

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Words shape both our external environment, and our internal state and subsequent actions. **Page 42**

Council of Churches' African mission

A dozen people from Emmitsburg representing four different religions recently returned from a mission trip to Kenya. A similar group went to the same location in 2009 to help the students and adults at the Pathfinder School.

"When we landed in Kitale, we were greeted by a van filled with 35 children from the Pathfinder School who paid for their van ride with their own money because they were so excited to see us arrive in our airplane," Pastor Jon Greenstone of Elias Luther Church said. "Unfortunately, we arrived about half an hour ahead of schedule and the children missed seeing the plane. Nevertheless, they sang for us and greeted us and we were thrilled!"

The Pathfinder School is a resident school for 430 students, more than half of whom are orphans. The students rise each morning at 4:30 a.m., are in their classes by 6 a.m. and go to bed each evening at 9:30 p.m.

"It's a long day, but the children must excel in their academics or their school days will end at the 8th grade," Greenstone said. "Those who do well will go on to a good high school, which is comparative to American students going to col-

lege, then the best will go on to university, but it is very competitive."

This year's two-week mission worked to build on the groundwork that the group laid during the 2009 mission. The group installed a solar-power lighting system for the Pathfinder Academy, did teacher-to-teacher skill development, taught residents how to disinfect water, held medical and dental clinics and conducted Bible school for the children.

More than 225 patients were examined in the dental clinic and 241 teeth were pulled. Dr. Bill Currie provided the dental services and was assisted by his daughter Clara Currie.

"Bill rarely got time to relax, because when the local people found out where we were staying they walked from their homes, some from quite remote areas, up to 20 kilometers to see Dr. Bill," Greenstone said. "They came literally to our door and asked if Bill could work on their teeth."

The missionary group also made reading glasses for the residents while in Kenya. This was something new for the group.

"We constructed from scratch 240 pairs of reading glasses at the appropriate strength for people



Council of Church's African mission members

with vision problems," Greenstone said. "The reading glasses project was a huge success and especially was helpful for seniors with failing vision or cataracts."

The solar lighting system will provide the Pathfinder Academy with six hours of light each day from 2 kw of solar panels and many batteries.

Emmitsburg Commissioner Glenn Blanchard participated in the mission as a teacher, though he did take time to meet with his political peers in the town.

"It's funny. You're in a town 6,000 miles away and wind up having the same problems that we do,"

Blanchard said during an Emmitsburg Town Council meeting.

Other members of the missionary team were: Mark Walker Marie Hoffman, Dr. Holly Hoffman, Dr. Michael Lokale, Elizabeth Tanner, Viola Noffsinger, Jim Kuhn and Jeanne Kuhn.

Each person in the group raised their own travel expenses, but the Emmitsburg Council of Churches raised the money need to purchase the equipment and supplies, which was estimated to be around \$30,000.

Greenstone hopes that the group is able to return to Kenya again in 2013.

Carroll Valley's 5th Annual Night Out

Around 425 friends and neighbors turned out at Carroll Valley Commons on Aug. 2 for National Night Out, according to Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris.

They were able to learn about 47 community service agencies in the area. This not only included law enforcement but social service agencies.

"We always try to get new people and offer something to the community," said Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman. "Others keep coming back because this is a chance for them to share their message."

Kids could learn about bike safety, watch police dogs work and meet Smokey the Bear. However, parents were more appreciative of the fact that they children could be fingerprinted and photographed for an identification packet that can be used if the child is ever missing.

The Good Sam Masonic Lodge in Gettysburg offers the child identification package each year free of charge. Darrin Catts, master of the lodge, said that they average more than 70 children each

year during Carroll Valley's National Night Out.

"The packet has fingerprints, video and still photos," Catts said. "Parents can just hand I the packet to the police."

Stephanie Weikert of Ortanna came to the event for the second time with her children.

"They like the fire truck rides, but I like that they can learn about emergency personnel," Weikert said.

The state police helicopter is also a popular sight for kids who come to the event. Many adults like Greg Murray came because it was a good chance to see friends and neighbors and enjoy some time together.

The goal of National Night Out is to "heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for participation in anti-crime, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, send a message to criminals letting them know that neighbors are organized and fighting back."

Murray said he was impressed by the event because it required



so many volunteers to give up their evening to staff the various tables.

Hileman agreed. "There are so many people who do such a great job behind the scenes. This is

their chance to showcase their organization," he said.

"I think this is an excellent community event," Weikert said. "I called all my friends and let them know about it."

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NEWS

Around the Borough

The Carroll Valley Sewer and Water Authority is in “very preliminary” discussions with Crest Associates to upgrade the borough’s sewer plant.

The borough is under court order to reserve enough capacity in the existing plant to serve the proposed development by Crest Associates. This is being done. The plant has enough capacity for the 107 lots in development along Sanders Road. However, Crest Associates would like to change the development’s configuration so that it is mixed homes types rather than all single family. This would increase the number of homes to around 400, which the sewer plant is not capable of supporting.

“They realize single-family homes are not what people are going to buy with the recession and coming out of this with future market,” said Carroll Valley Borough President John Van Volkenburgh who also chairs the Sewer and Water Authority.

The new development would include townhomes and condominiums as well as single family homes.

In order to have the capacity to service the additional homes, the existing plant would be demolished and a new state-of-the-art plant would be built. Crest Associates would pay for this new construction.

Council and Sewer and Water Authority member Ken Lun-

berg said, that while this benefits Crest Associates, it is also a plus for the borough.

For one thing, it upgrades a sewer plant that will probably need to be upgraded in the near future. “The last we had it repaired we had to have gears manufactured by somebody because they aren’t making them anymore,” Lundberg said.

It will also use new technology that doubles the production of enzymes and bacteria that will allow to the plant to handle more sewage without a large increase in size.

Both Lundberg and Van Volkenburgh point out that there are still lots of questions that need to be answered. However, having someone else pay for the upgrade could save the borough the millions of dollars that alternative solutions could cost.

Council to discuss final quarter reductions

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett told the Carroll Valley Borough Council members that he will have a presentation for them this month to look at the options the borough can undertake in the last quarter of 2011 to close the \$88,000 deficit that the borough currently has in its budget.

Borough ponders paying workers comp for Fountaine-dale Fire Dept.

Besides being in a deficit for 2011, the Carroll Valley Borough Council has to find a way to fund repairs to two roads that were damaged in April’s flooding and a new issue that was presented to them during the August meeting.

The borough pays a portion of the workers compensation insurance premiums of the Fairfield Fire and EMS personnel since the company serves the borough. However, Fountaine-dale Fire Company is the first responder to a portion of Carroll Valley and the borough has not contributed toward their workers compensation premiums.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said, “I think it’s questionable that the borough owes it.”

That point aside, he also doesn’t like the fact that there is no current agreement delineating financial responsibility and the borough is being billed after the fact by the county. As it stands, though Fountaine-dale is only first responder to a small area of Carroll Valley, the amount that the borough is being asked to pay is roughly the same amount that it pays to Fairfield Fire and EMS.

While Hazlett said he is not necessarily against paying a portion of the premium, he thinks that the company could probably get a better deal that it currently has.

He also pointed out that

Fairfield Notes

The Fairfield Borough Council voted to participate in a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources feasibility study. The study will look at recreational resources in the region and consider how they can best be

used among the southwest Adams County municipalities and Fairfield Area School District.

The borough’s share in the study cost is \$167, though this can change based on how many municipalities vote to participate. The

hope is that the study will then become a tool that can be used to obtain grants to help enact the recommendations in the study.

Army Corp of Engineers to look at Middle Creek

Council President Patricia Smith told the council that the Army Corp of Engineers would be visiting the

Around the Town

Emmitsburg is considered one of “Maryland’s Coolest Small Towns,” according to the Baltimore Sun. The newspaper ran a large article on August 11 that looked at the state’s small towns (under 10,000 residents) to find the ones that were the “standouts for their compact size, unhurried pace and unique attractions.”

The Sun ran short profiles on its five favorites, which included Thurmont at no. 4. Rock Hall in Kent County was chosen as the coolest small town in Maryland. Following the profiles, the Sun listed 10 more cool small towns. Within this list, Emmitsburg ranked at no. 5. Maryland has 157 municipalities.

Sewer and water surcharge removed

The Emmitsburg town commissioners unanimously voted to re-

move a \$7,000 surcharge for water and sewer connections charged to new home builders in addition to the town’s regular connection fees.

The change will not affect water and sewer rates. The surcharges were used to pay for line repair but were no longer considered necessary. It is hoped that dropping the surcharge will encourage builders to build new homes within the town. If so, each unit will still be charged \$4,000 for a water system connection and \$8,000 for a sewer connection.

Drought affecting water supply

Area drought conditions are reducing Emmitsburg’s water availability. Town Manager Dave Haller told the Emmitsburg town commissioners in his monthly water report a deficit of rain and increased water consumption in town is causing a drop in

the town’s water table. Rainbow Lake is now 8.5 inches below the spillway, which is 2.5 inches more than it had been in July. The town wells are also down an average of 7.25 feet, which is 1.75 more than they had been in July.

Revised trailer ordinance passed

The Emmitsburg town commissioners passed a revised trailer ordinance in August that defines trailers and where they can be parked in town. The previous ordinance was determined to be both outdated and unenforced. In addition, the town had started receiving complaints about trailers parked on town streets. An investigation showed that trailers were also parked on driveways and in front yards. Though on private property, it was still a violation of the old ordinance.

The revised ordinance allows trailers to be parked on private property if the trailer is not being



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with the borough’s budget the way it is, it will be hard for the borough to make its usual annual donations to the companies.

No action was taken, but it was acknowledged that the involved parties will need to sit down and work out a solution.

Find out how the Carroll Valley Police operate

On Sept. 13 at 6 p.m., you can come to the Carroll Valley Borough Office to meet Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman, III. He will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about how the borough’s police department operates.

area to study the causes of the Middle Creek flooding problem. They will be looking at properties in the flood plain, impacts from higher up in the mountains and the Fairfield Post Office. The study had been estimated earlier at a cost of \$50,000 to the borough, but the Army Corp of Engineers found funding within its own budget to cover the cost.

Street cleaning for Pippinfest

Main Street will have a street sweeper come through during the week of Sept. 19 to clean the street so that it looks its best for Pippinfest on Sept. 24 and 25. Residents can also expect to see no parking signs to go up along streets used by the festival the day before the festival begins.

used for permanent living space. The trailer must also have a valid registration in the name of the property owner.

Visitors can park a trailer in a driveway for up to seven consecutive days and 14 days in a six-month period. Trailers can only be parked on public street for emergency reasons up to two hours.

A first-time violation is a written warning, but each violation thereafter will be fined \$75 a day.

Commission President Chris Staiger noted that, “These changes won’t help anyone in a homeowner’s association where the HOA has more-restrictive requirements.”

Election judges selected

The Emmitsburg town commissioners unanimously appointed the town election judges for the September 27, 2011, town election. The judges will be Ruth Ann Carroll, Lisa Mazaleski Charlotte

Mazaleski, and Sharon Hane. The town’s polling place is at 22 East Main Street and polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The mayor’s seat and a commissioner’s seat are open. Don Briggs is opposing Mayor James Hoover. (See related article on page 4.) Incumbent Town Council President Chris Staiger is running unopposed for the Commissioners’ seat.

Hiking-biking trail cleared

Work continues on Emmitsburg’s multi-use trail west of Rainbow Lake. The trail, which is designed by the Trail Conservancy, has been cleared of vegetation. No heavy equipment was used. Instead volunteers cut back the vegetation.

The next stage will be to lay down a natural trail surface tread.

The beginner’s loop of the trail is a little more than a mile long. Less than 10 miles of trails will be developed when the trail is complete.

Taneytown Legion to unveil 9-11 monument

While Taneytown wasn't at the center of events on Sept. 11, 2001, the terrorist attacks affected residents much the same as they did any U.S. citizen. On the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks, the American Legion will hold a large memorial event called "9-11: A Day to Remember" and unveil a black granite monument in the town park.

"This is something that needs to be remembered," said Rich Frazier, commander of the Hesson-Snyder American Legion Post 120, and the organizer of

the event. "I think 9-11 is this generation's Pearl Harbor or worse. The majority of those who died on 9-11 were totally unsuspecting civilians."

The event will be held on September 11 in Taneytown Memorial Park next to the football field. It begins at 4 p.m. and will continue to dusk.

The program will feature various speakers and musical acts. The keynote speaker is Sue O'Brien Knox. She is an air traffic controller at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. She was on duty Sept. 11, 2001,

and will talk about what happened that day and the problems that she and other air traffic controllers faced trying to make sure that all of the planes in the air landed safely and as quickly as possible.

"It's something I have never heard talked about before in relation to 9-11 and I think it will be interesting," Frazier said.

Frazier said he was inspired to put together the program after he and his wife went out for breakfast on Sept. 11, 2010. When they didn't see any flags flying to commemorate the day, his wife

called the mayor to tell him that there should be.

"Within 15 minutes, I saw town workers putting flags up on the parking meters," Frazier said.

Still, the idea that the event might have been forgotten disturbed him and spurred him to action.

"I thought this is something that needs to be brought to the forefront, not forgotten," Frazier said. "It's not taught in the schools. A whole chunk of the history of this country is being left out."

The American Legion formed

a committee, which he chairs, that has been putting together the program. A municipal chorus, contemporary Christian rock group and the Runnymede Elementary School Honor Chorus will be performing.

During the morning on Sept. 11, all of the churches in Taneytown will be tolling their bells at the time each of the four planes struck.

The event is free and you should bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit. For more information, you can contact Frazier at cfra134413@aol.com.

Trinity welcomes new Pastor

Tiffany Kromer grew up wanting to be a meteorologist, comic book illustrator, concert violinist and elite gymnast. God had other plans for her though.

She has been a pastor for four years at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Emmitsburg since July 1.

"This is such a warm, welcoming, friendly community and it's an honor to be the pastor here," Kromer said.

Prior to serving in Emmitsburg, she served as the pastor of Garfield UMC in Smithsburg. Prior to that, she served as a pastor for two years in

an Atlanta, GA suburb. She lives in Frederick with her husband who is a pastor at a church in Ellicott City.

Trinity UMC has an average Sunday service attendance of between 100 and 110 people.

"This congregation is a nice mix of professionals and people who have lived here all their lives," Kromer said. "It's very intergenerational. They love having kids in the worship service."

Kromer earned her B.A. degree in religion from Florida Southern College in 2005. She then earned her Masters in Divinity at the Chandler School of Theology at

Emory University. She has experience with children, youth, Christian education, preaching, camping, pastoral care, outreach and advocacy, music and technology.

In fact, she is planning on continuing the technical innovations that the former pastor started. Trinity UMC is now broadcasting Studio 440 on the church's web site.

"This is a media ministry that allows people to tune in and find spiritual inspiration," Kromer said. "The 2-3 minute episodes will help people connect with God."

Kromer said that she will also work with the congregation to pur-



sue their two goals: mission and youth. The congregation wants to find a way to be involved in more missionary work and to keep their youth active in church.

"We have a lot of middle schoolers in the congregation and we want them to be engaged in church,"

Kromer said.

Trinity has two Sunday services. A traditional service is at 9 a.m. and a contemporary service is held at 11:40 a.m. For more information about Trinity United Methodist Church, visit www.trinityUMC-Emmitsburg.com.

News Briefs

Scotty's Ride on Sept. 24

The 6th Annual Scotty's Ride will take place on Sept. 24. Hundreds of motorcyclists will gather under the motto: "In the name of one child we ride for many."

The event starts each year at 10 a.m. at Jubilee Foods in Emmitsburg and travels throughout the region before ending at the home of Kerry and Valerie Shorb, founders of the event, for food, drinks, door prizes and a live band.

Scotty's Ride started in 2006 as a way to help Kerry Shorb's five-year-old nephew Scotty Harbaugh and his family with the medical bills. Scotty had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor which was labeled as a grade 11 astrocytoma. The Shorbs were motorcycle riders so they decided to start a poker run to help their nephew.

Besides being sponsored by His Father's Footsteps, this year's sponsors also include SAL and American Legion Post 121.

For more information about Scotty's Ride, visit www.scottysride.org.

Pippinfest on Sept. 24-25

Fairfield's 31st Annual Pippinfest will be held Sept. 24-25. Saturday will feature the community yard sale and there is no permit fee for those who want to participate in the sale. Professional artists and craft exhibitors will be showing their wares on Sunday. The festival will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission and parking are both free.

The Pippinfest Committee is currently accepting entries for the apple dessert bake-off contest.

Pippinfest began in 1980 as a one-day street festival. Nowadays, it is a two-day event full of crafts,

yard sales, live music, food, demonstrations and other events. It typically attracts 12,000 to 15,000 people over the weekend.

For more information about the festival, visit www.pippinfest.com.

Carroll Valley resident attacked

A Carroll Valley resident on Blue Ridge Trail stepped out of her home on Aug. 19 and was hit on her head from behind. She fell to the ground where she was hit several more times.

Carroll Valley police are investigating the incident. Anyone who may have seen a suspicious vehicle or person in the area that night or around that time should contact Cpl. Clifford J. Weikert through Adams County Communications, 717-334-8101.

Emmitsburg business announces large lay off

The Omni Corporation in Emmitsburg has announced that it will lay off 97 employees on Oct. 1. The company filed a

WARN notice with the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

The need for the layoff is because a contract with the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency is not being renewed with Omni Corporation. The company, which is headquartered in Al-

buquerque, NM, specializes in providing facility operations support and maintenance services to federal government agencies

The notice is required under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act when an employer is planning on a large layoff or closure. Layoffs of more than 100 workers require a 60-day notice in Maryland.

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NEWS

Mount has biggest class ever

The campus of Mount St. Mary's University was a lot more crowded on Sunday, August 21, when the new freshmen moved in. There are 580 incoming freshmen this year, making it the largest freshman class at the university so far. The previous record class was in 2009 when there were 464 freshmen.

"This is kind of the year that every-

thing culminated for us," said Michael Post, vice president for enrollment management for the Mount.

The university's strategic plan includes attracting more students and the Mount now has the beds for them. Renovations to existing residence halls and construction of new residence halls are complete. Academic enhancements, such as having four

schools within the university, allow the university to better meet the needs of prospective students.

"We had the space to grow and the freedom to bring in more students," Post said.

Having the space to house students is important, according to Post, because 90 percent of the students live on campus.

The new class is 36 percent larger than the 2010 incoming freshman class of 425. The students were selected from around 5,200 applications that were submitted.

Though more students are being admitted, it doesn't mean that the quality of the students has dropped. Two years ago, the freshmen had an average SAT score of 1055. This year, the average

score among the freshmen is 1075.

While 55 percent of the new students live somewhere in Maryland, some call another country home. Among the 2011 freshmen are two Paraguayan students, Ariel Velasquez and Angel Rojas, who were the first recipients of a new scholarship developed by the alumni Steve Morgan, Mount St. Mary's and Team Tobati. The scholarship helps support the educational needs of students from Tobati, Paraguay.

Quake rattles area

Richard Fulton

(8/23) Much of the region of the Eastern United States, from North Carolina to New England, and Ohio, were shaken around 1:30 p.m. Aug. 23 as the result of a deep-earth earthquake centered in Mineral, Va., a town of about 400, not far from Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania.

The epicenter of the circa 5.8 magnitude quake occurred around three miles below the rural Virginia countryside in highly crystallized, metamorphic rock layers dating back hundreds of millions of years in age, according to the United States Geological Survey.

The energy released by a 5.8-magnitude quake equals about half the power of the atomic bomb that was dropped at the conclusion of World War II on Hiroshima, Ja-

pan, according to an article posted on the Weather Channel.

The quake was felt in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and in New England to Rhode Island. Tremors were also felt in Toronto.

Most of the region affected reported shaking that lasted up to 30 seconds or more, some reporting that the 30-second blast seemed to have occurred in two waves.

No cataclysmic damage was reported, although some areas, such as Baltimore, experienced wall and façade collapses. Roof collapses were also reported, but no widespread damage occurred, according to the various media. Mineral, Va., suffered various structural damages, with no reported injuries.

Transportation systems and some government and commercial buildings were shut down for various periods of time following the quake to allow engineers to evaluate their integrity.

Phone systems were overwhelmed for about an hour due to heavy volume, and in some cases cell and cable service were off-line.

Jennifer Staiger, professor of Biology at Mount Saint Mary's University and wife of Emmitsburg Town Council President Christopher V. Staiger, stated that she was at a university colleague's house in Carroll County when the earth quake hit.

"We were sitting around and felt vibrations first. Our first immediate response was thinking that something had gone wrong with the furnace," she said. Then "as it escalated the house began shaking and things started rattling on the wall, water began vibrating in the glass-

es and the chandelier started shaking," she said.

The accompanying noise, Staiger said, "was sort of like a freight train sound." Her husband then called and asked her if she had felt the shaking and (they) "figured out it was an earthquake."

Staiger said Mount Saint Mary's University did activate their early warning siren, and evacuated the students in order to check the structural integrity of the various campus buildings before allowing the students back inside.

Emmitsburg area resident Audrey Hillman said, when the quake first struck, "My initial thought was it was construction. I felt the house shake. Then I didn't know what to think."

"I have a decorative bird that stands about three feet tall and it was moving like crazy and I did

hear a rumble (at the same time). The house kind of moved," she stated.

"It's that kind of a moment that you have (because the region doesn't generally experience noteworthy quakes) when you think, 'What the hell was that?'" Hillman said. "It was a wake-up call too. People need to be educated now (about earthquakes in the East)."

Unlike the Mid-West and West Coast, earthquakes in the eastern portion of the country are not caused by plate tectonics (the movement of continental and sub continental plates).

Eastern quakes are generally the byproduct of the slippage of prehistoric fault systems, the opposing sides of which had, at some point in the past, become snagged on each other. Pressures eventually build up and end the passé, resulting in one of the opposing sides breaking free and slipping.

Don Briggs to run against Jim Hoover for Mayor

Emmitsburg businessman Don Briggs is running to replace Mayor Jim Hoover in the Sept. 27 town election.

Included in his list of improvements is a government that not only encourages resident input, but listens to it. "People need to feel comfortable that government is addressing their concerns," Briggs said. He is also determined to bring better focus and leadership to the town, and reassure its residents that the town is a safe place to work and live.

"A lot of people ask me why the town is so anti-business," says Briggs, "which must change." Briggs will

spend the efforts necessary to improving infrastructure around town, including Main Street, the Square and implementing and improving sidewalks and trails between the housing developments and downtown.

According to Briggs, a reduction to the cost of government is need in this town. "This can't be done at the expense of cutting back on safety," Briggs said.

Briggs feels the best way to accomplish these things is as the mayor. "The direction comes from the mayor," Briggs said. "Approval comes from the council."

For his part, Hoover said he is a

proven, professional leader who is running for his fourth term as mayor. He says that as mayor, he has helped the town budget go from a true deficit to a solid "rainy day fund." Both actions have been done without raising taxes in nearly a decade.

Though some people are upset that the town council reduced the number of community deputies, Hoover said his original budget kept three deputies and used the rainy day fund to pay the difference, but the council chose to reduce the budget to close the funding gap. "I don't like the fact that we lost a deputy," Hoover said. "But I understand what the council did and I sup-

ported it from their view that it was a budget issue."

Hoover doesn't understand how it can be said that the town is anti-business. He points to issues like the sign ordinance when the council delayed voting on the issue so that it could go back to the Planning Commission to incorporate input from the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association, which then supported the bill. Other business helps include eliminating the parking requirement in the town village zone and the water and service surcharge on business.

"I can stand on the improvements

that have been made to the town since I've been mayor," Hoover said.

For More Information about Don Briggs and his positions visit "Don Briggs for Mayor" on Facebook and follow him on Twitter @DonBriggs4Mayor. For more information of Jim Hoover and his positions visit www.mayorhoover.com. Candidate position papers will also be posed to Emmitsburg.net.

A mayoral candidate debate is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 14th at 7 p.m. at the Vigilant Hose Company. Information on the debate will be posted to Emmitsburg.net and the EBPA website.

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One hundred years ago this month

September 1

History of Frederick County

After several years of painstaking labor and very careful research - the objective being to produce, the basis of which would be absolute accuracy - the publishers of *The Historical and Biographical Record of Frederick County* have completed their work. The book consists of two volumes, handsomely printed and bound and profusely illustrated. It is said to be the largest and finest work ever offered for \$15, having over 1600 text pages and about 400 illustrations.

The second, and larger volume is made up of individual biographical records, a comprehensive presentation of the personal histories of men prominent in the county.

Barbara Jane Beam

On Monday, Mrs. Barbara Jane Beam, wife of George Beam, died at her home on E. Main St. after a long illness of paralysis of the brain. Mrs. Beam was in her 66th year. Mrs. Beam was a native of Chester County, Pa. During her long residence here in Emmitsburg she made many friends who mourn her death. In her immediate family, she is survived by her husband, her son Harry Beam and two sisters, Misses Louisa and Susan Guthrie.

September 9

Autos Collide Near Town

Yesterday afternoon, a two seated Chalmer-Detroit automobile met in head-on collision with a Cadillac, much to the detriment of both cars. It seems that both parties did all they could to avoid the accident. The driver of the Chalmer-Detroit, who was running at a pretty good clip, threw on the brakes as soon as he saw the other machine coming down Tollgate Hill. The momentum of his car carried it with both wheels locked, almost within the wing walls of the bridge, where the descending car struck it squarely, throwing it across to the other side of the road and leaving the imprint on its radiator. It is remarkable that no one was injured. The heavy glass windshields of both cars were shattered. The rear tires of the Chalmer were torn almost in two by being dragged on the stones. Headlights and fenders were a mass of junk, radiators were demolished, springs broken and bent and the axle of the Cadillac had to be removed and straightened by a blacksmith. The latter machine, however, could be motored into the Emmitsburg House garage for repairs.

Auto and Buggy Collide

On Thursday morning and automobile containing four men and driven at a rapid speed ran into the team of Mr. Chester Walter along the pike near Payne's Hill. The au-

tomobilist stopped long enough to extract the front wheel of their car from the carriage, after which they jumped in and threw on full power. Mr. Walter, who was left with a demolished wheel and a frightened horse, could not get the number of the machine, and by the time his telephone message reached Emmitsburg the road-burners had passed through town. Many persons saw them swerve around the fountain, but of course, no one thought of looking at the license plate.

Fountain Repaired

After a thorough cleaning and repairing, the fountain at the square is now in perfect working order. The grass around the basin has been cut and trimmed and the receptacles for plants are filled with blooming flowers. Also, a very noticeable improvement is the removal of the weeds on the other side of Frederick Street and the cleaning and relaying of the gutters.

Walk to Indian Lookout

An afternoon stroll through the woods of Mount St. Mary's College and a climb from there up to Indian Lookout was enjoyed by party of pleasure seekers last Sunday. Those who composed the party were: The Misses Bertha Felix, Gertrude Seybold, Mary Welty, Madeline Frezell, Mary Felix, Josephine Frezell, Bennett Sebold and Kavanaugh Baker. On Sunday, a number of young boys from this place, calling themselves the Scouts of Emmitsburg, walked to Gettysburg then onto Big Round Top. After taking their supper there, they walked home. In the party were Frank Topper, Marcie Baker, Gordon Propf, Harry Ashbaugh, Allan Moser, Benjamin Topper and Thorton Rogers.

September 15

Mount St. Mary's Begins New Year

The scholastic year at Mount St. Mary's was open on Wednesday morning with a solemn High Mass, which the student body attended. Father Bradley, President of the college welcomed the students both old and new. In a few words he urged all to make a firm resolution to study earnestly at the very onset of the session, so that the year would prove both a pleasant and profitable one.

From the number already registered, it looks like the attendance this year will exceed all former records. An unusually large number of new students have entered, and the greater number of old ones has returned. The faculty has been changed slightly: Prof. Ryan will teach in English Department and the chemistry and physics classes will be under Prof. Rauth.

New Telephone Line

Rumor, pretty well established, has it that the C&P Telephone Co. will shortly build a line from Emmitsburg to Gettysburg. Several independent companies among the farmers will then connect with this line.

September 22

Dynamite on the Farm

A demonstration on the use of dynamite on the farm will be given next Thursday afternoon on the place of H. M. Landie, half a mile northeast of Fairfield on the road to depot. This is the newest thing in agriculture farming. It is cheaper in the long-run to plow with dynamite, and there is no such satisfactory way to get rid of stumps then blow them out of the ground.

The work of digging holes for fencepost is cheapened and hurried along by the use of small dynamite cartridges made specifically for the purpose. All that is necessary is to drive a crowbar down to within six inches of the desired depth, and the cartridge dropped to the bottom and set off, does the rest.

In planting fruit trees, dynamite is a great help. A suitable cartridge buried a short distance below the surface of the ground, will excavate instantly as large hole as a man can dig in an hour. Incidentally, the explosives loosens up the earth for many yards around, giving the roots a better opportunity to spread; and all the grubs and other injurious insects in the soil around and about are destroyed.

Pioneer Telephone Co. in Liberty Township

Liberty Township farmers had been busy placing polls for the Emmitsburg Pioneer Telephone Co., which is a mutual organization just formed and affiliated with the C&P Co. The new line will extend 4.5 miles northwest towards Fairfield. Users of the lines pay a rental to the C&P Company for exchange service and the use of its extensive system.

Building these mutual lines re-



Automobile accident just north of the old covered bridge on Toll Gate Hill

sults in a 15 year contract with the C&P Co. It is expected that in the future, more extensive telephone service throughout this county will be afforded by the means of this arrangement. The work is being rapidly pushed and in a week it is expected the line will be completed. Another company, expected to connect with Gettysburg, has been at work promoting their scheme among the farmers of Liberty Township, but it is expected that the completion of the Emmitsburg connection will forestall the other idea and the subscribers will be added to the Emmitsburg Company.

High Price for Farmland

Mr. Edger Stansbury purchased the 112 acre farm of the late N. C. Stansbury on Tuesday at public sale for \$60.20/acre, one of the highest prices paid per acre in recent memory of many. The adjoining 160 acre farm of Miss Mary Martin also sold at public sale was purchased by her son at a more reasonable price of for \$40.62/acre.

Mrs. Morrison 94 Years Old

Yesterday, Mrs. Penina Morrison turned 94 years old. Mrs. Morrison is the youngest old lady we have ever known. A regular attendant at church, seen daily on the streets unimpaired and healthy,

she holds her own with those who were born a generation after her. She is the mother of a large family and her descendents in the first, second and third-generation, together with all her friends unite in wishing her continued health and happiness.

September 29

Arrest in Spring Poisoning Case

Charles Toms, about 45 years old, living in the South Mountain near Hamburg, was arrested last Friday and charged with poisoning with Paris Green a spring of water on Miss Bessie Patterson's property. He was held on \$300 bail. He furnished surety and denies the charge. According to Mrs. Patterson, bad feelings have existed between her family and the Toms for some time. Recently, her daughter went to the spring for pail of water and noticing a greenish substance on the surface, reported the discovery to her mother. The latter made an investigation and found Paris Green about the sides of and at the bottom of the spring. Dead minnows and earthworms were found in the water.

To read past edition of 100 Years Ago this Month visit the Historical Society of Emmitsburg.net

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Kirby Delauter

In this article I will answer some questions and give some insight on what has transpired as I move towards my first year as an elected official. In July 2010, I was interviewed by the News-Journal for information as to what I wanted to do if elected to the Frederick County BoCC. I spoke then of job creation, controlling government spending, eliminating government waste, making the County more business friendly, lowering taxes and encouraging growth. Well, let me show you that what I spoke of then (over a year ago) as campaign promises, are now becoming realities. I will show how I have kept my word, and how this Board has implemented in just 10 months, most of the items we campaigned on during the election.

A few of the items mentioned above go hand in hand, such as job creation, making the County more business friendly, and encouraging growth. Once elected we started a list of action items to create a smoother permitting process and a refined process of doing business in this County. As of this date, there are 235 action items 73, or 31% have been completed with another 50% that are underway and being addressed. Some of those are things like, providing walk through permitting for non residential permits, easier permitting for signs, expedited commercial permitting process, working with Mu-

nicipalities on the APFO testing, an APFO senior housing exemption, a property tax credit for seniors that meet certain income requirements, we eliminated onerous permits such as permits for installation of garbage disposals, and various items that aid the agriculture industry, the largest industry in Frederick County.

In the area of lowering taxes, we have entered the world of PPP, or public private partnerships. Through our efforts to give the taxpayer the same level of service at a lower cost, we entertained the idea of PPP. Through this process we have obtained some valuable information from outside sources as well as county employees. Some of the areas of concern are the current structure of county employee pay and benefits. The average county employee earns about \$4000 (about 10%) more annually than their private sector counterparts. Once you add in benefits, that gap grows even more. Once hired by the County, an employee from day one receives over 9.75 sick days, 9.75 vacation days and 13 paid holidays, 32.5 total paid days off the minute they're hired. They contribute 4% of their pay toward a "Defined Benefit" plan retirement and the taxpayer (you and I) contribute another 18% on top of their 4%. So a County employee earning \$50,000 annually will receive \$9000 per year toward retirement through

the general fund from the taxpayer.

I'm not aware of many private sector companies that could sustain this, and the truth be told, the County can't sustain it either. We have a budgeted structural deficit for FY 13 of \$16.6 Million dollars largely in part due to salary and benefits as well as declining economy. Public Private Partnerships will be just another tool we can use to streamline our government while still providing essential services. As former New York Governor Mario Cuomo stated "it's not the government's obligation to provide services, but to see that they are provided".

Some of the areas in which we have achieved cost savings are the following, Reorganization of Departments \$584,000 savings, position reductions \$2.41M in savings, Head start turnover to Federal Government \$2.3M in savings, reduction of grant-in-aid to non-county agencies \$305,000 in savings, reduced appropriation the CCRC \$99,000 in savings, outsourcing (privatized) food service to Citizens / Montevue Home \$750,000 savings, Recalculation of retiree health care \$2.25M savings, reduction of liability insurance \$200,000 savings and a reduction in workforce through attrition, layoffs, downgrades and not backfilling vacant positions \$8.7M savings. This is approximately \$17.6M in savings in

our first 10 months in office without sacrificing core services, we have also balanced the 2012 budget without raising taxes or fees, no small feat, but one worth noting. While our Federal government has had its bond rating downgraded, a lot of these tough decisions we have made in Frederick County have resulted in our bond rating being upgraded.

