

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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Blaine Young set to run for county executive

The *Emmitsburg News-Journal* has learned through reliable sources that County Commissioner Blaine Young will be running for the position of county executive in the November election.

When he formally announces, Young will join current Commissioner David Gray, who announced on December 10, and former Commissioner Jan Gardner, who announced on November 9, as a candidate for the top leadership position set under the new charter government that will take over the current board of commissioners this year.

Young will face Gray in the Republican primary in June. This is the second time the two have gone head-to-head. In the 2010 county election, which was swept by all five Republican candidates, Gray finished fourth to Young, who not only won the most Republican votes, but also garnered 50 percent more votes than the top Democratic candidate, Kai Hagen.

The voters in Frederick County approved the proposed change of governance from a board of commissioners to a charter form of government in the November 2012 election. Those elected to the new seats in the upcoming

November election will assume their positions in December. Among the changes implemented was the establishment of a county executive position, which will be a four-year term. The elected individual cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms.

In March of 2010, Young was appointed Commissioner in order to fill the remainder of the term of Charles Jenkins. He then successfully ran for a full-term seat on the board and was subsequently made President of the Board of Commissioners.

At the state level, Republican Wendi Peters has announced that she will run as a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 4 (Frederick County).

District 4A, presently represented by Republican Delegates Kelly Schulz and Kathryn Afzali, and District 4B, presently represented by Republican Delegate Donald Elliot, will cease to exist in 2015 as a result of the state redistricting that was enacted in 2012.

District 4 will have three delegates, and those seats are to be filled in the November election. (More on the effects of redistricting in the next issue of the *News-Journal*.)

Peters has served two terms as a



County Commissioner Blaine Young and 4-H member Stacie Baust share a smile at the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company award banquet. (For more fire company banquet photos see pages 38 and 39.)

councilwoman for Mount Airy, and has "been active as a community leader and volunteer for more than two decades," serving on a number of committees and associations.

Regarding her bid for the delegate position, Peters said, "Democrats and Republicans [in Annapolis] are often talking past each other, instead of talking with one another in working to solve problems. I intend to build relationships and solve problems, without compromising my principles. In addition, we see legislators aren't always paying attention to the unintended consequences [of proposed legislation.] I have eight years of ex-

perience working on legislation at the municipal level, where I worked to be sure that we thought through and prevented the possible unintended consequences of what was being legislated."

When asked about Peters' qualifications, state Senator David Brinkley, whose senatorial district includes northern Frederick County, only had praises for her: "I've worked with Wendi for many years on issues affecting Mount Airy. She would be a responsive, thoughtful, conscientious delegate for the district. She has my support."

To learn more about Wendi Peters, see her article on page 6.

Joint recreational district considered

The New Year could find several Southwest Adams County municipalities banning together in a move to consolidate their resources to enact a joint recreational plan and create a joint recreational district.

The purpose of the proposal would be to employ whatever recreational resources presently exist within the participating communities and school district into a coherently-shared network of properties and assets for the enjoyment and use of residents and visitors from all walks of life.

According to a study conducted to assess the feasibility and needs of such a proposal, the effort began in 2011 when representatives of Hamiltonban and Liberty townships, Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs, and the Fairfield Area School District "identified a needs for a joint effort in regional planning for recreation."

Representatives of Hamiltonban Township were credited with spear-heading the effort. Each participant involved provides two representatives to a study committee to foster the proposal, and each provide \$200 for the development of the study.

The committee has met monthly since May 2012, and the state Department of Conservation and

Natural Resources (DCNR) provided \$10,000 for project development as well as providing "peer consultant" Andrea Crouse to meet with the committee.

The proposal, if implemented, would result in the participating municipalities and school district:

Providing recreation program choices to all ages of the community;

- Providing more indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Establishing better utilization of recreation facilities within area;
- Following recommendations of Southwest Adams Comprehensive Plan;
- Hiring an individual to direct and schedule recreational facilities for all age groups; and
- Improving quality of life for all Fairfield area residents.

Participating entities would each provide funding based on a percentage of their populations.

According to the study, Carroll Valley Borough, with a current population of 3,876, would contribute the lion's share of funding at 48 percent. Hamiltonban Township, with a population of 2,372, would contribute 30 percent. Liberty Township would contribute 16 percent, and Fairfield Borough would contribute six percent.



Carroll Valley will contribute the lion's share of funding for the new recreational district.

The participating municipalities would not immediately feel the brunt of the costs that would likely be necessary at some point during the operations of the commission.

Another likely DCNR grant, aside for the one already provided for the study, would provide most of the funding for the first four years after implementation, but this assistance will "vanish" beginning in the fifth year.

The average operational costs for the first five years of the program would average between \$40,000 to \$50,000, with half projected to be provided for through user fees (for event or course offerings participation for example).

To date, none of the participating municipalities have approved an ordinance that would officially enact the joint recreational district.

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NEWS

Letter to the editor

On Friday Dec. 27 my family and I were returning to our Virginia home after spending a wonderful Christmas with my daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughters on Nantucket Island. The journey, albeit long, was going well until traffic came to a dead stop east of Harrisburg on highway 81. There were red brake lights glowing as far as we could see. After about 20 minutes of stop, drive 5 feet, stop, repeat; we were resigned to many

more hours in the car.

Suddenly in the adjacent lane a trucker in a large blue truck put down his window and motioned for me to do the same. I did and he asked us where we were headed and we told him, "Northern Virginia." He smiled and said, "I'm on my way home to Emmitsburg. The traffic is backed up for fifteen miles on this highway. Follow me." With a little trepidation (too many episodes of Criminal Minds) we did

just that. We followed him through Harrisburg on highways and byways that we had no idea even existed. About thirty minutes later we found ourselves on highway 15 heading south....just where we wanted to be.

I am writing to your newspaper with the hope that this man reads this letter and knows how much we appreciate his random act of kindness. I wish him and his family the happiest of holiday seasons and all the very best in 2014.

—Christine, Frank, and family

Planner reviews grant money

Emmitsburg Town Planner Susan Cipperly reviewed various grants either received or anticipated relating to ongoing town projects at the January 22 meeting of the board of commissioners.

Cipperly stated that the Town has received a \$38,000 grant from the Maryland Energy Association (MEA) which will go towards the installation of *light-emitting diode (LED)* lighting and for use at the solar installation at the town wastewater treatment facility.

LED installations will entail replacing street lights and some of the exterior lighting at town-owned properties with LED lighting as a cost-saving measure for the town.

The MEA grant does not re-

quire any matching fund from the town.

Cipperly also stated that town staff also applied December 19 for a weatherization grant to be used for proposed improvements at the wastewater treatment facility, water treatment plant, and at the 22 East Main Street town property.

The town also received approval of a \$50,000 state and private sector matching grant from Community Legacy 2013. The money is distributed among town business and private property applicants for improvements to the façade of their structures.

Cipperly noted that the state Historical Trust reviews applications received by the town, which is still in process.

Thus far, four Main Street property owners have applied, which will consume most of the as-yet-approved allocated money (12 W. Main VFW, 1-3 E. Main Street, 315 E. Main Street, and 122 E. Main Street).

Regarding the State Heritage Area Authority and the proposed improvements at the Town Square, the planner stated that efforts are ongoing regarding determining costs and what funding needs to be sought.

"Staff have met with Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration (SHA) staff at state and district levels to meld the conceptual plan with SHA standards," Cipperly said.

Emmitsburg area news briefs...

Dollar General eyes Emmitsburg

Dollar General is preparing to present plans to open a store on Main Street in Emmitsburg, according to the Mayor Donald Briggs.

Mayor Briggs stated that it is antic-

ipated that representatives of Dollar General will be presenting subdivision and site plans regarding the proposed store at the March meeting of the town Planning Commission.

The site being proposed for a new

Dollar General is at 501-503 East Main Street, and would entail rearranging lot lines to achieve the objective. If plans go through, the company would build a new structure and demolishing a couple of existing structures.

The East Main Street location presently houses residence and several buildings including East End Garage.

Sewer plant exceeds permit 12 times

The Emmitsburg wastewater treatment facility exceeded its state-approved permit limits for processing sewerage a dozen times in December.

According to Town Manager David Haller, the plant exceeded the permitted amount of wastewater processed on December 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, and 30.

On December 6, the facility, which has a *permitted treatment capacity* of

800,000 gallons per day (GPD), processed 2,483,000 GPD), or more than three times the allowed amount of wastewater.

Haller informed the town Board of Commissioners at their January 22 meeting that, in spite of the excessive amounts of wastewater received and processed, there were no associated sewage spills.

Since being hired as town manager, Haller has been endeavoring to repair and replace sections of the wastewater collection system and the treatment plant, as money becomes available, which had been allowed to degrade for decades.

"Wildwater," which is predominantly stormwater or snow melt water, finds its way into the yet-to-be remediated sections of the system, causing the elevated numbers in the volume being treated.

Hallet said in December the amount of "wildwater" treated amounted to some 64 percent of the

total water processed.

Mayor seeks Flat Run flooding resolution

Emmitsburg Mayor Donald Briggs is hopeful that something can be done to help prevent continuous flooding problems sometimes caused by Flat Run.

Briggs said there have been notable flooding incidences along the creek over the past ten years, and that he and town staff will be meeting with state officials to determine a course of action, and to see if any funding assistance can be had.

Briggs said a number of problems occur in association with flooding events, including the blockage of access to North Gate, around DePaul Street, and at Emmitt Gardens.

A meeting was planned with the state Department of Natural Resources in January sometime after the deadline for this issue of the *News-Journal*.

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Letters to the Editor, notice of upcoming events, news stories, and interesting and creative articles are welcome and may be submitted via regular U.S. Mail to P.O. Box 543, Emmitsburg, MD 21727, by email to editor@emmitsburg.com, or at our office on the square - 1 East Main Street.

Two main conceptual plans have been proposed for the Town Square, but a staff member previously said

the end product may be a hybrid of the two, rather than one plan as proposed over the other.

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Quarry operator seeks conditional use hearing

Representatives of a quarry operation located in Hamiltonban Township have requested a conditional use hearing in order to proceed with the quarrying of rock on recently acquired land in the municipality.

Specialty Granules Inc. (SGI), formerly ISP Minerals, President Ken Walton and SGI attorney Sean Delaney attended the January 6 reorganizational meeting of the Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors to formally submit their application for a con-

ditional use hearing.

The tract of land involved was previously part of the Glatfelter Tree Farm No. 1, previously owned by Glatfelter Pulpwood Company, which had been acquired through preservation efforts at a cost of \$12.5 million, and then made part of the Michaux State Forest in 2010, administered by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Subsequently, SGI (then still ISP) acquired the DCNR land

through what some who had been involved in raising the funds to acquire the land for the state viewed as a controversial exchange with the DCNR.

Although the exchange met with resistance from the organizations, municipal, private and non-profit, involved, the trade was ultimately approved by the state in 2011.

SGI, which quarries metabasalt deposits in Hamiltonban for use as granules in the manufacture of shingles, want to quarry a signifi-

cant deposit metabasalt which lies in the 110-acre tract in question. Metabasalt was initially lava some 500 million years ago that flowed from a prehistoric volcano.

However, to actually begin quarrying the metabasalt on the land, SGI had to initially apply for a zoning change, from Woodland Conservation to Industrial, which would allow for a quarry (as a conditional use).

The township Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve a zoning change proposed by a local

quarry operation amid a "packed house" of dozens of opponents and proponents at a special meeting held April 13.

The second piece of the regulatory puzzle needed to proceed, as far as the township board of supervisors is involved, then remained the actual conditional use permit.

The board of supervisors officially accepted receipt of the conditional use application at their January 6 meeting, but did not set a date for a public hearing on the request.

CV adopts changes to unlawful vegetation regulations

The Carroll Valley Borough Council voted at their January 14 meeting to adopt changes to the existing unlawful vegetation regulations regarding trees and plants in the borough.

The purpose of the changes is to clarify the process of cutting undergrowth where it is occurring on vacant lots or into public right-of-ways.

Borough Manager David Hazlett told the News-Journal the revisions were made because, "We felt the existing version was ambiguous in its regulation, and the

ordinance was amended to clarify its intent."

"The existing code referenced the health of occupants of a neighboring property, and of potential fire hazards. This was being interpreted to cause vacant property owners to maintain their property in a way contrary to which would permit a natural forest ecosystem to exist," he stated.

The existing unlawful vegetation rules prohibit any vegetative growth, including trees, hedges, bushes and shrubbery, within five feet of the edge of a roadway.

The proposed rule in this regard

allows for vegetative growth within five feet of a roadway, and thus within the right-of-way, if that growth does not exceed 12 inches in height. Vegetative growth within the right-of-way may not, however, interfere with vehicular or pedestrian use of that right-of-way, or interfere with drainage.

Other changes, which Hazlett characterized as "house-cleaning" type revisions, were also enacted.

In other business, the council approved having the Borough Planning Commission reconsider a recently rejected "chicken ordinance," which would have

allowed borough residents to maintain as many as half a dozen chickens, with certain restrictions and guidelines, at the request of resident Anthony Wivell.

Wivell told the council at their January 14 meeting that having the ability to maintain up to half a dozen chickens would teach children the responsibility of maintaining animals, and sustainability, and also that the sale of by-products, such as eggs, could generate revenue for the borough.

The proposed ordinance that would have allowed chickens to be kept failed to pass in 2012 after a

draft was generated by the planning commission.

The council also decided to ask the Borough Safety Committee to consider developing an evaluation system to determine whether or not given areas in the municipality would be suitable for street lights whenever requested by a resident.

The issue came to light at the meeting after the council approved a street light to be installed at the intersection of Little and Walnut trails at the request of a resident, after which, it was brought to the attention of council that other requests for street lighting had been denied in the past.

Fairfield well ordinance referred to council

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission voted to recommend to council their approval of a draft ordinance that would regulate geothermal installations and other aspects of well use and construction.

While the borough has not had a well ordinance, the county Office of Planning and Development recommended that all municipalities should adopt one, based on a draft ordinance the county produced in March at the direction of the state.

Although most new construction in Fairfield Borough would usually connect to public water (thus not needing a well), there

is nothing "on the books" which would prevent a property owner from establishing an open-loop geothermal system, thus discharging to wells or other bodies of water.

Therefore, one of the proposed regulations concerning geothermal in Fairfield's draft ordinance prohibits the installation of open-loop geothermal systems and authorizes closed-loop geothermal systems.

Geothermal systems use heat pumps to tap into subsurface heat naturally generated underground for heating, and provide a means of discharging heat into the ground for cooling.

The planning commission is also recommending that the council adopt a \$100 installation permit fee, which would cover administrative costs and the costs of two site inspections.

In other news, Adams County Office of Planning & Development Planner Robert Thaeler noted that work on a proposed official borough map had not progressed over the past month due to the holidays.

Neighboring Hamiltonban Township formally adopted their official township map at their February 5 meeting earlier this year as part of an ordinance to provide for recreation

and open space.

The Hamiltonban Township map explicitly identifies existing public lands, conserved lands, and recreation resources, and "proposed rights-of-way for recreation trails, greenways, and other lands identified for public use," as a planning tool.

Thaeler stated, regarding work on a Fairfield map, that progress should begin to pick-up to produce a draft for the commission's consideration at a future meeting since the holidays are over.

The commission also reviewed a stormwater management site plan for the proposed construction of a single-family home with-

in the borough that could be sited above a limestone formation, which raised concerns over geologic hazards associated with such formations.

The board voted to refer approval of the project to council, conditioned on meeting all of the engineering comments and granting a waiver from conducting further subsurface tests at the site.

However, if limestone is encountered during any of the excavations, certain standards of the stormwater management ordinance will be waived, but new water quality elements will need to be included on the lot.

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NEWS

Handicap access work approved for bidding

The Thurmont Board of Commissioners voted at their January 6 meeting to seek bids for improvements regarding handicapped access at the new town office at 615 East Main Street.

In a 3-0 vote (Commissioner Martin Burns was absent) the board elected to have the proposal finalized by staff and advertised for bids to complete the work.

The board initially voted to address those improvements that did not include adjusting the doorway from the

handicapped-enhanced porch and the bathrooms, but decided to incorporate those aspects into the final bid documents, although the specifics were not yet available for the January 6 meeting.

Board President John Kinnaird provided a general overview of the work proposed to bring the handicap access attributes of the new town office (to be located in an existing structure) up to standards.

The proposed ramp, he said, "is going to be a block wall filled with con-

crete, and underneath of it will be compacted fill. Some areas will have over six inches of concrete."

"Basically what we have out there right now is going to be removed," he said. "This (the new construction) will be an up-to-code version of the existing ramp on the side of the building."

Kinnaird said the present ramp is "going to be demolished, and part of the porch is going to have to be adjusted to accommodate the ramp as it comes up and goes on the porch."

"That's a wooden porch so that will have to come out and then it's going to be replaced with a concrete ramp that will run onto the porch. Then we'll have to raise the porch at the front door to accommodate wheelchairs going directly into the door," he stated.

"They've (engineering) got it drawn retaining front steps, which I think is probably a good idea, and a second set of steps on the side of the building, which is probably a good idea also, so you'll have a choice of walking up the

ramp or walking up the stairs at the side or coming to the front of the building and going up the stairway (when complete), he said.

The overall porch will not be replaced, only the area affected by the proposed changes, Kinnaird stated. "The rest of the wooden porch is solid and seems to be in good condition. We can let it go."

He also noted that, "They don't have the door details done yet or the bathroom details done yet," but expected those to be available in time to incorporate those changes in the advertised bid package.

Thurmont area news briefs...

Colorfest 2013 sustains \$7,500 loss

In spite of generating around \$44,000 in revenue, Colorfest 2013 went into the hole some \$7,500, according to the Thurmont Board of Commissioners.

Mayor John Kinnaird stated at the January 14 board of commissioners meeting, "Because there was a very poor turn-out and bad weather, we had a loss of \$7,509 (a further plunge from 2012's loss of \$2,400)."

He said, "Permits were down, income from parking was down, everything was down. We (had) even cut back on some of the expenditures."

Commissioner Martin Burns said, "When you see we made \$14,000 in 2008, \$8,000 the next year, \$4,000, \$1,000, but you see the trend going downward on the amount of revenue." Burns suggested the town look at increasing permit fees, although the fees have already been set for 2014.

Commissioner Bill Buehrer suggested the board look at cutting expenses before deciding to increase permit fees.

The board directed the town staff to produce possible fee increase numbers based on various increments, but took no formal action on the issue.

Thurmont approves recycling center

The Thurmont Board of Commissioners voted at their January 14 meeting to re-establish a county-sanctioned recycling center, to be sited on town property behind the current town office.

The county closed the former Eyley Park recycling facility at least two years ago, and discontinued maintaining local recycling centers. The Thurmont Board of Commissioners previously indicated the closure resulted from illicit dumping of a number of type of non-recyclable debris at the recycling center.

The County recently sought to re-establish county-sanctioned, local recycling centers once again, making sure in the process that the local municipi-

ties monitor and deal with illegal dumping.

Wesley Hamrick elected to Thurmont Board of Commissioners

In the town's January 7 election to fill the seat vacated by John Kinnaird.

Kinnaird vacated the seat after being elected as mayor in the October election. Hamrick will be serving out the two-year remainder of Kinnaird's unfinished four-year term.

Hamrick, 51, who moved to Thurmont in 1969, is a Catoclin High School graduate, an active member at Weller United Methodist Church and Thurmont Lions Club, and a lifetime member of the Guardian Hose Company. He is employed as a manager for AT&T for several decades and

works part-time for Stauffer's funeral homes.

Hamrick previously told the *News-Journal*, "This my first run for a public office. As far as what I would bring to the board, it would be a fresh face and a fresh perspective, and fresh ideas. I'm a conservative at heart, socially and fiscally."

"I have high people and communicator skills," he said. "It's done very well for me in the business world, working with people at all levels."

Becky Long, Thurmont town administrative assistant, said a preliminary vote count indicated that Hamrick had received 341 votes, defeating Blakeslee with 187 votes, and Cabbage with 60 votes.

Long said that 587 votes had been cast, of which 14 were absentee ballots.



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One hundred years ago this month

February 6

Emmitsburg Bowlers Defeated
The Emmitsburg bowlers met defeat in Thurmont Saturday night at the hands of the Thurmont club, the latter having a surplus of 202 pins. Betzel, the high man for Emmitsburg rolled 265 while Creager of Thurmont had 320 to his credit

Local Groundhog Predicts Long Winter

Adm. Jerry Overholser in charge of the wireless station at Popular Ridge, reports that although he had them in the cellar and each were provided with a pair of blue spectacles, his three pet groundhogs to which he has been feeding Charlotte Rosse and asparagus tip salad, saw their shadow on the second. "Uncle Jerry" therefore predicts five weeks two days 13 hours of rough weather.

Former Town Constable Killed

William Daywalt, formerly Constable of Emmitsburg, now policeman in Waynesboro, was shot and killed late Tuesday night by Abram Barnes, who he was trying to arrest. Abram Barnes and his younger brother, William, known as "Bad Men", came into Waynesboro from their home in the mountains near the Maryland line, filled themselves with liquor and proceeded to terrorize the town. Daywalt order them to leave. The altercation quickly escalated and the brothers opened fire and killed Daywalt. A Sheriff's posse was quickly formed and Barnes was hunted down and killed then next morning. Constable Daywalt was a fearless officer and had an excellent record. He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Stella Glass, of Emmitsburg and five small children.

