

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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Thurmont celebrates Christmas in style

Christmas in Thurmont, as we know it today, began in 2014 and was created to show goodwill in the community while also supporting the Main Street businesses. During that time, Thurmont was in route to completing their application for their Main Street Designation and the application required a list of a few events, so The Business Expo, Farmers Market, and Christmas in Thurmont were created. For over a decade, Christmas in Thurmont has kept the tradition of Santa in the Gazebo at Mechanicstown Square Park listening to the Christmas wishes of children.

The day will kick-off with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., followed by the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus who will be riding in the Thurmont Guardian Hose Fire Truck! There will be hot chocolate and cookies along with photos with Santa, for all ages, pets included! At 1 p.m. Santa Claus will make his way over to the Thurmont Library where there will be a special "The Night Before Christmas" reading. Other children's activities including face paint-

ing, crafts, and a scavenger hunt will also be taking place during this time.

Many other activities will be featured during this year's Christmas in Thurmont. The business map stamping activity for adults, in which adults must visit each business listed to receive a stamp from the establishment to enter for prize drawings, will be occurring from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Throughout the day, ESP Productions will have Christmas performances in their Studio. At 4 p.m. the Catocin High School Band will play Christmas tunes in the PNC parking lot, and at 4:30 p.m. the Thurmont Lions Club will have the annual lighting of their Remembrance Tree. Promptly at 5 p.m. all will gather at Hobbs Hardware to wait for their name to be drawn and receive a gift! Over one hundred prizes will be awarded. Immediately following the prize drawings is the much-anticipated lighting of the Town Christmas Tree in Mechanicstown Park.

New this year will be horse and carriage rides throughout the day and evening. The cost of the ride is \$10



Come celebrate Christmas in Thurmont. This year's event will take place Saturday, December 3, starting at 10 a.m. on Thurmont's Town Square.

and children five & under will ride for free. The carriage ride will load at the Municipal Parking Lot to then take a scenic ride through Community Park and the downtown Main Street area. Rides will begin at 11 a.m. and run through 9 p.m.

The Thurmont Main Street Center will be open for shopping, and visitors can view the gingerbread displays created by residents and businesses, and enjoy the Festival of Trees in the Center. Christmas in Thurmont, and Joe Moose leading the

carriage on a scenic tour of Thurmont, are guaranteed to put you in a traditional holiday spirit.

Christmas in Thurmont is a fun filled family day which gives everyone an opportunity to whisper in Santa's ear, explore local businesses for great gift ideas, have breakfast and lunch in one of Thurmont's locally owned restaurants, and end the day with prize drawings, singing, and holiday cheer! Remember to stop by and start the Christmas season with a day full of fun!

Camp Eder's 6th annual Christmas Tree Festival

With one of the warmest Novembers in the region anyone can remember, it might feel counterintuitive to be anticipating Christmas trees, hot cocoa and freshly baked cookies. At Camp Eder, that is precisely what the staff and volunteers are doing. They are busy elves working hard to prepare for the 6th Annual Christmas Tree Festival, a community event that celebrates the birth of Christ.

Designed as a "Celebration of the Birth of Christ" the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival offers a place where families and individuals can experience an evening of refuge from the many things that pull our attention away from the true reason for the season. Camp Eder, located on Mt. Hope Rd in Fairfield, warmly invites neighbors, friends, and families to join in the festivities December 9 - 11, 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. each evening. As part of the Christmas Tree Festival this year, a special breakfast brunch is offered on Saturday, December 10th from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. In addition to great food, you'll have the opportunity to craft a unique Nativity, learn to fold napkins to look like a Christmas Tree, and make a special card to send our military serving over seas.

This tradition began in 2011 with an idea to offer Christmas trees for folks to decorate and display in

Geigley Lodge at Camp Eder. Each tree is sponsored by an organization, group, or individual, which they can decorate with a theme of their choice. Attendees can vote on their favorite tree by purchasing tickets for one dollar each. Every vote counts, so be sure to make your favorite known when you view these creatively adorned trees. Funds received from the ticket sales for the tree decorating contest benefit the variety of programs happening throughout the year at Camp Eder.

Numerous family-fun activities include: horse-drawn carriage rides, live music featuring local artists, a tree decorating contest, cookie/bake sale, light refreshments, carol sing-alongs, a turkey dinner with all the fixings and thousands of Christmas lights on display! Camp Eder also boasts beautiful walking creek side trails for those who want to take the celebration out of doors. Each evening, guests will hear the bell ring at 8 p.m., signaling the start of a serene candlelight service in a semi-shelter outdoor pavilion. The service closes with an A Capella "Silent Night."

Feel even more a part of the event by donating new or gently used children's clothing for newborn to 6 years old to God's Closet, a clothing pantry run by Children's Aid Society of New Oxford. Also, guests can bring non-perishable food items for the



Camp Eder's Christmas Tree Festival offers a place where families can experience an evening of refuge from the many things that pull our attention away from the true reason for the season.

Fairfield Food Pantry at the Fairfield Mennonite Church. Children's clothing and canned goods can be delivered at any time during the Christmas Tree Festival, or arrangements can be made at the Camp office to drop off items at any other time.

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival is a delightful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and is open to people of all ages. Mark your calendar now and plan to

come to Camp Eder on one, two, or all three evenings, December 11 -13. Grab a hot cup of Camp Eder cocoa, find a cozy spot by the fire, listen to Christmas carols and stories, take in the wonders and beauty, reminisce with friends, and recall the birth of Christ, the true meaning of Christmas. For more information, call the Camp Eder office at 717-642-8256 or visit www.campeder.org.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Town to lease lagoon at wastewater treatment plant

The Board approved the storage and lease agreement from Enviro-Organic Technologies (EOT) during the November 7 Town meeting. During the October Town Council meeting, Phillip Snader, of EOT petitioned the Town Council to use one of the town's lagoons to temporarily store food process residuals, specifically from poultry processing plants.

EOT is the current sludge hauler utilized by the town, and has been working with the town for the past ten years. In July, town staff received a letter from EOT requesting to use one of the lagoons, specifically lagoon 3, to store the organic material. Town Manager Cathy Willets stated that lagoon 3 is not currently in operation, and has not been used since the new wastewater plant has been in operation. Lagoon 3 has only been used

to store excess rainwater, but there is plenty of room in the other lagoons to store excess water if needed.

Snader spoke to the Council about the new nutrient management regulations set in place by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, specifically regarding the spreading of organic material on farmlands. One of the regulations, especially pertinent to EOT, took effect July 1 and states that the Eastern section of the state cannot have any organic material applied to it from November 15 through February 28.

This means that the material needs to be stored somewhere, and Snader has a plan in place to comply with regulations. After contacting Dan Fisel, the Water/Sewer Superintendent, Snader realized that the out of service lagoons could be used to store the food process residuals during the "no

spread" time frame.

Snader proposed the town allow EOT to use lagoon 3 from Nov 8 to Feb 28. Come March 1, EOT would take the material out of the lagoons and spread it on the farmland. The proposal comes with an \$80,000 rental agreement for the four months. Willets stated that the money would stay at the wastewater treatment plant for the first year. After that, there is a possibility that some of it may be used for special projects.

Commissioner O'Donnell discussed the importance of notifying the Town of onsite spillage in the event that such a circumstance may occur. As this issue was not addressed in the first draft of the contract, EOT made it clear that they would amend the contract to ensure that this protocol would be added. The contract was unanimously approved.

Pool renovation in the works

During the November 7 Emmitsburg Town meeting, the Board discussed the upcoming renovation for the community pool.

Most residents who have used the pool this past season could attest to the fact that the community pool has been in need of a major overhaul, as the main pool has been sustaining a leak for several years, and in general the pool area needs some rehab. Earlier this fall, the town received a grant in the amount of \$217,000 specifically for the renovation of the community pool, which was very exciting news.

In September, the town opened the project up for bid, but only two contractor's bids were received. After reviewing both bids, the town recommended the Board to approve the Make N Waves Inc. contract, which made a bid of \$123,000 for the entirety of the project. This contract included the replacement of the pool ladders, steps, umbrellas, lifeguard station, removing and replacing the caulking for the deck, the replacement of the tile on the inside of the pool, re-plastering the interior of the pool and the installation of a new pool pump (as the

current pump is not running at maximum capacity).

The unknown cost at the moment is the cost of the replacement/fixture of the leak itself. Town staff is unaware of where the leak officially is, so the first order of business will be to run a pressure test to locate the site of the leak. After the leak is located and the cost is determined for the replacement of the piping or fixing of the piping, the town can look to the next step to put the remaining grant money out to bid. The remaining amount will be put towards the repair of the bathhouse.

An Evening of Christmas Spirit

Emmitsburg kicks off the Christmas season in style on December 5th from 6 to 9 p.m. with its annual "An Evening of Christmas Spirit." This year however, the event goes will miss the smiling face of Bob Hance, one of its founding members, who died November 23. Sponsored by The Carriage House Inn, the Town of Emmitsburg and the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association, this event is sure to represent the true meaning of Christmas spirit.

This year's "An Evening of Christmas Spirit," which has always been held in conjunction with the town's Christmas tree lighting ceremony, marks the 28th year that the Carriage House Inn holiday event has been formally held.

A few years ago, the community

Christmas tree lighting ceremony was moved back to its traditional location at the Town Square. Mayor

Briggs said, "The Lighting of the Christmas tree on the Square is a time honored tradition. Bringing the ceremony back to the Square, the crossroads of the community, is a natural part of our emphasis on the community and why we are directing design, planning and investment into it."

The festivities will kick-off at 6 p.m. with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on the square. Santa Claus will arrive on the scene to celebrate the tree lighting around 6:15 p.m. Residents will be invited to join local choirs, including the children's choir from Mother Seton School, in singing favorite Christmas carols.

The Holiday festivities will then shift to the Carriage House Inn with Santa's arrival at 6:30 p.m. Santa invites everyone to the Carriage House Inn for hot dogs, cookies and hot cocoa. There will also be a live Nativity, entertainment and hayrides for all to enjoy.

From 7 to 9 p.m. the Carriage House Inn will be hosting local choirs and vocalists, including choirs from St. Joseph's Church, Mount St. Mary's University and the Fairfield Show Choir, in Joann's Ballroom. Come out and enjoy some holiday music with friends, family and community neighbors.

In an interview prior to his death, Carriage House Inn owner Bob Hance said, "An Evening of Christmas Spirit has certainly become a town event since the tree lighting joined us many years



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Make N Waves Inc. has built a large number of commercial pools and their cost never exceeded their budget. The other company would not have, in essence, built a "brand new" pool, but would have constructed more of a "piece meal" of

sorts. Town Manager Cathy Willets is confident that this company will be able to get the project completed well within budget and prior to June 1 so the residents of Emmitsburg will be able to enjoy the full extent of the summer pool season.

ago. It seems to keep growing and I don't see it slowing down anytime soon."

Canned goods and donations for the Emmitsburg Lions Club Christmas Food Drive will be accepted at the Carriage House Inn during the evening. Look for boxes in designated lo-

cations to place your canned goods or donations. The donations will fill Christmas baskets for local families within the community in need.

Come celebrate the true meaning of Christmas spirit on December 5th with an evening of holiday festivities!



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Community Park phase one approved

Phase 1 of the Community Park project is slated to begin as early as March 2017. The Hamiltonban Township and Fairfield Borough Joint Parks and Recreation Commission updated the Hamiltonban Board on the Community Park project during the November 1 meeting.

The Commission has received two grants to date for this project. A Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant was awarded from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the amount of \$53,000 for the Community Park in March. This grant was submitted

in 2015 and will be used for the first phase of a three-acre handicap accessible/multigenerational neighborhood park located at 4020 Bullfrog Road in Hamiltonban Township.

Phase one of the park consists of the installation of a pavilion with picnic tables and grills, while maintaining wheelchair accessibility. There will be a train theme playground for children, benches, a 400 foot gravel walkway connecting the parking lot to the playground and pavilion area, a bridge, a flag dedication area, an all-purpose sports field and chain-link fencing will be installed to sur-

round the maintenance area. The cost of the entirety of phase one, which includes excavation, purchase and installation, will be covered by the C2P2 grant and the matching funds already committed by the community and local businesses. The Commission has received over \$50,000 already from the community and businesses including ACNB Bank, Knouse Foods and Adams Electric.

An additional grant, in the amount of \$15,000, was received from Wellspan Health. The funds received from this grant will help the Commission meet the multigenerational objectives and wellness

goals for the entire community. As part of phase two, some special features being included within the park are senior exercise stations, play stations for physically challenged children and cultural and heritage interpretative panels. There are still two grants outstanding, but if they are received, the Commission will use the funds to begin phase two simultaneously with phase one.

The community park was originally introduced in 2007 and phase one of the three-phase project may finally begin now that funding has been received. Parks and Recreation Commission

members are extremely excited to receive the grant and move forward with the park as planning for this project has involved years of work from dedicated volunteers in the community. Commission members are pleased to bring grant/tax money back to the citizens of Hamiltonban Township and Fairfield Borough to promote healthy exercise and recreation.

The Commission received permission from the Board to purchase the playground equipment before the end of the year, as there was a significant savings involved. The equipment and other purchased materials will be stored in the maintenance building until the project may begin.

Hickory Bridge repair

Hamiltonban Township is working to keep Hickory Bridge a two-lane bridge. The cost for the replacement of the bridge is being split between Franklin Township and Hamiltonban Township as the bridge lies on the adjoining township's lines. Hickory Bridge is currently two lanes, but when replacement was discussed, the idea of making the bridge into a one-lane bridge was brought up.

Hamiltonban Township's Board and the town Solicitor Matthew Battersby, it was voted that it may be wise to suggest that the bridge remain a two-lane bridge, instead of "downsizing" to one lane.

In the earlier stages of discussion, Franklin Township noted the cost effec-

tiveness of making the bridge only one lane, to which Hamiltonban had originally agreed. However, after reviewing the cost of both a one lane bridge and a two-lane bridge, (numbers were received early in November), there really wasn't too much of a cost difference seen between the two options. The cost for construction of one lane is \$92,840, and the construction for two lanes is \$115,840, making a \$23,000 difference. Both Townships originally thought there would be a sizable cost difference, but once split, there is only a \$11,500 increase in cost to make the bridge two lanes.

The Board discussed many pros to making the bridge two lanes. There is no permit difference between one and

two lanes, which is certainly a bonus. Next year, Hamiltonban Township will be re-doing the Hamiltonban side of Hickory Bridge Road leading up to the bridge. A new bridge and new road would allow more people to utilize the bridge including orchard growers and farmers. Orchard growers don't currently use the bridge and road because the road is too bumpy and torn up that it bruises the fruit. If the bridge were kept two lanes, farmers would be able to use the bridge to drive their equipment from one location to the next. It was also noted that esthetically the bridge would look nicer if was two lanes.

After further discussion, the Board made a recommendation to Franklin Township to keep Hickory Bridge a two-lane bridge based upon the cost difference and future road plans.

Fairfield area news-briefs . . .

Ski Liberty seeks new General Manager
Scott Romberger, President of Snow Time Inc., the parent company of the ski resort properties of Roundtop Mountain Resort, Liberty Mountain Resort and Whitetail Resort, has announced several key appointments. One of these appointments is Eric Flynn, long time President and General Manager of Liberty Mountain Resort will transition from his role as GM, to a full time role as Snow Time's Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. In his redefined position, Eric will focus on master planning and operations for all Snow Time resorts, as well as key staff development.

Snow Time will begin a search for a new Liberty Mountain General Manager, with an anticipated appointment in the spring of 2017. Eric's focus on company-wide initiatives will help us grow to new levels." Snow Time recently opened the new 83,000 square foot Highland Lodge at Liberty Mountain, which includes conference space, additional lodging, restaurants and enhanced resort amenities.

Carroll Valley building update

The new Carroll Valley Borough building is coming along nicely, and is still slated for completion late February or early March. Driving by the building, residents can see that the building looks all but complete on the outside. The metal deck, roofing and shingles are all on the building. The building is now completely enclosed, as all the windows and doors are in place. Stone and siding are on and complete, giving the outside of the building a more complete look.

Residents won't be able to see much change in the coming weeks because

most of the work will be done on the interior. This includes framing of the interior walls and beginning to hang electrical infrastructure. All geothermal wells are in and the new parking lot is paved.

The Carroll Valley Board discussed the possibility of citizen participation in finishing the new building. The Council is open to the possibility of opening donations up to the public for items such as art, benches, or other basic furniture for the lobby of the new building. Council discussed whether there was a necessity for a policy on this kind of donation, which would specify the amount of time a piece such as a piece of art would stay, and what could be received. Items donated "in memory" of

someone were also discussed. Further discussion on this matter will likely follow at another meeting.

No tax increase in Hamiltonban or Carroll Valley

Both Hamiltonban Township and the Borough of Carroll Valley have been working diligently on their 2017 budget. Both are pleased to say that there is no tax increase foreseen for the 2017 year. After concern from Carroll Valley residents over the potential for a tax increase as a result of the new borough building, citizens can be assured that for the 2017 year, there will be no increases. Full budget details can be viewed on each respective town's website.

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THURMONT NEWS

Community Park tree planting

The Town of Thurmont celebrated Arbor Day on November 5 by beginning phase one of a two-phase project to plant trees in Community Park.

Unfortunately, Emerald Ash Borers have been found in Community Park, which has led to the death of many ash trees. Emerald Ash Borers are small green beetles that prey on Ash trees, eating and destroying layers within the tree that are solely responsible for transferring nutrients

and water throughout the tree.

Thurmont staff members have been aware of the presence of Emerald Ash Borers and have been proactive about the situation, setting aside funds for a tree planting, in case existing trees in the park would need to be taken down. Eighteen trees have been taken out thus far, and another forty-six have been treated, in an effort to save as many trees as possible without having to remove them completely.

Within the past few months, Jim Humerick, the town's Chief Administrative Officer, received a \$1,500 grant through the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee and he was also able to create a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources. The partnership with DCNR has resulted in the donation of \$2,000 towards the tree-planting project.

The first phase of the tree-planting project included planting twenty-five trees in Community Park. In the spring, an additional thirty-eight trees will be planted. All the trees selected and planted will be 5' – 8' native trees, and the species selected will provide the park with a little more color during the different seasons of the year. On November 5, a group of volunteers were assembled to plant trees in the front part of the park. Humerick mentioned the desire to preserve the view of the park, trying to focus on the aesthetics, as many of

the trees toward the front were taken out, but the newly planted trees would eventually grow to take over.

This project will make Thurmont eligible to become a Tree City USA Community, and it is also a criterion that contributes to the State of Maryland Recertification that will take place in three years.

Thurmont will be celebrating a second Arbor Day in the spring and will be doing a second planting at that time. They will be looking for volunteers from the community to come out and help with the second planting as well.

New power supply contract accepted

During the November 1st Thurmont Town meeting, the Council discussed the new recommended power supply contract. The Town's current power supply contract, held with Allegheny Energy Supply and First Energy Solutions (FES) will be expiring May 31, 2017. The current providers informed the town that they would not be able to decrease their rate

or continue the existing rate due to the restructuring of the operating market.

The city of Hagerstown, the town of Thurmont, and the town of Williamsport met to discuss a new wholesale power supply contract. This decision needed to be completed before the end of November 2016. These towns have worked together successfully for years, and this time they

grouped together to find the most cost effective power supply service available to provide residents with the lowest purchase power cost.

After receiving interest from thirteen different providers, the towns narrowed the list down to a final five and then a final three: FES, Washington Gas and Light (WGL), and Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG).

These three service companies were reviewed and then the towns requested these companies provide them with pricing for a five year contract term.

After this request was sent, FES and PSEG brought contracts with relatively similar prices to the towns. WGL was deemed non-responsive to the price request. FES, however, left a separate offer on the table: they would utilize the existing contract and remove all future risk of market fluctuations for the five years they would be in contract. By utilizing the existing contract, the town would not have to spend extra time and money on the logistics of formu-

lating brand new language for a similar contract. The price FES presented was \$51.60 per megawatt-hour, and PSEG priced their contract at \$52.42 per megawatt-hour. The current contract is costing customers \$51.65 per megawatt-hour. The contract will be able to be renewed, or be requested to be renewed after the five year contract terminates.

After reviewing the information provided, it was recommended that the Council choose to accept the contract with FES. The newly accepted contract will go into effect on June 1, 2017.

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3. Shopping done!
4. Money stays in community!

Did you know every \$100 spent at a local owned business-about \$68 returns to the community versus \$43 for a chain purchase? Local businesses are invested in your community, contribute to a lower tax base for residents, & are a lifeline for non-profit organizations. Recycle your money – what goes around-comes around!

Support your locally owned businesses!
thurmontmainstreet.com

Christmas in Thurmont
Sat., Dec. 3rd starting at 10 a.m.

Town Tree Lighting
In Mechanicstown Park
Dec. 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Sabillasville 5K/1-mile fun run

Sabillasville Elementary School hosted its 2nd annual "Sabillasville Scenic 5K/1-Mile Fun Run" on November 13, 2016, organized by the Sabillasville Elementary School's Parent Group. We would like to thank all the runners and volunteers that came out to help support the SES Parent Group by participating in this event! It was a beautiful day and we hope all enjoyed the event!

The proceeds from this event will help provide cultural arts programs and field trips for the students of SES. We had both families and single runners sign up to fully enjoy the scenic route that was cheered on by students and spectators. We look forward to hosting it again next year and hope to see you all back again then!

We would like to give a special thanks to our Gold Sponsors: Scenic View Orchard, Big Diesel Express LLC, Vinny Healy Memorial Christian Outreach Fund, Diamond-H Construction, Conscientia Group, Gnarly Artly, and Wegmans; our Silver Sponsors: Anytime Fitness, and The Burd family; and our Bronze Sponsors: Raquel's Salon, Mountain Top Tots, and Gateway Market and Candyland. Thank you!

<p>CROWN ROYAL CANADIAN WHISKEY</p> <p>750ML TAILGATE READY PACKAGE!</p>	<p>Merry Christmas!</p>		<p>ALL WINTER DRAFT BEERS NOW AVAILABLE!</p> <p>6 PAKS & 12 PAKS</p>
<p>PRICE REDUCTION! COPLEY GIN</p> <p>\$14⁹⁹ 1.75 Liter</p>	<p>PAUL MASSON Flavored BRANDY</p> <p>Peach, Red Berry, Pineapple & Apple</p>	<p>ALL VARIETIES OF CHRISTMAS GIFT PAKS AVAILABLE!</p>	<p>PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH EGG NOG</p> <p>1.75 L & 750 ML</p>
<p>Paul's Pit Stop</p> <p>DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR</p> <p>Website: m.paulspitstop.net</p> <p>150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727</p> <p>Monday-Thursday 9 am-10 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 am-11 pm, Sunday 11-8 pm</p> <p>301-447-6262</p>		<p>RUSKOVA VODKA</p> <p>\$16⁹⁹ 1.75 Liter</p>	

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 1916

December 1

Sues For Divorce

Gladys Orr has asked for divorce from her husband Clarence. In her statement before the court she says they were married June 17, 1913 and that her husband has moved to Florida without her, but prior to moving he committed the crime of adultery with diverse lewd women of the city of Frederick between the first day of August 1914 up until the end of the past summer. The court gave notice that unless Clarence appeared before it to show cause why the divorce should not be granted, the divorce will be granted.

Emmitsburg

In all Western Maryland there is no town more attractive than Emmitsburg. No people more wide awake, more knowledgeable, more courteous to strangers than Emmitsburgians. There are excellent schools - public and parochial; two sound banks, five churches, a live newspaper, modern hotel accommodations, a fire department, progressive merchants, good liverys, auto garages, many fraternal organizations, and good railroad accommodations. There are four or five mails a day, telegraph, express and telephone service connecting all points; electric lights and oiled streets. There is business to be had in Emmitsburg; there are factory sites available. If you contemplate changing your place of residence, come to Emmitsburg, you'll not regret it.

Christmas Club Savings

Christmas will be a lot brighter for many in this community as \$9,000 in real, ready money will be distributed through the town and sections on Monday when the Emmitsburg savings bank will mail checks to that amount, representing the savings plus 4% interest to the members of its Christmas saving club. This year's total exceeded last year's by \$3,000, which shows that the people appreciate the easy method for them to save for a time when they need the money most.

December 8

Flinch And Five Hundred

On Thursday, December 28, a Flinch and Five Hundred Soiree will be held in Wagner's Hall, West Main St., for the benefit of the library. As this will be a mid-holiday event it is expected that a large number will participate, especially as the proceeds are to be donated to the purchase of new books for the library. The Flinch and Five Hundred party given some time ago was an overwhelming success; it was splendidly patronized, and socially it was most enjoyable. The library committee hopes all will remember the date and all will arrange their entertaining days so that there will be no conflict with it.

Dispute Over Road

A dispute has risen over the Frederick County Road from Walkersville

to Emmitsburg by way of Biggs Ford Bridge, in which it is charged that some of the abutting property owners will not pay their share of the costs. It is said that some persons own over a mile of road and have not contributed to its upkeep.

Knights Of Columbus Instituted In Emmitsburg

Sunday was a solemn and yet gala day for the Catholics of Emmitsburg. It was the occasion of the institutionalization of the local Council of the Knights of Columbus. The members composing the new council, which was named after Bishop Brute', whose name is synonymous for Mount St. Mary's, came from Emmitsburg and the local vicinity. Members from councils of 20 towns, from Frederick, Baltimore and Hanover gathered for the event.

December 15

Runs For County Commissioner

The first formal announcement of a candidate for nomination at the next primary for the office of County Commissioner comes from Robert Troxell, of Emmitsburg. Mr. Troxell has consented to become a candidate only upon the urgent solicitation of a large number of his friends. They know, as do the people of this section generally, that when it comes to making roads Robert Troxell is sure to do the proper thing, the practical thing, and for the least possible expenditure to the people. That is why so many have urged him to run.

Election Parade A Success

The Parade last Friday night in honor of the re-election of President Wilson was a good one and all enjoyed themselves.

There were all kinds of floats and features; there were motorcars galore, numberless horsemen and pedestrians in unique costumes. Promptly at eight o'clock the procession started with Edward Oden, mounted on one of the finest looking animals seen in this town, as the grand Marshal. Immediately behind him was the Emmitsburg Coronet Band. Gaily decorated automobiles followed, a never-ending line of them, it seemed, occupied by the fairer sex.

The feature of the second division was the crack Taneytown Drum Corps. This aggregation made one experience "The Spirit of '76." It played the liveliest of tunes and sent many feet to moving. This part of the parade was filled with jolly folks from home and nearby towns - all out for a good time and filled with joyous feelings fitting for the occasion.

New Factory

Several weeks ago the management of Wise Brother, Inc., of Baltimore, came to Emmitsburg to look things over with the idea of establishing a local branch of their Overall factory. Monday they returned, accompanied with their head machinist, and went into further details respecting rentals, power and operators. Al-

though nothing definite was determined, the managers indicated that the situation looked bright for a plant here and it is understood that if sufficient female operators can be had the factory will be a "Go."

December 22

Christmas Mail

Patrons of the local Post Office will find it to their own advantage to conform to postal regulations. Christmas packages should be securely wrapped and tied. They should be legibly addressed and have the name and address of the sender. Butter must be in a tin container, eggs must be carefully and securely placed in corrugated containers; all foodstuffs shall be marked "perishable". It is not the duty of the Post Office to re-wrap or re-tie packages, but it is mandatory for the Post Office to refuse all packages not properly secured, marked, and prepaid.

First Snow

The first snow of winter fell Tuesday. It snowed until noon and measured a depth of about 3 inches. The snow this week was most welcome to the youngsters. Every other schoolboy has a sled and during recess even the larger scholars have been coasting on the nearby hills.

Christmas Preparations

The holiday spirit has taken hold of the local people. They are intensely interested with their Christmas list and are wisely patronizing all merchants. All the shop windows are displaying Christmas goods and many of them are very effective at night with lights and Christmas decorations. The churches are preparing for Christmas and choirs are in frequent rehearsals.

Formal Opening Of Emmitsburg Savings Bank

The formal re-opening of the Emmitsburg saving bank in its handsome new building on the square was held last Saturday afternoon and night. During the day, hundreds of visitors called to inspect the new quarters. The new building marks a distinct advance in banking facilities in this section, and will be a conspicuous landmark in Emmitsburg for a long time to come.

Towards the rear of the banking room is located a double vault, 10

NOTICE

The
Emmitsburg Savings Bank's
Christmas Savings Club
BEGINS
Monday, December 18, 1916

You are invited to enroll on and after that date and get enough money to pay your expenses next Christmas

By Making Small Deposits Weekly

CLASSES are organized to save amounts from \$12.50 up to \$62.75. You can become a member of one or more classes, or take one or more memberships in the same class.

CHILDREN as well as ADULTS will be enrolled

JOIN EARLY

x 14 x 8 foot inside dimensions, the walls of which our 12-inch thick, stone concrete, heavily reinforced top, sides and bottom with a chrome steel cage and protected by a 12-inch thick solid steel door, composed of alternate layers of chrome and soft steel plates, which is hung on massive crane hinges. The locking mechanism consists of 22 round steel bolts, each 2 1/2 inches in diameter, checked by a double combination 72-hour time lock.

Community Christmas Tree

The community Christmas tree, erected by Frailey & Company in front of their place of business, is a large one. Beautifully illuminated by many colored lights, the tree has afforded the children and adults of the town a great deal of pleasure. It is, indeed, a feature of the uptown business section, and a testimonial to the progressive and liberal spirit of the firm that inaugurated the idea.

December 29

Christmas Lighting

As usual during holiday time almost every house has been lighted brilliantly during the evening, a feature that has added much to the cheeriness of the Christmas spirit. Christmas greens

and decorations were very much in evidence throughout the town, and even more elaborate than before. Every house seems to have a tree and reefs, window boxes, cut flowers and red berry plants were in evidence everywhere.

It would not be Christmas unless carols were sung on the street at midnight. The same little band of carolers - it has become a regular organization, rendering the old familiar Christmas songs in most every part of the town, met afterwards by invitation in the home of Mrs. Eichelberger, where refreshments were served. Each singer was presented with a Santa Claus pack filled with all sorts of holiday souvenirs.

Snowstorm

The snowstorm of last Friday played havoc with trees, fences, telegraph and telephone poles, windowpanes, shutters and roofs in Emmitsburg and vicinity. The flagpole at the college blew down and sturdy oaks along the pike were snapped in half. Nor did the storm respect persons, many receiving slight injuries by being blown against fences and buildings. Automobile tops were lifted off and many signs were carried from their accustomed places.

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

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* We wish you all a *
Merry Christmas
* and hope you have a prosperous & *
Happy New Year!

FROM THE DESK OF . . .

County Councilman Kirby Delauter

The Trump elections and what it means. You can hold the applause until the end of the column, why, you ask? Because I called the Trump Presidency as soon as he filed the paperwork well over a year ago. How could you not see this coming? We've had failure after failure from the Democrat left and just to mention a few, it would be, Obamacare, national security, the open border, the socialization of our military and just in general, the arrogance of the federal elected officials both Democrat and Republican. Trump was new, not part of the establishment and he understands economics. I saw that then and I still see it today.

Let me go through the list and one by one explain why Donald Trump won (just as I predicted) by a landslide.

Obamacare. This gem may have been the straw that broke the camel's back. I own a blue-collar business, I have employees that quite possibly for the first time in their lives, voted. They

voted largely because their health insurance premiums were going up year over year, 25 – 200%. One thing an elected official needs to know, when a blue collar worker can't buy beer, cigarettes, snuff, lotto tickets or ammo for their hunting season, you as an elected official just woke up a sleeping giant. These are people that rarely if ever vote, are simple, hardworking, and they want one thing, to be left the hell alone. Obamacare proved to them they were lied to and it took away the excess cash (that most of them have little of) for the things listed above. Never before in my 30 years of being in the construction industry have I seen blue-collar workers this engaged in politics and ready to vote the bums out.