We will be looking at County owned buildings that are not fully occupied to lease or sell. I am going to propose we take a comprehensive look at our entire County owned assets and that we keep only the necessities in order to provide core services. There are still many other ways to save taxpayer dollars. Did you know we currently carry earthquake and flood insurance on County buildings, we even have this coverage on the county owned building in Emmitsburg. A simple example of wasting taxpayer funds to eliminate risk rather than just managing risk. Since we have just had an earthquake in the area, you may feel it necessary for this coverage, I'll take the odds that 1 or 2 minor incidents over 150 years, are pretty good odds we don't need this expense. Again, I want to manage risk since we can't eliminate it. I own a building in Emmitsburg, I have neither earthquake nor flood insurance in my building coverage simply because neither is needed. If I wouldn't

do it in my business, I certainly am not going to advocate we do it in the County with taxpayer money.

In closing I will just add that we do need to create private sector tax paying jobs in Frederick County if we are to maintain our service levels and do so with reduced and fair taxation. When I look at the labor force categories in Frederick County and I see that the government sector is larger than the construction, mining and manufacturing sectors combined, that is alarming to me. As Board President Blaine Young stated "we do not need more taxes, we need more taxpayers".

We need to create more private sector jobs to increase our tax base. This is the only way to move forward, you don't create prosperity with higher taxes and onerous bureaucratic regulations. Our business friendly approach will hopefully push new companies to locate to Frederick County and our 235 business friendly action items I mentioned at the beginning of this article will help keep existing businesses in Frederick County as well. It is our goal to reduce property taxes in this County before we leave office, I think we are well on our way to doing just that. This Board is committed to redefining the role of County government and leading the way in these difficult times.

From the Desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

September means that summer is coming to an end, vacations are over, and the new school year has begun. I'm glad the hot spells are mostly over and we are finally starting to get some rain! Of course, September is also election time in town and I can let you know that I will be running for my third term as commissioner. I would be honored to have your consideration and support! Over the last six and a half years, I believe I have been able to provide strong leadership that has greatly reduced con-

flict among Board members by establishing an organized structure giving everyone (including the public) a fair voice in the meeting process. This has allowed me to foster a growing independence that has moved the Board from a rubber stamp for administration and staff policies to a force capable of initiating and implementing changes that reflect the priorities of a majority of residents and their elected officials.

We've been through a time of great transition from booming growth

through the recent housing market collapse and economic recession. We have recalibrated our assumptions on spending and made difficult choices in the face of declining resources. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue as a member of the team willing to face these hard realities. My willingness to work closely with the Mayor and town staff has removed the previous tension and confrontation that filled the newspapers before my election. Newly elected officials often come in with guns blazing – it's critically important to create an environment where goals and objectives can be acted upon without disrupting the balance necessary to effectively implement policy. The August town meetings are a good example of some of these policies coming to fruition.

After the Board requested a review of builder related fees and the schedule of municipal infrastructure projects, we moved forward to remove development related surcharges (paid in addition to the standard connection fees...) in an effort to promote the completion of at least three projects in town. These additional charges had previously been justified by the need to fund on-going reconstruction of water and sewer lines in older parts of town. Now that these projects have been completed, the rationale for the extra charges has disappeared. Removing them should be the first step in promoting some renewed activity at vacant home sites, industrial parks, and on other viable new projects.

Town Staff also initiated the review of an existing ordinance regarding re-

strictions to trailers parked in town after some complaints were received concerning trailers parked on public streets. In reviewing the existing ordinance, it was found to be so strict that virtually everyone who maintained one of these trailers was out of compliance unless the trailer was tucked away in their backyard! This issue drew a fair amount of public input because a lot of people in our small town have a side business or recreational vehicles. After two meetings to hear public comment and recommend revisions to the draft, a final version (greatly reducing restrictions on private property) was produced by town staff and approved by the Board.

In combination with the Mayor, the Board has begun to take a harder look at the Capital Improvements Program – our longer term responsibility to maintain and replace infrastructure from vehicles and equipment, to roads, to water and sewer lines. Developing a process that defines objectives with more review and oversight that just by the administration in the town office, we are working together to develop a program that meets our needs and responsibilities while providing an honest assessment of our resources.

Individual Commissioners now find the support they need to pursue their own projects since I have implemented a process where a Commissioner can propose a project, develop an implementation plan, and return to the full Board for step by step approvals that will see the proposed project to completion. All of these steps take place at public meetings where all in-

terested parties – the commissioners, the mayor, the public, and town staff – can review goals and objectives, raise concerns, make compromises, and move forward to completion. Gone are the days when the only option is a final product emerging from the town office as the only possible option...

The concept of a Citizens Advisory Committee was also formalized into a mechanism where grass roots ideas vetted by committee members could be driven to the Board for formal consideration without needing to work their way through the town office. Proposals are the recommendation of a group, not just an individual, and they are not altered before they reach the Board. We need people to know that this group exists so that residents can join or attend meetings and share their ideas.

My biggest concern has always been the need for an open, thoughtful and responsive town government that treats everyone fairly. We can never be fully sure of the challenges on the horizon, but we can continue to work towards a government that plans for the future, promotes economic development, and wields its power as a responsibility – not an entitlement. Please plan to exercise your responsibility(!) and come out to vote on Tuesday, September 27 at the old town office / deputies building at 22 East Main Street just off the town square.

As always, I encourage you to share your opinions on these and other issues with your elected officials. Have a great month – Chris Staiger

EMMITSBURG ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, SEPT. 27, 2011

Election day for the town of Emmitsburg will be **Tuesday, September 27, 2011**. Ballots will be cast at 22 East Main Street between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 pm.

Last day to register to vote at Frederick County is **Friday, September 2, 2011**.

Registration applications may be obtained at the Emmitsburg Town Offices located at 300A South Seton Avenue.

Candidates must file a written application for candidacy with the Town Clerk no later than close-of-business **Monday, August 29, 2011**.

A write-in candidate must file an application of candidacy with the Town Clerk.

The position for Mayor and one position for Commissioner are open.

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Blaine Young

Sometimes I think our “leaders” in Washington want us all to become ostriches. That’s right, they want us to bury our heads in the sand and ignore everything that is going on around us.

As I write this column I am seeing footage of riots in London which were sparked – at least in part – by the government announcing that its spending would have to be cut to get the nation’s financial house in order. Here in Frederick County everyone seems to be telling us that things aren’t that bad, and that we don’t have anywhere near the problems that they are facing in Europe.

Really?

We just witnessed an unprec-

edented display of dysfunctional government in Washington during the debate on raising the federal government’s borrowing limit. All that came out of it is the ability of the federal government to borrow more money, with no real plan to get a grip on our national finances, and a downgrade of our national Triple A credit rating.

The United States’ AAA credit rating survived two world wars, numerous other armed conflicts, a great worldwide depression, massive social upheaval, and assassinations and resignations of presidents. It could not survive one full term of Barack Obama and the pathetic Congress that does his bidding in Washington.

We have become a nation of addicts, addicted to our government’s over-spending and entitlements. The first thing an addict must do is admit that there is a problem. I believe many of us are still in denial, as we listen to – and do not question – Washington’s assurances that everything is just fine. In fact, we need major changes in how we collect and spend money if we really want to get our hands around the problem.

And, as bad as things are at the federal level, they may even be worse in Annapolis. Our one party Democrat monopoly of state government has managed to continue its “business as usual,” free spending ways, thanks in no small part to money transferred from the federal government that came out of the Obama stimulus package. Those payments are over.

What did they do last year to face the tough challenges ahead? They passed a new alcohol tax and directed almost all of the money go to three jurisdictions, Baltimore City, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. It is no secret why that was done: the O’Malley Administration wants to make sure that they have those

votes in a block to pass whatever additional liberal ‘tax and spend’ legislation the governor supports during this, his second term.

Keep your eyes on your wallet. Over the next eight months we have to endure not the usual one, but two sessions of the Maryland General Assembly. You can bet that they’re going to dream up some new taxes to shove down our throats so that they can continue to buy votes with their entitlement programs.

Locally, we are trying. The approved budget in Frederick County peaked at \$476 million in 2009. By 2012 it has been reduced by \$27 million to \$449 million. Where did all that extra money go in 2009, 2010 and 2011? Remember – spending was only reduced because they had to, not because they wanted to.

The truth is that it went to fund the big government/big spending ideas of past Board of County Commissioners. We have had to make some cuts in services to reduce the budget, but the only complaint I heard from anybody who pays taxes is about the closing of the recycling drop off locations. This was a choice that was made in conjunction with our long term plans to overhaul

our entire solid waste disposal procedures. I am convinced that what we are doing is in the long term best interest of county taxpayers, and we intend to see it through.

We also intend to see through getting a grip on our current structural budget issues. The truth of the matter is – in spite of what you may hear from those who want to preserve their big government/big spending ideas – that we must match projected recurring revenues with projected recurring expenditures on an annual and ongoing basis. This is the only kind of balanced budget that is truly balanced, and we are working as hard as we can to change the entire culture of local government from “spend it if you got it” to one of fiscal and financial responsibility and accountability.

On a final note, I was extremely disappointed in one aspect of the recent Republican presidential debate in Iowa. In response to one question, all of the candidates raised their hands and said they would oppose any proposed budget deal which contained increases in taxes, even if the increases in revenue were matched 10-1 in spending cuts. If I had been on that stage, I would not have raised my hand, and I would have said “Yes,” I support raising additional tax revenue: from the one-half of the people who live in this country, who pay no federal income tax whatsoever and probably receive a majority of the entitlement programs.

Everyone needs to pitch in and do their part to help us all out of this mess. If you don’t like what we are doing on the local level, please feel free to call and let me know about it. However, if you do call, please give me the courtesy of providing some solutions of your own. As commissioners the majority of us do not plan to become ostriches or act like ostriches and bury our heads in the sand when it comes to the problems of Frederick County.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Paul Kellett

The current Adams County Commissioners are moving forward with the emergency radio project that will cost county taxpayers between \$20-35 million. Randy Phiel wrote in his article last month that this project needs to be done. I agree. But the price tag and who will pay it is where my concerns come in. It seems as if this project is advancing without exploring funding sources other than Adams County property taxes. This is where leadership comes into play. A good commissioner not only identifies a problem and a need- in this case replacing the radio system- but also looks to how to best fix that problem and pay for that need.

Recently, I had the honor to be the guest of Adams County Sheriff, James Muller, at the Pennsylvania State Sheriffs' convention. I was surprised to hear at that convention that a nationwide emergency radio system was moving through the halls of Congress and that this bill, The Public Safety and Wireless Innovation Act,

would actually fund and build the emergency system for the whole country. The remarks came from the National president of the Sheriffs' association. He went on to state that the bill had the full support of all the national emergency responder associations. He also thought passage was likely.

An internet search reveals that the Senate bill did pass out of committee on a vote of 21-4. Such a wide margin indicates bi-partisan support (unusual these days). The funding for the Federal program would come from auctioning off radio spectrum made available by entering the digital age. The bill was called Senate bill 911, because it would address the problems many emergency responders faced during the horrible attacks of September 11, 2001. Brave emergency responders were put needlessly in harm's way that day because their radios did not operate on the same frequencies as other emergency responders working with them. Tragically, the Twin Tow-

ers proved for some responders to be a tower of Babel. The need for a national radio standard became sadly apparent that day.

Even if this bill does not pass, national standards seem likely. Will the new system now being considered by the county be compatible with those standards? Or will our new state of the art system be obsolete in just a few years? Even if the system as designed meets this test, does the price tag fit our budget? The County's annual budget is about \$40 million, much of which is spent on the courts and the prison and other non-discretionary expenses. In order to pay \$20-35 million for the new radio system, the County will have to take on new debt by issuing a bond for fifteen to twenty years. This worries me. It is akin to taking out a mortgage on your home to buy cell phones. The debt remains unpaid long after the technology it bought is obsolete. And then there is the price tag- there are 840 emergency radios in the County. Divide \$25 million by 840 and the cost

of the system per radio on it is about \$30,000. Thirty thousand dollars per radio seems like an awful lot of money to me. Is this really the system we need or does it contain a lot of bells and whistles that would be nice- but ones we really cannot afford? What good is an emergency system if no one can afford to live in the area it services?

In conclusion, I feel that it is clear that the emergency radio project needs the attention of the Adams County Commissioners. The current system is antiquated. However, I think that we need to research the problem thoroughly to see if other funding sources are available, if it will truly meet our needs for years to come, and if it is the absolute best buy for our tax dollars. If I am fortunate enough to become a Commissioner, I am positive that I will be given many opportunities to spend taxpayer money. Many of these opportunities will be brilliant and seem absolutely necessary. It is the job of the Commissioners to recog-

nize that not all of these ideas can fit into a very limited budget. Hard decisions will need to be made. In my six years as a Freedom Township Supervisor, I have had to ask the question many times, "Is this expense really worth raising the taxes of the seniors here in the township?" Fortunately, we have never confronted an expense that was worthy of raising taxes. When Freedom Township voted to challenge the reassessment, we decided that that cost should be raised by donations, because it was for all taxpayers of Adams County. There was a need, but there was also a responsibility to the residents of Freedom. A balance was struck. It may turn out that no federal money is available for the emergency radio system- it will still have to be built. The County may even need to raise taxes to pay for it. We just need leadership in the County that will make sure that every penny is spent wisely so that any increase in taxes is the absolutely the minimum needed to get the job done.

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Marty Qually

Imagine if this week's earthquake had been closer: close enough to Harrisburg to cause a nuclear emergency. Now imagine what would have happened if our antiquated County Radio System continued to provide spotty coverage in parts of our County and failed to allow our first responders to properly communicate with five neighboring Counties. This is not an impossible scenario, and with our current radio system (some parts dating back to the 1950's) we are looking at a potential system wide failure. Even as I

write this Hurricane Irene is bearing down on the East Coast: these scenarios are not science fiction, they are real.

Last month the four candidates for Adams County Commissioner had the privilege of meeting with John Eline, the County's Director of Emergency Services, to discuss the Adams County Radio Project. I was awed by the amount of work that has gone into this project, not just from John Eline and County Staff, but the countless hours from volunteers throughout Adams County.

I must admit that until this year I was mostly unaware of the desperate need in our county for an upgrade to our radio system. After learning of the necessity for this system I want to be very clear where I stand on this topic.

We must find a way to create and pay for a modern radio system. We must give our first responders the tools they need to keep us safe.

All of this information was presented at our meeting with John Eline. I was fortunate to learn in a few hours what it took many experts years to develop. If elected, my job as a County Commissioner will not be to be the expert, but instead to utilize my ability to learn from the experts. That being said here are some of the important points Mr. Eline shared with all four Adams County Commissioner Candidates last month.

A County Radio Work Group was formed in 2000 and again in 2008 to determine the shortcomings of our current system. They found following issues: unreliable and spotty coverage, the radio signal could not penetrate modern construction, 1st responders were being put at risk, the system was

susceptible to interference, older equipment was no longer being manufactured, not enough channels to handle current user load, limited interoperability i.e. it is difficult to communicate between departments especially from neighboring Counties, data cannot be sent to help with response efforts, law enforcement and fire departments are holding off on purchasing new equipment until the County has a plan.

The proposed system would solve or greatly address all of these issues. The difficulty with this decision is the potential price tag of \$20-24 million dollars. I know from meeting with John Eline that they are making every effort to bring this cost down; they have investigated every avenue but cannot start saving money until they can begin negotiating with a vendor. The current Board of Commissioners, based upon the recommendation of the County Department of Emergency Services, the volunteer Radio Work Group and the overwhelming majority of County first responders support approving Motorola as the next vendor.

If the current Board of Commissioners fails to approve Mo-

torola as the vendor for a County Radio System, why should Adams County voters put their faith in me to take action? When it comes to this Radio System highly capable people have spent innumerable hours finding the most cost effective way to implement the safest project for all of us. For me to ignore their recommendation would be unconscionable. I remember one year my furnace failed as winter approached. I was trying to provide for my family and living paycheck to paycheck. I could not afford to take out a loan to buy the new furnace but I had no choice. As a father my job is to take care of my family. This decision is no different. I love my County and will not put our families in harms way. We cannot wait until Spring. We cannot delay; we must act on this. Only then can we continue working to find the most cost effective way to purchase the product that gets the job done.

In order for me to serve you and help first responders and County families remain safe, I need your vote on November 8th for County Commissioner. Like the team of first responders that protect us, my campaign is not a one-man show, it is only with your support and a strong team of volunteers that I will win this election and help our County.

If you would like to discuss any issues or become a part of my campaign team please contact me at 717-339-6514 or at marty@martyqually.com. And feel free to visit my website at www.martyqually.com

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Randy Phiel

As we shift gears from Summer to Fall, along with other Adams County Fall traditions such as Apple Harvest and Pippinfest, on November 8 voters will be selecting and seating a completely new Board of Adams County Commissioners for the first time in almost 50 years. Three of the four candidates selected in the May 18 primary will be chosen and seated on January 1st. By mandate two members of one party and one member of the other party will be selected as their three commissioners by Adams County voters. The two Republican candidates are Jim Martin and myself. The two Democratic candidates are Marty Qually and Paul Kellet. I was honored to receive the most votes of any primary candidate in May and will be placed #1 on the ballot because of those primary votes. Unlike the primary, where you can only vote for candidates of your own party, in the November General Election voters may select any two candidates of their choice regardless of the voters or candidates party affiliation.

This summer, I had the pleasure of assisting at six fireman's carnivals and just recently completed meeting many more county residents four different evenings at the South Mountain Fair. Despite the many comments, compliments, issues and complaints that are swirling around us at all levels of government, while at numerous events this summer, it was surprising to learn

how many residents either don't vote or are not even registered to vote. In my opinion there is a serious disconnect between complaining about your government at any level - and then not voting or not registering to vote. I am sure we have all heard folks say that they are too frustrated to vote or that my vote doesn't make any difference anyway.

Your vote does make a difference and is an inalienable right denied to so many others around the world. Please make sure you exercise your right to vote and encourage everyone you know to do the same. Registering to vote or getting an absentee ballot is easy and convenient. Stop by the Adams County Courthouse Room #106 to fill out the form or call them at 717-337-9832. You can pick up the voter registration form from any Adams County Post Office and then mail it to the county elections office. You may also obtain the voter registration form from the Pennsylvania DMV and in the offices of most state agencies. Also, you can contact me via my website and I will personally make sure you get a voter registration form. Just go to www.JoinRandyForCommissioner.com

Last month I dedicated my entire column in this paper to provide an overview of the Adams County Radio Project. Referencing my August column may prove helpful in understanding the overall radio project dy-

namics. I would like to reiterate the significance and importance of this issue to both Adams County taxpayers and emergency responders. Moving forward, there is a need to assure that we effectively explore every option to obtain the most operationally and cost efficient radio system. In the past several weeks there has been mention of pending federal legislation titled the Public Safety Spectrum & Wireless Innovation Act that could potentially provide communication resource assistance from the federal government to local and state emergency management.

Although we can keep our fingers and toes crossed, from a practical perspective, this bill has a long and arduous path to go through numerous committees' and both houses, in a tough budget environment, for it to trickle down to Adams County. With that said we will certainly follow its progress and hope for the best. I have personally asked Congressman Platt's office to keep me informed of the progress of this bill. One thing is for sure, there is no doubt that the Adams County Radio Project will require the new Board of Commissioners to seriously consider fiducial practicalities and life/safety issues for our residents and emergency responders.

As I have previously stated, Adams County has many issues to challenge the new Board of Commissioners and it is important we take an over-

all view and not get bogged down on any one issue. On the Tax Reassessment front we await the decision of the firm charged with determining whether the co-efficiency of dispersion is within legally acceptable parameters - and ponder the potential results and fallout. The sale of the Adams County Home was executed this summer and it looks like the current board of commissioners will approve the purchase of the St. Francis property this fall. I have already mentioned the significance of the County Radio Project. As taxes escalate, another issue I want to mention that has many taxpayers concerned and frustrated is what they perceive to be abuses, inequities, and insufficient oversight of the county administered Clean & Green Program.

The Clean & Green Program is a preferential tax assessment program governed by state law and administered by the county, requiring that approved properties receive a land assessment value on land use values, not the market value of the land like other residents receive. Clean & Green enrollees receive significant tax savings. Generally, the land must be at least ten contiguous acres, be used for legitimate Agriculture purposes, be designated as Agricultural Reserve and open to the public without fee, or be Forest Reserve Land that is capable of producing timber. When a property owner enrolls in the program they agree to use the land for one of the allowable

uses and not develop the land. In the past nine months, I have heard over and over again from county residents that they feel the application and oversight process for Clean & Green needs to be reviewed and improved to decrease abuses that are occurring. I concur with their assessment and promise that will be on the agenda of the new board if I am elected.

Fall in Adams County is my favorite time of the year. Cool days, crisp evenings, blue skies and a landscape of vivid colors. There are a multitude of outdoor opportunities, activities and events that will occur this fall in our beautiful county. Go take advantage of them. Also, please consider volunteering a few hours or a day to one of our many worthy community organizations at events like Apple Harvest and Pippinfest. Look me up at the Apple Harvest.

Speaking of upcoming events, on September 29, I will be having a campaign golf outing, dinner and social at the Links of Gettysburg. It should be a great afternoon and evening. If you don't play golf just come to the social and dinner for some good food, conversation and fellowship at a beautiful venue. For more information regarding this event, an overview of my background and issues, or to contact me, go to my campaign website at www.JoinRandyForCommissioner.com or email me at joinrandyforcommissioner@gmail.com

From the Desk of Commissioner Candidate Jim Martin

The August edition of the Emmitsburg News Journal featured a front-page sign calling for "intelligent and caring people to serve in town government". At our national level we have intelligent legislative leaders, but how much wisdom they have exercised during their tenure is highly questionable. Under their watch we have been led into unnecessary economic difficulties and violations of our Constitutional rights as evidenced by the Federal Court's ruling that the Obama administration's national health care bill is unconstitutional. As individual citizens we are left on the sidelines while we suffer from the self-serving actions of Washington leadership. We can begin to solve this dilemma by doing what we can as a community. Being involved in our local elections is an important step to building good government from the local level up. Washington is in its own world. Let's be engaged by voting and doing what we can locally to improve our county's well being.

Regarding Adams County's well being, we have much to be concerned about as a county. The future will likely hold issues of a sensitive nature that justify thorough public review. Personally, as a county leader I will seek to promote better communication with citizens by scheduling key hearings at convenient times and venues for the citizens of Adams County. Additionally, I plan to keep my web site available for public comment. To aid citizen awareness, I propose to have

commissioner meeting minutes kept current on the county web site. The county web site also has my attention for improvement after a number of citizens have express to me their difficulty locating vital administrative information. User friendly access to administrative information can also reduce the volume of inquires to the courthouse.

Whatever issues we tackle and seek for solutions, the "Get it right the first time" mind set must be the guiding principle under which we operate and make decisions. I certainly do not have all the answers to every situation, but I know the importance of adhering to the proverb "In the multitude of counselors is great safety", safety meaning success. That success will come from critical thinking and detailed analysis by the appropriate parties. I am confident that the addition of a newly elected and first-time controller (5th Class County Code requirement) will provide enhanced analysis of details for improved governmental function. Thus, my goal is to work jointly with the controller for a careful review of costs, benefits, and risks. Electing the right controller for Adams County will be an added incentive for voters to be involved in the upcoming election.

Through my activities over the past two months the spirit of community involvement has made a great impression on me. I have had the privilege of volunteering at a number of firemen's carnivals and

dinners. I was amazed at the cooperative efforts and dedication of emergency responders and their families to raise funds to support our volunteer emergency services. These unselfish deeds make it possible for our communities to have vital emergency services. Please show your appreciation for these services by patronizing their fund raising events. Also, do not forget to respond to the fire company mailings seeking donations. Do you realize that if every Adams County household donated \$3.00 per month, this would raise approximately \$1.3 million annually for our fire companies?


Added to the burden of emergency services is the reliability level of Adams County's aging radio system, which is vital to emergency services communication and safety. The capability of this system contributes to slower response times and more dif-

ficult communications. The replacement of the existing system has been discussed for many years. The existing system, in spite of its reliability issues, has masterfully been kept in operation. The individuals who have kept the present system operational should be commended for their vigilance in locating out-of-production or obsolete system components. These efforts have prolonged the life of the system, and are affording time to discover the short comings of newer systems in surrounding counties and to assess possible cost effective measures.

The present county commissioners have authorized a private vendor to develop and present proposals for a new digital system. These proposals will be passed to the newly elected commissioners for review and for future action. The initial cost estimates are approximate-

ly \$12 million to \$30 million. This price tag could not have come at a worse time. We cannot expect tax burdened property owners to pay even higher taxes nor should we add to our already heavy county debt load to finance a new system. Financing this system will require the diligence of various individuals and entities in a corporate mission to make the new system a reality. This would be an excellent time and opportunity for the county's major real estate tax-exempt property owners to step forward and aid the cause. Also, I recommend that the present board of commissioners solicit a volunteer committee to research and develop a financing/fundraising program.

I look forward to working with the citizens of Adams County toward building a better community for the present and the future.

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

The future looks good...

Shannon Bohrer

The talking heads seem to think we are in for some tough times. Almost every day someone is talking about uncertainty. It is frequently reported that large corporations have billions of dollars sitting on the side and they will not invest nor will they hire until the “uncertainty” diminishes. Maybe it is not as bad as it seems. Just because money is tight, energy is expected to be scarce, jobs are also expected to be scarce and the price of everything is expected to go up, does not mean the future does not have some bright spots. Sure, we can focus on the “uncertainties” and what the experts think the future will be, but we should also be aware that change sometimes brings opportunity.

Several years ago one of my co-workers, who was an English major in college, had a hobby of collecting movies. This particular co-worker, Carl, was such a movie buff that he often quoted lines from movies, many of which for some reason I had never seen. Several other workers were also movie buffs and they often quoted lines and then the others would guess what movie the line was from. One day, Carl said, “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.”

The response from a co-worker was, Star Trek, and Carl responded with a nod and a smile. I then remarked that the line, “it was the best of times; it was the worst of times,” was from A Tale of Two Cities. With that, Carl, the English major, responded that it was also from Star Trek. Carl was a good person but I think he spent too much time watching movies. Carl was in his mid-forties when this occurred and maybe he forgot what he learned in college. This country is not that old, but maybe we have all forgotten what it was like to live before we had everything. Maybe an economic downturn could be a good thing.

Think of it like this – maybe the country is spoiled. We have indulged ourselves for many years and we have built up a national debt and borrowed and spent part of our future. It is time to go on a diet, want less, use less and just be more frugal. Taking charge of our own future instead of looking to the government for security could be challenging and rewarding. You always hear the words of individual responsibility. Well, we could have individual responsibility along with corporate/ business responsibility and government responsibility. Well, maybe two out of three... maybe?

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. Mark Twain

In many ways we should not fear an economic downturn and/or adversity. We should welcome it as a challenge. Without government safety nets, we will not have a choice. You either become responsible or you don't eat. While this may sound harsh, many would say it is like tough love. If you spoil the child, they will never learn to provide for themselves. For business and industry, lack of a safety net will probably mean more business failures. In a poor economy, if you are too big to fail and you fail, then you could become too big to exist. Too bad the economy did not fail before we have the financial failures. If you recall, we bailed out the financial industry to keep the current economic problems from occurring. Maybe it was a good idea, but from my perspective the only thing that was saved were the executive bonuses. The talking heads and business leaders are always talking about the market forces and free markets being the most productive and yet when they failed congress had no problem coming up with the money! Maybe the economy will be so bad that the corporate subsidies and tax loopholes will have to stop and

then we could really enjoy a free market system.

More than 20 years ago, an individual running for congress promised that if elected, he would only serve two terms because he believed in term limits. He also said he would only take half his pay because we had so much debt, and he promised to balance the budget. I would suggest that we vote him out in the next election. Being responsible could include voting everyone out. We have the power of term limits and we should use them to show the congress that we are responsible.

Bad times are not new to this country. In 1933, at the peak of the previous great recession, unemployment was 25 percent, and the numbers were supposed to be greatly underreported. By 1937, however, the unemployment rate was reduced to 10 percent and it was widely reported that the good times were returning. If our economy does turn around in a few years and our unemployment is 10 percent or less, we may think it is a good number. Of course, if you are one of the individuals without work, you might have a different perspective.

Because of the tough economic times there is one very positive fact. It is well-known and documented that individuals who work longer and are productive often

live longer. Since many of us will be working more years than we planned, we could be living longer. Of course, we may be working several part-time jobs just to make ends meet. If we should be sick, we could be in trouble. A downside to this is that since so many older individuals will be looking for work, even the part-time jobs that pay less than minimum wage could be hard to find. Thank goodness we have Social Security - well maybe.

Even with all the positives of an economic downturn we can hope that one day the good economy does return. Having a lot of money in “uncertain times” is probably very stressful on business people. However, we should remember that we have been through uncertain times before. On Dec. 7, 1941 half our pacific fleet was damaged or lost, our standing army was very small and we found ourselves at war. We did not know if we were going to be invaded - it was considered a real threat. And then in the 50's and 60's we had air raid shelters and air raid drills in schools because of the possibility of a nuclear attack, which was also considered a real threat. I wonder how long the current uncertainty will last. Having experts often possess more data than judgment. Colin Powell

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

View from the Track

We the people...

Kip Hamilton

Why do we vote for both our senators and our representatives? That seems a bit redundant, doesn't it? Well, it didn't start out that way. The Founders were some pretty smart guys. They established our constitutional republic (not a democracy) with the understanding that the individual person was a free and autonomous being and thus would freely choose the individuals he'd prefer to represent him in the government, creating the House of Representatives.

As we have talked about before, the states used to be separate, sovereign bodies and it was the state governments that created the Federal Government through the drafting of our Constitution. The federal government was originally designed to be a support mechanism for the state governments, not the controlling bureaucracy that it has become. The Constitution was designed to limit the power of the federal government over the state governments, thereby protecting the liberty of the citizens. Ok, so what about the senators?

The senators were, from the late 1700's to the early 1900's chosen by the members of the state gov-

ernments to represent the wishes of the states on a national level. The Founders actually designed a system which limited the need of the politicians to campaign for reelection. The Representatives were only elected for 2-year terms in order to make them more responsive to the desires of their constituents. If a representative started to neglect the wishes of the citizens who elected him and veer off on his own agenda, the voters could replace him fairly quickly...within a year or so. And the politicians knew it and this tended to keep them in line.

Since the state governments elected their own representatives, the Senators, to the national government there was no campaigning necessary at all for the Senate. The Founders appreciated the important role the senators played and they did not want their attention diverted from the task at hand while they spent time politicking for reelection. It was a beautiful system actually, because since the senators were appointed by the state legislatures, if the state governments determined that their senators were not performing their duties satisfactorily, they could sim-

ply recall them with no delay and send someone new to Washington... no muss, no fuss. Compare the responsiveness of those senators to the wishes of the representatives of the people to what we have today...the best government money can buy.

And so it went for almost the next 100 years until the predictable corruption in the state legislatures began. As the power of the senators began to rise during the early to mid 1800's, since they were elected from the state governments, there was a corresponding rise in the power and influence dolled out by the party bosses at the state level. Political “machines” began to take hold and what once was a very pure exercise of political representation started to take on some very unsavory characteristics and a movement began to free the Senate from the slimy clutches of the corrupt state legislatures and have the senators chosen directly by the people.

It took a number of years, some say as many as 20 or more, depending on when you count the movement as starting, before the 17th Amendment to the Constitution was finally ratified in 1913, which directed that the Senators be elected by the people, instead of by the states. Co-

incidentally, 1913 was also when the grossly unconstitutional Federal Reserve Banking system was established. Modern day black helicopter-types might theorize if the two aren't related. Interestingly, that was also the same year that Woodrow Wilson, whom some describe as the Father of the modern day Progressive Movement was elected President...oh, and...it was also the same year that the 16th Amendment to the Constitution was passed. Anyone remember what the 16th was responsible for?

“What is, the establishment of the Income Tax, Alex?” Correct. 1913 was a very busy year, it seems.

Has the 17th Amendment been a success or a failure? Well, are our Senators today more responsive to the people who elected them or to the lobbyists and special interest groups which make huge, regular contributions to the campaign coffers of the incumbent politicians, all but assuring that any new candidate who dares challenge the Professional Politician doesn't stand a chance? Like I said...the best government money can buy.

So, are we hopeless? Honestly, I don't know yet...maybe. Does this mean there is nothing we can do? Heck No! Our great country was founded on the principle of Liberty. It is still in us as a people. We have just become lazy and complacent politically and we now have multiple generations of citi-

zens who have grown to care more about receiving their government-supplied handouts than their God-given, unalienable right to their personal liberty and freedom. We have got to rejuvenate the concept of doing for ourselves and for others, rather than waiting for some program from Washington to take care of us, for with that token benefit from the government comes an insidious control over the sovereign individual.

We did not get here in a couple of election cycles and it will take far longer to get out, but we have to start somewhere. We can start by electing city and township officials who promise to protect our liberty and freedoms from the tyranny of over-regulation and meddling in our daily lives by the county government. Then when that's done, we elect county officials who will protect our liberties from the state-level tyranny and so on. The keys are 1) to start getting involved and 2) to hold the politicians accountable. If they renege on our contract, we fire them and find someone else. Remember, these guys work for us! This country really does belong to WE the People. Shall we work to get it back or shall we just turn on the TV? I fear we are quickly running out of time to make that decision.

To read past editions of View from the Track, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net

COMMENTARY

Pure Onsense On Pragmatism

Scott Zuke

Last October, as we were about to witness a strong showing by the Tea Party in the mid-term elections, I wrote a column about ideals. While the Tea Partiers had established themselves as a principled protest movement, they had not yet had the chance to govern directly, but rather only through the proxy of establishment Republicans who were courting or co-opting the movement for their own purposes. At the time, I predicted that the freshman Congressmen would quickly take a hardline stance on libertarian principles and make some highly public gestures before being pulled back closer in line with mainstream Republicans. But I was wrong. Instead, the storyline of the debt ceiling debate that dominated the summer news cycle was that the Republican party, suffering from severe internal fracturing, bowed to the Tea Party at a crucial time, dug in its heels, and refused to compromise with Democrats even after securing numerous significant concessions from them.