Mailing Children

Sending children by mail is a new service offered by the US Postal Office. Tuesday a woman in Kansas received her two-year-old nephew by parcel post from his

grandmother in Stratford, Oklahoma, where he had been left for a visit three weeks earlier. The boy wore a tag about his neck showing it cost \$.18 to send him through the mails. He was transported 25 miles by rural route carriers before reaching the railroad and arriving in good condition.

February 13

Public spelling bee

Was held at the Emmitsburg high school auditorium on Monday evening, under the auspices of the Patron's Club. A large audience attended. Next Thursday evening, the Toms Creek schoolhouse will hold a spelling be, the public is cordially invited.

Electrical Piano

The electrical panel recently installed at the Matthews Brother store was started on Saturday evening. Everyone agreed it carried a tune better than those who regularly sat behind a keyboard - which the woman prohibitionist attributed to the lack of influence of alcohol on the machine.

New Firm at Motter's Station

Messers Saylor and Ruggles, successor to a I. M. Fisher, at Motters Station, wishes to announce to the public that they will continue the business and dealing hay, straw, see and general merchandise and manufacture ice cream.

February 20

Emmitsburg shut in by snow

Few of the oldest inhabitants of Emmitsburg can recall a snow that so completely close the roads as the one which began falling on Friday morning and continued all day and all night. Saturday the snow began to drift so badly that the last train Saturday evening was delayed for over an hour. All efforts to clear the snow on Sunday was to little avail at the high winds blew the snow back in place faster

than it could be shoveled.

Not since 1899 has a local post office failed to receive and dispatch until this week. After working all day Tuesday until nearly 5 o'clock the force of men working on the Railroad succeeded in digging the snow out sufficiently for the trains to resume operation. The first train brought in 32 sacks of mail from Emmitsburg Junction.

All the roads in the country were drifted shut except the roads running east and west. Wednesday morning conditions were very much improved and drifts in roadways were rapidly thawing. All roads leading to Motters', Four Points, Track School House, Annandale School Souse and especially those running north and south were drifted so badly that traffic was completely cut off.

Harry Smith, of near Taneytown, became snowbound on the road leading from the Old plank Road to Harney, between the residence of John Harner and George Harner. When the former found him his horse was down and over the tongue of his wagon. Both man and horse were nearly exhausted. Mr. Harner took both back to his residence and after a short rest, and with the help of Mr. Harner and his trusty old horse Ben, the pair made Plank Road and reached home. As Mr. Smith later noted, he was lucky that he had his trusty horse at his side, rather than a autocar, otherwise we would be writing is obituary today. "I aint yet seen a autocar that can step over a three foot snow drift."

In Sabillasville every road was blockaded with drifts from 4 to 8 feet deep and communications practically cut off. Twelve people from Thurmont spent the night when the trolley from Frederick got stuck in a drift near Lewistown.

Many pleas were made to the County Commissioners to open the snow blocked roads throughout the county, but estimating that it would cost probably



Automobiles were of no use during the February winter storm of 1914. If you wanted to get around, you needed a trusty horse!

\$10,000 they thought it unwise to go to that expense and instead decided to let nature take its course and wait for the snow to melt.

Death of George Eyster

Mr. George Eyster, a lifelong resident of Emmitsburg, died suddenly on Wednesday morning at his home. Mr. Eyster apprenticed under his father as a jeweler, and assumed the business upon his father's death. Mr. Eyster twice enlisted in the Union Army, his first enlistment was the later part of 1864, he afterwards enlisted in Cole's Calvary in 1865.

Mr. Eyster was one of the few men who could boast of having heard Abraham Lincoln deliver that immortal address at Gettysburg at the dedication of the National Cemetery. He was the first captain of the Vigilant Hose Company and was elected and reelected for nearly 20 years to that position. From this office originated the name by which many people knew him - Captain Eyster. He is survived by his wife Fannie M. Frailey.

February 27

Suffergets Meet with Auto Accident

Last night's Women's Sufferget meeting hosted at the Annan house

had to be called off when the Autocar driven but the guest speaker broke a rim in a pot hole near the covered bridge over Tom's Creek. A call for help went unanswered by the men of the town, who instead chose to occupy themselves in drinking and playing pool in the Hotel Slagel's saloon. The mood of the men was captured quite eloquently by one men who was overheard saying: "If women think they are smart enough to vote, then they should be smart enough to change a tire." As we go to press, the autocar is still stuck - apparently no woman knows how to change a tire.

Below zero weather prevails

The last snowstorm was one of the worst experience in the state in several years. It started in Monday and cut up until a late hour at midnight. In the country temperatures drop to zero and the depth of snow varied from 8 to 21 inches. For the second time in two weeks the Emmitsburg Railroad did not run. The coldest day of winter proved to be Wednesday when the temperature registered troll degrees low zero at seven o'clock. At Bridgeport, between Taneytown Emmitsburg, 20° below zero was recorded.

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

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

State Delegate Candidate Wendi Peters

The *Emmitsburg News-Journal* has invited me to introduce myself and I appreciate this opportunity. I have always been proud to call Frederick County my home and I am excited about the prospect of serving you in the House of Delegates. Serving our community is a privilege and, with your help, I will make a difference in the Maryland General Assembly. Growing up my parents both worked for our family business, Wagners/Mount Airy Locker Company, a butcher shop and meat processing plant on Main Street in Mount Airy. I take pride in their years of dedication, hard work and sacrifice in building a successful family business, but I am equally proud that, despite their commitment to the business, they remained active in the lives of their children and still made serving others a priority. It is their example and their lessons about sacrifice, hard work, faith and commitment to community

that shaped my views and encouraged me to get involved.

Following my parents' example, I made time with family a priority while remaining active as a community leader and volunteer and pursuing a career that gave me a first-hand look at the strengths and weaknesses of our legal system. My husband, Gary, and I have been married for 27 years. Our son, Zach, is in his junior year at my alma mater, Loyola University Maryland. During the last 20 years I served as a PTA board member, Sunday school teacher, "team mom" for Zach's travel baseball team and a youth mentor for students in Carroll County and also in Baltimore City.

My involvement in local government began in 1990 when I served as the chair of Mount Airy's Recycling and Sanitation Commission for six years. I also served on the Town's Board of Appeals and on the Planning Commission where I participat-

ed in drafting the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, an important tool in managing and controlling growth. With an appreciation for the economic potential of a thriving downtown, I was eager to join other volunteers on the original Downtown Revitalization Committee. Together, we successfully worked to achieve the "Main Street Maryland Community" designation for Mount Airy in 2004, providing both the foundation and the catalyst for revitalization in and around downtown Mount Airy.

It was an honor to be elected and follow both my father and grandfather in serving on the Mount Airy Town Council. I spent my time on the Council asking tough questions, bringing vital issues to the forefront and solving difficult problems, all while remaining focused on fiscal responsibility. My eight years on the Council provided valuable experience in reviewing, analyzing and making difficult choices

with a government budget. I also dealt with the realities of state government mandates and state funding shortfalls, all with an eye toward keeping taxes low for our citizens.

I am proud of our accomplishments during my tenure on the Council. We initiated a comprehensive inventory of development projects and available lots to enable implementation of growth management measures; we oversaw the installation of new water meters for a more efficient water system; we saved tax dollars by establishing a single stream recycling program to reduce solid waste going to the landfill and initiated a plan to retain, expand and recruit business investment in our community.

These are the values and experiences that I will take to Annapolis. I will build relationships with fellow legislators and be an effective advocate for the citizens of District 4. My experience, coupled with my passion for



serving the community, will bring fresh insight to Annapolis that demonstrates respect and compassion for taxpayers, business owners and working families.

Maryland should be a place where families can afford to live, grow and retire, and businesses are encouraged to thrive. With your help we can restore opportunity and economic vitality in Maryland.

I thank the Editor for this opportunity and look forward to writing over the next few months on issues that I will address in Annapolis. In the interim, for additional information please go to www.wendipeters.com.

County Executive Candidate Jan Gardner

I became involved in county government almost 20 years ago out of an interest in solving school overcrowding. The schools my children attended were surrounded by portable classrooms, more new housing was being approved to add more students, and there were no plans in place to build the needed schools. Almost half of all the schools in Frederick County were overcrowded.

As a parent and later as a county commissioner, changes were made to strengthen the county Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) to time the generation of new students from new residential development with the county's ability to pay for and provide needed schools. If schools were overcrowded or projected to be over 100% of capacity, a new residential development could not proceed

until the county capital budget included a new school that would relieve the overcrowding within two years or the developer provided the funds to build the needed school seats.

The County Commissioners and the Board of Education adopted a goal to have schools system-wide at 90% of school capacity. Three Boards of County Commissioners from 1998 to 2010 (Gray, Thompson, and Gardner Boards) accelerated school construction building more than 2 dozen new schools or school additions. By 2010, school overcrowding had been significantly reduced and system-wide school capacity was below the 90% goal. This was a huge achievement.

This progress has come to an abrupt halt. The Young Board of Commissioners has adopted an aggressive plan to overcrowd our schools while at the

same time reducing new school construction to the lowest level seen in decades. The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) has been changed making the law virtually meaningless. New residential construction can proceed even if schools are severely overcrowded under a new "pay and go" scheme. Developers can pay a nominal "School Mitigation Fee" (this is the "pay" part) and then build even if schools are severely overcrowded (this is the "go" part). Pay and Go schemes have been tried elsewhere and have been discontinued due to disastrous results – overcrowded schools and a huge cost shift to taxpayers.

To illustrate how little money will be collected from this nominal School Mitigation Fee, consider the County's FY 2014 Capital Improvement Program. Only \$2.9 million in revenue

from the School Mitigation Fee is anticipated over the next six years. \$2.9 million will buy virtually nothing in terms of new schools. The Young Board is looking for you, Frederick County taxpayers, to pick up the tab for needed new schools. It seems the \$2.9 million will only pay for more portables.

It gets worse. The Young Board is signing Developer Rights and Responsibility Agreements locking this scheme in place for the next 20 to 30 years. For example, the recently adopted Linganore DRRA shows that all the schools in the New Market/Linganore area at all levels (elementary, middle and high school) will be overcrowded from this new development. But, the development is allowed to continue anyway as long as the nominal School Mitigation Fee is paid. It is a plan to overcrowd the schools with no solution in place. This plan is being repeated in Monrovia and elsewhere in the County.

And, it gets worse. The Young Board signed an agreement for the Jefferson Tech Park that relieves the developer of a previous contractual obligation to build a school addition to Crestwood Middle School at an estimated cost of \$8 million. Yes, you read that right. The developers no longer have to build a school they previously agreed to build. In addi-

tion, the contract gives the developer 100% of the projected property taxes from this development for the next 20 years to cover their development costs. This means that there will be no property tax revenue from this project to pay for needed teachers, fire, police, or road maintenance for the next 20 years. Hold on to your wallets, the Young Board is asking taxpayers to pick up the cost for needed new schools and the cost to provide all the services that the people who will live in this development will need and expect.

Making matters worse, the pace of new school construction has slowed to a crawl. During the Thompson and Gardner Boards over 4,000 new school seats were built plus two older schools were renovated. The Young Board has added only 420 new seats and renovated one older school.

Education is a fundamental responsibility of local government. The Young Board has put a plan into action to overcrowd our schools, compromise educational opportunity, and risk our economic prosperity while shifting a huge tax burden to all Frederick County taxpayers.

Enough is enough! The entire community must demand change and a return to strong fiscal management. Working together, we can restore and plan for exceptional schools, adequate school facilities, and ensure our long-term economic prosperity. Let's make it happen!

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Kirby Delauter

In reading a recent editorial from a candidate for County Executive Jan Gardner, I have some observations of her letter I would like to dispute or maybe translate into layman's terms. Jan states with her as County Executive we could "work together, have exceptional schools, a safe community, fiscal responsibility, and a wonderful quality of life". Let me start with "working together". I wrote a few weeks ago about the Rosemont Water Project. Please go see the Burgess of Rosemont Tom Watson and ask him or maybe former Rosemont Council member Woodie Woodrum how Jan Gardner "worked with Rosemont" when trying for years to just have a discussion with her or her board. Rosemont was told to go away because their water issue was not a county problem. This arrogance by Jan Gardner placed the residents of Rosemont at risk for clean drinking water and adequate fire protection. Is that the "working together" you want in your Coun-

ty Executive?

Let's go to "exceptional schools". Frederick County Public Schools has its own school board that makes all of the financial and operational decisions. How as County Executive would Jan make them exceptional? That's kind of a slap in the face to the school board and all employees of FCPS for her to make the statement that they are somehow today, not exceptional?

Safe communities, does Jan think we have a crime problem? Aren't Sheriff Jenkins along with Chief Ledwell, Chief Eyler and Chief Frech doing their jobs? I happen to think these are some very good law enforcement leaders we have in this County, apparently Jan doesn't think so when she makes the statement we need safer communities.

Fiscal responsibility, here's a good one. During her tenure as BoCC President the county bond rating went from triple A stable to Triple A negative which end-

ed up costing a lot more in bond appropriation interest. This along with the fact her board raided the bond enhancement fund to the tune of \$4 Million in order to use this money to hide her ability to deal with real budget cuts. During Jan's tenure as President she couldn't see that hundreds of employees weren't needed which by keeping them employed did several things, one, it kept good county employees from obtaining pay raises, and two, it exacerbated the already defunct OPEB trust fund deficit. Poor management plain and simple by Jan Gardner.

And finally, let's talk about Jan's "wonderful quality of life". I can't wait to read her synopsis of how she is going to accomplish and quantify this goal. Get the popcorn, I'm in for the count on this one.

I'll quote Jan again when she says "our best days are ahead of us". I agree, since the Young board has funded more systemic and school building construction than the

Gardner board, since the Young board turned the Gardner deficits into surpluses, since the Young board fixed the DFRS which was hemorrhaging \$13 Million annually during the Gardner board, since the Young board has placed economic development as a priority creating jobs and a fair, stable working environment for all of Frederick County with one of the lowest unemployment rates in the Country, I agree Jan, our best days are ahead of us.

One last item I will point out. Jan wants a "truly independent ethics commission. This is a good one. When Jan Gardner was still board President, there was a report that stated she accepted a position with a local non-profit. A non-profit that received funding from the County. When this back room deal was discovered, Jan had to back away from the position she had (according to the report) accepted from the local non-profit since it was an ethics violation and/

or a conflict of interest. She made a back room deal for future employment with an entity that received funding from the County while she was still holding elected office.

When asked about it she declined to comment according to the story in the March 19, 2010 edition of the FNP. If you were innocent Jan, why not tell the world? Your silence spoke volumes of your blatant hypocrisy. Having to have backed away from this sweetheart back room deal for future employment, Jan then was rescued by Senator Barbara Mikulski's office and gladly accepted a six-figure job in State government. Keep in mind all of you voters that are currently military, previous military, or know someone in the military, Senator Mikulski just voted to cut the military's pension benefits. Yes, this is whom Jan Gardner is employed, the wonderful Senator Mikulski that just poked our military in the eye, cutting their benefits. If you think Jan Gardner is not of this same mindset, you are sadly mistaken.

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

With the New Year has come good news.

The town received approval for a second Community Legacy grant of \$50,000. The matching grant funds are for property owners in the downtown area. This spring the first phase approved project owners should start on work on their properties. If all goes as planned, we could have \$200,000 in renovations in progress during the next year. We will apply again next December for additional grant money.

Jerry Muir our staff go-to energy specialist reports that the town over all electricity energy use in 2013 decreased 13% from 2012. As a part of that savings, the installation of LED streetlights in June 2013 decreased our streetlights energy use for the whole year by 42% from the previous year. For 2014 then it is reasonable to expect further energy savings from LED street lights with them being installed for an entire year. In addition to the expected annual recurring reduces energy savings, we received a

\$53,000 rebate for installation costs from PE, ±70% of our investment. Still at it, we submitted grant application for much of the remaining 30%. We applied for the grant last fall. To qualify for the State grant we have to be committed to reducing our electrical usage by 15% by 2015. We are already at 13%.

Development updates:

-Phase I 1mW solar array is complete. Use of renewable energy is more than an ideal it is a practical conclusion the town should not compete

with its residents for energy. The energy cost savings are a necessary complement to the new waste water treatment plant scheduled for completion mid-2015. Phase II is planned for later this year after an open bidding for the work.

-A Square design meeting is scheduled with the State Highway Administration this month. We are close to reaching an agreement on what we want from the input at public meetings and what the State wants from an engineering position. The overall impression of all involved is that the new design will enhance pedestrian and vehicular

safety. Some give and take is expected. After this meeting a presentation will be made to the general public and town Commissioners.

As to other development initiatives – it's to soon hear about the State Project Open Space (POS) grant funds for park improvements we applied for last year. I expect submission of plans to the Planning Commission for the new retail store to be located near the end of East Main St. by the end of February. Construction is scheduled to start on senior housing on the Daughters of Charity property sometime in the first quarter of this year.

Thurmont Town Commissioner Marty Burns

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our newest elected official Mr. Wes Hamrick who was elected as to the Thurmont Board Of Commissioners on January 7, 2014. Commissioner Hamrick was sworn in at the town hall by Mayor Kinnaird as the first order of business at the January 14th town meeting. Wes is a long time resident, deeply rooted in our town, and has a true passion for service to our community. Please reach out to Commissioner Hamrick at whamrick@thurmont.com with any comments and concerns you may have regarding the town operations. Welcome aboard Wes.

I also want to thank those residents who came out to cast your vote in this special election. Mayor Kinnaird vacated his Commissioner seat when he was elected mayor, and that left approximately 2 years left on his term. Commissioner Hamrick will serve the remainder of his term which will expire in 2015.

For a special election, with cold temperatures the turnout was ok. I hate to say that a turnout was ok with only 16.8% of the registered voters turning out but it's the sad reality we live in. At the local lev-

el we have the ability to directly affect your daily lives with decisions we make, good and bad, and you'd think that would cause a greater turnout, but after 14 years and multiple elections I'm disappointingly resigning myself to accept the fact that the majority of our neighbors feel voting is a burden. I believe our founding fathers would be saddened to see that what they fought and died for is being taken for granted.

The County Council race is heating up and at this writing I've heard of two candidates so far who will attempt to win a seat to represent northern Frederick county. One is current County Commissioner Kirby DeLauter, and the other is Mr. Mark Long. It's extremely important that you educate yourselves on their individual positions and stances on subjects that will surely impact all of us.

No one can argue that the current BOCC cut staff, retracted funding for non-profits, cut many fees. I'm surprised though that anyone is shocked at what they have done. They simply did what they said they'd do. The question now is, do you agree with what they've


done? I can guarantee you this, if you vote for candidates that don't agree with the current BOCC then I expect to see huge increases to our tax bills if they decide to reverse those decisions.

I can certainly tell you this, we need to find a balance between the left and the right. For instance, is

there a time to keep the school Board funded at current levels? Yes, but there is also a time to increase their funding levels from the previous year. Finding a balance between the two, a true compromise is what I believe the majority of county residents want to see in their elected officials.

I'm fearful though that if the vot-

ers decide to reverse course with the current positions of this BOCC that the new County council and County Executive will swing far left, and that is not good either. Time will tell, but until then please be a responsible voter and research the issues. Please don't rely on newspaper stories to get your information. I think you'll find that the truth is somewhere in the middle of any given issue.



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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

As of this writing, we have experienced three snow storms and very low temperatures. There are a couple of things to keep in mind. We need to help out our borough maintenance crew who are trying to clear the trails. This can be accomplished by you not parking your vehicles on the trails. It slows the snow removal process and in some cases can be dangerous to the plow operators trying to get around partially parked cars. Remember, during a snow emergency, which includes most snow events, it is illegal to park on the road or in the right of way just off the road and can result in your car being ticketed and towed. Please help us by doing your part and keep our roads clear. Also when we are experiencing very low temperatures, please do not leave your pets outside. Be alert for signs of frostbite and injury. Dogs' ears, paws and tails are especially susceptible and if you suspect frostbite, contact your veterinarian. The topic of emergency brings up the question "Are you prepared?"