National Security and Open Borders Speaking of national security, a lot of blue-collar workers, and many that work for my company, are military veterans. We have an Army infantryman airborne, air assault qualified that

has 16 combat jumps, a retired 20 year Army Sergeant who was a former drill instructor with a combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have an former Army NCO that works in our maintenance shop, and had an employee just leave to go back to school that when I hired him I wasn't sure by his young appearance that he was over 16 years old. It turns out as I read his resume' and looked at his attached DD214 (military background form) that he was in fact 22 years old and received a bronze star, purple heart and combat infantryman badge in Afghanistan. In plain clothes, he looked to be not more than 16 years old. These are people we hire in construction, these are people that have fought for the freedom Barack Obama, Hilary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, Mitch McConnell and many other Democrats and Republicans took for granted. These veterans are smart, motivated and will not stand for open borders and policies of selling out the mil-

itary such as Benghazi or stealth secrets to the Chinese, that harm the country they fought for. Another major miscalculation by Hilary Clinton.

Socialization of the Military From Beau Bergdahl deserting his post and being treated like a hero by Obama, to lowering the standards to a point where it may be harder to join the cub scouts than the Air Force, Obama and the Clinton machine ripped apart everything about the finest military the world has ever known in order to allow our enemies much needed time to close the gap militarily. Decades of hard work wiped away in just a few years of socialization in the one area where socialization doesn't work. The military has one purpose, to kill people. It's not meant to be an experiment of social justice; it's not meant to be political. Its purpose is that when diplomacy and politics breaks down, or as with Pearl Harbor or 9-11 when we're attacked, the military is then

sent to change the outlook of those who cannot be reasoned with through politics or diplomacy. Real Soldiers, Marines, Airman and Sailors know this. People like Ollie North, Allen West, Kris Paronto, Marcus Luttrell, Eric Grietens and Ryan Zinke. The last two mentioned are former Navy SEALs that have been elected to Federal office. You'll see more of that as well, veterans who fought for the freedom we take for granted will run, get elected and serve in offices across the US. They're tired of being pawns of the leftist, socialist agenda and they're tired of watching this country be torn apart by people, most of whom, have never had any skin in the game. Again, another huge miscalculation by the Clinton Crime family.

This election was an election to save this country. Donald Trump won big, he won by a landslide, and he won for a reason, because the American silent majority has finally stood up and said "Enough is Enough"! Thank you Barack and Hilary, we couldn't have done it without you. (Applause now)

County Councilman Bud Otis

On a chilly Wednesday, October 26th at 9 a.m. a very special proceeding was held in County Courtroom #4. Judge Scott Rolle gavled the start of the very first Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) held for our

county. Judge Rolle addressed each of the veterans before him in court by their rank. They came before him and stood at parade rest. He thanked each of them for their service to our country and spoke to them more like a mentor

than what you'd expect from a court judge. The atmosphere was strict, yet kind. The responses from the veterans, "Yes Sir," "No Sir." It was apparent that they respected their military roles and wanted to show respect to the judge and those in court.

So, you're wondering...what is a Veterans Treatment Court? It is a combined effort to identify veterans who have found themselves in the judicial system and the recognition that there may be mitigating circumstances from their service to this country which have led them to perpetrate crimes. Using the internal resources of the Frederick County judicial system, States Attorney's office, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, veteran advocates from the Veterans Administration and local non-profits such as Building Veterans, The Purple Moon Project, and the county's health department, State's DHMH, among others to assist the veteran in the newly formed treatment process.

The goal of this participatory spe-

cialized court is to assist the veterans in providing resources to help them get the services they need to succeed in life and not return to the court system. This may take 6 months to 2 years or more as the treatment plan will be tailored to each participant.

This idea had been in the dream stages for a while and came into being after less than 6 months of planning from inception to implementation. I wanted to help veterans in a tangible way to receive needed services to help them, their families and the community. Back in early May initial discussions to devise a plan took place. In late June, I reached out and organized a group of veteran-centric interested parties to the table to brainstorm a way to bring a VTC here to Frederick County. This group included Judge Julie Solt, Erica LeMon from MD's Office of Problem Solving Courts, Melissa Barber of MD's Commitment to Veterans and the Veteran Support Network, David Gowers from the VA Medical Center's Justice Outreach, Cyrus Jaghoory – Judge Rolle's law clerk, Paul Wolford of the FC Drug Treatment Court, Jim

Patrick from Building Veterans and the Veterans Support Network Chair for VTC, Karl Madden of Building Veterans, and Craig Tyler from The Purple Moon Project.

It is a very new process and will be adjusted as it grows to best make use of this option for eligible veterans.

Judge Rolle is in process of application for the formal VTC title from the State of Maryland, and wanted to kick off the program to start helping veterans now and being able to refine the process along the way.

Once approved, Frederick County will be the third county in the state to have a VTC. We are very proud of this collective program and look forward to a new tradition of honoring the service of our veterans. The 2nd docket was held at 9 am on November 30, 2016 in Judge Rolle's Courtroom #4 on the 3rd floor of the County Courthouse. The December docket will be on Wednesday, December 21st at the same time and location as noted above.

We owe such a debt of gratitude to our veterans . . .this is one way to put that sentiment into action.



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Emmitsburg Citizens Advisory Committee

Liz Buckman
Town Commissioner

The purpose of this Emmitsburg Citizens Advisory Committee is to research and propose general recommendations, rules and policies related to quality of life issues in the town of Emmitsburg. One of our primary values is caring for our families and our communities. Unity is a key factor in providing a safe place for our children to grow and thrive, as it is for our most senior citizens. Monthly we hold a meeting to discuss topic that will promote the health and wellbeing of our community as a whole.

During the November 8th meeting we discussed the following:

- How to get information and activities to all persons in the town. The committee and guest decid-

ed that we should post all of the venues to advertise on with the town government. This way all parties will post activities, classes, and important facts.

- Compiling a working list of all locations that our citizens can volunteer and donate items. This information will also be shared with school so students can do their community service hours in town,

- Compiling a list of organizations people can join so they can be part of a group. There are so many groups that do such fun and amazing things. This will also be posted on the town website soon.

- Possibly placing a memorial plaque in the park with the four benches to commemorate our outstanding citizens.

- Starting a school incentive to decorate/design colorful fire hydrants throughout the town. The Eagle

Scouts are painting some, selected classes selected images will be painted on the others. Ideas are still in the works, and so is the legal issues. Sounds like fun though.

- We talked about improving the lighting on the Christmas tree in the front of the library. We should really make a statement for people that pass through. We will look into making the lamps in town more decorative.

- Our committee is also compiling a "Welcome to Emmitsburg" packet to new residents. This will help them navigate the town and our many facets.

- Our next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting is on January 15th at 8pm in the town offices. Please consider joining us and getting involved in making our town great.

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Executive Jan Gardner

What's Brewing in Frederick County?

Frederick County leads the state in the craft beverage industry. Many people know we are home to the largest brewery in Maryland, with Flying Dog, but they often don't realize our list of other "firsts." We are home to the first farm brewery, Milkhouse Brewery south of Libertytown; the first combination winery/brewery, at Lingnore Winecellars; the first cidery, Distillery Lane Cidarworks outside of Burkittsville; and the first meadery, at Orchid Cellar, north of Middletown. In addition, several distilleries have opened in the past year. Clearly, great things are brewing in Frederick County!

This emerging market has grown so much in the past two years that other counties want to know what Frederick is doing. Recently two dozen economic development experts from across Maryland toured the county to see what's brewing here. They visited several breweries before hearing from a panel of experts

from the craft beverage industry.

The Tourism Council and the Office of Economic Development work together to promote this industry. They collaborated on an award-winning brochure that features a comprehensive list of wineries, breweries and distilleries located in Frederick County. It is the only brochure in the state that pulls together all of the craft beverage offerings in a single county. The Wineries Breweries Distilleries brochures are so popular, we can't keep them in stock.

To remain a leader, Frederick County needs to continually find ways to improve the landscape for emerging industries. For instance, we launched a new agri-business website, www.HomegrownFrederick.com, which includes a section on the craft beverage industry. Visitors can use an interactive map to search for places making their favorite types of craft drinks. The website was designed in response to outreach from the County's agricultural economic development specialist, Katie Albaugh, who surveyed farmers

and agri-businesses to see how the county can support growth of their business.

Promoting the emerging market is one piece of the puzzle. There are other steps we are taking to address the industry's needs. Katie meets regularly with the Frederick Area Distillery Guild, the Agriculture Business Council (which includes a representative from a winery), and the Farm Bureau to find innovative ways to help agri-business and agri-tourism succeed.

For instance, wineries, breweries and distilleries frequently hold special events at their facilities. These may be festivals, concerts, or other events where the owner would like to bring in food trucks so their guests can also enjoy some food. Most of the beverage manufacturers don't want to provide food themselves. Securing permits for serving food and hosting events can be a complicated process. Navigating the maze of state and local regulations can be frustrating.

That's why I recently announced several initiatives to address the industry's needs and

to show that my administration means business.

First, I have formed a Food Truck Work Group to find out where the hiccups are in the process of permitting the trucks. Katie Albaugh will lead the group, which includes staff from the Office of Economic Development, Permitting, and the Health Department. The group will hear from businesses that want to bring in food trucks, as well as from food truck operators. I asked the group to identify concerns and present me with recommended solutions by March 15, 2017. I look forward to hearing the group's ideas.

Another step we are taking, at the request of the Maryland Wineries Association, is to create a guide to help those who are interested in starting up a craft beverage operation. The idea came from another guide that the Office of Economic Development created earlier this year. This "Road Map for Business" brochure walks a new business owner through the process, from developing a plan to finding the ideal location. The executive director of the Maryland Winery Association, Kevin Atticks, asked us to produce the same

type of guide that would be specific to the craft beverage industry. The craft beverage guide is already in the works.

The County also has been asked to consider allowing limited tasting rooms for breweries and wineries, similar to the way we allow limited roadside stands for the sale of produce. Staff has organized a day of on-site meetings with some operations to see what would be involved.

Finally, my administration has created a new Seasonal Outdoor Activity Permit for temporary outdoor activities that attract fewer than 200 people. Previously, if a winery wanted to hold a special event each month, the business would need to apply for 12 separate permits, one for each weekend event, and pay an application fee for each permit. By allowing bundling, one permit can be used for multiple events held over the course of several months. Businesses will be able to use the permit to save time and money.

County agencies continue to work together to make sure this change still protects the public safety and welfare of attendees and respects neighbors. Those agencies include the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department, Planning and Permitting, and the Fire Marshal's Office. Working collaboratively, we can make a difference for the businesses that want to open or expand in Frederick County.

My administration will continue to look for ways to make it easier to start and grow a business in the county. We want to encourage emerging markets like wineries, breweries and distilleries to take root and grow here. With so many great ideas brewing, it's no wonder business is booming in Frederick!

"So . . . That Happened"

Justin M. Kiska

Consider myself to be a betting man. Had you asked me on November 7th to place a wager on who would be elected our next president . . . well, let's just say, if I had taken the bet, I would have lost everything. The result of last month's presidential election just goes to show that until the votes are cast, no one really knows how anything will turn out.

No matter what the polls and pundits say, the people are the ones who get to have the final say. When we forget that, and it happens more often than one would think, the voters have a way of reminding us who's really in charge.

Now that the votes have been cast though, what do we all do now? This election was without question the nastiest, most divisive in my lifetime. However, there were some presidential races in the 1800s that still take the cake for being worse. Hard to believe, I know. But our country survived after those campaigns and it will again. The United States is more resilient and can withstand a lot more than a contentious election.

I'm not saying there isn't some serious healing that needs to happen. Things were said and done on all sides for which people have a right to be angry and for which many should be ashamed. As a nation though, we have proven time and time again that we can disagree but in the end, we all come back together for the good of the country. I am hoping that is what will happen again.

The only way for this to happen, is for everyone to have the chance to be heard and listened to. We all think the side of an issue we're on is right. But the people who disagree with us and are on the other side of the issue think they're right. Could we both be right? Could we both be wrong? The only way to find out is to respect the fact that there are differences of opinions and different beliefs and have an open and honest conversation about everything.

Not everything is as black and white as we would like it to be. We're living in a very grey world right now and have to accept that fact if we ever have a hope to accomplish anything. There has to be some give-and-take at times and an understanding that no one will ever get everything they want.

Sometimes it is hard to understand how some people can think the way they do or believe what they do, but their beliefs need to be considered just as valid as our own. That's not to say I don't find some people's words and actions to be repugnant and when they cross the line and begin breaking laws or harming others, then it's a completely different story. What frustrates me are the people shouting that they need to be heard when they aren't willing to listen to anyone else.

This election upset a lot of people. I watched as friends became enemies and family members stopped talking to one another. Personally, I blame social media for exacerbating the vitriol. As someone who does not use Facebook, I was spared most of what I've heard others went through and am still talking to all my friends. And some of those friends and I are polar opposite

and saw this election through very different lenses. But we've been able to talk about it and agree on some things and remain on opposite sides of other issues. The key is, we're still talking and willing to listen to the other side and not just walk away and say, "You're wrong, I can't talk to you."

Maybe I'm too optimistic, but I do think things will be alright and our

country will come together again. We can learn from this election and move forward stronger than before.

Being that we are now coming up on the holidays, even for just the next few weeks, I hope everyone takes the time to relax and enjoy the season. Let the anger and frustration go for just a little while. Spend time with your friends and family. Everyone just needs a break for a little while and some time to decompress.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wife, 35, Drives 2012 Honda Accord EX Sedan • Husband, 37, Drives 2010 Chevy Suburban LS 	\$1030	\$1447	\$1209	\$924
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wife, 47, Drives 2011 Honda Pilot EX • Husband, 50, Drives 2012 Ford Taurus SEL 	\$1047	\$1316	\$1168	\$930

The Comparison Chart assumes coverage for bodily injury (\$100,000/\$300,000), Property Damage (\$50,000), Basic Personal Injury Protection, Uninsured & Underinsured Motorist bodily injury (\$100,000/\$200,000), \$50,000 Uninsured Motorist Property Damage, Deductibles of \$100 on Comprehensive claims, \$250 on Collision claims. Some rates may vary due to ZIP code. All rates are shown for a driver with no more than 12 miles each way, with annual mileage of 12,000 miles. All rates are equipped with 4-wheel anti-lock brakes, dual airbags and positive seat-belt system. Accident Credit, Safe Edge/Title Transfer or similar discounts and Multi-car discounts are applied to all competitors. Additional eligibility criteria apply by company. *Based on information compiled from the most recent rates made available by Quoted May 2016 Comparison Rating Software as of 01/07/2016. Rates apply to new policies and may not include all ZIP codes in a given territory. This comparison uses our Alerts! State Insurance Company Superior XE Auto Product.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On Tuesday, November 15th, the Borough Council met and approved the advertisement of the proposed 2017 Budget. This action made the proposed 2017 Budget available for residents' review prior to its final adoption at the December 13th Council meeting. The 2017 Budget is the end-product of a three-step review process over a three-month period. The first review was performed by the Borough Manager when analyzing the Borough Department submissions. The second review was performed by the Finance Committee. The third review was performed by the Borough Council during their Budget Workshop. The tentative budget is based on a millage rate of 2.45 mills that is 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation which means there will be no Carroll Valley Borough tax increase for 2017. The distribution of the total tax paid approximately breaks down as follows: Carroll Valley is 14.77%, Fire Tax is 1.51%, Adams County is 23.62% and Fairfield School District is 60.10%. For every \$1 of taxes paid, approximately 15¢

is paid to Carroll Valley Borough for services. The proposed 2017 budget can be reviewed at the Borough office or at www.carrollvalley.org for the online version.

Thanksgiving is behind us and now on to December. The start of winter, also known as "winter solstice" is December 21st (Wednesday). This is the shortest day of the year. Hanukkah begins in the evening of Saturday, December 24th and ends in the evening of Sunday, January 1st. National Chocolate Covered Anything Day is celebrated on December 16th. I had to include this one for those chocolate lovers who need an excuse to have a piece of you know what. Christmas is on the December 25th. Kwanzaa, a celebration that honors African heritage in African-American culture, is observed from December 26th to January 1st.

Since radar was first used by Connecticut police in 1949 to enforce maximum speed laws, municipal police in Pennsylvania have never been closer to being able to use radar to protect the public than they were on October 18, 2016. That was the day that the Senate of Penn-

sylvania passed Senate Bill 535 by a vote of 47 to 3 and sent it to the House of Representatives for consideration. Unfortunately, the leaders of the House did not believe that there was enough time left in the legislative session to properly consider the Bill and the session ended without any vote on it. The Radar Coalition is planning to encourage the Senate and House members to reintroduce the legislation allowing municipal police to use radar in the 2017-2018 session.

Had the opportunity to attend the Veterans Breakfast held on November 11th by the Fairfield School District. Over 100 veterans participated. Thanks, goes out to Superintendent Karen Kugler, school staff and teachers, students, and Ski Liberty. To see the pictures, go to ronspictures.net. Congratulations to our Lady Knights State Champions. Everyone is so proud! The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has declared a drought watch for Adams County. A drought watch is intended to alert government agencies, and the public of a potential onset of drought related

problems. It is a request for voluntary water conservation. The Toys for Tots program is an annual toy drive sponsored by the United States Marine Corp. The goal of this program is to make sure every child has a present on Christmas morning. If you want to help to bring a smile to a child, please consider donating a new unwrapped toy. For more information or have any questions, please call Gayle Marthers at 717-752-0063. You can also go to the website: www.toysfortots.org. Thank those in our community for their support of the Toys for Tots Program.

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA) will be having a Winter Wonderland Dinner Dance on Friday, December 9th from 6:00 until 11:00 pm in the Highland Lodge at the Liberty Mountain Resorts. The cost is \$35 per person which includes a delicious buffet dinner that will be served at 7:00 pm. Music will be provided by a DJ for your listening pleasure during dinner and afterwards for dancing. Reservations are required by prepaid ticket purchase. Tickets are available at Mountain View Realty, Jester's Computer Services, and by calling Mary at 717-642-6654, or Marie at 717-

642-8343. This Dinner Dance will also provide an opportunity to join the revitalized CVCA group and pay your dues, volunteer to help with other events and programs, and share your ideas to enhance and enrich life in our beautiful Valley Home Area. Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 10th from 8 to 11 a.m.. I have been told by an air traffic controller that Santa plans to arrive at 9 a.m.. If you plan to attend, bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program, you will eat for free. As always, there will be lots of fun for the kids.

December Borough meetings are: Planning Commission (Dec 5th), Public Safety Committee (Dec 12th), Borough Council (Dec 13th), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Dec 21st). The Borough Office will be closed on Dec 26th and Dec 27th. 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 MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Happy Holidays and I wish you and your family good health and happiness topped with loads of good fortune in 2017. Happy New Year!

State Representative Dan Moul

In the final days of the 2015-16 legislative session, several bills were moved through the state Legislature and sent to the governor where they were signed into law. Included was my legislation to prevent the Department of Revenue from retroactively taxing agricultural easements and land bank transfers to the exemption that became effective on Sept. 11.

The tax code portion of this year's budget specifically ex-

empts agricultural conservation easements from the Realty Transfer Tax, but the exemption language did not include a retroactive effective date. Therefore, the department began retroactively taxing agricultural conservation easements for the three-year period in which they were not covered by an exemption.

The Commonwealth leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production.

More than 20,000 acres have been preserved for farming in Adams County alone. Without my legislation, the practice of retroactively taxing these farmers would have had a chilling effect on Pennsylvania's successful farmland preservation program. House Bill 2370, now Act 175, not only removes the retroactive tax liability, but it also permits taxpayers to petition for a refund of taxes improperly imposed on them prior to the exemption. The new law went into effect immediately and is retroactive to July 13, 2016.

Before session ended, we also moved to address a public health and safety issue that is of growing concern in the Common-

wealth and nationwide – opioid abuse. We passed legislation to prevent opioid and heroin-related abuse and overdoses, which last year claimed more than 3,500 lives in Pennsylvania. Now law are limits on how opioids are prescribed to minors, and by hospital emergency departments and urgent care centers. Physicians and dispensers of the drugs must also receive continuing education in pain management, addiction and dispensing practices; and must consult the new prescription drug monitoring database within 24 hours of prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine. Medical schools and medical training facilities are now required to establish a safe opioid prescribing curriculum, and another new law provides for the safe disposal of opi-

oids and other medications.

Another bill recently signed into law will authorize local municipalities to enact earned income and property tax liability tax credits for active volunteers of a fire company or emergency medical service company. The tax credits would provide up to 20 percent of an active volunteer's tax liability based on the number of calls he or she responds to, their training or participation in the functions of the organization. It is believed that House Bill 1683, now Act 172, will help to retain first responders and may encourage more people to volunteer.

It's the holiday season and for hunters who may be interested in helping those in need, the Hunters Sharing the Harvest program is an excellent way to do so. Now in its 25th year, the Hunters Sharing the Harvest program assists participating hunters across the Commonwealth who choose to donate all or part of their harvested deer to local food banks, missions, homeless shelters and churches, as well as individual families and food pantries. The program helps hunters locate participating processors, which prepare the meat for distribution. To find a list of local processors or for more information, visit www.ShareDeer.org.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and for giving me the opportunity to continue serving you. I wish you and your family peace and happiness throughout the holiday season and in the new year. Merry Christmas!

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Bill Eiker

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Jim Martin

Two highlights of this year's election were the renewed and enthusiastic interest in the presidential election and the operation of the Electoral College. We were reminded that the popular vote does not elect the president, but the Electoral College, a system developed by the wisdom of our founding fathers. It is a guard against a strong faction leveraging their power to put others at a functional disadvantage, for instance, urban versus rural or small states versus large states. If the Electoral College was abolished, rural America would always be at the mercy of the vote from metropolitan regions.

In this year's election the rural voters played a major role in electing the electoral voters of their respective states. Pennsylvania, for example, has 20 electoral voters who pledge their votes to the candidate who receives the most individual votes in PA. This is repeated for each state. Donald Trump was the choice of rural PA and much of rural America. This rural voter turnout was as much as 26% higher than the presidential election of 2012. This level of turnout was vital to Trump acquiring the most Electoral Votes and his election as the next president. During the 2012 presidential election, voter turnout

dropped in rural counties by 18%. That is a direction Adams County and other rural counties do not want to repeat, because low turnout does not impress upon our legislators the need for rural related legislative action.

In 2016 Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc. was on top of the voter turnout issue. They rightfully impressed upon our communities that voting is extremely important and voting matters. In the words of Adams Electric's CEO Steve Rasmussen, "Voting matters – it's that simple! If you do not vote, the consequences mean a weaker voice, especially for rural issues." So, voting represents more than electing a president; it represents that "we the people" (rural) want to direct the destiny of our rural communities.

I like what Thomas Jefferson said about us as voters, putting the act of voting in perspective. His words were, "An enlightened citizenry is indispensable for the proper functioning of a republic (which we are). Self-government is not possible unless the citizens are educated sufficiently to enable them to exercise oversight". That being said, enthusiasm for voting is wonderful, but being an educated voter makes us even more effective and a stronger voice. This year it

was refreshing to see the increased number of registered voters in Adams County. Even more refreshing was to see Adams County voting precincts with better than 72% voter turnout. That is the type of voice that we need to have continually as a rural community.

Remember, our economic drivers and community interests are far different than metropolitan areas. The interests of Adams County must be kept before our legislators for representative action. Do not allow the recent power shown by our strong vote fade; plan now to vote next year and every year. There will be local office positions on the ballot for the upcoming spring primary and the November general election.

While we are addressing the topic of elections and voting, I wish to comment on the matter of early voting. I am not a proponent of early voting because of inherent issues. The matter of holding votes in suspension until Election Day offers a security concern and added expenses to conduct early voting. Early votes are held at the risk of mishandling votes/ballots and also early voting does not allow maximum time for all issues to be fully vetted for a truly informed vot-

er. Early voting also requires greater expenses to tax payers to fund staffing for additional days of voting. A good solution to resolve the issue of early voting is to adopt "no excuse absentee voting". This would remove numerous obstacles that could potentially interfere with a voter getting to the poll. Absentee ballots also offer a deterrent to tampering; the ballot is held inside of two sealed envelopes just prior to being counted on Election Day. Should new information about issues or candidates come to the voters before Election Day, the absentee voter can come to the poll and cancel his or her absentee ballot and vote a new ballot based upon the need to change their vote.

Absentee voting can also help detect organized efforts of voter fraud. Absentee ballots have been known to be submitted by someone other than the intended voter. This fraudulent activity can be discovered when the actual voter comes to the poll. This vote then cancels the absentee ballot that is fraudulent and can prompt the election board to validate signatures if there is a pattern of cancelled absentee ballots. This level of validation is not nearly as likely with fraudulent early voting. Given the above discussion I will support efforts to promote "no excuse absentee voting" and to negate efforts for early voting.

Maintaining the integrity of the voting process should be taken seriously and should be respected by all. In the race for the governor of North Carolina there have been reports of voter fraud. Some evidence has prompted investigations of fraud and is an indication that NC takes protecting the integrity of voting seriously. Everyone across our nation should. One little known prohibited act is using a false permanent residential address to file a voter registration. Unfortunately we have detected several such cases in Adams County which are being addressed. This is evidence of Adams County guarding the integrity of voting. In case you are wondering, our Elections and Voter Registration Office adheres to the highest standards of maintaining a wholesome registration and voting process. They deserve the highest level of respect for the outstanding job they do.

November 8th was an extremely busy election day with record numbers of voters passing through Adams County polls. Thank you voters for being very patient and respectful while waiting in long voter lines. Thank you precinct election board members for your service on a very long day. Thanks also go to various fire police who directed traffic around our busy polls. The Board of Commissioners looks forward to seeing you participating in the 2017 elections.

State Senator Richard Alloway

Pets Deserve Better Protection

The history of pet ownership dates back centuries to the first domestication of wolf pups by primitive cultures. The first pets not only provided love and companionship, but also contributed to the health and security of their owners, offering protection, warmth and assistance in hunting. Although the role of pets has slowly evolved to a relationship based more on friendship than survival, our animal companions continue to maintain a critical role in our society.

The role of pets in shaping our world is one reason why I fight to prevent animal cruelty, but truth be told, there are three other furry reasons – all of which live in my home. The love and joy that pets bring into our lives cannot be quantified or overlooked, and we must do all that we can to ensure they are treated with care and respect.

In far too many cases, animals don't receive the treatment they deserve. And perhaps more troublingly, the people who willfully neglect or abuse animals don't receive the punishment they deserve. In some cases, people who abandon or inflict harm on animals face penalties no worse than your average traffic citation or littering fine. We cannot reasonably expect animal abusers to take their own treatment of animals seriously when the law treats their crimes as nothing more than a minor nuisance.

I have been working for years to raise awareness of these issues in the state Capitol Building, and these efforts are finally starting to pay off. The Senate already approved my bill to prevent tethering dogs in unsafe conditions, and hundreds of animal lovers recently descended on Harrisburg to urge their lawmakers to vote for Li-

bre's Law, legislation I introduced to strengthen penalties for animal abusers. Momentum is building for both of these proposals to be considered in the next several weeks.

Pets play an incredible role in our history, as well as our day-to-day lives. We owe it to these beloved pets to ensure every animal can live in an environment free of abuse, neglect and mistreatment. To all those who have joined me in this effort, I thank you for becoming the voice of our furry friends. To all those who haven't yet joined the fight, I urge you to contact your elected officials to ensure every animal gets a fair shot at a happy, healthy life.

Charter School Reform

Pennsylvania's charter school law was originally designed to help promote innovation and expand educational opportunities for students outside of the traditional public school setting. In the nearly 20 years since the law was enacted, many charter schools have met this challenge; others have fallen short. Improving the state's approach to charter schools is a critical step toward ensuring students across the state have access to a quality education.

Over the past several years, lawmakers have found difficulty in reaching an agreement on a comprehensive charter school reform bill due to the complex nature of the problem. Part of the difficulty in addressing this issue is the fact that no two charter schools are identical, and no two host school districts are completely alike. Each charter school and its authorizing school district faces its own set of unique circumstances in terms of student population, demographics and funding.

Concerns have also been raised by those on both sides of the debate re-

garding the application and appeals process, the funding formula and payment methods, and how the effectiveness and efficiency of charter schools is measured. These disputes often lead to an adversarial relationship between the charter school and its host district, which detracts from the mission of both institutions – to educate young people. Striking a balance between charter schools, public schools and taxpayers is critical to help create an environment in which all students can succeed.

One area of broad agreement is the need for greater accountability and transparency measures for charter schools. While the vast majori-

ty of these institutions operate in the best interests of students, we have seen isolated cases in which funds allocated to charter schools were mishandled or abused. State law requires school districts to meet stringent financial reporting criteria in order to ensure tax dollars are being invested wisely and appropriately. It makes sense that charter schools should be required to adhere to stronger financial disclosure standards as well.

There is also an acknowledgment on both sides of the debate that performance matters. Charter schools that offer students a high-quality education deserve our support. Those who are failing our students only serve to unnecessarily take money away from young people in public schools. Across the nation, char-

ter school performance is improving. However, data suggests that charters are underperforming in Pennsylvania as a whole. Looking to the examples set in other states could be extremely helpful in maintaining and expanding options for students and ensuring taxpayers get the greatest return on investment.

It is my belief that charter schools can continue to play a significant role in helping to expand educational opportunities for children and meet certain educational needs that in some instances our public schools cannot. We need to find solutions that are fair to all parties: charter schools, school districts, taxpayers, and especially students. Working to find common ground between all stakeholders will be my priority as we move forward.

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May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your Blessing through the coming New Year!

We would like to thank you all for your business this past year and wish you all a joyful holiday season!

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THE PASTOR'S DESK

Merry Christmas

Pastor Jon Greenstone
Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church

When speaking of our church, Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, some have asked, "What is Evangelical?" For some, evangelism conjures up thoughts of suited men rapping at their door at dinner time with literature on the terrors of hell, or big tent preachers yelling, "Repent, repent!" However, evangelical simply means, to bring Good News. It is associated with the angels, such as those who brought the glad tidings to shepherds while watching over their sheep. The good news also had formerly come to Mary by the angel Gabriel, that she would bear a son, Emmanuel, who would be the Son of God, the Messiah. We evangelicals seek to carry out our mission of sharing God's love in word and deed. We seek to proclaim the message of God's far reaching love, and live this message by acts of love, compassion and caring.

Luke the Evangelist provides the full account of the shepherds' fearful surprise at the angel's announcement of the Savior's birth: "An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified (Luke 2:9)." Yes! It is a holy terror when God sends a heavenly messenger to tell us something. These shepherds [farmers] were quaking in their sandals because they had never experienced an angelic visitation before. However, the heavenly messenger quickly allayed their fears by explaining the purpose of the ethereal visit, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the

people: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11)." This is the true authentic evangelos, Good News, that has come to all of the world, for the Savior is for all people—the righteous and the unrighteous.

By the startling announcement of the heavenly messenger we can better see that the modern usage of the term evangelical, as a description of a certain body of Christians with certain social or political ideas, makes for a convoluted understanding of the Christian message, which was intended as Good News for All people, not just a select few holding certain principles or political values.

Martin Luther provides guidance as to what is meant by evangelical in terms of how we hear and interpret the meaning of Christmas. Keep in mind that Luther was writing in defense of the Biblical message as primary source for faith, life and salvation, as opposed to worldly or human forms of religiosity present in the medieval church of his day. In his "Sermon On the Afternoon of Christmas Day 1530" Luther tells us there are two articles of the faith that we must return to. The first article is the account of the Savior's birth. The Evangelist's message, the Gospel, is to be heard and believed. Luther suggests that even the devil has heard and believes the story of the Messiah's birth, likewise the godless and the religious have heard the Good News, but belief and (or) faith in the Good News is required. Luther wants the Christian to take the words of the historic Creeds, founded upon God's Word, as Gospel truth. "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our

Lord, born of the Virgin Mary." It's not just a formula to be blindly recited, even though recitation helps us to internalize it, but the complete narrative is to be embraced, owned and celebrated, personally and collectively in the Church. For "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11)."

However, Luther is also compassionate for the rationalists among us, he states that "it is a high article to believe that this infant, born of Mary, is true God; for nobody's reason can ever accept the fact that he who created heaven and earth and is adored by angels was born of a virgin." Luther desires that we embrace this faith, that God would indeed come into the world as a small innocent, vulnerable human child to be the Lord and Savior of all.