Republican presidential candidates took the occasion as a cue to campaign on their unwillingness to compromise. At one debate, when asked whether they would accept a deficit-reduction deal consisting of one dollar of tax increases to every ten dollars of government spending cuts—a virtually unimaginable slam-dunk of deal for any Republican—every candidate indicated they would turn it down.

As several political commentators have noted, it's highly unlikely that any rational candidate would follow through with such a threat once elected, but the fact that the entire slate has resigned itself to a no-compromise campaign platform (and that almost all of them have been coerced into signing hand-tieing pledges to this effect) suggest that ideals are getting their moment in the sun.

Let's hope it doesn't last long.

It is difficult to make a compelling argument against staying true to one's ideals, and for good reasons. Among the advantages of unwavering, principled behavior are predictability, consistency and accountability. When a leader's actions are predictable, followers can develop a sense of trust and choose their own future actions based on reasonable expectations for what the leader will do or say. Consistency is the best way to avoid self-contradiction over the long term, which is important for maintaining credibility. And accountability is best established when the motivations behind a leader's actions are well-known, consistent, and able to paint a coherent picture of a "worldview." When something goes wrong, then, it's easier to identify who caused the problem and to pose the question, "Is there something flawed in this worldview that would be cause for discarding it (And the leader who follows it)?"

However, while these advantages are likely implied by those who believe in uncompromising, prin-



ciplined leadership, it is more common for the holding of rigid principles and ideals to be valued directly as a personal virtue. Similar to the sentiment that having faith in general is as or more important than what one has faith in specifically, there are those who believe that having set principles is more important than what those principles are, what consequences they result in when put into action, or how dogmatic they turn out to be when challenged by opposing views.

And while it's difficult to argue against the idea that people should explore and develop their principles and then stick rigidly to them in their actions, I would argue that pragmatism is itself one such principle that is worth adopting.

Staunch ideologues view pragmatism as antithetical to being principled in one's actions. A pragmatist, in their eyes, is one who has no higher ideals and no consistency in action, and who thus de-

grades into seeking personal advantage above all else. It's similar to the view that some religious individuals have toward atheists: without a belief in a transcendent concept of justice, one could have no concept of right or wrong, and thus would turn to immoral, self-serving behavior. Neither belief is true, although there are always enough anecdotes on hand to keep them alive.

For the anti-pragmatists, all the proof they require resides in the US Congress, where self-interest does indeed drive many politicians to value reelection above more noble goals like serving the public interest honestly and directly. The Tea Party is understandably frustrated by representatives who claim to adhere to a certain set of values, but whose actions contradict them and are designed primarily with regard to political strategy. Still, it is a mistake to take such examples as proof of a defect in pragmatism, which is something very different from a total lack

of scruples or guiding ideals. The word "compromise" is similarly vilified by Tea Partiers. To them, there is no difference between "one who compromises" and "one who has compromised his or her values."

What are the proper roles of pragmatism and compromise in politics? To me, the pragmatic virtue is demonstrated by those who come to the negotiation table realizing that the problem being addressed is a shared one, and that choosing from among a variety of proposed solutions is not a zero-sum prospect—winner taking all. Compromise doesn't mean that one side is consenting to the wisdom of the other side's views, but rather just recognizing that there is another side with enough support that it deserves input.

Ideals have an important role to play in shaping public opinion, giving new life to aging but still important ideas, and energizing citizens who have fallen into political apathy. The Tea Party movement, I still believe, was a positive development for American civic engagement, and has successfully influenced political discourse. The process of governing, however, requires an amount of cooperation and compromise that respects plurality in a large, dynamic society. As long as unflinching adherence to set ideals and unwillingness to compromise remain its trademark characteristics, the Tea Party will be unfit to govern directly. The movement's plummeting popularity following the debt ceiling debacle is the latest evidence of what Americans have always implicitly understood: you campaign on principles, but govern through pragmatism.

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

Down Under Follow the money

Lindsay Coker

Let us all be happy, and live within our means, Even if we have to borrow the money to do it with
- Artemus Ward, 1867

Not very many Australians knew of the ceiling for American borrowing, nor how it had to be raised for the nation to stay solvent. It's a strange concept to our ears, this idea of a government borrowing money just to pay its workers. It's even stranger that the amount owed is way beyond any possibility of paying it back, at least in the medium term.

What's even stranger is that most Americans didn't seem to know much about it either. Some certainly knew about it and were justifiably horrified at its size, and determined that it had to stop. But if ever the ostrich syndrome was shown in stark relief, it is those same people who have no idea of the consequences of their determination, nor how it can be realisti-

cally achieved. I speak, of course, of that strangest of all phenomena, the Tea Party.

I grew up during the great depression of '39, remember my parents shaking their heads in despair at the powerlessness of our government to do anything about it, and I also learnt the value of community spirit. One way or another, we helped each other so that no one went hungry, froze to death, or gave up in despair. But the Tea party? It isn't tea they're offering, it's cyanide.

So, how did it get to this state? Do you know? I surely don't, but sheer stupidity is the most benign of possible reasons. Connivance, cynicism, cronyism all must have had a hand in it, but I suspect the underlying reason was, and still is, arrogance. The biggest economy, the best policeman, the greatest world leader, and money was just the thing to keep it that way. Borrow and the world is yours, keep your populace happy with illusions and a sense of accomplishment, and you can do pretty much what

you please. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and the conservatives in general don't give a damn. Especially the ultra conservatives, the far right wing, those whose idea of balancing the budget is to keep the money for themselves, that example being set for them by the worst politician you have ever suffered, their hero G. W. Bush.

But let me ask you this: What IS the function of government in a democracy today? Surely, number one is to see that all the citizens of the country are cared for, educated, have at least sustenance, and live within the rules of harmony. That, after all, was the foundation of our society. Not just one little elite bit, but all of it. Is that what you have? I seem to remember that the last line of your national anthem goes 'The land of the free.' Is that still true for many brave citizens? With unemployment staying around 10%, poverty-line queues, euphoria when a few thousand folk are hired, walled enclaves of the rich and ghetto-like cities - this is the American way? This is the image to tout around the world?

If you are a business and went to your bank to ask them for a loan to pay your workers, they would first be astonished, then derisive. Sure, to expand your business, af-

ter showing how you will make a bigger profit by doing so, that's fine - but to pay the staff? Forget it. You're broke. So how come the American Government has been able to do it for decades? Your income used to be more than enough to cover the bills, you used to lend money to other emerging nations - but as your spending grew way beyond that you began resort to borrowing rather than economising. I sympathise with the tea party's desire to bring the debt level down, but their idea of how to do it seems hazy and unrealistic at best. The only real, long-lasting and humane way to do it is to stop nearly all military and overseas aid, reduce the gap between rich and poor by ensuring the top 10 % of the wealthiest people pay their share of taxation, and ensure the ideal of egalitarianism is put back in place.

But I have to ask: Where has the money gone? That's the question every whodunit poses, and it is a mind boggler. OK, you owe China, Japan and the UK about five trillion - they're the biggest creditors. Say another couple to others. That's seven - where's the other seven? Stocks and shares? Deep pockets? Offshore havens? And, for that matter, what exactly is a trillion dollars? A lot, for sure, but

really it's just a number, and the whole thing is played as a game, and it turns out to be our lives they are playing with. Oops, I mean gambling with.

The really funny thing is that your creditors are not going to pull the plug, because they have too much to lose. China does not yet have a domestic economy sufficient to purchase a lot of its output, so they need America. As in the past it will be the ordinary citizen who pays the bills. Honest, hardworking folk who love their country. People like you.

Here's the nub: The government of the biggest economy in the world (apologies, was the biggest) has allowed traders aka gamblers to play with its income, fortunes, and welfare of its citizens. And when that has become too big an embarrassment to live with, they have hamstrung the chief from taking any steps to rectify it. Loony right? Loony wrong, loony crazy for sure. Look, if I find any odd trillion stashes I'll forward them back to you. We have to look after our friends. Because Australia, 25 million strong, is better placed than most to throw the party. Or drown our sorrows.

Hang on, interest rates just went up again. Got to run, work calls.

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Harris

The 2011 National Night Out event held at Carroll Valley Commons was a great success. The purpose was to strengthen the relationship between the citizens and first responders. Over 400 adults and children were in attendance. The Good Samaritan Lodge #336, Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania of Gettysburg fingerprinted and videoed 83 children as part of the Child Identification Program. Thanks to the Masons and all the agencies who participated in the event. Special thanks goes to our Carroll Valley Borough Police Secretary, Jo Ann Myers, our Police Chief Richard L. Hileman II, and the Carroll Valley Municipal Services.

At the last Borough Council meeting, I had the pleasure of awarding a young resident by the name of Ms. Brianna Harrison a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of valuable service to the Carroll Valley community. When she noticed a mulch fire smoldering beside the Carroll Valley Pavilion chimney, she quickly alerted her mother to call 911. The award was given to express the Borough's appreciation for her quick action that prevented a much larger and costly fire. Thank you Brianna.

Living in the country brings us closer to our local animal friends. Because of these "close encounters" with our local bear population, I wish to share

with you some information that may be helpful. The black bear population emanating from around the Michaux State Forest region is undoubtedly growing and expanding. When a bear sighting occurs outside of that area, it will usually be a 1.5 to 2 year old male cut loose by its mother, and venturing out to find a new territory. When this occurs, it will normally and eventually find its way back to the mountains. In the meantime, the bear may hang around a specific area for a short period of time, especially, if there's an easy food source. An important thing to keep in mind is that bears, although capable of being very dangerous, are very rarely aggressive towards humans, especially if left alone or with an escape route. As such, it is unlawful for anyone to kill or attempt to kill a bear unless it can be clearly articulated that it is indeed a case of self-defense. Simply being afraid of a bear that won't immediately leave an area does not constitute justification.

Advice for people who see a bear hanging around, aside from the common sense act of not trying to get too close to one, centers around food sources. Keep garbage secured properly, hang bird feeders out of the reach of bears, don't leave domestic animal food in a bowl outside, and essentially, take away or secure any other food items for a bear, which includes just

about anything edible to man or beast (bears are opportunistic omnivores, and will eat just about anything). If you have any questions about bears or the bear won't leave, you should call the Pennsylvania Game Commission at (814) 643-1831.

I was informed that the Boy Scouts from Fairfield Boy Scout Troop 76 just got back from their first trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. From what I have been told, Philmont is known as "Scouting Paradise". The trip involved seven boys and one adult leader from Fairfield joining up with five other participants from York to form what Philmont calls a "crew." The crew spent 12 days at the 215 square mile ranch, completing a 78-mile trek by backpacking from camp to camp over mountains and rugged terrain in the backcountry from June 21st to 3 July 3rd. The boys set up camp each night and prepared meals for the full crew. The camps had different activities such as rock climbing, shotgun shooting, team events, farming, and other activities. The crew also committed several hours to a conservation project by working on a new trail.

The highlight of the trip for many was the summit hike up Baldy Mountain at an altitude of 12,500 feet. Hiking at high altitudes was the most challenging aspect of the trip, as both



Carroll Valley's Night Out drew smiles from all

lower oxygen levels and rapid dehydration become real concerns. The dry conditions in this northeastern section of New Mexico resulted in several dry camps where the boys had to purify water from creeks or plan to carry extra amounts. The crew completed the trek together; no easy feat after one of the boys hurt his leg. The crew adjusted the way they hiked to ensure the line stayed together, and they proudly walked through the gate together back at base camp. Besides the renowned Arrowhead Award, everyone on the crew earned The Duty to God and the Wilderness Pledge

Award by completing certain requirements along the trek. The 50-Miler award will be earned after completing 3 more hours of conservation work here in our community.

The Fairfield contingent from Troop 76 was comprised of Jacob Arbutus, Kevin Auginbaugh, Matthew Benjamin, Andrew Blinn, Mike Hannas, Josh Hill, and Nick Sanders along with Assistant Scoutmaster Gene Blinn. Speaking for the contingent, Hannas offered, "The hard work put into training paid off in a challenging and totally awesome experience. We'd do it again in a heartbeat." Participants from York were Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd Rutter, Adam Rutter, Kyle Rutter, Jan Wagner, and Nathan Wagner. The Fairfield Boy Scout Troop 76 presently has 26 active Scouts and features a robust program of camping, backpacking, high adventure, rank advancement, and community service activities. For further information about the Troop, contact the Scoutmaster Jay Stroup at 642-5195.

School has started which means school buses will be on the road again. Let us partner with the parents, teachers, administrators, and transportation personnel to keep our young residents safe when they are being transported to and from school. How do we do that? Follow the law. According to the Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law, when you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended you must stop. When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you must stop. You must stop at least 10 feet away from the school bus. You must wait until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving. And most important, do not move until the children have reached a place of safety.

Borough meetings to be held in September are: Planning Commission (Sept 6th), Public Safety Committee (Sept 12th), Council Borough (Sept 13th), and Parks/Recreation (Sept 28th). Remember Carroll Valley's Farmer's Market is on Thursdays in the Ranch Section from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. Please reduce your driving speed when you are in the Valley. If you have any questions call me at (301) 606-2021 or email at mayor@carrollvalley.org.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

John Paul Jones



engaged by the Pallas, a vessel belonging to Jones's squadron, and after a short conflict had surrendered. The Bon Homme Richard was thus freed from the attacks of a double foe, but was at the same time nearly brought to destruction by the Alliance, one of its companion-vessels, which, after keeping for a long time at a distance, advanced to the scene of action, and poured in several broadsides, most of which took effect on her own ally instead of the British frigate.

At last the galling fire from the shrouds of Jones's ship told markedly in the thinning of the crew of the Serapis, and silencing her fire: and a terrible explosion on board of her, occasioned by a young sailor, a Scotchman, it is alleged, who, taking his stand upon the extreme end of the yard of the Bon Homme Richard, dropped a grenade on a row of cartridges on the main-deck of the Serapis, spread such disaster and confusion that Captain Pearson shortly afterwards struck his colours and surrendered. This was at eleven o'clock at night, after the engagement had lasted for upwards of four hours.

The accounts of the losses on both sides are very contradictory, but seem to have been nearly equal, and may be estimated in all at about three hundred killed and wounded. The morning following the battle was extremely foggy, and on examining the Bon Homme Richard, she was found to have sustained such damage that it was impossible she could keep longer afloat. With all expedition her crew abandoned her, and went on board the Serapis, of which Paul Jones took the command. The Bon Homme Richard sank almost immediately, with a large sum of money belonging to Jones, and many valuable papers.

The prize-ships were now conveyed by him to the Texel, a proceeding which led to a demand being made by the English ambassador at the Hague for the delivery of the captured vessels, and the surrender of Jones himself as a pirate. This application to the Dutch authorities was ineffectual, but it served as one of the predisposing causes of the war which not long afterwards ensued with England. After remaining for a while at the Texel, the Serapis was taken to the port of L'Orient, in France, where she appears subsequently to have been disarmed and broken up, whilst the Countess of Scarborough was conveyed to Dunkirk.

Meantime, Jones proceeded to France, with the view of arranging as to his future movements; but before quitting Texel, he returned to Captain Pearson his sword, in recognition, as he says, of the bravery which he had displayed on board the Serapis.

Pearson's countrymen seem to have entertained the same estimate of his merits, as, on his subsequent return to England, he was received with great distinction, was knighted by George III, and presented

with a service of plate and the freedom of their corporations, by those boroughs on the east coast which lay near the scene of the naval engagement.

In France, honours no less flattering were bestowed on Paul Jones. At the opera and all public places, he received enthusiastic ovations, and Louis XVI presented him with a gold-hilted sword.

It may be noted that the true name of Paul Jones was John Paul, and that he made the change probably at the time when he entered the American service. His career was altogether a most singular one, presenting phases to the full as romantic as any of those undergone by a hero of fiction. The son of a small farmer near Dumfries, we find him manifesting from his boyhood a strong predilection for the sea, and at the age of twelve commencing life as a cabin-boy, on board the Friendship of Whitehaven, trading to Virginia.

After completing his apprenticeship, he made several voyages in connection with the slave-trade to the West Indies, and rose to the position of master. He speedily, however, it is said, conceived a disgust to the traffic, and abandoned it. We find him, about 1775, accepting a commission in the American navy, then newly formed in opposition to that of Britain. What inspired Paul with such feelings of rancour against his native country, cannot now be ascertained; but to the end of his life he seemed to retain undiminished the most im-

placable resentment towards the British nation. The cause of the colonies against the mother-country, now generally admitted to have been a just one, was adopted by him with the utmost enthusiasm, and certainly he contrived to inflict a considerable amount of damage on British shipping in the course of his cruises.

To the British nation, and to Scotchmen more especially, the name of Paul Jones has heretofore only been suggestive of a daring pirate or lawless adventurer. He appears, in reality, to have been a sincere and enthusiastic partisan of the cause of the colonists, many of whom were as much natives of Britain as himself, and yet have never been specially blamed for their partisanship. In personal respects, he was a gallant and resolute man, of romantically chivalrous feelings, and superior to everything like a mean or shabby action. It is particularly pleasant to remark his disinterestedness in restoring, in after-years, to the Countess of Selkirk, the family-plate which the necessity of satisfying his men had compelled him to deprive her of; on the occasion of his descent on the Scottish coast, and for which he paid them the value out of his own resources. The letters addressed by him on this subject to the countess and her husband, do great credit both to his generosity and abilities in point of literary composition. By the Americans, Admiral Paul Jones is regarded as one of their most distinguished naval celebrities.

On 23rd September 1779, a serious naval engagement took place on the coast of Yorkshire, H.M.S. Serapis and Countess of Scarborough being the ships on the one side, and a squadron under the command of the celebrated adventurer Paul Jones on the other. It was a time of embarrassment in England. Unexpected difficulties and disasters had been experienced in the attempt to enforce the loyalty of the American colonies.

Several of England's continental neighbours were about to take advantage of her weakness to declare against her. In that crisis it was that Jones came and insulted the coasts of Britain. Driven out of the Firth of Forth by a strong westerly wind, he came south-wards till he reached the neighbourhood of Flamborough Head, where he resolved to await the Baltic and merchant fleet, expected shortly to arrive there on its homeward voyage under the convoy of the two men-of-war above mentioned.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the 23rd September, Jones, on board of his vessel the Bon Homme Richard (so called after his friend Benjamin Franklin), descried the fleet in question, with its escort, advancing north-northeast, and numbering forty-one sail. He at once hoisted the signal for a general chase, on perceiving which the two frigates bore out from the land in battle-array, whilst the merchant vessels crowded all sail towards shore, and succeeded in gaining shelter beneath the guns of Scarborough Castle. There was little wind, and, according to Jones's own account, it was nightfall before the Bon Honnne Richard could come up with the Serapis, when an engagement within pistol-shot commenced, and continued at that distance for nearly an hour, the advantage both in point of manageableness and number of guns being on the side of the British ship; whilst the remaining vessels of Jones's squadron, from some inexplicable cause, kept at a distance, and he was obliged for a long time to maintain single-handed a con-

test with the two English frigates.

The harvest-moon, in the meantime, rose calm and beautiful, casting its silver light over the waters of the German Ocean, the surface of which, smooth as a mirror, bore the squadrons engaged in deadly conflict. Suddenly, some old eighteen-pounders on board the Bon Homme Richard exploded at their first discharge, killing and wounding many of Jones's sailors; and as he had now only two pieces of cannon on the quarter-deck remaining unsilenced, and his vessel had been struck by several shots below the water-level, his position was becoming very critical. Just then, while he ran great danger of going to the bottom, the bowsprit of the Serapis came athwart the poop of the Bon Homme Richard, and Jones, with his own hands, made the two vessels fast in that position.

A dreadful scene at close-quarters then ensued, in which Captain Pearson, the British commander, inflicted signal damage by his artillery on the under part of his opponent's vessel, whilst his own decks were rendered almost untenable by the hand-grenades and volleys of musketry which, on their cannon becoming unserviceable, the combatants on board the Bon Homme Richard discharged with murderous effect.

For a long time the latter seemed decidedly to have the worst of the contest, and on one occasion the master-gunner, believing that Jones and the lieutenant were killed, and himself left as the officer in command, rushed up to the poop to haul down the colours in the hopelessness of maintaining any longer the conflict. But the flagstaff had been shot away at the commencement of the engagement, and he could only make his intentions known by calling out over the ship's side for quarter.

Captain Pearson then hailed to know if the Bon Homme Richard surrendered, an interrogation which Jones immediately answered in the negative, and the fight continued to rage. Meantime the Countess of Scarborough had been

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

“Vacatio!”

Bill Meredith

“Far-away places with strange-sounding names are calling, calling me.”

—Alex Kramer and Joan Whitney, 1948.

When I was still working, I got the idea somehow that retirement would be essentially a long, permanent state of vacation. It did not take long, after retirement finally arrived, to be disabused of this fantasy. Emmitsburg was a nice place to live, but sitting, Truman-like, on the porch and rocking slowly back and forth was not as fulfilling as I had imagined. Obviously, there was something wrong with my conception of vacation, so I went to the dictionary for clarification. I learned that the English word, “vacation,” came to Middle English from Old French, and before that, from the Latin word, *vacatio*. The original meaning was “to be released from occupation; to be free; to be empty.” Apparently it represents a fundamental human need, for its meaning has changed little in the past 2,500 years. So I promptly set out to rectify things, and we have gone to the beach with one or another of our kids and their families every summer since.

A year ago we found ourselves headed to North Myrtle Beach, which was a good deal farther south than we had gone before. After a long, tiring trip of fighting traffic jams and getting lost, we were not in what could be called a proper *vacatio* state of mind; in fact, my wife informed me several times in the last few hours of the trip that “This is going to be the last time!” I was inclined to agree with her at first; but after a day or two of sitting on the balcony in the sea breeze, listening to the surf, watching the Laughing Gulls, and contemplating the state of the world through a haze of



cigar smoke, the whole idea of *vacatio* seemed better.

Unfortunately, my wife did not change her mind so readily. I explained the benefits of freedom and emptiness (being careful to emphasize that emptiness referred to responsibilities and worries, not food), but she was adamant; this was going to be the last time. Logic was getting me nowhere, when suddenly the proverbial light bulb appeared over my head: when logic failed, perhaps confusion would work. So I told her the need for *vacatio* was universal, and even applied to sea gulls, and to prove it I wrote the following verse.

We work for a living 50 weeks a year, and when we can't stand it any longer we take a vacation and go to the beach

*and sit in the sun
and swim in the surf*

*and walk in the sand
and watch the gulls.*

Gulls can fly into the wind without flapping and swoop to catch bread crusts in mid-air without trying

*and dive for fish
and rob each other
and laugh like maniacs
so you'd think they are playing...*

But what looks like play to us is their work, 52 weeks a year, including weekends. So where would they go for vacation,

*to get away from the hot sand
and the noisy surf
and the ceaseless wind
and the pesky tourists?*

Would they come to Emmitsburg and soar over our forested mountains and listen to the music of the traffic

*and fly after ambulances and fire trucks
and watch us cut grass and walk dogs
and float on our swimming*

*pool
and feast on garbage at
McDonald's parking lot?*

And after a week would they say, “Enough of this,” and fly off, amid aerial traffic jams of jet planes and migrating hawks
*and fight head winds
and storms
and endure kids whining,
“Are we there yet?”
and glide finally to a stop on
the good wet sand
and say, “There's no place like
home” ...?*

I'm not sure whether my wife found the poem confusing or just plain silly, but apparently it had the desired effect. This summer my son called to say he had found a place that was not quite so far south, and invited us to go to the beach again, and she allowed herself to be persuaded. Maybe there were other factors; perhaps she heard the old song, “Faraway places,” on an oldies station. Memories are strong attractors. Strange-sounding names like Nag's Head, Okrakoke, Corona, Duck, Kit-



ty Hawk, and Topsail may conjure up dreams of pirates, Indians, shipwrecks, fishing trips and buried treasure to some, but to us they recall images of grandchildren growing up and discovering wonderful things, including their own abilities and personalities. They are more than *vacatio*; they are the stories of our lives. So we went again.

Among the things I always do on vacation is to keep a list of the birds I see on the trip. This habit started in 1953 when I took a course in Ornithology. The teacher, Prof. Paul Davisson, be-



came a mentor and role model for me; he was the one who really started me on the path toward being an ecologist. He emphasized the importance of keeping accurate records, and as a consequence I now have a life list of 342 species of birds I have seen. This is not an impressive total for someone my age; I have a friend more than 20 years younger who recorded her 500th species this winter. But it is not the total that is important. Along with the names, I have recorded the dates and places where I saw each species for the first time. Over the years, that list provided a fertile source of examples of habitats and ecosystems to enhance the teaching of ecology; and now it has become something akin to an autobiography. Going over the list recently, I could recall a clear mental image of the Pine Grosbeak I saw on a mountain in Colorado, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on a barbed-wire fence in Oklahoma, the Sand-hill Crane in Michigan.... In nearly every case there is also the memory of a friend who knew more about birds than I did, and verified what I saw: Paul Davisson, Frank Schwartz, John Richards, Jack Klimas, Jim Parnell, George Grube, Mike O'Brien.... More than just a list of far-away places and strange-sounding names, it is a record of an education.

The latest entry on the list is a Clapper Rail, with the note, “8-4-2011, Topsail Island Nature Preserve.” The weather on this year's vacation was hot and sultry, and I cannot walk the distances I once did, but on that day I found a small park with walking trails that led to a pier out over a salt marsh to a lake. There was the expected assortment of gulls, swallows, terns and egrets, but when I turned to leave, there under the pier were two clapper rails, feeding on fiddler crabs. In years past, I have spent hours slogging through knee-deep mud, under clouds of mosquitoes, looking for those birds without success, and here, on a trail designed for the handicapped, I found them... number 342.

So we achieved *vacatio*; a week of freedom, time to empty our heads of responsibilities and worries, with a bonus of seeing something for the first time. The trip home was tiring, and my wife announced upon arrival that this is the last time; but perhaps she'll mellow. I'm working on a poem about Clapper Rails, just in case I need it for next year.

To read past editions of the Retired Ecologist, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net

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IN THE COUNTRY

The Rocky Ridge Fair

Katelyn Phelan
MSM Class of 2011

It's not every day that you get a glimpse into the "good old days" of American life, but Rocky Ridge was certainly able to pull off the feeling of a close knit community bonding together for an important cause and having an absolute blast while doing it.

I visited the fair on its last evening, Saturday August 20th. The dusky, cool summer night surrounded me as I strolled in the midst of happy fairgoers. With the humidity of earlier summer days nowhere to be found, people relaxed comfortably in shorts, t-shirts, and baseball hats.

Chowing down on my hamburger and iced tea, everyone around me was eating and drinking—cokes, iced teas, water, hamburgers, and hot dogs. And what American gathering would be complete without, yep, you guessed it, apple pie. As people ate some of the best American picnic foods, they soaked in each other's company.

From every angle I heard happy conversations and laughter. Old couples chatted and caught up while young parents attempted to feed several hungry little mouths at once. No matter where I turned, I saw images of



The young in spirit were in plentiful supply at the Rocky Ridge Fair

friendship and joy. How often do we make time in our busy days to just put our feet up and laugh with the people who make up the fabric of our lives?

Weaving in and out of those relaxing and eating were those who could not keep still from excitement. Children raced through the picnic tables, dashing in and out of the pavilion's

shade to play tag or vie for a spot in line at the swing set or for the big slide. Parents of the littlest ones ran after their children in vain while other parents just glanced up at their children every few minutes, trusting their neighbors and old friends in the community to help keep an eye out for any trouble. After all, it takes a village, right? And what better village to help raise your kids than one as close-knit and community focused as Rocky Ridge? These kids ran to their hearts content, playing with children who they will probably see regularly for the next 14 years, up through high school.

While some kids expended their seemingly endless energy by running, others watched Doug's Turtle Races. Where else in the world can you see a bunch of turtles "race" to the edge of their square platform? I was attracted to the stand because of the large crowd gathered around some exhibit yelling their heads off. As I came close I saw the turtles inching along, completely unaffected by and seemingly unaware of the crowd around them!

But kids weren't the only ones enjoying the exhibits. Around me adults threw darts at balloons in hopes of winning a cheesy fair prize, one option here was an Elvis Presley face mask! People of all ages threw

ping pong balls into glass bowls trying to win goldfish or tossed dimes into glass jars. Other people wandered around eating French fries made with peanut oil or clutching half-eaten candy apples. Of course the apple and red candy had left their more than noticeable mark on the face, clothes, and sometimes hair of the eater.

Though the fair radiated with energy and excitement, some folks managed to stay out of the fray and relax on beach chairs while listening to a live band. Bluesy rock music blared from the amplifiers at the base of the stage. Beginning with a cover of the Doobie Brothers the band kept listeners of all ages captivated. A baby, probably around a year old, jammed out to the music, rocking back and forth and stamping her little pink clad feet. Others weren't quite as stirred by the music to spontaneously break out in dance moves, but rather they showed their appreciation through applause and gentle nods.

The most noticeable thing about the fair was not necessarily any activity in particular, but instead the overwhelming involvement of the community. Though the fair took place every night for an entire week, 1,000-1,500 people were in attendance every night! This shows the genuine care and love that the people have for their community. Case in point: I witnessed one man order just a burger and a water, but give

the man at the window a twenty dollar bill because it "was for a good cause," Rocky Ridge's fire company. Both by his presence and his monetary support, this man showed his appreciation for all the components of the community.

This fair, both from the outpouring of support from its attendees and the atmosphere those who run the fair create, from start to finish, is a true slice of Americana.

Editor's Note: This summer I attended all three of our local community fairs: The Harney Fire Company Fair, the South Mountain Fair and the Rocky Ridge Fire Company Fair. All three were exceptional in that they displayed the very best in true community spirit. No matter where you turned, there was a smile on every face. It was only after my third trip in four days to the Rocky Ridge fair that I realized the paper had failed to convey the wonderful environment of the Harney Fair. I displaced our ace Mount graduate Katie to make sure we didn't repeat that mistake with the Rocky Ridge fair. If you missed these fairs this year, next year we will remind you early enough in advance so you can experience them. If you were lucky enough to attend them, then help spread the word so next year their turnouts will be the best ever! For those that did miss the fairs, don't fret ... you have two more last opportunities to experience county fairs - The Great Frederick Fair & the 47th Adams County Apple Harvest Festival. Don't miss them!



More than a thousand residents gathered along Motter Station Road for the annual Fair's parade. Every kid left with a bag full of candy!



Kelly and Josie Kaas - the Rocky Ridge Fire Prevention Queens

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

“Mary, Mary, quite contrary...”

Jack Deatherage

“... how does your garden grow?”

Mostly full of red root pigweed, wildling ‘purple top’ turnips, spiny amaranth, devil’s tomatoes (Carolina Horsenettle, nasty, toxic little devils they be too), foxtail grass, leftover alfalfa, the occasional weed tree (sumac and black walnut), some variety of thistle, common purslane and the gods know what all I haven’t yet found the names of! That sums up the more or less 37,000 square feet of garden we weren’t able to rototill before the summer’s heat chased us back into the air-conditioning.

Of the 6,000 feet we did churn into dust and rock hard clods we have a little more than half of it planted in melons, peppers, tomatoes and beans. (And sweet corn, for the deer, grasshoppers and stinkbugs. They love it.) When the heat backs off, and the rains come again, we’ll plant a fall crop of chard, kales, cabbages, collards and broccoli. Maybe.

We didn’t expect to get much from the acre this year so we’ve been surprised that it’s given us anything other than sore backs, aching knees and tired arms. Our constant weeding and hoeing, the thousands of pounds of water

I’ve staggered across the uneven ground with (with little hope of keeping the plants alive, let alone producing) have paid off in green beans, squash, melons, peppers and a few tomatoes. More than enough for our needs, enough to gift, even enough to sell here and there.

As the July heat broke and August arrived with a tiny bit of rain, the lima bean plants finally began to set pods. What a depressing July, full of spectacular bloom and no beans! Even more depressing is the thought of all the lima beans I’ll have to help pick, shell and eat. I’m only a fan of the Christmas pole limas that we didn’t grow this season. Wanda is the mundane lima bean eater in our house. If we hadn’t bought an Earthway Seeder from Zurgable’s hardware store this spring, I’d have skipped the limas all together. That machine left me thinking I could plant the entire county without hurting my back! (Thanks Mark for ordering it for me. A better deal I did not find anywhere else!)

Bob Mort, the factory’s landlord, recently walked into our shop with a bag of sweet corn for Wanda’s dad. He shouted over the roar of the machine I was operating and held up an ear of un-

husked corn. “This is what corn looks like Jack. If you ever learn to grow it you’ll recognize it now.” (I need to get the Mad One to teach me some serious Bulgarian curse words. The ones I used just didn’t satisfy.)

I know what corn looks like! So do the deer and stinkbugs that have eaten what Wanda planted on the acre. Corn isn’t the only lessons we’ve learned this year. Others are:

Whatever we like least grows the best.

Picking bush beans when your belly hangs over your belt is difficult, and don’t even try it if the belly happens to be full!

Watermelons are probably ripe if they split open after a rain.

Acidovorax avenae subsp. citrulli (bacterial fruit blotch) lives on the acre, I think. I lost a watermelon to something that looks suspiciously like a couple of the photos of “blotch” I’ve found on-line.

The more anxious I am to try a melon, the more likely it is to split or rot.

Groundhogs can sometimes be found in the bush beans, along with green grass snakes.

It’s not a good idea to tell Wanda about snakes until she’s done picking beans.

I’ve also discovered my 57 year old, bifocal assisted eyes can spot a bush bean while I’m standing upright, but the bean vanishes when I stoop to pick it. Which causes me to bob up and down and twist my head sideways trying to spot the sly pod. I’m definitely planting pole beans next year! Maybe we’ll run a fence and plant runner beans too. Whatever requires me not acting like a chicken hunting a bug will be what we grow from then on.

Marty has only been out to see our efforts once since plowing and disking the acre. He wasn’t surprised to see the weeds covering much of the ground, but he was impressed that we had as much weed free as we do. He’s watched us struggle in past gardens to keep up with the weeds and asked how we’d managed so well this season. Long, wide rows I can run the tiller down once and follow up each visit to the garden with almost effortless use of a stirrup hoe. I have



two hoes in case I break one.

He asked if we thought we could plant the entire acre next warm. I allowed we could, though at least half of it should go into some cover crop we can mow and use for mulch as we had nothing to serve this year and boy, did we ever need mulch! We also discussed sowing a deer feed/wildlife crop as far from our veggies as we could manage. I may actually want to grow an heirloom corn someday and it would be nice to have the deer ignore it.

