

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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Thurmont raises \$21,000 for breast cancer

Thurmont's Annual Gateway to the Cure once again surpassed their prior year's goal in raising funds for the Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund. In its sixth year, Thurmont was able to raise \$21,000 for the Patty Hurwitz Fund at the Frederick Memorial Hospital/James Stockman Cancer Institute; \$3,000 more than last year. On November 19, the town proudly presented the check to Patty Hurwitz in front of a room packed full of residents and businesses from the Thurmont community.

"Words cannot begin to express the gratitude and appreciation to each of you for your participation and donations for Thurmont's Gateway To The Cure!" stated Thurmont's Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder. Thanks to all the generous donations from the community, The Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund and Gateway To The Cure is making a difference in breast cancer treatment, research, and support in Frederick County at Frederick Memorial Hospital/James Stockman Cancer Institute. Thurmont's Chief Administra-

tive Officer, Jim Humerick, agreed by stating, "We can't thank all the businesses and participants enough for everything they do."

What began six years ago as a simple goal to sell a case of pink light bulbs in support of the fund has grown immensely over the past few years. This money has helped to provide patients with the best options in early detection and treatment of breast cancer without having to travel long distances to receive treatment. Thus far, funds raised for the Patty Hurwitz Fund have made the new James M. Stockman Cancer Institute a reality for cancer patients in the community. Additionally, 3D and CAD Mammography Systems have been purchased to assist in the detection of breast cancer at an earlier stage and a healing space for patients and families at the Center for Breast Care at FMH Crestwood was created. Patty Hurwitz noted at the presentation that there are new things on the horizon at FMH that have only been made possible by the generosity of all those who donate to the cause.

As in years past, the town sold



Patty Hurwitz hugs Mayor John Kinnard upon receiving \$21,000 raised by the town's Gateway to Cure program.

pink light bulbs, Gateway to the Cure tote bags, pink pinwheels, magnets, t-shirts, water bottles and cookbooks from the FMH Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund. Many businesses throughout the community also had "pink" specials to help raise funds. Additionally, Thurmont held a 5K run/walk in September, a zumbathon, the first Golf Classic, and a pumpkin decorating contest. 48 businesses participated in helping to raise funds for the Hurwitz Fund this year. Additionally, Catocin's United Soccer Team was able to raise \$4,000 throughout their soccer season. Parents were seen donning pink hats sold by the team during the soccer games.

"I'm speechless, amazed at what your community does. I love that everyone steps up and thinks of creative ways to raise money for a good cause. I'm so proud to be a part of this and to know all of you; nobody else in the county, state or in the nation is doing the work that you guys are doing. You should all be really proud of what you've done," remarked Patty Hurwitz.

Without the support of the community and businesses throughout Thurmont and surrounding areas, Gateway to the Cure would not be possible. Thurmont looks forward to next year and hopes to continue raising the bar every year for this great cause.

Southern Adams County elects new leaders

On November 5, residents all across southern Adams County showed up to their township offices to cast their votes to fill local seats. Across the board, Liberty Township, Carroll Valley Borough and Hamiltonban Township seemed to favor Republican candidates this year. Some candidates were re-elected, while some new faces were voted in.

The Carroll Valley Borough Council had four four-year positions open this year. The positions to be filled were the seats occupied by Jared Huster, Bruce Carr, Sarah Skoczen and Beth Cool. Bruce Carr and Beth Cool were running for re-election, and Sarah Skoczen was running as a write-in candidate. Newcomer, Jessica Kraft won the majority of votes, earning 389 votes (20.75%). Other newcomers, John H. Schubring and Michael Wight were also voted in with 295 (15.73%) votes and 299 (15.95%) votes respectively. Bruce Carr was the only previous member re-elected to his seat earning 330 votes (17.60%). The total number of votes cast in Carroll Valley was 1,875 this election season.

In Liberty Township, one seat for Township Supervisor was up for election. This seat was occupied by

John Bostek, who did not run for re-election this year. A single candidate, Robert Keilholtz, ran uncontested for the position and garnered 184 of the 196 total votes cast. Supervisors are elected for six-year terms in Liberty Township. This year's election proved to be another low year in terms of voter turnout, matching the year 2013 when only 197 votes were cast.

In Hamiltonban Township, two Supervisor seats were up for election; held by Supervisor Eddie Deardorf and Luann Dilly. Dilly chose not to run for re-election this year, but Deardorf, on the other hand, ran for re-election of his position against newcomer James Grinder. Past Supervisor, Coleen Reamer, ran as a write-in candidate this year. All candidates were vying for the six-year term seats as Supervisor. Deardorf received the highest number of votes, 240 (42.25%) and Grinder pulled 125 votes (22.01%). Reamer was elected to the second seat, winning 203 votes as a write-in. A total of 568 votes were cast this year in Hamiltonban Township.

In regards to the Fairfield Area School District, seven positions on the school board were up for election. These seats were held by: Greg



One can never be too young or too old to enjoy Camp Eder's Christmas Tree Festival. See Page 25 for more details.

Murray, Rebecca Bequette, Jennifer Holz, Joshua Laird, Earl Shutt, Ian Strahler and Lionel Whitcomb. All ran for re-election except Ian Strahler and Lionel Whitcomb. Newcomers Lauren Clark and Lashay Kalathas ran for election as well. Bequette won the majority of votes, with 968 (21.69%), while Holz received 952 votes (21.34%). Newcomers Clark received 941 votes (21.09%) and Kalathas received 630 votes (14.12%). Murray was also re-elected this year,

garnering 915 votes (20.51%). The above members will serve four-year terms on the school board. A total of 4,462 votes were cast.

In addition to the four-year terms, Fairfield Area School District's School Board also gives the opportunity for members to serve for two-year terms. Josh Laird and Earl Shutt were both re-elected, uncontested for their positions this year. Laird received 1,008 votes (62.69%) while Shutt received 582 votes (36.19%). A total of 1,608 votes were cast.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Emmitsburg discusses future growth

At multiple town planning meetings, Commissioners discussed plans for a new Dunkin Donuts, potential new strip mall and a hotel being constructed within town limits.

The new Dunkin Donuts, to be located on Silo Hill Parkway, where the Silo Hill Carwash currently stands was approved by the Commission with two modifications. A thirteen-foot bypass will be included to the left of the building, instead of the required fifteen-foot bypass, and the property owner will have fifteen parking spaces, instead of sixteen.

The site plan also includes the planting of grass, flowers and trees, as well as mulching; over 2,000 square feet of asphalt will be removed, allowing for more greenery and landscaping. According to the town code, a six-foot solid fence needs to be installed at the rear of the lot, and must be maintained by the property owner.

Demolition of part of the carwash is slated to occur within the next month, with hopes of opening the new business in summer 2020.

Another business may be making its way to Emmitsburg, after several discussions took place centered around the potential construction of a 90-room Comfort Inn hotel as well as a seven-store strip mall south of the Sleep Inn on Silo Hill Parkway next to U.S. 15. But the proposal was conditional upon the town brining the water and sewer fees in line with fees associated with

surrounding towns and municipalities. Town staff said the proposal would cost \$377,000 in water fees and \$368,000 in sewer fees.

According to town staff, as it currently stands, Emmitsburg lies within the middle range when compared to surrounding towns, charging \$17,400 for total hookup fees per equivalent dwelling unit.

Commissioner Cliff Sweeney asking why the franchise couldn't take care of these fees? "The tap fees help pay for the rehabilitation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The water and tap fees are the only thing that we as the town have to sell," remarked Sweeney. Other commissioners were also concerned about providing too large a reduction in water and sewer hookup fees to help build the project. In regards to the strip mall, there is some business interest, including a 7/11, but nothing set in stone yet.

The viability of the proposed hotel was brought into question when it was revealed that the Sleep Inn's occupancy rate was at most, on good years, only 42% per year, and some days it had only a handful of guests.

At a special workshop meeting held later on November 18, town staff and Commissioners discussed economic growth in town, specifically in relation to the hotel proposal. The major hurdle, right now, is the number of water and sewer connections in town and the town's ability to provide enough water for future growth in town. "Competition

breeds a lot of pressure on tap fees," stated Mayor Don Briggs during the meeting. "We need to look at a program, like Main Street, that we can grow into... [and we] need to increase our [water] supply." Town Manager Cathy Willets continued by stating that "Emmitsburg is bigger than just a proposed hotel... what can we do to encourage more businesses to come to town?"

The construction of a proposed additional water treatment plant, at Emmitt Gardens, would cost approximately \$2,180,000 and could create 476 new taps, according to town staff. Another option would be to purchase a clarifier, which would help remove dirt from the raw water coming from Rainbow Lake or from the well water prior to being treated. This would help alleviate some of the work being done by the filters at the treatment plant, and in turn, would provide more taps.

In other Planning related issues, Rutters asked to be let out of its obligation to build sidewalks along a lane bordering SHA's park & ride because the Park and Ride is not in the state's plans for the foreseeable future. Town staff recommended the commission table the request until the town staff consults with the town's lawyer.

A new 500 new homes development is also being preliminarily proposed on the north side of 140. Water to the homes will be supplied by a new water pumping station

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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included in the Rutters development that can handle the 500 proposed new homes.

Town staff also discussed the possibility of looking into becoming a Main Street Program town, which would allow them to become eligi-

ble for more grants that they are not currently eligible for. This, however, would mean hiring additional staff to run the Main Street Program.

A second workshop meeting will be held on December 16 to discuss further the economic growth in town.

Emmitsburg area news-briefs...

Brown water complaints flood town office

Towards the end of October, residents in Emmitsburg began noticing brown water flowing through their systems. Numbers of residents reached out to town staff inquiring about the safety of, and reason for, the brown water they were seeing.

In response, town staff explained that several factors were contributing to the brown water seen in many homes. According to a press release issued by the town, "the Provincial House in Emmitsburg typically flushes their lines/hydrants after the Town completes town wide flushing, however, the Provincial House flushed the week prior to the Town, causing brown

water complaints. In an effort to clear up the brown water, the Town proceeded with hydrant flushing the following week. Additionally, due to the lack of rain and demand on the water treatment plant, the amount of water staff was able to flush out of the lines was less than usual leaving some natural sediment and minerals behind. This has caused the brown water to linger longer than usual."

Town staff began flushing their fire hydrants at the end of October into early November. The early flushing by the Provincial House caused a big disturbance in the town's lines. A lot of rust, dirt and debris were in the lines this year, noted Town Manager Cathy Willets.

Residents were instructed to flush their bathtubs with cold water for a few minutes to help clear the lines. Many residents were still concerned about the safety of consuming this water. Willets noted that the brown water contains naturally occurring minerals and sediments, so it is safe to drink even though it is not aesthetically pleasing. All of the Town's water quality reports can be found on the town's website, and the Town continues to remain in compliance with all MDE requirements. Residents are urged to contact town staff if still experiencing problems.

Town plans sewer re-lining projects for next three years

Emmitsburg's Board of Commis-

sioners approved a bid for the ongoing sewer re-lining projects throughout town. As explained by Town Manager Cathy Willets, the amount of wild water has increased in town, which has placed pressure on the town's sewer lines and their pumping station can't keep up with the demand. The town is looking to continue to re-line the sewer lines throughout town to reduce infiltration & inflow (I&I).

Last year the board improved sewer lining on E. Main Street. This was the priority project at the time. Now, town is looking to plan ahead for the next three fiscal years (FY20-FY22). According to Willets the town has already seen a reduction in the amount of wild water treated since re-lining E. Main Street earlier this year.

Town staff received a total of three bids for both ten-inch and eight-inch

sewer lines. The prices will be locked in for the next three years. The town is looking to re-line West North Ave. down through Creekside Drive, and Memorial Park (behind the Post Office out to Mother Seton School) for FY20.

Humphrey & Sons bid a total project cost for FY20 of \$126,250, with \$43 for eight-inch and \$45 for ten-inch pipes. Mr. Rehab was the lowest bidder at \$107,418.75 for FY20 project (\$35.35 and \$37.80), while the highest bidder was US Pipelining, LLC at \$199,725 for FY20. Staff recommended the lowest bidder, Mr. Rehab; they were the same company that did E. Main Street earlier this year. The \$107,418.75 total for the FY20 project will come from the Sewer Fund, noted Willets.

The bid was approved unanimously by Commissioners, and the FY21 and FY22 projects will soon be planned.

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Municipalities discuss 2020 budgets

During the November 6 Hamilton Township Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors approved the \$970,945 General Fund budget for 2020, which included no tax increase for residents. The General Fund budget for 2020 came in much higher than last year's budget of \$718,175. Roadwork and equipment purchases were the big ticket items included in the FY20 budget.

The FY20 budget includes the purchase of a John Deere Mower Tractor at a cost of \$143,000. This piece of equipment will be leased over a span of five years at a cost of approximately \$32,000 for the first year and approximately \$31,300 for the remaining four years. The Township has also budgeted to purchase a Brechbill Trailer at an outright cost of \$7,950. Supervisor Robert Gordon noted that there might hopefully be no more equipment purchases for another two to three years.

In regards to roadwork, Township Supervisors discussed, in length, road projects over the next few years totaling over \$850,000. Road and bridge projects planned for 2020 include Gum Springs Road Bridge/Road, Mt. Hope Bridge and Moritz Road. Gum Springs Road Bridge/Road repair is the most costly project, with approximately \$180,000 budgeted for milling, ditch and pipe work. The Mt. Hope Bridge repair project was reduced to \$30,000 after discussion led to simply beginning the process of the bridge repair in 2020. This cost in 2020 will include engineering fees and permits, etc., with the actual replacement slated for 2021. The Moritz Road project would include milling from the Upper Hillwood section and Lower Hill to the bridge at an approximate budgeted cost of \$90,000. Additionally, the township budgeted \$31,000 for line painting

and signs throughout the township.

Additional costs in the budget include the construction of a fuel station canopy. The cost for this project is \$50,000. Solicitor services were increased to \$13,000 and the budget also reflected a 3% raise given to all employees.

The township is taking a break this year from continuing with repairs to the township building, in an effort to place more funds towards the roads and purchase of equipment. In the future, however, the township hopes to continue repairs to the township building by bringing it up to code. This will include enlarging the office meeting room by removing two bathrooms and adding new flooring and chairs, installing new hallway lighting, and resurfacing of the parking lot. New office equipment to replace the outdated equipment may also be budgeted in the future.

Liberty Township, on the other hand, is looking to pass their \$349,902 2020 budget with a 0.125 mil tax increase. 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.

Originally, Supervisor Mickey Barlow proposed a 1% tax increase in order to keep up with road maintenance demands throughout the township's roads. "The township roads are continuing to deplete," stated Barlow. "We are \$700,000 in the hole in maintenance with the township's roads... and have had no tax increase in fifteen years." [prior to last year's tax increase] He finished by stating that the tax increase last year didn't even cover half of the road master's salary. However, after much discussion and debate amongst fellow Supervisors

and residents, Supervisors settled on a 1/8 of a mill tax increase, with Barlow against. An additional \$20,364.84 will be going toward the township's revenue with this tax increase on board. The township may continue to keep this 0.125 of a mil tax increase over the next few years, working up to a 1% tax increase. The final budget will be approved at the December 17 meeting.

In other budget related news, Carroll Valley is looking to pass their 2020 budget in December as well, 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. During the November Borough Council meeting, some Council members showed dissent with one item in the budget which will give members of the Police Department Cost of Living salary increases that are non merit based. The budget was advertised and will be voted upon during the December meeting.

Liberty amends zoning ordinance

Liberty Township's Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the township's Zoning Ordinance during a public meeting held on November 19th. Two amendments were approved in regards to the town's Campground Ordinance during the November 6 Township meeting.

The first proposed amendment eliminated the definitions

for Camper, Campsite, Tent and Department and revised the definitions for Campground and Camping Unit. The new definition of campground states that: "one or more campsites are located, established, or maintained for regular occupancy by camping units as temporary living quarters for recreation, education, or vacation purposes.

The campground may be an organized camp that includes a combination of programs and facilities established for the primary purpose of providing an outdoor living experience for children, youth, and adults with social, recreational, and educational objectives and operated and used for five or more consecutive days during one or more seasons a year. There must be a named

individual who has responsibility for the campground." A camping unit is defined as a tent, trailer, lean-to or recreation vehicle established or maintained as temporary living quarters for recreation, education, or vacation purposes.

The second amendment states, in short, that no camping permit is required if the camping is by family members or guests for three nights or less. There are additional permit requirements, plus requirements

for waste and sewage disposal and noise. A list of criteria outlines setbacks, roads, maintenance, sanitation and garbage collection, signs, lighting requirements etc. Any violator of this ordinance may be fined up to \$600.

A public hearing was held on November 19, of which no public comment was made. The above amendments were included and voted into the township's Zoning Ordinance at this meeting.

2019 LCAC Road Rally a success

This year's Road Rally, which was held on October 19, will deliver \$25,000 to preserve land all across Adams County. A dozen hosts, including skilled chefs at historic stops, enchanted the teams as they drove 64 miles on some of Adams County's most scenic roads.

For 21 consecutive years, the Land Conservancy has organized a Road Rally to fund preservation of open farmland and scenic county. This year, 158 participants drove these roads, 70 volunteers worked hard to deliver a memorable experience, and 56 sponsors funded the activity and results. The Land Conservancy of Adams County has preserved more than 11,500 acres with the help and support of residents all throughout the county since the Land Conservancy was founded nearly 25 years ago.

Events such as the Road Rally help support the efforts that help to preserve farmland and forests throughout the county; property just like that which is owned by Jeff and Deborah Seibert. The Seiberts live in a historic stone farmhouse on 144 acres in Hamilton Township. Their land includes cropland, pasture, and a historic barn as well as a pond, forest, and grasslands.

Land preservation was a logical next step in the Sieberts' efforts to promote a healthy ecosystem on their land and nearby. Jeff explained, "Preserving our land is consistent with the work we've been doing to enhance wildlife."

"Protecting the Seibert's farm was a great opportunity for us to pre-

serve a lot of open farmland that also includes wildlife habitat found in a number of vegetated fencerows and a patch of woodland," said Sarah Kipp, the Land Conservancy of Adams County's land conservation coordinator. "In addition, the property's substantial road frontage provides a way for county residents to appreciate the scenic beauty of the farm's rolling pastures and historic farmstead."

"Working with the Land Conservancy staff was a pleasure," says

Mr. Seibert. Though the whole process took some time, the Seiberts are thrilled with the result, a permanently preserved corridor of farmland and wildlife habitat. The Seiberts are now considering preservation of an additional property to continue protecting the landscape and wild creatures of Adams County.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is a fully accredited nonprofit land trust committed to preserving the rural lands and character of Adams County, Pennsylvania.

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THURMONT NEWS

State looks to renovate Frank Bentz Pond and dam

The state of Maryland will be moving forward with plans to remove the dam at the Frank Bentz Pond. Perry Otwell, from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources presented Thurmont's Board of Commissioners with an early concept plan for the site, once the dam is removed.

As explained by Otwell, the Maryland Department of the Environment performs periodic inspections of dams throughout the state. The Frank Bentz dam, unfortunately, needs to be removed due to several safety, health and welfare concerns.

The pond's history dates back to 1908, when a group of businessmen created the Electric Light and Power

Co. Two years later, the pond was built by damming up Hunting Creek. In 1920, the town officially formed its own electric company, known as the Thurmont Municipal Light Company. The town has purchased power wholesale and sold it to their residents since then.

In 1955, the pond was sold to the Department of Natural Resources, about one year after the death of the pond's namesake, Frank Bentz Sr. Bentz was the public relations director for the Game and Inland Fish Commission and he had helped to restore the pond shortly before his death. In 2001, then state Delegate Paul S. Stull helped the town obtain funding for the pond's current renovation, but the

plans fell apart, leaving the pond to continue to fill with silt and the dam to deteriorate.

Then in 2005, The Army Corps of Engineers proposed a plan to remove the pond and restore the natural flow of Hunting Creek, instead of repairing the failing dam and restoring the pond. The town's Board of Commissioners, the Frank Bentz Pond Committee and residents made it clear that removing the pond was not an option, so the dam and pond remained and restoration was completed. Frank Bentz Pond was, and is still, seen as a place of history, memories and a large part of the identity of the community.

Otwell's concept plan includes the creation of a small park, approximately half an acre in size, with some picnic

tables; or the area could be returned to nature, planted with trees and grasses. The plan also includes a small parking lot, with about ten parking spaces, and one central entrance. Within the plan Bentz Pond will be removed, but since fishing at the two-acre pond is popular among residents, Maryland Fisheries have proposed the creation of different fish habitat by creating smaller pools, ponds and the stream. The water, as it currently stands, is very shallow and Fisheries hopes to create deeper, cooler pools for trout that actually thrive in deeper, colder water. The pond will re-designed in order to restore it back to its original stream. Stream bank restoration will also be taking place.

Several residents and Commis-

sioners voiced concerns with diminishing the historical value of the both the property and the dam. Ideas and plans will be devised to showcase the dam, whether via signs and pictures, monuments, models etc. Other residents voiced concern of run-off and flooding from the stream into the proposed park and parking lot.

Design will be started in the spring, with construction potentially starting during the summer of 2021. All plans will be coordinated with the town. The Maryland Historical Society will be included throughout the entire process, as will Maryland Fisheries. This plan will be brought back to the Board in the spring, taking all comments and feedback into consideration.

Shamrock to close its doors

After 57 years of business, co-owners of the Shamrock restaurant in Thurmont, Donna Demmon and Dawn Knox, announced that they would be closing the restaurant after December 30. The Shamrock's roots date back to 1963, when their parents, Mike and Doris Fitzgerald, opened it. Knox and Demmon are two of nine siblings, all of who worked at the restaurant at some point during their lives. The land, which is

owned by the family, is also up for sale.

The Shamrock, a staple of the Thurmont community for many years, has played a large part in the town's history. It was the first restaurant in Frederick County to obtain a liquor license that allowed cocktails and the restaurant had live music and dancing every Friday and Saturday night.

Shamrock will remain open every day except Tuesdays through December 30.

Trolley Trail extension in progress

During the November 12 town meeting, Thurmont's Board of Commissioners voted to purchase property located on Moser Road in order to work towards the future extension of the Trolley Trail southbound toward Frederick.

The long-term goal for the Trolley Trail, would be to extend it all the way to Frederick, which would create fifteen miles of uninterrupted trail for walkers, bikers and hikers.

The town received \$75,000 in fund-

ing from Project Open Space (POS) a few years ago for the acquisition of property on W. Main Street in an effort to extend the Gateway Trail. However, this plan fell through, but it still left the town with the grant monies. This year, town staff submitted an application to POS for an additional \$60,000 for the acquisition of property to initiate construction on the northern extension of the Trolley Trail – this funding was approved. The northern extension was approved earlier this year by Commis-

sioners, and according to the plan, it would connect the existing Trolley Trail to the Eyler Road Park.

However, as discussed, the preferred project was the southern extension. This extension would run parallel to the water treatment access road across Potomac Edison property on Moser Road. The town was unable to procure the property back in the spring because the property owner was unwilling to negotiate the price at the time. The town now has a combined total of \$134,000 to put towards the purchase of the Moser Road property. Chief Administrative Officer, Jim Humerick, explained to staff that the combination of grant funds was approved at the county and state levels.

Commissioners moved to approve the purchase of the Moser Road property, a total of just over ten acres, in the amount of \$150,000. The town voted to purchase the property with the intention of designating it as future parklands.

The trail will extend from Moser Road past town limits, onto county property. Thurmont's Mayor, John Kinnaird, hopes this extension will garner the attention of Frederick County officials to begin moving forward with the connection of Frederick and Thurmont with a hiking/biking trail. According to Mayor Kinnaird, Frederick County has this hiking/biking connection project as one of their top three priority projects to be completed over the next ten to twelve years.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 5, 1919

Attempted Auto Raid In County

Inexperienced thieves made unsuccessful attempts to steal three automobiles early Wednesday in the Fairfield area. Between 3 and 4 o'clock several men went into the David Metz garage, which had been left unlocked, and tried to steal the Chevrolet machine there. After endeavoring to get the car started, the thieves ran a short distance down the road to the stable at Edward Miller, located a short distance from the Metz Farm, and went through the exact same proceedings. They pushed the car out of the stable, abandoned it, and stole a blanket. In addition, the robbers also got away with a horse and buggy.

Failing to be discouraged at their unsuccessful efforts to secure a car, the thieves then drove the buggy down to C. P. Musselman's farm and again made an unsuccessful attempt to get a car. Hearing the sound of a machine, Mr. Musselman thought that someone was in trouble and turned on the lights in his house. As the light was switched on, the thieves left the car, jumped into the team and drove away.

Mr. Musselman sent his son in pursuit of the team, but as daylight had not yet broken, the thieves made a successful escape. The thieves drove the buggy to Waynesboro where it was seen by several residents who said they were Negroes. Failure to notify the Wayneboro police, however, prevented the Negroes capture and they drove through the city unmolested on their way either to Hagerstown or Chambersburg.

Public Sale

As a result of my pending divorce from my Former-Former Boozier husband, on December 7, I will offer at public sale the following: A twelve-year-old mule, who, like my husband, is as stubborn as they come. A nice old goat, who unlike the old goat I am unfortunately currently married to, does not have a week's worth of food stuck in his beard. A portable pig-sty which resembles any room my husband has been in; a year's worth of fire wood, some pieces as thick as my dim-witted husband; a whiskey still, freshly holed with buckshot; 100 one-gallon jugs, freshly emptied of the whiskey that my husband preferred over doing a honest day's worth of work; and, a towel my husband will cry in once he reads this notice and discovers what I

have done with his precious "hooch". Signed Becky Boyd

Cut In Train Service Effects Fairfield

"We might as well be wiped off the face of the map," said a prominent Fairfield man when asked his opinion about the Western Maryland train service being stopped. His remarks well sum up the plight of persons living in Fairfield and other portions of western Adams County who are gravely affected by lack of train service to Gettysburg and all eastern points, which will cause their mail and newspaper arriving many hours behind ordinary schedules.

December 12

Railroad Men Convicted Of Theft

Harry Schwink, yardmaster of the Western Maryland railroad here, was found guilty in the circuit court of stealing lard, eggs and whiskey from freight cars of the railroad valued at more than \$1,000. In another case, Harry Rhodes, a conductor for the railroad, pleaded not guilty to a charge of stealing whiskey valued at \$270, but a jury found otherwise. Ed O'Connell, indicted with Rhodes, turned State's Evidence and testified that he and Rhodes had robbed the car and carried the whiskey to his home. O'Connell also said that half the men employed in the railroad yard are implicated in car robberies.

Alcohol Burned

A car attached to a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad fast freight, containing a full load of barreled alcohol, caught fire near Thurmont. The consignment was in route from New Orleans to Newark, New Jersey for foreign shipment. The flames were discovered when the train stopped for refueling. It was detached from the rest of the train in order to avoid spreading the flames. Upon hearing the news local bars emptied as patrons raced to the scene, with buckets, intent to reduce the source feeding the fire by carrying away as much booze as they could carry. It is reported a lively time was had by all.

Three Paroled

Samuel Stambaugh, 18, Earl Bentzek, 21, and George Black, 20, all of Thurmont, were paroled by the court yes-

terday in consideration of their youth, previous good behavior, and the fact that they had good parents, after they had been found guilty of larceny of some automobile accessories belonging to Harry Fox, of Thurmont.

Angry - Commit Suicide

Mrs. Delaney Baker, aged about 36, whose husband was killed last year on the Western Maryland Railroad, shot and killed herself in the home of Weed Wolf, of Thurmont, while deputy Dutrow was waiting for her to prepare herself to accompany him to the Frederick city jail. For some time, Mrs. Baker has been keeping house for Mr. Wolf. It is understood that Wolf tried to get rid of Mrs. Baker, who was described as a high strung woman with nervous temperament, but she refused to go. On Wednesday she began breaking dishes and furniture about the house, and Wolf telephoned the sheriff's office for help.

When the sheriff reached the Wolf home he placed Mrs. Baker under arrest and told her she would have to accompany him to Frederick. Being roughly clothed, the officer suggested she go upstairs and don some other apparel. While she was upstairs, the sheriff heard the sound of a revolver and upon investigation found that the woman had shot herself, the bullet entering the left breast and penetrating the heart. She lived about twenty minutes after the shooting. Wolf told the deputy that the woman had threatened on several occasions to shoot him and herself.

December 19

Winter Weather

Tuesday morning of this week was probably the coldest of the winter so far, the mercury dropping to near zero mark. Reports from Deerfield state that the thermometer was 5° below. The sky was free from clouds except now and then when snow would fall from the black cloud passing swiftly to the east.

Clarence Wallace Killed

Clarence Wallace, who shot and killed Leo Creager in October, was killed in Santa Barbara, California, last Saturday, while resisting arrest. It will be recalled how Wallace, along with his companion, had been arrested by Deputy Sheriff Lidie, and after making his escape from the Sheriff, was followed by Mr. Creager and others, and when cornered, deliberately shot Creager dead.



Luck fell to Detective Kahler, to be the first man to receive information indicating that Wallace was in California. On November 10, a letter from Ventura, California, written by Wallace, was received by an old friend, who alerted the detective. In the letter, Wallace said he was masquerading in Ventura under the name of Henry Daily. Wallace asked his friend to tell his old girlfriend he was ok and to write him back at General Delivery, Santa Barbara, under the name of Henry Daily.

A letter to 'Daley' was posted by the Santa Barbara police, who put the post office under watch night and day. When Wallace did not call for it, it was advertised a number of times in the unclaimed letter list. This, it is believed, brought the man to Santa Barbara from Ventura to claim the letter. As he stepped from the post office, a detective held him up at the point of a revolver. However, the fugitive attempted to grab at the pistol, where the detective fired three times. And so one of the most desperate and despicable men with whom this county has had to deal with was given his justice. Wallace had openly boasted that he would not be taken alive.

December 26

County Robber Eludes Sheriff

Early last Sunday morning, Edward Vincent, of Emmitsburg, entered the store of a fur dealer at Lewistown, and stole several thousand dollars worth of furs. After eluding all efforts to capture him, Vincent went to Baltimore where he supposedly disposed of his wares. Alerted that he intended to return to his old home near Fairfield

via Emmitsburg, the Sheriff's Office set up an ambush on Tuesday. They waited until they heard a truck lumbering up the road. As the machine drew near Deputy Sheriff Adelsberger sprang into the road and commanded Vincent to stop, but no attention was paid to the order. The Deputy Sheriff fired twice at the retreating machine. Early Wednesday morning Adelsberger took a trip to the former residence of Vincent between Emmitsburg and Fairfield and found two furs but saw no trace of the alleged robber.

Fall May Be Fatal

Miss Elizabeth Hobbs, aged 84 years, of Emmitsburg, was badly injured Saturday. She slipped on a step in her home and broke her hip. Due to her advanced age it was thought the accident would prove fatal, but her physician says he thinks she will recover.

Car Strikes Owen's Creek Bridge

Last Friday night, around 2 o'clock, a large Palge Touring Car smashed into the bridge over Owen's Creek on the State Road two miles north of Thurmont. From reports of those who visited the scene, considerable blood was found in the car, and whiskey bottles were found in and about the wreck. On Saturday it was stated one of the men involved in the accident visited the scene and took from a locker in the damaged car bottles of wine, whiskey and other alcohol and jumped in his car and drove away. Word is the occupants were returning from a dance in Emmitsburg.

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

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We wish you all a
Merry Christmas
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Happy New Year!

FROM THE DESK OF...

County Councilman Phil Dacey

Several interesting items that the Council has been working on this month include mandated school spending (known as the Kirwan Commission), a new Board of Education vacancy that will need to be filled, and an exciting ecotourism opportunity for scuba diving at the Comus Quarry in Woodsboro.

Let's start with the fun stuff. The Comus Quarry has not been utilized for resource extraction for a decade. It is over 2 square miles of land with multiple deep mines (over 200 feet) that have been filled with millions of gallons of water fed by a naturally filtered mineral spring. I was able to take a tour of the site and I came away impressed and excited by the possibilities. At over 200 feet deep, this body of water offers tremendous opportunities as a diving certification location because all divers must be certified in open water. The 17 acre body of water where the diving is pro-

posed is so pristine that you can see through the water like glass. It would be the only facility in the Washington DC/Baltimore corridor that would be able to certify divers. This includes rescue divers, government divers (to inspect bridge pilings etc. . .), and recreational divers.

This is an exciting opportunity for adaptive reuse of land that will increase recreational opportunities and tourism in Frederick County. The owners of the site plan to sink a C-130 airplane near the edge of the water so that divers can train and even snorkelers can enjoy the underwater wildlife. The County Council is in the midst of a change to allow such uses on mining land.

The next two items relate to education. In January, there will be a new vacancy for another new member of the Board of Education. The process for filling that vacancy will be much improved. As of this writing it sounds as if the County Council will go-

through an application and interview process which will be available to be seen by the public, and the Council will take public comment on the applicants before voting to send three names to the County Executive to make the selection. The important values of transparency and public feedback will be upheld for replacement of this elected position. The goal is to have the new member sworn in during the month of January.

Finally, the Council voted to take positions of support on a number of pieces of legislation that are being proposed in the state legislature. The council unanimously supported efforts to expand the state renters tax credit; change the Board of Education salary; change the way we fill vacancies on the Board of Education; creation of a behavioral health advisory council; various agricultural initiatives; and support funding for school construction, paratransit services, and the veteran center.

The Council also voted to support the Kirwan Commission on education recommendations where I was the lone vote against. The Kirwan Commission was appointed to study how to improve primary education in Maryland. I am pleased to say that Frederick County Public Schools are excellent, but many jurisdictions across the state are not so fortunate. The main aspect of the Kirwan Commission recommendations included huge mandated spending increases on the state and local levels over the next decade. In fact, the 10 year cost increase has been estimated to be \$32 billion dollars statewide. To give some context, the entire state budget for all transportation (highways, roads, bridges, tunnels, airports, ports, buses, subways, etc. . .) is less than \$4 billion dollars a year.

The Kirwan Commission did not recommend a revenue source for generating these additional billions of dollars which is why the Governor has termed

the Commission 'The Kirwan Tax Increase Commission.' The Governor has calculated that the required spending will require revenue that would equate to thousands of dollars of tax increases per year on families.

Further, there is little evidence generally that simply increasing the allocation of tax dollars to education is effective. In 2002 a different education commission recommended a similarly dramatic increase in education that was implemented. In the following decades, billions more dollars were spent. In fact, Baltimore City spends more per student than any jurisdiction in Maryland and almost more than any in the country and has experienced persistently poor performance; still only 15 percent of eighth graders are proficient in reading and 10 percent are proficient in math in Baltimore City Public Schools. Throwing money at education has not proven effective. This debate will likely continue in the legislature well into the new year.

