game.

The Mount begins their 49-game schedule with three first-time matchups in Mount program history. Play begins February 24-26 with a four-game series at New Mexico State. After their trip to Florida, the team battles it out against Coppin State on March 1. The Mountaineers then travel to North Carolina A&T, March 3-5 and then a match-up against Duke on March 8. The team concludes their trip to North Carolina after playing Savannah State for another three-game series, March 9-11.

After their trips outside the Maryland region, the Mountaineers begin Northeast Conference play at Central Connecticut State March 17-19. They will then host George Mason on March 21 and a series against LIU Brooklyn March 24-26.

The Mount will conclude their conference slate with a match-up at Fairleigh Dickinson April, 7-9 and a four-game series at Bryant, May 5-7. The team will finish the season with a four-game series at E.T. Straw Family Stadium in Emmitsburg against Wagner, May 18-20.

Something you may not know, a former

Mount player Brady Feigl was recently traded from the Major League Baseball team Atlanta Braves to the Texas Rangers in a three-player deal back in December 2016. Feigl and Tyrell Jenkins were traded to the Rangers in return for Luke Jackson.

The former Mount star made his professional debut in 2014. He posted a 3.02 ERA with 60 strikeouts in 38 games throughout two Single-A levels. Feigl moved up to Triple-A in 2015 and was soon to be called up to the major leagues before tackling a season-ending arm injury. After recovery, Feigl returned to play August 2016. He threw six shutout innings between the Gulf Coast Braves and Danville Braves and posted a 2.74 career ERA with 66 strikeouts in 72.1 innings pitched in his professional career.

It has just been announced that the baseball program will host the First Pitch Dinner on February 11 at the

Links at Gettysburg in Gettysburg, Pa. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Mike Toomey from the Kansas City Royals will be the guest speaker.

Coach Thomson said, "The First Pitch Dinner will be a great way to kick off the start of the 2017 season. It will be great to see former alumni and coaches of the Mount program to talk about old times, championships and where the program is headed in the future."

The cost is \$100 per person to attend the event. The dinner includes steak, stuffed shrimp, sides, salads, dessert and an open bar from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and a cash bar after 7:15 p.m. For more information on this event or to R.S.V.P. contact Kevin Robinson Jr. at (301) 447-5462.

Get ready, Emmitsburg! Grab your little ones, friends and family for a fun-filled season of Mount baseball... Let's play ball!

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Lessons from Kung Fu Panda 2

Renee Lehman

Several years ago, I wrote an article entitled, Lessons from Master Oogway. This article dealt with the life lessons found in the movie, Kung Fu Panda. Have you seen the movie, Kung Fu Panda? If not, I highly recommend watching it, along with the movies, Kung Fu Panda 2 and 3. I love these movies! These are a series of animated martial arts movies about a clumsy, chubby panda bear, Po, who becomes an unlikely kung fu hero. He is chosen as the Dragon Warrior (who protects the Valley of Peace) by Master Oogway, and then undergoes martial arts training by Master Shifu. In Kung Fu Panda 2, Po must fight Lord Shen, who has created a secret, unstoppable weapon to conquer China and destroy Kung Fu. In this movie, Po must look deeply into his past and uncover the mystery behind his origin. Only when he completes this introspection, and finds inner peace, will he be able to unlock the strength that he needs to protect China and Kung Fu from destruction by Lord Shen.

In Kung Fu Panda 2 there are several wise lessons that are

timeless, and from which we can all learn.

Saying #1: "You are the master of your destiny: No one and nothing can come in between you and your destiny except you. Take destiny by the horns and have fun." – Kung Fu Panda

You are who you are and where you are right now because of all your own decisions and actions. No one can decide how you live your life and no one can force you to do things if you don't want to. If you believe that you are not living the life that you want to live, it is your own thinking that is holding you back. You are stopping yourself from moving forward and change. When you understand that you are in control of your life, nothing can come between what you and what you want, except you. Recognize your gifts. Have fun and enjoy creating the life that you want for yourself.