What happens if there is an ice storm or flood? You can learn about these threats and how to prepare for them by going to www.ready-pa.org. Recommend you download the Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide. If an emergency/disaster occurs, you must be prepared to survive on your own for a minimum of three days. Do you need special care? If so, have you registered with the Adams County Department of Emergency Services? The Adams County Department of Emergency Services has a compiled list of all the Disabled Persons located in Adams County who need special assistance when an emergency arises. When you register, the information is also added to the E-911 Telephone System, so when County receives your call for help, the system will automatically identify your disability and the type of assistance needed. If you are not registered, call 717-334-8603 and ask to be added to the list. The information provided

(over the phone or by filling out the Special Care form) is protected under the Privacy Act regulation. Can you survive for three days on your own? Do you have an Emergency Kit? The recommended supplies to include in that Emergency Kit are: *Water* (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation); *Battery-powered radio* and extra batteries; *Flashlight* and extra batteries; *Medical* (prescription medications, First Aid kit); *Food* (non-perishable food); *Tools* (manual can opener, wrench and pliers to turn-off utilities); *Garbage bags* with ties (for personal sanitation); *Whistle* (to signal for help); and *Plastic sheeting* and *duct tape* (if you need to shelter in place) and cash. If there is a power outage and you have a cell phone, do you know your electric company's emergency number to let them know the power is out or to follow the progress the company is having in restoring power? If

you are going to use a portable generator, do you know how to use it safely? The biggest worry is carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning generated from the toxic engine exhaust. You should never use a portable generator in a garage, carport, basement, crawl space even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in the home. Install home CO alarms that are battery-operated or have battery back-up. The Red Cross has information on how to use a portable generator when an emergency or disaster strikes. The website address is www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/power-outage/safe-generator-use. The Carroll Valley Citizens' Association (CVCA) Phone Directory has been published and was distributed at the CVCA Holiday Gala event (go to ronspictures.net). If you are a CVCA member, drop by Mountain View Realty to get your copy and if you are interested in purchasing additional cop-

ies, they are 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10. You can also visit the Mayor's office to pick or purchase a copy. If you would like to become a member, visit www.carrollvalleycitizens.org. I would like to recognize Marie Schwartz, Kathy McCabe and Jale Dalton for their work on publishing this "must have" local area phone directory. I know how much time and energy this demanded and I deeply appreciate all of your efforts to make it a great success. The CVCA has brought back their "Welcome Packets". There are two versions, one for families with children and the other geared more toward seniors. It contains a bunch of information you should have on hand as a *new resident* in Carroll Valley. CVCA is asking that new residents who have moved to Carroll Valley *within the last 3 months* should email Kathy McCabe at kmccabe@carrollvalleycitizens.org for your packet. Also, if you're a business and would like to have your flyer included in the welcome packet, contact Kathy.

For those residents following the proposed amended zoning ordinance, the Borough Council President at the December Council meeting said that due to the comments received from the Adams County Planning Office and the comments made at the council meeting, the proposed amended zoning ordinance will be sent back to the Planning Commission for further review. By consensus, all council members agreed. The amended zoning ordinance was to be discussed at the Planning Commission on January 7th; however, due to the extreme weather (low temperatures) the meeting was canceled. Therefore, the Amended Zoning Ordinance did not appear on the January 2014 Borough Council agenda for discussion. The topic should appear on the February 3rd Planning Commission agenda along with the question, "Should the Borough allow families to have chickens?"

Carroll Valley Borough meetings in February are: Planning Commission (Feb 3rd), Borough Council (Feb 11th), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Feb 26th). The Borough Office will be closed on Presidents' Day (Feb 17th). If you have any questions call me at 301-606-2021 or email at ronharris41@comcast.net.



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

Preservation and economics: the next steps for growth in Adams County

Maintaining a balance between development, land preservation, environmental integrity and quality of life is a delicate balancing act. Preserving our agricultural heritage and historic landscape, while encouraging appropriate development for much needed economic benefits, is a daily challenge faced by the Adams County Board Of Commissioners, the Adams County Planning Department and our thirty-four municipalities.

As of late 2013 the County has reached the mark of 20,000 acres preserved in agricultural lands and open space. The intent of the preservation process was two-fold; preserve our agriculture industries, culture and natural resources that agriculture and the tourism industry thrive on. There are also environmental benefits such as preserving and maintaining head waters and water-sheds.

Since this Board of Commissioners took the helm in 2012, we had a concern that our overall preservation strategy was more of a shot gun approach in obtaining "whatever properties we could

get". Though not always the case; the state criteria regarding this program, at times, enabled properties to become part of the program that were not conducive to the intent of the program for the County. Facing the current budget climate, every preservation dollar must be spent wisely to maximize the effectiveness of the preservation effort.

In late 2012 the Commissioners instructed the County's Planning Department to look at a better approach to agriculture preservation planning. The result was the recent approval of the County's Preservation Priority Area Map (PPA). This map essentially looks at our strongest agricultural areas and ranks them at a level that meets the needs of the County and not just State regulated criteria. This map has not only been approved by the State but is being reviewed as a potential model for other county programs state wide.

On the heels of this work, the Planning staff has been working through the County's economic study and is finding that a priority development map will likely be the next focus of our economic strategy and a tool that implements the County's future land

use map.

Not unlike the Priority Area Map, the Priority Development Area map or (PDAs) will seek to work with local governments and others in the County to collaboratively address issues such as housing development, commercial development and traffic movement. The primary goal of the PDAs is likely to be to encourage future growth in or near existing communities that surround appropriate infrastructure and serves as a transition to our natural resources areas and our agricultural industries. The idea is to enhance existing communities and provide a variety of economic opportunities for all residents.

What are Priority Development Areas?

Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are locally-identified, vacant land and properties that provide re-development opportunity areas within existing communities. They are generally areas of local commitment to developing more amenities and services to meet the day-to-day needs of residents and businesses. Though no criteria has been formulated, the PDA properties would need to be within an existing commu-

nity, near existing or planned infrastructure. The growth envisioned through these PDAs will be based in large part on local aspirations and community context. The PDAs will need to reflect the diversity of the communities in the County.

Similar to the PPA process, the county will work with various partners to develop scenarios for development areas that are either already planned and those that are potential. The primary difference between these two designations is that planned PDAs will likely be part of adopted land use plan. Potential PDAs would be future target areas.

As a non-profit land trust advocate, the Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC) plays an integral role in maximizing these preservation opportunities and complimenting the county effort to insure our quality of life in Adams County. Contributions generated by the LCAC toward land preservation are normally matched several fold in government funding. The LCAC encourages and welcomes public membership and support. As the commissioner representative to the LCAC, I have a front row

seat to the important mission and the dedication of the staff and volunteers. To learn more about the mission of the Land Conservancy of Adams County go to their website at lcacnet.org. For more information regarding Priority Area Maps or Priority Development Areas please visit the Adams County Planning web site or contact our Comprehensive Planning staff at 717-337-9824.

In conclusion, I wanted to mention the Adams County Commissioners Community Forum. Our next forum will be held at Cross Keys Village Brethren Home on January 30, at 6:30 PM. The Annual Commissioners State Of The County will be the topic. We will review 2013 and preview 2014. The forum will be in the main building community room as you enter the complex from Rt. 30. Thank you to Community Television and it's President Mayor Ron Harris for taping our forums for future broadcast to thousands of residents. All forums are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

There are many picturesque winter scenes in Adams County. Get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.

State Representative Dan Moul

Next month, Gov. Tom Corbett will deliver his annual budget address, which will mark the beginning of the 2014-15 budget process. While there are signs the economy is rebounding, this will certainly be another challenging budget year. The January Economic Report, which may be seen on my website www.RepMoul.com, showed December's revenue collections about \$40 million below projections despite higher than expected numbers from corporation taxes. In a bit of good news, the state's unemployment rate fell to 7.3 percent, and General Fund revenue collections are slightly ahead of projections for the year. Budget Secretary Charles Zogby still predicts a year-end deficit as high as \$1.4 billion, which will need to be addressed in upcoming budget negotiations. Corbett will deliver his budget address on Feb. 4.

One of the largest appropriations in the state budget goes to Education. The House recently passed a number of education reforms to improve accountability and transparency for Pennsylvania's schools and to enhance education opportunities for students. I supported the following bills, which now go to the Senate for consideration:

• **House Bill 1411**, also known as SchoolWATCH, would direct the Pennsylvania Department of Education to create a searchable online database detailing the revenues and expenditures of traditional, charter and cyber school districts across the Commonwealth. The bill follows the model of PennWATCH, creat-

ed to enable Pennsylvania residents to see how tax dollars are being used by state agencies.

• **House Bill 1741** would require school boards to provide the public at least 48 hours' notice prior to voting on collective bargaining agreements or employment contracts.

• **House Bill 1738** would create a commission to develop a basic education funding formula that takes into account each school district's market value/personal income aid ratio, equalized millage rate, geographic price differences, enrollment levels, local support and other factors.

• **House Bill 1816** would allow Pennsylvania's teachers, guidance counselors and other school administrators to receive necessary continuing education credits if they visit certain manufacturing facilities. By touring these plants, educators will be better able to inform students about opportunities available in the modern high-tech manufacturing industry.

• **House Bill 1878** would create the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Strategy, a program that would offer tax credits to businesses to or-

ganize and collaborate with one another to address common personnel needs and training shortfalls and to develop and implement employee training programs with existing infrastructure.

On the health care front, the House unanimously approved a measure that proposes to improve patient care and reduce health care costs in Pennsylvania's Medicaid program through a primary care physician or nurse practitioner to act as the primary point of contact for all medical care of an individual patient. This model of care is particularly beneficial for patients with chronic diseases that require multiple specialists and caregivers. It would ensure proper communication and coordination of patient care, avoiding duplicative testing and services. About 26 other states have already launched PCMH initiatives within their Medicaid programs on a state or regional level and private insurers have adopted PCMH models. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

The Office of the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner recently announced grant awards for the 2013-14 Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program. The money may be used

for construction or renovation of a unit's station, the purchase or repair of equipment, training or debt reduction. The grant program is funded solely by state gaming proceeds.

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Bill Eiker

COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

February is a good month

Shannon Bohrer

I have always been fond of the month of February. It is patriotic because it's Presidents month, it's the month of my birthday, and it's the beginning of the end of winter and the beginning of the early spring. It's also the month for love: Valentine's Day. Continuing with my New Year's resolution of reading, learning, and general reflection, I thought it might be good to see what we can learn from the former presidents. Additionally, Congress passed a budget bill. You heard me correctly: Congress passed a budget and the president signed it! If for no other reason, we should be happy this February, because the Congress did something.

Regarding the budget, I believe we have an opportunity to celebrate our government instead of just complaining about it (well, maybe). Of course, even with a budget bill being passed, we did hear some complaints, the biggest being the fact that military retirees would forgo a one percent increase in their retirements, starting two years from now. One commentator stated that the one percent would amount to over \$6,000. I don't think the commentator really thought it through because if one percent is \$6,000, the retirement would be \$600,000 dollars. Maybe he meant over the life of a retirement.

Since the one percent seemed to cause so much trouble, I thought I would do a little research. The first



thing I found was that the (reported) reason for the budget resolution was the sequestration— meaning that, without the budget the military would take a big hit. However, trying to find out where the money for the military goes was both easy and difficult. What did surprise me was that in the total budget, one out of every five dollars is spent on defense. You must understand, that's with a \$3.7 trillion budget... and a lot of that is still being borrowed!

The real question is: Where does the money go? I found it strange that no one knows for sure, but they think that 25 percent of the military budget actually goes to the troops, while the rest goes to contractors, operations, and armaments. Just a few strange things I found: In 2001, KBR got a contract to feed the troops in Iraq. The price of

each meal was \$5 and they hired the previous contractor, who provided the meals for \$3. KBR is a subsidiary of Halliburton. In a very strange coincidence, at the same time KBR got the contract the pentagon started no bid contracts. In 2010, a congressional earmark sought \$2.5 billion for ten C-17 aircrafts. The problem was that the Air Force said they did not need them.

And now for the latest and best: the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. This is the new generation of high tech aircraft, with three different models available. One is for the Air Force, one for the Navy, and one for the Marines. You would think that if they are already going to make three, why not make a fourth for the Army. Now, when I say one for each, I am not talking about one plane, just one model for each.

The original cost estimate for the F-35 program was \$233 billion. However, the current cost estimate is over \$400 billion. Originally, the maker (Lockheed) said the cost for each plane would be \$75 million. However, the current estimate is \$137 million per plane. That should not be a problem since Lockheed gave \$159 million to lobbying in the last 12 years— and they also gave money to 425 members of Congress. And just one more coincidence: the development of the plane started in 2001.

With the first batch of planes delivered, the Pentagon Inspector General did identify a few problems with the F-35 program. But, he only found 719 problems, a few of them being that takeoffs might have to be postponed if the temperature is too cold (below 60 degrees Fahrenheit) and that the test planes are not allowed to be flown at night. Also, the planes cannot fly faster than the speed of sound. Another minor issue: they can't fly within 25 miles of lighting. Also, according to the pilots, the visibility in the cockpit is poorer than our existing fighter plans. It is not April 1 and I am not making this up.

I did find a few positive things about the F-35 project, one being that the original projected maintenance cost for thirty years was over one trillion dollars. However, with some good pencils and calculators, this estimate has been reduced to only \$857 million. Another positive is that the manufacturer has suppliers in forty six states, which means that the government money is really being spread around. On the

negative side, there are four states that do not seem to be benefiting.

You would think that with all the money the pentagon is spending, they would reduce spending of a few projects and not cut the military pensions. Then again, it was once said that, "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex." President Eisenhower said that during his farewell address in 1961.

As I stated earlier, trying to find out where the money for the military goes was both easy and difficult. I did find out that the Pentagon was audited in 1997. Of course, that was also the year that all federal agencies were required to be audited, just like private businesses. "Serious financial management problems" is how the Government Accountability Office described the Pentagon. However, the Pentagon says it will be ready for another audit in 2017, which is really close.

It was an American general that said, "It is enough to make one curse their own species for possessing so little virtue & patriotism." The general was talking about the overcharging by business suppliers for his troops in a time of war. It was in 1778, during the Revolutionary War, when General Washington, later President Washington, made these remarks. In a strange way, it is comforting to know that the problems we face with the military budget are not new. Well, let's just celebrate Presidents Month.

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

Common Cents

Neo Soviets

Ralph Murphy

Recent violence in the Ukraine has deep rooted, socio-economic origins that are not likely to quickly or easily resolve themselves given the history and nature of the nation's divisions. In most basic terms, the current conflict stems from the belief of anti-government sympathizers that the nation should look to the West, especially toward the troubled European Union for its economic partnerships and social identity. The regime in power appears to side with the Russians as they draw closer to out and out conflict.

The Ukraine has a significant manufacturing base including the production of transportation equipment, chemicals, commodities, and they are a major steel producer. The nation is weak in energy resources, which has led to a close reliance on the Russians who are strong in that area.

The Ukrainian nation is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent Nations - a loose, economic and political grouping formed and largely run by the Russians following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Russian President Vladimir Putin has always derided that event which created 16 independent na-

tions. Through clever, political maneuvers and creation of a Customs Union made up of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia- he appears to be positioning Russia to restore economic control over these three nations and other new members in the future. It might have already happened, but the European Union is trying to do the same thing.

Russian ethnicity accounts for about 17.3% of the Ukraine's 45.5 million people. Unfortunately their current President Victor Yanukovich and his Prime Minister Mykola Azarov are ethnic Russians. One of the leadership's first acts was to sign an extension of a Russian lease for a Naval base at Sevastopol in the Crimea in April of 2010. It was set to expire in 2017. It is now set to expire in 2042 with an additional, five year option to extend the Russian naval presence through 2047. The base is more than symbolic, but arguably less troubling than the courting of the Ukraine into the aforementioned Customs Union which seeks economic, social, and political union among its members along EU lines. It also advocates a single, common currency among its members. Putin is a strong proponent of this arrangement.

The Customs Union created

the 5-member, Eurasian Economic Community, that seeks to create a "single economic space" while diplomatically claiming interest in better economic ties with the international community. Armenia, Moldova, and notably Ukraine are approved observers. This is an apparent step towards their future assimilation into the expanding Customs Union if political conditions allow.

Street violence is intensifying in the Ukraine, as pro-European Union demonstrators battle the minority, but aggressively-potent, pro-Russian leaders. The protestors draw inspiration from former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (the "Ukrainian Gas Princess"), who is the leader of the opposition Fatherland party. Tymoshenko received what is considered a politically motivated, seven-year, hospital sentence in 2011. This was supposedly for abuse of power in her dealings with the Russian, joint stock company and natural gas producer Gazprom. Tymoshenko led an Orange Revolution that brought pro EU President Viktor Yushchenko to power in 2005. They ruled on and off together for the rest of the decade, but the alliance was unstable, and the pro-Russian grouping took advantage of the disarray to win in 2010.

Putin has expressed a goal of enlarging the economic, and in large

measure political and social control of the Customs Union to include "all past Soviet states"- excluding the three Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that are now EU members. The economic numbers of the undertaking are less than daunting. Germany and France alone account for more GDP income than the entire Commonwealth of Independent Nations even if they could further integrate. Strategically, however, the landmass incorporating parts of Europe, Central Asia, and the Far East is of major concern to the Western powers. It could grow, despite being saddled with EU-style disincentives for production, if the Customs Union were expanded to include the Ukraine.

Judging from recent "Pravda" articles, not all in Moscow relish Putin's hegemonic gains associated with the Customs Union. Quiet dissent fears a Brussels-type bailout of participating nations. And Kiev was also looking their way for a \$15 billion dollar loan package coupled with a 33% gas price drop from the Kremlin. That's likely to be the start of a costly association if the Russians could be trusted to honor their newfound economic commitments and the Ukraine were to be further integrated into the Russian scheme of things.

The International Monetary Fund has expressed concern that structural reforms in the Ukraine have been dropped since the Russian monetary provisions were introduced. Follow-

ing an Oct. 2013 visit to the Ukraine, IMF bank official Nikolay Georgiev expressed concern about emerging, economic problems in the Ukraine to include "limited exchange rate flexibility, a large budget deficit, and a large, current account deficit." The "current account deficit" is defined as - current exports minus imports plus foreign direct investment.

The EU is still angry about the pro-West Ukraine majority being "muscle out" of a political role, as are the Ukrainian, street demonstrators who have lengthy experience with Moscow oversight and want out.

A nation's Production is based on its available human and natural resources along with associated productive capital (i.e. its educated workforce, equipment, buildings and the infrastructure needed for a successful economy). A nation should provide the climate for optimal productivity by multi-national corporations in an atmosphere of relative, social harmony.

By ensuring competition, providing the necessary infrastructure, and protecting the environment as regards health concerns, the government is important. By taking over productive capacity they become a threat.

The Ukraine is bowing to foreign dominance. Street violence is the result.

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

Pure OnSense Revolution undone

Scott Zuke

This time three years ago the world's television screens were tuned in to watch the birth of democracy in the home of one of history's oldest civilizations. On January 25, 2011, millions of Egyptians took to the streets, many gathering in Cairo's now-famous Tahrir Square, to demand the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, their authoritarian leader who oppressed them under emergency law for 30 years. With a national median age of 25 years, most citizens had never known life without Mubarak. Sparked by the successful overthrow of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in neighboring Tunisia only days earlier, and fueled by widespread anger over economic hardship and lack of freedom, the massive protest succeeded in forcing Mubarak to step down on February 11.

As we know now, this inspiring moment was only the beginning of Egypt's long, violent, and much less inspirational transition. The ongoing protests, brutal crackdowns by security forces, the presidential election of Mohamed Morsi, and the "democratic coup" that fol-

lowed a year later, are beautifully chronicled from the eyes of Tahrir's youth activists in the Oscar nominated documentary, *The Square*. The film covers events up until this past August, which coincidentally was the turning point where optimism for Egypt's revolution began to decline.

Since then, the Muslim Brotherhood, which represents millions of Egyptians, has been deemed a terrorist organization, allowing its assets to be seized and its members arrested and abused. This was the final nail in the coffin for any hope of a more inclusive political landscape. Three years ago, the protesters in Tahrir chanted that Egypt's Muslims, Christians, and secularists were united as "One Hand," but today many of those same youth are outspoken supporters of the exclusion and repression of the Brotherhood. Their desire for democracy, it seems, only goes so far.

There is a growing consensus among Middle East experts that, despite everything that has happened in the past three years, no revolution has actually occurred. One reason they argue this is that essentially the same forces are in

power as before. Egypt's national bureaucracy, state-run media, police and intelligence services, and judicial branch, collectively known as the "Deep State," remained intact after Mubarak's fall, and still follow the direction of the military leadership, which also has not changed.

A second reason to doubt the revolution is that the Muslim Brotherhood, after holding the presidency for one year, has reverted back to the illegal status it bore for the previous 60 years. Egypt was the birthplace of the conflict between secular Arab nationalism and Islamism that has played out in several Middle East countries, and the two movements continue to be locked in a zero sum game. Morsi may have been democratically elected, but he did not rule the country democratically; he made many mistakes and severely overplayed his hand. The coup that brought him down may have been justified and popularly supported, but it set an anti-democratic precedent of its own and opened the door for violent repression of a large portion of the population. At a conference last September, New York Times columnist Tom Friedman suggested drawing wisdom from the Lebanese civil war: "It took 14 years, but it was ended on one principle – no victor, no vanquished. Everyone has to be included. But it also ended on the principle that the minority has to be overrepresented to reassure them." Egypt has

done everything in its power to do precisely the opposite.