County Notes

MDA: Cannot Enforce Farm Odors

A recent spate of complaints alleging "offensive" farm-generated odors in the Emmitsburg area has left county government in a quandary as to how to investigate the concerns.

Although Frederick County had adopted a Right to Farm Ordinance in 1997, conceived in part to protect farms from "nuisance complaints," county government was told recently by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) that local government has

no authority to enforce the local regulations.

Michael G. Marschner, deputy chief administrative officer, Frederick County Office of the County Executive, acknowledged that county government offices, including the executive, and planning and zoning offices, and health department, have received a number of complaints from Emmitsburg area residents concerning potential farm-generated smells, which the complainants described as "offensive odors."

"We wanted to meet with the

MDA," Marschner said. "We've already sent some (county government) people there (to meet with MDA), but we were told we have no authority."

The complaints have generally targeted a particular farm operation located along a tributary of the Monocacy River. Since none of the allegations against the farm have been proven, the News-Journal has elected to not publish the name of the operation at this time.

A summary of alleged or suspected, potential offenses was supplied by complainants to the News-Journal. The most conceivably tangible among the concerns

are the offensive odors. The document states, "Appalling smells are causing great concern on the part of area residents and farmers. . .," which were described as sickening or gagging." The document cites a liquid waste storage lagoon and the act of applying the liquid wastes to the fields as the potential source of the smells.

Frederick County did pass a Right to Farm Ordinance, based upon the Maryland "Right to Farm" laws, which was intended to protect farms from various "nuisance complaints" including addressing off-site impacts of odors generated by a farm operation. Unless a farm is

engaging in activities in violation of any of the operation's permits, or environmental laws, a farm is shielded from odor complaints.

But now, it seems, some provisions, including odors issues, are being questioned as far as county involvement in regulating such complaints.

Marschner told the News-Journal, "We (members of county offices) wanted to meet with the MDA (regarding the odor complaints)," but, "we've been told (by MDA) we have no authority."

To complicate matters further, apparently, even the MDA and the state Department of the Environment (MDE) also, around 1997, were not clear on which department was to enforce which regulations, when it came to farmlands, resulting in the two agencies generating a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to divvy-up responsibilities. According to this MOU, the MDA was designated the principle agency to investigate farmland-generated odor complaints and included specific steps which the MDA must take during and after such investigations.

While awaiting an official word providing the county with some direction regarding alleged off-site odors (and other allegations), Marschner said, "The MDA folks have pretty much assured us as far as they are concerned, they (the farm in question) are in compliance. Other complaints have been surfacing but no hard evidence." "We were pretty much told county doesn't have a role," he said, adding, "We haven't seen anything (at the subject farm) the county can regulate."

Frederick County Joins Lawsuit Against E-Cigarette Manufacturers

Frederick County has joined a class-action lawsuit against electronic cigarette manufacturers to hold them accountable for allegedly marketing an addictive product to minors. County Executive Jan Gardner signed onto the litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and Altria Group,



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardner

The holidays are fast approaching. It's the perfect time to reflect on our blessings. Personally, I am thankful for the birth of my second grandchild, who arrived a few weeks ago. We have much to be thankful for in Frederick County. We live in an incredibly caring community. Our economy is thriving. And we are preserving the things we love about our county.

Caring

Every child deserves a chance to have fun and play. Now children of all abilities can play at a new inclusive playground at Emmitsburg Community Park. The Town installed special swings, climbing equipment, and musical features. At the ribbon-cutting on Nov. 2, I saw huge smiles as boys and girls explored the playground. Kudos to the Catoctin Civitan Club, the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners, and everyone who played a role in the project. Together we are making life better for people!

Another example of how we care

for and support one other in our community is our dedicated volunteer community. I want to congratulate one of Woodsboro Fire Company's volunteers, Katherine Dixon, who recently graduated from the County's year-long Paramedic Class. Of the 10 new graduates, Katherine was the only one representing the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. She also earned the honor of being class valedictorian. Students complete more than 1,500 hours of class work, clinical and field training, and hospital experience before passing two national certification exams. Our other new Frederick County paramedics include Michael Curry, Nathaniel Harper, Carly Heflin, Ethan Hundertmark, Lauren Lum, Patrick Mangus, Jason Porterfield, Brittany Ryley, and Jennifer Wilson. Each of our paramedics is passionate about serving the people of Frederick County.

Thriving

We can all be proud that our economy is thriving. Frederick

County is growing jobs with new and expanding businesses. This fall, I joined our Office of Economic Development during Business Appreciation Week as they visited more than 100 local businesses. More than 80% told us their business had grown this year, and 63% said they plan to expand! An impressive 100% said they like doing business in Frederick County. The visits are an important way to support our existing businesses so they can prosper.

One local company that is prospering is Walkersville-based Galaxy Control Systems, which celebrated its 45th anniversary last month. Galaxy is a global leader in the manufacturing and support of security access control systems. Their products are proudly made in the U.S.A. and can be found in 70 countries. The company operates out of a building on Main Street that in the early 20th century housed a bakery. Congratulations to Galaxy on reaching this milestone!

Preserving

Frederick County has a rich agricultural history. We celebrated a chapter of that history recently when the Frederick Soil Conservation District marked its 75th anniversary. Members were joined by the Catoctin Soil Conservation District at a banquet to mark the occasion. Soil Conservation Districts play an important role in protecting our land and waterways. They promote best practices in farming operations across Frederick County.

One of my priorities is to ensure that we keep agriculture economically viable so we leave a legacy of agriculture for future generations. That means we must preserve our best, most productive farms, and help to keep agriculture an economically viable industry. In the coming year, the County's workgroup on value-added agricultural will recommend steps to help farmers grow value-added products through a production and processing co-op.

I'm also looking at ways to accelerate our farmland preservation programs. We have preserved about

65,000 acres of prime farmland, putting Frederick County in the top 10 counties in the nation. We know the demand is there for more people to participate. The challenge is finding the funding. This year, we had more than 40 applicants for preservation easements and enough money to make 7 offers. The time to protect our farmland is now.

Holiday cheer

Take some time this month to enjoy the season. Emmitsburg's Evening of Christmas Spirit and town tree lighting take place Monday, December 2nd at 6 p.m., with events at the community center and the Carriage House Inn. The annual Christmas in Thurmont event is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th at the Guardian Hose Company Fire Hall. Activities and entertainment run all day, from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. The town's holiday train display will be open on weekends leading up to Christmas at 12 East Main Street in Thurmont.

I hope your holiday is filled with joy!

continued from previous page

the parent company of Philip Morris USA and a 35% stockholder of Juul. The lawsuit alleges misleading practices designed to attract teenagers and pre-teens through the use of flavored nicotine products and targeted advertising.

"We need to hold companies accountable for promoting these dangerous products to our children," said County Executive Jan Gardner. "Young people are being lured into vaping with fla-

vors like cotton candy, strawberry milk, and popcorn. We must keep these toxins out of the hands of our youth."

Use of electronic smoking devices, or vaping, by U.S. high school students grew nearly 80% from 2017 to 2018, according to the National Adolescent Drug Trends report. Vaping's dramatic rise in popularity comes as cigarette smoking by teens has declined significantly over the last several decades. National data show that 27.5% of high school stu-

dents and 10.5% of middle school students had vaped within the previous 30 days. Teens list three main reasons for vaping: the mistaken belief that e-cigarettes are less harmful than other forms of tobacco; the availability of flavors; and because a friend or family member used the devices.

"The Board of Education of Frederick County desires to maintain a safe, healthy and productive environment free of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs," said

schools Superintendent Dr. Theresa Alban. "Frederick County Public Schools supports the decision of County Executive Jan Gardner to join a class action lawsuit against Juul, whose nicotine based e-cigarette campaigns have targeted our students by offering fruit flavors and a sleek look. Vaping with Juul's e-cigarettes is not only a major health concern for our students, it is also a distraction in our school environment."

Frederick County has retained

the law firm Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd in the multidistrict litigation, which is being litigated in the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of California. The firm also represents other jurisdictions across the United States in this case, including Montgomery County.

The lawsuit seeks damages and abatement costs for the harm incurred as a result of deceptive and fraudulent marketing practices in violation of federal and state laws.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

The Take Back Program was another great success! In Adams County, approximately, 10,231 pounds of outdated prescriptions and over-the-counter medications were collected by 51 volunteers on October 26th. In Carroll Valley, 224.5 lbs. were collected by 7 volunteers. Thanks to those who took the time to go through their medicine cabinet, select those expired medicines and bring them down to the collection site. Thank you!

The 2020 Budget available for residents' review. The 2020 Budget is the end-product of a three-step review process over a three-month period. The first review is performed by the Borough Manager when analyzing the Borough Department submissions. The second review is performed by the Finance Committee. The third review is performed by the Borough Council during their Budget Workshop. It is projected the Council will at the December 10th meeting

approve the 2020 budget which will mean there is no Carroll Valley Borough tax increase for 2020.

Mark your calendar for the Carroll Valley Borough Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 7th for 4 to 6 p.m. The Fairfield School District Show Choir will perform at 4:30 p.m. Hot Chocolate and cookies will be served. Santa's Storytime will be held in the library. Make and take Bird Feeder Ornaments. Come down to Carroll Commons to kickoff the holiday season. Hope to you see there! Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 7:30 to 11 a.m. at the Fairfield Fire House. A donation of \$5 per person is being asked for breakfast. Children 12 years old and younger are free. I have been told by an air traffic controller friend that Santa plans to arrive at 8:30 a.m. Sensitive Santa will be held at 11:30 a.m. by appointment - call 717642-8269.

The Borough of Carroll Valley's Parks and Recreation Committee along with

the Council, Committees and Staff are collecting the following items to make Holiday Meal Kits for Local Families in need: Hams, Turkeys, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes, Canned Vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), Canned Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing Mix, Deserts (Non-Perishable or Mixes) and Dinner Rolls. If you so choose, you may use the following link: <https://www.myregistry.com/wishlist/borough-of-carroll-valley-fairfield-pa/2200353> to myregistry.com in order to select food items that can be shipped directly to the Borough office. Or, you can drop donations off at 5685 Fairfield Road between 8 am and 4 pm. Please consider participating.

Around this time of year, the question always comes up whether someone can hunt in Carroll Valley. To clarify the rules, Carroll Valley cannot by law change state law regarding hunting; however, current state rules make legal hunting in Carroll Valley difficult. Pennsylvania has what

are called "Safety Zones". In a safety zone, it is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farm house or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving game, even without a firearm or bow, within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. For comparison, think of a safety zone as about one and a half football fields.

Hunting on hospital and institutional grounds, and in cemeteries, is also prohibited. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle whose occupants are releasing pheasants. The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, nurs-

ery schools or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. For further information, refer to www.pgc.state.pa.us. As Carroll Valley has grown over the years, it is more and more difficult to find a location outside these safety zones. Should you think someone is hunting too close to a residence, you can call the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Dispatch Center in Huntingdon at 814-643-1831 and an officer will check for violations. If you see persons hunting from vehicles or after dark, call County Dispatch at 717-334-8101 (non-emergency) or 9-1-1 (emergency) to get the quickest response.

Borough meetings to be held in December are: Planning Commission (Dec 2nd), Tree Board (Dec 5th), Council Borough (Dec 10th), and Parks/Recreation (Dec 18th). The Borough Office will be closed December 25th and December 26th. If you have any questions call me at 301-606-2021 or email me at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Wishing you and your family a Happy New Year!

State Senator Doug Mastriano

Most Pennsylvanians want to be left alone to live their lives without undo interference from the government.

Yet, the state and federal governments continually infringe on our freedoms and make living in the Commonwealth difficult. This is unacceptable and I firmly believe that we must get the government off of our backs and out of our wal-

lets. We need to have Harrisburg work for us... not us working for Harrisburg.

One way lawmakers can address this issue is through regulatory reform. As the chair of the Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee, I oversee and review proposals to reform state government, reduce costs and enhance government efficiencies.

The committee also studies proposals to consolidate departments and legislative service agencies, as well as efforts to eliminate or modify existing government programs. Currently, there are a dozen pieces of legislation assigned to this panel, and the over-arching theme is regulatory reform. Some of the more interesting bills include:

Legislation that would create

an Office of the Repealer, which would review existing state code and determine which regulations are outdated;

A proposal dubbed the "Red Tape Reduction Act" that would remove two regulations for every one regulation implemented; and

Legislation that would necessitate a vote by the legislature if any new regulation exceeds the \$1 million threshold in costs to the taxpayer and state.

Overall, these bills aim to provide the openness and transparency that our constituents deserve. State agencies are responsible for implementing the law; not making laws themselves.

It is disheartening to hear that state agencies are interpreting laws in ways that were not intended by legislators. Government regulations can have an enormous impact on industries, employees and families if they are not implemented properly.

Unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats must not be allowed to operate outside of our democratic system of government, or to impose their private agendas on our citizens.

We must fight tirelessly to curtail job-killing, soul-crushing regulations and we must reduce the

costs associated with regulatory compliance.

The current regulatory review process is complex and confusing, and often times cumbersome. In fact, the Commonwealth currently has 153,000 regulatory restrictions, impacting every industry.

As your state senator, I plan to do something about it. My committee intends to hold a hearing on the topic at a 33rd District business. But, I need to hear from you. What are your concerns about the current regulatory review process? What can the state be doing better? Do you own a business or a farm? Have you encountered red tape? Did the red tape negatively impact your budget? Did you opt against establishing a business in Pennsylvania because of those regulations? Has your business been unable to expand because of outdated and obscure regulatory rules? What is the impact of over-regulation?

Before moving more legislation out of the Intergovernmental Operations Committee, I want to understand how red tape has impacted you and your families.

You can email me at dmastriano@pasen.gov, call my offices at 717.334.4169; or visit my website www.senatormastriano.com.



BLUE RIDGE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

DECEMBER EVENTS

Dec. 5th - Wagner 9s Outlaw Meat Shoot - Doors Open 5 p.m. - Shoot starts 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 7th - Bobby D & The Truck Stop Burritos - 7 - 11 p.m.

Dec. 13th - Wagner 10s Outlaw Shotgun Shoot - Doors Open 8 a.m. - Shoot starts 10 a.m.

Dec. 14th - Kids Christmas Party 1 - 3 p.m.

Dec. 19th - Wagner 9s Outlaw Meat Shoot - Doors Open 5 p.m. - Shoot starts 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 20th - Meat Night and Buffet

Dec. 21st - Bobby D & The Truck Stop Burritos - 7 - 1 p.m.
Adult Christmas Party - 7 p.m. - Midnight

Dec. 27th - Wagner 10s Shotgun Shoot - Doors Open 8 a.m. - Shoot starts 10 a.m.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

Election reform is finally coming to Pennsylvania. It is about time we had some changes, but there is still more work to do. Below is an excerpt from the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's (CCAP) monthly newsletter to county commissioners. After reading it, I will unpack some of the information and lay out a few more recommended changes to PA election law that I wish the state would implement. Many of the recommendations, both approved in this new law and yet to be discussed, come from the CCAP election reform committee.

"On Oct. 31, Gov. Wolf signed SB 421 into law which includes a number of election reform measures as well as \$90 million in bonds for the purpose of reimbursing counties for 60% of the cost of purchasing new voting systems... In addition to the funding, other welcome reform measures in Act 77 include creation of a new mail-in ballot provision that would effectively be a no-fault absentee ballot, changes in ballot printing requirements sought by counties to reduce wasted resources and unnecessary cost, and a provision to prohibit the use of stickers for write-in candidates.

Other provisions change the deadline for registration to 15 days in advance of the election, change the deadlines for absentee ballots, eliminate straight party voting, and incorporate a concept from prior legislation to require the Department of State to file with the legislature if it intends to decertify election systems affecting more than 50% of the counties. Counties will also be required to post sample ballots on their publicly accessible websites and to pay poll workers an additional amount of their choosing for attending training, and to pay election judges an additional amount of their choosing for carrying materials to the polls."

First, the money. The total cost for the new election equipment was \$456,800. The State is sending a check for \$274,128 and the county has already received federal funds totaling \$110,078. The actual county share will only be \$72,594. This is great for county taxpayers. Over the past few years our equipment has begun to show its age, with more failing to turn on, routine paper jams, and other minor issues that would slow down the election process. I estimate that within five years, the county would have had

to replace the voting equipment. Having the extra sixty percent from the state was great timing for us. Other great news is with the type of equipment we purchased. We decided to remain with our current vendor and simply upgrade to more modern state certified equipment, which still provides a paper trail. Unlike other counties, our voters and poll workers will barely notice a difference. For counties just now going to paper ballots, this transition will make for a rough presidential primary. On that note a huge thank you to Monica Dutko (our previous director of elections) and Angie Crouse (our current director) for pushing to have new equipment purchased this year. This allowed voters and staff to experience the new equipment during a much lower volume municipal general election and not during a high turnout presidential primary.

The rest of the election reform bill focused on efforts to make voting easier or to non-politicize the voting process. Moving the last date to become registered closer to the election is a mixed blessing. While it gives residents more time to get registered and make their voices heard, it will put a time crunch on our election office to have those bal-

lots tabulated. Likewise pushing back the date for absentee ballots and allowing for no-excuse absentee voting, gives voters more time to vote prior to the election. please take advantage of no excuse absentee voting. Next year will be a huge voter turnout, voting early is the best way to avoid the line. I intend to exercise this right.

Lastly, and most importantly to me is the removal of straight party voting from the ballot. Thomas Jefferson once said, that "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people." That is true now, more than ever. When it comes to politics, I firmly believe in three things. All Democrats are not the same, all Republicans are not the same, and always vote for the most qualified candidate. When I knock on doors, I am constantly shocked by how few super voters (voters who vote in every election) do not know their municipal, county, or state elected officials. While this is by no means scientific, in my personal experience less than one in four voters know for whom they are voting. If you can name any of your municipal officials, all three county commissioners, and your state representative, I applaud you for being the "educated citizenry" Thomas Jefferson

envisioned would make America a great nation. If you cannot, please take the time to learn about the candidates for whom you are voting, it matters.

And lastly, lest you believe that the state somehow got everything right on this new election law, I need to add a touch of grey to Act 77. The largest issue they failed to address is campaign finance reform. When it comes to election finance in PA, it is a free for all. While it is still illegal for corporations and foreign nationals to donate to candidates, there is no limit to how much a person can donate to a candidate for any state, county, or local office. At the state level, this means that wealthy individuals can keep important bills from ever getting to a vote. On the local level it means there is limit to the influence peddling that large donors can insert into local decisions. I encourage people to check out www.opensecrets.org, www.dos.pa.gov, or just come into the courthouse and look up campaign finance records. Both sides of the aisle in Harrisburg do not want to see campaign finance reform. So, while I will applaud our state officials for doing the right things in helping to pay for election equipment and making the process run smoother, on the biggest election issue, they get a big old zero. And don't get me started on gerrymandering.

State Representative Dan Moul

The Great Lakes contain about 84% of North America's fresh surface water and about 21% worldwide, but this precious source of fresh water is under threat.

You may wonder why a state representative from Adams County would be concerned about problems in the Great Lakes, but earlier this fall, I was appointed to represent Pennsylvania at the Patricia Birkholz Institute for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Policy.

The institute is a binational, non-partisan organization of state legislators in the Great Lakes region, whose sole purpose is to establish policy concerning the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. I was selected to represent Pennsylvania because of my legislative work and interest in stormwater issues.

Water quality experts, and our counterparts from Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, we gathered recently for a 3-day conference in Detroit where we set out to study nutrient pollution and find solutions to problems common to the Great Lakes. We compared our knowledge and experience concerning nutrient pollution and sought to identify where it exists and to what degree, and to determine its causes and impact on water quality, residents, businesses and industries.

We learned that agricultural runoff from farms and along streams in the Great Lakes region are largely responsible for the delivery of phosphorus to the lakes, despite efforts to control it. Phosphorus feeds the over production of algae in the lakes, which in significant levels can produce dead zones that choke off oxygen to fish. Toxic algae can also be deadly to livestock and

other animals, and harmful to humans.

Of the five Great Lakes, Pennsylvania's Lake Erie is the most polluted. It has the highest concentration of phosphorus, the largest number of dead zones, and the discovery of E. coli from sewage contamination and microcystin toxicity from algae blooms has raised public health concerns prompting beach closings at the popular Presque Isle State Park.

While the algae blooms are not generally life threatening to humans, ingestion of the water can cause gastrointestinal symptoms and sickness. Worse yet, swimming in the affected water can cause a skin rash, irritated eyes and nose and a cough or sore throat. "Swimmer's Itch" is another condition common in freshwater lakes. Caused by a parasite, it produces red spots on the body that cause a nearly insane level of itchiness.

In 2017, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) developed a Lake Erie phosphorus reduction action plan. While the DEP acknowledges that harmful algae blooms are prevalent in Lake Erie's western basin and low oxygen conditions exist in the central basin, it says Pennsylvania contributes a very small percentage of the overall phosphorus responsible and it has no plans for major reductions at this time. However, monitoring and reporting will continue.

Over the course of our three days in Detroit, our group learned about the sources and effects of nutrient pollution and the necessity of implementing evidence-based best practices to control it. Based on our findings, we began drafting a position statement and action plan outlining specific strategies member states and provinces can take in collaboration to reduce nutrient pollution in Lake Erie.

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Our most sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas, a warm Holiday Season, and a New Year of peace, prosperity & happiness!



						
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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Christmas spirit

Shannon Bohrer

The Christmas holidays are special for many reasons. We celebrate the holiday spirit with Christmas music, seeing friends and family and giving thanks for the blessings we have. Every year we dream of “Peace on earth and good will toward man.” Of course I don’t remember every having peace on earth, but we can hope, and it is up to each of us to express goodwill toward man. The Christmas spirit also reminds us we should care for the poor, take care of the sick and respond to those less fortunate. Maybe we should do this all year.

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see”

—Mark Twain

While the Christmas spirit is uplifting and we think of kind words and good deeds, it can be somewhat disingenuous if we only practice these actions during the holidays. It has been often said that we judge others by their actions but we judge ourselves by our intentions. Do we judge others more, or less during the holidays? Even if we don’t hold with kindness and empathy all year, maybe the holiday spirit reminds us of who we should be - all year. How we act and treat others is a reflection of who we are, or who we think we are. Maybe that is part of the holiday message, to remind us of who we should be.

While Christmas can challenge us to be responsible, more thoughtful, kind and considerate, our behavior, good or bad, is ultimately our choice. The choices we have include our thoughts and our actions with others, good or bad. Do we sometimes blame others for our actions, anger issues and or resentments? The holiday season is a good time to reflect upon our own behavior. It is very easy to examine ones’ self and focus on our positives, while ignoring our negatives. Why is it that we can sometimes easily find fault with others and at the same time seem blind to our own shortcomings?

“The last of human freedoms - the ability to choose one’s attitude in a given set of circumstances”

—Viktor E. Frankl

The Christmas season is special, but we all understand it can be demanding and puzzling at the same time. Christmas is the time of the year when we have family gatherings, sometimes with family members and neighbors that we may not see all year, some by choice. People do think differently, we have different views with on multiple issues, including politics. Our two major political ideologies sometimes seem very tribal. Instead of listening to each other, we often just ignore each other. Ignoring others because we don’t think the same way, is counterproductive to the holiday spirit of caring and kindness. Challenging yourself to

be more tolerant can be difficult, but not addressing our differences only adds to our separate worlds.

Sometimes, intolerance of persons that don’t think like us feels like normal behavior. When having discussions about our differences, we often experience raised voices that is more argumentative than conversational. After which, the behavior becomes normalized and the intolerance becomes the norm.

It is possible to disagree and not be disagreeable. Tolerance can include mindfulness, an understanding that when one person raises their voice, you are not required to act in kind. Communication is an art and a science. Listening with the understanding that you may not agree with another party is a good starting point. It does take two people to have an argument. Tolerance of our differences demonstrates an understanding of our mindfulness, that we all have differences.

“To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness”

—Confucius

I do believe that thoughtfulness, kindness and having a generally good disposition it something that most people admire. If we like being around people with these traits, then why would be not want to be like them? Maybe we think that we are already good people, so we have no reason to reflect on our own



behavior. Possibly - as you are reading this column you are thinking that you already exhibit the positive traits of thoughtfulness and kindness, but you may have some family members or associates that have issues. If this sounds like a realistic view from your perspective, you may be right. Then again - maybe other family member or friends are thinking the same thing about you.

“A man who views the world the same at fifty as he did at twenty has wasted thirty years of his life.”

—Muhammad Ali

Thoughtfulness and kindness, how we interact with others, is or should be something we learned when we were young. Learning tolerance, how we interact with others that are different than us, is sometimes viewed as an abstract. Something we know exists and we say we believe, but we do not always practice. It’s like judging ourselves with our intentions and

judging others for their actions. Yet the wisdom that we accumulate with our years of learning and experiences tells us that our differences are normal. Thoughtfulness and kindness, can bridge our differences. How do we interact with people who don’t think like us, is a reflection of us.

This holiday season is a good time to practice kindness, to tolerate the differences we have, with the understanding that we have more in common with our friends and family, than we have in differences. We should count our blessings, not just during the holidays, but all year.

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”

- Saint Basil

To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

Common Cents

Getting rid of treacherous friends

Mel Gurtov

Backing the wrong horse, again

The United States has a long record of befriending the wrong people—authoritarian leaders who rely on military and police power to enforce social inequality and dictatorial rule. Washington’s usual justification is promoting the national interest, meaning either strategic or economic advantage rather than human-interest concerns. That transparently false argument eventually catches up with an administration as the ally commits enough outrages to weaken support even among hardliners in Washington. Past US administrations sometimes reacted by promoting regime change or outright abandonment, for example the removals of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguyen Van Thieu in Vietnam, Juan Bosch in the Dominican Republic, and the Somoza family in Nicaragua.

Today, dancing with dictators is again in fashion, but now for personal no less than for political or economic gain. Turkey, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia are among the beneficiaries of Trump’s tolerance, for which he is well rewarded. It’s time to ditch these regimes, along

with their DC lobbyists and other supporters. Reportedly, John Bolton, hardly an exemplary diplomat, couldn’t tolerate Trump’s policy-for-profit foreign policy. But his critique only addresses one element of that policy. The other elements are use of “family” members (in the Mafia sense of the word) to conduct sensitive foreign relations, and the rejection of these countries’ authoritarian politics as a factor in policy making.

Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, should be a prime candidate for abandonment. First off, it’s a family affair: As the New York Times recently reported, Trump and Jared Kushner have developed personal relationships with Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s son-in-law, Turkey’s finance minister, and the son-in-law of a Turkish tycoon who does business with the Trump Organization. As with Kushner’s personal ties with Saudi strongman Mohammad bin Salman, the pocketbook trumps national interests. The Turks and the Trumps agree that backdoor diplomacy is much more productive than relying on the “deep state.” That way, the Erdogan regime has a free pass to avoid NATO and US sanctions and Trump has a channel for avoiding

having to impose them—and conducting profitable business such as the Trump Towers Istanbul.

Erdogan clearly has Trump’s sympathy when it comes to repression of human rights. As the Washington Post editorialized on November 5, following the 2016 coup attempt against Erdogan, “the . . . dragnet was wide: According to Turkish accounts, 189 media outlets were shut and 319 journalists arrested, of whom 180 are still detailed; more than 6,000 academics lost their jobs; 4,463 judges and prosecutors were dismissed; and some 3,000 schools and universities shut down. Since the purge, Mr. Erdogan has further tightened his grip.” This is the same Erdogan who stood up for Jamal Khashoggi after he was murdered by Saudi henchmen of bin Salman. But Erdogan is no hero. That move was obviously motivated by a chance to undermine a rival regime; human rights had nothing to do with it.

Trump and Erdogan share a particular distaste for journalists. “Turkey, which has the worst record of jailing journalists in the world, according to a report early this year from the Committee to Protect Journalists. Turkey, which recently issued a statement banning critical reports on its military adventures in northern Syria. Turkey, which combs through the

lives of imprisoned journalists with authoritarian vigor” (Erik Wemple in the Washington Post).

When Trump hosted a meeting in the White House November 13 between Erdogan and five senior Republican senators, they avoided those human rights issues altogether. Their main concern was Turkey’s purchase of a Russian S-400 missile defense system. Instead, they heard Erdogan predict \$100 billion in bilateral trade (really?), and then listened to him denounce the Kurds as “terrorist organizations.” Reportedly, it was an Erdogan propaganda show. Unfazed, Trump said: “We’ll work out something with Turkey.” Of course they will, “something” that will mean further abandoning the Kurds while ignoring Erdogan’s repressive regime. I wouldn’t be surprised if Erdogan tries to appease congress and the Pentagon by agreeing to a new arms purchase from the US to offset senators’ unhappiness over the S-400 sale and their threat to impose sanctions. But don’t count on Trump to reimpose sanctions no matter what. Just as happened with Saudi Arabia following the Khashoggi affair, Trump will ignore the criticisms in favor of his “friend.” That’s the way crony capitalists deal.

Does the US need Turkey? Clearly not while it is under the thumb of a vicious autocrat. What, after all, has Turkey contributed to

the national interests of the US? A bulwark of democratic values? Like Putin, Erdogan believes “Western liberalism” is dying. Like Trump, Erdogan is an unapologetic white nationalist. A major economic partner? Hardly; total trade came to about \$20 billion in 2018. A force for NATO or peace prospects in the Middle East? Erdogan is at odds with NATO and with most Middle East governments, including Saudi Arabia as well as Israel. Fact is, Erdogan’s Turkey is serving Russian interests more than he’s serving US or European interests, as his intervention in Syria shows.

It is naive to believe that the Erdogan regime’s behavior can be moderated or its foreign policy brought into line with European priorities. Withdrawing support from him might galvanize Turkey’s democratic opposition, reverse the current US betrayal of the Kurds, and put the US on the path of disassociating from dictators. To be sure, Russia will take advantage of the US ditching Erdogan, but so what? Let Putin see if he can work with Erdogan over the long haul. He will have to figure out what others never have, namely, that becoming dominant players in another country’s affairs invites nationalist blowback.

Mel Gurtov is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Portland State University.

The American Mind

The decline of the West

William Hillman

Traditionally, my December article is a list of book recommendations to occupy the hibernation season. This year column space limits me to two books; the *Decline of the West* by Oswald Spengler and Lars Anderson's *Carlisle vs. Army*. The first was written at the turn of the last century while the later takes place at the turn of the last century.

The events of the last year lead my mind to one particular classic, *The Decline of the West*, by Oswald Spengler published in 1918. In this classic, Spengler reshapes the linear, epoch view of history and argues for a cultural view. Cultures, he said, go through a life cycle of about a two thousand years. A thousand years on the rise, and a thousand years in decline. He makes the case that the Western Culture is in a declining state heading into its "winter".

The following is a quote from Spengler that resonates today more than when it was written a century ago.

"Democracy has become a weapon of moneyed interests. It uses the media to create the illusion that there is consent from the governed. The press today is an army with carefully organized weapons, the journalists its officers, the readers its soldiers. The reader neither knows nor is supposed to know the purposes for which he is used and the role he is

to play. The notion of democracy is often no different than living under a plutocracy or a government by wealthy elites."

Is he right? Events and uprisings from Chile to Italy, from the U.S. to Hungary beg us to look at this question. Across the globe, trust in democracy and the political process is eroding.

When civilizations rise, they become increasingly stable and settled. We currently live in an ever increasingly unstable time.

The world economy experiences crises after crises with a debased monetary system. We are experiencing an explosion of cultural degradation. There is ever expanding economic inequality. Upward mobility is restrained by increasing tax burdens, and regulatory pressure from both inside, and more damaging, outside the borders. The bureaucratic state with its unnecessary regulatory control makes the laws. The governing systems are divorced from the same populist they are meant to govern (the center of wealth in our country has moved to the regulatory center of Washington D.C.). The ruling elite, bureaucratic and regulatory classes see themselves as superior to the population.

Fundamentally, we cannot agree on how to govern.

There is a rapidly increasing divide and tribalization in the developed world where nei-

ther side trust the other and fail to accept elections and democratic outcomes. Every issue is a line in the sand. Compromise, which is the foundation of a republic, is unacceptable today.

A recent study in England shocked academics when it produced results that said more than half the population do not think the current government system works anymore. Both "Leave" and "Remain" voters say that violence against MPs and serious injury to citizens is a price worth paying to get their way. Two-thirds of London residents favor a strong omnipotent ruler with no legislative restraints.

In the U.S., the YouGov/Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation survey of 2,100 young people ages 16 and over found that 70 percent of Millennials said they were somewhat or extremely likely to vote for a socialist. Millennials' birth years span from 1981 to 1996. Of Gen Z, those born beginning in 1997 with the oldest now being 22 years old, 64 percent said they were somewhat or extremely likely to vote for a socialist.

An ever-increasing segment of the population is strongly skeptical of politicians. They have awakened to the fact that the system is rigged and share a willingness to try radical solutions. This is a dangerous mix.

Around the world, trust in political systems and democracy is dissolving. The best example of this is the three-year failure of the British government to implement Brexit and exit the EU despite a populist mandate.

In the US, we are witness to an attempt to remove a constitutionally elected president. The effort to remove him started the day after he won that election because those who did not vote for him are not willing to accept the results of the election. But this is just the current manifestation of the breakdown of our government. The previous two presidents failed to find common ground with the legislature and were forced to lead by executive decree.

Each political sect view any compromise on issues as weakness and treason. This leaves the legislatures in a bind where no-action is politically safer than action.

Despite the push from the money interests and their puppets in the media, the populist rejects the global order and current principals of government. Change is underway. What is next, anarchy, fascism, dictators? Depends on who you ask.

The extreme left keep screaming about Nazism and fascism, but they call anything they object to as the resurrection of Nazism. They are wrong. Nazism is dead and is not coming back.

Those in the center and on the right fear a quasi-Maoist regime which seems to be taking place and is the real threat to the west.

I tend to lean towards the idea of a rise of charismatic autocratic leaders, Caesarism. In this manifestation, the state is led by a strong charismatic executive who prioritizes his nation and pushes back against globalists centric government. The window dress-

ing of a legislative body remains in place but with no real power, all real power lies with the executive. And there is evidence of this. Look at the rise of leaders like Israel's Netanyahu, India's Modi, Russia's Putin, and Trump in the U.S. (All of these men are charismatic leaders, have rejected the globalist agenda and prioritize the needs of their citizens.) This might be our only hope.