The plan is to have the ground disked before winter, rototilled and a cover crop sown across all but the section we have planted in crucifers. Not that any plan of mine has ever withstood a confrontation with reality. I figure we’ll be lucky to increase next year’s garden by twice this year’s size. Maybe we’ll manage to acquire the soaker hoses I want so we don’t have to carry water to as much of the garden as we did this

year. Maybe I’ll have a garden plan on paper that actually works on the ground. Maybe, maybe, maybe.

I’m not an optimist by nature, but as a gardener, I understand the gardener’s motto, “Next year’s garden will be better!”

As we’re supposed to be market gardening, I occasionally deliver the evening’s pickings of squash, beans, peppers, garlic and the occasional watermelon to a friend’s house and they hand me money. Amazing! I’d not pay that much for what I give them. But they insist they are getting the better of the deal. I guess that means everyone is happy with the trade if we each think we got the best of it.

I still think I’m way ahead in every sale. I got tick bit and had to go on anti-biotics. I’ve been sick in the heat and cooked under the sun. I’ve run so many sweat soaked clothes through the washer this summer I should buy stock in whoever makes the laundry detergent we use. We’ve spent money we didn’t have on seeds and garden tools, and hurt ourselves from neck to heels trying to get a garden planted and tended to harvest. (Harvest! Oh, gods my back aches watching Wanda pick a 50 foot row of bush beans!)

All of that and money too? Fail! You got to get up pretty darn early to get the best of us! (At least before 4:30 AM when the dogs go off.)

To read past editions of the Village Idiot, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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Snakes on the mountain

Something you may not know is that the Catocin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo is widely known in the herpetological world as the place to go to see reptiles. For almost 80 years there have been reptile displays at this location south of Thurmont, Maryland. Previously known as Jungleland Snake Farm from 1933 until 1964, there were more snakes on exhibit here than at the National and Baltimore Zoos combined. Jungleland also exhibited giant tortoises, alligators, lizards, birds and at least four species of monkeys.

When the owner (Gordon Gaver) died in 1964, Richard Hahn quit his job in Baltimore and he and his friend and partner, Wayne Drda, both interested in reptiles, moved in. Richard was active in the Maryland Herpetological Society that held its monthly Saturday morning meeting at the Maryland Natural History Society building on north Charles Street. The Hahns and the later to become Doctor Drda, both had small collections of reptiles in their homes. Their idea was to teach school in the winter and run the Snake Farm, renamed Jungleland Serpentarium, in the summer months. Within two years the Serpentarium became the Catocin Mountain Zoological Park.

Scientifically, reptiles are divided into five Orders. They are snakes, lizards, turtles and tortoises, crocodylians and the tuatara. This last animal is a prehistoric lizard look alike from New Zealand that still retains

the remnants of a third eye that is sensitive to light and possibly ultra violet light emissions as well. It is the only animal in its Order.

There have always been lots of snakes at the old Snake Farm and there still are. The only three climate controlled buildings in the whole Wildlife Preserve except the main entrance building are all dedicated to reptiles. One of the original buildings, the only wintering building for all the Snake Farm animals, is now the Hot Stuff Exhibit. "Hot" is the adjective snake people use to describe a venomous snake. Hot Stuff houses venomous snakes from all around the world. The Bushmaster and Lancehead Viper from South America, the Black and Green Mambas and the Black Forest, Water and Red Spitting Cobras from Africa, the King Cobra and Monocled Cobras from SE Asia, the Taipan from Australia and so on, fourteen naturalized exhibits of the hottest snakes in the world.

The newest building in the park, the North American Small Animal Pavilion (NASAP for short) also houses mostly reptiles. Although there are California Valley Quail, Cacomixtle or Miner's Cat, scorpions, tarantulas, aquatic sirens and native Florida subtropical fish houses there, the majority of the displays are reptiles. We also exhibit six species of large and rare rattlesnakes displayed in large closet sized enclosures, as well as all five of the subspecies of Copperheads found across the US.



Rocky the Rhino Iguana

Cottonmouths, California boa (Bet you didn't know that there were boas in California!), Kingsnakes, Ratsnakes, Bullsnares, Water Snakes, Gila Monsters and Beaded Lizards, Rhinoceros Iguanas, baby alligators and some of the rarest aquatic turtles in the world including some of Maryland's threatened and protected turtles and terrapin complete the list. Speaking of turtles, about half of the NASAP building is dedicated to just turtles and tortoises.

This year and in 2012 we are pleased to present a visiting exhibit called "1001 Chelonians - Turtles Forever" which is a combination of living turtles and tortoises and more than six hundred turtle/tortoise replicas in many forms.

Elsewhere in the preserve, there are small herds of Red footed, Yellow footed, Leopard and Spurred Tortoises. The epitome of all the land turtles (tortoises) are the giant tortoises that live on islands. The Aldabra lives on the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean half way between India and Madagascar. The Galapagos Tortoises live on islands on the equator in the Pacific Ocean 400 miles off the coast of Ecuador. Our Galapagos Tortoise is almost 400 pounds, which is a lot for a girl in her twenties!

This brings us to another jewel of the preserve, the ol' Gator Hole.

Usually populated with two dozen five to eight foot alligators, it's as close to the southern swamps in Louisiana and Florida as you can get without going there. Spanish moss hangs from the surrounding trees while Cajun music titillates your ears. Bald Cypress trees with their Bald Cypress knees grow in and around the pond and from Memorial Day to Labor Day the alligators line up like puppy dogs to get fed every day at 1PM.

The last of the three buildings with reptiles is the Giant Reptile Building which houses the big snakes, naturally. In order of size they are Asian Reticulated pythons (longest at 33 feet), South American Green Anaconda (heaviest at over 300 pounds), African Rock Python at 31 feet, and the Indian Rock Python at 19 feet and the Boa Constrictor at 13 1/2 feet. We display representatives of all species.

The park has been an international leader in the area of reptile husbandry for over 45 years. In 1976 the first International Herpetological Symposium (IHS) was held in Frederick, Maryland at Hood college and was organized by the staff of the Catocin Mountain Zoological Park. Next year 2012 on its 35th Anniversary, the IHS will again be hosted by the Catocin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo.

In 2009, the first Seminar on Venomous Animal Husbandry and Safety was held at the Wildlife Preserve at the Frederick Community College in conjunction with the American Association of Zookeepers. In 2012 it will be held for the second time in conjunction with the IHS conference.

So... if you want to see reptiles, go no further than Thurmont for some of the best viewing anywhere. SSSS- See you ssssoon!



Gladys the tortoise

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Kittens

Jennifer Vanderau

This is the time of year for the kittens. Cute, cuddly, little balls of fluff who look up at you from blue-turning-green-or-gold eyes and bat at your shoelaces and play with just about anything they can chase across a floor.

We've got them here at the shelter. They're everywhere. We get amazing numbers in every day. There's a statistic that shelter folks know well. It's said that two -- just two cats -- one male and one female -- if left unsplayed and unneutered can produce more than 13 million cats in ten short years.

Can you imagine?

It's actually a mathematical equation (my dad and brother would be so proud right now). Let's say that one female cat can have five litters of kittens in a year and five kittens in each of those litters. The numbers could be more or less, but I'm going for an average.

So, that's 25 kittens in one year. Each of those 25 can go out and have 25 of their own, each of those 25 can have 25 of their own and the numbers continue to increase exponentially as the years go on.

You can easily see how we can get overrun and that's why spaying and

neutering is so incredibly important.

I'll tell you though, the little blue eyes of a kitten will do me in just about every time and in addition to their faces, kittens are pretty special in a lot of different ways. They certainly have an interesting outlook on life.

Go with me here, 'cause I think I'm on to something.

Kittens will play with anything. They're not choosy. A shoelace. A piece of paper. A crinkly wrapper. A bug. A plastic bottlecap. Curtains. Straws. Nothing's too ordinary for a kitten.

They find joy in everyday objects that would otherwise be overlooked. How many times do you think you fail to notice something that might bring a bit of happiness just because it's a little unconventional or limiting? Or maybe seems too ordinary or something you pass by everyday?

There's one lesson we could learn from a kitten.

Kittens don't care if they fall down. They're a lot like rubber bands in that respect. They'll stumble and lurch and trip their way through life and just get immediately back up, following the same path like nothing had happened.

Wouldn't it be nice to approach our obstacles like that? If you take a



tumble, either metaphorically or literally, just dust yourself off (although some kittens I've been around don't even take the time to do that) and keep on going. Don't let the difficulties in life stand in your way.

Lesson number two from the precocious feline baby.

Along those same lines, kittens don't care too much if they look like a fool. Have you ever heard the saying, "Dance like nobody's watching?" Kittens really seem to adhere to that principal.

And there's something to be said for it. I think a lot of us worry too much about what others think sometimes and that can be very restrictive. Don't get me wrong, there's a line here. I knew a girl who would be upset if someone thought she was "uncool" but didn't care at all if people thought she was obnoxious or overbearing.

That's not even close to what I'm talking about. In fact, it's the exact

opposite. Kittens don't care if they look like idiots and bounce around -- a lot like their ancestors, Tiggers ('cause Tiggers are wonderful things) -- and there's got to be something freeing in that.

Kittens will also take on any foe. They don't seem to have all that much fear. I had a little one wrap herself around my ankle as I was walking across a room the other day and I thought, "I'm like 400 times your size. Are you crazy?"

Crazy or fearless. Sometimes they're synonymous, sometimes not so much.

How would your life be different if you weren't afraid? If no hurdle seemed too big and no worry couldn't be fought and tackled?

Can you imagine the trust inherent in one so small allowing one so big to pick him up off the ground?

Let me paint you a picture. Imagine yourself in a room or a space. You can see out of this space, but

you can't get out. You've got food and water and a bathroom, as well as some bedding, but that's it. You may have a friend in there with you, too.

Now imagine that from time to time something with arms and legs and eyes and a nose and a mouth that is about 20 to 30 times bigger than you picks you up, talks nicely to you, gives you some affection, maybe gives you medication.

I tried to come up with what animal would be 20 to 30 times our size, but I think it's tough to comprehend the sheer magnitude of it. For instance, great white sharks can be 16 to 18 feet long and 2,000 to 4,500 pounds. That's kind of getting there. So think of a great white shark doing all that, to give you perspective.

Or for fans of Watchmen (great movie if you haven't seen it, by the way) it would be like Dr. Manhattan taking care of you after he grew huge during Vietnam.

I don't know about you all, but I would be seriously hard pressed not to completely lose it -- and yet kittens allow us to pick them up every day. Amazing.

One of my favorite aspects of kittens is their ability to fall asleep anywhere, any time. Many a day at the shelter, I'll pass by a kitten cage and see a bunch of them wrestling and playing and romping it up and when I walk back through within a few minutes, they're all curled up together snoozing.

Some days I feel like I could go from active to napping just as fast. Wouldn't that be nice?

And the purring. Man, is there anything better than a kitten purr? That special sound of feline contentment coming from one so small? And usually as a result of a pet or a snuggle with you? I adore that.

I sometimes think kittens may be more wise than we give them credit for. They approach life with that child-like fascination of the young and there's a lot we, as adults, could learn from that kind of attitude.

So the next time you're feeling blue and maybe a little down, stop for a second and think about the baby felines. Find joy in a mundane object. Dust yourself off from the doldrums or troubles in your life and don't be afraid that someone may think you're a fool. Nap and play and take on your enemies, no matter how intimidating they may seem.

Kittens, man. I'm telling you, they know how to live and they truly can teach us so much.

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

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Camping with horses

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Part 2

Leaving Navigator and his horse at the campsite created a problem in that we would be leaving one horse behind while the other two went out for a ride. Horses are herd animals who do not like to be left behind. We decided not to worry about that until the next day and instead enjoyed a delightful dinner of chicken with sautéed squash, white wine, and chocolate chip cookies. I love baking so had made three dozen cookies for the trip (chocolate mocha toffee as breakfast cookies, and chocolate chip for dinner).

After a good night's sleep, we were ready for a nice long ride. Rule number four... tie/ duct tape phone numbers and other identifying information to the horses' halters. Okay so from that rule one might think that we came back to camp after our ride and found that the left behind horse had panicked and run off into the woods never to be found again. No that was not the case as finally, some of our preparations were helpful. My box of "supplies that hopefully won't be needed but are in my mind essential" was opened and I injected the horse with some light sedation so that he would be able to stand in his hot wire corral while we were gone and eat hay and not notice our absence. The

drugs worked beautifully but we were happy that the phone numbers were attached to the horses' halters, so if he got loose he could be returned to his owner.

Our trail ride went beautifully. The trails and scenery were lovely. The horses were sound and happy and at the end of the 6 hour ride we came back and found that the Navigator had successfully gotten tires. The tires were replaced and it was time to contemplate dinner. I had cooked dinner the night before with the more traditional dinner items. Tonight's dinner, which was surprisingly good was the creation of Trip Leader. It consisted of potatoes, pancake batter, eggs, bacon, and other random items thrown together into a camper's casserole served with a side salad (thank you again to clients for cucumber and other vegetables). While we brought cheese, we forgot to use it in any of the meals. The "camper's casserole" did taste good but I still support the creation of rule number three on meal planning.

With newly fixed tires on the trailer we packed up and headed out to our next riding destination. This place was supposed to be a less treacherous ride than the previous location. We arrived at the site and took the horses off the trailers taking note of the warning signs about the bombs from World War 2 that may still be located in the park. There were instructions to not touch the bomb

but call the authorities if one is found. We all jokingly questioned if they offered a reward for finding a landmine as we tied the horses to trees.

Rule number four...when tying horses there are multiple correct ways to do it. Picket lines are good, as are simple quick release knots to trees, the trailer, etc. The important thing is to make sure that you can untie your horse quickly if need be. He should not be able to get tangled in the rope or other near by items, and you should have a break away halter should things go badly. While Bart wears a leather halter (breakable) and was tied in a manner that couldn't get his legs tangled in the rope, and tied with a quick release knot, the Navigator's horse was not. He got his back leg caught in the rope, then proceeded to panic, making the situation worse. Trip Leader was able to safely extricate the horse. Other than a little rope burn and a few minor injuries the horse was fine. He was very lucky as horses can break their neck, and legs from getting caught in rope. I was not going to be looking forward to having to open up the box of "hopefully not needed supplies" for euthanasia solution (yes I travel with that too).

As the Navigator's horse's injuries were so minor, we were able to go on the ride. This trail was nice and straight forward. It was easy to follow and while it was rocky in places, there were no cliffs to fall



off of. There was one particularly steep hill/ cliff that I took Bart over to get a drink in the creek below. Rule number five is to make sure the horse drinks plenty of water either from creeks or from buckets. We brought water but Bart prefers "not bucket" water. In fact disgusting looking puddles seem more appealing to Bart than the nice clear water I brought him from home. Trip Leader came down into the creek with me while the Navigator stayed top-side until we came back. I'm not sure whether it was the family of half dressed bathing locals in the creek or the steepness of the grade that intimidated him.

Once back on the trail we started completing the loop back to the trailer. As we were walking back there were sections of the land that looked swampy. I steered Bart around most of them. Unfortunately peat bogs are hard to recognize. They can even have grassy looking weeds growing on top of them. Poor Bart got steered right into the center of a peat bog and promptly sank up to his belly in disgusting ooze. Before I could even contemplate the situation he had jumped out, sending mud

and ooze flying, but landing on solid ground. While safely on the other side of the bog I announced there would be no turning back now. We were committed to making the trail loop, as I contemplated the woolly mammoths and other creatures killed in such bogs. So I guess that makes for rule number six... know your terrain and make sure you are not about to ride off a cliff, into quick sand, or a bog. Alternatively have a super amazing and lucky horse like Bart who can get you out of trouble time and time again.

The rest of the ride was pleasant and uneventful. The horses and riders made it safely back to the trailer, were washed off, and then taken home. Bart did not seem phased, or even tired from his camping expedition. In fact when turned out with his herd mates, he promptly started running and playing with them. As for all the other pets, my dad did a good job taking care of them and didn't even trash my house. As I am sitting here writing this article, contemplations for the next camping trip are running through my head. Anyone want to join me on the adventure?

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Backyard fruit gardens

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

As a Master Gardener, we get involved in many projects that we may not ordinarily have an opportunity to work on. For example, at the Fruit Research and Extension Center (FREC), we have developed a backyard fruit garden. This is a garden that anyone could re-create in their own yard, or at least take away ideas to develop and care for a backyard fruit garden. In this garden, we have apple trees, three different varieties of raspberries, and three varieties of strawberries. This is our third season with the garden.

During our planting and maintaining of these fruiting plants, we have learned so much. As Master Gardeners in Adams County, the premium county for fruits, we are asked questions from across the state as well as across the county on care of fruit trees. This spurred us to learn even more, by doing and experiencing, how a home owner would successfully take care of fruit trees and small fruits in the home garden. I'd like to share our journey in this garden, as well as mine, as a gardener re-creating my own take on fruit gardening.

The first step to every garden is design. We had decided on a garden with four quadrants, a

fruit tree in the center of each quadrant, brambles edging two of the four, and espalier trees bordering two quadrants. The design is simple, making maintenance as easy as can be expected with fruit trees and brambles. The garden is approximately 40' x 40', with a 10' grass walkway between all four quadrants, making a cross through the garden. The garden beds themselves are approximately 15' x 15'.

After the design was agreed upon, the next step was choosing varieties. For us, we relied on the suggestions of the FREC director at that time, as he certainly was "the man in the know". For our trees, the following varieties were selected: Enterprise, Goldrush (both apples), Gloria, Klondyke White (peaches), Easternglo (nectarine) and Black Gold (cherry). The apples were planned for espaliering on a trellis system, while the other four trees were the center specimen of our quadrants.

Since our plan for the apple trees was to grow them on a trellis, the tree choices were dwarf varieties that are more resistant to some common disease problems, like fire blight and scab.

Our next most important step was preparing the soil. Luckily, the farm staff at FREC tilled and added compost to our gar-



den beds. We drew the borders of the garden beds, with very careful measuring, and planted the trees, brambles and strawberries. All the plants were bare-root, which is simply means no soil was on the root system. This allows for us to see the health of the root system, but also limits the amount of time we have to plant, as they should be planted soon after receiving them so roots do not dry

out. When we planted the fruit trees, the graft union of the apple trees was about 8" above soil level. After researching, I think we may have planted them a little too high, as most publications are recommending 1" - 3" above soil level, but so far, the trees are doing just fine. The peaches and cherry were planted with graft union slightly above soil level. (the graft union is the

visible bulge you'll see towards the bottom of the trunk where the bud was grafted to the rootstock.)

The trees were pruned: apples headed back to encourage side branching low enough for the trellis, and the peaches and nectarine headed back to encourage lower branching for easy harvesting. It's funny, when pruning these trees, it goes against everything we learn about pruning the ornamental plants. Heading back just isn't a thing we ever consider doing when pruning our landscape trees.

One very special technician at the farm installed our trellis system for both the apple trees and the brambles. This entailed four 9' posts and wire. He kept our trees sprayed that first year, and the health of the plants was great. The apples were trained as the branches developed to make a criss-cross pattern. The peaches and nectarines we just watched grow. And so went our first year.

The second season required us to do some pruning of our brambles, and continued pruning of the trees. Espalier trees, of any type, require lots of maintenance, especially in the spring, as the new growth develops. Training the trees to move and grow a certain way can take a bit of time, but the rewards are worth it. The peach and nectarines are pruned to open up

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THE MASTER GARDENER

the center of the trees, allowing good air circulation and sun to get into the center. Our trees are sort of bowl-shaped. We harvested a handful of apples and peaches – and it was only the second growing season!

As with any fruit trees, spraying must be considered for good fruit production, as we learned this year. We have rust, scab and had a problem with rosey apple aphids on the apples, as well as some brown rot on the peaches. The cherry tree looks pretty good. This year we haven't sprayed at all, and as a result, our apples are smaller, have holes and spots and peaches have some brown rot. However, apples will be harvested and our peach tree is full of peaches!

We are still learning about our raspberries. Pruning the different varieties, because of their fruiting time, has been a challenge. Understanding words like primocane and florican and what they look like has been interesting.

As a result of this garden, I too have decided to develop a fruit garden in my own yard. This fall, I will be building a trellis system for the apple trees. I will be planting a few blueberries as well as thornless raspberries in the spring and hoping to plant some pear trees as well.

Living on 18 acres, one may think we have plenty of room for an orchard. Quite the contrary. Much of our land is either wetland or a riparian buffer. On our slopes we have maintained a meadow interspersed with native evergreens and hardwoods.

Our vegetable garden is located in a sunny spot, about 30' x 30' enclosed in fencing with four raised beds. So the best place to locate our fruit garden is by the vegetable garden, the best soil on the property.

I have really enjoyed working with the espalier apple trees at FREC, and wish to incorporate the same concept into my own garden. I wanted to be sure that I made the best decision possible with the selection of trees that I chose. There are some good tasting, disease resistant apple trees available and I want to be sure I purchase the most dwarfing rootstock available.

Rootstock controls the size of a tree. There are several rootstocks used. M9 and Bud9 are the most dwarfing rootstock. Not all trees will be available with this root stock, but many are. These trees will get to a height of about 10', making them ideal for the backyard garden since they are easy to harvest and care for without a ladder. The disadvantage? The trees grafted to this rootstock must be staked, as these rootstocks have poor anchorage causing the trees to fall over easily. Not a big deal, just an extra step needed in preparation.

I also want to be sure I'm getting varieties that are disease resistant. There's quite a long list of these varieties. After reading everything I could about these trees as well as consulting our Tree Fruit Specialist, I have chosen 'Goldrush' and 'Crimson Crisp'. These two varieties will pollinate each other, another piece of the puzzle

to consider. I've ordered my trees for spring and am looking forward to planting them.

The next step is preparing the soil and building the trellis. This will be my fall project. I'm anxious to see the trees growing, and start training them.

Each of our Master Gardeners has a vast knowledge of a lot of gardening information, just as I do. However, we all seem to become particularly intrigued with a specific part of gardening. I have always had a love of perennials and flowering shrubs and can never know

quite enough about them. However, I think I'll be adding another facet to my repertoire, and that will be espaliered fruit trees.

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

The Small Town Gardener Embracing imperfection

Marianne Wilburn

I didn't start out as a gardener. My mother doesn't have stories of me as a precocious three year old building my own compost pile or experimenting with mulch methods. Nope, I was a pretty average kid. My parents gardened and I benefited. And when I was asked to participate in the potato digging or bean picking, I did what every other kid my age did. I complained and faked sun stroke. For many years I watched my parents battle gophers and deer and complain about water bills, and the thought often occurred to me that a grocery store might just be the answer they were searching for.

Then I grew up and headed straight for the city. The Big City. Several of them in fact. After two years of asphalt and exhaust fumes, I began to yearn strangely for the taste of dirt and the smell of a homegrown tomato. Or was it the other way around? The city was starting to confuse me. So I looked around for a little bit of garden to make my own. At \$600 a square foot in Manhattan, an indoor herb pot was all I could manage. In London, I graduated to tasteful window boxes and containers on the doorstep. But in Los Angeles I reclaimed a 2x15ft corner of my apartment's parking pad and called it my Victory Garden. There I grew tomatoes, carrots, chard and beans, and lovingly brushed the orange brake dust off my first harvest. I was a gardener. At last.

I didn't know what I was doing. I didn't have friends that gardened. Everyone around me was far too busy abusing their twenty-something bodies to care about fresh produce. My tomato plants sustained numerous crushing injuries involving car tires, and my carrots were only two inches long due to the cement slab that ran under that part of the bed. I would call my mother with questions only to hear the twenty-

five year veteran of veg and vine say "Why on earth are you asking me? I don't know what I'm doing." It started to occur to me that this was a game with a constant learning curve. Learn how to grow a tomato: hornworms would be grateful for your effort. Plant a perennial that had "very hardy" on the label: expect the hardest winter since 1893. Yet I kept trying. I just wanted to grow things.

A few years later I approached my first large garden with the same enthusiasm. Only this time experience had tempered it with trepidation. I signed up for every garden speaker in the greater Maryland area. One step forward. I lost all of my apple trees to the evil machinations of the Black Walnut. Three steps back. I grew a perennial border worthy of Kew Gardens. Four steps forward. We went through two years of drought and half of it died. Six steps back. And yet, with every victory, with every failure (and there were many), my knowledge base grew – and so did my garden.

And that's what I keep telling myself. Half of gardening is experimentation. This plant here. That plant there. This hammock here and pass the Sangria please. And the other half? Getting used to imperfection and embracing it. (Actually there's another big part that involves hard manual labor, but my percentages wouldn't add up so we'll just forget about that right now.) Faced with a new bug, a new disease, a new fussy plant, every gardener feels frustrated and overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of what we still need to learn. So don't give up. Let's face it – it would be pretty boring if we knew it all.

And that's what I keep telling myself.

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Beltzhoover, CSA

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society
Civil War Historian

Part One

Daniel Beltzhoover was born in 1826, in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In 1832, young Daniel Beltzhoover moved to Natchez, Mississippi. Daniel was a graduate of the 1847 class at West Point. He was a veteran in the United States Military serving during the wars in Florida and in Mexico. After the war with Mexico, he became a professor at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary near Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he taught mathematics. While teaching at the Mount, Daniel married Elizabeth Miles, who was the sister to Professor George Miles, who also taught at the Mount. Daniel Beltzhoover was a highly religious man and practiced the Roman Catholic faith.

Before the Civil War, he commanded a company of Zouave Mountain Cadets at Mount Saint Mary's, and drilled them thoroughly on Eardin's and Casey's tactics. During the winter of 1860, Daniel Beltzhoover gave a lecture on "Modern Fortifications." This was his last lecture before he entered the Confeder-

ate army. As the country became divided over the issues of the time period leading to the Civil War, Professor Beltzhoover and his students had a decision to make.

In March of 1861, before the first shots of the Civil War rang out in the Charleston Harbor at South Carolina, Daniel set out for the state of Louisiana, resigning from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary. Daniel Beltzhoover was appointed the rank of major on April 17th, and mustered into service on April 18th, with the 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery Regiment. During this time period, Major Beltzhoover served as a staff officer to Major General David E. Twiggs.

On April 26, 1861, Major Beltzhoover, who was headquartered at New Orleans, sent a dispatch to 1st Lieutenant H. W. Fossler requesting him to report for duty at Fort Jackson to be mustered in and to receive his official commission from the Confederate States. This is the first official record stating Daniel's rank in the Confederate Army.

On July 25, 1861, Major Beltzhoover received a dispatch from the Assistant Adjutant-General R. Chilton at Richmond, Virginia stating: "When troops are organized under State laws and received into service as so orga-

nized, as, for instance, by battalions or regiments, all vacancies occurring are filled according to State laws; but where independent companies are tendered as such and so received by the President, all vacancies are filled by his appointment." This dispatch was sent to several other officers as well.

At New Orleans on July 1, 1861, Augustus C. Watson was a wealthy planter from the Tensas parish and equipped the battery with four 6-lb. Smoothbores and two 12-lb. Howitzers at a cost of \$40,000-\$60,000. The men serving in the battery were from Livingston, East Baton Rouge, and St. Helena parishes. According to the Story of the Mountain at least thirty Mountaineers (Mount Saint Mary's Students) also served in the ranks of Watson's Artillery. Shortly after Watson's Artillery was formed, many of the officers who served in the battery took demotions in rank. The battery's first Captain was Allen Bursly, a West Point Graduate. Sometime afterward, Augustus Watson, approached Major Beltzhoover to accept the position of the battery commander, which Major Beltzhoover accepted. In October, Beltzhoover took over as the commanding officer in Watson's Flying Battery.

Once the battery was equipped and enough manpower recruited, Watson's Artillery set out for camp in August of 1861. On August 13th, the members of Watson's Battery assembled at Lafayette Square to take a river steamboat to Watson's Plantation for drill. Their uniforms consisted of a steel gray woolen jacket with a nine button front, and crimson red facings and piping. The sleeves adopted a French cuff taped with yellow with eight small ball buttons. The trousers were made from steel gray material matching the jacket and featured a crimson red stripe down the outer seam of the trousers.



Mount Saint Mary's students pose for a photo ~ Summer 1863.

Their head gear was a steel gray kepi with a crimson red band, red cord, crossed cannons, and brass letters "WB" for Watson's Battery to honor their founder Augustus Watson. Their uniform also included a black leather belt with the two-piece Louisiana buckle with the pelican insignia.

At Lake Bruin, near St. Joseph, the men drilled until they were fit for active service. Many complaints from the enlisted men said that Beltzhoover was too hard and rough during drill periods. Petitions were signed by many of the unit's enlisted men wanting transfers to other artillery organizations. Some of the men resigned from Watson's Flying Battery to join the Louisiana Point Coupee Battery. With the situation unresolved, many men of Watson's Battery tore off the "W" from their kepis in protest of General Polk's lack of investigation into their claims.

The members of Watson's Battery reported to Memphis Tennessee in September of 1861, and were ordered to report for duty in early October at Columbus, Kentucky. On November 7th, the men of Watson's Artillery received their first baptism of fire at Belmont, Missouri. During the battle of Belmont, Lt. Colonel Beltzhoover supported Colonel John V. Wright's 13th Tennessee Regiment, who was on Belt-

zhoover's left. They also supported the 13th Arkansas Regiment under Colonel Tappan, with the regiments of Colonels Pickett, Freeman, and Russell on their right. Beltzhoover's guns were directed to take up position in a field about one hundred yards from the Mississippi River. Watson's Artillery kept the fire hot and Lt. Colonel Beltzhoover was noted by several regimental officers for his gallant conduct during the battle. The Federals made an attempt to turn the left wing of the Confederates but was defeated by the destructive fire of Beltzhoover's battery supported by Colonel Wright's Tennessee Regiment.

Colonel Beltzhoover was ordered to remove his battery to the rear when it ran out of ammunition. During the execution to fall back, one team of horses ran off with the limber, leaving the gun in its position where the battery was first stationed. Some reports claim that a Federal artillery shell had exploded near Watson's Battery. While the other pieces of Watson's Artillery were withdrawn to the bank of the river, the gun fell into Federal hands. Colonel Buford's 27th Illinois were the first to press into the Confederate line and succeeded in capturing the gun belonging to Watson's Battery. Lt. Colonel Beltzhoover asked for assistance in recovering the lost gun.

Part 2 next month



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VETERAN'S PROFILE

Sgt. First Class Frank M. Rauschenberg

I joined the Navy Reserve in 1961 while in High School. Upon graduation, I was ordered to active duty and sent to the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois. Upon completion of my basic training, I was assigned to the Mobile Construction Battalion, MCB 10, and Port Hueneme, California, commonly referred to Seabees.

The Seabees were and remains an admired division of the US Navy land base group due to the dual mission of construction and our marine trained combat readiness. The motto of the Seabees was "Can Do".

While there as a young enlistee person, the base received the unpleasant news of President John F. Kennedy being assassinated, and put us on a readiness alert.

Shortly there after I was deployed to Midway Island for nine months to spread cement on the side aprons of the airstrip. The goony birds were mating and hatching their babies in the sand. As a result, they posed a danger to incoming and outgoing flights of the AWACS aircraft. Midway Island was one mile long and three quarters mile wide. However, we did enjoy the beaches, keeping in mind at that time the detachment comprised of only male personnel.

I returned to the States, and was stationed in Southern California for several months. When MCB 10 was deployed to Okinawa for a brief period. I was an E-3, Heavy Equipment Operator mostly operating a bulldozer and an earthmover at the time and later promoted to EO-4, third class petty officer. On or about May 1, 1965, while in Okinawa and enjoying myself with my comrades in the enlisted club, around 10 pm the lights came on with an order for all MCB 10 personnel to report for roll call within 30 minutes.

Subsequently, MCB 10 was ordered to South Vietnam with the destination unknown to the troops. 12 hours later we loaded the ship with our assigned heavy equipment

on a troop carrier ship three days and arriving at the beaches of Chu-Lai, South Vietnam. Once we arrived, we held our position on the Landing Crafts for twenty-four hours. During that time and particularly during the night we saw and heard the constant bombardment in the hills of Chu-Lai. Twenty-four hours later we debarked from the Landing crafts with our weapons, personnel gear and our assigned vehicles. We hit the beaches of Chu-Lai on May 7, 1965.

Upon arrival, there were no facilities constructed. Naturally, the Seabees went into a construction mode and started erecting general personnel tents for the troops including, birthing, wash facilities, mess hall and a compound for the heavy equipment. Once established on the beach, our Commander, Captain Bannister informed us that our mission was to construct a runway for the fighter jets to land, fueling and armament.

Several weeks later the encampment was officially named Camp Bannister in respect for our Commander, Captain Bannister. During the construction phase of the runway, each equipment operator had a marine soldier who rode shotgun to render return fire from the frequent sniper firings from the Viet Cong, so as not to interrupt the construction of the runway.

With that said, I am reminded of nightly bombardments of our campsite. In one incident, around 9 PM, I was alone in the gang type constructed latrine performing a daily natural body function, when the encampment was bombarded. I quickly exited the latrine and while grabbing my trousers and running towards my foxhole, I realized the latrine had been blown up from the VC bombardment.

My comrade Seabees and I were fired upon by the "VC" on many occasions. The John Wayne in all of us kicked in to defend ourselves and

the mission. There were numerous times we returned fire with our M-14's and getting a confirmed kill.

Ironically, the Marine riding shotgun with me, Courtney Nickcode-mus and I became friends only to discover that we were both from Maryland and lived only five miles from each other.

Prior to my departure from Chu-Lai and MCB-10, our first mission was complete. The first runway was completed and the first fighter jets landed on the runway. A celebration was held for the troops and the pilots of the fighter jets.

Two of my closest friends in MCB-10 were Seabees by the name of Estrada (no, not the same person on the TV program, Chips) and an African American with the nickname of Cookie. Estrada was a legal citizen of the United States and a proud member of the US Navy Seabee's. Cookie was a gentlemen and a fun loving person who also was a proud Seabee. More information could be mentioned of incidents I participated in and observed during wartime, knowing it could become a public issue.

Due to my ETS, Estimated Time in Service, I left Vietnam in, 1965 to pursue a carrier in Law Enforcement in the states. After leaving the active service of the military, I took an ex-



tended leave from the navy reserve, as a SEABEE to help my Dad on his farm in Woodbine.