Saying #2: "Your story may not have such a happy beginning but that does not make you who you are, it is the rest of it – who you choose to be." – Soothsayer

This is another meaningful quote from Kung Fu Panda 2. There will be times in your life when you will face challenges and uncertainties. You may have diffi-

cult times; however, they don't have to define you. When you are having difficulties in life, it doesn't mean that it is the end of the world.

The strength that it takes to overcome challenges make us strong, and it is how we perceive the future that makes us who we are. Extraordinary people such as Steve Jobs, Warren Buffett, J.K. Rowling, Nelson Mandela, and many other men and women have gone through tough times. The challenging situations did not stop them. They each overcame the obstacles and chose to thrive!

Saying #3: "Don't push past memories deeper inside of yourself. Let those memories breathe and let old wounds heal." – Kung Fu Panda

When Lord Shen (the villain) reminded Po that he had killed Po's parents and almost killed him, Po told Lord Shen that in order to move forward, he had to let go of the past. The lesson is that holding on to pain from the past keeps you from moving forward. Your past does not equal your future. How can you grow and move forward in life if you are stuck in your past and keep believing negative things. You have to choose now to process your past events, and let go of the things that hold you back.

Saying #4: "Remember...anything is possible if you have inner peace." – Master Shifu

"You don't need to meditate for hours and hours to attain inner peace and enlightenment. You need only see, feel, and act from the heart. Let the heart guide you to your peaceful enlightenment." – Kung Fu Panda

Lord Shen was not happy, therefore, he spent his entire life trying



to make everyone else unhappy. In the beginning of the movie, Po was miserable because he discovered that his parents were killed, and that the father that he knew was not his biological father.

When Lord Shen meets Po, he is in awe of how peaceful Po is. Lord Shen seemed to have everything, and Po had nothing. How could Po be so peaceful? By the end of the movie, Po had processed his past, and had begun to listen to his heart and intuition. By trusting his heart and intuition, Po became comfortable with who he was. He found inner peace. This then helped him to prevent Lord Shen from destroying China and Kung Fu.

By listening to your heart, trusting your intuition, and acting from your heart, anything is possible! Even finding inner peace. From in-

ner peace, comes inner strength.

Finally: "Embrace your awesomeness." – Kung Fu Panda

Dream your biggest dream. Have faith that anything is possible. You are here on earth to fully enjoy your life! Believe, and you will achieve! You are awesome!

So, if you have not seen the Kung Fu Panda movies yet, please watch them! AND, if you have already seen it and are a fan of the movie like me, go ahead and watch them again to discover many other words of wisdom that you may have missed!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with 30 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

Moving through winter and having fun doing it!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

The temperatures are frigid as I am writing this article to encourage everyone to find an activity you enjoy and commit to doing at least two or three times a week. Winter days are cold and sometimes the weather prevents you from being outside and getting the amount of exercise you would like to.

Winter nights are long, dark and cold but that doesn't mean we should sit on the couch all evening. There are many activities you can do with your family or friends to pass those long nights and get in a good workout at the same time. I know the hardest thing is getting started.

Check with your local college or community center to see if they have any winter activities that will get you involved in exercise as well as meeting new people or reconnecting with old friends. Some of my clients belong to a winter bowling league or play Wally ball and really enjoy the comradery. They don't think of it as a chore but they are getting the exercise they need.

Exercise can come in many

forms and each person needs to try a few activities to find the one that keeps their interest so they will continue being involved to get them through the cold winter months. Another idea to get in the exercise you need is to use DVDs or find a guided program on TV. It is more fun if you have a friend come over and work out together if you do not like to join in a team activity or if you don't want to go to a facility to exercise. Some people prefer to exercise on their own and this is great too. Of course, I think working with a trainer is a great way to get started and discover different exercises that you would never be introduced to on your own.

Many people I speak to ask about a problem or certain area of their body that they want to work on and are surprised at an exercise or stretch that I suggest. They tell me they never thought of doing that or using a simple household object to exercise with. Whatever you decide to do is certainly better than doing nothing. There are so many tools out there to help you find the right exercise to keep you moving through the winter, all you have to do is look for them.