A final reason to think the revolution never happened is that Egypt looks poised to appoint a new strongman ruler in the next few months—basically Mubarak by another name. General Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the unelected leader of the country since Morsi was forced out of office, is unrivaled in influence, and would likely win if he chooses to run for the presidency. During the national referendum on Egypt's constitution in January, street vendors sold paper masks bearing Sisi's face, just one example of the cult of personality that has sprung up around him. In the state-run media, praise for Sisi has sometimes gone over the top, sounding more like North Korea-style propaganda. Consider this excerpt from a piece in *Al-Ahram* last October: "His bronzed, gold skin, as gold as the sun's rays, hides a keen, analytical fire within...There is almost poetry in his leadership, but the ardour of the sun is in his veins. He will lead us to victory and never renounce the struggle, and we will be right there at his side."

As inevitable as a new military dictatorship is beginning to feel, it's doubtful it will be able to restore normalcy, much less enact democratic reforms. As one expert recently told the *Washington Post*, "Egypt might just be ungovernable."

If the military leadership is uninterest-

ed in establishing democracy and unable to make effective economic reforms, it will stick with what it knows best: enforcing security. Its strategy thus far has not only included the crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, but also on any sources of dissent, including journalists. The new constitution passed in January solidifies the military's political power, putting it above civilian oversight. It received an astounding approval rate of over 98%, but those who opposed it simply didn't turn out to vote. Those who did show up were encouraged (or in several documented cases, coerced) into voting 'Yes.'

Normally I am skeptical of those who ask whether a country is "ready for democracy," but in Egypt's case it was the people themselves who seem to have answered no, at least for now. The stakes in the confrontation between secular nationalists and Islamists are simply too high, and it will be a long time before there's enough trust between them to allow for cooperation again. Where there is no room for compromise, democracy cannot work. The legacy of the January 25 Revolution may turn out to be "One Hand" after all, but not the way they meant it; rather than describing the Egyptian people united, it will succinctly explain where political power is located in post-revolution Egypt.

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

Down Under Losing the plot

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne, Australia

Plot? Plot? Said old King Grot. That's the only thing that I ain't got! (with apologies to Don Marquis)

On July 28, 1914, the great war broke out in Europe. That's nearly 100 years ago, and during this anniversary year there will be many images and stories broadcast around the world in memoriam of this tragic event. The world was changed forever by this war, and its after-effects produced the worst kind of tyranny, slaughter, and terror across much of Europe – including another world war. The reasons were many, but at its heart was the decline of power and foresight within the Hapsburg Empire, which has little to do with our story.

Notwithstanding some of the worst military leadership of all time, it took an amazing amount of courage and effort by Britain and her colonies and allies to resist the German war machine, yet the one major power who was needed to ensure victory was missing. AWOL for three years until 1917, the United States of America refused to lend a hand until it was obvious that its long term interests would be weakened if the German Axis won, and that there was also a dollar or two to be made along the way.

The main reasons for American isolation and non-involvement stemmed from Democrat idealism and resistance to intervention, whose anti-war parochial views melded with much of

the Irish-American loathing of England. The path to peace, they said, was one that did not begin with war. The question of 'whose peace' had the obvious answers: Their own, or America's, for it could not have been Europe's. It was Woodrow Wilson and the Republican party who overcame this pacifist outlook – with considerable difficulty – finally coming up with the necessary slogan for intervention, 'Making the World Safe for Democracy'. Well, the Kaiser got kicked, The Yankees won the war, fortunes were made, and making the world safe was something that become the foundation of foreign policy.

The reluctance by Uncle Sam to get involved in the troubles of the world was repeated twenty five years later when Germany again began ravaging Europe. This time America's delay was officially only two years, and their entry was galvanic due to the horror of being attacked by Japan. This time the stupidity of non-involvement was brought home with white hot rage and red faces, for having been caught napping at the Pearl was shameful. But they surely helped to win that war so the good old slogan was banner-raised and America really saw the benefits of world leadership. Now there was more than words, for a mighty industrial and economic effort was established to implement that idea, one that remains to this day.

The way was forward! The future was written, and great stories must progress. Plots thicken. Alliances are made, so friends, generally corrupt, (but who cares about that), are 'elected', (the Philippines, Iran, Nicaragua etc.), or demo-

cratic governments can be installed, often forcibly. The rewards are great for a time, but more importantly the machinery needed to do all this is developed. America's installation of democracy – the capitalist version, anyway – in non-democratic countries was probably the biggest and fastest invasion ever seen, certainly with relatively small casualty rates compared to a real war, and the resultant treasures were plenty. Of course, trade was one thing, making friends another, but the really important thing was the nexus between government and the military that developed, all helping to make the world safe for America. Until the plot was lost, that is.

So here we have two story lines, two plots, and two divergent ideologies. Firstly, War is wrong and Peace is best, and secondly, Let's turn the world into our congregation, whether they agree or not, provided they sing our hymns. This policy has been gathering force for the past 50 years or so, and both parties have been sure that trying to creating peace and a safe democratic world was the ultimate purpose of their political lives. True, Democrats have always been less likely to be aggressive, perhaps because they sometimes seemed to put forward more moral conscience, whereas Republicans, who feel such an attitude is cowardly, see themselves as rulers – and are thus able to justify the means they use to achieve domination.

Every story has a plot, but I doubt even Shakespeare could weave this situation into a saleable play. Memories of the victories of WW1 and 2, which form such huge parts of your historic narrative, owe more to Hollywood than to fact. Sadly, this helped the rise of the derring-do mantra that has determined the perspective of your views. The idea of establishing democracy around the world has only ever had one real purpose, that is to make the world safe for America and Amer-

icans in which to do their thing. No politician could be elected unless the idea of safety and security at home and abroad was promoted. The actuality had no substance, although many wars for military ego puffing and commercial gain have been instigated under its banner, the prisons have the dissidents, whistle-blowers some of the secrets.

This has not only turned the idea of democracy on its head, it has led to the worst excesses of any despotic regime. We are told that no Americans get hurt when a drone kills civilians, (false, for all Americans are hurt, at least morally); no terrorists are missed by the agencies when your privacy is voided, (false, because putting forward contrary views with force and power, or revealing the secrets that help plaster over the many lies, may be considered an act of terror); no punishment is too severe for talking to the enemy – whoever they might be at the time (true) – no secret is too small to be kept, no paranoia is too unreal to be missed and armed for, and nothing too real is allowed to cause agitation and distress. (All true).

The trappings are there, the bland assurances that all is well are set out in their nightly fictions and daytime soaps – such travesty should actually be spelt 'demonocracy.' The determination of the Republican movement, so admirable 100 years ago has visibly gone backwards. Gone into repression, punishment, loss of civil liberties that took many lives, intense pain and suffering to achieve, with the loss of fact and truthfulness. The plot of a democratic society where all are equal under the law, all are entitled to freedom as defined by any moral code has been lost.

The desire to turn back the clock to the good old days, when conscience and sky were unclouded has been most clearly seen in the widening gap between evolution and creationism. The percentage of Republi-

cans who have turned their eyes back to the star chamber and declared that creation was the way we came to be has risen alarmingly; bringing the world into line by force seems to be the only way that such people can perceive the future – but it is not possible to go forward looking backwards. Yearning for those good days is the response of those who have wrecked the future. Yes, times are, and will continue to be tough, but money and affluence cannot be allowed to dictate the fate of the majority. This is not a fairy story, there will not be 'they all lived happily ever after'; this is a world with schisms of unimaginable awfulness appearing in far too many places. These will not be helped by repression or sanction, by bombing or drones, but by foresight, care, wide-eyed suspicion, even distrust, and a willingness to understand and an acknowledgement that militarism is not the answer, nor is the safety of America more important than the safety of the world. (Unless your view is that America IS the world.)

America can be, and indeed has been a source of great envy, progress and honesty, but that has truly been almost lost. That most terrible of all crimes against humanity, genocide, has rightly been condemned by all right-thinking Americans – but congress has strangely never taken a stand against it. Makes one wonder, doesn't it? Look back to creationism by all means, destroy God's enemies as did the Israelites, but please go back four or so thousand years to do it.

Otherwise, like our old king Grot, the plot of living into the future will have been lost forever, even as you try to amass everything else.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Why is this happening to me?...

Pastor Katie Penick
Incarnation, United Church
of Christ

...“What did I do to deserve this?” We all say things like this – sometimes we are joking, sometimes we are completely serious... even angry at the cosmic forces that seem to stand against us.

The other day I was speaking with a friend whose husband recently died. She was going through the litany of all the things that were going wrong in her life – the vacuum was broken, the shovel cracked during a snow storm, etc. “Sometimes I say ‘God, can you slow this down a little and send me one curveball at a time!’”

And, of course, we both knew that the problem was not the vacuum or the shovel – the overarching issue was surviving day by day after the horrific, unexpect-

ed loss of her husband. It is easier to focus on these small curveballs than to look up at God and ask “Why? What did I do to deserve this?”

It is easy to have a vision of God sitting far away, up in heaven, tallying accounts obsessively to make sure that every petty offense is bought and paid for, and when the bill is due, God the Heavenly Bean-Counter will collect all that is owed. Take it to the extreme and the bill is paid even if he has to take it from his own son, and even if doing that will cost his son’s life in the worst of ways to lose it. The important thing -- the only thing, really -- in Heavenly Bean-Counter theology is that those books kept with perfect meticulousness balance in the end... that we get what we deserve.

This is a vision of God that is based on fear and I believe that it

leads us in the wrong direction.

Jesus proclaims a different kind of relationship with God, when he says: “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love (John 15:9).” Jesus’ relationship with God was not one that included score-keeping. There is no deal-making, no bean counting. Jesus defines his relationship with God in one beautiful word - LOVE.

When Jesus says “I have loved you; abide in my love,” he invites us to share that sacred relationship with him. And, then Jesus calls us to go out and share that same sacred relationship with others. Go out, he tells us and “love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12).” It’s really pretty amazing - we are empowered to share with one another the very kind of love that encompasses God.

And what kind of love is that? God’s love is free, full, powerful, and gentle.

Jesus invites us to experience this same love through him. And, once we experience this sacred love, we are invited to see all of our relationships transformed into the image of this all encompasses, life-generating love. In God’s love, no one is anonymous – God has our names written on God’s heart. In God’s love, no one is dispensable – God welcomes everyone into the fold. In God’s love, no one is cast aside as irredeemable – God offers forgiveness and mercy in abundance. In God’s love, nobody is keeping score... we are simply set free to go out and live our lives in love

And how do we know that love? It is shown in caring for one another. Jesus tells us to abide in love. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus tells us that our love for one another as a test for whether we really know God.

And when we abide in love, it bears fruit in amazing ways. A



few years ago, the book *The Shack* was very popular. The book is about a man’s spiritual journey after the brutal murder of his young daughter. Paul Young wrote it as a testament of his faith and had no intention of publishing it. He gave it as a Christmas gift to his wife and 6 children, who shared it with friends. Eventually it was published and became a bestseller.

According to the August 2008 issue of *Guideposts*, a local newspaper reporter came to Young’s house to do an interview during the height of the book’s popularity. A photographer accompanied the reporter to Young’s house. As he approached, he thought he recognized the house. A few years earlier, when his free-lance photography finally took off, he and his wife realized that for the first time they had more than enough money. For Christmas, they decided to give an anonymous gift to someone who really needed it. A friend told him of an unemployed father with several children and he decided to help them. One cold December day, he placed a \$100

bill in an envelope and put it in their mailbox. He realized that Paul Young’s house was the house he had gone to.

At first he didn’t say anything... after all, the whole point of the gift that it was given in love with no possibility of recognition or thanks. But, finally, he couldn’t stand not knowing and he asked Paul Young if he had ever received the gift. Young’s eyes got big, “yes,” he said, “I received it when I was down to my last dollars. I wanted to do something special for my family, so I used that \$100 to pay for the printing of my book”... those first 7 copies that were given to his family. A small gift given to demonstrate Christian love used to tell of God’s love to millions.

God’s love changed Jesus’ followers forever, and it’s a love that changes us day by day. And it’s a love that could change the world, making real the prophets’ vision of peace and plenty. That’s Jesus’ gift -- and like all true gifts, it’s given freely.

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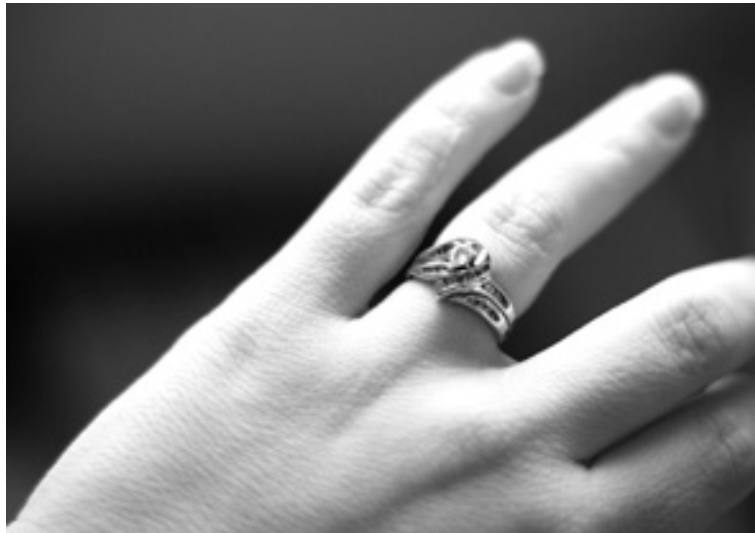
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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Extraordinary marriages



The fourth finger of the left hand has long been consecrated to the wedding ring because of the ancient belief that a nerve travels directly from this finger to the heart.

It is usually considered a noteworthy circumstance for a man or woman to have been married three times, but of old this number would have been thought little of. St. Jerome mentions a widow that married her twenty-second husband, who in his turn had been married to twenty wives - surely an experienced couple!

A woman named Elizabeth Masi, who died at Florence in 1768, had been married to seven husbands, all of whom she outlived. She married the last of the seven at the age of 70. When on her death-bed she recalled the good and bad points in each of her husbands, and having impartially weighed them in the balance, she singled out her fifth spouse as the favourite, and desired that her remains might be interred near his.

The death of a soldier is recorded in 1784 who had had five wives; and his widow, aged 90, wept over the grave of her fourth husband. The writer who mentioned these facts naively added: 'The said soldier was much attached to the marriage state.'

There is an account of a gentleman who had been married to four wives, and who lived to be 115 years old. When he died he left twenty-three 'children' alive and well, some of the said children being from three to four score. A gentleman died at Bordeaux in 1772, who had been married sixteen times.

In July 1768 a couple were living in Essex who had been married eighty-one years, the husband being 107, and the wife 103 years of age. At the church of St. Clement Danes, in 1772, a woman of 85 was married to her sixth husband.

Instances are by no means rare of affectionate attachment existing between man and wife over a period longer than is ordinarily allotted to human life. In the middle of the last century a farmer of Nottingham died in his 107th year. Three days afterwards his wife died also, aged 97. They had lived happily together upwards of eighty years. About the same time a yeoman of Coal-pit Heath, Gloucestershire, died in his 104th year. The day after his funeral his wife expired at the age of 115: they had been married eighty-one years.

The announcements of marriages published in the Gentleman's Magazine during the greater part of last century included a very precise statement of the portions brought by the brides. Here are a few of such notices:

'Mr. N. Tillotson, an eminent preacher among the people called Quakers, and a relative of Arch-bishop Tillotson, to Miss with £7,000.'

'Mr. P. Bowen to Miss Nicholls, of Queenhithe, with £10,000.'

'Sir George C. to the widow Jones, with £1,000 a-year, besides ready money.'

A strange scene took place at St. Dunstan's church on one occasion, during the performance of the marriage ceremony. The bridegroom was a carpenter, and he followed the service devoutly enough until the words occurred, 'With this ring I thee wed.' He repeated these, and then shaking his fist at the bride added, 'And with this fist I'll break thy head.' The clergyman refused to proceed, but, says the account, 'the fellow declared he meant no harm,' and the confiding bride 'believed he did but jest,' whereupon the service was completed.

A still more unpleasant affair for the lady once happened. A young couple went to get married, but found on their arrival at church that they had not money to pay the customary fees. The clergyman not being inclined to give credit, the bridegroom went out to get the required sum, while the lady waited in the vestry. During his walk the lover changed his mind, and never returned to the church. The young girl waited two hours for him, and then departed, - 'Scot free,' dryly remarks one narrator.

A bridegroom was once arrested at the church door on the charge of having left a wife and family chargeable to another parish, 'to the great grief and shame of the intended bride.'

In Scotland, in the year 1749, there was married the 'noted bachelor, W. Hamilton.' He was so deformed that he was utterly unable to walk. The chronicler draws a startling portrait of the man: 'His legs were drawn up to his ears, his arms were twisted backwards, and almost every member was out of joint.' Added to these peculiarities, he was eighty years of age, and was obliged to be carried to church on men's shoulders. Nevertheless, his bride was fair, and only twenty years of age!

A wedding once took place in Berkshire 'under remarkable circumstances: the bridegroom was of the mature age of eighty-five, the bride eighty-three, and the bridesmaids each upwards of seventy - neither of these damsels having been married. Six grand-daughters of the bridegroom strewed flowers before the 'happy couple,' and four grandsons of the bride sang an epithalamium composed by the parish clerk on the occasion.

On the 5th February, in the eighteenth year of Elizabeth, Thomas Filsby, a deaf man, was married in St. Martin's parish, Leicester. Seeing that, on account of his natural infirmity, he could not, for his part, observe the order of the form of marriage, some peculiarities were introduced into the ceremony. The said Thomas, for expressing of his mind, instead of words, of his own accord used these signs: first he embraced his bride with his arms;

took her by the hand and put a ring on her finger; and laid his hand upon his heart, and held up his hands towards heaven; and, to shew his continuance to dwell with her to his life's end, he did it by closing his eyes with his hands, and digging the earth with his feet, and pulling as though he would ring a bell, with other signs approved.

Some of the most remarkable marriages that have ever taken place are those in which the brides came to the altar partly, or in many cases entirely, divested of clothing. It was formerly a common notion that if a man married a woman in chemisette he was not liable for her debts. There is an account by a clergyman of the celebration of such a marriage some few years ago. He tells us that, as nothing was said in the rubric about the woman's dress, he did not think it right to refuse to perform the marriage service.

A curious example of compulsory marriage once took place in Clerkenwell. A blind woman, forty years of age, conceived a strong affection for a young man who worked in a house near to her own, and whose 'hammering' she could hear early and late. Having formed an acquaintance with him, she gave him a silver watch and other presents, and lent him £10 to assist him in his business. The recipient of these favours waited on the lady to thank her, and intimated that he was about to leave London. This was by no means what the blind woman wanted, and as she was determined not to lose the person whose industrial habits had so charmed her, she had him arrested for the debt of £10 and thrown into prison. While in confinement she visited him, and offered to forgive him the debt, on condition that he married her. Placed in this strait, the young man chose

what he deemed the least of the two evils, and married his 'benefactress.' The men who arrested him gave the bride away at the altar.

In 1767 a young blacksmith of Bedford was paying his addresses to a maiden, and upon calling to see her one evening was asked by her mother, what was the use of marrying a girl without money? Would it not be better for him to take a wife who could bring £500? The blacksmith thought it would, and said he should be 'eternally obliged' to his adviser if she could introduce him to such a prize. 'I am the person, then,' said the mother of his betrothed, and we are told that 'the bargain was struck immediately.' Upon the return of the girl, she found her lover and parent on exceedingly good terms with each other, and they were subsequently married. The bride was sixty-four years of age, and the bridegroom eighteen.

This disparity of years is comparatively trifling. A doctor of eighty was married to a young woman of twenty-eight; a blacksmith of ninety to a girl of fifteen; a gentleman aged seventy-six, to a girl whom his third wife had brought up. The husband had children living thrice the age of his fourth wife.

A blind woman of ninety years was married to her ploughman, aged twenty; a gentleman of Worcester, upwards of eighty-five, to a girl of eighteen; a soldier of ninety-five, 'who had served in King William's wars, and had a ball in his nose,' to a girl of fifteen.

In 1769 a woman of Rotherhithe, aged seventy, was married to a young man aged twenty-three - just half a century difference between their ages. A girl of sixteen married a gentleman of ninety-four - but he had £50,000.