But what is the second article to which Luther refers? Here perhaps is the division between the hearers and the doers, between those who follow the letter of the law and those who obey the spirit of the law (joints and marrow). Luther's audience is diverse, just like the church of today, we are Catholic, Protestant and we are non-denominational. Some are conservative and others more socially minded. But what makes us Christians who shine in the darkness of the World's despair? How does our faith in the new born King make a difference? Is there more than just a heart-warming story and a star on top of the Christmas tree? What does the angel want of the shepherds who were addressed on that night of nights? Luther asks, "Why did God do all this?"

The second article is founded in a sense of the believer's heart-felt conviction. This begins with an acknowledgement, "I am a sinner in need of grace." Luke's Gospel reveals that the humble, lowly people were the first to hear the announcement. It helps us to recall Luther's proof text for all scriptural interpretation -- "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Eph.2:8)." Therefore the hearer of the Word, as presented by the evangelist, becomes moved to action as he or she responds with conviction to the words such as were given to the shepherds by the angel who said, "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped



in bands of cloth and lying in a manger (Luke 2:12)." Soon thereafter the multitude of heavenly host sings "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors! (Lk 2:14);" and then there is a response by the lowly shepherds—this is the fulfillment of the second article.

The shepherds are moved to action without a formal prompting (nor scolding). They responded to the Good News announcement with a plan of action. They "said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'" This is what the Spirit asks of evangelicals today, that we first of all comprehend the announcement that the Savior has been born—for you and for All people. In our worship, we are not just to

be sentimental, nor just carrying forward with tradition—though we do take guidance and stability from tradition. Luther suggests we not only praise Mary for her devotion and willingness to bear the Christ child, but most importantly embrace the little Holy Child for ourselves! In this reflection, as we see Mary caring for her son, who is the Son of God—the very one who created the Cosmos, we will recognize that God the Father has acted, the Holy Spirit has overshadowed, and the angels have announced that this Savior is for all of humankind. The Christmas story is our Evangelical message, Good News for All People. Amen.

To learn more about Emmitsburg's Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church join them for Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., or Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.

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The Three Magi



In connection with the birth of the Saviour, and as a pendant to the notice under Twelfth Day, or the Epiphany of the observances commemorative of the visit of the Wise Men of the East to Bethlehem, we shall here introduce some further particulars of the ideas current in medieval times on the subject of these celebrated personages.

The legend of the Wise Men of the East, or, as they are styled in the original Greek of St. Matthew's gospel, Μαγοί (the Magi), who visited the infant Saviour with precious offerings, became, under monkish influence, one of the most popular during the middle ages, and was told with increased and elaborated perspicuity as time advanced.

The Scripture nowhere informs us that these individuals were kings, or their number restricted to three. The legend converts the Magi into kings, gives their names, and a minute account of their stature and the nature of their gifts. Melchior (we are thus told) was king of Nubia, the smallest man of the triad, and he gave the Saviour a gift of gold. Balthazar was king of Chaldea, and he offered incense; he was a man of ordinary stature. But the third, Jasper, king of Tarshish, was of high stature, 'a black Ethiope,' and he gave myrrh. All came with 'many rich ornaments belonging to king's array, and also with mules, camels, and horses loaded with great treasure, and with multitude of people, 'to do homage to the Saviour, 'then a little child of xiii dayes olde.'

The barbaric pomp involved in this legend made it a favourite with artists during the middle ages. Our engraving is a copy from a circular plate of silver, chased in high-relief, and partly gilt, which is supposed to have formed the centre of a morse, or large brooch, used to fasten the decorated cope of an ecclesiastic in the latter part of the fourteenth century. The subject has been frequently depicted by the artists subsequent to this period. Van Eyck, Durer, and the German schools were particularly fond of the theme—the latest and most striking work being that by Rubens, who reveled in such pompous displays. The artists of the Low Countries were, probably, also biased by the fact, that the cathedral of Co-

logne held the shrine in which the bodies of the Magi were said to be deposited, and to which the faithful made many pilgrimages, greatly to the emolument of the city, a result which induced the worthy burghers to distinguish their shield of arms by three crowns only, and to designate the Magi as 'the three kings of Cologne.'

It was to the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, that the religious world was indebted for the discovery of the place of burial of these kings in the far east. She removed their bodies to Constantinople, where they remained in the church of St. Sophia, until the reign of the Emperor Emanuel, who allowed Eustorgius, bishop of Milan, to transfer them to his cathedral. In 1164, when the Emperor Frederick conquered Milan, he gave these treasured relics to Raynuldus, archbishop of Cologne, who removed them to the latter city.

His successor, Philip von Heinsberg, placed them in a magnificent reliquary, enriched with gems and enamels, still remaining in its marble shrine in the cathedral, one of the chief wonders of the noble pile, and the principal 'sight' in Cologne. A heavy fee is exacted for opening the doors of the chapel, which is then lighted with lamps, producing a dazzling effect on the mass of gilded and jeweled sculpture, in the centre of which may be seen the three skulls, reputed to be those of the Magi. These relics are enveloped in velvet, and decorated with embroidery and jewels, so that the upper part of each skull only is seen, and the hollow eyes which, as the faithful believe, once rested on the Saviour.

The popular belief in the great power of intercession and protection possessed by the Magi, as departed saints, was widely spread in the middle ages. Any article that had touched these skulls was believed to have the power of preventing accidents to the bearer while traveling, as well as to counteract sorcery, and guard against sudden death. Their names were also used as a charm, and were inscribed upon girdles, garters, and finger-rings. We engrave two specimens of such rings, both works of the four-

teenth century. The upper one is of silver, with the names of the Magi engraved upon it; the lower one is of lead simply cast in a mould, and sold cheap for the use of the commonalty. They were regarded as particularly efficacious in the case of cramp. Traces of this superstition still linger in the curative properties popularly ascribed to certain rings.

Christmas Charities

We have already, in commenting on Christmas-day and its observances, remarked on the hallowed feelings of affection and good-will which are generally called forth at the celebration of this anniversary. Quarrels are composed and forgotten, old friendships are renewed and confirmed, and a universal spirit of charity and forgiveness evoked. Nor is this charity merely confined to acts of kindness and generosity among equals; the poor and destitute experience the bounty of their richer neighbors, and are enabled like them to

enjoy themselves at the Christmas season. From the Queen downwards, all classes of society contribute their mites to relieve the necessities and increase the comforts of the poor, both as regards food and raiment. Even in the work-houses—those abodes of short-commons and little ease—the authorities, for once in the year, become liberal in their housekeeping, and treat the inmates on Christmas-day to a substantial dinner of roast-beef and plum-pudding.

It is quite enlivening to read the account in the daily papers, a morning or two afterwards, of the fare with which the inhabitants of the various work-houses in London and elsewhere were regaled on Christmas-day, a detailed chronicle being furnished both of the quality of the treat and the quantity supplied to each individual. Beggars, too, have a claim on our charity at this season, and must not be turned from our doors unrelieved. They may, at least, have their dole of bread and meat; and to whatever bad uses they may possibly turn our bounty, it is not probable that the deed will ever

be entered to our discredit in the books of the Recording Angel.


In olden times, it was customary to extend the charities of Christmas and the New Year to the lower animals. Burns refers to this practice in 'The Auld Farmer's Address to his Mare,' when presenting her on New-Year's morning with an extra feed of corn:

A guid New-year, I wish thee,
Maggie!

Hae, there's a ripp to thy auld
baggie!






The great-grandfather of the writer small proprietor in the Carse of Falkirk, in Scotland, and an Episcopalian—used regularly himself, every Christmas-morning, to carry a special supply of fodder to each individual animal in his stable and cow-house. The old gentleman was wont to say, that this was a morning, of all others in the year, when man and beast ought alike to have occasion to rejoice.


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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Christmas and being thankful

Shannon Bohrer

It is the Christmas season, time to be happy and celebrate. It is time to see friends and share meals and drinks. This time of the year I like to reflect on all that I have in my life; my wife, family and friends are always at the top. And I do believe that the good feelings during the holidays are in part because of all of the celebrations with family and friends. As I reflect on my life I know that I have been very fortunate to be married to such a beautiful person, to have a career that I liked, living where I live and being able to enjoy some retirement. My parents always told my sisters and me that to be happy you need to appreciate what you have and not what others have, or not what you think you should have. In my situation it is an easy lesson to believe because I have so much.

Another reason we can celebrate is because the election is over. I won't miss the election advertising, the telephone calls and even the news coverage. Maybe now we can see some news other than the election. A large issue during the election was the reported bias in the national news. Of course the bias only exists when we hear something which with we don't agree. If we agree with what is said, then it's not "biased." You

could say the same thing about the news after the election, depending on which side you were on.

Since the election I know there are some very unhappy people because of the results, which include me. However, I say to the unhappy people that we do live in a democracy and we should be thankful for that. There are people that truly believe the country will end, because their candidate(s) did not win. Many people believe the country will end, not because their candidate did not win, but because the other candidate did. Maybe we need to reflect on our history. We have endured many political elections and the country has never ended because of who was president. Along these lines I do think we should be thankful that everyone can have and express their beliefs. In many ways it is our diversity that makes us great and at the same time it divides us. I also see that as part of the problem with the President elect.

Living in our free county allows the expression of one's beliefs, but expressing your displeasure with the election outcome does not mean the results will change. I don't mean to dismiss, nor would I dismiss individuals that are dissatisfied with the election outcomes, but I do think that after the election we need to accept the results. That — is a democracy. Our sys-

tem is not "rigged." We lived in the best county in the world before the election and it will continue to be the best country.

Much of this past election was based on fear and that the world is a dangerous place. That is a new thought. But history tells us it has always been dangerous. There was once an individual that blamed foreigners and immigrants for the country's problems. He also blamed the writers and the press for spreading false truths. He blamed his own government for the country's problems. He even blamed other countries for his country's problems. Bigotry and prejudice became the norm and he was the only one that could save them. According to him the country was in difficult economic times and it was caused by people that had different religions and looked different.

The world tolerated his rantings and he developed a broad support in his own country. Sound familiar?

Thankfully, the United States of America and the allies won World War II and defeated this individual and his country. In doing so we saved democracy, and with it we saved our freedoms. So it is alright to be different, except when you believe that your difference is the only correct way, and everyone else is wrong. I can't help seeing some similarities between that former leader and our President elect; they both seemed to have the same message.

It may, or may not surprise some voters that our Presidential Elect had the highest rate of false statements classified as "Pants on Fire!" by PolitiFact. In fact, he was rated as the most untruthful candidate in the election. Having said that, I know that some people won't believe it, but it is a free country. If you wish, and I hope you do, you can check out the ratings of all the candidates at PolitiFact.com. I know some people won't check it and will believe it's a conspiracy.

Having typed the above words I also know that there will be individuals that say they do not trust the press and they especially don't trust the web site PolitiFact.com. After all why should they believe the press? Why should anyone believe the government?

I have said before that when people say you should not trust the government or the national news, I wonder how and where they get their news. I think that having a dose of skepticism is not just a good thing, but it required for thinking people. However, just totally not believing the news is not in my conceptual reality. There are many countries around the world where you cannot believe the news, but the United States of America is not one of them.

Our government is not perfect, but it is the best form of government on this earth. That does not mean we don't have problems, but where else to you want to live? I believe we have a lot to be thankful for and this is the time of the year to reflect on what we have, not

what someone else has, or what we want, but what we have. We live in a democracy that has regular elections and peaceful transfer of power. Because our democracy was created with checks and balances, no one single individual or group, can govern without oversight and criticism. We can all be heard and contribute. How many other places on earth does that happen?

As to why I did not support the President elect? I could not support someone who constantly belittles others and espouses racist views. I do believe that we all have some implicit biases, but his views are offensive, overt and intentionally hurtful. I also cannot support someone that brags about molesting women and brags that he can do it because of who he is. He even bragged that he walked into the dressing room at a Ms. Teen U.S.A. contest and he was allowed to see underage girls in stages of undress, again because of who he is. While being a racist is not a crime, molesting women is a crime. If eleven women came forward and said I groped them I am sure I would be arrested. The rules of civility and crime, do not apply to our President Elect.

Who said: "The great masses of the people will more easily fall victims to a big lie than to a small one," and "All propaganda has to be popular and has to accommodate itself to the comprehension of the least intelligent of those whom it seeks to reach."

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

Common Cents

The road to recession

Ralph Murphy

Annual growth in the American economy was about 1.1% of total earnings compared to last year. It reflected a downturn of over 1% and was predictable amid continued mergers of antagonistic interests in the public as well as private sectors. Part of the concern may involve the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 that sought to "promote accountability and transparency in the financial system", but may have ironically hampered it.

Dodd Frank was a reform measure spearheaded by two Democratic Congressmen amid the liquidity "crisis" for investors after a 2008 mortgage bubble collapsed and sent tied assets spiraling downward. Rather than take a loss in the capital markets, the bankers and others affected were able to achieve bailouts with public funds and maintain artificial parity for earnings as if their investments had been successful. Central bank assets were merged and the private sector was able to change Federal Reserve policy. The enforcement structure became an unlikely alchemy of corporate governance that still has access to the Treasury and Fed

funds to cover mistakes or afford what amounts to simple theft. The bill sought to avoid conflicts of interest, but may have created them by dictating corporate policies that were not closely linked to profit maximization and efforts to meet demand.

The Federal Reserve Act of 1913 transferred Congressional power to an independent regulator amid increased economic complexity and need for liquidity and to accommodate growth. Since inception, the Fed has regulated the money supply as well as the banking sectors for propriety and competence in lending from the critical investment organ. Those were the "core values" Senator Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.) sought to return the nation to. The bill also amended the Federal Reserve Act for its first major update since the depression era 1935 legislation stiffened oversight. It effectively institutionalized technology changes that allowed the Fed to harbor most all the nation's capital as invested. It also provided a direct tie to the business sector that changed policy to major enforcement agencies such as the SEC, FDIC and the Fed itself.

As Dodd-Frank developed, the public and private sector's access to the Fed money became almost self

regulating and the system harbored resources in the tens of trillions of dollars. Most transactions affecting money supply changes take place through the Fed bank of New York which has a rollover of a reported \$1.8 trillion each day tied to business needs and another \$1.3 trillion linked to securities. The latter is key to changes in the money supply and its value in the market place. It doesn't create that volume of money, but just serves as a clearing house or net provider for the private investors who then use it to generate new earnings. That "bank" should only be involved in the government securities trade and that should be tied to money supply management based on GDP changes and sought value of the currency.

The problem now is the investment patterns themselves as post Dodd-Frank policy have allowed lobbyists to effectively sit on governing boards as well as to dictate the salaries of the top staffers to include the CEOs. Compensation Committees which were once considered minor, in-house offices— since Dodd Frank must be drawn as "independent" players outside the organization's structure. While still approved by the company's board members— it has led to lobbyists with vastly divergent interests and loyalties to their

own firm as well the ones they effectively manage. The profit motive that drives conventional production based on competence and expected materiel reward is passed to the lobbyists vision of the same based on politics or personal gain. The latter includes former and possibly present Congressional leaders as well as Executive players said to affect most all the top 500 concerns.

The issue doesn't end with the suspect investment patterns tied to leading a company for personal or outsourced rival affiliations. Merger and acquisition (M&A) policies which had been subject to close scrutiny by varied antitrust legislative limits after enforcement became so lax, that the events went almost unchecked. The dealing could be propped to staggering sums relative to corporate earnings as it appeared the concerns were able to access the Fed money to float the deals. Antitrust is very difficult to enforce as monopolies or price rigging is difficult to prove in a market price scrutinized by regulators. That and the companies do incur a loss of market share by setting prices higher than demand. Lowering the prices increases sales volume and earnings. The problem at present is more the external access and manipulation of corporate policy as well as the mergers since the markets aren't producing based on routine consumer interest, but rather the whim of the lobbyists or others. They have almost unchecked access to key con-

trols of the private sector firms and Fed money to bailout mistakes.

The financial markets have become almost self-regulating since 2010, and capital needed for conventional dealing is being misdirected both to domestic and foreign ventures - often for net losses. If the money isn't available as envisioned by Fed policy it can't produce growth. Dodd-Frank has to be reviewed— as does the role of the Fed given technology shifts which now store data and cash at unprecedented levels. These factors have created a completely different investment landscape than that of a slower paced era's communications and data storage methods.

The situation is manageable as the money can be traced if lost, but again it is being poorly invested as required or permitted by law. A downturn with anemic growth numbers could continue to be seriously debilitating over time. The core Fed role of providing money and regulating banks that Senator Dodd and others sought to promote in passing the legislation of 2010 can best be afforded by keeping the central bank out of the new investment directives. Cash can be retained by proven producers in a regulated, competitive framework. The Dodd-Frank bill and associated Fed policy seems to misdirect talent and earnings— rather than promote them.

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

The American Mind

He did it!!! He really did it!

William Hillman

Did you notice that on the morning of November 9th, the air felt a little freer and the sun shined a little brighter? Well neither did I, but there was definitely a pep in my step. Election night was a real nail biter. At 1:15 a.m. the New York Times finally called Pennsylvania for Trump; my wife and I finished a glass of wine and retired to our bedroom confident that the tables had finally turned and that the globalist agenda had been rejected.

All the experts, including myself, said he could never do it. They laughed at him, called his campaign and his candidacy a clown act. Hillary had a campaign machine eight years in the making. Trump had a campaign (I can't call it a machine) that was hastily thrown together and seemed to spend more time tripping over itself than making progress. She outspent him 2-1 and when you add in the super pacs it's closer to 6-1. She had a better convention, won the debates, controlled the airwaves, and vastly out-manned him in the battle ground states. But that was not enough.

Trump broke all the rules.

The current model of campaigns is strong reliance on micro-targeting. Micro-targeting is the art of segmenting the electorate into small demographic groups such as gun people, pro-Israeli, Catholics, environmentalists, dog lovers, cat haters, cat lovers who listen to ham radios, people that drive sports cars, people who drive trucks and listen to opera, etc.

The groups are then surveyed and their button issues identified. Messages are directed at individuals to target these issues. The message delivery systems they use are very sophisticated. Your computer or your Smart Phones all have IP addresses that are linked to you. It is possible for Hillary Clinton's campaign to target content specifically about you. Micro-targeting is the scientific art of telling individuals what they want to hear. Since I worked my first campaign back in the 80s, we have talked about micro-targeting but the technology was never there to do it on a large scale.

Trump went against that current wisdom of micro-targeting and spoke to the American people as one group. There was very little micro-targeting in his campaign. Instead, Trump had massive rallies with crowds approaching 30,000. He averaged 6,700 people per day, compared to Hillary's 380. Trump delivered one message to everyone.

Hillary's campaign, by contrast, was built on the latest and greatest targeting modeling systems.

Since the 2000 election, the DNC has spent millions (possibly billions) of dollars perfecting data collection and targeting. Both Obama victories were credited to their data programs. Information is gathered from everywhere you go and from everything you do. Every time you turn on the "map my run" app on your iPhone, or buy organic milk at the grocery store using your loyalty card, that data will end up in their hands. All the collected data

about you is analyzed and you are classified. Their model tells them how you will vote, what issues might push you to change your vote and what issues will harden your vote.

Sasha Issenberg's book *Victory Lab* is a great window into these programs.

The danger of micro-targeting is that, at its core, it is politics of division. It functions by splitting the country into smaller and smaller groups. Each of these groups is told that it is different, it is unique, it has unique wants and needs that are different from the wants and needs of the rest of society. This is "divide and conquer" at its most subtle and best.

Hillary's campaign was a campaign of division, fear, and hate. I spent a lot of time listening to the speeches from both candidates. What is clear is Clinton tends to see America as groups of special interests. Trump sees America as people with common interests.

The early data shows that the divisive approach by the Clinton campaign backfired. The campaign targeted Cubans in the Miami area. The turnout numbers suggest that their messaging backfired and drove Cubans to the polls who then voted Trump, not Clinton.

Clinton's strong negative messaging in Pennsylvania did not energize urban and suburban voters in Philadelphia, but it sure energized Trump voters in central and northern PA.

There were four big losers in this election besides Clinton: The Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the Washington lobbyists and the news media.

He says 'don't be afraid', yet instills fear wherever he goes. He is going to revitalize industry by bringing the economy to its knees. And he has already surrounded himself with the ranting right, blind to the folk that elected him, determined to place upon your shoulders the yokes and burdens of big brother and the print of the jackboot.

But hey - there is good news - the system is broken, and a new one will now have to be crafted, installed, and made to be responsible to the electorate. As well, he is about to show you that America is not as great as it once was (do not believe his slogans) which is a lesson that was waiting to be delivered. The grit you will get is the one you have to chew on, and it will be more unpleasant that you can imagine- but isn't it time you toughened up and demanded a new revolution?

Republican control has now gone from strength to strength and now has the majority of state legislatures and both houses. Although Donald is apparently not a Republican, he stood as one, and the party must be amazed at the success he has produced for them. This could well lead to the rabid right pulling the strings, a Klan Katastrophe for non-Nazis. The Democrat image as provided by Mrs. Clinton was so rejected that Donald may reduce the imbalance



The losses for the democratic party are pretty self-evident. They lost the Presidency, the House and Senate, and all but six Governor seats. Not a lot to raise money from. But the Democratic party still has the best ground game. A lot of dead wood was cast from the party election night. As a campaign organization, the Democrats are stronger than they have ever been and despite the devastating defeat, are still the best team on the field.

The Republican party is worse off than it was a year ago. Before Trump won, he had to gut his own party. The results of the Republican primary were a rejection of the Republican party by its own voters. Throughout the general election, it felt like the party spent more energy attacking its own candidate than fighting Hillary. State parties are broke, they still have no organized ground game, and to add salt to the wound, they just spent a year attacking and trying to undercut the man who is now their leader.

Lobbyists have been kicked out of the white house. I wish I could believe that the lobbyists are dead, but, like cockroaches, the more you kill them, the quicker they come back and adapt.

The biggest loser in this campaign is the mainstream media. In great numbers people flat out rejected the media's attempt to control issues, hide facts, and manipulate opinions. CNN was pushed into a corner and forced to fire contributor Donna Brazile for feeding debate questions to Hillary. But when the reporters were critical of Hillary, the Media was swift to punish. David Seaman was fired by the Huffington Post for being critical of Hillary. Dr. Drew's show was cancelled by CNN's sister network after he raised questions about Clinton's health. CNN reporter Brianna Keiler was cut off for mentioning Hillary's support of the 1994 crime bill which led to mass incarcerations. The major networks have received a blow that they will not recover from any time soon. Their only hope would be to go through and eviscerate the newsrooms; bring back honest, fact-based journalism. But this will never happen. The media elite is too arrogant to admit that they are wrong.

To read past editions of The American Mind, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Down Under

A pessimist profile

Lindsay Coker
Melbourne, Australia

Do you know what a pessimist is? A man who thinks everybody is as nasty as himself, and hates them for it. — (Shaw, An Unsocial Socialist, 1887)

Some months I wrote that a revolution was building in the U S of A. From this far away it was pretty obvious, for there was enough coverage overall to allow me to liken it to the French & Russian shemozzles. I confess to acute distress at having been right.

You would recall those earlier events and the reasons they occurred. Exactly the same reason lies behind your own version - the elite, the rich, the powerful had taken over the country for their own use, leaving virtually everyone else to suck it up. There were differences, of course- aristocracy dressed differently, horses not cars, slower communications, but the scenarios are so similar that it is a wonder the establishment didn't foresee it - except they have never been great on history.

Trump, of course, is no Napo-

leon, no Marx or Lenin, and no shots had to be fired, but he has modeled himself on Madame Guillotine, ready to decapitate the guilty. At least those he deems to be guilty, and there are plenty ready to be targeted and to do the deeds. The once backbone of the nation, the middle class who had to join hands with the low wage rednecks, having had enough. No relief, no dignity, no understanding, and certainly no pride. It is no matter that his rhetoric was appalling, his rants against so many classes of citizens unforgivable, his undenied rotting of the system, anything was better than the establishment as personified by Mrs. Clinton.

You think not? That he's a man of integrity whose sole aim is to revitalize your country? Nothing could be further from the truth. Do not believe what he says - none of it - look instead at his record. In many countries he would be in jail because they have laws in place to catch the cheats, he would be pilloried by the community and the press for his denigration of women, his attacks of coloureds and foreigners.

that has grown steadily at the top of the pile, even though he is part of it and wants more of it. That was, in fact, the whole point this election ran on, with the ego and ignorance of the public being the food. For them to accept and run with the fictions that facebook created without question is so unbelievable that it does reinforce the notion that a country gets the leaders they deserve.

That's OK, but in this case he's also the leader of the most powerful nation on earth, one that has made madness a norm for so many, one that has skewed their financial situations, has invoked the IMF to keep them poor, yet has allowed China to dominate manufacturing. More importantly, one who holds the potential for conflict in their hand, who can take us to a war of annihilation that no one can win.

Of course the world outside the white house is not going to stand still. Allies are not going to wear the bits of foreign policy he is throwing together, China is watching and waiting, ready to take advantage of the many openings that will form, and Australia has realized for perhaps the first time that we now have to take responsibility for our own care, not doff our hat as we have been doing.

Is Donald Trump mad? Certainly not. Is he sane? Certainly not, at

least in the accepted sense. He is determined to have his name in lights for decades, even centuries, the same as every unbalanced ruler is. And he will certainly be remembered, will go into the history books, taught in primary, have movies and musicals made about him, and, because he got elected, held up as an example of how rotten the system really was.

Yes, a revolution has happened far more quickly than any before, and with far greater profundity. I doubt anyone would have seen that the result would bring you so close to a Nazi regime in its rhetoric, its proposed policies, its office bearers, and its manipulation of the truth. It illustrates just how far the system has been subverted, how the use of media has been leveraged, and how blind those that voted for him are.

A snake oil salesman with venom instead of nostrum. There's peace and quiet here in Aussie, lackluster politicians, a few jobs, and we love you guys. Come on over, the welcome mat awaits. I have to warn you, though, that we are increasingly pessimistic, not likely to help you dance and sing.

Get out while you can. The thought police will be on the checkouts soon.

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

THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Time flies... again

Bill Meredith

It must have been early in the fall of 1995 when I met Bo Cadle. I had known his father since the late '50s, and he often spoke of Bo, but I hadn't actually seen him in the flesh until he walked into my office at Mount St. Mary's and introduced himself. He folded himself up comfortably in a chair by my desk, and we chatted for a while until he got around to the purpose of his visit. He and his wife, Jean, had recently retired and moved to Emmitsburg, and were planning to start a monthly newspaper; and he was looking for writers. I told him, as politely as possible, that I had no free time, but if he could wait three years until I retired... well, you know. But a few weeks later I was driving to work one morning, and passed a field full of Spanish Needles. They are bothersome weeds, and not worth noticing most of the time; but they had just come into full bloom, and when the light from the rising sun hit them it turned the whole field into brilliant, fluorescent yellow. I stopped and stared at them for a while; but they began to fade just a bit as the sun rose higher, and there was work to be done, so I went on to the college. But that evening, when I turned on my computer to start preparing for the next day's classes, I found myself writing a piece that I called "In Praise of Weeds," and it became the first piece that I sent to Bo for his new Emmitsburg Dispatch. A few other articles appeared occasionally

until I retired, and then they became regular. What you are reading now is the 200th one of the series.

After retiring, writing became a scheduled task to be done in the third week of each month. I got into the habit of scrawling reminders in my pocket notebook whenever I saw something interesting; there was nothing systematic about it, but it felt as if they were lying there fermenting in a corner of my head. My wife and I used to make wine, so I knew fermentation is unpredictable; sometimes what comes out is better than you have any right to expect, and other times it is so bad you can't pour it down the drain fast enough. Writing is like that. Sometimes when the deadline was approaching and the fermented idea had turned out bad, I could go to the garden and pull weeds, or get on my old Gravely tractor and cut the grass, or go for a walk to Toms Creek, and new ideas almost always would come. If that didn't work, I could sit down at the kitchen table half asleep in the morning and stare at the bird feeder; something is always happening there.

That's what happened early this month. The bird feeder is between the window and the point of sunrise, and the sun comes up later and at a lower an-

gle in the sky each day, which makes colors look muted and indistinct. As usual, I was less than fully awake, and to make it worse, I had forgotten to put on my glasses. What I saw made me wake up. There was an eagle sitting on the bird feeder and eating sunflower seeds. The left side of my brain started shouting that eagles don't eat seeds; the right side was arguing that it was a brown bird with a white head, so what else could it be? The left side countered that the bird was only six inches long, so after muttering to itself a bit, the right side had to concede. So if it wasn't an eagle, what was it? I found my glasses, and with their help the left brain determined that the bird had no talons, and its beak was short and cone-shaped. Furthermore, the tail was squarish at the end, and it had stripes on its sides; quod erat demonstrandum, it must be a mutant house finch.

I really hate it when my brain does that. The left side in particular has a tendency to show off, which infuriates the right side; so another argument ensued.

RS was screaming, "Wadda you mean, quod erat? Why can't you just say 'therefore' or 'thus?' ... or even 'QED' at the very least?" LS just grinned smugly, which made things worse. The rest of the argument would have been transcribed as "#!@%*#\$!" back in the days when journalism followed the rules of civility, so I'll not translate it. You will know the gist of it.

I'm not sure which side of the brain memories live in, but they came to the rescue. Animals that have white patches on their bodies occur fairly often in nature. If they have no pigment at all in the skin, hair or feathers, they are called albinos. Pure albinos... those with pink eyes... rarely survive to adulthood in nature, because their eyesight is weak, they

"Whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be."

—Max Ehrmann, "Desiderata."



may have metabolic disorders, and they are easily seen by predators. But it is not unusual to find individuals with oddly-colored areas on just part of their bodies. Two summers ago we had a male robin in our yard whose whole tail was white; his mate was normally colored, and they raised two broods of fledglings. I originally learned about such things when I took my first course in Genetics in college. In birds, there is a condition where the body can be male on one side and female on the other; they are called gynandromorphs, and there are cases known in cardinals where one side of the body was red like a normal male and the other side was gray like the female. Later I learned of a related condition called leucism; it is not always related to sex, and results in patches of the body that have no pigment, while the rest of the body is normally colored. My white-headed house finch was a case of leucism. (I can't tell you how the left side of my brain rejoiced when I remembered those words.)

Time flies. Another holiday season is approaching; another year trudges wearily toward its end; and the world is another order of magnitude more complicated

than it was twelve months ago. To me, as I approach the middle of my ninth decade I find some solace from Max Ehrmann, quoted above, and I can enjoy miniature eagles and white-tailed robins without feeling much guilt. But my children, now middle-aged, are beginning to feel the stress of living in such a rapidly changing world; and my grandchildren, now early in adulthood, face the uncertainties if a cyber-world that neither I nor their parents can imagine.

As 2016 fades away, my mind returns to Walt Kelly, as it always seems to do, and I end with these words to his comrades, Pogo and Porky Pine:

*The gentle journey jars to stop,
The drifting dream is done;
And now we'll walk, as men
have walked,
Through years not yet begun.
For Christmas is a life-long hope,
And hope, the stuff of years.
The gentle journey wanders on,
Through laughter, love and tears.
May it be so.*

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IN THE COUNTRY

Mistletoe

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

Many of holiday decorations adorn our homes throughout the early winter season. Few hold a place in our hearts like mistletoe. This charming plant that inspires romance is far more complex than most realize, however. Mistletoe is rooted deep within our culture, but it makes its home as a parasite deep within other living things. This toxic symbol of renewal has also helped as a medicinal plant throughout the ages. Mistletoe is an evergreen that is truly as versatile and complex as the mythos that surrounds it.

Like a true evergreen mistletoe leaves remain a bright and verdant shade of green throughout the year. Evergreens, as the name implies, are trees that remain green year round. They will keep their leaves or needles in almost all cases, all year, while deciduous trees will shed their leaves in the colder winter months. Evergreens are usually conifer trees, plants, or shrubs, and in some rare cases leafy trees.

