

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Emmitsburg Glass goes solar

Emmitsburg Glass Company (EGC) has completed major construction of roof mounted solar panels and is currently working on the final interconnection of the system just in time for their 25th anniversary celebration on January 25th 2013.

The solar panel array, which will consist of 1057 solar panels, which will produce 253.68 kilowatts of DC power and will eliminate one hundred percent of the electric power obtained from their local utility at current consumption rates. Dan Reaver, co-founder and President of the local glass company said, "We're installing solar power as a way to help sustain the company in the future by eliminating our reliance on traditional energy and it's a contribution to going green."

Energy Systems and Installation (ESI), the engineering and construction firm hired to do the project spoke highly of EGC's management teams' commitment to solar power. "It's obvious why they have been successful over their 25 year history," said Corey Wolff, CEO of ESI. "Emmitsburg Glass Company has a manage-

ment team in place that can plan far into the future while simultaneously satisfying current client requirements. That long term approach of thinking is rare in today's short term, quarterly-quarter corporate thought process. While the solar array will begin reducing their electric bill almost immediately, it is a significant building upgrade, so one has to think in terms of a longer timeline. We applaud Emmitsburg Glass Company and all of our clients that see the value of making commitments now to avoid higher electrical costs in the future."

According to Mr. Reaver the company is always looking for ways to streamline their overhead to be more efficient and competitive. Mr. Reaver said, "While solar is a significant short term investment, it fits within our long term strategic planning and will allow us to build more value into our products and do it in a sustainable manner. Plus, with the incentives available, the annual return on investment is significant. It makes a lot of sense from an accounting standpoint."

Why Solar, Why Now?

The cost to install solar on a com-



Emmitsburg Glass' solar panels will produce 276,004 kilowatt hours/year, allowing Emmitsburg Glass to go 100% solar.

mercial scale project has dropped as much as 60% over the past five years. Couple the price drop with several state and federal incentives, which may have a limited life span, and it makes "now" an opportune time to do a solar project.

"After carefully reviewing these programs with the solar consultants from ESI, it seemed like the right time to move forward with a project of this size and scope" adds Mr. Reaver. "ESI was very proficient in their explanation of the cash flow projections and how to make the most of the incentives available. Plus their

pricing was extremely competitive."

The solar power will be utilized by the EGC's Emmitsburg facility to replace all of their traditional electric requirements. Located within their facility will be a remote monitoring system that employees and clients can view to see a live dashboard of performance data from the array. It will also translate that data into sustainability metrics so viewers can understand how the production of solar energy relates to the reduction of the facility's carbon footprint including number of trees saved, barrels of oil off-set, etc.

Plans set for Gettysburg's 150th

In July, this year, thousands of Civil War reenactors from across the nation and around the world will converge on the Gettysburg area for what will likely be an unparalleled reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg in recognition of its 150th anniversary, and it's entirely possible that the number of reenactors in Gettysburg this July will set a new record for the size of a historical reenactment in the United States.

Adams County Commissioner Randy Phiel has acted as the operations and incident commander for the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee for the past 18 years.

Phiel told the News-Journal that between 8,000 and 15,000 reenactors are expected at the July 4, 5, 6, & 7 landmark event, "plus several hundred horses and over 100 cannons already registered to participate."

From 50,000 to 75,000 spectators are expected to attend the event over the course of its four days.

Phiel stated that rooms in the area were "booked within 20 minutes" of the event's announced dates and plans, "but are still available within 30 minutes, in towns such as Hanover, Westminster,

Carlisle, York, Chambersburg, or Frederick."

The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee is planning a four-day event this year, from July 4 through July 7, to be held on approximately 1,000 acres at the Redding and Entwistle family properties along Table Rock Road just north of Gettysburg.

Reenactors and spectators are expected from around the world. Gernot Duda, a Confederate cavalry reenactor from Bavaria, told the News-Journal, he is booking his flight this month to attend. "To participate in the 150th Gettysburg reenactment was a big dream of mine, and it's also a good opportunity to meet some members of our US sister companies of the 1st North Carolina Cavalry."

The event will consist of a myriad of battle reenactments and period medical, home front and music demonstrations and presentations, as well as food and merchandise vendors. The event will hold two battle reenactments a day, except on Saturday when there will be three.

Phiel also told the ENJ that the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee is pleased to announce that on



Up to 15,000 reenactors are expected to participate in this year's reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Saturday morning June 29 and Sunday afternoon June 30, as a community prelude to the big reenactment, in cooperation with the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, they will be organizing two skirmishes and living history activities on actual battle ground at the Lutheran Seminary. The skirmishes will utilize both infantry and artillery.

The weekend activities lead up to the grand opening of the Gettysburg Museum on Seminary

Ridge on July 1. For the museum opening there will be a First Shot Artillery Commemoration at 8AM followed by opening ceremonies at 10. GAC is also organizing a cavalry skirmish Saturday evening in Hunterstown "Springing The Trap." This scenario recreates an engagement that took place in Hunterstown on July 2, 1863. These free prelude events are open to the public.

For additional information, visit gettysburgreenactment.com.

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NEWS

Acquisition of LED lights questioned

The purchase of equipment tied to a proposal to replace street and other exterior lights in Emmitsburg was questioned at the December 4 board of commissioners meeting, sending the project back for more bids.

Town staff, with the backing of Mayor Donald N. Briggs, sought approval by the commissioners to proceed with the project at the December 4 meeting, but at least two of the commissioners questioned why a materials supplier had been selected outside of a bidding process.

The proposal itself entails replacing street lights and some of the exterior lighting at town-owned properties with LED (Light-Emitting Diode) lighting as a cost-saving measure for the town.

A1 Energy President Lori Porreca provided the commissioners with an overview of the proposal worked-out with the town staff. A1 Energy provides consulting services on behalf of Potomac Edison.

Porreca said plans call for the replacement of 357 lights with LED lighting, 302 of which being street lights along the sidewalks. The poles on which the current street lights are mounted would be maintained.

Exterior lights would also be replaced at the community pool pumping station, wastewater treatment plant, and salt shed, as well as lighting on Creamery Way and Creamery Court.

Currently the 357 non-LED lights consume 277,513 kilowatt hours annually. Once replaced with LED lights, the usage would drop to 55,944 kilowatt hours annually. In addition, the LED lights have a longer life, which would reduce servicing and replacement costs, saving \$5,692 annually that would normally be spent on maintenance.

Porreca stated that the anticipated costs in making the transition would include hardware costs of \$89,845, labor costs of \$22,000, and recyclable scrap disposal costs of \$702.

The gross cost of the project would be \$114,343, while the net cost would be \$96,618, the difference being an energy efficiency rebate available through Potomac Edison in the amount of \$17,726, which could increase if the proposal is approved by the power company within their deadline.

Town Manager David Haller suggested the project be financed from accrued sewer enterprise fund money and paid back by

the town into the fund in four installments. He said this would save the town on interest costs by borrowing from a lender.

Haller recommended the town use Dixie Electric, Frederick, to install the replacements for \$22,000.

However, the actual purchase of the equipment and materials was to be worked out through a provider by A1 Energy, a point objected to by some of the commissioners.

Commissioner Christopher V. Staiger said, "I don't think anybody is against this project. It looks like we were going to sole source this (not go out to bid for the equipment). I'm not convinced we are following the ordinance."

"No one is going to convince me only one person can supply these fixtures," Staiger stated. "I'm not willing, to say, 'Hey, let's just go with this guy.'"

Commissioner Patrick Joy agreed, stating, "There is a purchasing ordinance that was put in place for this type of reason. My concern is we didn't really get other quotes for the contract."

To resolve the issue, Haller agreed to seek additional bids regarding providers of the equipment in question.

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Study reveals town resident statistics

Emmitsburg seniors are becoming displaced by younger generations. Residents have fewer per capita cars than the county average. Rental properties in town are "not bad" as far as rents go.

These are some of the preliminary findings generated thus far by a housing study being conducted by the Emmitsburg town staff.

The purpose of the study is to get a fix on the nature of the residential community in Emmitsburg to support future planning activities within the town boundaries.

Residential developments that have been constructed over the past several years have had an im-

act on Emmitsburg demographics and other aspects involving housing, according to the town planner. That has been one of a number of aspects of life in Emmitsburg that has been changing over time as Town Planner Susan Cipperly reviews census data spanning "a period of years."

Cipperly reviewed the current findings and status of the town housing study with the town Board of Commissioners late last month.

The study will try to amass information regarding the residential nature of the community, including how many people are living in individual households, numbers of renters verses numbers of home-

owners, how many housing units exist, years of construction, how many are vacant, how many different types of housing, how many rooms does each have, and how long have the structures been occupied.

Thus far, the study has indicated "one thing that has happened in Emmitsburg: New subdivisions that we got after 2000 brought in a younger demographic and also brought children," she said. "The new subdivisions have really had an impact on the town in a number of ways."

A few of the highlights of the study thus far include:

- At 53.9 percent of the hous-

ing in Emmitsburg, single-family detached homes constitute the largest single type of housing;

- Approximately 23.5 percent of residential units in town were constructed between 2000 and 2004, while 25 percent were constructed in 1939 or earlier;
- 9.6 percent of Emmitsburg households have no vehicle available. The average in Frederick County is 4.2 percent;
- 11.3 percent of the renters pay from \$300 to \$499 month; 28 percent pay from \$500 to \$749; and
- In regard to commute times, 94 residents commute more than an

hour and a half each way every day to work, while most commute in the 30 to 34 minute range, suggesting most work in the Frederick City area.

Board Vice-president Timothy O'Donnell said, "What I'm hoping to see from this report in time would be not just an understanding of what we have, but some recommendations."

"I think the recommendations really would help provide direction to whoever is in town government when the report is completed and when we move forward," he stated.

EBPA honors local organizations

On December 7th the EBPA held its 7th Annual Awards Night Dinner & Banquet where it honored local citizens and organizations of Emmitsburg. This year, the top honor of the Extraordinary Community Service Award went to the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company #26. The award is voted by our previous years recipients of the same award. The Ambulance Company was given the award for its contributions of not only the medical rescues that it provides to Emmitsburg citizens but also for its fund raising efforts to local charities.

The EBPA also honored Jubilee Foods for its support of community and for being a long lived staple business of Emmitsburg. The

EBPA also thanked its out going President Chris Ohanian of Infinity Global Travel for his dedication and service minded efforts that make the organization viable.

During the banquet, it was announced that the EBPA's Change for Food Program had collected \$23,075 for the Emmitsburg Food Bank since its inception in March, 2009 through November 2012. Then Marylou Little, President of the Emmitsburg Ambu-



Left of right Allen Knogt, Bob Hance, Mary Lou Little

lance Company, presented another check for \$733 for the Food Bank that they raised from holding special bingo games, and in doing so, raising the total to over \$24,000.

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Hamiltonban disbands police department

More than three dozen Hamiltonban Township resident appeared before the township Board of Supervisors December 4, mostly appearing to be at odds with the recent decision to shut down the police force.

The board of Supervisors voted unanimously at their November 29 workshop to disband their now-unionized township police department, and will rely on State Police for police protection.

At the same meeting, sole township police Officer Juanita Larmer was placed on "paid administrative leave" effective November 30. Larmer would also retain full benefits during the

leave until her position ends December 31.

Larmer, who had recently voted to join Teamsters Union Local 776, was present at the December 4 meeting and had signed up to comment at the meeting, but when called upon, the officer said her union representative wanted to address the supervisors.

However, township Solicitor Matthew Battersby denied the request, since the union official was not a resident of the township. Half a dozen township residents were permitted to address the supervisors.

Board Chairman Robert Gordon previously told the News-Journal the reasoning behind

the disbandment was because, "To continue to operate the police department in 2013 would require a 32 percent increase in property taxes."

Gordon stated that the unionization issue was not related to the board's decision to end the township police department.

Resident Paula Robert called disbanding the police department at the December 4 meeting "a grave error" doing away with a police department comprised of an officer who is a resident of the community and knows the community. "That should not be under-valued."

Robert said she would be willing to pay more taxes to keep the local officer, a comment which

was met with a round of applause from most in the audience.

Regarding the fact that the supervisors took action at a workshop also raised questions in the minds of some. Gordon did state the workshop was advertised and that budgetary considerations were listed as an agenda item.

Doreen Premo said she felt the meeting violated the state Sunshine Act, which establishes regulations regarding public meetings. "No voting has occurred during previous workshop meetings."

The supervisors took no formal action to reverse their decision to end local police coverage.

Officer Larmer was hired on

September 8, 1999 as a part-time township officer under township police Chief Louis Whittington. When Chief Whittington left the force on May 16, 2003, Larmer was made the full-time officer-in-charge.

Larmer presently receives \$17.25-an-hour in pay (averaging \$35,000 annually), plus benefits, under the township police contract, which was due to expire December 31.

The State Police currently provide 128 hours-per-week police services to the township, while the township police have been providing coverage the remaining 40 hours per week, according to the township. State Police coverage of the township became effective November 30. Residents are asked to dial 911 in case of emergency.

Fairfield line-of-sight potentially next on list

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission may take on line-of-sight issues at some of the borough intersections if given the go ahead by the borough council. The commission discussed the prospect of review of borough intersections at their December 10 meeting.

According to the commission Fairfield township's engineering firm, C.S. Davidson Inc., performed a study sometime ago of the town roads and alleys and

determined that there were several problematic intersections. The main concern was deficient line-of-sight when entering onto Main Street from some of the arterial streets, such as the intersections of Water and Balder streets with Main Street.

Anyone who has attempted to enter Main Street from some of the arterial streets often finds themselves "nosing" their vehicle a little too far out for comfort in order to be able to see if it is clear

to proceed. Councilman Carroll Smith, who acts as liaison to the planning commission, said, "If you're trying to enter Main Street from a side street, you better know what you're doing or you're going to get T-boned."

The study has been in the hands of the council, but to date no action has been taken to further investigate any of the findings, although the council did request and recently received some additional information from

C.S. Davidson pertaining to the study.

If and when the commission is asked to proceed with a review of the intersections, dealing with line-of-sight problems will likely generate other issues in the process.

Addressing line-of-sight, Councilman Smith said, "would require some changes on Main Street and possibly other streets. That brings up the problem of where some people are go-

ing to park if parking spaces are eliminated in order to provide proper line-of-sight." One fix might involve asking residents who park on Main Street to relocate their parking space to the rear of their Main Street properties.

However, the planning commission cannot begin to officially address the intersection problems until directed to do so by the council. "This is something council should direct action or no action on," Smith stated. "At some point in time I guess it will come to us."

Fairfield area news briefs

House numbers to be addressed

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission voted at their December 10 meeting to revised proposed sign regulations to include wording that would "legalize" a number of improperly posted home addresses.

The change would be forwarded as a recommendation to the borough Council to meld into an already-existing draft sign regulation changes already in the hands of the council for their review and possible adoption.

Current regulations regarding the placement of addresses does not allow for posting the numbers on front porch pillars or locations other than the mail box (for those who have them), primary doors, or the front of the house if either other location is not readily observable.

However, a number of homes and businesses in the borough have their address numbers located on pillars on their porches, which is not in compliance with regulations.

The proposed change would allow for porch postings of building addresses.

Borough hall to be assessed

The Carroll Valley Borough Council approved town staff to proceed with having a request for proposals prepared to pave the way for an assessment of the overall condition of the borough hall at their December

11 meeting.

Borough Mayor Ronald J. Harris described the degradation of the borough offices at the October meeting when he said, "The building is falling apart."

The borough office serves as home to the borough administrators and police department, and also houses the public meeting room.

Harris also previously presented a number of slides that revealed damage to the structure caused by weather and age that has accrued over time, which included roof leakage.

As a result of the council's action at the December meeting, the borough engineer will prepare a proposed request for proposals as a "first step" in soliciting a firm to appraise the damages and make recommendations regarding repairs, or replacement, of the building.

Hamiltonban proposes 2013 budget

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted to approve the draft 2013 budget package at their November 29 meeting.

The general fund budget was proposed in the amount of \$1,132,586, while the state Liquid Fuels fund budget was proposed in the amount of \$106,346. The sewer fund budget was proposed in the amount of \$604,010.

For the seventh consecutive year, there will be no proposed tax increase attending the proposed budget.

The budget was subject to final approval at the board's December 27 meeting (too late for publication in the Times-Journal's January issue).

'Airport overlay' not a priority

Don't look for a Fairfield zoning map with an airport overlay on it anytime soon.

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission indicated at their December 10 meeting that such a project has a "low priority" among the things they need to accomplish

in the near future, unless, as county Planner Robert Thaeler stated, "someone is planning to build a thirty-foot tall storage shed."

Airport overlays indicate structures whose heights could conceivably interfere with the flight patterns of airborne craft, such as airplanes and helicopters.

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NEWS

Harney's sense of community still alive

Harney's 1st Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the Square, held December 16, was one of a number of events this year that served to bring together residents of the rural community.

Harney, nestled around the intersection of Route 134 and Conover Road in Carroll County, is one of the former bustling, country crossroad communities that dot the rural Maryland landscape.

Once home to a number of industries, including a cigar factory, the community today is but a shell of what it once was. Even its post office was closed in the early 20th Century.

Today, the community, comprised of about 160 families, counting those from adjacent farms, consists of nicely-kept Victorian homes and former businesses that now serve as residences.

A rusty vintage gas pump stands like a "back in the day" sentinel of memories of better times in front of an old gas station/general store. The weathered and dilapidated ruins of the cigar factory still boast remnants of its former architectural glory, de-

spite the fact that there is little left standing but its precarious façade.

To the casual passerby, the town might seem a thing of the past, dead to the world, but deep within, a pulse still beats, and there are people in the community endeavoring to bring back their once thriving community from the perceptual brink.

The 1st Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the Square represented just such an effort.

Marti Hobson served as the coordinator of the event, which began with the premise, "Let's just do something neat" to bring the community together. "I just decided I wanted to do something to show the Christmas spirit."

Along with a tree donated by Breighner Tree Farm and the use of intersection land made available by adjacent partners Josh Dell and Susan Beck, the project did evolve into a community effort, and more than 60 people attended the event on December 16, some traveling from as far away as Sharpesburg.

Community members made cookies and other treats and supplied hot chocolate. Children

joined in the event and custom-designed their own ornaments to be hung individually on the tree. Santa Claus arrived by horse-drawn carriage, while the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Choir sang Christmas carols.

Hobson's mother, Virginia Fair, said, "We are trying to start new traditions," revealing that Harney still has a pulse, and the community aims to keep it beating for generations to come.

Monocacy Valley Memorial Post 6918-07 holds its moving Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies that can see the attendance of up to 200 or more, including veterans of most of the wars from World War II to present, along with an entourage of Patriot Guard, Eagle Riders, and the Legion Riders.

The Harney Volunteer Fire Company also has its established events that provide an opportunity for the community (and outsiders) to come together, including their July carnival and a vintage Gas Engine Show, among other fundraisers (harneyfire11.org).



The entire community turned out for Harney's first annual Christmas tree lighting on the square

Jubilee lauded for community support

Emmitsburg Jubilee has been recognized by a local business organization for the company's contributions to the community as the store wraps up its second annual food bank fund drive.

Jubilee was presented with the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association's (EBPA) Community Service Award at the organization's December meeting at the Carriage House Inn.

Store Manager Rich Boyd stated, "I wasn't really told" when he received an invitation to attend the EBPA meeting. "I was surprised. I really didn't have any idea" about the award.

Jubilee was honored by the award, he said, "for the overall support the store has given of the organizations in town, the school, the churches."

Boyd, a Carroll Valley Borough resident, initially worked at the location where Jubilee Foods is in 1982 as a store manager for Super Thrift. Leaving in 1996 for a store management position in Harrisburg, he was asked to return when Steve Trout and Lorne Peters acquired the grocery store in 2003.

Even as Boyd accepted the EBPA award in early December, the store's second annual Santa Claus Food Drive was about to commence.

The drive consists of selling cut-out Santa Claus figures. Which are then sold at the check-out registers in the store, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the Emmitsburg Food Bank.

The idea, Boyd said, was Bob Rosensteel Sr's, and Jubilee simply put the idea into motion.

Store front-end Manager Michelle Orndorff organized the effort once Boyd decided to do it.

Last year, Jubilee raised \$1,721 for the local food bank. This year, the even raised \$2,335. The top three clerks in this' year's drive were Tricia Wivell, Megan Cool, and Brianna Beard.

"They should be very proud of themselves," Boyd stated. "We have a good group of young adults here. We could never have been so successful without the terrific help we have here at the store."

The store manager also said, "We also couldn't do something like this without an awesome community like this that care about other people. This is a wonderful town and community."



Michele Orndorff, the Jubilee store manager, Rich Boyd, and Tricia Wivell

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January 3

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We don't want anyone to send us any more copies of this paper in which they have found mistakes. If they find a perfect copy, however, we offer a big price for it. If the fool critic who hunts for mistakes in the papers would find them all he will be kept busy. We will be pleased to buy copies of any paper which can be proven entirely free from errors. We will be pleased to find a merchant who never made a mistake in putting up an order; a lawyer who never lost a case for his own errors, a doctor who never wrongly diagnosed a case, a druggist who never made a mistake, a post-official who never put mail in the wrong box, or a woman who never forgot to put in the salt while cooking. Bring on some of your mistakeless paragons who find it so easy to criticize the papers and we will give them the chance of their lives to find out whether they are really human.

New Year's Eve Celebrations

In Emmitsburg the New Year was ushered in with more noise than usual here than in past years. The Emmit Coronet Band gave a midnight concert on the square, detachments of paraders thronged the streets, the tinhorn was very much in evidence, and firearms and cannon crackers were fired at minute intervals. There was a largely attended "watch meeting" from 11 until midnight in the Lutheran Church and at the hour of midnight, bells tolled from several steeples.

The tolling of the Lutheran bell marked the 40th year of faithful service of Mr. James Hospelhorn as the official New Year bell ringer of that church. Mr. Hospelhorn is justly proud of his record, having never failed in his duty during that length of time.

In keeping with an old local custom, bands of "Bellsnicklers" had been on the streets at night for the past week.

Runaway on Main Street

On Tuesday evening a very exciting runaway occurred on East Main Street, when two horses belonging to Mr. Albert Adlesburger, driven by

Mr. Allan Gellwicks and hitched to a three-seated wagon, broke loose, tearing the two front wheels from the wagon, throwing the occupants to the ground and badly cutting them about the faces.

The horses then ran up Main Street and collided with the buggy of Mr. Johnson Eyler, throwing Mr. and Mrs. Eyler against the dashboard. The horses then ran to their stable where they were found badly cut and bruised. No one was seriously hurt.

Upon investigation it was determined that the cause of the mishap was the breakage of the King Bolt which released the front gear of the team and threw the occupants out when the buggy fell to the ground.

January 10

Local Hotels To Be Sold

Mr. Edward Rowe has announced that on Wednesday, January 15, he will sell at public sale the property known as the Hotel De Beatty, which sits on the property adjoining the Mountain View cemetery.

Mr. Lawrence Morndorff announced he will sell at private sale the lease, furniture and fixtures to the Hotel Slagle, including its annex, and the livery business connected therewith, including horses, vehicles, harnesses, etc.

Passes 81st Milestone

Mr. Bennett Tyson, familiarly known to every Emmitsburgian as 'Uncle Bennett,' was 81 years old last Saturday. When seen by a representative of the Chronicle, Mr. Tyson looked well and hearty and was able to lay aside his cane, the use of which has been made necessary by the recent attack of rheumatism. Uncle Bennett spends a good deal of his time reading, but never lets the day go by without doing some manual labor. He has the congratulations of the whole community on his 81st anniversary.

Knitting Mill Doing Well

The manager of the new Emmitsburg branch of the Union Manufacturing Company's knitting mill is very much pleased with the progress made here. The manager said he has started many knitting plants, and he declares that the beginners in the local

branch were the quickest to learn that he is ever taught. He had nothing but words of praise for all his employees. He also stated that by spring he expected to operate more machines and that meant more local jobs.

January 17

Rocky Ridge Loses Highly Respected Citizen

Early Sunday morning fire broke out in the building occupied by Black and Company of Rocky Ridge, and the excitement and anxiety for his neighbors proved too much for Mr. J. B. Black, not a member of the above firm, and he died shortly after.

Mr. Black was a lifelong member of the Reformed Church and took a prominent part in its affairs. He was a veteran of the Civil War and a leader in local G.A.R. circles. For many years, about 27, he had acted in the capacity of postmaster at Rocky Ridge.

Mr. Black lived across the street from the scene of the fire, which was instrumental in his death. The first intimation of a fire was when Mr. Ott saw flames in the Black warehouse. The family of Mr. William Black slept above the store and their plight would have been very serious had not Mr. Ott wakened them. As it was, they had to escape in their night-clothes. Besides the friends and neighbors who helped hold the fire to the building already doomed, valuable assistance was given by the men who are engaged on construction work on the Western Maryland and are now boarding in the village. The loss is about \$7,000, partially covered by insurance.

Lad Killed By Falling Tree

Theodore Fogal, the five-year-old grandson of Solomon Fogal, died Wednesday while watching men cut timber on a local farm. A tree was being thrown over the side of a bank of a race, a wedge being used to facilitate the work. In falling, the tree turned in the opposite direction from that expected and the heavy weight crashed towards the boy.

Realizing the danger the men shouted, but he was unable to get out of the way in time. Had he moved but a short distance further he would



The old Annan mansion west of town on Mountain View Road when it was still a two story house. After a fire in the early 1900s, it was rebuilt as a one story building. Its remains can still be seen today.

have escaped, but instead a heavy limb struck him. The little fellow was knocked to the ground and frightfully injured. He was not pinned underneath the tree, however. The limb struck him on the left side of the head, crushing the skull. The lad had no chance of recovery and was unconscious until his death.

January 24

Charles Zack Dies

Mr. Charles Zack died Sunday in his 69th year. He was born near Emmitsburg and spent his life here. He served in the Civil War, a veteran of the Union Army and was twice enlisted, and fought in the battle of Monocacy Junction and saw other active service. He was a blacksmith by trade and conducted the business in Emmitsburg until seven years ago when he was stricken with sun-stroke and has been invalid ever since. Mr. Zack will be interred in the Lutheran Cemetery.

Debate in Fairfield

Last Friday evening, quite a large audience was instructed in the Fairfield High School at a debate. The question under consideration was: Resolved, that socialism is a menace to our country.

Each side maintained their posi-

tion with great skill and the 350 people present gave the speakers their undivided attention. During omissions, music was furnished by the Emmitsburg Orchestra. After considering the merits of the debate as presented by the two sides, the judges gave the decision to the affirmative.

Tents For Gettysburg Celebration Ordered

Secretary of War Stimson has approved plans for a mammoth camp to shelter surviving Union and Confederate veterans who will meet at the Gettysburg battlefield next July to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle.

The camp will consist of about 54,000 tents, affording accommodations for between 60,000 and 70,000 veterans. There will also be 200 kitchen tents and a complete divisional field hospital. The camp will spread over 276 acres and will be occupied temporarily by up to 100,000 persons. Congress has appropriated \$150,000 for the celebration. Both Northern and Southern states will make appropriations to defray the transportation expenses of their respective veterans.

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



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Kirby Delauter

This article will be about some of the major accomplishments of this board in our first two years and where we are going over the next two years. I will first start with the budget impact items.

We eliminated the pension plan for County Commissioners. That's right, we cut the pension that we could have received for serving on the board. We figured if we're going to cut, let's start at the top.

We reduced Commissioner expense accounts by 90% from \$2500 annually to \$250. I can also say that Commissioner Young and I have not expended any items to date. We have paid all expenses out of our own funds, no taxpayer funds were used.

We made significant changes to the County Defined Benefit Pension Plan. The plan is now funded at over 83% and should be funded at 90% by the end of our term. The taxpayer (you) used to fund a County employee's pension at 18% of their salary. We have made major changes to this plan while still be fair to the employee, it is also fair to the taxpayer.

We reduced and restructured the size of County government. The County at its peak had 2,646 budget-

ed full time employees, we are currently at 2,130 FTE's with our goal to continue to reduce the size of government.

MPDU program, (Moderately Priced Dwelling Units) with a pay in lieu of option. An applicant may choose to make a payment to the housing initiative fund of \$17,500 per required MPDU. This has allowed this fund to grow and along with grant / matching funds, low income revolving loans are helping people to participate in home ownership.

Reduced the building excise tax to \$0. This saved St. Johns Prep School \$75,000. Reduced the trailer tax to \$0. This was a 15% tax on people that lived in trailers / trailer parks. Implemented a Senior tax credit to help the elderly. Restored the pay scale for Frederick County Deputies.

Moved up school construction projects such as Oakdale Elementary addition, North Frederick Elementary modernization. \$100 tax rebate to owner occupied properties, a \$6.7 Million credit back to the taxpayer.

Next is Business friendly items we have initiated. The relationship between business and government should be a two way street, a work-

ing partnership, not an adversarial relationship. These are business friendly items we have imposed.

Over 260 rules / regulations or business friendly action items that were eliminated or modified. To date over 170 have been implemented.

Approved a funding mechanism for the Jefferson Technology Park which will bring an estimated 7100 jobs and \$185 Million in tax revenue to the County. By having jobs here it reduces the need for County residents to travel I 270 to find good paying jobs. We are helping bring good paying jobs here so people can live and work here.

Eliminated \$65 permit fee for dishwashers, water heaters, and garbage disposals permits. Eliminated the \$100 annual notification fee for home security systems. Extended permitting service hours. Extended payment plans on sewer capacity fees making it easier to start a business here.

Municipalities

Ended a long contentious judicial review with municipalities that was imposed during the last BoCC tenure. We ended it by working with municipal leaders and not by going to court wasting taxpayer dollars.

Eliminated charging municipalities \$1.00 per parcel on tax bills to their residents.

re-established the tax equity program increasing revenue to municipalities from \$7.4Million to \$11.5Million.

Assisted the Thurmont Senior Center in becoming self sustaining allowing no more need for county funding. Assisted Brunswick and Rosemont for Rosemont water system upgrade.

Assisted Brunswick VFD with securing funds for their new facility saving the taxpayer \$4.4 Million.

Public/Private Partnerships

Head start services transferred to YMCA saving \$2.3 Million. Outsourced televising services which saved \$5.5 Million. Dining services at Citizens Nursing. Synergies with FCPS for warehousing saving apprx. \$80,000 in year one, and \$124,000 per year thereafter. Now looking into PPP for mowing and roadway maintenance.

Other miscellaneous items

Moved IIT to Winchester Hall and have placed the building at 117 North Market up for Sale.

Placed 118 North Market Street

building up for sale. Instituted prayer to open the BoCC meetings. Established English as our official language. Eliminated unnecessary fencing for the landfill saving \$500,000. Eliminated unnecessary improvements to Urbana Roads Satellite facility saving \$500,000. Reduced capital expenses in the Fleet Dept. saving \$3 Million.

These are just some of the items we have accomplished in two years. In order to keep moving in this direction we will need to deal with the the issue of "Bureaucratic Inertia". This is when we cling to the status quo. This seems to dominate the public sector culture. Some elected officials seem to fall into this regardless of their intentions upon taking office. They cling to the status quo most likely after seeing that changes will be difficult. It is much easier to let the bureaucratic inertia take hold and whirl you into the complacency that keeps anything in government from changing for the better. This board has the blueprint for smaller core government. We will follow that blueprint and do exactly what we said we do 2 years ago upon taking office. We gave you our word and contrary to the typical politician... that means something to us.

From the Desk of Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

To the people of Newtown our hearts go out. Writing this month is difficult as Lib and I have eight grand children and have attended many events at Emmitsburg Elementary and Mother Seton. From decorating trees, speaking to fourth graders, attending recitals and breakfasts, it is in those beautiful innocent faces you know that their future to a large extent will be shaped by our actions. Good and bad. From the get-go everything I want to do in office is shaped with the perspective to make Emmitsburg a better place for our children and grand children now and in the future as an inviting place to stay or come back to raise their families. Several articles ago I mentioned

a per chance reading of a newspaper at an airport, which expressed that we should use our time for praise of what is good and not for carping and revolt. That is a good message. We have the choice. For our children, look for the good and pray for those who are caught up in the tumble of derogatory remarks and actions. We are performing for our children who in the future will have to make choices and are always looking for clues in our actions.

At the very moment of the shootings in Newtown, Commissioner Sweeney and I were decorating the tree in front of the Community Center with students from Emmitsburg Elementary.

Being with children was to book-

end my day. From decorating, I visited the Community Center luncheon for seniors with town manager Dave Haller, then crossing the street to the blessing of Emmitsburg campus Saint Joseph's and Seton Heritage Ministries, a wonderful event and ending the day with the performance of the Children's Praise Choir of Emmitsburg recital at Elias Church. Started the day with children and ended the day with children the look in their faces and innocent efforts. That's what got me through the horrific event in Newtown. This is what our community is about - children. All age groups have needs and wants, but in the end it always has to be about the children.

This year has been wonderful. So

many people do so much for the community. With next summer will be the 150th anniversary of the Emmitsburg fire that swept through the east side of the town and the advance to Gettysburg of both Union and Confederate troops passing through our town. Jointly the Lions Club, the EBPA and the Daughters of Charity, henceforth Community Day will be known as Community Heritage Day.

The Square: Monday, December 3rd - the 24th annual "Evening of Christmas Spirit". After last year we wondered if it could do better and it did. The crowd was larger, the weather cooperated and we had a special guest, Santa. The evening events started with caroling by the Children's Praise Choir of Emmitsburg led by Jennifer Joy and Mother Seton School led by Cheryl Carney and United Church of Christ choir then the lighting of the Christmas tree by Grace and Will Blanchard with Santa. Events then moved to the Carriage House for hay rides, refreshments and entertainment. Thank you to the Hance family for again hosting this wonderful evening. Commissioners Blanchard, Sweeney, O'Donnell and Joy were on hand for the evening. A Special thanks to Commissioner Joy for setting up the sound equipment in the absence of Denny Ebaugh who is out on injury reserve.

Congratulations to the Emmits-

burg Ambulance Voluntary Company 26 who in December were awarded the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Associations (EBPA) Extraordinary Service Award. Thank you, job well done.

A special thank you to the EBPA who by their "Change for Food" jars spread around town have raised more than \$23,000. in three years. Every year the Ambulance Company makes a sizable contribution to the effort.

To Jonathan Kane Carroll and Peter Charles Wright for earning the Eagle Scout rank the highest in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Jonathan was awarded his rank on December 8th on the FEMA campus.

Quietly and they thought we didn't see them...a big thanks to Wayne Powell, Frank Schmersal and Doc Kinney for pulling together the Sandy super storm relief drive. These gentlemen and the Maryland Fire Institute shipped over 10 tons of relief good to the disaster area from the Fire and Heritage Museum.

Last year we opened the gym and now have over 200 kids regularly using it. With the New Year other opportunities will be added such as cross country and summer outdoor basketball - thank you to Dave McCarthy and his friends.

From Lib and I, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and hoping all have a wonderful holiday season.

We wish you joy, peace and prosperity for 2013!