My second recommendation for this year is *Carlisle vs. Army: Jim Thorpe, Dwight Eisenhower, Pop Warner, and the Forgotten Story of Football's Greatest Battle* by Lars Anderson. This book is the classic American story of outsiders fighting the elite system on its own terms and winning. The Carlisle team was smaller, barely "civilized", underfunded and challenged the biggest and best the American elite schools could throw at them. And the American people fell in love with this team.

The book follows the birth of football and gives an insight into the revolutionary tactical developments by Pop Warner who turned football into the game we know today. It follows the rise of Jim Thorpe, arguably this country's greatest athlete, and the young Dwight Eisenhower whose military career almost comes to an end when he tries to stop Jim Thorpe. This book is the perfect combination of sports, history, and politics.

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

Down Under

Tomorrow is another day

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia!

*So long, and thanks for all the laughs
Tho' this be madness, yet there
is method in't.
—Hamlet, act 2*

There's well over seven billion of us humans now, working, consuming and creating. We have colonised most parts of the globe, transformed it to our needs, increased our standards of living, travelled most places enjoyed ourselves immensely. We have created social structures that generally promote peace and cooperation, and it makes life worth living, which is something we cling to at all costs.

It'd hard to deny we are a success, an animal that took life by the scruff of its neck and shook it into the future. Life that grew from nothing to something that became so addictive that no one ever wanted to give it up, (apart from a few who are overcome by the ephemeral attraction of what might lie beyond.) Life is something we can't do without, to coin a phrase, and its continuity is the first commandment.

That kind of imperative comes with it's built in rewards and dangers. It created religion, ethics, education and family, as well as the belief that we, as a race, could do anything we liked, being king of the heap. It became the driving force of society, the ultimate challenge to our future. It has taken us into space with the universe to follow.

Successful reproduction has been the key to all this, and nature ensured it by building rewards so powerful that they would never be denied. Survive and procreate are the two imperatives that all life is subject to, and no amount of learning, regulation or punishments will inhibit it. We are programmed to produce offspring come what may, and the consequences of overdoing it have seemed inconsequential. We simply cannot stop doing what is built into our genetic survival structure.

This is true for all life, but mankind went way beyond these simple demands ages ago. Our brains grew, the ability to satisfy our needs went far beyond the basics, and our need for novelty overcame any thought of restriction. The reward system made us ignore any consequences. There was always a way out; science, town planning, social reform, and that

worked, although it didn't prevent nature taking things into its own hands. We can now see the unexpected and terrifying results.

These are affecting everyone of earth, and reactions can be divided into the doomsayers who are doing their headless chook routine, the cynics who are giving the two-fingered salute, sure of their own disbelief, politicians who are promising action but doing nothing, and politicians who are doing all they can, some actually funding bold schemes that just might allow more humans to survive into the next epoch.

What does not help anyone are those who point fingers and scream 'It is you', meaning whoever is not them; coal, oil, animals, and so on, forgetting that the greatest contributors are humans, seven plus billion burning carbon. No one can be blamed for this, yet everyone is guilty. Guilty of following the biological imperatives, of simply being human.

Does this mean we just give up, eat drink and be merry as the guillotine descends?

Absolutely not. We are also fighters who face challenges with bravery and strength, even against what seem to be impossible odds. It is not just climate change, the most touted threat, but lack of resources, especially water. We can exist without food for a while, but not without the liquid gold of H₂O. Such threats are

leading to severe disquiet and will escalate to outright warfare in probably a few decades.

So, what's the answer? I have no idea, but I aim to go down fighting and laughing. Do you have a better plan? Don't tell me to trust in God, science or politics, as they have no way of countering the imperatives of existence. Unfortunately, they also have no way of getting us out of this mess – yet.

And that's the operative word: Tomorrow is another day; it is where hope lives, where sanity is hiding, where the downward spiral is hidden in darkness.

So I want to thank an unlikely person. No matter what your politics are, you have to agree that President Trump has done something that no other president has managed: Given us lots of laughs. Not those of a stand up comedian, a New Yorker cartoonist or a joke teller, but those of a circus clown with his hooter, funny nose and big feet. The big bad world has gone away for a few moments; we are diverted, the veil of anxiety is lifted, psychiatrists have a holiday, and we are left shaking our heads in admiration.

Not bad for someone who has no idea of what a genuine smile means, has never experienced hilarity, is deaf to subtlety, and appears to have no self-doubt. Who doesn't realise how humorous he is, and would be upset if he thought we were laugh-

ing, because he would assume we were doing it at him, not with him, (and he's be right, of course). Lots of leaders have caught onto this; our own Scott Morrison in Pentecostal zeal; Putin stuck in past glory, China dreaming of one world with them running it, every despot, crook and conman with blinkers firmly in place.

Like the cafe at the end of the universe we are adrift in the unknown. Some will survive, and that is the imperative: Not that you or I will, but that the race will.

Maybe one we could not recognise today, but as human as us. Different, carrying on, cursing their ancestors, still unable to resist the reproduction imperative.

That is no comfort for anyone today, but hey – we all have to go sometime. Let's give our descendants a wave, tell them to keep laughing. How you break this to your grand kids is a real problem, but in the meantime we can eat the icing on the cake, play Instagram and Facebook games, stay connected, and pretend all is well with the world.

Never before has there been a better time to say, 'Have a Merry Little Christmas.' Lindsay, looking at the brandy bottle, in Melbourne, Australia.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas is complicated

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

Most people would agree that Christmas can be complicated, because it's expensive, it can be messy, and there's all this drama. And so, sometimes it's like we're just holding on trying to make it to the 26th. But when I say it's complicated, I'm not even talking about December 25th or even the 12 days of Christmas with two turtledoves, a partridge in a pear tree and all that kind of stuff. What I'm really referring to, is the first Christmas when Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to pay their taxes.

You see, back in that day they didn't have American Airlines, Southwest, Uber or anything like that. And so, it's like they're going to Washington to pay their taxes and if I need to remind you, Mary is really pregnant. I mean she's so pregnant that she's practicing her Lamaze breathing techniques in the backseat of a donkey. But things for this couple were about to get even more complicated as they pulled into Bethlehem late that night, Mary is timing her contractions, and Joseph discovers that God never reserved a hotel room.

Now, let me remind you, it's not like God didn't know this was going to happen, because this child was the Son of God, this was the One who was the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world (Revelation 13:8). And so, this wasn't a surprise, God had thousands of years to prepare, and he'd worked out hundreds of specific details. In fact, the Old Testament contains over 300 prophecies

that were written hundreds of years before Jesus birth and he fulfilled each one in his coming, in his life, his death, and in his resurrection. And so, Jesus came fulfilling all these really specific prophecies about how his coming was going to go down so that you would know when it happens that it didn't just happen by accident.

Meanwhile, as Mary and Joseph are unknowingly fulfilling every prophecy related to the birth of this child, there was also somebody who was actively antagonistic and who had only one thing on his mind and that was to put an end to Christmas. And so, you can just imagine how difficult it would be to do something that is this complicated and then add someone else into the mix who is trying to stop it the whole time. But this is exactly what the Gospel of Matthew tells us in chapter 2, and it's a lot like "The Grinch who stole Christmas" from Dr. Seuss, because just after the wisemen left the Bible says,

"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'"

So, he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and

under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more" (Matthew 2:13-18).

And so, here's this king with this Napoleon Complex, sending his soldiers to kill all these baby boys just in case they might be the one that was prophesied to be born who would be King of the Jews. And Herod had a very simple mission and that was to put an end to Christmas because he didn't want anyone to threaten his throne. Little did he know that he was just a puppet and that trying to end Christmas wasn't original to him at all. In fact, it was much more complicated than that, because it had been going on since the Garden of Eden when mankind first fell into sin.

Christmas actually shows up way back in Genesis chapter 3 when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. As he was addressing the consequences of their willful disobedience, God spoke prophetically about how he was going to fix things and the not so simple answer was that Christmas was coming. Turning to the snake, the tempter, the one who had deceived the woman, God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15). And right here in this one verse, God speaks of the coming of Jesus at Christmas, Good Friday where Satan would drive a stake through Jesus' heel on the cross, Easter where Jesus would rise triumphantly, and the Judgment where Jesus would crush his head.

God announced this judgment and Satan has been planning a strategy to avoid getting his head crushed ever since. He's been relentless, because he knows that God had promised that the head crusher would be the offspring of Adam and Eve, that he would be of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that he would come from the tribe of Judah, and that he would be out of the house and lineage of King David. And so, in hindsight, looking at years and years of human history, we can recognize that every attempt at anti-Sem-



itism in the world is because Satan doesn't want to get his head crushed. This is exactly why King Herod was working so feverishly to eliminate Jesus, in his mind, it didn't matter how many babies he had to kill. He had to do it because Satan knew that it was fourth-and-goal with just seconds on the clock. The Savior had come, the virgin had given birth, he is, "Immanuel"—which means, "God with us" (Matt 1:23). Jesus Christ had come just like God said he was going to, and even though Satan had attempted to destroy him, his plan had failed and Jesus fulfilling another prophecy was whisked away to safety in Egypt.

However, the real power behind the Christmas story is what God was actually doing behind the scenes. You see, Herod thought that through death he could stop Christmas, but it's actually much more complicated than that, because God was using Christmas to stop death. You see, the Christmas story wasn't filled with cookies, candy canes, and gumdrop forests. It certainly wasn't the happiest day of the year, because the Christmas story was marked by mothers weeping and mourning over their children who are no more. In fact, many of us today enter the Christmas season with grief in our hearts because there's going to be an empty place at the table this year, but the truth is that Jesus came to solve the problem of death.

This is where it gets really interesting, because God had a plan in all of this death and bloodshed. In fact, death is the real reason why there ever was a Christmas in the first place. And so, God had a plan, but His plan and Herod's plan were one in the same. Herod's plan was the death of Jesus; God's plan was the death of Jesus; and the only difference was that it wouldn't be in Bethlehem as a baby, but that it would be outside of Jerusalem as a full-grown man hanging on a cross for the sins of the world. You see, Jesus didn't give his life as a baby as though he had nothing to say in the matter, but he would lay it down as a 33-year-old man and say, "I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down

and authority to take it up again" (John 10:18). And so, Jesus was willing to do what Herod was unwilling to do and he humbled himself and became like one of us. Herod pathetically clung to his throne until death pried it from his fingers, but Jesus left his throne and the worship of angels in the glory of heaven, coming down into this world where he voluntarily became one of us, taking our place on the cross.

Jesus became our example. You see, it should have been you and I dying for our own sins because we've all fallen short of the glory of God. The Bible is very clear that the wages of sin is death and that's why we all die physically, but it also says that we're already dead spiritually because true death is being separated from God. And so, that's why Jesus came to solve the problem of death, because if we die physically and we're already dead spiritually, we'll remain dead eternally. That's what the Bible describes as hell, eternal separation from God, but that's not what God wants for any of us. And so, he sent his Son Jesus Christ to lay down his life, so that he could take it up again, so his life could become our life, his resurrection our resurrection, and he's returned to heaven to prepare a place for you and I by his side.

In conclusion, Christmas is complicated, but our choices are much simpler. We can choose to be like Herod, clinging to our power, our glory, our sin, and ourselves, being the captain of our fate and the master of our soul. Or we can choose like Jesus to willingly humble ourselves before God, discovering that in losing our life we actually gain it. You see, if our throne and our treasure is in this world, death takes us from our treasure, but if our treasure is in heaven, death takes us to our treasure. That's the hope and the shocking power of the Christmas story, it's complicated, but that's the good news of Jesus Christ.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The nature & folklore of December



Dark December has now come, and brought with him the shortest day and longest night: he turns the mist-like rain into ice with the breath of his nostrils: and with cold that pierces to the very bones, drives the shivering and houseless beggar to seek shelter in the deserted shed.

He gives a chilly blue steel-like colour to the shriveled hops and haws, and causes the half-starved fieldfares to huddle together in the naked hedge for warmth; while the owl, rolling himself up like a ball in his feathers, creeps as far as he can into the old hollowed tree, to get out of the way of the cold.

Even the houses, with their frosted windows, have now a wintery look; and the iron knocker of the door, covered with hoary rime, seems to cut the fingers like a knife when it is touched. The only cheering sight we see as we pass through a village, is the fire in the blacksmith's forge, and boys sliding as they break the frosty air with merry shouts—on the large pond. The falling snow from some overlaid branch, under which we are passing, makes us shake our heads as we feel it thawing about the neck.

Many a shy bird, but seldom seen at any other season, now draws near to our habitations in search of food. We often wonder how, during a long and severe frost, the birds contrive to live. That many perish through cold and want of food, is well known. Many pick up insects in a dormant state from the stems of decayed trees, old walls, and they also forage among bushes, the underneath portions of which being dead, form a warm shelter for such insects as the gnats.

The green ivy gives a life to the nakedness, especially when we see it clambering up a gigantic tree, whose branches are bald. In summer we could not see it for the intervening foliage, though it was then green with young leaves. We love to see it romping about our gray old churches, sometimes climbing up the old square tower of the one, and burying under its close-clinging stems the twisted chimneys of the other, forming a warm shelter for the little wrens and titmice from the biting frosts and cutting winds of winter.

Then there are the bright holly-bushes, with their rich clusters of crimson berries, which throw quite a cheerful warmth around the places in which they grow, and recall pleasant visions of the coming Christmas, and the happy faces they will flash upon when reflecting the sunny blaze from the snug warm hearth.

Here and there, though never very common, we see the mirth-making mistletoe, generally growing on old apple and hawthorn trees, and very rarely on the oak; and it is on records which have been written from ancient traditions, that wherever the Druids selected a grove of oaks for their heathen worship, they always planted apple-trees about the place, so that the mistletoe might be trained around the trunks of the oaks.

The black hellebore, better known as the Christmas-rose, is one of the prettiest flowers now seen out of doors, though but seldom met with in the present day, excepting in old gardens, which we much wonder at, as it is a large, handsome, cup-shaped flower, sometimes white, but more frequently of a rich warm pink colour, and quite as beautiful as any single rose that is cultivated.

Now is the time to sit by the hearth and peruse Shakspeare's immortal

works; and few, we think, will read a page attentively without discovering something new—some thought that assumes a fresh form, or presents itself to the mind in a new light. For out-of-door pleasure, at times, is not to be found, as the days are short, cold, comfortless, and almost dark; lanes, fields, and woods naked, silent, and desolate; while the dull gray sky seems, at times, as if sheeted with lead.

Still there are occasionally days when the sun comes out, and a mild south wind blows, shaking the icicles that hang from the gray beard of grim old Winter, as if to tell him that he must not sleep too sound, for the shortest day has come, and the snow-drops will soon be in flower, and then a flush of golden crocuses will be seen, that will make his dim eyes dance again as he rubs the hoary rime from his frosted eyelashes.

And on these fine December days, great enjoyment may be found in a good bracing country-walk, which will send a summer glow through the system, and cause us to forget the cold. The sky appears of a more brilliant blue, and looks as if higher up than at any other season, while the winter moon, often seen at noonday, appears to have gone far away beyond her usual altitude.

We see a new beauty in the trees which we beheld not before—the wonderful ramification of the branches as they cross and interlace each other, patterns fit for lace, nature's rich net-work—scallop and leaf, that seem as if worked on the sky to which we look up; and we marvel that some of our pattern-drawers have not made copies of these graceful intersections of spray and bough as seen amid the nakedness of winter.

Sometimes the branches are hung with frost, which, were it not of so pure a white, we might fancy was some new kind of beautiful shaggy moss, in form like what is often seen on trees. The bushes, sedge, and withered grasses are covered with it, and look at times as if they were ornaments cut out of gypsum or the purest marble; while some portions of the hedges, where only parts of the branches are seen, look like the blackthorn, which is sheeted with milk-white blossoms long before a green leaf appears.

How dreary must have been the winters through which our forefathers passed, no further back even than a

century ago! But few of our towns were then lighted at night; here and there an oil-lamp flickered, which the wind soon blew out; and these cast such a dull light, and were so far apart, that few old people ventured through the streets on dark nights without carrying lanterns in their hands.

The cottages in the distance seem half-buried, as if the snow stood as high as the window-sills and reached half up the doorways, and you wonder how the inhabitants can get out, and make their way over those white untrodden fields, so deep as they are covered with snow.

We look behind, where hills ascend above hills, with level table-lands between, telling where, for unknown epochs, the ocean spread and sank in desolate silence; and we seem as if looking upon a dead country, from which everything living has long since passed away, and nothing could find sustenance on those cold terraces and bald high uplands of snow, to whose sides the few bare trees that lean over seem to cling in agony, as the wind goes moaning through their naked branches.

But, like the blue of heaven seen through the rift of clouds beyond, there is hope before us, for the shortest day is past, and soon some little hardy flower will be seen here and there, and far across the snow we shall hear the faint bleating of new-born lambs, and the round green daisies will begin to knock under the earth to be let out, and so frighten grim old Winter in his sleep, that he will jump up and hurry away, looking with averted head over his shoulder, for fear he should be over-taken by Spring.

Historical

December, like the three preceding months, derives its name from the place which it held in the old Roman calendar, where the year was divided, nominally, only into ten months, with the insertion of supplementary days, to complete the period required for a revolution of the earth round the sun. In allusion to the practice of lighting fires in this month for the purpose of warmth.

By the ancient Saxons, December was styled Winter-monat or winter month; a term which, after their conversion to Christianity, was changed to Heligh-monat or holy month from the anniversary, which occurs in it, of the birth of Christ.

On the 22nd of December, the sun enters the sign of Capricornus or the Goat. The idea thus allegorized by a climbing animal is said to be the ascent of the sun, which, after reaching its lowest declination at the winter-solstice, on the 21st of this month, recommences its upward path, and continues to do so from that date till it attains its highest altitude at the summer-solstice, on the 21st of June.

As regards meteorological characteristics, December bears in its earlier portion a considerable resemblance to the preceding month of November. Heavy falls of snow and hard frosts used to be of normal occurrence at the season of Christmas, as a general rule, snow rarely descends in any quantity before the commencement of the New Year.

To read other selections from Robert Chamber's *The Book Of Days* visit www.thebookofdays.com

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ECOLOGY

December: the shortest month of the year

Lizzy Ryan
Strawberry Hill Education
and Outreach Coordinator

With the month of December comes celebration and rest. Celebration of the holidays, rest as a result of shorter days and longer nights. Strawberry Hill will be celebrating the Winter Solstice with an event on December 14. I have to admit, as the education coordinator, I was pretty overwhelmed when I first started researching the winter solstice and how I can incorporate it into a program for kids. I never thought about doing a winter solstice program before, nor have I really thought of it as being a holiday. But, through my research I realized how cool of a tradition it really is!

The winter solstice occurs between December 20-23. This year, it falls on December 21st. The word 'solstice' comes from the Latin word "sol" meaning sun and "sistere" meaning to stand still. This is the day of the year with the fewest hours of daylight. After the winter solstice occurs, there is continuously more hours of daylight until the Summer Solstice arrives. After the summer solstice, the days begin to shorten again.

Historians date the winter solstice all the way back to a monument in Ireland - called Newgrange. Newgrange was constructed around 3200 BC - before the pyramids at Giza and Stonehenge were created. Newgrange is a large monument with several chambers inside. Most of the monument was used for burials. However, around the

entrance to the monument is a "roof-box" which lets in special light on the day of the solstice. Because the chamber is sloped, the majority of the monument is dark for the whole year, except when light shines through the roofbox on the solstice. It appears as though the monument was planned around this beam of light, therefore showing the importance of the winter solstice to the people of that time. Historians are not sure why this civilization created such a structure. Some speculate that it may have been used for religious rituals.

The ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia - a day to honor their agricultural god - around the day of the winter solstice. Some of the traditions that took place during Saturnalia inspired some of the Christian Christmas traditions people do to this day. During the festival of Saturnalia, work came to a standstill. People exchanged gifts, there were feasts, and parties. People decorated their homes with greenery. Sound familiar? Candles were a popular gift to give. Candles signified the promise of light with the solstice.

Then of course, there was the yule log. Ancient Germanic people would light a yule log to symbolize the return of light. The yule log would be lit each year using the ashes from the previous year's log. This was thought to bring good luck and ward off evil spirits.

What I like about the celebration of the solstice is its affinity for nature. The



December marks the start of the long winter ahead, but the solstice brings hope for sun and warmth again. Come celebrate the Solstice at Strawberry Hill on December 14th!

solstice celebrates the coming of longer days and the awakening of nature.

While we are all preparing for the awakening of nature and celebrating the winter solstice, many of our forest friends, too, are celebrating this month; celebrating by resting.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles and amphibians are cold-blooded, meaning they cannot regulate their own body temperature. They rely on the environment around them to regulate their temperature. Reptiles and amphibians cannot survive our winters out in the open. They must find a place to hibernate. When they hibernate, their metabolism drastically slows down, and they survive as a result of the energy stored that was collected in the spring and summer. Turtles will bury themselves under mud at the bottom of a pond or in the forest where they will survive from the little bit of oxygen that is in the mud. Frogs will bury deep into leaf litter, bury below the frost line, or find crevices to hibernate in.

Wood frogs are an amazing species because they have built-in anti-freeze. Their heart will stop beating, they stop breathing, and they don't move. They appear dead. Ice forms around the outside of their cells and organs, instead of the inside. Once the weather starts to warm, they begin to thaw. Scientists are still studying how this process works.

Mammals

Some of our furry woodland friends hibernate in the winter while others are still quite active. Squirrels and chipmunks will spend the fall months gathering nuts to store somewhere safe for the winter. They will be less active in the winter than in the warmer months, but they do not hibernate. Some weasels will change their coat from brown to white in the winter for camouflage. Small mammals, like mice and voles, are still at work under the snow or leaf litter with an immense network of tunnels. Skunks and raccoons will find a den to rest for the winter, but they also, do not hibernate.

Opossums are a mammal species not quite adapted for our winters. With their bare feet, tail, and ears, they tend to get frostbite. They will seek some sort of shelter during the winter, but they do not hibernate.

However, groundhogs and bats hibernate. These species' heartbeats slow dramatically, and their body temperature drops. Another mammal that comes to mind when hibernation is discussed is the bear. Bears rest in dens for the winter, mainly surviving off their fat stores. Females begin to den down while they are pregnant or with their young. Males den alone. Females will usually give birth in the den in January.

Birds

And what about the birds? We know that many species leave our area for the winter months, like many ducks and geese that move south. Hummingbirds fly south as do many birds of prey. However, many will stick around too. Winter is a great time to get a closer look at some of our bird species by setting up feeders. This gives us the chance to see the birds outside our windows. The species that will frequent feeders include the chickadee, blue jay, junco, cardinal, titmouse, nuthatch, finches, and many more. Barred, screech, barn, and great horned owls also stay here all winter. Snowy owls will make an appearance this far south if their food is scarce up north. Sometimes we may have the thrill of seeing wild turkeys too.

In short, December marks the start of the long winter ahead, but the solstice brings hope for sun and warmth again.

Enjoy December. Slow down, listen to your surroundings, celebrate, rest. Visit us at Strawberry Hill - take a hike, look for tracks, bring the kids, and join us as we enjoy the Winter Solstice! Come Celebrate the Solstice with us on December 14th! Pre-Register by visiting Strawberryhill.org.

To read past Ecology articles, visit Emmitsburg.net.

Internship Opportunity at Strawberry Hill

Strawberry Hill is actively seeking an Events & Marketing Assistant to fulfill a part-time internship opportunity. The Events & Marketing Assistant is responsible for assisting with the planning, organization, and implementation of Strawberry Hill's annual fundraising events. These events include Mount Hope Maple Madness, the Board of Directors Annual Meeting, Trailgating at Strawberry Hill, and

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IN THE COUNTRY

Our National Parks

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Editor's Note: This is a start of a new series on our National Parks. Over what I fully expect to be the next couple of years Tim will systematically introduce you to the major, and minor gems in our National Park System. Our hope is that series not only enlightens you on special aspects of the individual parks, but to motivate you to go out and see them for yourselves! We hope you enjoy the series.

The National Park Service manages a total of 419 sites throughout each of the 50 states and territories within America. Each one has been set aside because of their significance to the nation. Over the next several months we'll take a deeper look into one of the many sites managed by the National Park Service. First, we'll take a look at what the agency is.

The emblem of the National Park Service is an arrowhead bearing the images of a bison, tree, mountain, and lake. Each item, including the arrowhead itself, represents different resources that have been entrusted to the agency to preserve and protect. The bison represents all animals, as the tree represents all plants. National parks are home to many plants and animals, some of which are rare or endangered. In some rare circumstances the entire species of plant or animal may exist entirely within the boundaries of a national park. The mountain in the background represents all landforms within the NPS system.

Many parks have mountains, some parks are entirely mountains, such as Rocky Mountain National Park (Colorado) or Mount Rainier National Park (Washington). However, there are many more landscapes that are equally represented and protected within the system, like Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona) or Death Valley National Park (California). The foreground of the arrowhead symbol holds a small lake that represents all bodies of water. National Parks also include national wild & scenic rivers, national lakeshores and seashores. Biscayne National Park (Florida) is nearly 95% water and is home to precious coral reefs and tropical fish just outside the bustling metropolis of Miami. Finally, the arrowhead itself represents all the cultural and historic resources. These are artifacts or places that have been set aside because of the significance of the events or people associated with them. Antietam National Battlefield (Maryland) or Brown vs. the Board of Education National Historic Site (Kansas) tell stories we should not forget. The battlefields, monuments, and historic sites all preserve the cultural and historical identity of Amer-

ica. They hold some of our best moments and some truly important learning opportunities.

Of the 419 sites managed by the National Park Service, 61 of them bear the title "National Park." The rest are a compilation of different designations including national preserves, recreation areas, parkways, and more. However, the official name is irrelevant. They are all legally the same and managed in much the same way by the National Park Service. Parks are created in one of two ways - legislation or proclamation. Enabling legislation from Congress can create a national park. The Antiquities Act of 1906 allows a president with a proclamation to declare a place a national monument in order to protect the natural or cultural resources within. Most park service sites have been created through legislation. However, since the passage of the Antiquities Act all presidents have used the authority except Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and George H.W. Bush.

Yellowstone National Park is the first national park both in the United States and the world. Founded in 1872 and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant, Yellowstone instantly became an icon and a model for the rest that followed suit. Yellowstone actually predates the agency by which it's managed. Several more national parks came

into being before it became clear that a specific agency was needed to address the problems and management issues that comes with managing vast amounts of public land and resources.

The Organic Act of 1916, signed by President Woodrow Wilson, created the National Park Service. One of four main land management agencies (US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management) the National Park Service has the unique mission "...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Each agency is called to specific tasks, but the national parks are entirely dedicated to, by, and for the people now and into posterity. They've been called one of our best ideas and generally depict us at our best, truly representing the plurality of the nation it's been tasked to tell the story of.

With over 20,000 employees during peak season, park rangers are the most visible face of the agency. Aside from the iconic flat hat park rangers wear many metaphorical hats. They are conservationists, law enforcement, rescue and medical professionals, educators, storytellers, and more. Skilled tradespeople like carpenters, electricians, masons, and other maintenance

are responsible for the infrastructure. Accountants, human resources, IT professionals, and more take care of the administration. Scientists like biologists, archeologists, geologists, historians, and countless others study and manage the natural and cultural resources. Envious visitors frequently ask what it's like to live in and work for the national parks. The honest truth is that if you're interested in public lands there is a job for whatever it is that you do or want to do and in places all over the country. We're paid in sunrises and sunsets. We travel, live, and work in some of the most beautiful and significant places our country has to offer and there's not a day that goes by that the privilege is not lost on us.

Over the course of the coming articles specific parks will be featured in no particular order, rhyme, or reason. National parks belong to each and every citizen. Most parks are free and for those that aren't passes may be available if you qualify. Senior passes are available to those 62 or older,



there are passes for active duty military and their families, individuals with permanent disabilities qualify for the Access pass, and current fourth grade students are offered the Every Kid Outdoors pass.

Woody Guthrie sang, "This land is your land, this land is my land. This land was made for you and me." He may not have meant public land or national parks, but the sentiment is still true enough. They are yours.

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REAL SCIENCE

Mother Seton School STEM Fair

Michael Rosenthal

Once again, I had the inspiring experience of attending the Mother Seton School STEM Fair (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The 98 student presentations this year consisted, as in the past, of a desktop information board, consisting of a hypothesis, the materials utilized, the procedures undertaken, the observations, the data obtained, and the conclusions derived from the study. A journal is kept and also presented which records all the observations and data obtained. The projects are judged by community members with scientific background, including some Mother Seton graduates.

The Grand Champion winner was Carli Mazaleski, a seventh grader, whose topic was: Do Different Eye Colors Affect After Images. Here are the winners and their topics.

Third Grade: Philip Field – How does Weight Affect Distance.

Fourth Grade: Mya Arrington – Will Room Temperature or Cold Cream Turn To Butter First Dylan Slusher won second place.

Fifth Grade: There were two first place winners: Peyton Faller – How Long Do You Have To Wait Before Opening The Soda Can You Just Dropped. Taylor Camp

– What Type of Foundation Do Honeybees Prefer.

Sixth Grade: Jayden Price – Can Charcoal Filter Molecules Out Of Water. Benedict Hochschild won second place, and Molly Sill won third place.

Seventh Grade: Carl Mazaleski, the Grand Champion noted above.

Eighth Grade: Daniel Soares - How Does Caffeine, Sugar, and Artificial Sweeteners in Coca Cola Products Affect Blood Pressure and Heart Rate? Nathaniel Hand won second place and Cassidy Sill won third place.

In the category of Inventions, Isaac Jenkins was the winner with Inventing a Biodegradable Bottle Cap, second place went to Elena Crutchfield, and third place was a tie between Zachary Getz and Connor Jessup.

Some other topics among the winners that caught my attention are worthy of mention: Does Smell Affect Taste (Molly Sill); Do More Acidic Fruits Produce More Electricity (Benedict Hochschild); Paw Preference in Pets; the Invention of a Dog Harness and Dog Cuff (Elena Crutchfield), and How Water Moves Using the Archimedes Screw Pump (Lane Koenig).

I greatly enjoyed chatting with a number of the students as we

looked at their projects together. Clearly some of them will choose to become scientists, and several of them expressed that ambition. These conversations made me reflect upon my own experiences as a student as I moved on the path toward a career in science, specifically in chemistry. Though I was a high-achieving student in all my studies (except handwriting and art!), I was never inspired to commit myself to science until my high school senior year when I studied chemistry. Both the topic itself, especially the laboratory work, and my teacher, Mr. Gillespie, focused me on my career direction, which ultimately led to my achieving my PhD in Chemistry and to spend a career teaching chemistry and academic administering in small, liberal arts and sciences colleges.

The wonderful thing about this science program at Mother Seton is that it begins to develop the assessment of your talent in science and your commitment to a scientific career early in your educational life. Those who do not choose a scientific career still benefit greatly from this program and others like it, as it enriches and furthers your interest in science, a valuable tool for happiness and success in your adult life and career. Congratulations to



Sixth grader Maggie Rabaiotti was one of the many brilliant students who took part in this year's Mother Seton School Science Fair.

Daniele Kuykendall, who directs this program and her colleagues, and to the Mother Seton School administrators who support the program. Congratulations as well to the mentors and judges who graciously donate their time and energy to this wonderful program. Programs such as this have enormous impact upon young lives as they choose their career direction.

- Wash your car on the lawn with phosphate-free soap or a commercial car wash
- Direct downspouts away from hard surfaces

Never dump anything down a storm drain that you would not swim in or drink; only rain in the drain!

In August of 2019, The Town of Emmitsburg was awarded a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to start a rain barrel program. A rain barrel is a system to recover rainwater as an alternative to using tap water for watering lawns and gardens. This grant reduces the cost of such a system to only \$40. A recent brochure from the Town of Emmitsburg promotes this system and further explains its use and justification. Further information can be obtained from Zach Gulden, Town Planner, at 301-600-6309.

I must add one more item to the list of irresponsibly disposed-of waste. Cigarette Butts! In our family dog walking, we run across many cigarette butts disposed of on the grass, on the sidewalk, or in the street. I have a long time habit of picking up trash, placing it in a bag that I carry with me on walks, and then bringing it home for proper disposal. But, for both aesthetic and sanitary reasons, I have no interest in picking up the cigarette butts that I find along the way. The popularity of filter cigarettes makes things even worse, since the filters are less biodegradable than is the rest of the cigarette, and last longer. I believe that each individual has the right to choose to smoke or not to smoke, but disposing of the cigarette butts along the street or sidewalk is a truly irresponsible thing to do. If you smoke, please be responsible in disposing of your cigarette butts. The Town of Emmitsburg has printed and distributed an excellent brochure entitled Emmitsburg Cigarette Litter Prevention.

We've written before about the problem of plastic bags polluting the environment, and at least we felt some small satisfaction in recycling them. However, Frederick County, and probably many other places, is no longer accepting plastic bags for recycling, so we have no other choices but to pile them up in our garage or throw them in the trash. It makes me wish we'd go back to paper bags for purchases. At least these bags are recyclable. A better choice yet is to carry reusable cloth bags with you for shopping.

A while ago the Town of Emmitsburg distributed a brochure, entitled Only Rain in the Drain!, promoting its Storm Drain Marketing Program. It states how one should ignore the temptation to dispose of anything into county storm drains. All liquid that enters these drains finds its way eventually into Chesapeake Bay. Some of this pollution cannot be helped as storm water flows through the streets. But there are some things we can do to minimize this problem, as outlined in an excellent Town of Emmitsburg brochure, which is supported by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust:

- Use lawn chemicals and pesticides sparingly.
- Recycle used motor oil and paint, and dispose of it at a hazardous waste site
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash
- Compost or recycle yard waste when possible
- Repair auto leaks

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

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VILLAGE IDIOT

Base-a-ball

Jack Deatherage

As a child, I had little interest in the game, though I played at it mostly when forced to do so by adults. Lack of interest coincided with lack of skill. I wasn't a runner. Nor could I throw accurately, fast, or over any significant distance. Catching and hitting a ball usually escaped me all together. I understood the rudimentaries of the game, the nuances left me confused.

While spin-offs of baseball were more my thing, I seldom excelled at any aspects of wiffle ball, or softball. Variations of those games were usually played in empty lots, or on open lawns. I don't recall there ever being more than three players on a team and often fewer. While we argued endlessly over rules we had to make up, the games were mostly about killing a summer's day, and avoiding adults when we couldn't ride our bicycles, or go fishing.