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Living on the edge of the polar vortex

Bill Meredith

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

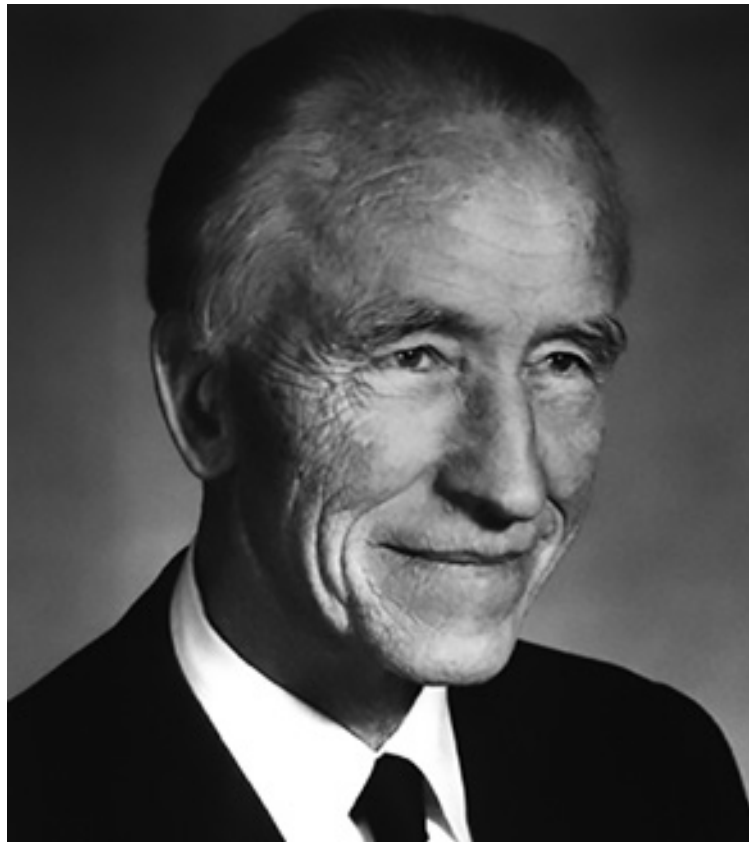
—Max Ehrmann, 1927
"Desiderata"

I had an interesting conversation the other day with my friend, Shane. He is three years old, and we were talking about the snow that had just fallen. He knows there is a place called the North Pole; he's not quite sure where it is, but he knows Santa lives there, and it's cold and snowy. He knows there are polar bears that hibernate; the people who live there are called Eskimos, and they live in snow houses called igloos and travel by dog sleds. Shane is curious, and to him everything is interesting; he notices everything around him, and remembers. Also, he gets information from his parents, who read to him, and from television. At that age his brain is like a sponge, soaking up facts from all kinds of places and storing them until the time comes to combine them with other information that, at the time, might seem unrelated.

When I was that age I also was curious. We didn't have television, so

I got my information from watching and poking at things, from being read to, and from listening to grownups. So I spent the first 22 years of my life learning what the world is made of and how it works, and when I graduated from college I really thought I knew a lot. But in the six decades since then, I have found that all of the rules I had learned have exceptions, and that many of the facts I had learned were oversimplified or just plain wrong. One of the best examples of this is the weather.

My sister, who was nine years older than I, was already in high school by the time I was Shane's age, and she brought home all sorts of strange and fascinating ideas. In those days she washed her hair in the kitchen sink, and one day she told me when the sink drained, the water would make a whirlpool that would spin clockwise. I watched, and sure enough, it did. I immediately asked why, but she didn't seem to be sure; the best answer she could give was because her science teacher said it would. That wasn't a very satisfactory explanation, ever for a pre-schooler, and my confusion was compounded because it didn't always work. It would be another 15 years before I learned that the whirlpool was caused by the Corio-



Dr. Jakob Bjerknes, an early father of the science of climate changes.

lis force, which is produced by the rotation of the earth and causes a general tendency for moving fluids to turn to their right in the Northern Hemisphere. It was several more years before I could grasp why low pressure systems like hurricanes turn counterclockwise. Still later, I learned that the funnel-shaped area at the center of those spinning masses of air or water was called a vortex.

All of these facts floated around loose inside my head until I began to study ecology in the mid-1950s. When I entered graduate school I found that I needed to understand all aspects of the environment, and weather was one of the things I knew the least about. It had been studied for centuries, and could be measured accurately on a local scale; but knowledge of how it worked or predicting it was not yet possible because so many of the causative forces acted high in the atmosphere, and there was no way to get up there and measure them. Russian and Norwe-

gian scientists had discovered polar vortices as early as 1853, and two Norwegians, Vilhelm Bjerknes and his son, Jakob, had developed a theory to explain how polar fronts work in the 1920s, but there was no way to test their theory. But then, in 1957, the Russian satellite, Sputnik, was launched, and the Space Age started. Within three years it became possible to take measurements of all kinds at all levels of the atmosphere and on into space beyond. The wandering facts in my head began coming together, as they did for scientists in many fields all over the world.

In 1933... coincidentally, the year I was born... Jakob Bjerknes came to the U. S. to teach at MIT. In 1940, just before the war started, he moved to California and founded the Department of Meteorology at UCLA. It was a propitious time for him; knowledge of weather was needed for the war effort, and after that, for strategic use in the Cold

War, so money for research was readily available. He studied ocean currents and developed a theory to explain how the El Nino currents in the Pacific Ocean affect climate in North America. One of his theories predicted that, as global warming increased, La Nina currents (which alternate with El Nino) would cause melting of polar ice, which would result in warming of the high atmosphere and cause the polar vortex to become more active. That theory had not yet been confirmed when he died in 1978; but, as everyone who watches the Weather Channel knows, it is now accepted as the main reason for the severe weather we have had for the past month.

So now, each morning as I sit at the breakfast table with a cup of coffee and a Sudoku puzzle before me, I think of Dr. Bjerknes. Because of him and many others like him, I have a reasonably good understanding of the environment I see through my window. Of course, the birds and squirrels out there do not understand it; but they don't need to. Evolution has equipped them with instincts to do what they must do to survive: find food wherever they can, keep dry and stay out of the wind as much as possible, and wait. The storm at the end of December brought heavy, wet snow, and I saw several birds with damaged body parts as a result... feet crippled by frostbite, and tail feathers missing because they froze fast to the limbs where the birds roosted at night. They were not doing well; when the Cooper's hawk surveyed the flock from his perch in the sycamore across the street, he was sure to notice. He has to survive too.

Winter started a month ago, and since then we have faced Lake Effect Storms, Alberta Clippers, and Polar Vortices. Old Jakob Bjerknes, wherever he may be, must be shaking his head and wondering whether to weep or chuckle as a series of earnest TV weather persons frantically recite cute names for each frontal system that wends its way across the country and show pictures of snowball fights and traffic pileups in Atlanta. But birds and squirrels care nothing of that; what they know is that the time from sunrise to sunset has increased by 18 minutes... nearly a third of an hour... since December 21, and that is enough to be noticed by biological clocks. Yesterday I saw a goldfinch that already has a few yellow feathers. Male cardinals are starting to offer sunflower seeds to their mates instead of chasing them away from the feeder. Male squirrels are waving their tails amorously and chasing the females with a dreamy expression on their faces. As for me as I watch all of that, it is warm inside the house, and I'm at peace. No doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

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IN THE COUNTRY

The wild love lives of wildlife

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

February is synonymous with love. With Valentine's Day fast approaching, we humans will be putting final touches on gifts or planning out thoughtful romantic gestures if we've been diligent. Perhaps you're not as forward thinking, and you'll scramble at the last second to pick up a dozen red roses, a sappy card, and some chocolates in heart shaped box. Either way these are part of a larger ritual display. While we're all familiar with the birds and the bees, animal reproduction is as diverse as the kinds of critters that copulate (which are all of them).

Encyclopedia Britannica defines courtship as "in animals, behaviour that results in mating and eventual reproduction. Courtship may be rather simple, involving a small number of chemical, visual, or auditory stimuli; or it may be a highly complex series of acts by two or more individuals, using several modes of communication." In humans we tend to think of courting behavior in the context of social customs and cues. Animals, on the other hand, do everything instinctually without the help of Cupid or conversation heart candies.

Some customs are well known, but are actually less common than originally thought. The female Praying Mantis is known for devouring the head of the male after the act is complete. However, this is not necessarily always the case. When two mantises meet and care very much for one another they perform intimate rituals. They will gently caress one another's antennae and dance together. After the courting is complete they get down to business. About a third of the time the female will eat the

head of the male. Researchers still are unsure of the reasoning behind this behavior, but it is likely to provide nutrition for the newly expecting mother. Others think it's simply because the female gets confused and mistakes the male for prey. Either way, females will usually only perform sexual cannibalism when starving. The Praying Mantis isn't the only one with a robust sexual appetite though.

Black Widows are a well known species of venomous spider. Male widow spiders, which are much smaller than their counterparts, will prep for the intimate embrace by spinning a small web coated in sperm. After coating this web in semen he will coat his palps, small appendages adjacent to the mouth, with his sperm. At this point he will set off into the world in search of Mrs. Right. Once he finds her he will serenade her by performing a vibratory song—dancing and plucking the strings simultaneously. As this progresses he will slowly approach her and tenderly tap on her body. Eventually he will insert his palps into her reproductive organs. Once the relationship has been consummated the female will make the male into a snack. Widow spiders aren't the only ones who are little batty in the sack though.

Bats are an unusual animal in general. They are the only flying mammal, and because of that they have some high profile antics. Copulation varies immensely from species to species. Hibernating species will meet their mates at their hibernation sites. Males and Females will form swarms and chase each other around performing amazing aerobatics. Other species, like the Horseshoe Bat, are more discrete. The females will sidle up to the males in individual roosts to procreate. Male Hammerheaded Bats will line up in



Cedar Waxwings pass a berry back and forth during courtship.

trees along a river bank and "honk" at the females passing by. Meanwhile, the male Sac-Winged Bat will hover in place in front a female to show off flying prowess and to waft pheromones towards her. Some bats like to mix things up by hopping on the good foot to do the bad thing upside-down. Others will just pair off in rock crevices and cave walls. Short-Nosed Fruit Bats and Indian Flying Foxes have been found to perform oral stimulation in order to protract the act. While bats are busy bees exhibiting amorous behavior others are eager to woo a mate too!

The Honey Bee is usually noted for their dwindling population numbers. While science hasn't come to a definitive answer for the reason behind falling numbers they have found out one reason for the demise of a male bee. Gener-

ally speaking male honey bees exist to serve one purpose – to mate with the queen. The male bee, called a Drone, will give up his life to serve his purpose in a form of sexual suicide. When ready the queen will take flight, and males will give chase and swarm around her. A male will eventually grab a hold of her and insert himself. The drone will then inseminate the queen with a contraction so powerful his genitalia brakes off inside the queen and he will fall to ground where he will die shortly thereafter. The queen will take several mates throughout this airborne adventure, which will take place only once in her life. From these lucky suitors she will store the sperm up to use throughout the rest of her life.

As we've seen there are many way to show your loved ones you care about them. From demonstrating amorous intentions to wild escapades that end ones' life, love takes many forms. Either way we all do what comes natural and Valentine's Day is just one of our more complex courting behaviors that aims to achieve the same things as wafting pheromones or massaging antennae. Don't forget to show your mate you care by whatever means is appropriate to the species. Grab a bottle of wine, snag a card, and share a candlelit dinner because after all a little romance never killed anyone – except widow spiders, honey bees, and praying mantises.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Mad about maple syrup!

Kay Deardorff
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

It's the middle of winter in Adams County, Pennsylvania. The sky is gray; the trees are bare; and cold temperatures deter many of us from venturing outside. Is there anything to look forward to during this bleak time of year?

Let's go on an imaginary journey – to your kitchen where the atmosphere is cozy as you watch the snow flying outside your window. In front of you is a pile of steaming hot pancakes fresh from the griddle. Your mouth is watering as you pick up the generic syrup filled with artificial flavorings, chemicals, and preservatives. WAIT! Something is wrong with your imaginary picture! We are in South Central Pennsylvania and it's maple sugaring season. We are able to tap those maple trees and enjoy the delectable, REAL sweetness of the syrup that comes straight from the tree. Too expensive, you say? Why not roll up your shirt-sleeves and do it yourself? The backyard hobbyist who taps a maple tree; hangs a collection bucket; and sets up his evaporator savors the sweet success of his labors as he treats himself to a breakfast of sugary goodness.

It is only in mid to late winter that fresh maple sap can be harvested from the trees. In an average year, the sap runs best from mid-February to mid-March. Before that time the sap is normally frozen. After that time, the syrup that is produced from the sap will not taste good. This makes maple sugaring a perfect wintertime activity that the whole family can enjoy. Even after the snow melts, the sap will run until the onset of spring. Warm sunny days, 40+ °F, and cold nights, 20°F, are ideal for sap flow. The harvest season ends with the arrival of warm spring nights and early bud development in the trees.

It's not certain how this process began, but some of the legends are interesting. One story is the Legend of Chief Woksis whose wife learned about producing syrup during the "Season of the Melting Snow" while preparing venison (deer meat) for the evening meal. Woksis had thrown his tomahawk into a maple tree the night before and when he removed it, the sap flowed from the tree during the day into a bucket that was setting by the trunk. The chief's wife needed water to cook the venison and was on her way to collect it from the spring when she

spotted the bucket filled with "tree-water." She tasted it and found it to be slightly sweet. Being a wise and careful woman she knew that using this liquid would not only save her a trip to get the water, but she would also not be wasting the liquid. So she cooked the meat in it for supper. Eventually the sap boiled down to syrup. This added a new flavor to the meal and the chief loved it. The Native Americans had found that they could process the maple sap beyond the syrup stage to become crystallized sugar. The sugar did not spoil when stored.

Today you can become a backyard hobbyist who can identify maple trees in your own backyard and try your hand at tapping the tree, gathering the sap; and boiling it down to produce your own maple syrup. It's a great family activity that is educational and rewarding. You can enjoy your morning meal with pure maple syrup that is 100% natural and much healthier than refined sugar or the typical artificial syrup.

Every year, Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, near Fairfield, presents one of the maple sugaring programs that allows participants to have a hands-on experience with all facets of the sugaring process. During this 90-minute program, attendees learn the history of maple sugaring and then are led to the forest where they select a tree; drill into it; hang a sap bucket; collect sap; and watch fresh sap being cooked down into syrup before their eyes. Participants even have a chance to taste the finished product.

Strawberry Hill owns a hobbyist sap evaporator which is a smaller version of the professional version that produces syrup so delicious, so sweet, that you won't believe it's the same product that's usually purchased in a grocery store. Your taste buds will rejoice and beg for more



Participants at this year's festival will get to watch fresh sap being cooked down into syrup right before their eyes!

of this tasty treat! Strawberry Hill demonstrates the boiling process to school classes, home schools, organized groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and the general public.

Growing in popularity are the pancake breakfasts which are hosted by Strawberry Hill and held at Camp Eder, 914 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield on two Saturdays during the maple sugaring season. This year Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve and Camp Eder invite the public to enjoy their combined festivities at Mount Hope Maple Madness! On Saturday, February 22nd and March 1st the days will start with a pancake breakfast from 7:30 – 11:30 am. Diners can enjoy the ambience of music provided by local musicians; then they can go into the adjacent room to view and/or purchase crafts from local vendors.

After filling up on pancakes topped with syrupy goodness, folks can participate in a program to learn the process of taking the sap from the tree to the syrup on the table. While no reservations are necessary for the breakfasts, you will need to call to register for a

spot for the maple sugaring program. Public programs will be held at Camp Eder on Saturdays, February 23rd and March 2nd from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Call the Strawberry Hill office at 717-642-5840 or email info@strawberryhill.org to make your reservation.

If you are a scout leader, teacher, home school organizer, or someone who wants to bring an organized group to experience this fascinating backyard hobby, you can contact Strawberry Hill or visit the website at www.StrawberryHill.org to join one of our weekday programs held between February 9th and March 15th. Each program is suitable for all ages. It's educational; it's fun; it's a wholesome family activity; and it's good exercise. After participating in the program, participants will have the knowledge needed to do sugaring in their own in their backyard. There will also be maple syrup for sale as well as maple sap collecting kits. Hope to see you in the "sugarbush;" the forest of maple trees, that is!

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




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Winter babbling

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

It's at the computer composing a readable thought (I'm so optimistic) as the fourth load of laundry cycles through the washer, after I've carried the third load upstairs. (The downstairs' dryer died and a clothesline awaits me finding a pair of plies so I can run it tautly from pole to pole and watch my shirts freeze.) Oh, I've made a cream cheese pudding pie between paragraphs as well. (Which involved me washing down kitchen equipment and counters several times as well as having to wash my face twice and change my clothes.) Oh, I'm frying a mix of beef burger with sausage seasoned with cracked black pepper and allspice, salt, homemade garlic powder (from our garlic) and Bulgarian paprika for this evening's meal of meat and broccoli over rice noodles, or somethin'. Oh, I need to order 10 or 20 pounds of leaf fat so I can render enough lard for the next six months.

In the midst of all that, what comes to mind?

"When are you going to start selling stuff at the farmers market?"

I've forgotten how many times people have asked this. At least twice or thrice these last few years. The question always overwhelms me. Fills me with dread it does, mostly at the thought of taking money for my efforts to tease something tasty from the earth. I can't get past a feeling that gardening is somehow sacred and not to be prostituted. While I'm struggling with this feeling Brook Elliott (a gardening writer) posts a letter on a Yahoo! board we're members of. "Help people learn to grow their own food. Set up a seed library."

Brook goes on about a concept that is making inroads across the country. Public libraries are becoming seed libraries, public seed banks! The idea hit me like "Damn. Why haven't I thought of this? Duh. Because I'm me."

So I Google for seed libraries and

discover they range in practice from a basket of seeds anyone can help themselves to (with everything working on the honor system) to systems actually used by libraries to check out books. The borrower needs use a library card and a record is kept of who takes what seeds and whether they return seeds at the end of a growing season.

I dumped the idea onto the best librarians I know (Emmitsburg's) and even agreed to supply the first seeds to the bank and run the effort if need be. While the powers that be at the library maul the idea I have to move along with my own gardening adventures.

Marty acquired a hobby farm tractor to mow his acre of a yard and is hunting a rotary tiller to use in working up DW and I's garden. (Ain't none of us going to get through a winter eating what I can grow using a broad fork and a 5hp walk-behind rotary tiller!) If all goes as I'm plotting it out on paper (it never does so DW and I won't be quitting our factory jobs until forced out of that work by some government, decrepitude, or loss of the building) I'll have twelve 100' rows to plant and tend. (I'm thinking six rows will be about all I can handle and the rest will be green manured and turned under as needs be. "Feed the soil first!" is my mantra, especially if it saves me from havin' to bend over to pick beans!)

DW and I have been building our wants-and-needs lists of seeds since the first seed catalog arrived in November. Stokes is always first and seldom gets an order from us. It's a great seed source for market gardeners, but my focus has been on heirloom and other open-pollinated varieties. They'll probably get an order this year because the Mad One recently asked her parents for an exact recipe for brine pickling whole heads of cabbage. She uses them to make cabbage rolls. She smothers the rolls in a yogurt sauce and bakes them with a sprinkle of Bulgarian paprika over all. Having

eaten such pickled cabbage, stuffed and rolled, I just had to learn to ferment cabbages, which led to learning to grow them for the brining buckets! (The Mad One currently has cabbages fermenting in her basement while I have mine working in an unheated bedroom. DW makes gagging noises every time I aerate the bucket. I nearly swoon from the delightful fragrance of horseradish and dill permeating the ferment! And the brine! Oh that is so tasty I'll be saving it as a seasoning after the cabbages are long gone!) So this year I have need of a special type of cabbage, those with thin leaf ribs that allow easier rolling of the leaves. Stokes has two hybrid varieties that meet that need so they'll be getting an order!

So far the list totals around \$200 worth of wants: Terrior Seeds (3 types of beets, two peppers and some French marigolds for keeping the munching insects at bay), Willhite Seed Inc (the TX homesteader's neighbor specializing in watermelons, which I'll be ordering several varieties of), Territorial Seed (offering an interesting cuke for brining, a paprika pepper and a hollyhock mix DW finds irresistible) and Seed Savers Exchange (more melons, tomatoes for canning, winter squash, a red-stalked corn and a Romanesco broccoli/cauliflower I'd grown years ago and have lusted after ever since! And the Mad One's favor-



The author in the super secret National Seed Repository, recently constructed under Popular Ridge.

ite Bulgarian pepper which is likely to become the only non-pickling pepper I'll grow in 2014!

As soon as we clear the tables in the living room, we'll empty the seed fridge and go through what all we have in storage from past seasons. (There are three bins in the fridge, each packed tight with seed packets and one-pound bags of beans and peas. On the shelves, I see 5 pounds of cereal rye and several bags of clover. Mixed among those are bags of okra pods and unidentified flower pods. I sooo need to start labeling and dating!)

Having gotten hold of the seed library idea I'm thinking I can quickly thin my stock down to maybe two bins as I sort out seeds for wannabe gardeners. Simple things to grow as I expect mostly little kids being interested in a seed library at first. More tricky to grow offerings would follow once the kidlet's parents see how easy

gardening can be, at least as I do it. (DW has other thoughts about that, but she doesn't have a column so they don't count.)

Emptying a seed bin would of course necessitate my refilling it, preferably with newly purchased seeds. DW thinks I'll be lucky to convince her we can afford \$100 worth of new seeds let alone the watering system I am looking to buy and install.

Yep. Anyone wondering when I'll set up at a farmers market had best petition the library to let me set up a seed bank. Given my track record for having any plan go aright, the seed library is the safer bet anyone will get anything tasty from my efforts at gardening! They'd just have to do a little work themselves.

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

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PETS LARGE & SMALL

One is never enough!

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

I get scared a lot -- I can't really control it. I especially get nervous when dad goes to that place he calls "work." I mean, what if he doesn't come back? The first people that had me didn't come back and left me in the house and I had to be taken to an animal shelter.

What if Dad does that?

I mean, yeah, he hasn't done it so far and we've been together for six months, but I just don't think you can ever really know what will happen.

And what if Dad needs me at this "work" place? What if he gets in trouble and I could help him out? What if he needs protection?