*Happy *New Year!*



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Blaine Young

In December 2010 a new Board of County Commissioners took office in Winchester Hall. I stated at the time, and continue to believe today, that 2010 was the first election in memory that was not mostly about growth and development. Growth of our economy and tax base is the primary concern now for people struggling in this economy. For the construction industry, which probably has been hurt the most the last few years, the best medicine would be predictability and stability in the housing market and the local economy.

Since that election, and thanks to what I perceive as serious overreaching by the O'Malley administration in Annapolis, growth has become more of a statewide issue than ever. With PlanMaryland, the septic bill, the "rain tax" and other statewide growth control initiatives, the state is steadily, and likely permanently, inserting itself into growth issues that were once the province of local governments.

This is a step backward for transparency and local involvement in land-use decisions; but as long as the liberal Democrats remain in control in Annapolis, we will continue to see policies designed to stop growth in the rural counties and force more and more

of us to live in already congested urban areas.

During the 2010 campaign, four of us who ran together as a slate -- Paul Smith, Billy Shreve, Kirby DeLauter and I -- made our position on growth in Frederick County very clear. On Sept. 26, 2010, we released our "manifesto" on growth and development. In an op-ed piece published by The Frederick News-Post, we made it crystal clear that we were not running on a platform to open up broad new expanses of land for development. We went so far as to state that we had very little quarrel with the comprehensive plan then in effect, which was approved by the Gardner/Hagen/Thompson/Gray board, and which called for 1,500 homes to be built per year.

Our concern, as we expressed in that News-Post piece and throughout the campaign, was the unfair singling out of a handful of property owners for downzoning and thereby potential financial ruin.

We have kept our word. In the recently completed comprehensive plan, we did take action to restore property rights that had been stolen from some of our fellow citizens. I will stand by these decisions to the day I die.

But we did not, as some suggest, open up broad new growth areas for future residential development. The large developments that are now being processed through the county are in growth areas that were established by the Gardner-led BoCC and other boards prior to it. The fact that developments are being approved does not -- as certain "friends" would have you believe -- mean that thousands of new homes are going to sprout overnight. The homes will be built when the market dictates they can be sold, and in areas long planned for residential development.

And what we are seeing now with applications for development projects in the county is something which will actually work to take politics out of land use in Frederick County for the foreseeable future. The use of the Developer Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) is a land-use tool that has been authorized by the General Assembly. What this means is that a project, when approved, can get a certain amount of assurance that it won't be changed as a result of future elections.

The result of the DRRA's should be that the growth areas long established for future development will

now be more permanently defined, and will not be subject to alteration at the whim of newly elected politicians seeking to please a narrow constituency. It should also mean that there will be far less reason for future boards to consider expanding growth areas, as there will be -- in actuality now -- a true "pipeline" of new homes, which will be a real pipeline and not the fanciful pipeline touted by our "friends."

Again, any government can approve any number of homes with the stroke of a pen. However, to transition from the pen to the shovel is an entirely different matter. That will not occur until the economy improves and presents the appropriate market conditions. When that happens, thanks to entrepreneurs now investing and taking risks in our county, consumers will have significant choice as to where they want to live, and with competition among builders for customers, should also come price competition.

The old rules of supply and demand may actually apply once again to the housing market in Frederick County, when developers have certainty as to the number of homes they can build, and the market is not overly impacted by the restrictive policies

of government.

At its peak more than 2,500 new homes were being built per year in Frederick County. The last few years have been closer to 600 to 700. This year the county is on pace to build around 800. It likely will be a long time before we have another building boom.

The BoCC is moving up school construction projects and being as aggressive as any board in the history of Frederick County with school construction and renovations projects. Several school sites have already been acquired and additional funds from development to even be more aggressive with dealing with capacity issues in Frederick County as redistricting is not in the control of the commissioners. This BoCC has been adamant that development must contribute mightily to school and road construction, and significant monetary contributions have been and will continue to be required of new projects.

However, what we should have is some stability and certainty in the housing market for years to come, and if that is a lasting legacy of the current Board of County Commissioners, that will be just fine.

From the Desk of Town Commissioner Chris Staiger

I hope everyone has had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year spent safely with family and friends. The tree-lighting on the square and community holiday events at the Carriage House were both well attended on a mild early December evening. We should all count our blessings following the tragic events in Newtown, Connecticut just before the holiday. Mental illness combined with gun violence has shocked our nation too often over the last few years.

Town business in December continued along the same trajectory as the rest of the fall. A third public meeting was held by the town square design consultants earlier in the month. Concept plans will be forwarded to the State Historical Commission for design review. The State Highway Administration will review traffic control proposals meant to make the area more welcoming, safer for pedestrians, and potentially less congested. The design has a lot of gingerbread such as pillars up and down Main Street that may or may not be appropriate, but the bones of the plan meet our need to reclaim the square -- potentially moving from just a traffic intersection to a focal point for the community.

In addition to the grants we keep hearing about, the town has invested approximately \$20,000 of taxpayer money in the process to produce this document. While additional grant funds may be available in future, the debate about the additional use of town funds will need to take

place when design proposals finally reach the Board of Commissioners. To date, any such discussions are taking place behind closed doors.

Efforts to secure matching funds for façade improvements have also been successful. A fund of up to \$50,000 (versus the \$100,000 requested) is now available to reimburse preapproved projects up to fifty percent of the total project cost. Efforts in the historic district must be preapproved and meet state guidelines related to the materials of construction and the design style - so not all projects may qualify. Qualified expenses are reimbursed after completion, so property owners will have to pay the increased costs of state compliance up front.

Unfortunately, another worthwhile project has suffered from poor implementation. For about a year, the town has been evaluating a move from high powered sodium to LED lights in our streetlamps and municipal building light fixtures. You may have noticed these "bluer" lights on various poles around town. While substantial funds are required to make the change, the cost could be recouped in as few as four years due to energy savings related to LED efficiency.

At the December 17 town meeting, Mayor Don Briggs proposed moving forward with the project in partnership with a supplier he came to know through the Frederick County Sustainability Commission, where he is a member. I pointed out that town ordinances require poten-

tial contracts over \$20,000 to be put out to open bid. They cannot simply be awarded by the Mayor based on his dealings with the awardee.

This project represents a total expenditure of over \$100,000 in public funds.

During the meeting, staff confirmed that the installation portion of the project was put out for bid but the cost of the new lighting fixtures was not. When asked why the \$80,000 cost of materials was awarded to the

Mayor Briggs' choice and not put out for bid as well, the reply was "you would need to check with the Mayor on that."

As an elected official, charged with reviewing and approving the use of public monies, I find this response particularly disturbing. It tells me that town staff was 'towing the line' when they knew there were issues with the proposal. Senior town employees (as well as all elected officials) are specifically required to uphold town or-

dinances - which should include alerting the Board of Commissioners to violations. They should not keep silent in fear of retribution by their boss.

Having been exposed, the process should now proceed according to the requirements of our purchasing ordinances instead of 'special consideration.' Stay tuned.

As always, I encourage you to contact your local officials to share your opinions! Sincerely, Chris Staiger.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is January and you all probably know what I am about to share. Have you heard the expression "Ring out the old, ring in the new?" After some research, I come to find that January gets its name from a Roman god of beginnings and transitions called Janus. This Janus is a two faced god that looks back in the old year and forward into the new year. I guess this is where "resolutions" come into play. A resolution is a pledge or promise to one's self to make the new year a better one for ourselves and hopefully those all around us. The tradition of making resolutions at the beginning of a new year may have come from this two faced god. And, if these resolutions are not too unrealistic, we may even be successful in achieving them. Some resolutions may even be prompted by others. For example, I resolve to get rid of all of my old computer peripherals prompted by a loved one in my household. Problem is how to accomplish the task. Please be aware that as of January 24, 2013, by law, Park's Garbage is not allowed to collect your electronic waste. Remember last January the full implementation of the Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA) went into effect. This meant that approved certified recyclers will accept all electronic/electric items for recycling – basically anything with a cord as long as the item does not contain any Freon, oils or fuels. In Adams County, the Adams Rescue Mission at 2515 York Road in Gettysburg is an approved CDRA certified recycler and will accept computers, monitors, peripherals and televisions. If you are unsure whether the Adams Rescue Mission will accept an item, you can reach them at 334-7502. If you would like to get a copy of the Adams County recycling pamphlet, contact the Adams County Environmental Services Department located at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg or send me an email and I will reply

with a pdf copy of the pamphlet. The next resolution given to me to accomplish was to get rid of the old oil and antifreeze I have stored in the garage. Well, for residents of Carroll Valley and Fairfield, you can deposit all in Carroll Valley behind the Municipal Services Building at 14 Ranch Trail. You can pour your waste oil, hydraulic oil and transmission fluid into the flat black tank marked waste oil next to the building. The anti-freeze should be poured into the blue drum next to the black waste oil tank. You are asked that all empty containers be placed in the large dumpster. Maybe one of your resolutions for 2013 could be to serve on one of Carroll Valley's committees, authority and board. There are vacancies on the Sewer & Water Authority, the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate and on the Public Safety Committee. If you are interested, please contact Gayle Marthers, the Borough Secretary, for an application form.

Fairfield Boy Scout, Austin T. Stroup (15) announced the completion and dedication of the Firefighter's & First Responder's Jogging and Fitness Trail. Austin worked closely with the Director of Facilities, Mr. Perry Joy to design, plan and build the fitness trail located at the Federal Emergency Management Administration/ Emergency Management Institute (FEMA/EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD. As a requirement to achieve the Eagle Scout Award, Austin began planning and coordinating this project in November, 2011. He led his fellow Boy Scouts from Troop 76 as well as, adults and other helpers throughout the summer and fall to complete the quarter mile trail which consists of four (4) health and fitness stations; and totaled over 500 hours of cumulative work. Stations number one and two can be seen along US Route 15 between the MD 140 and South Seton Avenue exits. Austin

represented Troop 76 by dedicating the Fitness Trail to the United States Firefighters and First Responders in his project completion ceremony on November 21st. FEMA Staff and Manager Valerie Benson were present and expressed their most sincere appreciation for the hard work, dedication and service that Austin, his Scouts and helpers have delivered to the community.

When I was growing up in New York City, my grandma use to take me to the west side of upper Manhattan to the RKO movie theater. She would pack us a couple of sandwiches for lunch and we would take the bus across town, sit in the balcony, have our lunch and watch two movies for fifty cents. Times have definitely changed. But you still can watch some of those black and white movies today because of such groups as the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA). What is a Moving Image Archivist? It is an individual responsible for preserving, restoring, and making accessible moving image heritage including film, television, video, and digital media. On December 5th, at the conference of the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) in Seattle, Carroll Valley resident Susan Dalton was awarded AMIA's Silver Light Award for Career Achievement in Moving Image Archives. Dalton spent over 20 years as a film archivist, first at the Wisconsin Center for Film and Video Preservation in Madison and then at the American Film Institute in Washington, DC. Congratulations on your award and thank you Susan for rescuing orphaned and endangered films. The next time I watch a black and white film on television, I will be



Fairfield Boy Scout Austin Stroup and FEMA Manager Valerie Benson

wondering if this is one you saved.

2012 resulted in many developments and changes in the local Earned Income Tax (EIT) system within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but more significantly for the residents and taxpayers of Adams County. As a result of Act 32, the number of earned income tax collectors in PA was reduced from approximately 550 to 19. YATB (York Adams Tax Bureau) now manages the local earned income system for all 40 taxing entities in Adams County which includes; 13 Boroughs, 21 Townships and 6 School Districts. In addition to reducing the number of EIT collectors, the Act also provided for much greater oversight and accountability in the collection and distribution of the tax while placing greater demands on the bureaus or agencies who administer the program. To make it easier for our local residents to visit the tax bureau office, a new facility has opened in Gettysburg at 240 West Street in the West Street Plaza next to the WellSpan facility. All contact

information, including phone and fax numbers, PO Box numbers and email addresses remain the same. The phone number is (717) 334-4000. If you have a EIT question, give them a call for assistance.

You may want to mark your calendar for the Planning Commission meeting being held on February 4th at 7:00 pm at the Borough Office. Why? Eluma, Inc., the developer who owns the 107-acre wooded tract, known as the Mallow Tract, is planning to give a presentation to the Planning Commission. The subject of the presentation will address how they are planning to develop their property. If you are not familiar with the location of the property, it is the wooded area across from Ski Liberty. It is bordered by Sanders and Tract roads on one side and the K section on the other side. They have been meeting with the Planning Commission for over four months answering questions. At the last Planning Commission, they were asked to give the Commission members a PowerPoint presentation that visually shows their development concept.

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association's Holiday Gala that was held on December 15th was a great success with over sixty people in attendance. Elections were held. The CVCA officers for 2013 are: Chuck Whitlow (President); George Fisanich (Vice President), Sherry DeMartino (Secretary), and Susan Dalton (Treasurer). The Board Members are (in alphabetical order): Jale Dalton, Mayor Ron Harris, Di Kaplan, Kathy McCabe, Marie Schwartz and Judi Whitlow. Congratulations to everyone. On behalf of the CVCA members, thank you Charles Dalton for your service as President. Pictures of the Breakfast with Santa, Carroll Valley Tree Lighting, and the CVCA Holiday Gala can be seen at www.ronspictures.net.

Borough meetings in January are: Planning Commission (Jan 7th), , Borough Council (Jan 15th), Parks/Recreation Committee (Jan 23rd) and Sewer/Water Authority (Jan 28th). Please reduce your speed to make sure you, your loved ones, your friends and neighbors will be safe. If you have any questions call me at (301) 606-2021 or email at mayor@carrollvalley.org.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Marty Qually

In January 2012, three new County Commissioners took office in Adams County. This was the first time in 50 years that an entirely new Board of Commissioners was elected. We entered County government to the anxious looks of staff members nervous about the new “bosses”. In our first months we attended dozens of presentations from local organizations eager to “educate” us and spent hours educating ourselves on the issues within the County. Prior to all of that, on the day after the election, Randy, Jim, and I all had the same thoughts, “Who are those other two? and “How are we going to work together?” We each cared deeply for the County and with that knowledge we did something unusual for elected officials: We committed to treat each other with respect, communicate openly and honestly, and work together for the benefit of the county and all its residents. It is not up to the Commissioners to judge whether or not this year has been successful, but for the public to see if they made a good choice in last year’s election. I humbly present to you some of our highlights from 2012.

Economic Development

On the National level there is always the debate over how much government should be involved in economic development. In Adams County we accepted early on that while we cannot control development, we can increase our understanding of area business, improve our Planning and Tax Services department ability to streamline development processes, and with our 2013 budget, increase our monetary contribution to the Adams County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC).

We have attended countless meetings held by tourism officials, agricultural organizations, Penn State Extension, the Council of Governments, and our own ACEDC in order to learn as much as possible this year. In working hand-in-hand with our Planning Office and the ACEDC we have created an economic development survey that will go out to our municipal and business leaders and the public to help us understand regional priorities for economic development.

This bottom up approach of learning from our local leaders and citizens has been a welcome breath of fresh air for many people. Another area of interest that we have placed in high priority is the need to improve our digital infrastructure. While we have safe water to drink, roads, sewer systems and utilities, we have learned that our residential and business needs for higher speed internet are growing faster than the infrastructure to support it. With this in mind we took the work of an existing group of volunteers, the Broadband Initiative, and created a County appointed Broadband taskforce. This taskforce has been directed to determine the existing needs and develop potential plans for Adams County’s future. Beginning in 2013 the taskforce will interview high data users and large businesses to assess their needs. We believe that in order to create an environment conducive to business growth we must develop the infrastructure to support our existing businesses and the economies of the tomorrow.

Improved Communication

Besides being in the news way too much, we have actually made substan-

tive changes to the way we make ourselves available to the public and have increased communication both inside and outside of the Courthouse. This past year we held four public forums in traditionally unheard areas of the County. During our campaigns we each were told that some areas away from Gettysburg felt that their concerns were not being heard by the County. We held forums in Buchanan Valley, Littlestown, East Berlin, and Arentzville. We discussed topics such as Economic Development, Water Quality, Clean and Green, and Agro tourism. In 2013 our first forum will be in the Conewago/Mcherrystown area and our goal is to have a total of four forums.

One of the groups that has lead the charge in helping local governments become more efficient and organized is the Adams County Council of Government (COG). While the County has been a member for some time, this year we made it a priority to attend meetings. For most meetings this year all three of us have been in attendance. We are impressed with the great work that the COG had done and look forward to their continued involvement.

Historically, every month Fred Snyder of Freddy’s Breakfast Nook on AM 1320 would host at least one of the Commissioners for a brief update on County business. Most County business is not glamorous so these shows were not very exciting. We took a different approach this year. We began to invite our Directors to join us at the microphone, so that listeners got a better picture of the role of County government in our lives.

Inside of the Courthouse we started

some new initiatives to improve communications. Every other Friday we send out a TGIF email blast to all of our employees. This may not sound like a big deal, but many staff members have complemented us on our willingness to keep them abreast of County issues and on updating them on area events that are effecting County government. We have implemented cross disciplinary teams within the Courthouse to address common issues, such as our IT and Capital Improvement needs. Another item that few outside of the Courthouse hear about is the relationship between County Commissioners and Judges. In some Counties County Commissioners and Judges do not get along or even talk to one another. Once we understood the absolute need for improved communication between our Executive and Judicial leadership, we have included the Judges as equal participants in many County wide issues. While we do not always agree, we have opened the doors of communication and it has done wonders for morale and will yield more efficient government in the coming years.

Efficient Government

Following in the hard work of our predecessors, through strong fiscal management and a resolve not to use any of our reserve funds to balance our 2013 budget, we have preserved our Bond Rating at A1. Our goal for this year is to improve that to AA. Our 2013 budget has no tax increase; meanwhile each neighboring County has posted an increase this year over last.

In 2012 we merged the Planning Department, Agricultural Preservation,

Environmental Services, and Mapping Department into a singular Planning Services Department. Both our staff and our residents are already beginning to see the benefits of this streamlined approach to planning. In 2013 this new department will take up residency at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center furthering our coordination of services by creating a one-stop-shop approach for many land use issues.

We also merged our Tax Assessment, Mapping, Appeals, and Appraising departments into one Tax Services Department. In January we hope to host our first walk through of the redesigned and remodeled department. This change was long overdue. While all of these departments worked well separately, we are now poised to innovate and coordinate services. These mergers will result in cost savings and streamlined services for our residents.

There is no doubt that it took leadership to get all of these items completed or on the right course, but more than that it took the hard work and dedication of countless community volunteers and County staff members. For our part as Commissioners I will leave you where I began, with a commitment to continue working together and communicating with one another. It is only with that as our basis that we can serve the public. None of us ran for office to glorify ourselves or to change our County for change’s sake. We are proud to serve the community that we love and in the end we believe this was a good year for Adams County. We are poised to do great things as a Community and we look forward to our part in that. Happy New Year!

From the Desk of State Representative Dan Moul

Pennsylvania will not participate in a state-based health insurance exchange. Gov. Tom Corbett made that announcement recently, as required by the federal Affordable Care Act. Corbett cited three major reasons for his decision.

He contends, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has not provided sufficient information on the operation and financing of a state-based exchange. The governor said regulations reveal that states would actually have little authority to operate a state-based exchange and he is concerned about the

burden on Pennsylvania taxpayers. Corbett said other states have estimated the cost to operate an exchange to be anywhere from \$30 million to more than \$50 million per year, with all costs solely the responsibility of the states and their taxpayers beginning in 2015.

Pennsylvania is one of 22 states that have opted to allow the federal government to operate its exchange. Only six states have decided to enter into a federal-state partnership exchange.

For more information on the Affordable Care Act and how it relates to Pennsylvania, click here.

LINK: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_insurance/9189/federal_health_insurance_reform/713453

Meanwhile, the House Select Committee on Property Tax Reform recently issued its recommendations to the General Assembly. The report follows several public hearings at which the committee heard testimony from key stakeholders. The 13-member bipartisan select committee recommended that the committee continue to assess the Commonwealth’s property tax challenges in the 2013-14 legislative session. Other

recommendations include:

- Reintroducing legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to permit a homestead and farmstead exemption of up to 100 percent of the property value.
- Developing legislation to grant local taxing jurisdictions more diversified taxing options that allow revenue-neutral tax shifts in the collection of local revenues.
- Directing an independent entity or entities to study the fiscal impact of property tax relief up to and including property tax climi-

nation at various levels of income.

- Reviewing all state-imposed public education requirements that are not mandated by federal statute or regulation for cost-effectiveness, fairness and/or educational value.
- Developing recommendations for achieving efficiencies and increasing cost effectiveness in the construction, maintenance, renovation and disposition of public buildings and school facilities, helping to ensure students have access to adequate facilities.



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Time and I called you

Shannon Bohrer

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that it is already 2013. Of course, it feels like I just said the same thing about 2012. As you grow older—and I speak from experience here—the time does seem to fly. I am reminded of something I read about time: from birth to 20 years of age is like an eternity in time, and from 20 to 40 years the time seems to be only half of the first 20 years. Then, from 40 to 60 years the time seems only to be half again. Seeing that I can't remember who said that, maybe it is an age issue. The words do seem to ring true, though, at least in my own life.

Many of my retired friends tell me that after they retired they wondered how they ever had time to go to work. Several of my curmudgeon friends believe that the lack of time we experience as we grow older has something to do with all of the personal electronic devices we have. A few believe the devices are all tracked by the government, even when they are turned off. This concept would require a connection with the metaphysical sciences, meaning that it cannot be explained by me. Besides, I don't think they can track you when the device is tuned off. What does

seem to have validity is that society in general seems to be attached—maybe addicted—to personal electronic devices.

On occasion, I have had friends and acquaintances complain that I did not return their call or respond to their email. Of course I respond that I am talking to them as they lodge their complaint. The typical response is that they called my cell number several days ago and when I did not respond they emailed me. My response is that my cell phone is usually turned off unless I am working and I only work part time. As to my email, I usually check it every several days, but not always. I tell everyone that if they need to contact me, just to call my home phone and if I don't answer then leave a message. I check that almost every day. I am connected to the internet and use email and I have a cell phone that receives email and can even take pictures. However, just because I have all of this does not require me to use it every day.

I don't believe that people need to be so connected that their cell phones become part of their anatomy. Just about everywhere you go you see people on their cell phones. I don't know if all of those conversations are important or not, but

it does appear that many people spend many hours every day on cell phones. It must be like a part time job to many of them.

Recently, I was traveling with a coworker and he was checking his cell phone every 10 or 15 minutes. He was not talking on it—he was just looking at it and pushing buttons. I inquired if he was expecting a call and after some thought he replied no, he was just checking to see if he had received any messages. I thought that would be like going out to the mail box 30 or more times a day to see if you have any mail. Maybe our time is being consumed by the electronic products that were created for convenience and... oh yeah, to save time.

Another perspective is that while electronic devices seem to occupy our time, maybe it's just a symptom of our problem. We as a society don't seem to have any patience. We seem to have the need to know everything immediately. Could the problem of not seeming to have enough time be related to our problem of not having enough patience? I am old enough to remember when making instant coffee in a microwave was a joke. Now many people don't even make coffee, they pick it up in the drive through; they don't even have the time to go into the store. They also pick up lunch and

dinner at the drive through. And I am sure they are checking their phone messages while waiting in line. Maybe because we don't have patience—is that why we don't seem to have enough time?

I believe our lack of patience is reflected in the fact that we are an instant society. We want the latest news, not right after it happens—but as it happens. It was reported that throughout the Election Day people were glued to their televisions waiting for the results, not during the evening news, but all day. We also we read tweets and visit Facebook pages as if they are news. Even the main stream media will report how many thousands of tweets were sent during and after someone speaks. Commercial businesses and retail stores even have their own Facebook profiles. Of course, maybe I should not be so judgmental since I don't have a Facebook page nor have I ever created and/or read a tweet. Not to bring up a sore subject, but during the recent election even after all the news and analysis by the experts, the tweets and Facebook updates, we have the same president, the same senate and the same congress. Just because time goes by does not mean that something always changes.

My wife and I have been married for 40 years. I remember that earli-



er in our marriage my wife said to me that she was looking forward to growing old with me. I recently reminded her of that, to which she just stared at me for a few moments, and then commented that she did not think it would happen as fast as it did. The poor woman thinks she is getting old, but she is still young in my eyes.

Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of.

—Benjamin Franklin,
Poor Richard's Almanac

To read past editions of *Words From Winterbilt* visit the Authors Section of Emmitsburg.net.

Common Cents

The BRICs are coming

A quick look at the world's "emerging powers" and what they may mean to our own future.

It is at once fashionable and misleading to describe the "emerging powers" as a challenge to the traditional economic elite. Four of these countries, the BRICs, which is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, and China, have launched their way into the top ten world economies. They have generated strong momentum coupled with relatively low national debt to further distance themselves from the more traditional world economic powers. These four nations have emerged because of commodities such as oil, which the declining powers keep buying, further fueling the BRICs growth. This is particularly true in the case of Brazil and Russia.

The "BRICs" are in advanced economic development and projected to overtake the G7 economies by 2027.

The G-7 is a group of developed western nations that came together in 1976 and essentially ran the world economy through mature, domestic production and prudent import-export policies. The human and natural resources of the USA have maintained first place internationally from G-7 and other world competition. If it were a horse race, however, the national debt burden is wearing our steed

down, and China's export-led growth is giving it a strong run in the stretch. Based on International Monetary Fund estimates, the US generated \$15.075 trillion in 2011 compared to second place China's \$7.3 trillion, but where are we headed?

China had the 8th largest economy in the world in 1995. Politically, they have managed to eclipse a communist government with a "mercantile," or export-dependent economy. The government manages to keep their currency undervalued and thereby offers inexpensive exports. With 1.35 billion people on hand to produce, production is labor-intensive and cheap. Ten percent of the population lives on 2 dollars a day.

According to CIA/Eurostat estimates, the country has a national debt to GDP (total value of goods and services produced domestically in a year) ratio of 43.5%. Sounds bad, but America's is 105.1% of earnings, and by further comparison, Japan has a staggering 208.2% debt ratio, one largely financed by domestic savings, but still an anchor to sustainable growth.

The G7 is also aware of its slipping preeminence as Brazil passed the UK for sixth place in the world standings and appears to be "showing off" its new wealth by hosting the 2014 World Cup championship and the 2016 Summer Olympic

Games. Their debt burden is at 54.4% of GDP, which is considered manageable, and the nation has benefited greatly from high international oil prices. This is because Brazil is first and foremost an exporting nation. Their economy has also reached the "take off" stage in such areas as mining and farming.

The Russians were something of an embarrassment economically when they shifted from an anemic, state-planned economy to a new, free market economy under Boris Yeltsin. One where the new Russian leaders tried to guess what would sell rather than let the "invisible hand of the market," as set by supply and demand, work its magic. A world where equilibriums provided optimal income given available resources. The concept of an "invisible hand of the market" was first expressed by Economics founder Adam Smith in the late 18th century.

The country went to the IMF in the early '90s for help with domestic debt payments and to curtail high inflation. The IMF was really designed for third world countries, but it worked in Russia and is now popular as a lender to European powers facing debt crises.

Russia is now 9th in the world as an economic power, with an enviable debt to production ratio of 8.7%. They are clearly living within their means and have also benefited greatly from the high international price of oil.



India is also a rising power with a hungry population of 1.21 billion, second to China on the world stage. To feed, clothe, and house these people takes an enormous effort given limited resources, but the nation did manage to crack the top ten in GDP, producing 1.63 Trillion in 2011. They'll have to do considerably better to provide civilized comfort for their masses. 600 million Indians lack access to flush toilets, but production is growing quickly and the nation is considered a rising power.

The decline of the G7 and emergence of what were once called downtrodden and "less developed countries" is a phenomenon of the post 1970's world. The Chinese communist economic system collapsed, which ushered in reforms that have proven dynamic and almost explosive. With a nominal GDP (inflation adjusted) rate of 738 billion produced in the mid '90s to 7.3 trillion generated last year and a national debt at 43.5% of GDP, they're clearly the "team to beat" in the coming decades.

They're also surely aware that the west can only import so much of their nation's cheap exports without severely damaging their own domestic production of similar goods. If the G7 doesn't buy, Russia, China, Brazil, and maybe even India will lose their production positions in the top ten of the world's economies.

For now, the BRICs are coming on strong. It means cheap goods for us, and prosperity for them, but such a world is also built on the assumption that we can keep on buying. All eyes are on that western fiscal cliff and whether our elected leaders can trim or at least manage a realistic debt ceiling before it drags us into recession, or worse.

We're being hit by the BRICs, and hopefully we can take it!

Ralph Murphy is a former member of the CIA Headquarters Staff in Langley, VA.

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COMMENTARY

Pure OnSense

Will this time be different?

Scott Zuke

We are tempted to call the shooting in Newtown, Connecticut an “unthinkable” crime, but we know that isn’t true. We know we have been here before, coped with the same fear and pain. The American public has developed a macabre and predictable routine for reacting to acts of domestic mass violence. The emotions are real and right, but also far too familiar. Like the five stages of grief, there could also be a model for the stages of processing shootings like those at Columbine, Virginia Tech, Aurora, and now Newtown.

In place of denial there is shock and sympathy for the victims, expressed in candlelight vigils, prayers, and donations for affected families. Next comes anger and the need to assign blame, not only to the shooter but to anyone who failed to notice warning signs and stop the tragedy from occurring. The bargaining stage is where people turn to politics to try to find a way out of an unavoidable truth: that this will all happen again. Depression comes as the limitations of public policy to deal with these crimes become clear,

followed quickly by acceptance, in the form of setting aside the issue until the next time a Breaking News banner interrupts the day with the latest “unthinkable” crime.

In a critical post after the shooting, the Economist’s “Democracy in America” blog argued that, “Considering the frequency with which gun massacres now occur in America, the media attention they garner, and the failure of that attention either to shift public opinion regarding gun control or to prod the political system to take any action at all, the outpouring of sentiment over the shootings Friday in Newtown, Connecticut is probably best viewed as a ritualistic exercise in mass histrionics.” There’s plenty of sound and fury, but little evidence that it signifies a meaningful shift in Americans’ attitude toward guns.

The magnitude of the shock following the shooting at Sandy Hook has led political leaders to say this time is different; this time there must be a change. How this invigorated bargaining stage will proceed is coming into focus at the time of this writing, but its ultimate outcome is hard to predict.

Is this time really different in terms of the political momentum behind implementing new gun laws? It’s possible, because of a change in how this particular shooting has been politicized. As we are all accustomed to by now, immediately following a mass shooting, it’s only a matter of time until some politician or pundit uses the moment to call for new gun control legislation. Then comes swift push-back from opponents, arguing that “now is not the time to talk about gun control” and admonishing them for politicizing a tragedy.

What is important to understand is that there are two ways of talking about “politicizing” an event. There is the “dirty” way, when a politician capitalizes on an event purely for personal and political gain. But there is also a second way, which occurs when the public concludes that a social issue has reached a sufficient level of concern that it can and should be dealt with through the political process.

Previous shootings have produced widespread shock and alarm, but this latest one appears to have reached a new height in generating public pressure on politicians to take meaningful, preventative actions. Gun control has been thrust back into the political arena not by President Obama, who has never before shown any interest in pursuing new gun laws and has actually approved more easing of gun reg-

ulations than tightening of them, but by the public, which has undergone a sharp shift in opinion and has demanded a policy response from the President and Congress.

What will result from this politicization of the issue is hard to predict, and depends on how much momentum is retained after the holidays, after the Fiscal Cliff negotiations, and after a new Congress is sworn into office. The president has moved to keep gun control on the legislative agenda by forming a task force to produce a list of policy recommendations by the end of this month. After that, it’s up to Congress, and particularly the Republican-controlled House to decide whether those policies are given serious deliberation or set aside to collect dust.

Gun control may not even be the only policy under consideration. There’s been talk of deficiencies in our system of mental health evaluations too, among other things. But gun control will remain highly controversial. A Congressional Research Service report, just recently published in response to the Aurora, CO shooting, succinctly summarizes the political divide: “To gun control advocates, the opposition is out of touch with the times, misinterprets the Second Amendment, and is lacking in concern for the problems of crime and violence. To gun control opponents,

advocates are naive in their faith in the power of regulation to solve social problems, bent on disarming the American citizen for ideological or social reasons, and moved by irrational hostility toward firearms and gun enthusiasts.”

That’s a tough chasm to cross, but there is something that gun control advocates must come to terms with, and that would be beneficial for them to adopt into their rhetoric. Their refrain has often been, “We need laws to ensure that a tragedy like this never happens again.” This is not a realistic goal, and leads opponents to envision a true violation of the Second Amendment through government-mandated disarmament of the public. There is no policy that can reasonably eliminate the risk of future mass shootings, but there are measures that may reduce their likelihood and frequency without impinging too heavily on citizens’ rights. It is difficult to measure the effectiveness of such regulations, but the extent to which the public and policymakers have realistic expectations and a pragmatic approach to policy reform will determine whether this time really is different, or becomes just another cycle through inefficient emotional outpouring.

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

Down Under

On a sure thing

Submitted by Lindsay Melborne, Australia

Predictability: Does the flap of a butterfly’s wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?
—Edward Lorenz, American Meteorologist, 1988

Some things are so inevitable that we rarely stop to consider their importance. Things like the earth turning, dawn, dusk, the wind and rain, heat and cold, in fact all the things we call natural phenomena. They have gone on without change since the beginning of time, and we surely expect them to continue, as anything less is beyond imagination. Other things, such as a new year celebration or planting a crop, can be anticipated with glee or tinged with doubts about what follows, but most of us go about our daily lives in the sure and certain knowledge that there will be another tomorrow, more of the inevitable, and that we can live at peace - at least in those certainties.

They have always been, and there is no reason to suppose they will not go on - at least for a few more million years. So, at the start of this new year of 2013, let me wish you a very happy and prosperous one, with as many good things as possible and only very few of the bad ones that are unavoidable. And please make the most of them, for strange as it may seem, there are not that many left.

Good ones, that is. So, if you are depressed, anxious or unable to cope with life as it is, please read no further. Ignorance will be your safeguard, but not that of your descendants.

This is not an ‘end of the world’ crazy rant, but a sober statement - that life as we know it is going to change forever. Not in my lifetime, probably not in yours, but possibly in your children’s and certainly in your grandchildren’s. Whether you have believed the stories about global warming or not does not matter, because it is simply too late to go back. We are on a path of inevitability, and the direction will not be altered by anything anyone does or refrains from doing.

And for the first time in history the result will be catastrophic. Let me tell you why.

Since 1990 Carbon Dioxide levels in the atmosphere have risen 54%. This is not due to hypothetical natural global cycles as pushed by the owners and users of fossil fuel reserves, but by human population growth and unchecked fossil fuel consumption. Burning anything organic produces carbon dioxide, and some of it stays in the atmosphere. But the output for 2012 is set to reach 36 BILLION tons, and most of this this is going to stay in the atmosphere. In the past it was rapidly absorbed and or utilised by plants as well as being sequestered in the cold deep layers of the ocean. A great deal of organic matter was also locked away

in the vast frozen stretches of the north, the parts called permafrost, but that is melting rapidly. The once frozen micro is converting it to CO2 as fast as possible - it’s their favourite food.

Much of the vast tropical forest that processed the gas has been cut down, and in case you have not read of it, the role of CO2 is to allow the atmosphere to radiate less heat back into space. The more CO2, the less heat radiated back into the universe. And, as the oceans warm the solubility of CO2 decreases, forming a loop: more gas produces more heat, leading to more gas coming from the seas.

