

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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## Wantz spreads Christmas cheer to local kids

Morgan Rooney  
MSMU Class of 2020

While most families have been collecting and wrapping gifts for each other this holiday season, Wantz Chevrolet had something else in mind. This fall, the family-owned dealership had been collecting toys for their annual "Christmas for Community Kids." For the past seven years, before Christmas, the Wantz Chevrolet dealership has been parking a pickup truck in their showroom where anyone can come in and donate new, unwrapped toys for kids of any age. Along with toys, the dealership also collected nonperishable foods, blankets, gloves, hats and scarves. The goal is to fill the truck completely with toys and the other accepted items to give underprivileged children and families a Christmas they wouldn't have had otherwise.

"I'd say it's the most we've ever had," says Scott Wantz, the Vice President of Wantz Chevrolet. The dealership claims that this year is the most successful year they've had since they began collecting. On Monday, December 17, the toys

were taken to the Trinity Lutheran Church, which is responsible for the distribution of the toys to the families who need them.

The toys mostly go to clients of the 'Mission of Mercy.' 'Mission of Mercy' is an organization across several regions of the country that helps provide free healthcare, free dental care and free medications to those who are underinsured, or uninsured completely. They bring their mobile health clinics to cities in both Maryland and Pennsylvania, including Taneytown, Reisterstown, Brunswick, Frederick, Gettysburg and Harrisburg. Twice a month, the 'Mission of Mercy' medical van makes it over to the Trinity Lutheran Church to help local members of the community stay healthy during difficult times.

"It makes you feel good to see that truck full of toys," Wantz continues. "The community has a lot of satisfaction knowing that these kids are getting a Christmas that they wouldn't have had before."

Many community members took part in donating toys and other items to help our local families who are currently struggling. The donors



Through its "Christmas for Community Kids," Wantz Chevrolet once again proved why community-focused local businesses are what make small towns great.

included Wantz Chevrolet customers, many employees, and others who had heard of the toy drive either in the newspaper, on the sign located outside of the dealership, or from word of mouth.

Originally, the dealership began collecting toys for Toys for Tots; a program founded and organized by the US Marine Corps Reserve. The goal of this program was to collect and distribute toys to struggling families in the Baltimore area to give them a Christmas that parents would not have been able to provide themselves. Two years ago,

it came to the attention of Wantz Chevrolet that there are people here locally that are also in need of help. It was then that "Christmas for Community Kids" was born. Family and community comes first here at the Wantz Chevrolet dealership.

Thank you to all who have donated. It is because of people like you that local children in need are given the Christmas they deserve. But most especially our thanks goes out to Wantz Chevrolet. Community focused businesses like Wantz are what make small towns great.

## Phiel and Martin announce bid for re-election

Adams County Commissioners, Chairman Randy Phiel and Vice Chairman Jim Martin, announced their bid for re-election at a well attended breakfast event held at the Dobbin House on December 11. The event was sponsored by State Senator Rich Alloway and was attended by approximately 140 supporters, including most of the Adams County elected row officers, Congressman Elect John Joyce, Congressman Scott Perry's representative Holly Sutphin, State Representative Dan Moul, State Representative Torren Ecker and other community leaders.

Senator Alloway kicked off the event by telling the crowd that Phiel and Martin "were the right individuals for the job at the time they first ran in 2011, have performed with distinction, and have done a fabulous job of running the county." Alloway reminded the gathering that Phiel's first campaign pledge back in 2011 is still appropriate today - Respecting Our Past and Planning Our Future! Representative Moul said he has worked with the pair for seven years and really "appreciates their outstanding work with state and federal legislators to get things done." He said apart from their outstanding teamwork, Phiel and Martin do what is best

for Adams County families. Newly elected 13th congressional district Congressman Dr. John Joyce voiced his support for Phiel and Martin and called them "exemplary men." Legislative aide Holly Sutphin shared comments from Congressman Scott Perry sharing his appreciation, support and backing for Martin and Phiel's re-election.

At the beginning of his remarks Phiel directed the attention of those gathered in the ballroom to the Martin/Phiel campaign banner from their campaign four year ago. At the center of the banner, surrounding the historic Adams County Courthouse cupola, were the words: Experience, Leadership, Common Sense and Vision. Phiel remarked that a very important and significant word was being added for this campaign - Results! Phiel also told the gathering that for he and Martin "to have the support of the cross section of public officials, friends and family that we have in this room this morning is truly an honor and a privilege that Jim and I are very aware of."

Phiel and Martin have accomplished so much already during their time serving the County as Commissioners. A few of the accomplishments achieved thus far include: overall financial stabil-



Senator Alloway, Randy Phiel, District Attorney Brian Sinnett, Jim Martin and Representative Dan Moul pictured at the Phiel/Martin campaign announcement.

ity for the county with two bonding increases; three very successful department consolidations and realignments; the new digital 911 radio system; critically needed upgrading of vehicles and equipment; significant advancement of the county IT Department and its electronic information retention, dispersal, and protection; the Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range that finally came to fruition after years of lip service, with no taxpayer dollars on county owned land. Additionally, by re-purposing an

empty facility, and creating a better human services environment, the new Human Services Building resulted in getting the county out of approximately \$450,000 worth of rents and leases. Providing human services in a single county owned facility was a significant and positive success that required the cooperation of many county departments and staff. The relationship that this board has with Federal and State officials has proved to be excellent and has yielded results.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Forestry plan to include select timber harvest

During the mid-October Emmitsburg town meeting, Commissioners discussed a revision to the forestry plan. Michael Kay, with the Maryland Forest Service, presented the town with recommendations to the forest stewardship plan that included select harvest of timber in certain areas in the Emmitsburg watershed.

The forest stewardship plan noted insufficient tree regeneration in some areas due to deer and invasive plants, as well as the decline of oak and ash species due to gypsy moth and emerald ash borer damage. With records dating back to 1949 concerning the management of the watershed, and the history of the land, Kay had a good idea of some key markers to look for while taking inventory of the forest, which took about two weeks to complete. He looked at several aspects including: species of trees present, tree growth, number and presence of diseased trees, tree sizes, development of the understory, presence of invasive plants, and the presence of streams or wetlands.

After the initial inventory, Kay

noted a few recommendations. In regards to the oak and ash trees, Kay recommended completing an intermediate harvest, which would consist of marking oaks and ash trees in declining health. Many of these declining trees still hold economic value to loggers, who would pay the town to harvest the timber. Additionally, harvesting these trees would help terminate invasive species while giving native seeds a chance to germinate.

In other areas of the forest, Kay recommended letting the forest grow with little to no disturbance while maintaining a buffer region around certain areas that contain rare and/or endangered species of vegetation. If approved, Kay is willing to assist staff with the preparation of a request for proposal, marking trees and estimating the market value of the timber. The contractor would take one year to cut the timber.

Commissioner Tim O'Donnell noted concern about the hiking/biking trails that run through the forest and the impact the heavy logging equipment would have on them. He asked

if the town could provide assurance that in the case of damage incurred to the trail, the town would commit to repairing the trails to restore them to the way they were. "Volunteers work hard to maintain the trails year-round and valuable grant monies and private donations have gone into the construction of the trails. The trails are an economic engine for our community and a source of pride for us," stated O'Donnell.

Kay's solution was to have the loggers stay out of a majority of the trail areas, thereby minimizing the potential damage to the trails. If approved, the town would use the potentially \$223,000 revenue incurred from logging for infrastructure work in town such as sewer line repair and replacement, and the engineering study at Rainbow Lake. The forestry plan will be brought back to the Board in January for a vote. Board members and interested members of the public were invited to accompany Kay in a walk-through of the forest addressing the plan on December 15.

## Health & wellness center on the horizon

A new health and wellness center may be coming to the Emmitsburg area within the next few years. Recently, Mount St. Mary's University (MSMU) has partnered with Frederick Regional Health System (FRHS) in an effort to improve the quality and access for the expanding health care needs of the university's students.

Simon Blackwell, MSMU's Chief Transformation Officer, remarked that both the University and FRHS are equally committed to serving the local community; this new center may be yet another avenue to bring

better healthcare options to the community of Emmitsburg.

MSMU and FRHS are still in the early, exploratory phases of discussing the construction of a health and wellness center on the periphery of MSMU's property to provide primary care, urgent care, a lab, radiology and physical therapy for students, local residents and members of the general public whose current health care options are limited. The vision of this center would ideally allow students of the university as well as members of the community to utilize its resources and healthcare options.

The overall goal of this project would be to improve access to healthcare for MSMU's students and employees as well as citizens of or visitors to northern Frederick County. However, according to Blackwell, there are a lot of points that still need to be worked out and final feasibility of the project must be determined.

Although still in its early phases, Blackwell noted that the project would most likely be funded through joint investments by the Mount and FRHS. Depending on the final scope of the project, and if the project is determined to be feasible, the facility

## Square in the home stretch of completion

Completion of the Main Street Square Revitalization and sidewalk project is finally on the horizon. With an originally slated completion date in the spring of 2018, and an official unveiling and dedication planned for this past fall, residents are eager to see the project in its entirety finally complete, even though it is a few months behind schedule.

This Main Street Revitalization project included an upgrade to the existing sidewalks and crosswalks, the reconstruction of parking on the square, the reconstruction of sidewalk ramps which will now be ADA com-

pliant, a reconstruction of the curbs, gutters and the traffic signal, resurfacing the intersection, landscaping and street tree replacement. The completed project offers connectivity of sidewalks from the east point of Silo Hills Road to the west point of the town with ADA compliant sidewalks. The redesigned square hosts four less parking spaces; a decision made years ago in order to ensure pedestrian safety and encourage community access via walking throughout town. "We wanted to make the square more pedestrian friendly by making connections, via the sidewalks, to all areas

of town," stated Mayor Don Briggs. The new square also showcases brickwork in the location of the original fountain in the Town Square.

Delays to the completion of the project are mainly due to weather and the need to find a new company to complete some of the work, i.e. the installation of the new traffic signal. The contractor is in the final stages of finishing some items on the "punch list" including landscaping, pouring steps and miscellaneous brickwork throughout town.

According to Mayor Briggs, the official unveiling of the square will

may be open as early as 2020.

In an effort to better understand the needs of the Mount community as well as the community of Emmitsburg, MSMU and FRHS are seeking public input on the community health care needs and considerations for the placement of a facility, should it be deemed feasible. An open meeting offered to members of the community, town staff and Mount St.

Mary's students to comment and ask questions was held on December 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the O'Hara Conference Room of Patriot Hall on the Emmitsburg Mount Campus.

The Mount and FRHS will be making a more formal presentation to Emmitsburg's Board of Commissioners and town staff during the January 7th Town Meeting. More details on this project to follow next month.

most likely be planned for the spring, warmer weather pending. The town still hopes to coordinate with Mount St. Mary's University to dedicate the clock on the square and will also be extending the invitation to the Governor. As long as all the items are finished in a timely manner, the square should be complete by the end of December.

Work on Flat Run Bridge, on the other hand, has been further delayed. Phase 1 of the project was intended to be complete by the fall, allowing traffic running in two lanes on the new structure while the second phase of the structure is torn down and the rest of the structure is completed. However, according to town staff, the lane shift won't happen until the first or second week of January. As soon as

the contractor prepares the bridge deck, and asphalt is laid down, the work can then shift to phase 2.

Consistently delayed work on this project has caused frustration for residents of the community, who note lack of seen work by the contractors. Weather, drainage and water line issues have caused several delays to this project, which seems to be pushed back even further now. However, the contractor has recently placed four beams for stage 1 construction, completed pouring diaphragms for the new bridge and is currently working on roadway excavation for stage 1 in prep for switching traffic lanes. Work, though slow, seems to be getting done.

Flat Run Bridge may still be complete by late fall/early winter of 2019.

## Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Hamiltonban approves 2019 budget

During the December 4 Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors approved the \$718,175 General Fund budget for 2019, which included no tax increase for residents. The General Fund budget for 2019 came in around \$30,000 less than last year's budget of \$748,020.

Early drafts of the 2019 budget left the Board with a \$118,000 deficit in the General Fund. Capital improvement projects at the time included the rental of several pieces of equipment for paving projects planned in the upcoming year, including a boom mower, paver, roller, SK lift, boom lift, and a wheel loader at an approx-

imate cost of \$50,000 all together. Additionally, the drafted budget included an increase to \$40,000 for snow removal, a 3% raise for employees, the addition of a CDL driver/equipment operator budgeted at \$40,453, and an increase in the tools and equipment line item to \$25,000.

After discussion, Supervisors decided to postpone hiring a CDL Equipment Operator for at least six months, and dropped the rental budget significantly by opting to only rent the boom mower and roller. The budget still includes a 3% pay raise for employees.

Road projects planned for 2019 include Mt. Hope Road, Cold

Springs Road, Hickory Bridge Road and Carrolls Tract Rd. Road repair priority went to Mt. Hope Road and Cold Springs Road, which both incurred damage during the heavy summer rains and flooding. Improvements for Mt. Hope Road next year will include base repair and seal coat work.

Another budgeted project in the works for the township includes the expansion of the meeting room located at the Township's office building. Removal of two bathrooms would allow the area to be expanded. Along with the expansion would be the purchase and installation of new floors and chairs at an approximate cost of \$15,000. The Board has also budgeted

and approved the purchase and upgrade of a new security system and cameras at the Public Works Building and the office building. Six new cameras will be purchased from Total Tech Solutions, LLP at a cost of \$9,253. Water and moisture issues in the building will also be addressed this year.

In the future, the township hopes to continue repairs to the township building by bringing it up to code. This will include installing lighted exits, new ceilings and safety alarm systems and ADA compliant ramps. New office equipment to replace the outdated equipment may also be budgeted in the future.

Carroll Valley also passed their 2019 budget in December, without a tax increase. The Borough's

tax rate has remained the same since 2013 at 2.45 mills, or .00245 of assessed value of land and buildings. Within the accepted budget, the Borough plans to replace the street sweeper, purchase a new police vehicle, replace aging computer equipment, replace police officer body armor, purchase a new park mower, and cover new building debt service payments.

Liberty Township, on the other hand, passed their 2019 with a 0.1125 mil tax increase, which will be included in the budget for the next four years. The tax increase was intended to help allocate funds for the repair of many of the township's roads without hurting the pockets of residents or dipping too much into the Capital Reserve account.

## Liberty discusses next step for Police Department

The recent resignation of Liberty Township's Police Chief Brand Briggs has thrown the township into a conundrum over what to do next with the Police Department. Should the township continue to keep their own Police Department and hire another Police Chief, while supplementing with the already present part time officers, or should they look to contract with a neighboring municipality?

With the townships part-time officers only working limited hours, the Board must consider the future of the department while offering the township the best, and most feasible, coverage. As originally discussed by Supervisors, the township would have three options available to pursue. Relying on the state police, hiring another Police Chief or tying in

with another municipality. Relying on the state police was not seen as a popular alternative, as there are only two state police that cover the county. In regards to contracting with the Carroll Valley Police Department, Supervisors decided to send a letter to the Borough requesting a formal proposal for the cost of police services.

During the December Carroll Valley Borough meeting, the Liberty Township request was not received well by some Board members. Councilman Brice Carr stated that Liberty Township is "looking for how much they can get out of Carroll Valley." Carr also noted that he "would not want one penny of Carroll Valley's budget spent on helping Liberty. It's their problem, let them take care of it." Other members agreed that Liberty should have included a list of specific needs within their proposal,

instead of simply asking for a formal proposal from Carroll Valley.

In order to consider a contract with Liberty, Police Chief Richard Hileman mentioned that an additional Police Officer would need to be hired, which would be covered within the contract cost for Liberty. Carr stated that the full costs of a new officer would need to be included within those costs, including benefits, which could come at a cost of at least \$100,000. All Council members in attendance agreed that a letter should be sent back to Liberty Township asking for their specific needs for police coverage, including hours.

A week later, at the Liberty Township Board of Supervisors workshop meeting, part time Police Officer Corporal Andrew Hansen spoke to the Supervisors stating that he "would rather see Liberty Township keep

their own Police Department and doesn't believe the township would be happy contracting with another municipality, because they would not be receiving the service they would receive with their own department. After reading about what the Borough Council member said, it was upsetting to me."

Supervisor Robert Jackson spoke later in the meeting to the request sent to Carroll Valley noting that through discussions between himself and Chief Hileman, the initial request was not to include anything specific. Hileman recommended the Township send a request for a proposal to get the ball rolling initially. The Board discussed sending a letter back to Carroll Valley including only the budgeted amount for the Police Department, which is \$72,300. This number is based upon the 2019 sal-

aries of the Police Chief and part time officers. Supervisor Mickey Barlow also commented that a request was sent to Cumberland Township for Police coverage, however their reply included a minimum cost of \$132,000.

Upon further discussion Supervisors and residents in attendance also recognized that if the Township were to disband the Police Department, by law it would be another three years until they could "re-open" the department. This would lock the township into contracting with a neighboring municipality for at least three years even if they decide the service is not adequate or financially feasible.

Supervisors ended the discussion by requesting a reply be sent to Carroll Valley with just the budgeted amount included. For now, the township will conduct interviews with the four applicants for Police Chief already received.

## Fairfield area news-briefs. . .

### Liberty passes zoning ordinance amendments

During the December 4 Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors voted to approve three changes to the township's zoning ordinance. The changes affect property setbacks, home-based businesses, and land use permits.

The first ordinance change applies to lots that are not located in the Development or Conservation Areas and for any other lots that do not have applicable setback in the Agricultural Rural District or the Conservation District. The change, in short, made all the setbacks within these area the same: front yard, 25 feet; side yard, 10 feet; rear yard, 15 feet. This change does not apply to Commercial or Residential properties.

The second ordinance change made home-based businesses allowable in all residential zones but must follow requirements set by the township. These requirements include: the business shall employ no employees other than family members residing in the dwelling, there shall be no outside appearance of a business use including parking or signs; the business shall not use any equipment which creates noise or interference detectable in the neighborhood; there

shall be no display of retail goods and no stockpiling of inventory of a substantial nature. This ordinance change could include Airbnb's as part of the home-based business.

Lastly, the third ordinance change enacted an expiration date for land use permits. These permits will now expire one year after the date of issuance and may be renewed twice.

### Fairfield moves forward with \$10.3 million mold remediation

During the December 3 Fairfield Area School District Board meeting, the next phase of the mold remediation project, estimated at \$10.3 million, was discussed. The next step for this project, as described by Caroline Royer, Fairfield Area School District's Business Manager, is finding a builder/contractor for the project.

Royer discussed the recommenda-

tion not to bid the project out, due to time constraints, especially if the school district intends to have this project fully completed this summer. Additionally, as discussed, bidding a project doesn't necessarily ensure a lower project cost. Dennis Rumsey, the Direct Account Manager with Trane, noted that bidders tend to make a lot of change orders throughout the entirety of the project, which come as additional costs not accounted for within the original bid.

Instead of utilizing the bidding process, the school district will be looking to utilize Trane through U.S. Communities, a cooperative purchasing program. The district already uses Trane equipment, some of which will not need to be replaced. U.S. Communities aggregates the purchasing power of more than 90,000 public agencies nationwide by offering Participating Public Agencies the ability to make purchases through existing, compet-

itively solicited contracts between a supplier and a lead public agency.

Rumsey noted that Trane will take care of the root of the problem, as opposed to only addressing the "symptoms." This includes addressing three core issues: leaks in the roof/building envelope, uncontrolled infiltration, and outside air introduced by the HVAC system. "The proposed HVAC renovation project in con-

junction with envelope repairs should address all of the issues," stated Mike Rader from the engineering firm Barton and Associates.

The district hopes to begin some preliminary work over the Christmas break while students are not in the buildings. Rumsey noted that he was confident that the project could be completed by the end of August 2019.

## THURMONT NEWS

### The importance of buying local

Looking for a New Years Resolution? What can you do in 2019 that will make a difference in your life and the lives of others? Try buying local and supporting your locally owned businesses right in your backyard with Thurmont Business Bucks.

What does buying local mean to you? When you make a purchase from a locally owned business you are contributing to a much larger picture, which ultimately comes back to you through the money multiplier. The Small Business Administration states: "Out of every \$100 spent at local, independent stores, \$68 returns to the community. The same amount spent at national chains results in only \$43 staying within community borders."

This statistic equates to a 58% increase in the money multiplier for shopping at a locally owned business versus a chain, and a locally owned restaurant re-circulates 67%, while big chain restaurants return about 30%.

One of the direct benefits of shopping local is the contribution to the local tax base, which allows more funds in the coffers for improved roads, sidewalks, parks, infrastructure, and local government services. Do you know someone who is involved with a non-profit organization, or who has children or grandchildren in school? That person may be you, which means your organization relies on donations from these locally owned businesses in the form of a check, gift certificate, or

products to sustain sponsorships and fund-raising activities.

Locally owned businesses garner another advantage because the owner knows the products or services needed by the community, and understands how to be responsive to the needs of the community while also being able to serve you on an individual basis. Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.

When you shop at locally owned businesses you are reducing the carbon footprint by travelling less miles, and the business owner is also making more local purchases, thereby reducing their travelled miles. Locally owned businesses are also

cognizant of purchasing more eco-friendly products because of their personal investment in the community, which therefore creates a more sustainable community. We recycle all types of materials why not recycle your money?

So, how can you make a difference this year? Purchase Thurmont Business Bucks! Make it your New Year's Resolution to start supporting more local businesses. Thurmont Business Bucks is a gift certificate program that is available in \$25 and \$50 gift certificate increments. The gift certificates can be used at more than 30 locally owned businesses in Thurmont and are sold at the Thurmont Town Office located at 615 East Main Street.

When you purchase a Thurmont Bucks Gift Certificate, it comes

complete with a booklet that lists all participating merchants with a description, location, and all pertinent information about the business. Thurmont Business Bucks provides an incentive to keep local bucks in the community, while maintaining the convenience of not having to leave town to purchase a gift. Plus, Thurmont Business Bucks are for sale all year long.

Take the time to shop your locally owned businesses and make a difference by increasing the money multiplier and supporting your local tax base, non-profit organizations, and schools. When you are trying to figure out gift giving for loved ones, eating out, working out, or getting your car serviced, remember your locally owned businesses all year long!

### Commission works to update subdivision regulations

The Thurmont Planning and Zoning Commission discussed the second draft of the updated subdivision regulations during their monthly meeting held on December 20. The document, originally approved by the 1967 Planning Commission, is currently under revision in order to include pertinent updates and additions.

The current draft includes a few new additions to the previous plan including the addition of the recently passed cluster development regulations, in an attempt to integrate them into the general flow of the subdivi-

sion regulation document.

The newest draft of the document includes standards for street design that create four categories: residential lane section, secondary residential street, primary residential street, and collective street. This design provides more movement and circulation throughout a development and/or town.

Article 3 of the subdivision regulations now establishes plat review and approval procedures, to include three stages: concept, preliminary, and final. The Planning Commission will be involved in each stage, with the pre-

liminary plat approval good for two years. Additionally, the zoning administrator will be the expeditor for projects with moderate impact, which require less information to be reviewed in a smaller amount of time, such as lot line adjustments, conversion of existing deed or parcel into legal building lots, administrative plat review. All major and minor subdivisions will still come to the Planning Commission. At that time the Planning Commission will evaluate the criteria for subdivision approval and shall determine if they are consistent with the comprehensive plan, to ensure there are no

adverse impacts on surrounding areas, open space, streets.

Unimpeded street length has also been implemented within lot design in order to help control traffic speeds. Developers can utilize stop signs, dead ends and sharp turns to help keep roads from being "speedways." The draft also added that no panhandle lots shall be created.

In regards to green and open space standards and requirements, the draft requires the developer to provide basic "open space amenities," which could include parks, tree-planting, landscaping and open

fields. A minimum of 1,600 square feet of area per residential subdivision unit must also be dedicated to park land, which is "land improved for recreation." Park lands are to be located such that 75% of the lots/dwelling units in the subdivision are located within a quarter mile walking distance from the park and that no lot or dwelling unit is located more than a half mile walking distance from the park. These requirements are meant to help shape the development to be "centered" around a park or green space.

This document will come before the Planning Commission for continuing discussion next month.

### Thurmont news-briefs. . .

#### Water service disconnection fees increased

During the April 24 Thurmont Board meeting, Commissioners

conditionally approved an increase in the water service disconnection fees, but asked staff to identify the cost to reconnect services that had

been disconnected due to delinquent payments. The Board of Commissioners placed a cap on the fee increase not to exceed \$75. In December, town staff returned with a report on the actual cost to present to the Board.

Town staff determined that the actual cost to reconnect the water service was just over \$73. This cost includes the labor for reconnecting the lines as well as the procedure for re-notification to the resident. The current reconnection fee in Thurmont is \$6 but will be increased to \$75 per occurrence. Back in the spring, the Board discussed the idea of creating a tiered reconnection fee based upon number of delinquent payments, but opted not to pursue

this plan. Most of the neighboring municipalities' reconnection fees are either equal to or higher than Thurmont's new fee.

Thurmont will be sending out notification in the January bills to inform residents that the increase will go into effect in April.

#### Colorfest 2018 proves best year yet

Colorfest 2018 proved to be the most successful one yet, and seems to be growing each year. This year, town staff was proud to announce that Colorfest, held this past fall, incurred a six percent increase in revenues over last year.

Overall, more permits were sold this year than any of the prior

years. Craft permits, food permits, parking permits and yard sale permits increased in number substantially this year. There was a three percent increase in expenditures over last year, which can be attributed to the town's rental of a few extra buses and toilets as well as the increase in staffing of more sanitary personnel. However, even with the extra additions, the revenues still exceeded the expenditures by 43 percent this year at a total of \$7,289.

Thurmont's Board of Commissioners was overall pleased that they may have found an appropriate balance for Colorfest. The ultimate goal is to recapture the costs, and they well exceeded that this year.

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## January 1919

### January 3

#### Spanish Flu Strikes At Stony Branch

Edgar Alan Shealy, and his uncle William Stansberry, both died this past week in their homes near the Stony Branch Schoolhouse. Edgar Shealy was the son of James Shealy and Mary Stansberry. He was born on October 26, 1882. In September 1915, he was united in holy wedlock with Grace Troxell. On April 18, he was received into the fellowship of the Graceham Moravian Church. On December 23rd, he was taken sick with the Spanish influenza, which soon developed into pneumonia, and on Sunday, January 1st, he departed this life, having reached the age of 34 years.

Two days later, his uncle, William Stansberry, died after a short illness due to the Spanish flu. His death occurred a few minutes prior to the time for the funeral services of his nephew. The deceased man was a single man and made his home with Edgars parents.

#### Our Role Of Honor

On January 1, the War Department issued the final tragedy list for the Great War. Local boys killed in action included: Capt. Henry Higbee, Frank Elder, and Martin Hahn, of Emmitsburg; Raymond Stull, Benjamin Cline and Lewis Adams of Thurmont; and Murry Baker of New Midway. Died of wounds sustained in battle: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Edger Eyer, Stanley Toms, and Clifford Stitely of Thurmont. Killed in accident: First Lieut. John Schley of Stony Branch. Died of disease: Francis Rowe, Arthur Bentzel, Vernon Ohler, and Charles Gelwicks of Emmitsburg; James Waters of Thurmont; and William Fraley of Catoctin Furnace. Wounded in action: Capt. Sterling Gult, Webb Felix, Thomas Little, Charles Rowe, Luther Harner and Bennit Sebold of Emmitsburg; Vernon Moseberg of Lime Kiln; Luther Kelly, Osba McAffe, Eddie Frezze, Ernest Hitchens and Robert Weddle of Thurmont; Maurice Martin of Harney; and,

Elvin Schildt of Rocky Ridge. Missing in action: George Rose of Emmitsburg.

### January 10

#### Mr. And Mrs. Plank Die

Charlotte Plank, wife of Daniel Plank, died at her home on Emmitsburg Road, early on Tuesday morning, and the same day 20 hours later, her husband died at the same place. The wife was in her 80<sup>th</sup> year and her husband in his 79<sup>th</sup> year. Mrs. Plank's illness started several weeks ago with the influenza. Mr. Plank had sunstroke in 1901 and had been an invalid since then. Mr. Plank was a veteran of the Civil War, having served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment Pennsylvania infantry. Both were members of Trinity Reformed Church and enjoyed the esteem of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. A double funeral will be held this Saturday afternoon at two o'clock and services will be private by reasons of the illness of their son, and interment will be made in the Evergreen Cemetery.

#### Pastor Narrowly Escapes Rectory

Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Wolfe, the Rector of the Episcopal church in Thurmont, narrowly escaped asphyxiation from coal gas in the early hours Wednesday morning. Dazed and almost overcome by the fumes, Mr. Wolfe dragged his wife to an open window and cried for assistance. Neighbors immediately responded. The timely discovery of the gas filled room prevented the fatal results, which would have followed soon afterwards. Earlier, at about four o'clock Mr. Wolfe was awakened by a beating sensation in his temples accompanied by pain and difficulty breathing. He immediately discovered that the room was filled with gas. He attempted to arouse his wife and found her unconscious. He then lifted her from the bed and managed to make his way to an open window, although weak from his narrow escape. The gas came from the furnace and was probably due to a defective flue. On previous occasions gas has given trouble at the rectory.

Before retiring, Mr. Wolfe closed the register, opened the doors, and raised the windows. The gas, however, came through the partition and crevices in the floor.

### January 17

#### Chronicle To Resume

The publication of the Emmitsburg Chronicle, which was suspended last June, may be resumed in a few weeks. The fixtures and good will of the old plant had been purchased by Mr. Shugers who has been connected with the Westminster Sentinel who will assume charge with Sterling Galt, the former owner and editor, putting in an editorial capacity as before. The Gelwicks Building, at the east end of town, will likely be the new home of the paper.

#### Unseemly Noise Cost \$6.90

Monday evening three Thurmont men were arrested for disturbing the peace. The charge against them was making unseemly noises on the street at night. Two of them pleaded guilty. After hearing evidence, the Justice of the Peace imposed fines of \$6.90 on two, and \$6.80 on the other. During the hearing before the magistrate, Deputy Lidie made a statement to the boys on whom fines had been opposed that he did not care how much yelling they did, but because citizens complain to him he was required to try and keep order. He also gave warning that misconduct on the streets would not be tolerated.

### January 24

#### Two Thurmont Boys Return Home

Privates Edward Freeze and Edgar Angle, who were wounded in action, have landed in the good old United States again. Private Freeze went through the big battle northwest of Verdun where he was wounded in action. Little could be learned about Private Angle, as there is no telephone at his home. No one knows where he served 'over there.' His name has never appeared on the casualty list and so far as is known his family has never been notified of his being wounded, but it is thought that his return at this time would have been



While the war was over, the world was only beginning to grasp the enormity of the task of reshaping the world: a task they would fumble, and eventually spark the conflict of World War II.

improbable unless he had been hurt in some way. The arrival of both soldiers in this country came as a surprise to their relatives.

#### Boozers Hold Anti-Prohibition Rally

Wailing and whining was heard throughout Emmitsburg upon the news that Nebraska had passed the Prohibition amendment, making it the 36<sup>th</sup> state to do so, and thereby officially outlawing booze. Members of the Former Former Boozers Association held a rally that night on the square condemning the amendment stating that no woman had the right to take away a man's God given right to lubricate his mind when and where he should choose. The members voted to triple the production of their stills during the upcoming year, before Prohibition takes effect, to ensure a ready supply is available until such time as men put women back into their rightful position and overturn the amendment. Mayor Annan, meanwhile, stated that once prohibition takes place, he would not support any effort by revenueurs to shut down stills of hard working men.

### January 31

#### Speculation On Camp Colt's Wood

There has been much speculation on what is to become of the 6,000 cords of wood that had been cut in the summer in anticipation that Camp Colt, located just outside of Gettys-

burg, would be operating through the winter. The fact that there is no indication whatsoever of changing any of the semi-permanent fixtures about the camp continues to lead, in credit, to the belief that a permanent Army post is to be established here and that at least some of the equipment here will be put to use for the prospect of a new post.

#### Local Stocks At Public Auction

A number of local stocks were offered at a public sale on Tuesday in front of the Hotel Gettysburg, including ten shares of the Fairfield Bank. The sale of the Fairfield Bank shares was slow in getting started, beginning first at \$100, and then, after a slight pause, made big jumps of \$5 and \$10 until the block was declared sold to William McSherry at \$170 a share.

#### Cited For Bravery

Sgt. Ernest Hitchens, of Thurmont, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action near Crepion, France. Hitchens and four members of his platoon were wounded by shellfire. After he had taken the four wounded comrades to a first-aid station, he immediately returned without treatment to himself, despite his severe suffering from three body wounds, and remained with his platoon until they were relieved.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

At the December Borough Council meeting, the Council passed the Tax Levy Ordinance which fixed the Tax Rate at 2.45 mills or 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for 2019. There is no tax increase for the residents of Carroll Valley Borough. Also, without increase, council passed the fixed tax in the amount of .25 mills appropriated for the operation of fire and emergency service for the year 2019.

"Breakfast with Santa" was an overwhelming success. Every child who attended was delighted and dazzled when Santa arrived. The children expressed their wishes as they sat on Santa's lap. This event was a cooperative effort of the Carroll Valley Recreation Committee, Fairfield Fire and EMS and local citizen volunteers. To have such a successful event, you need to have people who are willing to share some of their personal time for the benefit of others. The volunteers involved were: Gayle Marthers, Amanda Bell, David Hazlett, Joshua Hazlett, Noah

Hazlett, Jeni Jarrell, Mike Kulkusky, Marty Qually, Jessica Kraft, Crystal Durbin, Karen Maichle, Tim Skoczen, Jason Yeager, Beth Cool, Diane Fredrikis, and Lily Fredrikis. Fire Company volunteers were: Betsy Bucher, Bud Creighton, Charlie Dearthoff, Pat Feeser, Brianna Fitez, Steve Fitez, Chad Fogle, Mike Hartdagen, Brian Horner, David Metz, Diana Ratliff, Larry Schneider and Brad Shughart.