As I attained the age of adulthood- if not the composure and bearing of an adult- ball games were seldom witnessed. Occasionally I'd watch a softball game when that was still a thing in this place, and it was a big deal in its day, but only if some of the players were going drinking with me afterward. Rarely would a Little League game pique my interest. Though two such piques come to mind.

Me and another beer quaffing rep-robate were sitting under a pavilion near the right outfield of the then Little League diamond when a game commenced. While our peaceful afternoon as soon disrupted by the usual noise of a game we were deep into story telling (some of them even true) so we mostly ignored the kids and their annoyingly vocal families.

Ca-RACK! The sound turned our heads toward the diamond in time to see a well hit ball zip between the feet of the right outfielder- a small kid, maybe 5, or 6 years old.

A feeling of sadness ran through me as I recalled how embarrassed I'd been under a similar circumstance decades before. Then the cries from the bleachers.

"You gawdamn worthless piece of-"

I'll leave it at that. I was stunned by the filthy ranting from the women sitting on the bleachers. Mothers, grandmothers, aunts hurling such vile words as to leave me mouth agape as the boy ran, sobbing, after the ball.

My drinking companion was trembling with anger. The gods know what mental abuse he endured as a child- I'd only heard about small parts of it.

"We have to move, now! Before I grab a bat and clear the bleachers." He was barely in control of his building

rage. And him having recently exited the military after four years training to be a combat grunt- I had little doubt overweight civilians could stop him if he went off his nut.

"God, do they have any idea what they are doing to those kids?" He hissed after we'd relocated to a picnic table closer to the post office.

The second incident happened years afterward. I was wandering about and noticed a friend of friends coaching a team involved in some tournament. I moseyed over to watch him at his craft.

"How long you been coaching?" I asked when the inning was over.

"This is my second year. And the last. I can't take any more abuse from the parents. They don't help with fundraising. They don't help maintain the fields or equipment. They don't want to manage, or coach, or umpire. They just yell at everyone doing the work. I've had enough of them."

With the bad odor of past games firmly in mind- why did I wander into the town meeting room after Parks and Recreation liaison, Commissioner Davis, sent out word he wanted to know if there was any interest in getting baseball going again in this place?

Well, mostly to get some exercise by climbing the stairs to the top floor of the community building. I'll also admit to some curiosity, and if pressed hard enough- a nagging twinge of responsibility as a citizen of this place.

There was no surprise in hearing it was the ballplayers' parents who ended the game in this town. Lack of parental involvement probably equaled the abuse by overblown egomaniacs bullying the coaches and kids. As the sport slowly died here the committed families went south to Thurmont, or north to Fairfield so their kids could continue to play unaffected by the this place's arrogant, lazy bullies.

What did surprise me was a prohibition concerning the public ball fields. Based on hearsay- pick-up games are forbidden- unless someone gets permission from the town office. I guess that's why I no longer see handfults of boys and girls- in causal dress- smacking and throwing balls around with, or without adult supervision?

Today's lament, "There's nothing for the kids to do in this town" is but an echo from my youth. Once the bowling alley and movie theater closed, there was little left to do, but play ball. And play ball the young people did! Which is why the town is spending money today to maintain so many unused ball fields now that our demographics have changed.

Apparently the demographic is changing again. Some of the old movers and shakers of baseball in this place suggested the town at least allow the T-ball field to be opened to a new gen-



The 1962 Emmitsburg Little League Cards: Front row, James Hess, Stuart Brines, Ronald Wivell, Joseph Ott, Dale Valentine, Phil Krom and David Walters. Back row, Paul Sherwin, coach; Michael Wivell, Phil Valentine, John Sherwin, Richard Masser and Clarence Wivell, coach.

eration of ball players. There seemed a general agreement among the meeting attendees for a T-ball team or two- if not an actual league. It was also apparent that there is no desire among the current ball players who have joined teams in the Thurmont leagues to start up a new league here. (The families of T-ball kids, those that would like to go on to play in the older age group leagues, would have to organize and commit to reopening our ball fields for their intended purposes.)

Is there a real desire among parents to have baseball back in Emmitsburg? Is there a majority of town commission-

ers willing to at least open Emmitsburg's fields to Thurmont's growing leagues? (Word at the meeting was- 17% of the kids playing in Thurmont are from Emmitsburg. No one seemed to know how many local kids might have crossed the state line to play in Fairfield.)

While I don't give a damn about baseball, I do give care about having something for the kids to do besides getting in trouble as I and the gang of idiots I hung out with were wont to do. My small attempts at getting kids interested in archery and gardening have proven too small. So if baseball is to be the thing- then I'm for it

as best I can be. Which amounts to an occasional column here, a few dollars donated there and a bit of advice for those interested in their kids playing closer to home- Pack the damned meeting room at the town office every time baseball is on the agenda. Nothing will change- in spite of any commitment by commissioners, the mayor, or town staff if people don't turn out to support the effort to rebuild and maintain the game.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Easy to grow orchids

Mary Ann Ryan,
Consumer Horticulture, Penn
State Extension

Many times people are timid or anxious about growing orchids. But they are a lot easier than many folks may think.

Phalaenopsis, moth orchid, and Paphiopedilum, Lady's Slipper, are two of the easiest orchids to grow in the house.

The moth orchid ranges in color from white to pinks and lavenders, yellows, stripes and spots. They have a flower that ranges in size from ¾ inch up to five inches in diameter. They are borne on long stems and as few as three and as many as eight blooms can be on one spike. They will typically bloom from December through May, and blooms can last as long as three to six months. You won't get that kind of lasting color from cut flowers!

In the home, moth orchids need to be near a bright window. An east or west facing window is ideal. They like to be in a temperature that ranges from 55 degrees to 85 degrees. Maintaining a nighttime temperature of 60 – 65 degrees and a day temperature of 75 – 80 degrees is perfect.

The cool nighttime temperatures in the fall encourage flower spikes to form. However, once the spikes have formed, be sure not to have fluctuating temperatures, as that could cause flower buds to drop before opening.

As with all orchids, Phalaenop-

sis enjoy humidity. Setting your orchid plant on a tray of pebbles with water will help to maintain the humidity level around the plant. Water the plant weekly, depending on the humidity in the room. The drier the air, the more frequently you'll need to water.

The potting media should be course bark. The orchid mix that you buy at a garden center will be fine. Often, the orchid mix will have bark and charcoal pieces in it as well. The potting medium serves as an anchor for the roots, nothing more. The roots of an orchid are often outside the pot, and that's ok. Feed with a fertilizer of equal or close to equal proportions of N – P – K and feed the orchid about every two weeks at half the recommended rate.

When receiving an orchid as a gift or giving it as a gift, they are typically in bloom. Many times when we purchase them at a box store the potting mix is some kind of moss packed around the roots. For long term care and growth, this is not the best type of medium for orchids. It holds moisture close to the roots, causing the roots to rot. They usually are in a plastic liner with drainage, and sit in some type of cache pot that holds water. Again, not the best scenario for the life span of the moth orchid.

When the plant is finished blooming, typically in early spring, the best care you can give it is to transplant it into an orchid pot or a clay pot. An orchid pot



Phalaenopsis, or moth orchid, is one of the easiest to grow orchids in the home.

will have holes in the sides of the container as well as drainage in the bottom. After the water drains through the pot, dump the excess. A clay pot is also a good option for an orchid as it is a very porous material and typically there are holes in the bottom to allow for that needed drainage.

The Lady's Slipper, or Paphiopedilum, is another easy-to-grow orchid. With colors of green to purple, in spots and stripes, this orchid is a beauty. Some have mottled leaves, while others have solid green leaves. This orchid isn't often found in box stores, but garden centers and green-

houses often carry them. Night-time temperatures should be about 60 degrees, and day temperatures should range from 70 – 85 degrees. The lady's slipper requires about the same care as the moth orchid. Maintain the plant on a tray of pebbles, just as you would the Phalaenopsis, and water about once per week, depending on how dry the air is in the room. Lady's Slipper is considered a low light orchid, so an east window is best.

Fertilize at the same time intervals as the phalaenopsis. Check out the medium when you get the plant. Sometimes they will be planted in moss, other times

in bark. Unlike the phalaenopsis, which likes a course bark mix, the Paphiopedilum like a little finer bark, or can do well in a moss mix. This plant doesn't have a water storage structure like many orchids do, so the roots act more like that of a house plant as opposed to an orchid. If you can grow an African violet, you will be able to grow a Lady's Slipper orchid.

When watering orchids, take the plants to a sink and allow the water to run over the roots and through the containers. Remember that drainage is very important to the success of the plant, so water sitting in a pot or a tray isn't the best care.

If you're ready to take the next step to growing orchids, I have two more for you to try: Cymbidiums and Oncidiums. Cymbidiums are terrestrial orchids, so their potting medium has smaller particles. The flower colors vary from white, red, brown, yellow, orange and others.

Typically, you'll find these guys planted in a mix with small bark pieces, perlite and a bit of peat

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moss. Cymbidiums like warmer temperatures – 55-60 degrees at night and 80 – 85 degrees during the day. They do great outside during the summer in a shaded location. When the temperatures dip into the 40's at night, it's time to bring this plant inside to the sunniest location you have. They are not the easiest orchids to get to bloom again, but when they do – wow! It's spectacular! The foliage on this orchid is pretty as well. So even if it struggles to push flowers, the leaves are attractive enough to earn its spot indoors. Just like with the Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum, the cooler night-time temperatures will trigger blooming.

Oncidiums come in colors of yellow, red, white and pink. Smaller flowers than many, but

abundant in numbers when in bloom. Put this plant in a sunny window, on a humidity tray. The potting medium is a course bark or charcoal, or a combination of both. Like many orchids, the colder fall nighttime temperatures will trigger the flowers. Transplant after blooming, typically in the spring, and move them outside into a shady location for the summer.

Division or repotting of most orchids should happen once every two to three years. When the potting mix begins to break down, it's time to repot.

Give orchids a try. Start with some of the easier ones then work your way to the more challenging.

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

Small Town Gardener

A lighting lament

Marianne Willburn

When it comes to decking the house and garden with Christmas cheer and Yuletide kilowatts, a great disparity exists between that which I wish to see, and that which my husband wishes to do.

Given choice in the matter, I would order tasteful strings of white lights to spiral the front door edge-worthia; soft lumens to uplight red-twigged dogwoods, and boxwoods elegantly draped with starry points of light that softly pulsate - not blink like the open sign on a Times Square pizza stand. I would use color sparingly, tediously removing all the irritating magenta bulbs that defy basic laws of color harmonics, and use my strings of pure reds, greens and yellows to illuminate one or two deserving evergreens.

And nowhere an extension cord to be seen.

This fantasy stands in stark contrast to reality. My husband deals with the annual display in a very different, very masculine way: as a problem to be solved with the least amount of fuss, bother, and general persnickiness. It is an issue that finds us at odds every year.

Invariably the first weekends of December find me playing catch-up with holiday cards, winter

clothes and ill-advised cookie swaps signed up for in September. Before I know it, the creak of the attic ladder alerts me to the fact that the day has dawned. He is ready to get the job done and I have failed once again to sort specific strings with specific labels to ensure specific results. I close my eyes and specifically reach for the mulled wine.

Chaos reigns in the garden for the next four hours. Totes are upturned. Light strings are grabbed higgledy piggledy. Orange extension cords are inexplicably selected and connecting plugs hang obtrusively from wreaths I keep forgetting to give to Goodwill.

And then my daughter gets involved. Random garden structures are clothed in blinking magenta. A string of icicle lights marches across half of the fence and stops abruptly in front of the garbage bin. My husband thinks blue and pink is an appropriate lighting scheme for the pavilion.

I do not go down without a fight. At some point in the proceedings I bravely don jacket and boots, come out onto the porch and stare pointedly at the multi-color snowman that now adorns a once rustic barn door. I do not yell. My words are carefully chosen.

Nonchalantly, I ask if C4 lighting is the best choice to illuminate a child's bicycle that was left out in late summer. I casually inquire whether icicle

strings hanging off wilted geranium baskets truly brings out their best qualities, and if "Christmas Carnival" is really the look we're aiming for.

A wordless glance from my husband – resonating with cold, irritation and chapped hands – is all it takes to send me scuttling back inside to the comfort of the fireplace. My feeble rebellion is over in an instant. All is lost. I add another shot of vodka to the mulled wine and continue to address piles of Christmas cards, once again resigning myself to the slings and arrows of outrageous front yards.

An hour later the husband is also relaxing by the fire and reminds me that soon the house will be even fuller with small children.

I remind him that they are other people's children and they should be taught good taste at an early age. He goes back to his book.

I suppose I could handle the injustice of it all if these people at least let me put white lights on my indoor tree and stopped muttering arrant nonsense about Christmas being for the little ones.

This year (and every year actually), ask not for whom the Christmas bell tolls, it tolls for me.

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

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

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A PRICELESS CHRISTMAS GIFT...

Dreaming of a Christmas home

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

The humans are putting stuff on the walls around here. Lights and greenery and I don't really know what it's about.

They keep talking about something called Christmas. No idea what that means.

There are stockings on our cages and they're super fun to play with. The group of kittens across the aisle from me have already destroyed three of them. The people at the shelter just laugh and hang another one up. I think they kind of expect the little ones to take them as play toys.

It's pretty nice here. When I was

out on the streets I never knew what was going to happen. Never knew when I'd get food, never knew when another animal might want to fight.

At the shelter, I have my own place with my own blanket and toys and water and food and litterbox.

And the staff is really sweet. They talk to me and pet me and all things considered, I really like it here.

But I've heard about and seen cats in homes. They sleep on the backs of couches and look really content.

I wonder what that would be like? I wonder what having a whole house and my own human to love would be like?

For as great as the people at the shelter are, a home is my real dream.

If I'm honest, I've kind of always

wanted one, even when I lived on the streets. I bet it would be fun. And warm. And loving.

That's what they do at the shelter. Try to find us homes. I'm lucky I was taken here. It's hard to say what could have happened to me if that nice human wouldn't have picked me up and brought me to the shelter.

They're planning something called a Christmas Open House at the shelter. It's on December 7 and 8 and it's going to help us have a happy holiday. Or so the humans say.

The best present I could get would be a home. I know there are people out there who would like to help me, but can't adopt me. Those are the folks who give to the open house. Even if they

can't take us home, they make sure the shelter can still provide for us, like warm rooms and food and medicine.

The humans say a lot of people keep the shelter going and they're really generous around the holidays.

I think they're getting ready to say goodnight to us. Only one of the kittens is batting at the stocking across from me. The others are already sleeping.

I think it's time for me to curl up, too. Tomorrow's another day. Maybe my new mom and dad will be here when we open. Or maybe it'll be someone who donates to help us.

Either way, I think I'll have a pretty good Christmas at CVAS.

The Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter's annual Christmas

Open House will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8. Santa will be here for photos with pets and we'll have lots of yummy human treats, too. If you would like to help, but can't adopt right now, please log onto cvas-pets.org and make a donation so the babies looking for homes can have a happy holiday. Thanks so much to all of our supporters who keep us going and keep us saving more animals.

The Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg, Pa., and can be reached at cvascomm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org.

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

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



Brantley is a 7-month-old tabby with white fellow who came into the shelter as a stray. Look at that face! Brantley loves to get attention and chin scratches. Could you be the one for this handsome guy?



Freddy was surrendered to the shelter because his owners could no longer care for him. He's a 5-year-old buff boy who is super sweet. He loves giving and getting attention. Could you be the one for Freddy?



Kitty Kate is a beautiful calico and white girl who was surrendered to the shelter because her owners were moving and they couldn't take her along. She is 10-years-old, but you wouldn't know it. She's still got a lot of vigor! Kitty Kate needed some grooming when she came to us and she was super sweet and calm during the whole thing. A calm cat around an electric razor, can you even imagine? This sweetheart needs a second chance and will be a lucky find for a special person.



Sparkler came into the shelter in August as a stray. She does the cutest little head-tilt when she gets her picture taken, doesn't she? She's a 1-year-old gray girl who is looking for someone to help her out of a cage. Could it be you?

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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...A HOME FOR A SHELTER PET

Gentle Friends Farm Animal and Wildlife Sanctuary

Dr. Kim Brokow

Christmas is a season of reflection, joy, and giving. Every year, this newspaper gives space for charitable organizations to tell readers about their work. Gentle Friends is one of many charitable organizations in our area. The mission of Gentle Friends is to create a compassionate, harmonious, and sustainable world for all

animals through rescue, relationships, advocacy, and education.

Gentle Friends receives farm animals and wildlife who are in need. Some of the animals are obtained from local auctions. Others come from owners who are no longer able to keep them. Injured wildlife are brought in by county humane officers, as well as by local residents. Gentle Friends also works with humane

law enforcement agencies to help abused, neglected and injured animals.

After the animals are received at the Gentle Friends farm, they are evaluated by a veterinarian and provided with individualized medical care. Once they have been brought back to health, many of the farm animals become available for adoption into homes as loved family pets and compan-

ions. Wildlife are rehabilitated and released when they can survive on their own. Some of the farm animals are available to visit school groups and clubs for education purposes.

In this area, there are several charitable organizations that rehabilitate animals. Unfortunately, the need is greater than what the organizations can provide. Gentle Friends is working

to increase the number of wildlife that they can accept, if they can obtain enough money to expand their services. Gentle Friends is a 501(c)3 charity that relies on donations. When you donate or when you adopt an animal, you can help change the world for animals today. For more information on Gentle Friends Farm Animal and Wildlife Sanctuary visit www.gentlefriends.org.



Moolissa is a year old heifer full of personality! Neglected in her early months, she is now healthy, fat, and energetic, and is easily trained with food rewards. Moolissa loves to socialize and requires a home with other cows as friends. Best suited to someone with cow experience due to her energy level!



Griffon wants to be in your pocket and help you with chores! Griffon came from a loving home who could no longer keep him, and his companionship with people shows. A funny goat who is pleasant and easy, Griffon is always underfoot.



Red Hen. This old gal survived a life as a commercial egg production bird. Now that they are healthy, they still lay sporadically but will not produce like a young bird. These golden oldies still deserve some kindness and appreciation, and they do produce eggs once a week.

For more information about Moolissa, Griffon, and Red Hen visit www.gentlefriends.org.



Clancy was brought into the shelter as a stray, so we know very little about his past. He is a true Coonhound in that he likes to howl and follows his nose. We think he's about 11-months old and can jump fenced-in yards. Clancy is a love bug and enjoys having his ears rubbed! Clancy is a big goofy guy so he may be too much for small children in the home if they are not used to larger energetic dogs. Clancy would love to meet you and show you what a sweet boy he is!



Hank is a 2-year-old mastiff mix who was surrendered to the shelter because his owner could no longer care for him. He weighs around 90-pounds and will be gaining weight as he gets older. He's being treated for Lyme disease and has a bit of a chase drive, so a home without cats would be best for him. He also jumps up when he gets excited, so an age restriction for children may apply. Hank is a sweet boy and would love to meet his second chance. Could that be you?



Layla was born here at the shelter on 9/7/2018 and was adopted out as a puppy. Layla is an active girl that needs someone that can give her the time and the exercise that she needs. Layla does like to chase cats so a home without cats would be best for her. An age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Layla would love to show you what a fun girl she is and find her forever home soon!



Thor came into the shelter as a stray and although he may appear big and mighty, he's just a softy! He's really laid back and loves to be with people. He's a 4-year-old terrier mix who loves to play with squeaky toys. Thor will make someone a wonderful companion and would love to meet you! Due to no past history with children and his size an age restriction may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

The Golden Years

James McCarron
Certified Senior Advisor

Well the holidays are upon us. How quickly, it seems, these special times roll around. This time of the year, truly, even with all there is to do and all the preparations to be made, is the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year", so the song goes. There are friends and family, to visit, decorations to be hung, feasts to prepare, new grandbabies, maybe even new family members, to celebrate, and then there is all the shopping and wrapping but most of importantly, there is some time to reflect, to relax and to count our blessings. It seems, even though it seems that the mountains of tasks before us, are insurmountable, if we're able plan, maybe call on the help from some friends or family members, in the end, we get everything accomplished. It's all worth it.

Life, in general, is a lot like that. Our 21st century lives are like the holiday season in many ways. We spend our lives raising and caring for a family, paying our mortgage and living up to our obligations. We work hard to

provide for the necessities of life, providing the best for our family with the hope of maybe having a little left over for ourselves when we retire. Then one day, the kids are gone, the house is empty and we are getting older. We begin to think about retirement. New questions come before us, like; when should I retire? Should I retire? Am I able to retire? Do we want to remain in the home we've raise our children in? Should we downsize, maybe move to our dream home, close to the beach or in mountains or in a community that addresses our current needs and interests. If we stay put, what do we need to do to make our home more accommodating? If we move, can we ever afford the house we're always dreamed of? What about a new mortgage? Are we ready to take on those struggles again? Could we even qualify for a new mortgage?

If we've been prudent, we've socked away enough funds to enable us to live comfortably in the future. Even then, we have to ask ourselves: Will our portfolio last us for the rest of our lives? The planning we did when we were younger, should be the reward

for a life time of hard work. Sometimes our best plans fall short. What if we were not able to save like we wanted to? We may have had the best intensions on earth, but so many things, unexpected things, come up. Who would have thought the kid's college costs would have been that expensive? Then there was the operation we didn't see coming. The roof had to be replaced, after all. Junior lost his job and really needed our help. It goes on and on. Then there are those of us who really never even gave retirement a second thought, and all of a sudden, retirement time is "staring us in the face".

Regardless, even if we have done a good job in planning for our retirement future we may find ourselves in the short end or the retirement "stick". So what is the answer? How do we face our "Golden Years" in comfort and security? What can we do? We have options of course; maybe we should downsize, sell our family's home and rent a condo. We could call on the kid's for help. After all we certainly have been there for them. We could cut back. Cutting out that dinner and movie on Friday nights, that we enjoy so, could help. Maybe

we should keep the thermostat at 65 degrees instead of 70. Maybe we could take in a boarder? How about a part time job? I'm sure we can make it if we give it some thought.

The situation may not be that bleak as we imagine, particularly, if we have equity in our home. The greatest source of wealth for most Americans is their home. Most Financial Planners will tell you that the greatest financial asset we possess is our home. The same home we have spent a lifetime paying for, the same home where we raised our family, the same home we never planned to leave. Maybe it's time to let your home pay you. It is a fact that many folks who are approaching retirement age have paid off their home and have no mortgage, many more have paid most of the mortgage and have built equity enough to be able to eliminate that mortgage payment and use those resources for other things, like providing security for their retirement. The use of housing wealth to secure retirement could be a very practical way to enter retirement. A way to access this equity, and be able to use it anyway you wish, is through a government insured HECM reverse mortgage. Reverse mortgages are not

new. They have been around since the Reagan Administration, when congress provided a loan for folks 62 years old or better, to be able to access a portion of equity in your home, and never have to repay the loan as long as either borrower lives in their home. Despite what you have heard, or think you've heard, HECM reverse mortgages are among the safest mortgages available. No payments are required (although you may make payment if you choose) you retain complete title and ownership of your home and your heirs won't be stuck with a big debt at the end of the loan.

I apologize if this column sounds like a commercial, which is not the intent. There are many ways to successfully fund retirement and I partner with many trusted professionals that can explore ways to a secure retirement. This is just to point out one of the ways you may consider. Future columns will explore some of those ideas. Contact me for more information and for the names of other trusted partners that can help make your retirement years truly "Golden".

For more information contact Jim McCarron at 877-756-5006.

Talking turkey: Serving up year-end dollars and sense

Ryan Fox
Huston-Fox Financial
Advisory Services

As we enter the home stretch of 2019, some attention needs focused on year-end financial issues. Some of these issues are crucial and others are worth a little continued thoughtfulness.

One issue that I am working on for clients over age 70 1/2 are IRS required minimum distributions from IRA accounts.

Once we hit 70 1/2, the IRS has a formula by which a distribution must be taken annually from a non-Roth IRA account. Failure to take enough can result in a tax penalty. So, November is a month where we finalized RMDs so that all distributions can be double checked

in early December. Be sure you've taken your distribution if applicable and consolidate your IRAs to make this simpler.

Another issue that is important toward year-end is tax-loss selling in non-tax deferred accounts such as an individual or joint investment account. It makes sense to remove positions in accounts that have a loss and use that loss to offset income gains. This can be simple or complex depending on the strategy. But this should be addressed as part of an investment portfolio.

We will continue to hear about things that could spook the markets like ongoing U.S./China trade negotiations and the overall U.S. economy, which is statistically in very good shape.

Perhaps as we enter the last weeks of 2019, the U.S. and China might truly

talk turkey and get something in place that helps put much of the trade haggling in the past and provides a foundation to build on for the future. Or maybe not. Either way, markets will ebb and flow. But keeping a longer-term perspective helps weed out short-term fears.

Maybe this year will end with markets higher against the thud that ended 2018 when markets fell nearly 20 percent.

What is the phrase for a Christmas season market rally? The official Wall Street phrase is a "Santa Claus Rally." I kid you not. Actual long-term market data supports this phenomenon and, well, we'd all sure like to see this occur. But again, regardless of these short-term gyrations, as we close out 2019, the year has been

a good one for investors overall.

It does make sense to rebalance when markets rise and fall and this year has been a good example where the stock position in portfolios may have grown past being "balanced." So, re-balance back to perhaps a less risky allocation as part of taking required minimum distributions and doing tax-loss selling.

Here is why this is important – the bigger the downside risk in a portfolio, the higher the return will need to be to break even. This gets a little mathematically complex but is vital to portfolios.

With next year's presidential election coming closer, historical data might be of interest. Political views aside, here is what history shows us. Stocks have risen higher in 19 of 23 election years beginning in 1928. The

average election year gain for stocks has been about 11 percent. There is no clear pattern that market performance is driven by which major party candidate wins the election. History suggests that investors should not make dramatic changes in anticipation of one candidate or another winning the presidential election.

Year-end brings Christmas, family time, and so much more. Having a keen focus on a few year-end financial issues can round out what I hope is a wonderful time of year for your family.

Ryan Fox is partner/owner in Huston-Fox Financial Advisory Services, a fee-only fiduciary advisory firm, in Gettysburg, Hanover, and York. 717 398-2040 or Ryan@hustonfox.com.



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COMMUNITY NOTES

Medicare Open Enrollment

Tina Brashear
Vinores Financial Management

Medicare Open Enrollment ends December 7. During this time, many individuals ask themselves what this really means. How much are my prescriptions going to be? If I go to the hospital, will it be covered? Am I going to have to pay anything when I see my doctor? The answers to these questions vary based on each of the Plans you choose for each Part of Medicare. And, more importantly, most of these questions can be answered even if it is outside of the annual open enrollment period.

At Peak Benefits Group, we have

two simple goals with our Medicare clients. First, help you to understand your choices. And second, guide you down the path that is right for you, based on your individual situation.

Medicare is broken down into 4 basic parts. Part A, Part B, Part C (also known as Medicare Advantage), and Part D.

Original Medicare includes Parts A and B which cover Hospital (Part A) and Medical (Part B) costs. Together, Parts A and B will cover 80% of medical costs and a specified portion for hospital costs for an individual. The remaining costs can be covered by a supplemental plan, also known as a Medigap pol-

icy. Medigap policies are purchased separately and are designed to fill in the gaps that Original Medicare part A and part B do not cover. Supplemental Plans have differences in coverage levels and costs so it is important to carefully choose the right coverage level for you.

The final piece to Original Medicare is Part D, Prescription Drug Plans. Prescription Drug Plans cover some, or all, of the costs of your medications. These should be reviewed every year to ensure you are in the most cost-effective plan based on the medications you regularly take. Keep in mind that Prescription Drug Plans can change year to year.

Always review your plan during open enrollment between 10/15-12/7. If you live in the State of Maryland, and have a low to moderate income, you may be eligible for financial assistance to help cover some of the costs of your prescription plan.

Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C) are an alternative to Original Medicare. Medicare Advantage Plans are required to offer the basic coverage of Original Medicare but are provided through a private health insurance company. Most of these plans function similar to major medical plans by having deductibles and/or copays and coverage limits. These are managed care organizations and include provider and location restrictions.

Ultimately, there are many working parts to Medicare. It can be confusing and even overwhelming to determine which Plan is best for you. This is why it important to seek the help of a licensed profession you can trust. At Peak Benefits Group, we are here to help you understand your choices & guide you down the path that is right for you. Our advisors take the time to talk to you about your current situation and will advise you based on those needs. Located in Thurmont, our team consists of five licensed advisors and three office administrators to better serve your Medicare needs.

For more information on Medicare enrollment, visit Vinores Financial Management in Thurmont.

PARS for Science

Melody Kraus
Adams County Master Gardener

It is time to survey the "herps" of Adams County. "Herps" is the informal term referring collectively to amphibians and reptiles, which include frogs, lizards, salamanders, snakes, toads, and turtles. These creatures live in every county in Pennsylvania; however, less data exists on them in comparison to other studied species.

Therefore, a project began in 2013: the Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS). It is sponsored by the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) and the Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation (MACHAC) with the goal of the collecting the distribution and status of these creatures by recording their presence in every 10-square mile block of a grid imposed on a map of Pennsylvania. To organize this effort, the state has been divided into six regions, then into the counties in each of them. Each region and county has its own co-ordinator. Finally, this project's end date is December 31, 2022.

In order to continue this task locally, residents of Adams County are needed to report sightings of amphibians and reptiles. It is not necessary to spend hours or vast amounts of time searching for them in distant places; it is as simple as recording observations in the backyard or encounters along trails, fields, and bodies of water.

First, potential volunteers need to visit the website for the survey at <https://paherpsurvey.org> and complete the release form by clicking on the orange button labelled "Signup" at the top right of the home page. Next, an account is created by setting up a username and password, followed by entering contact information.

To report a sighting, registered users first log in and then click the green button entitled "Add Record." On the next page, pertinent information is entered in the sections for "Animal," "Time and Weather," "Location,"

"Search Time and Observers," and "Public Notes" or "Private Notes." Finally, a picture in jpg or png format and/or an audio file is uploaded.

If an individual who is not a registered volunteer finds an unknown animal and wishes to have it identified or wants to share a find, he/she can use the link entitled "E-mail a Sighting" from <https://paherpsurvey.org>. On the subsequent form, a full name and e-mail must be provided, but a telephone number is optional. Then, the data about the observation must be entered, including the species, date, county, and specific location where found. Also, notes providing additional details and a picture or audio file can be added. In order to be included in the survey, a clear photograph, audio file or video must be attached. If additional information is needed, the contributor will be contacted.

The project is designed for the general public to contribute photos via the PARS website for expert confirmation or identification. Once this survey concludes, analysis will be performed by scientific professionals to determine broad patterns and trends.

In the meantime, this site is also educational, because the information can be used by students and interested individuals. To see the current number of reported observations, visit the PARS website and click on the word "Species." On the following page, clicking the Latin name reveals entries with a map and more details. Furthermore, clicking on the Latin name on this page provides details about a specific sighting. Finally, clicking on the name of the county at the end of the line shows a list of verified species and pictures for that county.

The Search button on the homepage for PARS allows for viewing records or searching them. Specifically, clicking on "Herp ID" and selecting one species from the drop down list connects to www.paherps.com. The following page lists the members of the chosen species that live in Pennsylvania. After selecting one of the animals, the next page contains basic facts and pictures, while the sidebar on the right hand side provides books for further study, recent posts and a list of scientific societies.

In addition to documenting species and their numbers on a map, the collective information gathered by the PARS survey can

provide details about the health of the environment, particularly water quality and temperature. For example, since amphibians have permeable skin, which absorbs oxygen and water, and they spend their juvenile state in water, they are easily affected by pollution. Bad water quality could cause deformities in developing young, desertion of the area, or death of the population.

Also, the survey can show alterations in temperature. Many reptiles are extremely sensitive to temperature changes, because their internal biological sources of heat are small and have minimal importance for regulating their body temperature. Therefore, they depend on external warmth to maintain critical biological processes. Overall, the lack or presence of certain species reveals environmental details about an area, especially when compared with previous findings.

Good news has derived from this survey, which has documented the first sighting of a marbled salamander, *Ambystoma opacum*, in Adams County. It is even more remarkable since this creature is a mole salamander, spending most of the year living in underground tunnels in the forests near vernal pools and only emerging in the spring to breed. Unfortunately, six years into the project, the eastern portion of the county has not been much documented, while the western side has been better explored due to the fact that it contains Mischeaux State Forest.

For questions about participating in the survey in Adams County, please contact Sue Muller, the county co-ordinator for PARS, at adams@paherpsurvey.org. She will help people to identify the species in their photographs.



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HEALTH NOTES

Medical oncology services and treatments

Kelsey Shupe
Frederick Memorial Hospital

Dr. Marina is the newest medical oncologist to provide cancer treatment focusing on individual patient needs in Frederick County. Dr. Natalia Marina joins Frederick Health Medical Group Oncology & Hematology, a full-service medical oncology and hematology practice, along with Drs. Elhamy Eskander, Mark Goldstein, Patrick Mansky, and Brian O'Connor. In addition to her extensive training, Dr. Marina specializes in medical oncology, breast cancer, lung cancer, and benign and malignant hematology.

"I'm very excited to be here," says Dr. Marina. "Frederick Health is an outstanding healthcare system that is known for its cancer care and continued support of this community. Frederick Health is affiliated with the MD Anderson Cancer Network, one of the top cancer centers in the world. I am very honored to join a team of healthcare professionals who are so professional, knowledgeable, and dedicated,

providing friendly and welcoming patient care."

Frederick Health has been providing medical oncology services since 1979. As medical oncologists, Dr. Marina and the team at Frederick Health Medical Group Oncology & Hematology specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of all types of cancers and benign blood disorders. Think of them as the primary healthcare provider during cancer treatment. Unlike surgical oncologists specialized in surgically removing tumors, medical oncologists are experts in drug and hormone treatments for cancer, including chemotherapy.

Often the main healthcare provider of someone with cancer, a medical oncologist has one main role: to manage their patients' care. This includes explaining the cancer diagnosis and stage of cancer, talking about treatment options, delivering quality and compassionate care, coordinating treatment given by other specialists, and helping to manage symptoms and side effects of cancer and cancer treatment. After

their treatment is complete, many patients may also follow up with their medical oncologists, who help monitor and maintain their well-being.

Medical oncology services include:

- Breast cancer
- Colon cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Head and neck
- Leukemia
- Lung cancer
- Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)
- Ovarian cancer
- Prevention studies
- Prostate cancer
- Skin cancer
- Vaccine studies

After first confirming a diagnosis of cancer, a medical oncologist will recommend treatment options to their patients. They may suggest chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, biological therapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, drug treatments, or clinical trials that may help patients. Many medical oncologists often work in

conjunction with other doctors or healthcare organizations on integrated treatments for their patients. This could include surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and other support services.