The folk at the Global Carbon Project have been taking readings around the globe for many decades, and their findings are inescapable: A warmer air mass produces warmer water, a combination that brings unpredictable weather, with fierce storms, droughts and floods in far greater number. As well, there are subtle but enduring changes in climate across the globe. Much of the world’s population have experienced something of this already, and it will get warmer. By about six degrees by the end of the century.

The outcome is the melting of the ice, not just in the north polar regions, but in the southern regions as well. There’s about 25% of the world’s fresh water frozen there at present, and when that become liquid it will not only dilute the saltiness of the oceans, but raise the sea levels around the world.

That would not have mattered had the population of the world been say two billion, because everyone could have been accommodated on higher ground. With six billion that is not going to be pos-



sible, nor will it be possible to produce anything like enough food, for the arable land will also rapidly decrease.

The result?

Mayhem. Riots, wars and people dying by the millions. Starvation. And a shortage of power as fossil fuels are used to fight wars.

Of course, there is an answer, a solution that will make the planet liveable again, but it is not one that will ever come into being - because we live in a democracy. The people will not stand for the solution, which is going back to a lifestyle about two thousand years old. The only way it could be put in place is by an absolute dictator who sees the problem and has the power to reduce the impact. And I know how much we love those guys.

And even so, the problem will persist for at least a thousand years, but it will cease to be a problem because it will be the way of life for most people, the few with the means of living as at present isolated by the mob, the rest of our offspring shaking their heads at the

folly of their forebears. Those that make it, of course.

Well, today we can take the short view and shrug, adopt the good old saying of ‘eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die’, or take the long view and show your descendants that you at least thought about them by leaving them some mountains in your will - even if you never know them.

It’s not a biblical Armageddon, but it is certainly a sure thing. Our leaders will never know what to do, because the turning point was a good fifty years ago. Banning fossil fuels and insisting on atomic power would have done the trick, and may still do one day. But once that was past the result was inevitable, and all that could have been done was to slow it down. By a lot, it is believed.

In the meantime, have some great years. I am. While I can down here in Aussie.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Saving the rural church

Pastor Matt Day
St. Paul - Mt. Joy Lutheran Parish

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Matt Day. I am the fairly new pastor at the Mt. Joy - St. Paul's Lutheran Parish. I began my ministry back in July, and was ordained in August. I graduated from Towson University in 2007 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg this past May. I am from Owings Mills, MD, and have pretty much been an urban guy most of my life. I was born in Philadelphia and



moved to Maryland when I was eight.

My dad was the pastor of a congregation in Randallstown, which has become a pretty tough area. Crime mostly existed because the socio-economic levels were so different. On one side of the Liberty Road, where my father's congregation was located, there was section 8 housing and on the other side, there were half-million dollar homes. So when I went to college, I decided this was something I wanted to study and I majored in Sociology. I studied things like race relations, demography, and criminology to learn why these problems existed and if they could be solved. Unfortunately, I graduated college with more questions than answers but that was not all that bad. These questions

were one of the things that pushed me to go to seminary.

When I applied to seminary, my intent was to attend the Lutheran seminary in Philadelphia so that I could study urban ministry. I applied to Gettysburg as a back-up with no real intent of attending. However, after much prayer and deliberation, I decided Gettysburg was the place for me, but I never gave up my dream of being an urban pastor.

Well, God apparently had different plans for me and my ministry. I worked with Elias Lutheran my first

year in seminary. I preached at multiple of rural parishes my second year. Then I served two parishes in Rural Retreat, VA my third year in seminary, and I really fell in love with the rural lifestyle.

I spent my final year of seminary learning as much as I could about rural ministry and the rural life. It was like reliving my college experience studying a way of life that ignited my passion for learning. I was able to ask all of those old questions I once had and ask some new ones. My passion for rural ministry lies with learning about the people who make up the community. Because without the people, there is no community or story.

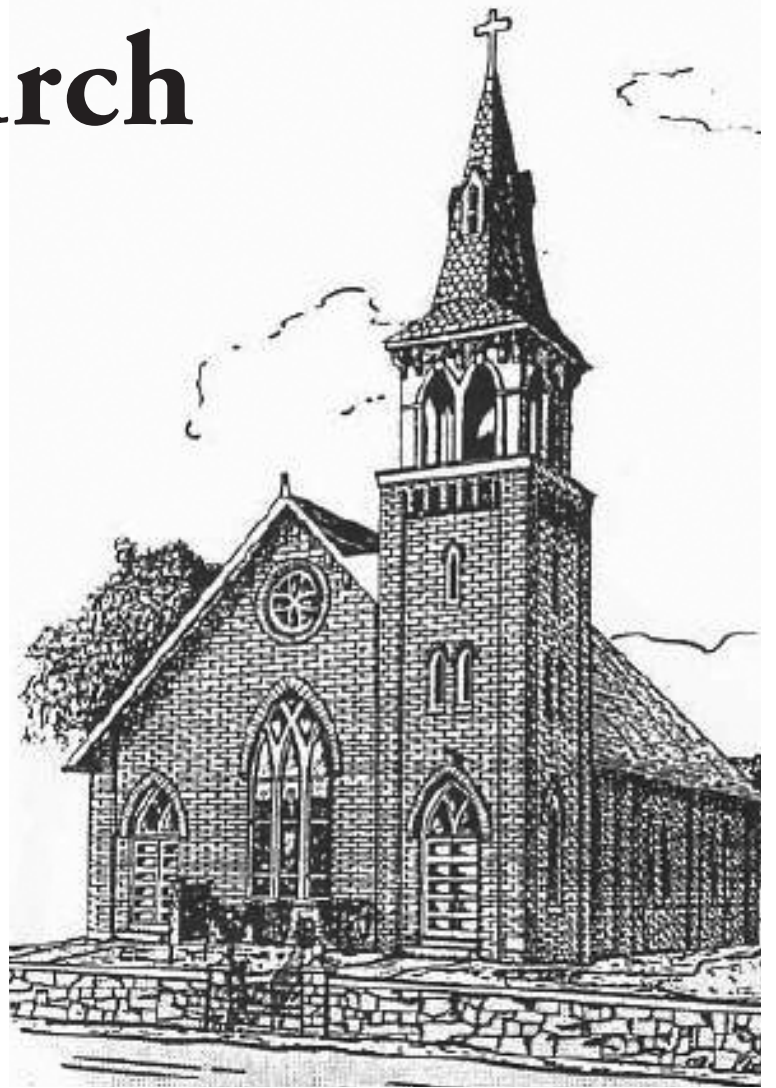
In class at Gettysburg, the professor stressed the importance of making

sure there was a space for people to tell their story and their family's story. When I travel around to the homes of members, I make it a point to ask them about their life, their family, what brought them to the parish and what brings them back because it is in hearing these stories, we are able to see where God is working in their life. Usually, we do not even notice the hand of God guiding us, but when these simple questions are asked such as, "Why did you start coming to St. Paul?" or "What brings you back to Mt. Joy?" you and the person sharing their story witness God's work.

However, there are still difficulties in both rural ministry and the rural community. Both of my congregations are small and are aging rapidly, funds are getting tighter, and there are less people to fill leadership roles. How is the church going to not only survive but thrive? And what about changes in farming - those issues are becoming very much a reality in the rural community. For example, how can these smaller farms exist when other larger farms are able to produce more product cheaper. Will small farms exist in ten, fifteen or twenty years from now? Will the quality of food on the market improve or become worse as we lose more of these smaller farms? I personally do not like to think about a world where small farms are not sustainable. Think of all of the stories we would lose with these farms. We would not only lose these stories, but we would also lose a large part of our culture.

So what can we do? How can we save the rural culture? How can we save the small, rural church? I do not really know if there are any answers to these questions. However, I am an optimist and I do believe in the power of hope. I personally see the answer to most of our social issues involving the uplifting and upholding of the people.

St. Paul was one theologian who knew about the importance of fellowship. Throughout Paul's letters, Paul



stressed how important it was to worship and live as a community and not just as individuals. When the church comes together, nothing is impossible. There is a reason why Christianity did not just die off with the disciples. It was because of people working together that the message of the gospel exists some 2,000 years after Jesus. The Christian story is able to live on through the lives of the faithful through not only biblical narrative, but through the stories of our faithful people.

It is in our community that we share the stories of the saints who have lived and died. Without the community, these stories, both the biblical and communal stories, would have a hard time being heard. It is through coming together, sticking together through the difficult times, that we can hear these stories and preserve them for future generations.

And sticking together we are trying to do! On December 16th, the people of Harney, MD came together to light a Christmas tree in the town square. Harney has long been seen as a "dead town" by many outsiders passing

through on their way to Gettysburg. But on that December night, the town came alive. There had to have been over 80 people in attendance at the ceremony. It was so neat seeing so many people come out and drink hot chocolate, sing Christmas carols and watch as we lit a tree; a reminder of Christ's light within our community. But the really neat thing about the event, for me anyway, was meeting people who I yet to have met and learn about them and the community. I learned more about the history of Harney during that hour and a half than I had in the past six months. Harney certainly proved that the community is not a dead community, but is alive and working on coming back.

The people of Harney and of Mt. Joy know it will not be easy, but coming back cannot be done alone. I look forward to the next few months and years to see what will happen in the community. I really do not know what the future will hold for Harney, Mt. Joy, for rural community life, or for rural ministry, for I am just a humble pastor. I do however, look forward to the future because I know God has a plan.



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Great Frosts

On this day in 1205:

'Began a frost which continued till the two and twentieth day of March, so that the ground could not be tilled; whereof it came to pass that, in summer following a quarter of wheat was sold for a mark of silver in many places of England, which for the more part in the days of King Henry the Second was sold for twelve pence; a quarter of beans or peas for half a mark; a quarter of oats for thirty pence, that were wont to be sold for fourpence. Also the money was so sore clipped that there was no remedy but to have it renewed.'—Stowe's Chronicle

It has become customary in England to look to St. Herilary's Day, January 14, as the coldest in the year; perhaps from its being a noted day about the middle of the noted coldest month. It is, however, just possible that the commencement of the extraordinary and fatal frost of 1205, on this day, may have had something to do with the notion; and it may be remarked, that in 1820 the 14th of January was the coldest day of the year, one gentleman's thermometer falling to four degrees Fahrenheit below zero. On a review of the greatest frosts in the English chronicles, it can only be observed that they have for the most part occurred throughout January, and only, in general, diverge a little into December on the one hand, and February on the other. Yet one of the most remarkable of modern frosts began quite at the end of January.

It was at that time in 1814 that London last saw the Thames begin to be so firmly frozen as to support a multitude of human beings on its surface. For a month following the 27th of the previous December, there had been a strong frost in England. A thaw took place on the 26th January, and the ice of the Thames came down in a huge 'pack,' which was suddenly arrested between the bridges by the renewal of the frost. On the 31st the ice pack was so firmly frozen in one mass, that people began to pass over it, and next day the footing appeared so safe, that thousands of persons ventured to cross.

Opposite to Queen-hithe, where the mass appeared most solid, upwards of thirty booths were erected, for the sale of liquors and viands, and for the playing of skittles. A sheep was set to a fire in a tent upon the ice, and sold in shilling slices, under the appellation of Lapland mutton. Musicians came, and dances were effected on the rough and slippery surface. What with the gay appearance of the booths, and the quantity of favourite popular amusements going on, the scene was singularly cheerful and exciting. On the ensuing day, faith in the ice having increased, there were vast multitudes upon it between the London and Blackfriars' Bridges; the tents for the sale of refreshments, and for games of hazard, had largely multiplied; swings and merry-go-rounds were added to skittles; in short, there were all the appearances of a Greenwich or Bartholomew Fair exhibited on this frail surface, and Frost Fair was a term in everybody's mouth.

Amongst those who strove to make

a trade of the occasion, none were more active than the humbler class of printers. Their power of producing an article capable of preservation, as a memorial of the affair, brought them in great numbers to the scene. Their principal business consisted, accordingly, in the throwing off of little broadsides referring to Frost Fair, and stating the singular circumstances under which they were produced, in rather poor verses—such as the following:

'Amidst the arts which on the Thames appear,

To tell the wonders of this icy year,

Printing claims prior place, which at one view

Erects a monument of THAT and YOU.'

Another peculiarly active corps was the ancient fraternity of watermen, who, deserting their proper trade, contrived to render themselves serviceable by making convenient accesses from the landings, for which they charged a moderate toll. It was reported that some of these men realized as much as ten pounds a day by this kind of business.

All who remember the scene describe it as having been singular and picturesque. It was not merely a white icy plain, covered with flag-bearing booths and lively crowds. The peculiar circumstances under which this part of the river had finally been frozen, caused it to appear as a variegated ice country—hill and dale, and devious walk, all mixed together, with human beings thronging over every bit of accessible surface.

After Frost Fair had lasted with increasing activity for four days, a killing thaw came with the Saturday, and most of the traders who possessed any prudence struck their flags and departed. Many, reluctant to go while any customers remained, held on past the right time, and towards evening there was a strange medley of tents, and merry-go-rounds, and printing presses seen floating about on detached masses of ice, beyond recovery of their dismayed owners, who had themselves barely escaped with life. A large refreshment booth, belonging to one Lawrence, a publican of Queenhith, which had been placed opposite Brook's Wharf, was floated off by the rising tide, at an early hour on Sunday morning, with nine men in the interior, and was borne with violence back towards Blackfriars' Bridge, catching fire as it went. Before the conflagration had gone far, the whole mass was dashed to pieces on one of the piers of the bridge, and the men with difficulty got to land. A vast number of persons suffered immersion both on this and previous days, and three men were drowned. By Monday nothing was to be seen where Frost Fair had been, but a number of ice-boards swinging lazily backwards and for-wards under the impulse of the tide.

There has been no recurrence of Frost Fair on the Thames from 1814 down to the present year (1861); but it is a phenomenon which, as a rule, appears to recur several times each century. The next previous occasion was in the winter of 1788-9; the next again in January 1740, when people dwelt in tents on the Thames for weeks. In 1715-16, the river was thickly frozen for several miles, and became the scene of a pop-



FAIR ON THE THAMES, 1716.

ular fete resembling that just described, with the additional feature of an ox roasted whole for the regalement of the people. The next previous instance was in January 1684. There was then a constant frost of seven weeks, producing ice eighteen inches thick. A contemporary, John Evelyn, who was an eyewitness of the scene, thus describes it:

'The frost continuing, more and more severe, the Thames, before London, was still planted with booths in formal streets, all sorts of trades and shops, furnished and full of commodities, even to a printing press, where the people and ladies took a fancy to have their names printed, and the day and the year set down when produced on the Thames: this humour took so universally, that it was estimated the printer gained five pounds a day, for printing a line only, at sixpence a name, besides what he got by ballads, &c. Coaches plied from Westminster to the Temple and from other stairs, to and fro, as in the streets; sheds, sliding with skates, or bull-baiting, horse and coach races, puppet-shows and interludes, cooks, tipping and other lewd places; so that it seemed to be a bacchanalian triumph or carnival on the water: while it was a severe judgment on the land, the trees not only splitting as if lightning-struck, but men and cattle perishing in divers places, and the very seas so locked up with ice, that no vessels could stir out or come in; the fowls, fish, and birds, and all our exotic plants and greens, universally perishing. Many parks of deer were destroyed; and all sorts of fuel so dear, that there were great contributions to keep the poor alive. Nor was this severe weather much less intense in most parts of Europe, even as far as Spain in the most southern tracts.

London, by reason of the excessive coldness of the air hindering the ascent of the smoke, was so filled with the fuliginous stream of the sea-coal, that hardly could

any one see across the streets; and this filling of the lungs with the gross particles exceedingly obstructed the breath, so as one could scarcely breathe. There was no water to be had from the pipes or engines; nor could the brewers and divers other tradesmen work; and every moment was full of disastrous accidents.'

Hollinshed describes a severe frost as occurring at the close of December 1564:

'On New Year's Eve,' he says, 'people went over and along the Thames on the ice from London Bridge to Westminster. Some played at the foot-ball as boldly there as if it had been on dry land. Divers of the court, being daily at Westminster, shot daily at pricks set upon the Thames; and the people, both men and women, went daily on the Thames in greater number than in any street of the city of London. On the 3rd day of January it began to thaw, and on the 5th day was no ice to be seen between London Bridge and Lambeth; which sudden thaw caused great floods and high waters, that bare down bridges and houses, and drowned many people, especially in Yorkshire.'

A protracted frost necessarily deranges the lower class of employments in such a city as London, and

throws many poor persons into destitution. Just as sure as this is the fact, so sure is it that a vast horde of the class who systematically avoid regular work, preferring to live by their wits, simulate the characteristic appearances of distressed labourers, and try to excite the charity of the better class of citizens. Investing themselves in aprons, clutching an old spade, and hoisting as their signal of distress a turnip on the top of a pole or rake, they will wend their way through the west-end streets, proclaiming themselves in sepulchral tones as Frozen-out Gardeners, or simply calling, 'Hall frozen hout!' or chanting 'We've got no work to do The faces of the corps are duly dolorous; but one can nevertheless observe a sharp eye kept on the doors and windows they are passing, in order that if possible they may arrest some female gaze on which to practise their spell of pity. It is alleged on good grounds that the generality of these victims of the frost are impostors, and that their daily gatherings will often amount to double a skilled workman's wages.

Nor do they usually discontinue the trade till long after the return of milder airs has liquidated even real claims upon the public sympathy.

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Christmases past

Bill Meredith

"The palest ink is better than the best memory."
—Chinese proverb for the Year of the Snake

The world did not end on December 21, so by the time you read this we will be starting another new year. My granddaughter, who is studying in China, tells me 2013 will be the Year of the Snake, and it won't start until February 10 because they have a lunar calendar; the proverb of the snake is "The palest ink is better than the best memory." I didn't know snakes had proverbs, or even thought about such things. I suppose it means you should write things down be-

cause when you get old you won't remember what it really was like, and I guess maybe that would be a good idea... but I'm not sure I want to remember what things were really like. I'll be doing it for the 80th time, and more often than not there were wars going on, or famines or epidemics or riots back then, or political and economic messes like we have now. I'd be satisfied to forget most of that; if I had to record it, I'd write with the palest ink I could find. I'd rather remember watching the ball come down from the tower in Times Square through more or less glazed eyes, while Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians played "Auld Lang Syne" and Dick Clark exchanged inane remarks with clueless celebrities, and then going out and

burying a penny in the flower bed for luck, like the Polish custom my wife taught me when we were dating. When you get old and try to remember history, it becomes whatever you want it to be.

My son, Mike, is getting like that already. Early in December he asked if I planned to put the model train under the Christmas tree. I guess I still have it somewhere, but I haven't seen it for years and didn't even remember what it looked like. The ink in my brain had faded beyond recognition, but the image of the train came back because Mike described it in detail (evidently his ink hasn't faded yet). It was a mixture of two train sets, mine and my wife's when we were children. The engine was mine; I got it in 1937, when I was four. We were in the Depression then, so Santa brought the cheapest model Lionel made. Some of the cars were from my wife's set, which must have been made during the war because they were painted in a khaki camouflage pattern and one of them had a search light mounted on it in case of an air raid. Mike said we could not have Christmas without a train, so a few days later he arrived with an N-gauge set. We spent a Sunday afternoon building a diorama scene to mount it on, and I spent the next two weeks fussing with it. I guess it will serve the purpose; my friend, Shane, who is two and must be learning a dozen new words each day, watched the engine go into the tunnel and come out the other side, and said, "That's a wonderful train." His mother had never heard him use that word before, and it made the whole holiday memorable... written in indelible ink.

The only thing that really ended on December 21 was autumn; it



was blown away right on schedule by winds that gusted over 40 mph, but the ceremony lacked the traditional amount of snow. In the winters I remember, it was always cold enough for butchering by Thanksgiving, and as a pre-schooler I assumed God made it cold so we could hang the meat up in the shed, confident that it would stay frozen until the lard was rendered, the sausage was ground and the hams were cured. I knew there would be snow on Christmas because Grandma said so, and she was right every year except 1939, when I was six. That year it rained and most of the snow melted. I was excited rather than disappointed, because I reasoned that Santa's sleigh might get stuck in the mud in our yard, or at least we might see muddy tracks on the roof, which would prove that those rumors that there was no Santa Claus were false. I was in first grade then, and I remember having angry arguments with a fourth-grader who started the rumor. I knew Santa was real because he brought exactly what I wanted: a green toolbox with real tools in it. The next year it snowed again; the hot item in the catalogs then was a printing press with a roller and rubber letters you could put backwards in little grooves and print your own newspaper, and Santa came through on schedule. But things changed, and I don't remember much about individual Christmases after that. My memory does unfog a bit for the Charley Brown

tree on the first Christmas after we were married, and those when our kids and grandchildren were little, but everything in between is a pretty homogeneous blur.

Christmas is different now. More often than not, there isn't snow, and one day last week it was warm enough to play golf. I haven't decided whether it's because of global warming, or because God decided we don't need cold weather any more since we have deep freezers (I suspect it's the former). On the day of the annual Christmas bird count, with the help of a young naturalist who can see and hear better than I could 50 years ago, I recorded 42 species of birds. Several were late migrants, like robins, who simply haven't got around to leaving yet, but we did see some of the white-winged crossbills that had been reported around Gettysburg. They flew over us and landed in some thick pine trees, and I could hear them up there grumbling about flying all the way down here from Canada and not finding any snow.

Publishing schedules being what they are, it is necessary for me to write this a couple of days before Christmas in order to get it printed by the end of the month, so I can't tell you what kind of Christmas we had this year. Since the world didn't end, I'm assuming Christmas will arrive on schedule. Some of the kids and grandchildren will be here, and for the first time in history, my wife will not do all of the cooking... the kids will bring some of the food, a practical solution to the problem of aging, but one she does not accept willingly. The tree is up, the train is still wonderful, and if I can find the old green toolbox among all the clutter in the basement, maybe I'll put it under the tree. New Year's Day will arrive, also on schedule, and before we know it we will be into the Year of the Snake.

Spring will get here on schedule too, and if I am lucky the black snake that has visited our garden for the past several years will drop by again. If he does, I'll ask him how his year is coming along, and whether I interpreted his saying correctly. I'm looking forward to that; I think you should have goals at every stage of life, and I've always wanted to have such a conversation. In the meanwhile, I'm not expecting much from Santa Claus; when I wrote to him, I told him I don't really need anything, unless he has some wisdom to spare, and maybe some patience. I could use some of each.

Merry Christmas, and God bless us every one. And Happy New Year, snakes and all.

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IN THE COUNTRY

The great Horned Owl

Tim Iverson
Cunningham Falls State Park
Seasonal Naturalist



Part of the mission of the Scales & Tales program from Maryland Park Service is to provide enriching programs that educate people on the tales of each and every animal in their care. People have the opportunity to visit any of the six aviaries in the state, but you can also pay to have the animals come to you! There are various interpretive programs to choose from or you can choose a "Wildlife on Display" format. Recently a Naturalist at Cunningham Falls was telling me a story about a 13 or 14 year old girl he met while doing a display at Hagerstown Community College this past spring. One of the birds on display at this event was the Great Horned Owl, and this youngster sure knew her stuff! Upon seeing the bird she exclaimed "Oh, I know why they're called Great Horned Owls. Horned: because the feather tufts on their heads look like horns. Owls: because they are owls – duh! And great: because... well they do a lot of stuff really well." And in a nutshell I don't think I could explain it better in three sentences myself.

Great Horned Owls are the most common owl in the Americas. They are distributed all over the continent from coast to coast, and from the arctic down through Central America. They are also found in many parts of South America, as well. These habitat generalists can be found nearly anywhere potential food can be found – which is anywhere! Rarely do they make their own nests, and instead improvise. They are known to make home sweet home of abandoned nests of other birds. However, more frequently they will roost in tree cavities, stumps, and caves. For this reason they are found in less urban areas.

These birds are the second heaviest owl in North America, second to the Snowy Owl. The Great Horned Owl weighs in at an average of 2 – 4 lbs, or about as much as a phone book. They measure up to about 1.5 – 2 feet and have a wingspan of 3 – 5 feet. That may not seem like much,

but they pack a serious punch. It's said that pound for pound they are some of the fiercest predators around because they can kill prey much larger than itself. Usually, their diet consists of rodents (mice, rats, voles, squirrels, etc.), rabbits and hares, smaller birds and owls, reptiles, amphibians, pets (yes, cats and dogs), and the list goes on! They are known to go after much larger prey too! Small fawns and alligators have been documented prey, but they must be eaten where killed because they're too large to drag away. However, the most interesting, and one of their favorite meals, is the skunk. Yep, you read right – the skunk. Most birds, with the exception of the vulture, have no sense of smell so this defense does little on behalf of Pepé Le Pew. Between 6 and 12 hours after prey is consumed Great Horned Owls produce what is referred to as an "owl pellet". These pellets, which are about 3 – 4 inches long and about an inch wide, are a pill shaped regurgitation of the leftovers they couldn't digest. These pellets are made up of fur and bones.

These raptors are quite impressive hunters. Their talons are razor sharp and they are capable of squeezing their feet with up to 200 – 300 pounds per square inch. The Great Horned Owl hunts by perching high up and pouncing on prey. Gifted with incredibly acute vision owls can see well at night. Believe it or not their eyes are almost as

large as a human's, and take up a majority of space in the skull. Proportionally speaking if a human's eyes were similarly sized we would have eyes the size of soft balls! With eyes that big it leaves little room for much else, including muscles to make them move. Because of this the Great Horned Owl must turn its head to see. The neck has 14 vertebrae, twice as many as a human, which allows them to rotate 270 degrees around. The only thing that rivals their sight is their hearing. The ears are slightly offset from one another, the right being positioned slightly higher on the head. This may seem strange, but provides for exceptionally finely tuned hearing. This allows for both depth perception and elevation perception. By turning their heads so both ears are evenly aligned at a sound the owl can pinpoint the exact location of a noise.

Imagine you're a hungry Great Horned Owl and chasing down prey on a dark moonless night. You're going in for the catch when you snag your wing on something, a large wire from a power line! You plummet out of the sky and descend helplessly to the ground. This injury is life shattering, because as a bird a broken wing can end it all. Imagine another scenario, an all too common tale among raptors. You are perched aloft in a tree sitting by a road. You're patiently waiting for dinner to present itself, and it does! First, you hear some rustling. You scan the ground to find a mouse rummag-

ing around in a paper bag scattered on the edge of a road. You sense the moment is right and swoop down for easy pickings. Then just when you swoop across the asphalt a pair of headlights come careening at you. These stories are all too common among raptors, and the true tales of many of the birds housed at aviaries at parks across the state.

The aviary at Cunningham Falls is home to two Great Horned Owls, one male and the other a female. Both of these raptors, along with all the others housed there, are non-releasable due to permanent inju-

ry. The male can no longer fly because of a torn tendon in his wing caused by flying into a power line. The female was struck by a car and as a result had one wing amputated. These owls and the other raptors that call home to the aviary at Cunningham Falls State Park are all available to be adopted, and the proceeds from these adoptions goes directly back into funding programs, health needs, any materials needed, and more! Once the Manor Area re-opens fly on by the aviary to check out these masters of the night sky, and the other raptors!

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-Garlic Rosemary Mashed Potatoes- -Fresh Asparagus Medley with Lemon Butter-
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IN THE COUNTRY

On my honor...

Kay Deardorff

Do you know someone trustworthy, honest, and fair? Does that person promise to serve God and country and help others at all times? Perhaps that individual also displays characteristics such as courtesy, respect, courage, obedience, and strength. Well, these are some promises made by Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts throughout America. If you have ever listened to a Scout proclaim his or her promise and recite the law of the organization, you know the intensity of the words that are goals each of us should adopt as our own.

Whether you have gone through the ranks of Scouting or are a person who chooses to live by the Golden Rule, you can find these qualities appealing. Who wouldn't want their closest neighbor to be kind, helpful, and considerate? At Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve we want to help those youngsters attain each goal in acquiring their merit badges. Scouts who strive to "make the world a better place" are an important part of our community and we can provide the resources needed for help them grow.

The history of Boy Scouts dates back to the turn of the 20th centu-

ry when Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, a British Army officer, was stationed in India. He realized the need for his men to know basic first aid and rudimentary outdoor survival techniques. The lack of frontier skills inspired Baden-Powell to write a small handbook entitled *Aids to Scouting*. The handbook stressed resourcefulness, adaptability, and qualities of leadership necessary in frontier settings. To his surprise, Baden-Powell's manual gained popularity among English boys. Returning from the Boer War, he discovered them using his book to play a game of scouting.

The British Army officer tried his ideas with boys in England. In August 1907 Baden-Powell assembled about 20 boys taking them to an improvised camp for 12 days. Located on the Brownsea Island, in a shielded bay off England's southern coast, they had a perfect location for the trial.

The wonderful island experience provided the campers an education while having fun. They played games; hiked; learned to cook outside without utensils; and learned stalking and pioneering skills. Through the activities on the island the thrill of scouting spread around the globe



within a few years. The next year, Baden-Powell published another book, *Scouting for Boys*. Within two years the membership of Boy Scouts tripled in their country.

Meanwhile, the concept of Scouting was beginning to take root in the United States. Ernest Thompson Seton, a naturalist and author, was on a farm in Connecticut gathering a group of boys that they called the Woodcraft Indians. Simultaneously, an artist and writer, Daniel Carter Beard, assembled the Sons of Daniel Boone. These two groups were similar, but not connected. However, inevitably they would eventually become Boy Scouts.

The Boy Scouts of America were incorporated on February 10, 1910 by Chicago businessman and publisher William D. Boyce after he had an experience in England which had a great impact on him. While in England he got lost in the fog. Faltering through the haze, he was approached by a boy who offered him help finding his journey's end. When reaching the destination successfully Boyce offered to tip the young man, but the boy refused payment stating that he "was a Scout and could not ac-

cept payment for a Good Turn." So impressed with the values of this youngster, Boyce returned to America with a suitcase full of information and went on to establish the Boy Scouts of America. He never heard from the "unknown Scout" again, but his Good Turn transported Scouting to our country.

Upon its conception in 1910, Scouting consisted of about 2,000 Boy Scouts and leaders. Now it is millions strong. Humble beginnings comprised of only Boy Scouts. However, the program has now incorporated Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Boys Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers.

The boys in America are not the only ones which proclaim a promise of honor, courtesy, and loyalty. Girls also had their chance to shine in society. Founded by Juliette Gordon Low, the Girl Scouts of the USA recently celebrated their 100th anniversary.

Born Juliette Gordon she was fondly named Daisy by family and friends. From the time of her childhood, she was athletic; being a strong swimmer, captain of the rowing team, and avid tennis player. She was also a lover of the arts:

writing poetry; sketching; writing and acting in plays; and, as an adult, painting and sculpting.

Gordon married a wealthy Englishman, William Mackay Low, in Savannah, Georgia and then moved to England. Juliette traveled periodically between the British Isles and America. During the Spanish-American war, she stayed in America and helped the war effort by aiding the wounded soldiers coming back from Cuba. However, following the war, Juliette returned to England.

After William Low's death in 1905, Juliette spent 6 years in search of something beneficial to do with her life. In 1911 she met Sir Robert Baden-Powell and developed an interest in the youth organization in which he was involved. She decided to direct all her efforts into this new organization.

Nearly a year from that date, Low came back to the United States and made a historic telephone call to her distant cousin. She said, "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!" Therefore March 12, 1912 marked the date when Juliette Low assembled 18 girls to enroll the first troop of American Girl Guides with her niece, Margaret "Daisy Doots" Gordon being the first registered member. In 1913 the name was changed to Girl Scouts.

Girls from all backgrounds were brought outdoors and given the chance to develop self-confidence and creativity. Passing on her love of the arts and sciences, Low encouraged them to learn traditional homemaking as well as skills for professional roles for their futures as professional women. There was no discrimination of the disabled as was the case in much of society at that time.

Within the past century, the Girl Scouts have increased their numbers from the original 18 to the current 3.7 million members. Proudly noted, the group is the largest girls' educational organization in the world.

Teaching morals and overall strong characteristics, the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the USA are two teams you can be honored to have in your neighborhood. If your child wants to become a scout, be encouraging and be proud. There are a large variety of merit badges to be earned by the scouts. At Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, we can satisfy many of those requirements. Check our website at www.strawberryhill.org or call the office at 717-642-5840 to obtain information regarding programs to meet the needs of your scout troop. We can work with you to produce or design the right package for you. As we approach Maple Sugaring season, scout leaders will be able to coordinate with the staff to do programs with the organized group.

We can all learn from the scout who offers a "Good Turn." Maybe we should seek our own opportunity to pay forward the good turn to another in need.

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Mom's homemade bread

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

Twenty-eight years ago, it entered my head that I should sober up and get on with living. The hangovers had stretched from a few hours into days and what was left of my mind stubbornly refused to let me suicide by any means quicker than drinking myself to death. With a sigh of resignation, I looked about for something to live for. Having spent the past twelve years as a drunk, I hadn't much recent experience outside of that scene so I considered the time before alcohol. The twelve years of schooling offered little beyond frustration and anger so I jumped beyond them to my preschool years. What in those dim memories could be conjured to inspire a new run at life?

The fragrance of Mom's homemade bread filled my head. My mouth watered. I knew I had a starting point. Not a reason to live, but a goal to focus on while I rebuilt a life mostly wasted at that time. I would attempt to recreate the white bread Mom had enchanted a five year old with. (Years later I would realize the god Yeast, has long influenced my life. First, as a major facilitator of bread, then the creator of alcohol, and back to bread again.)

I had a mission. Decades later, I have not built Mom's bread. It eventually penetrated my adled pate, via a dozen bread books covering all aspects of bread from grain fields to glazes, that a couple of things were no longer available to me. Whatever flour Mom had used, the wheat for it is no longer grown. The milk certainly isn't the same. (Cream graced the upper portion of the bottles she poured the sweet liquid from, nothing like the thin, chalky joke called "whole milk" today.) Perhaps even the yeast strains had been tweaked. And the butter I use was, in her kitchen, some brand of long forgotten margarine.

Disasters (in my eyes) followed me from bread book to bread book. I finally gave up on Mom's bread and turned to artisan breads at librarian Sue's suggestion. Which was a leap of frustration more than of faith. Most people who attempt bread building can make an acceptable white bread. Though many home bakers I've talked to pale at the thought of working with wet, gooey dough that can take days to build and often flops at the moment before entering an oven. Sue, being on a bread-building path herself, took to sharing her efforts and inspired me to reconsider just what I wanted from bread.

For ten years, I played with recipes, getting close to something I actually liked, though each loaf was found lacking in one quality or another. Then in October of this year, everything came together. Breads began to turn out close to perfection. Especial-

ly breads I don't like, but others find delightful. It seemed I could do nothing wrong even when I screwed up a recipe or tweaked it by switching flours, mixed building methods because of scheduling, or (even more likely to end badly) adjusted ingredient amounts and time tables to get what I wanted when I wanted it! I had reached a wall and passed through it, or over it.

The Mad One has been my harshest, most earnest critic. No other individual has sampled more of the breads I've built, nor urged me onward, nor chastised me more often. The last breads I presented to her eager, but skeptical eyes, were at once tore into chunks to be devoured alone, dipped in some sauce, swiped through a gravy, eaten with cheese, savored with sips of wine.