Mistletoe is a widespread evergreen plant, with over 1,300 different species world wide and 30 making their home in North America. Remarkably, each and every species is considered a parasite. Safely nestled in the canopy away from the dangers below, mistletoes grow high in the crown of a tree. Mistletoe is generally spread by birds who eat the berries. The seeds, which are especially resilient and sticky, pass through the digestive system of the bird. Later when a bird excretes the seed it may stick to the branch where it is perched. If the seed is able to successfully stick, it will eventually germinate and grow roots into the branch of the tree. This allows the mistletoe to extract water, sugars, nutrients, and minerals from the tree itself. Not all mistletoes spread this way though. The Dwarf Mistletoe, native to western Canada and the United States, has berries that explode jettisoning the seeds out at 60 miles per hour and spraying them as far as 50 feet! By acting as a parasite and stealing valuable resources from its host, mistletoe harms the host tree and can kill it if the host tree becomes overcome with too many plants.

Despite the fact that mistletoe can be harmful to their hosts, they are extremely beneficial to other wildlife. They are classified as a keystone species, an organism that plays a crucial role in an ecosystem, and when removed have shown declines in abundance and diversity of life. Researchers in Australia and Mexico conducted experiments and found that in areas where mistletoe was removed from trees bird populations declined, whereas in control group areas where no

mistletoe was removed bird populations stayed the same or increased. Chickadees, wrens, nuthatches, doves, owls, hawks, and squirrels are all commonly found to make nests within the roots and branches of mistletoe. In the US three different species of butterfly rely on mistletoe as their host plant. The Johnson Hairstreak, the Thicket Hairstreak, and the Great Purple Hairstreak species lay their eggs on the leaves, and when they hatch they will consume the leaves. The berries are a food source for birds and mammals alike during the autumn and winter months. However, they are toxic and not recommended for direct human consumption.

Eating the berries or drinking mistletoe tea isn't uncommon, but consumption may cause side effects caused by phoratoxin, which is found throughout the plant with higher concentrations specifically in the leaves. Symptoms of mistletoe poisoning include weakness, drowsiness, blurred vision, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and seizures. Despite all this, mistletoe has medicinal properties. Historically it was used by Europeans to treat insomnia, infertility, headaches, hypertension, and arthritis. Case studies have shown that most accidental ingestions resulted in only a few severe reactions and zero fatalities. There are even clinical trials, being administered by the National Institutes of Health and Johns Hopkins' School of Medicine, as a

potential treatment for the side effects of chemotherapy. Infections of a mistletoe solution are available in Europe via prescription. Connections between mistletoe and health or cancer treatment are not well understood. This is due to the poor quality of the research. Until more thorough and definitive studies and understanding comes along it won't be widely available, if at all. Considering its natural toxicity consumption is still unwise and ill-advised.

Historically speaking evergreens have been a part of the winter season for millennia. These plants were brought in and adorned the homes of many ancient peoples across cultures and continents. December 21st and 22nd typically has the fewest daylight hours of the year, and is marked as the winter solstice. Most ancient cultures worshipped the sun as a god, and this solstice symbolized the triumph of life over death as the days would begin to grow longer from this point forward. Evergreens were a symbol of health and virility, and reminded them that green plants would grow again produce food. Ancient Egyptians, Romans, Celtic druids, Vikings, and Germanic barbarians all had similar traditions.

It's not exactly clear how, where, or when the mistletoe kissing tradition originated. One tale holds that the evergreen is a sign of fertility and many species have white berries that secrete a white substance. A Norse myth holds that the god Balder was killed by a mistletoe arrow and as a sign of peace



It's not exactly clear how, where, or when the mistletoe kissing tradition originated. One tale holds that the evergreen is a sign of fertility and many species have white berries that secrete a white substance. A common theme was to give one kiss for every berry on the plant.

people began to kiss under it. In the late 18th century England and America it was considered by many to be bad luck for a woman to refuse a man's kiss under the mistletoe. A common theme was to give one kiss for every berry on the plant. The word mistletoe originates from the Anglo-Saxon words 'Mistle,' which means dung and 'Tan,' which means stick. It roughly translates to poop on a stick, which kind of takes the wind out of the romantic sails.

If you find yourself under this holiday favorite this season share a kiss and share some knowledge. This little evergreen is more than just poop on a stick, it's home to many thousands of animals and while it adorns yours just be sure not to shoot any Norse gods or unwelcome advances to would be lovers.

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

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REAL SCIENCE

Food Supplements

Michael Rosenthal

As I mentioned in an earlier article, several years ago I was filling a prescription in a local drug store; the pharmacist suggested that I start taking a non-prescription one-a-day vitamin supplement. I did just that until I mentioned it to my physician, and he told me that it was harmless but unnecessary. Americans spend more than \$30 billion annually on dietary supplements. In 1994 an act called the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act passed Congress, which allowed such products to reach the marketplace without any evidence that they were safe and effective. Under the law, the government can halt sales of an individual product only after it is on the market and is shown to be mislabeled or dangerous. A 2012 study by an epidemiologist at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York showed that 52 percent of Americans use supplements. Some supplements are useful or essential. My physician, a board-certified internist, has me taking Vitamin D3 to support bone health, consistent with my blood profile, and the medical profession agrees that certain supplements can be essential to treat vitamin and mineral deficiencies.

The September 2016 issue of Consumer Reports is devoted to a many page article entitled Supple-

ments: A Complete Guide to Safety, and I strongly recommend this issue for those of you who want to learn more about the topic. I will discuss some of the points made in the Consumer Reports article.

The article emphasizes the important point that the fact that the FDA classifies supplements differently from drugs, and that they thus may not be safe. They may be not only ineffective, but may be contaminated with microbes or heavy metals and may have a dangerous interaction with prescription drugs. Once again, I advise consulting your physician before committing to supplements. Since retailers, even pharmacists, have no legal obligation to be knowledgeable about these supplements, they are most often not helpful in giving good advice.

How did all this start? In 1970 Linus Pauling, a brilliant chemist and two-time Nobel Laureate (and an idol of mine!), declared that 3000 mg of Vitamin C taken daily could abolish the common cold. The Vitamin C craze lasted nearly 20 years before studies showed it was simply not true. Even Nobel laureates can be wrong.

Clinical prescription drugs are held to very high standards. Before a company can sell a new drug, it must submit extensive clinical trial data to the FDA proving that it is both safe and effective. The process can take years and can cost as

much as \$2 billion per drug!

Dietary supplements are not held to the same standard. The claim is often that they are 100% safe, and they must meet identity, purity, strength, and composition standards, but they do not need to be approved by the FDA. Bad things can happen. In 2013 a weight-loss supplement containing a new ingredient named aegeline led to 47 hospitalizations, three liver transplants, and one death from a drug that was not certified by the FDA.

There are some 90,000 supplement products which generate \$40 billion annually for the manufacturers. To remove a supplement from the market, the FDA must show it poses a danger to consumers once it's already for sale. So what supplements may be dangerous? Consumer Reports lists "15 ingredients to always avoid." These ingredients include Aconite, Caffeine Powder, Chaparral, Coltsfoot, Comfrey, Germanium, Greater Celandine, Green Tea Extract Powder, Kava, Lobelia, Methylsinephrine, Pennyroyal Oil, Red Yeast Rice, Usnic Acid, and Yohimbe. Take a close look at your supplement labels. The benefits and risks with these supplement ingredients can be found in the Consumer Reports article, in a survey compiled by independent doctors and dietary-supplement researchers.

So, most people don't need a supplement, but there are situations where supplements are called for. Folic acid reduces the risk of brain and spinal-cord abnormalities in pregnancy and Vitamin D is important in pregnancy as well to help prevent pre-eclampsia. Vitamin B12 is important for vegans who consume no meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products. Vitamin D3 is important if you don't get much sunlight. Vitamin B12 and magnesium supplements may be needed if you take



The sales of supplements are bolstered by the promise of improved health and longevity, but many of those claims aren't substantiated.

heartburn drugs or diabetes medication. Vitamin D3 helps those individuals with osteoporosis. There is a drug that slows age-related macular degeneration in vision. And there are others that are safe and useful. Essential to safety and to good results, a knowledgeable physician should always be consulted. There is more material and are more subtleties in the Consumer Reports issue, and I highly recommend it.

I've stated before in this column, and the Consumer Reports article makes it very clear, that one should be highly skeptical of any product that has the statement, "This product has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration," known as the FDA.

Now, let's look at a more positive side. Many of the conditions that these supplements claim to help can be treated with other activities. Eating the right foods that contain necessary vitamins and minerals is important. Exercise is good. Keeping clean and away from bacteria is important. Counter medication pain killers are fine in suggested quantity. Eat a lot of fiber from whole grains, fruits, vegetable, and beans, and be modest with red meat and full-fat dairy products. Keep your weight down and don't smoke. And consult a well-qualified physician regularly.

We will be seeing more controversy over the climate issue in

coming months and years. The newly appointed advisor to President-Elect Trump is a "climate contrarian," a person who does not believe that we have a global warming problem. As reported in the New York Times, Myron Ebell of the Competitive Enterprise Institute will be Mr. Trump's lead agent in choosing personnel and setting the direction of the federal agencies that address climate change and environmental policy. Mr. Ebell leads the Cooler Heads Coalition, a group that says it "is focused on dispelling the myths of global warming by exposing flawed economic, scientific, and risk analysis." In short, he does not believe we are on a path to climate change. That of course will raise the question of the role of the United States in the global coalition, the Paris Accord, to reduce greenhouse gases.

This year, greenhouse gas emissions in the United States are running at their lowest level since 1992. This trend began during the George W. Bush administration and reflects an increase in the use of renewables and the conversion from coal to cleaner natural gas. Natural gas when combusted is a carbon dioxide emitter that contributes to global warming, but not as effectively as it is as coal burning. The best sources of energy to reduce these emissions remain nuclear power, wind, water power, and solar, sources that do not produce carbon dioxide. Though there are those who refute the finding that carbon dioxide emission produces global warming, the great majority of responsible climate scientists believe in the principle. The United States Supreme Court has put a hold on President Obama's Clean Power Plan pending completion of a federal lawsuit. This puts a hold on the effectiveness of the Paris Climate Agreement. Though I am not specifically a climate scientist, it seems obvious to me as an experienced PhD chemist, as it does to a great number of scientists, including climate scientists, that global warming is real, and that it is a significant factor in increases in wildfires, flooding, and other dangerous phenomena.

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



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Wisdom is where one finds it

Jack Deatherage

An idiot walks into a tattoo parlor thinking about getting a tattoo. Not on myself, but on a piece of leather I could have sewn onto a wallet my employer could present to a wholesaler the factory still does business with. There was also some vague idea the shop owner might be able to sell some of our leather goods with his art sewn onto them. The last thing I was thinking about was I'd end up thinking about thinking after stepping through the door of the Emmitsburg Tattoo Company on the square of this place!

I can't claim my first impression of the only tattoo parlor I've been in left as deeply an implanted memory as did a farmhouse outside of Creagerstown in the mid 1970s. Eight hippies sitting on sofas (one raised on blocks behind one with it's legs removed), passing joints and singing the 1970's Mickey Mouse Club theme song will likely be with me when I croak. No, my first impression of the tattoo shop has become blurred by creeping senility. Still, I've learn something each time I stumble through the shop door.

I do recall thinking, Wow. This isn't what I expected. No smoke dimmed room with scantily clad females, or burly bikers, or black clad Goth/Emo types with assorted bits of metal poking out in odd places. Art hangs everywhere and there are comfortably padded bar stools and sofas to survey it all from. Some of the art even looks familiar. Gods! Is that a print of one of Frank Frazetta's classic barbarians? Oo! I recognize that one over there from the cover of a Molly Hatchet album! Hey, maybe this place isn't as bad as my upbringing had me convinced it would be. And then Don Sonn stands up to welcome me to his shop.

Whoa. Reassessment time. Don is burly, probably a biker or a bouncer in a past life. I begin yammering about why I'm bothering him at work and he allows he'd been thinking about experimenting with tattooing leather. How that opening conversation ended up taking me down the rabbit hole of thinking still befuddles me.

I babbled that Dad had a bare chested, grass skirted hula dancer tattoo. Don says that was a classic tattoo for Dad's generation and occupation (WWII crewman in a bomber over Germany). The man knows his tattoo history. We talk about my kidlet getting a tatt, against my advice. Don warns me there will be others and I'd best prepare myself. (There are and I have.)

Because I constantly find new art that fascinates me Don says "Tattoos aren't for you." I ad-

mit a bit of relief, though I find myself thinking what I'd let him prick into my skin if I were to change my mind, not an impossibility considering half the time I don't know where it is. What would I carry to the final compost pile if I were to get inked?

A stylized archer based on a 20,000 BC cave painting! And given that people tend to get more than one tatt, I'd follow the archer with one of those cave painted buffaloes! And of course I'd have to have some rendition of a Japanese Zen archer. And a Hungarian horse archer! And... Okay, I see how people can end up covered in art.

Because I'm fascinated by Don, and the art he creates on people, I begin to think of excuses to hang around his shop. Bread comes to mind. Since Simona has left the continent, I decide a short walk to the square is better than shipping a loaf of bread halfway around this rock. Don and his associate Kevin, become my new bread critics, at least until the Mad One returns. And like Simona, Don will eat anything I bring to him and give me an honest critique! Kevin knows what he likes and so far I haven't produced it. (Don laments this place's lack of a bakery and has suggested I consider opening one. I'll think about doing that when I stop laughing.)

Having invoked the Mad One, I have to tell of her recent visit. She and cousin Luke spent slightly more than a week in our upstairs apartment while Simona set about becoming a citizen of our country. (She was eligible to apply for citizenship after living here for three years, but she took ten years to study us and be certain of what she was becoming a part of.) Having passed the ridiculously easy test (without the aid of the lawyers that every oth-

er applicant seemed to have by their side, mostly as translators) she decided she needed to reminisce about this burg before she flew back to her current home 7 or 8 times zones elsewhere.

"Walk with me." She commands.

"Yes Dear."

By the time we'd tramped to all of her remembered places we are more than a little melancholic. I hesitate in front of Emmitsburg Tattoo Company and suggest we venture inside when she raises a questioning eyebrow. She was trained in an art school. Peasant that I am, I'm never sure of what she considers art.

I rarely make good decisions. Sobering up and marrying DW was one. Leading Simona into Don's shop was another.

Simona is slow to make friends and quick to dump those she decides are not worthy. I was more than a little surprised at how quickly she took to Don and Kevin. Their welcoming her into their world without reservation probably eased that acceptance along. Within minutes she was invited beyond "the Wall" that separates the artist from us gawkers. Don gave her a crash course on tattooing; tools, styles, skin types, muscle tone or lack of, and levels of pain tolerance. (The young woman he was inking had a higher than normal level of tolerance and she didn't mind Don taking his time with the pricking to explain every step to Simona.)

When the shop closed for the day the bonding continued. The



Jack has finally embrace his "inner druidism" and has undertaken a multiyear effort to have his whole body tattooed - starting off with his chest.

Mad One introduced herself formally as "Citizen Simona". Her accent so delighting Don and Kevin that they gave her a new name, Natasha, after the fem fatale in the old Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons. Everything was going along swimmingly, with me generally keeping up, until someone (Simona, I think) mentioned a philosopher that Don hadn't read and I got left behind.

Really? A philosophical discussion in a tattoo parlor? My view of the world flips over, yet again. But Don, ever surprising me, days later hands me a book he claims changed much of his thinking about us, humanity. "The Wolf In The Parlor, the eternal connection between hu-

mans and dogs" by Jon Franklin.

"Read this." He doesn't hear my mental groan. I tell dog stories, but I don't like reading them. I take the book. Don has been well worth hanging around and learning from so maybe his taste in literature will be as enlightening?

Two pages into the book's "acknowledgments" I find this:

"Science is a culture, made up of distinct subcultures, each with its own attitudes, prejudices, and perspectives on the world, in this case, of biology."

I'm hooked, but by a tattoo artist?

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

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A PRICELESS CHRISTMAS GIFT

We had such a great response from our holiday photos last year and the folks at the Emmitsburg News-Journal are so awesome that we're doing it again! These are just a few of the sweethearts hoping to find a home for the holidays at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. If the time isn't right for you to adopt, please still take a minute to look over these adorable faces and keep them in mind for friends and family. Talk these babies up! If you can't adopt, you could always donate items on our wish list, which can be found at www.cvas-pets.org under donations. Giving supplies to help these babies makes sure they'll be comfortable while they wait for their forever homes. Please know that none of these animals are in any danger. CVAS is a low-kill facility and once an animal reaches the adoption kennels, he or she is typically there until adoption. I cannot adequately express what a privilege it has been to work with the Emmitsburg Journal and its readers. I wish you all the happiest of holidays and be sure to give your four-legged friends a kiss for me!

For more information about adopting one of these pets, please call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit their website at www.cvas-pets.org. The Adams County Animals Shelter is always looking for humans seeking canine or feline companionship. You can contact them at 717-334-8876 or visit them on-line at www.adamscountypca.org. And you can never go wrong dropping by the Frederick County Animal Shelter. Visit them on-line at www.frederickcountymd.gov/FCAC or call them at 301-600-1546.



Pennyworth is a gorgeous tortie girl with expressive green eyes and striking fur. This three-year-old lady just needs someone to give her a second chance and show her that humans can be counted on to love forever.



Rubarb is one gorgeous girl. She's a buff colored, medium-haired girl who is looking for someone to get her out of a cage. She about three years old and will make someone a great four-legged friend.



Savannah is a sweet girl who has grown up at the shelter. She's one of our long-term residents. She can be quite ornery when she wants to be and will provide a whole lot of entertainment for one lucky person.



Sugar Bear is an eight-month-old boy, who is one gorgeous fellow. He likes to talk in little trills when you walk up to his cage. He's a sweetheart, but can be a bit on the ornery side. If you're looking for a ton of fun, come meet Sugar Bear.



Lucifer is one cool cat. Just look at that face. He's about a year old and has an awesome personality. He loves to talk and wants to meet that special someone who will love him forever. Could that be you?



We still have kittens! Oh, yes, we do. Even in November, we've got litters of kittens. If you're looking for a little feline, stop out to the shelter and we know we'll have the right one for you!

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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

A HOME FOR SHELTERED PETS



Oskar is a seven-year-old dachshund who came into the shelter as a stray. Oskar can be a bit particular. He'll need an adult-only home and a knowledge of dachshunds would be helpful. He is possessive of his toys and his bed. We know the dachshund-lovers out there will understand little Oskar, and help him find a home.



Tate is a four-year-old boxer/Great Dane mix, near as we can tell. He was dropped off in the outside run overnight without any information. There's something about his gait that makes us think there may be Dane in there. Tate is a sweet boy who had to have a cone on his head because he was recently neutered. He's got those big brown eyes that really get you. Come see what we mean.



Meet our longterm resident, Buddy. He was transferred to us from another shelter in March 2016. He's a two-year-old, black-and-white pitbull mix with tons and tons of energy. Seriously, if we could bottle his energy, we could make millions. Buddy is actually a really nice boy who would make a fantastic jogging buddy. Once he has a chance to run off some of his excitement, he really is a sweetheart. Stop out and meet Buddy and see if you can finally get him out of a kennel and into a loving home.



Dolly was left in the outside cage overnight at the shelter with no information about her background. She is a really gorgeous tortie girl with very distinct markings. We think she's about two years old and will make someone a wonderful companion.



Eightball is a one-year-old girl with an awesome personality. She has medium-length hair and loves attention and to play. If you're looking for areal sweet friend, come meet Eightball.



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



Atticus is a five-month-old buff boy with tons of personality. Just look at that picture. You can tell by his expression. If you're looking for some fun in your life, come meet Atticus.



Pippa is a unique-looking little squirt. She's a five-month-old gray girl with spots. It's possible she could have a little Bengal in her, but it's hard to tell. The person who gets this baby will have quite a fun time!



Buzz Bee is a six-month-old young tabby-and-white boy. Look at that face! He's got that ornery little kitten look about him. Come meet this little stinker and we know you'll fall hard.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Christmas trees

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener
Coordinator

It's time to buy a Christmas tree! What kind of tree will you buy? What is best for your home and family schedule?

Selection of a Christmas tree is an annual tradition for some families. Many families, like mine, like the experience of going to a tree farm, tromping around in the cold – and if it's snowy, that's even better. We usually bring some kind of ribbon with us so we can go back to a tree and re-evaluate the shape and size before making the final decision. Before you know it, an hour or so has passed, we've jumped through snow, or trampled through water puddles (you can never pick out a tree on a warm, dry afternoon) and agreed on the perfect tree to cut and drag home. These cut your own trees will be the freshest you can get!

However, this is not always the best way for you to choose a Christmas tree. The length of time you wish your tree to be in the house will determine what kind of tree you will buy. If, for instance, you keep your tree up for more than three weeks, an artificial tree is for you! Many sizes, shapes and varieties are available at your local retail

stores or garden centers.

If you keep your tree in your house for less than three weeks, a fresh cut tree may be your choice. Many times, especially during the holiday season, time is limited. Taking a day to cut your own tree may not be the way you wish to spend valuable time. However a cut, fresh tree purchased from a tree lot may be the way to go. Many garden and retail centers sell cut trees. Boy Scouts, civic clubs or school/church groups often sell trees as fundraisers for their organizations. This is a great way to support these groups.

Remember when choosing from a retail lot to check the tree for freshness. Smell the tree for its fragrance, as the fresher the tree, the more fragrant it is. Also shake the tree to determine how many needles have dropped. If the weather is warm, and the tree has been cut for some time, many, many needles will drop – a good indication of a not-so-fresh tree.

Another option is a live tree. A living Christmas tree should be in the house for no more than 10 days. Before entering the house, it should be conditioned first. Keep the tree in an unheated, protected location, like a garage, for a few days before bringing it inside. During this conditioning period, be sure the root

ball is watered. If the ball dries out, roots will die, lessening the survival rate of that tree.

When bringing your tree inside, place it in a large bucket or pan to prevent the soil and water from staining the floor. Again, keep the root ball moistened at all times. Locate the tree in the coolest room of your home, away from any heat sources, just as you would a cut tree. You don't want the tree to break its dormancy, which will cause tips to grow, and then die when exposed to the cold weather again.

After you are finished with the tree indoors – and remember, no more than 10 days so it does not break dormancy – you'll need to re-condition it to the outdoors. Place the tree in an unheated, protected location for a few days, and then it should be ready to plant.

Hopefully, the ground won't be frozen when you're ready to plant the tree. You can prepare for this possibility ahead of time by digging the hole before the holidays and storing the soil in an unheated garage or storage shed. That way, when you're ready to plant, the hole is already there, and you won't have frozen ground to use as backfill. If, however, the hole is not dug, and the ground is frozen, place your tree in a sheltered area and mulch the root ball heavily. Keep the soil ball moist until the ground is workable.

After planting the tree, water it well and mulch it. This will protect the root ball through the rest of the winter months. The tree should remain dormant until the spring when it will start growing with all other vegetation.

Tree selection becomes a bit easier if you know the difference between the tree types. Christmas trees can be broken down into three basic groupings: firs, spruce and pines. Firs and spruce needles are attached to twigs individually, while the pines have clusters of needles attached to the twigs. The following are some of the most commonly grown Christmas trees in our area.



This year, you should truly consider the Christmas tree - think about a live tree and instead of throwing it out after Christmas, you can plant it and enjoy the years of memories it will give you!

The Fraser Fir is native to the high elevations of the southern Appalachian Mountains. It has easily adapted to our climate, if you're considering a living tree. It has excellent needle retention with wonderful fragrance. It has dark green foliage with silver on the underside of the needles, and the twigs are relatively firm for an easy to decorate tree.

Douglas Fir is a very popular Christmas tree. This tree is native to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and has also adapted well to our weather conditions. It has a natural pyramidal shape, fragrant, with somewhat drooping branches. The needles are a medium green color about 1 – 1 ½" long. This tree has good needle retention and relatively easy to decorate. In the landscape, it serves as a great screen planting when mixed with other evergreen trees.

Balsam Fir is a long lasting, fragrant fir. This evergreen is native to northeastern US and Canada. It likes cold winter temperatures and cool summer temperatures. It has nice, dark green foliage and one of the common Christmas trees in the US. It has good needle retention and strong twigs for an easy to decorate tree. This tree resembles the Fraser fir in looks and endurance,

but may not be the best choice for a live tree as our summers are too hot.

Concolor Fir has longer needles than the other common fir trees, getting up to 1 ½" in length. It has a good fragrance and needle retention. The blue-green foliage makes it an interesting and attractive color for a Christmas tree. It is native to the west coast, but has adapted to our environment quite well.

Colorado Blue Spruce is a nicely shaped tree with silvery-blue color. The needles are pointy, making it rather prickly to decorate, but it does have good needle retention if kept watered. These trees are symmetrical by nature, and have strong limbs for heavy ornaments. The blue spruce works well in the landscape as a screen planting.

White Spruce has short, stiff needles with a blunt tip, making them less prickly than the blue spruce. The branches are stiff as well, making it a good choice for heavy ornaments. Needle retention is good, probably better than other spruce trees. However, when the needles are crushed, they have an unpleasant odor.

Norway Spruce has a nice dark green color but poor needle retention. It is conical by nature, and open in appearance if not sheared heavily. It has good stiff branches, making it easy to decorate. If choosing this variety, be sure to keep it well watered in a cool room and do not keep it in the house for more than two weeks.

Scotch Pine is a common Christmas tree in the US. It was imported from Europe by the early European settlers. It has longer needles, about 1"-3" in length. The needles are in clusters and a medium green color. It has fairly good needle retention when it is kept watered. It also is a very easy tree to transplant if you are considering a living tree.

White Pine is a native evergreen. It has long, clustered needles and good needle retention. It is very soft to the touch and has flexible branches, making it a tree that cannot handle heavy ornaments. It has little fragrance, but nice blue green color.

After getting your cut tree home, proper care should be taken for a safe holiday. Make a fresh cut about one inch above the already cut base. Put

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener

Christmas (Rose) Frenzy

Marianne Willburn

Three seasons in a garden and we all need a rest, but no sooner had I written the words, “It is finished” in a recent article than I was sent an e-mail from an (adjectives fail me) gardener friend letting me know that hellebores were surprisingly present and at deep discount at a local upscale grocery store.

Perhaps he did not recognize himself as the Evil Tempter I had referenced in said column: “winking and beckoning me over to the trunk of his car [stuffed with plants].” Perhaps he forgot about the camellias and the tender magnolia seedlings he recently brought me that I have yet to protect or plant. Perhaps he has long since stopped listening to that still, small voice of reason; or indeed the thousands of other voices at this time of year caroling on about Earth standing cold as iron and things being generally bleak out there.

Granted, I thought about it. I have space, the store is close and Helleborus niger is a fine plant with many attributes. Also known as the Christmas Rose, it blooms from now until the end of February, is last on the deer menu, and sports fine, deep green leathery foliage when that “cold as iron” thing has the garden in a bit of a slump.

However, and much more importantly, H. niger is not a plant typically seen in the big boxes which cater to the spring/summer garden – much less in a grocery store that caters to the gourmet organic yuppie. As such, the possession of one or more moves you up the plant-nut ladder from ‘likes gardening’ to ‘serious about gardening’ (next rung: ‘seriously ill’). To get a couple hellebores for a few dollars and then brag about it next year at

the plant exchange? Let me tell you, such flagrant one-upmanship is the only thing that gets many in the plant community out of bed in the morning.

Nevertheless, I’m tired of writing articles about how weak I am. I re-read my column for guidance, recovered my resolve and replied to his outstretched apple with a snarky e-mail citing snow, commitments, financial prudence and a little thing called sanity.

It didn’t shame him, such words rarely do. Instead he put the inflammatory information out to the listserve of one of our DC garden clubs, hoping for more enthusiasm. This was the equivalent of posting a sign outside the Betty Ford Clinic stating “Today only! Half-price Glenmorangie!” His words had the desired effect and all chaos broke loose.

“What a deal!” some typed on the way out the door.

“Got up to the cash register and they rang up \$7.99 not \$8.99!” a smug collector shared.

Not to be outdone, another confessed to picking up twenty for the paltry sum of 2/\$10 and planning out a hellebore allée for next spring.

“You’re all killing me,” said another, no store nearby.

Then, one of the professional landscapers, being of sound mind and body, had the temerity to suggest that ‘HGC Jacob’ (the niger hybrid at the root of all this frenzy) hadn’t worked well for her in the past. The fury started to die down, but I knew it couldn’t last. When nearly two hours had passed without further emails, Jim (name not changed as he is not innocent) stirred the pot again. “Was given a couple last year, blooming well now, and by the way folks, where’s the nearest storefront near DC/Montgomery County?”

“Germantown,” answered a garden mag editor, probably one-thumb-typing while she elbowed a small, golden-haired child away from the Christmas greenery and filled her cart.

For two days, desperate gardeners with haunted, hungry eyes prowled the outside displays of local-area shopping plazas like the walking dead. And if two friends and fellow club rivals grabbed for the same pot after battling traffic for forty-five minutes? No doubt normal Christmas shoppers stopped bickering over the last can of mincemeat and stood aghast, memories of the Cabbage Patch Kids riots of 1984 flashing in their heads.

In time, the group was good-naturedly chastised by the well-respected curator of one of our local botanical gardens who had some choice – but unprintable – words for those who would sell body and soul to possess a good plant at a great price. He was to lose all credibility later however when he added, “we got some last year too.”

What did I do in the end? The thing is, there is no sense battling one’s inner nature – that’s what Lent is for, and we’re talking about Christmas Roses, not Lenten ones. Besides, all these people live within a few miles of the Beltway and I don’t think anyone thought about the Leesburg store. I’m on my way there now.

your tree in water right away, even if you will not be bringing it into the house immediately. Don’t let the tree dry out. You don’t want it to turn into a fire hazard. Treat it as you would a fresh bouquet of flowers.

Locate the tree by a wall or corner where it’s not going to be knocked over. Keep the tree away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, wood

stoves and heat ducts.

Just purchasing a Christmas tree is full of decisions! Kids and adults can share in the fun of tree shopping! Don’t stress, make educated decisions, and enjoy the holidays!

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



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The Word did not become a philosophy, a theory, or a concept to be discussed, debated, or pondered. The Word became a person to be followed, enjoyed and loved!



The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory. *John 1:14*

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Thurmont Art and Wine stroll

Thurmont Main Street hosted their annual Fall Art and Wine Stroll on November 18. Residents and visitors enjoyed beautiful art, wine tasting, and music as local businesses on Main Street opened their doors for the event.

Residents had the opportunity to meet and mingle with local artists including Austin Gladhill, Rebecca Pearl, Nancy Houston, John Nickerson, Yemi, Russ and Cindy Poole and Selia Sealen displayed their art-

work during the event. Art from the Catoctin Forrest Alliance, Red Canary Tattoo and Ute Hill was also displayed and enjoyed by all who attended. The Thurmont Lions Club even had their mural gift items available for sale.

Thurmont Bar and Grill hosted local design shop, Gnarly Artly. Those who stopped by the grill were able to take part in a live model figure drawing session.

Local musicians Paul Zelenka and

Mary Guiles provided musical entertainment and performances by ESP Productions also offered entertainment for those who attended.

Wine was served along the way in several locations as residents found their wine and art tucked into several Main Street Businesses including Brown's Jewelers, Gateway Flowers, Heart & Hands, Mountain Memories, J Rothrock Outfitters (who had their grand opening in Thurmont that very same day) and many others.

If you missed this event, don't worry as there are several more holiday events offered at the Main Street Center. Stop in to see all of the Gingerbread Displays at the Main Street Center and let us know what your favorite display is! The Gingerbread Bread Displays will be ready to go on Saturday, December 3 starting at 9 a.m.! The Main Street Center will be open every Saturday and Sunday in December from Noon - 4 p.m., and every Thursday and Friday eve-

ning from 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in December through December 23.

While at the Main Street Center, stop by and do a little Christmas shopping. You will surely be able to find a unique gift for a friend or family member. Art, pottery, handmade lip balms and candles, coffee mugs, books and t-shirts are only a few of the gift items available. Come and check it out to see what other gifts there are available.