This year a "Sensitive Santa" period was held after "Breakfast with Santa" ended. Sensitive Santa is an event for families with children with all spectrums of special needs, providing a more controlled and welcoming environment to the experience of visiting Santa. Adjustments are made to reduce sensory stimuli (muted lights, music and waiting in long lines to visit Santa) to create a calming environment. Special thanks go to Santa Koz. Pictures can be seen at [www.ronspictures.net](http://www.ronspictures.net).

Did you receive a letter notification from Park's Garbage Service that your 2019 bill will be increased due to a Fuel

Fee? Ignore! On December 17th, the Borough confirmed with Park's, that this notice was sent in error, and that the contract signed by the Borough, on behalf of all customers in the Borough will continue to be served without any rate increase as was agreed to in the contract. The Electronics-Recycling Events for 2019 are scheduled to be held on April 13th, July 13th and October 12th. All events will be held in Hamiltonban Township from 8:00 am to noon. The specific location will be announced in future flyers.

Are you aware of the process change dealing with property improvement permits? The first step in the process is to determine whether a permit is required from your municipality and county. For Carroll Valley residents, you can visit/call the Borough for the information. Or, do your own research online by visiting the Carroll Valley website ([carrollvalley.org](http://carrollvalley.org)) and click on Permits on the home page. The projects that require a building permit are listed and the application for a permit

form can be downloaded. If your project does not require a Carroll Valley permit, you are now required to obtain an exemption letter from the Borough prior to visiting the Adams County Tax Services Department and asking for the issuance of a County Property Improvement Permit. County uses their permit to maintain the real estate assessment rolls. The County requires an Improvement Permit for new construction, additions, alterations, and improvements with a value of \$2,500 or more. This County Improvement Permit is obtained from Tax Services Department at the cost of \$10. The change to the process is the County's requirement that you must obtain an exemption letter, even though, you may not require a Borough building permit. Bottomline, visit or contact the Borough before going to County when considering what documentation is need when improving your property.

With January comes snow and ice which means you need to make sure that you winterized your car. If you haven't, you need to get it done. Check the car's tires and tire pressure, the heat/defroster and wipers. Please slow down. If

you drive too fast, those antilock brakes will not help you to come to a smooth stop. When driving behind another car, remember to leave more space between your car and the car in front of you. Some experts tell us that this distance is four car lengths for every 10 mph you are traveling. Remember you have less control over your car during bad road conditions. If the Borough declares a Snow Emergency, the roads on the snow emergency route will be cleared first for obvious reasons. Please keep the snow emergency route clear (no parked cars, etc.) to make it safe for our road crew to do their job and for a first responder to answer an emergency call.

Borough meetings in January are: Tree Board (Jan 3rd), Planning Commission (Jan 7th), Borough Council (Jan 15th), Sewer/Water Authority (Jan 21st) and Parks/Recreation Committee (Jan 23rd). Borough office will be closed on Monday, January 1st. 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 MayorRon-Harris@comcast.net.

# State Senator Rich Alloway

Christmas is a time for reflection on all of the blessings in our lives.

Community residents frequently tell me that the legislature should do a better job of meeting the needs of the state without taking more money away from working families. This year, a bipartisan \$32.7 billion spending plan did not include a tax hike and met all the core responsibilities of government.

The new School Safety and Security Grant Program will provide \$60 million in grants to help schools hire security officers, purchase security equipment, offer counseling services for students, complete safety and security assessments, and

implement other programs to improve student safety. Every school district in the 33rd Senatorial District was awarded a grant through the program this year in the first round of funding.

The health of our communities is also a serious area of concern. Pennsylvania is on the front lines in the battle against Lyme disease, a serious condition that can cause lasting damage to the nervous system. Funding to prevent the spread of Lyme disease was authorized by the legislature this year. The \$2.5 million line item in the 2018-2019 budget will support awareness, prevention and surveillance associated with the tick-

borne illness.

The funding will be used to hire staff to implement the Lyme Disease Task Force's recommendations, build a more robust Lyme disease prevention and education program, conduct statewide environmental surveys, and improve participation in tick-borne disease surveillance with health care providers and local health departments.

Agriculture is a critical part of our local economy, and it is important to keep the industry thriving. A new state program is offering \$5 million in grants to support Pennsylvania's dairy farmers as the industry struggles through a pro-

longed period of financial difficulty.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Industry Investment Program, created by lawmakers in June, will support investments in projects to improve the production, processing and distribution of dairy products throughout the state.

Tourism is another important part of our local economy, especially in Adams County. Governor Wolf proposed a deep cut to funding to support tourism in this year's budget. Lawmakers not only restored the governor's cut, but also increased tourism funding by nearly \$5 million over the previous year's total.

Similarly, the governor proposed cutting money from the Department of Community & Economic Development by nearly \$22 million. Instead, the

legislature increased funding for these job creation and community improvement programs by more than \$11 million, without raising taxes.

An army of advocates have demanded action to better protect pets and animals in Pennsylvania. The legislature recently passed a bill that provides civil immunity for emergency responders who rescue pets from hot cars, and the governor signed the bill into law.

All of these measures represent significant progress on issues that local individuals and families care about most. I wish all community residents and their families a Merry Christmas, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in the Pennsylvania Senate.

# Adams County Community Foundation

Ralph Serpe

I am thrilled to introduce the readers of the Emmitsburg News-Journal to the Adams County Community Foundation. As the Community Foundation serving people across South Central Pennsylvania.

I am a long-time resident of South Central Pennsylvania and a veteran of nonprofits and philanthropic advising. I began my career in banking, but for the past 20 years I have been privileged to be a part of community foundations in Silicon Valley, CA; Princeton, NJ; Baltimore, MD, and now Adams County, PA.

Here at the Adams County Community Foundation, we offer all people who care about this place a simple and efficient way to create a lasting remembrance of their lives, values, and commitment. Anyone can give to or create a permanent charitable fund, such as the Fund for Adams County, to support the community broadly, a particular area of interest such as education, the arts, or historic preservation, or a specific nonprofit. Our charitable funds are professionally invested for long-term growth and each year a portion of each fund is

granted to support that fund's original charitable intent.

You could most likely tell from my background, but I love community foundations. And here's why: community foundations are simple, yet powerful nonprofit organizations that can accomplish amazing things. They can be strategic grant makers, they can focus on moving key initiatives for the public good and, some would argue most importantly, they can advocate for the long-term health and success of their community. They are a unique reflection of the values and commitment of a local donor community.

I will address key initiatives and advocacy in future columns. To be a strategic grant maker, we need to consistently assess local need and develop a vision for addressing that need. That means standing shoulder to shoulder with the groups and organizations that are helping people in our community to understand their approach to solving community need. We ask tough questions through a formal proposal process. We visit nonprofits to see what they do first hand and we think strategically and critically about how to invest the charitable funds entrusted to us. Our donors demand

we uphold our organization's values of accountability, transparency, confidentiality, compassion and inclusiveness in all we do and we expect the same from the organizations we support.

Being strategic means we also look at how our grantmaking can strengthen both our community and the nonprofits that support and strengthen us. We look for ways to leverage our charitable investments and how our grants can attract new capital from within and outside Adams County.

Over one hundred years ago when the first community foundations were created, their founders had no idea what their communities would face in the future, but they did know that creating a permanent civic endowment, built with gifts from individuals spanning generations, would give future residents the ability to respond to critical needs and unique opportunities.

Here in Adams County, the community foundation we know today is less than a dozen years old. We understand that working with donors to help them create a charitable legacy is an honor and a privilege. And each time we do, we are building that permanent civic endowment that will support Adams County forever.

Ralph M. Serpe is President and CEO of the Adams County Commu-

nity Foundation. He can be reached at [rserpe@adamscountycf.org](mailto:rserpe@adamscountycf.org) or 717-337-0060. The Adams County Community Foundation is located at 25 S Fourth Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Jim Martin



As 2018 comes to an end and 2019 begins we present two encompassing financial positives. Adams County will end 2018 with expenditures below budget and 2018 revenue well above expenditures. We expect a similar pattern for 2019. Our 2019 budget projects that revenues will exceed expenses by approximately \$700,000. This will allow us to operate through 2019 with NO real estate property tax increase.

As 2019 unfolds Adams County should see at least modest benefits from an improved economy. We have seen a respectable increase in housing construction and a modest up-tick in commercial construction during 2018. The net result as we enter 2019 will be a modest increase in our tax base for 2019. As always our local economy depends upon a balance between housing and compatible commercial growth.

The budget we have adopted for 2019 reflects a mindfulness of the marginal increase in tax revenues. All our departments and the budget/finance office relied on an in-depth analysis and short term financial forecasting more than ever before. In the end the budget being presented has a closer margin between projected revenues and projected expenditures than past budgets. This offers us a more precise forecast tool for monitoring our cash flow positions. Hav-

ing too much cash on hand is a lost opportunity for capturing additional interest revenue. Having too little cash at year's end, neglects the potential for emergency operational needs. While we are cutting this budget closer than in previous years, we are still maintaining a healthy reserve.

Adams County government will see a dramatic decrease in its 2019 rental expenses. This was made possible by ending leases and repurposing the Herff Jones building into our new Human Services Building (HSB). The new HSB has provided us benefits beyond fiscal. The list of benefits is numerous, but it can be accurately summarized as efficiencies of operation, greatly enhanced services, better customer service, opportunity for future growth and good fiscal management. At the recent dedication of the HSB, President Judge Michael George confirmed these benefits by praising the results he has seen.

The county is anticipating two new opportunities for additional revenue in 2019. One of the sources of revenue will be from the sale of the Gettysburg, Middle Street property that now serves as Magistrate Harvey's office. Magistrate Harvey will be relocating to a new courtroom within the Human Services Building January 2. Once the building is vacated, the plan is to sell the property through a public auction. The proposed schedule

is to have the auction in the spring of 2019.

We are in the beginning stages of an initiative to reduce prison expenses. The goal is aggressive hiring to maintain a full staff, thus minimizing overtime. In another revenue initiative, the county has a very good potential of receiving an increased reimbursement rate for the housing and transportation of U.S. Marshall Prisoners. Based upon a professional analysis, the current cost of housing federal prisoners was shown to be greater than our reimbursement. Thus, we have made application to the U.S. Marshall Service for a reimbursement rate increase. We have good reason to believe a rate increase will be granted. Our conservative budgeting practice does not include this potential revenue in the 2019 budget.

Should we receive these potential revenues they will help offset the deficit funding received from the state for our 911 services. Our 911 operation receives a major portion of its funding through service fees assessed to communication devices by their carriers. Adams County receives approximately \$2 million from these fees, which is \$1.2 million short of our annual cost of operation. The current legislation that enables the collection of this fee has a sunset date of mid-2019. Continuing legislation is needed to keep this

funding stream alive. We must remind our legislators of the importance of renewing this piece of legislation. It appears the legislation will be renewed, but there does not appear to be an attempt to acquire additional funding, which is needed for ever increasing operational expenses. I have been engaged with our legislative offices to advocate not only for passage, but for additional funding.

In the past seven years this Board has successfully engaged in a number of major initiatives. The initiatives include several department re-organizations, a much needed 911 digital radio system, the Adams County Human Services Building and the Adams County Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range. We are now ready to engage in another significant initiative that will provide both human service and fiscal benefit. The renovation and conversion of the Mercy House into a Substance Abuse Recovery Center is becoming a reality. Adams County is not immune or removed from the opioid crisis. This project will not only provide a treatment center in Adams

County, but will also result in a vacant county-owned building being renovated and re-purposed, mostly through grant funding. Additionally, the county will receive rental income from the organization administering the program.

In summation 2019 looks to be a year of cautious optimism. While the economy is not improving as well as we had hoped, it is moving in the right direction. We are continuing to innovate county services and add services where prudent, while keeping a watchful eye on our expenses. Our hope is that in the coming months we will move beyond cautious optimism. I would like to close with best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

## State Representative Dan Moul

As we begin the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my constituents for your faith and trust in me over the years and for affording me the privilege of serving as your state representative. Adams County is my home and it is enormously satisfying to be able to enact policy in Harrisburg that will benefit Adams County and its citizens.

Now in my seventh term, I have finally gained the seniority necessary to serve as a House committee chairman. Chairmanships are awarded based on seniority. At just over a decade, it is now my turn to play a greater role in shaping the policy facing our great Commonwealth. As a chairman, I will have the ability to conduct public meetings on legislation that comes before my committee and play a hand in determining which bills advance to the House floor.

While committee assignments will not be made for a few more weeks yet, I am anxious to learn which committee I will be leading. In prior sessions, I have had the pleasure of serving as vice chairman of the House Children and Youth Committee and the House Game and Fisheries Committee. I have also enjoyed serving as a member of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Tourism and Recreational

Development Committee. On each of these committees, I have gained a deeper understanding of the issues facing our communities, environment, children, farmers and businesses.

In the new legislative session, I will also work to do whatever I can to address some of the Commonwealth's most pressing problems – namely the opioid crisis. Like many of you, I know people who have been gripped by addiction and those who have suffered the loss of a child or other loved one to opioid abuse. Last year, 5,456 overdose deaths occurred in Pennsylvania – a rate of 43 deaths per 100,000 population – more than double the national average. It is high time we take a critical look at the manufacturers, distribution chain and prescribers of opiates to determine how best to address this scourge that leaves families shattered and children without parents.

There are mixed opinions on what our state budget will look like in the new year. While we will have a clearer picture in the next few months, you can be assured that I and other members of the Commonsense Caucus will examine the governor's budget proposal thoroughly and will protect the interests of Pennsylvania taxpayers.

As always, I welcome my con-

stituents to call or stop by with any questions or concerns. You can

also sign up to receive my weekly email updates at [www.RepMoul.com](http://www.RepMoul.com). In the upper right corner of my home page, just enter your

email address, ZIP code and submit. It's that simple.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# County Councilman Kai Hagen

Well before the more recently charged atmosphere and growing incivility and polarization in our politics, it has often and long been said that one should not discuss politics in polite company or at social functions. Nobody knows who said it first, but everyone has heard it in one form or another.

It's common knowledge.

And, it seems, it's also a common practice, even if not in all quarters.

Old rules of social etiquette encourage us to avoid talking about politics at the dinner table, for example. So, it's not surprising that many consider it bad manners in good company, like speaking with your mouth full or using your sleeve as a napkin, only much more disruptive.

No less an authority on the subject than Miss Manners once told us that "religion, politics, and sex are generally taboo at the dinner table. Unwelcome attempts to introduce these topics should be met with silence, so the matter drops."

Emily Post was saying much the same thing almost a century ago.

But, even if we think it's a good idea to try to avoid conflict at family dinners, extended family gatherings and a range of other social events, by avoiding political discussion and debate, just what is it that we are trying avoid

talking about...or arguing about?

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines "politics" broadly, to include:

- The art or science of government
- The art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy
- The art or science concerned with winning and holding control over a government

I could be wrong, but it's my impression that when people talk about not talking about politics, much of the time they're referring to the last item on that list — the realm of campaigns and elections; of partisanship and political power.

Nowadays, it's easy to appreciate that a lot of discussions and "friendly" debates about that aspect of politics become as uncivil and unpleasant as so much — too much — of the electoral and power politics we read in the news, see on television, hear on the radio, and experience on social media is rife with rancor, even hatefulness. And so it is also easy to appreciate why many people want to avoid it, especially among family and friends.

But...

Perhaps it is time to rewrite some of the rules about polite conversation. Or, at least, reconsider what you are including when you avoid talking about "politics."

Go ahead. At least, for now, if it works best for you, stick to staying away from arguing about campaigns and candidates and partisan politics and elections... and so on.

Instead of including almost everything related to government on your list of banned subjects, however, consider making an effort to talk about specific problems and challenges we face. In other words, focus on real issues that affect our country.

And if even that seems too risky, how about focusing on the issues that affect your local community?

The distinction is an important one. I worry that when people try to avoid discussing... or arguing about...politics, in general, they end up avoiding conversations about, and engagement in, the important issues we face closer to home. Perhaps not talking about politics is connected to not participating in the civic life of your town, or your county, because it's easy just lump it all together as, well, pol-

itics, and stay away from all of it.

But most local issues that matter to us, to our families, to our communities, to our quality of life, are not inherently partisan or political issues.

Local government is quite literally the government that is closest to home. In city halls and the county seat, neighbors that we elect, in a very public and accessible process, make decisions about local issues that shape our communities and affect our lives.

None of that public process and none of those decisions are likely to generate better results, for you or for us, when so many, or most people aren't paying attention and don't get involved.

In one column, Miss Manners actually provided her "gentle readers" a selection of sample remarks meant to draw someone's attention away from politics. Her suggestions included:

"Are you finding the pothole situation any better?"

"Traffic is getting just like New York around here."

Without intending to, perhaps, Miss Manners was pointing out a couple examples of local issues.

It may be that some of our neighbors just don't care about many local issues. But I don't think that's true of most of us. If people didn't care about traffic and

crowded schools and a long list of other local matters, they wouldn't complain about them.

There is no doubt we aren't all going to agree with each other about some things. I assume most of us don't agree about everything with our spouse, or our family, or our friends. But we are a community, and we are in this together. We might consider exchanging views on these subjects to be a worthwhile way to spend a conversation or two, or more.

And that starts with paying enough attention, so that we're able to talk with each other more than just complaining about something that isn't working or that we don't like.

As a member of the Frederick County Council, I'll be writing a column here each month, most of the time focusing on one or more of the important local issues we are working to address.

I encourage you to pay attention to these issues, and to talk about them with each other, and to get more involved in the decision-making process. Don't leave all the paying attention and talking and influence to others.

That would make a fine New Year's resolution!

Either way, though, best wishes to all of you for a wonderful new year!

## County Notes

### Frederick County Council Elects Mc Keegan-Ayer As President, Michael Blue As Vice President

On December 4, the Frederick County Council unanimously elected MC Keegan-Ayer as president and Michael Blue as vice president of the Council. They will serve two-year terms as officers of the Council.

Council President Keegan-Ayer, who serves representing the Third Council District, served as vice president of the Council for the past four years. She is beginning her Fifth year on the Council. Council Member Michael Blue, who represents the Fifth Council District was unanimously elected as Vice President. Councilmember Blue is beginning in his first term on the Council.

In accordance with the Frederick County Charter, every two years, the County Council must meet to elect their officers from among their members.

"We are ready to work with the County Executive; we want a County Government that works for and respects everyone. We will seek results for all the people of Frederick County. We will work with the County Executive to ensure our County Government remains focused on addressing the needs of all the residents," stated President Keegan-Ayer.

Vice President Blue commented, "The most important thing we can do is to improve our economic competitiveness, invest in our transportation infrastructure and continue our commitment to our schools. I eagerly look forward towards working to improve the quality life here in Frederick County"

### 2018 Annual Report & Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

On December 6, County Executive Jan Gardner presented an Annual Report for 2018 on the accomplishments of Frederick County Government, emphasizing cutting-edge initiatives, new infrastructure and many achievements.

"My emphasis continues to be on making life better for people," said Executive Gardner. "This past year has been a year of big ideas, cutting-edge initiatives, new infrastructure and accomplishments for which we can all be proud."

The past year saw the opening of the new downtown technology center called ROOT, reaffirmation of the AAA bond rating by all three rating agencies, collaboration with Frederick County Public Schools to build new schools and add exciting programs for students, building public libraries, re-energizing sustainability programs and much more. Progress has primarily focused on four key priorities — jobs, seniors, education and community needs.

Executive Gardner also presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. The annual report and financial statement will be presented to the County Council Dec. 18.

"Frederick County's financial outlook is strong and our long-term conservative approach to budgeting and managing county government meets the highest financial standards," said Executive Gardner. "Our future is bright thanks to our team of directors and employees who work hard with me every day to serve our citizens!"

The CAFR is an extensive document presenting various levels of reporting and disclosures regarding financial statements, and includes an audit from a

firm of licensed certified public accountants who provided an independent review of county government. No findings were made in the audit.

To obtain a copy of the annual report and CAFR, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/executive](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/executive).

continued on next page



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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jan Gardner

Happy New Year! My goal for 2019 is simple. It's all about making life better for people. That's what we do in county government every day. The focus is always on people and making sure that everyone has the opportunity to live well and to achieve their dreams.

One of my priority focuses this term is to keep agriculture economically viable. This is a big challenge. In the past few years, our farmers and agriculture community have experienced terrible weather and low commodity prices, which created economic hardship. Why is this important? As agriculture goes, so go the economies and success of our small towns and rural villages. In the months ahead, I will be engaging our agricultural businesses, our agricultural boards and commissions, and best minds and biggest thinkers in economic

development to work to support our farmers and ensure the long-term economic viability of agriculture in Frederick County.

One great example of helping our rural economies is the promotional video that Thurmont created. The brainchild of Economic Development Manager Vickie Grindler, the video invites people to visit both its agricultural businesses and the downtown area. "Main Street Thurmont: Gateway to Endless Opportunity" is an excellent, high-quality production. If you haven't seen it, you should. The video is available online at [https://youtu.be/dza\\_LLuxbdc](https://youtu.be/dza_LLuxbdc).

### Veterans Advisory Council

I'm pleased to announce that the new Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council will hold its first meeting this month. I proposed the council's creation as a way to link the county's esti-

mated 17,000 military veterans with community and governmental services to improve their quality of life. Young people returning home from service may need some help and guidance connecting to educational opportunities. Some of our brave men and women are experiencing the effects of PTSD, and they and their families may need counseling, medical support and other care. I firmly believe we need to do our utmost to ensure that our veterans are fully supported and are connected to the resources they need.

The Veterans Advisory Council will provide a forum for Frederick County's veterans of all our nation's wars and conflicts, those who served long ago and those who served more recently, to share and voice their issues, concerns, and ideas. The Council will serve as a conduit for information and resources to help veterans and their

families who may need assistance to further their education, find employment, receive counseling, or other support services. Oftentimes, people simply do not know what services are available to them.

The first meeting of the Veterans Advisory Council will be Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in Winchester Hall. For those who are interested but are unable to attend, the meeting will be broadcast live on FCG TV and available for viewing online at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV).

Frederick County Government works every day to make life better for people, from farmers to veterans and beyond. Another example comes from the county's Division of Fire & Rescue Services. The division has provided career staff to assist our many volunteer fire and rescue companies as demand for service increases and finding volunteers becomes more challenging. On December 22nd, at the request of Thurmont Community Ambulance Service,

career staff have been assigned to the ambulance station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This move will help to provide the best possible care to citizens.

### Looking ahead

If you are looking for something to do on a chilly winter day, Frederick County Public Libraries are always a great place to start. This month, you can enjoy the Frederick Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Storytime at the Walkersville branch on January 28th, learn how to transform glass bottles at the Emmitsburg branch on January 12th, or combine storytime with a hike starting at the Thurmont Regional Library on January 5th. Our libraries are exciting places that bring more than 2 million visitors through their doors each year.

Frederick County is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. We live in a caring community and can all be proud to call Frederick County home!

### County Breaks Ground for Solar Project

On December 19, County Executive Jan Gardner today held a ground-breaking ceremony for Frederick County Government's first solar project. This major sustainability project will involve the construction of a nearly 2 million kilowatt hour photovoltaic solar array on 4.9 acres of vacant land to provide low-cost renewable energy to the Ballenger-McKinney Waste Water Treatment Plant.

"As the first solar project for Frederick County Government, this project will save green by going green," said Executive Gardner. "Frederick County has a bright future using solar power!"

This project is a large step toward meeting the county's goal of 4 million kilowatt hours generated from renewable energy sources, a goal the county set as part of the Maryland Energy Administration's Smart Energy Communities program. Frederick County Government's goal is to have 20% of its electricity consumed come from renewable energy sources by the year 2022. This solar project, combined with the solar hot water heating project in place at the Adult Detention Center, brings the county more than half-way to its goal.

The solar project is made possible through a \$2.4 million grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment from their Energy

Water Infrastructure Program. Due to the scope of the project, the county is utilizing engineering and project management resources via the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority for the design, construction and long-term operation of the facility.

The project will be located at the end of Metropolitan Court on property adjoining the division's existing office building. This is the former location of the proposed waste-to-energy facility.

For more information, contact Mr. Demosky at 301-600-2997 or via e-mail at [kdemosky@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:kdemosky@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

### Frederick County Emergency Responders to Conduct Community Preparedness Seminar

Frederick County Emergency Responders will conduct a free community preparedness seminar on Jan. 12, from 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Facility, 5370 Public Safety Place. Attendance will be restricted to the first 80 registrants and will be closed on January 4.

Visit [www.tinyurl.com/FCEmergencyPreparedness2019](http://www.tinyurl.com/FCEmergencyPreparedness2019) to register for the seminar.

The Department of Fire & Rescue Services, Frederick County Department of Emergency Management, Frederick County Health Department, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Frederick County Volunteer

Fire & Rescue Association, The City of Frederick Police Department, Maryland State Police and Maryland Department of Health have partnered to provide the emergency preparedness training in response to requests by county citizens.

The classes will include: welcome and emergency preparedness planning; Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE); Stop the Bleed training; hands-only CPR (non-certificate class); Naloxone/Narcan training, closing remarks and the issuance of certificates of participation.

The opening will introduce the instructors and provide information on how to prepare for emergency and disaster situations. The CRASE

training topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues and considerations for conducting drills.

Stop the Bleed training, a White House initiative launched October 2015, is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. No matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders will always be first on the scene. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes, therefore it is important to quickly stop the blood loss. Those nearest to some-

one with life threatening injuries are best positioned to provide first care.

The Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR, hands only) class will provide non-certificate training in this lifesaving skill. Bystander hands only CPR provided after cardiac arrest can significantly increase the victim's chance of survival.

Naloxone/Narcan© is a prescription medicine that reverses an opioid overdose. Naloxone is safe and effective and has been used by emergency medical professionals and doctors for decades. Training will include: types of opioids, how to recognize an opioid overdose, how to administer Naloxone and resources for family members, friends and loved ones.



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## COMMENTARY

# Words From Winterbilt

## A new year and predictions

Shannon Bohrer

Every New Year the major news sources always talk about what happened the previous year and then the experts tell us what they predict will happen in the coming year. Strange as it may seem we rarely hear anything about their predictions from the previous year. You would think that if they were right, they would tell us, maybe they forgot what they predicted. I could not find my New Year's article from last year, so I will assume that my predictions were reasonably accurate. I do know that I kept my New Year's resolution, at least for the most part.

We do have some politicians that predict the economy and world events, as if they have some expertise, which they generally do not. I think the politicians make optimistic predictions believing the voters will remember the optimism, even if they don't remember the outcomes. If a politician makes a strong economic prediction that fails then the politician can always attribute the failure to the other party. Blaming the other party for any problems we have - is a prediction you can always count on.

The success rates for the predictions made by the self-proclaimed

experts are probably no better than the odds of getting the long side of a wishbone from a turkey. Then again, the odds of getting the long side of a wishbone should be fifty percent, so that might be too optimistic for some experts.

Maybe we should start with the topic of predictions and why do we make them. If we don't remember them and there are no rewards if they are correct, and there are no consequences if they are wrong, then why? Maybe it's just a habit, like pulling apart the wishbone at a Thanksgiving dinner. While there is no science that predicts wishes that are related to wish bones, we still engage in this practice and probably more often than not - forget what we wished for. Of course, we should not forget - that for the wish to become true the wishbone has to be placed over a doorway.

Maybe that is part of our problem, that our predictions are just habits and rituals. I did a little research on political expertise and found some interesting past predictions.

This prediction is from 1936. "This is the largest tax bill in history. And to call it 'social security' is a fraud on the workingman," "I am not exaggerating the folly of this legislation. The saving it forces on

our workers is a cruel hoax." These words were said by a former governor of Kansas who was running against Roosevelt for president in 1936. He was predicting the failure of social security.

There were a lot of negative predictions with Social Security when instituted. It was often called socialism and Mr. Silas Strawn, from the Chamber of Commerce, called it a plan "to Sovietize America."

Social Security was created because the banks went broke and lost the savings of millions of people. It was one of many programs to help the country out of the great depression and it worked.

In 1961 a future president said "If you don't [write your senator in opposition to King-Anderson], about this program, I promise you, it will pass just as surely as the sun will come up tomorrow, and behind it will come other federal programs that will invade every area of freedom as we have known it in this country," He continued, "until one day... we will wake to find that we have socialism. And if you don't do this and I don't do this, one of these days we are going to spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children, what it once was like in America when men were free." That future president, Ronald Regan was speaking out against the proposed healthcare for

the elderly (The future Medicare).

A few years later, President Kennedy and then President Johnson proposed a Medicare bill and were severely criticized. Senator Barry Goldwater was a candidate for President in 1964 and he spoke against the Medicare proposal saying, "Having given our pensioners their medical care in kind, why not food baskets, why not public housing accommodations, why not vacation resorts, why not a ration of cigarettes for those who smoke and of beer for those who drink?"

Medicare was created because medical insurance companies cancelled insurance policies when people turned 65 years of age. At that time there was no mandatory coverage to ensure that the insurance industry would cover people. Even the American Medical Association called it "socialized medicine."

When President Obama signed the "Affordable Care Act" into law, it was predicted by the non-partisan budget analysis that "Obama Care would reduce the nation's deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars in the coming years." The critics predicted the opposite, saying the deficits would grow and "bankrupt the country." They were wrong and the non-partisan budget analysis was correct. Well almost correct, the cost of the Affordable Care Act was smaller than projected.

Prior to 2014, the first full year of the "Affordable Care Act" predictions from critics said the act,

"would be an abysmal year for the American job market" and that "Obamacare" would result in lower job creation and "Affordable Care Act" would "push unemployment higher." Senator Hastings, from Delaware, said "passing the plan would 'end the progress of a great country.'" Of course we also had the many predictions that the "Affordable Care Act" would result in "Socialism"

The predictions did not materialize. 2014 was a great year for job creation, the best in around 20 years. Unemployment numbers went down and "there's literally no evidence that the ACA had an adverse effect on economic growth at all."

My prediction for 2019 is that some politicians will call for modifying, changing and or eliminating social security, Medicare and the affordable care act. The recommendations will state that we don't want to become a dependent society and that the country cannot afford these entitlement programs. It does not seem to matter that the recipients of all of these programs - pay for them. Nor does it matter that all three programs work and are well liked. The recommendations will be made, out of habit, because habits are hard to change, and we don't want to become socialist.

To read past editions of *Words From Winterbilt*, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# Common Cents

## Should we rethink presidential powers?

Wim Laven

On Dec. 18th it was agreed that Donald Trump's charitable foundation would be dissolved. The decision was reached as a result of findings that Donald Trump and his family abused the tax-exempt status and abused campaign finance laws.

The lawsuit is not over; a decision on \$2.8 million in restitution and penalties as well as possible permanent ban against Trump and three of his children serving on nonprofits in New York still needs to be reached.

Given what was described by the State's Attorney General office as: "a shocking pattern of illegality involving the Trump Foundation -- including unlawful coordination with the Trump presidential campaign, repeated and willful self-dealing, and much more. This amounted to the Trump Foundation functioning as little more than a checkbook to serve Mr. Trump's business and political interests,"

One hopes they are prevented from betraying the public's trust in the future. One might ask, "what does this mean?"

Trump is selfish and willing do whatever it takes to get what he wants for himself. His favorite tool is dishonesty—it is all-pur-

pose, he lies all the time. In his version of winning the public's loss is his gain, and we've been "big league" losing. Reflecting on the dissolution of his corrupt Trump Foundation, as with so much of his storied career of dishonesty, reveals an ingenious ability to deceive unfettered by any moral decorum—his absolute willingness to betray. He is proof, in financial terms, that in this broken system cheaters do win, and he publicly brags that he doesn't pay his debts because he is smart.

On Dec. 21st this nearsightedness emerges with even greater clarity. In order to secure \$5 billion in funding for a completely unnecessary border wall Trump is willing to shut down the government just in time for Christmas. Forget the fact people don't want it, and that it cannot get the votes to pass, the cost to taxpayers for a government shutdown is \$6.5 billion per week. It is a repetition of his coercive practice. Trump has regularly used this terrorist tactic, earlier this year in an effort to block funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program is one example.

But what if it is all much, much worse? Trump is making everyone pay a huge price. His nuclear bomb on the economy could very well be another stunt. He

has called himself a debt master, so I wouldn't doubt that he has plans. He seems to have learned that destruction is easier than creation decades ago; he stole fortunes and left people in ruins by not paying his own bills. His echo chamber continues to get scarier, Sect. of Defense Mattis has just resigned in protest to what is ultimately Trump's complete refusal to acknowledge expertise as he makes supreme mistakes in policy decisions. Putin and Assad are celebrating the victory Trump has gifted them this week.

Is it his ego? Does he fill his emptiness by seeing that his lies on twitter can make a complete rollercoaster out of the stock market? When he bragged about accomplishments in China a couple weeks ago investors were optimistic, but when his lies were revealed for what they were the market plummeted. Or is it revenge? The reality that he is not above the law is likely setting in. Trump and kids are threatened with serving jail time for their corruption and other crimes. Is this just his way of lashing out against the people he sees as having done this to him? He has ushered in the worst December since the Great Depression.

I honestly don't know his intentions. I'd guess with the first; that

he is fully prepared to devastate the nation in securing greater personal fortune. But, that is only because he has lived his whole life with complete disregard for others. I am scared because he has truly mastered the craft of selfishness and, at least for the office of the President, he is running out of time. This all begs the question: Does Donald Trump wield too much power? Ought we rethink the destructive force of a single individual?

Trump's singular focus appears to be wealth, and his administration shows a willingness to break and bend rules to achieve goals, but it could be worse. Foreign emoluments are a big deal, because they suggest conflicts of interest in making decisions as head of the state, but what about flat-out selfishness? It is time that we face the ugly truth that selfish interest and military power are deadly combination. We may never know how many soldiers have been killed or terrorists recruited as a direct result of Trump's self-serving tweets. His lies have consequences, the worst of which are experienced by others. What if he decided to support his base and bomb the caravan like many of them request about his make-believe invasion? We also never thought a President would tell 6,420 lies and misstatements in 649 days in office. It just seems unthinkable that such a corrupt individual could wield so much power, and maybe it is more power than a single person should

have ever held.