Staring at me over a handful of bread, she allowed, "This is real bread. All the breads you have brought me these last weeks have been real bread. Now you have to decide. Are you going to continue playing or are you going to get serious and take the next step?"

I stare back at her. The next step is commercial of course. I considered the breads good enough, but wondered if it was ego or fact. Fact, according to the Mad One.

"Stop experimenting and focus on several breads, each for a different purpose. Perfect them so you can make them with little effort. You've made some good cake, add

another desert or two and you have the basis of a business. Emmitsburg is the wrong town for such a business though. You will have to move. Sophia would be a good place to open a bakery. My sister says the bread there is horrible now. The old ways of doing things are being lost to the European Union."

I don't see myself in Bulgaria, but I never saw artisan breads on the horizon, or the Mad One either. Nor did I see a developing wheat allergy that leaves me groggy, sinuses clogged, eyes burning and cramps in the intestines after only a few mouthfuls of bread.

I've new goals I struggle toward. Making an income from bread is not one of them. (I've stood on a farm and watched tons of commercial artisan breads be unwrapped, ground and fed to pigs and cows. Why would I put my heart and energy into making pig food?) No, I'll work at perfecting the recipes I've gotten good at and gift them to people I know will appreciate them.

I would like to try building breads in a kitchen with commercial equipment someday, before the allergy gets so bad I have to remove myself from a floury environment. (Perhaps I'll even offer them at some future bake sale.) Gods, I hope the Mad One understands. I've seen her challenge dragons and the dragons back down! Maybe I can teach her to make bread, if she hangs around



another twenty-eight years?

There is a goal worth working toward. I now have flour from Europe to use in the recipes the Mad One and I favor most. She tells me she has no talent for bread building, just a passion for eating it. That's all I started with, a passion so great I set aside much else I could have more profitably pursued. She wants me to teach her so she can teach her mom, who (of course) makes the best breads in the Mad One's life. But not like the ones I build.

Sadly, the Mad One's mom will

not always be there to build such memorable breads. The Mad One, stubborn as she can be, will learn the recipes and techniques from me so she can go home and learn more from her mother. Knowing I've passed something valuable on to someone else seems the best way for me to proceed. Perhaps someone not on the Mad One's horizon will learn bread building from her.

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

You're never sure how far ripples go

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

Well, here we are at the end of yet another year, getting ready to usher in 2013. Can you believe it? When I was a kid, the year 2000 was just a movie, you know?

Oh, yeah, I'm that old. Stop chuckling, mother – you know what that means about your age. Heh.

With said age comes the rather alarming passage of time. Where do the years go anymore? It's shocking to me, I'm sad to say, how quickly it feels like I flip months on a calendar.

Despite how quickly life can pass us by, I think the beginning of a new year is a good time to reflect on how much we actually do have to be grateful for – and at CVAS, the list is long.

Our adopters. The folks who wanted to add a furry friend to their family and thought to save a life. The people who looked into the eyes of one of our babies and found their best friend. They send us photos and updates and stop by for our fundraisers and generally give us a wonderful feeling that keeps us all going.

Our supporters. Those who gave, either supplies or monetary donations, to make sure this shelter could continue to house, care for and adopt homeless animals. School classes, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, church organizations and community members all stepped up this year to help.

Our supporters also include all the businesses that gave time, media space, supplies and general backing to help the animals in this shelter. I'm always amazed at how generous this community continues to be for us and that philanthropy will be what carries us into 2013 and beyond.

Our staff. It fills me with pride that these folks continue to come in here, day after day, to make sure the basic needs of these animals are met. We've got an unbelievably dedicated group who, while they may add to my bouts of insanity from time to time, I wouldn't be able to do what I do without them.

Our board. This is a group who works tirelessly to create policy and adapt regulations that makes sure the welfare of homeless animals will continue to be top notch.

Our thrift stores. The incredible staff at our thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg work energetically to keep the stores running efficiently and effectively. The ultimate goal of our stores is to help support this animal shelter – and without them, we wouldn't be able to continue to meet the needs of homeless pets. Ladies, you are all wonderful!!

Our volunteers. And there are many: everyone who comes to the shelter and walks dogs regularly, everyone who cleans cats at Petmsart, everyone who helps out at our various fundraisers from the spaghetti dinner to the

dog walk to the open house, everyone who has ever picked up a mop or scooper to clean kennels, everyone who fosters animals until they can be adopted. You folks are sincerely inspiring to all of us and we know your hearts are as big as your smiles and the love you have for our furry friends.

This shelter isn't about one person. This shelter is here and continues to be here because of the many groups of people who step up to help us every year.

Really, it's about ripples. Bear with me for a minute on this one. I actually have a point.

Years ago, back in middle school, I believe, when we were first learning how to write term papers (oh, how I do not miss those!) I reported on the women's suffrage movement.

I remember using a quote that, believe it or not, still resonates with me today. I can't get the exact verbiage, but it talked about a stone in a pond and the ripples it creates. When you first toss the stone in, there's a rather large splash, but the ripples can often go all the way to the shore of the body of water.

The point is we're never quite sure how far the ripples will go. We can't always tell what our actions will cause.

It was a powerful statement for a middle schooler who thought in pictures and the idea is still quite vivid in my head.

The ripples that everyone makes by helping the shelter go a lot farther than any of us would likely suspect.

Think about it.

When an animal comes to us, that's the stone being tossed in the pond. We get the animal healthy, spay or neuter him or her and find the pup or cat a loving home. That one animal can affect the lives of literally hundreds of people. He certainly affects the lives of those of us at the shelter. He will definitely have an impact on the family who adopts him.

What about the neighbors? The extended family? The people he meets at a dog park? Or even those who might see him on a Christmas card?

Even co-workers and fellow school children who hear stories about the family's adopted pet could feel the effects of those ripples.



If you are looking for an amazing four-legged best friend, you need to come meet Jackson. Jackson is a 1-year-old Shepherd mixed with... something. We're not sure of his breed and he came to us as a stray, but a sweeter pup you will likely never meet. He's been out and about and loves kids and other dogs -- he's not that great with cats, though. He loves to kiss and hug and really needs a forever home.

Our fellow shelters and rescues. All the individuals and groups who fight every day, like we do, to care for homeless pets. We're all in this battle together and it helps to know there are others out there who understand this war.

I think you see my point about how one little stone can have an amazing resonance and the ripples can often extend well beyond what we obviously know.

We can all make those ripples – it's not just shelter workers. Every action we make has an effect. I think the start of the new year is a perfect time to ask yourself every day what kind of ripples you're making. Are you helping someone? Making their day with a smile or sincere compliment? Or are you upsetting people? Using your ripples to put bad thoughts or feelings out into the universe?

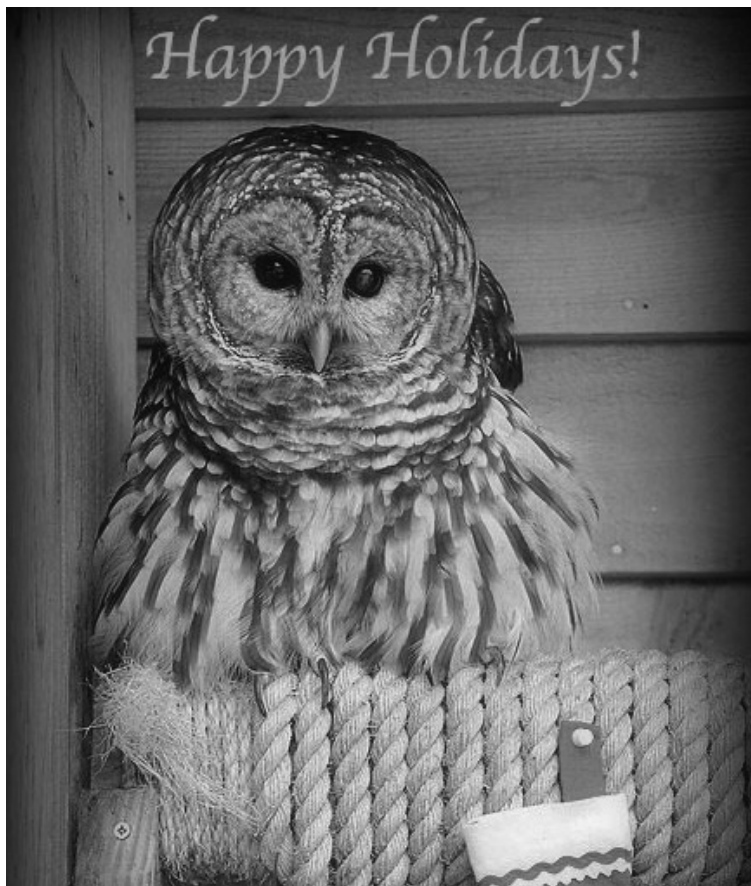
I truly think we often have no idea how powerful a simple gesture of kindness can be.

Everything we say and do can be a stone in someone else's pond. Every animal we save and adopt at CVAS is a stone in someone else's pond.

The animals have no voice but ours, so we must speak for them. This is our motto and will continue to be the ethics and beliefs of this animal shelter well into the future.

So from all of those four-legged, brown-eyed, blue-eyed, green-eyed, furry souls who have been helped by the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and those who will be helped in the years to come, thank you for your ripples and may you have a safe and prosperous 2013.

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



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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Chickens

Dr. Kimberly Brokaw, DVM
Walkersville Animal Hospital

I confess to eating and enjoying a lot of chicken meat each year. However, I also have a great enjoyment for chickens as pets. Chickens are happy, social, and entertaining creatures, who also happen to produce good food. Chickens have become increasingly popular over the last few years. Numerous people are keeping hens in their backyards so they can enjoy fresh, inexpensive, eggs. Every spring Tractor Supply, Southern States, and other feed stores have baby chicks available for purchase for a few dollars. What starts as a few dollar food animal slowly often shifts into a pet. I have multiple chickens myself and find that they make delightful pets. If hens are handled frequently from the time they are small chicks, they are usually pleasant and tractable creatures.

When I first meet the chickens of a family, one of the characteristics I find distinguishes if the chicken is a pet as opposed to totally a food animal, is if she has a name. The first set of chickens I received were named after styles of shoe (Stiletto, Flip flop, Winklepicker, Clog, etc). Then I acquired some guinea fowl who I named after designer shoe brands (Ferragamo, Cavalli, Ugg). Having exhausted the shoe theme, my next set was named after Ben and Jerry's ice cream flavors (Clusterfluff, Chunky Monkey, Mudslide, etc). A few of my hens have been eaten by hawks. Generally, the two roosters look after the hens. Most of my chickens are still healthy and active. They wander my yard during the daytime and sleep in my barn rafters, leaving occasional piles of chicken manure on the tractor.

Chickens tend to be healthy pets, but even they need veterinary attention at times. The nature of treating a pet is very different from treating a food chicken. While there are no limitations

on which medications a pet can use, food animal medications are restricted to ensure the safety of the food supply. Not only are the permitted medications different for a food animal but cost plays a large role too. After all, if a vet visit is going to cost more than the replacement cost of a food animal, then business would dictate that the animal not be seen. A vet visit for a two dollar pet chicken immediately exceeds the replacement cost, yet the owners are often happy to pay for veterinary care for their chickens.

While doing surgeries on chickens is very rare, I have performed a couple of chicken surgeries. One procedure was a toe amputation after a chicken got a piece of baling twine rapped so tightly around it's toe that the toe began to die. Another surgery was an evisceration repair after a chicken was attacked by a dog. As I was cleaning the chicken's intestines and putting them back inside, I remember telling the owner that I didn't think the chicken was going to survive. However, we were pleasantly surprised to find that after a round of antibiotics and a couple weeks of recovery the chicken was back to normal.

Strange as chicken surgery may sound, those have not been my oddest encounters. Only a couple of months ago, one

of my clients paged the on call answering service. Her chicken was egg bound and had started to prolapse the vent. I was not on call and she was connected to one of the other veterinarians. As she started explaining the situation, he quickly informed her that "Dr. Brokaw is the only one who works on chickens. I don't know how to help you."

I don't give out my cell phone number very frequently yet her son had helped out in the spring when we were making hay. The client still had my number and called, leaving a polite message saying that while she knew I wasn't working, if I had a moment to please call her back and advise her on what to do with the chicken. I called her back and told her to put the chicken in the sink with warm water and epsom salts to try and reduce the swelling on the prolapsed vent. While she was soaking the chicken her son was to go to CVS and purchase some OB lube. In hindsight I should have sent him to a farm supply store instead as it would have saved some embarrassment. While farm stores carry OB lube for calving and lambing, apparently CVS doesn't. The son called me and asked what he could use as a substitute and the next best thing I could come up with was personal lubricant. Did you know that personal lubricants come in a variety of flavors, scents, and colors? Well, I didn't, but I do now. I could tell from the tone in my client's son's voice that, while a mature 19 year old, he still felt very awkward about having to ask me



which scent I thought the chicken would like best. After further discussion he had a box of latex gloves and unscented, unflavored personal lubricant and was headed to the check out counter. I told him he should just tell the cashier it is for his chicken if he felt awkward with those purchases. That didn't ease his embarrassment.

After successfully arriving back home with necessary supplies, I instructed the mom on what to do. With a gloved hand coated in lubricant, she determined that the chicken was in fact not egg bound. Instead she just suffered from a prolapsed vent. This would prove fairly easy to fix. The vent was lubed up and gently pushed back into the chicken. The mother was instructed to do this every time she saw that it had prolapsed. If

that was unsuccessful the chicken would have to come to the clinic for me to suture the vent inside. The chicken was also to be started on a high liquid diet (fruit, melon, etc) to further liquify the excrement. A couple days later, the chicken was back to normal.

While not something that I advertise at the clinic, I have enjoyed the poultry patients that I have treated. The chickens have surprised me with their resilience and cooperation. While I certainly do not consider myself to be a chicken specialist, chickens often get better after very basic veterinary care. Although not everyone is willing to spend money treating a chicken, the reward of seeing a happy, clucking, pet hen, wandering the yard, is worth a lot to many of us.



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THE MASTER GARDENER

The winter gardener – growing orchids

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master
Gardener Coordinator

Now that the holidays are just about over, clean up time from all the festivities is our next chore. Many times as gardeners, we either give plants as gifts or receive them. After the holidays we may be left with plants like Christmas cactus, poinsettias, and Norfolk Island pines. However, there is a new face on the winter market for us gardeners that is now easily accessible and often received or given as gifts, and that is the orchid.

Not only has the orchid entered the market place through the win-

ter months as an interesting plant to care for, but it has been used as a decorating tool as well. Centerpieces and focal points in the home have offered wonderful places for the orchid to show its wares. Since many orchids bloom during the winter months, it gives us as gardeners something green to nurture through the long, winter days.

Once upon a time, before kids, I grew orchids. Not in a big way – I didn't have a greenhouse or anything like that – but I had a huge window, ceiling to floor, that the orchids just loved. Lady's Slippers, moth orchids, dendrobiums, cymbidiums all seemed to love my window and the environment that they

lived. The greenhouse that I worked at the time had a huge orchid collection. We divided, cared and sold beautiful orchids throughout the year, but the winter was absolutely the peak for flowering as well as interest in the orchids. Everything I learned about these incredibly cool plants was from those I worked with and the work I did with the orchids. Growing orchids became a fun winter gardening project for me as it did for many of our customers.

Then my husband and I had a baby. As they say, life changes once a little one comes into it, and my orchid collection certainly was one of those things that changed. One by one, my orchids either dried up or fell down and broke. We moved to a new home, had a second child, and I got a new job! As a result of all this change, I neglected the orchids to the point of death. Hence - no more orchids for me.

Now that one of our daughters is in college, the other halfway through high school, my interest in tropical plants, specifically orchids, is starting to grow again. Not that I have lots of free time; I'm just ready to allocate it differently. I blame this renewed interest on my friend who has two huge hibiscus -tropical plants that do fine in the house with great care. After admiring hers



and three years of trying to grow hibiscus in my house and quickly giving up, I'm ready to tackle the commitment again. Along with the hibiscus, I have a moth orchid that I am having great success. I think I have found the right lighting for the plants and a room that I can keep the kittens out of! But here's the thing, I need to relearn the trade of growing orchids again.

In my search, I am reminded how easy it can be with a bit of effort.

Some generalizations can be made when it comes to orchid growing. Generally speaking, east facing windows are best. Direct sun is less tolerated by most orchids. Watering once per week, generally, is accept-

able. And placing the orchid on a tray of pebbles allows for higher humidity around the plant.

The potting medium depends on the type of orchid. Some orchids, like Cymbidiums and Paphiopedilums (considered terrestrial or semi-terrestrial), like a more traditional potting mix of fir bark, peat moss, perlite, while other orchids, like phalaenopsis, cattleya and oncidium (considered epiphytes) prefer a mix of fir bark, charcoal and perlite.

Fertilization is a requirement for growing orchids. Depending on the genus, some may require more than others. But generally, an orchid food mixed at half the recommended rate and applied weekly is probably a good overall feeding schedule.

Repotting of most orchids can and probably should be done yearly. The potting medium of the epiphytes tends to break down, and as the media breaks down, roots tend to rot. Be sure you're using the correct potting medium for the type of orchid you're working with.

The most common orchid you find in big box stores is the moth orchid, or phalaenopsis. Often in colors of varying shade of pink, white and yellows, this orchid is commonly called moth orchid due to the configuration of the petals. The phalaenopsis is probably the easiest to grow orchid. However when purchasing orchids in these stores they typically come in a plastic pot or a container with no drainage- not the best growing conditions for any orchid. So placing them in an eastern window and watering weekly is ideal until the flowering is complete, which can last as long as 4 months!

After the plant is finished blooming, it is recommended to repot the orchid from the plastic container into an orchid pot or clay pot. Drainage is much better and you are less likely to overwater in the correct container. Set the plant back on the tray of pebbles. As the water drains through the pot, some will go into the pebbles, creating a little extra humidity around the plant. Do not allow the growing tips of the roots to rest in the water. This will cause rotting.

Oncidiums can be treated the same way. The long sprays of flowers, typically yellow-based in color, are very showy when in bloom. I haven't seen lots of these in stores, but they are just as easy as the moth

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener Persuasion

Marianne Willburn

I don't get back to California very often. When I manage to find a few weeks in the winter, an extended visit is usually called for in order to adequately serve up willing grandchildren to hungry grandparents and ravenous aunts and uncles. This is of course made possible by the generosity of my husband, who forgoes his chief bottle washer for the company of an aged Labrador, and half-heartedly tries to keep the potted boxwood alive in my absence. He hasn't succeeded yet, but that's a tale for another day.

My mother is always overjoyed at the news we are visiting. Shopping trips to my hometown thrift stores are planned, used book stores will be ravished, grandchildren will be fed on diets of baked custard and pancakes, and she and I will spend our mornings with black coffee in hand passionately discussing the state of the world over poached eggs.

My father is rather more sanguine about the visit. He knows what will happen after I finish my coffee, set the children off exploring and put on a pair of jeans. Inspired by a mild Californian winter, we shall begin a project – and more often than not, it will be a project in the garden. It will involve hard physical work, strained muscles and tense moments. Yet there will be much laughter and joking, even if there are times we don't feel like finishing.

However, getting my father's mind round these larger undertakings is always the hardest part. Thus when I say, "Dad, I'm coming out for a visit – put the project list together," there is a little tremor in his voice as he answers, "What wonderful news...here's your mother."

My father has always been the king of "little projects." As I child, I watched him come home from work, take a few minutes with the paper and then don his "grubbies" to take care of a faulty brake light, fencing gone awry, hillsides that needed seeding, or one of many other nuisance jobs that plague the home owner with property and a two car garage. Yet he never seemed to mind the tasks he chose to undertake. They were always a challenge – a chance to be outside and away from the stifle of office paperwork and florescent lighting.

The jobs he did not willingly choose to undertake however – also known as 'my mother's jobs' – were and are a different story – and that's where I come in: as

interpreter and general mediator between a woman who just wants an attractive deer fence after thirty years of nibbled azaleas, and a man who thinks chicken wire zip-tied to metal T stakes is an eye-catching solution.

Now, I am an extremely handy woman. A hammer rests comfortably in the palm of my hand and I have more than a little experience with a post-hole digger and a chisel. I am also not married to my father, which would instantly place my project suggestions within the jurisdiction of spousal deafness – I know, I have a husband of my own.

The bottom line is, I believe that my father grudgingly respects my opinion. That is not to say that there is not a certain amount of cajoling, a few wine-filled evenings (it is California after all), and a final tense moment when he reluctantly comes round to the idea that mine (read: my mother's) is the true path after all.

My poor mother just rolls her eyes to the sky, thinks upon her heavenly reward, and has an extra large glass of Cabernet with her spaghetti that evening.

Once my father has been jollied round, nothing can stop him in his quest to start the project. For instance, the morning after Operation Deer Fence had been slated, I woke at seven am to the sounds of him pacing off the garden perimeter, paper and pencil in hand. He'd been up for hours.

"This is going to be a great fence – a really nice looking fence." He exclaimed as he saw my sleepy face peering at him from an open window. From my parent's bedroom on the other side of the house, I heard my mother groan and the sound of glass breaking.

For the next three weeks we dug holes, planted posts, trimmed pickets and butchered shrubs that got in the way of our manic efforts to make the best darn deer fence west of the Rocky Mountains. We were successful – supremely so.

And when my father stood back on that last day, surveyed our hard work and said, "We should have done this twenty-five years ago," it is a testament to my mother's strength and endurance that she did not hit him over the head with the sledgehammer lying a mere five feet away. Truly she is a remarkable woman.

I can only hope that, in a few years time, my own daughter shares my extraordinary powers of paternal persuasion. I'm putting together the list for her father right now.

orchid and just a showy.

Cattleya, often referred to as the corsage orchid, is a beautiful flower, but unlike some of the commonly grown orchids, the foliage is less than lovely. In its native environment, it is found on tree trunks and branches, with the roots clinging to the bark. So when we adapt it to our growing environment, the plant loses some of its beauty, with the exception of the beautiful flowers.

The cattleya sends out new growth yearly, and each of the pseudobulbs will send up a flower or group of flowers. When a plant begins to flower, a reduction in water will reduce the chances of rotting the flower, as the flowers are protected by a thin sheath.

Another easy to grow orchid is the Paphiopedilum, or lady's slipper. This is not the same lady's slipper that is native to our area, but this one is found in India, China, Southeast Asia and the Pacific islands. It has very unique flowers and does not require as much

humidity as some of the other orchids. The wonderful thing about the lady's slipper is the foliage; it is pretty and interesting as well as the flower. The leaves are often mottled, making this orchid attractive even when it's not in bloom. Since it is a terrestrial orchid, it can be treated very similar to any other houseplant.

Cymbidium is another terrestrial orchid. If you treat it much like the lady's slipper, you should have pretty good success. It seems the biggest challenge in growing this genus of orchid is getting it to rebloom. As with many of the orchids, a slight drop in temperature is necessary to induce bloom. Cymbidiums are very sensitive to this. They must have a temperature drop to maybe 50 degrees and reduced watering.

There it is! My recap, reminder and encouragement to try growing this fun group of plants! Find the right window, start with an easy orchid, and just keep growing!

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

The invasion of Pennsylvania

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Civil War Historian

Part 2

Making room for the Army of the Potomac, General Howard marched his Corps toward Jefferson, Maryland. During the early hours of June 25th, General John Reynolds ordered General Oliver O. Howard to send a brigade of infantry along with a battery of rifled guns to report to General Julius Stahel and his cavalry at Crampton's Gap.

On June 26th, General Oliver O. Howard's 11th Corps began to occupy the mountain gaps along South Mountain. His headquarters was located at the Cookery farm outside of Middletown. General Howard posted one brigade at Crampton's Gap, one at Turner's Gap, and another brigade on the road to Burkittsville and the final brigade on the Hagerstown Road. During the evening General Howard sent a dispatch to General Reynolds that stated that no Confederate force reported to have been seen at Crampton's Gap. General John Reynolds led his 1st Corps to Jefferson, Maryland and would proceed to Middletown the following day.

General Julius Stahel reported to General Reynolds through a dispatch that the whole Confederate Army had passed through Hagerstown and was now in Pennsylvania. General Anderson's Division of General A.P. Hill Corps had passed through Boonsboro on the 25th at around 6 a.m. He also reported that General Ewell's Corps had passed through Hagerstown and was heading toward Harrisburg. He had about 25,000 troops along with sixty-six pieces of artillery. A portion of General Ewell's Corps was seen in Smithsburg with at least sixteen pieces of artillery. He then reported that a small band of Confederate cavalry

was located in Boonsboro, but soon moved on.

General Stahel's deployment was stretched all across South Mountain. He had one brigade and a section of artillery posted at Crampton's Gap as well as a brigade and two sections of artillery from General Howard's Corps. He had one regiment at Turner's Gap and one brigade and two sections of artillery at Middletown.

During the morning of June 27th, General David B. Birney was ordered by General Reynolds to send one infantry brigade and a battery of rifle guns to Crampton's Gap to relieve the forces of General Howard once he arrived in the neighborhood of Jefferson and Burkittsville. While General Howard's men at Crampton's Gap were waiting to be relieved, Colonel William D. Mann commanding the 7th Michigan Cavalry occupied Turner's Gap and sent patrols throughout the Cumberland Valley toward Hagerstown. He reported that four hundred Confederate cavalry and three pieces of artillery were in the area of Jones' Crossroads. Most of the Confederate forces had left Hagerstown and were concentrating their efforts at Chambersburg. Some of Colonel Mann's scouts reported that large quantities of supplies were being sent back to Virginia. During the Invasion of Pennsylvania, the Confederate Army was gathering supplies and sending them from Chambersburg to Winchester, Virginia and the empty wagons would come back and be refilled again.

General Adolph Von Steinwehr commanding the 11th Corps' Second Division sent a dispatch to General John Reynolds who was at Middletown that his scouts had seen portions of Stuart's Cavalry pass through Williamsport during the afternoon. This may be part of the cavalry force that was foraging the farms of Penn-



sylvania and returning the goods to Winchester. These foraging excursions happened throughout the Pennsylvania Campaign. In preparation of any Confederate advance toward Frederick, General Steinwehr deployed his force at Turner's Gap. Colonel Charles R. Coster's Brigade was deployed near Turner's Gap; Colonel Orland Smith's Second Brigade occupied the summit of Turner's Gap with one regiment connecting to Colonel Coster's First Brigade. The artillery was left with the Colonel Coster's First Brigade and if necessary were to be brought up in a half hours time. He also had outposts scattered all over South Mountain. Washington Monument was used because of the view of the valley below.

During the afternoon, General Oliver O. Howard occupied Turner's Gap and sat up his headquarters at the Mountain House. General Howard also reported that he saw no threat of the Confederate Army in or around Boonsboro or the Valley. Colonel Smith had Captain Buchwalter of the 73rd Ohio Infantry operate the signal station at Washington Monument. Captain Buchwalter noted that one can clearly distinguish the roads leading from Boonsboro to Hagerstown, Sharpsburg, and Shepherdstown, and did not see any troops moving upon them, except the Union cavalry.

Lt. Colonel Asmusse who served as the 11th Corps Chief of Staff reported that Confederate cavalry was driving cattle and horses through the valley toward Williamsport. He also noted that pickets were set in the fields outside of Hagerstown, Maryland. The headquarters of the Army of the Potomac moved to Frederick, and an attempt was made to open communication between Frederick and the station on Sugar Loaf Mountain, which proved unsuccessful due to the unfavorable condition of the atmosphere. A station of observation was established at Middletown, and communication opened from there to another point of observation at South Mountain Pass, and the results were reported to Generals John F. Reynolds and Oliver O. Howard.

During the Pennsylvania Campaign, all four companies of Cole's Cavalry Battalion were detached and each company was to act as an independent organization. On June 27th, Lieutenant William A. Horner asked permission to take a dozen men and go through the Confederate lines for reconnaissance. After some debate Captain Albert Hunter, commanding Company C of Cole's Cavalry allowed a dozen of his troopers to go on scout. Lieutenant Horner's detachment came out at Boonsboro and traveled to Waynesboro crossing over South Mountain at Monterey Pass and riding horseback to Fountain Dale.

Pegram's Artillery reached Maryland late in the evening on June 25th, crossing the Potomac River at Boteler's Ford. From there they traveled the roads that led into Hagerstown. Private John C. Goolsby who was a member of Crenshaw's Artillery recorded "We had the pleasure of seeing numerous Confederate flags displayed, which the boys greeted with loud bursts of applause. After camping awhile near the town, we broke camp and soon struck the Little Antietam stream, crossed it, and were soon in the land of milk and apple-butter--Pennsylvania. What a sight greeted our eyes! This is a beautiful country, and we reached it at a season of the year when the whole earth was wrapped in nature's best attire--the velvet green. The roads were fine."

The next day the artillerist would be in Pennsylvania. Private Goolsby continued: "We pushed on and soon struck the village of Waynesboro, where United States flags were displayed in great numbers, which, of course, we greeted pleasantly. Another day's journey brought us to the foot of Cash [South] Mountain, where we had several men captured."

By the time that parts of Pegram's Artillery Battalion had encamped at Fayetteville they had lost several horses. Because of the concerned state the horses were in, Lieutenant John Hampden (Ham) Chamberlayne led a small detail soldiers from Purcell, Crenshaw, and Lecture's Batteries and made their way

through Franklin County into Adams County where they came to Fairfield.

From Fairfield, Lieutenant Chamberlayne's men traveled toward Monterey when they came across a small church at Fountain Dale on June 28th. A small Lutheran Church, located on Old Waynesboro Pike near present day Jacks Mountain Road is where the encounter of Fountain Dale took place. It was Sunday and church services were underway. Lieutenant Ham Chamberlayne saw about 20 horses tied to a post and decided that these horses were exactly what his battery needed.

Lieutenant Chamberlayne opened the door of the church and rushed in with his pistol drawn and demanded that each person give up their horse and that they would be paid in full by means of a treaty between the Confederate States Government and the United States Government. No dispute was made and Lieutenant Chamberlayne then walked back outside and untied the horses.

As Lieutenant Chamberlayne's men started for their camp, a detachment of cavalry was spotted coming down Waynesboro Pike. This was a small squad of horsemen under the command of Lt. William A. Horner. Seeing rebel horsemen near the church Lt. Horner, order his squad to halt near a brick school house near the Lutheran Church and try to intercept them.

It was at this time that Lieutenant Ham Chamberlayne hand-selected 6 men who had revolvers to turn and make a stand with him, while the others made their escape. Lieutenant Chamberlayne led his men directly toward Horner's men and charged. A clash erupted between these two forces and Chamberlayne and his six men were taken prisoner. After the skirmish, Horner's Keystone Rangers retired with their prisoners to Emmitsburg. Only nine men of the detail made it safely back to Fayetteville. Sometime after the skirmish, local residents were encouraged to take inventory of their livestock and to report any missing animals to the local sheriff.

To be continued next month

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HISTORY

Glimpses of Fairfield Area's Past

Interesting Facts About Early Times

In the beginning

Part 1 of many

Originally published in 1976 by the Fairfield Area Bicentennial Committee: Gary H. Bechtel, Chairman; Edward Kane, Vice Chairman; Nancy Hartman, Secretary; Ira McGlaughlin, Treasurer. Special thanks to Mr. James Landis for providing us with the book and photos.

Where does it all begin? We know that the Indians lived in this country for several thousand years prior to the coming of European settlers. For over 100 years the settlers lived in relative peace with their Indian neighbors. Both William Penn and Lord Baltimore tried to deal fairly with the Indians by making treaties with them and by purchasing from the Indians the land that Penn and Lord Baltimore had received in royal grants from their English sovereigns.

In early years, most of the present Adams County, Pennsylvania, was claimed by Maryland - that is, the land lying south of the 40th parallel. This parallel is an east-west line, which passes through middle of Philadelphia and about a mile north of Bendersville in Adams County. Thus, the original grants for land tracts in this area came from Lord Baltimore through his agent, John Carroll, and his heirs.

Fairfield lies in the southern part of the tract called "Carroll's Delight," which is a 5,000-acre plot of land also known as the Upper Tract, and includes the valley north of Orrtanna. Lying southeast of this tract, and about two miles southeast of Fairfield, was the Lower Tract, or Carrollsburg, which started just east of McKee's Hill and extended south into Maryland.

In 1692 William Penn formed three counties: Bucks, Philadel-

phia and Chester. As the population grew in the western areas, new counties were formed in 1729 Lancaster county was formed from Chester County; in 1749 York County was formed from Lancaster County; and finally, in 1800, Adams County was formed from York County.

The "Manor of Maske" one of the larger parcels of land for Penn's own use, was surveyed in 1766. This rectangular estate measured six miles by twelve miles. Its southwestern corner was the 84th milestone, just north of Emmitsburg on the Mason-Dixon Line. It extended twelve miles north, close to McKnightstown, with Mummasburg on the northern boundary and Shriver's Corners at the northeast corner, and encompassed what is now Gettysburg. The Manor was a short distance east of Carroll's Delight and Carrollsburg.

The principal area covered in this pamphlet encompasses the present Adams County townships of Hamiltonban and Liberty, the boroughs of Fairfield (1801) and Carroll Valley (1974), and the towns of Orrtanna, Virginia Mills, Zora, Mount Hope, Fountaindale, and Iron Springs. In early years, Liberty, Freedom and Highland townships were a part of Hamiltonban. The Reading Howell map, published in 1792, shows both the towns of Fairfield and McKessensburg.

Two major overlapping claims existed for this Adams County land. Penn's claim to the lower portion of Pennsylvania was based on a royal grant from King Charles II of England. Lord Baltimore's claim was based on a royal grant from Charles I. The boundary line was finally established by two English surveyors, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, who surveyed the line during the peri-

od from 1764 to 1767.

Boundary points were marked every mile with milestones set with a "P" on the Pennsylvania side and an "M" on the Maryland side. Every fifth stone was called a brownstone with Penn's British crown on the Pennsylvania side and Lord Baltimore's coat of arms on the Maryland side. Although the line was accepted by both sides. Disagreements continued for many years.

While searching through burned rubbish from the capital building in Harrisburg, Daniel Jacobs, of Arendtsville and some associates found a map that changed the recorded history of Adams County. According to this map, John Hans Steelman was the first settler in Adams County west of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania about 1718, the year that William Penn died. However, this fact was not known for almost 200 years. The reason for this error seems to be a bureaucratic mix-up.

It seems that Samuel Blunston, a justice of the peace in Wrightsville, issued the licenses for the Penns for tracts in Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River. He recorded the settlers' grants before they were surveyed. When the survey was made, the settlers' lands were marked off on the map in Blunston's office. The map showing Steelman's claim was sent to Harrisburg and then forgotten.

Other Blunston records show the first license for land use in Adams County was granted to Philom McLaughlin for 200 acres on April 8, 1735. James Wilson received the second license.

Histories of this area written during the 19th century describe the first settler in Adams County as being Andrew Shriver who arrived in the spring of 1734. He located three miles east of the pres-



Fairfield ~ 1912

ent site of Littlestown near Christ Reformed Church. With his brother, he came by wagon from Maryland carrying the basics to establish a new home in a land sparsely populated with only a few Indians.