In 1968, I became a sworn police officer with the City of Westminster, until 1973, when I became a Deputy State Fire Marshal. In 1978, I joined the Maryland Army National Guard, which I retired from with 25 years of service and as a Sergeant First Class. Subsequently, I retired from the State Fire Marshal's Office in 1998 and started my private consulting and a

licensed Private Investigation business in Fire Investigations for the insurance industry. Currently living in Emmitsburg, married with three children. An active member of the Harney VFW and the Taneytown American Legion. Also serving as Commander of Post 48, 29th Division in Westminster, MD.

My son, Captain Kurt M. Rauschenberg who is attached to the 29th MPAD, Maryland Army National Guard is currently serving in Iraq for a one-year tour.

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HISTORY

Local entries in the History of Frederick County

Editor's note: As noted in the 100 Years Ago this Month Column, this month marks the 100th anniversary of the publishing of the William's History of Frederick County. So we thought it fitting to share with you some of the local entries in the work.

Oliver Alexander Horner

Oliver Alexander Horner deceased, was one of the most prominent citizens of Frederick County, and was well and favorably known in financial circles of Maryland. He was of Irish extraction on his paternal side. He was born on a farm near Gettysburg, Adams County, Pa., Jan. 10, 1841. He was the eldest son of David W. and Susan (Robertson) Horner.

Mr. Horner was the recipient of a public school education. In the winters of 1859 and 1860 he taught school. Taking a course in Eastman's Commercial College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., he was graduated Aug. 9, 1861, a master of accounts.

At the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion, he enlisted as a private in Company C, Cole's Maryland Cavalry, at Emmitsburg, Aug. 27, 1861. He was made a corporal at the organization of the company; promoted to first sergeant, June 10, 1862; second lieutenant, Jan. 15, 1864; first lieutenant and adjutant, April 20, 1864; and major, Feb. 1, 1865, the last promotion being for "efficiency, bravery and meritorious conduct," he having the approval of the field and line officers of the regiment. He served continuously with his regiment until the close of the war, except for brief periods, when he was detailed for post, brigade, staff and court-martial duties along the Potomac and in the Shenandoah Valley, Department of West Virginia.

He spent the winter of 1861 along the Potomac, picketing fords and guarding telegraph lines from

Frederick to Hancock, Md. He entered the Shenandoah Valley in Banks campaign in March 1862. He participated in the fight with Stuart's Cavalry, at Leesburg, Va., Sept. 2, 1862; in the siege and bombardment of Harper's Ferry, Sept. 3-14, being in the advance guard with the cavalry that cut their way through the Confederate lines the night before the surrender; assisted in the capture of Longstreet's ammunition train of ninety wagons, with the guard, near Williamsport, Md., Sept. 15, and in the capture of a portion of Stuart's cavalry at Hyattstown, Md., Oct. 11, when the latter was returning from his raid into the Cumberland Valley, Pa., around McClellan's army; was on a reconnaissance to Winchester, Va., Dec. 2-6, fighting at Charlestown, Berryville and Smithfield; fought at Hallstown, Va., Dec. 20, and assisted in the capture of Captain Baylor, who fired upon a flag of truce at Harper's Ferry in 1861.

The winter of 1862 was passed by Major Horner at Harper's Ferry, with raids frequently through Loudoun, Jefferson and Clarke Counties, Va., and after White's and Mosby's guerrillas. In 1863, he took part in the battle at Fountaindale. June 28, Harper's Ferry, July 4; assisted in the destruction of the bridge across the Potomac; fought at Charlestown and Rippon, Va., Oct. 18, had his horse shot from under him on a fifteen day raid up the Shenandoah Valley.

In 1864, he was in the midnight attack from Mosby's guerrillas at Loudoun Heights, Va., Jan. 10; the raid from Harper's Ferry via Winchester and Romney to Moorfield, Va., in February; the fight at Mechanicsville Gap; engagement near Middletown, Md., July 6, where he was captured but made his escape the same day; the fight at Hagerstown, Md., July 24;

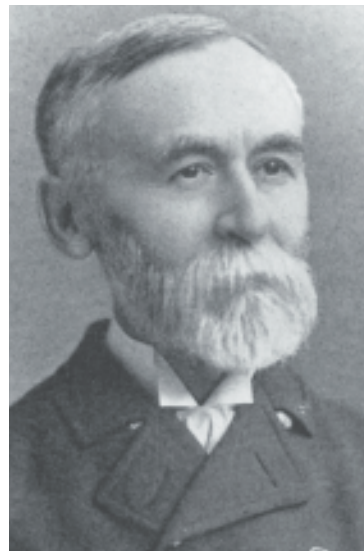
at Keedysville, Md., Aug. 5; with Sherman's cavalry in Shenandoah Valley from Aug. 9-13; in the fighting at Berryville, Charlestown and Summit Point; assisted in the retrograde movement from Strasburg to Potomac, destroying forage and driving live stock from that region. The winter of 1864, Major Horner passed on the Upper Potomac, with headquarters at Hedgesville, Va., guarding the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and telegraph lines from Harper's Ferry to Cumberland, Md. He was mustered out of service at Harper's Ferry, June 28, 1865. Thus it is seen that as a soldier, Major Horner had a most creditable record.

After the close of the war, Major Horner returned to Emmitsburg, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was appointed postmaster there, March 11, 1869, and resigned April 13, 1877. He was then appointed United States storekeeper of customs at Baltimore, Aug. 24, 1877, serving in that capacity and as inspector of customs until July 1882.

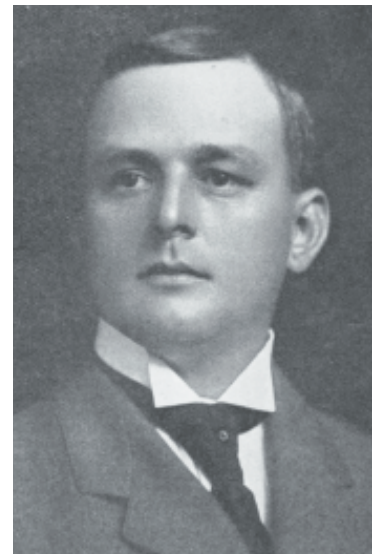
In Oct. 1882, Major Horner was one of the organizers of the banking house of Annan, Horner & Company, of which he was cashier and general manager. This institution erected in 1888, one of the finest bank buildings in Western Maryland, and soon became known as one of the most prosperous and reliable in that section of the State.

Much of its success can be traced to the financial ability and foresight of Major Horner. He was elected commissioner of the corporation of Emmitsburg in 1882 and 1883, and was a director and treasurer of the Emmitsburg Water Company. He was a man of sterling integrity, and one of the keenest businessmen of Frederick County. He was one of the active and earnest Republicans of the county. He served as commander of Arthur Post, No. 41, G. A. H., Department of Maryland.

Major Horner was twice married, first at Emmitsburg, to Ann Margaret Grier, daughter of the late Rev. Robert Grier, by whom he had three children. She died Aug. 14, 1872, and the children at an early age. Major Horner was married secondly on Oct. 22, 1878, to Anna E. Annan, daughter of Andrew Annan, of Emmitsburg. She bore four children: Andrew Annan, Robert Lewis, Elizabeth



Oliver Horner



J. Stewart Annan

Mutter, and Oliver Alexander. Major Horner died in 1897.

J. Stewart Annan

J. Stewart Annan, a highly respected citizen of Emmitsburg, and one of the present County Commissioners of Frederick County, was born in the town in which he now resides, March 9, 1874. He is a son of James Cochran and Rosa J. (Stewart) Annan, the former deceased.

Andrew Annan, the grandfather of J. Stewart Annan, was of Scotch-Irish descent who moved to Emmitsburg in the early 1800s. He married Anna Motter, and was a member of the Presbyterian Church. They were the parents of these children: Robert L., deceased; David, deceased; Isaac S., deceased; Andrew A.; James Cochran; and Anna Elizabeth, the widow of Major O. A. Horner, of Emmitsburg.

James Cochran Annan, son of Andrew and Anna (Motter) Annan, was born in Emmitsburg, in 1836, and died in August 1894. He was a general merchant at Emmitsburg for many years, being junior member of the firm of I. S. Annan & Brother. He was a highly esteemed citizen. In politics he was a Republican, but never asked for office. He was a life long member of the Presbyterian Church, being one of the pillars of that denomination. For 30 years he was superintendent of the Sunday School and one of the trustees. Mr. Annan was married to Rosa J. Stewart, a member of an old and well known Scotch-Irish family of the Cumberland Valley, Pa. There was one son by this marriage: J. Stewart.

J. Stewart Annan received his education in his native place. He also attended New Windsor College, and the Chambersburg Academy, Chambersburg, Pa., and was one year at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. Upon the completion of his education, he returned home, and has been engaged in various occupations. Much of his time and energy he devotes to the management of his farms, which comprise about 700 acres of land in Emmitsburg district. From time to time he has been interested in various enterprises of the county. He is a director in the People's Fire Insurance Company of Frederick County, and in the Emmitsburg Water Company; Emmitsburg and Frederick Turnpike Company, and a member of the Banking House of Annan, Horner & Co., of Emmitsburg.

Mr. Annan has been all his life a loyal supporter of the Republican party. In Nov. 1907, he was elected to the office of County Commissioner of Frederick County for a term of four years. Religiously, he is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church.

J. Stewart Annan was married March 10, 1896, to Elizabeth A. Morrison, daughter of William and Helen (Agnew) Morrison, of Emmitsburg. (William Morrison was the son of Emmitsburg's wealthiest landholder, David Morrison, who was married to a sister of Robert Morris, the financier of the American War of Independence.)

Shortly after their marriage, Stewart and Elizabeth bought the Horner ancestral home, Fort Henry, and over the following years, enlarged and refitted the old farmhouse into a show piece mansion.

Nicholas Cronon Stansbury

Nicholas Cronon Stansbury, born on May 6, 1843, was owner of "Alta Vista," near Four Point Bridge, son of Nicholas and Amelia (Phillips) Stansbury. The Stansbury family is of English descent. Four brothers of that name came from England and settled, it is supposed, in Frederick County, Md. Abraham Stansbury, grandfather of Nicholas, lived in Carroll County. He afterwards moved to the Emmitsburg district, on a farm now owned by George A. Ohler.

Mr. Stansbury's father moved to the Emmitsburg area in 1851 and purchased a farm of 225 acres, now



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HISTORY

owned by John B. Stoner. Nicholas was a child when his parents moved to the Emmitsburg district. He grew up on his father's farm and was educated in the public schools of the district. After teaching for a short while in the public schools of Frederick County, Mr. Stausbury returned to the home farm, and worked for his father until he was 25, when he began farming for himself. He rented places in various parts of the county until 1888, when he bought his present farm, "Alta Vista," a place of 112 acres.

Mr. Stansbury built the barn in the summer of 1889. He has put up all the buildings on the place except the house, which was erected by Abiah Martin in 1863. He is a staunch Republican, active in public affairs and was elected county commissioner of Frederick County in 1881.

Mr. Stansbury is one of the founders of Tom's Creek M. E. Church. He is a member of the board of trustees, and has been recording steward for many years. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Emmitsburg.

Noah Stansbury

Noah Stansbury, born on June 4, 1845, was a wheelwright and blacksmith, son of Nicholas and Amelia (Phillips) Stansbury. Noah was seven years old when his parents moved to what is now the John P. Stoner farm, in Emmitsburg district.

He attended the public school at Stony Branch, near his home beginning his school-days under Samuel Davis. When he was 17, Mr. Stansbury left school and learned blacksmithing with Thomas Barton in the smithy which he now owns. After serving an apprenticeship of two years, he worked as a journeyman with Mr. Barton from whom he afterwards purchased the business. He became a wheelwright and, for a long time, had an extensive trade in both branches of

business. In recent years, his business has not been so large. He has a beautiful barn and forty acres of land which he cultivates himself. Mr. Stansbury is a Republican, interested in all that concerns the prosperity of the county.

Noah Stansbury was married in 1868 to Sarah, daughter of Thomas Barton, deceased. Mr. Stansbury and his wife are members of Tom's Creek Methodist Episcopal Church. He is one of the trustees of the church.

George Thomas Marshall Martin

A well known farmer of Emmitsburg district, Frederick County, Md., son of Abiah and Sophia (Kerns) Martin, was born at the homestead in 1841.

Mr. Martin's grandfather, John Martin, owned and cultivated the farm now occupied by N. C. Stansbury. He was a blacksmith and had his smithy on the farm. He was married to Sophia Currens. Their five children are Joseph, Abiah, George, Barbara (Mrs. William Black) and Elizabeth (Mrs. Samuel Valentine).

It is supposed that Abiah Martin, Mr. Martin's father, was born at the homestead, where he spent his childhood and youth. He learned blacksmithing with his father at the homestead. After he married he moved to Adams County, Pa. Later he moved to a farm on Beaver Branch and for a time, worked at the trade just over the line, in Adams County. After his marriage, Mr. Martin purchased a farm lying along Beaver Branch, in Emmitsburg District, which he cultivated until the time of his death.

Abiah Martin was married to Sophia Currens, who lived near Taneytown. Their five children are George Thomas Marshall; James P. (married Margaret Bollinger); Mary (Mrs. William Smith), deceased; Harvey, resides near Hagerstown, married Annie Smith; John, deceased, married

Virginia Lohr. Abiah Martin died at his homestead in 1880, aged 71. His widow died in 1889, aged 69.

George T. Martin grew up on the home farm on Beaver Creek and attended the public school, the so-called "Mud College," of his native district. The son of a farmer, he devoted his life to the cultivation of the soil and after his marriage, began farming for himself on what is now the N. C. Stansbury place. Three years later, he moved to a farm in Emmitsburg district, the property of Mr. Whitmore, which he cultivated until the time of his death. Mr. Martin was a staunch Democrat.

George Martin was married Nov. 3, 1863, to Mary Ellen, daughter of David and Rebecca (Johnson) Whitmore. Mr. Martin was a member of the Reformed church in Emmitsburg. He died on the home farm Oct. 14, 1884, and is buried in Mountain View cemetery in Emmitsburg, Md.

William H. Fuss

William H. Fuss, born in Taneytown district, Carroll County, Md., Dec. 24, 1848, son of John and Hettie Fuss, was a retired farmer and well-known citizen of Emmitsburg District, Frederick County, Md. He died April 24, 1909.

John Fuss, father of William H. Fuss, was born nine days after his father's death, in the year 1825, in Frederick County, Md. He grew up on the farm and devoted himself to husbandry. In early manhood, Mr. Fuss was hired by the month as a farm laborer, but after his marriage, began farming for himself on rented land. He was industrious and thrifty and finally was able to purchase the farm on which his son, Asbury, now resides. In 1877 he moved to the farm now owned by his son Mead, where he died in 1890. His wife died in 1888, aged 59. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Fuss was a Republican, interested in public affairs, but never held office.

William H. Fuss was 10 years old when his parents were moved

to the farm in Emmitsburg District now the property of Asbury Fuss, a younger brother of William H. Fuss. Here he passed his youth and received his education in the Ridge School under Linnie Sproukle. Mr. Fuss remained in school until he was 21, giving his leisure time and all his vacations to assist his father with the farm work. After leaving school, he remained at home working for his father until 1873.

When he began farming for himself on rented land and after six or eight years of patient toil, was able to purchase the property. The farm consisted of 147 acres for which he paid \$5,500. When Mr. Fuss took the farm it was considered the poorest place in that section of the State. When he left it after 35 years of intelligent care, it was rated as one of the best, giving one season 888 bushels to 31 acres. In 1908, Mr. Fuss retired from active farm life on account of ill health, which was caused by injuries received some years before when he was thrown from a wagon in the wagon shed. He died April 24, 1909.

William Fuss was married Feb. 10, 1873 to Maria Louisa Overholzer. Mr. Fuss was a staunch Republican and served for one term as register and judge of election. He was a member of Tom's Creek Methodist Episcopal Church in which congregation held the office of steward, and of which the family are also members.

Vincent Sebold

Emmitsburg resident Vincent Sebold is a distinguished member of the Frederick County Bar. He entered St. Vincent's College, near Latrobe, Pa., as a commercial student, where he completed the course in two years. Desiring to continue the study of the Classics, however, he went to Mount St. Mary's College the following year, where he stayed for several years. In 1881, he began to read law and after two years of study, passed an excellent examination and was admitted to practice at the Frederick Bar.

After completing his law course, Mr. Sebold was married to Miss



Vincent Sebold

Annie I. Roddy, who resided near Thurmont. After his marriage he went to Richmond, Va., where he began the practice of law, but owing to the death of his mother soon after on account of his father, who was advanced in years, he abandoned the Richmond field, and returned to Frederick County.

About this time a change took place in the political affairs of Frederick County. The entire Democratic ticket was elected, and the office of Deputy Collector of the County was offered to him, an offer he accepted. He served for two years in this office. When his term of office expired, he was again offered the Collectorship, but declined, preferring to return to the practice of his profession. He was appointed counsel to the Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County.

Mr. Sebold's practice grew rapidly and extended to other counties in Maryland. While his practice is large and requires close attention, he still finds time to look after and help to develop some of the most important industries and institutions of this county, and of southern Pennsylvania.

When in 1897, after a heroic struggle for many years, the Emmitsburg Railroad went into the hands of receivers, Mr. Sebold formed a syndicate, chiefly of local capital, which purchased the road and formed a new company. He took charge of the property, developed it, and under his management it has become one of the best and most substantial short roads in the country. He is still general manager and treasurer of the road. Mr. Sebold is also president of the Emmitsburg Manufacturing Company, and of other corporations organized for the purpose of developing local industries.

Although active and energetic in business enterprises, and busy with a large law practice, Mr. Sebold takes a keen interest and often an active part in county and state politics. Among the recognized democratic leaders of the county, for many years he has served on the County and State Committees, and as a delegate from his County to Congressional, Judicial and State conventions. While he is liberal in his opinions, Mr. Sebold never fails to loyally support the principles of his party and its standard bearers, although associated in many ways with large numbers of his Republican friends in numerous business relations.

To learn more about individuals who helped shape the history of our community, visit the People section of Emmitsburg.net

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

Minuteman testing & the Cuban Missile Crisis

**Captain James Berrall,
USAF Ret.**

In the first part of this article in last month's edition I described the unpredictable and sometimes chaotic world of ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) development and testing in the late 1950s. At the time, Vandenberg Air Force Base in California was a major center for testing of experimental ICBMs.

Every day you went to work expecting another "adventure". When you arrived at your work site you did not see an experimental ICBM ... you saw a powerful "monster" straining at its leashes on a concrete launch pad. When you saw those 100 foot-long boosters strapped to the missile's side your mind fast-forwarded and thought "great balls of fire" that might destroy all in their path at launch as they bounced and cart-wheeled across the test range.

Loyal company men who were developing these ICBMs were clear that their missiles did not "explode" during testing They might experience "pressure bursts", but they definitely did not experience "explosions". I was advised to drop the word "explosion" from my vocabulary. To think in terms of "Pressure bursts" such as those seen at Mount St. Helens from time to time.

High Stakes Competition

Vandenberg AFB was a highly competitive world where pioneering aerospace firms were in intense competition to create the nation's land based nuclear, intercontinental, ballistic missile known as the LGM-30 – the Minuteman missile. Minuteman ICBMs were a major component of the U.S. "Triad" along with the U.S. Navy's Trident, submarine launched missile (SLBM) and the nuclear weapons carried by the Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) bombers.

There was intense competition for major components of the Minuteman missile such as its "nozzle design". ARDE Corporation, founded in 1952, had become a front-runner in ICBM nozzle design and had a new design that was going to be tested. A representative from the ARDE home office came out to see the test and I was told to try to help him see everything he wanted to.

When we got to the test site I got

a slight shock, he didn't want to go in the blockhouse, he wanted to see the test from outside and he wanted to see one up close. I was sure this was not allowed and if anyone saw us (there were a number of TV cameras trained on the test area) they would surely stop the test to get us out of there, which would cause a BIG furor and might actually cost me my job: which I certainly didn't want to happen.

To my horror the ARDE rep said, "Here, this is perfect!" and he dashed up the stairs to the top of the adjacent test bay! We could only have been about 100 feet from the one where the test motor was. I don't think the ARDE rep had any idea what he was getting into.

Once we were on top there was nothing to do but wait and we didn't have to wait long. The motor lit off with an incredible blast of sound - words cannot possibly convey how loud it was. I felt like I had been hit in the face, HARD by something big and flat and cold. I think "shattering" is the best possible word I can find to describe that noise. Get in a small room, close the door and have ten cherry bombs sequentially, per second explode in there with you for 60 seconds, that would approximate what it was like. No exaggeration.

We were much too close

I crouched down below the concrete lip of the test bay and put my fingers in my ears as tightly as possible. I would have put them in up to my elbows if I could have, but it wasn't enough. The noise actually hurt. I have read that noise above 160 decibels can be painful and it certainly was that. My chest hurt, my stomach hurt, I felt like my insides were turning to jelly. The ARDE rep took a quick peek over the edge at his nozzle, then he sat down with his hands over his ears too. I was just hunched down, praying that the test would be over soon. It was a long 60 seconds.

Nothing was ever said to me about it, so I guess we were not seen, a miracle for which I have always been thankful. I don't remember anything else about that day, I probably was more or less in shock that we had gotten away with it. I also would not be at all surprised to learn that that day is the reason my ears now ring.



Eventually a time came when I was told to hurry up, get out to the test area quick, they're going to fire one... and I realized I didn't want to go. It was about 100 degrees out there and I was in a nice cool air-conditioned office and I was going to get dirty and dusty. In the car on the way to the test I wryly thought that it must be possible, even probable, that we can get tired of anything if we have to do it too often, too regularly. Even if it was with Marilyn Monroe, I thought!

Reassignment to Vandenberg AFB Field Office

Well...maybe. At any rate, I realized that I was actually beginning to get tired of my dream job. Then, finally, I was assigned to the field office at Vandenberg. When I got there I was delighted to find that some of my old Air Force friends were there too. One of the head-men in the SAC

Minuteman office there was my old drinking buddy, "The Baron". This man, now a major, had been seated beside me in the classroom for the whole time we had spent learning about the Snark Intercontinental Missile in 1959 and later had certified me, along with my crew, as combat ready when we went operational in Maine.

The Minuteman program at Vandenberg was being managed by the Boeing Company. There were two of us in the Thiokol field office. Two Aerojet people (second stage) and one Hercules Powder Company rep. (third stage) shared the same floor of the building with us. I think we all felt that the Boeing people looked down their noses at us. They were prime and we were sub-contractors. They ran the show. (They made big important

things like bombers and such, all we did was make fireworks).

The Minuteman site was at the northern edge of Vandenberg, easily ten miles away from the main base building complex where all the offices were. When I had to go to the site I sometimes liked to park up there for a while and look out to the south at the long sweep of coast, the distant launch sites and Gantry cranes. Sometimes there would be little cumulus clouds casting their shadows on the land and the blue Pacific.

Sometimes, when there were distant sunbeams out across the hazy sea, I felt like I could see all the way to Mexico. It was pretty scenic.

Other times (frequently) the haze was so bad you couldn't see anything at all. That was called fog. Vandenberg was mostly a research facility for launching test

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

missiles down the Pacific Missile Range, but there was one combat-ready Atlas ICBM squadron there. I think they had about three missiles. Nevertheless, they had been the very first ICBM unit to be declared combat-ready anywhere. They had beaten us in the Snark program by about four months. One of their big A-shaped Gantry cranes was right there in front of you when you came in the north entrance to the base.

The Baron and I crossed paths frequently during that time, since we were both working on the same program. He represented SAC - the eventual users of the missile and was directly concerned with originating and writing up the countdown checklist for Minuteman. Though I had no "need to know" - he shared a lot of the details with me. Minuteman was amazingly more simple than Snark had been. Huge advances had been made in its guidance system technology. As just one little example, the unit which we had called "the stable table" on Snark had been a heavy triangular unit about two feet on each side. In Minuteman it was about the size of your thumb and the little gyros mounted on it were much better.

The "1962 Fall War Games" a.k.a. - the Cuban Missile Crisis
 Things started to get nervous on the international scene in the Fall

of 1962. I don't remember if we had achieved our first Minuteman test flight by that time - or not, but I think we had. Our U-2 spy-planes had discovered Russian MRBM (Medium Range Ballistic Missile) missiles in Cuba and things quickly went from uneasy to SERIOUS. It was bad enough to listen to the television news, but the rumors that began to fly around were scary.

Then, on Monday, 22 October - President Kennedy issued an ultimatum in a nationwide TV address and the world held its breath. It was only two years since I had been commanding a SAC launch crew myself and I knew all too well what that command would be doing. I knew that all the B-52s on all the bases were cocked and ready to go and that at least 20 of them, maybe 40, were up over the pole, orbiting. That was always a tense time. No matter how careful everyone is, accidents can always happen and with maybe 600 times as many chances, well...

When I drove in to the base the next day I saw some things I had never seen before. Inside the gantry was a big shiny-new Atlas missile and on top of the gantry was a blinking, very bright red light. That meant it was armed. "Yow" I thought, "This is getting serious". Then I noticed the sign beside the gate. It was a big numeral "2u"-

this meant "Really serious" and that I was not going to get to go home until the number changed or something worse happened.

So I drove up to the Minuteman site where I found all the Boeing people sitting around badmouthing the Air Force. It seems the Strategic Air Command (represented by my friend the Baron, his boss and a few other troops) had taken over the launch site, locked out the Boeing people, gotten a warhead from who knows where, and were putting it on the missile and were getting ready to declare it operational.

The Boeing people were spitting nails. They were calling the Air Force people idiots and worse. They were snarling about how it would be an impossible exercise, especially if tried by a bunch of Air Force yo-yos and that even if it was launched, it probably would never get to Russia and even if it did it would never hit its target because the guidance system wasn't ready.

But I was grinning. I think that anyone who has spent time functioning under a stern code of professionalism later takes some pride in having been part of it. Marines, Airborne troops, Spartans, whatever. I was very proud of the command I had once been part of - who would have thought that they had a Minuteman warhead stashed in their hip pocket? May-

be, come to think of it, it was an extra Atlas warhead. An Atlas-D nosecone didn't look like a Minuteman nosecone but they were similar. Maybe, using a little body putty and some duct tape it could be made to fit. Maybe they just exchanged what was 'inside.' Maybe all military people aren't as dumb as civilians think they are. I think the Boeing people simply couldn't believe it. I also think that they did not really understand the true nature of the business they were in.

A bit later I was told to come back to the main base to pick up a package that had come in by air. As I drove in I noticed that there was very little activity anywhere. Vandenberg was like a ghost town. I imagine that anyone who could find a TV set was glued to it... or were headed for the far horizon.

Driving down the deserted highway beside the runway I had a sudden mental vision of a bug crawling-across a great big archery target. I hunched my shoulders a bit and drew down my head. I felt like there was a huge hammer poised in the sky above me. (There was no doubt that Vandenberg was on the Russian target list, considering those Atlas missiles)

I don't remember much about the rest of that day, I do remember hearing that there had been

food riots in grocery stores in Los Angeles. Eventually we must have heard about the Russian ships stopping and then turning back.

DEFCON 2 must have been lifted because I did get to go home that evening and the whole world started to relax. We felt like we had been close to the edge, but we had been there before - several times. Maybe we had gotten used to it.

But it turned out later that we had never known how close we really did get. Never mind Nikki and Johnny and their classic eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation - the real danger, it turns out, was on the Cuban beaches. Turned out there had been missiles in Cuba we didn't know about, tactical missiles with nuclear warheads targeted on the potential landing grounds, manned by crews with Russian officers. Florida was filling up with aircraft, ordinance and troops getting ready to invade Cuba.

What would have happened next is anybody's guess, but I think that at the very least, Cuba would certainly have become a very unhealthy place to visit for awhile. Might still be. Good thing we didn't try it. After that, everything was sort of anti-climactic.

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

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IN MY OWN WORDS

Make way for more lunatic parents

Jacqueline Fennington
MSM Class of 2010

In the past month, Sean and I have done many things to prepare more for the baby's arrival, expected on Sept. 16. We met with two different pediatricians in the area to get a feel for their practice. During our meeting with the first pediatrician, I made the mistake of opening my mouth to ask about vaccinations. I quickly learned that an expectant mother should never ask a pediatrician if every vaccination is necessary. Of course they believe it is necessary and they will then peg you as a lunatic mother who will not vaccinate her child.

I do intend to vaccinate our baby... I am not *that* crazy! I only asked about the schedule of vaccinations because I would rather not load up an infant with so many shots right away. Shots are stressful for babies! Regardless of my intentions, my comment gave them enough reason to have a bad first impression of me.

After that first meeting, I called back with a follow-up question. The receptionist had already gotten wind of my lunacy regarding vaccinations and proceeded to convince me to vaccinate my baby. She went on and on about a doctor

who had claimed vaccinations can lead to autism and how that doctor was wrong and no longer practices medicine. Whoa, lady! I never even did my research about vaccinations and potential side effects (like the theory of vaccinations leading to autism). I reassured her five times over the phone that I do not believe vaccinations lead to autism and that I intend to vaccinate my baby. When I met with the next pediatrician, I worded my question a little differently and made sure to begin with, "I definitely intend to vaccinate my baby."

I am learning that parenting is one of those controversial subjects — like religion, politics and money — that we should steer clear of in conversation if we want to avoid arguments and awkwardness. Everyone has their own theories and methods of parenting that we simply have to respectfully agree or disagree with. No one wants to be pegged as a lunatic parent, but I think I should accept that it will probably happen at one point or another. It will most likely be over something I consider to be completely normal, like punishing a child for misbehaving.

Any form of punishment nowadays, even being sent to your room, could be considered child abuse by

the parents who I most likely consider lunatics. When Sean was in fourth grade he wrote in his journal entry about his mother spanking him for something he did wrong. Upon reading this forbidden word, his teacher changed "spanked" to "scolded." How could she do such a thing! I'm surprised Sean did not get called into the guidance counselor's office for them to inquire about his home situation.

I would like to thank my mother- and father-in-law for their method of parenting, even the spanks, because they raised Sean into a gentleman who will also be wonderful father. I also thank my parents for how they raised my sisters and me. Our parents are great role models for us as we begin our parenting adventures.

Sean and I also started going to childbirth class this month to prepare for labor and delivery. After every class, I learn something new and ultimately feel happy that I went. Before and during class, however, are different stories. Every Tuesday I try to think of ways to get out of going to class later because I dread going for two and half hours when I have so much to do at home. During class is I tend to feel more stressed than happy to be there.

Every class is the same process. First we spend way too much time going over the stages of labor and how painfully long it will most likely take. How is this supposed to make me feel calm about labor? The whole time I cannot stop thinking about how badly I have to pee. When the instructor announces break time, I dash for the door. This is when I start thinking up a plan to leave for the second half, but I know if I suggest we make a run for it, Sean will give me one of those disappointed looks. I hate that look! I could always pull the "I'm pregnant and don't feel good" excuse, or the "I'm pregnant, [fill



in the blank with anything imaginable]" excuse and get out of it that way, but I end up sticking it out for the next hour and a half to be a good sport. At least I can count on getting a massage during the relaxation time of class.

We spend the second half of class watching a birth video and talking about different birth experiences. This leaves me feeling anxious and nervous because I keep comparing my future labor experience to every other experience I hear about. My mental preparation for labor consists of me repeatedly telling myself that I cannot truly know what to expect for labor. Everyone is different. I can fill out a worksheet with a birthing plan all I want, but when the time actually comes, I simply have to take it as it happens and just go with the flow. I used to be the queen of "going with the flow" in college. It was my best piece of advice to people. Going with the flow is not as easy being nine months pregnant. I wish I had that same carefree mentality I had in college, but I think that requires living that carefree lifestyle again, and we all know that is never happening, especially with a baby on board.

When we toured the maternity

ward of the hospital, I never felt so excited, nervous and anxious all at the same time. On the labor and delivery side of the maternity ward, we saw a familiar face from childbirth class. It was one of the expectant fathers who we sat next to. He was not in class earlier before the tour so I thought maybe he just caught up to us.

I was wrong. He was there for real... his wife was in labor... a whole month early! And this is her first child! Rumor has it that most women tend to deliver later for their first child. My first thought was how unprepared I would be if that were me because, once again, I compare my future labor to every other labor experience I hear about. I wanted to leave class immediately to go home and get things done.

We continued touring through the labor and delivery section, peeking in rooms that were empty. I was expecting to hear lots of crying, not from babies but from mothers screaming in pain. Luckily, I was wrong about that.

There was one point during the tour that I actually felt calm and relieved...

We left the labor and delivery side and went to postpartum, where mothers and babies go after delivery. This is the more bright and cheery side of the maternity ward. First we saw the nursery where two newborn babies were resting peacefully after birth. I could not help thinking how excited I am for our baby to be here. Then I saw a mother who most likely gave birth in the past day or two walking down the hallway. She looked beautiful in her pink bathrobe and had the biggest smile on her face. She had that "motherly glow" about her that just made me want to get to that point so badly. After seeing her, I felt the calmest I have felt in months. Seeing that mother so happy and peaceful was a reassuring moment that I would be there soon, too.

So I went out and bought myself a pink bathrobe to wear when I get to that point! Retail therapy is always a calming experience as well.

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

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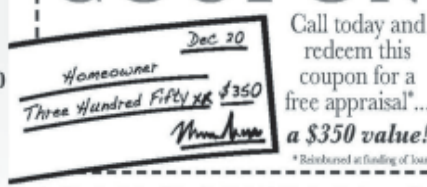
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STAGES OF LIFE

Mom's Timeout The No-Kids Allowed Movement

Mary Angle

It is early in the morning as I start this article (earlier than usual I might add), and I have just finished checking my emails and surfing for a couple minutes in silence before my brood comes out to eat breakfast like ravenous dogs. While surfing the net, which simply means I glance at the headlines on my home page, I came across a headline that caught my eye. It said "The No-Kids Allowed Movement is Spreading". I was, at first, confused because I am not up on all the latest news events and had no idea such a movement existed, and then intrigued to find out what it was.

As I read on I discovered that some airlines, restaurants, movie theaters, grocery stores, etc. are banning kids from their establishments. I immediately wondered how long it would take for a Facebook frenzy of my mom friends to commence. I can see it now..."Did you see that headline?", "Well I am just

not going to give them my business anymore", and of course the voice of reason will interject, "let's look at this a little closer", or "maybe there has been a misunderstanding". Truth is this is not a black and white issue. I have four children and at first glance I was shocked that someone would ban my children (and ultimately me) from their establishment.