Do we really trust Trump to resist deploying the military if he thinks it will be good for his investments? It isn't just a matter of convincing ourselves that a serial liar will live up to the oath of office, every indication suggests the only work he has done as President has been to serve himself—he's only ever been faithful to himself. Dedicated public servants, like Mattis with four decades of service, cannot do it, and it is time to consider the horrific possibility that a single Trump mistake could end life as we know it. It wasn't good democracy, but at least we thought there were adults in the room to restrain a tantrum, but they're all disappearing.

We have a corrupt administration, and we should seriously limit the disastrous potential of such an administration or any other. If we survive, we should take the steps to protect future generations. It is just too much that life and death are abused in pursuit of selfish interests—What if he thinks starting a war could help him win an election or protect him from investigation? What if he decided to go out with a bang?

Wim Laven teaches political science and conflict resolution at Kennesaw State University, and is on the Governing Council of the International Peace Research Association.

To read past editions of *Common Cents*, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# The American Mind

## Nationalism and self-preservation

William Hillman

The Gilets Jaunes uprising in France is about more than just a gas tax revolt. It is the result of failed socialism and globalism that elitism have forced on unwilling populations. It's true that citizens will put up with a government that takes care of them, but the middle classes have their limits. And nationalism is a strong force.

For those that do not remember, the fall of the Soviet empire was a time of great rejoice and hope. "It is a time for the rise of a new world order" – George H.W. Bush

In the late 1980's as the Iron Curtain was falling, I had the pleasure of meeting and carrying on correspondence with the Chair of Economics at the University of Budapest. He wrote about the coming wars in Western Europe and the Middle East. I remember one letter I sent him challenging this prediction. How could countries who have suffered so long and are predominately Christian, suddenly turn on themselves? His answer was along the lines of, "Your question shows your naïveté, youth, and idealism. Nationalism and tribalism are very powerful forces that exceed the bounds of religions. Time has not healed those old wounds, some of which go back centuries." He told me those new lines dividing up Europe will never stand. As soon as these nations are freed from the Soviet bloc, they will turn back to their

old struggles. He warned me of a time to come of great skirmishes. History proved him right.

Those who argue that nationalism is, xenophobic, are racist is denying reality. Nationalism is very powerful, more powerful than religion, and far more powerful than globalist idealism. The bonds of neighbors and community that form the core of nationalism are a natural defense mechanism against tyranny and consolidation of power. (Yes, sometimes, like biological antibodies, nationalism has its problems).

Throughout history the ruling classes have attempted to unify Europe. Greeks, Romans, Hapsburgs, and Germans all have failed. The latest attempt has been the European Union. And now the EU is showing signs of failing under the weight nationalism.

What we see in Belgium, Poland, the Czech Republic, England, Hungary, Sweden, and in grand style France, is a rejection of the EU and Globalists' expansion of power and control. Mass immigration is an attempt to dilute and ultimately destroy the political power of the middle classes that have those undesirable nationalist tendencies. Immigration must be done in large scale so there is no chance the immigrants will assimilate into the middle classes. This is about replacement.

The problem is the cost. Importing and caring for a large immigration influx with little to no skills,

a different language, and expectations of "free stuff" is not cheap. Who will pay for it? That is where the arrogance of the ruling elite fails itself. Their answer was to tax the middle classes to pay for their own replacement. Things are not going as planned.

Prime Minister of Belgian Michel, who took office in 2014, lost the backing of the New Flemish Alliance over his support for the UN Migration Pact. His resignation came two days after demonstrations against the pact in central Brussels descended into scuffles, with police being forced to use tear gas and water cannons to restore order.

Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic have moved back to nationalism, building barriers and increasing protection for their own workers and citizens. This has led to EU protests and, in some cases, economic sanctions of these countries. President Andrzej Duda called the EU an "imaginary union from which Poles derive few benefits."

In November, Switzerland's voters rejected a referendum proposal from nationalists for isolationism. Isolationism is an extreme of nationalism. The vast majority of nationalist have no interests in isolationism. Confusing the two is dangerous. The leadership in Switzerland who took this as a "green light" to increase government ties with the EU is discovering the wrath of the people.

Britain gave the EU its biggest black eye with Brexit. The ruling

class has tried to wiggle and shame its way out of the deal, but the middle class, whose towns and jobs have been destroyed by open immigration, will have none of this backing down.

A quick note about Ireland. Poor Ireland. After centuries of suppression under the thumb of foreign empires, it is approaching the centennial of its independence. Sadly, it will not see another. Earlier this year, Prime Minister Leo Varadkar revealed his 2040 plan to reshape Ireland. For those of you, like myself, who love the quaint, rural towns in Ireland with one or two pubs and overflowing with character, charm, and Irish life, visit while you can. The 2040 plan calls for spreading the "new" Irish population around the island by rebuilding and expanding all those outdated town centers. The plan calls for importing more than one million into a country of 6 million. These new immigrants have no culture connection to Ireland.

"No deal," writes Michael Copeland, of the online magazine "Gates of Vienna", "This is Population Replacement — you know, otherwise called Ethnic Cleansing. The mass migration will be of a million foreigners, such as from Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan. They will very likely be illiterate, and not speak English or have employable qualifications. If the UN, who chooses who will migrate, has anything to do with it, the new arrivals will be mostly Muslim. They will not swiftly join the productive workforce.

"The luckless taxpayers of recently bankrupt Eire, Bank of Ireland, will have to pay not only

to be colonized by their replacements but to maintain these cleansers for years and years on welfare. At the same time, they will be browbeaten to permit polygamy, child marriage, genital mutilation, and niqab oppression on the spurious grounds of 'religious tolerance.'"

Then we have the French, who are not taking the destruction of their middle class lying down. They are known as the "Yellow Jackets", or, les deplorables. The Blogger, Rex, summed it up in his article published in the online magazine QuodVerum—"It's a powerful totem for the French deplorables, a unifying symbol of ordinary, working class folk across the nation. And they are in a state of fury at a ruling class who not only let the population suffer, while enjoying a life of luxury and wealth, but who also blame ordinary people for their own suffering."

What makes the Yellow Jackets' protests unique? Their main gripe? Elites blaming ordinary people for problems that the same elites have caused; elites never being held accountable for their incompetence; and elites never having to experience the conditions, that their failed ideas cause.

French people are sick of being held in chains by a ruling class. They are sick of being poor and unemployed. They want a new direction, for their beloved nation. Sound familiar?

Mr. President, for the love of your people, hold firm on the wall!

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

# Down Under

## Courage

Submitted by Lindsay!  
Melbourne, Australia

But screw your courage to the sticking place, an we'll not fail. Lady Macbeth, in act 1, Macbeth

With the birds eye view of American politics that is afforded me from Melbourne, Australia, it is easy to spot the reason President Trump is so popular. For quite a while I could not understand it – how could anyone with his reputation of immorality, lies and chicanery pull such an adoring (or at least tolerant) crowd of supporters to his presidency?

On consideration, I realised that there is one only thing that has brought this about. He has done what his predecessors were unable or unwilling to do, and that is to take the fight to the Chinese. Both republicans and democrats have, until now, followed the rules, played a long game with behind-the-scene diplomacy and many conferences to ensure trade, and not hostilities were the outcome. They certainly did not trust them, were both appalled and accepting of their shocking human rights violations, outwardly ignoring their military build up, and taking unprecedented action to limit their

cyber warfare that they had built up to rival their own.

But they were, and still are, hampered by being 'The Establishment'. They had their eyes on the one thing that has always ruled American commerce: Profit. They seemed not to have had ordinary folk in mind, were too isolated at the top of the tree. Many Americans, just like most Australians, don't really care about international affairs, they just want a decent job, some respect, and to believe they are heard in Washington or Canberra. They're reasonable people who have accepted what they were told, and when that is seen as part of the dynasty, self serving, good for the rich and probably corrupt, they become more and more disillusioned, and revolt against the establishment in any way they can.

So, when a well known flamboyant spruiker comes on the scene, promising change, to redress the wrongs, and using that meaningless but catchy slogan of greatness again, they lift him up to hero status. It doesn't matter what he does or says, he is their messiah, and that's the end of it.

If they took time to listen, they would hear the reality of his rhetoric. It reveals his overweening ego-

ism, his disdain for the law, and his belief that he can manipulate things so he will never be brought to book. There have been couple of shonky presidents – Nixon being one - but this one takes the cake.

The fact that congress is now decidedly Democrat proves that thinking citizens have seen through his game and kicked him where it hurts. The rust belt and rural supporters apparently might still believe in him, but when major Republican figures scheme to get rid of him, those citizens should at least take their lead. It is unbelievable that they can accept messages such as today's "I'd sooner shut down the government than give up on the wall." He is treating the office of president like a totalitarian clown, a fiefdom for his arbitrary whims where he becomes impossible to work with unless you agree to maintain the cover-ups and collusions.

While attention is focused on domestic matters, foreign policy and relations are used as a platform for his ego. Grand statements – He (Kim Jon Un) is good. No more missiles. He guaranteed that. After I talked to him. He's a good guy. Vladimir is ok, he knows how to run a country. Who needs Europe? They're so out of touch. Saudi's are the good guys. They spend big. I mean, real big. Trade wars are good. I can win them.

And something that makes my

skin crawl: Australia has the right idea about asylum seekers. Keep em offshore, like we should do the the Mexicans. They're evil people, and their kids? I mean... And then the latest: Australia is the only country to enact new rules on the telcos to make them open up all those emails and posts. Keep the bad guys in check. Gees those guys are good.

Yes? It only shows how far right our current government is. There is an enormous backlash here, and come next May our labor opposition will be in government to undo some of the most extreme measures they have taken.

Trumps grandiose statements are fantasy, his mentor and strategist Bannon giving him his ultra right ideas that are straight out of the oligarch's handbook. In Trumps hands they are guaranteed to make headlines. Headlines are, of course, his bread and butter. Like all ego-maniacs, notoriety is compulsive. Being top dog, he can and does piss on anyone who refuses to grovel. Therein lies the greatest danger: diminishing the office of president, making the business of government of little worth, with all other leaders – yes, all of them - becoming wary, mistrustful and barely tolerant of the United States. This because he believes he IS the US, the figurehead that, as the leader of the most powerful nation on earth, sets the

tone and the parameters of relationships.

To him, foreign affairs are just that, affairs. Not to be taken seriously. He forgets that no country is able to operate alone, that international relationships are the key to the future. He might believe that making America great again will get him reelected, but he has to depend of the stupidity of the people for this to happen. And you are not stupid. Disgusted, frustrated, dismayed, but aware of the importance of having a sane leader who sees the wide picture, who acts with probity and fairness.

It may be that no one comes near this at present, but with your enormous resources someone will appear. It's happened before, and in a democracy the people have a voice that no leader can silence for long.

The problems we all face now are so great that the world needs a rational, clear headed and vibrant America as never before. That will give the rest of the free world the courage to repel the tyrants at the gate, the power to find a way through the quagmire of China, climate change, water loss and refugees.

You can be the ones to say Happy New Year and mean it.

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

## THE PASTOR'S DESK

# Saints: heavenly helpers

Fr. Patrick Russell, MFVA  
Franciscan Missionaries  
of the Eternal Word

As our Christmas festivities come to a close and we make our resolutions for the new year, Christians should reflect on the lives of the holy men and women who have gone before us, and model our lives on their example. St. Bernard of Clairvaux, a French abbot and Doctor of the Church, explained that we do not honor the saints because they need our prayers or our praise, but rather because we need their example and their help. They pray for us and inspire us by the witness of their lives to generously live the Gospel. Thinking about the saints also helps remind us that there is more to life than just this world. We are called to eternal life with God and all the saints in heaven.

The author of the second century letter *Martyrium Polycarpi*, which is an account of the heroic death of St. Polycarp, made it clear that there is a major distinction between our relationship with Christ and with the saints. Jesus and the saints each intercede for us, but Christ is worshipped

while the saints are honored because of their faithfulness to Christ. This is important because some think that Catholics worship the saints, but this early Christian writing shows clearly that this is not the case. In the same writing, we learn that the anniversary of a martyr's death was also celebrated, as that was the day they gave the ultimate witness of their faith in Christ and entered the joy of heaven. There is evidence therefore as early as the year 156 A.D. of veneration of the saints.

We need the witness of saints, both those who have gone before us, and those who currently live in our midst. The saints show us by their example that living the gospel is possible. The gospel is not some high ideal that we cannot possibly live up to. Holiness of life is within the reach of every person. In addition, holiness is not just for those who are currently enjoying eternal life with God in heaven. We are called to holiness today. The saints based their lives on Jesus and they now are in heaven praying for us and cheering us on as a "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). They greatly desire that we join their company.

Now, we might easily get discour-

aged if we think of how holy the saints were and how far from that degree of holiness and virtue we seem to be at this moment, but the saints would probably be the first to tell you that they had their own struggles. Mother Angelica, the foundress of the community I belong to, illustrated this point in her own unique way: "Did you ever see a statue of a grouchy saint? I saw one once. It was the most gorgeous statue I ever saw. It was Padre Pio, who was a grouch, you know. Now, everybody excuses the poor guy and says, 'Well, he had the stigmata and he was suffering.' Come off it. He was a grouch; he was a typical Italian grouch - which I can relate to! So I bought that statue in New Orleans a few years ago. He has the most beautiful, grumpy look on his face. See, that's my kind of saint. I want a saint that struggles like I do."

The fact that the saints struggled and encountered many difficulties in life is an encouragement to us who have to overcome our own struggles with the help of God's grace. What did they do to become holy? St. Thomas Aquinas, when asked what one needed to do to become a saint, replied very simply: "Will it!" The saints desired to grow in holiness and they cooperated with the grace of God to do so.

So what does a saint look like? Again, Mother Angelica would add, "A saint is one who empties himself and takes on the image of Jesus, so that person and Jesus are look-alikes. . . . A saint's goal is to get as close to God as he can." The saints, therefore, sought to imitate Christ by a generous daily commitment to prayer and by a life of heroic virtue.

There are many traits commonly found in the saints that can serve as examples for us to follow. The saints were wholeheartedly in love with God. You could say that they were

"God-centered" and their love for God was shown in their love for neighbor. The saints also lived the gospel and can be seen as living commentaries of Scripture because they often read the Bible, meditated upon it, and sought to put the Word of God into action in their daily lives. They were also serious about repentance and conversion. They worked to root out sin from their lives and any other obstacles that were not leading them closer to God.

On the other hand, they tried to put St. Paul's words into action by being more intentional and striving to do everything "for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). In addition, the saints were absolutely determined to do God's will. They did not simply desire to grow in holiness, but rather acted on that desire in practical and concrete ways. In his book entitled *Saints: A Closer Look*, Fr. Thomas Dubay wrote: "Saints say, 'With God's grace I will be better, and I will begin right now. I will get rid of my vanities and my laziness. I will stop gossiping and overeating. I will stop procrastinating. I will take means to see that these changes do occur soon.'"

The saints also greatly loved the Church and rather than abandon her in difficult moments, they sought reform in the midst of various crises throughout her history. One of the best responses in a time of crisis is to become a saint, to seek to overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:21). The saints also were witnesses of joy as they sought to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4). They exhibited that joy which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and which Jesus desired to share with us when he said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (Jn



15:11). We will experience the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5) to the degree that we strive to live our faith and the holy gospel.

God desires that each of us become saints. Is it my goal to become a saint and enjoy eternal life with God in heaven? If not, why not? If so, what concrete resolutions am I going to make today to grow in my prayer life and in union with God? The saints who have gone before us and have finished the race are praying for us and their lives are an example of virtue to imitate. We find encouragement as St. John Vianney once noted: "The saints have not all started well, but they have all finished well." May we finish like these heavenly friends of ours who have gone before us. All you saints in heaven, pray for us!

*Fr. Patrick has been an integral part of the Mount's Catholic community for many years. He assists the University Chaplain by masses regularly and spiritual direction and retreat leadership. His evangelization of the students is steeped both in deep theological knowledge due to his advanced studies in the field, and personal experience, as he is a quiet, humble man walking the path of faith each day. His loving way of bringing the Word of God to the Mount has made an impact on the community.*

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

# January nature & folklore

January is the open gate of the year, shut until the shortest day passes, but now open to let in the lengthening daylight, which will soon fall upon dim patches of pale green, that show where spring is still sleeping. Sometimes between the hoary pillars—when the winter is mild—a few wan snowdrops will peep out and catch the faint sunlight which streams in coldly through the opening gateway, like timid messengers sent to see if Spring has yet stirred from her long sleep.

But it is yet too early for the hardy crocus to throw its banded gold along the pathway; and as for the 'ratite primrose,' it sits huddled up in its little cloak of green, or is seen peeping through its half-closed yellow eye, as if watching the snow-flakes as they fall. Only the red-breasted robin - his heart filled with hope - sings his cheerful song on the naked hawthorn spray, through which the tiny buds are striving to break forth, like a herald proclaiming glad tidings, and making known, far and wide, that ere long 'the winter will be over and gone,' and the moonlight-coloured May-blossoms once again appear.

All around, as yet, the landscape is barren and dreary. You pass the village churchyard, and almost shiver to think that the very dead who lie there must be pierced by the cold, for there is not even a crimson hip or haw to give a look of warmth to the stark hedges, through which the bleak wind whistles.

There is no sound of the voices of village children in the winding lanes—nothing but the creaking of the old carrier's cart along the frost-bound road, and you pity the old wife who sits peeping out between the opening of the tilt, on her way to the neighbouring market-town. The dog walks under the cart in silence, as if to avail himself of the little shelter it affords, instead of frisking and barking beside his master, as he does when 'the leaves are green and long.'

There is a dull, leaden look about the sky, and you have no wish to climb the hill-top on which those gray clouds hang gloomily. You feel sorry for the poor donkey that stands hanging his head under the guide-post, and wish there were flies about to make him whisk his ears, and not leave him altogether motionless.

A walk in the country on a fine frosty morning in January gives the blood a healthy circulation, and sets a man wondering why so many sit croodleing' over the fire at such a season.

The trees, covered with frost, are beautiful to look upon, and the grass bending beneath its weight seems laden with crystal; while in the distance the hedges seem sheeted with May blossoms, so thickly, that you might fancy there was not room enough for a green leaf to peep out between the bloom.

This is the time of year to see the beautiful ramification of the trees, for the branches are no longer hidden by leaves, and all the interlacings and crossings of exquisite network are visible—those pencilling of the sprays which too few of our artists study.

Looking nearer at the hedges, we already see the tiny buds forming, mere specks on the stem, that do but little more than raise the bark; yet by the aid

of a glass we can uncoil the future leaves which summer weaves in her loom into broad green curtains.

That was the golden-crested wren which darted across the road, and though the very smallest of our British birds, it never leaves us, no matter how severe the winter may be, but may be seen among the fir-trees, or pecking about where the holly and ivy are still green.

Now the blue titmouse may be seen hanging by his claws, with his back downward, hunting for insects in some decaying bough, or peeping about the thatched eaves of the cottages and out-houses, where it will pull out the straw to stir up the insects that lie snug within the thatch.

How these birds manage to live through the killing frosts has long been a puzzle to our ablest naturalists, and after all of their research, He alone knoweth without whose permission not a sparrow falls to the ground.

There is no better time than during a walk in January to get a good view of the mosses that grow on and around the trees, for at this season they stand boldly out in all their beautiful colourings, falling on the eye in masses of rich red, silver-gray, umbered brown, and gaudy orange; while the yellow moss is almost as dazzling as sunshine, and the green is the most beautiful that it gladdens the earth.

In some places, we see it fitted together like exquisite mosaic work, in others it hangs down like graceful fringe, while the green looks like fairy trees, springing from a cushion of yielding satin. The screw moss is very curiously formed; it grows plentifully on old walls, and looks like dark-green flossy velvet.

Snow in the streets is very different from snow in the country, for there it no sooner falls than it begins to make more dirt, and is at once trampled into mud by a thousand passing feet on the pavement, while in the roadway the horses and vehicles work it into 'slush,' which only a brisk shower of rain can clear away. In the country, snow is really white; there is none of that gray dirty look about it.

While watching the snow fall, you can almost fancy that the flakes are white blossoms shaken from a land of flowers that lies somewhere above the sky; those that touch the river are gone in an instant, while some, as they fall slantways, unite together before they touch the earth: Science has seized upon and pictured the fantastic shapes the falling snowflakes assume, and they are exceedingly beautiful.

The gorse, furze, whin, or 'fuzz'—country people sometimes calling it by the latter name—is often in flower all the year round, though the great golden-bellied baskets it hangs out in summer are now nearly closed, and of a pale yellowish green. Although its spikes are as sharp as spears, and there is no cutting out a golden branch without wearing thick gloves; still it is one of the most beautiful of our wayside shrubs.

Many a time have we cut a branch in January, put it in water, and placed it in a warm room, when in two or three days all its golden lamps have lighted up, and where it stood it seemed to 'make sun-

shine in the shady place.'

Where gorse grows abundantly, and bees have ready access to the bloom, there the finest-coloured and sweetest honey is produced. In a very mild season, we have seen, under sheltered hedges that face the south, the celandine in flower in January. Even when not in bloom, its large bright green leaves give a spring look to the barren embankments; but when out, its clear, yellow, star-shaped flowers catch the eye sooner than the primrose, through their deep golden hue.

The common red or dead nettle may also occasionally be found in flower. Let those who would throw it aside as an unsightly weed, examine the bloom through a glass, and they will be amazed at its extreme loveliness; such ruby tints as it shows, imbedded in the softest bloom, never graced the rounded arm of beauty.

The blue periwinkle is another beautiful flower that diadems the brow of January when the season is warm. It must be looked for in sheltered situations, for it is not at all a common wild flower: once seen, it can never be mistaken, for the twisted bud before opening resembles the blue convolvulus. Nor must the common chickweed be overlooked, with its chaste, white, star-shaped flowers, which shew as early as the snowdrops.

The large, broad-leaved mouse-ear chickweed flowers later, and will be

sought for in vain in January, though it sheds its seed and flowers frequently six times during the summer. Many other flowers we might name, though they are more likely to be found in bloom next month.

Flocks of wild geese and other waterfowl also visit our reedy marshes and sheltered lakes in winter; far up the sky their wild cries may be heard in the silence of midnight, as they arrive. Rooks now return from the neighbouring woods, where they have mostly wintered, to their nest-trees; while the smaller birds, which drew near to our habitation during the depth of winter, begin to disappear.

Those that require insect food go and forage among the grass and bushes; others retreat to the sides of stagnant pools, where, during the brief intervals of sunshine, gnats are now found. Others hunt in old walls, or among decayed trees, where insects are hidden in a dormant state, or are snugly ensconced in their warm cocoons, awaiting the first warm touch of spring.

### History of January

The earliest calendars (the Jewish, the Egyptian, and Greek) did not place the commencement of the year at this point. It was not done until the formation of the Roman calendar, usually attributed to the second king, Numa Pompilius, whose reign is set down as terminating anno 672 B.C.

Numa, it is said, having decreed that the year should commence now, added two new months to the ten into which the year had previously been divided, calling the first Januarius, in honour of Janus, the deity supposed to preside over doors, who might very naturally be presumed also to have something to do with the opening of the year.

Although, however, there was a general popular regard to the 1st of January as the beginning of the year, the ancient Jewish year, which opened with the 25th of March, continued long to have a legal position in Christian countries.

In England, it was not until 1752 that the 1st of January became the initial day of the legal, as it had long been of the popular year. Before that time, it was customary to set down dates between the 1st of January and the 24th of March inclusive, thus: January 30th, 1648-9: meaning, that popularly the year was 1649, but legally 1648.

Our Saxon ancestors originally called this month Wolf month—that is, Wolf-month—'because people were always in that month to be more in danger to be devoured of wolves than in any season else of the year; for that, through the extremity of cold and snow, those ravenous creatures could not find beasts sufficient to feed upon.' Subsequently, the same people After-Yule—that is named the month, after Christmas. It is rather odd that we should have abandoned the Saxon names of the months, while retaining those of the days of the week.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers's Book of Days visit [www.thebookofdays.co](http://www.thebookofdays.co)



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# THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

## Christmas comes (earlier) once a year

Bill Meredith

*"Time is fun when you're having flies."*

—Kermit the Frog

*"I will go to my shop and make me a bowl, and only I will judge its beauty, and only those I love will share it."*

—Vannevar Bush, Pieces of the Action

Our first grandson arrived in 1984, and it was a life-changing event. When Christmas came that year, my wife used the occasion as an excuse for unprecedented feats of shopping. I understood her enthusiasm, but did not share it; for me, the thought of actually going into a store and buying something was too traumatic to consider. So, after many sleepless nights of worry and guilt, I arrived at a solution to the problem: I would go to the shop and make a gift for him. The idea came as something akin to divine inspiration, and it seemed to work well. He was not able to talk yet, so he accepted my gift with the same expression of mystified befuddlement that he gave to my wife's offerings. Thus began a tradition.

It worked very well for the next couple of years; weeks of pre-Christmas stress were replaced by a couple of pleasant days puttering in the shop. When the first granddaughter arrived I happily adjusted by spending an extra day or two at the workbench. But things were chang-

ing; I wasn't aware of it for a while, but time was speeding up. New grandchildren kept appearing, and before I realized it there were six of them to provide for; and as they got older the presents got more complicated to make. To add to the problem, while time was speeding up, I was slowing down; everything took longer than it used to. Now, each year Christmas gets here earlier, and for the past three years I haven't got everything done on time.

It helped some that the oldest grandson grew up and moved to Minnesota; I could make his gift after Christmas and blame the U. S. Postal Service for the fact that he didn't get it until mid-January. Last year the oldest granddaughter was also away, but I still didn't get everything done on time. So this year my wife decided enough was enough, and insisted that I scrap the whole idea of making things and buy presents like everyone else. This was tempting until I realized I would have to go shopping again. Then I started having nightmares about being trampled to death by crowds in malls or getting locked in a store by evil clerks who wouldn't release me until I bought the latest computer games and cell phones for everyone.

I think the last time I was in a store by myself was in 1963; when I saw how much more expensive everything has become since then, I blacked out and was confined to bed, unable to sleep or eat for nearly a week. I finally persuaded my wife

that keeping up traditions was essential to the maintenance of family harmony, so she allowed me to continue making presents, provided that I promise to start earlier.

It was obvious that planning was required. I estimated that even with time going faster and me going slower, it should be easy to make a present in a week. A few key-punches on my wife's calculator revealed that six grandchildren at a week per present would take six weeks to complete, and I could finish them all comfortably if I started early in November. It was a good theory. It also was a good example of the difference between theory and reality; as Yogi Berra once said, "Sometimes it doesn't always work."

In November I lost two days cleaning leaves from the yard, two more helping my wife with Thanksgiving, one writing my December article for the News-Journal, and two on an unplanned visit to family in West Virginia. December was even worse; there were two all-day field trips with the Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count, putting up decorations at home and at church, several parties and dinners, the usual chores that keep the household functioning, and... you get the picture. As I write this (several days past the deadline), I have finished only three presents and there are two days left before Christmas.

The kids are big now, big enough to understand that presents are among the least important things about Christmas. We make a fuss about them because it's fun and brings back memories of simpler times in our lives; but if parents are doing their job right, even small



Pogo was a long-running daily comic strip, created by Walt Kelly (1913-1973). Set in the Okefenokee Swamp of the southeastern United States, the strip engaged in social and political satire through the adventures of its anthropomorphic funny animal characters.

children who still believe in Santa Claus are starting to understand that health, family, and concern for those less fortunate than ourselves are more important than boxes of stuff under the tree.

The stories... the star appearing over Bethlehem, wise men arriving from the mysterious East, the baby in the manger... are part of our Christian heritage, but people of other faiths and even those of no faith at all will usually agree that Peace on Earth and Good Will toward others are ideals worth hoping for, and celebrating them once a year is not a bad idea.

For the past few years I have kept the tradition of quoting Pogo's Christmas poem:

*"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 dream,  
and dreams, the stuff of years;  
the gentle journey wanders on  
through laughter, love and tears."*

Christmas will be over by the time you read this, but if you are lucky there will still be some bits of its spirit hanging around the house and drifting through the air. I hope you take Kermit's garbled advice and have fun as we enter the New Year. I will spend as much time in the shop as I can, hoping, like Vannevar Bush, that what I make is beautiful, and being satisfied, like Garrison Keillor, if it's pretty good. May your journey into the New Year be a gentle one.

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IN THE COUNTRY

# The bedrock of it all

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

The thread pulling the tapestry together is a quiet unseen force that binds the parts to the whole. Understanding how geology affects the unseen forces of our world is a philosophical exercise, but is still relevant nonetheless. Mineral composition of soils can make or break agriculture or mining. Mountains and valleys create weather patterns. They direct moisture and rivers through areas that attract biological diversity in plants, animals, and people. A business enterprise, called The Potomac Canal Company, at Great Falls, Virginia led by George Washington and others persuaded elected officials to draft the Constitution (in favor of the Articles of Confederation). This new governing document, among other things, allowed states to easily engage in interstate commerce. This change was necessary to the survival of his canal business, which allowed boats to circumnavigate the dangerous falls and gorge - connecting the ever expanding west to the coastal ports of the east. For better or worse, the river and the rocks are somewhat responsible for our current system of government.

Simply put: geology is the study of the Earth's history, its physical structure and substance, and the processes that act on the Earth. Geology is part of a larger interdisciplinary study called earth sciences. Of all the hard sciences, geology is one of the least understood and appreciated sciences. Puns aside, geology is the bedrock on which everything else rests. The physical structure and substances below and around us create the conditions for everything else. Geology is directly or indirectly responsible for shaping local climates, hydrological conditions, agriculture, biological diversity, economic conditions, and the course of history.

Rocks are split into three basic groups: igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic. The groups are determined by how the rock was formed. Igne-

ous rocks are formed by cooling lava. They make up 95% of the earth's crust although most are hidden under the soil and other rocks.

Sedimentary rocks are formed over long periods of sediment deposition and compression. Small eroded pieces of rock, silt, and organic materials settle at the bottom of bodies of water. Water is surprisingly heavy (weighing about 7 lbs per gallon) and over time as the weight of an ocean bears down on the debris it compresses everything together eventually forming hardened rock.

Metamorphic rocks are formed by heat and pressure. Metamorphosis means to change. Metamorphic rocks start out as something else - usually sedimentary or igneous rocks, but sometimes other metamorphic rocks. As they're exposed to extreme heat and pressure they change old minerals into new minerals. A good example of a metamorphic rock is a diamond. Diamonds start out their life as graphite, a metamorphic rock that many people use every day in pencils. If graphite or other carbon containing minerals are under pressure and heat for many years they can eventually turn into diamonds.

The rocks of the Catoctin Mountain and Blue Ridge ranges came to be the way they are today through a long history involving volcanic eruptions, sediment deposition, mountain building, and erosion. About 600 million years ago (mya), this area was an ancient, eroded, granite mountain range. Then the continent separated into different tectonic plates. This stretching formed a rift in the crust that ran through what is now Catoctin. Lava, with different chemical compositions, oozed up to the surface. This formed two different types of rock: lighter colored rhyolite with more quartz and the darker-colored basalt.

As early continents separated, a body of water called the Iapetus Ocean formed near present day Catoctin. Over the next 200 million years the land sank below sea level and riv-

ers eroded sediment off the mountains. Overtime sediment, silt, and sand settled at the bottom of the Iapetus Ocean and compressed into sedimentary rock.

The Iapetus Ocean gradually disappeared as all landmasses converged to form the supercontinent Pangaea. The force of these collisions created faults, folds, and mountains that may have been as tall as the Himalayas. The geologic cataclysms uplifted the land, compressed, and transformed the Catoctin volcanic and sedimentary rock formations. The basalt became a unique metabasalt, also known as Catoctin Greenstone. Rhyolite became metarhyolite.

During the Triassic Period, Pangaea began to break up. Africa and Europe moved away from North America, opening up the Atlantic Ocean. As the crust stretched large blocks of land slid downward and away from each other along faults. On the eastern side of this fault land slid downward more than a mile forming a trough we call the Monocacy Valley.

Over the next 200 million years streams and landslides have eroded the mountains that were once 15,000 to 20,000 feet high down to hills less than 2,000 feet. During the most recent Ice Age Catoctin had an extremely cold climate. Water trickling into fractures in rock outcrops would freeze. Expanding ice gradually pried apart boulders. This frost wedging, along with the wedging action of plant roots, still contributes to the breakdown of rocks here.

Fastforwarding through to roughly 200 - 900 AD, all this geologic chaos had real, practical, timeline altering implications. Metarhyolite, formed during the formation of Pangaea,



The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is a vast treasure chest of geologic and other natural wonders. Sadly, the Trump administration wants to open this national treasure to strip mining and drilling.

was mined by American Indians. This durable rock was ideal for projectile points and other tools. Active quarrying at Catoctin occurred from about 200 to 900 AD. Various quarry sites and artifacts have been discovered throughout the range. Catoctin was an Algonquin word for "Place of many deer." The wooded rolling hills and valley below made an ideal range for hunting, fishing, and farming. Mineral deposits would later become an important economic driver for the region too.

European settlers began mining hematite iron ore for production in the early 18th century. An active iron works fueled industry on the mountain from 1776 through 1903. Iron from this furnace was commonly used to craft plates, stoves, cannon and musket ammunitions, and wheels. Thousands of acres of the mountain's forest were logged to produce charcoal, which fueled the iron furnace operation. The ruins of the iron furnace can still be explored at Cunningham Falls State Park and charcoal making sites are still displayed within Catoctin Mountain Park. Industry dried up in the beginning of the 20th century. An industrial past gave way

for a future of recreation and conservation as the land was set aside becoming state and national park sites.

The American west is more synonymous with grand peaks and inspiring canyons. Geological history and influence is all around us though. It shapes our everyday lives, and though we usually step over and around them, rocks can transport us through time by millions of years. Geology helps us understand our planetary timeline, giving us glimpses into the past through trapped isotopes and chemical compositions. Utilizing what surrounds us gives us materials for building civilizations. From hunting equipment to full-scale industrial outputs to providing historical atmospheric data so we can plan for tomorrow. All that's needed is an understanding and a willingness to see what's there, accept what we learn about it, and do with that information what we can. Geology can be the unseen thread connecting our past to the future by utilizing the thread of understanding.