At the age of 63, John Hans Steelman established himself in Adams County at a location about a mile east of Zora. Steelman was born of Swedish parents in Philadelphia in 1655 and died in 1749 at the age of 94. Two sons are mentioned in the disposition of his estate, namely Peter Hance and John Hance Steelman, Jr.

Captain Hans or Hance, as he was called, came to Adams County from the Maryland Province where he had lived an adventurous life as an Indian trader and interpreter. In 1699 and 1700, he assisted William Penn in making treaties and dealing with the Indians. Later, in 1740, in Chancery Court, he and Colonel Hance Hamilton corroborated testimony given by the Indians supporting Penn's claim that the northern boundary of Maryland was near its present location instead of at the 40th parallel as claimed by Lord Baltimore. Steelman man located the ruins of an old Indi-

an fort called Susquehanna and produced enough evidence to convince the Court that this was part of the landmark identified by Penn and the Indians in one of their treaties.

Steelman's establishment was a trading post where the Indians brought their furs until about 1739 when the Shawnees moved westward into the Ohio and Allegheny River Valleys. The Indian trail or path from "Paxtang to Captain Hance's" is mentioned in various land licenses recorded by Samuel Bulston for tracts west of the Susquehanna River. Such paths started at the Susquehanna River opposite Paxtant (Harrisburg) and ran through the Dillsburg Gap, southwardly across Dogwood Run and lands of James Wilson and Phillon McLaughlin. It passed west of Gettysburg and crossed Marsh Creek near the present site of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church.

Landholder later surrounding the Steelman tract were: Henry Precher, and Joseph McKee on the north, William Porter on the west, James Agnew II on the south, and William "Coughran" and Henry and Henry Welty on the east.

Part 2 next month



John Hanson Steelman marker at the intersection of Topper and Crum roads

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Marie Burkard



Dorothy Marie Burkard, 85, of Emmitsburg, died peacefully on Sunday, December 16, at her home. Born July 2, 1927 and originally from Mineola, Long Island, New York, she was the daughter of the late Aloysius West-erfield and Elizabeth Frances (O'Connor) Sprinkle. She was the wife of the late Frederick Joseph Burkard who passed away in 1982.

Dorothy attended Marymount College and Juillard School of Music. She taught piano while raising her children and was the organist at St. James Church in Setauket, New York for over 25 years. She was President of the Legion of Mary and a realtor and sailor. Dorothy was a woman of faith and a great evangelizer. She was the founder of St. Philomena's Catholic Book Store in Emmitsburg and a lover of good books.

Surviving are 4 children; Kathleen Marie Delaney of Ave Maria, FL, Frederick Michael Burkard of Hagerstown Sister Louis Marie Burkard of Emmitsburg and Patricia Ann Williamson of Mill Valley, CA. She is also survived by 3 grandchildren, Claire Marie Herrick, Michael Daniel Delaney, and Timothy Joseph Delaney. Dorothy was predeceased by an infant daughter, Mary Anne Burkard, and one brother, James W. Sprinkle.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, on December 19. Interment was at St. Anthony Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 47 DePaul St., Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

George Meade Eyler

Mr. George Meade Eyler, 100, of Thurmont, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 8, at St. Catherines Nursing Center in Emmitsburg, with his daughter by his side.

He was the husband of the late Odessa Irene Smith Eyler and his first wife, the late, Dorothy Frances Woodward Eyler. Born September 6, 1912 in Emmitsburg, on the Patterson Farm, he was the son of the late Robert David and Lula Trout Eyler.

Meade graduated from Emmitsburg High School in 1930, living in the surrounding areas his entire life. As a young man he worked with his father on the State Roads around Emmitsburg. Farming was his passion, what he loved most. His last farming was spent on the Ewart Terpenning Farm, North Rt 15 until the 1950's, raising turkeys and steers.

One of his proudest moments was showing "Broadhooks Maid" a heifer at the Maryland State Fair, in Towson, winning ribbons. Meade or "General George Meade" as he was called by some, was known for his storytelling, capturing the attention of those whose families he knew or their ancestors before. He liked to speak of the old days, historical events that took place years ago as a young man, and of course farming.



After leaving the farm he worked at Gall and Smith Feed Mill for several years and as a custodian at Thurmont Middle School retiring, after 20 years, in 1978. He is survived by his daughter Patricia J. Raymond and son-in-law Henry Eugene Raymond of Lovettsville, VA and a host of nieces, nephews and their families. He was preceded in death by his sisters Ruth Fitz, Dorothy Warehime, Elizabeth Hawk and Esther Baker.

A special expression of gratitude is extended to those caregivers who cared for Meade at home in Thurmont, during his illness and to his family and friends who visited and supported him during his stay at St. Catherines. Many thanks to St. Catherine's Staff for their empathy, compassion and care. Funeral services were held at the Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church with Rev. Jon Greenstone officiating. Interment was at the Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

Stanley Andrew, Sr.

George Stanley Andrew Sr., 88, of Emmitsburg, died peacefully Wednesday December 12, at St. Catherine Nursing Center. Born November 10, 1924 in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Russell and Nellie Bowser Andrew. He was the husband of Margaret Wetzel Andrew, to whom he was married for 65 years.

George was a member of the Incarnation United Church of Christ. He was a plumber for many years and then worked as a carpenter until his retirement at age 62. The family would like to thank the staff at Saint Catherine Nursing Center for giving him excellent care.

Surviving in addition to his wife are son, George Stanley



Andrew, Jr. and wife, Martha of Emmitsburg; daughter, Darlene Marie Wivell and husband, Stan of Thurmont; 4 grandchildren, Sherri Miller, Mike Andrew, Michelle Wivell, and Stan Wivell Jr.; 6 great-grandchildren, Danielle Kidd and husband Brad, Amanda Walker and husband, Mike, Shelbey Miller, Nicole and Madison Andrew, and David Gelwicks; 1 great-great-grandchild, Elizabeth Page Walker; brother, Earl Andrew of Emmitsburg. He was predeceased by 3 brothers, Charles, Richard and Joseph Andrew; and a sister Vera Eiker.

Funeral services were held on December 17 at Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Katie Penick, pastor of Incarnation United Church of Christ, officiating. Interment followed at Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens in Gettysburg.

Gilbert V. Eiker, Sr

Gilbert V. Eiker, Sr., age 91, life-long resident of Emmitsburg died unexpectedly on Friday, December 21 at his home.

Born April 26, 1921 in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Frank Samuel Eiker and Laura (VanSickle) Eiker. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Regina Mary (Lingg) Eiker in 2007.

Gil was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving as a Tech. Sgt. during WWII in the European Theater, Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded a Bronze Star. He worked as a baker for Mt. St. Mary's University for 22 years, and later worked from 1962 until his retirement for Moore business forms in the maintenance department. He was a proud of his family heritage and to be the grandson of a Civil War Veteran. He was an avid coon and fox hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman. He was a life member of the American Legion Post 121, V.F.W. Post 6658, and the Indian Lookout Conservation Club. In his early years he enjoyed archery along with his brothers.

Surviving are a son, Gilbert V. Eiker, Jr. and wife Rebecca of Rocky Ridge; grandchildren, Brian C. Eiker and wife Jennifer, Barry



A. Eiker, and Erin N. Eiker; great-grandchildren, Megan Eiker, Nathaniel and Susannah Krom; numerous nieces and nephews; and special caregivers and friends, Cathy and Tony Redman of Emmitsburg.

He was pre-deceased by a daughter, Lois L. Eiker Sears; and was the last of his immediate family predeceased by 3 brothers and 3 sisters; as well as by a grandson, Steven K. Krom; and great-grandson, Andrew C. Eiker.

Funeral services were held December 28, at the Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, Emmitsburg with John C. Morrill funeral celebrant. Interment with military honors followed in the New St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

Mary Theresa Topper

Mary Theresa Topper, 85, of Mechanicsburg, PA, formerly of Emmitsburg, died Wednesday, December 12, at Bethany Village in Mechanicsburg. Born February 12, 1927 in Emmitsburg, she was the daughter of the late Guy and Stella Long Topper.

Mary worked for the United States government, serving in the Office of Personnel at Fort Detrick in Frederick for many years. She was a communicant of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg where she received her baptism and confirmation. She was a member of the church's Rosary Society, Altar Society, and Miraculous Medal Society. She enjoyed playing the organ and piano. Theresa loved her hometown of Emmitsburg.

Surviving are sister, Leota Topper of Mechanicsburg; cousins, Patricia Topper of Emmitsburg, Michael Topper and wife Nancy of Arizona, Jack Proff and wife Nancy of Thurmont, Ginny Lou Ridenour of Thurmont, Daniel Topper of Littlestown, PA, Mary Margaret Pitzer of Dillsburg, PA, Nancy Kram-



er and husband Ron of New Jersey; beloved niece, Marianne Ortenzio and husband Charles of Harrisburg, PA, as well as many other nieces & nephews. She was predeceased by sisters, Hilda Topper Gullo, Helen Topper, and Mary Adele Topper, and brothers, Carroll and Vincent Topper.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, December 15, 2012 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Charles F. Krieg, C.M. as celebrant. Interment was in the New St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Joseph Catholic Church Cemetery Fund.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

The Silent Service during the Cold War

Captain William Hicks, USN Ret.

Part 2

New construction pre-commissioning of USS Sunfish

I arrived in Quincy in July 1967 to report to the USS Sunfish (SSN-649) Pre-Commissioning (pre-com) Unit. Sunfish was a member of the USS Sturgeon SSN 637 Class. Sunfish was designed with a bullet shaped hull, a single screw, fairwater planes, and advanced engineering and weapons systems.

In 1967, the arms race of the Cold War was in full motion. The submarine construction rates were significant for both Strategic Missile Submarines (SSBN), completing the fleet of 41 in less than 10 years, and about 6 attack submarines (SSN) per year. At least eight different shipyards, public and private, were building and repairing nuclear submarines in 1967. An additional three public shipyards conducted repairs of nuclear submarines.

The Fore River Shipyard was one of the last yards to build nuclear submarines and they built only four. They had previously built a nuclear cruiser, USS Long Beach (CGN 9). New Construction was a very different adventure from any that I had experienced to date. In the shipyard, the precom unit is responsible for training and conduct of the nuclear test program since the Navy crewmembers are the only ones authorized to operate the nuclear reactor, and ultimately conduct the sea trials.

We were also responsible for inspection of the ship's systems as they were being built and tested by the shipyard. Prior to integrated operations of the nuclear reactor and propulsion plant, the precom unit assumed operational control of the systems. Our initial challenge was training and qualification of both ourselves and of the crew in readiness to conduct the

test program. Prior to being authorized to take the reactor critical we had to pass several examinations, including one by a group from the offices of Admiral Rickover.

Becoming qualified was a particular challenge for some of us since the Sunfish reactor and propulsion plant were very different from the ones upon which we had previously qualified. The Sargo reactor and propulsion plant was much different from that of the Sunfish. There was also no opportunity to observe the operations since the plant was under construction. I was the Main Propulsion Assistant (MPA) and a test program Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW). The test program took months, during which we were on shift working 10-12 hour days with one day off every two weeks or so.

Since I was the only unmarried EOOW, I spent most of my time on the midnight shift from 9pm until 8am, at which time I could start to work on my MPA responsibilities. It was a demanding schedule but usually involved stimulating and challenging tasks either in administration, which involved writing many procedures, operations, or training, or plant operational testing. Bringing the systems of the reactor plant, the propulsion plant, and the ship to life was a very different experience than anything that I had experienced thus far in my career.

The new construction test program of the nuclear reactor and propulsion plant was an exhilarating and learning experience. We stretched the plant to the limits of its design capabilities. Transient tests from 15% reactor power to 100% reactor power in 10 seconds and back to 15%—better than a Corvette. We verified the predicted response to various casualties. The test program not only provided a deep insight into the ca-

pabilities of the nuclear propulsion, but also an appreciation for the importance of the operational formality expectations of the Naval Nuclear Program.

During the test program, the necessity for formal communications, procedural adherence, and clear command and control at all times became apparent. While no incident during the test program caused serious damage, the after-action evaluations and lessons learned from the incidents that did occur usually pointed to a failure in operational formality as a root cause or significant contributor.

Sea Trials

The highlight of the new construction period is sea trails, following successful completion of the pier side test program. For the initial sea trials, Admiral Rickover is aboard and in charge, which adds a significant level of stress and challenge to an already challenging event. After all, this was the first time that the crew had operated together at sea with a ship that had never been to sea before. To add to the challenge, there was a severe nor'easter in the area.

The initial period of the sea trails is conducted on the surface and until certain tests are completed, the submarine is not authorized to submerge. By the time Sunfish was ready for the first dive, almost everyone aboard was sick—some too sick to stand normal watch. The presence of Admiral Rickover and his party just added to the challenge. All the required tests were completed satisfactorily within the planned two-day period, after which Admiral Rickover was to leave the ship.

However, due to the storm the conditions for personnel transfer could not be met, so we were privileged to have him aboard for a couple extra days, which was not a problem except the supply officer was getting low on the special treats that were onboard for the Admiral.

One of the milestones in the career of a nuclear submarine officer is to become qualified as engineer. Engineer qualification includes a comprehensive test and interviews at the headquarters of Naval Reactors, which may or may not include an interview with Admiral Rickover. Under normal circumstances, the prospective engineer has a dedicated period to study for the examination. In my case in new construction, the dedicated time to study was one Saturday and whatever time I could find while on shift work supporting the new construction efforts.

However, the time in my career had come to complete my engineer qualification, so off I went to Washington. Fortunately, I passed and was qualified as Engineer Officer of a Nuclear Submarine. Upon completion of the qualification as was the normal practice, I went to the Bureau of Naval Per-

sonnel to check with my detailer as to my choice of next assignment. He explained to me that since I was in new construction, I could not be transferred until at least commissioning, so he could not discuss next assignments—wrong!

Within a couple weeks following my return to Quincy, my commanding officer was informed that as soon as the next sea trial was completed, I was to be transferred to USS Dace SSN 607 as an engineer. And, by the way, Dace was in the middle of overhaul at the shipyard in Groton, Connecticut. So much for you cannot be transferred before commissioning. I was transferred to Dace in December 1968 after about 18 months of challenges and learning on the Sunfish Pre-commissioning Crew.

Back to Sea via the Shipyard

USS Dace SSN 607 was a Thresher Class nuclear attack submarine. The Thresher class also had the bullet shaped hull, single screw, and fairwater planes. It was smaller than the Sunfish with slightly less tactical capability. One significant difference as I would learn was that Dace was much harder to maintain than the later submarine classes. Dace was commissioned on 4 April 1964, before the sinking of Thresher. Thus Dace conducted operations for a number of years without the upgrades that resulted from the investigation of the sinking of Thresher.

In addition, since all of the attack submarines that were in the shipyard at the time of Thresher sinking were delayed to conduct additional inspections and modifications, Dace was one of the few operational assets available to carry out the Cold War missions against the Soviet forces. As the saying goes, "Dace was run hard and hung up wet."

Dace entered the Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton in the fall of 1968 for a planned six-month "mini-overhaul." The concept was to do only essential inspections and modifications and return the ship to the fleet as quickly as possible. In support of the short dura-



Captain William Hicks, USN Ret.

tion of the overhaul, a lot of maintenance was assigned to ship forces and the submarine tenders which supported the operating forces. While this plan sounded good on paper, it was not a successful strategy since most of the submarines that entered the shipyard under this plan did not come out for years. Shipyards are easy to enter but very hard to exit since the required material conditions for completion is high and there are numerous unknown or unanticipated issues that arise during the shipyard period.

However, the commanding officer of Dace, Commander K.R. McKee, was determined to finish on time and had a lot of contacts, strategies, and skills to make that happen. Commander McKee had established a truly incredible record as commanding officer on Dace and would ultimately become a four star Admiral and replace Admiral Rickover. When he set his mind to a plan, he usually pulled it off. The engineer officer who started the Dace overhaul had resigned and was to separate from active duty in the middle of the overhaul.

Commander McKee was determined to ensure his replacement had shipyard experience and a strong reputation in the nuclear power community. Based on his access to Naval Reactors where he had worked before coming to Dace, he determined that I might be the best available choice as his engineer to take over in the middle of overhaul. After all, I was in the shipyard and knew the challenges and understood test programs. He was not



Admiral Rickover preparing for a sea trial



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COLD WAR WARRIORS

deterred by the commitment that I not be transferred until the commissioning of Sunfish. So, off to Dace I went. I relieved as engineer officer in January 1969. Also of note, I was married in 1 February 1969 to a beautiful young lady who was a bit naïve, very brave, very capable, and still my main anchor after 43 years.

The challenges of Engineer in a shipyard overhaul are similar to new construction but more complex due to the requirement to maintain control of the ship systems and reactor, train for the resumption of operations, maintain ship cleanliness, and in the case of Dace, do a significant amount of overhaul work such as valve and pump maintenance. My experience with many of these additional tasks was limited to my time as weapons officer on Sargo, where the standards for maintenance and particularly system control were a bit looser than in a shipyard overhaul. However, Commander McKee was very much a presence to ensure all went correctly and the members of the engineering department were well trained and led so that we stayed out of the spotlight of schedule delays. Commander McKee had also convinced Admiral Rickover that we were so good and the overhaul so short that we did not require a Post Overhaul Reactor Safeguards Examination (PORSE).

At the time I did not realize how significant a coup that was, but it may have been the only time before or since that the rules for the PORSE requirement were waived. As a result, the Dace overhaul proceeded with little schedule delay and we proceeded to sea trials in the spring of 1969. Post overhaul sea trials contain most of the elements of new construction with the significant difference that Admiral Rickover was not involved.

The sea trials were generally successful with one significant glitch: the ship could not submerge in the manner calculated. It turned out that some of the lead ballast had not been reinstalled or accurately calculated. With that issue resolved, trials were completed and Dace rejoined the fleet as a member of Submarine Squadron 10 at State Pier in New London, Connecticut with USS Fulton (AS 11) as the tender.

Job of a Nuclear Submarine's Engineer Officer

The job of Engineer of a operational nuclear submarine can be described as three overlapping but distinct tasks: ensuring operations of the nuclear propulsion plant and the ship systems are conducted in accordance

with the established procedures and the necessary discipline to ensure reliability and safety, managing training and qualification of the officers and crew and performance of the personnel duties of department head, and overseeing and managing the corrective and preventative maintenance of the ship and propulsion systems. In addition, the engineer was a department head and one of the senior officers in the wardroom. This role required personal qualification as an officer of the deck surfaced and submerged and as a key member of the fire control, damage control and battle stations parties. Of all these responsibilities, I believe the hardest and most important was the engineer's role in maintenance.

Dace was a very hard ship to maintain. The systems had not been well designed for maintenance as they were compressed into the hull configuration of the submarine. The systems had experienced a lot of wear, so many valves leaked and joints were not always sealed. The overhaul had not addressed many of these issues. Anytime a steam or seawater system was opened, I was never sure how hard it would be to get it sealed and recertified. It only took one failed hydrostatic test or steam test to keep the ship from getting underway on time. Our maintenance periods were short and the tender support shared among many old, tired submarines, which meant the crew was assigned an oversized role in conduct of difficult maintenance tasks. Our operational obligations were important even though Dace was not a "first line" submarine. That role was being filled by the newer SSN 637 class submarines like Sunfish.

When overhaul sea trials were complete, Dace returned to Submarine Squadron Ten (CSS 10) at State Pier in New London Ct alongside USS Fulton, AS 11. Following return to the fleet, Dace conducted a number of weapons system calibrations and checks as well as acoustic trials. These trials were all held in the Caribbean with stops in Bermuda, Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico, Saint Croix in the Virgin Islands and Grand Bahamas Island en route to the acoustic and weapons range at Andros Island in the Bahamas. We were accompanied on the trip by a number of wives and for Mary and me, it was the closest thing we had to a honeymoon. The trip was successful and relatively uneventful and we returned to New London in a fully operational status.

Operations in the Mediterranean

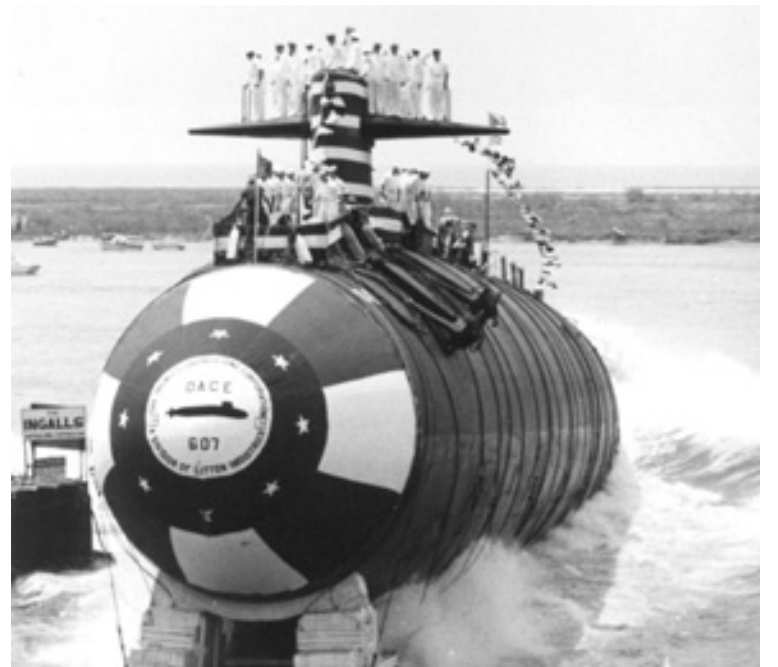
For the following 2.5 years, during which time I was Engineer, Dace was an active and reliable unit of the Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force. Dace participated in many training and development exercises. Dace successfully completed operational readiness and operational reactor safeguards examinations. During those years, Dace made two deployments of four months each to the Mediterranean Sea (Med) since Dace was no longer considered the most capable asset to conduct special operations in waters close to Soviet operations. The Med was an extremely challenging, operational area for many reasons.

First, there was essentially no support for a nuclear submarine, which meant we were on our own to maintain the ship. In addition, no port had shore power and few ports permitted nuclear ships to come pier side. This required anchoring out and if the reactor was to be shutdown to support a better liberty schedule, the ship's power was from the diesel engine and the battery. The diesel engine was undersized so that there was very little air conditioning and the battery was slowly discharged, a tenuous situation that weighed heavily on the Engineer. Operations in the Med were always unpredictable.

On our initial entry to the Med, we were scheduled to transit to Naples in four days. Three weeks later, we anchored in Athens Harbor, having not gotten to Naples. On another occasion, when we were scheduled for a weekend port visit to La Spezia, Italy, a diplomatic disagreement as to where we were to anchor resulted in the visit being cancelled and Dace spending the period providing submarine target services to some ASW aircraft; this was not how we had looked forward to spending the weekend.

At that time, there was a heavy Soviet presence in the Med. The Soviets had no port access in the Med, so they established anchorages with support ships and command units all at anchor. The warships and submarines would come and go from the anchorages just like to a port. We spent much of our time watching the Soviet fleet and anchorages, which were located in several locations including east and west of Crete, near Libya, and near Tunisia.

Operating at periscope depth while being close enough to the anchorage to see, but not too close to be detected was always a delicate balance. We also spent some time monitoring action in the Strait of Sicily, which is one of the busiest shipping corridors



The USS Dace being launched

in the Med. Operating in those traffic lanes at periscope depth was challenging, exciting, and hazardous. The Soviets also had a number of submarines in the Med, so we were always on the lookout to monitor their activities, which usually involved submerged following, which was a continual "cat and mouse" activity with the challenges being to not lose contact, not be detected, and avoid collision. It kept the adrenaline flowing. We were not always successful in this regard, but we were pretty good.

Following our return to New London after the Med deployments and after extended tactical or training deployments in the Atlantic, Dace would be scheduled for a four week maintenance upkeep alongside the Fulton, AS 11. We were usually one of about three to five units in upkeep. The capacity of the Fulton was limited; so much of the work fell to ships force who had just returned from sea or was deferred which could compromise reliability or capability. It was during these maintenance periods that I had the most stress and challenge as engineer. Starting the work and doing the work was usually not too hard, although you never knew what would be found when a system or component was opened for maintenance and inspection. However, the most significant challenge was getting the systems reassembled and retested to resume operations. Dace was designed for operation and not for maintenance. Components were had to access and hard to isolate if they were in a system. Removal of a component from a pressure system required hydrostatic retesting and many of the old and flexed joints would leak causing more work.

To make matters more challenging, closing systems and retesting was always late in the availability so problems jeopardized the scheduled operations. The question "Engineer, are we going to be ready to get underway on time?" was always a challenge. In retrospect, I believe that one of the most significant improvements in submarine design has been the improved ability to successfully conduct maintenance. Considerations of maintainability were a design requirement in all later class submarines. One of my final challenges as engineer was to discharge resin from the reactor plant purification system at sea. That required some infrequent operations of the reactor plant including an entry into the reactor compartment at sea and operation with the reactor shutdown while the resin from the ion exchanger was blown overboard. Seal welds had to be cut and valves not frequently operated had to work properly: Lots of opportunity for things to not go well; Lots of challenge for the engineer. In our case, all went according to plan. As it turns out, for environmental reasons, that was one of the last times resin was discharged at sea.

After almost three years as engineer, I had orders to move on to become the squadron engineer at Submarine Squadron Two at Submarine Base New London which was across the river from State Pier in Groton. As a final reminder of the challenges at sea, as we were returning to port from my final week at sea after having been relieved as engineer, I was informed that Mary had gone into labor with our first son. As we approached New London, the fog became too heavy to permit navigation up the river. So, there I sat at anchor a few miles away from the hospital where my first son was being born and unable to get closer. Fortunately the fog lifted and my son was slow in coming so I arrived in time for the joyous event and the start of my leave between duty stations.

To be continued in the March edition.

To read past Cold War Warrior articles visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.



USS Fulton (AS 11) alongside the State Pier, New London, CT., circa 1967-69. Moored in the nest next to Fulton is USS Dace (SSN-607), USS Jack (SSN-605), and an unknown Thresher/Permit class boat, either the Gato or Greenling (inboard in the nest).

MOM'S TIME OUT

Christmas has come and gone

Mary Angel

Wow, I can't believe how fast Christmas came this year. It didn't help that we went on vacation right from Thanksgiving dinner. Suddenly it was December and we didn't even have our tree up. It was actually an evening in December at the dinner table when my family got into the conversation of New Year's resolutions. That was interesting to say the least. It went a little something like this.

My oldest son (thirteen years old) was asking if anyone had thought about what they were going to make their New Year's resolution this year and away we went. He informed us that he was going to change "nothing, because I am perfect the way I am... just kidding!" After he stopped laughing, no one else was, he said his actual

resolution. He wants to not yell at the girls for being messy. He then looked at the girls and asked if there was anything they wanted to say back to him. Which they took as their invitation to mess with him after his "nothing, because I am perfect the way I am" comment. So they said no they had nothing to say about their messiness.

My youngest son (eleven years old) informed everyone that his resolution was going to be to turn his school work in on time. He then added that he was going to stop goofing off and doing his work. Oh yeah, and he was going to be nicer. Turns out he was getting ready to bring home a progress report with three "F" on it. Mostly from not turning in work he already had finished. Some of the problem was from not finishing work. The bottom line is that his New Year's reso-

lutions made complete sense when we found out about his grades. The resolution about being nicer was simply because he has been a bear to live with since he was worried about us finding out about the grades. Once we found out he was much more relaxed, still not happy about his punishment, but more relaxed and therefore nicer.

My oldest daughter (eight years old) announced that she wanted to change her grades as well. I am sure she was motivated by her brother's resolution, as per usual. Since this is her first year receiving real grades (instead of s and o's) she is always a little nervous how things will go. Every report card and every progress report she starts having doubts and getting antsy. After rambling on and on about everything she was going to do differently to change her grades she actually had me a little nervous too. Finally she finished her dissertation on her resolution by saying, "you know up is what I meant when I said change my grades, right?" That struck me so funny. My husband just looked up from his plate and said, "Well we hoped that is what you meant".

My youngest daughter (five years old), not wanted to be left out, conveyed her irritation that no one had asked what her resolution was. We informed her that we were all just talk-

ing and that no one had really asked each individual and she was certainly not being excluded. After a little nudging and a little comforting she said she doesn't get "real" grades so she doesn't need to change anything about the way she does her school work. She then informed everyone at the table that she has gotten so many good emails home from her teacher that she is pretty sure she is doing alright in school. A good email home is what the parents get if a child has earned over thirty good behavior/good school work tickets for the week. I told her that we had received quite a few good emails home and that was wonderful but asked her if there was anything she felt she would like to change in the New Year. She thought for a moment and then announced that yes there was. She would actually like to not do so good because they have an elf in her kindergarten class. I inquired what her reasoning was and was shocked and worried to find out that she wanted to stay back in kindergarten to stay with her elf. Needless to say, we had a long talk that night about doing your very best and how the elf in her class would be so very sad to find out she would not want to move on to first grade. I also pointed out that she has her own elf on the shelf at home and she wouldn't want them to have

to talk to Santa about her not doing her best at school. What a conversation that was.

My husband and I always have the same resolutions and they are always about the kids. Sometimes it is to not sweat the small stuff, or not to lose our patience with the kids, or maybe to find more time to spend with the kids. No matter what, it is always about the kids. Just like all parents we struggle to do our best and be the best parents we can be. We constantly make mistakes and we constantly change how we are doing things, all in the hopes of getting "it" right.

By the time dinner was over, and it was one of our longer ones, we had laughed and talked and had a great time. There is nothing we like better as parents than everyone coming together at the dinner table and talking. Some evenings the conversation just isn't there, but when it is we would sit there for hours...and sometimes we do. After writing this article and actually reading what I wrote I think I might change my resolution this year. All of the things I mentioned are things I should be doing regardless of the New Year. This year my resolution will be to help my kids with their resolutions, to help them accomplish what they want, to help them be the best they can be.



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A look at childhood dreams



Danielle Ryan

Did you read my mother, Mary Ann Ryan's, article on page 20? Well if you haven't I will tell you that she wrote about raising and growing orchids, and why they are a relevant plant to grow during this time of year, but that is not what I will be talking about. My dear mother also mentioned that she planned on raising orchids, but then I was born and in a nutshell that dream of hers went out the window. Prior to reading her article, I had not known that she had a dream of growing orchids. Well I would just like to say that, hey, it's not my fault that I was born, and as a baby I required much needed care. I can't help my own birth crushed

your dreams.

In fact I am willing to bet that most parents had some dream that had to be sacrificed because they started having kids. I would like to talk about the flip side of this conversation, the "dreams" that we kids have had to sacrifice because of our parents. Think about it, how many times have your parents or other adults in your family, crushed your dreams, and were "party poopers" in reference to something that you wanted to do.

When we were little our parents told us that we could do whatever we wanted to do, but you know that deep down they were thinking "well that will never happen." If I said that I wanted to grow up to be an astronaut, my parents would say those encouraging words of "of course honey you can be whatever you want to be." If, however, I had said that I wanted to be a waitress when I grew up, well they were not quite so positive. "Oh no you don't want to be a waitress, don't you want to be a doctor or something when you grow up?" they would say. Right there, right then, they crushed my dreams of ever becoming a

waitress. And what about that dream of becoming a princess when I grow up? Every little girl dreams about becoming a princess. My parents may have encouraged that little dream of mine for a little while, but in the end they, once again, spoiled my hopes of ever becoming the queen of anything.

A relevant story for Christmas time happened many years ago when I was in grade school. I remember asking for a horse or pony almost every year for several years during Christmas time. When I wrote my list for Santa Claus, the list always began with number one on my list being a horse, number two being a kitten and then number three being a puppy. After these items were written down I would follow with whatever toys I most wanted at the time.

I remember wanting a horse or pony so bad that one year I was convinced that either Santa or my parents were going to get me one. In fact I was so convinced that Christmas morning I remember thinking I had heard a horse outside on our driveway. This so-called sound excited me so much that when

I woke up, I ran downstairs and out the door with much anticipated excitement, only to find that there was absolutely nothing outside for me except a few rabbit prints in the thin layer of snow.

I had these wild fantasies that there would be a beautiful pony waiting for me with a big red bow wrapped around his neck. I suppose at the time I thought that it could be completely fathomable that there could be a pony just waiting outside for me, almost expecting me, as much as I expected him. I remember sulking back inside because my dreams that Christmas had once again been crushed. Santa didn't bring me a pony and neither had my parents. I am pretty sure that I then proceeded to ask if there was either a puppy or a kitten under the tree. Of course the answer was no, my parents could not even grant me that wish. I believe that this was the last Christmas I asked for live animals. See, Mom, I may have "crushed" your dreams of growing orchids when I was born, but for several Christmases you crushed my dreams of being a pony owner.

I suppose the best they could do was try to grant my wishes by getting me numerous stuffed horse toys, and toy horses during Christmas and birthdays. I guess I could be thanking them for expanding my imagination, because when you are given inanimate objects as a child instead of living things you must be creative when playing. Just kidding Mom, when I was little I loved getting stuffed animals and toy animals much better than getting Barbies and baby dolls.

As you can see, parental figures, we children may have, in some way, been a part of spoiling some of your future dreams; but I can assure you that you all also had a hand in ruining some of our dreams. In all seriousness though, I really do love my parents, the editor asked me to be silly this month and write a more humorous article. So now that the truth is out about my opinion on dream crushing, we can now move ahead in this crazy path we call life.

To read past editions by Danielle Ryan visit the authors section of emmitsburg.net.

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Reflections on the Newtown shootings

Kate Groth
Frederick County
Board of Education

The tragic events that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut, on Friday morning, December 14, have horrified us all. Americans have an amazing capacity to flock to the aid of those in crisis. We can't say enough, can't do enough to help people in their pain and loss. I feel this way.

I want to state, first of all, that the thoughts I am sharing here are mine and do not officially represent the Board of Education of Frederick County; although I am sure that, to a person, all of my Board

colleagues are feeling much sorrow over the past days.

I had been at a holiday luncheon on Friday when the news came on my car radio about the horrendous events that had unfolded in Newtown. I remember a numbing sense of disbelief. However, it became obvious that what I was hearing was yet another shocking event, another severe injury to our national psyche.

Many spoke of evil. Some spoke of anger over yet another episode of gun violence. Many others spoke of putting armed guards in every school. Still others spoke about arming principals, perhaps even teachers. The news was all too full

of this – accusations and blame-finding; anger over the liberal availability of realistic video games that promote violence and killing.

When the talk quieted down over the weekend, people started to talk about what to do. Certainly, banning assault weapons was one idea. Increased school security was another. But it was a long time before folks began to talk about mental illness.

We don't have a diagnosis on the young perpetrator of this horrible crime. However, all indications are that he was a troubled young man and had been for years. There will be more information coming, but for now, we must realize that Adam

Lanza was truly mentally ill. And this, my friends, must be recognized.

Mental illness is a cruel illness. It crosses all demographic lines. It doesn't always show on the outside. It can often be masked by drugs or made invisible by institutionalization. But we cannot delay any longer the attention that must be given to this as a societal problem. We must find ways to recognize the signs in young children and get them and their families the help they need while they can still be helped. It was too late for Adam.