Talking to a co-worker, family member or friend may be the easiest of all. Health and wellness are on everyone's mind today and you may be amazed at who is exercising to improve their health. Sometimes the person you never thought would know anything about exercise or the person you never thought would ever exercise just may be the one to motivate you the most. I am convinced that we all want to be the healthiest we can be and want to take care of ourselves so we can live the best and longest life possible.

Making a few small changes can improve how we feel, help us sleep better and improve our mood, that sometimes suffers a bit during the long, dark, cold winter days. We are most certainly worth making those changes for ourselves and our families. Winter has just begun but the days are already getting a few minutes longer each day and finding something to do will help pass the time so that when Spring arrives you will have more energy and maybe even be a few pounds lighter.

I hear so many people say they usually gain weight over

the winter because they veg out on the couch. You'll be so much happier with yourself now and down the road if you take control of your life this winter. If you have any questions give me a call at 717-334-6009. Remem-

ber, Keep Moving!! You'll be glad you did.

If you have any questions or suggestions you can contact me at 717-334-6009. Enjoy your holiday and remember to Keep Moving!

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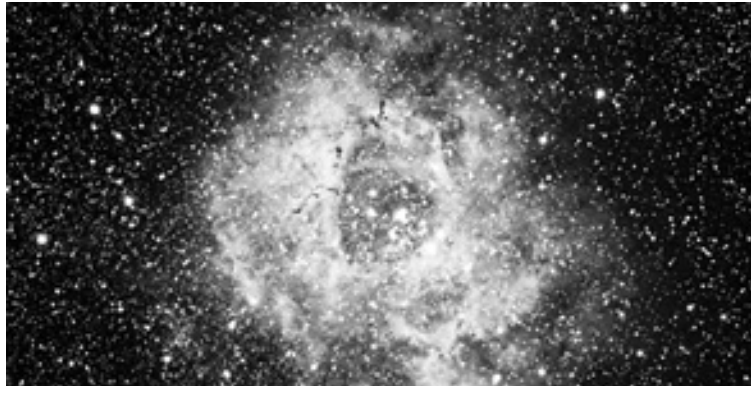
The night sky of February

Professor Wayne Wooten

For February 2017, the Moon will be first quarter on February 3rd. The moon is full on February 10th. In native American tradition, this is the “hunger moon”, when almost all the stored harvest had been depleted.

The waning gibbous moon passes 3 degrees north of bright Jupiter on February 15th, with both rising about 10 PM in the SE. The last quarter moon rises about midnight on February 18th. The waning crescent moon passes four degrees north of Saturn in the dawn on February 20th. The moon is new on February 26th, and passes in front of the sun for those in South Africa, but we will have to wait until August 21, 2017 when the new moon will cover 82% of the Sun as seen from Pensacola at 1:37 PM CDT. The waxing crescent moon makes a fine pair with brilliant Venus at dusk on February 28th, with Venus ten degrees north of the moon.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about January 31st, visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for February; it will



Rosette Nebula is a great Valentine's present for your beloved. It is located east of the constellation Orion and midway between Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Also available is a video exploring the current sky, from the Hubble Space Telescope website at: http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/.

Mercury is too close to Sun for easy observing this month. Venus dominates the evening sky for the next few weeks, but will be lost in sun's glare soon. It gets bigger in the telescope as it overtakes Earth, but the phase changes from 40% sunlit on February 1 to only 17% crescent at month's end. Mars was overtaken by faster moving Venus at the end of January, and is getting lost in the sun's glare by month's end. Jupiter dominates the late evening eastern sky, and passes 4 degrees north of Spica in Virgo on February 23rd. The ringed plan-

et Saturn will be coming to opposition on June 15nd, and is now north west of the teapot of Sagittarius in the morning sky. It's rings are open about 27 degrees now, fully opened at Saturn's solstice this year; when this open, the huge reflecting surface of the ring's ice boulders will double the planet's brightness.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Dou-

ble Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt,

hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. 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 rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Midway between them is the fine Rosette Nebula, a great Valentine's present for your beloved.

Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see “clearly now”. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida.

When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, a reminder that spring is coming; look for the bowl of the Big Dipper to rise, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. But if you take the pointers south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the “regal star”. Fitting for our cosmic king of beasts, whose rising at the end of this month means March indeed will be coming in “like a lion”.