Frederick Health is a member of the MD Anderson Physician Network. The network of providers improves cancer care in the general community by providing world-renowned, oncology services to local hospitals in the U.S. Frederick Health, for example, is the first and only healthcare organization in Maryland to receive this certification.

The medical oncologists at Frederick Health have access to all of the clinical resources of MD Anderson Cancer Center—the No. 1 hospital for cancer care in the nation as ranked by U.S. News & World Report's "Best Hospitals" survey. This includes treatment pathways and guidelines, weekly network treatment planning conferences, and peer-to-peer consults with the MD Anderson faculty.

Because of this affiliation, patients have access to:

- The latest technologically advanced treatment options
- Leading-edge research from across the nation
- A multidisciplinary team of cancer care providers
- Disease-specific, evidence-based guidelines, treatment plans, and best practices
- Second opinions from nationally recognized physicians certified by the network

Frederick Health Medical Group's medical oncologists also participate in multidisciplinary clinics. There, newly diagnosed cancer patients may see all of their needed specialists in one day, receiving a convenient, coordinated comprehensive plan of care. In addition, they benefit from having a nurse navigator to act as a point of contact, a touchstone and to coordinate treatments, diagnostic testing, and provider visits.

Specialists at Frederick Health Medical Group Oncology & Hematology are board certified in hematology and medical oncology, and have completed the rigorous evaluation necessary to become MD Anderson Certified Physicians.

Dr. Marina attended Università Politecnica delle Marche in Ancona, Italy and completed an internal medicine residency in Boston, MA at Carney Hospital, as well as a fellowship in hematology and oncology at East Carolina University/Brody School of Medicine at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, NC.

She was inspired to become a doctor by her grandmother, a physician with a rewarding career who was one of the first medical professionals to introduce antibiotics in Russia. She chose oncology and hematology as specialties after several family members and friends became afflicted with cancer.

Dr. Marina is also looking forward to using her multi-language skills when practicing medicine.

According to the United States Census Bureau, as of 2017, more than 13 percent of all families and households in Frederick County spoke a language other than English at home. Dr. Marina speaks English, Italian, and Russian.

"I understand how being a patient in the hospital can be scary if no one around you speaks your primary language," she says. "Frederick has a large multilingual population, and I look forward to using my language skills while providing care to the community."

Dr. Marina is board certified in internal medicine and board eligible in hematology and oncology. She is a member of the American Medical Association, Massachusetts Medical Association, American College of Physicians, American Society of Hematology, and American Society of Clinical Oncology.

"Working in the Oncology field today is exciting," says Dr. Marina. "There are so many advances in technologies and treatments. Now is the time I can really make a difference with patients."

To learn more about Dr. Marina or to schedule an appointment, call 301-662-8477 or visit Frederick Health Medical Group Oncology & Hematology online at frederickhealth.org.

Help us
welcome our
newest medical
oncologist,
**Dr. Natalia
Marina**

 **Frederick
Health
Medical Group**

Dr. Natalia Marina joins Drs. Elhamy Eskander, Mark Goldstein, Patrick Mansky, and Brian O'Connor with Frederick Health Medical Group. In addition to her extensive training, she specializes in medical oncology, breast cancer, lung cancer, and benign and malignant hematology.

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Camp Eder & Strawberry Hill team up for the winter

Winter is the time of year where people (and nature) take things slow. When it gets cold, not many people want to go outside. The Netflix binge watching with hot cocoa feeling is real. However, local Adams County non-profits have a lot going on this winter and hope you will take the time to join them in their festivities! Strawberry Hill and Camp Eder, both located on Mount Hope Road in Fairfield, ask you to join them this year for one, or all, of their many programs.

In preparation for Christmas, staff and volunteers at Camp Eder are busy working hard to prepare for the 9th Annual Christmas Tree Festival. Designed as a "Celebration of the Birth of Christ" the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival offers a place where families and individuals can experience an evening of refuge from the many things that pull our attention away from the true reason for the season. Camp Eder invites neighbors, friends, and families to join in the festivities December 6 and 7, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. each evening.

This tradition began in 2011 with an idea to offer Christmas trees for folks to decorate and display in Geigley Lodge at Camp Eder. Each tree is sponsored by an organization, group, or individual, which they can deco-

rate with a theme of their choice. Attendees can vote on their favorite tree. It's a great opportunity to get involved with Camp Eder and the surrounding community, and it's always a lot of fun!

Festivities include light displays, music, a bake sale, kids' activities, horse drawn carriage rides and hayrides, and a luminary garden. You don't want to miss their mouth-watering turkey dinner and soup! Additionally, Camp Eder also boasts beautiful walking creek side trails for those who want to take the celebration outdoors. Each evening, guests will hear the bell ring at 8 p.m., signaling the start of a serene candlelight service in a semi-shelter outdoor pavilion. The service closes with an A Capella "Silent Night."

Feel even more a part of the event by donating non-perishable food items including small bags of rice, oatmeal, applesauce, and cereals for families in need. All donations will go to Fairfield families in need via Fairfield Mennonite Church Food Pantry.

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival is a delightful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and is open to people of all ages. Mark your calendar now and plan to come to Camp Eder on one or both evenings, December 6 and 7. Grab a hot cup of Camp Eder

cocoa, find a spot by the fire, listen to Christmas carols, take in the wonders and beauty, reminisce with friends, and recall the birth of Christ, the true meaning of Christmas.

Winter festivities at Strawberry Hill begin on Saturday, December 14 from 1-4 p.m. for a fun and informative winter solstice program! Throughout the afternoon, educators will use storytelling and hands-on activities to teach the history and science behind the solstice, and what winter means for nature. Participants will craft luminaries, create tasty treats for birds, and meet Strawberry Hill's barred owl, Strix! The celebration includes a campfire complete with smores and hot cocoa. This program is ideal for children in 1st-5th grades. Registration for this event ends on December 7, so register now so you don't miss out!

A line up of winter hikes are scheduled to take place throughout the upcoming winter months at Strawberry Hill. On Saturday, January 4 from 1 - 2:30 p.m., join Strawberry Hill naturalist, Alexa, as she takes you through the woods to learn about basic tree identification in the winter. On Saturday, February 15, as a precursor to the always-anticipated Maple Sugaring event, a naturalist will walk you through the woods to see



our tapped trees and our sugar bush. They will teach you about identifying maple trees along with basic tree tapping history. This hike will take place from 1 - 2 p.m.

As many are well aware, winter marks the start of maple sugaring season! In the beginning of February, Strawberry Hill staff members and volunteers will begin tapping their maple trees to collect sap to boil down to make sweet syrup. Several homeschool and scout groups will be coming to learn about the history of maple sugaring, tap a tree, and see the process of making syrup! February 29th and March 7th plays host to this year's Maple Madness Festival held at Camp Eder! This festival has tree to table tours complete with a tasty pancake breakfast!

Also this winter, Strawberry Hill is debuting its first ever Little Tim-

bers program. This weekly program has activities that are designed to engage your little nature lover all winter long. Enjoy guided learning, storytelling, nature crafts, and walks in the woods. This program is for children ages eighteen months to five years of age. Little Timbers will be hosted at Strawberry Hill on Thursday mornings from 10-11 a.m. beginning January 9th and running for eight weeks. Participants will spend time outdoors as weather allows and enjoy some activities inside our cozy classroom.

For more information on the Christmas Tree Festival call the Camp Eder office at 717-642-8256 or visit www.campeder.org. For more information, or to register for any of the Strawberry Hill events, please visit <http://strawberryhill.org> or call the office at 717-642-5840.



2019
Christmas in Thurmont

The most wonderful time of the year is almost here!

Christmas In Thurmont

Saturday, December 7th
Beginning at 9 a.m.
at the Guardian Hose Co. Firehall

8:45 - 9:15 a.m. - Holiday Music by Thurmont's Gateway Brass Ensemble.

9 a.m. - Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive

9 a.m. - Noon - Face Painting

9 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Pictures with Santa! (Photos compliments of R.S. Kinnaird Memorials)

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Adults pick up stamping map, visit local businesses & get your map stamped. Fully stamped maps for adults are entered for adult prize drawings. (All completed maps must be returned to the Guardian Hose Fire Company by 3 p.m.)

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Children up to age of 17 enter for prize drawings. (Children just enter and do not have to have a map stamped.)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Make & Take Holiday Crafts for children & adults. (Children 17 years & under must be accompanied by an adult.)

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Frederick County Society of Model Engineers Holiday Train Display opens, 12 E. Main Street (beside Thurmont Bar & Grill.)

1 p.m. - Santa & Mrs. Claus at the Thurmont Regional Library for the reading of 'The Night Before Christmas'.

2 - 3:30 p.m. - Pictures with Santa

4 - 4:30 p.m. - Sounds of the Season by the Catoclin High School Jazz Band.

4:45 p.m. - Performance by the National Award Winning ESP Dance Studio.

4:44 pm - Thurmont Lions Club Tree Dedication

5 p.m. - Prize Drawings



HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES

Saturday, December 7th
2-5 p.m. & 6-8 p.m. - \$10 Per Person
(By reservation from November 11 - December 4)
For reservations call:
301-271-7313 ext. 207

The Town of Thurmont and the Frederick County Society of Model Engineers presents a

*** HOLIDAY TRAIN DISPLAY ***

Every Weekend from Dec. 7th thru Dec. 22nd
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Sundays 12 - 4 p.m.
12 East Main Street

Refreshments throughout the day courtesy of the Thurmont Guardian Hose Company!

All activities are held at the Guardian Hose Company Firehall unless otherwise noted.

WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

Germany's descent into chaos

The Weimar Republic was the name given to Germany's government from 1919 to 1933. It was named after the town of Weimar where a national assembly formed Germany's new government after Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated. From its uncertain beginnings to a brief season of success and then a devastating depression, the Weimar Republic experienced enough chaos to position Germany for the rise of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party.

In the four years following the end of the First World War, the situation for German civilians remained dire. The severe food shortages improved little as a result of the peace treaty. Many German civilians expected life to return to pre-war normalcy following the removal of the allied naval blockade that had been imposed at the start of the war. Instead, the daily struggles of life induced by the war persisted for the decade following. Meat consumption in the country was still half of that before the onset of the war, as a result, after four years of war and famine, many German workers were exhausted, physically impaired and discouraged. Millions were disenchanted with capitalism and hoping for a new era.

In 1922, three years after the German signing of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was on the verge of collapse. The growing post-war economic crisis was a result of loss of pre-war industrial exports, the loss of supplies in raw materials and foodstuffs, the loss of the colonies, and worsening debt balances exacerbated by the German government's issuing of promissory notes to raise money for the indemnity payments placed on Germany by the Allies to pay for the war – which brought about hyper-inflation.

The German's spiral into chaos began in 1920, where under French pressure, the Saar, Germany's principle source of coal, was separated from the Rhine Province and administered by the League of Nations. At the same time, in 1920, the key German industrial districts of Eupen and Malmedy were transferred to Belgium. Shortly after, France completely occupied the Rhineland, the heartland of Germany industry.

The ceasing of its industries and resources by the victorious Allies, along with the loss of its colonies, made it next to impossible for Germany to pay the reparations it was obliged to pay for starting the war. Germany's descent into chaos eventually led to the collapse of the German Republic and the rise of Nazi Germany.

Loss of Colonies

The German colonial empire got its start around 1884, and in the following few years Germany acquired several territories: German East Africa, German South-West Africa, Cameroon, and Togo in Africa. Germany was also active in the Pacific annexing a series of islands that would be called German New Guinea, which included the Northern Solomon Islands.

Germany lost control of its colonial empire and many of its colonies were seized by the Allies during the first weeks of the war. However, some colonial military units held out for a while longer: German South West Africa surrendered in 1915, Kamerun in 1916 and German East Africa in 1918. In the case of German East Africa, the defenders engaged a guerrilla war against British colonial and Portuguese forces and did not surrender until after the end of the war.

Unlike France and England who saw colonies as a source of economic power, Germany saw its colonies as a means to support their aspirations to become a great naval power – using its colonies as bases to refuel warships and communications stations.

Germany's colonial empire was officially confiscated with the Treaty of Versailles after Germany's defeat in the war and each colony became a League of Nations mandate under the supervision of one of the victorious powers.

In Africa, England and France divided German Kamerun (Cameroons) and Togoland. Belgium gained Ruanda-Urundi in northwestern German East Africa, England obtained by far the greater land mass of this colony, thus gaining the "missing link" in the chain of British possessions stretching from South Africa to Egypt (Cape

to Cairo), and Portugal received the Kionga Triangle, a sliver of German East Africa. German South-West Africa was taken under mandate by the Union of South Africa.

In the Pacific, Japan gained Germany's islands north of the equator (the Marshall Islands, the Carolines, the Marianas, the Palau Islands) and Kiautschou in China. German Samoa was assigned to New Zealand; German New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and Nauru went to Australia.

Germany had not as much vested interest in their colonies as France and England did theirs, their loss nevertheless significantly impacted the ability of Germany's industries to recover following the war – both in the removing of sources of cheap raw materials and the loss of captive buyers for finished products.

Post-War Economic Challenges

At first Germany tried to recover from the war by way of social spending. Germany began creating transportation projects, modernization of power plants and gas works. These were all used to battle the increasing unemployment rate. Social spending rose at an unbelievable rate. In 1913 the government was spending approximately 20.5 marks per resident; by 1925 it had risen to almost 65 marks per resident and finally in 1929 it reached over one hundred marks per resident. The elevating amounts of money, which were used for social spending, combined with plummeting revenues, caused continuing deficits.

Even with all of Germany's economic shortcomings, it could have still been possible to make reparation payments if foreign countries had not placed protective tariffs on Germany's goods. With the income Germany could have gained by selling goods in foreign countries, for relatively low prices, reparation payments could have become feasible. The protective tariffs made this idea impossible and further depressed the German economy.

The Weimar Republic faced one of Germany's greatest economic challenges - hyperinflation. Thanks to the Treaty of Versailles, Germany's ability to produce revenue-generating coal and iron ore exports decreased. As war debts and reparations drained its coffers, the German government was unable to pay its debts.

In response, the Weimar government simply printed more money. The effort backfired and further devalued the German Mark—and inflation increased at an astounding level. The cost of living rose rapidly and many people lost all they had.

In the early post-war years, inflation was growing at an alarming rate, but the government simply printed more currency to pay debts. By 1923, the Republic claimed it could no longer afford the reparations payments required by the Versailles Treaty, and the government defaulted its payments.

Some of the former World War I Allies didn't buy Germany's claim that it couldn't afford to pay. In a blatant League of Nations breach, French and Belgian troops occupied Germany's main industrial area, the Ruhr, determined to get their reparation payments. The Weimar government ordered Ger-



Children using bundles of money as building blocks - one of most iconic photos of the Weimar Republic battle with the hyperinflation experienced following the end of WWI.

man workers to passively resist the occupation and go on strike, shutting down the coalmines and iron factories. As a result, Germany's economy quickly deteriorated.

In 1919, one loaf of bread cost one mark; by 1923, the same loaf of bread cost 100 billion marks. Circulation of money rocketed, and soon banknotes were being overprinted to a thousand times their nominal value and every town produced its own promissory notes; many banks and industrial firms did the same.

By 1923 the value of the mark had declined from 4.2 marks per U.S. dollar in 1914 to one million marks per dollar. In 1923, a new currency, the Rentenmark, was introduced at the rate of one trillion marks for one Rentenmark, an action known as redenomination. At that time, one U.S. dollar was equal to 4.2 Rentenmark. Reparation payments were resumed, and the Ruhr was returned to Germany.

Political Turmoil

It did not take long after the signing of the peace treaty before the Weimar Republic was under attack from both left- and right-wing sources. The radical left accused the ruling Social Democrats of having betrayed the ideals of the workers' movement by preventing a communist revolution and sought to overthrow the Republic.

Various right-wing groups opposed any democratic system, preferring an authoritarian, autocratic state like the 1871 Empire. To further undermine the Republic's credibility, some right-wingers also blamed an alleged conspiracy of Socialists and Jews for Germany's defeat in World War I.

For the first five years, the Weimar government dealt severely with the occasional outbreaks of violence in Germany's large cities. The first challenge to the Weimar Republic came when a group of communists and anarchists took over the Bavarian government in Munich and declared the creation of the Bavarian Soviet Republic. The uprising was brutally put down by government-supported militia made up mainly of ex-soldiers dismissed from the army and who were well paid to put down forces of the far left.

Inspired by the general strikes, a workers' uprising began in the Ruhr region when 50,000 people formed a

"Red Army" and took control of the province. The rebels were campaigning for an extension of the plans to nationalize major industries, and while they supported the national government, the government did not want to lend support to the uprising fearing their own overthrow by the establishment of a socialist regime. The repression of the uprising by the army quickly became a major source of conflict within the socialist movement and contributed to the weakening of the only group that could have withstood the National Socialist movement.

Further pressure on the central government came from the political right in 1923 with the "Beer Hall Putsch" staged by the Nazi Party under Adolf Hitler in Munich. In 1920, the German Workers' Party had become the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), or Nazi party. It soon became a driving force in the collapse of the Weimar Republic. Hitler named himself as chairman of the party in July 1921.

In November 1923, Hitler took over a meeting by Bavarian prime minister at a beer hall in Munich. In the meeting Hitler declared that the Weimar government was deposed and that they were planning to take control of Munich the following day. When his followers were thwarted by the Bavarian authorities, Hitler was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison for high treason. While in jail, Hitler dictated Mein Kampf, which laid out his ideas and future policies.

America Comes to the Rescue

With the political situation in Germany quickly spinning out of control, in late 1923 the League of Nations asked U.S. banker and Director of the Budget, Charles Dawes, to help tackle Germany's reparations and hyperinflation issues. He submitted the "Dawes Plan" which outlined a plan for Germany to pay more reasonable reparations on a sliding scale.

The "Dawes Plan" helped stabilize the Weimar Republic and re-energize its economy. Once civil stability had been restored, the Central government began stabilizing the German currency, which further promoted confidence in the German economy and helped the recovery that was so ardently needed for the German nation to keep up with

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DECEMBER 1919



As a result of hyperinflation, the German Mark was valued more for what it could produce – in this case heat for a wood burning stove, rather than what it could buy – which in many cases, required wheelbarrows full of Marks.



A one billion Mark note – a German citizen needed 100 of these to buy just one loaf of bread, which in America at the time, cost only ten cents.

their reparation repayments, while at the same time feeding and supplying the nation. As a result, the daily life of everyday Germans improved.

To help Germany meet reparation obligations, an agreement was reached between American banks and the German government in which the American banks lent money to German banks with German assets as collateral to help it pay reparations. The German railways, the National Bank, and many industries were therefore mortgaged as securities for the stable currency and the loans.

In October 1925 the Treaty of Locarno was signed by Germany, France, Belgium, Britain and Italy. It recognized Germany's borders with France and Belgium. Moreover, Britain, Italy and Belgium undertook an agreement to come to France's aid in the case that German troops marched into the demilitarized Rhineland.

The Locarno Treaty paved the way for Germany's admission to the League of Nations in 1926. Germany signed arbitration conventions with France and Belgium and arbitration treaties with Poland and Czechoslovakia, agreeing to refer any future disputes to an arbitration tribunal or to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

As Germany settled its long simmering differences with its neighbors, overall trade increased and unemployment fell. While reforms did not relieve the underlying weaknesses of the Weimar government, they did give the appearance of a stable democracy. The major weakness in constitutional terms was the inherent instability of the coalitions,

which formed the central government, which often fell apart prior to elections. The growing dependence on American finance was to prove fleeting, and Germany was one of the worst hit nations in the Great Depression.

The Great Depression

Much of the Weimar Republic's recovery was due to a steady flow of American dollars into its economy. But unbeknownst to Germany, America had positioned itself for an economic disaster of its own as it struggled with increased unemployment, low wages, declining stock values and massive, un-liquidated bank loans.

On October 29, 1929, the U.S. stock market crashed, sending America into a devastating economic meltdown and ushering in the Great Depression. The stock market crash had a global ripple effect. It was especially devastating for the newly recovered Weimar Republic. As the flow of American money dried up, Germany could no longer meet its financial responsibilities. Businesses failed, unemployment rose again, and Germany faced another devastating economic crisis.

In September 1930 a political earthquake shook the German republic to its foundations when the Nazi Party entered the Reichstag with 19% of the popular vote and made the fragile coalition system by which every Chancellor had governed unworkable.

During the hyperinflation period of the early 1920s, the German middle class bore the brunt of the economic chaos. When the financial crisis

following the stock market crash hit, they grew weary and distrustful of government leaders. Searching for new leadership and fearing a Communist takeover, many people turned to extremist parties such as the Nazi Party led by Adolf Hitler, despite his unpopular and failed attempt to start a national revolution in 1923. The immediate question was what part the now large Nazi Party would play in the Government of the country.

The millions of adherents to the Nazi party wanted a renewed Germany and a new organization of German society. But Hitler's demand for leadership of the German government was rejected by Hindenburg, who served as the German President. As there still was no majority in the Reichstag for any government, the Reichstag was dissolved and new elections took place in the hope that a stable majority would result.

The subsequent elections of July 1932 yielded major gains for the Communists, and for the Nazis, who won 37.3% of the vote – their high-water mark in a free election. The Nazi party supplanted the Social Democrats as the largest party in the Reichstag, although it did not gain a majority. As a result of the election, in 1932, the Nazi Party became the largest political party in Parliament and Hitler was named Chancellor and sworn in January 1933.

By early February, Hitler had begun to clamp down on the opposition. Meetings of left-wing parties were banned and even some of the moderate parties found their members threatened and assaulted. A fire in the Reichstag was blamed by Hitler on the Communists, and Hitler used it to declare a state of emergency to obtain the presidential assent of Hindenburg to indefinitely suspend a number of constitutional protections of civil liberties, allowing the Nazi government to take swift

action against political meetings, arresting and killing Communists.

In March 1933, Hitler introduced the Enabling Act to allow him to pass laws without the approval of Germany's parliament. Once it became law, Hitler was free to legislate as he saw fit and establish his dictatorship without any checks and balances.

The passage of the Enabling Act is widely considered to mark the end of the Weimar Republic and the beginning of the Nazi era. It empowered Hitler to legislate without the approval of the Reichstag or the President, and to enact laws that were contrary to the constitution.

As a result, Hitler now had the power to restrict the rights of habeas corpus; freedom of the press; freedom to organize and assemble; the privacy of postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications; and legalized search warrants and confiscation beyond legal limits otherwise prescribed. With these powers, Hitler was able to pre-empt opposition to his dictatorship, and within years, the world would yet again descend into a world war.

Many historians believe that like the Russian Republic, under Alexander Kerensky, the Weimar Republic was doomed from the beginning. Moderates disliked it and extremists on both the left and right loathed it.

Like Russia, Germany had limited democratic traditions, and the Weimar Republic was widely seen as chaotic. Many Germans believed that Germany's surrender in World War I had been the act of traitors, who formed the leadership of the Weimar Republic; as such the legitimacy of the government was

on shaky ground. As normal parliamentary lawmaking broke down and was replaced by a series of emergency decrees, the decreasing popular legitimacy of the government further drove voters to extremist parties.

No single reason can explain the failure of the Weimar Republic. The most commonly asserted causes can be grouped into four categories: economic problems, institutional problems, the failure of the League of Nations to fulfill its mandate, and the roles of specific individuals, most prominent of which was a former Army Private and failed artist named Adolph Hitler.

Under Hitler's leadership, the total destruction of Germany, which the leaders of the Weimar Republic had avoided by accepting the harsh peace terms imposed upon them as a condition to end World War I, were brought to fruition.

Twenty years after the signing of the 1919 peace treaty to end the "war to end wars", the world was again at war. Thirteen years after Germany threw off the yoke of the peace treaty, Germany and the rest of Europe lay in ruins and forty million people were dead.

Following the Second World War, the victorious Allies revisited the original goals of Woodrow Wilson's League of Nations, and formed the United Nations, which with all its flaws, has achieved the one goal its predecessor had failed to achieve – preventing another world war.

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HISTORY

Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman
Published in 1969

Chapter 6: Early Industries

Early in its history, Mechanicstown was the center of considerable manufacturing industry, and soon after the Rouzer Tannery was established, the town began to grow rapidly. Most of the citizens were engaged in some kind of work, principally mechanics, and from this it derived its early name, "Mechanicstown."

Jacob Weller, strides across the pages of history as a vivid figure of Mechanicstown, and his interests and attainments were notable in this frontier period.

As the town grew in size and scope, it was soon justified in building a hotel, principally for the many travelers who passed along the main road leading through the mountain gap to Hagerstown and beyond. This hotel, built in 1800, was known as the Gilbert House and was kept by the son of the first settler of Mechanicstown, Jacob Weller. This building, constructed of stone from the nearby mountains, stands today on the "square" and is as strong and sturdy as the day it was built. The property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jules Shapiro who have operated a clothing store on the first floor since

their arrival in Thurmont 20-years ago.

In 1805 Jacob Weller built a beautiful stone tavern directly across the road from his home on West Main Street. Located on the corner of West Main Street and Altamont Avenue, this home still stands as a monument to its builder and is known today by the older citizens of the community as the "Johnson House." It was given this name when George Johnson purchased the property from the Weller family. The Johnsons maintained it in the family until 1887/39 when it was bought by the Zimmermans. Just recently it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunn, who are in the process of restoring it with many items of days gone by. The Duns are to be congratulated for their interest in this old home, for there is a lack of interest in historic places in this area and very few realize the value of holding on to things of this nature.

Jacob Firor opened the first store in Mechanicstown in 1806, but there is little known information as to where the store was located and just what items were sold there. It is reasonable to believe that it was like any other community store of its day, handling almost any item needed by the citizens of the community.

Using the power of Hunting Creek,

Jacob Weller started an edge tool factory in 1811. The factory was operated as a tilt hammer forge and existing records show that this was the very first establishment of its kind south of New York. He would start the tilt hammers long before daybreak and these were said to serve as an alarm clock for the early-rising townspeople. Jacob Weller forged edged tools from cold steel and became widely known for his skill in this trade. Tools of all descriptions went out from his factory to all parts of the South and as far as the West Indies and Cuba.

Weller also manufactured pump augurs which were used in the manufacturing of stock pumps. These pumps, made by the local pump makers, were used extensively in the western counties, and until the advent of the wind wheels, could be found on most every farm.

The process began by boring a hole down the center of oak logs ten to fifteen feet in length, with long augurs. As many of these as the depth of the well required were joined together, one end fitting tightly into the other, so as to form a continuous wooden pipe of substantial character and enduring nature. The rod, which was usually made of wood, worked up and down in this tube, by an iron pump handle, which was fastened at the top of the well. A better and more substantial pump to be worked by hand has scarcely ever been devised. Mill irons were also produced in Mr. Weller's factory which is said to have flourished until around 1850.

About the time Weller opened his edge tool factory, the town had grown to such an extent that the need for a post office was felt and although there are no records to support this fact, it is believed that Jacob Weller also had a hand in this project.

Prior to 1860, Lynn's Pottery, located on the road leading to Crow's Nest, manufactured many fine flower pots, crocks, vases and jugs of all sizes. These were available in two types, plain or ornamental. Today many beautiful pieces of this pottery may be found in some of the homes of the community.

In 1881, Mr. Lynn built a new pottery on Boundary Avenue and is said to have employed a George H. Parker,



The Johnson House on West Main St. Built in 1805 by Jacob Weller, it originally served as a tavern where travelers could purchase food, drinks and a place to rest their weary bodies.

who was considered a skillful master of the trade. A sundial, made from the old potter's wheel at the Lynn Pottery was found some years ago by the late Albert Gernand and was moved to his property just west of town.

On several occasions my father told me of the weaving factory and a nail shop, making the finest hand wrought nails in the county. There was a Casket Works, carriage and harness shops and the Crecite Excelsior Works. This was a very important industry, having been established in 1898 by J. Wesley Creeger, Samuel L. Birely and V. W. Winchester. The original plant was destroyed by fire but was immediately rebuilt on a much larger scale and Mr. Creeger became the sole owner of the business.

Around 1887 the Root brothers organized and built a cannery adjacent to the cemetery and along the tracks of the Western Maryland Railroad. This was later destroyed by fire and a new canning factory was built, known as the Western Maryland Canning Co. The late Ray Taylor, a local citizen, was associated with the establishment for many years. Before the present canning factory closed it was operated by a Frederick firm known as Jenkins Brothers, Inc. When operating at peak capacity the local firm employed as many as 130 people and processed beans, peas and tomatoes. Today the site of this once thriving industry is a total ruin, having been idle for many years. During a recent Halloween celebration, a number of the old labels were found scattered along the streets, which brought to mind memories of an industry that

once offered employment to many citizens in the area, and which has since passed from the scene.

Around 1896, M. H. Whitmore set up shop on Water Street and began the manufacture of cigars. The shop employed 12 to 14 workers and was kept busy filling orders for a distributing firm in Baltimore. My father worked for the Whitmore firm until around 1901 when he and several others left the cigar trade and went to work for the Western Maryland Railroad.

In 1868, the John Jones property, west of town, was built by Alec Wireman, a distant relative of the author. Mr. Wireman owned and operated a flour mill near the site for many years. The mill was driven by water power obtained from Hunting Creek which runs nearby. In 1882 the Wireman property, including the mill, was purchased by John Jones who operated the mill until 1892, when it was destroyed by a fire.

A few years later, Daniel Rouzer built a flourmill but did not stay in the business for any length of time. It is believed that the mill changed hands many times. The mill was located on the site of the present one, along the tracks of the Western Maryland Railroad at the north end of Walnut Street. In 1942 the original mill was destroyed by fire but was rebuilt and equipped to meet the needs of its many stockholders. A large grain elevator with a capacity of 12,000 bushels of grain was then added and since then many new improvements have been made, making it one of the most modern and up to date establishments filling the farmer's every need. In 1928 this mill was consolidated with

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HISTORY/OBITUARIES

Rocky Ridge and Sabillasville firms and incorporated as a farmer's cooperative.

The first newspaper to make its appearance in Mechanicstown was the "Family Visitor." It was started by Isaiah Wolfensberger and the printing office, said to be one of the liveliest spots in town in its day, was located on West Main Street on the site now occupied by the home of Lee J. Kelbaugh.

The "Family Visitor" had a very short life, as the Civil War was being fought at this time and the paper favored the Southern cause and upheld the right of a state to secede from the Union. About ten years later, namely on March 4, 1871, William Need began the publication of the "Catoctin Clarion" which became widely known and a favorite with the citizens of Mechanicstown. Mr. Need's health caused him to give up the publishing of the Clarion and he sold it to Alexander Beatty who continued to operate it until 1879. It was then sold to E. L. Root and Charles Cassell. Mr. Cassell became editor and held this position until about 1904 when the paper changed hands several times and finally in 1939, due to the lack of proper support, publication of the Clarion ceased.

In March of 1940, the "Catoctin Enterprise" made its appearance under the management of George Rhoderick of Middletown, with a local woman, Miss Blanche Eyster as Editor. The news of local interest is gathered and then sent to Middletown where the paper is printed each week and then brought back to Thurmont for distribution.

Since the "Enterprise" made its first appearance twenty-seven years ago, it has grown to be a publication of which the citizens of the community are mighty proud. It has on a number of occasions proved that every effort is being extended to make it one of the finest weekly newspapers in the area.

In March 1959, Thurmont, and particularly the "Enterprise," came in for an unusual amount of widespread publicity during the visit of President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan to Camp David for talks on the Berlin situation. This publicity through the medium of no less a distinguished individual, the renowned John Daly, television news commentator, put the local weekly publication in the limelight on his regular news broadcast. He spoke of the large retinue

Hope Mahoney



Mrs. Hope Mahoney, 94, of a resident of Gettysburg Center, and formerly of Emmitsburg passed away on November 26.

Born May 20, 1925 in Uniontown, PA, she was the daughter of the late Leon G. Ellis and Lillian E. (Tracey) Hicks. She was the granddaughter of the late Charles Columbus and Etta Key (Boyer) Tracey of Blue Ridge Summit.

Mrs. Mahoney was a graduate of Bel Air High School with the Class of 1942.

She and her husband, the late Mr. John "Jack" Mahoney, were married May 20, 1984 in Towson. Mr. Mahoney passed away April 19, 1987.

of newspaper, radio and television reporters who were in Thurmont covering this historic meeting of the two world leaders. He then interjected the remark that "some people, however, are hard to impress." He then went on to say that the "Catoctin Enterprise," the town newspaper, had appeared in its current issue with only a short notice at the bottom of the front page regarding the meeting, while a "banner head-line" at the top of the page announced that "Spring Is Here."

Mr. Daly's remarks, made in a somewhat humorous vein, were indicative of the fact that even today metropolitan news mediums and particularly the news and editorial writers and commentators on such mediums are totally unaware of the things that make up a small, community newspaper. There is no question that the staff of the "Enterprise" was impressed by the presence of such dignitaries as those who visited Camp David, but as publishers of a weekly community newspaper they must always judge discriminatingly between the matters

Mrs. Mahoney was employed as an assistant controller for John L. Deaton Medical Center in Baltimore for a number of years and later as office manager of Shepherd T. Powell Engineering in Baltimore.

She was a member of Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church and Emmitsburg Lions Club.

Mrs. Mahoney is survived by four daughters, Robin Ann Murphy of Gettysburg, Jennifer Ann Nelson of Guysville, OH and Mary Ann Merritt and Patricia Sue Reamer, both of Emmitsburg; 6 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by four brothers, Tracey Ellis, Fred Ellis, Robert Hicks and Charles Hicks.

Services were held at Grove-Bowersox Funeral Home, Waynesboro. Hope was buried in the Green Hill Cemetery, Waynesboro.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: National Alliance for Mentally Ill at www.nami.org

Online condolences may be expressed at www.bowersoxfuneralhomes.com.

of prime interest and casual concern affecting their readers. Items which have already been emblazoned in headlines and pictures throughout the nation are not calculated to get much of a "rise" out of the readers of a local weekly paper. Too often we are called "hicks" and "yokels" and this is not the case. We secure all of the information we possibly can from the metropolitan dailies and tune in our favorite television news programs for the latest events on the world scene. Our weekly publication is more concerned with local events and does a fine job in covering them from week to week.

It might be well to point out here that the citizens of Thurmont have become accustomed to seeing world leaders and distinguished visitors in town and we try not to show our concern or create any excitement by our emotions over such visits. It is the general feeling of our citizens that this is the way our distinguished guests would want it and this is the way we try to make it.