Most in the mental health professions know that certain signs of mental illness can be found in

young children. I remember working with a 6-year old schizophrenic child when I was a speech pathologist. In him, the signs were obvious. Sometimes, the signs are not that recognizable. Still, we must ensure that our children and families are helped through a diagnostic and treatment process when the trouble is first spotted by parents or professionals. Our mental health services should not be difficult to access in our communities. Help should be available when help is needed. This is where I think we should place our priority even as we pray for the victims of the horrendous events in Newtown, Connecticut, December 14, 2012.

What's new at your library?

Erin Dingle, Administrator,
Thurmont Regional Library/Emmitsburg Branch Library

Happy New Year Emmitsburg News-Journal readers! I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Erin Dingle and I am celebrating my 5th year with Frederick County Public Libraries. I've worked mostly at the Thurmont branch but through the years, but spent time at other branches and especially enjoyed the time I spent time working with Katie Warthen when she was the branch manager here in Emmitsburg. I've been a Children's librarian, worked in the public relations office and assisted on a number of projects to improve library services throughout the county.

My personal roots reach into Emmitsburg. Although I was raised in Sabillasville on the grounds of Victor Cullen Hospital (now a juvenile facility), I attended Mother Seton School and

Mount Saint Mary's College, was married at the Grotto of Lourdes with our reception at the Knights of Columbus hall on the square and I visit the Ott House for the best-ever shrimp salad whenever possible. Last January, when staffing changes were needed in the library system, I accepted responsibility for management of the Emmitsburg Branch in addition to my position as manager of Thurmont's Regional Library. I've spent the past year getting to know the creative, dedicated staff at the branch and the many wonderful patrons who visit us every day. Managing two branches is challenging but it has given me a broader perspective of what the public library means to the community and our mission to provide information, literature and activities for your family.

I will be writing a monthly column for the News-Journal and sharing news you can use about resources, events, opportunities

and more. As the oldest on-going library operating in Frederick County, residents of the county's northern most town should be proud. You and your ancestors have supported library services since 1906! (Read a history of the founding of the library in the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net)


Let me share today's overview of library services in Northern Frederick County. The Emmitsburg Library serves as a central location for residents to pick up books and other materials, enjoy story and teen programs and use our free online computers. Visit us Monday-Thursday and all day on Saturdays. If Emmitsburg doesn't have what you need, they'll order it for you. Or you are always welcome to visit the Thurmont Regional Library, just down the road to browse a larger collection of books and movies. Between both branches, we offer a wonderful variety programs for children and

teens and we are always happy to hear suggestions of what you'd like us to offer. We work together to share staff as well as resources in our effort to offer something for everyone in the North Frederick County. For hours, program information or browse our catalog from home, just visit our website at www.fcpl.org.

This year our primary goal is to reach out to the community. How can we help you, your family, the organizations you belong to or the schools your children attend? Can we partner with you to offer an educational program for young people? Do you need a comfortable, meeting room for your non-profit committee, book club, homeowners association or scout group? Here are just a few examples of current partnerships: Emmitsburg Elementary School now has a regular, changing art display in our branch. The school and library also partner on literacy and STEM events (Science, Technology, Engineering and

Math). The library and Seton Center plus many other organizations are planning the annual 'Pa\$\$port to Wealth' event that kicks off April 6, 2013 with a wide range of free activities throughout Emmitsburg. This winter, thanks to United Way of Frederick County, Mount Saint Mary's University, Seton Center, Inc. and the Housing Authority of The City of Frederick you can come to our library get your taxes done at no cost through when VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance – takes place on Wednesdays from February 6 through April 10th from noon until 5 p.m. (for anyone making \$51,000 or less).

Thanks to the Emmitsburg News-Journal for giving the library space for a monthly column to keep you informed about our community initiatives and family activities. Next month, find out how you can support your community library by becoming a 'Friend of the Library'. I invite you to contact me anytime with suggestions and comments. Just email me at edingle@frederickcountymd.gov.



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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Happy New Year

Lynn Taylor
Mother Seton School

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we've kicked 2012 to the curb and have welcomed in 2013. Have you made any resolutions? Broken them yet? I don't normally make resolutions anymore. But this year, I've decided to make one—to live each day as St. Paul advises: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NAB)

This was a hard holiday season, for both personal reasons and because of the tragic events back in my home state of Connecticut. It made me realize that there is so much to rejoice over and to be grateful for; I just forget sometimes (like most people, I suspect). I'm most grateful for my children, even when they are whiny and demanding, and if there is any good that may have come out of the Sandy Hook tragedy, it's that many parents like me are perhaps taking more time to appreciate their children for who they are.

I am also incredibly grateful for Mother Seton School. It's fitting that this is the month that hosts Catholic Schools Appreciation Week, because that's the theme of this month's article. In the spirit of embracing my resolution to follow St. Paul, I'd like to share with you the Top Ten reasons I rejoice in my family's communion with Mother Seton School and why I give thanks for the opportunity my children have to attend Catholic school:

1. God's presence is felt throughout. God is always with us, of course. But when you are in the school, you can feel His spirit in every corner. There is no need to hide or downplay your faith. One thing I

love is that my children get to have Halloween, Christmas, and Easter parties. They get to sing traditional hymns right along with contemporary favorites, make crafts that incorporate the Cross or other religious iconography, and learn about their faith during the day.

2. The community spirit. The classes are relatively small, with some having as few as 15 children. Many of the families have multiple children in multiple grades (that's always fun on conference day!) and there are quite a few legacy families, where generations have attended Mother Seton. Because of this, you get to know people. There is a tight-knit structure in the school that is not unlike an actual family. Which brings me to number three...

3. The focus on the family. The school emphasizes the relationship that it has with families, and acknowledges that children need cooperation between the two in order to be successful. Parents and teachers have close contact with one another, and families are invited to take part in school activities frequently. I love that not only is it okay for me to have such an active role in the school, but I am encouraged to do so. It's truly a partnership between home and school.

4. The uniforms. Every now and then my children grumble about having to wear a uniform. Mostly my daughter, the burgeoning fashionista. But as a parent, I am very grateful to have uniforms. It makes getting dressed in the morning easy, it cuts down on the amount of laundry I would have to do, and it saves me money. It also prevents arguments over modesty vs.

trendy on a daily basis. (Those are reserved for weekends!) And how adorable is it to see first graders looking sharp in their khakis or plaid jumpers? I admit it—I'm a total sucker for anything plaid.

5. The academics. I'm always impressed with what my children are learning in their classes. They receive a well-rounded course of instruction daily, and the teachers use creative methods to keep them interested and challenged. My favorite are the writing journals that they have to keep as part of their language arts program. It's amazing to see how far they come over the course of a year! And while standardized tests shouldn't be the only measure of a school's success, I admit that I'm proud that Mother Seton students regularly score well above the national average.

6. The teachers and support staff. We've been a part of the school for five years now, and I can say with absolute certainty that we have the best faculty and staff around, hands down. I know that these people care about my children and that they love them. The feeling is mutual—my children are upset if they have to miss school! Now with the opening of the new Learning Center, things have gotten even better. If you want your child to be in an environment where he or she feels safe, appreciated, and cared for, then you need to enroll here now.

7. The importance put on service and character. One of the tenets of our faith is to take care of one another. My children and their classmates get to put that into action on a regular basis. The school provides numerous opportunities for service projects and outreach,



On Friday, December 21, 2012, students from Mother Seton School hung 20 angels on the Town of Emmitsburg's Christmas tree located in the town square. The angels were created by the students and hung in honor of the 20 students who tragically died in Newtown, Connecticut one week earlier.

beginning in the Pre-K! It is not all academics here; the school recognizes the importance of developing character right along with intelligence. This year, they've begun a program to recognize students who demonstrate a specified Christian Character Trait each month. It's nice to be in a place where your child's good heart is appreciated as much as his or her academic or athletic talent.

I would love for you to come see what our school is about, because I'm proud that we are a Mother Se-

ton family. Stop by our annual Spaghetti Dinner on January 27th from Noon-5 p.m. and not only will we feed you a delicious, homemade lunch, but you have the opportunity to take a school tour from 1 to 3 p.m. If you attend the information session at 1:30 p.m., your children can eat for FREE from 2 to 3:30 p.m. And did I mention there'll be pie?

Good luck with your own resolutions! I pray that 2013 brings all of us much peace, joy, and love, and I hope to see you soon.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Freshman Year

Faith—Leaping into the New Year with St. Francis

Lydia Olsen
MSM Class of 2016

Faith exists throughout the Mount campus. Whether it is in the students, in the Seminarians, or in the chapels, it is a presence that cannot be ignored. Yet, among the various holy people and places, the holiest spot of all has to be the Grotto. Since 1728, the Grotto has served as a place of religious freedom. It has been said to be one of the loveliest places in the world. It is a place of worship and it is without question a place of faith.

During the beginning of the school year, I would jog from my dorm up to the Grotto for exercise. Anyone who has ever been up to the Grotto knows how challenging this would be. One can only travel to the Grotto by going uphill. I would try my hardest to keep my pace as I jogged up St. Mary's Mountain, and I would often be delighted to hear the bells chime from my destination. I persistently would run as the bells rang around the mountain and across the valley below me. Arriving at the Grotto was completely satisfying. In silence, I would stand overlooking the valley below me. In contemplation I would think that this place undoubtedly had to have been made by God. With the sun setting behind the mountain, everything that lay before me was outlined in sunlight. The mountains outlined the horizon. The landscape was made up of acres of green grass, countless trees, scattered houses, and spots of cows. As I would walk through the Grotto, I would reflect on everything around me. One day I stumbled upon St. Francis' Prayer.

For my New Year's resolution of 2013, I want to live my life in accordance to St.

Francis' Prayer. The prayer outlines how we should live a faith-based life throughout our daily actions. *"O Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace."*

"Where there is hatred, let me sow love." Hatred can be found wherever we may look. It is caused by hurt feelings, conflict, and even misunderstandings. It screams out in cruel forces that cause trouble, anger, and pain. Hatred can be found in school, in the workplace, in families and within one's self. Hatred destroys what is beautiful. With all the time and energy spent on hating, one could instead positively impact the world with one's affection. In demeaning situations, in others and in one's self, love must be sown. Love must be planted and overtake existing hate. Love must end the destruction and rebuild the beauty. I resolve to sow love around me and within myself, for it is in loving our brothers and sisters that we show our faith.

"Where there is injury, pardon." Too often, we hold onto grudges and past events. We hold out on forgiving those who have caused us pain or injury and we refuse to forgive. But to live in faith, we each must forgive each other, even if we do not receive an apology. Forgiveness is the solution to some of our most difficult struggles. It allows us to move forward, though it is often easier said than done. Forgiveness has to be accepted in our minds and in our hearts before it can take place. The mistakes others have made and the mistakes we have made ourselves need to be recognized before they can be forgiven. I resolve to pardon when there is injury, for it is only in forgiveness that we can grow in faith.

"Where there is discord, harmony." Disagreement can be found among us all.

No two people think, feel, or act in ways with which others necessarily agree. Often people make the agreement to disagree. I am not in favor of this compromise because in the end, it is just contradictory. What I have learned is that when in disagreement, we must settle on common ground. This might not be easy and the common ground might end up being something very basic, but it is important that disputes end in some sort of harmony, even if it is at the most basic level. I resolve to make harmony where there is discord, for it is only in agreement that we can share our faith.

"Where there is doubt, faith." Uncertainty lies in everything in our daily lives. There can be uncertainty in everyday things such as meals or expectations. It can exist in physical directions and also in directions taken during our lives. There can also be uncertainty in beliefs at troubling times, yet one must have faith. One must put complete trust in the Lord to lead the way and erase the doubt that lies ahead. I resolve to have faith where there is doubt.

"Where there is despair, hope." Throughout life, it is rare to not experience a moment of complete loss of hope. During the never-ending commotion and chaos of everything around us, the heartache we feel over the sickness or loss of loved ones, or the days when everything seems to be going wrong, despair is hard to conquer. It weighs down on our shoulders, on our minds and on our hearts. It is in these times that we must have desire, trust and optimism. We must have hope. Hope for the health and happiness of our loved ones. Hope for the chaos to be sorted. Hope for God to watch over our brothers and sisters in their time of need. Hope for God to shelter each and every one of us throughout our time on Earth. Hope that overpowers despair. I resolve to have hope where there is despair, for it is in hoping that we find faith.



"Where there is darkness, light." The world and life are dark without God. Without light, we hide behind fear in the darkness of the shadows. God must be the light to illuminate the dark that prevails. Light must be shined on the gloomy areas of the world. God must have a spark to brighten the darkness in the people and places around us. We must be the sparks. We must desire to live in the light of God. When we travel into places that are dimly lit, we must carry our light and encourage those hiding in the shadows to step into the brightness of God. I resolve to bring light where there is darkness, for it is only in the light of God that faith can be found.

"Where there is sorrow, joy." It is often thought that sorrow can only be healed by time, but the greatest healer is actually pleasure. It is when we see the sadness in our neighbors' eyes or hear it in their words that we must bring them joy. Joy can be as simple as a conversation, a card, or a thoughtful gift. Sorrow is often suffered in solitude. To bring joy, we must remind those in distress that we care and that we are always a should-

der on which they can lean. It is in the happiness of others that joy is spread. A mere smile can be contagious. I resolve to bring joy where there is sorrow, for it is joy that transpires faith.

"Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life."

It is in all the words of this prayer that we must remember to put others before ourselves. The prayer of St. Francis is a model of how we should live our lives in faith individually and in a community. It asks nothing of us that we cannot give and it leads us on the path of righteousness towards God.

This New Year, I resolve to grow in faith through actively living St. Francis' prayer. I will constantly be reminded of my resolution as I hear the bells from the Grotto ring every hour. This New Year, I will become an instrument of faith in the Lord.

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

Sophomore Year

Discovery—Myself within the pages

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

It's been a fantastic year for all of us at Mount St. Mary's University. It's been a year of late nights, early mornings and brand new experiences. After all of these things, the year has left us stronger and better. It certainly has been a year of valuable lessons (and we've managed to survive yet another Mayan apocalypse!) and also a year filled with chances to consider the way we want to grow and the people we wish to become.

I'm speaking, of course, of resolutions, those promises that we make to ourselves in an effort to make a positive change in our lives. Many times we think about hitting the gym, dedicating ourselves more to work and less to procrastination, or eating healthier. This year however, I ask you to consider a resolution about discovery: learning more about yourself and the world around you. I'm talking about reading.

Reading may seem like an unimportant activity, but as our world continually seems to get smaller and smaller and the journey of progress

moves on and on, the written word continually grows in value. Letters, books, and even tiny post-it notes given to us by someone we love and care for have inestimable worth. Despite this, the world of books is often a world overlooked by us, myself included. We have cell phones, social media, and emails. When we want to check on someone's day, we shoot him or her a text, or post on his or her Facebook wall. Gone are the days when men and women would actually write something on a piece of paper and spend days waiting anxiously for a reply. If the day is dragging on and we find ourselves in need of something to do, the first thing we reach for is a television remote or an X-Box controller rather than a well-written text. Even when reading needs to be done for class or work, the advent of search engines has almost abolished the need to pick up a book. Thanks to Internet databases like EBSCOhost, and JSTOR, anyone can access top-notch literary analyses without putting a finger to the page. Not only that, but websites like SparkNotes and Wikipedia mean that a detailed summary of almost any piece of writ-

ten work isn't far from our reach.

While these developments have proven incredibly useful to me as a student, they have also taken me away from the books that I love. I found myself at a crossroads earlier this year. I had two papers due on two towering pieces of literature, and there I was sitting at my table in the library with nothing but a computer in front of me. Sure, I had both texts on my computer, but I couldn't shake the feeling that I was completely disconnected from the words and meanings found in those books while staring at my monitor. To make it even worse, I was surrounded by an immense breadth of human knowledge housed on the shelves of our library and I realized that I hadn't read a single book that the great library had to offer me.

I closed my laptop took a deep breath from the stresses of paper writing and gave myself a moment to peruse the shelves, to run my hand across the spines of the books. The minute I picked one up and felt the comfortable weight in my hands, relishing in the sound of pages flipping, I realized that I was missing out on something integral to my existence. I spent 45 minutes completely isolated from the stresses of the Honors program, insulated by a shield of literature. In those 45 minutes, I learned about cutting edge agricultural re-

search that was being done by university graduates. I was teleported from Emmitsburg, Maryland onto a raft hurtling down the Mississippi river with a young runaway. Without realizing it, I had experienced an incredible depth of adventure in such a short amount of time because of what I had read. It was at that moment that I realized how much I missed reading and how I was missing out on a chance to rediscover who I was in between the single space type.

Sadly, my work called to me and I wound up having to leave the warm embrace of those pages for the chill of plastic keys. Throughout the semester though, memories of the words I had left behind returned to me. One day I passed by the shelf of untouched books in my room and wondered if I should finally take the time to flop on my futon and ignore my TV for a few hours. I thought about reading one of the wonderful books to pass the time, and as archaic as it sounds, for fun! Finally, as I spent New Year's Eve with my family and happily rang in 2013 with the ones I love, I made a resolution to hit the library and the bookstore rather than hit the gym.

Nostalgia benefits aside, being able to curl upstairs next to our bookshelf has provided me with a chance to discover, and in some cases rediscover things about myself that I had missed prior to my New Year's resolution. A

prime example of this quest for self-discovery has been my third time reading Joseph Conrad's amazing novel *Heart Of Darkness*. After covering *Heart of Darkness* in my Modern Civilization class at the Mount, I realized how much I loved Conrad's use of the English language. He can draw me into the plot of a novel while leaving me to find out what the characters and symbols in the story are meant to me. Moments like that have made me realize that I truly missed reading and the way a good book can make me feel on top of the world.

So this year, while you're cleaning up after your New Year's party wondering what it is you'll dedicate yourself to, keep this in mind: what really made this New Year's resolution stick was my decision to take on what seemed like a monumental task in small increments. I devoted 30 minutes of each day to turning off all my electronics and sitting down with a good book. Think about sitting down for a moment, putting down your phone, turning off the TV, and letting your mind take you places you've never been before. I'm Kyle Ott. Won't you sit and read for a while? You may like what you find.

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

FOUR PILLAR RESOLUTIONS

Junior Year

Community - An email from God

Nicole Jones
MSM Class of 2014

Several weeks ago I had the opportunity to give blood for the first time. I admit, a small part of me was nervous as I sat, waiting to be taken behind the curtains to be evaluated. What were they going to ask me? Would I be able to donate?

I thought I might find some solace in a friend who had donated blood before. Instead, she shared her horror stories. An inexperienced nurse had to stab both of her arms several times apiece before successfully tapping her vein. Another nurse pierced all the way through her vein causing a large bruise to spread across her arm. Well, great, that makes me feel better.

Soon I'm called behind a curtain to answer some quick questions before donating. The nurse working with me was a motherly African American woman with a large smile. She chatted to me about her day as she reviewed my results from the medical questionnaire. During the conversation, she glanced over the fact that she had to wake up at 4:30am every day in order to make the two-hour commute

to her job. A quote suddenly popped into my head from the book *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, which says, "I just want you to know that you're very special and the only reason I'm telling you is that I don't know if anyone else ever has."

With this quote prompting me, I took a moment to thank the nurse for her daily sacrifice and tell her that her work made a difference in the lives of others. She paused, looked me in the eye, and said, "Thank you." I don't think anyone had ever told her that before.

It wasn't long before I found myself reclining on a gurney, arm stretched out as the nurse disinfected the chosen area before inserting the needle. I was one of the last people giving blood, so as I lay there, the rest of the nursing staff began packing up the equipment. They laughed and chatted with each other, singing along to the music playing from someone's laptop. It was clear they were a family and loved what they did, even if they did have to wake up at 4:30am to do it.

I couldn't help but think how underappreciated people like these nurses were. Volunteers and blue-collar work-

ers make up the foundation of all businesses and organizations, arguably filling some of society's most important roles. It is through the efforts of these men and women that the lives of everyone around them are made simpler and more enjoyable.

At some point while those nurses danced around me belting out Christmas carols, I realized that I wanted to be one of these everyday heroes. I wanted to improve the lives of those in my community and not expect anything in return. Just do it because I love it.

Two days later, I received an email that offered me just the opportunity I needed to fulfill this wish.

For the past four years, I have volunteered at the Carroll County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program (TRP) in my hometown of Westminster. One of my classes at the Mount required me to partner up with a non-profit organization to create a media piece – an article, website, brochure or similar – which would help the organization. My natural choice was TRP. Apparently word spread within the organization about what I was doing and it wasn't long before one of the women I used to work with, Susan Withnell, sent me an email with the opportunity of a lifetime.

In her message Withnell told me about some of the struggles TRP had recently been facing. The program,

which provides horseback riding lessons for the physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped, was suffering from an extreme lack of volunteers. In fact, they were dangerously close to being unable to open for their fall session because not enough people were coming forward to donate their time. The retirement of dedicated long-time volunteers left administrative positions unfilled. Volunteer riding instructors were aging and in low supply. New, young volunteers needed to step up and take over the program before it disappeared altogether.

My recent media project had turned a light bulb on in Withnell's mind. She remembered me from my time volunteering at TRP and thought I would be the perfect person to intern under her. Her intent was for me to become a riding instructor at TRP – a job I had never considered until this email.

I couldn't stop crying as I read and re-read her kind and excited words. I knew in my heart this was exactly what I was supposed to do. As soon as I had decided in my heart just two days earlier to make a difference in the lives of those around me, God had worked it in the heart of Susan Withnell to reach out to me with this opportunity. It was too immediate, too coincidental for it to have been anything but divine Providence.

I did have one small fear, however. Did Withnell know that I was only a

junior in college? She'd have to wait until 2014 before I would be able to dedicate the time necessary for the position. I asked her and waited with bated breath to see if she was willing to wait that long. Maybe there was someone else who could fill the need more immediately.

I woke up the next day and went straight to my computer to check my email. Withnell had responded, "I knew that you were a junior," she said assuring me that it wasn't a problem; she was willing to wait for me to graduate and take the position. I can't explain the joy I felt.

In the meantime, I look forward to the classes and internship hours required to be a certified therapeutic riding instructor. I must take first aid/CPR classes, complete online exams, have 25 hours of teaching under the supervision of a certified instructor and be tested in my knowledge and abilities with horses and disabled individuals. It will undoubtedly be a long process, but I am so eager for the end result.

For once I will actually follow through with my New Year's resolution and be able to fulfill what God created me and all other volunteers for – helping others and bettering my community.

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

Senior Year

Leadership - Make a difference

Samantha Strub
MSM Class of 2013

"This is for you, Miss Strub! I just wanted to thank you for being an amazing teacher."

"Miss Strub, I'm going to miss you as a teacher so much! Please don't leave."

"Miss Strub, I'm going to miss your stylish clothes, cool nail polish, vocabulary games and advice. Thank you for being my favorite teacher!"

"Miss Strub, please promise that you will come back and visit us."

"Miss Strub, thank you for helping and believing in me. You are an inspiration!"

As the final day of my internship came to a close my emotions went into overdrive. All day, students were coming up to me giving me hugs, notes, and sometimes gifts. They were all telling me that they were going to miss me and that I was their favorite teacher. Even the students I had to punish or reprimand on a daily basis were giving me a hug and thanking me for everything that I have done and shown them. Needless to say, I was either in tears or on the brink of tears all day long.

Once all the students left, I walked around the building and reminisced about all the events that happened last semester. My mind went back to all of the different situations that I was faced with throughout the day. These memories included rejoicing over my students' successes, settling disputes, and disciplining them by sending them to detention.

My thoughts went back to those

students I had to reprimand on a daily basis. The reprimanding was for any given number of things, such as throwing paper, leaving books on the floor, passing notes, not listening, talking while the teacher is talking, being out of the dress code, being disrespectful, etc. I had to act like a firm mother hen to these students. Most of the time, it felt like they just liked to hear me say the same thing numerous times a day. I was constantly repeating myself, seemingly without any progress. As I reflected on the notes I received upon the end of my internship, I realized that many of them were from the students that I reprimanded on a daily basis. These students were telling me that they were going to miss having me as a teacher, and they would miss my outfits, shoes and nail polish. It was these students who were telling me that I was an inspiration to them and thanking me for believing in them and helping them succeed. The tears started to stream down my face when I realized my hard work had paid off—I've become an inspiration and role model to my students.

This realization was interrupted by five middle school girls who were looking for me. They wanted to give me a hug and take a picture with me so they would always have something by which to remember me. They asked me to always remember them and to please come visit them once I graduate. One girl, Mary, asked if I would please return next year and teach them again because I was her favorite teacher. I thanked them and said I will try. Suddenly, these girls became very serious and said that they

were wondering if I could give them some advice. Of course I said, "Sure! What is going on?" The girls then asked me for advice about boys and relationships. In particular, they asked if they should tell the boys they like that they like them, and if so, how should they tell them? They wanted to know if they were ever going to have a boyfriend and why they weren't good enough for boys to like them.

At first I was taken aback by all of their questions and I scrambled for something to say to them. As I was thinking, I looked down at their hopeful faces and realized that they trusted me with this valuable and important information. They were asking me for advice on a subject that they probably wouldn't want to ask their parents about, as that is not something middle school students typically want to discuss with their parents. These five girls were looking to me as a role model. I was the leader making a difference in these girls' lives. I suddenly knew exactly what to say.

I proceed to explain to these girls that they do not need a boyfriend to make them happy. They should focus on themselves and the talents they can use to help change the world. One day, they would have a happy ending. I told them that they are beautiful inside and out. As I continued on my relationship advice soap box, the girls were gazing at me with wide eyes and open ears.

It was through giving this advice about relationships and my memories with the troublemakers that I realized the impact that I had on these students' lives. I was being the leader that I'm called to be as a teacher and I was making a difference in my students' lives. My dream of being a role model, leader and inspiration to others was coming true.

I had always believed that through teaching, one guides the younger generations. A teacher provides the youth with more than just instruction. A teacher is a role model for them to look up to, and a teacher acts as a trustworthy figure in which students can confide. A good teacher tells and explains, but a great teacher inspires. Teachers prepare the youth to educate themselves throughout their lives. Teachers help students love to learn and inspire them to make a difference in the world.

Teachers are leaders in the world because they have a lasting impact on students' lives in more than just the content they teach. They are there to show children the truths of History, English, Spanish, Math, etc., but the instruction goes beyond just the lesson plan. There is also importance in the impression you make through the interaction and conversation you have with your students. It meant the world to my students that I listened to them and put them first, no matter how busy I was. I made sure they knew that I thought they were important. I answered and clarified questions that they had. I became a constant cheery face and always had something new to share. I made a difference by becoming a role model for my students, someone to which they could turn to for advice and support.

This New Year, I'm returning to the Mount's campus. I plan to continue being a leader and making a difference. When I begin teaching in the fall, I will continue being an inspiration and a role model to my students. Until then, I will be a leader on campus through my role as a Mount Ambassador. I will focus on the tours I give and the people I encounter as a result of the tours. I will show them the unique Mount spirit that they will

not find anywhere else. The information I give will inevitably make an impact on the impression that these prospective students will have about The Mount. It could make a difference in where they ultimately choose to go to school.

I will also focus on making a difference in the lives of the people that I encounter on a daily basis. This will include my classmates, co-workers and people with physical and mental disabilities that I encounter through my work with the Arc of Frederick County. I will particularly focus on the impact I make on the lives of the individuals for which I provide respite care and skills education. I will be assisting them in what seems like simple tasks to many, but I know my assistance really means the world to them because they are tasks that are very difficult for them. I'm a leader to Elisha, the woman that I have worked with for the past year, because I assist and support her in tasks and activities that mean so much to her. It was through my support and leadership that we have grown very close. Elisha and I can have long discussions on a variety of topics or simply take a walk in silence and be content. It is through growing so close to her that I realized the important role that I play in her life. It is so important for me to make a difference providing hope, support and happiness for someone who needs it so much.

My New Year's resolution is to make a difference by being a leader. How will you be a leader? How will you make a difference?

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

THE GRADUATE

Everything I ever needed to know...

Kelly Conroy
MSM Class of 2012

In life I learned from sports. I was one of those kids who played pee-wee soccer almost before I could even walk. I continued to play soccer through my senior year of high school. I also took gymnastics, swimming, and tennis. Now I play on the tennis team at the Mount.

At the end of one of those pee-wee soccer seasons, all of the players, parents and coaches would gather for the end of the year party. We ate pizza and spit watermelon seeds at each other, and listened to our coach talk about the season. Then, he would call each of us up individually and give us our participation trophy.

That's right—participation trophies. The league had decided long ago that a tournament at the end of the season caused too much "competition" among the teams. Therefore, all of the players received participation trophies. Everyone that is, except for me.

My parents didn't want to pay for any more participation trophies for me just because I played on a soccer team. Besides the fact that I have four siblings and participation trophies were not high on their priority list, they didn't think that I needed to be rewarded just for showing up to the practices and games. It's nice to get a participation trophy or two, but many more didn't seem necessary.

If sports aren't about participation trophies, then what are they about?

When my Dad coached some of my soccer teams growing up, we had

an unusual ritual after games. If we won the game, we would run a couple extra laps around the field. He wanted us to learn that practicing and training didn't end when we won a game—

Champions strive for so much more than that.

Sports can help us become better versions of ourselves; athletes strive to "form the perfect man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself" (Ephesians 4:13). As an athlete, I strive to achieve victory in my sport by becoming a champion both on the field and off the field. Champions are courageous, putting everything on the line, and they are able to keep getting back on their feet. Champions glorify God through their bodies and acknowledge their talents as gifts from God.

St. Paul reminds us: "Whatever you do, do from the heart, for the Lord and not for others" (Colossians 3:23). I am responsible for how I perform the tasks I am given in my life. This includes how I practice, how I compete, how I treat my opponents, how I work with teammates, and how I prepare my body for competition.

A champion strives for, is drawn to, and seeks excellence; this search for excellence gives the athlete a "momentary link to the Other who is perfect" (Pope Benedict XVI). Pope Benedict XVI goes even further to describe sport as "the free action of play as a sort of return to paradise, as an escape from the wearisome enslavement of daily life."

Sports teach us to never give up

The summer before I came to play tennis at the Mount, I competed in a number of national and high-level junior tournaments. I had some success in these types of tournaments the summer before, and I was excited about getting match-tough to play in college and posting some good stats to show to my new coach at the Mount.

My matches ended up going all wrong. I was close in every match, but ended up losing eight straight matches the summer before playing Division I tennis. I questioned whether I had made the right decision to keep playing, but I never stopped practicing. I came to the Mount that fall and had one of my best fall seasons.

Sports teach us to strive for excellence even if defeat seems imminent

The amazing thing about sports is that you never really know who is going to win before the game is over. Otherwise, we'd probably skip watching. I think that part of being a champion on the court is fighting until the end, even if it seems like winning is impossible. In the process, we will make ourselves more excellent people.

I've had some tennis matches in which I have had match points, and still lost the match. I also remember one distinct match my junior year when my opponent had ten match points for herself in the second set. I came back and won every one of those points, won the second set, and came back to win the match in the third set.

Sports teach us to never take the easy way out

If you put your lead foot just slightly inside the starting line on a running "suicide," you can get a significant advantage over your teammates on a short distance run. You can sometimes find a way to skip practice without really having a good excuse. You can spend extra time picking up balls between points on the tennis courts so that you don't have to exert as much energy during a hitting



drill. There are a lot of ways to cut corners in sports, but none of them lead to greatness.

Sports teach us about sacrifice

You can't always hang out with your friends late at night because you need sleep to perform well. You have to eat the right foods at the right time to feel your best. You have to put in extra practice time if you need help on a certain skill. We don't always want to do these things, but we train our minds and bodies to do them anyway.

Sports help us to develop our talents

In the well-known Parable of the Talents, Jesus speaks of a master who gives talents to each of his three servants according to their abilities. After the master returns home from a journey, he finds that the first two servants have put their talents to work and doubled their number of talents. The third servant, however, buried his talent and did nothing with what he was given. The master praises the first two servants, but admonishes the third.

Athletes are blessed with athletic talent in varying degrees of ability. How we make use of what we are given is important, and it also teaches us to use our various talents for the rest of our lives.

Sports need teamwork to make the dream work

Last year, the Mount men's tennis team played in a quarterfinal match against Sacred Heart, the defending Northeast Conference champions. The men battled on the court and the women's tennis team cheered from the sidelines. We didn't just occasionally clap or call out their names—we had our attention focused on their matches and encouraged them throughout the entirety of the match-up. We made sure to split ourselves among the different courts so that we were encouraging all of the men on the team. In the end, it came down to the final match. All of the men who had finished playing joined us in cheering for our number one player to beat the number one senior on the other team. As we rushed the court after the match, we felt like we had won too—we had invested ourselves in their matches that day, and throughout the whole season, and were able to celebrate their joy. It was the first time in NEC tennis history that the defending champions were taken out in the quarterfinals.

Sports keep things in perspective

Sports can be used for the better—The International Military Council is one of the largest multidisciplinary sporting organizations in the world and bears the unique motto, "friendship through sport." They organize various sporting events for the armed forces of 131 member countries. Soldiers, who may have previously met on the battlefield, now meet in friendship on the playing field. Their ultimate goal is to contribute to world peace by uniting the armed forces around the world through sports.

Sports can also be used for the worse—Athletes can sometimes feel like their life is over when their competitive sport ends. They sometimes resort to drugs or find themselves in prison because they placed an inordinate amount of attention on their sports. Athletes who are well-rounded individuals often have less difficulty adjusting to life without competitive sports.

Sports also teach us to be courageous, and help us grow in humility. Sports offer happiness that is passing, and make us thirst for deeper joy. This is only a brief introduction to the many life lessons I am trying to learn from sports—and in no way have mastered. I hope to learn many more in the spring—my last season of competitive tennis.

The lessons that we learn from sports can be applied to the rest of our lives, whether in our academics, spiritual life, job, or relationships. We can grow in virtue through sports and form a stronger will to make good decisions in all areas of our lives. A champion seeks to win, to take pride in giving our best in all that we do. What we do is important, but *how* we do it is even more important.

"Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified."
—1 Corinthians 9:24-27

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

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Tahiti Sun turning 16

Tahiti Sun, located at 101 Silo Hill Road, Emmitsburg, will be turning 16 this year.

The tanning enterprise was founded by owner Russell Rice, Sabillasville, after having purchased the business from his cousin, Rita Beard, in 1997.

"I've always wanted to be self-employed," Russell said, who noted that Beard had opened the tanning salon for about a year when she decided to sell it. "She wanted to sell it. I had an interest in buying it."

At one point, Rice was working three jobs, including his Tahiti Sun business, shift work at Alcoa Eastalco producing raw aluminum, and owning and operating the Market Basket convenience store in Catocin Furnace.

Deciding to focus on his Tahiti Sun business, Rice left Alcoa Eastalco in 1999, and gave up the Market Basket that he had managed for two years in 2000.

Today, Tahiti Sun has grown to include eight tanning booths, comprised of six low pressure, 100 watt units, one medium pressure, 160 watt stand-in unit, and one high pressure, 220 watt unit. He has even incorporated his wife Penny's hair salon, Modern Reflections, into the operations.