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—Lord Byron (1788-1824)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Fair, windy, cold with periods of lake-effect snow (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12); fair and cold (13, 14, 15, 16) with Nor'easter bringing heavy snow (17, 18, 19). Fair and very cold, later not as cold (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27) with snow and rain in the southern part of the region.

Full Moon: February's Full Moon will occur on Friday, February 10th. Native American tribes living in cold and temperate climates, suffered very harsh winters with a scarcity of game during this month. It was aptly named Hunger Moon. And because snow was often at its deepest now in certain parts of North America, it has been also referred to as Snow Moon.

Special Notes: Watch out for “Punxsutawney Phil”, who makes his much-anticipated appearance on Thursday, February 2nd. His “prediction” of the coming of Spring will be determined by its actions. If it is

sunny and the little guy sees his shadow, he retreat underground and we will face another 6 weeks more of Mr. Winter! If it is cloudy and he doesn't, there will be an early Spring!

Holidays: The Christian Festival of Lights, or Candelmas, celebrated on Thursday, February 2nd is a day is marked by many churches that traditionally light more candles than usual during their daily services. The additional light made the day special and it was also believed that the additional light provided protection from illness and plague in the coming year. Valentine's Day, February 14th, falls on Tuesday in 2017. Someone special deserves some of your attention on this day so plan something that shows your love and appreciation. The birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Sunday, February 12th) and George Washington (Wednesday, the 22nd) are collectively celebrated on President's Day, which falls on Monday, February 20th to provide us with an extended holiday weekend.

The Garden: Mid- to late-February is the time to fertilize shrubs and ev-

ergreens. Use an acid-type Rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed Roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly. It's a good time to stroll around and trim back any branches that were damaged by the ravages of Winter. If you haven't yet applied your dormant spray to your fruit trees, do it now!! Stored summer flowering bulbs may try to start into growth if they are subjected to heat. They should be kept very dry, and stored at 45° F. If they are shriveling, put them into slightly damp peat moss, but keep them cool! Your House Plants may notice the longer days and begin growing. You can begin feeding them again Strawberries can be planted as soon as they become available. Continue feeding our feathered friends. You will want them to stick around so they will provide natural insect control when the weather warms again.

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

“There is beauty all around us when there's love at home”.

COMPUTER Q&A

Don't fall for the "Microsoft" scam!

Ayse Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

We preach to our clients that you should never let anyone you don't know take control of your computer. Unfortunately, scammers are using scare tactics and misleading information to convince users into believing that a reputable company such as Microsoft is who you are speaking with. Some users receive a phone call from individuals claiming to be Microsoft. Many times, even the caller id can say Microsoft even though it is not them trying to reach you. Other users receive a message when they are on a website which takes over their screen with an automated voice warning you that your computer is infected and that you must call this phone number right away.

Once the scammer gets you on the phone they tell you they are working either for or with Microsoft and that they can show you the errors on your computer. If you let them take control of your computer, they will pull up error logs and point out errors which to the untrained eye can look serious. In most cases, they are showing you errors that are common on all computers and in most cases the errors being presented to you are not actually causing any issues within your device. While connected to your computer remotely, they may open a command prompt box with white text and a blinking cursor showing you a number that's in your computer indicating that your computer needs maintenance. If they are not yet connected to your computer, they may have you perform this action asking if you have a specific number displayed. Users are surprised when their numbers match however this number is found within all devices they are just using this trick to further convince you.

Once the scammers reel you in and make you feel like there is a purpose for their services they will tell you that it will cost over \$200 to fix your device and they will ask you to pay with a credit card. If you refuse and you have already connected them to your computer, they may even put a password on your device to prevent you from using your computer until you pay them to "fix the problem". If you do pay them, many times they perform actions that we would typically include in a clean-up (\$99 flat rate fee). In addition to performing what may be unnecessary tasks on your device these scammers have been known to uninstalled PAID antivirus leaving you with no protection or another antivirus application which may not be as good as what you previously had.