If you can't find a gift here that strikes your fancy, maybe try Thurmont Business Bucks - a gift certificate program to encourage those seeking a gift to keep the money local. Business Bucks are

sold at the Thurmont Town Office in increments of \$25 and \$50 certificates. When you purchase Thurmont Business Bucks gift certificates, you receive a booklet with over 25 local businesses, which the certificates are redeemable. The goal is to keep the money in the community. When you spend dollars locally, they are spent again in the local economy, another five to seven times-creating the multiplier effect. Local businesses are financially invested in your community's future, contribute to a lower tax base for residents, & are a lifeline to non-profit organizations. Thurmont Business Bucks makes the perfect gift not only at Christmas, but all year long.



Professional photographer, Cindy Poole



Proprietors Hillary & Paul Rothrock of J. Rothrock Outfitters



Vicki Grinder, Dr. Moles, Pam Hamrick, Yemi, and assistant, Lori Tayman



Emmitsburg-based artist, Rebecca Pearl




FREE Community Dinner!

Trinity United Methodist Church, 313 West Main St., Emmitsburg, invites all residents of the Emmitsburg area to share a free meal and fellowship. There is no charge for these meals and we welcome your attendance.

Meals will be served from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- December 28, 2016 • February 22, 2017
- January 25, 2017 • March 29, 2017

Please call Merri Saylor at 301-667-6169 for more information.



COMMUNITY NOTES

All horses welcome to Christmas dinner

From the 1916 Emmitsburg Chronicle

This is a big day for the horses in Washington. A real Christmas dinner with all the fixins and a Christmas tree has been provided by a committee of men and women who believe that the faithful horses should share in the General good times of the day.

Soon after 10 o'clock the first horse arrived at the grounds of the National Capital Horse Show, at 18th and D streets northwest, where the spread was arranged, and he was immediately turned loose in one of the 150 box (tails on the grounds and given all he could eat.

The committee in charge has arranged to have all the horses fed who come to the grounds up to 4 o'clock this afternoon. All are welcome, and their drivers are given a cup of good hot coffee. The regular Christmas dinner allotted to each horse was five quarts of oats, some carrots and an apple or so.

In addition to this, each driver was given a bundle of fodder 'or his horse, which he" was allowed to carry away with him.

The Christmas tree is a real genuine tree, but instead of having dolls and looks and other things on it which are usually found on Christmas trees, his tree is decorated with carrots and apples. And when the horses were led past it each was allowed to take his own present, and none of them missed the chance. Some of them tried to take two.

All the hungry horses in Washington are welcome, according to the committee. And every horse was fed without discrimination. Many of them were late putting in an appearance, but it made no difference. And how they did eat!

Lean horses, fat horses, old horses and young horses, and even a mule or two, were among the entries, and, while the show grounds have seen more aristocratic horses, they never saw a happier lot than those nags when they got

their noses in the oats.

The first arrival was hitched to a lump cart. Others were drawing wag-

ons of all kinds, and some of them came with no wagons at all, but just their drivers leading or riding them.

The committee in charge plans to make this Christmas celebration for the horses an annual event.



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Give back to the community by shopping local and have the work done for you! They will even gift wrap it for you!! Now open late for your holiday shopping convenience. Open 10am- 7pm Wednesday through Friday; 10am- 5pm Saturday; and noon- 5pm on Sunday. Stop in and see how enjoyable holiday shopping really can be!

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Hollabaugh Bros., Inc. is known for its seasonal produce, baked goods, plants and decorations – but did you know about their annual handcrafted, one-of-a-kind Christmas ornaments? It's a must-have for any Adams County resident who frequents Hollabaugh's!

Mr. Jerry Tyson creates the annual Christmas ornaments in his home workshop. He fashions

the small, wooden pieces by hand, cutting and sanding; then he builds and paints the ornament. This is the fourth year that Jerry has handcrafted Christmas ornaments for Hollabaugh's. He creates them in honor of Harold Hollabaugh and in memory of Donald Hollabaugh, the company's founding "Hollabaugh Brothers". This year's ornament is a replica of the partnership's Caterpillar D2 track tractor. Previous editions in-

clude a tractor (2012), forklift (2011) and farm truck (2010). Jerry is a self-taught woodworker, and he has been making ornaments for friends and family for over 25 years. For personal gifts, he has created the Space Shuttle, the Wright Brothers' plane, Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery, and various Christmas items such as: Santa Claus, a sleigh, a sled and an ice skate.

Jerry began his employment at Hol-

labaugh Brothers in 1999. Prior to that, he was employed by PSU Extension, so he brought some practical agricultural knowledge with him. His work ethic is exemplary; as a result, he serves as a mentor to Hollabaugh's new hires, so he can teach them his diligent, thorough ways! We encourage you to stop by Hollabaugh's for any of your holiday needs, to meet Jerry, and to pick up one of our one-of-a-kind Christmas ornaments!



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HEALTH NOTES

What's new with the Flu?

Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu vaccination can reduce episodes of illness, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications.

A few things are new this season:

- Only injectable flu shots are recommended for 2016-2017. For the upcoming flu season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that the flu shot (inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) and the recombinant influenza influenza (RIV)) be used exclusively. The nasal

spray flu vaccine (live attenuated virus, or LAIV) should not be used during 2016-2017 because of concerns regarding its effectiveness.

- Flu vaccines have been updated to better match circulating viruses. Some flu shots protect against three flu viruses and some protect against four flu viruses.
- There are some new vaccines on the market this season. Options include:
 - Standard dose flu shots. Most are injected into the muscle; one is given into the skin.
 - A high-dose shot for older people.
 - A shot made with adjuvant for older people.
 - A shot made with virus grown in cell culture.
 - A shot made using a vaccine production technology (RIV) that does not require the use of flu virus.

- The recommendations for vaccination of people with egg allergies have changed.
- People who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg can get any licensed flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health.
- People who have symptoms other than hives after exposure to eggs, or who have needed epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention, can also get any licensed flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health in a medical setting (hospital, clinic, health department, or doctor's office) by a healthcare provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions.
- People with egg allergies no longer have to wait 30



minutes after receiving their vaccine.

- Talk to your primary care provider if you have any concerns about this year's flu vaccine, or whether or not you should be vaccinated.

Avoiding the Flu

Flu season in Maryland runs from November to April, with most cases occurring between mid-December and late March. Older

people, very young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions are especially vulnerable, but everyone is at risk—and a week with the flu is no fun!

So what's your best shot at beating seasonal flu this year?

The same as it was last year—get that flu shot, and get it early if at all possible.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, it's best to get your flu shot before the flu season is in full force—late October is ideal. This gives your body the opportunity to build up immunity, giving you the best level of protection against the virus. Getting vaccinated later in the season will still help you avoid the flu, and protect those around you, so get that shot—even as late as January is “better than never.”

What else can you do? In addition to getting your flu shot, other basics of prevention are worth a pound of cure. Wash your hands to reduce the spread of germs, and if you do get sick, stay home from work or school to prevent spreading flu to others. In addition, consider talking to your primary care provider about prescription medications called antiviral drugs that can be used to treat influenza illness.

Manufacturers are expecting to distribute between 157-168 million doses of injectable 2016-17 flu vaccine to the U.S. market, so flu shots should be readily available. What's likely to be more challenging for people is finding time to schedule an appointment to get their shot.

If you still need to get your flu shot, Frederick Regional Health System offers walk-in flu vaccines at our three Immediate Care locations in Frederick, Mt. Airy, and Urbana. All locations have convenient hours (including evening and weekends), and no appointment is required. There is no wait time associated with a flu shot at our Immediate Care locations.

Getting your flu shot is fast, easy, affordable—and chances, are you'll be in and out in a hurry. To find an Immediate Care location that's convenient for you, visit FMH.org/Locations to learn more.

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

FRHS is a Certified Member of MD Anderson Cancer Network®

Frederick Regional Health System (FRHS) is the first and only hospital system in Maryland to become a certified member of MD Anderson Cancer Network®, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center. FRHS is the 14th system in the U.S. to become a certified member of the network.

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For more information about this affiliation, call 301-418-6465 or visit fmh.org/certified.



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Vintage & Antique Holiday Market

RUST co-owners David Underwood and Justin Staudinger are excited to host the first event, in a series of multi-art events in Taneytown. The Vintage and Antique Holiday Market, which was open the last two weekends in November, will be open for a third weekend, December 2 - 4. So, if you were unable to make it out for the first two weekends, no need to fret, because you can still make it to the final weekend.

This event is being held at RUST, on 38 E. Baltimore Street, in Taneytown. The event was originally expected to be held in the new events space located down the street on 107 E. Baltimore Street, but due to last minute permit delays, the space was not quite ready for its debut. RUST co-owners Underwood and Staudinger were faced with the decision to either cancel the event completely, or move the event to another location. Staudinger and Underwood consulted the other two local businesses involved (Koon's Vintage Picks and The Mill at Keymar) in the event and all concurrently decided the event just couldn't be cancelled, so it was moved to RUST instead.

The theme of this event is appropriate for the upcoming holiday season, as it features vintage and antique holiday themed home décor and furniture. Staudinger hopes this event will offer a "one stop shop" for unique holiday themed gifts and home décor and will show-

case what the area has to offer, and provide a taste of some of the local talents surrounding Taneytown. Seeing as the idea behind the events space ties into the desire to continue promoting Taneytown, especially the vast array of "hidden" people adorned with all sorts of artistic talents, this premiere event is perfect.

As guests walk into RUST they can see several beautiful "exhibits" featuring home décor fit for the Christmas season. The Mill at Keymar has an exhibit featuring a dinner table adorned with holiday decorations including vintage lanterns, dinnerware, fabrics and centerpieces with Christmas greens. Koon's Vintage Picks has an exhibit featuring vintage pieces of furniture, including a handmade mantle, decorated with holiday decorations. Koon's also has a display with some of their featured candles and other knickknack items. Off to the other side of the store, RUST has a display with vintage and antique furniture including tables, shutters, a mantle and various other unique pieces. Lisa Walters, a local artisan better known as CreativeLEI, has several pieces of her lettering work displayed throughout the store. Guests can also enjoy refreshments such as cookies and coffee as they browse the shop picking up unique items for family and friends.

On December 2, as part of this event, there will be a can-

dleight tour of local businesses in Taneytown. Historically, this candlelight tour took place in Littlestown on the first Friday in December. Last year was the first year that Taneytown decided to hold their own candlelight tour. Residents can take a tour of participating local businesses after dark, shopping and enjoying light refreshments.

So far, Staudinger noted the fantastic response to the event. He mentioned blasting the event out on RUST's facebook page, and Koon's and The Mill followed suit, making for great coverage on social media. In the future, Staudinger hopes to have a similar event, which would feature a spring theme. He discussed the possibility of inviting local garden clubs and incorporating flowers and greens into the event in the spirit of new growth characteristic of the spring season. Underwood spoke about an possible event coming up in January which would take place in the Opera House (new events space). This event would feature two artisans: Alyssa Eve Csuk, a photographer, and Virginia Sperry, a sculptor. Both would be showcasing "rust" themed and inspired pieces, as both draw inspiration from the more natural aging of man made materials.

Come on out and support this event in Taneytown. Bring your friends and family and find some unique vintage items for your holiday party.



Looking for just that right unique gift for someone special this year? Drop by Taneytown's Vintage & Antique Holiday Market - you'll be pleasantly surprised at what you find! If you miss it, simply drop by Rust and The Mill during their normal hours and discover their wide selection of antiques.



While in Taneytown, remember to stop by the Red Door Boutique and scout out their unique Christmas gifts.



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WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

Bucharest falls, Germany proposes peace

December 1

The process of squeezing Romania between the claws of the Teutonic machine is proceeding with notable rapidity. German troops have broken Romanian resistance in the valley of the lower Alt and apparently already have turned the supposedly strong line of defense across western Romania to which the Romanians had retreated.

The campaign against Romania is developing rapidly with a converging drive on Bucharest from three directions. The immediate threat to the capital seems to be greatest on the Southwest, where the invaders have approached to within less than 50 miles after Field Marshal von Mackensen forced the Danube at two points and effected a junction with the armies of General Falkenhayn, which are pressing rapidly eastward after having broken the Romanian resistance on the lower Alt.

Defending Bucharest appears increasingly critical. Only to the northwest of the capital does the Romanian line seem to be holding at all firmly, and even here on the Argenchu River, although 80 miles distance from Bucharest, indications are that there is a weakening of the Romanian resistance in this direction. News dispatches have reported that the Romanian government and diplomatic officials are leaving Bucharest for Jassy, 200 miles northeast of the capital, near the Russian frontier.

The retreat of the Romanians, according to the Germans, is a precipitate one as indicated by the disorderly retirement of the Romanian forces along the entire Wallachian front. The Romanians have destroyed the railway from Tchernovoda to Bucharest and are burning all the villages and stores of food in the course of the retreat.

It is impossible to doubt that the deteriorating situation in Romania is viewed in the Allied capitals with the greatest misgivings. The question is being frankly asked whether the accession of Romania to the Allied cause has brought strength or weakness, whether Russia has rendered the assistance which might have been expected from her and whether the Allies might have shown more initiative in attacking from Saloniki; whether the collapse in Romania is due to any lack of unity of the allies plan or strategy, or whether it is due in large part to Romania's hasty invasion of Transylvania.

On the western front, extremely bad weather has brought the great Somme battle to a hold. Attacks have been minimal, and mostly confined to artillery exchanges, however even they prove to be futile as a large number of shells failed to explode, instead, they buried themselves in the moist soil. Troops meanwhile are suffering from the wet and cold.

The Germans have charged the British with employing contingents of colonial troops, notably Australians, instead of their home forces in the first line, during what is alluded to as the

"Battle for Practice". The Germans declare that Australians and New Zealanders lost 40,000 men in the Somme fighting, three divisions having been completely wiped out. The Canadians after suffering heavy losses in the Ypres fighting in June were thrown into the Somme battle in September and have been in the front line on all the days of great attacks since September 9. Colonial troops also have been lavishly employed by the French. In total the losses of French and English forces now exceed more than 600,000.

There is a growing belief in Washington that Germany means to evade promises to this country and shortly begin upon a merciless campaign of submarine warfare on the commerce of her enemies. German officials believe that the only way Germany will be able to bring England to her knees is through the steady destruction of her food and ammunition supplies. "If England begins to feel the pinch of hunger her statesmen and people", according to what is said to be German opinion, "will begin to look with favor upon peace negotiations, and such negotiations are what Germany wants."

The submarine is the weapon Germany depends upon to do this job. Each succeeding foray of submarines upon shipping commerce is expected to grow in intensity, and eventually reach the point explanations are no longer to be accepted by the United States. By that time, though, Germany hopes to have frightened England and her allies into consideration of peace that will bring about terms at least as satisfactory to Germany as to the Allies.

December 8

On Monday, Bucharest fell to German forces, Romanian forces are retreating in utter confusion. The chief focus of the Teutonic advance seemed however not to have been Bucharest, but Ploechti, an important railway junction town 36 miles northwest of Bucharest. The goal of the Germans was to seize this town before the Romanian armies could affect a retreat over the railway line running through it from Bucharest.

This encircling movement spelled the greatest apparent threat to King Ferdinand's forces as the railroad through Ploechti afforded the only railway avenue of escape for the Romanian army towards the northeast, where their armies and the Russians so far have held Moldavia fairly safe from the Germans.

The main point of interest in what remains of the campaign is the fate of the Romanian armies. Apparently there has been no wholesale bagging of prisoners as yet, at least, by Field Marshal von Mackensen's troops, although Berlin reports the capture of more than 9,000 men.

Petrograd's statement announcing the evacuation of Bucharest and the retirement of the Romanians who were holding off the German Danube

army South of the capital probably indicates that an attempt was made to move virtually the entire Romanian army Northeast towards Moldavia, before the entrance of the German troops into the capital.

The capture of Ploechti in the center of the Romanian oil region, was affected on Tuesday. With the fall of Ploechti there appears no probability of saving the oil fields, which is considered the worst feature of the situation as Germany is in desperate need of oil if she is to continue her war effort.

Military experts believe that the Romanians have decided to abandon all of Wallachia, the main portion of the Romanian Kingdom, and retire to Moldavia, their northeastern province, where their front would be materially shortened and where they would be in close touch with the Russians. According to the Germans, over 100,000 Romanians soldiers have been captured by the forces of the Central Powers since the beginning of the war.

December 15

On Monday, the German Chancellor proposed peace negotiations. The German peace terms, in general, proposed the reestablishment of the status quo before the war with the exception of the establishment of independent Kingdoms of Poland and Lithuania. They are understood to propose the complete restoration of the occupied portions of Belgium and France in return for Germany's captured colonies and to dispose of the Balkan situation, because it's extremely complicated nature, in the peace conference.

In a speech before the German Reichstag, the German Chancellor said: "The situation was serious, but military operations progress, and that by strokes of the sword a firm foundation for our economic needs have been laid. Great stocks of grain, oil, and another goods fell into our hands with the capture of Romania. We could have lived on our own supplies, but now our safety is beyond question."

"To these great events on land, the chance for continued military success of equal importance are added by our submarines. The specter of famine which are enemies intended to appear before us now pursues them without mercy."

"The Empire it's not a besieged fortress, as our adversaries imagine, but one gigantic and firmly disciplined camp with inexhaustible resources. That is the German Empire, which is firmly and faithfully united with his brothers in arms, who have been tested in battle under Austrian-Hungarian, Turkish, and Bulgarian flags."

"Our strength however has not made our ears deaf to our responsibility before God, before our own nation and before humanity. His Majesty, therefore, in complete harmony with our allies, decided to propose to the hostile powers to enter into peace negotiations."



"BURGLAR BILL: I tells yer as I'm willing to stop the melee, constable - on conditions. If yer don't agree, then the responsibility of what happens will be yours." This cartoon, carried in the London Times, shows the Allied attitude with the Kaiser as 'Burglar Bill', caught in the act of robbing a house with his bags of swag, the areas he occupies, surrounding him. The Allies, portrayed as a police constable, are about to take him on.

The coming of winter and the lull in the fighting are given as reasons for making the peace proposal at this time. It is declared that the success of the German arms in Rumania should convince the Allied powers that the offer is not made because of any military weakness. By making the offer now, it is said, Germany feels that all sides may be saved the preparations for a spring campaign. Should the offer be declined, it is said it will be made again next Fall and if necessary the Fall after that.

Another of the objects of the peace proposal, German diplomats say, is to establish whether the Allies are willing to make peace, or whether it is their intention to crush Germany and dismember her. Germany, they say, is convinced of the ability and strength of her enemies to continue the war on its present or even greater scale for 10 years, if necessary, and is no less confident of her own ability to do so.

Among the Allied diplomats Germany's offer was pronounced to be of double purpose an unlikely of acceptance. The first purpose, the Allied representatives declare is to affect the world opinion of neutrals and place upon the Allied powers the responsibility for continuing the war in the face of offers for peace. The second, they declare, is for the internal effect in Germany, to give evidence to the people that the government was ready to end the war, but was forced to continue by her enemies.

The piece offer, the Allied diplomats say, has been timed to follow the fall of Bucharest, to convince the German people that they should have confidence in the ability of their government to continue the war, if peace offers are declined.

Indications are that the various governments of the Allies do not intend to act hastily in making responses to the peace proposals of the Central Powers. The view expressed in London is that Germany would have the most to gain from an armistice owing to recent losses on the various fighting fronts. For that reason the prospect of an armistice it is not regarded with favor in London, and the suggestion is advanced in some quarters that one of the chief motives prompting the pro-

posals was to gain time for Germany to reposition its forces from Romania back to the Western front.

December 22

Military operations in the European field of war generally are at a low ebb. The almost complete cessation of the fighting on the Somme front during the past four weeks has enabled the Germans to complete a new system of trenches along the whole front. The great battle that began on July 1 may now be considered to have been terminated, and the fact of the Germans have reconstructed her lines means that all the effort and losses of the five months offensive of the Allied forces were in vain.

The driving campaign of Field Marshal von Mackensen in Romania seems nearly at an end. What is left of the Romanian army is now safe. Survivors are now beyond the Sereth River where they are being regrouped and refitted in view of further operations. The entire Rumanian front is now stated to be held by the Russians alone.

The peace note of the Central Powers was handed to the British government today by the American Ambassador. The note will be considered by the British Cabinet. The next step after the meeting of the Cabinet will be to get into communication with the allies of Great Britain so that joint action may be taken. This is expected to take at least a week.

While the German peace note makes no reference to a peace conference, there continues to be indications that Germany is seeking a conference. This has led to a careful scrutiny of the last precedent, that of the conference preceding the Peace Congress at the close of the Crimea War. A preliminary conference was held in Vienna in 1854, and proved abortive, but when the Peace Congress was finally settled at Paris a year later the discussions at the conference served largely as a basis.

Some sections of the foreign press have declared that the Central Powers ought to have added definitive peace proposals to the peace offer. A German diplomat, however says: "The

GERMANY PROPOSES PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO ENTENTE POWERS

**Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria Join in Action
Taken Through Neutral Diplomats Called
in by von Bethmann-Hollweg.**

**READY TO RESTORE STATUS QUO
BEFORE WAR, EMBASSY HERE LEARNS**

**Propositions Advanced Appropriate for Establishment of
Lasting Peace, Says Chancellor, Who Will Read
Note to Reichstag Some Time Today.**

Neither the President or the Secretary of State regards this note as a peace note. It is merely an effort to get the belligerents to define the end for which they are fighting. The German ambassador felt the President's actions would surely lead to some sort of a consideration of peace terms. "Now I am perfectly convinced that there will be a conference."

On the whole, the prospect before humanity is not quite as black as it was last Christmas, the warring nations have reached the stage of talking about peace. If they are talking at each other rather than talking to each other is because the dawn of peace is only starting to break. There may be many weary hours before dawn blossoms into sunrise, but a faint light already is seen in the eastern sky.

December 29

On Sunday, President Wilson received a letter from Bertrams Russell, the noted British pacifist lecturer and philosopher, appealing to the President to end the war in Europe.

"The military situation," he says, "has now developed to a point where the ultimate issue is clear in its broad outlines, to all who were capable of thought. It must be obvious to the authorities and all the belligerent countries that no victory from either side is possible. In Europe the Germans have the advantage, outside Europe, the Allies have the advantage. Neither side is able to win such a crushing victory as to compel the other side to sue for peace. The war inflicts untold injuries upon the nations, but not such injuries as to make a continuance of the fighting impossible."

"The Allied governments have not acknowledged publicly what they cannot deny in private, that the hope of a sweeping victory is one which can now scarcely be entertained. I am discouraged that they are prepared to involve all of Europe in the horrors of the continuation of the war, possibly for another two or three years. This situation is intolerable for every human. You, sir, can put an end to it. From your previous actions I feel confident that you will use your power with a degree of vision and humanity rarely to be found among statesmen."

"Everywhere friends of peace are met with a diabolical argument that the brave men who have died must not shed their blood in vain, and so every impulse of mercy towards the soldiers who are still living is dried up and weathered by a false and barren loyalty to those who are passed our help. There is a very real danger, if nothing is done to check the fury of national passion, European civilization, as we have known it, will perish as completely as it did after Rome fell before the barbarians."

"The United States government has the power not only to compel European governments to make peace, but also to reassure the populations by making itself the guarantor of the peace. Such action, even if it were presented by the government, would be hailed with joy by the populations."

President Wilson's note has called forth from the Allied press a torrent of criticism. In their response to the Pres-

PEOPLES OF ENTENTE SPURN IDEA OF PEACE EXCEPT ON OWN TERMS

**Press and Prominent Men Flay Germans in
Latest Move---Too Hasty Rejection of
Tenders Opposed, However.**

**WOULD ACQUAINT THE WORLD
WITH BELLIGERENTS' OBJECTS**

**Possibility of President Wilson Making Suggestions Discussed in
London---British Government Officials Refuse
to Reveal Possible Course.**

By the Associated Press.

German note to the Allied governments contains a very definitive communication as to the spirit of the peace conditions which the Central Powers would bring to propose negotiations.

The Central Powers base these proposals on the convictions that their own rights and just claims today are not in contradiction to the rights of other nations. In addition, the Central Powers declare they do not want to annihilate or destroy anybody and that the peace proposals will be of such a nature as to guarantee the establishment of a lasting peace.

Premier Lloyd George told the House of Commons that peace without reparations was impossible. He said the Allies would insist that the only end of the war must be a complete guarantee against Prussian militarism disturbing the peace of Europe. After declaring that peace without reparation was impossible, the Premier asked whether all the outrages on land and sea have been liquidated by a few pious praises about humanity.

Premier George has not shut the door on peace with the resounding clang for which some of his less balance supporters in the press have been hoping. The British press believe the German Chancellor must be more explicit before he can expect any favorable answer to his invitation. But

the real danger in the situation which his offer creates for the Allies, is its impression with neutral nations, that an abrupt sweeping refusal, not merely of the proposal but of the prospect of discussing peace terms in general, would imply the Allies do not wish peace.

Premier George's speech invited Germany to be more explicit: "We have not cast out the idea of settlement and the neutral world cannot take exception to this attitude. The Allies flat refusal of the Chancellor's offer is not meant to indicate that the Allies do not want peace, but that Germany must ask it in the role of the vanquished and not the victor."

On Thursday President Wilson made public a note he sent to the warring European nations Tuesday night, urging them to outline terms of which they would be willing to make peace. The Secretary of State said that the danger of the United States being drawn into the war, by reason of its increasing critical position as a neutral, was the principle consideration in the President's dispatch of the notes. "America's rights", he said, "were being more and more violated by the belligerence, and as the United States was drawing nearer the verge of war, it was entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks in order that we may regulate our conduct in the future."



"FATHER CHRISTMAS: Alas! Once again my season has been spoilt by that God-forsaken man! May he be but a memory when next I come again." A bitter attack on the Kaiser, showing the curse of the world descending on him and his allies of War and Frightfulness, as civilization suffers its third year of war. Father Christmas is departing, cursing Wilhelm and wishing for his absence in a year's time.

ident's note, the Allies summarized their position for peace terms:

"The evacuation of the whole of northern France, Belgium and Luxembourg, all lands taken from Serbia, Romania, Russia, and Montenegro. Alsace-Lorraine is to be restored to France; the Danish portion of Schleswig-Holstein is to go to Denmark. Posen, Polish Prussia and Austrian Poland are to be added to the new sub-kingdom of Poland, which the Czar has pledged to create."

"The Slavs of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, &c are to be created into a new kingdom. Bohemia is to become an independent state. Austrian Transylvania should be added to Romania. The whole of Austrian Tyrol, plus Trieste and other portions of Austria which are Italian by blood and feeling are to be added to Italy."

"Turkey is to yield Constantinople and the Dardanelles to Russia. The Armenians are to be put under Russian protection. The Arabs are to be freed. Syria, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia to be put under external protection of the British and French."

"German colonies will remain in the hands of the Allies. Moreover, money indemnified for the ruin Ger-

many has done to Belgium, France, Serbia, Montenegro, etc. shall be paid."

"As regarding shipping, Germany is to make reparations for all ships of commerce destroyed. Neutral shipping sunk shall be replaced entirely after all the demands of the Allies had been satisfied. The German navy is to be handed over and distributed among Allied nations."

"As a guarantee against future wars the Allies are to insist upon the democratization of the German government. The Kiel Canal to be neutralized under an international non-German commission, including the Allied countries, the United States and other neutrals."

Upon receipt of the Allied terms, experts in Washington stated frankly that it was clear that the Allies were not interested in peace, but a continuation of the war, as the terms would be clearly rejected by the Central Powers.

It now looks certain that the Great World War will continue into 1917.

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

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HISTORY - CONFEDERATE RETREAT FROM GETTYSBURG

Confederate Retreat and Union Pursuit

Part Five

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society

On July 9, 1863, the Confederate army was fully concentrated in and around Hagerstown. They begin building earthen entrenchments that begin just west of Funkstown. These entrenchments will be built all the way to Williamsport and Falling Waters. Major General J. E. B. Stuart's cavalry will protect the Confederate right wing, which is located just to the west of Funkstown, above the Antietam Creek. Using Funkstown as the anchor, Maj. Gen. Stuart will guard every road leading into Hagerstown from the south and east.

That same day, Union Major General George Meade orders his army to cross South Mountain. The I, VI, and the remainder of the XI Corps move through Turner's Gap. The III and V Corps would move through Fox's Gap. While the II and XII Corps move through Crampton's Gap. By the evening, all of the Union army is west of South Mountain, cautiously moving toward Williamsport and Hagerstown. That evening, Maj. Gen. Meade would move his headquarters from the Mountain House at Turner's Gap to the Devil's Back-

bone, located on the Antietam Creek.

Early in the morning of July 10, Brigadier General John Buford's cavalry division was moving along the National Road leading to Funkstown. He was supported by Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry division. At Beaver Creek, Buford's men ran into some Confederate pickets. Closer to Funkstown, Buford's cavalry moved into Stover's Woods, where he quickly deployed them. The brigade of Brigadier General Wesley Merritt was placed on the right flank, while the supporting brigades of Colonel Thomas Devin and Colonel William Gamble were concealed in the woods. Brigadier General Buford's artillery quickly deployed near the edge of the wood line and prepared to the attack.

Major General Stuart had his Confederate cavalry deployed in a crescent moon formation. The brigades of Brigadier Generals William Jones and Fitzhugh Lee held the left flank of Stuart's line. The brigades of Colonel Milton Ferguson, Colonel John Chambliss, Brigadier General Beverly Robertson, and Colonel Laurence Baker held the right. Located on higher ground on the right was Captain Roger Chew's Battery in support.

By 8:00 a.m., the Second Battle of Funkstown began, as Buford's skirmishers were ordered forward and his

artillery opened fire on the Confederate cavalry. Major General Stuart did not expect this attack, and some of his cavalry became confused. Major General Stuart knew that he must hold this line at all cost, as he was guarding the left flank of the entire Confederate army. Stuart's troopers began to sway, forming huge gaps in their lines. Chew's Battery, firing one cannon at one time, had to fall back to another position.

Around noon, Maj. Gen. Stuart sent a dispatch to Lieutenant General James Longstreet asking for infantry support. He had several regiments located within supporting distance. Two infantry brigades commanded by Brigadier General Goode Bryan and Colonel William White arrived on the battlefield and began plugging in the gaps. With new Confederate reinforcements arriving, Brig. Gen. Buford ordered Brig. Gen. Kilpatrick into the fight. His division hit the Confederate right flank. After several unsuccessful charges, the Confederates held their position.

By 1:30 p.m., knowing that the I and VI Corps were behind his battle line and running low on ammunition, Brig. Gen. Buford rode back to get infantry support. He came across Brigadier General Albion P. Howe. Brigadier General Howe was under orders to not fully engage the Confederates. But opening lines of communication with VI Corps commander Major General John Sedgwick, Brig. Gen. Buford would receive the infantry he needed. Brigadier General Howe ordered Colonel Lewis Grant and his Vermont Brigade to take up position where Buford's men were located.

At 3:00 p.m., the Vermont Brigade arrived at Funkstown, and began to deploy skirmishers. The 5th and 6th Vermont Infantry were ordered to a wooded crest that was occupied by portions of Buford's men.



The Funkstown Battlefield

Seeing the Confederate infantry moving toward the crest, the Vermonters managed to beat the Confederates to the high ground. The 5th Vermont, held the left, closest to the National Road, while the 6th Vermont, held the right close to the Baltimore Pike. This extended their skirmish line almost two miles.

Due to the skirmish line stretching so far with so few men, a gap soon opened on the left flank of the 5th Vermont Infantry, near the Antietam Creek. Two companies of the 2nd Vermont Infantry were ordered to fill the gap, while the rest of their regiment was held in reserve. The 3rd and 4th Vermont Infantry regiments were ordered to support the 3rd New York Battery under Captain William Harn.

Soon the Confederate artillery began shelling the Union line. Thinking that an infantry attack would soon follow, Colonel Grant ordered the 3rd Vermont Infantry forward, to the right of the 6th Vermont, becoming the extreme right of Vermont's skirmish line. The 4th Vermont Infantry was ordered to be positioned between the left of the 6th Vermont Infantry and the right of the 5th Vermont Infantry. Eight companies of the 2nd

Vermont Infantry were held in support of the 3rd New York Battery.