The read past articles by Tim Iverson visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## REAL SCIENCE

# Plastic pollution of the environment

Michael Rosenthal

We previously wrote in this column about the uses and downsides of using plastic, primarily on the use of plastic bags. Here we will take a look at a broader perspective on plastic use, its impact on the environment, and the progress that has been made in reducing the contamination of the environment.

Plastic accumulation in the environment has a negative effect on wildlife, animal habitats, and the earth. Plastic pollution is categorized as micro-, meso-, or macro, depending on size. Because plastics are inexpensive to manufacture and are durable, they receive high levels of use. But because of the chemical structure of most plastics, they do not degrade easily; and hence, pollute land, waterways, and oceans in a major way. This plastic pollution has a major effect as well on marine animals, who can both get entangled in plastic waste or have their health negatively impacted by internal exposure to the chemicals in plastic waste.

Some 380 million tons of plastic is produced worldwide yearly, and some 6.3 billion tons have been produced worldwide from the 1950s to the present. If you are old enough, you can remember when soda and beer came in glass bottles, then in metal cans. Only about 9% of this plastic has been recycled and about 12% incinerated. The rest of it enters the environment into landfills, in the broader environment, and into the oceans. Though there have been some efforts toward reducing plastic use and promotion of recycling, plastic waste in the environment continues to grow.

Microdebris are plastic pieces between 2 millimeters and 5 millimeters in size. They end up in

ocean waters through rivers and streams. They are so small that it is impractical to salvage them after release. They often end up ingested by organisms and can cause adverse health effects. They often carry remnants of pesticides. Microdebris has been found on beaches worldwide. Macrodebris is plastic larger than 20 mm. This category includes the infamous plastic grocery bags. They are often found in ocean waters and can have a serious negative impact on native organisms. Macrodebris is often trapped by fishing nets, weighing up to 6 tons. Some plastic items decompose faster than others. The Marine Conservancy has predicted that the decomposition rate of a foam plastic cup will take 50 years!

Another major source of plastic pollution is ocean-based sources. Merchant ships expel cargo, sewage, used medical equipment, and other types of waste into the ocean. It is estimated that 20% of the debris that pollutes ocean water, some 5.6 million tons, comes from these sources. Naval, research, and pleasure crafts all contribute to this pollution. Discarded fishing gear is thought to be the major source of ocean plastic pollution.

Litter that reaches the oceans is often toxic to marine and human life. Toxins that are components of plastics include diethyl phthalate, a carcinogen, as well as the toxic metals lead, cadmium, and mercury. Plankton, fish, and humans ingest these toxic chemicals through the food chain, and thus can cause illness and death.

Entanglement in plastic debris affects and kills many marine organisms, including fish, seals, turtles, and birds. The entanglement in the plastic leads to suffocating or drowning, starvation, and



If we don't act now, there could be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. Plastic pollution can kill marine mammals directly through entanglement in objects such as fishing gear, as well as through ingestion when mistaken for food.

availability to predators. It has been estimated that at least 267 different animal species have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of plastic debris, and that over 400,000 marine mammals perish annually due to plastic pollution in oceans.

So, plastic has serious adverse effects on ocean critters and eventually on humans, as well as on other species, including birds. It is in the best interest of worldwide health to reduce plastic pollution as much as possible. Reducing the use of plastic bags and replacing them with reusable or biodegradable materials is one good step, but not the whole story.

One might be concerned about plastic pollution of tap water. A 2017 study found that 83% of tap water around the world contained microparticle plastic pollutants. Human health impacts are not clear, but studies are taking place.

And where does all this plastic in the oceans originate? A reliable study in 2015 found that the majority plastic pollution in the oceans comes from China, Indonesia, the Philippines and other Asian and African countries.

The examples above as well as others make it clear that efforts to reduce the use of plastics and to promote plastic recycling are import-

ant. Substitution in supermarkets of reusable or biodegradable bags is one important initiative. Though biodegradable plastic has some advantages, it is not totally without its own problems. Biodegradables degrade best in industrial composters, and methane gas may be a product. The degrading process is slow, and often biodegradation is not complete. Incineration of medical materials has to be done carefully in order to minimize the impact of toxic gas or ash.

My conclusion is that we should reduce the use of plastic waste as much as we possibly can.

We have written before about the imagined link between vaccination and autism, and have stated here that there has been no scientific evidence uncovered that links them. An important new research study, reviewing more than 80,000 children over a four-year period, reinforces that conclusion. Kaiser Permanente looked at these tens of thousands of children in the hospital system and found absolutely no association, published in a respectable journal, between the prenatal Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine and autism spectrum disorder. It is the latest in a long line of studies showing that there is absolutely no link

between vaccines and autism. Why has this myth of the vaccine-autism link persisted, when there is absolutely no evidence whatever linking them? In 1998 a fraudulent research paper was published showing a connection between the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine and autism. This fraudulent paper published by a British doctor has had a terrible impact in causing many parents to avoid vaccines for their children. It is recommended by the medical establishment that pregnant women get the Tdap vaccines so they can develop antibodies and pass them on to newborn children, that children get their first vaccine at two months of age, and that they receive a second dose at four months of age.

A related story is that measles, which was headed to elimination in Europe, has surged to the highest level in two decades, as vaccination rates fall short. (I had measles as a child, long before the vaccine was developed, and I can assure you it was not fun!). The increase in Europe is because only 90% of children receive the recommended two-dose vaccination in early childhood as recommended. The cause is attributed to a combination of complacency, lack of information, opposition to vaccination, distrust of government, and economic and political instability, says an official in the World Health Organization. The countries most affected are Ukraine, Italy and Greece. Migration of those from countries with low vaccination rates, particularly the Middle East and Africa, is thought to be a major factor. Health officials seek a 95% coverage in each community. Measles is spread by exhaled airborne droplets. An infected person could cause the disease in 12 to 18 people breathing the same air; by comparison, for influenza the number of individuals infected by exhaling is only 2 or 3. Measles fortunately only rarely causes death; however, it can do lasting harm to survivors with weak immune systems. Anyone who has had measles has lifelong immunity.

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# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Fascination

Jack Deatherage

Many things have fascinated me these past 64 years. Mom's "year of bread" when I was in the first grade in Columbus Ohio. Her teaching me to plant flower seeds—using pinto beans to show me how the seeds might sprout and grow also happened that year.

Her "year of jellies" when we lived along Topper Road between this place and Fairfield, Last Brother only a few months old, and bushels of crab apples, Concord grapes, and gallons of raspberries, blackberries and persimmons filled her kitchen. The "tomato years" along the Taneytown Pike when Mom put up dozens of quarts of the fruits Dad grew each summer and I used to perfect a pasta sauce I've still not managed to reproduce forty some years later! The "year of reading" fell upon me after I survived the fifth grade.

Prior to that, I only read what I was forced to read in school. The "year of writing" exploded in my head during the eighth grade when we were required to write a story we made up.

Somewhere along the way the three sisters took up pencils and paper, began to draw and eventually to paint. With eight mouths to feed (five of them in their teenage years) and only Dad bringing money home, there was seldom cash for "art". The sisters pretty much had to look forward to Christmas for new paints, brushes and canvas.

My getting a job after high school, buying an old Royal typewriter and packs of paper instantly provided my sisters with constant paper to draw on. And draw they did, often at the dinner/poker/writing table in Middle Brother and my's bedroom.

I was amazed and envious, by and of, the sisters' ability to show me what they were seeing in their heads. They eventually told me they were frustrated to no end because they couldn't reproduce what they were envisioning! First Sister told me she envied my ability to express myself in written words! She was surprised at my frustration with being unable to record in print what was rampaging between my ears! All these years later I'm guessing our lack of education in the "art" subjects we were interested in led to the worst of our inabilities to express our visions clearly?

First Sister stuck with canvas and paints longer than the other two.

When I had money I wasn't flinging away on my hobbies I'd commission a painting, usually a copy of some picture I'd found in a sword and sorcery art collection. She never made a profit from those efforts, insisting I pay only for paint, canvas, frame and shipping. (I once drove to Norfolk, VA to bring a painting home. She decided she didn't like it and sent me home without it! She redid much of the work and mailed it to me a coupla weeks later.)

"You ask for the most detailed subjects and they force me to get better!" Then she'd add, "Besides, you can't afford my asking prices."

Had I not been in love with fishing, hunting, motorcycles, books and beer in those years I'd have become First Sister's patron.

Simona, the Mad One (another "sister" I'd have willingly patronized had circumstances allowed), years later sat by our bow window and carefully applied paint to leather-creating Old World maps that were simply amazing—though she made frustrated faces while pointing out the flaws and grumbling her disgust over her lack of skill. Educated in an art school, she claimed she wasn't an artist!

I've had some small success with gardening and bread building (my longest lasting fascinations) though the gardens are an ongoing lesson in frustration. Bread building has its ups and downs as well, and I'm currently on the upward swing as the weather has cooled enough to heat the oven to 550 degrees weekly. It helps to have someone willing to eat the bread when we can't. Tattoo Journeyman Jamie has willingly taken up that task. Still, those successes barely scratch the fascination itch.

Recently gifting paper and colored pencils to some neighbor kids exploring their artistic abilities briefly calmed whatever drives the urge to patronize. The DW reminding me the household bills, food, car payments and house repairs take precedence over my need to give away money we don't have almost snapped me back to reality— I grumbled, "Details. Details." But she writes the checks so I acquiesce, eventually. Still the mind continues its twisting way toward aiding someone in advancing their artistic skills! But how to do that without spending money I don't have?

Ah-ha!

Journeyman Jamie came to

Emmitsburg Tattoo Company full-time in December. As he's building his list of regular clients, Tattoo Don- Pillar of the Community, brought in Apprentice Rae. "She's got crazy art skills." Don has remarked more than once.

"Umm... doesn't an apprentice need a canvas to practice on?" Some idiot asks.

"Of course. They tattoo themselves first. Then, usually friends and family." He gives me a look that suggests he doesn't understand what I'm getting at.

"And the victim- urr canvas doesn't pay for the tattooing?" The idiot presses on.

"Of course not. You don't charge a "practice" volunteer for sitting in the chair and enduring a lesson."

I ponder that for a moment. "Okay."

"Okay what?"

"Okay. I'll be her canvas if she needs one."

We stare at each other for a bit, each wondering if they'd heard the idiot correctly.

"Thank you. But why?"

"What else I got to do all day?" I keep my serious face in place. "Besides, she's impressed you enough to take her on as an apprentice. How many others have you turned down before her?"

When Apprentice Rae is told I've offered my hide as canvass she cracks a grin that leaves me pondering idiocy in a whole 'nother light. I don't read females, being denser than the average male. Is she happy to have a



With a tattoo like this, there will be no way anyone will mess with Jack on the street – not that the clown outfit doesn't give him away first.

volunteer because she truly wants to learn the craft, or is she envisioning me whining and blubbing as she sadistically marks me for life? Either way, I'll have to invest in a pack of adult diapers before sitting in the chair.

Probably the coolest thing about sacrificing my hide is my getting to watch and listen to the master directing the apprentice. From concept to design, from explanations of skin type (old goat in my case) to how the machine is held, to how the pins are angled and the stroke made, to what to do when the victim- urr client passes out- I find the process fascinating. (Some days I

worry about this drive to patronize an artist.)

Being unable to decide what pictures I'd willingly carry in my skin for the rest of my life I'm going to leave that up to the tattooers, merely keeping the right of refusal. I might suggest a brief message across my forehead though: Do not resuscitate.

Oops. I've just been informed the DW is claiming the right of refusal as well. Women- always with the practical nonsense.

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

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Small Town Gardener

House plants: start strong, stay strong

Marianne Willburn

A very good friend of mine wants absolutely nothing to do with houseplants.

This would not be an unusual sentence in the slightest if it weren't for the fact that she grows thousands of plants professionally and could bring Lazarus back from the dead if Lazarus happened to be a scruffy geranium.

I have no desire to change her mind. I do grow a lot of houseplants during the winter, but mostly due to the fact that I don't have the greenhouses she does (or the propane bills). During the warm growing season there are one or two that remain inside (it would be odd to lose all green in the house), but everything else is kicked out the door just as soon as the night time temperatures allow it.

Taking care of houseplants requires effort. But more importantly, it requires sustained effort – and this is the reason that many people fail. Either they forget, or that effort ranks low on an already too long to-do list.

So, for those of us who are creating an indoor jungle more out of necessity than in order to create premium content on six social media channels, I'd like to share a few of the things I do to make the whole process easier.

Spend money on saucers and waterproof cork mats or pot feet.

Water-collecting saucers are a no-brainer, but I also like to use cork mats to ensure that any moisture either percolating through the saucer (glazed or unglazed ceramic), or condensing because of temperature differences on surfaces, is absorbed and caught. Sometimes just putting an air cushion between the saucer and the surface with pot feet is enough to save my surfaces.

Don't bring the plant in unless you are 99.5% sure it is pest free.

That ship has sailed this season, but it will sail again next October. The best pest prevention is not knowingly bringing pests into the house in the first place. You can never be 100% sure – and the chances are there are some pests present that you can't see – but why start off with an infestation when you could start with just a minor issue?

Arrange plants together for increased humidity and ease of care.

Indoor plants growing together in pots often do better than those grown on their own – as do air plants clustered together. Humidity is naturally increased and you get to water one container – not several.

Put plants that you particularly love in high traffic areas. Relegating your beloved fiddle-leafed fig to a corner



Although cats are primarily carnivores, they also nibble on plants, for added nutrients or fiber. Young tender vegetation seems to be their favorite.



Of all the flowering bulbs, amaryllis are the easiest to bring to bloom. The large flowers and ease with which they can be brought to bloom make amaryllis popular Christmas plants. Amaryllis comes in many beautiful varieties including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange.

will grow. These leaves are often referred to as "straps". Allow these straps to grow and develop. Treat your amaryllis as you would any other houseplant. Water when it is dry and continue growing it in a sunny window.

When spring approaches and the nighttime temps are above 55 degrees F, plant your bulb outside. It can be maintained in a container, or you could plant in a flower or vegetable garden. It will continue to grow its leaves throughout the summer. Keep the bulb well-watered and fertilize heavily. When fertilizing, use a fertilizer with a ratio of 10-10-10 or 5-10-5. Feed every other week and mix according to the label.

When fall approaches and cool temperatures arrive, it is almost time to bring the bulb back inside. After a hard frost, dig up the bulb, knock all the soil from the roots, and store it in a cool, dry location. The bulb requires a dormant time, which is the reason for the storage time. Keep a close eye on the bulb, because when the flower spike begins to appear, it's time to pot it again. You could pot the bulb after about 2 months of dormancy whether the spike is beginning to appear or not. Then the process begins all over again and you can enjoy the flower another season!

Some problems that you may fumble into: If just the straps are produced, and no flower spike the following year, this is an indication of not enough fertilizer

through the summer months. Few pests bother the amaryllis. If an insect, like aphids, bothers the plant, use an insecticidal soap. Be sure to read the label before applying. This is an easy plant to grow and with patience and proper care, you can enjoy the amaryllis flowers year after year!

The Norfolk Island Pine is another common houseplant given over the holidays. This plant also requires lots of sunlight. Water the plant when the soil is dry to the touch. Feed it regularly, about once a month, with a well-balanced fertilizer. This plant does well in a cooler room as well as a warm room. However, dry air isn't a good idea. It prefers humidity. Keep the plant away from fireplaces or near heaters.

A common insect problem with the Norfolk is mealy bugs. They will hide in the scales of the leaves or needles. If you see these insects, insecticidal soap or a horticultural oil spray will take care of them. Often more than one application will be necessary for good control. Once again, be sure to read the label before applying any insecticide.

It's great to receive plants as gifts over the holidays. Armed with proper care and knowledge of potential problems will make your lasting gift live a long and healthy life!

To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

of your bedroom means you don't see it, enjoy it and take care of it as much as you would if you sat next to it on a couch in the living room. Consider the preciousness of your plants as you arrange them indoors.

Cover bare soil with some type of 'indoor mulch'

Gravel, grit or perlite spread thickly (1 inch) on the soil surface keeps down fungus gnats and other pests and helps the plant to retain moisture between waterings. Using hardwood or organic mulch will help with moisture retention, but will not keep down gnats.

Give yourself a routine.

Twice a week is usually best for checking your plants and watering if necessary. Monday and Thursday nights, or Saturday and Tuesday mornings...etc. Decide what works for you and force yourself to follow that schedule until a habit is created.

When watering, give the plant a once over.

Look carefully for signs of spider mite, aphids, mealy bug, etc. and get on top of them before they fully infest the plant. Without natural predators, many of these pests can become a big problem quickly.

Make plant care convenient and you'll do it more often

Leave watering cans under more than one sink for multi-floored houses.

Take fertilizer out of its bulky packaging and put it into lidded jars with scoops – store with your watering cans.

Feed your plants with a half or quarter strength fertilizer every time you water rather than keeping track of 'Do I feed this week or not?'

Once a plant has been neglected, it quickly loses its appeal. And if you thought you had little motivation to take care of healthy plants, try coming up with even more enthusiasm to treat a browning schefflera with scale issues. Better to create some new habits so you can spend winter with plants that enhance your indoor spaces not deplete them.

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. You can read more at [www.smalltowngardener.com](http://www.smalltowngardener.com) or follow The Small Town Gardener on Facebook.

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# THE BEST NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION EVER ...

Thanks to our friends at the Emmitsburg News-Journal, we're having a second month of pet photos to start the new year! These sweet babies are looking for a home and one of the greatest gifts shelter workers could get for 2018 would be to get the four-legged souls in their care out of a cage and into a forever home. If you or anyone you know is looking for a furry friend, please take a look below. The love of an animal is often one of the strongest, most rewarding relationships a person can find. If you want to help but can't adopt, the shelter is always in need of monetary or pet supply donations, including kitten food and adult cat food with meat as the first ingredient. From all of us at CVAS to all of you, we wish you the happiest, healthiest New Year.

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/FCAC) or call them at 301-600-1546.



Ace is an incredibly unique boy - he's a male tortie cat! This coloring is quite rare in males. He's about 6 months old and raised in a foster home where he was around all kinds of other animals. He's a sweet guy looking for a forever home. He'll make a great addition to any family.



Stella is a 9-year-old Persian who came into the shelter as a stray. She's front declawed and is the sweetest girl. She loves to purr and snuggle. Those gorgeous, expressive blue eyes show nothing but love. She's going to make someone an amazing companion.



Ragu is 3 year old brown tabby girl who has been with us since November 2017. She's a super sweet girl who lives in our treatment room for some extra space. She had kittens when she first arrived and all of her babies have been adopted, but mama still needs a home. Ragu is super playful and loves her nightly treats. Come meet her!



Chocolate Murray is a 9-year-old brown tabby boy who came into the shelter as a stray, but we found out he had been adopted from us when he was a kitten - nine years ago. We have not been able to find his owners, so now he's again looking for a home. He'd make someone a great companion.



Khaleesi is a 4-year-old tabby and white girl with medium hair who was brought into the shelter because her owner was moving. She is a very sweet girl who loves attention but may do best as the only cat in a quiet home. If you have the right place for Khaleesi, please come adopt her!



Lady Bug is a 5-year-old brown tabby girl who came in as a stray in April. She's a real sweetheart and likes to supervise anything that's going on, as cats will often do. If you're looking for a fun friend, come meet Lady Bug! She's ready for her forever home and will make a great addition to a warm and loving family.



Shirley was brought into the shelter as a stray in March of this year so we know very little about her past. She is a sweet, 3-year-old girl that is full of adventure! She loves to explore and can't wait to search out all the cool spots in your house!



Cloud is an adult male guinea pig who sings when he gets his veggies. He was surrendered to the shelter with another guinea pig who's been adopted, but Cloud is still here. He should probably be the only guinea pig in his habitat because he can be a bit of a bully when he wants.

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# Could he be waiting for you?

**Jennifer Vanderau**  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

Sometimes he just can't sleep; fear is a troublesome bedfellow. Plus, waking up is difficult – especially when he remembers where he is – in a cage, in a shelter, with so many other felines like him.

Granted, his current conditions are far better than his previous ones. He's warm. There's food and fresh water. That's new. How many nights had he tried to sleep with a grumbling belly? He'd been so hungry so often he thought that was how his life would be. Living on the streets is so tough.

Plus, someone changes the blankets and towels every day. And they're really nice. He loves when they hold him. Cuddle him. Pet him. He never experienced that when he was out on his own. Humans were the enemy out there -- so many of them hated him.

He purrs when the staff pays attention to him. He didn't think he could anymore, but amazingly, he does. He has to admit, no one else has ever given him a second chance like the people at the shel-

ter, so that's something.

Most of the time, though, he trembles, curls himself inside the litterbox they'd put in his cage. He knows it's ridiculous. He must look bizarre and he should be tough coming from the streets, but he's just so scared.

The other cats seem hopeful. He wants to scoff at them, tell them what happens when you get your hopes up, but for some reason, he can't bring himself to do it.

And the kittens! To have that energy! He can't remember a time when he was happy like that.

He watches the kittens "go home" as the staff calls the adoptions. He listens to the oohs and aahs of the people who want to adopt them. "Oh, mommy, look, they're adorable!" they'll say and he rolls his eyes.

He stays in his litterbox. What's the point? He knows he's not adorable. He's just a regular black cat with green eyes, who's a little rough around the edges. He's nothing special. If people look close enough, they'll see his scars. On his ears, on his neck, his legs, but it's the ones you can't see that really hurt.

He knows he can't compete with

kittens for the attention of the people.

He tries to stay grounded in reality. It hurts less that way. When your expectations aren't high, you don't get disappointed when they aren't met. He sees so much hope around him, some days it's sickening.

Hope is for fools. Hope is the easiest way to get your heart stomped on. One of the older, tougher cats on the outside told him "hope is the denial of reality." It was apparently a reference from a human book. They'd both laughed when he said it. They understood their reality. He still does.

He refuses to be a fool. He wants to face life with his eyes open, understanding what could happen so he doesn't get caught off guard.

He's heard the stories – you can't help it around here – and on rare occasions when he was out on the street, he'd actually seen evidence of it. He'd glance up to a window and see one. The cat with a home, asleep on the back of a couch, such a peaceful expression. He didn't think that kind of serenity was even possible.

Sometimes, he sees it here. The faces of the cats who have an "adopted" sticker on their cages.

Relief. Ease. Like the proverbial weight has been lifted. He sees the photos that the people send to the shelter staff -- of the animals in their "forever homes," as they're called. He knows those animals are the lucky ones.

And, God help him, in his dreams he sees her. The woman he calls his mom. She has such gorgeous hair. It smells like apples and she lets him run his nose and paws through it when he sits behind her on the couch. Her eyes are incredible – so understanding, so compassionate. They look into his and he knows she knows. He knows she understands what he's been through. She knows he's not perfect, not the most beautiful creature on the planet. But she opens her heart anyway and loves him. For who he is. Scars and all.

And he loves her back with everything he has. He purrs in her lap, rubs his head against her legs. Tells her every day, every second, even though he can't speak in words, how very much she means to him.

The dream is beautiful – so very vivid that for a few minutes, he knows what peace would feel like. With his

mom he would never again be hungry, afraid or lonely. She would protect him. He would be safe.

But he wakes, every time, inside the litterbox. In the cage. At the shelter. And the pain of his reality chokes him.

It's foolish to hope; he knows that. But on the days after an especially intense dream, he can't stop himself from looking. For her.

Despite everything, all his previous experience, he wants to believe she'll come for him.

And so he waits. He's still waiting. Could he be waiting for you?

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



Charlie is a 7 year old who was surrendered because his owners were moving and they could not take him along with them. He was in the same home for his whole life and when he came in to the shelter, he completely shut down and would not eat. He is now coming around and is used to his routine with the staff. Charlie needs someone that understands that he will probably have an adjustment period to a new home. Once he is in a home and settles in he will be the sweetest and most loyal boy.



Josie is a 4-year-old hound/Shepherd mix who was returned to the shelter because things weren't working out. She's a sweet girl who knows how to sit, but needs to be the only animal in the home. Because of Josie's age and background, restriction for children may apply. If you think you've got the right spot for Josie, please stop out and meet her!



Sunshine came into the shelter as a stray and is just a sweetheart. She's a 3-year-old terrier and we think there may be some Shar-Pei in there because of her skin folds. She loves attention and scratches! She would do best in a home without cats. She did have some skin issues when she arrived and we're working on them, but with some good food and some antibiotics she looks and feels so much better.

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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

petco foundation

## COMMUNITY NOTES

# VHC's ambulance insurance

Emmitsburg's volunteer fire department, the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC), seeks to remind everyone of the importance of the Frederick County Government's "Ambulance Transport Insurance Billing" (ATIB, often called 'EMS Billing') to all Frederick County Residents that are transported by a Frederick County unit. The program helps citizens of Frederick County by assisting with out-of-pocket expenses for medically

necessary ambulance transports – including emergency medical responses.

The County's Division of Fire and Rescue Services mailed out information with subscription club forms to all Frederick County Residents a bit over a month ago. To enroll, simply fill out the membership enrollment form located in the pamphlets and list all persons living in the house who will be enrolled in the program. The

ATIB is a countywide program that provides reimbursement for services rendered for ambulance transport services. In most cases, insurance carriers, government programs, auto insurances, etc., will generally reimburse a portion for ambulance charges.

Frederick County's Division of Fire and Rescue Services began billing patient's medical insurance for ambulance transport services in January 2013, in an effort

to offset the rising cost of providing emergency medical services. Reimbursement of these funds assists with operational expenses incurred in providing an effective combination volunteer and career EMS system, while also offering some relief to the taxpayers of the County, too. The County does not charge those enrolled in the ATIB program and accepts insurance payments to cover expenses with no further expectation on the part of citizens.

Providing the highest quality of professional patient care and treatment continues to be our collective number one priority. If not enrolled in the ATIB program, the charges for ambulance transport

services are: Non-Emergency Basic Life Support transports, \$320; Emergency Basic Life Support transports, \$420; Advanced Life Support, Level 1 transports, \$600; Advanced Life Support, Level 2 transports, \$700. Additionally, ground mileage of \$10 per mile is charged, from incident pick up site to the closest medical facility.

Those enrolled in the ATIB program are not charged any of the above fees. For more information, either go to the website, <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/1119/Ambulance-Billing>, or stop by the VHC Fire / EMS Station at 25 West Main Street, near Town Square in Emmitsburg – or, should you wish to call by telephone contact 301-600-1644 directly for helpful and friendly insights.

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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Phiel and Martin announce bid for re-election

continued from page 1

Looking forward, Phiel and Martin hope to accomplish much more if re-elected, and noted that there are more worthy projects on the horizon. Converting the empty Mercy House on High Street to the first Substance Recovery Center in Adams County is currently on the Board's platter. Most of the renovation funding will come from grants and the county will still own the renovated property beside the old St. Francis school while collecting rent from the RASE Project who will manage the program and supervised facility. Additionally, the "new courthouse" built in the 70's, now almost 50 years old, will soon need some attention and upgrades.

Adams County economy is slowing improving, but admittedly has been very challenging during this Board's tenure, noted Phiel. Both Commissioners said they are proud to see the county's agri-tourism industry grow rapidly. Along with some other potential economic areas, the Board has been an advocate for the Gettysburg Station (REDDI) site on N. Stratton St. since coming into office. Both Martin and Phiel said they can't wait for the day the first shovel goes into the ground.

Martin said he had four main reasons for running for County Commissioner again. He said, "being a Commissioner is rewarding, and that he and Phiel desire to do even more." Martin drew on the proven experience of making county government operate effectively in the past and present. Martin also mentioned the "accumulated resources to do our job well and to deliver a return on that investment is an extra incentive." Martin said that, "thankfully our families are giving us the green light for another term."

Phiel said there is no doubt that the best part of the job beside work related successes, is having the opportunity to meet so many wonderful staff and resi-

dents from all around the county, who he otherwise would have never have an opportunity to meet and work with. He said, "just looking around the room at the standing room only crowd proves my point." Additionally, Phiel said that moving forward he would like to continue to help to provide superior human services and consistently effective operational and fiscal management, cultivate a superior work environment for staff, maintain the county's current fiscal health, and keep lines of communication with county residents open.

Both Phiel and Martin concluded their remarks by recognizing their families for their support in allowing them to serve with 100% commitment. Phiel thanked everyone for coming to the breakfast announcement, and Martin recognized those in attendance for their efforts and contributions to Adams County.

Newcomer, David Bolton, has also announced his candidacy for Adams County Commissioner. Although he has not served as a County Commissioner before he brings years of service to the County with his involvement in many local governments that make him a viable candidate for Adams County Commissioner. "County Commissioners," said Bolton, "are responsible for a myriad of duties in areas of which I have education and experience."

As a Certified Borough Official through the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) and a Certified Municipal Administrator through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Bolton has been educated in best practices and has demonstrated such by leading meetings in the various organizations and committees on which he serves. Additionally, as a Municipal Administrator, Legislative Chair for the Adams County Boroughs Association and voting member to the PSAB Resolution and Pol-

icy Committee, he is well versed in the writing, vetting and adoption processes involved with ordinances, resolutions, motions and regulations.

In regards to budget and finances, Bolton was responsible for both at Abbottstown Borough and was also involved for two terms in McSherrystown Council budgets. "Being involved with Capital Budgets for municipalities, various governmental and non-profit organizations, as well as my education, I vow to put fiscally-conservative principles at the front of Adams County business decisions," stated Bolton. While serving as a Municipal Administrator and Deputy Tax Collector, he has also built a working knowledge of the County's processes and the funding needed to ensure the proper execution of our provided services. Bolton said, "As Commissioner, I will work for the most efficient operations budget to stave off unnecessary future tax increases while maintaining our services."

With over 20 years of successful business management in various supervisory roles, as well as his education and experience in promoting effective workplace environments, Bolton noted that he would bring an attitude of empowerment and professional development to the Courthouse staff. "Invest in The People and The Organization will thrive!" Bolton's experience also extends to information dissemination. Having worked as an Internet Sales and Marketing Manager for a major car dealership and working as a Marketing Consultant, Bolton understands the importance IT plays in Operational Excellence. He has interacted with the County IT department for many years, and has supported their efforts and successes as they continue to improve the county's operations.

Finally, as a formerly appointed and currently elected State Constable, Bolton has extensively studied the election process in Adams County. He got involved to ensure the highest

standards of integrity were maintained in the election process and promises to do so as a member of the Board of Elections as Commissioner.

The Adams County Primary Election will be held on May 21. Let your voice be heard and cast your vote for your next County Commissioners.

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## HEALTH NOTES

# Snow shoveling safety

**Kelsey Shupe**  
**Frederick Memorial Hospital**

Frederick has not seen a big snowstorm yet, but winter is officially here and bringing with it frigid temperatures, and the possibility of heavy snow and dangerous ice. While it's exciting to be outside during a snowfall, it can be hazardous as well, especially when it comes to shoveling your driveway and sidewalk. Snow removal accounts for thousands of injuries each year.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2015:

- More than 158,000 people were treated in emergency rooms, doctor's offices, and clinics for injuries that happened while shoveling or removing ice and snow manually.
- More than 15,000 people were injured using snow blowers.
- The most common injuries associated with snow removal include sprains and strains in the back and shoulders, as well as serious cuts and finger amputations.
- Start while the snow accumulation is light—don't wait. When heavy snowfall is in the forecast, make sure to start snow removal early. This will help to reduce the amount of snow you have to remove throughout the storm, as well as reduce the risk of injury.
- Warm up your muscles before starting. Before you begin shoveling your driveway, stretch your arms, back, and legs to prevent injury during snow removal. A five-minute stretch can prevent a weeklong backache.
- Keep your hands 12 inches apart when holding the shovel to provide greater stability. Ensuring a strong and comfortable grip will prevent straining during lifting and carrying.
- Face toward the object you intend to lift—have your

### Tips to Prevent Injuries During Snow Removal

- Snow removal, whether by shovel or snow blower, can be difficult and dangerous if not done correctly. To help keep you, your family, and neighbors safe and healthy this winter, we recommend following these snow removal tips:
- Dress appropriately – wear multiple layers. Even if it doesn't feel like it's very cold, always wear multiple layers, make sure there are no holes in any of your clothing items, and choose gloves and shoes that are water repellant to protect your hands and feet.

shoulder and hips squarely facing the object. Properly positioning your body when attempting to lift the snow will help you to maintain balance on slick surfaces and prevent injury. Always keep the heaviest part of the shovel close to your body at your center of gravity.

- Bend at the hips and push the chest out, then bend your knees and lift with your legs. This proper lifting technique will protect your lower back while lifting the snow. A poor lifting technique will cause back and neck pain during snow removal.
- Avoid twisting the back—instead, pivot your whole body. Twisting your upper body, rather than pivoting your whole body, can lead to a strain in the back and an increased chance of falling due to being off balance.
- Walk to the new location to deposit the snow, rather than reaching or tossing. Lifting

and tossing the snow, rather than walking it to the deposit location, can be dangerous, especially on slick surfaces. The effort of tossing the snow standing still can cause you to lose balance and fall.

- Play it safe and ask a neighbor for help. If you have a pre-existing heart condition or any other condition or disability that could increase the risk of injury or death, ask a neighbor or family member to remove the snow or ice for you.
- Be a good neighbor. If you have an elderly or disabled neighbor, volunteer to remove the snow or ice in their driveway and around their car, as well as their walkway or porch to prevent the chance of an injury.

### Snow Blower Safety Tips

Using a snow blower can make snow removal quick and easy, but it can also be a dangerous way to remove snow if you have never used a snow blower before. Here are a few tips to use a snow blower safely:

- If the blower jams, turn it off. When snow is heavy and wet, it often clogs snow blowers. To safely unclog the blower, turn it off and wait for the blades to stop spinning, then use a broom handle or similar object to remove the packed snow.
- Ensure proper supervision. Never let a child or inexperienced person operate a snow blower without supervision. This could lead to severe injuries. Always make sure to educate people on proper snow blower use before allowing them to operate one.
- Fuel it before turning it on. This may sound like common sense, but injuries happen when people try to fill their snow blower's gas tank while it's on. If you need to refill during use, make sure to turn it off first.
- Plan for where you'll move the snow. Before you begin to use your snow blower, think about where the snow will end up. Go with the wind if you can to prevent snow blowing in your eyes, and make sure you're not blowing snow over surfaces you or a neighbor already cleaned.