It helps my nerves to chew on stuff. Dad wasn't really happy when I chewed through that crate he put me in during the first couple of days, but it's just, man, I didn't like being locked in there. It was like I had no control. I couldn't protect the house or see if anyone was coming up the front walk. It freaked me out.

I know I had to go to the vet because I ripped up my mouth getting the bars of the crate open, but I felt better when I could walk around the house a little.

So now, I'm thinking I might be able to get through the door if I chew on the bottom of it long enough. Then I figure I'll go find Dad and be

there for him if he needs me. It's better when we're together. He makes me relaxed and comfortable because when he's around I know nothing bad will happen to me and I know I can protect him.

I'm getting splinters in my jaws from the bottom of the door, but if I can make it through, I know I can find Dad and then everything will be better and I can calm down.

I've heard Dad say the words "separation anxiety" when he talks on the phone about me. I guess that's what I have. It's probably why I ended up at an animal shelter in the first place.

I'm really lucky Dad took a chance on me and I want to be so good for him, I really do, but I just get nervous being away from him.

I know he's been talking to people about me because he's started to change things. Sometimes he has this thing he calls his briefcase with him and sometimes he doesn't -- it's like I can't really tell what he's doing. Sometimes he'll go into his study and shut the door so I can't get to him. That freaks me out, too, but I can hear him on the other side of the door, so that helps.

He started leaving the house without even looking at me or talking to me. Sometimes he's gone before I even know it and I have no idea how long I've been without him -- especially if I'm sleeping or something when he goes. Other times, he goes out different doors, so I can't really keep track of what he's doing.



If you are looking for a handsome, happy and loving dog, you've got to meet Prince. He's a red-and-white, 2-year-old pit bull who is quite the charmer. His tail never stops wagging! He rides well in a car and knows how to sit. He has lived with other dogs before, but we're not sure he'd do well with cats. Prince is now looking for a new home that will shower him with love and treat him like the prince he is. We recommend that he goes to a home with children older than 8. If you meet the criteria, we would love to introduce Prince to you!

He doesn't even really greet me when he comes home at first, either, and it hurts me a little because I'm so excited to see him, but it really seems to work to keep me calm. I think I heard him call these "training techniques" or something like that. Human words are funny.

My favorite things are the walks we take together. We go all around the neighborhood and I'm so proud that he's my Dad and I get to show him off a little. I even think some of the other dogs we see are jealous -- and they should be. My Dad's awesome!

Our walks also help get rid of some of that nervous energy I have and I can focus a little more and feel less scared. One time, Dad fed me my favorite meal (he said it was full of carbohydrates -- whatever they are) and I fell asleep and was all warm and comfortable the whole time Dad was gone. It was weird how when he was gone that time it didn't bother me as much.

Dad has also started to leave the radio on all the time, too. He likes

something called "Classic Rock" and swears to me that Foreigner is making a comeback. I'm not sure what that means, but he pats my head when he says it, so I'm happy.

The radio helps and so do the toys he fills with peanut butter. I keep trying to get into every nook and cranny to get that yummy stuff out. I'm telling you, that took up a whole afternoon one time. I don't know where the day went, but just when I started getting worried, Dad came home and everything was good again.

I even heard him talking about getting a friend for me. Friends are nice. I mean no one's as nice as my dad, but I really like the other dogs we see on our walks, so having one living here in the house to play with and nap with while dad is gone,

could really help.

But right now, I'm scared. I know Dad's not going to be happy tonight when he gets home, but chewing on the door help calms me down, so I'll keep doing this until he comes home. I mean, *if* he comes home. Gosh, I hope he comes home...

* * *

Separation anxiety in dogs is pretty much exactly what it sounds like -- an animal's fear or stress from being separated from an owner. A lot of people struggle with this, so if you have a pup who can't be left by himself, don't feel bad -- you are definitely not alone.

Separation anxiety is one of the biggest reasons dogs end up in animal shelters, but there are ways to combat it. "Training techniques" as our pup above described, as well as medications can help.

Getting other animals, just so your dog knows he's not alone can take a lot of stress off an anxious pup. Animals in the wild live in packs, with a clear leader and other "followers." It makes an innate kind of sense for them to be surrounded by their own kind, so consider adopting a second or third pet if you've got one that's suffering with separation anxiety.

But the most important thing to remember is where the DOG is coming from and have a little compassion. If you take the steps to help him get through his anxiety, I promise, you will have a best friend for life.

* * *

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter 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 263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org. CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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Medication misuse

Dr. Kimberly Brokaw, DVM

Clients frequently ask me if they can have various prescription medications “just in case”. In talking with friends of mine who are human doctors, they said that they rarely receive that kind of request. They usually only prescribe “just in case” medications in situations of foreign travel where they feel a specific disease is likely, such as travelers diarrhea during prolonged travel in areas such as rural Mexico where clean drinking water may be difficult to acquire. I admit that when I go camping with the horses I bring a large assortment of medications for the horses, “just in case.” However, I know that I am going to use them correctly. I do not ask my personal physician to give me antibiotics just in case I drink dirty water and get giardia or for some other situation.

In veterinary medicine, I get the request for “just in case” medications frequently. When I first started in practice it really didn't seem like a bad idea. Yes, having a couple doses of Banamine in case your horse colics, or a bottle of sulfa antibiotics in case of an infection may seem like a good idea. People think they can save money if they have a simple colic and give a dose of Banamine. They may not have to pay for an emergency vet exam. In situations as just described, that is likely true, so I frequently would give a tube of Banamine for owners to have on hand. As I handed the medication to the owners, I would tell them they had to call me before they gave the medication but that I was happy to provide them with a tube. However, I have found myself becoming less inclined to give people “just in case” medications.

One of the problems with giving people medications to have on hand is that one is assuming they will use it correctly. In human care, I understand there is a concept of the 6 rights of medication administration. Medication administra-

tion should always involve giving the right medication, to the right person, in the right dose, by the correct route of administration, at the right time. The administration of the medication should also be documented in the right way. Nurses are trained to follow the 6 rights whenever they give medication. Unfortunately, horse owners are not often trained in the rights of medication administration.

I am always frustrated when I go to a barn to treat a horse and upon saying that the horse should start an antibiotic, the owner pulls out a container from a couple months ago where the directions clearly state on the label “give until finished” or they grab a bottle of antibiotics that expired a couple of years ago and ask if they can use that. Another frustration is when owners give the pain and fever reducer medication, Banamine, without calling first. I understand that their horse is colicking and they feel panicked and want to give Banamine right away. If you don't call, at least stop, think, and take the horse's temperature before or immediately after giving the dose of Banamine. Fever often looks like colic in a horse. Banamine reduces fever. Frequently owners give Banamine thinking their horse is colicking. The horse then seems better until the Banamine wears off, and again they have a “colicky” horse. If the fever is caused by an unrecognized infection, valuable time was lost when an appropriate antibiotic should have been started along with the Banamine.

One of my favorite misuse of medication stories involved a lawyer and a biomedical engineer. These two intelligent individuals, after discussion amongst themselves, still used a medication improperly. They own horses and dogs and had various bottles of partially used medications. They should know something about the Rights of Medication Administration. Earlier in the year one of their horses scratched its eye so they



Horse owners are notorious for their accumulation of “just in case” prescription medications.

had a partial tube of antibiotic eye ointment in the medicine cabinet. They also have a dog that is prone to frequent ear infections and had a partially used tube of antibiotic ear ointment. The containers both clearly said that one was for eyes and the other for ears. The wife is usually the one to medicate the pets as she is a human nurse. However, she had gone to sleep early in preparation for a weekend shift. Her daughter (the PhD trained engineer) and son-in-law (another engineer) were in town for the weekend and were watching a movie marathon with her husband (the lawyer). In the midst of the movie marathon they noticed that the dog was scratching her ears a lot. While the dog was scratching she was crying as her ear had rapidly become sore. The lawyer knew that the dog had a history of having multiple ear infections. So along with the engineer, he went to the medicine drawer and looked frantically through it for something to treat the dogs ear. Rather than reading the label, they grabbed a tube of medicine and squirted it in the dog's ear. Right number one is that the medication should go to the right person or animal. They did not read the label to see if the dog's name was on the label. Another of the “Rights” involves using the proper method of administration for the medication. Ophthalmic/eye ointment

should go in eyes. Otic/ear ointment should go in ears. This was also ignored. In their haste (or panic) to treat the crying dog, it did not occur to them that they might be making an error.

The next morning they told the nurse that the dog's ear had flared up so they started treating it and showed her the tube of medicine that they used. That's when I got the phone call. The nurse didn't think that putting eye medicine in the ear was a problem but wanted to make sure and ask if there was anything else she should do. She also wanted to know if she could come pick up an additional tube of eye medication to have on hand. Luckily the eye medication is safe for the ears, although more expensive, and greasier so not the ideal choice. She assured me that she would take over

treating the dog and would use the correct medication and yet again asked if she could pick-up a tube of eye medication. As one could imagine, I was a bit hesitant to give her another tube.

So when you ask your vet if you can have some medication “just in case” my pet gets sick, and the vet hesitates. It's not because the veterinarian doesn't want to help you out. Rather she has probably had other clients misuse the medication and has become more cautious about giving out medication to have on hand. Sometimes, the “clients” who have misused the medications are even well educated, family members of the veterinarian.

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



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Assessing winter damage to your garden

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener
Polar Vortex Temptress

The polar vortexes that have brought single digits to our area will play havoc with your spring garden. The best time to assess this is after new growth begins to emerge in the spring. Some injuries may not show symptoms until later in the growing season, which can make correct diagnosis difficult. Many plants have protective mechanisms that should not be confused with winter damage. For example, some plants will shed leaves (Nandina and Privet); some plants will roll their leaves downward or the margins inward (Rhododendron);

some evergreens (Juniper, Arborvitae, Cryptomeria, and Boxwood) turn a red, purple or bronze color.

Winter injury can occur in many different forms, including low temperature/frost injury, winter desiccation, winter sunscald, frost cracks, snow & ice breakage and rodent damage. Damage symptoms include discolored needles or leaves, dead branches or branch tips, heaved root systems, broken branches or girdled stems.

Low temperature injury can occur during the winter season when unusually warm weather in autumn delays dormancy and is then followed by early frost or drastic temperature fluctuations. Injury can also occur in early spring when new

growth emerges, followed by abnormally low temperatures. Symptoms of low temperature injury are foliar browning and dieback of buds, twigs and branches. Plants will often leaf out, then collapse due to damaged cell tissue in the vascular system.

Reducing the occurrence of winter injury can be accomplished by following some guidelines. Be sure to select hardy plants. Growing plants that are winter hardy or native will reduce the effects of low temperature/frost injury. Avoid fertilizing plants with high nitrogen late in the summer so new growth is not promoted. Injury to young growth or insufficiently hardened tissues may still occur as a result of unusual weather patterns. Injured and dead tissues should be pruned out to discourage invasion of the plants by diseases and/or insects.

Winter desiccation or "winter burn" is usually observed in late winter or early spring on evergreen plants. Broadleaved evergreens, such as rhododendron, exhibit browning on their leaf margins. Narrow leaved evergreens can exhibit slight browning of needle tips to browning and premature abscission of entire needles, depending on the extent of the injury. Winter desiccation occurs more drastically on sunny and/or windy winter days when plants lose water from their leaves through transpiration faster than it can be replaced by the roots frozen in the soil.

Placing a protective barrier of burlap around small evergreens



The polar vortexes that have brought single digits to our area will play havoc with your trees and spring garden.

will act as a windbreak and reduce the rate of desiccation. The barrier can also shade the plant, avoiding warming by the sun.

Winter sunscald usually occurs on the south or southwest sides of tree trunks and branches. Young and thin-barked trees are most susceptible. The bright winter sun warms the bark during the day. The bark cools rapidly after sunset causing injury and even death to the inner bark in those areas. Symptoms of winter sunscald are elongated, sunken dead areas in the bark.

Wrapping the trunks of susceptible trees with tree wrap is the most effective way to minimize this type of winter injury. If a tree wrap is

used, it should be removed after one season to prevent insect or moisture damage. In commercial orchards, it is customary to paint the trunks of trees white to reflect the winter sun, reducing the buildup of heat during the day.

Frost cracks are splits in the bark and wood of a tree. They are caused by rapid drops in temperature that freeze the water within the trunk, forcing it to explode or split open. If not severe, the cracks can heal themselves by callusing over. However, many times the cracks reopen again the following winter. Frost cracks can be compounded by internal defects within the wood. Defective wood does not contract as readily as the outer layers of healthy wood when winter temperatures decrease rapidly.

Heavy snow or ice on weak branches with foliage can result in breakage. Evergreens are especially susceptible. Sometimes even strong branches from deciduous trees can be broken if the weight of ice or snow is extremely heavy.

Properly pruned trees and shrubs can reduce the accumulation of snow and ice collected on the branches. Removal of weak branches and those with acute or narrow angles can help reduce breakage. Avoid late-summer pruning that stimulates new growth.

Injury can occur on a broad range of evergreen and deciduous plants and symptoms may vary. Be a careful observer and ask various questions to assist with diagnosing winter injuries to plants.

Ice melting products

This winter has brought much ice and snow. As a homeowner, you want to ensure safety when walking on sidewalks or maneuvering on driveways and roadways. Mechanical removal alone is often inadequate when ice accumulates and we often turn to deicing compounds to melt ice and improve traction. These chemicals do not come without a cost, both directly and indirectly. When choosing a deicing compound you should consider its

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THE MASTER GARDENER

direct cost, its effectiveness, and the damage it may cause to vegetation, and the environment.

Most deicing chemicals are technically "salts" that work by lowering the freezing point of water below 32° F. As it melts the ice it creates a brine solution with a freezing point lower than that of pure water. The process continues until all the ice is melted or the melted water becomes so diluted that it refreezes at a normal freezing point of 32°F.

How deicing chemicals differ is in their freezing point, size, form, and impact on plants, hardscaping and environment. You should choose a chemical that is economical, effective, and causes minimal damage. Remember that economics does not equal the price you pay today but also the price you pay in the future when dealing with the environmental damage caused by over applying or using products not labeled as deicers.

There are five chemicals commonly used as deicers. They may be used alone, combined together,

or combined with other products to improve their effectiveness.

Calcium chloride (CaCl₂) is available in flake, pellet, or liquid form and often out performs other deicing products. It will melt ice at temperatures down to -25° F. It is highly corrosive but less damaging to vegetation than sodium chloride

Sodium chloride (NaCl) also known as rock salt has been used since the 40's. It is relatively inexpensive, but can burn plants and corrode metal and concrete. It causes soil compaction and inhibits root growth of plants. It also loses most of its deicing effectiveness when temperatures are below 25° F.

Potassium chloride (KCl) is a naturally occurring material that is used as a fertilizer sold as potash (0-0-60). Remember fertilizer is good for plants, but a high concentration can be deadly. This is the common problem with using this deicer. It is effective down to 12° F.

Urea, ammonium sulfate and other nitrogen salts are used primarily as nitrogen based fertilizers but are sometimes substituted for a deicer. At high concentrations they have the potential to harm plants. They should rarely be used as a deicer because of their potential for nitrogen runoff and leaching into water sources. These compounds have many environmental concerns when used as a deicer.

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) is a new, salt free melting agent made from dolomitic limestone and acetic acid. It causes little damage to plants and is used as an alternative to salts in environmentally sensitive areas. It is effective down to 5° F.

Removing snow and ice with deicer chemicals alone will lead to over use and environmental damage. Your arsenal should include

mechanical snow removal and the use of anti-skid material along with the use of deicers. Consider mixing an abrasive material such as sand or cat litter with your deicer to provide an anti-skid agent.

If you consider environmental issues when choosing de-icing salts and apply according to the label, you should be able to stay safe and protect the environment around you.

Small Town Gardener Hope springs eternal

Marianne Willburn

Yesterday I went outside in an attempt to initiate the production of Vitamin D by a body wearied with four walls and space heaters. And not a moment too soon. Coleridge's "Dejection: An Ode" sat open upon my desk, and I was starting to bypass Christopher Lloyd and a glass of red in the evenings in favor of a hot milky drink and short stories by Edgar Allen Poe.

It was a good day for it. The sun was high in the sky and the wind had died down, making it possible to pause here and there without grinding my teeth together and wishing I lived in equatorial Africa. At first I made a half-hearted attempt to move a few pots around and begin the process of rejuvenating the shade garden on the north side of the house. The once slushy snow had frozen into an undulating path of ice troughs, and not surprisingly the half-barrels I wished to move were still frozen to my Zone Six soil. It became clear within minutes that the north side of a house is no place to wander in search of sunlight or inspiration, so I took my booted feet south, towards the illuminated skeletons of Agastache and Caryopteris and surveyed the sunny flower border in the midst of her winter slumber.

I settled on my haunches next to an Amsonia, took the pruners out of my pocket and gave her an informal crew cut, enjoying the feel of the sun on my hair and the thought of finally being useful in some small way; but then quickly thought better of it. My memory is not the sharpest some days, and removing these tangible reminders of perennial garden structure – before I am truly ready to start moving plants around in the annual gardening romp of musical chairs – is not the hottest of ideas. So I stood up again and moved around aimlessly, unwilling to remove untidy blankets of leaves in the name of productivity – just in case they were the only thing standing between a fragile root system and terminal frostbite.

It was so quiet outside, and the sunlight so restoring, that after awhile I felt myself drawn to the garden bench which lives under the Silver Maple. With no wind to speak of, and bundled up by a thousand layers of fleece and flannel, I stretched my legs out and turned my face

to the sun.

Without taking these words to a sappy land of literary indulgence that I will no doubt regret in the morning, it is impossible to describe the feeling of renewal I experienced while sitting there – a feeling contrasted sharply by previous months' worth of mental and physical hibernation.

And then slowly I became aware of the sap running in the great tree above me.

I suppose the sun coma had deafened me somewhat to the patter of drops hitting the ground around my feet - until one splattered onto my forehead and dribbled down my nose onto my lips. I tasted the weak sugary liquid cautiously and watched as another drop hit the fabric of my jacket and was slowly absorbed into the texture of the heavy canvas weave.

Sap splashed onto the stones stacked in walls around me. It hit the garden bench in polka-dot patterns and rustled the leaves at my feet. The stronger the sun shone, the faster the sap ran. And I sat there and let it hit my jeans and my jacket, my hair and my face.

And I realized to my great relief that the maple knew that spring was coming – even if I had forgotten. That should I remove that ragged blanket of leaves, I would more than likely see the tiny, feathery fingers of larkspur seedlings, or the sturdy cotyledons of lunaria, germinating in an inch of insulated soil.

And were I able to dig down seven or eight inches through frost and ice, I would come across the heads of tête à tête daffodils, steadfastly growing towards an early March debut. All hidden, all quietly tuned to imperceptible changes in the length of days and the strength of the sun.

If you have never closed your eyes against the sun on a winter's day, whether sitting in a sunny window or sitting on a cold garden bench, I encourage you to do so now. A few minutes of meditation in the midst of February's icy grip can slap the synapses out of a tendency towards morose musings and eighteenth-century poetry.

The balance of power is starting to shift out there. Close your eyes and experience it for yourself.

Adams County Conservation District 2014 Tree Seedling Sale

Seedlings and transplants may now be ordered for the ACCD's Tree Seedling Sale. Pick up date is Thursday April 10, 2014 at the Ag Center at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. All orders must be prepaid and the order deadline is February 26th for peach trees and Monday March 17th for all other trees. This year we are offering Redhaven peach trees for \$15 per tree. PA native hardwoods offered are River birch, Black gum, Red maple, Pin oak, Serviceberry, and Silky dogwood. Price is \$10 for a same-species bundle of 5 and \$30/25 seedlings. Evergreens are \$15/25 seedlings

and \$20/10 transplants. White pine, Douglas fir, Colorado blue spruce, Norway spruce, and White spruce are the offered evergreens. Bluebird nest boxes and the 2-chambered bat boxes are available or at the District office throughout the year. A limited amount of rain barrels should be available for purchase on the day of pickup for \$50 per barrel.

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CIVIL WAR

1864: A summer of crisis

John Miller
Civil War Historian
Emmitsburg Historical Society

By the late Spring of 1864, the war had already turned for the worse in the South. Major defeats in 1863 at Gettysburg and Vicksburg were major turning points of the Civil War. Confederate General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia had faced several Union armies under the direct command of General U.S. Grant in Virginia. By June, General Lee had found himself in a dire situation. Since Spring, he had fought several major battles, from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor, and with each Union victory, Lee's army was forced to fall back and re-establish another defensive line. By June, Lee's army had their backs against Richmond and Petersburg. Lee needed relief and needed it fast.

On June 12, Lee called upon General Jubal Early and his Second Corps to help relieve pressure off of his army. Giving General Early verbal orders, Lee had hoped Early could accomplish the task that lay ahead of him. Early was to march into the Shenandoah Valley, where Union General David Hunter was hard at work destroying stores of supplies. Earlier that year, General Grant had ordered General Franz Sigel to eliminate all Confederate activity in the valley. As a result, the Battle of New Market was fought in May and General Sigel was

relieved of command.