How to prevent yourself from being scammed. First and foremost, as I said before you should NEVER let someone you don't know take control of your computer. The only exception to this rule is if YOU call a reputable company such as HP for example to help you troubleshoot your printer. When searching for a companies phone number be sure you have their number and not a third party company. The best way to ensure

this is to look at the products documentation using the example above if you had just gotten a new HP printer your printer should come with a booklet with HP's support number. If you have to search for a phone number ensure you are on that companies website HP's website should be www.hp.com not www.hp-support.com NO ONE will ever call you to tell you there is something wrong with your computer. If you need support many local computer repair companies offer remote support. Here at Jester's Computers if you have internet access we offer remote support for \$1 per minute with a \$10 minimum. All remote support applications that you request should have some kind of one time access code that you provide that is required in order for the remote agent to assist you.

How to close pop-up scams that appear while on the internet. If you click on a website or a link and then suddenly your screen is taken over warning you that you need to call a number, you have not yet been infected you just need to force your web

browser to close. To do this you first need to open task manager. To open task manager on your keyboard press and hold the control and alt keys. While holding them down press the delete key. This should take you to a window letting you choose to open task manager. With task manager open you want to visit the processes tab at the top. Locate your web browser in the list (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome etc). Click on your web browser and then click the button that says end task at the bottom. This should close your web browser. If you re-open your browser and the page still loads, try the same steps again. If you see the option to restore the previous pages do NOT click restore or the pop-up scam will be back. For a video instructions on how to complete these steps visit Jester's Computers page on Facebook.

If you have been scammed, you may want to have your device properly cleaned to ensure that they did not leave any harmful software on your computer. We recommend having a clean-up done once yearly on each



computer to keep it running smoothly and to diagnose any potential hardware failures. If you are struggling to learn how to use your computer or if you need technical support Jester's Computers can help! In addition to our computer repair services, we offer one-on-one technology classes in our office or in the local area. Contact us

today by calling (717) 642-6611 or by visiting us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com or on Facebook.

For fast computer services from people you can trust contact Jester's Computer Services located at 5135 Fairfield Road Fairfield. Call us at 717-642-6611 or visit us at www.jesterscomputers.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2-4

Gettysburg Rocks! Gettysburg Rocks is the brainchild of local musician, music promoter and radio personality Rob Simon (aka Bald Rob). The original concept for this multiple venue

festival in the town of Gettysburg was just an idea until Rob's daughter Ashley approached him to help her with a fundraiser for Penn State Mont Alto's THON group. During the course of an 11-week period the first Gettys-

burg Rocks event was planned, created and implemented and was an immediate success. The event raised over \$14,000 for The Four Diamonds Fund. For more information, visit <http://gburgrocks.com>

February 4 & 18

Adams County Arts Council Education Center 2017 Winter Farmers' Market. Support local farmers by purchasing fresh and local produce and products at the Winter Farmers' Market. The market is lo-

cated inside the Adams County Arts Council's Arts Education Center. You can buy fresh lettuce, arugula, kale, oriental greens, other salad and cooking greens, carrots, radish, garlic, winter squash, potatoes, honey, maple syrup and many other products. The fresh produce sold out early the last time so come early to have the best choice.

February 10

Majestic Theater hosts the Villalobos Brothers. The Villalobos Brothers use their violins and voices to redefine contemporary Mexican music. Their original compositions masterfully blend elements of jazz, rock, classical and Mexican folk to deliver a powerful message of love, brotherhood and social justice. For more information, call 717-337-8235 or visit gettysburg-majestic.org.

February 11

Creagerstown's St. John's Lutheran Church's turkey and fried oyster dinner. The menu includes fried oysters, roast turkey, mashehd potatoes, dressing, gravy, sauerkraut, succotash, cranberry relish and cake. Adults \$18, children ages 6-12 \$7, and children under 6 eat free. For more information call 301-304-2507.

February 18

Gettysburg National Military Park the Great Backyard Bird Count. Join park biologists and volunteers for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learning about the birds wintering in the Gettysburg community. A bird viewing station will be set up inside the park Visitor Center lobby and visitors will be able to view the birds just outside the windows at feeding stations. Bring binoculars and guidebooks if you have them. Data from this event will help scientists gain a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of birds. Co-sponsored by the South Mountain Audubon Society, Gettysburg National Military Park and the Gettysburg Foundation. For more information, call 717-334-4468.