Sometimes, no matter how safe you play, injuries happen. If back sprains, cuts, ankle sprains, neck injuries, breathing problems, or ailments that are more serious occur, such as symptoms of a heart attack, call your doctor, visit one of our Immediate Care locations, or visit the Emergency Department immediately.

*If you experience an injury that would benefit from rehabilitation therapy, FMH Rehab offers physical rehabilitation services throughout the Frederick area. For more information on our rehab services, visit [FMH.org](http://FMH.org) or call 240-566-3132.*



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## Future of National Fire Heritage Center in question

On Dec 18th, the National Fire Heritage Center (NFHC) announced the resignation of Emmitsburgian Wayne Powell from his position as Executive Director of the NFHC. Mr. Powell was a founding member of the center and was instrumental in the growth and prosperity of the NFHC since its founding in 2007. Mr. Powell submitted his resignation at the Center's annual meeting in October. Powell's resignation came on the heels on the election of a new President for the Center, Bill Killen.

Powell had previously retired from the U.S. Fire Administration prior to taking over his leadership role in the creation of the NFHC. Powell is a recognized, well-respected leader in the national fire fighter community.

The Board of Trustees for the NFHC named Mike Dixon of Elkton, Maryland as Powell's replacement. Dixon joined the Elkton Fire Company in the late 1960s. Today, he chairs the company's museum committee.

One day before Powell's resignation took effect, the Cecil County local newspaper - The Cecil Whig - ran a story indicating that Emmitsburg may be soon saying goodbye to the NFHC.

Sam Goldwater, Trustee for the NFHC, told the Whig that: "relocating to Elkton, MD, specifically taking occupancy at the Elkton LTC James Victor McCool Armory, may be the best option for the Fire Heritage Center in the future."

According to the Whig, "Gold-

water came before the Cecil County Board of Commissioners earlier in December to make his case for the move and explained to Elkton officials that the center is growing in artifacts and ambitions, triggering a need to expand."

The story caught many in the local fire community off guard, including Powell, who had worked tirelessly with Frederick County and Emmitsburg Officials, to bring the NFHC to Emmitsburg.

Prior to the establishment of the NFHC in 2005, there was no centralized, coordinated archival activity in the United States to ensure that important fire materials were saved in an accessible way. Much of the written history of "fire in America" was challenging to locate or, unfortunately, forever lost. Historical documentation that did exist was held in private collections where access was difficult or materials were not properly preserved.

When first launched, the original concept was referred to as "Heritage Hall." The NFHC of today is a more encompassing organizational title, which can be thought of as a central repository of significant written history of the fire services and fire protection disciplines from throughout our nation's history.

With a near non-stop flow of documents into the center, the center's archives are now spread over three locations. In an effort to consolidate all its archives the Center has been working actively with the town of Emmitsburg to secure a larger space.

But it appears some in the NFHC

hierarchy are unwilling to wait.

In discussing the need for the move, Goldwater told the Whig: "We anticipate we will be double in size by 2020, and we'll outgrow our facilities by then. We're at critical mass, if you will, on the timeline of having to make big decisions on where we're going to be now and into the future." Goldwater told the Commissioners. "[The armory] is an absolutely perfect building for us. It has the right amount of office space, working rooms downstairs and place for materials. It's really a perfect building for us."

The Whig also reported that Goldwater told Commissioners, "A larger space would give the center more room for artifacts, noting the armory's current ground-level gymnasium could be used for exhibits of antique fire engines brought in by the National Fire Museum Network. Moving to the armory could also open possibilities of partnering with the Smithsonian Institute to exchange artifacts," he added. "The additional space would also give the center the ability to create a research center."

News of the move hit the national fire community, which sees NFHC's location in Emmitsburg "a natural synergistic fit" given that Emmitsburg is home to the National Fire Academy. Emails, phone calls and messages of support for the center staying in Emmitsburg have been pouring in since the Whig broke the story.

Both the Frederick County Government and the Town of Emmitsburg actively supported the establishment



The National Fire Heritage Center draws scores of visitors every week to Emmitsburg. Its loss would add to the list of other national attractions that have either left Emmitsburg or never came to fruition over the past few years.

of the NFHC. Heritage Center staff, made up mostly by local Emmitsburg residents, do most of the repairs and maintenance under an arrangement where the NFHC pays 20% of facility's operating costs.

If the NFHC Trustees opt to move the center, they must first find funding, no easy matter in the budget-constrained organization, not to mention personnel to man a new facility.

Most of the work done at the NFHC is now done on a volunteer basis by local Emmitsburg residents. One of the key reasons for Powell's resignation was the failure of NFHC leadership to secure extra manpower to ensure the NFHC could continue to fulfill its mission. But his request for additional support went unanswered.

In an attempt to garner some answers, President Bill Killen of the NFHC as well as Sam Goldwater were contacted. No response was received from Goldwater in regards to this subject. Killen replied that he was unable

to supply more information regarding this matter at this time.

Killen has left unanswered the one question fire fighters across the county are asking - why leave Emmitsburg, which, because of the U. S. Fire Academy and the National Fallen Fire Fighter's Memorial, attracts hundreds of thousands of fire fighters from across the country, not to mention the huge loss the move would bring to education of the students and faculty of the National Emergency Training Center - and move to Elkton, which might - might - draw firefighters who happen to be driving between Philadelphia and Baltimore?

It makes no sense to us.

If the NFHC should relocate to another facility outside Emmitsburg, it will join the list of other attractions like the National Civil War Memorial and the John Armstrong rifle exhibit that have either left Emmitsburg or never came to fruition over the past few years.

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## WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

# Allies eye Bolshevik threat



Having defeated the military densities of the Central Powers, Western Powers lost little time in turning their attention to the anarchy that Bolshevism was bringing to Russia and Germany.

## Withdrawal Of US Forces In Russia Demanded

Discussion of the American expedition in Russia was renewed in the Senate when Sen. Johnson of California, a Republican, called for the withdrawal of American forces as soon as practical, and by a defense of the Bolsheviks by Sen. Vardaman of Mississippi, a Democrat.

Sen. Vardaman urged patience for the Bolsheviks, who, he said, "are inspired by hunger and unable to take advantage of their newfound independence after years of oppression." Disclaiming approval of lawlessness or violence, Sen. Vardaman said, "that when all the facts are known there will be mitigating circumstances found for the Bolsheviks."

"Their conduct," he said, "is no more illegal or reprehensible than that of their soulless predecessors. Working classes," Sen. Vardaman declared, "had not been given a square deal, and it is not surprising that they have gone to excesses. Russian Bolshevism," the Senator said, "was caused by rich oppressors and famine. The world is mad," said the Senator, "with the blood lust of gain." He said he felt pity for ignorant Bolsheviks.

Meanwhile, efforts of the French to bring to the fore the question of the status of Allied and American troops in Russia, and the advisability of sending troops into Poland to check the Bolshevik advance, have been without success so far. The United States, it is said, will not consent to accept in principle, or as military policy, the task of using American forces in Poland at all, or in Russia in larger numbers than is already employed. However, all agree that Russia is a powder keg where an explosion may take place at any moment.

## January 10

### League Of Nations Details Emerge

Another week has elapsed; the various bureaus are continuing to collect data, prepare maps and draw up detailed projects: various statesmen are continuing to make speeches, and President Wilson is continuing his sensational series of visits to the Allied countries to converse with Allied statesmen, yet nothing what-so-ever has been done towards officially negotiating peace. There has been no general exchange of ideas. Each nation seems to be waiting nervously to learn the program of the others before advancing its own.

There are many questions to be settled, such as the delimitation of the new frontiers, intervention in Russia, measures to check the spread of Bolshevism and the race wars now raging in Eastern Europe, which require urgent attention.

The American plan for a League of Nations may seem, to many, to be inadequate to solve international problems. Nevertheless it is important to get a definitive plan before the public for general discussion if the peace conference is to go hand-in-



The world waited with bated breath as the Allies set about establishing a new world order – a new order that still haunts the world today.

hand with public opinion.

The League of Nations envisions that ambassadors should be members of the home cabinets and belong to the same political parties as the governments in power in the different nations. The ambassadors can then act in all international matters in agreement with their own governments.

There will also be a Court of the League of Nations. In case of controversy between two nations, there will be three courses in which to try their cases. First by mutual consent, they could apply to the Supreme Court of any nation in the League not a party to the controversy; second, they can apply to the Court of the League of Nations; third, they could submit the case to the ambassadors sitting as a court.

In case the nations refuse to apply to any of these accords, they should be forced to arbitrate, each nation choosing one arbitrator and the League selecting a third. If the nations in the quarrel refuse to arbitrate, then the League of Nations would appoint some of the nations of the League to bring pressure on the disputants. Each nation would be required to use all its moral, material, and physical force to compel the execution of the decree of the League of Nations in the interest of peace.

Promoters of the present American conception of the League of Nations contend that the League would not be an infringement upon the sovereignty of any nation. The ambassadors, being a part of their home governments, would never act without the sanction of their own governments.

### Germany Falls Into Civil War

The new German government has been overturned and extremists have gained the upper hand in Berlin after fighting. A new revolutionary government has been proclaimed, composed of independent socialists and the so-called Spartacus party.

The Spartacus party is sympathetic with the Russian Bolsheviks and espouses its principles of the eradication of the class's structure and private property. Government troops are reported to have gone over to the rebels and now hold principle points in Berlin. The civil war is spreading to other parts of Germany. Parts of the Rhine provinces and Bavaria are now reported to be under the control of the Spartacus troops.

The commander-in-chief of the troops of the former German government announced he would send new forces against the capital in an attempt to regain control of it. The old government has ordered troops in nearly all the garrisons in Germany to move against Berlin.

The old government has issued a manifesto to the workers, bourgeois and soldiers, denouncing the Spartacans as responsible for many persons being killed and wounded. The manifesto continues: "We now must accept the fight into which we have been forced. We have hesitated too long and must be prepared to intervene without restriction for the defense of the Republican cause. We appeal to you in the view of forming a volunteer Republican Defense Guide. We must not stop until order has been reestablished in Berlin and the people assured the possibility of a joint peace and the fruits of the Republican revolution."

Meanwhile, Allied nations have agreed to sell food to Germany. This has been agreed upon as a result of a growing realization among the Allies that the growing disorders among the hungry and starving might spread throughout Europe.

## January 17

### Spartacans Lose Fight For Berlin

Troops loyal to the former German government are once again in complete control of Berlin. It has issued an order prohibiting all processions and gave warning that its troops had orders to fire.

The success of the German government is owed to the sudden impetus given to it by the support of loyal elements, whose numbers increase with the prospect of the government's success. In the fighting of the last five days the Spartacans are reported to have suffered heavy losses. The tide turned Wednesday when the Spartacans were defeated in an attack against the foreign office. Dr. Earl Liebtoknecht, the Spartacans' leader, was killed during street fighting on Thursday evening.

The Spartacan newspaper, the Red Flag, has been suppressed. The invasion of the newspaper offices came as a surprise to the Spartacans, who hastily barricaded themselves behind rolls of print paper, but were overcome after a brief resistance. The govern-

## January 3

### Bolsheviks Advance In Russia & Poland

Riga is panic stricken over the advance of Bolshevik forces, which are only eighteen miles away, and many families are fleeing from the city. Two battleships and some cruisers, stationed in Riga and manned by Estonians and Lithuanians, tried to put out to sea to meet the British in the Baltic, but were fired upon and subsequently returned to port.

Meanwhile, Poland is in despair following the invasion of Bolshevik troops and the apparent indecision of the Western powers to the plight of the country. Telegrams sent by the Poles asking for intervention by the Allies have gone unanswered. The Poles complain that they have not received the least sign of attention or word of guidance.

Bolshevik advances in Lemberg, Vilna, Riga and other places have been made worse by internal disorders in Poland. The Germans have destroyed factories in all of the industrial towns, and thousands of Poles who were sent to Germany during the war are returning to find there is no employment for them. As a result, they are taking their fate into

their own hands, terrorizing their former employers, compelling them to give money back.

Meanwhile, a Polish army of 30,000 men is marching on Berlin. The army is well armed and supported by artillery and cavalry. The infantry already has occupied important German railway centers and has captured a large amount of railway stock with little resistance.

In response, the new German government is said to have ordered the fifth German division to meet the Poles and is re-arming demobilized soldiers. Fighting is expected, although some of the demobilized troops are refusing to serve.

Fighting is also taking place in the city of Posen, German Poland, between Polish and German troops. The fortress of the city has been occupied by the Poles while more than 20,000 German soldiers have been disarmed. The Sixth German Grenadier Regiment has refused to surrender and is now surrounded in a barracks within the city. The entire Polish population is reported to be aiding the Polish troops. They include boy scouts and young women. The fighting is of a house-to-house nature and there is no accurate estimate of the number killed and wounded.

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# JANUARY 1919

ment now is occupying the plant, in which numerous machine guns and rifles were found concealed.

While the Spartacans have lost control of Berlin, they apparently control Düsseldorf. Serious rioting is reported to be occurring in Dresden, Hamburg, and Augsburg, all instigated by the Spartacans. In Mulheim, strikers sympathetic to the Spartacan cause seized the local newspaper and the next morning began publishing the Red Flag, designating it as the voice of the Revolutionary workers of Mulheim.

Loyalist troops are being reinforced and the arming of elements of the population willing to risk their lives to down the Bolsheviks is in progress. The Spartacans are now endeavoring to summon hunger and thirst as their Allies, and have succeeded in interfering seriously with supplies. Large parts of Berlin and other major German cities are reported to have gone without bread and panicky scenes are reported at bread shops.

of the League are just. The American objections to the British plan are that it permits recourse to hostilities, or leaves loopholes for war, thereby legalizing war.

It would not be surprising to see Americans advocating an association of nations under which no circumstances would they sanction the invasion of one another's territory. The Americans recognize the right of every people to revolt against autocratic governments cannot be ignored, and that it is necessary also to provide the right of intervention of outside powers to protect the integrity of nationalities.

The Americans realize full well that they are unable, without the amendment of the American constitution, to pledge U.S. Army and Navy support to decrees of the League of Nations. There is no intention of asking for such amendment, as convention prevails that the power of the American Congress to declare war whenever it seems wise is a funda-

mentally stated that intervention in Russia was necessary to check the regime of terrorism that the Bolsheviks have unleashed there. All governments agreed that some action needed to be taken.

Informal discussions taking place reflect the views that three approaches are being considered. The first is whether to attempt to build a wall or establish a quarantine around Bolshevik Russia through giving assistance in the setting up of governments in the independent states surrounding the Bolshevik territory, or two whether to attempt to relieve conditions in European Russia directly, by attacking the Bolshevik forces with Allied troops. A third option, being considered by the Council, is the extension of armed aid to the forces within Russia, which are openly fighting Bolshevism in the field.

Of all the courses suggested it would appear that the last mentioned is the least favored, certainly by the United States, as would seem also that the first named is attracting much support. The recent agreement of the factions in Poland is looked upon by some observers as a step in this direction, the assumption being that it was taken in the belief by Poland that the Allied governments might consider sending armed forces to aid Poland to resist the Bolsheviks, and in doing so start building a wall around Russian Bolshevism so as to cut it off from Western Europe.

French opinion is not at present in favor of the admission of the Bolshevik regime to the Peace Conference, but the English say that the Bolshevik government should be invited to tell the conference exactly what territorial powers they claim. If an agreement can be reached as to territorial delimitations, the different Russian governments can be defined and requested to confine their claims and ambitions to such territories and not attempt to extend them by armed forces.

Unless this is done, the British fears a parallel with the French Revolution when an attempt at interference by external powers led to the creation of a great national army. Such an event might occur in Russia if allied armed intervention were pursued. The Bolshevik army might be reinvigorated and constitute a serious and continued menace to the peace of Europe.



Realizing that peace would be elusive unless they 'secured' Russia, the Allies decided to intervene in its Civil War on behalf of the anti-Bolshevik elements

One of the questions to be taken up by the Peace Conference is the ultimate fate of the German colonies. France and Great Britain are in agreement upon at least one feature of the solution of the problem, which is that under no circumstances shall the colonies revert to Germany. The reasons advanced for such a decision are various; dominant among them is that it would render it impossible for Germany to establish submarine bases in her colonial possessions. At the moment, France, England, and Belgium are secretly caucusing to divide up the former German colonies amongst themselves.

Australia has laid claim to German New Guinea for the Australian Commonwealth, while New Zealand claims Samoa. Japan desires the Marshall and Caroline group of islands. A report of a secret treaty between England and Japan, giving Japan the islands north of the equator and the British the colonies south of the equator, stands in the way of the internationalization plan, but it is generally believed that all secret treaties will give way before the League of Nations.

**Proposal To Unite Anti-Bolsheviks**  
A proposal for a meeting with Allied representatives to line up all the factions, provisional governments and political groups of Russia in opposition to the Bolsheviks has been proposed at the Peace Conference.

If the meeting does take place, a sharp line will be drawn between Bolshevism and a coalition of all other Russian representatives who are determined to save Russia from Bolshevik domination.

These include the Omsk government of which Adm. Kolchak is dictator, the Archangel Provisional Government, and the Southern Russians. More problematic is the representation of the Poles, Lithuanians, Estonians, and the Ukrainian government.

Both the Lithuanians and Estonians are organized in some way, just how is not known here, to oppose the Bolsheviks, but neither has a separatist ambition, so it is probable that they will entrust their case to other groups who also stand for a united Russia and the overthrow of the Bolshevik regime. The Ukraine sees itself as an independent country and cares little for what happens in Russia.

Poland, now part of Russia, and therefore included within the scope of the proposals, has declared, like the Ukraine, independence. President Wilson endorsed her claim for independence. Therefore it is likely that Poland will remain away from a conference dealing with purely Russian affairs.

*To read past editions of News Reports From The Front visit the History section of emmitsburg.net.*



England and France were more interested in divvying up the defeated territories of the Central Powers than establishing new nations based upon ethnic background. This led to new "states" like Iraq, Syria, and Yugoslavia that have suffered endless rounds of ethnic cleansing.

## Basis For League Of Nations Laid Out

On Saturday, the American mission unveiled its formula for the League of Nations, embodying the points to be submitted at a regular session.

The forcible execution of the League's mandates is to be entrusted to a designation of nations, which will act as police powers. There is no suggestion of an international Army or Navy. The courts of judgment are to be created as permanent bodies.

Perhaps the most important doctrine America will offer is compulsory arbitration, under which a nation offended against, must come into court for judgment or be judged equally guilty with the offender. This attitude is based on the belief that those in the right need to have no fear of facing the issue.

Numerous discussions have made certain fundamentals about the League of Nations clear. These include there are to be: 1) no super national executive power lodged in individual nations; 2) no federation of states under an international cabinet, legislature or judiciary; and 3) no super national police force with permanent high command of Army or Navy.

The British, however, have expressed a desire to leave each nation freedom of action to determine for itself whether the mandates

mental principle of the constitution that few see being changed. The British quickly point to this fact and ask why it is acceptable for the American Congress to declare war, but not their British Parliament.

## January 24

### Peace Conference Begins

On Saturday the Peace Conference opened in Paris. In all, 72 seats were provided for the opening session of the Peace Conference. As the delegations arrived they were met with fanfares of trumpets and accorded military honors by the troops. Delegates greeted President Wilson warmly.

The first sitting of the Peace Conference was focused on comparing various plans for the formation of the League of Nations and harmonizing them into a unity of ideas, which can be taken up as a concrete proposition. Delegates of the Central Powers will not be invited to the table until such time as the Allies settle on the conditions they will demand from them.

The supreme Council of the Peace Conference took up the Russian question on Monday. The Danish minister to Russia, who had been asked to give his views on the Russian situation to the Council,

## January 31

### League Of Nations Proposal Adopted

The Peace Conference has unanimously adopted the League of Nations project. The preliminary draft calls for the League to have a permanent organization to carry on its business between meetings of international conferences of all the members. It says that the conference should appoint a committee representing all governments to work out the details of the League's constitution and functions.

The purpose of the League is maintenance of the world settlement and to provide safeguards against future wars. The League should be entrusted as an international part of the general Treaty of Peace and should be open to every civilized nation, which can be relied upon to promote its objectives.

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## HISTORY

# Moonshining in the Catoctins

George Wireman

*Editor's Note: Given January marks the 100th anniversary of the prohibition amendment passing, we felt this a suitable article to run this month!*

Life in the Thurmont area in 1929 was quiet and peaceful, but in the mountains just west of the community there was much activity. The mountaineers were engaged in making moonshine. Their stills were hidden deep in the laurel-covered coves of the Catoctin Mountains.

Located in a mountain wilderness about three miles west of Thurmont, in a neighborhood bearing the name of "Blue Blazes," in a somewhat small clearing of several hundred square yards was a still. It was one of the largest and best-equipped stills ever found in Frederick County.

To give you the size of the operation, in addition to the still itself, there were twenty some vats of 700 gallons capacity each. These were filled with mash. There were also two condensing areas, a cooling box and a very large steam boiler. Those who were lucky enough to be trusted by the moonshiners, and given the rare opportunity to visit the site, learned first-hand that moonshine was being turned out on a daily basis in large quantities.

In the spring of 1929, word had leaked out about the operation of the still and fell into the hands of the Frederick County Sheriff's Department. Since moonshining was indeed an illegal operation, the Sheriff's department felt that something should be done about it and the law-breakers apprehended. For several days the Sheriff's Department worked on plans to raid the still. Their plans were kept very secret for fear that word would get back to the operators of the still.

As plans for the raid were completed, arrangements were made with Charles Lewis, a local informant, for the deputies to meet him at a given time and place near the still, where they would go over their final plans of action.

It had been arranged with Lewis

that Deputies John Hemp and Leslie Hoffman were to visit the site of the still, where they would purchase a jug of whiskey. Deputies Clyde Hauver, Redmond, William Steiner, and William O. Wartenbaker, were to follow closely behind, but remain hidden in the underbrush.

When Deputy John Hemp and Deputy Leslie Hoffman reached the location where they were to meet Charles Lewis, in the neighborhood of what was known as "Blue Blaze," which was isolated, very remote and almost inaccessible, there was no one in sight.

After waiting a short period of time, thinking that Lewis would show up, the raiding party ascended a narrow winding mountain path, moving as quietly as possible so as not to give their presence away to the moonshiners. That small path led abruptly to the scene of the still. Bordering the still, lying in wait, were the bootleggers, well hidden by the thick under brush.

Deputies Varner Redmond and Clyde Hauver, leading the raiding party, were first to step into the camp. Just as they did, without any warning, they were met with a rain of pistol bullets, fired from the rear.

The very first shots fired struck Hauver and he fell mortally wounded. The officers immediately returned fire and began to drive the bootlegging gang over an embankment. In the exchange of fire, one of Deputy Redmond's bullets hit the hand of Charles Lewis.

Under the circumstances, it was virtually impossible for the raiding party to concentrate their return fire on any given subject. They did what was the logical thing to do, fire in the general direction from where the moonshiners' shots came from.

The moonshiners began to retreat under heavy fire. Because of the thick under brush it was impossible for the deputies to keep in close pursuit. They could not get close enough to shoot or even apprehend any of the law-breakers.

After the excitement cooled down, the raiding party completed their task.

Using axes and picks, they demolished and destroyed all of the equipment at the still. One thing for sure, the Blue Blazes' still would not be operating in the morning, nor for some time to come. With the dawn July 25th, came some startling news.

On Thursday morning, the day following the big raid on the Blue Blazes' still, it was learned that six men were being held in the Frederick County jail pending a full investigation of the murder of Clyde Hauver. The capture of these men came as quite a surprise to the area folks, coming so soon after the raid.

Those being held in the Frederick County jail were Lloyd Williams, Russell Clark, Paul Williams, Oscar McAfee, Lloyd Lewis and William (monk) Miller, the alleged owner of the Blue Blazes' still.

As mentioned earlier, Lewis had been hit in the hand by a bullet from Deputy Redmond's gun. The injury must have been rather serious for Lewis decided to go to the doctor to have it dressed. Dr. Kohler refused to treat Lewis until he learned how he was shot. At this point, Lewis revealed his identity and stated that he had been wounded during a raid on a still in the Catoctin Mountains. After treating Lewis, Dr. Kohler immediately notified the authorities and Lewis was arrested soon after.

As a result of the raid on Blue Blazes still, operators of other stills in the Catoctin Mountains became very cautious of their operations. They were very careful in their conversations for fear that their still would be the next one to be raided.

In the meantime, the excitement of the raid died down and the citizens of Frederick County sat back to await the announcement of the trial of the individual accused of killing Deputy Clyde Hauver.

As the investigation of the killing came to a close, a date was set for the trial. Details of that trial are not very clear, but after checking into the court records, this writer learned that one man was sent to prison and served a period of time.

Although moonshining in the Catoctin Mountains no longer exists, the topic still finds its way into con-



The Blue Blazes is still one of the largest and best-equipped whiskey stills ever found in Frederick County, Maryland. During the 1929 raid, thirteen huge vats of moonshine were found.

versation among those who are still living. It was in the spring of 1935, six years after the raid on Blue Blazes still, that the mountaineers in the Catoctin Mountains began to notice strangers in their midst. Tongues were wagging. The mountaineers, like the citizens of Thurmont, viewed the situation with extreme caution and alarm.

There were stills in the mountains but none were as large as the Blue Blazes still that was raided in July of 1929. The mountain folk began to squawk and complained that the strangers were "the infernal revenuers, plotting another raid."

The mountaineers weren't about to end their illegal distilling of alcohol and bootlegging operations. Taking no chances, they began to move their stills further up the mountain stream, concealed by the thick under brush.

I recall clearly learning in the summer of 1935, just who those "strangers" really were. They were Federal land appraisers, who had moved into the area to begin work on what was to be known as the "Catoctin Project." As mentioned earlier, the mountaineers were taking no chances. On several occasions the Federal appraisers were ordered off the mountain at gunpoint. The smoke behind these stories left little or no doubt in one's mind that they came from the mountaineers who were very much involved in moonshining operations.

Whether these mountaineers were

reconciled or not, the land appraisers were from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. They had come to Thurmont to begin work on the "Catoctin Project" and they were determined to see it through, mountaineers or no mountaineers.

On-site work on the "Catoctin Project" got underway on January 2, 1936. Through the Works Progress Administration, it gave work to many citizens in and around the Thurmont area.

Back in those days, Maryland Route 77 was nothing but a graded dirt or gravel road for most of its length. The early maps of the area showed what is today Park Central Road, as a mere mountain trail. This trail was rebuilt and has become the main road through the Catoctin Mountain Park. The general development plans called for the construction of organized youth camps.

By the spring of 1936 a Central Service Group or Maintenance Unit was under construction. The site chosen for the Service Group was the old farm of Roy E. Lewis, located just off the county road, which area citizens today know as Manahan Road.

One of the very first programs of President Roosevelt's "New Deal" was the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In 1939 the Central Service Group was selected as the site for the very first CCC camp.

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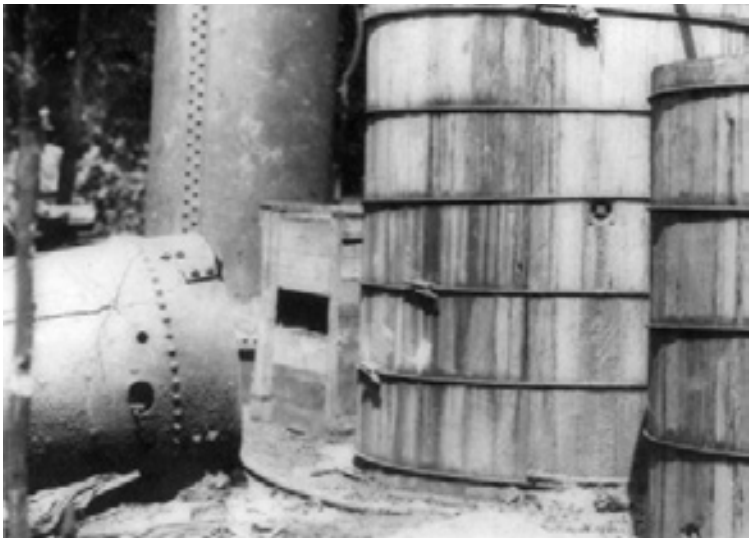
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# HISTORY



Some of the vats at the Blue Blazes could each hold 2,000 gallons, yielding more than 25,000 gallons of mash.

Modified to include a technical service building and dormitories, this campsite functioned up until World War II. The many trails in Catoctin Mountain Park today were built by the CCC. With the coming of World War II, the camp was considered to be obsolete and the Central Service area was then turned over to the military under a special use permit.

Many years later, this very same area was picked for the site of the very first Job Corps Center to be established in the nation. This group used many of the buildings of the old CCC camp.

As the area developed, the "Catoctin Project" became known as the Catoctin Mountain Park. Frank Mentzer, then Superintendent of Catoctin Mountain Park loved the area and was always looking for ideas that would promote the park and attract tourists and visitors to the area. Frank, during his term as Superintendent of the park, contributed much to the park as we know it today.

It was in 1968, when Frank Mentzer came up with the idea of having whiskey making demonstrations in the park to show the visitors just how the mountaineers made their moonshine many years ago, when their stills were hidden deep in the laurel-covered coves of the Catoctin Mountains.

Naturally, to set up the demonstrations, a still would be required. Frank Mentzer knew the Catoctin Mountains well and he knew just where he wanted to set up his whiskey making demonstrations. It sounded like a crazy idea, making whiskey on government property. Such a project hardly seemed possible, but Frank presented the idea to the proper authorities for approval.

Not far from the Visitor Center on Park Central Road was the site of the original Blue Blazes still. This still, in its day, was considered to be the largest one ever operated in the Catoctin Mountains. It was here that Mentzer planned to hold his demonstrations ... that is if the authorities approved of his idea.

Mentzer's idea was approved and in 1969, after a long search for the necessary equipment, his still was set up and demonstrations were held during summer weekends. It was a far cry from the old Blue Blazes still, but it served its purpose for which it was intended ... for demonstrations only.

Yes, it was a crazy idea at first and Frank Mentzer wasn't one to give up without a try. The idea was approved but to operate the still a special permit was needed. Park records show that the first such permit was issued on December 29, 1969.

With the coming of spring 1970, the new Blue Blazes still was in operation in Catoctin Mountain Park. In fact, it was the very first still ever to be operated on government property. And Frank Mentzer didn't care who knew it and above all, he had no fear of revenuers making a raid on his still.

In the 23 years that have followed, moonshining demonstrations have remained an important part of the park program. Each year thousands of visitors, attracted to the beautiful Catoctin Mountain Park, have visited the whiskey making demonstrations at the site of the old Blue Blazes still.

Although the whiskey produced as a result of the demonstrations is neither consumed nor sold, but disposed of, the Blue Blazes still and its operations are very unique indeed.

Today, Blue Blazes still in Catoctin Mountain Park serves but one purpose ... that is to remind the visitor to the site of what life was like on Catoctin Mountain many, many years ago.

*To read other local historical articles visit the History section of emmitsburg.net*

## Robin Harne



Robin Lee Harne, 64, of Emmitsburg passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 19 at her home, surrounded by her loving family. Born March 19, 1954 in Gettysburg, she was the daughter of the late Harry Robert "Bob" Carson and the late Constance (Chen) Carson. She was the devoted wife of Robert Lee "Bobby" Harne, Jr. to whom she was married for 44 years.

Robin, along with her husband Bobby, was the owner/operator of Rube's Crab Shack in Emmitsburg. She loved her work, spending time with family and friends, and listening to Bobby sing. She enjoyed collecting holiday Barbies and was an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Orioles.

Surviving, in addition to her beloved husband Bobby,

are daughter, Michelle D. Harne-Brewster and husband Calvin of Thurmont; son, Troy R. Harne of Emmitsburg; brothers, Jeffery Carson and wife Kathy of Fairfield, and Harry R. "Sarge" Carson, Jr. of Gettysburg; sisters, Linda West and husband Butch of Emmitsburg, Tammy Shilling and husband Lester of Waynesboro, and Donna West of Thurmont; grandchildren, Cody DeWees, Noah Harne, Kaitlyn and Karson Brewster; and several nieces and nephews. She is also remembered by her mother-in-law, Helen W. Harne of Thurmont, and her furry buddy, Brody. She was predeceased by infant son, Robert Lawrence Harne; sister, Debbie Carson; and brothers, Wayne and Bobby Kerns.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, December 23rd, at Myers-Durborw Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul Harne officiating. A private committal service and burial will be held at Resthaven Memorial Gardens on Christmas Eve.

Memorial contributions in Robin's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.myersdurborwfh.com](http://www.myersdurborwfh.com).

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## MOM'S TIME OUT

## Resolutions that matter

Mary Angel

So many times I have thought about my first article of the year (any year), and I always end up on resolutions, change, or improvement. This year, I decided the year would best be started by helping others. I recently sent a group text and asked a bunch of experienced moms what advice they would give to a new mom. The responses I got ranged from emotional support to practical support and came from young experienced moms to grandmas. There were actually so many great ideas that I followed an obvious division between young kid suggestions and older kid suggestions.

MS says, "Don't be so hard on yourself. None of us knew what we were doing when we started. Trust your gut, make a decision, and lean on the Lord to help you on the way." Let's face the fact that we are all human and we all screw up, so you whether you put the diaper on wrong and it leaked everywhere (my husband was good at this), or you left for vacation and realized (2 1/2 hours into the trip) that one of the kids forgot shoes all together, it will be fine.

BW suggests, "Remember to be in the moment and present when your kiddos want to tell you a story or about their day. (Even though you have 10 other things you were trying to do)." Sometime we can lose track of what is important and a story, no matter how silly, from our kids is way more important than the laundry.

RB reminded me to, "Realize that your child is a unique and precious

gift, with talents and interests that are his own. Nurture and celebrate this and let go of your own vision. Pray for them every single day. Begin praying for their future spouse the day they are born. (Pray WITH them also)." I have very often had to stop myself and take note of the fact that although my four kids were raised in the same house by the same parents, they are quite different from one another. I also can't stress enough the power of prayer, for them and with them (don't knock it till you have tried it).