Part 7 next month

Dylan Harley



family and his girlfriend, Carli Studner.

Surviving in addition to his parents, Billy and Lauri, are his brother Mason and wife, Cheyenne and their son Waylon (nephew); sister, Sierra; grandparents, Walter and Sandra Harley and Larry and Susan Glass; aunts and uncles, Jay and Kristi Harley, Robin and Vince Hodge, Wendy and Andrew Gray, Denver and Mary Glass, and Chantel Veney; and an abundance of cousins with whom Dylan cherished so many great life moments.

He will always be remembered by those who loved him for his charm, kindness, incredible laugh, and infectious smile.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, November 4 at St. Joseph's Church, 47 DePaul St., Emmitsburg with Rev. Martin McGeough, C.M. as celebrant. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Dylan's name may be made to the Frederick County Humane Society, 550 Highland St., Suite 200, Frederick, MD 21701. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

With deepest sorrow, we announce the passing of Dylan Harley, 25, of Thurmont. He died on Sunday, October 27 as a result of a motorcycle accident in Frederick. Born April 26, 1994 in Gettysburg, he is the son of William and Lauri (Glass) Harley of Thurmont.

Dylan was a graduate of Catoctin High School Class of 2012. He was a Machinist Apprentice at Metfab in Frederick. He had a passion for working on cars, especially his 2012 Mustang. Riding his motorcycle, snowboarding, and spoiling his dog, Winston, were some of his favorite things to do.

He was a faithful friend and had a deep love for his large

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MOM'S TIME OUT

Christmas through the years

Mary Angel

Christmas has certainly changed for my family over the years. There have been some good, some bad, and some neutral changes. Life dictates that there will always be change, it is unavoidable. As your kids grow up Christmas naturally matures with them. I haven't always been the most cooperative person when it comes to change and Christmas is no different.

Those of you who have read any of my past articles know that I adore traditions. That being said, adoring traditions and change do not go hand in hand. Traditions are built on things not changing from year to year, but more importantly staying almost exactly the same. That means that Christmas in our house always started as soon as the kids woke us (very early) and they ran out to the living room to see what Santa had brought them. I was the queen of the piles for each child needed to appear to be the same size. For my mom (Meme to the kids) spending the exact same amount on each child was imperative. As the kids got older, and entered their teenage years, they asked for much more expensive items that were not very big. This meant that the older kids' piles would be much smaller than the younger two. This isn't a big deal if you are only considering my obsession with tradition, but when you take into consideration that the younger two still believed in Santa it became a much bigger, harder to explain change in Christmas.

This brings me to the biggest change in Christmas over the years, and that is

finding out about Santa Claus. Between one child accusing me of killing Santa when I told him and another one crying because she thought I would be mad that she found out the Santa transition wasn't always the smoothest. When they would find out (either from us or by an outside source) it meant they could then "help" with Christmas. This was not only a change but the start of a new tradition. Anyone who knew could help hide Elfington (our Elf on the Shelf), help wrap some of the gifts, and also play Santa Claus. Playing Santa Claus means that you have to find someone who wants or needs something special and give it to them. The catch is that they can never know it is from you and the tag must read "From: Santa". This is a change that has most definitely been a positive and fun change.

Shopping for the kids at Christmas has also changed. When they were little and their lists were filled with a plethora of toys (some of which didn't even exist) I would head to Toys R Us at midnight before Black Friday and stand in line in the freezing cold with a hundred other die hard shopping parents and hope to get this year's Tickle Me Elmo. Sometimes I would get it and sometimes they would be sold out before I made it in the building, but I always got a tone of things from their wish lists. Now that my youngest is 12 and none of the kids believe in Santa any more I no longer need to stand in the midnight line at Toys R Us, which is probably a good thing since they have closed their stores. Now my kids ask for video games,

books, clothes, and the odd toy here and there. This change made me a little sad at first, after all this change means they aren't kids anymore and are on their way to adulthood. For someone who isn't great at change it is exceptionally hard to watch the kids grow up. Now that I am on my fourth almost teenager it is a lot easier. I just have to work a little harder to come up with some surprise gifts that aren't on their lists.

Their excitement and anticipation have absolutely changes over the years. Let's face facts, the anticipation of a small child waiting for Christmas to finally get here and then their excitement when they see their gift under the tree is a feeling that cannot be duplicated. There was Christmas mornings when I thought the little ones might burst from excitement. I also remember days leading up to Christmas when I never thought they would stop asking, "How many more days until Christmas?" As we get older and realities of life become more evident that amount of exuberance isn't always easy to muster up. I remember the first time I went to Walt Disney World, my husband had earned a trip from work and it was just the two of us with no kids, and we were on a bus pulling up to the Magic Kingdom with the castle in sight when this little girl of about 3 started squealing and hyperventilating at the sight of it all. That is the same way my kids would act on Christmas morning when they were little. Don't misunderstand me; my kids are excited and thankful for Christmas and all of their presents, but



Buying gifts for little ones was so much simpler before the Internet....

they are more mature and less carefree I guess. This is a little sad to me. However, I take comfort in the more mature conversations we have and the fact that they linger a little longer to spend time with us instead of racing off to play with their new toys.

The last thing that has changed for our family when it comes to Christmas is our girls' weekend. When my boys were little, my mother-in-law and I would take them to the ocean to visit my mom and do our Christmas shopping over Black Friday Weekend. When the girls were both born the boys would stay home with their dad and Poppop and my mother-in-law and I would take the girls with us. Then my mom and dad moved in with

us and so we started piling in the van (mom, mother-in-law, girls, and me) and finding different locations to spend the weekend and shop. Now that my mother-in-law has passed away mom and I still take the girls and go shopping but we do day trips instead of staying overnight. This is one of those changes that is neither bad or good, we just have fun and enjoy our time together (although the girls miss the hotel stay).

I hope, no matter how your holidays have changed over the years, that you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and enjoy the time with your loved ones. Merry Christmas!

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



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Kay Hollabaugh
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I'm a runner. Well, let me clarify. I like to call myself a runner. There was a day that little would keep me from slipping on my running shoes and heading out. It didn't matter what the weather was - I went. I don't want you to think of me as an exercise fanatic. I'm not. I run because no one needs to depend upon me. I don't have to hit, catch or strike at a ball. I don't need to "defend the net" and I don't need to pass a baton onto anyone in a relay. (The mere thought of the pressure of that makes me shudder.) I just put one foot in front of the other. Most recently (I think it has something to do with the aging process, although I don't like to admit that) I have found that I no longer like to go out in inclement weather! As a result, we have a treadmill, where I can run as much or as little as I want - in the comfort of our home. I hate it - as opposed to running outside - but it gets the job done.

So you're probably asking yourself - where is this going? My mom passed away at age 100 not long ago and she made some of the BEST candy. I don't make it very often, but when the holidays roll around I find myself digging out some of her recipes and making some. This is where the running comes in. In my head, if I run enough it will negate the incredible volume of sugar and calories that I consume when I make these candies! Likely your holidays are similar!

I hope you enjoy the upcoming special days and that you can find some time to rest, relax and rejuvenate as we look forward to 2020! How is this pos-

sible? Seems like just yesterday that we were worried the world would come to an end as we made the big step from 1999 to 2000! Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2020!

Buckeyes

Ingredients

1 18 oz. jar Peanut Butter
2 Sticks Butter
1 One Pound Box of 10x Sugar
2 C. Graham Cracker Crumbs
24 Oz. Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
4 T. Shortening

Cooking Directions: In mixer bowl, blend peanut butter and butter. Beat in 10x sugar and graham cracker crumbs. Roll into balls and place in freezer for 15 minutes. Melt chocolate chips and shortening and stir together.

Line cookie sheet with foil, spraying well with Pam. (You can use parchment paper as well.) Spear a buckeye with a toothpick and dip in chocolate sauce. Makes about 80 balls.

Pecan Delights

I'll start this recipe with a disclaimer. It works best if you have a 2nd set of hands to help as you have to move very fast when mixture comes to temperature!

Ingredients

2 ¼ C. Brown Sugar
1 C. Butter
1 C. Corn Syrup
1/8 Tsp. Salt
1 14 Oz. Can Sweetened Condensed Milk
1 Tsp. Vanilla
1.5 Lb. pecans (24 ounces)
1 C. Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels

1 C. Milk Chocolate Morsels
2 T. Shortening

Cooking Directions: Combine 1st four ingredients. Cook over medium heat until sugar is dissolved. Add milk and mix well. Continue cooking until candy thermometer reads 245 degrees (firm ball stage). This takes anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes. Although your candy thermometer says firm ball stage is 248 - it works best if you take off the heat at 245. Remove from the heat and stir in vanilla. Pour over pecans. This mixture is very thick. Drop by tsp. on 3 cookie sheets, covered with parchment paper. Don't make the balls too large - bite-size is best! This is the period of time you need to move very quickly as the mixture just continues to thicken - making it impossible to form into balls! Chill till firm. Melt chocolate chips and shortening. Drizzle over clusters and cool. Enjoy!

Apple Peanut Butter Fudge

Ingredients

1 six-ounce package of Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
½ of a 9 or 10 oz. jar of Marshmallow Crème
½ C. Peanut Butter
1 Tsp. Vanilla
2 C. Sugar
2/3 C. Apple Juice

Cooking Directions: Combine chocolate, marshmallow, peanut butter and vanilla in a mixing bowl. Set aside. In a Pam-sprayed 2 qt. saucepan, add sugar and apple juice. Cook over medium heat until sugar dissolves and mixture boils. Continue cooking and stirring to softball stage - 240 degrees. Remove from heat and

quickly add mixture in bowl. Mix well. Pour into buttered 9" square pan. Cool. Cut into squares and store in a tight container.

Mounds Bars

Ingredients

1 Stick Butter or Margarine
1 ½ C. Sugar
3 T. Cocoa
3 Eggs
1 Can Eagle Brand Milk
1 C. Flour
1 C. Nuts
½ Tsp. Salt
1 Tsp. Vanilla
2 ¼ C. Coconut

Cooking Directions: Mix all ingredients but milk and coconut and pour into greased 9x13 inch pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Mix Eagle Brand milk and coconut. Spread evenly over warm brownies. Bake at 20 minutes or until set at 350 degrees. Cool.

Frosting Ingredients:

3 T. Margarine, Melted
3 T. Cocoa
2 T. Milk

Mix above ingredients with enough powdered sugar to make a smooth frosting. Spread on cool brownies.

Sugared Nuts

Ingredients

2 T. Water or Cooking Sherry
1 Egg White
1 C. Sugar
½ Tsp. Salt
¼ Tsp. Cinnamon
¼ Tsp. Ground Cloves
¼ Tsp. Allspice
2½ C. Pecan Halves

Cooking Directions: Whisk liquid with egg white. Add sugar and seasoning and beat until foamy, but not stiff. Add nuts and stir to coat evenly. Put on foil lined baking sheet. Bake for 1 hour or until glaze has dried at 250 degrees. Keep a good eye on them towards the end of the hour to prevent burning.

Pretzel Bites

Ingredients:

24 Round or Square Pretzels
24 Milk Chocolate Kisses
One 1.69 ounce bag of candy coated chocolates (e.g., M&Ms)

Cooking Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place pretzel on sheets. Unwrap candy kisses and place on center of pretzel. Put in oven for 1 to 2 minutes till kisses melt. Remove from oven and place M&M in center.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 11: Baking Class: Bread - 10 a.m. - noon - \$40 pre-registration required.

Jan. 11: Family Cooking Class: Apple Dumplings - 1:30 - 3. Cost \$15. Registration required.

Jan. 24: Mini Maker Session: Snow - 10 - 11 a.m. - Cost is \$7 per child; Registration required

Jan 25: Ladies' Cozy Mid-Winter Tea - noon until 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person, ages 12 and up) Registration Required

For more information on these events call Hollabaugh Bros., Inc. at 717-677-9494 or visit www.hollabaughbros.com.

The Amish Cook

Gloria Yoder

A wintertime highlight is time spent together in the kitchen. The week before Christmas Daniel and Owen helped make a large batch of cream sticks, enough for us to eat our fill and plenty to share with the neighbors.

The kitchen rang with whoops of glee and delight as the children mixed up the butter, ice cream, and flour with their hands. For once they were the ones that could dig into the dough with clean hands! That wasn't all, next it was time to shape them into balls then slightly flatten them and press a thumbprint in the center and fill the "pond" with jam!

Ice-cream Cookies

Ingredients

1 cup butter
2 cups flour
1 cup vanilla ice cream

Mix softened butter and flour, and then add ice cream. (If you have little ones helping you, you'll be sure to get giggles from this part!) Chill until dough is slightly firm. Form into balls and place on cookie sheet. Flatten slightly and press a thumbprint on top. Fill center with your choice of preserves. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Yields 20 cookies.

Peanut Butter Balls

Ingredients

1 cup butter
2 cups peanut butter
Powdered sugar
1 1/2 pound milk chocolate coating

Cream together butter and peanut butter. Add powdered sugar and mix well. Roll into balls, your choice of size; I prefer small ones with the children. Place onto a cookie sheet or flat-bottomed container of any kind, freeze for one hour or until they're set. Next dip in chocolate, one at a time. Place in wax paper-lined container. Chill and enjoy! Yields about 10 dozen.

Healthy Chocolate

Ingredients

1 cup coconut oil
1 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 1/2 cup peanut butter
3/4 cup maple syrup
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons vanilla

Heat and stir together over medium heat until melted. Use as a dipping chocolate or pour into a 9 by 13 pan and refrigerate or freeze, then break into pieces and enjoy. This chocolate is very runny when hot, so choose the temperature that works best for your project at hand.

Coconut Oatmeal Pie

Ingredients

3 eggs
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup pancake syrup
1/2 cup corn syrup (I use maple syrup instead)
1/3 cup melted butter
1/2 cup shredded coconut
1/2 cup quick oats
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon maple flavoring (optional)

Preheat oven to 320. Mix everything in a bowl until well blended. Pour into an unbaked piecrust of your choice and bake for one hour.

Potpourri

How about Christmas scents? If you're like me you're drawn to a cozy atmosphere of flickering candles giving off the tantalizing scent of cinnamon and spices. I've discovered an easy way of enjoying the scent of these homey candles even if I don't have one. Simmering a saucepan with water and a concoction of spices gives off this cozy scent.

Ingredients

4 cinnamon sticks
1 tablespoon whole allspice
2 tablespoons whole nutmeg
5 bay leaves
1 lemon, sliced (Lemon juice or even lemon oil can be used as a substitute for the lemon slices.)

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LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

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

Wednesday - Coffee club from 4 - 5:30 p.m., mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Wednesday- VITT (very important teens and 'tweens) 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 Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Upcoming Special Events

Zero, our wonder therapy dog, will be at the library from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 16 for the ever popular "doghouse sessions". He loves a good book and great company so stop on by and get a fuzzy cuddle!

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club is also meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 17. 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 Dec. 19. Please put on your creative cap and bring a dish of seasonal foods to share.

Train of Thought Book Club. Dec. 26. 6 p.m. We will be discussing "Tolkien and the Great War: The Threshold of Middle Earth" by John Garth.

Frederick County Library Emmitsburg Branch

Family Storytime - Every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Hello Holidays: Holly Jolly Emmitsburg - Dec. 2, 4 - 5:45 p.m. Join us for storytime with Mrs. Claus, painting Kindness Rocks, children's crafts, and music by the Mount St. Mary's University Flute Ensemble.

Choose Civility: 2020 Census: Employment Opportunities - Dec. 4, 2 - 4 p.m. Representatives from the Census will be available with information about employment with the Census Bureau.

Llama Llama Book Party - Dec 5, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate reading with stories and activities featuring Llama Llama and his Mama.

STEAM Cafe: Popsicle Sticks and LEGO Architecture - Dec. 7, 1 p.m. Popsicles, sticks, and Legos® oh my! Enjoy designing and building your own fun creations.

Gretchen and the Winter Whirlwinds - Dec. 10, 2 p.m. Join the Gran-nies of Carroll Vista for a special holiday puppet show for children and those young at heart.

School Skills for Preschoolers - Dec 12, 19, 26, 11:15 a.m. Practice school-readiness skills with cutting, tracing play, and other literacy activities.

Hour of Code - Dec. 12, 6 p.m. Celebrate Hour of Code with a variety of fun coding activities.

Hello Holidays: Holiday Reception - Dec. 14, 2 - 4 p.m. Celebrate the new, permanent Emmitsburg History display with a holiday tea reception, music, and crafts for the whole family.

Storytime with the Maryland ZOO-mobile - Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m. Wildlife-themed storytime, craft, and a visit from a Maryland Zoo Animal Ambassador.

R.E.A.D. with Wags for Hope - Dec. 19, 5 - 6 p.m., Children read to Reading Education Assistance Dogs.

Art Lab: Alpine Treescape and Cards - Dec. 21, 1 p.m. Experiment with different art mediums and techniques in this program designed to allow creative expression.

Garage Band: Battle of the Bands - Dec. 31, 1 p.m. Use Garage Band software to create beats that make you sound like a pro even if you've never played before. This project is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Thurmont Regional Library

Musical Storytime - Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Music, movement, and stories for the whole family.

Preschool Storytime - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Songs, stories, and fun for preschoolers and their grownups.

School Skills for Preschoolers - Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. Practice school-readiness skills with cutting, tracing, play, and other literacy activities.

Tiny STEM - Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. STEM projects geared toward smaller hands and imaginations.

Little Picassos - Mondays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 2 p.m. Little ones will express themselves through painting, drawing and more.

Friends, Food, and Fun - Dec 4, 4 p.m. Hang out with friends while enjoying snacks and games.

DIY Bath Bombs - Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. Make refreshing and colorful bath bombs. Give as a gift or keep for yourself. Supplies provided.

Night Owls! - Dec. 5, 12, 19, 6:30 p.m. Gaming, technology, slime! Hands on fun for the entire family.

Storytime with the Maryland ZOO-mobile - Dec 6, 10:30 a.m. Wildlife-themed storytime and craft and a visit from a Maryland Zoo Animal Ambassador.

Hello Holidays: Holly Jolly Thurmont - Dec 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Celebrate Christmas in Thurmont and get passports stamped while enjoying the FCC Student Violin Concert, Family Storytime, Adult wreath making, Mt. St. Mary's Flute Ensemble Concert, Night Before Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Harpist, and a holiday craft.

Hello Holidays: Wreath Making - Dec. 7, 11 a.m. Get a start on your holiday decorations by making a budget-friendly wreath. Supplies provided by Friends of the Thurmont Regional Library. While supplies last.

Hello Holidays: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Storytime and Photo Opportunity - Dec 7, 1 p.m. A North Pole visitor will read the iconic Christmas story followed by a time to take photos. Bring your camera!

Hello Holidays: Krafty Kids - Dec 8, 2 p.m. Make and take time!

Open Memory Lab - Dec 8, 2-4 p.m. Use our equipment to convert your photos and analog home videos to digital formats you can share and enjoy today! Lab volunteers will be available to help. Formats accepted: mini DV tapes, VHS tapes, VHS-C tapes, photos, slides, and negatives.

Hour of Code - Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m. Celebrate Hour of Code with a variety of fun coding activities.

Slime Lab - Dec. 11, 6 p.m. Try new slime recipes every month with new colors, textures, and additions.

Hello Holidays: Holiday Paper Tree - Dec 12, 6 p.m. We will turn damaged books into a piece of art for the holidays.

Fun with Books - Dec. 13, 1:30 p.m. Sharing picture books with related activities. Children do not need to know

how to read, but need to be accompanied by a caregiver.

Chess Club - Dec 14, 11 a.m. Stop in to learn, play, or sharpen your skills. All skill levels welcome.

Open STEM Lab - Sundays, Dec 15, 22, 29, 2 p.m. Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math concepts in the STEM Lab. Children under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Hello Holidays: DIY Kids - Dec 16, 6:30 p.m. Make a card, gift wrap, and gift to give away.

Teen Volunteer Corps - Dec 18, 6 p.m. Meet and discuss how you can impact our library Plan events, transform the teen space and have your voice be heard.

Hello Holidays: Gingerbread House Workshop - Dec. 19, 6 p.m. Use festive candies, frosting, graham crackers, and more to take home for the holidays.

Hello Holidays: Make a Tree! - Dec 20, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the season with a story, songs, and a cute tree craft to take home!

Escape the Library - Dec. 20, 2 p.m. Solve puzzles and riddles to break out and the escape the library.

Star Wars Red Carpet Premier Party - Dec. 20, 2:30 p.m. Celebrate the release of the new Star Wars movies with STEM activities, games, and crafts. Bring a camera for photos on the red carpet with movie characters.

Movies and Cocoa - Dec. 21, 2 p.m. Enjoy cocoa and snacks while watching a movie.

Hello Holidays: Polar Express Party - Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m. Listen to the Polar Express and enjoy winter hands-on activities.

Toy Story 4 BYOL - Thursday, Dec 26, 12 p.m. Bring your own lunch and blanket, and enjoy Toy Story 4 on the big screen.

Let's Write Thank You Notes - Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m. We'll supply materials and ideas for making creative and thoughtful thank you notes.

R.E.A.D. with Wags for Hope - Dec. 28, 11 a.m. Children read to Reading Education Assistance Dogs.

Hello Holidays: Rockin' New Year Pajama Party - Dec. 30, 6:30 p.m. Wear your favorite pajamas to ring in the New Year! Enjoy stories, music, games, and a craft.



<p>Emmitsburg 300 South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, MD 21727</p> <p>Dec. 2 4-5:45 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytime with Mrs. Claus • Painting kindness rocks & other children's crafts • Music by Mount St. Mary's University Flute Ensemble <p>Dec. 14 2-4p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday tea • NEW Emmitsburg Library history display unveiling • Music & crafts for the whole family <p>Explore. Invent. Transform. YOUR HOLIDAYS</p> <p>fcpl.org</p>	<p>Thurmont 76 East Moser Road Thurmont, MD 21788</p> <p>Dec. 7 10 a.m.-3 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 a.m.: FCC student violin concert • 10-11 a.m.: Wreath making (adult) • 10-2 p.m.: Scales & Tails presentation • 11 a.m.: Music by Mount St. Mary's Flute Ensemble • 1 p.m.: "Twas the Night Before Christmas" reading by Santa & Mrs. Claus • 1-3 p.m.: Harpist Diane Younkins <p>All day: Crafts in lobby & stop by our information desk to get your <i>Christmas in Thurmont</i> passport stamped.</p>
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SCHOOL NEWS

Early literacy and school readiness

Samantha Jones
Frederick County Library

Frederick County Public Libraries (FCPL) has instituted a new program that invites families and caregivers to read 1,000 books with their children before they enter kindergarten. 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is an incentivized road-map for parents and children alike to achieve higher

levels of literacy and school readiness before entering kindergarten.

The best way to prepare your child at a young age is by reading aloud according to the US Department of Education in their report Becoming a Nation of Readers. FCPL is committed to providing children with the best possible library services needed to succeed in and out of school. Each storytime held at any of the library branches helps children on their

way to 1,000 books and provides school readiness tips for parents and caregivers to bring the learning home.

Currently, 63% of children from low-income households in Frederick county did not enter kindergarten "ready to learn" as measured by the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. FCPL believes that this new program, along with their robust programming schedule for 0-5 year olds at each of

their nine branches will help address this disparity in the county.

"We are excited to help our youngest customers develop a love for reading that will set them on a path to success," said Janet Vogel, Youth Services Manager at FCPL. "Reading 1,000 books over the span of six years is easier than you think with the high-quality tools and programming available in our libraries."

FCPL has partnered with Beanstack, an online reading log, to help families track their progress through the pro-

gram. Families can also participate with printed logs available at each branch. After every 100 books read, participants can earn badges online with Beanstack and visit their local branch for stickers. Upon completion of the program, children will receive a special prize to celebrate their achievement.

To find out more about the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, visit any of your local Frederick County Public Libraries.

Summer internship opportunities

Eisenhower National Historic Site is pleased to announce its annual call for applications to intern for the summer of 2020.

Four 12-week interpretation and visitor services internships are available for the 2020 summer season, running from May 26 through August 15, 2020. One 12-week curatorial internship is also available; the dates are negotiable and may differ from the interpretation internship.

Interpretation interns give house tours of the Eisenhower home, staff the information desk in the site's reception center, and present other interpretive programming they have researched and prepared. Interns also have the opportunity to work on special projects involving social media and 21st century public history interpretation. Eisenhower National Historic site's interpretive oper-

ation focuses on audience-centered interpretation and we are always looking for how we can best use our historic resources and stories to be part of conversations that are happening today about our society and world.

The curatorial intern assists the museum curator in the operation of the site's museum management program. Job duties may include cataloging and proper storage of museum objects and archival documents, data entry, transcriptions, photography, conducting inventories, museum housekeeping, integrated pest management, and social media.

Summer Interns work a 40-hour week with formal and informal on-the-job training provided. The internships are not paid, but dormitory-style housing and a living stipend of (\$1750) are provided.

Students who have completed at

least one year of college and are working toward degrees in history, political science, museum studies, park man-

agement, education, graphic design or related fields are welcome to apply.

To apply, e-mail your resume with two professional references and a cover letter explaining your interest. Please put

"2020 Summer Internship" in the subject field of your email and clearly state your preferred position, curatorial or interpretation. For more information call Jason Martz at 717-3384423.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month, we asked our students to attend the Mother Seton School Science Fair, talk to the parents, teachers, and students about the event, and write about their experience and what this event meant to them.

Freshman Year

Effects of a science fair on college students

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2023

As I begin to get comfortable in my role as a writer here, I'm being given opportunities to expand my understanding of the Emmitsburg area. The Mother Seton School's Science Fair was one of these opportunities. It was a multilayered experience. For the past three months, I've been living as an adult, or pretending to be one at least. Yet less than a year ago, I was another student in another school doing projects like these, although I attended a public high school instead of a school like Mother Seton. It was somewhat of a reality check to step back into the mindset I had been in mere months ago. I have about four years more in age than the oldest students who participated in the science fair, yet that four year means more than I ever understood. Where I am now and where I was then are drastically different places.

Even for those who haven't had those very influential formative years, it's understood about the importance of your high school time. This was obvious in some of the science projects, where a few of them examined how strong your

memory of high school is even decades after you've graduated. I had never seen that type of investigation done in a school science fair and it was heartwarming to see. One of these projects went as far as to close their experiment with advice the high school graduates would give to high school freshmen. This advice included "keep your head up high," "be yourself," "stay out of the seniors' way," and "enjoy every day." It warmed my heart to see different generations interacting and learning from each other at the fair, through the projects and mere time spent together. It reminded me of how we aren't all separate entities, like we sometimes treat each other in today's polarized world.

I did not grow up in the towns like Emmitsburg and the surrounding area. My hometown is a busy city near Richmond. I never experienced the small-town life of the mountains. Attending the science fair opened my eyes to another idea: the importance of community. I had no personal connection to anyone at Mother Seton and the only people I knew in the room were my fellow Mount writers. At first, I felt like I was intruding on someone else's memory. It took my back

to the science fairs of my youth. I dreaded completing an experiment every year, as science was always one of my least favorite subjects. The frustration I felt during my education wasn't present in those students, though. The room was full of the curiosity and ingenuity of today's youth, which itself is a magical thing. If I had had one of the brain cells any of these students had, I would've enjoyed the experience a lot more. They had very real-world oriented ideas. I find myself feeling hopeful for the future after seeing that this is the type of individual our schools are helping to shape.

This speaks to the broader idea of community. Mount St. Mary's mission is to graduate ethical leaders who lead lives of significance. To truly lead these lives, we need to understand what significance is. To do that, we need to understand what insignificance is. As we strive to create leaders dedicated to service, I think we should educate them on who they are serving. I propose that Mount students attend community events in the Emmitsburg area, even if they gain nothing but understanding from them. It doesn't have to be about service; our presence there doesn't have to mean anything. But it would help us to understand what the service we do accomplish is all about. The communities are the reason we do the service, usually

in communities we don't know and aren't a part of. We need to become comfortable with this idea of helping those that we have no attachment to, just because. Therefore, we should practice going into different communities to just experience them. Not only will it benefit us, as students learning about significant lives, but it will benefit the surrounding area and our relationship with them. The science fair had many in attendance, but what if the room had been packed with young adults celebrating the students' successes with them? Yes, the pride and joy of your family is important. But to see people who have no attachment to the school and are there to genuinely enjoy the event could make an impact in a child's life.

This poses a very impactful reality check. In a room full of people I don't know, who I am? While we don't like to think we can be self-centered and self-invested, we always can be. So, being tasked with this story was therapeutic in that sense. Sometimes, you need to not mean anything to anyone. It gave me a chance to not participate, and just watch. I saw proud parents lovingly embarrass their children over their successes. Grandparents chased their grandchildren around the room and between the tables. All the while, I stood there, not meaning anything to anyone. It was perfect. I think this

is a vital part of the core curriculum that is missing at the Mount.

Aside from the awe at the brain power of these students, I was still at war with myself. Who was I to come in and ask these kids, who I knew nothing about, questions about their projects they created for a school that I'd never been to? What could I, a first-year college student from a big city, write that would matter to anyone in a small town I hadn't heard of before coming to the Mount? What could I give to these students, already more advanced than I could ever hope to be at that age, the youth of today that are already focused on the problems of tomorrow? Who did I think I was? What was I hoping to accomplish?

Frankly, I still don't know. I don't think I'm alone in pondering where I fit in on this planet. But this uncertainty is healthy. To understand significance, we need to understand insignificance. Let's strengthen our idea of community, the ones we belong to and the one we do not. Instead of living separate lives, let's coexist in our ideas of belonging and finding our own ways. I don't know why I'm here, I don't know what my purpose is. But this feels like a good place to start.

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

Sophomore Year

The simplicity of elementary formation

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

"Hi, I'm Ben." This simple introduction from a 6th grade student at Mother Seton Elementary School was the beginning of an in-depth explanation of his science fair project "Do More Acidic Fruits Produce More Electricity?" The project won Benedict 2nd place in his class. Ben is interested in electricity and "saw something on a website and did a variation of it in my project and I learned a lot." Ben said that he is not sure about what he wants to do with his life, a possible testament to his interior understanding that he does yet know that for which he was created.

Ben started off his science fair project with the hypothesis that more acidic fruits would produce

more electricity, specifically, that the lemon he was testing would produce the most electricity. While we talked, he listed the materials that he used for his project and the method by which he conducted his experiments. On his board, he included a professional description of the function of a fruit battery, discussing the use of a galvanized nail, ions and positive and negative charge. In the end, his tests suggested that more acidic fruits produce more electricity. This did not seem to bother him, even after all the effort which he put into brainstorming and actualizing the experiment. For Ben, the important thing was being to consider a question and redefine it based on where his interests lied and where the challenge seemed to be present. After I reflected more on the

night, it seems that this intentional transition from his original scientific inquiry to the topic of his final project is what led to his success. He narrowed his focus to a topic which would pique his interest and force him to become more engaged with that which he was studying. This daring change is an act which seems to occur too infrequently in study. Academics become too focused on an area of study just because of the mass of knowledge which they have acquired over the years, but which provides no gratification for themselves or little benefit to the society for which they study.

At least 60 projects were presented at the science fair. Participation in the fair was optional for 3rd and 4th graders, but mandatory for 5th-8th grade students. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners were awarded within each grade. This award system gave the students a particular understanding of how their project difficulty and creativity compared with their peers. I am sure that times like these are especially formative for future scientists and engineers, as they can tangibly see that they have gifts and insights which are not equally distributed to their peers. I was reminded of something a professor for whom I have great respect said about this topic: "people need such little encouragement." It seems that this is especially true for young children for whom the future is undetermined. The apparent banality of a passing comment of encouragement or rightly ordered praise could prove

to be instrumental in the development and ultimate discernment of a child. Most of the children in the gymnasium who were presenting their unique experiments and inventions are not intentionally mapping out their future or even thinking about such a venture. This is why it is particularly incumbent upon the adults in the room, for whom their future is relatively unmysterious and enjoy the added benefit of the joys and sorrows of a past, to aid in flourishing that discernment. In the Mother Seton gymnasium, I had the pleasure of sharing the room with parents and teachers who recognized the importance of this vocation.

The five minutes that I spent with Ben was a special time for me because it gave me a chance to think back to middle school, when our youthful innocence was taking its last breaths before the responsibilities of maturity started to become clear. This was the time when my friends and I would run around where there was no place to walk, scream when there was no apparent reason to speak quietly and complain about having to go home when the night of these activities was so young. Activity of this sort took place at Mother Seton on Wednesday night, as it would at any middle school. This sort of behavior was strangely refreshing to me after days, weeks and months spent mostly with adults.

All of this carelessness, even among 2nd-place award winners, is indicative of that subconscious

knowledge that they are "not sure" about what they are supposed to do with their lives. I envy this comfort in uncertainty. Any college student who is "not sure" about what they are meant to do with their life on earth expresses a grimace of fear about the unknown future which lies ahead of them. I do not exclude myself from this stereotype of the discerning college student. Ben and I are not that different; we are just on different positions in our process of discernment that fits with our respective ages and experiences.

The science fair at Mother Seton gave me the opportunity to see professors, coworkers and friends in a different environment, one in which everyone is distinctly aware that education is occurring and that we are active participants in the success of that education. I could see kids at a school which has proved to them time and time again that they should feel safe and ready to learn about the world in which they live and the one in which they would like to leave in peace. I hope that the example which Ben, the parents and teachers of Mother Seton and my colleagues at the Emmitsburg News-Journal gave to me stays with me. I also hope that Ben remembers the people at home and at Mother Seton who love him enough to want nothing more than for him to see clearer everyday Him for whom he lives.

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

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MOTHER SETON SCHOOL STEM FAIR

Junior Year STEM or STEEM?

Angela Guiao
MSMU Class of 2021

In the early 2000's, it had become apparent that students in the United States were underperforming in science and mathematics. It was concluded that if the U.S. did not improve its education programs in these areas, they would produce a workforce wholly unprepared and inadequate, diminishing the U.S. into a country incapable of competitively participating in the global economy.

As a result, the STEM curriculum was introduced. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. And throughout the past few years, STEM programs have increased in popularity, and are responsible for providing students with the opportunity to explore and develop their skills in these subjects. The STEM curriculum, as a whole, has been a beneficial addition to the American education system. It has served as a platform that reignited national interest in science and math related courses.

Recently, the writers for Four Year at the Mount attended a science fair at Mother Seton Elementary School.