February 19

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish's Buffet Style Community Country Breakfast. The menu includes: Scrambled eggs, French Toast, Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage, Home Fries,

CRAIG "SAWMAN" SAWYER



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- \$85 per person for VIP (with photo and autograph after the event)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

fruit cup, toast, coffee/tea, orange or apple juice. Cost: \$8 for adults, \$4 ages 4-10, Free for ages 3 and Under.

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fairfield's spaghetti dinner in parish hall. Dinner includes, spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, bread stick, drinks and dessert. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12 and under 6 free. For more information call 717-642-8815.

February 22

Living History and Heritage Food Event Commemorating Black History Month to be Held at Harriet Chapel in the Village of Catoctin Furnace.

In partnership with Silver Oak Academy, Harriet Chapel, Cunningham Falls State Park, and the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., this event will commemorate Black History Month. For a little over half a century, black enslaved workers comprised a substantial part of the workforce at Catoctin Furnace. These workers were involved in every aspect of life in the village: some worked in the ironmaster's manor house, some worked in the vineyards and fields of the furnace owners' farms, and many worked in the furnace as miners, blacksmiths, colliers, founders, and forgers. By the second quarter of the nineteenth

century, it became more economical to hire free labor than to maintain a slave population, and, by the middle of that century, the number of enslaved workers in the village had declined sharply.

The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling 443-463-6437 or email ecomer@catocctinfurnace.org.

February 25

Mount Hope Maple Madness, held at Camp Eder! Sugaring, the art of making maple syrup, has been practiced for thousands of years. The tradition began in the Northeast United States centuries ago with the Native Americans and colonists. People of all ages are invited to see this tradition brought to life by Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve naturalists. You will learn how trees are tapped, view sap-collecting methods past and present, and see the boiling process that produces delicious maple syrup.

For more information or to schedule a program call 717-642-5840.

Barkers 4 Blood Cancer, a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Light the Night fundraising team, is hosting their 6th annual Dance 4 A Cure Zumbathon at the Amvets Post 7 in Thurmont. A minimum \$10 donation will be accepted between Febru-

ary 1 & 24 or you can donate at the door. All proceeds benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. For more information call 240-674-6444.

February 28

Fort Ritchie Community Center Yard Sale. For more information visit www.thefrc.org or call 301-241-5085.

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Fried Oyster & Turkey Dinner
Saturday, February 11th
12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown, MD
(Take 15 N. or S., get off at Thurmont exit and follow Rt. 550 to Creagerstown.)
 (Take 194 N. or S., turn onto Rt. 550 at Woodsboro to Creagerstown.)

MENU:
 Fried Oysters, Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Gravy, Sauerkraut, Succotash, Cranberry Relish, Cake

ADULTS \$18.00 AGE 6-12 \$7.00 UNDER 6 FREE
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Tuesday, February 14th!
Roses, Roses, Roses!

Jubilee has a beautiful selection of roses for Valentine's Day at great prices that are so much less than traditional florist shops!

Give Your Special Someone A Valentine Pinch!

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Orders must be placed by February 13th noon!

Three Mount Students Chosen As Fulbright Semi-Finalists



Three students from Mount St. Mary's University – Brigid Flay, Samantha Solis and Alyse Spiehler – have become Fulbright semi-finalists. As a result, each is one step away from attaining a grant which would allow them to continue their academic pursuits abroad.

Flay, Solis and Spiehler all applied for English Teaching Assistant (ETA) awards through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The ETA programs enable award winners to join local English teachers in their respective countries to provide assistance through teaching the English language as well as communicating and representing American culture.

Brigid Flay, C'17 is an economics and philosophy double major, with a minor in conflict, peace and social justice. Flay applied for the Fulbright ETA Award to Kazakhstan.

Samantha Solis, C'16 recently completed her undergraduate coursework as of December. Solis was an English and Spanish double major, with a minor in creative writing. Solis applied for the Fulbright ETA Award to Argentina.