RB also said, "Laugh and cry and pray and play and work together. Make memories with traditions and special, meaningful moments all the time." Anyone who has read any of my articles in the past knows how much I adore traditions and making memories, not just because my memory isn't the greatest, but also because I feel those memories are lifelong gifts that we give our kids.

On the subject of discipline, DJ has some great advice, "Always be a united team to your children. Don't let them play one parent against the other. Always sit down in private to discuss and determine your response to situations and then present the answer to your child. Make sure both parents are on the same page. Do your compromising before bringing the child in. "No" means "No", it doesn't mean "ask again". Curtail the begging and you will have a much more peaceful life. On the "No" front, sometimes we jump too quickly to the NO, frustrating our children. Do NOT make empty threats. You must be able to

follow through with what you say, or your children will learn very quickly that you don't mean what you say. Discipline begins at 2, not 12. Start when they are little and you won't have near the problems at 12." This is all great advice and will most definitely cut back on bad behavior in the long run.

When it comes to caring for your child and the day to day things, RD says, "Don't be afraid to admit when you are wrong or to change course when the original plan doesn't work out. The road of parenthood is filled with twists and turns. It's okay to figure out which feeding/sleeping/schooling/working, etc. situation is best for you and your family. It won't look exactly like anyone else's plan. Others will certainly offer you advice and/or criticism. Let it go, and just do what YOU feel is best." I have known moms who obsess over a set schedule and others who fly by the seat of their pants and neither is a better mom than the other. Often times, the child will let you know what works for them from a very young age.

Fundamentally speaking, RB suggests, "When you have a baby, pack more diapers than you think you will need. Always have a change of clothes for them and for you ready. Prepare the night before with clean bottles, outfits, etc. so you don't start a new day overwhelmed. Do sleep. Vaccinate. Take a break when you need one; it's okay to ask for help. Take pictures."

From a strategic standpoint, MBG says, "To collect a clean sample of urine from a toddler girl sit her straddling the seat backwards. If a baby takes off their diaper, put it on backwards so they can't peel off the tabs. After you feed the baby, put it down to sleep, don't rock to sleep. That way they will learn to fall asleep by themselves. Take the binky (pacifier) away around 9 months at the latest. If you wait too long, they will remember it and it will be harder for them to let go." These are all great suggestions. The first one



Looking to make a New Year's resolution that really counts? Then make a resolution to adopt a shelter pet like Daphne. Daphne is a year-and-a-half old Great Dane/boxer mix who is super sweet and really cute. Look at those ears! She came into the shelter as a stray, but she knows sit, shake and stay, so someone must have taught her at some point. We think she would do best as the only pet in the home, so if you have the right place for Daphne, please come out and meet her! For more information on Daphne call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit their website at [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).

she gave to me years ago after I told her how many times my girls peed on me while I was trying to collect a sample. What a life saver!

Hopefully something from all of this advice was useful to you. Enjoy

your kiddos and the wonderful memories!

To read past editions of Mom's Time Out, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

The Catocin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. would like to thank the participants of and visitors to their eighth annual Traditional Village Christmas, held at the village of Catocin Furnace.

Visitors to the ca. 1810 Collier's Log House designed custom-made wreaths, shopped for seasonal gifts, enjoyed homemade soup, sipped hot cider, watched a blacksmith at work, enjoyed delicious baked goods, made punched tin ornaments, and met Belsnickel.

The goals of the event were two-fold: to share the history and culture of the pre-revolutionary village and industry with the public, and to raise funds for the restoration of the



1820 Forgerman's House and the Museum of the Iron Worker.

Members of the society who worked and contributed to this event's success include Chris Gardiner; Joel Anderson; Sue and Bo Ciaverelli; Cathy Bodin; Jerry and Nancy Anderson; Beth McGee; Rick Smith; Maura, Allison & Brigid Page; Jim Maness; Elizabeth and Doug Comer; Michelle Tolson; Cindy Poole; Peg Long; Kathy Abbott, and many others.

Silver Oak Academy students presented two living history scenes featuring actors Alex Smith as the butler at the Ironmasters Mansion, and Eric Smith and Damon Jones as enslaved gravediggers burying their friend Henry.

We would like to thank the craftspeople who made the day a success: Gail Rudisill and Carmen Creamer. A special thank you to members of the society who made and donated delicious baked goods; to Russ Poole for photographing the event; and to Mayne's tree farm for supplying the wreaths and roping at cost.

The Catocin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. will hold the ninth annual Traditional Village Christmas on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Please visit our web site at [www.catocinfurnace.org](http://www.catocinfurnace.org) for news and event information.



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# Apple pie recipes

Kay Hollabaugh  
Hollabaugh Bros., Inc.

I have to say that I am ready to say good bye to 2018. I don't always feel so strongly, but this year I've got lots of good reasons to say "bring on the new year". Perhaps some of you do as well? For us, 2018 was a difficult year. Following a horrific 12 minute hail storm in early May, we felt it couldn't get much worse. But it did. It rained. And rained. And rained. I know it rained where you live too and it negatively affected all of us – if nothing more than our moods! Am I right? That said, we have managed our way through another growing season and have already begun perusing the seed catalogs, and are booking winter meetings to determine what new, exciting apple we need to plant. It seems there's always a positive about growing things for a living. I guess it's that "well, there's always next year" in all of us – to strive for bigger, better things.

All this said, can we just talk about the PA State Farm Show a bit? As I write this article, we have a team of folks wildly sorting, polishing, placing and saving – as we prepare for our display(s) at the Farm Show which kicks off on Friday, January 4 in Harrisburg, PA. It's a long, involved process and begins with the actual harvesting of what we hope will be award-winning fruit. Brad (my husband) is charged with the picking of the fruit. He is often in the orchard for hours – scouting for just the right fruit – in size, color and quality. He typically begins picking in early September with Gala and Golden Delicious and ends with Granny Smith and Goldrush in late October.

From the moment it is picked, it is stored at about 37 degrees. Then usually anywhere from 10 days to 2 weeks prior to the Farm Show, it is sorted. A team of anywhere from 3 to 10 people work on the shining and sorting process. All told, about 100 bushels of fruit is picked and handled. At 88 apples per bushel (estimate), that's a LOT of fruit. In 2018, our Nittany took Best of Show in the half bushel category for all fruit displayed at the Show. We would love to think we could duplicate that award in 2019, but there is always a LOT of beautiful fruit from which to choose!

I hope you consider visiting the Show. It is slated for January 5 through 12 and is truly some of the best, inexpensive entertainment you will find anywhere. There is truly something for everyone at the Farm Show! I often work throughout the week. If you stop by, look me up! And in the meantime? I'm hoping 2019 is your best year yet – that you are blessed with good health, good friends, good family and good prosperity!

Perhaps you might enjoy an apple pie or two over the winter months. Here are 2 of my favorites!

## Donald's Favorite Apple Pie

2 qt. golden delicious apples, peeled and chopped

1 ¾ cup sugar  
Pinch of salt  
1.5 tsp. pumpkin pie spice  
3 tablespoon (heaping) Instant tapioca  
Pastry for double crust 9" pie

### Cooking Directions

Combine sugar, salt, spice and tapioca. Toss with diced apples. Mix well and let stand until the juices absorb some of the tapioca. (Sometimes I add a T. or two of cider at this time.) Gently pour into pie shell. Dot with butter if desired. Top with top crust, poking with a fork to allow steam to escape.

Brush some milk gently on top, if desired. Avoid crust edges as they will get brown. Bake 10 minutes at 375 degrees and then turn oven back to 350 for 30 to 40 minutes more.

Donald was one of the original twin founding fathers of our business. This was his wife's recipe. Donald liked things very sweet. You could substitute a tarter apple and use less sugar, if you like a slightly less sweet pie.

## Sour Cream Apple Pie

2 cups finely chopped, peeled tart apples (I love Goldrush)  
1 cup sugar  
2 T. Flour  
¼ tsp. Salt  
½ tsp. Vanilla  
1 egg, beaten  
1 cup sour cream  
1/3 cup sugar  
1/3 cup flour

1 tsp. cinnamon  
¼ cup butter, softened

### Cooking directions

Combine sugar, flour and salt. Gently fold in apples until coated. Mix in vanilla, beaten egg and sour cream. Pour into an unbaked 9" pie shell and bake for 15 minutes at 425. Lower oven to 325 and continue baking 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and top with crumb mixture consisting of 1/3 C. Sugar, 1/3 C. Flour, 1 Tsp. Cinnamon and ¼ Cup butter. Return to 350-degree oven and bake for about 20 more minutes or until top is golden brown.

Let's face it at the start of the New Year we all have wonderful ambitions of eating right! All very wonderful intentions but things don't always work out as planned and our new years resolutions are usually by the wayside within the first sixty days of the year. A big part of this is not because of a lack of wanting to change but by a lack of planning. Eating healthy does not have to be hard or time consuming and it definitely does not have to be boring.

## Mediterranean Style Quinoa

Another great and simply delicious choice is Quinoa. This wonderful grain is packed with protein and oh so easy to prepare. When purchasing your quinoa do not get the flavored ones, be sure to get organic. If you would like to add a little more color to your dish get the tri-colored quinoa.



Hollabaugh apple pies will be on display at the Farm Show, which kicks off on Friday, January 4 in Harrisburg.

This recipe does not have quantities; base it according to the package directions on the box of quinoa.

### Ingredients

Tri-colored quinoa  
Red, yellow and orange peppers - diced  
Vidalia Onion - diced  
Minced garlic  
Kalamata Olives - rough chopped  
Feta Cheese  
Fresh basil - shredded

Prepare quinoa according to package directions. Meanwhile, sauté your peppers and onions in a little bit of white wine and garlic. Once both the quinoa and the pepper mix are complete combine together in a separate bowl. Add in your Kalamata olives and fresh basil. Salt and pepper to taste and top with shredded fresh basil.

This is a great side dish for salmon that is grilled or roasted with a generous amount of fresh lemon juice. Garnish with lemon zest and serve

over the quinoa mix.

## Twice Baked Potato

### Ingredients

2 whole baking potatoes or sweet potatoes, rinsed  
EVOO, Montreal Steak seasoning, lemon pepper, fresh garlic and rice wine vinegar  
Low-fat cheese of your choice  
Green onion, thinly sliced on the round

Pierce holes in potatoes and rub with Steak seasoning. Wrap in foil and bake in a 350-degree oven for approximately 45 minutes. Once potatoes are fork tender remove foil and slice in half lengthwise. Gently scoop out inside of potato and place in a mixing bowl. To desired taste, add Montreal Steak seasoning, lemon pepper, garlic, white wine and low-fat cheese. Once mixed together scoop back into potato skin, top with a little cheese and melt in oven. Remove from oven and garnish with green onion.

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# LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

## Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

### Standing Events

Monday - Story Tour starts tonight at 4:30 p.m., immediately followed by Legos and Wee Build Imagineering until 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday - Coffee club in the community room from 4 - 5:30 p.m., mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, etc. Food donations appreciated.

Wednesday - VITT (very important teens and 'twens) night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

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

### Upcoming Special Events

Scherenschnitte class with Bill Hammann will be on a special Monday night, Jan. 7th, from 6 - 7 p.m. All ages are welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. If you have participated before, please bring your knife and board.

Family movie night at the Library will be on Jan. 10th. We will be showing the movie "Incredibles 2", rated PG. The movie starts at 6 p.m.

Zero, our wonder therapy dog, will be at the library filling us with holiday cheer and goodwill from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 15th for the ever popular "doghouse sessions". He loves a good book and great company so stop on by!

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club is also meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 15th. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start!

The Dining Car Food Club will be meeting at 6 p.m. on Jan. 17th. This month is Slow-Cooker (crock pot) month so please bring a dish to share.

The Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will be closed on Jan. 21st for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Please join us at the Library on Jan. 22nd for the new knitting club, Knit 1, Purl 2, You can too! The knitting starts at 6 p.m., beginners, experts, and in-betweens all welcome!

The Train of Thought Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Jan. 24th. This month's topic is "Climate Change". We will have book suggestions here on our book club shelf or you can read or listen to your own on topic selection.

"Summit Radio" debuts at the Library on Jan. 28th at 6:30 p.m., travel back to yesteryear when families gathered around the radio. Featured this month will be the great comedians, Burns and Allen and Bergen and McCarthy.

Chinese New Year is coming to the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library! On Jan. 31st learn about the Year of the Pig while making a small craft and enjoying tea and fortune cookies! And then stay for the special movie!!

On Jan. 31st we will be showing "Crazy Rich Asians", rated PG-13, at 6 p.m.. "This contemporary romantic comedy, based on a global bestseller, follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family."

## Frederick County Library Emmitsburg Branch

Book Discussion Group - Tuesday, January 8, 1:30 - 3p.m., Community-led book discussion group.

Stitch and Chat - Thursdays, January 10 & 24, 2 - 4 p.m., Stitching for Adults.

STEAM Drop-in: Microscopes (Grades K-5) - Saturday, January 12, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Drop in and view insects under microscopes, then draw some insects of your own.

Transforming Glass Bottles (Grades 6-12) - Saturday, January 12, 1 - 3 p.m., Transform an ordinary glass bottle using a variety of decorating techniques.

STEM Monday - Monday, January 14, 4-5 p.m., Building and

Coding with Lego We-Do; 2/11: Flying Drones

New Year, New You, New Job! - Tuesday, January 15, Noon to 1:30, Grow your career in 2019! Search the right jobs, customize your resume, and nail your interview. Presented by Resume Advantage.

Afternoon Learning Group (Grades 2-5) - Tuesday, January 15, 2 - 3 p.m., Science of Sound, 1/15: Color Mixing, 2/5: Hurricane Construction, 2/19: Woven-Walled Skyscrapers

Family Tunes & Tales: Symphony Storytime with Frederick Symphony Orchestra (Ages 0+) - Wednesday, January 16, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., FSO musicians perform classical music to beloved stories, followed by a musical instrument petting zoo provided by Music and Arts. This event is made possible through funding by The Community Foundation of Frederick County.

R.E.A.D.® with Wags for Hope - Thursday, January 17, 5 - 6 p.m., Children read to Reading Education Assistance Dogs.

STEAM Drop-In: Penguin Science (Grades K-5) - Saturday, January 19, 11 to Noon, Learn about the world of penguins through activities and a craft.

School's Out: LEGO Build - Monday, January 28, 11 to noon, School is closed, so spend some time building cool creations with LEGO enthusiasts.

Winter Beach Party (Ages 4-10) - Monday, January 28, 2 - 3 p.m., Warm up with beach-inspired games and activities.

Thurmont Regional Library Children's Trivia - Thursday, January 3, 6 - 7 p.m., Prepare for National Trivia Day by participating in a trivia contest! Enter as an individual or as a group and answer questions about music, sports, movies, and more.

Parachute Play (Ages 3-5) - Friday, January 4, 10:30 - 11 am, Movement, singing, and games around the parachute.

On-site at Catoctin Mountain Park: Storytime and Hike - Saturday, January 5, 11 am-12 p.m., Bundle up for a hibernation story-time followed by a short hike with a Park Ranger. Meet at Visitor Center, 14707 Park Central Rd, Thurmont.

Sunday Funday (Ages 0-10) - Sunday, January 6, 2-4 p.m., A variety of activities, crafts, and more.

Math Skills for Preschoolers - Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, & 28, 2 - 2:30 p.m., Promote kindergarten readiness skills like counting, number recognition, and more with fun games and activities.

Cookies and Card Games (Grades 6-12) - Wednesday, January 9, 6 - 7 p.m., Eat cookies and play new and classic card games.

Be on Time in the New Year (Grades 5-12) - Thursday, January 10, 5 - 6 p.m., Never be late for appointments again: design your own CD wall clock! All supplies provided.

STEM Night: Drop-In STEM Lab - Thursday, January 10, 6 - 8 p.m., Explore STEM concepts through a variety of educational toys and games.

Chess Club - Saturday, January 12, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., stop in to learn, play, or sharpen your skills. All ages and skill levels welcome.

Duct Tape Bracelets - Saturday, January 12, 1 - 2 p.m., Bold and blingy or dark and mysterious? Design your own bracelet to fit your personality and style.

STEM Night: Architecture - Tuesday, January 15, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Build something amazing with world landmarks as your inspiration.

New Year, New You, New Job! - Tuesday, January 15, 6:30 - 8 p.m., grow your career in 2019! Search the right jobs, customize your resume, and nail your interview. Presented by Resume Advantage.

Art Elements (Grades 3-6) - Wednesdays, January 16 & 23, & 30, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Explore art elements of color, line, shape, form, texture, and pattern with opportunities to create your own examples.

Relational or Transactional Real Estate Agents? - Sunday, January 20, 1 - 2 p.m., Choose a realtor

who best matches your personality and tech footprint to easily manage the buying and selling process.

Teen Advisory Board - Wednesday, January 23, 6 - 7 p.m., let your voice be heard and influence the library! Gain leadership experience and discuss what the library can do for you.

Snow Globe Fun (Grades 5-12) - Thursday, January 24, 6 - 7 p.m., Write a poem or print a colorful scene to use inside your shimmering snowy globe.

Catoctin Forest Alliance Speaker Series - Thursday, January 24, 7 - 9 p.m., This preservation program series focuses on topics related to natural resources and history in the local area. It features a new topic each month and is presented in partnership with the Catoctin Forest Alliance.

Dramatic Play Group (Ages 2-6) - Saturday, January 26, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., let your child's imagination run wild as they explore the world around them through stories and pretend play!

R.E.A.D.® with Wags for Hope - Saturday, January 26, 11 to noon, Children read to Reading Education Assistance Dogs.

Cha-Ching! Savvy Homeowners Guide to Listing and Selling Quickly - Sunday, January 27, 1 - 2 p.m., Learn the updates and amenities that homebuyers are seeking and be proactive before you list your home.

School's Out: LEGO(R) Build (Grades K-5) - Monday, January 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., School is closed, so spend some time building cool creations with LEGO(R) enthusiasts.

Curious Minds: Speaking Alzheimer's: Learning About the Validation Method (Adult) - Monday, January 28, 2 - 3 p.m., Steve Klotz, professor at York College, will discuss respectful ways to minimize anxiety and frustration when speaking with individuals who have Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

Fandom Science (Grades 6-12) - Monday, January 28, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Explore science experiments inspired by some favorite fandoms.



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# What's ahead in 2019

**Brad Young**  
Chairman, Fredrick County School Board

In early December, the Maryland State Department of Education shared an early Christmas gift for schools across the state. They released new school "report cards" for every school in Maryland, including all of our schools in Frederick County. As you might expect, FCPS schools performed extremely well. But to understand the excellent results we achieved, it's important to have some background.

First, the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, is a relatively new federal law that is designed to help schools measure their effectiveness and find ways to improve. That's what education professionals mean when they talk about "school accountability."

The ultimate goal of ESSA is to make sure that every child, regardless of their race, income, background, or where they live can access a great public education. That is a crucial and worthwhile goal. That is also a goal that FCPS and the Board of Education take extremely seriously and work hard to achieve.

In response to ESSA, the state of Maryland chose to measure accountability in several ways, including test scores, the effectiveness of our curriculum, attendance, school climate, college and career readiness, and student growth over time. Having multiple measures is an improve-

ment over older approaches to measuring school accountability, which tended to focus most on test scores alone. Measuring school effectiveness in several ways is also important, because we know that no single factor can define any school (or any student for that matter). A school community is more than just the sum of its parts.

Based on all the factors that it measured, Maryland gave each school in the state a number score, a star rating (on a scale of 1 through 5 stars) and a report card. You can find all of our schools' report cards and more information about what the report cards measure on the FCPS website, fcps.org.

Here's the great news for families and for taxpayers: Every school in Frederick County received a triple star rating or better. In fact, the majority of FCPS schools rated 4 or 5 stars. These outstanding scores mean that FCPS has once again outpaced school systems across the state.

Those results confirm that every school in Frederick County offers students an exceptional education. The most useful thing, however, is that scores and star ratings will help our schools find ways to improve even more. Parents, teachers, and school administrators can look at their school report card and pinpoint specific areas where their school might need to do better and focus on that area. That is a potentially powerful tool as we try to find

the most effective and efficient ways to use limited resources to support our schools.

The report cards are also a way for parents, families, and community members to engage more effectively with their schools. It's important that our entire community in Frederick County – everyone who cares about education as much as I do – understand the factors that help measure school performance. The report cards are a tool that will help all of us ask questions and be empowered to work together to help our schools get even better over time. It is an indisputable fact that schools do better when parents, families, and community members are engaged.

Some people were a little uneasy about the idea of giving star rankings to schools, like we do for hotels or restaurants. That concern is understandable; no student, parent, or teacher would want their school to be known only by a state ranking. But the new report cards, by helping us more effectively analyze our schools and better identify their strengths and weaknesses, offer more than just a star ranking. They are a window that help us see ways to improve.

The new report cards show that we can all take pride in our schools in Frederick County. We can also be proud that our schools are working to get better every day. That's a Christmas gift for which we can all be grateful.

## Green vehicles

**Michael Bunitsky**  
Board of Education

The Frederick County School system will be a beneficiary of the settlement between Maryland and the Volkswagen, which sold diesel vehicles that violated the Clean Air Act. Maryland will receive \$75.7 million. These funds will be used on specific programs to reduce diesel emissions, maintain air quality standards, meet the State's greenhouse gas emissions goals, reduce air pollution risks in Maryland's most affected communities, and move the state toward greater electrification of the transportation sector.

A portion of the funds, up to 15%, which is \$11.3 million, can be used for light duty eclectic vehicle infrastructure. That would include charging stations that I have been advocating to be built in the new vehicle maintenance building FCPS is planning for 2019. Even if the electric buses are not in use by 2020, using the state funding to build our infrastructure just makes sense in planning.

Another part of the plan specifies \$4 million to be used for school bus replacement. This would provide funds to cover the difference in cost between a traditional diesel vehicle and an electric or propane driven bus. Thus any replacement bus needed by

FCPS would not cost us any more than we would have paid for a diesel vehicle. Both propane and electric vehicles save money in operating expenses over diesel due to both lower maintenance and fuel costs.

As a member of the Board of Education I want to find ways to use some of these funds to supplement Frederick County. I had learned from the County Executive and County Council that electric buses have saved money in our county. Each of the electric buses currently in use has garnered savings in fuel, maintenance, oil, etc. of approximately \$45,000 per bus, per year. I began to look at electric school bus use around the country and investigated bus companies that currently produce electric school buses. No school system in the nation has electric buses in use on a regular basis. There are two systems that are piloting electric buses.

What is used more often than electric is propane. Propane driven buses fit the guidelines of the Volkswagen mitigation plan.

At the meeting on November 28 Chef Operating Officer Paul Lebo updated the Board on the current application plan. Frederick County Public Schools will submit a request for two electric buses and charging infrastructure, and sixteen propane buses for FY 2020. The propane buses are already approved for use in Maryland and will be used in one of the feeder patterns that is distant from the main refueling station, thus saving time and fuel.

Planning for the future can be prohibitive in costs. With funding from mitigation fees available and not using taxes, we can try to find ways to prepare ourselves for change. As the technology advances and the functional electric buses being produced for commercial use are applied to school vehicles, we should see some cost savings. Hopefully it will be soon in coming.



### Fort Ritchie's Kid's Club to be Offered on Saturdays at Community Center



Cascade- Children between the ages of six and 13 can spend their Saturday mornings this winter playing games, enjoying sports, completing crafts, and building robots, thanks to the expansion of the Kid's Club program by the Fort Ritchie Community Center.

"We are excited to start 2019 off with this addition to the program calendar," said Buck Browning, executive director of the Community Center. "The response to our youth programs has been tremendous," he added. Browning said the Kid's Club program was started because parents wanted more activities during the school year for their children that had attended the Community Center's summer camp.

Kid's Club will take a break over the Holidays resuming operation on Tuesday, January 8th. The first Saturday session will be on January 12th. The program is held from 6pm-7:30pm on Tuesdays and from 9am-11am on Saturdays. Participants pay \$2 per session. Browning said a grant in the amount of \$2,300.00 from the Washington County Community Organization Fund helped provide the resources to expand the program.

"The grant solves part of the funding puzzle for this program,"

he said. "We are fortunate to have some local donors that have made youth programs a priority in their giving and they are making this happen." Browning said if response to the Saturday sessions is as great as anticipated, then the Community Center will be seeking partners to sustain the program after the grant funds end in June of 2019.

Program Director Carrie Lowe plans themes for each Kid's Club session. Themes in January will be:

- January 8- Game Night
- January 12- Sports Day
- January 15- Arts & Crafts
- January 19- Robotics
- January 22- Kid's Boot Camp
- January 29- Pizza Party

Guest speakers have included a local race car driver, soccer players from area high schools, and a personal trainer that led the participants through a "Boot Camp" style workout. More information on Kid's Club and the Community Center can be found online at [www.thefrc.org](http://www.thefrc.org) or by calling 301-241-5085.

Over 90 people attended a community Christmas dinner hosted by the Kid's Club participants.

*Fort Ritchie* COMMUNITY CENTER 14421 Lake Royer Drive, Cascade, MD 21719  
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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*As we begin a new year, we asked our writers to reflect on the changes they would like to make as a New Year's Resolution.*

### Freshman Year

I resolve to be more intentional

Harry Scherer  
MSMU Class of 2022

I wonder what the general success rate of New Year's resolutions is. It must be less than 10%. While admittedly anecdotal and unscientific, this arbitrarily surmised statistic offers an invitation to inquire the purpose of these annual personal promises.

I tell myself that the purpose of these resolutions is self-betterment. But to what end? Well, self-betterment. That does not get me very far. Speaking from the wide breadth of life experience that any 18-year-old has had, it seems that resolutions or self-made promises endure when they are rooted in a deep and fulfilling purpose. Unfortunately, it is difficult to find that fulfilling purpose in a resolution that is dependent on a date. An unintended consequence of this holiday-centric promise is that it ages the commitment and preserves it in the time that it was made. For example, it would be difficult to imagine someone going to the gym on six out of seven days of the week because it was his or her New

Year's resolution to do so.

So, it seems that a necessary attitude when drafting possible New Year's resolutions is moderation. Without a desire to change and improve in the context of moderation, failing to stay consistent with extreme goals will lead to ultimate failure in the entire endeavor. Initially, when I considered whether to attempt to keep resolutions for 2019, I considered my success from previous years. I did not stay true to the resolution to complete 100 pushups every day. I did not start long-term school work on the day that it was assigned. Finally, with great dismay, I did not keep a resolution to always be working on a puzzle. For some reason, the puzzle phase did not last.

This year, I am intentionally making my resolutions more mission-based and broad. In 2019, I will be more intentional in my daily routine. I was always struck by a classroom poster than hung in my 5th grade science classroom. The sign reminded those who looked upon it to be careful with our thoughts, for they become our words, which become our actions, which become our

habits, which become our character, which becomes our destiny. With this in mind, I hope to place a greater personal regulation on my thoughts, words and actions, for if the classroom poster was correct, those realities will become my destiny.

One arena in which I hope to improve for the next year is staying consistent and true to the widely disseminated advice to go to sleep and rise at the same time every day. While this may appear to be impossible for a college student, I will try my best to stay true to my resolution under the general mission of being intentional, even when it's time to sleep. The scientific research is clear regarding the benefits of consistently sufficient sleep. The time that our long-term memories are stored away and when we take in all the information that we received during the day and regenerate to do it all over again on the subsequent day. A night of poor sleep can lead to irritability and generally restricts a day of expected productivity. Sleep, therefore, has a direct correlation to our destiny.

Another resolution that I hope to enact in the next calendar year is to always be reading a book that has not been assigned as coursework. Reading for pleasure is a practice that seems to be reserved for those with copious amounts of free time with which to spend

hours reading without the apparent constraints of intellectual consideration or reading comprehension questions to be answered. However, it seems to be a therapeutic practice for college students. With the desire to grow my intellectual capacity outside the realm of graded assignments or the possibility of being tested, casual reading seems to be the surest and quickest manner for this growth to be achieved. This resolution is consistent with the attempt to be more intentional because the practice takes advantage of time that would otherwise be used to come across information on the internet or social media that is presented in an incoherent way. Instead, resolving to always have a book open will give me the opportunity to learn new information, understand thought leadership across disciplines and explore new parts of the world that I would never have had exposure to without the limitless opportunities that lie in the written word.

Finally, the most extreme resolution that I will attempt for 2019 is limiting time on social media. This will be difficult, because it is one way I communicate with friends from high school. However, it does take up a lot of the day if the app sits on my phone, ready to be opened, without a meaningful alternative to endlessly scrolling through Insta-

gram. I hope that the short-term benefits will be noticeable. With more time to read the book that will always be open on my desk, spend more face-to-face time with friends, and less political frustrations emerging from the dark recesses of Instagram, I will have successfully completed my resolution to be more intentional. Today, very little of social media leads to personal development. While the seemingly pure and positive intentions of social media are evident, the deleterious effects of tearing people apart and emphasizing what divides us, instead of what unites us, has proven to have negative side effects on my generation. Spending endless hours on social media does not enhance my freedom, but rather limits and holds it hostage to sites that have proven to be addictive.

I know that I will learn a lot about myself, others and the world in the next calendar year. Just from my first semester, it is obvious that is a common expectation in college. With the desire to be more intentional in my thoughts, words, actions and habits, I pray that this New Year will build upon solid character and a rising destiny for myself and others. Happy New Year!

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

### Sophomore Year

New Year, new me

Angela Guiao  
MSMU Class of 2021

Wow. Another year has passed, and another year is rolling in. And that means a whole new year of new experiences, new people, and new memories. It also means a new year of resolutions: New Year's resolutions. And, boy, do we know how those end up.

New Year's resolutions have the infamous reputation of never really working out. Whether the resolution be to lose x amount of weight, to eat healthier, or even to say "I love you" more, they just never seem to go the way we hope.

Of course, in the beginning of the year, we are hopeful. We are determined. We are rejuvenated. We want to change. We want to become a better version of ourselves. And that is great. That is wonderful. But the reality is, sometimes, even most of the time, we are unable to completely fulfill our goals.

So, what is my New Year's resolution? I know I might be sounding like a Scrooge right about now with all my doubts and grinch-iness. But please don't get me wrong; I am not saying every single New Year's resolution has turned out to be a failure. A great number are successful. And I'm pretty sure that

if you put your mind to it hard enough, you'd be able to succeed at whatever you resolve to do as well.

This year, my New Year's resolution is to be grateful. Year after year, I always wanted to make myself better in many different ways. I am constantly searching for ways to improve my appearance, my work ethic, my life. It has gotten to the point where I realized that in my search to do better, to be better, and to live better, I've forgotten what I've already achieved in the past; what I already had.

As a perfectionist, I need to accept that, alike everyone else in the world, I am definitely not perfect. I need to accept that my failure to reach my own expectations does not make me worthless. I can change the way I look, the way I feel, and the way I act, but I don't think that it will make me feel any better about myself. Why? Because of my intention. Because of my motivation. I don't want to change my life because it's a brand-new year. I want to change my life because I want my life to change!

And that is what I am going to do. I'm going to wait. I'm going to learn to appreciate the things I have and be satisfied with the life I have been given. Sure, there are a bunch of things that I would like to instantly change right now. I think change is good. It's scary

and it's mysterious, but it's also healthy. But, I also think that as much as we may need change, we also need to take a moment where we acknowledge what we have. We must acknowledge where we are grateful for the reality of our life. We must learn to look for the silver lining, even if it's not always obvious. By appreciating what we have, we are changing our entire view of the world. And maybe, just maybe, that's a good enough change for us today.

This past year, I returned to school after taking a year off. I was so happy. I walked around campus appreciating every single step, every chance to enter Patriot, every glance at the trees and the buildings I have grown so accustomed to my first year that I spent at the Mount.

I appreciated school and learning so much more now because that opportunity was taken away from me. I brushed off my friend's complaints about homework and waking up early, because I was so thankful that I actually had something to complain about. You don't know what you've got until it's gone.

I realized that this feeling and this mindset should not only pertain to school. It should pertain to my whole life, to my entire family, to each of my decisions, and to all of my thoughts. I could not live a life based on negativity. I could not live always expecting the worst to happen or imagining the worst-

case scenario. I couldn't go through life taking everything for granted!

As I've already experienced, you could wake up one day and everything that you thought you had, every privilege that you didn't appreciate, could disappear suddenly. I don't want to wake up one morning and realize that I didn't appreciate my life enough; that I didn't appreciate my parents, my friends. I don't want to wake up and realize I wasted my entire life dreaming of what I could've have instead of enjoying everything I already did have.

So, that is why this year my New Year's resolution is to be grateful. Actually, I take that back. My life resolution is to be grateful because I want to remember to be grateful every single day. I want to appreciate and acknowledge people and things that happen to me. I want to enjoy life. Overall, I want to be happy.

I don't have a problem with chasing dreams. It's one of my favorite pastimes. But the luxury of chasing dreams is only there with the acknowledgment of our own realities. Dreams are supposed to be a better reality. But how can we chase something better if we don't recognize all the amazing things that we already have?

This is a reminder to be happy. It's a reminder to kiss your mom or your husband or your children every chance you get. This is a reminder to thank God for waking up every morning to live another day and to thank Him for putting you to sleep every single night. It is a reminder that every opportunity is just that: an opportunity. And that not everyone is as blessed as we are to have a choice.

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

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

## Junior Year

### Polishing myself

Morgan Rooney  
MSMU Class of 2020

There are so many things I want to do in order to better my life and better the lives of those around me. I could pick 1,000 different resolutions, but I know that if I put the bar too high, I'll certainly fail. With all of the distractions and important things a college student needs to do, it would be ridiculous to overwhelm myself even more than I already am. I believe baby steps can sometimes (not always) be the best way to achieve something. Things like breaking a habit, whether that be biting your nails and popping your knuckles are best done all at once with strong determination, yet breaking an addiction such as ingesting too much processed sugar or caffeine is better off done gradually, to reduce the intensity of withdrawals.