Soon the Confederate infantry began to move forward against the Union line. The Confederate infantry had to move across open fields, and the stone walls proved to be deadly for them, forcing them to stop, climb over, and then reform their lines. The Vermonters did not yield one inch of ground and forced the Confederate infantry back after a fierce contest. The Confederate infantry reformed their battle line and began to move forward. One regiment was sent across the Antietam Creek to threaten the Union left flank.

Seeing this, Colonel Grant ordered the remaining companies of the 2nd Vermont Infantry forward, extending the Vermonters' skirmish line even further. The Confederate advance was repulsed. The fighting was so intense at Funkstown that at one point the Vermonters had gone through their ammunition and more had to be brought up by stretchers to resupply them.

Funkstown was also one of the only battles, since the closing of the Battle of Gettysburg, where infantry fought against infantry. The Vermonters had won the day, however the fighting



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OBITUARIES

that took place during the day bought the Confederate army more time. Many soldiers of the Sixth Corps saw the Vermonters fight, and saw first hand their display of gallantry.

The town of Funkstown lost the most. Much of the rich agriculture and produce was destroyed by the battle. The town itself became a vast hospital, and several homes were hit by the destructive Union artillery. The Union casualties for the Battle of Funkstown were as follows: Buford's Division lost 99 troopers in the fight; the Vermonters lost 97 men. The Confederates had lost about 183 men, with more than half of that number from Stuart's cavalry. As night fell the Vermonters began to dig in.

While the Battle of Second Funkstown raged, Maj. Gen. Meade ordered his army to move forward. The I and XI Corps moved toward Beaver Creek and Wagner's Crossroads. The III Corps marched to Keedysville and halted near Meade's headquarters. The V Corps marched to Jones' Crossroads. The II Corps and the XII Corps marched to Bakersville.

To learn more about this time period of the Pennsylvania Campaign, please log onto www.montereypassbattlefield.org. Or visit our museum located seven miles west of Emmitsburg at Blue Ridge Summit, PA. Hours are Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Robert "Reds" Hance

Robert Francis "Reds" Hance, 55, of Fairfield, died Wednesday, November 23, at Chambersburg Hospital. Born March 19, 1961 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of James Hance of Carroll Valley, and the late JoAnn (Cook) Hance. He was the devoted husband of Dana (Sanders) Hance, his wife of more than twenty years.



Reds was co-owner/operator of The Carriage House Restaurant and Reds Tavern in Emmitsburg. He was an active member of the Emmitsburg Lions Club. He was an avid fan of the Washington Redskins, the Washington Nationals, and the Baltimore Orioles. More than anything, he loved spending time with his family.

Surviving in addition to his wife and father, are twin sons, Robert Francis Hance, Jr. and Brian Patrick Hance of Fairfield; brothers, Jim Hance and wife Joan of NJ, John Hance of Harrisburg, and Joe Hance and wife Donna of Gaithersburg; sisters, Jodi Whalen of Germantown,

and Jean Marie Havens and husband Dan of NC; mother-in-law, Terry Todd, and father-in-law, Wayne Sanders, both of Emmitsburg; and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held November 30 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, with the Rev. John J. Holliday, C.M. as celebrant. Interment is in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Fairfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Emmitsburg Lions Club, P.O. Box 1182, Emmitsburg, MD, 21727. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

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SUNDAY, JULY 2ND

11:00 a.m.— *Farnsworth's Fatal Charge* - (Cavalry Battle)
4:00 p.m.— *The Wheatfield* - A Bloody Harvest

MONDAY, JULY 3RD

10:00 a.m.— *Clash at Fairfield* - (Cavalry Battle)
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MOM'S TIME OUT

Christmas: The best season ever

Mary Angel

Warning: this month's Mom's Time Out article is not for children. If you are a child or an adult with a child in eye or ear shot do not go any further! That being said this might be the best Christmas season ever! All four of my kids are always excited when Christmas rolls around but, this year my youngest (who is nine) is overflowing with joy. She can't be contained when it comes to everything Christmas.

As I sit here typing this article it is not quite Thanksgiving and she is about to burst with anticipation of December first. She knows that on the morning of December first she will wake up and race out of her room in a frantic search for her friend who appears somewhere in our home on that very morning every year. You guessed it; our elf on the shelf (Elf Elfington III) is her special Christmas friend. Just before Thanksgiving she always questions what day he will arrive. After much debating

we agree he appears in the most unusual place on the first morning in December. This year is slightly different. She is ten times more excited. I can only assume that her age has made her appreciate and understand the significance and sheer fun of our family elf, while still allowing her to believe he is a magical visitor from the North Pole. This amazing little elf has not only brought an excitement in her that I have never seen before but he also comes with the ability to make her attitude, mood and all around demeanor take a 180. Once he arrives, with his appointed duty of reporting bad behavior back to Santa, she will put an unheard of amount of effort into being nicer and more helpful than any other time of year.

Her enthusiasm isn't confined to her elf friend. She is so excited about Black Friday (and the whole weekend for that matter) shopping that she was packed for our girls weekend almost a full 2 weeks before we were to leave. The Hallmark channel has been play-

ing Christmas movies in my house for over two weeks and the Christmas carols on the radio in the car are already driving my husband batty. Today I caught her telling my mom all about Christmas breakfast and what it was going to feel like and what she was going to eat. She has told me why she knows Santa is real. Simply put, it is because I would never spend money on her like Santa does. "Don't feel bad mommy, it is because the toys don't cost him anything," is her comfort to me. She is my last holdout, my very last believer in Santa. When she finds out, which will be way too soon for me, I will be very sad. It seems like each child was younger than the last when they found out, figured out, or were told that Santa wasn't real. My youngest being nine could mean this is my last year of having a little believer in the house. Although, I am going to hold out great hope of one more year and maybe two.

Once the Christmas shopping extravaganza is underway then it is time to decorate. Today (again, not even Thanksgiving) she begged to start putting up decorations. After much debate back and forth I figured out that she thought Elf Elfington would come sooner if we put up the decorations. It took a little doing but I convinced her that he couldn't arrive early because the Christmas magic that brings him only works in December. Next she



Nothing says innocence more than a child looking into Santa eyes and believing he really exists.

started telling me all of the gifts she wanted to get for her family, Shopkins for her sister, Beauty and the Beast for her brother's Blu-ray collection, and something Redskins for her Dad, were just the beginning. When I asked where she was going to get the money for all of these wonderful gifts, she insisted

she would do extra chores for me and both her grandmas to earn the extra cash.

Soon we will start planning our Christmas Craft Day and then she might explode. Every year near the beginning of December I plan a Christmas Craft Day and we invite the kids' friends over to make gifts for their family and friends. There are 15 or 20 different stations and a box with each child's name on it to put their completed crafts in so they are not confused with someone else's. Last year I added a photo booth with props for when they were finished or just need to take a break. This also allows the parents of these kids to have some alone time (and maybe even Christmas shop). She is so excited about our girls Christmas shopping weekend, Elf Elfington's arrival, and decorating that she has completely forgotten about our craft day. This isn't a bad thing, at the moment, since she usually drives me nuts to come up with the crafts and pick a day to have it.

All of this excitement can only mean one thing; this is her magical Christmas year. Each of my kids has had that one year when Christmas was extra special to them. It was the year when everything seemed almost magical. For my baby I hope this is her year. After all, she is off to a great start. It isn't even Thanksgiving and she is already about to burst with anticipation and excitement. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all harness our childhood Christmas excitement and bring it out every year at Christmas time? I wish you all a Christmas filled with childhood excitement and Christmas elves!

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

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The most wonderful time of year

Carol Cogliano
Hollabaugh Bros., Inc.

Well folks...it's here. The holiday season is upon us, whether we are ready for it, or not. It used to be that stores would at least wait until after Thanksgiving to bring out their holiday merchandise...but nowadays, we're lucky to make it through Halloween before seeing a stocking hung or a box of candy canes out for sale. And don't get me started on the radio stations...

But it's here now, and we need to get things ready! Our schedules are filling up with Christmas shopping, decorating and baking: all of the preparations needed to ensure that our families will have a wonderful holiday, right? (Have I completely stressed you out yet?)

We've heard it all before -- it's not about the gifts and the "things", it's about keeping the true meaning of the season in mind and spending quality time with our friends and family. It's cliché because it's true. I challenge you to take a few hours in the weeks to come, and spend some relaxing time in the kitchen. Not the scurrying around that you do, preparing your holiday meal... not the last-minute cookie baking that you do in order to send your child into school with a little something for their teacher... I mean semi-planned, relaxing time in the kitchen. Involve your spouse or children (if you think that would be fun, and not too chaotic), turn on some Christmas music and just enjoy how baking holiday cookies -- for your own enjoyment -- can become a holiday tradition that you will crave from year to year.

Dust off your recipe box for some old family favorites, or turn to the internet to look for something new, but do it. Make the time. Form memories in the kitchen with your families this holiday season -- because unlike most of the "stuff" that is apt to come your way

on Christmas Day, the fun memories of time spent together will last a lifetime.

Buttery Jam Thumbprint Cookies. Recipe courtesy of: www.chewoutloud.com

These Buttery Jam Thumbprint Cookies are so light and fluffy -- they simply melt in your mouth! They are easy to put together and require ingredients that you probably already have in your pantry. Use a variety of jams to have a cookie plate full of different colors and flavors!

- Ingredients:**
- 1 cup salted butter, softened
 - ½ cup confectioners' (powdered) sugar, plus ¼ cup more for dusting
 - 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
 - ¼ tsp table salt
 - 2 cups all-purpose flour
 - ½ cup fruit preserves

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 325°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment, blend butter and sugar until fluffy and light, 2 minutes. Add vanilla and salt, scraping down bowl as needed. Switch to low and gently mix in flour, just until combined. Don't over mix.

Roll tablespoonfuls of dough into 1-inch balls. Place dough balls on parchment lined baking sheets. Press down the center of each ball with a spoon (or your thumb!) making a slight depression.

Fill cookie centers with a teaspoonful of preserves. Bake 12-15 minutes or until golden brown and puffy, but take care not to over-bake. Let cool a few minutes on baking sheet, then transfer to finish cooling on wire rack.

When cookies are completely cooled, dust with confectioners' sugar. Cookies can be kept in airtight container at room temp for a few days.

Checkerboard Cookies Recipe courtesy of: www.countryliving.com

Don't be intimidated by the

seemingly complicated instructions...taken step-by step, these Checkerboard Cookies are a clever way to get to get two (or more) colors into one cookie. Use the vanilla/cocoa approach (as listed) or tint the two portions of dough with two festive colors instead -- Red and green for the holidays, or your favorite sports team's colors...the possibilities are endless!

- Ingredients:**
- 1 lb. unsalted butter
 - 1 c. sugar
 - 2 large eggs
 - 1 egg white
 - 2 tsp. vanilla extract
 - ¼ tsp. salt
 - 5 c. flour
 - 3 tbsp. Dutch-process cocoa (or red & green food coloring, to vary layers)

Instructions:

Make the dough: Beat the butter using a mixer set on medium-high speed until light and fluffy. Add the sugar gradually and continue to beat until pale and fluffy. Add the whole eggs one at a time and blend in the vanilla. Combine the salt and flour and stir it into the butter mixture. Remove half of the dough and set aside. Mix the cocoa into the remaining dough on low speed, until fully incorporated. Pat the vanilla and the chocolate doughs each into an 11- by 9-inch rectangle. Wrap each in plastic wrap and chill until firm.

Make the checkerboards: Brush the vanilla dough with egg white and place the chocolate dough on top. Press gently and cut in half lengthwise. Brush one half with egg white and stack the remaining half on top, making certain the vanilla and chocolate doughs alternate. Cut the resulting stack in half lengthwise and set one stack aside. Slice one stack into thirds lengthwise and flip the middle stack over; lightly brush the sides with egg white and gently press together to form



a checkerboard-patterned log. Cover with plastic wrap and chill until firm. Repeat with the remaining stack.

Bake the cookies: Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Line baking pans with parchment paper. Slice a checkerboard log crosswise into 1/4-inch cookies. Place the cookies on the baking pans, 1 inch apart, until firm -- 12 to 15 minutes. Rotate pans once while baking. Cool completely on a rack. Cookies can be stored for up to 1 week in an airtight container.

Timesaver: Make Marbled Cookies: Shape vanilla and chocolate dough into ropes. Twist together for a swirled effect. Chill, slice, and bake.

Easy Christmas Peppermint Patties. Recipe courtesy of: www.momtimeout.com

This no-bake option isn't a cookie, but a mint that can add a pop of color to any festive cookie tray. Whip up a batch -- or two! Try different colors and different extract flavors to suit your taste. Raspberry, Almond and Peppermint make great options for Red, White and Green mints.

- Ingredients:**
- ¼ cup butter, softened
 - cup light corn syrup

3 - 4 cups powdered sugar, divided

1 - 2 tsp peppermint extract or mint extract OR any other extract you want food coloring - preferably gel or paste

½ cup granulated sugar (to roll balls in)

Instructions:

Combine butter and corn syrup together in a small bowl.

Add 2 cups powdered sugar and your choice of extract and mix until well combined. Add extract ½ teaspoon at a time until the mixture reaches your desired flavor.

Stir in an additional cup of powdered sugar.

Turn bowl onto a cutting board sprinkled with another half a cup of powdered sugar. Knead the mixture until sugar is absorbed and is completely smooth, adding additional powdered sugar if needed.

Divide dough into three portions.

Tint one portion red with the red food color/gel and one green. Leave one portion white.

Shape into ¾ inch balls and roll in granulated sugar. Flatten gently with a fork.

Let candies stand, uncovered, at room temperature for 1 day.

Store in an airtight container.

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LIBRARY NEWS / SCHOOL NEWS

Local library events

Frederick County Public Libraries

The holidays are all about family and a perfect time to talk to the elders about family history. To learn the finer details of collecting family oral histories, noted local historian Chris Haugh will host an evening event at the Thurmont Library on Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m. called "Recording Grandma-Family Heritage. During the Holidays". You can also check out the latest addition to our growing genealogical collection: Fold 3 Library Edition by Ancestry. This extensive online resource provides convenient access to US military records, including the stories, photos and documents of the men and women who served. It contains millions of records from world-class archives.

It's officially Hello Holidays throughout Frederick County Public Libraries this month, our special theme to showcase a wide variety of seasonal events, workshops and special children's programs. At the Emmitsburg Branch, the Silver Fancy Garden Club, generous supporters of the library, will host a unique elementary-age workshop

using tea cups for floral arrangements. In Thurmont, the Catocin High School band shares season music on Sunday, December 4th and on December 10, teens and adults will make a Scandinavian crafts.

Many thanks to the young people in the community who created original art to decorate the new Emmitsburg Library Teen Area. Throughout the year, we'll be changing the art and we invite teens to ask about how they can participate when they visit the branch. And tweens and teens should look for lots of new and exciting activities in 2017.

Here are some other programs coming up this month.

Symphony Storytime with Frederick Symphony Orchestra (Ages 0-5) - Give your budding music-lover the chance to explore music! Each storytime features the talents of FSO musicians performing classical music. Thursday, December 1, 10:30 a.m.

Open STEM Lab (Ages 3-18) - Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math concepts in the STEM Lab. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an

adult. Mondays from 4 - 5 p.m..

Hello Holidays: Junior Garden-er Tea Cup Arrangements (Grades K-5) - Create tea cup floral arrangements for the holidays. All materials provided. Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m.. Registration required. Register online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

Backyard Bird Feeders (Grades K-5) - Children with adults will make bird feeders for their backyards in preparation for winter weather. Saturday, December 17, 10 a.m. Registration required. Register online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

R.E.A.D. @ with Wags for Hope - The Reading Education Assistance Dogs listen to children read. *Allergy Alert! The dogs and cats are live animals.* Tuesday, December 20, 5 p.m.

NSA Day of Cyber (Grade 7 - Adult) - Explore NSA cyber security careers with this interactive computer experience. Tuesday, December 6, 3 - 7 p.m.

All FCPL branches will be closed Friday, December 23 through Monday, December 26 and January 1 and 2 for the holidays. The Thurmont

Regional Library will be closed for maintenance Tuesday, December 27 through December 30.

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

Standing Events

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

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

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

Thursday - VITT (very important teens and 'tweens) night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 3-5:30 p.m. Just hang out or play Wii, board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

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

Movies!

Dec. 7th - Free movie "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince", rated PG-13, starts at 5:30 pm at Blue Ridge Summit Free Library. "As Harry Potter begins his sixth year at Hogwarts, he discovers an old book marked as "the property of the Half-Blood Prince" and begins to learn more about Lord Voldemort's dark past."

Dec 22nd - Free Holiday Movie at the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library. Starts at 6 p.m.

Special Events

Dec. 6th at 5:30 p.m. will be a meeting of the "Summit Stitches", the BRS quilt club. New members are welcome!

Dec. 17th- Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting. From 4 to 6:30 p.m. enjoy songs of the season by Rich Fehle. Then catch a fire truck ride, relax on a horse-drawn wagon ride, enjoy s'mores on the plaza and cookies and hot chocolate will be served from the library porch. There will be craft making for the kids and the historic Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will open its doors for the annual Holiday Open House. Santa will be here with treats for the kids and the young at heart. Tree lighting promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration

Come join in the fun-filled festivities at the annual Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas Celebration! This year's event, sponsored by the Blue Ridge

Summit Free Library will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2016, from 4 until 7 p.m., at the Blue Ridge Summit Plaza, located at the intersection of Monterey Lane and Sabillasville Rd. There is something for everyone

at this year's activities - and it's all free!

From 4 to 6 p.m. - Songs of the season by Rich Fehle; fire truck rides; horse-drawn sleigh rides; s'mores on the plaza; refreshments will be served from

the library porch, craft making for the kids; and the historic Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will open its doors for the annual Holiday Open House. Santa will be here with treats for the kids and the young at heart. At

6:30 p.m. the memorial tree lighting ceremony will take place.

Any questions regarding the event, please call library board members, Duke and Lynn Martin at 717-642-5645.

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KIDS' STORY TIME

Bertram the bear

Amy Wilkinson

There once was a bear named Bertram, who was a mostly happy chap.

He spent his days sleeping quietly or eating honey comb and sap.

But he had a problem, Bertram the Bear, a problem he could not mend,

for though most bears preferred to live alone, what Bertram really wanted was a friend.

On the day this story begins, not so long ago in the past,

Bertram the Bear woke up rather blue, wondering how long his loneliness would last.

He said, "I cannot just sit around and wait for friendship to appear.

If I want a friend, I should search for one. I cannot just stay here."

And would you believe it if I told you that luck was on his side?

For as soon as Bertram began to look he immediately did find,

A group of squirrels gathered around a bag, trying to figure just how,

to carry the big bag back to their home, for their squirrel strength would not allow,

them to lift it, or roll it, or slide it, or budge it in any way,

And that was when Bertram stood straight up and to them he did say,

"My name is Bertram and I am looking for friends, maybe you would see,

if you let me carry that bag home for you, that you would have a good friend in me."

The squirrels conversed and decided at once, that they would happily accept his request.

So Bertram the Bear picked up the sack and followed with cheer and zest.

When they arrived back at the squirrel's abode, the squirrels were quick to say

that Bertram the Bear had carried their food, that he had really saved the day.

The rest of the squirrels they gathered around, they gave Bertram three cheers,

all but one squirrel who sulked in the back, not celebrating with her peers.

That night when Bertram was sleeping, content with his new found friends,

he was shaken awake by that squirrel, and no kindness did she pretend.

She shook him and she whispered, "Wake up, you big, giant, lazy head.

"Sit up and listen, I have something to tell you." And this is what she said;

"You don't like the things we like to eat, you don't talk the way we talk.

You don't look just like the rest of us, and I don't like the way you walk.

I don't care what the others think, I don't care what they say.

I have decided that you must leave because you're different in every way."

"But," whispered Bertram and he sat up in his bed, "I am just a bear.

I don't know why being different is wrong. Why is it that you care?

Because I am not the same as you, that does not make me bad.

In fact, if you'd get to know me you'd see, I'm really a decent lad."

But the squirrel seemed to not have listened, she held her hand up to him.

"I see you are not understanding, you must be rather dim.

You could be the smartest, best bear in the land, but you are still a bear.

That is the only thing that matters and that is why I care."

Well, Bertram was a gentle bear, and he did not want to fight.

So he hung his head and walked away and he thought maybe the squirrel was right.

Was there something wrong with him because his fur was brown instead of grey?

Was he really just an awful bear? He knew what the squirrel would say.

The squirrel would stand, tall on a stump, and to the others she would decree,

"This bear is a danger to us. Look at him! He is different from you and me!"

And the others would nod and shake their fists and would not let him stay.

He decided to make it easy for them, he



would just go away.

Did being different make you bad? Was being different wrong?

And if it was true he was dangerous, had he been a bad bear all along?

He walked away with his head hung low, his life turned upside down,

but before he could get very far, he heard an awful and frightening sound.

He turned and he ran, as fast as he could, back from where he had come.

And what he saw there made him freeze in his tracks and made his brain go numb.

The squirrels were hiding, high up a tree and right there underneath,

was a pack of wolves who were howling and barking and gnashing their sharp teeth.

Well Bertram the Bear had no time to

think, and even though he was afraid,

he summoned the courage from deep in his chest and ran straight into the raid.

He fought off the wolves, every last one, only him alone.

And when it was over and all the squirrels were safe, he decided he had shown;

that one nasty squirrel that she couldn't change him and no matter what she thought,

it is who we are on the inside that counts, and what others say means naught.

And Bertram the Bear spent the rest of his life, with the squirrels and shared their home.

And though they were different, they all lived the same; happier together than alone.

To read other Kid's Story Time stories visit the authors section of Emmitsburg.net

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month we asked our intrepid Mount writers to remember and reflect on their most special holiday traditions as the winter season draws near.

Freshman Year

Christmas at home

Angela Tongohan
MSM Class of 2020

My best Christmas was spent with a man I barely knew. In fact, until this day, I still do not know his name. I met him when I was in the eighth grade, when my church decided to host an event called Feeding for the Homeless. Members of our community were to come in on Christmas Eve, set up cots and prepare food for individuals experiencing homelessness, seeking shelter from the cold. My mother, who never was one who enjoyed the formalities of Christmas dinners, decided it would be a fulfilling way for us to spend our Christmas.

Of course, being the angst-y adolescent that I was, I grumbled and complained about not having a traditional Christmas dinner like everyone else. When my grumbling didn't subside after she plainly ignored me for a good few minutes, my mother curtly spun around and said to me, "Maybe it's about time you stop thinking of only yourself."

My mother did not care much about that. In fact, I believe she preferred that I stay out of the way while they were preparing. There was so much food! There was ham and turkey and steak, pudding and cupcakes and custard, pasta and bread and potatoes! I was full just watch-

ing them cook. They set out five rectangular tables and placed them end-to-end to form an incredibly long dining table, which they then covered with multiple stark-white tablecloths.

A man arrived carrying a portable piano, and after a few minutes of setting up, the hall was filled with the jolly sounds of Christmas music.

He was in the middle of Jingle Bells when the first of the anticipated guests arrived. Most of the men and women wore worn clothes, usually washed out and without color. Their hands were rough and cold and their jackets not nearly thick enough to protect them from the freezing snow outside. Many of the men had hair that grew far past their eyes and beards that hung low to the bottoms of their necks. Many had shoes with wide holes or with the soles falling off.

I frowned. I had never interacted with homeless people before. They all bumbled in, confused and obviously hungry. The members of my community, including my mother, led them in the direction of the food. I watched as they eagerly took spoonfuls of this or that until their plates were filled.

My mother caught my eye and waved me over. I shook my head. I admit, I was a bit of a brat. By the time everyone who arrived had helped them-

selves, they sat down at the tables. They were all rather wary of each other, sitting a few seats apart from the next person. I watched as they ate and talked to no one. I shrugged to myself and prepared to wait until it was time to go home when my mother grabbed my hand and dragged me to the food table.

"I need your help, Angela," she said to me. I groaned. The minute she let go of my hand, I immediately made my way back to my corner. She grabbed my hand again, "Angela, I'm serious!"

"What do you need?" I asked as disinterestedly as possible.

She nodded her head to someone behind me.

"I need you to help that man. He doesn't want to get food."

"Mom," I grumbled, "I can't make him get food."

"I think he doesn't know that this food is for him too," said my mother, "He doesn't speak English, Angela."

I looked up at the man who stood silently by the doorway. He was looking hungrily at the people at the table.

"He speaks Spanish. But I don't know how to communicate with him. Didn't you take Spanish in school?"

"Mom—" I began.

"Please, Angela. Just invite him over to eat."

Reluctantly, and after a great many groans, I made my way over to the man.

"Hola," I said, forcing a smile. My Spanish wasn't the best.

"Hola," he said back.

"Quiéres comer?"

His eyes lit up, "Sí, sí," he said.

I led him to the table.

"Pan?" I asked pointing to the bread, "Pollo? Todo puede..." I internally face-palmed. However, the man was too busy getting food to notice my poor Spanish. After he finished preparing his plate, he began to walk to the table.

I sighed a breath of relief. Just as I was about to head back to my corner, he turned around and asked, "Y tú?"

I was confused. Me?

"Yes, she will eat with you," my mother butt in, quickly preparing a plate and shoving it into my hands.

I shuffled my way to the man. He chose a relatively empty spot at the table and held a chair for me until I sat down.

He took a few bites before turning to me and asking me questions. He asked my age, what grade of school I was in, and what I wanted to be when I grew up. It was pretty casual talk, and I tried as hard as I could to understand what he was saying to me. From the bits and pieces, I did understand, I learned that he had a family, but that he lost his job. He had a wife and daughter, who was a little younger than me, but they had moved away a few years ago.

Despite not knowing anybody, the man seemed particularly jolly. His face often lit up when he told me stories, and when he talked he waved his hands around while simultaneously taking in spoonfuls of food. The members of my community had also scattered about the table, starting conversations with those

who seemed lonely. The music started up again as well.

By the time everyone had finished eating, my mother stood up and pleasantly asked the man I was talking with to dance. And he did. Soon enough a good number of my community were dancing with the guests. By that time, I started to see them differently. I no longer saw the ratty torn up clothes. Talking to the man made me realize that there was not much different between us. We were both human. He was just down on his luck.

We all have different stories, and it was wrong to judge a person because of their status or their appearance. I may not have realized it at the time, but this was the beginning of my understanding. This was where I realized that not everybody has an easy journey.

Christmas is a time where we value the company of our family and friends, but there are people who have nobody. During this season of joy and cheer, I urge the spread of love and acceptance as well. Though we may not understand everybody else, we lose nothing to hear their story.

I always wondered what would have happened if I did not talk to the man by the door; if I had refused to try and help. Every Christmas, we now spend our time in the church hall, celebrating Christmas with those who have no one else to celebrate with.

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

Sophomore Year

Sibling season

Michael Kenney Jr.
MSM Class of 2019

It snows in Michigan. A lot. In fact, if snow shoveling qualified as a holiday tradition, my article would extend far beyond this page. Luckily, however, my family's holiday traditions are much more enjoyable, as they make for some of my favorite memories each year.

Our Christmas traditions begin the day after Thanksgiving. On Black Friday, our family meets up with our cousins to make blankets for a local children's hospital. From that day forward, we are in the full Christmas swing — my mom decorates the entire house, Christmas music plays nonstop, and we binge on all of our favorite Christmas movies.

Some of our traditions are unconventional. A few years ago, my family

went through a random Food Network Channel phase. We were particularly riveted by cooking competitions, so since then, we began an annual Christmas Bake Off. The six of my siblings and I break into teams of two or three. We flip through our cookbooks in search of recipes that we would regularly not have the ambition to concoct, and we kid ourselves into thinking that ours will look as decadent as the ones in photographs. Once everyone has picked their recipe, we set the timer, and begin. None of us are passionate chefs, but we all have a competitive edge, so the juxtaposition of our skill and our will to win is probably quite humorous. We make our parents the judges, but they are too kind to state that one dessert is better than the others. "They liked ours best," each group will insist to the others, but ultimately we'll never know. We save the desserts for Christmas Eve night and Christmas day.

My siblings and I also do a Secret Santa gift exchange. For nearly a whole month, each sibling searches for the perfect gift for the sibling they have selected at random. Everything from the style of the wrapping paper to the content of the card is carefully considered to match the recipient's personality. Following our Christmas Eve mass, we all gather around our tree and begin the ritual. Each person goes around the circle, reveals the sibling they had picked, and talks about how they decided on the gift they purchased. Inevitably, each gift has a story behind it. It usually begins

something like, "I thought of you immediately when I saw this in the store because..." or, "The store clerk must have thought I was crazy because..." or "My friend told me about these when..."

After all the gifts are opened, my dad reads us 'Twas the Night before Christmas and then we deliberate on a time to wake up in the morning. The proposed times range from 6-9 a.m. but nevertheless, we wake up when my two younger sisters run into our rooms the next morning.

Christmas morning sparks blissful chaos no matter how old we get. We wake up our parents and then head to our Christmas stockings. My parents fill our stockings together the night before, and we can always distinguish which parent picked out the assorted trinkets. My dad gives the ones that are practical or educational where my mom gives the ones that are trendy or edible. Once my oldest sister and my dad have brewed up some coffee, we open our gifts. We love watching the Macy's Christmas Day Parade. My dad whips up hash browns, sausage, eggs, and toast for all nine of us. We take our time eating and jamming to Christmas music. When the early afternoon rolls around, we change out of our pajamas and go on a family walk. We are also apt to pop in a Christmas movie. Some of our favorites include White Christmas, Polar Express, Elf, It's A Wonderful Life, and Eloise's Christmas.

The Christmas Eve and Christmas celebrations are almost warmups for the days to follow.

My sister's birthday is the day after Christmas, and my dad's is the day after hers. My mom decorates the kitchen the night before everyone's birthdays, and we wake the birthday celebrant up by corralling in his or her room for an off pitched rendition of Happy Birthday. My mom and dad make up a special breakfast, and the rest of the day is dedicated to the birthday honoree. They choose the agenda and request their favorite dinner. Usually, my siblings have basketball games that we'll go to, but after those, we will gather for a long dinner. The dinner usually takes a couple of hours as we laugh and talk and laugh some more. When dessert rolls around, we go around the table saying our favorite qualities in the birthday person, sing Happy Birthday, and open gifts.

Our family usually spends New Year's Eve exercising, reading, and lounging around the house until the early evening. We go to mass in honor of the Solemnity of Mary, a Catholic feast day celebration. We then have dinner, where we reflect on the past year and reopen a jar where we stashed our goals for that year. We talk about our progress on them, create new ones, and then put them in the jar. My dad then picks out a family movie. We try to catch bits and pieces of the televised New Year's Eve Celebration in NYC. We count down to midnight, and my little siblings run around our front yard, banging pots and pans in jubilation.

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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Junior Year

A plate of cookies

Sarah Muir
MSM Class of 2018

It starts early with the sweet smell of candied orange and ginger, coupled with the lingering scent of anise. The air seems laced with powdered sugar and a thin layer of flour is on some table, somewhere. Baking is all about timing. The first cookies to be made are the springerles followed in quick pursuit by the pfeffernüsses. Both, I know are odd sounding names for Christmas cookies, and both have German backgrounds and a traditional standing in our family. Springerles are made with anise, a licorice tasting spice that no one in my family cares for except for my dad, which is why only one batch is made for him and are set aside to dry and harden. The pfeffernüsses, on the other hand are powdered sugared pillows of Christmas heaven. Each little crumb carries the sweet smells of cardamom, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, anise, cinnamon, and molasses.

The next cookie in line isn't really a cookie, rather, an old family recipe of the Nut Roll. Every year my mom makes an excessive amount, and every year we do not complain. Nut Roll is essentially a sweet bread dough, rolled out in a rough square, and spread liberally with a mixture of crushed walnuts, sugar, and milk. Afterward, they are rolled up and baked until they are perfectly golden brown and the house is filled with the rich smell of yeast, butter, and sugar. Every year, while they are cooling my mother will launch into a small oration of how perfect her grandmother's cookies were and, as the rest of us shove our faces, we assure her that they are the best we've ever had.