General Early was to march to Lynchburg and hook up with General John C. Breckinridge and his Army of Southwestern Virginia, who was defending the city from General Hunter's army. Once Lynchburg was secured, Early would enact part two of the Lee's plan. The two commands would march down the valley, clearing all Federal threats, and march upon the Potomac River. By doing this, Lee had hoped to force Grant into a battle, or have Grant send portions of his army out to defend Washington once General Early was in Maryland. Also, if the campaign was successful, Early was to send a detachment of cavalry to Point Lookout to free the Confederate prisoners in hopes of replenishing Lee's army.

On June 12, General Early began pulling his troops out of Petersburg. On June 17, Early had reached Lynchburg, Virginia. After a pitched battle, General David Hunter withdrew his Union force to West Virginia. Early and Breckinridge continued down the valley and arrived at Winchester on July 2. General Early ordered General Breckinridge to proceed onto Martinsburg, and capture Union General Franz Sigel. General Early would then move to Harper's Ferry.

On July 3, many citizens living in the Cumberland Valley heard cannon fire in the direction of Virginia, and began to flee, crossing South Mountain in the wake of another Mary-



Union forces fortify Fort Stevens, just outside of Washington, during General Early's Maryland raid of 1864.

land invasion. These citizens had every right to flee from the invading Confederate army, since Maryland's opinion was more Unionist. As many refugees flocked east of South Mountain, Middletown residents doubted that another invasion was going to take place.

On July 4, Early's men skirmished near Harper's Ferry. Seeing Mary-

land Heights fortified, Early decided to move his army north, and cross the Potomac River at Shepherdstown and Boteler's Ford. The next day, General Early's Corps and General Breckinridge's Division began to cross the Potomac River, and continued to cross the Potomac until July 7. Once in Sharpsburg, Early's forces started to set up camp. The Confederate caval-

ry under General John McCausland reached Hagerstown with orders to ransom the town for \$200,000. Misunderstanding the order, McCausland only demanded \$20,000.

On July 7, Johnson's Cavalry Brigade skirmished with a portion of the 8th Illinois Cavalry and their artillery support at Turner's Gap. After the skirmish, Johnson's Brigade moved to-





















CIVIL WAR

ward Frederick, and would engage Federals while positioned at Braddock's Gap. Meanwhile, Breckinridge's forces moved onto Rohrersville, and a portion of the Confederate soldiers encamped there, at the base of South Mountain, while another portion of Breckinridge's men skirmished with General Stahel's troops near Maryland Heights. Further to the south, on the road leading to Crampton's Gap, General Robert Rodes skirmished with elements of Union forces during the afternoon. Later that evening, General Rodes encamped near Crampton's Gap.

On July 8, Early's Army began marching toward Middletown. The army crossed over South Mountain at three different mountain gaps. Fox's Gap was the route of Breckinridge's men, while Generals Early and Ramseur marched through Turner's Gap, and to the south General Robert Rodes traveled through Crampton's Gap to Jefferson. Ramseur's and Breckinridge's Confederate columns converged at the town of Middletown, where a ransom of \$4,000 was met. That night the main portion of Early's Corps encamped at Middletown.

Early in the morning on July 9, Major John B. Burt, an Aid-de-Camp wrote in his dispatch that Confederate troops were fortifying the old South Mountain battlefield. In his report he also stated that two of his men were in a Confederate camp at Wolfsville, on South Mountain. The Federal scouts stated that about fifty Confederate infantrymen were on picket duty, and that they were part of a chain of pickets that stretched across South Mountain to Boonsboro.

General Early continued his march toward Frederick. Once his men took possession of Frederick, General Early issued a ransom for the town in the

amount of \$200,000. As General Early turned southward, he ran into resistance from General Lew Wallace and General Ricketts, who re-enforced Wallace's small force. General Early battled with Wallace at Monocacy until the evening.

On July 10, Confederate cavalry were foraging South Mountain from Monterey Pass to Frederick, stealing horses, and creating much alarm. During the day Major John Burt wrote to General Couch, who was at Chambersburg, that about 3,000 cavalry under General Bradley Johnson were in Lewistown and Creagerstown. Another 7,000 Confederate cavalry were at Smoketown. He also confirmed that Confederate troops were fortifying South Mountain, and that General Imboden's Brigade, with about 1,500 men, came down the west side of South Mountain, sending a small detail of men into Smithsburg, eight miles from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

Captain Maxwell Woodhull who was serving as Acting Assistant Adjutant-General wrote a dispatch to Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence that General Morris wanted cavalry to scout the area near South Mountain, at Black Rock Bridge. Reports were of Confederate cavalry and a section

of artillery moving along the Westminster and Baltimore Pike, moving from Boonsboro. The Westminster and Baltimore Pike was a roadway that led from Hagerstown, over South Mountain at Wolf's Tavern, and at the Catocin Mountain to Emmitsburg, and continued to Westminster.

From the banks of the Monocacy River, the Confederate Army continued their journey to Washington. By July 11, General Early was within sight of the ring of forts that surrounded Washington, and soon fighting erupted around Fort Stevens. During the night of July 12, General Early began to retire from Washington, and headed toward Leesburg. This was due to veteran Union soldiers that were transferred from Petersburg and began occupying the forts.

Toward the end of July, General Early ordered General John McCausland to take a force, and ransom Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. General Early had grown tired of seeing charred southern homes and the property destruction that Union General David Hunter had caused. General Early had decided it was time for the people of the North to get a taste of the type of warfare that

was being forced upon the Southern families of the Shenandoah Valley.

On July 29, the cavalry brigades of Generals McCausland and Bradley Johnson forded the Potomac River, at McCoy's Ford. The Confederate force made their way to Mercersburg, where they arrived at 5:00 pm that evening. After resting and attending to their mounts, the Confederate force mounted up and left Mercersburg.

By 5:00 am on July 30, the Confederate columns had made their way into Chambersburg. Chambersburg was ordered to pay a ransom of \$500,000 in Union greenbacks or \$100,000 in gold. By 10:00 am, the ransom was not met, and the town was burned. Over 500 buildings and structures, encompassing over eleven blocks in Chambersburg, were damaged or destroyed, with damages estimated to be over 1.2 million dollars.

As a result, General William W. Averell, commanding General George Crook's Second Cavalry Division, Army of West Virginia investigated the situation. Every road leading from Chambersburg to the

east, including Greencastle, Waynesboro, and Emmitsburg were occupied by Union troops. By August 1, Union General Benjamin Kelly caught up with the Confederates near Cumberland, Maryland, resulting in the Battle of Folck's Mill.

As the beginning of August unfolded, more Confederate activity occurred in Washington County. The last major battle to erupt took place at the middle bridge along the Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg on August 5, 1864.

These events will be commemorated this year as the Sesquicentennial continues. The operations of 1864 in Maryland and Pennsylvania are among the forgotten aspects of the Civil War. For a listing of events in the area, there are several resources you can go to online. Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area @ heartofthecivilwar.org is a great resource that will connect you to all your Civil War needs or interests.

To read other articles on the Civil War visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

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HISTORY

A brief history of Fountaindale & its post office

Paul E. Seabrook

Editor's Note: While looking through the Historical Society archives for the next selection on a local community's history to share in the paper, I came across this article on Fountaindale. The name rang a bell – but I couldn't place the location of the town. So I turned to the Historical Society's Civil War Historian, John Miller, for help. John has written extensively about Fountaindale's role in the Civil War and was only too happy to provide the following introduction:

"Fountaindale has a very unique history, and a few years ago, I had a chance to take a drive with two of its elders. We drove around the Old Waynesboro Road, and at each turn it seemed as if old memories of childhood were rapidly being unveiled for an important reason. That reason was that these two individuals wanted not only their story told, but the story of Fountaindale to be known. After a few hours in the car, it became clear to me that Fountaindale, after the turn of the century was once a bustling little community.

It was established in the late 1700's by several settlers who moved into the valley. One of the settlers, the Beard family was among the first seven to move to the newly created town of Emmitsburg, and eventually moved to valley. His farmstead was located near present day Site R. Fountaindale was located along a portion of the Pittsburgh Road, which eventually

became known as the old Colonial Road. In 1820, the Emmitsburg and Waynesboro Turnpike was completed. Several stagecoach taverns were opened, as well as several tollgates. Several houses were built where hundreds of springs flowed to the surface.

During the Civil War, Fountaindale witnessed a great deal of soldier activity, as well as a few minor skirmishes. After the Civil War, copper was mined in the area. Portions of the forest upon South Mountain near Fountaindale were harvested for charcoal. As the Western Railroad came through the area in the late 1800's, tourists from the inner city came to the area for the cool mountain air in the summer. However, by the Depression, the famous resorts in the area began to die off.

At one time, Fountaindale had two gas stations, a schoolhouse, two churches, a post office, and a general store. Industry was just as important. There were several copper mines, saw mills, furnaces, and even a railroad station located along Jacks Mountain Road where U.S. mail was brought in. The population of the community kept moving westward from Jacks Mountain Road closer to the foot of South Mountain near Iron Springs Road. As the nearby towns of Gettysburg, Emmitsburg, and Waynesboro grew with jobs, and access to an automobile became the main way of transportation, Fountaindale began to slowly disappear.

During the 1930's Route 16 known locally as Sunshine Trail was being built.

This bypass changed not only the landscape of the area, but it left Fountaindale separated from the main highway. Today, when you drive along Route 16, you can see where old roads once ran, and you can see many of the spring houses and historic farmsteads that were once part of the thriving community of Fountaindale..."

—John Miller

Many interesting things come to light when we inquire into how and why some of our Post Offices were named. Following is a brief story of how Fountaindale was so named.

In order to make clear the circumstances that led to this name being chosen for the Post Office in this locality it will be necessary to give some of the early history of the hamlet which is located about midway of the valley of Miney Branch Creek in the extreme south western part of Adams County, Pennsylvania.

This stream flows between Jacks Mountain on the north and Raven Rock mountain on the south and has its source in Charmain Springs just across the Franklin County line, near Monterey, and empties into Toms Creek at Zora.

Among the early settlers, in alphabetical order, were the names of Gordon, Gourley, Buhman, Flohr, Beard, Harbaugh, McIntyre, Sprenkle and many others.

About 1785, Daniel Sprenkle,



Jack's Mountain Station House was built in the 1880s by William Heyser.

who came from Manchester Township, York County, (Adams County was then still part of York County), obtained a grant of 444 acres of land from the Honorable Penn Grantors, in Hamilton Bann Township. This tract extended from the "Great Road" as its southern border, to high on the southern slope of Jacks Mountain. When the first census was taken, after Adams County became separated from York County in 1800, the census shows that Daniel Sprinkle (Sprenkle) owned land valued for taxation at \$1284.00 and on which there was saw mill, valued at \$300.00.

When Daniel died in 1822, being weak and sick of body, but strong of mind, he directed in his will that his "Plantation" be divided along the west side of his orchard, beginning at the old "Great Road" and the eastern portion be sold. At the time of his death his new stone farm house was not completed.

His two eldest sons, Daniel and William, acting as his executors in compliance with his will, sold the eastern portion to Joseph Baugher, who established a tannery in a small meadow along the creek, built an elaborate home with a fountain in the front yard. The water for the fountain being piped from the mill race which was some 300

feet to the rear of the house and some 10 feet above the level of the front yard. This was the saw mill that Daniel had built. Why he wished this part of his land to be sold has remained a mystery to this day.

On a small tract of this land, at the intersection of the "Great Road" with the road that came up through the valley, was established the first Lutheran Church in this part of the county, it being part of the Emmitsburg, Maryland charge. The "Great Road" came over the edge of Jacks mountain from Gettysburg, this part is now known as the Jacks Mountain Road.

Here also was the Gordon's Tavern, later known as Walkers, and other saw mills down stream. This settlement was sometimes known as "Baugher's Dale".

When the Post Office was established in 1837, Mr. Joseph Baugher was chosen as the post mater and "Fountaindale" was selected as the name because of the fountain in his front yard. Mr. Baugher served as post master until 1845, when Reuben Steen (Stem) was appointed to the post.

History does not show why the change was made, but if we examine the record of politics at Washington, we see that this was a time of turmoil, William H. Harrison, a Whig, had died after only one

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OBITUARIES



Jack's Mountain Station House in the 1880s.

month in office and the Vice President, John Tyler, a Democrat, had altogether opposite views, also the Nation was undergoing a financial panic, all of which may have had some influence in the remote parts of the country. Mr. Stem served until 1849, when the office was closed for some reason.

Available records do not show at what time it was reopened, but Mr. Stem was again appointed. Later Mr. Daniel Martin was appointed postmaster and he continued to serve until it was closed in 1902. At that time the Rural Free Delivery began to serve the community from the Post Office at Fairfield.

It might be well to note here that some time later Mr. Frederick McIntire set up a fountain in his front yard about a half mile farther down stream and named it "Fountaindale Spring".

This name appears on old maps of the County and causes some confusion as to the actual location of the first fountain.

When the Mercersburg, Greencastle and Waynesboro Turnpike was built through this valley a great deal of the old "Great Road" was abandoned, only small portions of it now serve as farm lanes or access roads to outlying fields.

This road served as the boundary line between Hamilton Bann and Liberty townships from its junction with the road from Emmitsburg to its junction with the Harbaugh Valley Road, at this point the line jogs northward to the creek and continues westward to the Franklin County line.

The last location of the Fountaindale Post Office was in Mr. Daniel Martin's store, at the junction of the turnpike and the Harbaugh Valley Road.

The Lutheran Church merged with a new church that was established in Fairfield in 1855. This new church was also served from the Emmitsburg, Maryland charge. Mr. Aaron Musselman, a trustee of the

new church was delegated to dispose of the log building.

What was done with it is not recorded, but the stones of the foundation went into the foundation walls of a new home that was built for Mrs. Emma Walker, widow of Horace Walker, in 1908.

This house is only a short distance from the old church yard. Only a few fallen stones remain today of the pioneers who were buried here, most of them being destroyed by vandals. One small lot which has a dry stone wall around was undisturbed, showing that the vandals favored it for family reasons.

The land and other property of Joseph Baugher passed into the ownership of Sanford Schroder, who continued to operate the tannery and saw mill.

Mr. Schroder was taken prisoner by General Stuart when he made a raid through this section during the Civil War. Mr. Schroder and a small son were riding in a cart when they were overtaken by the rebels; They put a worn out horse in the shafts of the cart and allowed the boy to go home, but took the father along and the good horse. John Martin was also taken prisoner at this time. The story says that he was working in a field near the road when the rebels came along. He defied them and said uncomplimentary words to them and got taken along for his patriotism.

As he was being taken away he called back to his relatives to tell his mother that her warning that the devil would get him if he did not mend his ways had come true; "Now the devil has me," why he was not shot at once remains a mystery.

All the finished leather was taken from the Schroder tannery at this time as this was of great importance to the rebels.

When General Lee camped in this valley on the first night of his retreat from the battle of Gettysburg,

a badly wounded rebel soldier died and was buried in the old Lutheran cemetery.

This writer often looked at the small marble marker which lay by itself at some distance from any other markers, but did not make a record of the inscription. The name is lost to memory; it read in part, Died, July 4, 1863. Aged 20 Years.

Mr. Schroder was released from prison near the end of the war, along with his friends and neighbors, all were in bad condition from starvation and sickness and some had to be carried by their stronger companions. He was never able to recover fully from this ordeal but tried to carry on for some years afterward and to rebuild the tanning business. The saw mill fell into disrepair and to add to his troubles the home built by Joseph Baugher burned and the Schroders had to move into a small log house at the edge of the tannery.

In the late 1880's he sold the land to William J. Sprenkle, a grandson of the original owner and a son of William Sprenkle, one of the executors of Daniel's estate. The old saw mill was in bad condition and after it had been sold to Mr. Sprenkle. The Schroder boys took the cast iron gearing out of the mill and hauled it to Waynesboro, 10 miles away, where it was sold to the Geiser Co. as junk. When this was discovered by the new owner, he began a search for the missing machinery and found it at the Geiser plant, but decided to take no action, due to the decayed condition of the whole structure, which he demolished and replaced with a complete saw mill and building bought from A. Flemington White, along Middle Creek. A small grist mill, with stone burrs was added to the saw mill and the wooden over shot water wheel was replaced by turbine wheels. This saw mill was of the type known as the "sash". In this type the saw blade was held in a large frame that was wide enough for the carriage that carried the log, to pass through. The saw being held under tension in the center of the "sash" somewhat like the hand operated jig saw used by wagon makers to saw the curved parts of the wagon.

Part 2 next month

Frances Bittle

Frances A. Stinson Bittle died Friday, Jan. 10 at her home. She was born July 28, 1925 in Emmitsburg, the daughter of the late Dr. Oscar and Frances (Kerrigan) Stinson. She was the wife of the late Thomas S. Bittle who died Sept. 2, 1994.

Frances attended St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg; graduated from Union Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore; earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degree in Nursing from University of Maryland, and earned a Master of Arts in Theology from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary.

Frances was a member of Sig-

ma Theta Tau National Honor Society in Nursing and a member of the American Red Cross Nurses Association. She was a former faculty member of St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Penn State University at Hershey Medical Center, Harrisburg Area Community College and Messiah College.

Frances is survived by one daughter, Beverly H. Black and her husband Jesse of Gloucester, Va.; three sons, James T. Bittle and his wife Virginia of Arendtsville; John S. Bittle and his wife Diane of Fairfield; Stephen B. Bittle and his wife Rosalie of Fairfield. Interment was in the Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

Coeina "Marie" Peterson



Coeina "Marie" Peterson, formerly of Topeka Kansas, passed away Sunday, January 12 in Overland Park Kansas.

Marie was born December 5, 1931 in Emmitsburg, the daughter of Maurice and Carrie Wilson Fitz, Sr. Marie graduated from St. Joseph's High School in 1950. After graduation she moved to the "big city" of Baltimore and went to work for the B & O Railroad as an administrative assistant. On August 18, 1956, Marie and Leslie L. Peterson were united in marriage and later moved to Topeka in 1960. It was in Topeka that she began her role as a homemaker extraordinaire. She was very involved with her children's activities and was an active member in The Military Wives and Active Prime Timers organizations. Marie always had an adventurous spirit. She and her husband loved to travel all over the world. After his

death in 2000, she continued to travel with her sister, Honey and with her close friends. She was also a doting grandmother who loved spending time with her eight grandchildren.

Marie was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church, in Topeka Kansas. In April 2013, she moved to Santa Marta Retirement Community in Olathe Kansas to be closer to her family.

Survivors include her children, Susan Cordill (Brian), Renee Sawyer (Bill) and Kent Peterson, DDS (Patricia); eight grandchildren, Austin, Alexis, Derick, David, Thomas, Megan, John and Matthew; a brother, Maurice Fitz, Jr.; and a sister, Jean Hemler. Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Colonel (ret.) Leslie L. Peterson; three brothers, Kenneth (infant), Richard and William Fitz; and a sister, Miriam (Honey) McCauslin.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Christ the King Catholic Church. Burial was in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities of Kansas, 9720 W 87th St., Overland Park KS 66212 or the Wounded Warrior, online at www.woundedwarriorproject.org. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.



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COLD WAR WARRIORS

My life in Cold War submarines

The not-so-boring life in the shipyard

Captain William Hicks, USN, Ret.

Part 7

I also worked with ships in overhaul in preparation for the examination either by Naval Reactors or the NPEB prior to initial criticality. The challenges of achieving readiness in the shipyard were much different from those at sea: Most equipment could not be operated. The shipyard was reluctant to provide adequate time for the crew to practice since any crew practice time took away from overhaul work time. The schedule date for the examination was set early, but the shipyard progress frequently did not support that schedule.

This situation frequently became a conflict in which the shipyard wanted to keep the date by shortening the crew training time and I became the bad guy who said no. If the crew did not get adequate training to my satisfaction, I would cause the examination to be delayed that would delay the entire overhaul schedule. I was usually successful in working out a plan to support the crew training without significant impact on the overall schedule.

I also worked closely with the tender commanding officer in preparation for the annual radiological controls evaluation (RCPE) by the NPEB. This was a totally different set of challenges. The Radiological controls division was a relatively small part of the tender crew. However, the impact of the RCPE extended to all parts of the tender in responding to radiological events and drills and conducting nuclear repairs and operations.

One of the classic challenges was connection of an off hull radiological discharge line to a submarine alongside. This action required divers to follow a precise procedure. For divers whose very nature is to improvise, the necessary discipline was a challenge. Radiological spills and other releases were also a challenge since they affected members of the crew who had min-

imal radiological training. They were also challenging since many tender radiological controls technicians were female and the first step in a personnel contamination event is to remove the contaminated outer clothing. This challenge was handled by declaring training days as swimsuit days. In the actual casualty situations, which fortunately were few, everyone did what they had to do in response to the casualty.