Rice became interested in tanning after suffering from psoriasis, a skin condition that causes redness and irritation. "I started tanning at 17," he said, for the therapeutic value of the process.

"I had a tanning bed at my house. Drugs did little if anything for the treatment of psoriasis, in my opinion," he stated.

"Business has been great," Rice said, although he noted the economy has had its affects. However, he said his business primarily relies on local clients, including Mount Saint Mary's University students, which has remained steady.

The Mount student body, he said, "is definitely a big part of my business," adding that Tahiti Sun also gets customers from "all over the U.S." through patronage of attendees of the National Fire Academy.

Rice said February through May represents his busiest season out of the year. "People want to look like they have a tan before they can get a natural tan."

Teenagers and adults are not the only clients Rice sees walk through his door. "We also get six and seven-year-old children who have been referred by dermatologists.

In tanning jargon, Tahiti Sun


provides "full spectrum light therapy," which "is effective in relieving a number of disorders, including depression, hyperactivity, insomnia, migraines, and premenstrual syndrome," according to Prescription for Nutritional healing by James F. and Phyllis Balch.

Rice recommends that prospective clients consult with their physician before seeking light therapy.

Tahiti Sun operates under its winter hours until March 1, and is open from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. After March 1, the business is open seven days a week with extended hours.

For more information on Tahiti Sun, contact Rice at the business phone number (301) 447-6882.

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Cathy or Bill O'Toole 301-447-2690 • 240-439-7218
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ARTS

Art at the ACAC's Arts Education Center

Wendy Heiges
Program Coordinator
Adams County Arts Council

The holiday season is here, so why not give a gift that encourages the inner artist to shine? Discover how art can enrich your life at the ACAC's Arts Education Center! We offer year round, short and long term art enrichment classes for adults and children in pottery, jewelry making, culinary arts, fiber arts, visual arts, music, dance and more. Whether you want to spend an evening with us, or delve a little deeper, stop by and give the gift of art to yourself and the ones you love. Here's what's coming up this winter:

Culinary:

Thin Crust Pizza at Home, Mon. January 14, 6:30-8:30p.m., create the home-baked pizza crust you've always wanted while learning tips and secrets from a Pro!

Cajun-Creole Cuisine, Mon. January 21, 5-8p.m., Discover Cajun-Creole's diverse and flavorful cuisine and prepare a dinner to remember!

Sushi 201, Thurs. Jan. 24, 6-8 p.m., here's your chance to learn to prepare more advanced sushi rolls!

Once and Done Lasagnas &

Casseroles, Thurs. Jan. 31, 5:30-8:30 p.m., use delicious, heart healthy ingredients to create one dish meals!

Love Potion: Valentine's Cooking Class, Thurs. February 7, 6-8 p.m., prepare unique recipes that ignite your passion for food!

Healthy Eating and Calorie Cutting, Wed. Feb. 20, 6-8 p.m., Explore ways to add nutrition to your everyday cooking while boosting flavor and keeping calories low.

Mexican Fiesta, Mon. Feb. 25, 5-8 p.m., prepare an authentic Mexican chicken mole and more!

Visual:

Drawing with Charcoal, Tues.'s Jan. 15 & 22, 12:30-3:30 p.m., draw from still life and discover charcoal's versatility and ease.

Nature Printing, Tues.'s Jan. 22 & 29, 6-8 p.m., learn how to make beautiful note cards from images of leaves!

Watercolor for Everyone, Wed.'s Jan. 23-Feb. 27, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Explore a variety of watercolor styles and techniques. Practice new skills as you develop and complete a painting!

Terrariums & Indoor Landscape Trays, Sat. Jan. 26, 10-11:00 a.m., learn how to design, construct, and maintain a miniature living forest or desert landscape.

YoYo Quilts, Tues. Jan. 15-6-7:30 p.m., learn to design and create placemats, throws, or your very own quilt!

Knitting, Thurs.'s Jan. 24-Feb. 28, 10-11:30 a.m., learn how to cast on, and cast off, hold your yarn, purl and complete a scarf!

Photo:

Focus on Photography, Fri. Jan. 18, 10-noon, this back to basics class is designed to help you brush up on photo composition as you expand your knowledge of digital cameras.

Intro. to Digital Photography, Mon. Jan. 21-Feb. 11, 10-noon, learn how to use your camera effectively, take great photos, and create professional-looking prints.

Organizing Your Digital Photos, Thurs.'s Jan. 17-Feb. 7, 6-8 p.m., learn how to use Photoshop Organizer so that your images are easily accessible!

Intro. to Adobe Photoshop, Thurs.'s Feb. 7-28, 6-8 p.m., bring your laptop to class and learn the fundamentals of creating art for print or web!

Writing/Communication:

The Art of Social Media, Wed.'s Jan. 9-30, 7-9 p.m., learn to navigate social media channels and select the 'best fits' for you!

Memoir Workshop, Sat. Jan. 19, 1-3:30 p.m., spend the afternoon reading your work to others and learning how to make it better!

Wordsmith it! Sat. Feb. 9, 1-3:30 p.m., spend the afternoon playing with words and sentences, and learning to improve those big prose ideas!

Music:

Piano 2, Thurs.'s Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 9:30-10:30 a.m., take your skills and confidence to a higher level after you've mastered the basics!

Thurmont Thespians Auditions for "Grey Gardens" - the Musical

Director Beth Royer Watson will be holding open auditions for the Thurmont Thespians Spring Musical, "Grey Gardens" on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings, January 6-8 starting at 7PM at the St. John's Lutheran Church Social Hall, 15 North Church Street

(MD 550 next to the Guardian Hose Fire Hall) in Thurmont. The musical will be held in March on the 15-17 and 22-24, 2013 at the Thurmont American Legion Auditorium.

"Grey Gardens" the musical is based on the 1975 documentary film of the same name which was also recently made into an HBO movie in 2009 starring Jessica Lange and Drew Barrymore. It is set in the luxurious mansion home of Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter

Edie in Easthampton, NY, both as it was in the summer of 1941 and as it came to be in 1975. Edith Bouvier Beale was the aunt to Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy and her daughter Edie was once near-engaged to Lt. Joseph P Kennedy Jr., the older brother of President John F. Kennedy, who was killed in WWII.

There are 13 singing roles available, some of which can be doubled, if necessary or desired. The female roles are as follows: one woman - 60's-70's, two women - 40's, one woman -20's and two young girls - 7-13 years old. The male roles are as follows: two men - 60's -70's, two men - 20's, one man - 20's-30's who can also play the piano and one or two African-American men - 20's-40's. The music director will be Ann Raugh and Jennifer Buchheister will choreograph.

Piano 1, Thurs.'s Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 10:45-11:45 a.m., a fun and gentle introduction to the piano.

Intro. to Guitar, Tues.'s Jan. 22-Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m., learn to strum and play the guitar in a low-stress environment!

Dance:

Dance your Way to a New You, Tues. Jan. 22-March 12, 11-noon, or 6:30-7:30 p.m., dance your way to fitness in the class designed for women!

Learn to Swing Dance, Wed. Jan. 23 & 30, 8-9 p.m., learn the basics of this versatile dance!

Learn to Foxtrot, Wed.'s Feb. 6 & 13, 8-9 p.m., discover this timeless, high-energy dance step!

Jewelry:

Intro. to Silver Wire Fusing- Make a Bracelet! Tues. Jan. 29, 10-

12:30 p.m., work with metal-without soldering- as you create a unique silver bracelet!

"Simply Pretty" 3D Charms, Tues. Feb. 26, 9:30-12:30 p.m., design and make 2 simple charms to personalize and use as pendants!

Pottery:

Intro. to Wheel Throwing, Thurs.'s Jan. 24-Feb. 28, 1-3 p.m., learn how to throw clay on a wheel in a relaxing atmosphere!

Pottery without a Wheel, Sat.'s Feb. 2-23, 9:30-11:30 a.m., make bowls, plates or cups with easy to use clay!

Glass:

Stained Glass 101, Tues.'s Feb. 5, 12, 19, 6-8:30 p.m., design your own stained glass panel in this introductory class.

Glass Mosaic Sun Catchers, Sat. Feb. 9, 1-3:30 p.m., make a beautiful glass sun catcher to hang in your favorite sunny spot!

Design:

Rejuvenate, Restore and transform with Color, this 3 part series is designed to show you how to use color to transform your space! Paint, Mon. Feb. 4, 6-8 p.m., Textiles, Mon. Feb. 11, 6-8 p.m., Accessories/Art, Mon. Feb. 18, 6-8 p.m.

Stop by the Arts Education Center today! To sign up for a class, go to our website, www.adamsarts.org, or call our office, 334-5006. The Adams County Arts Council offers scholarships for those who qualify, and is an equal opportunity provider.

ACAC's Arts Education Center, 125 S. Washington Street, Gettysburg, PA, Wendy Heiges, Program Coordinator, classes@adamsarts.org.

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Cajun Creole Cuisine Mon., Jan. 14, 5:00-8:00pm, \$63/\$59 Members	Knitting Thurs.'s, Jan. 24 - Feb. 28, 10:00-11:30am, \$65/\$65 Members	Dance Your Way To A New You Tues.'s, Jan. 22-Mar. 22, 11:00-Noon or 6:30-7:30pm, \$95/\$85 Members
Sushi 291 Jan. 24, 6:00-8:00pm \$39/\$36 Members	Focus On Photography Fri., Jan. 18, 10-Noon	Intro. To Swing Dance Wed., Jan. 23 & 30, 8:00-9:00 pm, \$46/\$40 Members
Once & Done Lasagnas & Casseroles Thurs., Jan. 31, 5:30-8:30pm \$56/\$52 Members	Introduction To Digital Photography Session 1 Mon., Jan. 21-Feb. 11 10-Noon	Intro. To Silver Wire Fusing Tues., Jan. 29, 10-12:30pm, or Feb. 19, 5:30-8:00pm, \$55/\$52 Members
Love Potion: Valentine's Cooking Class Thurs., Feb. 7, 6:00-8:00pm \$49/\$46 Members	Session 2 Wed., Feb. 6-26 6:00-8:00pm \$95/\$85 Members Each	Simply Pretty 3D Charms Tues., Feb. 26, 9:30-12:30pm, \$51/\$47 Members
Healthy Eating & Calorie Counting Wed., Feb. 20, 6:00-8:00pm \$39/\$36 Members	Organizing Your Digital Photographs Thurs., Jan. 17-Feb. 7, 6:00-8:00pm, \$95/\$85 Members	Simply Pretty Rings Tues., Feb. 26, 2:00-5:00pm, \$51/\$47 Members
Mexican Fiesta Feb. 25, 5:00-8:00pm \$58/\$54 Members	Intro. To Adobe Photoshop Thurs., Feb. 7-28, 6:00-8:00pm, \$95/\$85 Members	Intro. To Wheel Throwing Thurs.'s, Jan. 24-Feb. 28, 1:00-3:00PM, \$178/\$163 Members
Drawing with Charcoal Tues., Jan. 15 & 22, 12:30-3:30pm \$71/\$64 Members	The Art Of Social Media Wed.'s, Jan.-30, 7:00-9:00pm \$95/\$85 Members	Pottery Without A Wheel Sat.'s, Feb. 2-23, 9:30-11:30 am, \$115/\$105 Members
Nature Printing Tues., Jan. 22 & 29, 6:00-8:00pm \$63/\$58 Members	Memoir Workshop Sat., Jan. 19, 1:00-1:30pm \$30/\$27 Members	Stained Glass Sun Catcher Sat., Feb. 2, 1:00-3:30pm, \$45/\$42 Members
Watercolor For Everyone Wed.'s, Jan. 23 - Feb. 27 9:30-11:30am, \$143/\$128 Members	Wordsmith It! Sat., Feb. 9, 1:00-1:30pm \$30/\$27 Members	Stained Glass 101 Tues.'s, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 6:00-8:30pm, \$114/\$105 Members
Terrariums & Indoor Landscape Trays Sat., Jan. 26, 10:00-11:00am \$27/\$26 Members	Piano 1 & Piano 2 Thurs.'s Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 9:30-10:30am & 10:45-11:45am \$125/\$115 Members	

Register today!
Details at adamsarts.org

The Natural World: A Postmodern Perspective

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

It's been a few months since I've updated you about the status of the national juried art show that I am planning along with a fellow student here at Mount St. Mary's University, but how quickly time seems to have flown since we began our project! The amount that we have accomplished in the past few months has helped us gain a strong appreciation for the time and hard work that goes into planning gallery shows such as the one that we have in store for you later this month.

Teresa Fredericks and I have made much progress in the past few months. Since we last updated you on our progress, we have accomplished many things that have really taken us far along in the process of executing the gallery show. After posting the Call for Entries around downtown Frederick, we sent the information along to the following institutions: Art Deadline, Maryland Art Place, Washington Calligraphers Guild, Hanover Area Arts Guild, Prigel Family Creamery, Boordy Vineyards, Adams County Arts Council, Carroll County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Americans for the Arts, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Art Works, Harford Artists' Gallery/The Harford Artists' Association, Inc., Harford County Cultural Arts Board, Fine Art America, and Art Along the Rappahannock River. We wanted to be sure that we reached a wide audience and collected entries from across the nation, so networking the information was vital to the success of the show.

After advertising the show and posting the Call for Entries on Art Deadline, we began fielding entries for the show. Artists were able to submit works until November 12, 2012. In total, we received entries from 25 different artists from across the nation, with a total of 70 individual works of art that were submitted, since each artist was able to submit up to three works after paying their entry fee. The breadth of the entries that we received was refreshing and inspirational. It was fascinating to see how such a general theme ("The Natural World: A Postmodern Perspective") could be interpreted in countless different ways, which was ultimately one of the goals we had hoped to reach upon choosing this theme.

Once the deadline for entries had passed, the jurying process began. The two of us met to discuss our first impressions about the artwork and which ones we thought should be included, and we were able to come up with a tentative list of accepted works that we later discussed with our faculty advisor, Professor Holtry. During the jurying process, we decided to focus on fewer artists and showcase more of their work because we felt that those works best represented our theme and because the show would then be more cohesive.

We were lucky enough to receive entries from artists all across the nation, and it just so happens that each of the artists who will be represented

in the gallery show are from different states. The artists who will be showcasing their works in "The Natural World: A Postmodern Perspective" are: Erin Harmon of Tennessee, John Hancock of Virginia, Kay Knight of Wisconsin, Marc Leone of Kentucky, Nathan Taves of Indiana, and Megan Weikel of Pennsylvania.

Regarding the artists' work, Teresa added, "The artists each take such a unique response to the theme, and yet they each contribute to a larger theme. That's why we chose the work we did, because it all complemented each and every work both aesthetically and thematically. Visually it's going to make a lot of sense, but it's also very avant-garde and, well, postmodern! I think people will get a lot from this show if they keep an open mind." We noticed that there seems to be a progression within the works, because as a whole they go from a very simplistic perspective to a very abstract perspective. We feel that this natural progression will help the viewer get a complete aesthetic sense of each artist's approach to the theme and to the natural world itself.

Our next task was to select a work as "Best in Show," and you can find out which work was chosen if you come to the show! We feel that the piece we chose for this honor portrays our theme well and is a dramatic, aesthetically pleasing piece that represents what we had hoped to accomplish by executing a show with this theme. This unique piece struck us with its style and intricacy.

After finalizing the list of accepted works, we notified the artists either by phone or email, depending on their preferred means of communication. All of the artists have verified their availability and participation, and have confirmed that they will ship their artwork to us to be included in the show later this month.

When the task of selecting the works for the show was completed, we then had to design the exhibition layout. Using a template of the gallery dimensions, we planned out which pieces should go where in the gallery to ensure that the show will be cohesive and have a natural flow for viewers as they move about the space. After completing multiple drafts to find the best fit, we finally reached a design that we felt will complement the show the best. We placed each artist's works next to each other so that the viewer could see the different styles and aesthetics of each artist, yet as a whole we arranged the works in a way that will showcase each piece as an individual reflection of the theme of the show. We will make adjustments to the layout as needed, but we feel confident that we have designed a very cohesive layout that will make the individual pieces also work well as a whole.

Using Adobe InDesign, we created flyers and designed the layout of a show card and an eight-page spread booklet, which have been printed for the show in collaboration with Valley Graphic Service, Inc. The eight-page catalogue highlights the works and artist statements of the selected entrants. Additionally, the catalogue will feature a collaborative essay describing the

overall technical and conceptual relationships between the works that will be exhibited in the show. The essay will concentrate on analyzing the ways in which the works express the overall theme of the show.

As the details of the show begin to fall into place, it has been very rewarding for us to look back on the planning process. Teresa named the opportunity work with such talented artists as the most fulfilling part of the process to her. She explained, "I really feel so blessed, so privileged, that the work we are showing is so phenomenal. It's better than I ever could've imagined."

It's been amazing to discover just how much really goes into planning a show like this, but it's been even more amazing to realize how much fun that planning can be! Teresa and I have learned so much as a result of this gallery show, and we cannot wait for others to share in the beauty of the work we have received.

The process of planning this show has benefitted both of us in many ways. Teresa has always been interested in "the behind-the-scenes work of the art world." She explained, "Both the socially conscious theme and the planning of this show have really cemented my interest in arts administration. I want a job where I can work with artists in the same theoretical way we've done with this show, in developing concepts; I want a job where

I can reach a wider audience and inspire people, like we've done here with the actual exhibit plan. I feel like art has such a capacity to affect change, and this show, for me, is a small step toward environmental consciousness."

This show has been such a rewarding experience because it has opened up so many new opportunities. This project has helped us develop our skills in event planning, criticism, collaborative design, printing and publication, graphic and web design, budgeting, marketing, journalism, social media, networking, and interpersonal communication. Who knew so much could be crammed into planning a single event? As a Fine Arts and Communication Studies major, I used to believe that my options were somewhat limited when it came to career opportunities. Planning this gallery show has made me realize that there are countless ways in which I can apply my majors, and these skills that I have developed will help me in any path I may pursue.

Planning this show with Teresa is proof of the impact that hard work, passion, and creativity can have. Teresa and I have always shared a love for art, and together we have been able to combine our talents to plan a large-scale, national event here at Mount St. Mary's University. It has been an honor to work on this project with Teresa, and I could not think of a better way

to collaborate using both our individual and shared interests and skills. This project has allowed us to combine efforts using the common thread of passion for art and awareness that art can have a large impact on ourselves and on society.

We invite you all to attend "The Natural World: A Postmodern Perspective" and share in this event with us. The show will be held in the Williams Gallery, located within the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center at Mount St. Mary's University. It will open on Tuesday, January 22nd and will be up until Friday, February 22nd. There will be a reception on Thursday, January 24th from 5-7 p.m. During the month of the show, you will be able to visit during gallery hours (Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 9-3 p.m. or Tuesday/Thursday: 10-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.) or by appointment.

All are welcome to attend! We would love to be able to share this beautiful artwork with as many people as possible, so be sure to stop by! Who knows, maybe your eyes will be opened to a new perspective on the natural world. I know mine have!

Author's Note: If you did not get a chance to read my first article about this gallery exhibit, it is available in the October 2012 issue under "Past Editions" of the Emmitsburg News-Journal section of emmitsburg.net.

MOUNT SPORTS

The men and women behind the ball

Elizabeth Puleo
MSM Class of 2013

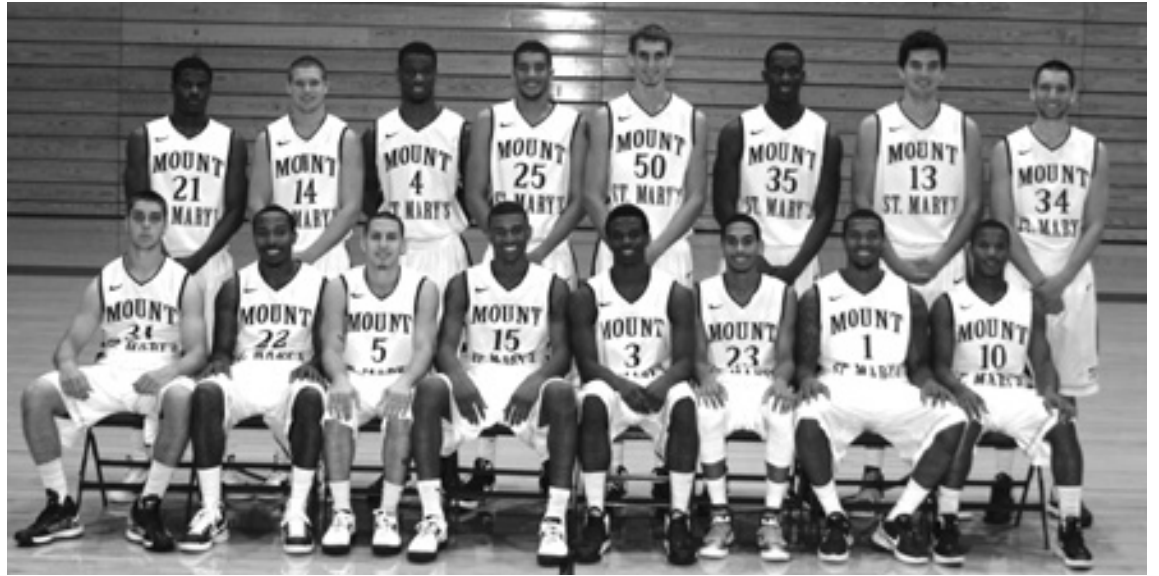
Sports have become an essential part of American society. We are a nation that lives, eats, and breathes sports. We view athletes as heroes and role models, and we follow them like celebrities. I must admit that I am one of those crazy fans that will be at a game whether it's raining or snowing, and feeling sick won't stop me! I look up to my favorite athletes, too. As a sports fan, I love watching talented running backs score a touchdown, the underdog rising to the top, or a truly deserving player scoring those final three points to win the game. I love watching great athletes on the field, but what I really love is seeing that they are also fantastic human beings off the field. I think we tend to forget that athletes are also people just like you and me. Every athlete has a story. They face adversity every day, they experience triumph and agony, and they are constantly working hard to succeed.

At Mount St. Mary's, we love our incredibly talented Division 1 student-athletes and we take great pride in their athletic achievements, especially when it comes to men's basketball. The Mount is well known for basketball, and people from within the Emmitsburg community come out to

support the Mountaineers. Many see the team on the court, but not the men behind the scenes. As I mentioned earlier, these players are just "normal" college kids, trying to balance academics, athletics, and college life. Each athlete has his own story.

Josh Castellanos is a junior at the Mount and is known for his skills and leadership on the court. As one of the star point guards for the Mountaineers, Castellanos made an immediate contribution to the team's performance his freshman year, playing in all 29 games. During his sophomore year, Castellanos continued to work hard, shooting a career high of 19 points in the double overtime victory against Sacred Heart and leading the team with 132 assists. So far this season, Castellanos helped lead his team in the win over Hartford and posted 14 points against Binghamton. When on the court, most people recognize him for the guy with the sports goggles on or the one who is constantly hustling.

Yes, Josh is an amazing athlete and I know for a fact that the Mount is grateful to have him on their team but what most people may not realize is off the court, he is a hard-working student and is kind to everyone he sees. Whenever I see him around campus, Josh always makes sure to say hey and asks how I'm doing. He is always will-



Mount St. Mary's 2012-13 men's basketball team

ing to help anyone in need and has a heart of gold.

Castellanos was raised by his parents, Ernesto and Selena, in Orlando, Florida. He has three siblings, Kennedy, Gabriel, and Isaias. His family is very important to him and even though they are all back in Florida, he is still extremely close to them. When asked what he cherishes most in life besides basketball, Castellanos quickly responded, "My family. They are the ones that keep me grounded and care for me the most. All my happiness and sense of care is based around them."

Castellanos attended Orlando Christian Prep, where he helped lead the Warriors to State Championships in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Orlando Christian Prep is recognized as a high school that strives to graduate well-rounded students and has an elite-level basketball program. After winning States last year for the fourth time in five years, the school ended its season being ranked #28 in the nation by ESPN.

Growing up, Castellanos always had a love for sports. At a young age, his parents got him involved in many different sports and instilled the ideals of hard work and determination in him. In many ways, they influenced his love for sports. Castellanos says that he can't

remember not playing sports because they have always been part of his life. He did everything from soccer, football, and baseball to running track, but basketball has always been a favorite. "Basketball was always the most fun to me. Growing up I was very successful with baseball, it just wasn't as fun."

After his success in high school, many schools recruited Castellanos, but he ultimately chose to come to the Mount. When asked why he chose the Mount, Castellanos said it was in large part because of the strong academic tradition and the chance to play right away. Castellanos also has a very deep faith and values his relationship with God. Castellanos is majoring in Finance and plans on possibly coaching one day.

Beyond the team, most don't understand all of the hard work that goes into helping the men's basketball team have a successful season. As an intern for the Sports Information Department at the Mount, I'm always surprised by all of the behind-the-scenes efforts put in by others that help our team succeed.

Justine Miller is a senior at the Mount, and she is a Sports Management major. You might see her on game day, standing near the bench next to the coaches, all dressed up in her heels, and you may be thinking,

"What is that girl doing there?" Justine is the manager of the men's basketball team.

Miller grew up in a small family with two parents and an older brother. She spent most of her childhood watching her brother play basketball, watching football with her dad, and playing soccer, softball, field hockey and basketball. Much like Castellanos, her love for sports was influenced early on by her family. To this day, Miller is an active member on the Mount's Club Field Hockey team.

Miller says she decided to attend the Mount after seeing the men's basketball team play in the NCAA March Madness Tournament in 2008. "The school spirit was amazing. It was at that moment when I knew that this was the school for me." Basketball has always been one of her favorite sports and when the opportunity arose to be manager, she thought why not? "I figured, if I could not play at the Division I level, then I at least wanted it to still be a part of my life. I also want to get into professional basketball and thought it would be a great experience to manage the team."

Some responsibilities as manager may seem minor, but they can be crucial when it comes to helping better a team's performance. Miller's tasks include but are not limited to taking care of practice and game gear, setting up and taking down practice equipment, running the clock at practice, ordering food for away trips, etc.

Once she graduates in the spring, Miller would like to get a job in the NBA, either with a team or possibly with the community organization NBA Cares. She is also considering continuing her education at the Mount and earning her MBA.

Although we may all think of Josh Castellanos as one of the great basketball players at the Mount, that doesn't define who he is as a person. He relies on behind-the-scenes people, such as Justine Miller, to help him perform at his best and go on to win games. So next time you're at a sporting event, take the time to really appreciate the players for who they are on and off the field, and take note of the countless hard-working people who help make the team a reality. The athletes and the coaching staff are interdependent, and only by working together can they achieve success.

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Where I was inspired

Alexandra Tyminski
MSM Class of 2015

I can't remember the last time I received an award. It was probably when I was in the third grade after I won the school's annual spelling bee, or maybe it was that time I got a golden sticker award in the fifth grade for reading the most books. I've never been much of an athlete, so I had to find something that could be my number one way of succeeding but could also be an outlet from just schoolwork. After my mom bought me a clarinet, I joined the band and three weeks later my band teacher, Mr. Raven, suggested that maybe I should try a few art classes. I guess music wasn't really my strong point. So, I followed Mr. Raven's suggestion and tried art, but when it took me four extra hours and two more classes than everyone else to finish a watercolor painting, I decided I would just stick to writing.

• • •

"Excuse me, could you please let me through the aisle? I just need to get through here," I said.

"Sorry, I never like to bother people when they are sleeping, but I would just appreciate it if I could..."

"It's fine young lady, just hurry back so I can get back to my nap," he said.

I shot him a glance and tried to scurry on past him as fast as I could. The man couldn't be older than sixty-five, but he was such a grouchy old man and he had odd style, too. He was wearing a white and red Brooklyn bridge shirt with a yellow hat and black jeans that barely reached the top of his ankles when he stood up.

"Okay sir, I will be back soon. Again, sorry for the inconvenience," I said walking past him.

I strolled on past the others until I finally made it up to bathroom line. I really had to use it. They should really get more than one bathroom on these airplanes. While waiting in line for the rest room, I couldn't help but scan the people behind me. I always felt as if watching people on an airplane was the most interesting form of "people-watching." Everyone was in his or her own world. The two small children in the back left corner, one with blonde hair and the other with brown hair, were kicking the seat in front of them, meanwhile the businesswoman in front was getting very irritated, probably upset she that didn't get first-class. Then there was the couple closer by holding hands and looking through a purple Nikon camera, most likely reminiscing about their honeymoon. Then there was the grouchy man next to me of course, and a younger kid behind my seat drawing numerous pictures with one red crayon.

"Ehhh hemmm," I heard a

cough behind me. It came from the annoyed young businesswoman.

"Oh sorry mam, I didn't realize the restroom was available now," I said with an apologetic look.

After I made my way back to my seat, the man next to me was happy I wasn't going to interrupt his sleep anytime soon. He settled back into his comfortable position, although I'm not so sure how he could be that comfortable, and he quickly fell asleep. I placed my big white headphones on my ears and grabbed a book from my bag.

"Um excuse me, could you get me that crayon by your foot please?" a small voice said.

I turned around and peeked through the crack of the seats.

"Oh yes, sure thing. One second," I said.

"Here you go."

"Thanks very much," the little boy replied.

I glanced down through the crack of the seat, and I noticed the boy was also writing as well as drawing.

"What are you drawing there?" I asked.

The woman sitting next to him looked back at me, and I assumed with the nice smile on her face that she must have been his mother.

"Peter, go on and tell her what you're drawing," the blonde-haired woman said.

"I'm drawing pictures of kids and animals and some more kids and some g-g-g-g-jaaaaannnt houses." He stretched his arms out far to express how giant the houses were.

"I'm also writing a book with it." He flipped over the pages with his drawings on it to another page with all blue crayon writing.

"You know, I wrote a book when I was about your age," I told him.

"Hi, I'm Peter," he said, ignoring my question and rushing into a more formal introduction.

"I'm ten years old, and I love to write."

"Nice to meet you Peter who loves to write," I replied back.

Peter instantly looked back down at his paper, and I could tell he was very interested in writing just by the way he viewed his own work.

"What is your story called?" I asked him.

"I'm not sure yet, I am having trouble with that. Well, and with finishing it," Peter said as he looked off at the window.

My back began to get a bit sore from turning around, and I could tell that the man beside me was getting irritated by the way he kept tossing and turning with his pillow. I glanced over at the man, but I immediately reminded myself that I couldn't let a young mind filled with creativity go to waste.

"Hm, well maybe I can help you," I said. "Look here," I turned to grab a book from the front of my seat. I tossed it overhead to the young boy.

He stared at me with a blank stare as if I was joking that he should look



through a three hundred and seventy five page book.

"Well, go on then, look at it," I smiled, giving him reassurance that the book would be good for him to read.

"Excuse me kind lady, but why don't you just tell me about the book?" Peter asked.

"Well I guess I could if you really wanted me to," I answered with a confused expression on my face, but I guess it was expecting a lot from a ten year old to have them read such a huge book.

"Okay well, it is..." I began to tell Peter what the book was about when he interrupted me.

"Wait a second, kind lady, I mean...Amelia Jones?" he asked.

Peter flipped to the back of the book and must have realized that the author's picture on the back of the book was indeed me.

"Yes, that's me. Sorry I should have introduced it as my book earlier, Peter," I said.

He just looked back at me with no response. All that was staring at me was a little boy wearing a blue and red superman shirt, the same colors as his crayons, with shaggy brown hair, bright sea green eyes, and a few freckles near his chin. But the most notable thing about him was not his shirt, but the fact that his eyes were filled with the passion to write and the desire to become a better writer. It is something I knew very well and something we mutually understood, and it was something that no writer, young or old, could buy.

"This book, Peter, is about a friend of mine who started a camp in South Africa for young children your age who want to have fun and be encouraged to do things they love, just like you." I was curious to see his response.

"Why did you write it, Ms. Jones?"

"Call me Amelia. And I wrote this book because I was inspired to tell the world about a woman I met on a trip to Africa. She

strove to better children's lives through the simple idea of creating a camp," I answered.

"Did you go to Africa and meet the kids?"

"Yes, they are a lot like you with big dreams, and they love to draw too. Some are just now learning to write, and I'm sure they would want to write a book one day."

"Wow," Peter said.

He gave me a shy smile, and I could have sworn that he had a sparkle in his eye.

"I won the Pulitzer Prize for my book. That's the..."

"Yeah, I know what that is... well, kind of."

"Well it is this biiiiig prize," I motioned with my hands, trying to imitate him earlier. "And writers get it when people on the Pulitzer Prize committee think their book is exceptionally written, wholesome, and inspirational. I bet you will get the next one," I nodded towards the beginning of his novel sitting on the tray table in front of him.

"Oh," Peter scrunched up his

nose while sniffing and handed me back my book.

He started to put away his writing and drawings and just stared at the window. I wasn't actually sure if anything I said he really understood, but I did know that there was something in him that reminded me of myself when I was young. Maybe Peter and I would never meet again. He might go off and become a prestigious businessman, or maybe I will read about his book winning the Pulitzer Prize one day.

I turned around in my seat, and I too, looked out the window. I reflected on when I dreamed of becoming an award-winning writer, and I turned the book over to the front. The title read "Where I Was Inspired," and I quickly remembered why I was glad I stuck to writing and where it all began, working with children three years ago in South Africa.

To read other articles by Alexandra Tyminski visit the Authors section of emmitsburg.net.



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COOKING WITH LOVE

Comfort food with a twist

Brooke Hagerty
Gunner's Grille, Taneytown

As the holiday season is now behind us and we have "Cooked with Love" for our family and friends it is now time to "Cook with Love" for ourselves. Most of us have put on a couple of pounds over the last two months or at the very least are now feeling a little uncomfortable in our own skin and/or clothing. And of course, we have all made our New Year's Resolutions to eat better, exercise more and to partake in fewer "adult beverages". This month we will focus on how all of these things can happen with just a few changes to our current lifestyle.

We will examine new ways to eat better by changing up some of our tried and true recipes and turning them into "Comfort Food with a Twist"! We will look at some lighter (in calories but not in flavor) recipes that pack a powerful flavor punch without busting our bellies. We will take a look at how we can add more activity to our day by changing just a few things in our daily routine. And lastly, we will lighten up some of our favorite "adult beverages" and offer some fun winter beverages that can be made with or without the "adult"

ingredients!

Let's start with the quintessential Burger....most of us love a good burger, made with fresh ground beef and seasoned with a little Worcestershire sauce and salt and pepper and served up on a big thick roll with lettuce, tomato and onion and a side of our favorite starch (be it fries or chips). How can we possibly make this burger better much less a little healthier? Let me introduce you to the BLACK BEAN; a great filler that offers substance, texture and a unique twist to our favorite burger as well as adding additional protein and fiber. The following recipes feed four:

Beef and Bean Burger with Grilled Red Onion

Ingredients

- ½ pound lean ground beef or turkey
- 1 cup canned black beans, drained, rinsed and lightly mashed
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tablespoon Montreal Steak Seasoning
- ¼ tablespoon each Lemon Pepper and Truffle Salt
- One red onion
- Whole Grain Roll, baby spinach and tomato

Instructions

- Combine all ingredients, except red onion in a mixing bowl and form into equal size patties
- Prepare on grill or in broiler to desired temperature (medium is 150 degrees)
- While burger is cooking, peel red onion, slice off the ends and cut in ¼ slices. Brush with EVOO (Extra Virgin Olive Oil) and grill or broil on both sides for 2-3 minutes, place on top of burger
- Serve on a Whole Grain Roll and Baby Spinach, Tomato and Grilled Red Onion
- As an alternative to the roll, simply serve over mixed field greens with tomatoes and cucumbers. You won't need any salad dressing as the juices from your scrumptious burger provide all the liquid needed!