The closer to Christmas, the more intricate the cookies become. The tea cookies, are usually next followed by the labor-intensive lady locks. The tea cookie are small, delicate, and flaky with a small amount of sugar crystalized on the top followed by a liberal coating of butter cream. The lady locks are a labor of

love since they take about two-three days to make. First, the repetitive process of making the homemade filo-dough, which takes several hours. Then, rolling and cutting of strips that are wrapped around small round, wooden dowels. After they are baked and the small fragile shells are removed from their little rods, they cool and are filled with cream and covered in powdered sugar.

I do not think it has always been solely about the cookies. I remember my mom teaching me how to bake, distributing jobs that were appropriate for whatever age I was at the time. She still has the same ma-roon binder that contains the various secret recipes handwritten by my great grandmother and magazine clippings of other delightful confections that she conjures in her kitchen. Because of her, I know the recipes that have been in our family for generations and why I will continue this tradition for whoever comes after me.

Now, I try to help out where I can, but to be perfectly honest, my mom does the majority. I never understood how my mom could finish making all of them and I could not tell you where the tradition of

making too many cookies came from because it seems like it has always been this way. Luckily, the wedding in June has made this year easier. That and the chest freezer in the basement that has been storing countless cookies and frozen dough that my mother does not have to make this Christmas.

My mom is not the only member of the family that bakes this way. Every year, my sister and I make the quick pilgrimage up to grandmother's house; traversing over rivers and through woods. While we are up there, we help her bake at least three different types of cookies. They are not as intricate as those my mom makes; mostly, they are sugar cookies, chocolate chip, and Pecan (substitute: walnut) Sandies. My favorite bit is decorating the sugar cookies. With red, yellow, green, and blue glazes and a vast assortment of sprinkles close at hand, we set to work. While our creations are a little more subdued now that we are older, we take time to make at least one cookie to pay homage to our inner child. The result of this is a gingerbread man shaped cookie that looks as though it was decorated with Woodstock in mind.

While the cookies are, in my opinion, the most delicious cookies ever to grace an oven, they are not what I love most about this particular tradition. Rather, what I hold deep in my heart is the baking. I will forever associate Christmas with a warm kitchen made heavy with the scent of vanilla and melting butter. I will remember my grandparents' house, our colorfully dyed hands and kaleidoscopic cookie creations. I will forever picture my mom, hair frizzing slightly, standing over the oven as Christmas music plays from the radio. One day, I hope to be half the baker she is and have the privilege to complain how my cookies cannot compare to hers.

It seems this season people get warmer as the weather gets colder. Perhaps it is just me wishing to see it, but everyone smiles more and laughs more and are closer together. It is the time of year humanity appears softer than powdered sugar. Christmas means so much to so many people, but to me it will always be peace on earth, goodwill towards man, and a plate of cookies.

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

Senior Year

Late start

Leeanne Leary
MSM Class of 2017

For my entire life, the holiday season began much earlier for the rest of the world than it ever did for me.

First, I would like to make something clear. I do not live in a family of Scrooges. My family has (too many) truly beautiful Christmas decorations from a Nativity scene gifted to my parents on their wedding day to a kitchen set covered in snowmen and sets of trains to match. We love Christmas music although we can never agree on a station and all sing horrendously. Nonetheless, December 18 rolls around every year and any sign of this is hidden away in boxes lining our garage shelves serving only as the homes of the stink bugs that have found warmth there this winter.

You see, my birthday is December 19. Not too close to Christmas, but being the same week often means your personal celebration gets lost in the midst of holiday madness. I'm sure many of you can relate.

I've never been one for birthday celebrations as I'm much too awkward to be the center of attention for more than a few minutes. My last birthday party was an indoor cookout in fourth grade. When I was young, I was incredulously shy, a shocking reveal to anyone who knows me now, but I was. Because of this, I would have easily gotten lost in the swirl of holiday activity if my dad hadn't made it a point from my first birthday to keep the two separate. My birthday happens every year, and only

after that does it become Christmas in my house. There is absolutely no seceding to the pleas of my brother with a September birthday for Christmas music or to the constant casual hints of a Christmas tree coming from my sister who has another September birthday, my dad never broke this tradition.

December 19 is never anything crazy. I typically ask for steak, mashed potatoes, and canned corn for my birthday dinner. For dessert, it is always Rutley's Peanut Butter Meltaway Cake. I'm sure the name sounds delectable, even to the inexperienced eye or ear, but to those of us who have experienced it, it becomes almost a Pavlov's dog reaction of drool and joy. Layers of rich chocolate cake, peanut butter, more chocolate cake, baked to perfection and topped with peanut butter and chocolate icing. The aroma fills the house from the basement to the top floor bedrooms and signifies the end of my birthday and the start of the Christmas magic.

And so, on December 20 every year begins a flurry of activity. Now, we can wrap presents, buy a tree, switch the silverware and plates and dishes, and crank the Manheim Steamroller Christmas music throughout the house. All on this day, we will bake cookies (all of which will include some variation of chocolate) dip pretzels, and cook pizzelles. Simultaneously, my dad will start pulling boxes down off of the shelves and we will run between the garage and the dining room, setting all the boxes down before opening them. With the cookies coming out of the oven and the instrumental "Deck the Halls" sounding throughout the house, it is finally time for us to join the rest of the world.

We are, naturally, overwhelmed with Christmas spirit, but we are now on a strict time limit. We effectively have three days to feel the joy until Christmas comes and goes. Because of this, we have another tradition. Nothing comes down until we have had our fill. If I'm being honest, this tradition is a combination of laziness and lack of motivation to climb ladders for lights and dis-

pose of a tree that was just set up less than a week before. However, we will call it a tradition. The lights stay up, as does the tree. The holiday cookware, plates, and silverware become "winter" sets and the trains stay out as a result of nostalgia.

This tradition, the former, not the obnoxious latter, didn't become apparent to me until I was old enough to realize that somebody was making a conscience decision to hold off Christmas in our house, and I was not pleased. When I finally came to this realization and announced my distaste, my mom let it go until that night. That night she told me that my dad always wanted me to know that my birthday mattered as much as my siblings' did and that this had been his doing. The insight in that moment made

my 11 year old self feel not only proud, but also loved.

A combination of things happened here. First, I felt my middle child syndrome wash away, if only for a moment. Second, I realized that in a way, we are actually celebrating the holidays, just not in a traditional manner. Third, I realized that although my birthday had never felt too important to me, it was to my dad and so it became so to me.

Really, I should have seen this much sooner – my birthday is a part of our holiday tradition – our tradition that starts late, continues its course in love, joy, and chocolate, and ends just a little past its natural lifespan.

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



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FASHION

Fashion forward this Holiday season

Valerie McPhail
MSM Class of 2015

The season of holiday gift giving is always an event. It is something we contemplate, plan out and execute, and for most, it is a chore. Despite this overwhelming spirit that withstands, I never found this to be the case. Growing up with a family of five, Christmas shopping was always a family affair: my parents, sisters and I would jump in the SUV to the mall and then proceed to strategically split up into groups so that we could buy each other gifts in confidence. This was a definite well-anticipated event that blossomed in my teenage years. I cherished these trips to the malls. The time spent paying forward a gift and then preparing it for Christmas morning — wrapping it for under the tree never ceases to bring me joy.

Now, as these times with family remain as a sweet memory of my childhood, the whole system of Christmas wish lists has yet to leave my routine. The times of circling gifts found in catalogs at the dinner table with dad have now grown into memos on my MacBook, reminding myself of my needs and fancies, as my holiday shopping list remains a running mental note of ideas I have for others as I explore shopping. The more life matures and becomes busier with the distractions of adulthood, the entire nucleus of gift giving become more apparent: A desire for appreciation. As it rings true for the holidays, in every season it is important to remind ourselves what we want in life, and to experience the fruition of these blessings through a spirit of gift giving unto others. Both components make the world go round in love.

For, like other forms of art, clothing is an outlet of expression. The clothes we decide to wear characterize our personalities. They have the power to assign, define and attribute. In New York, the concept of personal expression has turned into a movement where communities of like-minded people dress in a similar manner. Leather motorcycle jackets and Stan Smiths, men's high watered chinos and plain black tees are the epitome of the city's downtown scene — even with a myriad of commercial shops and thrifting opportunities, the adventure becomes an overwhelming journey launched into confusion. Thoughts of slimming down the wardrobe to a tee is a stimulating idea that helps redefine conceptions on how clothing is worn and appreciated. The chosen pieces converse with one another even to the far extent where outfits are never boring — rather, quite the contrary: they are beautifully admired and cherished.

Scaling down one's wardrobe is an investment, similar to shopping for fashion gifts this holiday season. It is talent to make unvaried clothing magical. The key to unlocking a symbiosis between styles and items is found in the investment. It will mean differently to various walks of life. The little black dress, leather burgundy loafers, suit blazer, pair of flats, dark washed jeans and ankle Chelsea boots all carry different functions for the everyday life. Nonetheless, they find themselves in everyone's closet. These items, along with the continued list of basics — tank tops, a grey sweatshirt and skinny jeans can help shave off the time and money wasted searching for the perfect wardrobe. Cleaning out the closet means taking inventory and covering

your needs so that you can enjoy getting up and dressing up every morning for the day. The uniform is never boring; it simply makes a definitive statement of personal style. The power behind executing the basic pieces is understanding the styles that will cover your lifestyle needs. Just as a doctor dresses in scrubs and a chef in an apron, defining your own personal pieces of clothing can help refocus the idea of shopping while giving yourself confidence in your style — it communicates your life. The beauty of fashion comes with a heart and purpose — although experienced in variations, genuine fashion is created with function.

The intention behind refocusing during the holidays reminds us to appreciate what we consider most dear to us. Even in the hasty hustle, bustle and hard work there is an opportunity to experience the glamour. One way to do so is to experience fashion's current trendiest interests. They are cute, light-hearted and creative — filled with beauty and aesthetic purpose. Expect anything that is explicit, attention seeking and eye catching.

Key Chains

Prominent models include the Fendi pomp pomi, Karl Lagerfeld's mini me or Coach's T-rex. A key chain makes for a cute accessory to add to a handbag or set of home keys. They bring joy to the anomalous, while accenting an everyday handbag. It is easily a stocking stuffer, or the perfect gift for a trendy friend.

Cosmetics

From Kiehl's to It Cosmetics, makeup and skin care products are the gift for the curious and adventurous beauty

guru. Brands such as Glossier, a recently launched online-based cosmetic line developed by blogger Emily Weiss, or all natural, Boston-based Fresh Cosmetics present a variety of options. Glossier offers a colorful collection of fun lip stains in addition to their Boy Brow eyebrow wand, almost like an eyebrow pencil, it is "mascara for the brow." In another fashion, the Brown Sugar Body Polish, Sugar Lip Balms or the classic, a wrapped bar of soap all create warm gifts for this season.

Beanies

This style of hat is classic to New York fashion. A pom pom beanie makes a statement just as a pop of color in cashmere transforms a classic beanie into a treasured token. Fashion followers adore both styles. The jackpot gift imagined would be a union of both features offered in one style.

Broaches

Similar to the function of a keychain, the broaches are the accessory for the classy lady at heart. A menswear piece that has turned into phenomenon of womenswear, Marc Jacobs, Dolce & Gabbana and Kate Spade offer playful styles that update the traditional accessory. Fashion finds these small momentums charming for this ornament piece helps build personal style. In the form of a gift, fashioning a broach would make one's style even more unique.

Sneakers

Fashion followers are always on the go. What better way to complete their lifestyle than to give a pair of fashionable sneakers. Cool collaborations make the gift even more special. The most noted



A Fendi key chain decorates an everyday bag.



A pom pom beanie is the statement for winter wear.

collaborations of the year include Nike's work on their Air Max Safari Reissue and Adidas Stan Smith phenomenon. Italian sneaker label Superga also launches annual collaborations design with funky prints made for functional fashion. In every situation, the statement and exclusivity offers the chase for the pair, this brings value to the gift.

Dress ring

Similar to the "pinky ring," the interest in metal ware jewelry is maturing in the menswear industry. The dress ring, a simple, large faced ring is another example. Appropriate for everyday wear, the dress ring is a statement with a heritage of societal class, now beckoned with interests in aesthetic and drama. The fashion forward man will appreciate the advancement towards this modern look.

As we approach this time of gift giving, may we not forget to treat ourselves as we grow our attention to others. The greatest way of doing so this season is to make the investment that less is more and a clean out of the closet. This statement will bring advancements into your life of giving and sharing the holiday cheer with your loved ones.

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

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CREATIVE WRITING

The want of a book

Sarah Muir
MSM Class of 2018

Now, what I want is facts.
It was December and the biting cold wind wrapped itself around the library that sat among other public buildings in a certain town. In this library, on a dusty shelf labeled MDS 823.8, sat a book. It was a shabby looking book, but then again, it always had been, even when it first came to rest there. It sat, bound in cheap, imitation leather as searching hands found the newer editions of itself. The red leather was beginning to peel away and the pages that were once the color of buttercream, now looked as though someone had painted them with coffee. It was once a handsome book, but years of forget had left its mark.

The gold leaf title on the front cover was beginning to fade, but the words were still legible; *Select-ed Works of Charles Dickens*. A librarian, tasked with discovering books that were too old for public use, found it. Holding it in hands that looked nearly as old as the book they held, she knew that it would be a sin to cast it away. However, shelf space was needed and it wasn't as if it were the only copy of the work. It was a library after all. But for the librarian, it was the principle of the thing and her heart ached at the thought of this book wasting away or worse. Holding it in her hands, she had an idea, she smiled and checked her watch. Yes, she thought, he should be here any moment now.

Now, *there once lived, in a sequestered part of the county*, a young boy no older than thirteen. School had just been let out and the young boy pedaled through the streets, scarf wrapped thrice around the bottom half of his face as the winter wind made his eyes water. He relied on the blurry, dotted lights lining the windows to act as some kind of guide. As he rode on, narrowly missing a group of carolers, he felt himself relax as

he drew nearer to home. Well, actually, the building was the public library. It was usually empty because most people found what they needed in a matter of seconds and a few keystrokes.

As no lady or gentleman he had met shared the same reverence for the building as he did, he often went alone. He preferred it that way, for this was holy ground. A solemn temple full of knowledge and wonder that had always welcomed him back with promises of something new. Within its walls he would sit, head bowed, and read each and every book that came his way as though it were his scared scripture. He was nine when he converted to this way of life, for it kindled in his heart a love of words.

He sighed as the warmth of the building embraced him with the heavenly scent of paper and ink. However, he paused for a moment at the sight of something that wasn't there the day before. Standing in the middle of the entryway was a colossal tree decorated with tinsel and cheap ornaments, half of the lights were out and the plastic branches crumbled slightly in one section. It was Christmas? Already?

To be honest, it was easy to forget about Christmas. After all, his family wasn't necessarily the celebrating type and besides a battered wreath on the door and an unwrapped gift on Christmas Eve, there was nothing to mark the occasion. Not that it bothered him.

It took him a moment before he realized that his name was being called. He turned to see and unconsciously stood a little straighter at the approach of the voice. She was a severe looking woman who vaguely resembled a bird. Her suits ranged from charcoal to the color of fog. Indeed her whole appearance seemed to exist on a grayscale. Even her hair, which was always pulled in a tight bun, was the color of storm clouds. She had an air of sternness that would make even the most troublesome

persons think twice about causing any sort of havoc in her library. But as she came closer, she smiled and it soften her features,

"You were two minutes late, I was about to send out a search party," she said, looking at the bright young man as he took off his scarf. He grinned sheepishly and mumbled an apology.

"Don't be sorry, you silly boy," sitting on the bench in front of the Christmas tree, she beckoned him, "Come here and sit. I have something for you."

He sat down obediently next to her as she held out a rectangular object wrapped in brown paper and tied with green ribbon. He held it in his hands lamely, until the librarian spoke, letting a note of impatience enter her voice, "Come on then, open it up."

He made quick work of the ribbon and paper and stared mutely at the book in his lap, barely registering her voice, "I know it might be, well, a bit more than what you're used to reading, but I thought you would enjoy."

"I, um, I can't accept this," he said, cutting her off.

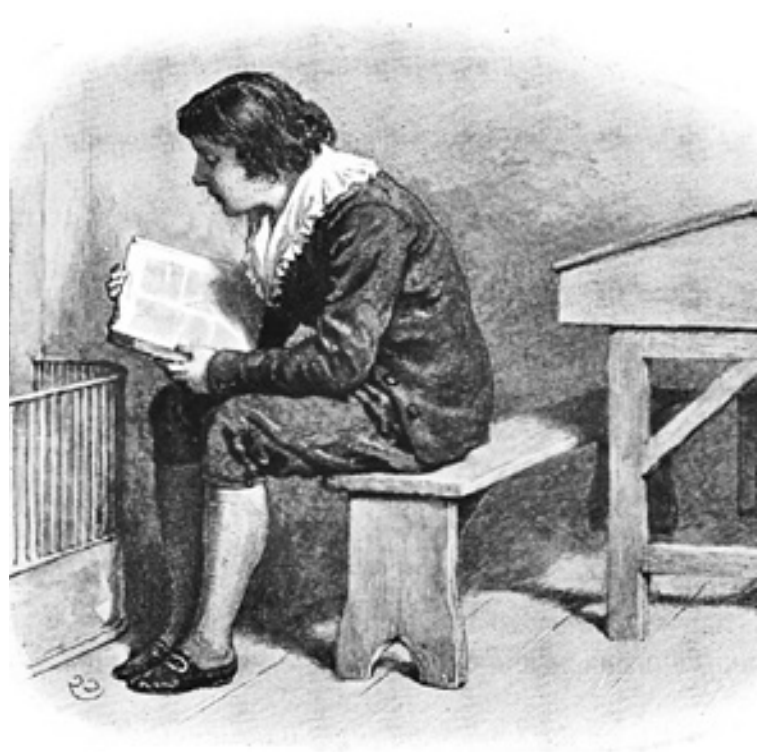
"And why ever not?" she demanded.

"Because —because I didn't get you anything," he said, trying to give it back to her. The truth was, charity made him feel terribly uncomfortable. She hummed and said, "Well, if you won't take it then I guess it will have to be discarded," she said with a theatrical sigh and reaching towards the book, she held back a smile when he hugged it to his chest.

"What?" he asked, eyebrows raised in horror.

"Well, we need the shelf space and I was hoping on finding this book a good home, but if you would rather see it turn to pulp then—" she shrugged her shoulders and held out her hand. She knew she was laying it on a bit thick, but then again, the boy probably wouldn't accept it any other way.

The boy looked to the book and to the outstretched hand and then



back to the book,

"Um, I-I guess I'll look after it, then," said he. The librarian narrowed her eyes, "Really? Because it's fine if you don't want it."

"No, I do, really," he said with eagerness.

"That solves that problem then," she replied with a smile that barely hid her satisfaction.

"I think you'll enjoy Dickens. Brilliant writer." She was startled by the hug he gave her, but returned it nonetheless. She then stood and, not before wishing him a Merry Christmas and upon hearing his reply, she walked out into the evening.

He sat there for a few moments, gazing at the book. Reminding himself that it was not just any book; it was his book. He relished over the feel of owning a world built of ink and paper and in his mind no other gift in the world could match to what was in his hands. Opening it to the first story, he began to read:

Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show...

He looked up briefly one more time to see that the librarian was already long gone, he settled in front of the Christmas tree and read on...

Years would pass and his one book would turn into a library and his solitude into a busy, warm household, filled with generations. And my story which began with a lonely little boy who was given a book ends happily. For his children and grandchildren would mark the start of Christmas not by the rhymes of Clement Moore, but by the words of Charles Dickens. They would remember surrounding the fireplace and watching as from the top shelf he would fetch the book whose pages were beginning to shed. He would gingerly open it to the proper page and read, allowing memory to take over for some parts. His voice would surround them, the room would dissipate, and up from the words spilling from his lips would spring the ghost of Marley, or the small frame of Oliver Twist, or the figure of the warm Mrs. Lirriper. They would fall asleep on the hearthrug to the sound of his voice. He would read on and in his heart know that for better and worst, through wisdom and foolishness, belief and incredulity, light and darkness, hope and despair, he would always have Dickens.

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



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ARTS

Clara and the Nutcracker

One of the staples of the holiday season is, without a doubt, The Nutcracker. As Christmas rolls around each year, countless productions of the classic Tchaikovsky ballet are performed around the world. The original production, with a score by Tchaikovsky and a story adapted from E.T.A. Hoffmann's, The Nutcracker and the Mouse King, premiered at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia on December 18, 1892. One hundred twenty-four years later, The Nutcracker is an almost ingrained part

of the holiday culture.

During the summer of 2012, Way Off Broadway's producers decided to adapt The Nutcracker into a musical stage production for the Children's Theatre – the play played to a sold out run during the 2012 holiday season. Four years later, the Children's Theatre's original production returns to the stage.

In Clara & the Nutcracker Prince, Clara is whisked away to the Land of Sweets where she must help the Nutcracker Prince stop the Mouse King and his mice army from steal-

ing all of the candy in the land. On her enchanted journey, she meets many fanciful characters including a pair of comic Russian Bakers, dancing candy flutes, and, of course, the Sugar Plum Fairy. Set in the modern day, even before Clara travels to the Land of Sweets, she finds herself being entertained by a dancing Barbie Doll and G.I. Joe figure. And in the end, there is even a visit from Santa Claus himself.

Making her Children's Theatre debut is Kenzie DuMars in the title role of Clara, who joins origi-

nal cast members Jessica Billones (Clara's Mother), Bill Kiska (Clara's Father and Vladimir), Sarah Melinda (Sugar Plum Fairy), and Jordan Stocksedale (Uncle Max and the Mouse King). Sam Buchanan will take on the role of the Nutcracker Prince in this year's staging. Rounding out the cast are Ariel Messeca as Dmitri and Keller Knight as Fritz.

The show runs through December 28th with performances every Saturday afternoon and the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Tickets are \$17 per person for lunch and the show and can be purchased by calling the Box Of-



office at 301-662-6600.

To learn more about Clara and the Nutcracker Prince, or any of Way Off Broadway's productions, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Totem Pole Playhouse's 2017 season

Totem Pole Playhouse, Pennsylvania's premiere summer theatre, located in Caledonia State Park between Gettysburg and Chambersburg, has announced its 2017 summer season featuring the stage version of a Best Picture Academy Award-winning movie, two Tony Award-winning musicals, and a celebration of America's most beloved composer. The season will close with an intimate, two-person play on stage for one week only starring a legendary TV couple from a classic hit of the late 80s.

Opening the subscription season will be a Pulitzer Prize-winning stage play Driving Miss Daisy. The play delicately depicts racial tensions, the passage of time, and the experience of aging. Four

time Emmy Award-winning actress Michael Learned, best known for her role as 'Olivia (Ma) Walton' on classic family television series "The Waltons," will star as elderly Jewish matron Daisy Werthan. Set in mid-century Atlanta, Driving Miss Daisy tells the story of Werthan and her chauffeur, Hoke Coleburn. At first, Daisy is none too happy about being forced to rely on a black man to get her from one place to the next. However, Hoke gradually wins her over, and during the 25-year span of the play, the two develop a deep-rooted affection. Driving Miss Daisy runs from May 26th through June 11th.

Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Book and Best Original Score,

the new musical The Drowsy Chaperone will be the second show of Totem Pole Playhouse's 2017 season. The large cast musical is a loving send-up of the Jazz Age featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. With the houselights down, a man in a chair appears on stage and puts on his favorite record: the cast recording of a fictitious 1928 musical. The recording comes to life and The Drowsy Chaperone begins as the man in the chair looks on. Mix in two lovers on the eve of their wedding, a bumbling best man, a desperate theatre producer, a not-so-bright hostess, two gangsters posing as pastry chefs, and an intoxicated chaperone, and you have the ingredients for an evening of madcap delight. Long-time Totem Musical Director Darren Server will appear on stage as the man in the chair. The musical is on stage June 16 through July 2.

I Love a Piano, a celebration of the mu-

sic of one of the most prolific and popular songwriters of the 20th century, Irving Berlin, will be the third show of Totem Pole's four-show season. The musical follows the journey of a piano as it moves in and out of American lives from the turn of the century to the present. Along the way, the story comes to vibrant life with over sixty of Irving Berlin's most beloved songs, including classics such as "Blue Skies," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Puttin' on The Ritz," "Cheek to Cheek," "Always," "How Deep is the Ocean," "Anything You Can Do," "God Bless America," and of course, "I Love a Piano." Alternately heartbreaking and hilarious, rousing and reflective, I Love a Piano is a fitting tribute to the man Jerome Kern famously said had "no place in American music – he is American music." The musical is on stage July 7 through July 23.

Rounding out the four-show sub-

scription season, the playhouse welcomes back the director and star of Totem Pole's box office record-breaking production of Ring of Fire, Jason Edwards, to direct the new smash-hit musical Million Dollar Quartet. Inspired by the famed recording session that brought together Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley for the first and only time, the musical is set on December 4, 1956.

In what was one of the greatest jam sessions ever, Million Dollar Quartet brings that December night to life with an irresistible tale of broken promises, secrets, betrayal, and celebrations that is both poignant and funny. Relive the era with an incredible score of rock'n'roll, gospel, R&B and country hits, performed live onstage. Showcased hit songs will include "Blue Suede Shoes," "Fever," "Walk the Line," "Sixteen Tons," "Who Do You Love?," "Great Balls of Fire," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin On," "Hound Dog," and more. Due to the large number of group sales, the production has already been extended an additional week, with many of performances already close to being sold-out. This unforgettable show, sponsored in part by Edward Jones, will be on stage July 28-August 20.

Following the regular subscription season, Totem Pole Playhouse will present a special "one week only" bonus show, Love Letters, starring Meredith Baxter and Michael Gross the TV parents from hit 1980s television series "Family Ties." A Pulitzer Prize finalist, Love Letters centers on Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III, who share notes, letters and cards spanning over 50 years, in which they discuss their hopes, ambitions, dreams, disappointments, victories and defeats, that have passed as they lead their separate lives. The show will be presented for 8 performances only from August 22 through August 27.

Subscription prices for all four shows range from \$119 to \$133 for junior subscriptions, ages 5 to 15 and \$153 to \$171 for adult subscriptions. In addition, a 4-play and 3-play FLEX subscription plan will be offered at the same prices whereby subscribers have the flexibility to choose the performance they wish to attend (subject to availability) rather than be locked into a set date for each production. As always, tickets can be purchased for single shows. For more information call the Totem Pole Playhouse Box Office Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 717-352-2164. Tickets for the general public will be on sale February 7.

To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 301-662-6600. To learn more about Way Off Broadway or any of its productions, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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"Totem Pole's production is an uplifting show that puts a new face on this old tale by Charles Dickens." -David Dunkle, PennLive

Joy and fellowship

Jack Williams
MSM Class of 2017

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! There are a number of ways to celebrate the holiday, and the medium of art is one of many options. One of my favorite Norman Rockwell paintings is a depiction of Thanksgiving, called Freedom from Want. The freedom from desire for anything but those we love is a theme that carries into December as well. Last month, I shared a series of family-friendly activities to bring us all together. The events at the Mount were a smashing success, in this regard. A number of families came out for the Lab Band Concert, Iphigenia and Other Daughters was well received by those who attended, and even the opera night had a high turnout! This exemplifies just how much we care about spending the holidays with those we love.

Rockwell painted various portraits of Santa in his lifetime. He is one of many examples of an artist who valued the beauty of celebrating the holidays. With the success of last month's events, and the importance of spending time with those we hold dear, this month's article will spotlight events which celebrate the joy and familial nature of the Christmas season. Let's use this month to inspire ourselves, our families, and the community at large!

First, there is the annual Christmas in Thurmont event on December 3. There is a lot to do on this Saturday! Vickie Grindler, head of Main Street events in Thurmont, says that the purpose of the event is to, "Encourage a spirit of community and giving, and also to encourage our community to support local businesses." There are plenty of ways to participate in this Christmas celebration that achieve this goal.

The day will start with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., with Santa and Mrs. Claus generously taking time out of their hectic December schedules to touch down in town! There will be cookies and hot chocolate, and opportunities to take pictures with the Clauses from 10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. and 2:15 - 3 p.m. Between 12:45 and 2:15, Santa will be busy reading Christmas stories at the Thurmont Regional Library. There will be performances by ESP Productions throughout the day, the Catoctin Lab Band will play at 4 p.m. and will also include a business map stamping activity for adults, which will take place between 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Lighting of the Lions Club Remembrance Tree will take place at 4:30 p.m., and Prize Drawings at 5 p.m.

You may have heard of this annual event before, and know what to expect, but there is a new feature to this year's Christmas kickoff. Horse and carriage rides will be available from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., with ticket prices set at \$10 a rider, and children under the age of five are free. A scenic ride through the Community Park and the downtown Main Street area is a beautiful and unique way to start

off the holiday season! Call the Town Office at 301-271-7313 to schedule your ride time in advance. If you cannot attend on the 3rd, there is always the Festival of Trees and Gingerbread Displays at the Main Street Center, which will be up between December 3 and December 31.

If you're looking for something traditional, there is always the Candlelight Christmas Concert at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Taneytown. This is the seventh annual Christmas concert, and if you have attended this before, you are well aware of how special this day is. At 3 p.m., in the historic church sanctuary, Cathy Elkiss will be directing a concert you will certainly not want to miss. It will feature choral holiday music that will feature the voices and soloists of the Church's Luther Choir, the Trinity JuBELLation Handbell Choir, the Taneytown Community Christmas Festival Choir, and several guest musicians. These include the violinists Ryan Dunford and Dale Elkiss, cellist Danielle Karppala, and clarinetist David Duree. What is special about this concert is its setting, with the music beautifully catered toward the candlelit, stained-glass sanctuary of the Trinity Lutheran Church.

Following the concert, there will be a reception for all attendees that is intended to, "Promote a time of friendship, fellowship and sharing." If this concert is not already a part of your regular Christmas celebrations, there is another incentive this year, the first annual Merry Market. This will take place before, during and after the concert, from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall. There will be a variety of craft vendors offering some truly special gift options for those who attend, hosted by The Red Door Boutique. If you're beginning your search for a perfect Christmas present, there are plenty of options at the Merry Market.

The concert and reception are both free, and do not require pre-arranged tickets from the Church.

There is handicapped-accessible parking at the Church, and plenty of space available for everyone else! If it's possible, guests are also encouraged to bring a canned-good to be donated to the Taneytown Caring and Sharing Food Bank, to promote the spirit of the season for those living below their means. Another great reminder of the good-will of the season and the residents!

There are opportunities to celebrate Christmas in Emmitsburg, too. Before heading off to the Christmas in Thurmont celebration, why not first attend Mother Seton School's Breakfast with Santa? Santa will be there, stopping in for pictures and good cheer before spending the rest of the day in Thurmont. The Breakfast with Santa features a delicious pancake breakfast, which is \$7 for children and adults seven years and up, \$5 for children three to six years old, and completely free for those under the age of two. After breakfast, head on over to the Christmas Bazaar to shop the local vendors and crafters to get an extra head-start on that perfect holiday gift. And, best of all, the Bazaar is free!

If you attended the Trinity Lutheran Church's Christmas concert on the 11th, there will be another concert held in Emmitsburg at the Mother Seton School. On December 19, come celebrate the beauty of the season with choral performances by the Mother Seton School Chorus, who have been practicing diligently for this show. Individual classes from the school will also be performing, and so will Mother Seton School's award-winning band. Be sure to stay and visit for the student-produced Christmas play as well! If you would like more information on this festive day, call the Mother Seton School at 301-447-3161 or visit the school's website at www.mothersetonschool.org for additional information.

And, like many years before it, if you are searching for a family-friendly showing of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, then the Totem



For more information on Christmas events in Emmitsburg this month, call 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

Pole Playhouse has a classical, highly-praised rendition of the famous story. Like last year, A Christmas Carol is produced in association with the Gettysburg Community Theater, and tickets are available for the showing at the Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater Box Office right now! The show will take place between December 8 and December 18, and is one of the best ways to feel the spirit of the season. On the following dates, there will be an 8 p.m. showing: December 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and the 17th. There will also be a 2 p.m., matinee

on the following dates: December 10, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18th. Ticket prices range from \$30-36, but if you're a Totem Pole Playhouse subscriber, you can save \$10 on admission! Tickets can be purchased on the Gettysburg Majestic Theater's website, at www.gettysburgmajestic.org, in person at 25 Carlisle Street in Gettysburg, or by phone at 717-337-8200. Merry Christmas everyone! I hope you all have a very happy holiday.