While I was fascinated and surprised by the genius projects and experiments the students performed, there was one thing that distracted from the intriguing projects: the little attention, in some projects, given to grammar, spelling, and English. Now, I know that plainly, spelling errors and such may not seem like a big deal., especially since the students are in the seventh grade and below, and that I was attending a science fair. But I believe that the failure to correct grammar, spelling, or even handwriting represents the bigger problem that is the diminishing role of proper English in the United States.

Is the importance of improving in Science and Math reason enough to sacrifice attention in English? If science opens the door to discovering cures, developing molecules, innovating modern technology and much more, doesn't English allow us to communicate our discoveries? Would it be possible to become the next Einstein, Edison, or Tesla, if people are unable to discern what is being explained in our research papers? Can there be science without English? The answer is yes, but we would have no inkling of what is going on. Why? Because everything we know about science we learn from scholarly journals, articles, textbooks, research papers, lab notebooks and much more, all written in some form of language we can understand.

But what if our scientists don't know how to spell? What if their journals are so jumbled with misspellings, grammatical errors, and chicken scratch, that we are unable to read it? What happens if the greatest mathematical and scientific minds are unable to communicate their ideas properly because they were not taught to write in or give importance to proper English? There is no Science without English. There is no Mathematics without English. There is nothing without English. Because without a way to communicate our ideas, to express our findings, to detail our procedures, without a way of basically immortalizing information, the existence of any idea will be subject to the inconsistencies of oral passage. We need English to have science, to have math, to have innovation.

Personally, I have experienced the advantage of having a science and technology program available. In middle school, I attended a school that had a magnet program focused in science and technology. This allowed me to take classes focused on developing skills that would eventually enhance my opportunity to pursue a science related career. We could take classes like robotics, where we would build different machines, or classes that focused on web design,

which is what I personally took. As a result, I can attribute a lot of success in my subsequent high school classes, and even some college courses, to the knowledge I gained in middle school.

However, I was also very interested in English. I enjoyed writing poems and short stories. I also found writing in journals a good way to decompress and express myself. Having been exposed to both the worlds of English and Science, I understand the undeniable need to be able to communicate properly. My Biology labs consisted of writing in journals to explain what steps were taken, materials used, and results identified. Even in my current Accounting classes, there are situations where notes must be disclosed in financial statements to make sense of the numbers.

To make sense of the numbers. I think that's a perfect way to describe the importance of English. We need English to make sense of things. It is the way we describe, explain, learn, teach. It is the means to making sense of the ideas we have, the things we want to do. Maybe, STEM should not be STEM. Maybe it should be STEEM: Science, Engineering, English, and Mathematics. We should prioritize learning how to spell, the proper use of conjunctions, when to use a comma and when to use a semicolon just as much as we prioritize the

ability to do basic algebra, memorize equations, and learn how to find x.

English is intertwined with almost everything that we do. Focusing on science and math because we had become weak in the subjects is not a bad thing. But lessening the focus on English in order to compensate for the time given to Science and Math will only prove to be detrimental to us in the end. There should be a balance, a perfect combination between the genius of innovation and the confidence of communication. The basic foundation on which science, technology, and mathematics resides is language. If our country slips in its capability to communicate, we will not only find ourselves behind in STEM, but in English and reading as well.

So please, let us not forget the importance of English. Let us double check our children's homework for misspellings or grammar mistakes. Let us make sure they understand the importance of our national language and see the benefit of being able to communicate ideas properly. Science and Mathematics allows students the opportunity to create, to innovate, to experiment and discover. Let us make sure they are well versed enough in writing so that one day they may share their ideas with the world.

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

Senior Year Our worlds future

Morgan Rooney
MSMU Class of 2020

November was an exciting month for our beautiful community in Emmitsburg. For those who haven't heard of this yearly tradition, every year in the fall semester, Mother Seton School holds its yearly science fair competition. I was super excited to write about an event like this, as I had not been to anything similar since I was a kid myself. I thought it would be interesting to see how this science fair compared to the science fairs my school had when I was a kid. Along with seeing what kind of creative ideas the students would come up with, I was very eager to support the local school by attending their science fair.

Each student, ranging from 3rd grade to 8th grade at Mother Seton School have the chance to conduct creative experiments or build useful inventions. The students compete for first, second, and third place, along with the title of Grand Champion. The students created a variety of projects that stretched across the Mother Seton School gym.

Although the competition lasts all day, the public is invited to attend in the evening to see all the creative projects and support these future scientists and inventors. It was great seeing all the students, parents, and other community members attending the event.

The students are assigned their science fair project at the beginning of the school year and they manage their time to complete their experiments and inventions in time for the annual fair. The students were judged by 11 adults and 7 high school alumni of Mother Seton School. The students who receive a ribbon are highly encouraged to participate in the county science fair where

I've been told that the students have been very successful and won many times in the previous years.

I had the opportunity to speak to a parent of a 6th grade student who receive a second place ribbon. This project measured the electricity generated from fruits and vegetables of different acidities to determine the relationship between the two.

"It's important to articulate ideas as recording data," says Joshua Hochschild, the father of the student. "You might realize you're answering a different question. It's a valuable process to go through to experience feedback of learning."

Although there were 98 participants, each with a unique project, there were certain projects that really stood out to me. Some of these were the invention of a biodegradable bottle cap, and an experiment to determine the foundation preference of honeybees. It's great to see that the students created such useful projects that can influence the future. It gives me a new hope for future generations.

There were other projects that were fun to read about and definitely worth mentioning. This includes an invention that separates skittles by colors and an experiment of paw preferences in cats. The thing I was most impressed with was the creativity of the students when coming up with their science fair experiments and inventions.

This year, the Grand Champion was a 7th grade student, Carli, who conducted an experiment to determine if there is a relationship between eye color and after images. Her experiment was successful in determining that there is a relationship and people with different eye colors see after images differently. I was impressed, and clearly, so were the judges.

I was able to speak with the Mother Seton School science teacher, Danielle Kuykendall.

"Projects like the biodegradable bottle cap really stand out. As a green school,

part of the rubric is how it ties into the real world." Says Kuykendall. "I want the kids to come away from this loving science!" she continues. "I always tell them to choose something they really want to know the answer to."

From my own personal perspective, it was really exciting and important to support this local event. These students are the future of our country and most importantly, the future of our world. The creativity and thoroughness of these projects was really eye opening. Going to this event really brought me back to when I was in fourth grade and required to do a science fair project. Although my project may have not been as useful as many of these, it taught me a lot about the scientific process, time management, and organizational skills.

All three of these things I learned have become very useful in my life and will become useful in any career these kids will pursue one day. The scientific theory is important as it teaches you about error, correction, and questioning everything. These are important things to learn early on so you can always improve in any subject of your choosing, including science and what I do: write. Even though writing is something that you wouldn't generally compare with scientific subjects like biology, chemistry, and physics, it's important to know all about correcting your mistakes and questioning yourself to be successful.

Time management and organization are obviously other skills that are very useful in any field. To be successful, for myself, I need to be careful to know exactly what I need to do, and when I need to do it by. A lot of the time, this means I need to break assignments and projects into increments so I can effectively get projects done on time and have them done correctly. Both of these skills are obviously necessary so it is important to practice and learn how to perform them correctly. This science

fair is a great example of using all of these skills to create successful projects.

Overall, the science fair was very eye opening to what the youth around us are capable of and it was very inspiring to me personally. As an adult, I am glad to see the young people in our society being involved with projects, with many

of these projects having the potential of serving our community in the future. I will go forward now knowing that the future generation is one that will bring great innovations to our world.

To read other articles by Morgan, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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FASHION

Christmas gift ideas

Valerie McPhail
MSMU class of 2015

The nature of gift giving is never void of thoughtfulness, intention, or love. For some, this action translates into an Amazon gift card, offering the recipient freedom to shop as desired. My approach leans more ritualistic. It's a process that leads with sourcing ideas to tailor the individual's interests and needs, and concludes with punctuating wrap packaging. The following recommendations draw from this place. With hope to inspire in moments of stress, or getting caught in the motions, may these reflections recommend a fresh perspective on giving.

Wellness - Consider this type of gift honored in the name of self-care. A wellness gift is intentional, proactive, and an overall investment in one's health and wellbeing. The latest conclusions for mental health report on the weighted blanket. When self-care involves a 'staycation', a retreat to your bed, includes a snuggle with a weighted blanket. Bearaby, "The Napper" is the answer by means of technol-

ogy advancement in wellness theory that shows just how relational the body is to the mind. In comforting the body, abating anxiety and instituting rest for the body, the weighted blanket feels like a hug, as Bearaby best explains. The weighted blanket, an investment by means of the price, costs short of 300 dollars. However, health is wealth. Minimalist design, and soft-tone colors: sky blue, silvery pink and stone-cut gray, is basically a beautiful metaphor for the simplicity of self-care. New age technology can aid in simplistic-seeming solutions for our better health and wellbeing.

Beauty - A visit to the West Village's CAP Beauty feels like a treasure every time. The ritual is filled with a curated selection of the best-vetted products current to the beauty industry. Never flashy or unassuming, the shop is stocked with respect to self-care and wellbeing - an investment worth indulging. Shopping at CAP Beauty results with a conjunction of beautiful products - face oils, body butter, and a dry brush, which are individually lush and communally rewarding. Together they are supple, building

a ritual for self-treatment. This is the best gift to self and to wish and encourage unto others. The brand's Captivator Love Bath is a fantastic product to introduce and encourage nightly baths. Pair this with Weleda's Skin Food cream for the body, and Monk Oil for the face, to deeply hydrate the skin. Alternatively Canadian brand, 8 Faces offers a "Boundless Solid Oil." A face moisturizer option leaves your skin feeling dewy and protected. Incorporating a bath routine, I have recently found, is a regiment way to slow down and pause from of the busyness of our days. The body lotion and face oils rejuvenate the skin to moisture, leaving the body feeling appreciated and cared for. Gifted as a set, these products inspire a ritual for good mental and physical health.

Sport - Table tennis is a sport that unites my family around the holidays, as well as karaoke. Each year, an impromptu game of doubles with my uncle and father quickly becomes a tournament for the best of three claims winner, but no one's counting. A pair of Tiffany's paddles make a pretty set for the table and a perfect excuse for a rematch. Fashion has a way of elevating the normalized. Tiffany's is no exception. These paddles mark a fashion forward team distinguished by stylish equipment, offering an interesting curve to the game. When the Tiffany's brand engages with sport, there is a feeling of intention behind the material things in life. Tiffany's is breaking the mold. These luxurious leather and walnut paddles bring an art form to your lifestyle.

Fashion - Fashion is the most difficult and rewarding gift to offer. A piece of fashion is not just an objective item of clothing, but a way of

communicating. As a result, gifting a piece of fashion means supporting the dialogue of one's personal expression. Catching wind of the holiday spirit, its nostalgia, and romance, a fashion gift to her this season is a DOEN dress. There is something about supporting a female-founded and lead fashion label that supports and continues to find new avenues to support women and advance the wellbeing of their lives. DOEN's humble mission, benefiting cultural impact, is a sentiment less superficial regard to fashion. It bridges a holistic approach to how clothing can exist in our lives more than a brand name or sense of style. DOEN is a world filled with peasant blouses and maxi dresses, their signature pieces. The style is familiar; with odes to Americana Western sensibility. There is a foundation to its design and a regard for the feels wrapped up in the holidays - comfort, style, and charm.

The Retro North Face Jacket is the fashion gift for him this holiday season. The recreational fashion brand, known for its outdoor equipment and fashionable gear is making a comeback into mainstream fashion culture through popularizing the pullovers that built its namesake years prior. The lull allowed this piece to become a collector's item in



DOEN dress, the bohemian fashionable dress for her this season.

vintage stores around the city. Distance makes the heart grow fonder. The Men's '95 Retro Denali Jacket, the brand name term to identify the original design is the ideal gift for the man who enjoys vintage pieces, a throwback sense of style, and also in need of a trendy winter jacket. Say no more, North Face is back and has you covered.

Home - A housewarming gift is an imparting influence on one's lifestyle. May it be a Tom Ford Candle, a set of colorful ceramic dishes, a cat tree house or an art book, these items become a part of one's dwelling place. In New York, where space is often limiting, a gift for the home is a guide into supporting one's way of life. Tonne Goodman's "Point of View," published in April 2019, is the book that brings reality to the glamour of the fashionable life New York City offers its creatives through a photo biographical story of female fashion photographer and previous Fashion Director at American Vogue, Tonne Goodman. With intimacy, delicateness and precision, so close to perfection, Goodman shares her life's story in the medium of her communication: photographs. This gift is a great addition to the coffee table collection. It's pure entertainment and interest for the fashion follower at heart. There is a lot of romance, glamour and beauty in the pages. Moreover, the photo storytelling carries the glory that can be discovered in this life.

While gift giving is a focal point of the holiday season, allow the opportunity to be an investment in those you treasure. There is joy in both positions. Not only is there joy in receiving, but gifting with intention offers anticipation for the response of your gift. Fashion's influence always adds an extra spectacular element to the objects we hold in life. This is its biggest reward - not the fall collections, or the runway extravagance, but rather the impact fashion and its culture makes on every day life.

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

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Majestic's Holiday Film Fest

Jessica Rudy

Enjoy the holiday spirit with a full day of classic movies at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater during the Holiday Film Fest on Saturday, December 7. Four popular holiday movies will be shown on the Majestic's big screen in the beautifully restored historic auditorium throughout the day beginning at 10 a.m. The Holiday Film Fest is an official event of the annual A Gettysburg Christmas Festival.

"Every family has a favorite holiday movie they watch every year, and chances are the Majes-

tic is playing it during our first ever Holiday Film Fest," said Jeffrey Gabel, the Majestic Theater's Founding Executive Director.

The Holiday Film Fest kicks off at 10 a.m. with the family film favorite "The Polar Express" (2004). Based on the Caldecott Award-winning book by Chris Van Allsburg and starring the voice of Tom Hanks, in the film a young boy learns about the spirit of Christmas when he embarks on a magical Christmas Eve railroad journey to the North Pole.

At 1 p.m., Buddy the Elf (Will Ferrell) travels from his home at the North Pole to New York City

in an attempt to locate his real father in "Elf" (2003). Throughout this Christmas comedy for the whole family, Buddy experiences the delights of the city and human culture in a way only an elf can.

The Holiday Film Fest continues with Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" (1954) at 4 p.m. A perennial holiday classic, this touching musical follows successful song-and-dance team Wallace and Davis (Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye) and sister act The Haynes Sisters (Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen) who team up to save a failing Vermont inn just in time for Christmas.

Finally, beloved holiday comedy "A Christmas Story" (1983) will light up the giant screen at 7:00 p.m. In Jean Shepherd's tale set in the post-World War II Midwest, young Ralphie attempts to convince his parents, teacher, and Santa that he won't shoot his eye out with the perfect Christmas gift – a Red Ryder BB gun.

Tickets for each film featured in the Holiday Film Fest are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and are available at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org. The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday, 12-7 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Additional park-



ing options are available through A Gettysburg Christmas Festival at www.agettysburgchristmasfestival.com.



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ARTS

Seton Shrine's Celtic Christmas

Seasons, an award-winning Celtic band, is comprised of siblings Mary-Kate Spring, Peter Winter, Mary-Teresa Summer, Mary-Grace Autumn, and Mary-Clare Chun Lee. The Lee siblings seek to not only pay homage to the rich tradition of Celtic and American folk music that they grew up with, but also to treat it as a living, breathing entity.

Mary-Kate shares, "Celtic music was typically passed from musician to musician aurally, as opposed to sheet music or writing a tune down."

Seasons emphasizes that Celtic music should not be confined or limited to an audio recording because it is meant to be played live, not only in recognition to its origins but because every single performance can vary.

Mary-Kate elaborates, "Part of the fun of Celtic music is the spontaneity of variations to the

tunes in a live performance and the interactions between musicians performing together, somewhat like a jazz performance."

In addition, these variations are spread across seven instruments you might see during a live Seasons performance, most of which are native to Ireland. The hammered dulcimer, bodhran, pennywhistle, harp, and mandolin—amongst others—speak for themselves when Mary-Kate's vocals pause (vocals which placed her third in the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh, a regional music festival and competition).

None of this could have been made possible without years of practice, beginning in their earliest years.

"We grew up surrounded by music," Mary-Kate shares. "While neither of my parents are professional musicians, they both have a huge love of music and took us

to a lot of concerts growing up. We also listened to a variety of Irish and other genres of music at home. We all started playing piano at a young age, and I picked up learning the harp from my mom, who started taking lessons as an adult."

She adds, "My brother Peter followed next with the hammered dulcimer (my dad is a fan of Rich Mullins who had a lot of hammered dulcimer in his music) and from there Peter and I started playing at retirement homes together. As our siblings started branching out and learning other instruments, they naturally started joining our group. One year my mom suggested we record a Christmas CD... what started out as 'a way grandma can hear you' turned into an album that was played on EWTN radio and started our journey with Seasons!"



Five Siblings – One Talented Celtic Music Group

With over twenty concerts booked during the upcoming weeks, there's no denying that Christmas is a popular season for Celtic music. On why this is, Mary-Kate muses, "I think there are some beautiful Christmas songs in the Celtic tradition, and because Celtic music is festive, joyful, and full of emotion, it is a great genre of music to get on in

the Christmas spirit!" You can catch a live performance of Seasons at the Seton Shrine on December 15 at 3 p.m. They will be performing a variety of their original Christmas songs, as well as traditional favorites. The concert is free and open to the public, though a free-will offering will be taken during the concert. To learn more, visit setonshrine.org.

Way Off Broadway's Stage Door Christmas

Justin Kiska

As in past years, the Christmas season Way Off Broadway is offering theatergoers two opportunities to get out an enjoy shows!

The most popular show of the year

at Way Off Broadway is always the dinner theatre's original holiday production. In past seasons, tickets for the holiday presentation have often sold out before the show even opens making them the hottest ticket at the area's only year-round producing the-

atre. This year, Way Off Broadway will give audiences something of a glimpse, albeit a slightly exaggerated one, of what goes into putting on a holiday show with Stage Door Christmas.

Every year, theatre companies from coast to coast put on their big holiday

productions. Annie is always a favorite Christmas show, as are Meet Me In St. Louis and White Christmas. But in Stage Door Christmas, in a quaint New England town, the Port Whitney Players always put on an original Christmas extravaganza - written,

directed, produced, and designed by the company's over-taxed and exhausted director.

Whether a big professional regional theatre or a small community theatre, sometimes what happens during rehearsal and backstage is much more entertaining than what the audience gets to see. Stage Door Christmas takes the audience behind the scenes as this cast of zany characters rehearse then put on the town's annual Christmas spectacular. It's a peak behind the theatrical curtain that will leave audiences roaring with laughter while at the same time still celebrating all the joys of the season.

The show will through December 21, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on December 1st, 8th, and 15th. 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.

The second seasonal offering is 'Elf Jr. - The Musical', a special Family Theatre Holiday Event. In Elf Jr., Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Elf Jr. will run through December 22, with performances every Saturday afternoon, and an early Sunday evening performance on December 22nd.

Tickets for both shows may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

To learn more about Way Off Broadway visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

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MOUNT ARTS

Christmas & New Year's Offerings

Chloe Corwin
MSMU Class of 2020

It is amazing how quickly the seasons change and December is here to bring us winter, Christmas, and the end of the decade. 2020 will be upon us in a few short weeks, and in times of closing, it is always good to reflect back on what this year has brought us.

The Visual and Performing Arts Department of Mount St. Mary's University has a few events to offer, as well as preparations for the upcoming year.

The art subject area is continuing to host the Earthworks student exhibit in the Williams Art Gallery in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center until December 9. The reception was held on November 21, which means the students are able to showcase their work to the MSMU student body, faculty, staff, and Emmitsburg area for two and a half weeks. The following students have their work presented in the gallery: Carolyn Cicocioppo, Katherine Creamer, Dominique Jeffery, Logan Lencheski, Emily Lewis, Natalie Meador, Marie Miller, Jacqueline Ramos-Izquierdo, and Alba Sarria.

Professor Elizabeth Holtry comments on the gallery, "The poetic works in our exhibition, as part of a semester-long quest in Elizabeth Holtry's Environmental Art class, draw inspiration from the patterns and flow of nature. We gathered and intuitively manipulated unconventional materials such as leaves, seeds, sticks, cicada shells, horsehair, pods, moss, and stones. The artworks beckon viewers to look upon the natural world- in all its enthralling and quizzical detail- with reverence and wonder." The Williams Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, by contacting the department, an appointment can be arranged to see the gallery.

Then, the music subject area will be doing their final showcases of the year. On Wednesday, Dec. 4, the Departmental Recital will be held in the Horning Theater, also located in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center. The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public. There, students and professors alike will show off their brilliant talents of vocal and instrumental performances. Students have been preparing for nearly three months on their pieces for this event, and are very excited to finally be performing their work on the stage. Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld and Dr. Mark Carlson, the professors of the music subject area, are so proud of their students, and giving them opportunity to perform has become a tradition for the end of the semester for some time now.

Then, the MSMU Chorale and Wind Ensemble will be joining together for the Chorale and Wind Ensemble Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, here on the Mount's beautiful campus. What better way to end the year than with the clear voices of the Chorale and incredible instrumentation of the wind ensemble for a Christmas celebration. This event is free admission and the public absolutely welcome. Christmas time

is finally here, and this event will certainly put the Christmas spirit into anyone. What's more, the beautiful location of the Immaculate Conception Chapel is the perfect setting, especially for those who like to keep Christ in Christmas. Nevertheless, anybody of any background is sure to enjoy the music of the MSMU Chorale and Wind Ensemble, and the V&PA hopes to see you there at the final event of the semester.

The theatre subject area is entertaining for the final time this year as well, but it is in preparation for next year's events. Mount Theatre is hosting auditions for next year's Mainstage Production of *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen. Technical Director Benjamin Buhman has been working diligently along with his Assistant Technical Director Quinlan Boyle on designing and building props and set pieces for the show. Due to the massive production value of this show, Director Dr. Kurt Blaugher would like to get a head start and hold the auditions before the Christmas break, atypical to most years when they are held afterwards. The auditions will commence Tuesday Dec. 3 and Thursday Dec. 5 at 7:00 p.m. and students of any and all majors are welcome to participate.

As for the recent Mainstage Production, *The Trojan Women* by Euripides, English version by Amlin Gray, the show was fantastic! This powerful piece, performed Nov. 21-23 was an intriguing look into the past. The production team was met with some hiccups along the way, but skillfully and seamlessly fixed and moved on from these issues with the help of some reliable students. Carlos Perez, a junior

theatre major, became stage manager with a few weeks before show run, and did so very well. In addition, Marcellus Palmerino, performing as Menelaus, stepped into the role last minute, and produced a great character. The cast of nine did a wonderful job bringing the audience into the final days of Troy. The show was so moving, and you could feel the emotions running high throughout the entire performance.

Sarah Johnson had the challenging role of Hecuba, queen of Troy, and was supported by her Chorus of Trojan women Julia Connolly, Hannah Hicks, and Emma Weinheimer. These young women were on stage for nearly the entire play, and gave a stellar performance, keeping energy throughout the show. Patrick McNeilly, performing as Talthibius, a Greek soldier and messenger, and Marcellus Palmerino, Menelaus, the Greek General, were both stoic and brave in their roles as men at war. Clair Moberly as Cassandra and Elenor Fisher as Andromache were both enthralling in their emotionally charging characters. Finally, Janay Fenner, as Helen, argued how she was not to blame for the Trojan War beautifully and skillfully.

All in all the production was great, and if you were unable to attend the last one, be sure to come to *She Kills Monsters* next spring in April! Dr. Blaugher and Professor Buhman led an excellent show, and they certainly deserve praise for the hard work they put into *The Trojan Women*. Due to the newness of the cast and working on two shows simultaneously, the result these professors have output is commendable.



Technical Crew for The Trojan Women at the Saturday performance.

Although it is the end of the year, we are only half way through the 2019/2020 school year, which means there is still much more to come in the next few months. The Mount St. Mary's University's Visual and Performing Arts has had a great year so far, and surely that energy and vigor will carry over into the new year.

The Mount St. Mary's University Department of Visual and Performing

Arts is located in The Delaplaine Fine Arts Center on the Emmitsburg campus and can be contacted by phone at 301-447-5308. Like our Facebook page @msmuvpa for more updates. For more information visit Mount St. Mary's University official website www.msmary.edu.

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CATOCITN HIGHSCHOOL

Fall sports wrap-up/winter sports outlook

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

Under the guidance of Catocitin High School Supervisor of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities Keith Bruck, and CHS Athletics Assistant Director Kim Flabbi, CHS fall sports have wrapped up and winter sports are underway. Mr. Bruck has been with Catocitin for 18 years, where he was employed as a math teacher for 14 years and school support for four. Before becoming the athletic director in 2018, he was the assistant athletic director for 11 years. Mr. Bruck has high regards for this year's teams and says, "I am proud of all of our fall teams. Regardless of the score, they played hard to the last whistle and demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship. I anticipate that our winter sports will do the same."

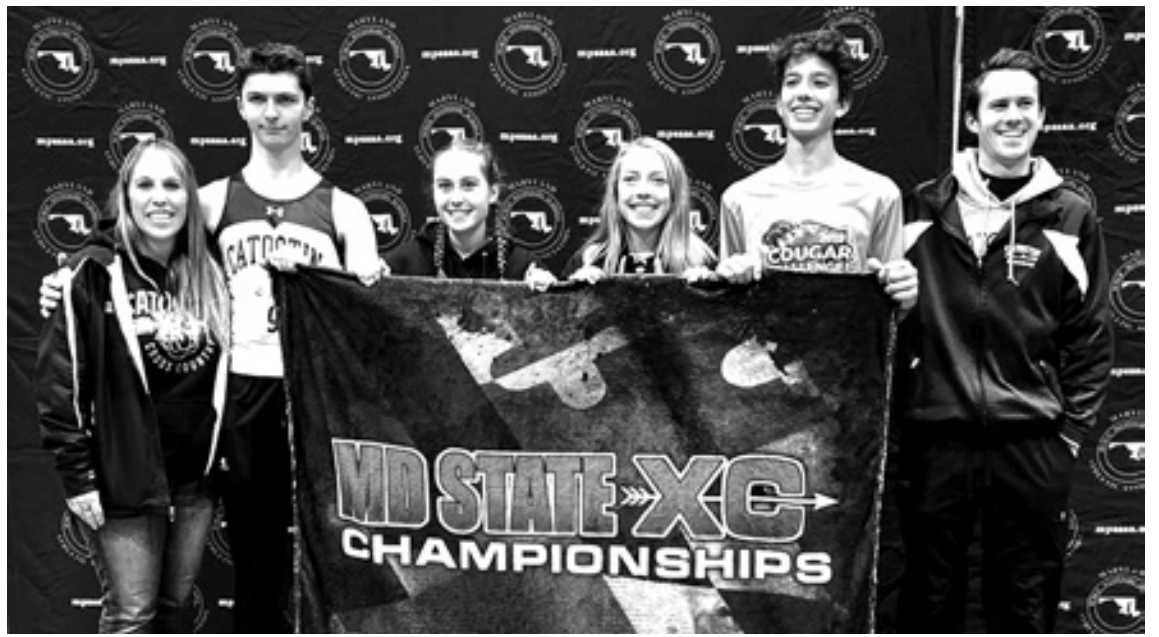
Fall Sports

Both the boys and girls cross country teams were very small this year. Four of the seven athletes on the boys team, coached by CHS alumni runner Kevin Dorsey, were freshmen who showed a lot of promise and continued to make huge improvements throughout the season. The five female runners coached by Lois Strickland made big improvements this year as well, especially junior Tessa Croyle who dropped nearly 3:30 off her three-mile time throughout the season. The runners ended their season by qualifying four athletes at the state meet with all four earning a medal! Freshman Alex Contreras led the boys by placing fifth, followed by first-year runner Marshall Hahn, who placed 16th. Catocitin Senior Emma Strickland led the girls in 12th place, closely followed by sophomore Brenna Williams in 14th place. Senior Owen Bubczyk, after battling four stress fractures over the last four years, was

able to compete in only three meets this season, but still only narrowly missed qualifying for states by placing 24th in the region. Coach Strickland feels that it really helped having Coach Dorsey, who was able to run with the student athletes. She states, "Having a coach who has been where the kids are and understands what they are going through on a daily basis is HUGE!" The team will be looking forward to new faces next year. According to Coach Strickland, the XC student athletes and families are extremely close, so, "If kids are looking for a new sport next year, we'd love to have them!"

Catocitin football dominated the field this fall during regular season with nine wins and only one loss. The athletes, led by Head Coach Doug Williams, finished the regular season ranked first in their state division. Playoffs began November 8th, and the Cougars prevailed over Southern in the regional first round for a final score of 53-6. The Cougars reigned over Boonsboro in game two of the playoffs on November 15th with a final score of 47-6. They defeated Fairmont Heights in the state quarterfinals on November 22nd, earning a spot in the semifinals against Fort Hill on November 29th. The state championship game is scheduled to be held on December 7th at 3:30 at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis.

With a never-ending winning attitude, the CHS girls soccer team, coached by Head Coach Megan Olson and assistant coach Dave Zentz, steadily improved throughout the season. They played two double overtimes in October and ended the season with a 6-5 win against Goretti on October 21st (this was their first win in three seasons!), followed by a 5-0 loss against Williamsport on October 23. This year's team was made up of three



2019 CHS Maryland State XC medal winners and coaches. Pictured are: Coach Lois Strickland, Marshall Hahn, Emma Strickland, Brenna Williams, Alex Contreras, and Coach Kevin Dorsey. Photo courtesy of Terra Williams.

seniors, six juniors, two sophomores, and six freshmen. The large number of underclassmen gives promise to an experienced team and successful season next year.

The unified tennis team competed in three matches this past season. Their competitors were Governor Thomas Johnson High School, Tuscarora and Frederick High School. Under the guidance of Coach Charmane Nesbitt and Captain Jordan Kaas, the team of eleven finished their ninth season by placing sixth in the Frederick County Unified Tennis tournament. Coach Nesbitt said of their season, "Though our season has ended, we have positively impacted each other."

Winter Sports

The Lady Cougars basketball team is preparing to beat their 10-14 record from last year under the guidance of Varsity Coach Amy Entwistle, coaching the girls for her 16th year, and JV Coach Ken Baker, and Assistant Coaches Chris Barnhart and Jason Smith. The team prides itself on working hard, playing relentless defense, and pushing the ball on offense (trying to score quickly in transition).

Coach Charmane Nesbitt's unified bocce team consists of nine play-

ers this winter - three freshmen, one sophomore, three juniors, and two seniors. Last year's team had a great season, winning the 2019 Unified Sports County Championships. Looking to the upcoming season, Coach Nesbitt says, "With the close of Tennis, bocce begins. There is no better way to begin this new year than to attend one of two home matches. Mark your calendar for January 8th and January 21st. Come join us at 3:30 for bocce fun. Prepare to be inspired the Unified way!"

Indoor track is looking forward to a great season with the addition of several new coaches this year. Kevin Dorsey, Rob Palmer, Dave Zentz, Jamie Sickeri, Derrick Kaas and Robert Davis will be joining Coach Lois Strickland for the winter season. The team currently consists of 17 boys and 15 girls. Last year, the boys qualified several individuals and relays in the sprint events as well as shot put. They're looking to add qualifiers in the middle and distance events this year. The girls, on the other hand, qualified in the middle distance events and relays but not their sprint events, which they're hoping to change this year. Both teams are looking to bring several state medals home in February 2020. Some-

thing new they're doing this year is the coaches will be taking several of the athletes to Liberty University to compete on a banked track. This will give them exposure to a lot of great competition while getting experience with a different type of racing. Coach Strickland says, "There is a lot of talent walking the halls at Catocitin High School." She encourages more students to join the team.

Last year's CHS swim team was young, with a lot of athletes who were swimming competitively for the first time. According to Coach William Warram, most of the swimmers had personal and season bests by the end of the season. They also had an athlete qualify for states in the Girls 400 Free Relay. The coaches are very excited about the upcoming season and expect the team to be bigger this year. They also expect to have one or more divers this year. Coach Warram has led the boys swim team for three years and is the assistant coach for the CHS baseball team. The girls swim team welcomes Aimee Watkins as their coach this year.

Collin Schildt will be coaching Catocitin's wrestlers for a third season. Before competing as a D2 wrestler at Kutztown University, Coach Schildt wrestled as a student at CHS and qualified for states four times, placing third in 2012 and was a state runner up in 2013. Coach Schildt describes the team as a younger team this year with two returning seniors who are highly ranked in the state; Jake Baker and Travis Fields. The team is looking to expand their numbers by welcoming incoming CYA wrestlers who are now freshmen and welcoming new wrestlers to the program. Last year, they sent five wrestlers to the 2A/1A West Regional tournament. Out of those five, four of them made it to states to compete for a podium (top six) spot. According to coach Schildt, they're hoping to increase the number of athletes they take to their postseason tournaments this year by instilling discipline, hard work and commitment to each and every practice and match that they have.

Competition dates can be found on the Catocitin High School Athletics website. Come out to a game and support the Cougars! Good luck to all of the athletes!

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MOUNT SPORTS

Fall sports wrap-up

Collin Riviello
MSMU Class of 2020

With December here, many teams have finally reached the conclusion of their season, but even more teams' seasons have just started getting underway. However, a notable addition to the Mount's core offering of sports, albeit not a NCAA division I sport, is the announcement of a Mount e-sports teams coming in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Announced in a campus-wide email on October 18, 2019, President Trainor announced the addition of an e-sports teams that will be considered a varsity program: "Esports, which is increasingly popular but is not an NCAA sport, will be done the Mount way. This means that the program will be consistent with Mount values, including linkages to curriculum, a team chaplain, the right game selection, limits and structure, collaboration with other Catholic teams and a physical component so that the mind, body and spirit are all incorporated." An advisor has not yet been named, but games under consideration to be competed in by the Mount include Super Smash Bros for the Nintendo Switch, Overwatch, League of Legends, FIFA and NBA2K.

Men's and women's cross-country ended their season at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships last month at Lehigh University. The top four finishers from each race automatically earn a spot at the National Championships and the top two teams from each race advance automatically as well. Junior William Merritt placed 42nd (31:24.6) overall out of 175 runners in the 10k while fellow junior Isaac Kole crossed the line in 31:31.6 which earned him 46th place. The men finished in 16th place as a team out of 24 teams. Villanova and Georgetown placed first and second respectively.