A lot of people I know also tell me they don't believe in New Year's resolutions because of the fact that you can change any time, and it doesn't have anything to do with switching from one year to another. I'd com-

pare this to people who say they don't believe in Valentine's Day because you should show your significant other love every day. Sure, that is true, but there is also nothing wrong with setting a specific day to show more affection than usual. I know that for someone who attends the gym regularly, the swarms of new members for the month of January can be incredibly annoying considering that your favorite machine is taken, but it's better to look around at all the people making an effort to change their lives with this small step, even if they are not good at following through with their plans.

I have multiple resolutions this year, but again, I try to keep the number to a minimum and keep them achievable. If they aren't achievable, I would have a greater chance of becoming discouraged and giving up within just a few weeks (or days).

The first resolution would be that I want to start cooking more. As someone who already has to stay on a fairly strict diet for health reasons, I think that it's important that I start cooking more and learning more about cooking. Not only is it healthier, but I think it could

become a good hobby for me and would definitely pay off in the long run for the day I may have children. Now that I have an on-campus apartment, I have easier access to the equipment and space I need to cook. It's a learned skill that one cannot be born with (at least I was cheated out of that skill), so the sooner, the better!

Secondly, I want to work hard on being nicer and friendlier to people. Not just when they are in the room, but especially when I am away from them. I don't feel like I'm ever rude to people to their face (or I at least hope that I'm not, because that has never been my intention), but I am ashamed to admit that from time to time I will talk about other people in a negative way when they aren't around. In my opinion, talking about people in a negative light when they are not present leads to nothing but hurt feelings and guilt. I do understand why people do this, as sometimes we all just feel the need to blow off steam and talk to someone about things that are bothering us (including other people), but instead we should take these frustrations out in other ways that do not have the potential to make anyone upset.

Friendliness goes along with that. As an introverted person, I know

how uncomfortable it can be to go to a party and know no one there. I often end up using my phone as a technique to look less awkward at social events. You will rarely find me attending an event alone, and if you do, I must've mentally prepared myself to be there. I am very grateful when someone friendly comes along and starts up a conversation with me. I don't necessarily not want to talk, I am often just uncomfortable putting myself out there. Small talk is much better than questions like "Are you tired?" "Do you not want to be here?" or "Are you just shy?" These questions are likely to make someone like me even more uncomfortable even if the person asking this has good intentions. I would love to be that person who can make someone feel more comfortable in these situations rather than making them feel worse about it. I know friendliness really has the power to make someone's day.

My last resolution that I would like to work on this year is my stubbornness. Yes, me, alike many others can admit that they tend to be stubborn or overly defensive in certain ways. Someone may say something with no harm intended, but if I'm not in the mood for innocent teasing from friends, I definitely can

take it the wrong way and throw a snappy, defensive line back at them. Nobody enjoys spending time with someone who can't laugh at themselves or is too competitive. Sometimes, I should just take a step back and realize that no one meant anything bad by what they had said. Of course, if someone takes a joke too far, or ventures into a sensitive subject, communication is important and it's crucial to talk to that person about what was said, but I also know that I shouldn't take most things in life too seriously. Provoking people does not make anything better. Life is about enjoying the people around you, not being angry or judgmental all the time.

With enough determination, I would at least like to improve myself in these different ways. I don't want to change who I am, but instead polish myself to be a better version of who I am that can bring more positive experiences to myself and the people around me, no matter what challenges face me in this coming year. I know it will be a long and difficult one, but I am only hoping that it will be one that is worth remembering.

To read other articles by Morgan, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

## Senior Year

### Change in my shopping cart

Shea Rowell  
MSMU Class of 2019

It's the time of year when an endless stream of "New Year's Resolution" advertisements take over the news and advertising media. They promise new beginnings and better versions of yourself, promises you're actually going to keep this year, and to use the common phrases of the season, a "new you." The frustrating thing about the New Year's message in our culture, however, is that the vast majority of them are about weight loss. I understand – it is important to take care of your physical health. My frustration, however, stems from the emphasis this places on physical appearance over internal qualities and habits that affect not only yourself but others. This New Year, I would like to take a look at the impact I have on the world around me.

I resolve to address a problem with the way I look at one of the most basic tasks of daily life: shopping. Until recently, I thought I had this all figured out. Material objects, I thought, are not very important in the grand scheme of things. Therefore, under the feeble banner of "frugality" I have spent my shopping time looking for bargains, usually buying cheaply-made products over higher quality to save a few dollars. Then, inevitably, the product falls apart and the whole process repeats. I thought this was a responsible way to consume, but recently my perspective has changed. In a class

I took last semester on Catholic social teaching, we read Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*. In this document, Pope Francis points out a flaw in the developed world's habits of consumerism. It is a culture he calls the "throwaway culture" which applies not only to our consumption of goods but also our attitudes toward other people. The throwaway culture has a negative impact on the environment, as frivolously discarded goods pile up in landfills, and human rights, as the laborers who produce the goods are unfairly compensated. The reason this culture thrives is its positive impact on the economy – at least in the short term.

As ashamed as I was to discover this, my shopping habits are proof of my compliance with the throwaway culture. I was willing to ignore the wasteful way I was using goods in order to save money. As much as I try to use and reuse the products I buy, I find myself guilty of the flaw that I thought was a virtue: I don't value material goods too much, I value them too little. I was buying goods, as infrequently as possible of course, and, because they cost me little, they were of little value to me. I was not the one who spent hours in a factory stitching the fabric, or in the fields under the heat of the sun harvesting natural resources. I don't have to see the faces of the exhausted workers whose wages barely make ends meet, or breathe the air polluted by factory emissions. The product means nothing more to me than the amount of money that I

decided it was worth.

For my New Year's resolution, I would like to change my habits of consumption by renewing my concept of frugality. It is time to replace my short-sighted vision of frugality with a more sustainable one. I will have to think about spending in the long term, and acknowledge that my buying habits impact not only my bank account but also the lives of people whom I will never meet, and the environmental conditions of the earth. While I admit that to consume only products that meet all the qualifications I would like would be impractical for a variety of reasons, there are practical ways I can improve the way I buy and use goods.

The first is to reuse. The easiest way to avoid adding to the landfills is to stop the constant cycle of buying new and discarding. Instead, buying used items like clothing, books, and furniture will be budget-friendly and environmentally friendly. I've also found that thrift shopping is fun, especially because you never quite know what you might find! I would also like to start donating the items I can no longer use to places that either give or sell them to those who might need them. I owe many of the comforts of my life to the generosity of others. Reusing and donating unneeded goods is a way I can start to give back.

The second way I can be a more attentive consumer is, and this will be more difficult for me, buying higher quality, and therefore higher-priced goods. This will hopefully have two results: the most obvious is that I will take buying more seriously. If I spend more money on higher quality goods,

I will be forced to buy less often, to make good use of the goods that I have, and to take good care of them to prolong their use. If I buy less often, I will throw away less often and contribute less to frivolous waste. The second benefit is less certain, but higher-priced goods are better able to compensate workers fairly.

The third way I resolve to improve my consumer habits helps with worker compensation: buying items produced fair-trade. While the fair-trade movement is still a growing movement and the amount of goods that are available fair trade is still quite limited, there are certain types of goods that are almost always available fair trade. Coffee, tea, chocolate, and sugar

can be found fair trade at Walmart, and gift items like jewelry, handbags, toys, and decorations can be found at fair-trade stores. While they are not labelled "fair-trade", food from local farmers' markets and items made in the United States abide by local regulations, and have better control of workers' rights as well.

I know this resolution will be difficult, and I will definitely not be perfect, but changing my habits little by little will help change my path. I can't change consumer culture as a whole, but I can take steps to reduce its grip on me.

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

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# FASHION

## Sweater weather

Valerie McPhail  
MSMU Class of 2015

Without fail, the New Year brings forth optimism for fresh starts, dreams and hope for change. Holding onto the anticipation for all the magic the month of January could bring, we're pulled into the opposite direction by the cold winter carried in from December. Grounding us to turn to oversized knits and turtleneck sweaters, fashion forces us to consider the impact of our shopping habits.

In the world of fashion, what is more cozying and stabilizing than to return to a sweater? The 2.0 of dressing in 2019 could be a retreat to what leads us to live our best lives: a fashion-forward focused resolution, tied to minimalist attention and care towards lessening our carbon footprint on the planet.

The biggest struggle on my jour-

ney to discovering my personal style continues as a heart set search for a particular in-the-moment item — a dress I need for a birthday party Saturday night or a comfortable sweater for Monday morning. After a troublesome season of searching, I've come to the conclusion: less is more. Finding the brands that support your lifestyle needs will also greatly alleviate the search involved in shopping. There are brands that are committed to practicing ethical processes to care and support Mother Earth, and they too offer the coziest sweaters.

### Everlane

After a denim pop-up store in downtown NYC convinced me to leave with the purchase of a pair of boyfriend cut, navy-washed pair of jeans at \$68 dollars, I have ever since been convinced of Everlane. The San Francisco brand built in 2010 continues to thrive on a busi-

ness model built on transparency and sustainability — scaling the production pricing of their classic pieces and empowering ethical factories with the best fabrics to create denim, bags, shoes and cashmere sweaters.

The cherry on top to their ethical approach to fashion is their affordable prices and simplistic design. Everlane leads the pack of sustainable fashion brands as it offers accessibility to pronounced pieces including an assortment of designs from their 100% cashmere collection, cotton and concise variety of wool and alpaca styles. Environmental riots and demands for change should be a cause every person can relate to and engage with. Everlane is allowing the greater public to join their mission — simple and affordable fashions with an ethical approach.

### Reformation

Also known by its brand followers as "Ref," the cool girl, eco-mission label from Los Angeles, California has caused a ripple within the fashion scene since its start in 2009. Beloved for their silky, girly and predominantly flirtatious dresses, the brand has a great offering of vintage denim, politically charged graphic t-shirts and cozy pullovers worth every investment.

This celebrity favored label, adored by the likes of Rihanna, Karly Kloss, Taylor Swift and Selena Gomez, is far from the flashy stores experienced on Broadway or 5th Avenue. Rather, the brand has three stores tucked in quaint spaces in the shopping districts of downtown New York City. This presence says a lot about its cool factor. Not only are their pullovers my favorite find, their sweaters are also classically designed and created for modern-day design. A cable knit cardigan given the name "Annie Sweater," mostly made of recycled cotton, or the cutesy "Daisy Sweater," made of viscose and linen, both designed in a cropped cut with animated hearts printed across the chest are two of many sweater styles Reformation sells under the umbrella of sustainability. With practices that

include educating the customer on the materials used in production, their mission is to demand healthier production practices and strategically push for e-commerce sales over retail visits. Reformation is a powerhouse to be supported, and the underdog of the future of fashion.

### Entireworld

Considerably the best marriage between fashion and sustainability discovered to date, I was introduced to Entireworld through my Instagram feed and quickly arrived at the understanding that this brand is silently gaining a large community of social media influencers and attention because of its mission and building blocks. Find Entireworld on Instagram and discover the universe behind its place in fashion. Click through their website and explore a novel approach to shopping and brand knowledge — the brands' "About" section is linked to a YouTube video featuring founder Scott Sternberg, previous founder of Band of Outsiders, before closing in 2015.

Three years later Sternberg opened an experimental project, Entireworld, which seeks to dig deeper into fashion and its purpose to the co-existing, interactive world we live in.

Shopable on social media and e-commerce, the brand implements popular forms of communication to the business of fashion. My first introduction to the brand was when I discovered their Dark Navy Crew Neck and read raving customer comments on its comfort. Tech is not the only form of sustainability Entireworld is committed to, scroll through the products on their website — the entireworld.com — to find organic cotton tops and recycled cotton pullovers and sweatpants. As the labels journey to exploring a new approach to fashion has just begun, Entireworld has predetermined a sustainable demand of fashion.

The purpose of a sweater changes when ethical and sustainable perspectives join its conversation on design. The ideal New Years resolution to fashion involves a challenge to consider new approaches to fashion that will influence our lives and the planet we live on. This is the bigger perspective, a hope for change, while reasonably retreating to the staple designs that keep us warm and cozy in the winter months. Everlane, Reformation and Entireworld are brands leading a new path to fashion without compromising our needs. With the demand for ethical practices in fashion, this will lead to a more meaningful understanding of fashion. I dare to consider, and demand a greater responsibility to fashion and my relationship with it — over the superficial thoughts on how clothing is valued by label and how it fits on my body. Cheers to a 2019 and fashion-forward New Years resolution this year!



Daisy Sweater by Reformation.



Unworn sweaters are almost always occupied by heat loving cats. Have a spare sweater, but no cat? Nine-year-old Chocolate Murray would be more than happy to fill that hole in your life! To learn more about Chocolate Murray, visit the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter's website at [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).



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To read other articles by Valerie, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

CREATIVE WRITING

# How we respond to the Temperate

**Dr. Brokow, VMD  
President, Former-  
Former Boozers Association**

*Editor's Note: While sifting through some of her grandfather's effects, our Pet's column writer, Dr. Kimberly Brokow came across the follow speech her grandfather apparently gave at the first general meeting of the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former Former Boozers Association after the passing of the Prohibition amendment in January, 1919.*

*Special thanks to Harry Scherer, MSMU class of 2022 for interpreting Dr. Brokow's chicken scratch. [The elder Dr. Brokow's, not Kim's]*

Welcome, all, to the gathering that your wives just understand to be "meetin' up with the boys." That's fine to keep it that way. As long as everyone's dedication to our valiant cause remains focused, I don't care what you tell your wives.

I thought that we would adjourn tonight's meeting with a drink: a drink to what it means to be Men. Here at the Former Former Boozers Association, we've been to the dark side. We know what it means to work hard all day, return to the house after dark and have to listen to the wife for who knows how long and have to remember all that.

The Former Boozers Association did not fulfill our needs as hard-working Men, so the band decided to add another "Former" to the name. Seemed more appropriate. Unfortunately, today, we must raise our glasses in the underground. We cannot raise them to liberty and freedom as we once did so proudly.

This brings us to the meat of our meeting: the ridiculous policy of the United States government against the very values on which this country was founded: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Values that are now threatened by the recent passage of ill thought out, Suffragette supported, Prohibition Amendment to of illustrious United States Constitution. Washington, Jefferson, Adams and our other founding fathers are rolling over in their graves at this insult to manhood.

My life is liberated by my favorite drinks, so I can pursue happiness! How does the government, influenced by crooked scientists and special interests, know how I can best live my life? Somehow, they're getting away with this crock, but if we keep at it in the best way we know how, that won't be for long!

We know what it takes to keep on drinking: we just do it. Now, according to the government, we do it illegally. It could certainly be more convenient than that. So, how do we further our mission? Might I suggest that we go through some common questions or charges that the "temperate" folk bring up against us, we free Men who are just trying to live and prosper in our own skin.

They temperately say that we are being immoral. Oh, the pious indignation on the part of those who decry activity that they would, of course, partake in if they had been involved in the situations which we have had exposure to. It is plain to see that the hypocrisy on the parts of these religious zealots is hurting their own cause. As our society has said since her inception, "we know some people don't like drinking. Them ain't us." Whenever a pious fool approaches you, knowing that you are a member of this age-old and respected society for Men of Good Will, be sure to immediately point out that they have failures as well, and that we have no intention of pointing them out or prohibiting those failures from occurring.

Second, some might say that we are unpatriotic. This charge is preposterous, firstly, because

inhibition movement is anti-woman. This hesitation against joining our cause is equally ridiculous to the suggestion that we are anti-American. Our secretary herself is a proud member of the female race! She has served us as an effective note-taker for years and does not find any credence in these unfounded remarks.

The temperates suggest that the anti-Prohibition movement encourages violence in the home, between man and woman, by allowing men to lose control of themselves and hit their wife. If any inquiring person suggests that he finds credence in these remarks, immediately remind him that the Former Former Boozers Association helps Men find their purpose by expressing their freedom and liberty as Americans.

Nowhere in that mission statement is there an encouragement or endorsement of violence or out-



18th Amendment. These people have the efforts of discriminating against those among us who do not have the financial means to purchase high-quality liquor. The poor are the driving force behind our campaign, because they cannot fight for themselves! Once we secure liberty and freedom for the least of us, we will all be able to raise a glass together in peace. Those who fight for Prohibition fight for discrimination against the poor. That's always a good line.

Be sure to mention that if anyone asks why you are a part of our Manly Association. I would also encourage you to remind those patient inquirers that Prohibition is being driven by a lust for money. It is money that we at the Former Former Boozers Association pine for. Our quest for unfettered freedom is not driven by an endless supply of greenbacks, as those at the federal government endlessly desire. Because of this corrupt government's passage of the 16th Amendment, alcohol cannot be taxed. Instead, they squeeze everything

they can from our pockets after a hard day's work. They will never stop. Because they cannot tax our drink, they tax our work.

Friends, today is a day of great despair and great hope. We sink our heads because we think of the direction that our government is going in restricting the rights of us, Americans. Then, we raise our heads in hope because we have to raise them back up again to take a sip in a manner that is proper to a Man. If we did not, all of our drink would fall down our chest and we would reek of alcohol. While this, certainly, does not unappealing to me, and I'm sure not to you, as well, our image would certainly suffer for those who might be sympathetic to our cause.

This is a time to remember as a historical period in our Nation's history. We are the fighters in the Good Fight in search for the actualization of our Nation's destiny. In the way that we began, let us raise our glasses and drink to America!

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



many of the Men in our society have proudly served this nation on the battlefield. If anyone were to charge you with being anti-American because of your repulsion to Prohibition, be sure to instruct the ignorant and inform them that never purchased a drop of German liquor during the war. It's a Spiritual Work of Mercy, after all. With these motives, it is tough to imagine how anyone could label our Brotherhood as amoral or against religion. We intend to broaden the understanding of those who have not walked a mile in our shoes!

The third complaint that the temperate folk have is that the anti-Pro-

hibition movement is anti-woman. In fact, quite the contrary. Many of our Men have reported at meetings such as this that their wives have noticed their husbands to be more agreeable and more relaxed since they joined our Ancient Association. The wives, of course, are not aware of the source of this agreeableness or relaxation. For all they know, adding a touch of cinnamon in the marinara sauce did ameliorate their husband's rash behavior.

Lastly, I would like to remind all of our members of the sins of those in the Prohibition movement and those who support that devilish

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## ARTS

# Majestic Theater hosts The Oak Ridge Boys

Jean Grubeský  
The Majestic Theater

The Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater is excited to announce The Oak Ridge Boys 2019 tour will stop in Gettysburg on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. With one of the most distinctive sounds in the music industry, The Oak Ridge Boys bring 50 years of tradition to bear on a stage show widely acknowledged as among the most exciting anywhere.

"Every year I try to book an iconic name in American roots music. Now The Oak Ridge Boys will grace the Majestic's stage where also, Roy Clark, Arlo Guthrie, Jr., The Blind Boys of Alabama and Preservation Hall Jazz Band

have played before them," observed Jeffrey Gabel, the Majestic's Founding Executive Director.

The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of The Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of country hits and a number one pop smash that earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA and ACM awards. The Oak Ridge Boys represent a tradition that extends back to 1943. The original group, based in Knoxville, Tenn., began performing country and gospel music in nearby Oak Ridge. They called themselves the Oak Ridge Quartet, and they began regular appearances at the Grand Ole Opry. By the 1970s their sound had evolved to gospel with a pop edge.

Their string of hits includes the

chart-topper "Elvira," as well as "Bobbie Sue," "Dream On," "Thank God For Kids," "American Made," and many others. They've scored ten gold, three platinum, one double platinum album and one double platinum single. Additionally, they've had more than a dozen number one singles.

The Oak Ridge Boys have performed with Paul Simon, George Jones, Brenda Lee, Johnny Cash, Roy Rogers, Billy Ray Cyrus and others. They have appeared before three presidents and produced one of the first country music videos in 1977. The Oak Ridge Boys are Duane Allen singing lead, Richard Sterban singing bass, Joe Bonsall singing tenor and William Lee Golden singing baritone. Together they comprise one of



country's truly legendary acts.

Tickets will be available to the general public beginning Friday, November 30 by calling 717-337-8200, or at

the Box Office, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday, 12 - 7 p.m. and Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m.

## PGL's annual Nicaragua Night and Auction

Project Gettysburg-León (PGL) will hold its annual Nicaragua Night and Auction on Saturday, January 19 at Gettysburg College's Hauser Field House between West Lincoln Ave. and Broadway. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., with a buffet chili dinner starting at 5:15. Live music will be provided by The Woebegoners. Child care will open at 5:45, and the live auction will start at 6.

PGL functions under the auspices of Gettysburg College's Center for Public Service, and is a sister-city

relationship between the Borough of Gettysburg, Gettysburg College and communities in and around the city of León, Nicaragua. The monies raised at the auction are used to carry out PGL's mission to empower people, communities and organizations; and to advance sustainable development through capacity-building funds, education and cultural exchange programs.

The auction, PGL's main fundraiser of the year, includes hundreds of items including getaway vacations,

signature meals, artwork, themed baskets, and a wide variety of services.

PGL began its relationship in 1985 with León, Nicaragua's second largest city, which in 1989 became a sister city of the Borough of Gettysburg. Since then, more than 800 people from Gettysburg and León have visited each other's communities. PGL has worked with urban and rural communities on dozens of sustainable projects such as health centers, maternity centers, potable water systems, school and house building,

rural electrification, and solar ovens and food driers.

In its current program, PGL continues to provide scholarship aid to two young rural farmers to study agricultural science and train other farmers in their community; supports an after-school program working with children at risk; and provides funds for homework clubs for the school children of several Leon neighborhoods. PGL also continues painting, drawing and music classes in an indigenous section of Leon through

Xuchialt Art School; and has budgeted funds for a large water project in the mountains near León. Each fall, the organization sponsors and conducts Salsa on the Square in downtown Gettysburg.

*Tickets can be purchased and tax-deductible auction items donated at the PGL auction website: [www.gettysburg-leon.org/annual-auction](http://www.gettysburg-leon.org/annual-auction), or call 717-337-6490. Tickets are \$15 and children under 5 are free. Tables of 10 may be purchased.*

## "AVENUE Q" comes to Gettysburg

Gettysburg Community Theatre, the non-profit 501c3 organization located inside 49 York Street in historic downtown Gettysburg, will kick off its 11th Season with the musical comedy AVENUE Q. Winner 2004 Tony Award Triple Crown with Best Musical, Best Score, Best Book, AVENUE Q.

AVENUE Q is part flesh, part felt, packed with heart, and is still the funniest and freshest show in New York City, but this coming

January you can see it right here in Gettysburg! This laugh-out-loud musical with actors and puppets together on stage, tells the timeless story of a bright-eyed college grad named Princeton. When he arrives in the city with big dreams and a tiny bank account, he has to move into a shabby apartment all the way out on AVENUE Q. Still, the neighbors seem nice. There, he meets Kate (the girl next door), Rod (the Republican), Trekkie (the

internet entrepreneur), superintendent Gary Coleman (yes, that Gary Coleman) and other new friends! Together, they struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life.

Who is AVENUE Q appropriate for?

Adults love AVENUE Q, but they seem a little fuzzy on whether it's appropriate for kids. AVENUE Q is great for teenagers because it's about real life. It may not be appro-

priate for young children because AVENUE Q addresses mature issues like sex, drinking, and surfing the web for "mature sites". AVENUE Q has been described as an "adult version" of Sesame Street. It's hard to say what exact age is right to see AVENUE Q - parents should use their discretion based on the maturity level of their children. But we promise you this - if you DO bring your teenagers to AVENUE Q, they'll think you're really cool.

\$21 limited reserved seating tickets to AVENUE Q can be easily purchased online at [www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org](http://www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org) or by calling 717-334-2692 or in person at the box office one hour before any showtime if seats are still available. The show is being directed by Greg Trax with music directed and live band conducted by Michael Frock.

Avenue Q contains mature language and subject matter. Performances will be held January 11-27, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

## Gilligan's Island – The Musical

Audiences at The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre will once again have the chance to see some of their favorite characters come to life on the stage as the theatre sets sail for laughter as it presents the area premiere of Gilligan's Island – The Musical.

Based on the iconic 60's TV comedy, seven castaways, shipwrecked on a remote Pacific island, build huts and begin to explore their surroundings. They discover strange hieroglyphics in a spooky cave, which speak of an ancient legend. The weather gets rough, Gilligan foils the best laid of the castaway's rescue plans, romance develops, and the castaways have an out-of-this-world encounter! It's fun, wacky, and entertaining.

Originally created by legendary producer Sherwood Schwartz,

Gilligan's Island aired for three seasons, from 1964 to 1967. An audience favorite during its run, the show only grew in popularity in the 70's and 80's through syndication. As for the characters themselves, they have become fixtures in America's entertainment culture. To this day, Bob Denver is still best known for playing the part of the clumsy first-mate, Gilligan. And who could ever forget Jim Backus and Natalie Schafer as the loveable, yet eccentric Howells? Not to mention Alan Hale as Skipper, Tina Louise as Ginger, Dawn Wells as Mary Ann, or Russell Johnson as the Professor.

In the early 90's, Schwartz, along with his son, Lloyd, developed Gilligan's Island for the stage. Following try-out productions in Los Angeles and Chicago, the show went on a national tour before a planned

Off-Broadway arrival.

Following the success of WOB's production of Happy Days – The Musical, the theatre's producers thought Gilligan's Island would be a fun addition to the 25th Anniversary Season. It's a show with a lot of laughs that will no doubt help to chase the winter blues away at the beginning of the year.

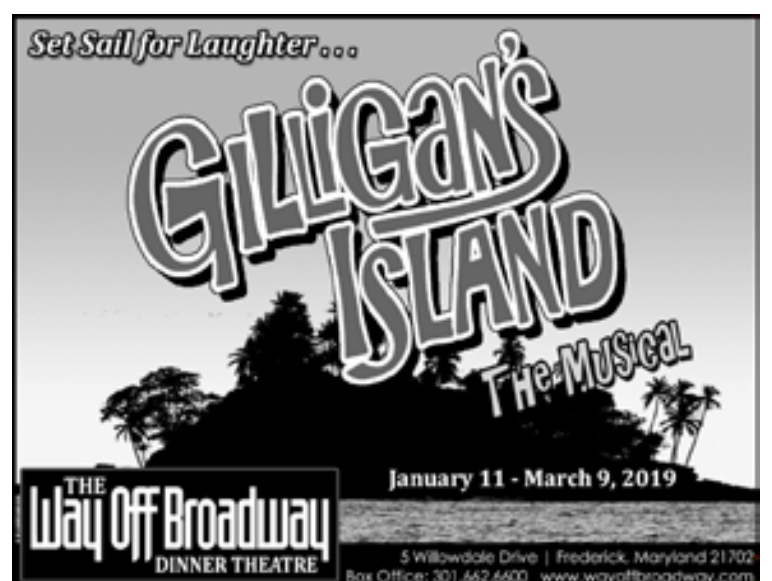
"We're all very excited about Gilligan's Island," says Justin M. Kiska, Way Off Broadway's President & Managing Director. "These are characters everyone knows and loves and now they're going to be on stage singing and dancing. It's a hilariously corny show for the cold winter months."

The show will run January 11th – March 9th with performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th

Sunday of each month. For evening performances, guests arrive for dinner at 6 p.m. with the show beginning at 8 p.m. For matinees, doors open at 12:30 p.m. for lunch with

the show beginning at 2:15 p.m. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

*To learn more about The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre or any of its productions, visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com)*



# Christmas surprise & New Year's schedule!

Chloe Corwin  
MSMU Class of 2020

The fall semester of 2018 has officially come to an end and spring semester 2019 is just around the corner. Last year there were so many enjoyable and exciting events to attend, and this semester will be just as thrilling.

Before we look to next semester, though, some interesting events took place on Carrick's Mountain last Christmas Eve that calls for some attention. The song of a flute was heard once more on the mountain for the late professor, Dr. John Casper Harry Dielman.

Kelly Conroy, a writer for the Emmitsburg News-Journal wrote a piece on the legend in 2012. She offered insight to the life of Dr. Dielman, the immigrant composer and musician from Germany who lived in the early 1800s. He came to the United States, earned his degree and worked writing inauguration marches for presidents and symphony orchestras in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. Before long, he settled in Emmitsburg and began his teaching career at Mount St. Mary's College in 1834.

In 1885, Dr. Dielman passed away and was buried in the cemetery behind the college. He was survived by his 47 year-old son, Lawrence "Larry" Dielman. Though Larry did not have quite the musical aptitude his father had, he was familiar with several instruments.

With a heavy heart, Larry began what became a tradition for 33 years according to the 1918 Catocin Clarion. Every Christmas Eve, he would climb the mountain and play his father's favorite hymn 'Adeste Fideles' before his gravestone on the flute. Through snow or freezing temperatures, the son was determined to remember his father in this way.

In 1900, St. Anthony's Shrine Parish began having midnight Christmas mass and Larry Dielman extended his father's memorial tradition to playing for the mass on Christmas Day as well. As Mr. Dielman aged, he was carried up the steep mountain by sled, all to take the time to honor his father.

The tradition came to an end in 1918. Larry Dielman became paralyzed and was no longer able to play the flute. In 1917 he asked a friend to carry on the tradition without him, and it became the final time the sweet song echoed through the mountain on the cold Christmas Eve. Mr. Dielman passed away in 1923, and since that day legend has it that one could hear the light song of a flute on Christmas Eve or morning if listening closely.

On the 100 year anniversary, Christmas Eve 2018, the tradition has begun again. Flutist Julia Cool, a Mount St. Mary's University student, volunteered to play before the gravestone of Professor John Dielmand. She also played at the church at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Ms. Cool has been an active member of the Mount's music community the three years she has been enrolled as a student, and was excited to take on this beautiful tradition.

The Emmitsburg News-Journal would love to keep this tradition going, and encourages you to look out for next

year's Christmas Eve homage to the late professor and his son.

As for the events of the Mount St. Mary's University's Visual and Performing Arts, there are many to attend over the next several months. Be sure to mark your calendars of the events that seem most intriguing, and challenge yourself with a show or two that might surprise you in the end.

In the month of January, students will be returning to campus on the 14. The only event scheduled for this month is the Mount Theatre Mainstage Auditions on January 23 and 24.

In February comes the annual Music Revue titled My Way to be performed on February 14, 15, and 16. This year's revue has been adapted into senior Tahreem Fayiz's senior project, as she is the book writer for the show. The show is based on real events in Fayiz's life, and through the character of Sana, the audience sees a series of hardships the young woman has experienced. Between scenes, song selections from a variety of musicals such as Les Miserables, Sister Act, A Chorus Line, Funny Girl, and several more to enhance the emotional tension depicted just beforehand.

The show has been a collaborative effort and has a team of students and faculty working on the piece. As previously mentioned, Tahreem Fayiz wrote the show, music selection was by Kelley Northam, a junior and member of Mount Music Society. Direction of the show comes from recent graduate Tom Baker and sophomore Christopher Heilos. The faculty advisor on this project is Dr. Mark Carlson, music professor at the Mount, and the musical director is Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld, the Fine Arts Department Chair.

My Way is to be performed at the Horning Theater in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center at 8:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

In March, there are two events lined up in the Knott Auditorium. First, the Sotto Voce Concert at 7:30 p.m. on March 22. The next is the Wind Ensemble Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. on March 30. Both events are open to the public.

In April comes a plethora of oppor-



On Christmas Eve, Julia Cool, MSMU Class of 2020, restarted an old Emmitsburg tradition, 100 years after it had ended, by playing Adeste Fideles at the graveside of Casper Dielman and his son Larry.

tunities to experience the arts at the Mount. First is the Theatre Mainstage Production of Stupid F\*\*king Bird written by Aaron Posner. The show is a humorous meta production that is loosely based on The Seagull by Anton Chekhov.

The publishing company describes the show as such: "an aspiring young director rampages against the art created by his mother's generation. A nubile young actress wrestles with an aging Hollywood star for the affections of a renowned novelist. And everyone discovers just how disappointing love, art, and growing up can be. In this irreverent, contemporary, and very funny remix of Chekhov's The Seagull, Aaron Posner stages a timeless battle between young and old, past and present, in search of the true meaning of it all. Original songs composed by James Sugg draw the famously subtextual inner thoughts of Chekhov's characters explicitly to the surface. Stupid F\*\*king Bird will tickle, tantalize, and entice you to consider how art, love, and revolution fuel your own pursuit of happiness."

The production is headed by director and Professor Dr. Kurt Blaughter who has been very excited to get the

show going. Stupid F\*\*king Bird will be held in the Horning Theater on April 4, 5, and 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Following the Mainstage, the Adjunct Ensemble Recital will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Horning Theater on April 12, and is quickly followed by the Junior Music Recital on the 13 at the same time and location. Next, the Senior Music Recitals will be held at 6:30 in the Knott Auditorium on the 16. Finally, on April 30, the Instrumental/Vocal Recital will be in the Horning Theater at 7:30 p.m.

This concludes the scheduled performances of the Visual and Performing Arts Department of Mount St. Mary's University for the 2019 Spring Semes-

ter. Stay tuned for more information on these events in the following months.

The Mount St. Mary's University Department of Visual and Performing Arts is located in The Delaplaine Fine Arts Center and can be contacted by phone at 301-447-5308. Like our Facebook page @msmuypa for more updates, photos, and videos. For more information about the department in general, search for Visual and Performing Arts on the Mount St. Mary's University official website [www.msmary.edu](http://www.msmary.edu).

To read other articles by Chloe, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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## LOCAL SPORTS

# Catoctin swimmers back in the pools

Grace Kovalcik  
CHS Class of 2021

Within the past few months, local families have been turning up the heat and adjusting to the frigid winter weather. People from all over Frederick county have been busy decorating for the holidays, spending time with family, and taking time off after a long year of hard work. At the same time, high school athletes are just getting ready for a whole new season of action. Those who have been either preoccupied with fall sports or school have geared their focus towards preparing for winter athletics. Cross country runners have turned into indoor track stars, volleyball players into basketball players, and quarterbacks into wrestlers. One particular sport attracts athletes of all kinds: swimming and diving. Although some say it is somewhat underappreciated at the high school level, others would agree that the immense enjoyment had at both swim meets and practice is what draws in so many people.