As an alternative to French Fries or even Sweet Potato Fries try the following with a Baking Potato or Sweet Potato

Twice Baked Potato

Ingredients

- 2 whole baking potatoes or sweet potatoes, rinsed
- EVOO, Montreal Steak seasoning, lemon pepper, fresh garlic and rice wine vinegar
- Low-fat cheese of your choice
- Green onion, thinly sliced on the round

Instructions

- Pierce holes in potatoes and rub with EVOO and Montreal Steak seasoning
- Wrap in foil and bake in a 350 degree oven for approximately 45 minutes

- Once potatoes are fork tender remove foil and slice in half lengthwise
- Gently scoop out inside of potato and place in a mixing bowl
- To desired taste, add Montreal Steak seasoning, lemon pepper, garlic, white wine and low-fat cheese. Once mixed together scoop back into potato skin, top with a little cheese and melt in oven.
- Remove from oven and garnish with green onion.

Now that we have lightened up one of our favorite comfort foods with a healthy twist let's talk about different ways to add more activity into our day. Not everyone has time to go to the gym every day for our 30 minutes of cardiovascular activity but it does seem like each and every day we are getting into our vehicles and driving somewhere. While I would love to be able to say that we should just walk everywhere, that is most likely not a feasible remedy. However, we can do what my father, Gunner, always did. Park your car in the furthest spot away from your destination and walk the parking lot to the front door. Granted, Gunner did not do this for health benefits but rather so that no one would scratch his beautiful 1976 Monte Carlo with the white Landau roof. This was his prized possession the year that I was 11 and I will never forget it. But I digress.....how else can we add more activity? When you are going to the mall, in addition to parking in the farthest spot, park at the opposite end of the mall to your destination. This way, especially during the win-

ter months, you will be inside while getting some exercise. If you are in a multi-level building take the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator. Just these little things can add a plethora of calorie burning to your day.

And finally, our beverage selections. Many of us have ditched our regular sodas for diet sodas in hopes to lessen our daily calorie intake. This could be a major mistake. I read recently that the aspartame in diet sodas actually bloats our bellies and causes us to crave additional sugars. So, ditch the diet soda and if you are like me and still crave the carbonation, have a club soda with a little bit of cranberry juice and a slice of lemon. To make this drink "adult" friendly add 1 ¼ ounce of vodka or rum. In either form, with or without alcohol, this is a very refreshing beverage. I would be remiss if I did not speak of our water intake. Adults should have a minimum of 8, 8 ounce glasses of water per day. Not everyone likes that much water but there are many ways to enhance the flavor of water. The tried and true "filler" is a lemon or lime wedge. But think about it, you can add just about anything to water to create a new taste. My favorite is cucumber to make "Spa Water". Drop a few of your favorite berries in to satisfy your craving for sweets. This also works for club soda or tonic water. Mix and match and just have fun with your beverage selections!

As we enter the New Year I want you all to know how much Gunner's Grille at Taneytown appreciates your continued support. I encourage all of you to support your locally owned businesses in 2013 and to support one another in any way you can. Thank you all and God bless!

The Wine Connoisseur

When the last bottles have popped and all the merry-making is over, it is time to think about what to have for the New Years Feast. With the New Year comes the promise of a fresh start and the New Years dinner has traditionally been one where foods considered to be lucky are served. What to serve, however, depends on your culture and country, for the foods considered lucky are as

varied as the cultures themselves.

Hauser Estate Winery is deep in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch country. Traditionally, pork and sauerkraut are staples for the feast. The pig, as it roots forward is the perfect symbol for many for good luck and progress. Try pairing the pork and kraut with Jack's Hard Cider. Semi Sweet and bubbly, perfect for the tangy sauerkraut.

Down south, black-eyed peas are

considered the fortunate food. Hoppin John, Baked Black Eyed Peas are good foods to serve with a variety of greens. The myth goes that the peas represented coins and the greens paper money. Try a sweet apple wine, like Hauser Estate's Abe's Apple.

Seafood is another lucky food, especially in cultures where the coastal areas are large. Cod and herring are popular with some at New Years, for fish never swim backwards, they always are moving forward. Lobsters are one food actually considered unlucky, for they move backwards! There are many ways to prepare a seafood feast for the New Year, and a good guideline for seafood is to stick to white wines. Chardonnay, Pinot gris or our Jennie Wade White, a semi sweet table wine may make an excellent choice with your meal.

Wherever you hail from and whatever foods are on your table at New Years, cheers to a prosperous and happy 2013.

Happy New Year!

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IN MY OWN WORDS

New Year's resolutions that matter

Nick Pane

Each year on December 31st, as the clock moves closer to midnight, the eyes of the world turn to Times Square in New York City. About one million people attend the annual parties and festivities, while billions more celebrate with smaller parties of their own as the new year is ushered in. The new year is always an exciting and symbolic time for many - it represents a new beginning, starting over, and wiping the slate clean to begin new goals and aspirations, more commonly known as New Year's Resolutions.

The common theme with New Year's Resolutions is that they challenge the resolutioner to make a change or difference. The change normally involves something personal, such as the ever-popular vows to lose weight, discontinue smoking, or making smarter financial decisions. These obviously are all great things to strive for, and if the new year is all it takes for you to decide to make a positive change in your lifestyle or well-being, then more power to you. Of course, the whole point of a resolution is to follow through with your plan, undoubtedly the hardest part.

It's no small task to follow through with a resolution. Many resolutions involve adding, subtracting, or changing something in your life that had originally been commonplace, and now you think you want to do something about it. You lay out the entire game plan, and with a little dedication and time, you fully expect to come out on the other side as a brand new person. The time then comes for you to make good on your word, you realize the magnitude of your self-imposed expectations and the amount of effort it will take to topple the beast, and everyone's favorite two-word phrase pops into your head: "Screw it."

Breaking or forgetting about a New Year's Resolution is hardly unusual. Resolutions certainly have a reputation of not being fulfilled, and though I don't mean to single anyone out, it's probably a safe bet to assume laziness is the main culprit. It's not surprising that resolutions often fall by the wayside - it's really easy to talk about a plan to exercise more or eat healthier. Carrying out said plan is hard, and in terms of resolutions, it's something that you likely don't really want to do.

I came to this seemingly linear conclusion pretty quickly, so of course it got me thinking. The intent of a New Year's Resolution is clear, but why do so many resolutions seem to fail? Resolutioners mean well, but it seems they lose their drive or desire to change something about themselves rather quickly. Could it be, perhaps, that our perceptions of New Year's Resolutions are simply misguided?

ed? What if we turned the focus of New Year's Resolutions away from ourselves? I couldn't help but wonder if a person's motivation would be different if it meant friends, family, or even complete strangers were impacted by their actions. I admittedly feel that we live in a country that is selfish by nature, but maybe we have this whole New Year's Resolution thing all wrong. Not only would I like to see people come through with their New Year's Resolutions, but I'd like to see more out of their resolutions than an attempt at weight loss. Be inspired by the actions of people who have already made a difference in some way, and challenge yourself to do your part in helping people, or in one specific case, helping animals.

If you are a frequent reader, you won't have to go very far to learn more about Jen Vanderau, the Director of Communications for Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter, and a contributor to the paper. The shelter, as you may well have already guessed, is involved with animals that are homeless and in need. The shelter helps the animals in any way that is necessary, and then does its part in finding a good home for as many of these animals as possible. No doubt Jen is an animal lover herself, suggesting in one of her many heartwarming articles that animals "bring so much to the world. Not the least of which is the laughter and joy of their antics and silliness." I don't know about you, but I would venture to argue that Jen pours a lot of passion into what she does.

The shelter itself is non-profit, so it isn't as if any of the volunteers

could make a living by helping the animals. However, that is exactly what makes organizations like the shelter so great - the staff members, volunteers, and anyone else associated with the cause is not driven by money or the social hierarchy. The devotion and dedication provided to these animals is purely out of love, care, and respect. It is unlikely we will ever see a world without animals in need, making these organizations all the more essential. People such as Jen and the other members of the shelter's staff recognize this, and cared enough to do something about it. According to Jen, "A group of people actually raised enough money to buy [the shelter] back from Harrisburg [Humane Society]" back in the 90s, and the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter was born. At this point in time, "more than 2,000 animals come through [the shelter's] doors every year", and it's unlikely that number will go down. The shelter acts as a gateway though, tending to the animals they receive with the intention of finding those animals a good home. It is a small organization that is making a huge difference, and the best part about it all is that the staff and volunteers do it all because they have a desire to help.

This is exactly the type of New Year's Resolution I was attempting to address. The whole idea of a resolution is to embrace something that you don't already do, and you don't act on it out of any kind of forced necessity. If you have to make yourself go through with your resolution, it's more than likely that you won't see that resolution



Before she could even walk or talk, Jennifer Vanderau demonstrated what would become a lifelong passion for caring for animals. As a result of Jen's efforts, thousands of animals have been rescued and placed in loving homes.

through to the end. There are obviously exceptions to the rule, and I applaud those people. That being said, I still can't help but wonder if we would be motivated even more by our resolutions if the intent was to do something for others.

Personally, I won't miss 2012. Between, among countless other events, the presidential election, turmoil in Syria, Egypt, and Gaza, a European economic crisis that has impacted the United States, Hurricane Sandy, and two horrific tragedies that rocked this nation to its core and made us familiar with names like "Aurora" and "Newtown", 2012 was horrible, and I expect I am not alone in this line of thinking (unless of course you brought home a medal

from London, in which case, congratulations). Of course, following such a slew of negativity, we all hear about how change must be brought about. Well, here's your chance. Consider something you've never done before, something you've wanted to do before but never got around to it for whatever reason. Think about something to do in the community that interests you, and make that your resolution. The world has enough glorified terrorists and hateful people - go be more like the staff members of the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter instead.

To read past articles by Nick Pane visit the authors section of emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

New Year's intentions

Renee Lehman

A friend recently gave me a book mark with the quote by Robert Byrne, "The purpose of life is a life of purpose." Reading this made me think about how, at this time of year, we tend to make New Year's Resolutions. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word resolution originates from the root word, resolve. This means to solve a problem or issue. How many of the following resolutions sound familiar? "I'm going to start working out 5

days a week, and lose 25 pounds by summer," "I'm going to quit smoking," "I'm not going to eat at fast food restaurants," "I'm going to cut out sugar from my diet." Wouldn't you say that the previous statements and many New Year's Resolutions deal with changing "bad" behaviors or habits?

Many people start the beginning of the New Year with one or more resolutions, and are determined to be successful (it is reported that 45% of Americans make resolutions). However, most people ditch their resolu-

tions within a few weeks (only 46% keep their resolutions for more than six months), and only 8% of the people who make resolutions are successful at achieving their resolutions (All the above statistics are from the Statistic Brain, 2012 Statistic Brain Research Institute). How has falling short of achieving your resolutions ever affected you?

I am writing this article because I believe that it is important to set New Year's Intentions instead of Resolutions. Setting an intention is very different than a resolution. How, you ask?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word intention as the determination to act in a certain way or to act with a purpose. It originates from the Latin word, *intentus*, an act of being eager, earnest, or attentive. What is the difference between a resolution and an intention? It is very subtle, yet powerful. It is what is FOCUSED on.

With a resolution, you can be focused on the "bad" behavior/habit that you don't want to do anymore: smoking, the fast food restaurants, sugar consumption. It would be like me saying to you, "Don't think about an elephant." So, what are you thinking about right now? Yes, an elephant! Setting resolutions this way perpetuates your thinking about the "bad" behavior/habit.

With an intention, your focus is shifted to "who you want to be," and "how you want to be" in the present moment, and every moment of your life. Your focus, and thus your purpose, comes from deep within yourself. For example, "I intend to learn something new every day," I intend

to become financially secure over the next year," "I intend to speak kindly to my spouse," "I am willing to eat 4-5 servings of fruit and vegetables/day." Remember the quote by Mahatma Gandhi:

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

A Taoist principle that deals with an intention on how to be in the world is: to act in a way in which you Honor Your Grandparents and Serve Your Grandchildren. In Buddhism, one of the Noble Truths teaches the intention: cause no harm, and treat yourself and others with loving-kindness and compassion while seeking true happiness (that which comes from being free from grasping and clinging).

Based on your intention(s), you can begin to make goals to help you achieve your intention (based on who you really want to be). Try the following steps:

1. Decide who you want to be or how you want to be.
2. Write your intention where you will see it frequently throughout the day. Say your intention out loud to yourself.
3. After you wake up, and before your feet hit the floor, consciously state your intention for the day.
4. Watch your thoughts. Are negative thoughts clouding your intention? Gently observe them, and be aware that they could be

creating a detour from your intention. Can you turn the negative thoughts around to diminish them? Your thoughts then create your language.

5. Watch your language. Remember to use the word "AND" instead of "BUT." The word "BUT" erases everything said before it. The word "AND" includes everything said before it.
6. Stop complaining. A wise person once told me that a complaint is an unstated request. So, make the request, you will have less to complain about.
7. Tell a friend, family member, or co-worker about your New Year's Intention. Allow someone to give you encouragement and affirm who you are. Who doesn't like to have someone in your "corner?"
8. Keep your eye on your intention, and your true essence. You will be able to handle all of the speed bumps, potholes, and road blocks that may show up on the road ahead. The road that you are on IS the road that you are meant to be on.

Here's to your New Year's Intention(s)!

Here's to a New Year of being true to yourself, and expressing your authentic self!

The Universe is waiting!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



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10 am to 1 pm

Start the year with a healthy commitment. If you don't want to go to a gym, this is the place for you. One on One Personalized attention or bring a friend and share the experience.

A sedentary lifestyle takes its toll on our health and in today's automated world sometimes we don't realize just how much we do sit around. Emails, texts and face book consume much more of our time than we like to admit, especially for our young people. We need to realize the importance of exercise in achieving and maintaining our health.

The biggest benefit of exercise and weight training is energy, energy, energy. Most people start an exercise and nutrition program to

lose weight, they soon realized the other benefits that come with it. It is a wonderful feeling when you realize that you have improved your quality of life. Benefits from exercise do not come overnight; in fact, most people do not see or feel them coming until they do something that used to be difficult and now can be done with ease. These are things people take for granted until they can't do them any longer. Improving your muscle strength and keeping it in good condition is much easier than trying to rehab a muscle after an injury. Not using your muscles to their full capacity will allow them to atrophy and will take more work to build strength in them again. No matter what state your muscles are in, it is never too late to improve.

HDL (good cholesterol) is another positive benefit of exercise. Health professionals will tell you the way to improve your HDL is to exercise. High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol, LDL (bad Cholesterol), Arthritis and Diabetes have also improved for some of my people with exercise. Many other

health conditions can be improved with the proper exercise in the proper amounts, even Fybromyalgia. Many doctors tell people to get more exercise, but sometimes don't tell them how, that's where a trainer can guide you in a higher level of fitness to better health.

Walking is one of the best exercises we can do and a very safe one to start with. Find a friend, family member or group to walk with and you will soon see how much better you feel. Moderation, especially to start with, should be your way of thinking and then work your way up to a longer workout time and maybe a little harder if you can.

Many people who have had a stroke or heart attack are told by their doctor or rehab facility to continue to exercise. Sometimes, they don't feel comfortable exercising on their own. I have some clients who have been through complete cardio rehab and realized the benefit of it. They want to continue to exercise because they know how much better their checkups are and how much better their quality of life is. A regular exercise program, guided by a trainer or on your own, is a health benefit that is priceless.

Clients come to me all the time



with stories of success, pride, improved self esteem and overall health. I could write pages of stories, but I would like you to hear your story. If you don't have one, call me and let's get started on an exercise and health success story for you. I have been helping people for fourteen years and have an established program, so I will be there to help you every step of the way. I offer personal, one on one training and guidance. Many people just need a little help to get started and if I can be that first step, please call me. Do this for yourself and encourage family and friends to join in for support and to share in the benefits. My most important

goal is to help you improve your health. When you have good health, the rest of your life follows. Take that first step, you will be so glad you did. I am conveniently located just minutes from Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Fairfield and Gettysburg at 285 Boyle Rd. Call, 717-334-6009, for directions. Call to schedule another time if the open house hours are not good for you.

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Fitness Matters

Expert answers to your questions

George Puvel
Anytime Fitness Owner

Question: It's obvious to me that women see their physicians much more frequently than men. As a guy, I want to be proactive about my health, but I really don't know how often to schedule regular check-ups. Any advice?

Answer: That's a great question, and one that lots of men have probably been curious about. To be honest, it really depends on who you ask. Every doctor is different, and I'm sure they all have an opinion when it comes to this issue. My advice would be to ask your personal physician first. You can also follow something I like to call the 5-year rule. This means that you should schedule a doctor visit at least every 5 years, starting right after high school and continuing through to age 50. After that, more frequent visits may be in order in hopes of catching any health issues early on as you get older. Ideally, the visits should include a basic physical exam, as well as comprehensive blood work. This should be enough to keep you healthy and happy for years to come, but again, ask your doctor what he/she thinks as well!

Question: Boot camps seem to be a pretty popular form of exercise these days. What do you think of these workouts—worth a try?

Answer: You're right—boot camps have taken the country by storm. Group exercise instructors are including them in the club setting. I person-

ally like boot camp workouts because they're different. They get you out of your fitness comfort zone. When workouts become stagnant, results tend to follow, and this is sure to have a detrimental effect on your motivation to exercise. These types of workouts also tend to focus on multi-joint, full-body movements with both cardio and strength components, which often produce greater fitness benefits. But that's not even the best part! Boot camps are a lot of fun, and we all

know you're more likely to participate in something that you find enjoyable.

Question: Lately, I've become much more aware of my carbohydrate intake, specifically focusing on sugars. I watch sweets and limit refined grains, but what about fruit? It obviously has a lot of sugar, so should I limit that too?

Answer: Fruit is essentially all sugar, but it also has lots of vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals. Because of this, there is no reason to limit or avoid fruit. In fact, most people could probably use an extra serving or two each day. The only individuals that may need to moder-

ate their intake a bit would be those dealing with diabetes, but even they can still have a few servings daily, as long as they're spaced well throughout the day. Generally, when we talk about limiting sugar, we're focusing on the added sugars that seem to appear in so many foods. Added sugars contribute significantly to overall carbohydrate and calorie intake, and are one of the many reasons for the nation's expanding waistline. Unfortunately, it's very easy for an avoidance of added sugars to become an

avoidance of all sugars, and even carbohydrates in general. Let's not forget—carbohydrates are an important energy source for the brain, the red blood cells, and our muscles. And carbohydrate-heavy foods are not just empty calories; they contain a variety of other healthful nutrients as well!

About the author: George Puvel is the Club Owner. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of January

Professor Wayne Wooten

For January 2013, the Moon will be last quarter on January 4th. It will interfere somewhat with the peak for Quadrantid Meteor Shower on the same morning, with perhaps 30 meteors per hour coming out of the NE in the morning sky. The first two weeks find the moon waning in the morning sky. The waning crescent moon passes 4 degrees south of Saturn on January 6th. The waning crescent moon is hard to see passing just 3 degrees north of Venus in the dawn on January 10th. The new moon is on January 11th. The waxing crescent moon might be spotted 6 degrees north of Mars on January 13th, but this will be your last glimpse of the red planet for months, if you can still pick it out of the twilight. The first quarter moon is on January 18th, and the waxing gibbous moon passes in front of Jupiter on January 21, if you live farther south than West Florida. Here we see a very close miss! The full moon falls on January 26th, for northern Indian tribes, this was the Wolf or Snow Moon...before global warning, obviously....

Venus disappears behind the sun by the end of January, but can still be glimpsed just before dawn in first weeks of January. Mars too is getting lost behind the Sun. Mercury also is not well placed for viewing this month. So its up to the big jovians to supply our planetary thrills in January. Jupiter is still well placed in the souther sky through April, and its four moons and their transits across his face a fine telescopic treat for all observers and star gazes. It sits in the horns of Taurus the Bull for the next several months. Saturn rises about 2 AM as January begins, and will reach opposition on April 25th this year. It will be in the faint constellation Libra all year.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a strik-



M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, a stellar nursery.

ing W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as

seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. You can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergi-

ant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place. You should be able to glimpse this stellar birthplace as a faint blur with just your naked eyes! Our highlight photo for January and shows the many colors the camera reveals of this ionized cloud of hot young stars and glowing gases around them. (Editor's note: to see this photo in color visit www.emmitsburg.net and click on the Astronomy - The Sky At Night link in the Interesting and Creative Articles

section on the home page.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.

Farmers' Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Cloudy and cold (1,2,3,4,5) with some snow mainly in the southern part of the region (6,7). Fair and cold (8,9,10,11,12) with heavy snow (13,14). Windy and rather cold (15,16,17,18,19,20,21) with snow in the north and rain in the south (22,23). Windy and cold again (24,25,26,27,28) with more snow (29,30,31).

Full Moon: January's Full Moon will occur on the 26th. Originally, Native Americans called it Hunger Moon because of the scarcity of food everywhere at this time. It has also been referred to as Wolf Mon because of the increased presence of wolf packs around villages and

camp who boldly wandered closer in search of food.

Holidays: Carry the good will expressed during the recent holidays into the New Year and try to keep those resolutions. Sometimes it is very difficult to do, but if you frame them reasonably and realistically, you will surely succeed! Remember to honor the great Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 21st.

The Garden: Keep your seasonal plants out of the reach of small children. Poinsettia, holly and mistletoe berries aren't poisonous, but can cause stomach irritation when ingested. One common plant that is very toxic is the Jerusalem

cherry. Both the fruit and leaves are extremely toxic and should be kept well out of the reach of young hands. When cutting evergreen foliage from the garden for Christmas decor, cut just above a bud. This ensures that no spurs will be left to encourage decay. Watch out for heavy snow accumulation that can damage shrubs, bushes and small trees. Be careful where you pile snow removed from sidewalks and driveways. Plant shallots on the shortest day of the year (December 21st) and harvest on the longest (June 21st). Shallots can also be planted in late winter, just before Spring. Pay special attention to houseplants now. They will require additional watering due to hotter and drier indoor temperatures. Also, remember to rotate them occasionally so they get equal light on all sides

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COMPUTER Q&A

Windows 8: A beginner's guide

**Aysë Stenabaugh,
Jester's Computer Tutor**

Any new operating system comes with a learning curve and Windows 8 is no different. This new operating system incorporates both the windows 7 style desktop and a new live tiles screen which is similar to the style used on Windows phones. If you have experience with iPhones or android devices you may find that navigating the new operating system is similar to operating your mobile device.

**To touch or to click,
that is the question**

If you haven't yet purchased or upgraded to a Windows 8 computer, consider whether or not a touch screen might be better for you. While Windows 8 works with both a mouse and a touch screen, there are certain functions of Windows 8 that are easier to use with touch. If you do go with a touch screen you will still want to have a mouse connected to navigate certain windows and programs that would be more difficult to use with touch.

First things first – Start screen

The biggest and probably the most intimidating element of Windows 8 is the lack of a start menu which was previously the primary access for locating programs, settings, and documents. Instead you will have a start screen which will include live tiles that will keep you up to date with everything that you have "pinned" or have selected to be displayed permanently. Default tiles include email, messaging, news, weather, and several others. When you have an internet connection these tiles will update automatically helping to keep everything easily accessible.

Tip: You can access the start screen anytime by pressing the \bar{y} Windows key on your keyboard (located between your left shift and alt keys)

Basic navigation

At first navigating Windows 8 will prove challenging but as you continue to adapt to the new style you will find it will get easier and easier. Something new to Windows 8 is the "charms bar". This bar will provide shortcuts to common tasks including search, share, start, devices, and settings. To access the charms bar on a touch screen computer you will slide your finger from the right outside edge of the screen inwards towards the center. With a mouse you can navigate your pointer to either the top or bottom right hand corners of the screen. If you prefer accessing the charms bar with your keyboard you can also bring it up by pressing the Windows key and the C key at the same time(\bar{y} + C).

Apps & the Windows Store

Much like iOS and Android devices

Windows 8 now has its very own app store. Many programs are available as apps including Skype, Netflix, and games. You can access the store right from the start screen. It is a good idea to check here to see if any of the programs you normally use are available here before downloading the regular desktop application. In the app store you will be able to download free and paid applications in a variety of categories. If there are any updates for apps you have installed there will be a number displayed in the corner of the app store icon and you will find an update button in the top right corner when you enter the app store. If you download an app that you don't like you can simply right click on the live tile it creates on your start screen to uninstall it.

Navigation tips

Tip #1: To view all apps from the start screen right click if you are using a mouse or tap and hold an empty space on the screen to bring

up a ribbon at the bottom of the screen which will provide access to an all apps button.

Tip #2: Placing your mouse in the top left corner of your screen will display all open applications.

Tip #3: To close open applications you can click and hold your mouse down at the top of an open window and drag downwards to close the application.

Tip #4: To access volume controls, Wireless networks, and the power off button simple access your charms bar and click on settings. You will see these settings at the bottom of the charms bar.

If you or someone you know needs help with learning how to use Windows 8 or another operating system or mobile technology you can contact Jester's Computer Tutor for help! You can visit our website at www.thecomputertutor.info or like us on Facebook to receive free tips

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CONTRACTOR'S CORNER

Michael Woodhams – The Upholsterer

Brian Wells
MSM Class of 2015

In my first article for the *Emmitsburg News-Journal* back in October, I mentioned being a little nervous about writing for the new "Contractor's Corner" section, especially since it was my first real writing gig. If I learned anything from the first experience, it was how to properly execute an interview. This proved to be very helpful in my third article, because I was informed that I would have to be doing this particular interview alone for the first time. I was more nervous than I was for either of the previous two articles, but was I immediately relieved upon meeting the person I would be interviewing.

Donald Woodhams was a postman who began an upholstery business as a hobby in the early

1960's, working out of the basement in his home. He enjoyed it so much that in 1965, he and his family moved into a larger home with a bigger basement to aid the expansion of his business. About three or four years later, Donald received a deferred annuity from the government and began following his dream full time in Tacoma Park. However, this article isn't about Donald. This article is about his son, the man I interviewed and the man who took over the business full-time when his father passed in 2007. Michael Woodhams is a tall man who has one very grand thing in common with his father: a great passion for upholstery.

Michael began working for his father as a kid, doing small jobs such as sweeping the floors and stripping furniture, and then when he got his driver's license

he began driving to do pick-ups and deliveries. "Of course I went through the rebellious phase where I said, 'Ah, I'm not working for my father,'" Michael explains, "but somehow I always stood in this type of business." Makes sense, like father like son.

Michael worked in other fabric shops and furniture shops as a young adult during the aforementioned "rebellious period," but in the early 1980's he became a full-time employee of his father's when Donald bought a shop in Westminster, the failing Wood Valley Furniture, and made it the new headquarters for the family business. "My father saved twelve jobs when he bought out that furniture store," Michael said proudly, reminiscing about the old times with his father. In 1988, the Westminster shop was folded and the family moved into a home on the Taneytown Pike with a small shop to the left where work could be

done. This is where you can find Michael Woodhams hard at work.

The holiday season has come to a close, and many have purged their budget splurging on nice things for themselves or for others. Homes have been cleaned and spruced up, and people are returning to their normal lives once again, yet a homeowner can never sit around and forget about their homes' needs and task lists going into the spring. One of the benefits of the cold winter months is that outdoor and other spring patio furniture is currently not being used. Sometimes, this furniture can get worn down or the fabric can get dirty, simply because the furniture is outdoors. Rather than buying an expensive new set of furniture – a time-consuming and expensive task seeing as the closest local retail furniture store is out in Westminster – you should have Michael swing by and take a look at the furniture and come up with a way to

design it. Michael makes house calls and is willing to help you with any vision you have through the use of sample books and the ingenuity that comes with fifty years in the industry.

In fact, if you decide to use Michael's services, you do not even need to leave your home. Michael can pick up the furniture, take it to his shop where he will work on it, and then bring it back when it has been re-upholstered. Fabric is available at any local fabric shop, and once that decision is made you can leave all the rest of the work to Michael. It's a one-stop-shop; everything is done locally and all the materials that are used are made in the USA.

Some readers now may be thinking, "I have enough money and enough time to just simply go to a furniture store, so why not do that?" There's a simple answer: the furniture isn't built as well. "Most people who are looking to reupholster have older pieces of furniture that are built better; they have stronger skeletons," explains Michael, continuing to add that the ability to choose your own fabric and custom style is a much better alternative to going to the not-so-local furniture store and "settling for what they have." Re-upholstering the older furniture is cheaper, and the pieces will last much longer.

I'll tell you what, if I wanted something that was going to be a prominent piece in my home redone, I would want the job done by someone who really cares about what he or she is doing. "One thing my father kind of instilled in me is that we have a passion for the work. I mean, I know a lot of people who get up for work every day and make a lot more money than I do, but they hate their jobs. I like what I do; it's different." That's true passion. Passion that has been breeding since before the NFL introduced the Super Bowl. Passion can breed versatility in the work as well, as Michael is also good at wood treatments and window treatments, and his sister Mary works with him as a seamstress.

Michael is just another man who found his vocation and can provide great services for your home at a friendly rate in a location near you. You can never have enough of that in your town, and it should certainly never be taken for granted. Michael impressed me as a man and as a worker in many ways during our brief interview, and I think if you gave him a call, he could impress you too. When you get a chance, check out the work he did in the pavilion at the Antrim 1844 Bed & Breakfast in Taneytown. That should be a solid indicator of the type of fantastic work he puts out on a regular basis.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturdays & Sundays

Gettysburg National Park's Winter Lecture Series – The Civil War in 1863. For more information and a schedule of programs go to Gettysburg National Military Park's website at www.nps.gov/gett or call 717/ 334-1124 x 8023.

January 4

St. Francis Xavier Parish's First Friday Dinner at Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-4048.

January 4 & 5

Mother Seton Feast Day Triduum at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. For more information visit www.setonheritage.org or call 447-6606.

January 6

Sing Fest at St. Johns Union Church, Creagerstown. Some of those featured will be the Canaries from the Senior Citizens, Jeff Gentry from St. Johns, Alex Cooper from St. John's, The Just Because Quartet minus one, Lisa Matia and husband Ainslee Tremain and her classical guitar..

January 6, 7, & 8

Thurmont Thespians Auditions for "Grey Gardens – the Musical" See article on Page 36 for more details.

January 12

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's backyard beekeeper series throughout the year.. You'll learn all about how to acquire honey bees and how to set up a bee hive. Your questions will also be answered about purchasing materials and where to locate your hives! Taught by beekeepers, Jon and Kay Deardorff, of Shady Rest Apiaries. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.StrawberryHill.org.

January 13

All-You-Can Eat Country Breakfast at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Center. For more information visit www.emmitsburg.net/sasolmc.

National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton presents Literary Step Into Time performed by the Gettysburg Poetry Society. Please visit www.setonheritage.org or contact 301-447-6606 for more information.

Music Gettysburg! presents Felix Hell. The world-famous recitalist, the pride of Peabody and Julliard, makes his annual Gettysburg appearance. For more information visit www.musicgettysburg.org or call 717-338-3000 extension 219.

January 17

Gettysburg's Majestic Theater presents The Black Watch & The

Band of the Scots Guards For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Gettysburg College's Christ Chapel. For information about the celebration contact Adrienne Camelat at 717-334-7634, ext. 147.

January 19

CHS Class of 2013 Safe & Sane's Wing Nite at the Vigilant Fire Company Hall In Emmitsburg. Cost \$15/ person DJ, Silent Auction.

January 25

Music Gettysburg! Simple Gifts: Pennsylvania's most popular folk artists, bringing along a collection of area school children! For more information visit www.musicgettysburg.org or call 717-338-3000 extension 219.

January 26

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve Maple Sugaring training for volunteers who are willing to assist in the Maple Sugaring process. If you'd like to be involved with a pretty sweet process, we'd love to have you join us to learn the ropes of making maple syrup at Strawberry Hill. This training session is just for those die-hard folks who'd like to spend a few extra hours in the cold this winter setting up, cleaning, and processing the maple syrup. For more information

call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org.

Project Gettysburg- León's annual Nicaragua Night and Auction at Gettysburg College's Hauser Field House. The Auction is PGL's main fundraiser of the year to support grassroots development projects in that Central American country. For more information visit www.gettysburg-leon.org/pgl/index.cfm/auc

tion. Full tables are also available for reservation. Those wishing to advertise in the auction booklet, read by approximately 600 auction attendees, can do so at www.gettysburg-leon.org/pgl

January 27

Mother Seton School's Spaghetti Dinner. For more info: 301-447-3161 or www.mothersetonschool.org.

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ATHLETICS

Men's Home Basketball Games

Thurs., Jan. 3 vs. Fairleigh Dickinson, 7 p.m., Military Night
Sat., Jan. 5 vs. Monmouth, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 24 vs. Wagner, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 31 vs. Quinnipiac, 7 p.m.

Women's Home Basketball Games

Wed., Jan. 2 vs. Lehigh, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 5 vs. Monmouth, 3 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 7 vs. Fairleigh Dickinson, 7 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 28 vs. Wagner, 7 p.m.

For tickets, call the box office at 301-447-5700 or go online to www.mountathletics.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A Night at the Delaplaine

Thursday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Hornig Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

The Mount Wind Ensemble, Mount Chorale, Mount Theatre, and Mount Lab Bands will each perform in this mosaic of the department's diverse offerings.

Lessons From Little Rock - Dr. Terrence Roberts

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m., Knott Auditorium



In 1957, Terrence Roberts was one of the first African-American students to attend Little Rock High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. In this presentation, Dr. Roberts will explore salient lessons from his experience as part of the Little Rock Nine that inform our decision-making about race, community, culture and spirituality today. The lessons from Little Rock can lead us to greater understanding and awareness about these issues.



National Juried Art Show: "The Natural World: A Postmodern Perspective"

Reception:

Thursday, Jan. 24, 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition will be on display from Jan. 22-Feb. 22, 2013
Thomas H. & Mary K. Williams Art Gallery, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

Featuring work by:

John Hancock, Erin Harmon, Kay Knight, Marc Leone, Nathan Taves, Megan Weikel

This exhibition will explore the way in which contemporary artists address themes and issues related to the natural world.

Carlson & Ihde Recital

Saturday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Hornig Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

Mount faculty Dr. Mark Carlson, euphonium and guest artist Kirsten Ihde, piano, will present a recital of music that bookends the 20th Century. Oskar Böhme's Concerto in F for cornet exemplifies the scope, formal elegance and technical prowess of the turn of the romantic concerto at the fin-de-siècle. German composer-virtuoso Böhme flourished in St. Petersburg but then disappeared, presumably to a Russian gulag. In the second half Finnish composer-pianist Jukka Linkola's landmark Concerto for Euphonium embodies the rise of chromaticism, Scandinavian, and jazz at the end of the 20th Century. Böhme's capricious 24 Melodic Exercises round out the program