Then it happened, I took 7 children to Frederick for the afternoon, 2 of which I dropped off for camp and the rest I needed to entertain for the next 2 1/2 hours until the camp was over and then drive all seven back home in rush hour traffic. After dropping the two at camp we went to Target to look for something there, then to the PetSmart to see the animals, a quick tour of Bed Bath and Beyond, and then it was snack time before we picked up the campers. The littlest kept trying to get someone to carry her, all the while refusing to get into a cart. The middle three kept bickering



who was excluding who. Exclusion was not my issue it was the "I know what I am talking about and you don't" attitude. The oldest in the group kept getting mesmerized by every little thing we passed and kept getting reprimanded for caving to the little ones "uppy" demands. My youngest son got in trouble repeatedly for not listening, my oldest daughter for giggling so loudly the store at the end of the shopping center called to complain (ok slight exaggeration), and my youngest daughter for whining repeatedly. All of this being said they were not as ill behaved as I have made them out to be, but that is of course hindsight speaking. At the time I was a none too happy mom!

It wasn't until I got home with only the four I gave birth to and sat down to my article again that I suddenly had sympathy for all of those people who instigated the No-Kids Allowed Movement. The people that just want to fly on a plane without a baby crying for the 8 hour flight, or the couple who goes to the fancy French restaurant for their quiet dinner for two and has the Brady Bunch next to them. But the people I sympathized with most today were the ones

in charge of Whole Foods who, according to the article, has started some No-Kids shopping hours at some of their stores. This suddenly sounds like what heaven will be like to me. Going to the grocery store, or Target, or the drug store, or anywhere with no children in tow. It is not that all of the kids in the world are misbehaved, it is for me, simply that I enjoy the rarity known as silence. Obviously, not complete silence, but the silence of only hearing silverware clink against good china at a nice restaurant, or the silence of a squeaky grocery cart overshadowing the low hum of the freezer cases at the grocery store, or being able to actually sleep through a flight on a plane uninterrupted by the whining or crying of small children.

When I was discussing this month's topic with a friend she jumped right on. She began by pointing out that she lucked out since her girls are very well behaved when they go out to dinner, and then reminded me that since they have no family in the area and for the longest time didn't know any babysitters they always had their girls with them when they would go out. That is when she reminisced about the few times they would get away for dinner, just the two of them, and they would be seated at a very nice restaurant next to a family with children. She felt they might as well have brought their own because it wasn't the quiet romantic dinner they were hoping for.

I sympathized with her since my husband and I have had similar experiences with "date night", always being seated next to the family with children, or picking a restaurant on "kids night". For the longest time that was to be expected no matter how hard we planned.

As a couple with kids we also appreciate the "kids nights" that some restaurants have as well. Every Wednesday is kids day at Buffalo Wild Wings in Westminster. For us that means if we want to go to dinner as a family then we wait for a Wednesday. We know it is going to be crowded, but it is worth the chaos sometimes to be able to take a family of six to dinner for around \$30. The way I view this No-Kids Allowed movement is simple, it is just an opportunity for all of us to make choices. Whether you have kids or you don't you now have some good choices for those quiet times out, whether it be groceries, dinner, or a movie. I know there will be some people appalled at my views on this and they will be the ones protesting the establishments that offer "No-Kids Allowed" times. And some of them will also be the ones who go to the stores with the kids programs that watch your kids while you shop, not realizing they are taking advantage themselves of a "No-Kids Along" movement.

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

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STAGES OF LIFE

Principle's corner

Kathryn Golightly

As Principal of Emmitsburg Elementary School, I can wholeheartedly say that my staff and I are very excited to have our students and parents back at school. Even though the school was out for the summer, many things were being done to prepare for the 2011-2012 school year.

One of my main responsibilities is to ensure that I have teachers and support staff in place for the children. I am happy to report that we have very low turn-over in staff. This year, we welcome two new teachers to our building. Mrs. Leslie Frei is teaching first grade and she is coming to us from Hillcrest Elementary. Ms Rebecca Dargay is teaching special education and this will be her first placement as a teacher.

I can't wait to learn from these two dynamic teachers!

Another of my tasks is to review data from the 2010-2011 school year to determine what initiatives need to occur during the current school year. I am happy to report that Emmitsburg once again met our Adequate Yearly Progress goals on the Maryland State Assessment (MSA). Each year our students in grades 3 - 5 are assessed on the objectives and indicators of the Maryland State Curriculum. Our students did very well with 91.1% of the students scoring proficient or advanced on the reading portion of the test; and 90.2% of the students scoring proficient or advanced on the math section. We are extremely proud of our attendance percentage of 95.1%, which is growth from

94.75% in 2010. Math scores and attendance increases were goals on last year's School Improvement Plan. The School Improvement Team will be using this and other data sources as we develop a School Improvement Plan for this school year.

The grant EES received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provided Title I support to targeted students ended on June 30, 2011. We were able to do many things with these funds provided by the Federal Government. Even though we lost three staff members as a result, we gained valuable, long-lasting resources to assist teachers with educating the students. The special evening activities that were funded through the grant will not occur this year. However, we do plan to have more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

Nights for our students and families.

Every new school year begins with some changes to instruction. This year, we will be using two new math resources, as well as transitioning to the Common Core Standards as the math curriculum for students in grades K - 2. Teachers in grades Pre-K and 3 - 5 will continue to follow the Maryland State Curriculum for math instruction. The Maryland State Curriculum continues to be taught in all other subject areas. Information about the curriculum and resources may be located at www.fcpsteach.org.

A busy summer for the custodians, secretary, and me makes for another great school year. I hope that you will join us for some of the wonderful activities we have planned.

Good things happen at Emmitsburg Elementary every day!

New start for EES PTA

The new school year offers us all the opportunity to support Emmitsburg Elementary School's children and teachers in tangible, concrete ways. I am writing not only to invite your membership in the PTA but also to encourage your involvement in PTA activities which support the growth of our children and facilitate the joy and fun of learning. As an active member of the PTA you can contribute directly to the education of Emmitsburg's children by sharing your ideas, your time and your talents. Involved, caring and committed parents are the engine that drives the powerhouse of childhood education. Please join us!

A PTA membership is only \$5.00 per person for the year and any adult can join. The first PTA meeting of the school year will be Tuesday September 6th at 6.30pm in the school cafeteria. Subsequent meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm. Our first event will be Grandparents and Granola from 7.30am to 8.10am on Wednesday September 21st.

2011-2012 PTA Officers

President: Colin Phillips
Vice President: Tammie Barth
Treasurer: Jill Williams
Secretary: Laura Hoyt

PTA Meetings

Tuesday September 6 - General Membership Meeting
Wednesday October 5
Wednesday November 2
Wednesday December 7 - General Membership Meeting
Wednesday January 4
Wednesday February 1
Wednesday March 7 - General Membership Meeting
Wednesday April 11
Wednesday May 2 - General Membership Meeting/Elections
All meetings are 6:30-8pm in the school cafeteria.

Upcoming PTA Events

September 8 - Kick-off date for Cinammon Buns/Carrot Cake Fund-Raiser
September 21 - "Grandparents and Granola" Breakfast 7.30am-8.10am
October 14 - Movie Night

We are seeking additional committee chairpersons to steer our PTA and its events. I encourage you to explore this possibility for community service. You may contact me at revcolinphillips@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of the EES PTA. At the end of the day, we are simply advocates and cheerleaders for America's children.

Colin Phillips
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Honor the Past



Kat Dart

A few days ago, I was in Pennsylvania, in the back seat of the Nissan, listening to my iPod, breaking up sisterly spats, looking for signs directing traffic to Knobels, a family amusement park.

At the first sign I saw, pointing out "Knobels - 7 Miles", my mom and dad appeared to have a quick conversation, and he promptly turned the car around, and went back the way we came.

I decided this was a rather interesting turn of events, and pulled out my ear buds to ask what we had managed to forget back at the hotel.

As it turns out, we actually hadn't forgotten anything, but rather, my mother had seen something interesting.

"Centralia - 14 Miles."

I admit, I was completely uninterested (amusement park vs. some random town in Pennsylvania? Please. Why on earth were we wasting time for this?) until Mom spouted off some facts about Centralia.

50 years ago, Centralia was an active coal-mining town, with a population of over 2,000 people. 49 years ago, everything went south for Centralia.

A regular town procedure - burning the trash in the landfill - destroyed Centralia. Firefighters went to the dump, lit it on fire, and let it burn for a time, as was protocol.

The fire then wasn't extinguished properly. A coal vein caught on fire.

The topside fire was put out, but the underground fire continued to burn, even after several unsuccessful extinguishing efforts. The fire eventually burned its way to an abandoned coal mine.

The fire has since spread underground to cover over 400 square acres, and has enough fuel to burn for another 250 years. Today, there are signs, warnings all over Centralia, warning for low oxygen levels, poisonous gas, possible sinkholes, temperature that can reach over 1,000 degrees.

Today, there are few actual indications of the fire, and all of them are strange and more than a little disturbing.

The fire vents, small holes only a few inches deep, placed in the sides of hills, are so hot that the surrounding rock has been burned black, and the smoke that issues from them warms the air noticeably. If one were willing to stick their head near a vent, one would

hear the hissing of flames beneath the surface of the earth.

There are also the remnants of route 61, the highway route that used to lead into Centralia. The highway itself has long, thin cracks running through the surface, leading up to a giant crevice, just barely narrow enough to jump across. The temperature is also higher here, and smoke pools out of the crack. A small distance away, the road itself has expanded and bubbled up to form a large cement hill, full of spider web cracks and small fissures that eject smoke.

That's only one piece of Centralia's past. The creepier piece is the eerily empty maze of streets that make up what used to be Centralia. Slabs of sidewalk, steps leading up to a once-existing house, curbs still exist. Pieces of fences, house foundations, possible business foundations, even the occasional chunk of furniture exists. Holes in the ground for poles, mailboxes, railways still remain.

Driveways lead up to grass. Roads end in grass. Ivy, trees, roots make their way across the ground as nature begins to reclaim the area as its own. Hints remain of what used to be a close-knit, lively community that has now been almost completely erased.

Centralia has been erased off maps, and no longer has a zip code. It has been claimed under eminent domain by the government. It continues to be monitored by the DEP, the Department of Environmental Protection, who watch oxygen levels.

There's a lesson to be learned from Centralia, Pennsylvania, a once thriving coal-mining community, now a ghost town.

Centralia's painful history will always be remembered, whether by the DEP who continue to monitor air and the fire itself, or by tourists who go to remember what was lost 49 years ago, or by the people who actually remember what Centralia was like at its best. These are the people who try to live in the present, who try to protect Centralia, and spread its story to others. These are the people who understand that we may remember, but we cannot forever dwell on the past. What's done is done, and what matters is what we're doing now.

What we're doing now is what will impact Centralia's future, or decide if it has a future. What we do now determines if the fire will be able to be put out, if the air quality will be safe, if anything can be salvaged. What we do now can change everything, or change nothing.

We can honor the past, but we have to live in the present, and protect the future.

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

First week of college



Danielle Ryan

On August 20 I embarked on my first day of college. On this day I had to attend orientation at Penn State Mont Alto. Earlier in July I was sent an agenda telling me about the different activities that I would be participating in during orientation. To say the least, I was not really interested in attending any of these activities, but the letter that accompanied the agenda made it clear that the activities were mandatory for all new students. So on Saturday morning I reluctantly got out of bed and drove to Mont Alto to attend the activities that were scheduled for that day.

When I walked through the doors of the gymnasium, I was shocked at how loud and energetic everyone was. Now remember that it is a Saturday morning at the end of summer and I am in a room full of teenagers. I would have thought that the mood would have been pretty quiet because it was so early in the morning, but it wasn't. All the students were ushered to one side of the gym and given a folder with the day's agenda and other information. After we received our folders we entered the loud part of the gym, which housed our "spirit leaders" who were supposed to lead us to our different activities for the day. There was cheering and shouting and plenty of spirit as I made my way to my group. Even with our

insatiably cheery leader, we new students remained relatively quiet.

Then it was time for the day to start. We began the day with convocation, and listened to many of our professors and faculty speak about the upcoming year. From there we played a game based on different trivia and facts about the campus, learning and faculty. After lunch we went outside and got to know the other members of our group by playing yet another game. We finally ended the day with a speaker/comedian who spoke to us about the upcoming year, making friends, being who we are and all the while adding comic stories and scenarios to the speech. This speaker was by far my favorite part of the day. He made the day worthwhile.

Then came Monday, the first real day of college, the day my classes began. My first class began at 10:00 so I left my house at 9:10 giving me plenty of time to get there because it only takes me 30 minutes to get to school. As I was driving to school something funny happened; I somehow managed to get stuck behind every garbage truck, tractor and slow driver known to mankind. This put me back ten minutes so I was already starting to panic. Then as I got to school I pulled in to campus, and the parking lot that I was planning to park in was completely full. It wasn't just full they had it coned off so I couldn't even turn around. Instead, I had to drive all the way around campus just to turn around. I only had one other option; I had to park in the overflow parking lot across the street.

At this point it was 9:50 and I still had to get all the way across campus. As you can imagine I booked it and luckily I made it to class just in time, with two minutes to spare. This was a great way to start my year. On top of this, I had to start the day with a math class. I had originally thought that this class was just going to be an algebra class and that it would be

an easier class. I quickly found out that this was no basic algebra class, it was a pre-calculus class. I took pre-calculus in high school, but I never expected to take it again in college. Luckily this class is only 50 minutes long so I don't have to sit through it for too long.

After these events I decided to go home because I didn't have another class until 4:15. I decided that I would leave an hour early this time so that way I would be plenty early for class. And I was; I was 30 minutes early but at least I got a parking space. I proceeded with my next class which was just a first year seminar, basically an easy credit. After this class I had to go to my most dreaded --chemistry. The class was supposed to start at 5:20 but as 5:30 came and went, so did 5:45, most of the class decided that the professor wasn't going to show up so they left. I, along with three other students decided to wait just in case he did come.

At 6:00 the professor arrived, and was stunned that there were no students. Apparently there was a mix-up in the schedule and he thought that the class started at 6:00 instead of 5:20. To my amazement he proceeded to have class even though there were only four students. Eventually, some more students showed up for the lab portion of the class and we then totaled eleven. The class was quiet and small but I actually enjoyed it. Unfortunately the whole class totals close to 50, so chances are it won't be that quiet ever again. I then ended my day at 8:40 and proceeded to go home.

These first three days were my first days of college. I'm sure some of you had similar experiences. As you can imagine I was not expecting these first couple of days to be quite this crazy but I know that I will soon begin to come into my own and learn the ups and downs of college life. I suppose the best way to put this is welcome to college.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Sophomore Year

Celtic times ahead

Carolyn Shields

There were eighteen people at Holy Grounds Café one rainy August afternoon--nineteen if you count Doc. Doc got my name right the first time that day without first asking if I was Olivia. Classical music was playing (well, really only Bach's G Major Prelude was playing, since I kept hitting the repeat button). Mr. Sielaff, the café's owner, who has to deal with my constant repeat of Bach's prelude, hands our Philomenaccino to a couple. His glasses perched on his nose, he wipes his hands on his black apron and proceeds to whistle.

His wife and I sigh at the end of the day when we begin to clean up. When finished, I collect my notes where I scribble advice from customers who talk Europe/studying abroad with me. I met a guy who knew a guy who loved southern Spain because of the kindhearted Spaniards. I now know a random town in Ireland where they serve the best ice cream; I know how to bargain for 'genuine' leather in Italy; I know what 'genuine' leather feels like...all thanks to

the café's wonderful customers. So I pocket these notes. I leave for home on my scooter, tucking my dress in. And I drive through Emmitsburg.

This slow, small town life is what I'll miss in the great city of Dublin.

I've been spending so much time behind my computer screen, booking hotels across Europe. On a ghost tour with my friends this summer I accidentally converted the ticket price to euros in my head out of habit. My grandma has nightmares of me getting cold in Germany (so she loaned me her sweater), and wet in Dublin (so she offered me her raincoat), and losing my passport in Paris (like my aunt). When my dad sees me staring off into space, he asks what country I'm thinking about.

I've never been more excited (or nervous), and I leave in just a few days. My two friends David and Emily and I got together this summer and marked up our calendars. Ready for this? Thirteen weekends, seven in Ireland, six on the Continent. That's nine countries, two continents, totaling in at something like eight hotels, three

overnight trains, and a whole lot of plane tickets to book. We laugh because between all of this we'll be studying and going to school.

And it's surreal. One year ago at this time, if you told me what I was planning I would have laughed and wished it was so. So here's the three-day weekends 'abroad from abroad' we have planned: One weekend we will visit Belfast and Northern Ireland, then spend two days in Scotland. We are planning to spend three days in England, two possibly in London and a day in the country, maybe at Stonehenge or Kent. One weekend in September we are meeting up with a family friend in Brussels, Belgium. Can you say, chocolate?

I'm also really looking forward to our four-day weekend, when we'll spend two days in Paris, hop on an overnight train, and wake up in Rome for the following two. The Versailles Palace, the Bastille (all mentioned in the novel I wrote), and the earthly center of my beautiful faith in one weekend!

Another favorite weekend I'm looking forward to is flying into the white town of Ronda in southern Spain where bull fighting originated. An hour and a half away is Africa, so why not? When will I ever go to Africa in my future? Then another overnight

train to the beautiful Santiago de Compostella. This basilica was the third most visited pilgrim site during the Middle Ages, and besides that, it's beautiful. Our last European adventure will be possibly Vienna for a day, with an orchestra at night, and then train over to Nuremburg, Germany for its world famous Christkindlesmarkt, or Christmas market.

Call me stupid, but I would love to write another book this fall. I just can't wait to touch all of that history and to be inspired by it. History is a story already told; I just like adding some details. Traveling like this has been in my dreams since I was a little girl. I mean, one day in early summer, I literally sat down and pulled up a map of Europe on my computer and thought, "Ok. Where do I go?"

But I will miss the Mount ridiculously. It's almost a tease seeing everyone for two weeks and then leaving for this great adventure. I'm going to miss seeing the mountains change colors during the fall, and all those 10 p.m. Masses. This year instead of dancing late into the night and sitting by a bonfire on Halloween, I'll be at the Vatican, praying for those at home. As my friends study for their finals, I'll be walking between wooden stalls lit up with lights, and the smell of mulled wine and roast

sausages (whatever that is) in the air.

Am I stressed? Well, I'm sitting here writing this on paper because my laptop broke, it's past 10, I'm eating a doughnut, and my article is slightly overdue. Am I ready? I've read James Joyce and forced myself through Oscar Wilde's poetry, and I've touched up on my French. I'm aware that Dublin's archdiocese is on the verge of financial collapse, and that the value of the euro is decreasing. Am I nervous? What if I DO get wet in Dublin? Or one of my bookings goes wrong? I mean, all those headlines about Europe aren't encouraging, what with Norway's tragedy, London's riots, and Northern Ireland's unrest.

In any case, I am extraordinarily blessed. I'm asking all of you to keep me and my friends in your prayers. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I'll roll with the punches. So what if we need to sleep in a Parisian park because I accidentally cancelled our hotel? (Kidding, Dad...). I know God and my saints are looking out for me. Ireland's Lady of Knock is too.

But I need to stop here. I've got another hotel to book!

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

Junior Year

Listen up all you Freshmen!

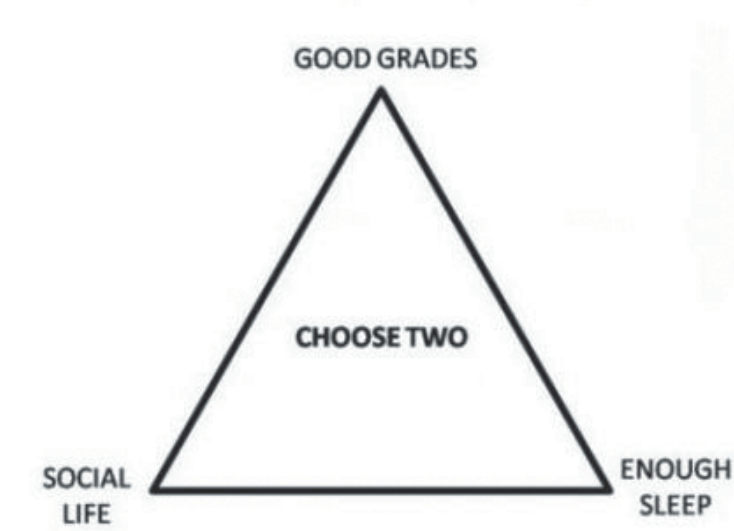
Samantha Strub

All right freshmen, you are opening a new chapter of your life. You're excited and nervous to move past high school, where you had it all down to a science, to a whole new city, state and environment, in your case Emmitsburg, Maryland. College is a place where you control your life and start preparing yourself for the future. The possibilities of what you can do are endless, but you may not realize the consequences of your actions when you start your first semester. I'm going to pass some valuable knowledge on to you newbies; you may have heard this before, but believe me I'm right!

Don't splurge on the freedom. You now control your own life entirely. Your parents are not going to be there, telling you to go to class or do your homework. You have to be responsible for doing everything yourself. Even though you were a senior in high school and had a job and a good taste of freedom, you probably were still very dependent on your parents. It could have been something small, like letting them wake you up in the morning, make your lunch or impose a curfew. These things become a huge deal in college, especially waking up to your alarm. Without your parents

forcing you to get up and making you go to class, a lot of times you choose to just stay in bed. Don't take advantage of doing everything that your parents told you not to do. Trust me, it will catch up with you.

Get off to a good start, with grades and people. This is important because it is easy to get overwhelmed with the workload and the freedom and choose to have an active social life instead of keeping your grades up. Shoot for a high goal like dean's list. You will have a huge sense of pride if you accomplish your goal. If you don't, just learn from your mistakes and struggles and do better next time. You might hear your parents tell you that it is better to start out with a high GPA because when you get to a harder class, it won't cost you as much in the long run. It is a lot easier to keep up your GPA if you start off with a high one. If there is a class you are struggling with (in my case it was statistics), you need to keep buckling down and working hard. Your teachers will appreciate your dedication and reward you in the end. You don't want to burn your bridges with your teachers. They are there to help you and enable you to move forward in your career--not make you fail their classes. Make sure you stay



on good terms with them; say hello when you see them around campus and don't be afraid to go to them if you need help.

Prioritize and manage your time. You have heard people say that you can only accomplish two of the three "big ones" in college--sleep, get good grades, and have a social life. However, I have found this to be wrong. For the most part, if you can manage your time well with class, homework, activities, work, and social life, you will be able to do what you want and still have some sleep. I would suggest getting involved right away on campus with the sports teams and clubs that interest you. They are a great way to meet new people and do what you love. I'm still able to play field hockey, and I have some good friends from it, just like I did in high school. It gives me something beyond studying and hanging out with friends. I would hon-

estly go insane if that was all I did. Because of that, I'm involved in a lot of things, and I'm always running around, but I like it better that way. Just make sure you prioritize everything you have to do. Don't let the important things slide. School must always come first because that is why you are coming to the Mount--to get your degree. Understand your responsibilities and work the rest of your life around them.

Accept change. Know that you are going somewhere new and meeting new people. Once you are accepted at college, changes will take place. You will make new friends and may fall out of touch with friends from home. You can't believe that these things will happen, and you are totally shocked when they do. Just remember it's not the end of the world. In the big scheme of things it doesn't matter. Also, you will not die because it

turns out a guy or girl doesn't like you. Life will keep moving forward, and you'll realize things happen for a reason. Time and experience change you, and you just have to learn to roll with the punches. Don't forget to try new things and take advantage of new opportunities. Go on the CRUX outdoor adventure trips, go see New York and the cherry blossoms, get involved in a club or sport, even take a job doing something you love. Adjusting and accepting change can be the hardest and yet the most rewarding. It is good going into college knowing that relationships with your parents, and friends from home will change. You will lose touch with the people you knew in high, not all but it will happen with some; just remember that something else will fall into place. In my case it was writing for this paper. I never would have thought that I would be gaining this valuable experience, yet it happened and I couldn't be happier. You never know what blessings will come out of trying new things and doing something you're passionate about; just remember to keep your opinions open.

Enjoy and embrace it freshmen, but don't be afraid to ask for help. Don't take advantage of the freedom. Practice time management and prioritize your responsibilities. Get off to a good start and try new things. That way you will adjust and thrive in college. Who knows maybe no-one will even be able to tell that your freshmen.

FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Senior Year The best year yet!

Julia Mulqueen

Just a few days ago, a handful of cadets from the Mount's ROTC battalion offered five hours of their Sunday to help move in the incoming freshmen. Boxes, backpacks, and stuffed animals abounded. As I helped my fellow cadets move in the newest students of the Mount, I could not help but reminisce about my own time as a freshmen. I remember coming to Mount Saint Mary's on a sunny day in August just three years ago with my parents' green truck packed full of everything I thought I would need for my freshman year. The entire two-hour drive from Pennsylvania to Maryland consisted of me sitting in the backseat feeling like my stomach was doing somersaults inside of me. I was so very excited to finally experience college, but I was so very nervous to leave my parents for the first time. I was wondering if I would be able to balance classes, friends, and ROTC. I was nervous that I would struggle academically or that my professors would terrify me. I even worried that maybe I would join the ranks of people who had roommate horror stories.



When we finally made it to Mount Saint Mary's, I saw smiling face after smiling face. Everyone was so friendly and seemed to truly enjoy the Mount. Once we parked outside of my dorm, those smiling-faced peer mentors swarmed my car and helped me move into my new room almost instantly. My new roommate was already in our room unpacking with her mom and her aunt. When I saw her smiling face, my stomach finally settled. We were instant friends. It was as if we had known each other

our entire lives. We clicked, and I knew it was going to be a great year.

Indeed it was a great year. I met so many new and exciting people; I met people that I will be friends with for countless years to come. My

courses and professors challenged me constantly, and through their challenges, I was able to grow almost exponentially as a student. Of course, ROTC at the Mount has been such a great experience, too. I had never imagined that I would be capable of rappelling off of a platform that was higher than the trees or that I could run for miles and still hunger to run more.

My first year went by so fast, though. I remember a senior telling me my freshman year that each year

at the Mount seemed to go by faster and faster. I did not believe that that could be true. Four years seemed like such a long time to me, but that senior was right. The time did fly. When I think about the fact that I am finally a senior myself, I am almost shocked. I still feel like that bright-eyed freshman moving into her new dorm.

And yet, I know that I have learned so much here in just three short years. I have learned that we are all truly talented and unique people. I have learned that when we work together, we can produce things that are truly beautiful. My experiences here at the Mount have taught me so much, and I am sure I will continue to learn more in this my final year at the Mount.

Truly it seems to me that every moment of my academic life has been focused upon this final year of my degree. Every minute I have spent in a classroom, every sentence I have written for a paper, every detail I have learned from my professors, it has all come together to bring me to this last year of college. It feels rather surreal to look at the top of this article and see the words "Senior Year." I cannot believe that I have made it to my last year of college!

I must admit, however, that while I am excited to be a senior, I am also rather nervous about the path that lies ahead of me once I walk across the stage at graduation. Because

of the competition of my summer training and assessment in Ft. Lewis, Washington this past summer, I will be commissioned as an Army Officer once I graduate. I am so excited to be an officer, but I do not feel quite ready to begin my career. It is a little nerve-racking to think of myself living completely on my own, having to take care of bills, payments, insurance, and all of the other things that my parents have always done for me in the past.

I feel as if I still have so much to learn about what it means to be an adult, and yet it seems to me that my fears about whether or not I will be able to live on my own are simply fears. These past three years at the Mount have already helped me to grow from a child into an adult. Through my experiences here, I have learned what it means to be a responsible citizen, and I am sure that the experiences of my senior year of college will teach me even more about how to live as an adult. So while I may feel fear about paying bills and cooking my own food, I truly know that my life after the Mount is going to be just fine. I know this because I know that the Mount has put everything into my growth both academically and emotionally. Yes, my life after college will be just fine, and my senior year at the Mount will be my best yet. I just know it.

Julia is a senior at the Mount studying Theology and German.

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THE GRADUATE

Life after the Mount

Katelyn Phelan
MSM Class of 2011

One year ago the class of 2011 was preparing to go back to the Mount for its final year. This year our parents, for some odd and mysterious reason, refused to pay for a fifth year. So we were denied the option of enrolling again and becoming "super seniors" and were forced to make other arrangements.

Of course if you've been alive at all for the past few years you'll know that the economy is terrible and finding jobs is, well, to say the least, very difficult. However many of us have made it work (what other option do we have, right?) and my group of friends at the Mount have spread in five quite different career paths which I'd like to share as an example of where the Mount St. Mary's Class of 2011 has landed just three and a half months after graduation.

Two of my closest friends have found themselves in the medical field. Duyen has just begun her first year of medical school at PCOM—Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She will have a total of 4 years of school plus 3-5 years of residency or hands-on field experience in a hospital. Duyen has been planning on entering medical school for at least the past 3 years. She majored in Biology and Chemistry and has been preparing for this stage of her education for quite a while now.

My other close friend, Sarah, on the other hand did not prepare for a job in the medical profession at all. She majored in History and Sociology and was not interested in pursuing more education after graduation. She searched for a job for months and constantly submitted applications. Finally she got a call to interview, and was offered a job. She accepted a position as an optometrist's scribe which basically means she takes notes for the eye doctor as well as handles some office work like billing. She's only worked there for a few weeks, but is really enjoying it.

Another friend, Caroline, who majored in History and Theology is doing some part-time work for now transcribing interviews for a company. However she is also busy discerning a calling to the religious life. As part of this discerning process she will live with the sisters of her chosen order and simultaneously work her part-time job and volunteer as a teacher's aide at one of the schools the order runs. This is a very exciting time for her as she gets to experience living in a religious community and decides whether this life is right for her.

Finally, my friend Nicole just moved into her apartment



in New Haven, Connecticut and will begin graduate courses at Yale University in just a few days. She's starting a Ph.D. program in Pharmacological Sciences and Molecular Medicine with a research focus in Cardiovascular Biology and Wound Healing. Nicole had some great opportunities to learn research skills and participate in relevant projects while at the Mount through close work with an advisor. So she will hopefully have a great start to her graduate studies.

I, of course, am teaching three courses this year and running the library. I've also just registered myself for some college courses to begin working toward my Pennsylvania teaching certification. To fit all of that in, I've had to take away sleeping, eating, and friendships for the next 10 months. Just kidding. But I will be pretty busy!

With all my friends heading in separate directions, the question arises, how do we keep in contact? The immediate answer for my generation seems to be Facebook. Though it can be convenient it's not an altogether ideal solution. Facebook can make conversations and interactions superficial at best. So our other options include email? Telephone chats? I like those options better than Facebook, but I don't like them as the sole way to continue a friendship. For a true friendship there has to be some real communication and hopefully a point where face-to-face meetings will happen. Nevertheless, emails and phone calls will have to bridge the sometimes months of separation that are inevitable.

While it will take effort to keep old friendships alive, it is a far greater challenge to make new friends in this post-undergradu-

ate life. When one is no longer in a school setting, entirely new socialization challenges arise. For the two of my friends heading to more school, making new friends will be the same as it has always been for us when we've changed to a new school. Here they will be more or less surrounded by people of the same age, with (most likely) high ambitions, and common interests. For my friend discerning religious life, the question is also easy. She's made many friends with nuns of the order already through her repeated visits to the convent this summer. The question is slightly more complicated for me and my optometrist scribe friend, Sarah.

Sarah is surrounded by ladies who are in their early twenties (just like us) but who have very different goals. Many of them are preparing for weddings, having babies, or caring for a few little ones already. While they are sweet women, they have little in common with Sarah, and let's face it, there are only so many conversations one can have about the perfect length for a train on a wedding dress or the best shade of pink for a baby's nursery. Also, she works with about 25 women and no men. That pool of people doesn't really offer much in terms of dating prospects.

I on the other hand will be surrounded by many, many teenagers as well as a handful of adults. I'm sure I'll make friends with my fellow teachers and enjoy their company very much, but it's not the same as having friends your own age who are going through some of the same things you are. So where does this leave Sarah and I? Will we suddenly begin to frequent bars, looking for other lone male and female friends? I seriously doubt it.

I think in order to make friends who are interested in the same things you are, you need to do some of those things to meet people. So, if you value service or helping people in need then you should make a point to volunteer at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. This way you are not only doing something you think is important, but you're also putting yourself in a position to meet a potential friend or boyfriend with your same values.

Having shared values is much more important for a lasting relationship of any kind than a common interest in rum and cokes or Coors Light. Making new friends from different stages of life is part of growing up, but now, without a school setting where we are surrounded by hundreds of potential friends and given means to meet and befriend them, socialization certainly takes on a new challenge. Of course I plan on keeping in close contact with my Mount friends, but I'm also interested in finding new friends who live near me and are interested in the same things. Until then, I have plenty of work with the start of school to keep me busy!

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

I've never been one to hang out at the bar or structure my gatherings around alcohol. It's just never really appealed to me.

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MOUNT CREATIVE WRITERS

Oreos have cream icing in the middle!

Kelly Conroy
MSN Class of 2012

When being introduced to another person for the first time, you usually ask and answer some basic questions. "What's your name?" "Where are you from?" "What kind of work do you do?" - And other surface level inquiries. It is usually not until you know the other person that "real" conversation begins. This type of interaction is much more interesting and can involve discussing a person's ideas, beliefs, or subjects that are important to him or her.

I like mixing up the standard conversation once in a while. Sometimes I jump into asking tougher questions from the start. Other times, I offer more personal responses about myself. My favorite response is to state that I am a middle child.

"Oh, I'm so sorry," was one woman's response. She had a deeply troubled look on her face and patted me on the shoulder. Did I just tell her that I had contracted a form of cancer? Did I just tell her that my father lost his job? Did I show any negative emotion as I simply stated that I was a "middle child"?

The woman's response was fairly typical for our society today. She was a "middle" child herself and claimed that she had been "ignored and forgotten" her whole life because she was number 3 out of 5 in the family children line. This woman is my aunt and all of her siblings claim that she adopted the "poor middle child attitude" as a teenager.

Is she right? Are middle children forgotten as a part of the family? I happen to think quite the opposite. Middle children are loved the same amount as the rest of the children, and actually have the perfect position - especially in my family of 5 children. You get to grow up spending time with your older siblings. Then, you can grow up again with the younger siblings as the older ones move out. You do not have the many duties of being the oldest child nor do you receive the excessive attention bestowed on the youngest child. You can learn from your older siblings and be the teacher to your younger siblings. You can be considered old and young. Being in the middle is not only great for family matters but also in many other areas of life.