Alyse Spiehler, C'17 is a philosophy and English double major. Spiehler applied for the Fulbright ETA Award to Mexico.

Free T-Shirts for Fans on February 4



Mount St. Mary's University will retire the numbers of former basketball greats Susie Rowlyk, C'95, and Chris McGuthrie, C'96, on Saturday, Feb. 4 during halftime of the men's and women's games vs. Central Connecticut.

Rowlyk will be the first Mount St. Mary's women's basketball player to have her number retired.

The first 250 fans in attendance for the women's game will receive a t-shirt featuring Rowlyk's number, 35, while the first 750 fans at the men's game will receive a t-shirt featuring McGuthrie's number, 50.

Support Both Teams During Home Games in February!

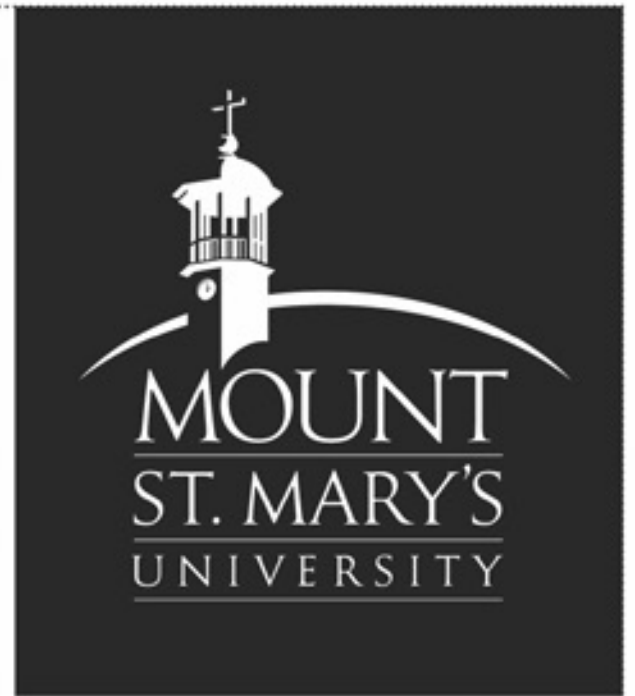
Men's Basketball

February 2, Bryant, 7 p.m.
 February 4, Central Connecticut, 4 p.m.
 February 23, LIU Brooklyn, 7 p.m.
 February 25, St. Francis Brooklyn, 4 p.m.

Women's Basketball

February 4, Central Connecticut, 1 p.m.
 February 6, Bryant, 7 p.m.
 February 25, LIU Brooklyn, 1 p.m.
 February 27, St. Francis Brooklyn, 7 p.m.

For tickets or more information please visit www.mountathletics.com or call 301-447-5700.



Events at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Worship Opportunities

All Masses Held at 12 p.m.

February 4 & 5 Weekend Mass

February 11, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Celebration

Rosary, 10:30 a.m. at the Grotto Cave
 (Our Lady of Lourdes Rosary Crusade)

Confessions, 11 a.m. in the Confessional
 near St. Mary's Chapel

Procession, 11:30 a.m. from Grotto Cave
 to St. Mary's Chapel

Mass, 12 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel

(All activities will be moved to St. Mary's Chapel during inclement weather)

February 12 Weekend Mass

February 18 & 19 Weekend Mass

February 25 & 26 Weekend Mass

University Calendar of Events

Allies Musical Revue—Fugitive Songs

Thursday–Saturday Feb. 9–11, 7:30 p.m.,

Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

Described as a "half-musical/half-hootenanny, spotlighting people on the run," this fun and upbeat revue tells the stories of various characters and the multiple reasons they have to run from their place in life in the hope that they can "be something greater." Fugitive Songs will have the audience reflecting on their own restlessness with songs that will make them laugh and cry! Admission is a \$5 donation to the Forty to None Project.

Mardi Gras—Fat Tuesday Concert

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 4–7 p.m., Patriot Hall

Grab your beads and head to Patriot Hall for one last party before Lent! The Mount's musical groups and special guests provide entertainment for the evening.