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

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SPORTS

Cougars compete in Championship

Sean Vietri

With the 2016 cross country season running its final stretch, Catocin High School has raced with it the entire way. After starting the season by placing second at the Brunswick Invitational, the girls' team had a great season, digging deep, especially when championship time came.

On October 20, both the boys' and girls' cross country teams traveled down the road to Woodboro Park, to compete in the Central Maryland Conference Championship, the conference meet for the ten high schools in Frederick County. Upon arrival at the meet, many teams were surprised by the park's hills and heat to be endured. For Catocin, however, who trained all summer in similar conditions, this proved to be no barrier. The girls, led by senior, Julien Webster, who took first individually in the meet, came together and won their first county title. They achieved this by ousting Urbana by seven points, who placed third over Catocin last year on their home turf by five points. Not far behind Webster, who ran 19:35.6, senior Lillie Perella held off Oakdale's Emily Baba and Urbana's Maddie Gilliam, with a time of 21:16.8. Cougars Rachel Waldron (22:02.8) and Emma Strickland (22:46.1) continued the standard: Waldron

finishing before Urbana's second runner and Strickland crossing the line before the Hawk's third and fourth runners respectively. Catocin's fifth runner and final scorer, a spot that often determines winning or losing in a meet, Kia Braithwaite (24:33.7), finished 25th to give the Cougars an impressive final score of 44 points.

The boys' team, who had more difficulty placing against the powerhouses of Oakdale and Linganore, finished eighth behind Walkersville, who placed sixth and Middletown, who placed seventh. However, when scored by division, comprised of only four teams, they beat the two teams and won the Gambrill Division.

After the girls carried their first ever championship trophy back to the Cougar Stadium, the team did not ease off training. With both Regionals and States just around the corner they continued to work hard, looking ahead.

Just two weeks later, the MPSAA 2A West Region Championships came rolling around. This time, the Cougars competed at Liberty High School, and faced with a more competitive playing field. Although this factor did not phase the Cougars, they were faced with a challenge internally. Second runner on the team, Lillie Perella, was sick so unfortunately was not able to run. Ca-

toctin girls' hopes of placing first in Regionals waned as they stepped up to the starting line, but they fought hard through the race to qualify for states. The race showed an improvement of times across the board, due to both the easier terrain and the improvement of the athletes. Overall, Catocin finished fifth on the girls' side. Webster replicated the results of her county win, taking first place individually in the meet with a phenomenal time of 18:51.5. The second place overall finisher, Reilly Caldwell, who beat Webster in the Central Maryland Conference Championship just last year, finished behind Webster with a time of 20:10.3. Both Waldron and Strickland ran a tight race finishing thirteenth and fourteenth respectively.

Kia Braithwaite and Samantha Casperon finished out the Cougars scoring, bringing the overall score to a 119. The girls' team who advanced to states, knew they would perform better with Perella back in and still held a possible chance of winning the coveted state title. The boys placed ninth in the competitive 2A West Region and finished the season out.

The day came on November 12, at Hereford High School, when the girls stepped up to the starting line with a full team ready to go. Webster, who signed to run at Syracuse University the day before, was ready



Catocin Senior Julien Webster striving to close the gap.

to win her third and final championship. From the start, Webster took the lead. At the one mile mark, Catocin's Webster, Patuxent's Hayley Jackson, and Kelly Wesolowski of Hereford battled it out for the lead, with Webster in front with a spilt of 5:45. As the race progressed however, Jackson and Wesolowski overcame Webster, whose legs cramped up. The three runners finished first, second and third, respectively. Webster's finishing time was 19:21.3.

"I was hoping to do better but my legs cramped up so I just tried to push it as hard as I could," Webster

said in an interview after the race.

Webster gave credit to hard workouts and Coach Grim's guidance for her preparation mentally and physically going into every race. As a team, the Cougars finished unbelievably stronger than ever, just second behind Hereford with a score of 92 points. The girls, who finished third last year at the meet, really pushed hard this season and had a great run. Seniors Webster, Perella, and Braithwaite leave Catocin this year. Younger members of the team such as Waldron and Strickland will surely step up and lead the Cougars under Grim back to championship races.



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Women's Basketball set for success

Kelly Smith
MSM Class of 2017

The Mount St. Mary's University Women's basketball team has just kicked off their 2016-2017 season and the coaches and players are ready for an action-packed and successful year.

The women's team was selected eighth in the Northeast Conference Preseason Coaches Poll. After finishing the 2015-2016 season 9-21 overall, and 7-11 in conference play, the team could not be more excited to showcase their talents and represent Mount Athletics.

The Mountaineers opened their season on November 12 against the Pittsburgh Panthers at the Peterson Events Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Junior Caroline Hummell registered a career high of eleven points and ten rebounds, while Mikal Johnson, a graduate transfer, scored 14 points in the match-up. Although the Mount lost 89-54 to the Panthers, they certainly were starting their season on a high note.

The Mount hosted Morgan State on November 15 for the first home game of the season at Knott Arena, claiming a 65-50 win against the Bears. Hummell again picked up where she left off by scoring 28 points and making 15 rebounds.

Bryan Whitten, who is entering his tenth season as Head Coach, said about the upcoming schedule, "We are excited about the schedule again this year. I think our schedule provides us great preparation for our always tough Northeast Conference slate. Having our team playing at its best, come the end of December is our goal as we look to compete for an NEC Championship."

The strengths of the team this year are better than ever, according to Whitten. He said, "I think we are a much quicker team than we have been. I like our ability to run the floor and be more active in a full court defensive system. Also, I feel our perimeter shooting is at a level we are used to. Last year, we did not shoot the way we wanted to shoot."

The team also announced the addition of four players: Kayla Agentowicz (Scott Township, Pa.), Ashlee White (Woodbridge, Va.), Mikal Johnson (Manassas, Va.), and Katrina Scheuvront (Thornville, Oh.). Agentowicz and White are both ranked among the top 81 recruits in the country and Mikal Johnson is joining the Mount as a graduate transfer.

Coach Whitten said, "We have four newcomers who should have an impact on our program. Mikal Johnson is a fifth-year transfer from Liberty University. She has been a wonderful addition to our program. She can really shoot and plays really hard on defense. Ashlee White is a freshman point guard who brings a lot of quick-

ness and play-making ability to our program. Kayla Agentowicz is a freshman guard who does a little of everything. She is a very smart player who we will count on a great deal this year. Lastly, Katrina Scheuvront is a 6'3" freshman post player. She is the tallest player we've recruited in long time here and she is someone who is improving every day. We are excited about her potential and what she brings to our program." He continued, "They bring a lot of talent and I hope they continue to work hard and stay confident. They can all really help us this year and give us a good foundation for future success here at the Mount."

Looks like good things are coming for the Lady Mountaineers!

Some of the returning players for the upcoming season include Alexis Carter, Katrice Dickson, Kathleen Belanger-Finn, Kaitlyn Eisenhard, and Kayla Bates.

Coach Whitten said in regards to the three team captains, "We have three captains this season, all seniors; Kayla Bates, Alexis Carter, and Kathleen Belanger-Finn. Three amazing young women who have been doing a great job leading, motivating, and inspiring our team. I want them to leave their imprint on our program and set the bar high for future teams. They lead by example and do a wonderful job communicating and interacting with their teammates. Our program is in good hands with them leading the way."

Senior captain, Kayla Bates, who finished fifth and sixth in scoring last season, said about the expectations and excitement of the new year, "As a senior, I have very high goals for the upcoming season. I think with our leadership and experience we are going to surprise a lot of people this year. We have 3 incoming freshmen and I believe they're doing a great job so far. They are able to come in as freshmen and make

an impact and help our team. I'm looking forward to watching them grow as players and compete at the college level." Bates continued, "I am definitely looking forward to conference play this year. We have a close team and we are all working towards the same goal, an NEC championship."

In addition to the returning and incoming players, the department has added Antoine White as Assistant Coach for the upcoming season. Whitten said about White, "I am excited to add Antoine to our staff this year. He interned with us this summer and he really impressed me with his passion, knowledge and the way he related to our players."

White graduated in May 2016 from Southern Vermont College in Bennington, Vt. He was a three-year team captain and helped the team arrive at an ECAC Championship in 2015 and an NECC Championship in 2016. White continues to impress as he holds the record for most assists in a single season in his school's program history. He recorded 177 assists during the 2013-14 season where he earned Team Co-MVP honors.

Not only does White have experience playing the game, but he also has coaching experience. He was a coach for the KOA Sports travel team and also for his own high school, Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Md.

When asked what the team would like the people of Emmitsburg to know about women's basketball, Coach Whitten said, "That it is a fun and exciting brand of basketball. If they are looking for an entertaining experience, come watch a game. Our players are great people who take pride in their game and want to be successful. I think people who come watch our games will enjoy themselves."

Whitten and the team are ready for the season to start, "I think the fresh start is what we are look-



Caroline Hummell starts record breaking season off strong.

ing forward to most. We have a great team and great chemistry. They are a really fun group to be around. I think we all have high expectations this season and I think we are just ready to get out

there and see what we can accomplish," Whitten said.

For ticketing, schedule info and player profiles visit mountathletics.com. Go support the Lady Mountaineers!

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Oneness

Renee Lehman

In last month's article about the life of Robert (Bob) Duggan, M.A., M.Ac.(U.K.), Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM), I mentioned how he always declared Oneness in every conversation and interaction. You may ask what is the importance of declaring Oneness? How do you know Oneness? You may not even be aware of the concept of Oneness.

Today, modern quantum physics tells us everything is energy (or Qi). It also talks about a unified field; that, at the deepest level of reality, in the energy field, everything in creation is connected. Separation is an illusion. Who we are, is pure consciousness or Oneness, expressing itself in different forms at different times in our evolution.

David Bohm, PhD, American-born quantum physicist, philosopher and neuropsychologist (one of the most significant theoretical physicists of the 20th century and born in Wilkes-Barre, PA), said: "In some sense man is a microcosm of the universe; therefore what man is, is a clue to the universe. We are enfolded in the universe." He also said, "Deep down, the consciousness of mankind is one."

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), the oldest continuously practiced form of healthcare, is also based on a profound understanding of en-

ergy (or Qi). Simply put, without Qi (defined as Universal Life Force) there is no life. Qi is the intelligent Universal Life Force of wisdom, consciousness and purpose. As Qigong Grand Master Nan Lu, OMD says, "Everything is Qi. All Qi has consciousness. All consciousness has a purpose."

Many people don't realize that TCM is based in Taoism (pronounced Dowism). Taoism is a nature-based philosophy. It starts and ends with observation of nature. The Tao Te Ching (pronounced Dow Deh Jing), translated as The Book of the Way, was written by Lao Tzu (570-490 BCE). Below are excerpts from of the Tao Te Ching, translated by Stephen Mitchell:

The Tao gives birth to One. One gives birth to Two. Two gives birth to Three. Three gives birth to all things. (Chapter 42)

Every being in the universe is an expression of the Tao. It springs into existence, unconscious, perfect, free, takes on a physical body, lets circumstances complete it. That is why every being spontaneously honors the Tao. The Tao gives birth to all beings, nourishes them, maintains them, cares for them, comforts them, protects them, takes them back to itself, creating without possessing, acting without expecting, guiding without interfering. That is why love of the

Tao is in the very nature of things. (Chapter 51)

In the beginning was the Tao. All things issue from it; all things return to it. To find the origin,

trace back to the manifestations. When you recognize the children and find the mother, you will be free of sorrow. If you close your mind in judgments and traffic with desires, your heart will be troubled. If you keep your mind from judging and aren't led by the senses, your heart will find peace. Seeing into darkness is clarity. Knowing how to yield is strength. Use your own light and return to the source of light. This is called practicing eternity. (Chapter 52)

A modern perspective on this last chapter would require you to ask the following question: "Where do you come from?" You come from the Oneness. The Oneness that has no beginning or end. It is the potential of all things; manifests all things; disintegrates all things; is at one with all things. Change is Oneness's constant. Oneness is the essence of peace and harmony. Therefore, flow in peace and harmony by remembering the Oneness of all things.

So, thousands of years after the beginnings of TCM, scientists like Albert Einstein and quantum physicists like David Bohm arrived at a similar conclusion through scientific research: Everything is energy, and in the energy field, everything is connected.

If you are still having trouble grasping this concept, it's easy to understand why. As David Bohm said, "We often find that we cannot easily give up the tendency to hold rigidly to patterns of thought built up over a long time. We are then caught up in what may be called absolute necessity. This kind of thought leaves no room at all intellectually for any other possibility, while emotionally and physically, it means we take a stance in our feelings, in our bodies, and indeed, in our whole culture, of holding back or resisting. This stance implies that under no circumstances whatsoever can we allow ourselves to give up certain things or change them."



So, energy being, how can you develop this sense of Oneness, and apply it to your daily life?

Join a community that fosters the principles of Oneness. This community will support you as you travel on your journey. It will also give you the opportunity to serve others. Community can connect us with a sense of Oneness.

Begin a meditation practice. Meditation can allow us to experience the Oneness that is deep within us.

Become more self-aware and take conscious actions in your life. Be conscious of your beliefs, thoughts, emotions, and actions toward people and situations in your life. Then be conscious of how your beliefs, thought, emotions, and actions effect your life and others around you.

See your own image in the mirror, your own Oneness. Acknowledge that you are a child of the Universe. Love yourself. Live your life from love.

Begin a Qigong practice. As Grand Master Nan Lu, OMD says, "Qigong is the path—the energy exercise that allows you to become part of the Universe. Qigong is much more than just energy work. Qi is Universal power and Universal life. Qigong movements help you build your connection to this Universal life. Through

Qigong, you become the mirror of the Universe—the wisdom of the Universe."

"If you want to awaken all of humanity, then awaken all of yourself. If you want to eliminate the suffering in the world, then eliminate all that is dark and negative in yourself. Truly, the greatest gift you have to give is that of your own self-transformation."

- Lao Tzu

"A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." - Albert Einstein

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. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

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FITNESS AND HEALTH

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Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

The holidays should be fun and festive and a time of good food and drink. For most people that is the way this time of year plays out. The time after the holidays can be filled with regret and anxiety because of the weight gain, bloated filling and clothes that are just a little too tight to button. Developing just a tiny bit of self-discipline during the holiday season might yield a big reward come January.

We have heard and read the tips about eating before you go to a holiday party or drinking a glass of water between the cocktails at a party and how these will save on calories. I know it is really hard to do when there are so many tasty foods in front of you that you only get this time of year.

One suggestion is if you know the person hosting the party well enough that you feel comfortable asking for a sample to take home that may save you from overeating while you are at the party. Maybe if that is not possible, at least ask for the recipe and try making your favorites after all the parties have slowed down. This way you will

be able to enjoy the things you like all year and won't over indulge just during the holidays.

Committing to keeping on track and developing a discipline strategy may help you find it easier once you are standing in front of the buffet table. Realizing it is just food and that you control your decisions, not your stomach, may help you realize that you can have a small taste without eating too much of everything. I started a healthy eating plan; I do not like to call it a diet because for so many people that is an intimidating word, in October one year and really committed to sticking with it through the holidays. I did not purposely start right before the biggest eating season of the year, it just happened that way, but I found myself sticking to it and feeling much better about myself and much better physically because I thought about what I was eating and kept telling myself it is only for a few weeks.

I got through the parties just fine and I did not give in even once to the temptation of eating something I shouldn't or eating too much of the things I did allow myself. I was able to do this for my own health and satisfaction and I even lost a few pounds that year. That



Holiday eating discipline is not as hard as you may think. You just have to set your mind to it.

was the only year that I remember losing weight during the holidays because like most people a few pounds seem to sneak up on me every year.

Working out a plan to eat sensibly and committing to the discipline of thinking before we dip into that tempting dish just may make loosing those couple of pounds that appear in January a little easier. You know that each time we gain a pound or so it seems to stay with us and they accumulate over the years. Getting rid of the few pounds in January and February is much easier than taking off

the ten to twenty pounds that add up over five to ten years.

The years go past before we realize it and the pounds are much easier to put on than they are to take off. This is just some food for thought that will not add anything to your waistline and if you practice a little self-discipline just may take a few inches away, or at least keep you at the same weight and size coming

out of the holidays that you are going into them. Look for my annual Open House date and time in the January issue of the Journal. Remember, Keep Moving, you'll be so glad you did come the first of 2017.

If you have any questions or suggestions you can contact me at 717-334-6009. Enjoy your holiday and remember to Keep Moving!

Ask the trainer

Jason Blough

Question: Is it true that I'm supposed to drink 8-8oz. glasses of water per day?

Answer: This is actually a more complicated question than you might think, but the answer is no, not necessarily. The daily Adequate Intake (AI) for water is 3.7 liters (132 ounces) for men and 2.7 liters (96 ounces) for women over age 19. You're probably thinking these numbers are high, but that's because they represent total water intake from both fluids and foods. This even includes beverages with caffeine and alcohol, since

the Institute of Medicine concluded that they contribute to overall hydration, assuming they're consumed in moderation. Generally speaking, we take in 80% of our water from fluids and 20% from foods, so doing a little math gives us about 105 ounces for men and 77 ounces for women per day. These are rough estimates gathered from national data, and they may be appropriate for some, but how do we go about individualizing these recommendations? It's actually pretty simple. Ideally, we should base our fluid needs on body weight, since a heavier person clearly needs more water than someone who weighs less. There-

fore, a good goal is to drink half your body weight in ounces each day. This approximates the daily fluid losses from your body. For example, a 160-pound person should drink roughly 80 ounces of water per day. An easy way to accomplish this is to carry around a large water bottle and refill as needed during the day to reach your goal. A simple way to check if you're adequately hydrated is to make sure your urine color is pale yellow to clear on a consistent basis.

About the author: Jason Blough is the Club Manager/Certified Personal Trainer at Anytime Fitness in Thurmont To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at thurmontmd@anytimefitness.com

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

For December 2016, the waxing crescent moon will pass 7 degrees north of Mercury in twilight on December 1st. On December 3, it passes 6 degrees north of brilliant Venus, well up in the SW an hour after sunset. On December 5th it passes 3 degrees north of reddish Mars in the southern evening sky. It is first quarter moon on December 7th. The peak of the Geminid meteor shower this year on December 13th is only a day before the Full Moon, the “Long Night” Moon, so most of these shooting stars will be lost in the glare. The moon reaches last quarter phase on December 21st, the winter solstice. Winter begins at 9:44 AM on this the shortest day of the year. On December 22, the waning crescent moon passes 2.3 degrees north of Jupiter in the dawn sky. Christmas dawn finds the crescent moon midway between the two largest planets, Jupiter west of it, and Saturn in the SE dawn. The slender crescent moon passes 3.6 degrees N of Saturn on the morning of December 27, and the moon is new on December 29th. Only eight more new moons until the spectacular solar eclipse of August 21, 2017, an event that will give us 82% coverage here in North West Florida.

Mercury makes an appearance in the evening sky at the start of December, reaching greatest eastern elongation, 21 degrees behind the Sun on December 11th. Because it



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.

is so far south, it will be hard to spot in the SW evening twilight this time, however. Venus dominates the evening sky, with the waning gibbous disk setting over two hours after the sun. If you know where to look, this can be observed in broad daylight with the naked eyes and binoculars, and should make for some good telescopic photography. Mars remains in the southern evening sky this month, fading as the earth leaves it farther behind. Jupiter rises about 3 AM as December begins, NW of the bright star Spica in Virgo. Saturn is lost in the sun's glare all month, to reappear

in the dawn sky by January 2017.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. 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. Their appearance in November in classical times was associated with the stormy season, when frail sailing ships stayed in port. Aldebaran is not a member of the Hyades, but about twice as close as the Hyades; distances in as-

tronomy can be deceiving.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place.

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 from West Florida. You must be in south Florida to spot Alpha Centauri on June evenings. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.

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“But I heard him exclaim ‘ere he drove out of sight,

‘Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!’”

—Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Fair and windy, very cold (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) with heavy snow in the south (7, 8, 9). Fair, windy, and cold with periods of lake-effect snow, turning very cold (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); Fair and windy once again with more lake-effect snow (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Full Moon: December's Full Moon occurs on Tuesday, December 13th. It has been referred to as Cold Moon for obvious reasons! Many other Native American tribes called it Ice-Forming Moon when many lakes and ponds begin to ice over during the month and Beaver Moon because beavers are most active, scurrying to finish building their dams and lodges before they do.

Special Notes: Season's Greetings from The Hagerstown Town & Country Almanack! Thanks to everyone for their continued support over the many years and pledges that your favorite almanac will be there to inform, inspire, and entertain for many more years to come. And don't forget that The Almanack makes a great gift for anyone, friend or family and is a gift that keeps giving throughout the New Year. Simply point your browser to www.almanack.com/order and order a holiday copy or two (or three or four!) today to ensure delivery before Christmas.

Holidays: The Winter Solstice will occur on Wednesday, December 21st. Celebrate Christmas on Sunday, December 25th. Plan festivities with family and friends but also resolve to keep that joyful and giving spirit alive throughout the entire coming year. New Year's Eve falls on Saturday, December 31st. First Night Celebrations are a safe and family-oriented evening of fun, food, and entertainment on the

very first night of the year. This year, make plans to attend one of these unique of events. Go to www.first-night.com/cities to find a celebration nearest you.

The Garden: Enjoy a rest! The days are too short and getting colder to push to do things outdoor. Turn your gardening attentions to those houseplants (and other plants you have moved inside for the winter). Remember that warmer indoor temperatures can quickly dry out most plants and they will need a bit more than usual. It is never too soon to start planning for next year. Go to www.smartgardener.com/ for a free online vegetable garden layout tool that will help you to successfully grow healthy and tasty food. If you need holiday greenery, grab your shears and head for the backyard. If you are lucky, you will have a variety of boxwoods, yew, fir, or a variety of pine trees to choose from. If you are really lucky, you may even have a holly tree!

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

“To give the gift of yourself is perhaps the most precious gift of all”

COMPUTER Q&A

Holiday electronics buying guide

Ayse Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Services

Need some tips on buying electronic gifts this holiday season? We have chosen a few popular holiday items to discuss as well as some tips to help you decide which gift is best for your loved one. Stumped on what to buy the techie that has everything? You might just find that some of the things on our list are things they don't yet have!

For the Gamer

This year a few exciting new projects are out on the market including Nintendo's NES Classic Edition which is much smaller than the original Nintendo system and includes one wired controller, 30 games (including several Mario's and Donkey Kong) and can be connected to modern TV's via its HDMI port. This system is designed to be an all-in-one device meaning you can't insert cartridges or download additional games but at a \$59.99 price point you can't go wrong.

Interactive gaming for kids (and kids at heart!) is at an all new level with Lego Dimensions and Disney Infinity. Both combine console gaming with physical figurines that allow you to design, create and explore. Both systems are available for multiple consoles and starter packs start at roughly \$30. This is a great holiday toy as well because you can give other gift purchasers the idea to buy expansions and additional figurines to make the experience even more fun!

For the Music Lover

Do you know someone who's still toting around some old vinyl? Check out 1byone's belt driven 3 speed stereo turntable which can be found for under \$50. This awesome product even allows you to convert your vinyl music to mp3 format allowing you to preserve your favorite oldies! The player also includes speakers and a USB input allowing you to play your other devices through it and an RCA output if you want to connect it to another stereo system.

Does someone in your gift receiving circle aspire to become a DJ one day? Numark's party mix starter DJ controller is a great starting point and includes not only a turn table but a lightshow and software for your computer as well. At just \$99 this is one awesome gift and don't worry if it gets too noisy you can easily plugin headphones! When it's time to show off your skills you can simply connect to a speaker system for a high-quality experience! There's no need to worry whether your gift receiver has a Mac or a PC since this device will work with any of the recent operating systems on either platform.

For the everyday busy body

For the person whose always on their phone consider a smart watch which can sync to their phone providing easy access to alerts and notifications. The price of a smart watch can vary

significantly and iPhone users will need to specifically purchase an Apple watch which starts in the upper \$200 range while Android users can find smart watches in a wider range of price points. Some of the wearable watches feature a sleeker style with an analog clock while many of them feature an all-digital display.

Amazon's Echo and Google's Home both bring audio computing to your home providing easy voice activated information in a flash! Both devices have a price point starting around \$130 and both require a wireless network connection to use their features. These devices can provide quick access to information such as the weather or news and can play your favorite streaming music platform with ease. Both devices have many of the same features, however if you use Amazon music you may want to lean more towards Amazon's Alexa and if you want to sync your audio playback to other

Google Cast devices then Google Home is the way to go.

For the avid PC user

Maybe the person you need a gift for already has a great computer but what if you can make it even better? For those who are still running on a standard SATA hard drive, a Solid State hard drive adds reliability and a massive speed boost! If a computer has had a hard drive in it for over 4 years it never hurts to replace or upgrade the drive before failure occurs. A hard drive that is operating can be cloned onto a solid-state drive at Jester's Computers for just \$65. Solid State drives range in price depending on the size you would like however a 525 GB drive runs around \$170 depending on the brand.

If the person you need to buy a gift for could use some computer assistance, consider a gift certificate from Jester's Computers for a

clean-up or some computer lessons. We recommend clean-ups yearly for regular maintenance and they are a flat rate of \$99. One-on-One lessons are available in our office for \$25 an hour or in a local residence or business for \$40 an hour.

For free technology advice contact Jester's Computers at 717-642-6611 or visit us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com For over 18 years

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesdays
Christ's Community Church for Coffee House Adventure (new topic each week) & free dinner. For more information visit catocinpregcenter.org or call 301-447-4224

December 1, 2 & 3
Elias Lutheran Church's yard sale which offers Christmas items, clothing of all kinds, books, kitchenware and you name it! For more information call 301-447-6239.

Hollabaugh Bros. December Cooking Class: Christmas Cookies! Join us as we learn to make several new cookie recipes, just in time for your cookie swaps and gift exchanges. 'Tis the season for cookies! Join us as we learn to make several new cookie recipes, just in time for your

cookie swaps and gift exchanges. Visit www.hollabaughbros.com or call 717-677-8412 for more information.

December 2, 3 & 4
Hollabaugh's Holiday Bazaar. Our Holiday Bazaar is a great way to ring in the Christmas season. Join the family at Hollabaugh Brothers for a festive weekend of great holiday deals, lots of products to sample, local vendors and more as we celebrate the upcoming Christmas season. For more information call 717-677-8412.

Adams County Arts Council's Gingerbread Celebration and Holiday Mart. Free admission and free parking. For more information visit www.adamsarts.org/

December 3
Mother Seton School Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar. Fill up on a delicious pancake breakfast, then walk over to the Christmas Bazaar to shop our crafters and vendors for that unique holiday gift. Santa Claus will be there to take photos with the children. Admission to the Bazaar is free. For more information call 301-447-3161 or email jstorborg@yahoo.com

Christmas Greens and Gourmet Gifts Sale. The annual sale, sponsored by The Gettysburg Garden Club, will feature handcrafted wreaths from fresh greens, decorated table-size trees made from mixed winter greens, Williamsburg style wreaths and centerpieces, swags, seasonal plants and homemade gourmet baked treats, fudge, and jellies. Snow date is December 4th. Please call 717-334-7688 for more information or visit gettysburggardenclub.com. Proceeds from the sale will be used to beautify the Lincoln Square flower gardens and to provide scholarships for Adams County students majoring in horticultural related fields.

St. Nicholas Day Celebration at Hollabaugh's! Kick off the holiday season by celebrating the traditions of St. Nicholas...and enjoying story time with St. Nicholas himself! Visit www.hollabaughbros.com or call 717-677-8412 for more information.

Elias Lutheran Church's Annual Ham, Turkey and Roast Beef Supper Eat In, Adults \$12 Children 6-12: \$4 Carry Outs \$14

December 8
Hollabaugh Bros. Christmas Cookies for Kids - Cooking Class. It's almost time for Santa to come down the chimney, so you'd better have some delicious Christmas cookies waiting for him. Learn how to make several simple recipes that you can recreate at home on Christmas Eve. For more information call 717-677-8412.

December 10
National Fire Museum's Open House. Includes a visit by the 'Chief' of the North Pole Fire Department! ring your donation for Toys For Tots to: Frederick County Fire and Rescue Mission 300B S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg.

December 10
The 5th annual Frederick YMCA's Santa Run 5K at Monocacy Village Park, Frederick. For more information call 301-663-5131.

December 11
Taneytown's Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church's Seventh Annual Candlelight Christmas Concert. This concert of traditional choral holiday music will feature the voices and soloists of Trinity Lutheran Church's Luther Choir, the Taneytown Community Christmas Festival Choir, and the Trinity JuBELLation Handbell Choir. For additional information, please call the church office at 410-756-6626.

December 13
St. John's Lutheran Church's Christmas Bazaar and Indoor Yard Sale at the Parish Hall from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. 8619 Black's Mill Road, Creagerstown.

Emmitsburg Community Chorus will sing at Creagerstown's St. John's Lutheran Church Union Church at 7:30 p.m., refreshments to follow.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 17
St. John's Lutheran Church's Harp Concert with a Living Nativity starting at 7:30 p.m., light refreshments to follow. 8619 Black's Mill Road, Creagerstown.

December 18
Music, Gettysburg's annual Christmas concert offering favorite performers in sampler of holiday delights. Concerts are free and open to the public. All concerts take place in the chapel of the Gettysburg Seminary. For more information, call 717-338-3000 or visit www.musicgettysburg.org.

December 19
Mother Seton School Christmas

Program. Come celebrate the joy of Christmas with us! The program will include choral performances from the Mother Seton School Chorus and from individual classes, our award-winning band, and a student-produced Christmas play. Call 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org for more information.

December 24
St. John's Lutheran Church's Christmas Eve Service in The Union Church at 5 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service in the 1908 Church at 7:30 p.m. 8619 Black's Mill Road, Creagerstown.

December 28
Thurmont Senior Centers' - 500 Card Game - 800 East Main St.. For more information call Casey at 301-447-2659.

December 31
Way Off Broadway Dinner

Theatre's Rockin' Oldies New Year's Eve. When the clock strikes Midnight, there will be a champagne toasted followed by a continental breakfast to conclude the festivities. For more information visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Gettysburg's New Year's Eve Celebration - with fireworks at stroke of the New Year.

To learn more about these and other upcoming visit the upcoming events section at www.emmitsburg.net.

**Mother Seton School *
Breakfast with Santa
&
Christmas Bazaar** 

* **Saturday, December 3, 2016**
8 a.m. to 12 noon
Breakfast

\$7.00 7 to Adult **\$5.00** 3 Yrs. - 6 Yrs.
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Join Us to Celebrate the Christmas Season

Mount St. Mary's University Chorale Concert

December 3, 7-8 p.m. at the Seton Basilica at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Join the Mount St. Mary's University Chorale as they perform the end of the semester concert under the direction of Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld in the beautiful setting of Seton Basilica.

Free admission. For more information call (301) 447-5308.

Seminary Open House

December 4, 2-4 p.m. McSweeney Hall, patio entrance
Tours every 20 minutes

Holy Hour 3-4 p.m.

Advent Readings and Carols 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

Events at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Advent Concert featuring the group A Cappella Cattolica
December 11, 4 p.m. St. Mary's Chapel

Worship Opportunities

All Masses Held at 12 p.m.

December 3 & 4, Weekend Mass

December 8, Mass of the Immaculate Conception

December 10 & 11, Weekend Mass

December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

December 17 & 18, Weekend Mass

December 31, Weekend Mass

January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass

PLEASE NOTE:

December 24: Chapels, Miller Family Visitors Center and St. Bernadette's Shoppe will close 1:30 p.m.

December 25: Grotto grounds are open; Chapels, Miller Family Visitors Center and St. Bernadette's Shoppe are closed.



For more event details please visit www.msmary.edu/calendar.