The women placed 25th as a team out of 31 teams. The Mount's top finisher was graduate Erin Jaskot who finished in 21:25.6 on the six-kilometer course, which earned her a 52nd overall finish out of 208 runners. Senior Mad-die Kole placed 92nd with a time of 22:04.6. Penn State and Villanova went one-two in the team standings.

The men's soccer team finished their season at 7-10 overall (3-6-0 NEC) which was a vast improvement from last season's 2-10-4 overall record (1-5-2 NEC). Senior Boris Nana Tonzi was named to the First Team All-Northeast Conference list. In addition, senior Miguel Lucero was named to the All-NEC Second Team. Tonzi scored three goals this season and recorded one assist. He ends off his career at the Mount with seven goals total and one assist. Lucero led the NEC in the assist's category with seven this season, finishing off his collegiate career with 10 total assists. The Mount finished the season in 8th place in the NEC.

Women's soccer finished off their season at 3-13-1 (2-7-1 NEC). Junior Maria Buonomo was named to the Second Team All-Northeast Conference list, an honor she previously earned last season. As a defender this season, Buonomo had

a 1.96 goals against average and two shut-outs to her name.

Women's rugby topped off their season at the NIRA Tier II semifinals with a 32-19 loss to West Chester. The team finishes the Fall 15s season at a 5-4 overall record (4-4 NIRA). The winner of this match would have advanced to the Championship match. The Mount got off to an early 12-0 lead with tries from freshman Shandree McNatt and graduate Julie Crochet, but West Chester scored 17 unanswered points in the second half to take the lead. Freshman Jalana Jade Garcia soon scored a try, and a good free kick put the Mount back on top 19-17. However, three tries scored by one person on the West Chester side put the Golden Rams up for good. The team will start their spring 7s season next spring.

The men's and women's gold teams also rounded off the fall portion of their season. The men finished in 15th place out of 15 teams at the ODU/OBX Intercollegiate Golf Tournament in North Carolina on October 22 with a total of 931 points. The three-day total for the Mount was 312-315-304. Junior Nacho Gomez and sophomore Matthew Kinsey both shot 74 in the final round. Freshman Joe Lostumbo shot a 75 and sophomores Jack Snyder and Pablo Alonso shot 82 and 81 respectively.

The women ended their fall season at the Chippewa Invitational in Birmingham, M.I on October 21 and 22. Sophomore Michaela Chung led the Mount in shooting with a total score of 166 (84-82) to place 38th overall. Junior Olivia Gardenhour shot a 95 on the final day of play to post a total score of 185. Freshman Taylor Woodward shot a 107 on the final day of play.



Men's soccer finished this season with five more wins than last season!

Men's and women's swim and dive are deep into their season. In November, the Mount competed in two dual meets. The men lost to Monmouth 161-93 while the women suffered the same fate, 158-104. Then, during the match-up against St. Francis Brooklyn, the men dropped the meet 153-136, while the women also lost 188-107. The Mount's next meet will take place at Howard on January 18. They will then host VMI on January 24 and 25 for Senior Night. In February, the Mount will compete at Loyola on the first. The women will then head to the NEC Championships from February 19-22, while the men will head to the Coastal Collegiate Sports Association Championships from February 19-22 as well. Both teams will then head to the National Invitational at Cleveland State in March from the 12-14.

Men's and women's indoor track & field will kick off their season in December with a meet at Bucknell: the Bucknell Opener on December 6 and 7. Also on December 7 is the

River Hawks Opener held at Susquehanna University. On January 18, the team will compete in the Keydet Invitational at VMI. From January 24-25, the team will head to George Mason for the Patriot Games. A select few athletes will then have the opportunity to compete at the Penn State National Open on January 31 and February 1. Also, on February 1 is the Navy Invitational at the US Naval Academy and the Susquehanna University Challenge. From February 6-9, the Mount will compete at the Akron Invitational. The team will then return back to Susque-

hanna University for another meet on February 15. The NEC Indoor Championships will take place from February 21-22. The women's team is the defending indoor NEC champion after winning the conference title last season with 134 points. The men placed 6th at the same meet. Before ending off the indoor season, some team member will compete at the IC4A/ECAC Championships hosted at the Boston university Track & Field center from March 6-8.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Sow seeds of beauty

Renee Lehman

In many previous articles it has been discussed how Natural Laws are followed in Traditional Chinese Medicine. These Natural Laws, or the Way of Nature, originates from Taoism (pronounced Dowism). Taoism does not refer to a formalized religious practice but rather to a deep spiritual practice of understanding and following the way of Tao, the way of Nature, sometimes simply called, "the Way."

Taoism descends directly from the ancient Masters Zhuang Tze and Lao Tzu. Zhuang Tze, lived during the 4th century B.C., and wrote the influential Taoist text that bears his name, Zhuang Tze. Lao Tzu authored the classic text, Tao Te Ching around 500 B.C.

The following Taoist Parable about three different individuals interacting with nature seems appropriate as a metaphor for awareness of how take the beauty of nature with you throughout your life.

How to Take Beauty Along With Me

One person had seen the beautiful flowers that blossomed in the valley. He was filled with enthusiasm! He wanted to take and carry away at least a piece of this beauty, to possess it!

He tore off the flowers as much as he could carry. He brought them home and placed them in vases... But very soon, deprived of their roots, they died...

"What a pity that the beauty is not eternal..."

—grieved that person.

An artist had found himself to be in the same valley with beautiful flowers. He was admiring the marvelous beauty that had appeared before him. And he had remembered the delightful view!

He had imprinted in his soul

both the beautiful play of colors in corollas of bloomed flowers, and the whole valley, and the bluish pierced by morning sunlight haze of light mist in the distant mountains...

He took away with him this beauty — as a great treasure! He hurried home, trying to remember everything and sketch what he saw!

And really — he was able to convey in his painting that beauty!

Subsequently, many people came to enjoy the picture. They were happy, admired!

—Flowers faded, times a year replaced not once, but the memory of the beauty was living in the picture and pleased, ennobled people — even centuries later!

A traveler passed through the same valley. He was also fascinated by the amazing beauty created by God! He had gathered the ripened seeds of the flowers and took them with him.

And everywhere in suitable places, where ran his way, he sowed the seeds.

And the beauty of the Earth was multiplying. Every year ascended sown seeds were waking up, and wonderful flowers blossomed.

A traveler was walking on the land, driven by God, and sowed the seeds of Beauty, Wisdom and Goodness in the hearts of people.

And it was not only the beauty of flowers that he had known on his way!

He walked on the land and sowed the seeds of ever reviving and developing the great Beauty of the spiritual life that he had known and therefore had a right to multiply wisely!

During this holiday season, sow seeds of beauty! Possessions are not forever. The seeds that you sow in your life will have a lasting impact.

Plant seeds of Beauty and Love!

"With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"Keep on sowing your seed, for you never know which will grow - perhaps it all will."

—Albert Einstein

"Plant seeds of happiness, hope, success, and love; it will all come back to you in abundance. This is the law of nature."

—Steve Maraboli

"The natural laws of the universe are inviolable... what you say and do determines what happens in your life... You are the master of your life and death. What you do is what you are."

—Lao Tzu

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.



Grace Kuhn, 12/2012 to 8/2019. "Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened." — Anatole France



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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Enjoy the holidays!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

In the past I usually wrote an article in December about what to prepare for Christmas Dinner and how to make it healthier. This year, of course, I will make a few suggestions about how to cut a few calories or prepare for those holiday parties but I think we should all give ourselves a little break and just enjoy the holiday season. Taking the pressure off yourself can be positive and just may bring some good results.

Sometimes, especially if you have been trying so hard to stay on a diet and watch every bite you take, having a break can give your metabolism a restart. I'm not giving you the green light to eat whatever and as much as you want at the parties or even at home with the Christmas cookies. I'm suggesting you take one or two days a week and have that dessert you like or maybe eat something you have given up because of your diet plan.

We all know that over the holidays there are foods and parties and temptations around every cor-

ner. The harder you try to resist them, the more you end up eating. Maybe one day a week you can give yourself permission to eat what you want. You may be surprised to find out that you don't eat as much as you thought you would. Some people have discovered that by doing this, at least after the first few times, that they are not as tempted and don't end up overeating.

My point is, enjoy the season and the variety of foods available during this time of year that we normally don't have the rest of the year. Again, I want you to be mindful about what and how much you are eating. You don't want to completely do away with the progress you have made prior to the holidays. People, in general, can gain five to ten pounds over this time of year. Think about that before you indulge too much.

Also think about watching your food intake now and not waiting until January and the New Year's Resolution of loosing weight. If you start just a little now you won't have that extra weight to loose then. Someone just told me that is her plan for this year and I know

it will be helpful to her when she steps on the scale for that first time she weighs in January.

It may sound like I'm saying give yourself a break but still watch what your eating and I am. You can do both and still achieve your weight and health goals. Sometimes the pressure we put on ourselves to follow a strict diet or reach a certain number of pounds lost by a certain date sabotages our efforts. Developing a healthy eating plan is the best way to get to your bodies healthy weight and keep it stable. I realize you may need to follow a diet to initially loose the weight but the final goal should be to eat healthy and find the eating plan that you can live with and enjoy yourself without always worrying about what your eating.

The holidays are here and sharing good will and love are a great way to celebrate with friends and family. It is possible to enjoy the seasons events and still keep on track for a healthy life.

Saturday, January 4 is the date of my annual Open House. Each year I hold an Open House to share with anyone thinking about starting an exercise and nutrition program to improve their health. I hope you



will join us. Look for more information in January's issue of the Journal. Hope to see you there. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and keep

moving, you'll be glad you did.

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

Giving Spree donors give big

Ralph Serpe

This month, Giving Spree donors packed a jumbo helping of generosity into three short hours. On November 7, no fewer than 4,000 people streamed through the doors of Gettysburg Area Middle School and donated \$1.24 million to the Adams County nonprofits participating in this year's event.

This total far outstripped the record-setting 2018 Giving Spree, when donors gave \$733,000.

How did the Giving Spree get so big so fast? For starters, this year's efforts focused on boosting Giving Spree's visibility, educating prospective donors about the event, and providing some incentives to nonprofits who reached out to their own supporters.

The first thousand guests who attended received a Giving Spree "coin" to deposit in one organization's piggy bank, resulting in an additional \$10 gift to that nonprofit courtesy of an anonymous Community Foundation donor.

There was the Giving Spree "stretch pool" which distributes the entire stretch amount raised to all the participating charities. This year,

donors contributed \$100,000 to the stretch pool, and every dollar of that will be distributed in proportion to the amount raised by each charity.

Donors appreciate that Giving Spree gifts stay local. All participating nonprofits have an office or significant presence in Adams County, and all commit to using the money donated through the Giving Spree to serve the people of Adams County.

Giving Spree donors demonstrated care about the Adams County of today and the future. A dozen Giving Spree nonprofits were also raising money for their designated endowments, held securely for them at the Adams County Community Foundation. Over the course of the evening, donors added more than \$100,000 to those endowments, helping to ensure long-term sustainability.

We realize that events of this magnitude require a huge cast of volunteers and sponsors. We extend heartfelt thanks to the 58 volunteers of all ages, who helped set up the event and worked throughout the evening to welcome donors as they arrived. Thanks to our presenting sponsors for making the Adams

County Community Foundation Giving Spree possible, including ACNB Bank, Adams Electric Cooperative, Biggerstaff's Catering, Brown Advisory, FirstEnergy Foundation, Giant Food Stores, Rice Family Foundation and Rice Fruit Company, with additional support from Fred & Susi Guinn, CS Davidson, New Oxford Social Club, Stonebridge Financial Group, APM Building Materials, Consolidated Scrap Resources, Destination Gettysburg, Hockley & O'Donnell, and Tevis Energy.

Thanks to our Stretch Pool Part-

ners, including the LeCompte Family, in honor of their ancestor Lydia Ziegler, J. William Warehime Foundation, Thomas E. & Florence B. Metz Fund, the Community Foundation Board of Directors, Knouse Foods Fund, Gettysburg College Alumni & Friends of Adams County and Gettysburg Community Theatre Patrons.

Thanks to our media partners for helping spread the word: Community Media, Gettysburg Times, Trone Outdoor and Ziegler's Mobile Entertainment.

Special thanks to our event chair, Stacey Green, members of the Giving Spree committee and the lead-

ership of staff Beverly Grazulewicz and Lisa Donohoe for coordinating an extraordinary Spree.

To the board, past and present, of the Adams County Community Foundation, and to the more than 1,400 donors who gave big, thank you for making this year's Giving Spree a memorable and unqualified success.

Ralph Serpe is President and CEO of the Adams County Community Foundation. If you're interested in sharing your own Spree memorable moment or supporting next year's Giving Spree, contact him at 717-337-0060 or rserpe@adamscountycf.org.

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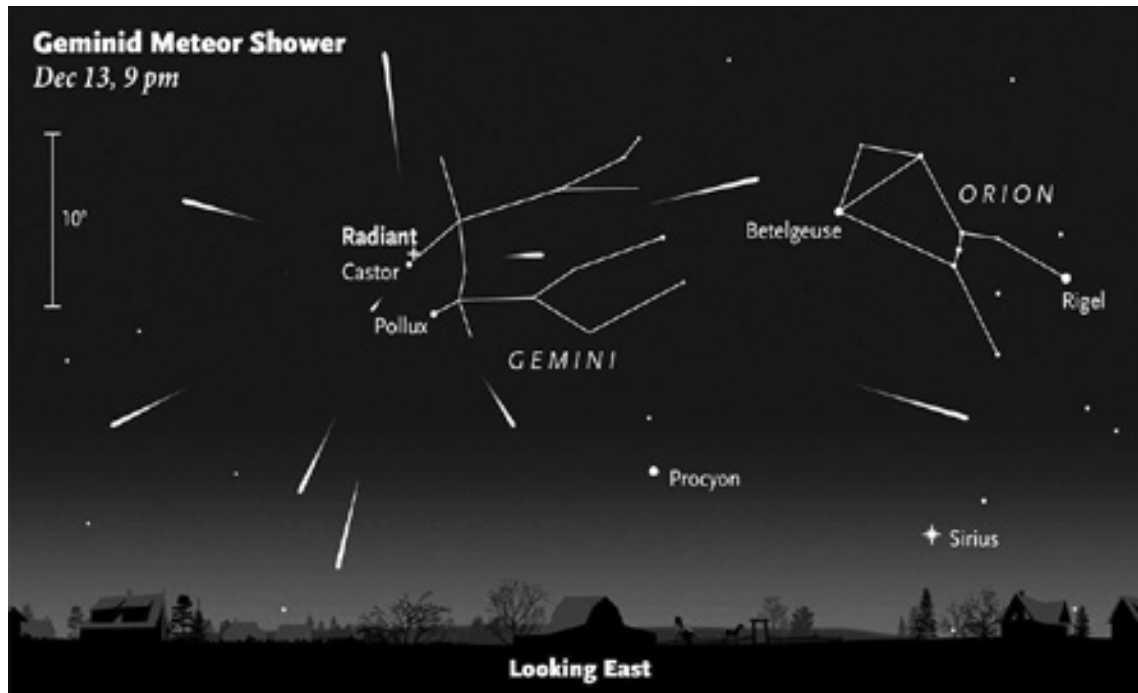
The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

As December begins, we see a spectacular conjunction between the crescent moon, bright Venus just below it, and slightly fainter Jupiter below both on Thanksgiving evening right after sunset. By Friday, November 29th, the waxing crescent moon moves to just below Saturn. The first quarter moon is December 3rd. As Jupiter disappears into bright twilight by mid-December, Venus is still moving away from the Sun and passes within 2 degrees south of Saturn on December 11th. The Full Moon, the Yule Moon, is also that Wednesday evening. The waning gibbous moon will interfere with the peak of the Geminid meteor shower on the morning of December 14th.

The last quarter moon is on December 18th. The Winter Solstice is at 10:19 PM on December 21st, marking the shortest day of the year. A late Christmas present to observers bordering the Indian and Pacific Ocean is an annular solar eclipse at new moon on December 26th. As the year ends, the waxing crescent moon again passes just below Venus on December 28th; Saturn is now low on the horizon, and also lost in the sun's glare by early January, when Venus will be the only planet in the evening sky in early 2020.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spot-



December brings the annual Geminid Meteor Shower. It will peak the night of December 13th and is worth getting out to see starting at about 10 p.m. all the way through dawn.

ting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about November 30th visit the www.skymaps.com

website and download the map for December 2019; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Also notable is wonderful video exploring the sky, available from Hubble Space Telescope website at www.hubblesite.org. Sky & Telescope has highlights of the best events for each week at www.skyandtelescope.com

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. South of it are the watery constellations of Pisces (the fish), Capricorn (Sea Goat), Aquar-

ius (the Water Bearer), and Cetus (the Whale). Below Aquarius is Fomalhaut, the only first magnitude star of the southern fall sky. It is the mouth of Pisces Australis, the Southern Fish.

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, Per-

seus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Their appearance in November in classical times was associated with the stormy season, when frail sailing ships stayed in port. Aldebaran is not a member of

the Hyades, but about twice as close as the Hyades; distances in astronomy can be deceiving.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active star birth all over the place.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 p.m. and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.

Farmers' Almanac

"Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."

—Washington Irving (1802-1882)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Fair and cool (1, 2, 3, 4) turning colder, lake-effect snow (5, 6, 7); fair and cold again (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13) with some light snow (14, 15) turning fair and cold again (16, 17, 18, 19) with more light snow (20, 21). Fair and cold yet again (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27), with still more light snow (28, 29); fair, very cold (30, 31).

Full Moon: December's Full Moon occurs on Thursday, December 12th. Known as Cold Moon to many Native American tribes, it has also been called Beaver Moon because of their increased efforts to finish building their dams and lodges before winter sets in and Ice-Forming Moon because of the formation of ice on lakes and ponds at this time of year.

Special Notice: Thanks to all for their continued support over the

many years and The Almanack is committed to continue publishing your favorite almanac and to continue to inform, inspire, and entertain for many more years to come. And don't forget that The Almanack makes a great gift for anyone, friend or family and is a gift that keeps giving throughout the New Year. Simply point your browser to www.almanack.com/ order and order a holiday copy today to ensure delivery before Christmas. The Winter Solstice will occur on Saturday, December 21st.

Holidays: Hanukkah begins at sunset on Monday, December 23rd, Christmas is celebrated on Wednesday, December 25th, and Kwanzaa begins on Thursday, December 26th. Celebrate this joyous time with family and friends and promise to keep the spirit alive throughout the entire coming year! New Year's Eve falls on Tuesday, December 31st.

The Garden: Utilize this time to do any major last-minute cleanup projects around the garden area. Haul away any debris that is to large or woody for the compost,

build paths, turn the compost pile to keep it warm, and generally make the garden space tidy before it is under heavy use again in the spring. If you need holiday greenery, grab your shears and head for the back yard. If you are lucky, you will have a variety of boxwoods, yew, fir, or a variety of pine trees to choose from. If you are really lucky, you may even have a holly tree!

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (19, 20, 21); weeding and stirring the soil (15, 16); planting above-ground crops (3, 4, 5); harvesting all crops (1, 2, 6, 7); the best days for setting hens and incubators (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 5, 16, 17, 18, 19); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (1, 2, 3, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); transplanting (1, 2, 3, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); harvesting and storing grains (18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

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COMPUTER Q&A

5 good reasons to upgrade your old software!

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

We rarely come across people who are excited about change when it comes to computer software. So, it's no easy task telling customers that they have no choice but to upgrade their software. Sometimes the reason is purely because of security, such as the case with Windows 7 as end-of-life support approaches in January. While we may not enjoy it, there are several good reasons that you should get your software up to date. Here are just a few of those reasons followed by a few tips to make the process smoother.

Support for your software won't last forever. While you may not ever have a need to call your software provider for support, that's not the only thing that will eventually end. Eventually development for the software will end. Your software provider will cease to release updates which can lead to all kinds of problems found within this list as well as system instability and crashing.

Security may be one of the more obvious concerns and it should be taken seriously. Next year Windows 7 will be ten years old and after January 14th, extended support for the popular operating system will end. Without new security updates, users who choose to continue to use the OS are taking a huge risk because any new viruses or malware that are released will become a threat. Windows 7 is just one of many examples of the potential security risks of running outdated software.

The functionality of older software is likely to be reduced as changes to your operating system and other software are made. If your expectations are for things to forever work good as new you will find yourself disappointed. As a rule of thumb, if the company that makes your software no longer exists or is approaching its ten-year anniversary, it's time to think about new options.

Integration between software often requires support, if you have two independent programs that work together you may find yourself having difficulty completing tasks that once worked with ease. Hardware requirements need to be considered also, new hardware won't always work with old software, and vice versa.

Features that you use may eventually no longer work as expected. More importantly, the new software will likely have many new features that make tasks you already do much easier. One of the reasons so many software companies updates their software so often is to add requested features and to fix issues to increase efficiency.

If you are using and need to continue to use any of the following programs, consider updating

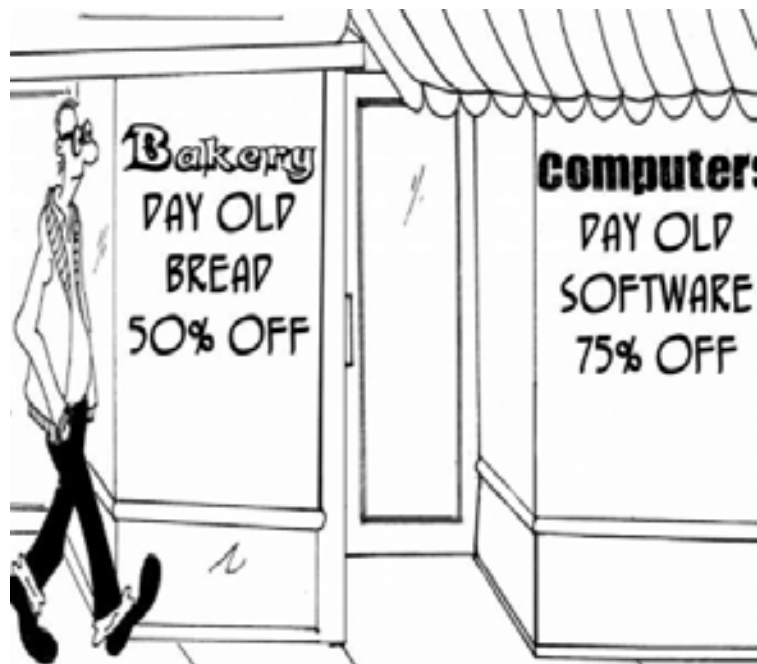
to a newer version if possible; Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Microsoft Office 2010 or earlier (this includes Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.), Microsoft Works, Windows Live Mail, Quickbooks 2017 as well as many custom made programs that required older software to run or that were developed prior to Windows 8.

There are several things you can do to make updating or upgrading your software easier for you. First, you may think that putting off the inevitable for as long as possible will make things easier for you but it won't. Waiting longer than you have to, to bring your software up to speed can actually make things much more difficult. Sometimes upgrading your old software to a new copy of that software to another is not possible because too many changes in the software have taken place between versions. In those situations, you may not be able to open or use the data from your old programs.

Take your time to research what software you think you

need and determine what software options are right for you. What worked for you before may no longer be the best fit for your needs. If you're not sure what route to go consider asking a professional. Always backup any important data (in two places or it doesn't count!) and save any important information when purchasing new software such as installation disks and serial numbers so that if you ever need to, you can re-install your software without having to re-purchase it.

If you find yourself needing help with your computer's software or hardware, consider contacting Jester's Computer Services located in Fairfield at 717-642-6611. Our family will make sure that you receive the best advice and we will always focus on your needs while delivering friendly service! We offer one-on-one technology classes as well as in-home services. Visit our website at www.jesterscomputers.com for important technology news, tips, and special offers.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3

Emmitsburg Community Chorus to Perform Free Concert at St. Joseph's Church. The concert features classic holiday favorites, including: Christ Is the Day, The Christmas Song, Here Comes Christmas, The Jesus Gift, Sing We All Noel, Take Me Back to Toyland, We Call It Christmas, What Child Is This, While by My Sheep, Winter Wonderland Medley. Additional solo selections also will be performed at each concert.

December 5, 6 & 7

All Saints' Episcopal Church' 14th Annual Holiday Gifts & Greens Sale. There will be fresh-cut Frederick County greens, live holiday plants, decorated table-top trees, wreaths, swags, centerpieces & gifts for all occasions. There will be a raffle with multiple winners. new this

year, Crafters & Artisans with hand-crafted items for sale. All Saints' Episcopal Church is located at 106 West Church St., Frederick. For more information call 301-663-5625.

December 6

A Gettysburg Christmas Festival - an unforgettable holiday experience. Kick off the holiday season with food, entertainment, art and fun for the entire family. Join the downtown Gettysburg shops, attractions and restaurants for a Christmas celebration you won't want to miss. Special features include: Reindeer Games on Lincoln Square; Winter Wonderland on Steinwehr Avenue, & Santa's Central Depot on Baltimore Street.

Gettysburg Christmas Parade. Be part of it all as we delight in the annual parade and sing Christmas carols together to bring in the holiday sea-

son. Enjoy a variety of bands, floats, costumed characters, distinguished guests, dancers, youth groups and, of course, Santa Claus! For more information call 717-253-9413.

St Paul's Brass Holiday Concert. The concert will include some beautiful arrangements of traditional Christmas music and a brief sing-a-long, all of which can be enjoyed by audiences of all ages. For more information visit www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org.

Gettysburg College Winter Choral Concert. Choral music is one of the hallmarks of the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College. The Sunderman Conservatory of Music is a vibrant musical community preparing passionate and intellectually curious musicians for diverse careers, lifelong learning, and engaged citizenry. For more information visit www.gettysburg.edu.

December 6 & 7

St. Joseph's Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, Emmitsburg annual Craft Fair at the Parish Hall. Crafts, baked goods, soups and sandwiches will be available.

December 6, 7 & 8

Trinity United Church of Christ's 41st Annual Holiday Bazaar, featuring a silent auction, handcrafted gifts, home-cooked food and baked goods, including mince meat pies and soups. For more information call 717-334-7266 or visit www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org.

December 7

Catoctin Furnace Historical Society's Traditional Village Christmas. Decorate a fresh wreath with bows, bells, pinecones, holly, icicles and ornaments! Make the custom wreath yourself or let our volunteers do it for you. Enjoy delicious hot, homemade soup, hot apple cider, and heirloom-recipe baked goods. Children can make a punched painted tin holiday ornament and have their photograph taken with Belsnickel. Visitors will also enjoy wonderful living history programs throughout the day. 12607 Catoctin Furnace Rd., Thurmont.

The Maryland International Harvester Collectors' Club Chapter's Harvester Holidays at Rose Hill Manor Park, 1611 N. Market St. Frederick. The festival features crafts, storytelling, and music show, and pictures with Santa in the carriage museum. Frederick County Farm Museum is cooking up some wonderful food. Hot Chocolate, Cookies, and Apples are on the list. Vendors will be in the Farm and Family building to help you with your Christmas shopping. All monies made by the festival will go to a local charity. There will also be toy and train display to view.

Family Jingle Rock - Featured Concert. Enjoy an hour concert by a cappella group, Capital Blend, at the Gettysburg Middle School auditorium. Under the motto 'United in

Harmony, Driven by Song,' Capital Blend has spent a decade celebrating music and women, achieving national renown. For more information call 717-337-3491 or visit www.agettyburgchristmasfestival.com.

December 8 & 9

Christmas with the Frederick Chorale - A festive performance of choral works celebrating Christmas and the joy of the holiday season, presenting timeless classics and new favorites in the beautiful and historic St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 118 E. 2nd St., Frederick. For more information visit www.frederickchorale.org

December 10

Strawberry Hill's Nature Book Club in the Strawberry Hill Nature Classroom at 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. See the full list of 2019-2020 book selections at StrawberryHill.org.

December 11

The Majestic Theater's A Celtic Family Christmas. Ushering in the Yuletide spirit with a lineup of holiday favorites intermingled with classic Celtic songs and dance, A Celtic Family Christmas is a joyous celebration that welcomes audiences in. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

December 13

Gettysburg's Annual Holiday Tuba Carol Fest. Tuba players from around the country will join together to play Christmas carols on historic Lincoln Square in Gettysburg. It's truly a magical performance as crowds gather to join in the merriment and come together to sing holiday tunes. Hot chocolate will be served to warm the soul. For more information 717-334-7719.

The Gettysburg Choral Society's Deck The Hall's - Featuring some favorite seasonal selections. The chorus will be joined by some special musical guests including Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Bells of Faith, insuring that the evening will be one to remember. Hosted by Trinity United Church of Christ, there will be a dessert reception following the concert in Fellowship

Christmas Bazaar & Holiday Extravaganza Indoor Yard Sale
One Day Event - Sat., Dec. 7th - 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Homemade Soups & Sandwiches
EAT IN or CARRY OUT
 Christmas Gifts & Goodies
 Cookies by the Pound - Cobblers
 Candy - Holiday Breads - Pies - Cakes
 For Info Call: **301-898-5167**
St. John's Lutheran Church
8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown, MD
(Take 15 N. or S., get off at Thurmont exit and follow Rt. 550 to Creagerstown.) Visit Us At: www.emmitsburg.net/igc
 (Take 194 N. or S., turn onto Rt. 550 at Woodboro to Creagerstown.)

NEW YEAR'S EVE BINGO
Tuesday, December 31, 2019
NEW MIDWAY VOL. FIRE CO.
Doors Open at 5:00 PM
Buffet at 6:00 PM - Play Starts at 8:00 PM
 Meal Includes: Turkey, Shrimp, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Dressing, Coleslaw, Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Tea And Dessert!
30 Games (\$100 Minimum) Jackpot (\$1,000)
Tickets: \$45 (In Advance) \$50 (At The Door)
12019 Woodboro Pike, New Midway, MD 21775
 (On Route 194)
 For more info or advance tickets call: Mary or Joe Lenhart
301-898-9161 or 301-898-7985
Proceeds Benefit The New Midway Vol. Fire Company & The Frederick County Farm Museum.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP
 Monday, December 16th 6 - 9 p.m.
 Don't forget the "Elf Yourself" Contest!
 Rocky Ridge VFC #13 Activities Building
 Ornament Making, Light Refreshments, visit from SANTA & More!
CONTESTS!! Elf Yourself! Come dressed as an Elf, Snowman, Santa, Reindeer or your favorite Christmas character. **BE CREATIVE!!**
 Christmas/Holiday Poster Contest promoting Fire/Injury Prevention! Poster should not exceed 24" x 24". Help Santa inform our community about holiday safety! Contest Winners receive special gifts from Santa!
 For More Information: Contact Penny Stonesifer
 (240) 674-9834 or email @ penny.stonesifer@gmail.com
 Children can hand deliver letters to Santa on this night!!

Joy
Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us!
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 313 W. Main St., Emmitsburg, MD
 Worship during Advent season with the lighting of the Advent candles beginning on Sunday, December 1, at 9:00 AM
Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight and Communion, December 24 at 7:00 PM
 Contact Rev. Richard Baker at rwb1.pastor@yahoo.com or 443-375-9556

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hall. This event is free admission and free parking! Trinity United Church of Christ, 60 East High Street, Gettysburg.

December 14

Fort Ritchie Community Center's annual Holiday Craft Bazaar. More than 60 vendors will be onsite featuring a wide variety of crafts and other festive items. Santa Claus will be present and willing to pose for pictures from 10am-noon. The concession stand will be open and will feature soups, baked goods, and hot dogs. The Holiday Craft Bazaar is free to attend. The Community Center is located on the former Fort Ritchie property. The address for the Community Center is 14421 Lake Royer Drive in Cascade, MD. Funds raised from the events support the many programs offered by the Community Center such as the youth summer camp, Kid's Club, Speaker Series, and other special events. More information on the

Holiday Craft Bazaar and the Community Center can be found online at www.thefrcc.org, or by calling 301-241-5085.

Celebrate the Solstice at Strawberry Hill for a fun and informative winter solstice program! Throughout the afternoon, educators will use storytelling and hands-on activities to teach the history and science behind the solstice, and what winter means for nature. Participants will craft luminaries, create tasty treats for birds, and meet our barred owl, Strix! The celebration includes a campfire complete with s'mores and hot cocoa. Strawberry Hill is located at 1537 Mount Hope Road in Fairfield. Learn more about our upcoming programs and events or register online by visiting StrawberryHill.org.

Seton Shrine's Museums by Candlelight - Step back into the 1800s and

enjoy living history tours of the candlelit historic homes and Basilica, decorated for the Christmas season. For more information call 301-447-6606.

December 14 & 15

Frederick Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert. Celebrate the holidays with music the whole family will enjoy. Hood College, Coffman Chapel. 521 Coffman Chapel Drive, Frederick. For more information visit www.fredericksymphony.org.

December 15

Music Gettysburg's A Christmas Offering - annual holiday sampler, featuring Wayne L. Wold, the Gettysburg Children's Choir, Wayne Hill, Teresa Bowers, and much, much more! For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, please call 717-339-1334 or visit www.musicgettysburg.org.

December 16

Eisenhower National Historic Site's 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge - Join park rangers from Eisenhower National Historic Site in person in the Gettysburg National Cemetery as they commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Join park rangers to remember some of the American soldiers who gave the last full measure of devotion while repulsing the last great German war offensive. The hour-long program begins at 2 pm on December 16 just inside

the Taneytown Road entrance to the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

December 31

St. Andrews Society of Mid Maryland's Hogmanay: Our profits this year will benefit Hero Dogs and the Frederick Scottish Country Dancers. For more information visit www.sasmm.com/hogmanay-2019.

Gettysburg's New Year's Eve Celebration. All programs are free and presented by the Arts Council through our partnership with Gettysburg Borough.



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THURSDAY NIGHTS
Great Food! Huge Jackpot!
Doors Open @ 5:30 PM
Bingo Starts @ 6:45 PM

TWILIGHT BINGO
1st Friday Of Every Month!
Food! 3 Jackpots! Larger Payouts!
Doors open @ 5:30 PM
Bingo starts @ 8 PM

Fairfield Fire & EMS
Follow Rt. 116 To Fairfield
Turn Onto J. Harry Kane Blvd.

Catch the Grace **Elias Evangelical** LUTHERAN CHURCH






Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th - 7 p.m.

Christmas Yard Sale, Bake Sale & Soup N' Sandwich Sale
December 5th, 6th & 7th - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

100 W. North Avenue, Emmitsburg - 301-447-6239
eliasluth@gmail.com • www.eliaslutheranchurch.com



Happy Holidays!


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NEWS!**



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We are also a collection point for non-perishable foods for our local food pantry throughout the holiday season!

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