Imagine that you are invited to a cook-out dinner. All of the guests have arrived and are mingling. Everyone is getting hungry as the hosts prepare the food. Finally, the group is gathered together and grace is said before the meal. You fill your plate with pasta salad, corn, and fresh fruit. You take a hamburger bun and top it with lettuce, tomato, onion, mustard, and ketchup. You look around for the hamburgers themselves, but they are no where to be found. The

hosts inform you that they just decided to skip buying and grilling the hamburgers this time.

To your disbelief, more food disasters ensue at this dinner. Cracking pecans results only in empty shells and no pecans. Oreos consist of two chocolate cookies on top of each other with no icing. Even the eggs have been emptied of their contents and only the shells remain.

The middle parts of these foods were forgotten, and disaster is the result. The meat is what makes a hamburger a hamburger! The cream is the best part of an Oreo! Food proves that the Middle is very important!

What is the middle? The middle is "equally distant from extremes." It is perfectly between two opposite ends. The middle can relate to topics as juvenile as food and as important as virtues. Aristotle, a Greek philosopher, explains that virtue aims for an intermediate (middle!) between excess and defect. For example, two sons work for their father on his farm. The younger son asks his father for his inheritance early and his father generously grants his wish. The son goes into town and squanders his money without consideration. The son ends up working a job in which he feeds pigs. He decides to return to his father, beg for mercy, and ask for a job as one of the hired servants. This son did not excel in obtaining the virtue related to dealing with money. The son acted in the excess - spending too much and falling short in taking and so he is called "prodigal." The son was not in the defect, that is, taking too much money and falling short in spending. Therefore, he is not called "mean." The son should have striven for liberality, which is the perfect balance of spending and taking.

The story continues with the father warmly taking the prodigal son back into his home and slaughtering the fattened calf as a feast for the welcoming home party. The older son returns from the fields and is extremely angry with his father. The older son claims that he has always been faithful to his father, yet has never received such treatment as the younger son. The older son did not find the "mean virtue" in regards to anger. He was not "good-tempered," the mean between being "irascible" (prone to outburst of temper) and "inirascible" (always calm even when some emotion is necessary).

The father in the story exemplifies someone who really strove for the "mean" or Middle with regards to virtue. He showed great love in welcoming his younger son with open arms back into his home. Yet, the father was still just in telling his older son that everything he owns belongs to him, even if he gives a celebration feast for the younger son.

With the celebration of Labor

Day, workers might sympathize with the sons in this story. Are you the younger son who has chosen a path that has led to low-level work? Are you the older son who does not feel adequately appreciated for his work? The younger son should see that there is value in his work, even if he is feeding pigs. Work was created for humans, and we fulfill one of our human needs by working. If we feed the pigs with the best of our ability, we can find that there is value in all work. The younger son should also have the opportunity to increase his position by dedication to his work. The older son should see that he is getting fair pay and treatment and should not be jealous of his brother. Labor Day is a good time to reflect on how we have value in our work and to ensure that employers and employees are being treated fairly. This Labor Day, we can find the "middle" between being excessive with work and falling into laziness.

The "middle" plays another role in life today as a new school year begins. Elementary and high school might be great, but there are so many reasons to love Middle school! Gone are the days of lugging a backpack around or sticking it into a cubby like in elementary school because lockers are now available. Buying magnetic pencil holders and mirrors, along with locker shelves is too much fun. "Hanging out" by the lockers as you now get to switch to a different class in a different room every hour is definitely a step-up from elementary school. Middle school is more advanced than elementary school with extracurricular activities like football and yearbook, yet it is not as demanding as high school in which exams and papers are a big part of life.

No matter what grade you are in or what you are studying, everyone wants to get into the "middle" of material. The information generally becomes much more interesting after the beginning review chapters, and if you find a subject that you enjoy, time passes without your knowing it. From a teacher's perspective, the year is usually much easier once the middle is reached. The teacher knows the students better and has learned how to structure the classroom. As a new school year begins, may we congratulate the middle schoolers around us on being in such an opportune time of life and strive to seek the "middle" in our own studies!

Perhaps by now you are thinking that the beginning or the end is really the best. Maybe you're hoping for the end of this article or maybe the only entertaining part was the beginning. There is usually a lot of excitement in beginnings and sometimes a sense of accomplishment is felt with ends. But do not forget about the anxiety that can accompany beginnings



and the sadness that often comes with ends. The middle is associated with the mundane - the time in life when nothing new seems to be happening. You have had your career for years, the children are in middle school, and there is no sign of change in the future. The result is boredom. G.K. Chesterton, an English author of the twentieth century, claimed that "boredom is irreverence for the present!" The present is our "middle" - yesterday is the past and tomorrow is the unknown. What are you doing with your "middle"?

I might be biased about the "middle" because being a middle child has had some great advantages for me. Once, my grandmother

decided to take my two younger sisters out to a breakfast and my older brother and sister out to lunch to have special time with her grandchildren. It was obvious that my two younger sisters would attend the breakfast and my older brother and sister would be at the lunch. But with which group did I belong? My grandmother simply invited me to both! © Indeed, I have felt very blessed in so many different ways being a middle child. I hope that you can find the "middle" in your life too... even if it is just in an Oreo Cookie!

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



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SIMPLE SERVINGS

Mem's kitchen

Sharon Racine

When I was seven years old, my grandparents (Memere and Pepere – we're French) moved into the house they had built in Avon, Connecticut, just outside of West Hartford. The construction faze of the house was very exciting for me and my siblings and cousins – I specifically remember running around the giant pit that had been dug for the foundation, sprinting up and down the muddy dirt roads that led to the bottom of what would soon be the basement.

Sixteen years later, the house is still exactly as it was when I was growing up, with the addition of a revamped kitchen and a few coats of fresh paint. I can't begin to count the years of memories my family has formed in that house; its always been a place of comfort and love with a never-ending supply of incredibly delicious home-cooked food prepared by the one and only Memere.

During college, I would sometimes spend the weekend with my grandparents in Avon, which was always a real treat. My grandparents would pick me up on a Friday afternoon and we would drive the hour and a half from Worcester, Massachusetts

back to their house, where I would be pampered from the second I arrived until I returned to school on Sunday. It was heavenly.

One of the best parts of these visits, though, was (and still is) my grandmother's cooking. Eating real meals gave me a much-needed break from the greasy, processed food that was good for hangovers (see Brunch article from March) but not so good for the everyday diet. As a fit and health-conscious consumer, my Memere never disappointed with her healthy and delicious dinners.

To this day, Mem's meals usually include fresh produce from her garden in the summer and delicious fruit from the farm down the street from her and my Pepere's house. This little farm is called the Pik'n Patch, and during the summer, you can pick your own fresh fruits and vegetables. She always buys the ingredients for her homemade strawberry-rhubarb jam from the Pik'n Patch, and it's one of my absolute favorites, particularly because the ingredients are so fresh.

From the house I essentially grew up in to all of the heartwarming meals prepared inside of it, I'm not sure what my life would be like without Avon,

Connecticut as one of its most important aspects. The house on the hill is an escape from city life, a family gathering place, a retreat of sorts, a safe haven. Combine these components with Memere's world-class cooking, and there are few other places on earth I would rather be.

* * *

Below are some of my favorite recipes that my Memere has prepared over the years. With fall fast approaching, peaches will soon be out of season, so try out the peach and nectarine recipes before it's too late – you will be glad you did!

Grilled Chicken Palliards with Peach Chutney

Direct from Mem's kitchen

Ingredients

- 1 lb firm-ripe peaches (may substitute 1 lb canned sliced peaches drained), cut into 1" pieces
- 1 large tomato, coarsely chopped
- 1 small garlic clove, chopped
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 3 tablespoons packed dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon curry powder (preferably Madras)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 skinless boneless chicken breast halves (1 1/2 lb total)
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Instructions

1. Prepare grill for cooking.
2. Simmer first 7 ingredients (peaches to salt) together, uncovered, in a 2 quart heavy saucepan, stirring occasionally, until slightly thickened but still saucy, about 20 mins.
3. Pound chicken until 1/4" thick with a meat pounder or rolling pin between two pieces of plastic wrap. Pat dry and brush tops with oil. Season with salt and pepper.
4. When the fire is hot, place chicken, oiled sides down, on lightly oiled grill rack and grill 2 minutes. Brush tops with oil and season with salt and pepper, then turn chicken over and grill until just cooked through, about 2 minutes more. Do not overcook chicken.
5. Serve chicken with peach chutney (delicious with a side of rice). Serves 4.

Roast Pork Loin with Apples

From Food Network Kitchen

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 (2-pound) boneless center cut pork loin, trimmed and tied
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 medium onion, thickly sliced
- 2 carrots, thickly sliced
- 2 stalks celery, thickly, sliced



- 3 cloves garlic, smashed
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 4 tablespoons cold unsalted butter
- 2 apples, such as Cortland or Rome peeled, cored and cut into 8 slices
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup apple cider
- 2 tablespoons whole grain mustard

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. In a large ovenproof skillet, heat oil over high heat. Season entire pork loin generously with salt and pepper. Sear the meat until golden brown on all sides, about 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer the meat to a plate and set it aside.
3. Add onion, carrot, celery, garlic, herb sprigs, and 2 tablespoons of the butter to the skillet. Stir until browned, about 8 minutes. Stir in sliced apples, then push the mixture to the sides and set the pork loin in the middle of the skillet, along with any collected juices on the plate.
4. Place skillet in oven and roast the loin for about 30 to 35 minutes, or until an instant-read meat thermometer registers 140 to 150 degrees F (see Cook's Note).
5. Transfer the pork to a cutting board and cover loosely with foil. Arrange the apples and vegetables on a serving platter and set aside, discarding the herb sprigs.
6. Return the skillet to a high heat and add the vinegar, scraping the skillet with a wooden spoon to loosen up any browned bits. Reduce by half, then add the cider and reduce by about half again. Pull the skillet from the heat and whisk in the mustard and remaining 2 tablespoons of butter. Adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper, to taste.
7. Remove strings from roast and slice into 1/2-inch thick pieces; arrange over apple mixture. Drizzle some sauce over meat and serve the rest on the side.

Cook's Note: Pork cooked this way will be slightly pink. If desired, cook the pork to 160 degrees F, but be aware that this lean cut will not be as moist at the higher temperature.

Spinach and Strawberry Salad

From AllRecipes.com

Ingredients

- 2 bunches spinach, rinsed and torn into bite-size pieces
- 4 cups sliced strawberries (preferably from Pik'n Patch!)
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, toss together the spinach and strawberries.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, sugar, paprika, sesame seeds, and poppy seeds.
3. Pour over the spinach and strawberries, and toss to coat.

Peach and Gorgonzola Chicken Pizza

From Cooking Light, May 2011

Ingredients

- 1 (10-ounce) prebaked thin pizza crust (such as Boboli)
- Cooking spray
- 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese, divided
- 1 cup shredded cooked chicken breast
- 1/3 cup (about 1 1/2 ounces) crumbled Gorgonzola cheese
- 1 medium unpeeled peach, thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Place pizza crust on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Brush 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil evenly over crust. Top evenly with 1/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, chicken, Gorgonzola cheese, and peach slices. Top with remaining 1/4 cup mozzarella. Bake at 400° for 11 minutes or until crust browns.
3. Place vinegar in a small saucepan over medium-high heat; cook until reduced to 2 tablespoons (about 5 minutes). Drizzle balsamic reduction evenly over pizza. Cut pizza into 8 wedges.



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Great Grilles of Fire

On stage at the Mount

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

As another school year begins, the dorms once again become filled with new freshmen and familiar faces returning to their second home on the mountain. With this new wave of students comes even more opportunity to see what kind of talents these students can bring to the Mount Saint Mary's community. As the students trickle into the dorms and classrooms, starting off the school year fresh and renewed after a long, much-needed summer vacation, so begins the lineup of events for the Fine Arts Department.

But before we get into the schedule, I want to make sure everyone knows about the amazing renovations done to the Fine Arts building, formerly known as Flynn Hall and now the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center. It is home to the Fine and Performing Arts Department (and has been since the very first performances at the Mount), and it has many new features that will enhance the quality of future performances at the school. Some of these features include the state-of-the-art black box theater, known as The Lynne & Joseph Horning Theater, and an art gallery (The Thomas H. & Mary K. Williams Art Gallery) where students, faculty, and professional artists can display their work. The building boasts state-of-the-art theater technology, faculty offices and music teaching rooms, green rooms, a makeup room, and a theater support addition. The building was fully renovated and its grand opening was this past fall.

The wonderful addition to the Mount St. Mary's campus is complete thanks to the Mount community and the donors that made the renovations possible, especially George & Bettie Delaplaine, Joe & Lynne Horning, and Tom & Mary Williams. Now, the Mount is able to showcase both local and nation-

al artists for the students and the surrounding community. The Fine Arts section of the Mount website (www.msm.edu/) has more information about the renovations, including a slideshow with photos of the renovation and reconstruction processes, the addition to the building, and of course, the finished product!

The slideshow may be a good way to see the means that brought forth the end result, but what better way to see the completed renovations than to come to one of the Mount's many great performances scheduled for the fall? Although some of the events are still to be announced, there are numerous events already lined up, so mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on any of these great performances! Keep in mind that the details regarding these performances are tentative. No days or times are set in stone yet, so be sure to visit the Mount's website and navigate to the Fine Arts page to see updated schedules and see if anything new has been added!

This month, we have two very unique performances coming to the Mount. They say laughter is the best medicine, so any post-summer blues will surely be cured as we start off the year with The Comedy Pigs on September 3rd at 8: pm in the Horning Theater. This improv group has been featured on Comedy Central and they regularly perform at the Maryland Ensemble Theater in Frederick.

Later in the month, G.K. Chesterton will take the stage in the Horning Theater. On September 12th at 7 pm, history will be brought to life when Dr. John "Chuck" Chalberg brings this masterpiece from England, yet makes it his own. He offers his personal views on "the virtues of things small, whether they be families or pubs, to the evils of things large, whether they be imperialist schemes or socialist."

On October 6th at 7:30 pm, the Ensemble Gaudior will grace us with



The Mount's Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

a return performance in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. This renowned early music instrumental ensemble will no doubt be a great way to begin a new month, and the act to follow will surely be a great way to end it!

On October 28th at 7:30 pm in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, the Dagileis Boys Choir will perform. The group has come all the way from Lithuania to tour the mid-Atlantic. They are a virtuoso choral singing group that will provide us with not only a great performance, but also a look into another culture and a way for us to broaden our own artistic visions as we are introduced to those of other people around the world.

In November, we are lucky enough to have a faculty recital where Mark Carlson will play the trombone and Victor Fields will play the organ. This recital will tentatively take place on November 2nd at 7:30 pm in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

On the first day of December, my Art Department gave to me...one great performance! Soprano Kathleen

Rosenfeld and Pianist John Wickelgren will be having a recital of works by Jewish composers from the first part of the twentieth century. Some of these composers include Mahler, Korngold, and Weill. The recital will be entitled "Resilience and Survival: 50 Years of Jewish Composers." It will take place on December 1st at 7:30 pm in the Horning Theater.

After that nice long winter break, the performances continue into the new year and start it off with some wonderful talent. The American Shakespeare Center will present Midsummer Night's Dream and Winter's Tale. This is an internationally acclaimed theater company that gives its audience an authentic and entertaining experience of Shakespeare's works. The performance will take place on January 29th and February 1st in the Horning Theater. There is limited seating for this event, so if you are interested in attending, be sure to visit the Mount website for information about seating and upcoming admission.

In addition to all of these performances, the Mount will be showcasing the many talents of its

very own students throughout the fall and spring. As a Fine Arts student myself, I can say that I have seen an incredible amount of artistic talent at Mount Saint Mary's. And better yet, each student's talents are unique. Whether it be the Acoustic Battle, the Senior Shows, the theater performances, or just witnessing the everyday skill in the classroom, it is clear that showcasing these talents will not only benefit the artists themselves, but also the Mount and its surrounding community. The arts give students the ability to express themselves, and when we are introduced to different kinds of art, we are able to have a well-rounded perspective of art and the world around us.

Starting off the Mount Theatre Mainstage Productions of this year is Urinetown. In this hilarious tale of corruption, greed, love, and revolution, a 20-year drought "leaves the Urine Good Company with a stranglehold on the public's ability to relieve a most basic need." It will no doubt be entertaining, and a performance you do not want to miss! The production will take place from November 10th to the 12th and again from the 17th to the 19th at 8 pm in the Horning Theater.

Some other productions have yet to be announced, but there are several performances lined up! Again, check out the Mount website for updates.

The Mount Instrumental Ensembles Fall and Spring Concerts are events that will truly leave you in awe at the amount of talent here at the Mount. The Wind Ensemble, the Lab Band and the String Ensemble will perform at this concert under the direction of Dr. Mark Carlson. The fall performance will take place on December 11th at 4 pm in the Knott Auditorium. The spring performance will take place on May 6th at 4 pm, also in the Knott Auditorium.

The Mount Chorale will take the stage for their fall concert on December 4th at 4 pm. The location is to be announced at a later date. It will be an Advent Candlelight Program where the Mount Chamber Choir and Women's Choir present their "programs of choral masterworks" under the direction of Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld. The spring program will be held on April 29th at 4 pm in the Seton Basilica.

As I said before, there are so many talented students and faculty here at the Mount. We not only have the pleasure of seeing their performances in our newly renovated building, but we also are able to witness the talent of some national acts. This music and theatre schedule is one that will keep us entertained all year long. It is one that will take us through history, make us laugh, and most importantly, make us appreciate the hard work and skill it takes to make these performances so remarkable. So whether you are a Mount student or faculty member, a citizen from the surrounding community, or just someone interested in the performing arts, come to one, a few, or all of these performances and you will get a true taste of artistic talent.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Mount St. Mary's men's lacrosse

Megan Kinsella
MSM Class of 2013

No matter from what part of the country you hail, you are bound to know about some of the things that are famously identified with the state of Maryland: Blue Crabs, Old Bay seasoning, and Ravens' Football to name a few. As

an Allentown native, before entering my freshman year here at the Mount, I was unaware of one other "Marylandian" obsession... lacrosse. Lacrosse, along with jousting (strange, I know) is the state sport of Maryland. Instead of soccer moms driving soccer-mom vans, in Maryland, the mini-van-

driving-mothers are, in fact, "lacrosse moms," and their vehicles are fittingly referred to as "lacrosse-mom-vans." Babies in Maryland are born with lacrosse sticks in their hands and children are taught at a young age how to body slam their comrades into the ground. Let's just say it's kind of a big deal.

team the past couple years." Not only do they concentrate on success on the playing field, but they are also very academically strong as well. "One of our goals last year was to increase our team GPA, which we did pretty significantly," said Golden proudly.

Looking forward to next season, the Mountaineers know they have their hands full with talented NEC teams, but they are fully confident in their returning members and newly recruited freshmen to carry them through another championship season. "Everyone wants to take out the team who won it the year before," Golden said. "Most teams will be giving us their best effort, which forces us to work harder in the off-season so that we can hopefully keep our successes going [in the spring]." The team will only continue to get stronger and stronger each day, as almost all of last year's seniors are eligible to return for a fifth year of play. Coaches and players alike have their sights set on taking advantage of the fifth-year seniors while they still have them, and working hard this year to make a run to the playoffs. On top of a talented, tough returning class, the lacrosse team is welcoming a large group of freshmen this year who are really going to add a lot to the program. "They are the future of the program and they are already working hard to

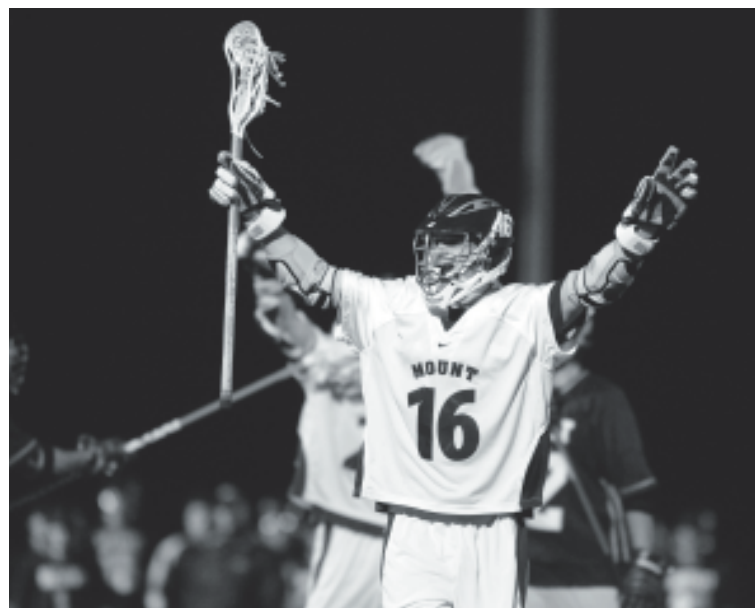
help the team this year," commented Golden. "It is going to put some pressure on the returning players to keep working hard to keep their spots." Sounds like a pretty solid dynasty to me!

What's up next for Mount Lax? The team's goals for this season are simple: Practice hard, play hard, and win another championship. Just the other day, my cross country teammates and I were stretching at the track, preparing for our daily workout. We looked over at the stadium and saw 60 or so boys—let me correct myself— young men sprinting in circles around the field. After giggling a little bit and placing bets on how many of them we ourselves could personally leave in the dust, I was extremely impressed by their tenacity and drive. They know what they're working for and they're not going to stop at anything until they get it. Along with regular practices, the team completes aerobic strength workouts and lifting sessions with the school's strength and conditioning coach, TJ Burns. These workouts will continue through the fall and winter, and will be a huge determining factor in their success this spring.

So, be on the lookout for a schedule of spring lacrosse games at the Mount (you can visit www.mountathletics.com later this fall for a listing of games). Come out and cheer the team on to a threepeat championship!



Here at the Mount, we are proud to be represented by a fine team of young gentlemen laxers who have proven themselves over and over again to be championship material. In 2010, the men's lacrosse team won first place in the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) and competed in the NCAA Division 1 tournament. Last year, in 2011, the men switched conferences and began their first year of competition against Northeast Conference teams. They were once again victorious in the championship game last spring, destroying Quinnipiac 14 to 9. Senior Anthony Golden comments, "Not very many people get to say they played on a championship team, nevertheless back-to-back championship teams, so I feel lucky that I was able to be on such a dedicated



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PASTOR'S DESK

Society is judged by how it treats its least fortunate

Deacon Charlie Barnhart
 Keysville Evangelical Lutheran
 Church

Grace and Peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

At a fund-raising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that will never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the virtues of school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

"When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, could not learn things as other children do. He could not understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?" The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued, "I believe that when a child like Shay, who was mentally and physically disabled, comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and comes in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the

following story:

Shay and I had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but as a father I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him to bat in the ninth inning."

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. I watched with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy at their acceptance of my son.

It was the bottom of the eighth inning; Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in right field. Even though no hits came his way, he



Pastor John addressing the students at the Pathfinder School during the Emmitsburg Council of Church's mission to Kenya trip

was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again.

Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to bat. At this juncture, the team had to be thinking: "do we let Shay bat and give away our chance to win the game?" Surprisingly, the boys gave Shay the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, when Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact.

The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed.

The pitcher again took a few

steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game could have ended here. The pitcher could have picked up the soft grounder and easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and the game would have been over. But he didn't. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all his teammates.

Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, and he scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. But he made it to first. Everyone yelled: "Run to second, run to second!" Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran toward second, eyes gleaming and struggling to make it to the base.

By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. The smallest guy on their team now had his first chance

to be the hero for his team. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, "Shay, Shay, all the way Shay!" Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of the base, and shouting, "Run to third! Shay, run to third!"

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, "Shay run home! Run home!"

Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was greeted by a wall of cheers. He was hailed as the hero who hit a grand slam and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making his parents so happy and proud.

And now a little footnote to this story:

God through Jesus Christ brought a piece of true love and humanity into this world. We all have thousands of opportunities every single day to help realize the 'natural order of things.' There are so many seemingly trivial interactions that really offer us a choice. Do we pass along a little spark of love and humanity or do we pass up those opportunities and leave the world a little bit colder in the process?

A wise man once said every society is judged by how it treats its least fortunate amongst them. How will our society be judged? Strive to follow the example of the young boys in this story and of our Lord Jesus Christ who gave his attention to the lowly and least fortunate.

God bless you and your family.

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EMMITSBURG & THURMONT COMMUNITY SHOW

The Emmitsburg & Thurmont Community Show will be held at Catoctin High School, in Thurmont, Maryland on September 9, 10, 11. Over 3000 farm and garden, household, quilts, livestock, machinery and commercial displays can be seen during the three-day event.

The show begins on Friday night at 7 pm in the school's auditorium with a bagpipe processional and civic flag ceremony. This year, the show committee will honor the 75th anniversary of the Catoctin Mountain Park. Also on Friday night the 2011-2012 Catoctin FFA Chapter

Ambassador will be announced. Immediately following the program, an auction of all baked goods exhibited at the show will be held in the auditorium. All grand champion and reserve champion baked goods will be sold at 9 p.m.

On Saturday the show opens at 9. Activities include a Market Goat, Beef, Sheep and Swine Fitting & Showing contest from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ag Center and a pet show, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in front of the school. The pet show is also open to area residents. Categories are – Cat with Prettiest

Eyes; Cat with Longest Whiskers; Cutest Cat; Best Trained Pet; Dog with Wiggliest Tail; Prettiest Dog; Best Costumed Pet; Pet with Most Spots; Largest Pet (by height); Most Unusual Pet; Smallest Pet. The Thurmont Grange will again serve their Turkey and Ham dinner in the school cafeteria on Saturday night.

Activities begin on Sunday at 9 a.m. with the Goat Show, followed by the Dairy Show and Decorated Animal Contest. The decorated animal contest will begin at noon and \$50.00 in prize money will be awarded. Categories are: Dairy,

Beef, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, Rabbits and Goats. At noon, the Catoctin FFA Alumni Chicken Bar-B-Que will be held in the cafeteria. The 32nd annual horse school pitching contest will begin at 1 p.m.

The Barnyard Olympics for children will again be held on Sunday afternoon beginning at 1 p.m. Age Groups are (5-6), (7-8), (9-10) and (11-13). The event will be expanded because of increased participation by the children and premiums will be awarded. There also will be a petting zoo, pony rides, with various animals for children to pet and take

The Community Show is sponsored by the Thurmont Grange, Catoctin FFA Chapter, Catoctin FFA Alumni and the Maryland State Agricultural Fair Board.

Come and see the many farm, garden, household, canned goods, flowers, baked products, quilts, sewing exhibits and animals exhibited by the residents of the Catoctin High School area. There is not admission charge and there will be plenty of good food, entertainment, free parking and door prizes, donated by area businesses.



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CONTRACTOR'S CORNER

Buried treasure

Andrew Wivell

I remember, as a little boy, digging in the dirt in the garden with the Tonka toys and shovels with my brother Chris (Chick to those of you who know him). We were convinced that if we dug long enough or deep enough, we would find an Indian head arrow, an old coin, or even a buried treasure. Fast forward 30 years, and technology has produced a mainstream heating and cooling system that uses the heat from the ground to dramatically reduce utility bills as compared to any other conventional system. The system is generically called Geothermal Heat Pump.

How it works

I heat and cool my home with Geothermal Heat Pumps (GEO). It will be simpler to explain how mine works and then discuss some of the alternative methods of installation. Since I am not an HVAC professional, this will be a "layman's" explanation.

My system uses three 300 foot long horizontal trenches. Each trench has a 1-1/2" water pipe at seven feet deep, followed by two feet of backfill and a second water pipe at five feet deep. The two pipes in each trench

are connected at one end to create a "loop". The six pipes are connected underground, just outside the house, in a manifold configuration. Coming out of the house-side of the manifold are two pipes that come into the basement and connect to the condensing unit.

The condensing unit heats or cools the water (depending on the season), where it then passes through a series of smaller coils (water pipes) and a fan blows the conditioned air through the duct work inside my home. This transfer of energy is similar to what takes place under the hood every time you start your car. As water takes heat out of the engine, it passes through the small coils in the radiator, where a fan blows off excess heat and the cycle continues. The heated water is also used to condition the air inside the car in the heating season - just like a GEO system.

My system is known as a Horizontal Loop Installation. On smaller or wooded lots, you can also do a Vertical Loop Installation. This is a series of vertical holes dug by a well driller in a circular configuration with an eight to twelve foot diameter. Another type of system is called an Open Loop System. This is a series of horizontal pipes installed un-

der water - like in a pond. The Horizontal Loop System is the most popular because it can be constructed with a standard backhoe. The Vertical Loops are more expensive because they require the specialized equipment of a well drilling rig.

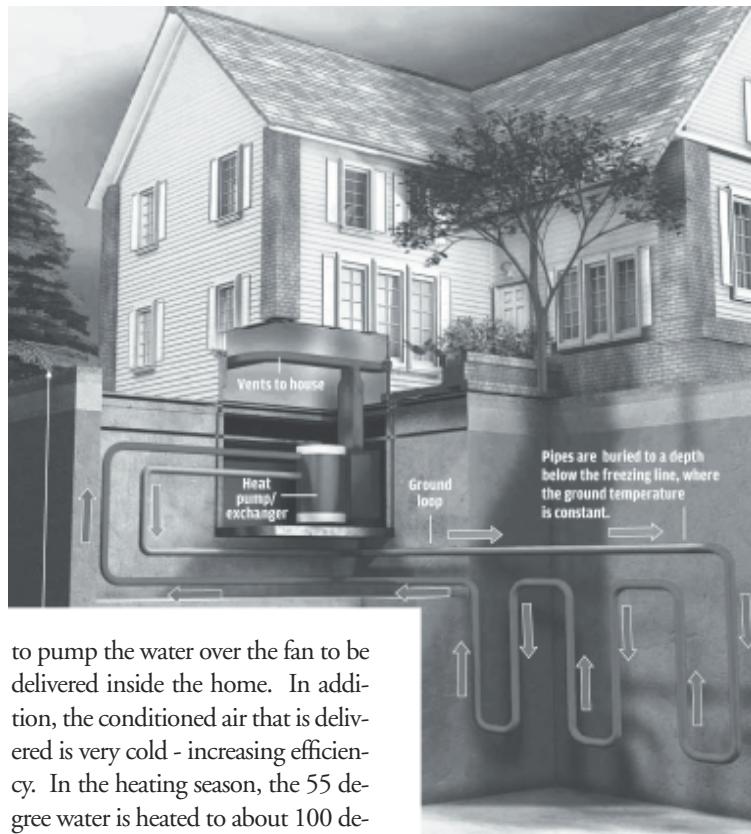
Horizontal Loops, Vertical Loops, and Open Loops are the various methods of capturing the Earth's heat. The conditioned air must then be delivered inside the home. We have discussed the forced air system. Other delivery systems include radiant floor heat or hot water radiators.

Why it works better

Let's discuss a conventional heat pump system. In the cooling season, the heat pump takes outside air (right now, about 80 - 90 degrees during the day) and cools it, using the condensing unit and refrigerant, to be delivered inside the home. At the same time, it takes the warmer air from inside the home and exhausts it to the outside. As the temperature increases outside, the warmer outside air is less "willing" to accept the exhausted air, and the system has to work harder to cool since it is starting with a warmer source. In addition, as the outside temperature increases, the cooling demand increases because the house is hotter. This is like your car on a sunny day. The result - your cooling system is the least efficient just when you need it the most.

The reverse is true for the heating season. The conventional heat pump takes outside air, say 40 degrees, and must work to deliver 80 degree plus air inside the home. As the temperature drops, the unit must work harder to deliver the 80 degree air as the heat loss increases from the home through walls and windows.

Since the Earth's temperature (at our loop depth) is 55 degrees, the GEO systems always start with 55 degree water. In the cooling season, a minimal amount of electricity is required to operate the water pumps



to pump the water over the fan to be delivered inside the home. In addition, the conditioned air that is delivered is very cold - increasing efficiency. In the heating season, the 55 degree water is heated to about 100 degrees before it is delivered. As compared to a heat pump, the air actually is warm to the touch.

GEO systems are more efficient than any conventional system, such as propane, natural gas, oil, or even an electric heat pump. Water Furnace is the largest seller of GEO equipment. According to their website, a Water Furnace GEO system can deliver up to five units of energy for every one unit of electrical energy used. Comparing this to a gas furnace with a 96% efficiency rating (the highest rating for gas), the gas furnace will return up to 0.96 units of energy for every one unit of energy used.

Benefits

The major benefits of GEO systems include lower operating costs and increased comfort of the delivered air. The GEO systems are the greenest mainstream form of heating and cooling. While they use electricity from conventional sources (gas or coal), they tap into the renewable energy source of the Earth to deliver up to a 5:1 energy return. A GEO system will cost about twice as much as a con-

ventional system to install. Since the operating costs are much lower, the additional cost of a GEO system will pay for itself in five to seven years, depending on the user and the thermal performance of the house. One of my favorite benefits, though, is that there is no outside equipment; you don't have to look at the outside condensing unit or listen to it while relaxing on your deck or patio.

Tax credits

In 2008, Congress enacted the Energy Improvement Extension Act (H.R. 1424). This Act allows a one-time tax credit of 30% of the total expenses for homeowners who install residential ground loop or ground water Geothermal Heat Pumps. To qualify for the tax credit, the system must meet or exceed the Energy Star requirements.

To take advantage of the credit, Homeowners can complete the Renewable Energy Credits section of their tax return. Although you are not required to provide purchase documentation when filing your tax return, I highly recommend you maintain detailed records in case of audit. Your Contractor should provide an invoice that clearly itemizes the product as a Geothermal Heat Pump and include language stating it "exceeds the requirements of the Energy Star program currently in effect." The tax credit is currently available through December 31, 2016. [Now comes the required disclaimer - since I am not a tax professional, please be sure to consult your own tax professional for advice on taking advantage of the tax credit based on your own personal financial considerations.]