While Catoctin's swim team may not be notorious for year after year of perfect records, they always come into the season ready to compete. Like most other schools, Catoctin does not have a pool of its own to use for meets and practices. So the Cougars' home meets and practices are held at Walkersville High School, and their away meets at Middletown. Each day, the Cougars journey to Walkersville in order to practice their form and technique. Both individually and as a team, the swimmers work diligently on improving however they can. On days where the team is unable to make the trek to the pool, their practice time is spent at Catoctin high school doing intense workouts.

Last year, Catoctin had about fifteen girls on their swim team,

with no boys or divers on the roster. Over the course of their season, the girls competed against seven different teams. They fought hard against Tuscarora, Brunswick, Governor Thomas Johnson, Linganore, Walkersville, Oakdale, and Middletown, but were unable to secure any victories. This year, the team consists of eighteen girls and one boy, none of whom are divers. Despite having low numbers competing for them yet again, the coaches take this as an opportunity to work closely with each one of their swimmers. They hope that being able to focus on each individual's skills will give them an advantage over some of the larger teams. Throughout the season, the Cougars will face Brunswick, Middletown, Walkersville, Oakdale, Frederick, Urbana, and Tuscarora, with hopes of having a more successful season than last year.

Catoctin's first home swim meet took place on December 14th. Originally, it was planned for the 5th, but due to various reasons, it was rescheduled for a later date. Over the course of the night, twenty-four events took place during the meet, eleven of which Catoctin participated in. Event number one was listed as the boys' 200 yard medley relay, which Catoctin could not participate in. However, the Cougars were eligible to participate in the second event: the girls' 200 medley relay, where each relay team must perform the four different swimming styles. In this race, Catoctin had two relay teams participating. Their team of Adriana Archila, Julia Ellenberg, Carly Crone, and Hannah Poole came in third with a time of 2 minutes and 59.81 seconds. Their second team of Andrea Lopez, Madelyn Clever, Madison Williams, and Kayla Littleton finished at 3 minutes and 18.01 seconds, putting them in fourth place out of four teams.



Madelyn Clever races for second place during the Girls' 500 yard Freestyle.

The next race Catoctin participated in was the girls' 200 yard freestyle. Swimming for the Cougars in this race was Ali Werling, with a time of 2 minutes and 38.47 seconds, and Carly Crone, at 2 minutes and 48.76 seconds. The girls came in second and fourth place out of five swimmers. After this event came the girls' 200 individual medley, where all swimmers must perform each of the four swimming styles. Out of four swimmers, Catoctin's Madison Williams finished in fourth at a time of 3 minutes and 21.55 seconds.

Lopez, Poole, and Littleton competed again for Catoctin in the girls' 50 yard freestyle. The three placed fourth, fifth, and sixth with times of 40.15 seconds, 41.58 seconds, and 47.87 seconds.

The next event to take place was the girls' 100 yard butterfly. With a time of 1 minute and 22.37 seconds, Julia Ellenberg came in second out of four, while only a mere four seconds away from first place.

Competing in the girls' 100 yard freestyle was Kaitlin Day, Andrea Lopez, and Adriana Archila. Out of six swimmers, Day fin-

ished at 1 min and 20.14 seconds in fourth place, Lopez at 1 minute and 36.73 seconds in fifth place, and Archila at 1 minute and 44.13 seconds in sixth.

The next and longest event of the night was the girls' 500 yard freestyle. Madelyn Clever finished second with a time of 7 minutes and 10.03 seconds, and Ali Werling in fourth at 7 minutes and 33.50 seconds.

Catoctin had two relay teams swimming in the girls' 200 freestyle relay. In the first team was Day, Williams, Crone, and Werling. The girls finished in third out of five teams, with a time of 2 minutes and 17.96 seconds. Also swimming in this event was Courtney Study, Archila, Lopez, and Poole. The girls placed fifth with a time of 2 minutes and 58.98 seconds.

Day, Ellenberg, and Poole competed next in the girls' 100 yard backstroke alongside three of Middletown's swimmers. Ellenberg came in third at 1 minute and 16.15 seconds; Day came in fifth at 1 minute and 40.09 seconds; and Poole placed sixth at 2 minutes and 6.23 seconds. Following this event

was the girls' 100 yard breaststroke. Out of six girls, Clever placed third with a time of 1 minute and 29 seconds, Williams finished in fifth at 1 minute and 40.45 seconds, and Crone finished in sixth at 1 minute and 43.47 seconds.

The last event that the Cougars participated in was the girls' 400 yard freestyle relay. Catoctin had one team competing against three from Middletown, which was made up of Werling, Day, Ellenberg, and Clever. The girls ended up finishing in third place, with a time of 4 minutes and 56.11 seconds. With the conclusion of this event, Middletown's overall score was brought to one hundred thirty points, and Catoctin's to thirty-eight. While the final point difference between the two teams may seem drastic, part of the reason why this is true is because of the vast variation in numbers. With over twice as many people swimming than Catoctin, Middletown had a large advantage from the beginning.

Although the Cougars' final results might not be ideal, the night still ended up having some successes. Almost every girl who swam at the meet beat their personal records from Catoctin's first meet, which took place on the twelfth against Brunswick. Additionally, the teams' ten rookie swimmers were able to gain more experience with the sport. The head coach of two years, Christine Oland, has never been more positive. Despite the score, her pride for the team still remains intact as they shake off their loss and move on to preparing for the next meet. As for the swimmers, they too have optimism for the season. Madelyn Clever, a senior who has been with the program for her entire high school career, aspires to beat the school record for the 500. Her and her teammates plan to face the rest of the season with confidence, whether or not they emerge victorious.

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# MOUNT SPORTS

## Mount basketball

Collin Riviello  
MSMU Class of 2020

The men's basketball team is in a rut, there is no doubt about that. On the flipside, the women's team is off to its best start since the turn of the century. Both teams will finish off their non-conference schedule in December, before starting conference play in January.

As of mid-December, post-season play doesn't look like a realistic option for the men's team at their current level. They sat winless in November, and lost their first nine games, eventually clinching their first win of the season on Dec. 15 at home against Wilson College. The issue with their single win is that Wilson College is division III program, and the Mount won by only 16 points, thanks in no small part to sophomore Jalen Gibbs who put 30 points on the board.

Now, many of you readers may point to the 2016-2017 season when the Mount went 1-11 through their first 12 games, then went on a winning rampage, taking 14 of their 18 conference games enroute to its third NEC championship title as a reminder that it may be too soon to start waving the white flag. I agree with you, it is still too early to certainly say whether the former NEC champions, two years removed from the local spotlight, have lost their way down the beaten path of futility; however, the Mount's performance in November and December should serve as a wake-up call that something needs to change.

Conference play starts on Jan. 3 for the Mount, with a match at Saint Francis (Pennsylvania). They'll then take a trip to Robert Morris two days later. Robert Morris, as a seven-seed, upset the Mount 60-56 in last season's NEC Tournament quarterfinals, preventing the Mount from seeking a second straight conference title and a trip back to Dayton, Ohio.

The first home game of the new calendar year will be against Bryant on Jan. 10, and then Central Connecticut State University will arrive two days later for its shot at taking down the Mount. On Jan. 19, the Mount will travel to Wagner College for a bout, and then head to Fairleigh Dickinson. Wagner is the defending regular season champion; they accumulated a 14-4 conference record.

Jan. 23 marks the start of a four-game home-stand. The Mount will host the defending NEC tournament champions, LIU Brooklyn, first before playing against the Terriers of St. Francis Brooklyn two days later. Sacred Heart comes into Emmitsburg on Jan. 31, and then SFU will arrive presently on Feb. 3.

As a little tidbit, the Blackbirds of LIU, as a four seed, upset top-seeded Wagner in the 2018 finals,

71-61, to earn the conference title and their bid to the NCAA Tournament. They ended up losing to Radford in the play-in round. The game against the Terriers will coincide with the Mount's annual Winter Homecoming dance, and the matchup with SFU will be televised nationally on ESPN3.

On Feb. 7 and Feb. 9, the Mount will travel to New York and Pennsylvania respectively to take on LIU and Sacred Heart for the second time on the season. The game at Pioneers will be aired on ESPN3.

On Feb. 14 and 16, the Mount will host Robert Morris and Wagner. The home-stand will be short lived, as the Mount will then head out again to face off against CCSU on Feb. 21, and Bryant on Feb. 23.

Conference play for the Mount will wrap up with the final home game coming against FDU on Feb. 28, and an away trip to St. Francis Brooklyn on March 2. The NEC Tournament will run from March 6 to the 12.

The men were picked to finish last (10/10) in the conference in the coaches' preseason poll.

The women's path to the NEC tournament looks relatively smoother, but is still not a walk in the park. Last season, which was also head coach Maria Marchesano's first season at the helm, the women missed out on the playoffs with a 9-20 record. This season, they were picked to finish in fifth-

place in the annual coaches' preseason poll.

The team has played notes of a different tune so far this season, going 5-3 through their first eight games which has not been done since the 1999-2000 campaign. A loss at Virginia Tech on Dec. 16 ended the Mount's four-game road win-streak, and a loss to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore dropped the Mount to a .500 win percentage, but the women are scoring more points per game than last season.

The women will kick off conference play with a two-game road trip to Robert Morris and SFU on Jan. 5 and 7 respectively. These two teams will show Mount fans and the rest of the conference how capable this year's team is, as both the Colonials and the Red Flash competed in last season's NEC Tournament Championship game, with the Red Flash coming out on top 66-56. SFU went on to play the University of Connecticut in the first round of the women's NCAA Tournament, and lost by a score of 140-64.

The Mount will host Bryant on Jan. 12 and CCSU on Jan. 14, both teams that competed in the NEC tournament. The women will then hit the road for a game at Wagner on Jan. 19 and Fairleigh Dickinson on the 21. A three-game home-stand will then ensue starting Jan. 26 against LIU Brooklyn. The Terriers will come in after their in-state rival to play



Women's basketball is undergoing a transformation from a year ago under second-year head coach Maria Marchesano.

the Mount on Jan. 28 to wrap up January competition.

The defending women's NEC champs will arrive to Emmitsburg on Feb. 2 to play in a nationally televised game that will air on ESPN3. Then, on Feb. 9, the Mount will travel to Sacred Heart for a match that will also be televised on ESPN3.

The Blackbirds of LIU will host the Mount on Feb. 11 before the Mount returns home to host their own games against Robert Morris on Feb. 16 and Wagner on Feb. 18. Two away games for the Mount: Bryant on the 23, and CCSU on 25, will wrap up February competition.

The last three games of the regular season will all take place in a

span of just five days. The Mount will host Fairleigh Dickinson on March 2 before traveling to St. Francis Brooklyn on March 4. Sacred Heart will make the trip to Maryland for the last game on the Mount's schedule on March 7.

The playoffs will be held at the two highest seeds for the quarterfinals and semifinals on March 11 and March 14. The championship game will be held at the highest remaining seed's home court on March 17.

If nothing else, the upcoming basketball season will keep the Mount men's and women's teams on their toes!

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

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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# A winter 7-day journey into health

Renee Lehman

*Warmth of the Spring gives rise to birth, the Fire of Summer fuels rapid growth and development, the coolness of Fall matures all and provides harvest, and the coldness of Winter forces inactivity and storing. This is the rhythmic change of nature. If the four seasons become disrupted, the weather becomes unpredictable and the energies of the universe will lose their normalcy.*

This principle also applies to the body.” (Su Wen, chapter 6)

In the December article, it was discussed that we should follow Natural Law and conserve our energy during the winter. How much of your energy did you spend over the holidays? Are you feeling fatigued and worn down? Have you gotten sick? This is like spending all the money in your bank’s checking account. It’s like spending all of the money in your checking account?

Think about the following analogy. Your bank’s checking account is analogous to the energy checking account that you pay your “energetic bills” from on a daily basis. How do you increase the money in your checking account? By depositing more money or by withdrawing less money from your bank’s checking account.

The same is true for your “energetic checking account.” We tend to spend, spend, spend from our energy checking account. We deplete our energetic checking account, and then we feel worn out and get sick. So, how would you like to learn how to save your

energy? How would you like to deposit more energy into your energy checking account?

From January 13 until January 20, Traditional Chinese Medicine World Foundation and Grand Master Nan Lu, OMD is offering a Soup Cleanse to support your body-mind-spirit and give yourself a chance to rest and begin building your energy for the upcoming season of spring. In other words, this virtual program is meant to give you an opportunity to increase the energy in your energetic checking account!

What is meant by this being a virtual program? You can live anywhere in the world and participate in this program. All you need is a way to access the internet. You will have exclusive access to all the materials online beginning January 13. How does this work? When you register online, you will receive a confirmation email. Then two days prior to the program’s start, you’ll receive a shopping list of suggested food items. One day before, you’ll receive a link to log into your program materials.

As mentioned in the December article, winter is a time to truly rest and build energy for the coming spring season. How does this 7-day program support our body-mind-spirit?

Grand Master Nan Lu will share Qigong exercises that are specific to the needs of the season, guide you in what foods to prepare and offer teachings that will deepen your understanding of natural law. He will also share tips that you can do now to ensure an energetically balanced new year.

Here’s what you’ll experience as a part of this 7-day program.

Conference Calls: Grand Master Nan Lu will have two con-

ference calls: Sunday, January 13 and January 20. During each call, you will learn more about this season’s energetic messages and how to match Nature’s flow. Tips and guidelines to follow throughout this winter will also be given.

Qigong Exercises: Qigong exercise moves energy and helps the body find its way to balance and then harmony. Grand Master Nan Lu will demonstrate specific Qigong movements that can be practiced well beyond these seven days for continued benefits.

Massage Routine: Learn a simple routine to stimulate your energy foundation.

Mid-week Call: Often questions come up as the program progresses. Instructors Irma and Elaine will be available to offer support. (January 16).

Eating Plan: Foods that produce more internal heat/warmth are important to eat in the winter. These foods would include: beans (kidney, black, lentil), nuts/seeds, cooked vegetables (steamed/roasted/sautéed), vegetable soups, seaweed, root vegetables (carrots/turnips/onions/sweet potatoes), quality seafood (especially shellfish), and spices (garlic, ginger, cayenne pepper). They will provide a wide variety of easy soup recipes. Purchasing ready-made soup is fine, too. They’ll provide you with a grocery list of foods such as vegetables, greens, root vegetables, fruits, grains, and fish.

Private Facebook Forum: Express your thoughts and share your feelings as you interact with our online community.

Join me in the 7-Day Soup Cleanse program. Rest and replenish. Get ready for spring! Register at <https://www.tcmworld.org/programs/webinars/2019-winter-soup-cleanse>.

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist, physical therapist, with over 30 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



A surefire way to ensure winter health is to adopt a shelter pet like Rebekah. Rebekah is a 3-year-old tabby-with-white girl who was adopted from the shelter when she was a kitten. Her owners had to bring her back because of their health and now she’s looking for another great family to love her. Earn some great Karma - adopt Rebekah! For more information on Rebekah, call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit their website at [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).



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FITNESS AND HEALTH

# Celebrating 20 years of service

**Linda Stultz**  
Certified Fitness Trainer

This is a big anniversary for me. I'm not sure how twenty years passed by so fast but I am happy that I have met so many new people that became clients and friends. I also enjoy helping people achieve their goals of improved health and feeling better about themselves. Each year I like to hold this open house for people to come and see how they can start committing to an exercise program that will improve their health while having fun. You may not think of exercising as fun but I hope I can change your mind by helping you find something you enjoy while helping you feel better. You are getting two for one and will be surprised that you may just have a great time too.

This is the time of year that we all think about making a New Year's Resolution. We think of New Year's as a fresh start and this is the perfect time to do something good for you. Over the holidays we are so busy baking and buying gifts for others that we usually don't think about ourselves. When we do think about how we feel, it is about how many cookies we ate at the office party or how tight our jeans fit all of sudden. Those extra pounds sneak up fast over the holidays and that's why we need to think about getting them off and improving our overall health for the year to come.

Some surveys have stated that the average person gains one to two pounds over the Holidays. That doesn't sound too bad until you read further and they say we never lose those pounds. Year

after year of gaining a pound or two can add up over fifteen to twenty years. Proper diet and exercise can get you back to your pre-holiday size and energy level in a short amount of time. It is important to lose those pounds each time you gain them so they don't add up.

I met a woman at a class I attended and she discovered how the weight accumulated over time and she didn't really see it coming. She thought, oh it is only a pound or two a year but as I stated, that was twenty years ago. That pound turned into twenty to thirty pounds now. You may be surprised at how much you look forward to your exercise sessions. Sometimes you feel like doing something else instead of going for a walk or doing your weightlifting program but if you remember how good you feel, both physically and mentally after a good hard workout, you will be putting your sneakers on and heading for those weights in a hurry.

I'm not telling you anything you haven't heard many times before, but I like to remind everyone that it is so important to take care of yourself. Good food and exercise are the best and safest ways to do that. I have said many times before that a person can develop a bad habit in a few weeks but it takes about six to eight weeks to develop a good habit and stick to it. Give yourself the gift of developing a good habit of eating well and starting and staying with an exercise program that you enjoy for a few months. I am certain you will feel better, improve your blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose numbers and even improve your skin, nails and of course the way

your clothes fit. All of these benefits will keep you exercising for the rest of your life.

Mark your calendar and set aside a few minutes to come to my open house and see what I have to offer. This may be the best time you take for yourself and may be the start of a whole new you. I am located at 285 Boyle Rd. Fairfield. This is just minutes from Emmitsburg, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Thurmont and you. The date of the Open House is January 5 from 10 till 1 but if this is not convenient for you, just give me a call at 717-334-6009 to set up a time to come check out my facility for yourself. See you at the Open House and remember to Keep Moving!

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

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## ASTRONOMY

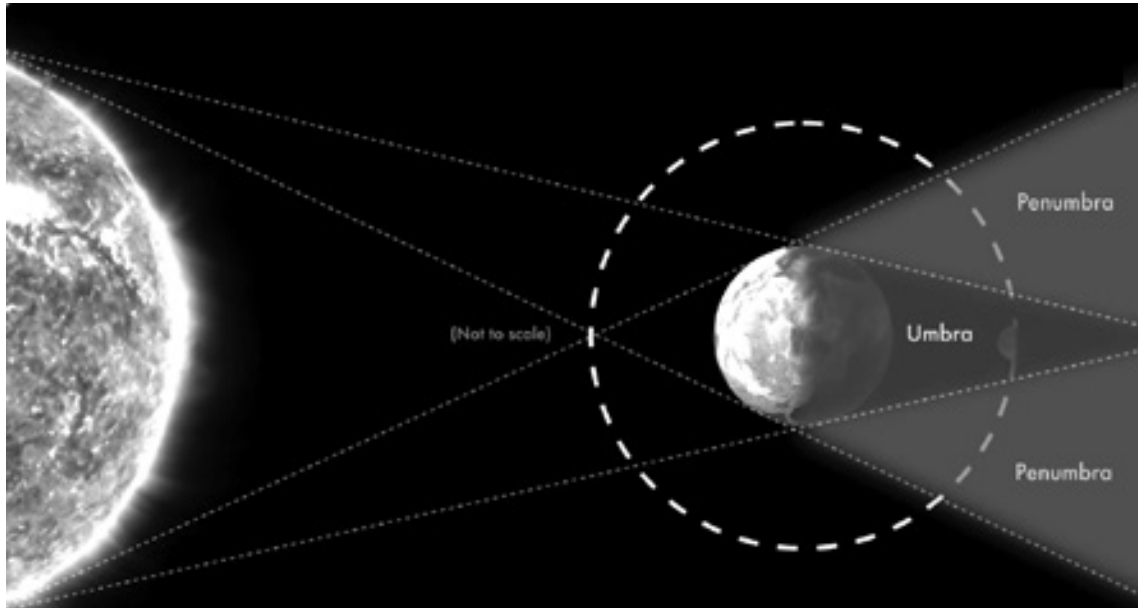
## The night sky of January

Professor Wayne Wooten

For January, the waning crescent moon is just above Venus in the dawn on New Year's morning, and midway between Venus and fainter Jupiter on the morning of January 2nd. The earth is closest to the sun (yes, that is right!) on January 3rd at 11 p.m., three million miles closer than it is at aphelion in July. It is our axial tilt, rather than the slight variation in our distance from the sun, that drives our seasons. Also on the 3rd, the waning crescent lies just north of Jupiter in the dawn, and just above faint Mercury on the predawn horizon on January 4th, and the peak of the Quadrantid meteor shower occurs just after midnight on the same morning; perhaps 40 meteors per hour will come out of the NE. The new moon is on January 5th. The waxing crescent passes south of Mars in the evening of January 12th.

The moon is first quarter on January 14th. The full moon on January 20th will give us a fine total lunar eclipse. The umbral eclipse beginning about 9:30 p.m.. Totality will start at 10:40 p.m., and the deepest eclipse will be at 11:10 p.m.. The total portion will end about 11:40 p.m., and the umbral eclipse ends about 12:50 a.m. on Monday morning.

After the "Wolf" Full moon, the waning moon is third quarter on



The full moon on January 20 will give us a fine total lunar eclipse. The umbral eclipse will begin about 9:30 p.m. Totality will start at 10:40 p.m., and the deepest eclipse will be at 11:10 p.m.

January 26th. The crescent in the dawn is above Jupiter on the morning of January 30th, very close to Venus in January 31st, and midway between Venus and Saturn an hour before sunrise on February 1st. It will be just to the lower left of Saturn on February 2nd.

Mars is the only evening planet, and now far from earth, a fading red point moving north and east through the autumn zodiac in January. The morning sky has many more planetary groupings to see. Mercury is briefly visible low in the east as January starts, with the moon close to it on January 4th, but is gone behind the Sun

for the rest of the month. Brilliant Venus moves eastward to overtake slower Jupiter by the middle of the month. The two are closest on January 24, with Venus passing 2.4 degrees above Jupiter. By the end of the month, Venus is well east of Jupiter, and Saturn comes from behind the Sun into the dawn sky as well.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million

light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Yellow Capella, a giant star the same tem-

perature 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 crew0.

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. You should be able to glimpse this stellar birthplace as a faint blur with just your naked eyes, and the larger your binoculars or telescope, the better the view becomes.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting desert for New Year's sky feast.

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## Farmers' Almanac

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other"  
—Anonymous

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Lake-effect snow (1, 2, 3) with fair and very cold temperatures (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11); Nor'easter, heavy snow (12, 13) with periods of more lake-effect snow (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22). More snow (23, 24) turning fair and not as cold (25, 26, 27, 28, 29); yet more snow (30, 31).

**Full Moon:** The first Full Moon of 2019 will occur on Monday, January 21st. While it has often been referred to as Hunger Moon by many Native American tribes because of the scarcity of food at this time of year, it has also been called WOLF MOON because of the increased boldness of wolf packs venturing closure and closer to their camps looking for food.

**Special Notes:** With its 2019 edition, The Hagerstown Town and

Country Almanack turned 223 years old! Its founder, John Gruber, would certainly be proud that his humble publication, first published in 1797 and continuously ever since, would be hailed today as not only the second oldest almanac in the United States but is the only almanac in America still to be published by his heirs. We pledge to continue improving our look, providing those weather forecasts, and offering useful information and inspiration to help one survive in today's world.

**Holidays:** New Year's Day in 2019 falls on Tuesday, January 1st. The birthday of famed civil rights activist leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929) is celebrated on the third Monday of January. This year, it is Monday, January 21st. Take time to remember this great leader on this day and reflect on the great social changes he brought about in this country and the ultimate sacrifice he made pursuing unity and racial harmony which is still elusive today.

**The Garden:** Give your balled-and-burlapped Christmas tree a permanent home in your landscape. If you're not ready or able to plant a tree now, move it outside to a sheltered location and supply water as needed. Pick up a few gardening books and magazines that are available, clipping out pictures that appeal to you. Sketch out the designs you would like to incorporate into your own garden. Collect nursery and seed catalogs now and remember to place any orders early. Before you order, check out return policies, guarantees, and shipping charges. Get together with some of your 'gardening friends' and combine orders to save on shipping costs. Time your early gardening and lawn activities with anticipated sales at local merchants. They are sometimes a great deal and have their products available immediately and at no extra cost (i.e. shipping).

**J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living**

"Resolutions are only as good as the intent to keep them"

COMPUTER Q&A

# Technology tips for the new year

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer

The excitement over Christmas electronics can be short lived if you aren't sure how to use your device properly. Parents may find themselves lost on how to help their children setup devices which can make Christmas feel a few steps away from torture. For over 20 years our family at Jester's Computer Services has provided support and insight on how to make the most of your technology. Here are a few suggestions we have that might make the weeks following the holidays with your technology more bearable.

Setting up your new device – Almost any device is going to require some basic setup. You should fully charge your device and begin to setup your device only when you have the time to walk through each step documenting any important account information. If you are using a device that requires you to create or add an account (Apple id, Google, Microsoft or Amazon account) you should attempt to login or recover any existing accounts you are using. If your setting up a new account for your device, be sure to document the email address and password/pin numbers used to create the account, answer security questions and add a valid alternative contact method (email or phone number). Once your device setup is complete you should connect your device to your wireless network (if applicable) and perform any system updates by accessing the settings from your device menu.

Protecting your device – Electronics are expensive, and accidents happen, at the very least you should invest in a high-quality case to offer protection. Most cases will provide a raised edge which can provide protection to the screen however, screen protectors are ideal. We highly recommend insuring your device by buying an extended warranty or insurance policy (for mobile devices). Most retailers will let you purchase a protection plan within 30 days of purchase.

Maintaining your device – Most of the time the issues behind electronic devices have nothing to do with the physical hardware but rather the software installed. Some devices have automatic maintenance or programs that you can use to clear storage, memory etc. For those that do not, you can easily maintain your device yourself by uninstalling unused apps, disabling unneeded notifications and restarting your device regularly. A good antivirus is always recommended for Computers but on mobile devices it may be overkill, consider a free application like Lookout Security to scan newly installed apps for security risks (subscribers of their service can take advantage of additional security features). If you find your device storage is full you can always delete data, transfer to another device or use online cloud storage.

Physically you should clean your device with non-abrasive electronics cleaner and a micro fiber cloth. If you have glass cleaning wipes they

work great too! Remove your device from the case at least a few times a year to clean of dust and debris that have built up under the case. We use our electronic devices a lot but sometimes we forget just how dirty they can get! When charging your rechargeable devices you should follow the manufactures changing recommendations, most manufacturers now recommend trying to maintain between a 60-70% charge. Leaving your device plugged in once fully charged can cause damage to the battery which can result in the battery no longer charging to full capacity.

What is this cloud? – The cloud is another term for online storage. Instead of taking up precious real estate space on your phone, having to transfer content manually to another device, or paying for a phone with extra storage space, you can have your photos, videos and more stored on a secure online server. This not only gives you the ability to save space, you can also count on always having access to your data from anywhere that you can access the internet provided you remember your coveted login credentials. So, if you properly configured your device when you set it up, and your device

decides to go for a swim and drowns you can login to your account and all the information saved in the cloud can be restored.

Feeling lost on your device? – Using a new device can be challenging. Remember to take your time and read all the information presented to you. Most technology won't come with a paper user's guide, but some devices will have tutorials showing you how to use the device. Many times, a basic guide can be found within the device as well. Friends and family can be a great resource for support, but you may find that communication can be difficult and that support from a loved one can quickly become frustrating. If you are in need of one-on-one technology support, contact us at Jester's Computer Services and our resident technology tutor will guide you on your way to feeling more comfortable with your devices.

For more information or support please contact Jester's Computer Services (family owned and operated for over 20 years!) at 717-642-6611, visit us at 5135 Fairfield Road Fairfield or find us online on Facebook or [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com)



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 1**  
Cunningham Falls State Park First Day Hike - Join fellow hikers for an invigorating 3 mile hike up to the scenic Bob's Hill Overlook. This is a self-guided hike that should last approximately 2.5 hours. The hike will start with a welcome from a park ranger, and then hikers will proceed on a self-guided adventure. This trail is not stroller friendly or wheelchair accessible. This hike is pet-friendly provided pets are kept on a leash at all times. For more information call 301-471-7574 or visit [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov).

**January 6**  
ESP Performing Company's Snowflake Breakfast - St. John's Parish Hall-16923 Sabillasville Rd. Sabillasville. Come help ESP dancers make their way to Nationals! Menu: pancakes with toppings bar, eggs, sausage, bacon, OJ/Coffee. Adult: \$8, Kids: \$5, 2 & under: Free!

**January 5, 12, 19, 26**  
Frederick County Society of Model Engineers Open House. Please join us during our annual open house. See first hand a large HO and HON3 scale model railroad constructed inside a real Chesapeake & Ohio railroad car

and an outdoor G Gauge model railroad (operated weather permitting). 423 East Patrick St., Frederick. For more information e-mail [burchbob@aol.com](mailto:burchbob@aol.com).

**January 11**  
The Weinberg Center for the arts presents: 1964: The Tribute. All you need is love...and a little bit of John, Paul, George and Ringo! Hailed by critics and fans alike as the most authentic and endearing Beatles tribute around, "1964" recreates an early Fab Four concert with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles and onstage banter with an accuracy that is unmatched. A perennial favorite on the Weinberg stage, you won't want to miss this one-of-a-kind salute to the boys from Liverpool. For more information call 301-600-2828 or visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org).

**January 12**  
Harney VFW holding Oyster/Chicken feed featuring Oyster, chicken and pit beef. \$40.00 per person.

Project Gettysburg-León at the Nicaragua Night Auction at Gettysburg College's Field House. Project Gettysburg-León is a sister city partnership

between León, Nicaragua and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania that empowers people, communities and organizations to advance sustainable development through capacity- building funds, education and cultural exchange programs. The festive auction, as PGL's major fundraising activity, is of critical importance to its program. For more information read article on page 38 or call at 717-337-6490

Music Gettysburg presents Essence of Joy with the Penn State Gospel Alumni Choir. A soul-stirring evening of Gospel music from these young, energetic and spirited Nittany Lions. Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, please visit [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org), call 717-339-1334. All concerts take place in the chapel of the United Lutheran Seminary, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg.

**January 18**  
Music Gettysburg presents Robert Burn's Night - Our annual celebration of the Scottish national poet, featuring Jeff Greenawalt reading his poetry and Cormorant's Fancy performing music he inspired. Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, please visit [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org), call 717-339-1334. All concerts take place in the chapel of the United

Lutheran Seminary, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg.

**January 25**  
The Majestic Theater presents Dancing with the Local Stars. Produced by the YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and Adams County Arts Council, this is an exciting event that pairs a local celebrity with a trained choreographer. After several months of practicing, the pair show-off their moves on the Majestic's grand stage. All proceeds benefit the YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and Adams County Arts Council. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org)

**January 25, 26 & 27**  
Camp Eder's Winter Camp - Have a winter blast! Join us for an action packed weekend full of camp fun, great food, friends, and most importantly building our relationship with God. Grab your sleds and pack your bags, because we are going to have an absolute blast! Grades: 1st- 12th, Only \$49. For more information visit [www.campeder.org](http://www.campeder.org) or call 717-642-8256. Camp Eder is located at 914 Mt Hope Rd, Fairfield.

**January 26**  
Frederick County Master Gardeners presents the following FREE seminar: "Think You Want a Vegetable Garden? Make a Plan! GIEI Series." Wondering about the basics of planning a home vegetable garden? Learn what kind of garden will fit your needs, when to start, what to plant, and how much is enough. We will share tips on resources for planning, garden supplies and seeds. To register call Lisa Strong

at 301-600-1595 UME Office, 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue), Frederick.

Fort Ritchie Community Center is hosting a Community Yard Sale. Stop by to peruse some great bargains! Whether it's gift shopping or just hunting for some knick-knacks, there's bound to be something for everyone. Interested in registering as a vendor for the event? For more information visit [www.thefrc.org](http://www.thefrc.org) or call 301-241-5085.

**January 27**  
Music Gettysburg presents Felix Hell, toast of four continents returns to his favorite venue for his annual visit! Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, please visit [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org), call 717-339-1334. All concerts take place in the chapel of the United Lutheran Seminary, 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg.

**Hollabaugh Brother's Events**

**January 12**  
Cooking Class: Sweet Potatoes. Sweet potatoes are one of the few remaining fresh vegetables available as the cold months come upon us. Learn about the wonder of the sweet potato and everything you can do with it from breakfast all the way through dessert! This class is for ages 15 and up. Cost: \$30 per person / Registration is required.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 12 - Family Cooking Class:** Breakfast. Here is your chance to cook! Join us for a fun culinary adventure regardless of age featuring breakfast. In each of our family cooking classes you will make recipes, take away yummy food and learn cooking tidbits that will impress young and old alike. These classes are open to ALL ages! To participate without a grownup, you must be at least 8 years old and up. We hope to see everyone: moms with preschoolers; dads connecting with daughters; teens with their friends; and adults looking to not make a mess in their kitchen!

**January 26 - Ladies' Winter Tea.** Let our tea warm you, our delicious food fill you and the beautiful conversation with new friends complete your day.

This event is open to all Ladies – teens and up!

To register for any of these events call 717-677-8412 or visit [www.hollabaughbros.com](http://www.hollabaughbros.com). Hollabaugh Brothers is located at 545 Carlisle Road, Biglerville, Pa.

**Gettysburg National Park's Winter Lecture Series**

Outstanding National Park Service rangers and historians from across the region provide hour-long talks about pivotal moments of the American Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg.

**January 5**  
The Unfinished Work: The World Wars at Gettysburg.

**January 6**  
Roger B. Taney and his Changing Place in American History.

**January 12**  
The Battle of Bristoe.

**January 13**  
"I have never seen so much damage" - The George Rose Farm at Gettysburg.

**January 19**  
If These Things Could Talk: Artifacts in the Collection of Gettysburg National Military Park.

**January 20**  
Five Men on a Slow Boat Going Nowhere: The Hampton Roads Conference of Feb. 3., 1865.

**January 26**  
The Wills Family & Lincoln's Visit: Life in a Northern Town.

**January 27**  
Specimens of Morbid Anatomy: Gettysburg Anatomy in the Army Medical Museum.



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