The bottom line

GEO systems have become mainstream and are an excellent way to heat and cool your home. If you already have a forced air HVAC system or central air conditioning, you can take advantage of the existing duct work for a GEO retrofit. For more information about geothermal systems or other home services that I provide, visit my website at www.wivellhomes.com or email me at andrew@wivellhomes.com.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Words... creating our world and health

Renee Lehman

Part 1

Words, words, words. We are surrounded by words. We use words to speak with one another and to ourselves in our own brain. Words are used in the music that we listen to and in the news we tune into, and currently you are reading words in this article. The words that we use in our speaking about the "world" shape both our external environment, and our internal state and subsequent actions.

"The language we use to communicate with one another is like a knife. In the hands of a careful and skilled surgeon, a knife can work to do great good. But in the hands of a careless or ignorant person, a knife can cause great harm." Exactly as it is with our words." (Unknown)

Do you remember a previous article on how our beliefs affect our health (Emmitsburg News Journal, March 2011)? In it I wrote about how our biology adapts to our thoughts and beliefs. When we truly recognize that our thoughts/beliefs are that powerful, we hold the key to freedom (Bruce Lipton, The Biology of Belief). Well, what comes before a thought or belief? Words! Words create thoughts, which create emotions, which then create behavioral and physical

conditions.

Words Have Power

What you say matters. Words can teach, guide, encourage, inspire, reassure and unite. Words can also destroy visions and dreams, and tear relationships apart. With words, we both create life and destroy life.

For example, there is no past, only what you say about it: "I had a terrible childhood." The present is what you declare it to be: "It's going to be a horrible day." The future is not separate from what I say it will be: "I'm never going to find love."

Think about this excerpt from the book, My Stroke of Insight, by Jill Bolte Taylor, PhD (a neuroanatomist who had a stroke at the age of 37 years old) about what she learned during her recovery:

"One of the greatest lessons I learned was how to feel the physical component of emotion... I learned that I had the power to choose whether to hook into a feeling and prolong its presence in my body, or just let it quickly flow right out of me... I made up my decisions based upon how things felt inside... I learned that I could use my left mind, through language, to talk directly to my brain and tell it what I wanted and what I didn't want."

What kind of life do you want to create with your words? It



is your choice! We can choose to build a heaven or construct a hell.

The words we use in our thoughts trigger our brain cells to release neuropeptides (our brain's chemical messengers to our body). These messengers will cascade throughout our bodies and will either be health-promoting or health-destroying. Thoughts create emotions, and particular emotions are associated with a particular neuropeptide, so that over time, if we are prone to experience a particular emotion, our cellular structure actually changes to accommodate more of the neuropeptide associated with the emotion. In this way, our neural pathways build up to become like well worn roads along which the electrical impulses (which stem from the power of the mind) travel (2004 movie, What the Bleep do we know!?).

"You are literally thinking with your body. The words you say... actually affect the neural networks forming in the brain." (Candace Pert, PhD, author of Molecules of Emotion)

Words Give Power

Words are creative and open new doors to possibility:

"You can do it!" "I believe in you!" "What else is possible here?" "This experience gives us the opportunity to do..."

Words Take Power Away

Words are harbingers of separation and violence:

"I can't do anything about this situation." "You idiot!" "Nonsense!" "I will not compromise. Take it or leave it." "I don't trust you."

Words and Illness

Are negative words precursors to illness and disease? The article written by Barbara Frederickson in the March 7, 2000 edition of the American Psychological Association journal Prevention and Treatment, (Cultivating Positive Emotions to Optimize Health and Well-Being) demonstrated that research has shown that negative emotions like poorly managed anger, fear, anxiety, depression, and prolonged grief have been shown to compromise immune functioning, lead to heart disease, cancer and other stress-related physical disorders. What comes before negative emotions? Negative words!

What is the impact of how you speak about your body and yourself?

I once had a woman referred to me for physical therapy because of pain at the base of her skull and upper neck. She had x-rays and other tests completed that showed no structural problems. One day when working with her, she said, "I know in the back of my head that my husband (who has cancer) is going to die soon." I asked her if she realized what she just had said! The back of her head... where her pain was located! She suddenly realized that the pain dealt with her husband's condition. Her pains did go away shortly after her husband died.

What do you notice when you repeat the following statements to yourself?

"That just kills me." "This anger is eating me up inside." "I'm going out of my mind!" "This is going to be the death of me!" "I can't stomach this anymore." How do you feel?

Now repeat the following statements:

"That brightened my day!" "I'm so excited!" "There's a weight off my shoulders." "I can see clearly now." Now, how do you feel?

One of my mentors in life and acupuncture, Dianne Connelly, PhD, once said:

"There are three things of which we can be relatively certain. We are here. We are here together. And there will be a time when that is no longer so. What is the conversation worth having in the meantime?"

Next month, I'll discuss how to listen for the words you use when conversing with yourself and others, and practices to help make your word choices more beneficial for you and the world.

If this topic interests you and you would like to read more I would recommend the resources discussed in this article and the book Dancing with the Ten Thousand Things (2004) by Tom Balles.

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 20 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Exercise may help ease headaches and body pains

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Sometimes you know you should go for a walk but a nagging headache changes your mind. Well, think again before you decide not to go. Depending on the type of headache you have, walking could be just the answer. A stress or tension headache can actually be eased and may even disappear completely during a walk. Getting your blood pumping will do one of two things. It will either take the headache away or make it noticeably worse. The problem is not knowing which will happen this time. Most of the time exercise will help because you are concentrating on your walk and what you are seeing or talking about with your walking partner and you tend to forget about your headache. Suddenly, when you do remember it, it's gone.

If you have frequent headaches and can't determine what is causing them, contact your doctor. Headaches can be caused by many different stimuli. One cause of frequent headaches is allergies to food. Many people can not use artificial sweeteners. I used them for years and my headaches slowly got worse and worse. Trying to determine what was causing my headaches, I decreased my variety of foods. Since my body was cleansed of different food types, I slowly incorporated back what I normally ate and to my surprise discovered that the sweetener was the cause of my headaches. A very, very big problem solved by cutting out one thing. Foods, odors, sounds and even colors can cause headaches for some people. Try to solve your headache problem by conducting some simple tests yourself, but if that doesn't

work, call your doctor. I now have my life back and it makes such a difference living headache free.

Sharing your personal experience or solution to headaches or other ailments can help someone else. That's why I felt it was so important to write this article. If I had only known years ago, I would not have suffered with headaches for so long. The answer to your headache or other ailment may also be the answer for someone else. Tell your friends and family if you have discovered something like I did. It may be just what somebody needs to get their life back and feel good again. Once they do feel like themselves again, they can concentrate on their family and a long, healthy life with them.

There can be many other causes for headaches or other body pain but exercise can help with many of them. Getting your body moving and helping your muscles relax and become more flexible is a really big help. Tight muscles can cause tension headaches, neck or back pain, leg and even foot problems. Getting the blood flowing and acids moving through your muscles can get the toxic build up out of your body and give you a better quality of life. I know exercise is hard to work into your busy schedule but once you do you wouldn't know how you lived without it. Talk to a friend or family member and set a date to get started. Talk to your doctor first if you have health problems. If you do not have any apparent problems, start slowly and in a short time you will look forward to your walks and sharing your day with your walking partner.

If you have any questions, please call 717-334-6009. Fitness means your total wellness. Sometimes fitness trainers can help you or we can direct you to someone who can help. That's what we are here for. Remember Keep Moving!!

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Fitness matters

Expert answers to your health and wellness questions

Inga Olsen
Anytime Fitness Personal Trainer

Question: I usually skip breakfast, but I keep reading how good it is for me. What are the best options for breakfast foods?

Answer: Eating breakfast in the morning is a great way to jumpstart your day. It helps boost your metabolism and keeps you focused longer at work. Some say eating something is always better than nothing, and while this is generally true, there are some foods that are much more beneficial to include in the day's first meal. Eggs are always a great way to get protein and healthy fats into your system, and also keep you feeling full longer. Whole grains are another crucial component to remember for your breakfast. Whole wheat toast with a sugar-free fruit spread is healthy option that contains anti-oxidants and fiber. Fruits and vegetables should be incorporated when possible—they supply nutritious carbohydrates that keep the body energized and feeling awake. I'm assuming everyone is waiting for their beloved cup of coffee to make this list. Well, fear not, coffee is also a low-calorie option, assuming you're not ordering a large caramel swirl sugar-filled latte. Adding some fat-free skim milk to black coffee is an excellent way to get your daily calcium requirements and it also contains numerous vitamins and minerals. Whether you eat your breakfast on-the-go, or make time for a formal sit-down meal, be sure to include healthy options, while still keeping your breakfast convenient to you.

Question: I work inside all day and don't see much sun. Should I be supplementing with vitamin D?

Answer: It depends. Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin that is absorbed in conjunction with calcium, promoting healthy bone growth. Vitamin D can be ingested through food or supplement, but it can also be produced by the body when in direct sunlight. The daily recommended amount of vitamin D is 10 µg. This is including any vitamin D absorbed from UV rays. Fortunately, that only requires a short amount of sunlight (about 15 minutes) to get the daily recommendation,

depending on where you live and how intense the sun rays are. During the colder months, vitamin D can be ingested from foods such as: fish, milk, mushrooms, and fortified cereals. If all of those approaches don't seem to work, supplementing vitamin D is a feasible option that should be discussed with your doctor in advance.

Question: All of my runs tend to be on flat ground. What are the benefits of running hills?

Answer: Hill running is one of the best workouts to consider when training for races. It helps build muscle, improve speed, and can take your endurance to a whole new level. Picking the right hill to run can sometimes be a chore—it's important to find one that isn't too steep or too flat. You should find a hill that is about a quarter mile long and steep enough to provide a challenge, but flat enough that you aren't putting too much strain on your ankles and shins, causing injury. Always begin a hill workout with a short 5-10 minute warm up. Loosen the muscles so that they are primed for a strenuous run. On your first hill workout, aim for 4 repetitions—run up the hill, jog down, repeat. Gradually increase repetitions when you begin to feel stronger and ready. The results of hill running are both physiologically and biomechanically rewarding. An avid hill runner will likely have an increased oxygen capacity, stronger and more defined leg muscles, and improved stride length and frequency (increased length from running uphill, increased frequency from running downhill). Another benefit from frequent hill running is the ability to "relax" when running, keeping the upper body from tensing up. Running hills for every workout is not recommended and can enhance injury risk, but adding a hill workout every 7-10 days is a sure way to reach noticeable and satisfying results.

Inga Olsen is the Club Manager and NSPA Certified Conditioning Specialist and Nutrition and Weight Management Specialist at Anytime Fitness in Thurmont. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.

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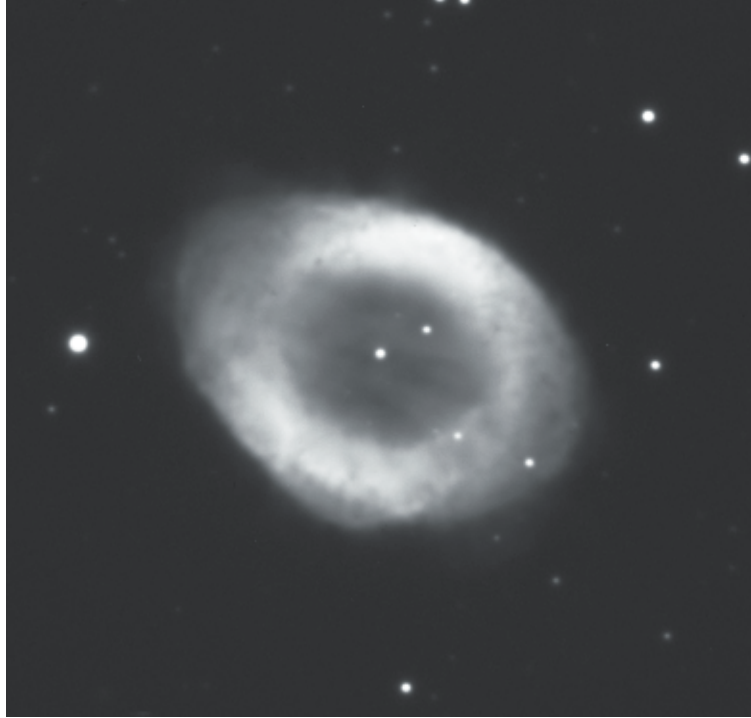
The night sky of September

Professor Wayne Wooten

For September, the Moon will be first quarter on September 4th. The full moon will happen a week later (a week is the time it takes the moon to go through a quarter of its phase cycle), on September 12th. This is the Harvest Moon, closest to the Autumnal Equinox; the beginning of fall this year is 4:05 AM CDT on September 23rd. Last quarter moon is on September 20th, and new moon on September 27th. The slender crescent on the 29th marks the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, the first day of Jewish year 5772 AM. The Harvest Moon, occurs on September 23rd, the day after the autumnal equinox; fall actually begins this year at 10:23 PM CDT on September 22nd. The moon will be 6 degrees north of Jupiter on the 16rd; Jupiter was at opposition itself on October 28thst. Thus the moon is out of the evening sky during the last two weeks of September, making them ideal for spotting deep sky objects.

To the west, we are losing Saturn into the sun's glare, and Venus and Mercury both lie too close to the Sun to see as well. Jupiter dominates the southeastern evening skies during the autumn of 2011. He reaches opposition on October 28thst, just south of the triangle of Aries, and will be up all night, opposite the sun in the sky then. Amateurs and professionals all watched last spring when the southern "racing stripe", Jupiter's South equatorial belt, mysteriously faded to white, but has now revived to give Jupiter its familiar appearance.

The Big Dipper rides high in the NW at sunset, but falls lower each evening. Good scouts know to take



its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west. It is this time of year at an American Indian legend tells of the Bear and three hunters. The bowl is the bear, the three handle stars of the dipper the hunters. The first carries a bow, and has shot the bear in its flanks. The second optimistically carries a bowl on his shoulder for bear stew; look closely, and you can see the pot (Mizar, horse in Arabic, and Alcor its rider more traditionally). The last hunter carries firewood for the feast. The wound is minor, and the bear has not lost a step, but in the fall, as the bear goes into hiding along the NW horizon, the wound opens slightly, and blood oozes out to fall on the tree leaves and paint them red this time of year.

From the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo. Saturn is just NW of Spica, a little brighter and more yellow in color. Note that Spica and Saturn are both now low in the SW, and by September's end, will be lost in the Sun's glare due to our annual revolution of the Sun making it appear to move one degree per day eastward. To the Greeks, Spica and Virgo were associated with Persephone, the daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. In their version of "Judge Judy", the beautiful young daughter falls for the gruff, dark god of the underworld, Pluto. He elopes with her, much to the disapproval of mother Ceres, and they marry in his underworld kingdom of Hades...a honeymoon in hell...really, he does love her as well, and the marriage itself works well. But it is the reaction of Ceres

that creates alarm. Very despondent over the loss of her young daughter to a fate as bad as death, Ceres abandons the crops, which wither. Soon famine sets in, and humanity appeals to Jupiter to save us all. Calling all together, Jupiter hears that Ceres wants the marriage annulled, Persephone loves them both, and Pluto wants his mother in law to stop meddling. Solomon style, Jupiter decides to split her up, not literally, but in terms of time. In the compromise (aren't all marriages so?), when you can see Spica rising in the east in March, it means to plant your peas. For the next six months, she visits upstairs with as very happy mama, and the crops will prosper. But now, as Spica heads west (to the kingdom of death, in most ancient legends) for six months of conjugal bliss with Pluto, it is time to get your corn in the crib. This simple story, told in some form for as long as Noah's flood, was one of the ways our ancestors 7,000 years ago knew the solar calendar and when to plant and harvest. As you watch Spica fade, thank this star for agriculture, and in a certain sense, even our own culture.

To the south, Antares rises about the same time in Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit!

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. Our

photo shows well this stellar nursery is ablaze with new stars and steamers of gas and dust blown about in their energetic births. In the same binocular field just north of the Lagoon is M-20, the Trifid Nebula. A little east is another telescopic treat for September, the fine globular cluster M-22, just to the upper left in the same binocular field as the star at the top of Sagittarius' teapot.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double. Larger telescopes at 150X reveal each of this pair is another close double, hence its nickname, the "double double"...a fine sight under steady sky conditions. At the bottom of the parallelogram that marks the body of the lyre lies the beautiful Ring Nebula, M-57. It lies midway between the two southernmost stars, is visible in binoculars, and even in small telescopes appears as a ghostly smoke ring. The colors show up well in photos, but not visually. This stunning portrait shows the white dwarf central star. Actually the central star is much harder to see than photograph...it usually takes a scope twice that large to spot in the eyepiece. Planetary nebulae are named for their often circular shape, like the disk of distant planets; in reality, they are shells of glowing gas, ionized by the ultraviolet radiation of the now revealed core of a red giant star in the final stages of its collapse.

To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear September evenings. Binoculars should be taken to the deep sky gazes to sweep the rich portion of the Galaxy now best placed overhead in this area.

Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Regional Weather Watch: showers, storms (1,2,3,4) turning fair and rather warm (5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12). Remnants of tropical storm (13,14,15) returning to fair and cooler, less humid weather 16,17,18,19). Warmer with showers, mainly in the southern part of the region (20,21,22) with more showers in the northern part and storms in southern part (23,24,25). Cloudy in the west, showers in the east (26,27) ending the month rather warm but fair 28,29,30).

Full Moon: September's Full Moon will rise on the Monday, the 12th at 4:27 AM EST. It has been most famously known as Harvest Moon. It is always the full moon that falls closest to the Autumnal Equinox at a time when the moon rises soon after sunset on several successive days. According to tradition, the extra light from the moon during that period gave the farmer more time in which to finish up his chores and bring in the harvest. For this year,

the Autumnal Equinox occurs on Friday, September 23rd and signals the beginning of Autumn. The Full Moon closest to that date rises on the 12th of September at 4:27 AM and is the Harvest Moon for 2011.

Holidays: Labor Day falls on Monday, September 5th. Enjoy a nice three-day weekend with family and friends, doing the things you

all like to do. Citizenship Day is Friday, September 16th and the celebration of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins at sunset on Wednesday, September 28th.

The Garden: As nights get longer, your lawn gets hungry as it prepares for Winter. Feed with appropriate fertilizer for your region and water if necessary. Fall is the best time

to plant perennial flowers, trees, shrubs, and evergreens. It also is a good time to plant fast-growing vegetables like arugula, lettuce, kale,

radishes, and spinach. Enjoy some late-season bounty! Remember to cover that woodpile with a tarp now to keep it dry!



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COMPUTER Q&A

Computer cleanup – why it is necessary

Aysë Jester

Many times computers will lock up, bog down, or just plain don't work right. Some people assume that they need a new computer without ever considering regular maintenance. We recommend a clean up once a year. Here at Jester's Computer Services we offer a clean-up special twice a year (spring & fall), to promote the importance of computer maintenance. Below is a list of what we do in a cleanup and why we do it to keep your computer running optimally.

Virus removal

Even if you are running an antivirus program, most computers that come into our shop have several viruses. Your antivirus may be doing a good job, but programs that you legitimately install may have bad software bundled along with it. Your antivirus will not stop you from installing software that you agree to install. Also, you may be running antivirus but it may not have protection against adware, spyware, or the worst of all: Root kits. Leaving viruses and other bad software on your system can be extremely dangerous.

Viruses left on computers have the possibility of:

- Using up valuable system re-

sources causing your computer to slow significantly.

- Logging your keystrokes and passwords.
- Taking over your system and sending out spam.
- Causing system crashes and blue screens.
- Erasing all personal and system data leaving the hard drive blank.
- Wiping out your desktop icons.
- Corrupting the operating system.

What about all those temporary files?

Programs create temporary files primarily for backup purposes. Many programs, such as those included with Microsoft Office, will save a temporary version of a file every few minutes while the original file is open. Then if you have not saved the file and the program unexpectedly crashes or the computer shuts down, there will be a temporary file that was recently saved. Temp files are typically deleted automatically when the program is closed normally, but if the program quits unexpectedly, the temp files are not deleted.

I didn't install that!

Many programs are designed to start automatically when Windows starts.

Software manufacturers often set their programs to open in the background, where you can't see them running, so they'll open right away when you click their icons. That's helpful for programs you use a lot, but for programs you rarely or never use, this wastes precious memory and slows down the time it takes Windows to finish booting up.

Why are there so many updates and which ones do I need?

Most of us are aware of the little pop ups we get while on the computer asking us to make important updates. While they only take a few minutes to complete, many of us are guilty of postponing them or just ignoring them completely. But keeping up with these computer updates is actually very important when it comes to having a healthy computer. Here is a look at why computer updates are so important.

One of the biggest and most important reasons why keeping up with computer updates is so important is because they help to keep our computer secure. While they may not directly say so, a lot of these updates have to do with updating our security software and ensuring our computers are kept safe from any possible

threats. Not updating or postponing these security updates can leave your computer vulnerable to things such as malware or computer viruses that can go in and steal important information.

Clean Registry

Many programs boast that they can increase the speed of your computer through registry cleaners. Unfortunately many of these programs do more harm than good. You can rely on us to successfully clean your registry without worrying about problems arising from the process.

Cleaning your registry can:

- Remove invalid entries related to programs that are uninstalled, which speeds up the system.
- Prevent some system errors.
- Find and correct invalid registry keys.

Why should I optimize my computer?

Your computer can pick up and store temporary files when you're looking at web pages and even when you're working on files in programs, such as Microsoft Word. Over time, these files slow your computer's performance.

As you add programs and files to

your computer, it often breaks files side by side to increase the speed of access and retrieval. However, as files are updated, your computer saves these updates on the largest space available on the hard drive, often found far away from the other adjacent sectors of the file.

The result is a fragmented file. Fragmented files cause slower performance because your computer must now search for all of the file's parts. In other words, your computer knows where all the pieces are, but putting them back together in the correct order—when you need them—can slow your computer down.

Defragment hard drive

Many people still believe that defragmenting your hard drive on a regular basis is necessary however; this is no longer the case. Windows now does a decent job of keeping your files more organized to prevent defragmentation therefore, defragmenting the hard drive should only be done once or twice a year depending on your usage. The defragmentation program included in windows is not effective as the third party software that we use to defragment your hard drive. Defragmenting your hard drive will:

- Save space on your hard drive.
- Re-arrange files for faster accessibility.
- Improve hard drives read/write time.
- Give us a health reading on your hard drive.

Dust out interior

Over time your computer will pull in dirt and dust which can collect on sensitive computer components. Failure to physically clean your computer can result in system failure. Never clean your computer with a vacuum. Always use canned or compressed air to dust the inside of the computer out. By removing dust inside your computer it can help to prevent:

- Increased temperatures which can cause premature failure to components.
- Blocked ventilation which can lead to overheating.

Visit us here at Jester's Computer Services September 1st through September 30th to save \$20 off your computer clean-up. We recommend having your computer cleaned at least once a year. Heavy users sometimes require a clean-up more often. Save yourself frustration and visit us today. We will also perform a free diagnostic to determine if you are in need of any hardware upgrades. No appointment is necessary for our clean-up. We generally complete work within one to two business days. If you have any questions please call us at (717) 642-6611 or send an e-mail to: customerservice@jesterscomputers.com. We are located at 5135 Fairfield Road Fairfield, PA 17320.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Vigilant Hose Company fundraisers

The Vigilant Hose Company will be having several fundraising events the week of September 18-24th. Usually during this week the VHC membership is hard at work running a food stand at the Great Frederick Fair. However, this year, the membership decided for many reasons to discontinue our stand at the Fair. In lieu of the Fair fundraiser, the VHC has scheduled the following:

The first event will be an all-you-can-eat breakfast on Sunday, September 18, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The menu will consist of eggs, pancakes, sausage,

bacon, home fries, chipped beef gravy, orange juice, milk, and coffee.

The second event will be our annual Sandwich Sale which is held in conjunction with the Great Frederick Fair. This sandwich sale will be held on Tuesday, September 20, from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The menu will consist of our famous homemade (no filler) crabcakes, fried ham sandwiches (fried in peanut oil), fish sandwich, Maryland Crab Soup, and french fries. We will have limited delivery for orders.

The third event will be an all-you-can-eat Rib & Chicken Feed

to be held Saturday, September 24 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. The menu will consist of BBQ Baby Back Ribs, BBQ Chicken, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Soda, Water, and Canned Beer.

We hope that you will be able to attend one or all of the events listed. All events will be held at the Emmitsburg Fire Hall. For further information on these events, please visit the VHC's website at www.vigilanthose.org, call the fire station at (301) 447-2728, or stop by the fire station on West Main Street.

Community Watch Program
Crime has been a major issue in Emmitsburg lately. The crime wave last fall/winter raised awareness throughout our community. Also, recently, the Town Council and Mayor decided to reduce our Town Deputies from three to two. The Sheriff's office assures us that we will have more than adequate police coverage even with this reduction. How-

ever, people are worried. Therefore, the Town is looking into bringing the Neighborhood Community Watch Program to Emmitsburg. The Community Watch program emphasizes neighbors looking out for neighbors. As a close-knit community this should be right up our alley. If we train our citizens to look out for the unusual, we should have better coverage than if we have a Deputy driving around Town. The Deputy can only be in one location at a time during his shift, while Neighborhood Watch participants can be throughout the Town 24 hours a day. By participating in the Neighborhood Watch Program, we can have even more eyes on the street than if we had full time police coverage.

The Neighborhood watch principle is "we look out for each other" and as a small Town isn't that what we should be doing anyway. Under the Neighborhood Watch Program, the Sher-

iff's office will teach participants what to look for and how to report that information to the police. We will also get Neighborhood Watch signs and decals that tell criminals that we are not an easy target and they should move on to another location.

In order to bring the Neighborhood Watch Program to Emmitsburg, we need a number of homes to participate. Additionally, for every 1-15 homes, we will need block Captains. The role of the Block Captain is to disseminate information to their neighbors. This information will be supplied by the Sheriff's office and may entail such things as suspicious vehicles or door to door scams.

If you are interested in participating, please send me an email at pjoy@emmitsburg.com or leave a message on my town office phone (301) 600-6307. Working together we can make Emmitsburg a safer community.

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Friday, Sept. 9th - 7pm Program & Flag Ceremony; 8:15pm Baked Goods Auction; 9pm Champion Baked Goods
Saturday, Sept. 10 - 9am-2pm 4-H & FFA Show in the AG Center; 10:30am & 3-7pm Pet Show at the Thurmont Grange; 7pm Turkey & Ham Supper served in the school cafeteria; 7pm 4-H & FFA Sale in the AG Center (10 goats, 18 steers; 30 Hogs, & 15 Lambs) Buyers Welcome! 7pm Gospel Travelers in the auditorium. Free Admission!
Sunday, Sept. 11 - 9am-12pm Goat & Dairy Show, 1pm Log Sawing, Barnyard Olympics & Martial Arts, 1:30pm-3:00pm Lester "Bill" Pryor, Elvis & Karaoke Show in the auditorium. No Admission.

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Entry Fee: \$10.00 (benefits Mother Seton School & the Osteopathic Care Center.)

Info: Call Bill Kuhn at 800.529.5835 or stop by His Place Inc. at 20 Creamery Way, Emmitsburg, MD

Schedule of Events
8-12 Registration
12-2 Judging
3 p.m. Awards

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 3
Adams County Arts Council's third annual Art at the Winery. This popular outdoor event is a fundraiser supporting the construction of the Arts Council's new Arts Education Center, set to open later this fall. This year's Art in the Winery festival feature exhibits offering the work of at least 16 local artists for sale, as well as food, live music, and open-air art classes for adults and children. Visit www.adamsarts.com form more information.

Sept. 5
Labor Day Rest Fest at Crumland Farms - see ad on Page 33 for details.

Sept. 7
Catoctin High School's 'Standing Room Only' Show Choir tryouts for the 2011- 2012 school year. For additional information visit www.chss-howchoir.org or e-mail Laura Knott at knott8895@gmail.com.

Sept. 9, 10 & 11
Emmitsburg-Thurmont Community Show. See article on page 40 for details.

Sept. 10
His Place Annual Car Show - Mother Seton School - see ad on page 46 for details.

Sept. 10 & 11
7th Annual Gettysburg Wine & Music Festival. Escape to the foothills and enjoy a beautiful fall weekend in historic Adams County and savor the flavors of hundreds of Pennsylvania fine wines. Gateway Gettysburg - Intersection of Routes

15 & 30, Gettysburg. For more information call 717.334.8151.

Sept. 11
Music Gettysburg! Presents the Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra. For more information visit www.musicgettysburg.org.

Taneytown "9/11 A Day To Remember" memorial event. See article on page 3 for details.

Sept. 12
Monthly meeting of the South Mountain Audubon Society. This months feature speaker is Master Falconer Michael Kuriga. Michael has trained and flown many species of raptors from Redtails to Golden Eagles. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Building 670 Old Harrisburg Road in Gettysburg.. Meetings are free

Sept. 12 & 25
Willow Pond Farm September luncheons - Spaces are still available in our last two summer boarding house luncheons. The cost is \$25.00 and reservations are a must. Register now for yourself or your group.

Questions? Call 717-642-6387.

Sept. 14
Adams County Master Gardener's Garden Chat at the Trial Gardens located at the Extension Office at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. Master Gardeners will be available to talk about their garden plots. For more information visit the Gardening section of Emmitsburg.net

Sept. 17
The Catoctin Pregnancy Center 7th annual Run for Life. In lieu of the Registration Fee, runners/walkers may solicit sponsors to support their participation (\$20 minimum sponsorship). We encourage all participants to solicit as many sponsors as possible to assist the women, babies and families that come to the Pregnancy Center. Prizes will be given to those individuals/families who raise \$150 or more.

Fairfield's Wesley Chapel UMC Annual Fall Festival. Fried oyster sandwiches, steamers, soups, homemade baked goods, hand-made French fries & chips, and all the fixings. Music provided by Blue Grass Chapel Band. Bring lawn

chair. Wesley Chapel UMC, 654 Old Waynesboro Road, Fairfield

Sept. 17 & 18
Stone Fence Gardens annual Harvest Festival. Watch local craftsman in action - wood carving, glass blowers, art work, potters & more. See ad on page 46 for more information.

World War II Weekend at the Eisenhower Historic Site. This World War II living history weekend features an authentic recreation of both Allied and German army camps, complete with original World War II vehicles. For more information call 717-338-9114.

Sept. 18
Adams County Heritage Festival - The 2011 Twentieth Anniversary Festival will kick off at noon on Sunday at the Gettysburg Recreation Park on Long Lane in Gettysburg.

Bagpiper Rodney Yeaple, who tradi-

tionally opens the Festival, will be followed by From the Well, a 4-person band performing Celtic and American folk music on a variety of instruments. To learn more visit www.icpj-gettysburg.org.

Sept. 24 & 25
Fairfield Pippinfest - An annual, old-time country street festival featuring arts & crafts, apple products, live country music, antiques, vintage cars and great food! Located just 8 miles west of Gettysburg. Saturday events include crafts, yard sales, flea market and an antique tractor show. On Sunday, there will be more crafts, demonstrations, a quilt show, an antique tractor show and vintage car show. Throughout the weekend there will be cash-prizes, raffles and music. Those interested in the dessert bake-off need to pre-register by calling the Borough office. For more information, contact the Fairfield Borough office at 717-642-5640. See ad on page 12 for additional details.



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- Friday-The Outlet Shoppes 9:30-5pm
- Saturday-The Outlet Shoppes 9:30-2pm

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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Announcing...



Mount St. Mary's University is excited to announce its corporate partnership with PNC Bank and the naming of the Mount's athletic facilities as the PNC Sports Complex.

"This important corporate partnership with PNC Bank in support of our athletic endeavors is a resounding commitment to the local community as well as to the Mount," says President Thomas H. Powell. "We are extremely proud that PNC chose our university to demonstrate its corporate stewardship, and we look forward to continuing our mutually beneficial relationship."

"Athletics help students develop positive leadership skills and healthy habits that will stay with them throughout their lives," said Gordon M. Cooley, regional president of PNC Bank in Western Maryland. "We are delighted to support these important activities that enhance the college experience."

The PNC Sports Complex encompasses the University's athletic facilities on the east side of Maryland Route 15, including the Knott Athletic Recreation Convocation Complex, Knott Arena, Waldron Family Stadium, E.T. Straw Family Stadium, the Walsh Team Center and the newly-named PNC Fitness Center.

PNC has had a longstanding, 100-year relationship with Mount St. Mary's. In addition to supporting the University's athletic programs, PNC provides personal banking services and financial education workshops to the Mount's more than 2,200 students and employees.

PNC also has provided funding for academic programs, including a grant for the completion of the newly-renovated Delaplaine Fine Arts Center, and scholarships for students interested in pursuing a career in business or finance and serving on the school's Fed Challenge team. These gifts were made by the PNC Foundation, which receives its primary funding from The PNC Financial Services Group.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Cross Country
5K Duals 1 p.m.
- 4 Soccer Double Header (*Learn more below.*)
Women vs. St. Joseph's, Noon
Men vs. Rider, 3 p.m.
- 11 The Unclouded Day (*Learn more below.*)
2:30 p.m., Delaplaine Fine Arts Center
- 21 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Lecture: "Open Access or Meritocracy: Democratic Debates over Catholic Secondary Schooling in the Early 20th Century," featuring Dr. Ann Marie Ryan, Loyola University Chicago
7 p.m., Knott Auditorium

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.msmary.edu or contact the office of university communications at 301-447-5366.



SOCCER DOUBLE HEADER

Check out the Mount St. Mary's men's and women's soccer teams in action this fall, beginning with a doubleheader

on Sunday, September 4, at Waldron Family Stadium. The Mount women host Saint Joseph's at noon while the men follow against Rider at 3 pm. The Mount cross country teams host their only home meet of the year on Friday, September 2, at 1 p.m. on campus.

For full schedules, head to www.mountathletics.com.

MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY TO COMMEMORATE GRADUATES WHO DIED ON 9/11

On September 11, 2001, five Mount St. Mary's University graduates perished in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. On this 10-year anniversary, the Department of Communication Studies will present The Unclouded Day, music and original narration remembering the tragedy. The performance will be in the Horning Theater at the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center at 2 p.m. Admission is free.

CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

Stop in to see the recent renovations to the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception—new interior, floor, stained glass, altars and chandeliers. Or join us for Mass to hear the new organ. Mass is held Sundays at 9 a.m., and 7 and 9:30 p.m., or weekdays at 7 a.m. You can watch the rededication ceremony live on the Mount St. Mary's website, Tues., Sept. 13 at 10:30 a.m. (www.msmary.edu)



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September 15, Tuesday 6-7pm

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