I also got involved in material issues that were high risk or threatened the operational schedule. In one case, during an inspection inside a contaminated reactor plant system, several errors and missteps resulted in serious radiological contamination on the Pier. Contamination on a smooth deck is not hard to clean up. Contamination on a concrete pier is a different challenge. The level of the contamination was much greater than we usually experienced since the source was from inside the reactor plant system. Decontamination techniques included vacuum cleaners, latex paint, and sticky tape. Those methods were generally successful, but a few spots remained in which the contamination was embedded in the concrete. For these few spots, the tender invented a tool consisting of a plunger from a plumbers helper with a hole cut to accommodate a needle gun with a vacuum cleaner connected to the top. The tool was placed over the contamination hot spot, the vacuum started, and the needle gun activated to dislodge the concrete. The pier was successfully cleaned up and there were lots of lessons to be learned both on how not to cause the contamination and how to clean it up.

Another challenge was when I was confronted by a well-meaning civilian who wanted to conduct some significant testing of elements of the electrical distribution system aboard a submarine preparing for deployment. The testing was not routinely conducted on attack submarines but was a routine preventative maintenance process for SSBNs. When queried, the civil-

ian technician acknowledged that the tests would probably show issues with the system and furthermore, he did not have the parts or the resources to fix whatever he found. His goal was to gather data. My goal was to deploy the ship, which had passed all of the distribution and breaker tests that were required. Our goals conflicted in that I knew that when he identified weaknesses in places we were not normally required to look, the deployment schedule would be impacted. The question was whether this was a safety or a reliability issue.

Since these were tests not previously required and since they were for reliability of the SSBNs, I concluded it was not a safety issue that should be considered before deployment. I also knew that if issues were identified it would be very difficult to continue with the deployment without resolution and it was clear that the organization requesting the testing was not prepared to quickly resolve issues they identified. Thus with the concurrence of the squadron commander, I refused to support the testing on that ship and suggested it would be more appropriate to accomplish on an SSN preparing for overhaul during which any reliability issues could be resolved without impact on the operational schedule. There were some unhappy technical folks in Washington from where the test request had originated, but we held firm and the ship deployed on time. I got a call to Washington to improve my understanding, but in the end I think the understanding of others was broadened.

There is work and then there is paper work...

A final anecdote from my time as a squadron deputy concerns dealing with a longstanding problem aboard Lipscomb. Lipscomb had the unique turboelectric propulsion plant. An issue since construction was low electrical grounds in the electrical propulsion loop caused by oil leakage across the bearing seals. During the first few years of operation, many minor modifications were made to the oil seals to minimize the leaks by the construction shipyard, Electric Boat Company in Groton. Lipscomb's homeport was in Squadron Two in New London. Lipscomb's first shipyard overhaul was conducted at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and her homeport was changed to Norfolk. Shortly after completing overhaul, the grounds in the propulsion loop became a significant problem. Investigation revealed that the modifications made by Electric Boat had not been properly documented on the ships plans and that Norfolk Naval Shipyard had removed all of the modifications under the rationale that they were not per plan. This was a classic and expensive example of the adage that the work is not done until the paperwork is completed. In order to correct the grounds, the propulsion generator rotors had to be removed from the ship which required a hull cut in the engine room. The repairs would

require several months.

One of the rules of the nuclear propulsion program was that if the reactor plant was not operated critical for over six months, a complete requalification of the operators and an NPEB examination was required. Another rule was that the reactor could not be taken critical if containment of the hull could not be established. With a hull cut, containment was not possible. The obvious solution to the first issue was to conduct reactor plant operations alongside the pier prior to the six-month cutoff. However without containment that was not possible. Replacing and then removing the hull patch was prohibitively expensive. However, we determined that we could claim containment with a lightweight metal sheet welded over the hole in the hull from which the hull cut was removed.

After lots of forceful and sometimes heated discussion at various levels of command including Naval Reactors, it was agreed that we could establish containment with a temporary plate and maintain operator proficiency with critical operations alongside the pier. The operations had to be meaningful from a proficiency perspective including drills and exercises, they had to be planned, they had to include all operators for whom proficiency was required, and they had to be monitored. It was particularly satisfying to develop this solution and navigate the various levels of critical review and decision to get it to happen. Ultimately, the propulsion generators were reinstalled, the hull patch was replaced and Lipscomb resumed her operational schedule. This significant disruption to the ship's schedule was because the ships plans had not been kept up to date as the original oil leaks were resolved.

From Squadron Command to NPEB...

My two years as deputy squadron commander passed quickly. As I had experience as squadron engineer, the tour was enjoyable in that I got to deal with the big challenges and could pass on the mundane. That was not the



Captain William Hicks, USN Ret.

case as commanding officer when every issue required attention. As I was completing my tour, I was informed that my next challenge would be as a Senior Member of the NPEB. The good news was that we would remain in Norfolk and the family would not be asked to move. It was also good news for the family because while I would be away a lot doing examinations, when I was home, the pace of work was less, few crisis were ever passed to the NPEB and thus the opportunity to plan family time and participate in the life of the boys growing up could continue as it had while a squadron deputy.

The NPEB is part of the fleet commander staff. The technical direction for the NPEB is provided by Naval Reactors and the authority of the NPEB comes from the fleet commander. The task of the NPEB is to conduct examinations of the nuclear activities within the responsibility of the fleet commander which includes both reactor operations and radiological controls in fleet maintenance organizations. The NPEB does not conduct radiological evaluation of shipyards which are evaluated directly by Naval Reactors Staff personnel.

While I was part of the NPEB, every operating nuclear ship crew was scheduled for an ORSE once a year. Each maintenance activity either tender or submarine base repair facility was scheduled for an RCPE once a year. For ships in overhaul that had not refueled, the NPEB conducted a Pre critical operational reactor safeguards examination (PORSE) prior to the first criticality at the end of overhaul. When an ORSE resulted in a failure,



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COLD WAR WARRIORS



Ballistic missile submarines carried 16 intercontinental missiles, each capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads. As such, security protocols added another level of complexity to the operation of the ship.

es was to find the crews who deserved an excellent overall grade. It was easy to look at the deficiencies we identified and conclude this was not an excellent result, but the question was whether they were in the top 10%. Normally, an excellent ship and crew usually stood out if one was looking with an experienced and objective eye. The lesser grades were usually self-evident.

A failed result could only be given when reactor safety violations were noted. Thus by definition, an RCPE could not have a failed grade. During my two years on the NPEB, I participated in 93 exams. Most were routine but a few were memorable: I only participated in one failure. Not only were there reactor safety violations, but it was our observation that the ship training organization was unable to detect and control the drills to ensure reactor safety would not be jeopardized and operator proficiency enhanced. Thus, not only was the crew not proficient, the training organization gave no confidence that they could provide and oversee the training to improve the crew proficiency. We obviously got the attention of the ship as well as the staff because the next graded ORSE was graded as excellent. In another case, the first ORSE on a newly commissioned ship went very poorly. It was clear the crew and in particular the senior officers had not become self sufficient after leaving the comprehensive technical input and oversight of the shipyard. It was also clear the ship was not proficient at some of the less frequent operations and evolutions. Due to some inappropriate operations during a drill period, it was necessary for the ship to return to port to resolve the issues.

The NPEB challenge was how to deal with this unfortunate set of circumstances and lack of demonstrated proficiency on the part of the crew. Since we were in port during the final portion of the exam, it was possible to discuss the situation with Naval Reactors and the Type Commander. Note... lots of acronyms appearing here.... Hope they are explained. Am not checking for that. Remember.... The reader does not remember this stuff. After much discussion, we determined that the

ship could safely complete their operations before returning to the shipyard for a post commissioning shipyard availability (PSA) and that since the ORSE grade was significantly below average (SBA), a PORSE would be required prior to exiting PSA.

Several other SBA results were also very difficult judgments as to whether the ship could continue to operate while gaining improvement or whether they should be taken out of service for focused retraining in safe reactor operations. The excellent results were clearly the easiest and most satisfying. I think the team got almost as much pleasure from finding an excellent result as the crew that received it. Only one RCPE was notable for the challenge of a result. The crew was not proficient to conduct expected evolutions such as discharge hookups or responding to expected casualty situations, and many routine maintenance items had not been accomplished on schedule to ensure that the results of radiological measurements were accurate. Since by definition an RCPE cannot be a failure, this result was graded as SBA with significant critical comments.

My final challenge was the debrief of the results at the end of the RCPE. The debrief was attended by a two star Admiral and a three Star Admiral and they were not happy. My concern was whether they would "shoot the messenger", but fortunately, our facts were sufficiently persuasive that they understood the result and took the appropriate corrective actions. The NPEB nominally had four teams with four senior members. At one point we had only two senior members to support the four teams and the workload that required four teams. As a result, I had a schedule over a two week period from Norfolk for one

ORSE in Kings Bay Georgia, to Holy Loch Scotland for two ORSEs to Lisbon Portugal and on to the Azores to meet a carrier for an ORSE, debark the carrier in Bermuda and fly to Norfolk Naval Shipyard for a PORSE on a cruiser and finally home to write the reports.

On another trip we were to meet a carrier in Gibraltar as it completed a deployment. When we arrived in Gibraltar to meet the carrier, we were told to board the C141 transport that was waiting on the runway which immediately took off for Sardinia, Italy. At the air station in Sardinia, we boarded a carrier propeller driven plane and headed farther east. We landed on the carrier in the extreme Eastern Mediterranean where it had been diverted to make a high priority personnel transfer. Since the carrier was supposed to be headed across the Atlantic when we came aboard, it started a high-speed transit across the Mediterranean during which we conducted the ORSE.

Two flag officers aboard were a bit irritated when progress was slowed as we forced one or two reactors off line for drills, but the carrier maintained the planned schedule and we accomplished our operational ORSE schedule. A final note: During the ORSE, I spent time with the engineers reviewing their training records and their management of their department. Most were very good and nearly all were adequate to the task. However, as my time away from the NPEB increased, only two continued to stand-out in my memory for their excellence. Interestingly enough, 20 years later, they are both Four Star Admirals still on active duty.

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repeat ORSE was required before the ship could resume unmonitored and unrestricted operations. In situations where the ORSE or RCPE was passed but significant issues identified, a grade of significantly below average was assigned and another ORSE or RCPE was required within six months.

An ORSE or RCPE is conducted by a team of four—One Captain post command officer and three post engineer officers. In the case of a multi-reactor ship such as a cruiser or aircraft carrier, two teams are required to conduct the ORSE. The ORSE is conducted in two days and one night aboard. An additional day is required for the multi-reactor ships.

Needless to say, it is an intense period in which records are reviewed, each watch section is exercised with drills and evolutions, and selected nuclear trained officers and enlisted operators are interviewed. The ORSE is conducted at sea from the ship's homeport or at the location where it is deployed. Thus we routinely traveled to each port on the east coast, Holy Loch Scotland, various points in the Mediterranean Sea and infrequently to places like Azores, Bermuda, Gibraltar, and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. We all became frequent flyers on Pan Am and TWA. Unfortunately the perks did not survive their bankruptcy!!

To save on travel funds and wear and tear on our bodies, we frequently scheduled multiple ships in sequence on a single trip to Scotland or the

Mediterranean. On occasion, this scheduling resulted in several days between examinations which provided opportunities for wives to join us for short periods of vacation or we just hung out and killed the time between exams. I had the opportunity for Mary to join me on three occasions in England and Scotland which were enjoyable times for both of us.

I had not been on the receiving end of the NPEB since I was engineer on Dace. It was always a stressful but professional experience. I noted the ever-increasing expectations that the NPEB brought aboard. As a result, the capability of the crews on the nuclear ships to combat casualties and system upsets had advanced significantly. When I was engineer, we were not capable or did not understand many of what had become routine responses to failures and upsets by the time I reported to the NPEB. The ability of the ships to respond to the unexpected significantly enhanced the safety of the ships and made responding to the complex or complicated casualty routine. Had the crew of Thresher had the operational proficiency and flexibility I routinely saw on the ships I examined, it is possible they would have saved their ship.

Each NPEB exam was assigned an overall grade: excellent; above average; average; below average; significantly below average; and fail. It was our goal to have a standard distribution of grades with about 10% excellent. As a team, one of our challeng-

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MOM'S TIME OUT

2014 – A year for exercise

Mary Angle

Every year it is the same thing, January 1st comes along and the old year is gone. Gone in what seems to be the blink of an eye. Then it is time to do that old tradition of making a New Year's resolution. For some of us it is the same resolution we didn't stick to last year, for others it is a whole new challenge to better ourselves. Obviously, since it is already February, it sometimes takes me a while to figure mine out or maybe just commit to it. For many of us it is the time of year where we vow to get into better shape. This would be one of the many resolutions I make each year,

but by far the hardest one to accomplish.

Every January 1st my husband and I declare that we are going to eat better and exercise more. We talk at length about portion control and vegetable intake, avoiding late night snacks and stocking the pantry with healthy munchies, and the many different kinds of exercise that we might have a chance of sticking to this year. Ultimately though, the food part is a very small part of our problem. We usually eat a very well balanced meal and need to simply get seconds of the vegetable if we are not satisfied. My husband does struggle more than me with late night snacking. I simply go to bed

when I start getting hungry or have a craving. But other than that we don't struggle a great deal with the food aspect of a healthier life. So I guess that leaves the elephant in the room with exercise!

I have considered many different forms of exercise and purchased more than my fair share of equipment. From your basic treadmill and stationary bicycle to the Total Gym and a Nordic Trac we have owned almost all there is to offer. I have all kinds of exercise DVDs and VCR tapes, from basic aerobic exercises to specialized versions that claim my buns will never be the same. At my lowest point I was using Thigh Master daily, and al-

though I noticed no visible changes from this I do believe that was probably the strongest singular muscle in my body at the time.

My husband and I have tried walking together but never running, don't even get me started. Well, ok just a little snippet about running. I do not understand running. I have many friends who religiously run and love it, but not me. Between my husband's flat feet and my shin splints it is simply torturous. Not to mention when I realized that you had to pay money to be in all these marathons and the expensive running clothes and shoes...wow! To my friends who are running addicts (and yes, in WAY better shape than

me) I say more power to you, but it is definitely not for this family. We have tried the Wii fit and enjoyed it but not stuck to it. I have decided that it is not that I don't enjoy exercise, because I really do. For me it is more finding the time (uninterrupted time) and sticking to it.

I have explained to my husband that if we are going to have a piece of exercise equipment, and intend on using it on a regular basis, then it needs to be easily accessible and pretty much in our faces all of the time. Consequently, the treadmill will be moved into the bedroom by the first of the year. I know, if we have to think to go to the garage, or the basement, or over to his mom's to exercise it is only going to last so long. We are very much an out of sight out of mind kind of family right now. Maybe when we don't have four kids all going in different direction then we won't be so scatter-brained about exercise, I don't know. We may also bring the Wii up from the basement to the family room, for the same reason. We both get up in the morning before most of the kids and could easily squeeze in some exercise. However, opening the squeaky door to the basement and walking down the creaky steps that are on the other side of the wall from the girl's beds has absolutely zero appeal. I really do believe that exercise that is readily available is exercise you are more likely to do.

For the times when I am surrounded by the kids, which is most of the time, I have come up with some ideas to include them and therefore still get my exercise. First of course would be the Wii, we all love it and depending on the activity are quite winded by the end. Another option that I have looked into for an exercise supplement is the YMCA. The one we recently started going to has everything; two swimming pools, swim lessons and teams, work out rooms, exercise classes, gymnastics, weights, an indoor track for walking (or running if you are so inclined), pretty much everything I could think of. So for less than the cost I would pay for one of my kids to be involved in a private activity I can join the YMCA and all of the kids and I can go swimming three times a week (minimum). They absolutely love it and all of us are getting exercise without them even realizing it.

I am very much hoping that this year is different; I know my motivations are different. I don't just want to get into shape because of the way my clothes fit, which they don't, I also want to do it for health reasons. I am constantly short of breath and I feel lethargic all of the time. I don't want to live the rest of my life this way, nor do I want to shorten my life because I couldn't find the time to do anything about it. What kind of message am I sending to my children when I know what needs to be done but I just don't do it! Here is wishing you a happy HEALTHIER New Year.

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



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BEDTIME STORIES

The devious duck

Amy Wilkinson

There once was a duck who lived on an island in the center of a pond.

He was loud of mouth, and lack of wit, the type of which no one was fond.

He would strut about, ruffling his feathers telling others that he was great,

despite the fact the he was dim and rude and seriously overweight.

One day the duck swam from his island and decided to go for a walk.

He was bored and was looking for a poor creature with whom he could talk.

He waddled through the forrest, but every animal he found,

had to dash or run away or took immediately to a hole in the ground.

The duck thought, "Well, that is odd, they must have not seen me here.

If they had known it was me approaching, they would not be so quick to disappear."

Next time I will have to call out, to let them know it's me,

once they notice who I am, none will have to flee.

Duck continued searching, for the friend he knew he deserved,

even though he was not willing to put work into the friendship he wished to incur.

While searching, he came across a cabin that had been built in a small clearing,

He went inside and found a wolf skin was hanging from the ceiling.

He pulled it down and put it on and looked at his reflection,

He turned his head and twirled around and after close inspection,

He decided he looked like a wolf and would begin to act as so.

That way the animals would do his bidding, wherever he may go.

"The wolf is the master of the woods," the duck thought aloud,

"I will keep this wolf coat with everywhere and I can use it to enshroud,

my real self from all the rest so they will think I'm great,

everyone will want to be my friend; my loneliness will abate."

So Duck marched through the woods, hoping he would find, another animal to be his friend and leave his old life behind.

But no matter which direction he chose in which to stroll,

the animals all seemed to disappears into ponds, trees, or holes.

He thought, "This is no different than when they thought me a duck.

They must all be confused again, some ducks have all the luck!"

They didn't see me when I was a



bird, but now that I am scary,

They are all afraid of me and are acting skittish and wary.

Finally he came upon a squirrel who was gathering nuts,

He said, "You will come and be my friend, no ifs, ands, or buts!"

"You there!" He called, "Come sit with me, I'd like to chat with you."

The squirrel squealed, "Just please

don't eat me, whatever you will do."

The duck became amused that the squirrel was afraid,

so he ordered Squirrel to give him the nuts; and the squirrel obeyed.

That was when Duck got the idea, that if the animals were scared,

they would do all his work for

him, and from labor he would be spared.

So off he marched back towards his pond where he came upon a toad,

said he, "You will bring me fruit, make certain it's a full load."

Next he walked through the woods, with the hope that he would find,

a goose with which he had once quarreled, with whom he would be unkind.

He found the goose and frightened him. He chased him out of the lake,

he made the excuse that the goose was mean and this action was fair play.

For the next few weeks Duck was cruel and mean, acting like the one

who was in charge of the woods and animals and the way all things were run.

The next few days Duck trudged around frightening everyone he could find,

of the pain and suffering he caused the others, he acted as if he was blind.

The truth was, Duck didn't care about the others that he hurt,

he was arrogant and believed the power was something he deserved.

A few weeks later when he was out walking, he came upon a fox one day.

When the fox caught sight of him, he ran as fast as he could away.

As the fox ran, Duck taunted him, and called that he better run a mile.

The fox heard the duck cry, and broke into a large, foxy smile.

The fox stopped, and turned, and through the woods came running back.

He said, "I may have taken you for a wolf had not I heard you quack."

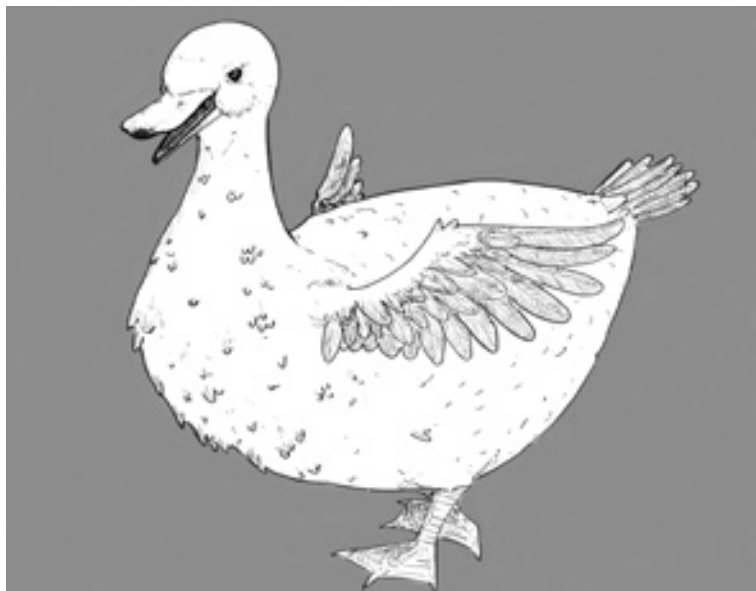
The duck learned a lesson that day, it's better not to pretend

to be someone that you are not in order to make a friend.

Be who you are, even if it seems like you are down on your luck,

because who you are is better than who you're not, even if you're a duck.

To read other bedtime stories by Amy visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Frederick County Board of Education

Katie Groth

The Board of Education and the FCPS staff are currently working on the proposed school system budget for Fiscal Year 2015. This is a long process and has many critical steps. It is the hope of my colleagues and I that the budget process will be as transparent as possible. It is understood each year that the BOE budget is the largest county expenditure. It is approximately half of the entire Frederick County budget. As taxpayers ourselves, we understand the importance of being good stewards of public funds. We also understand what it is like to manage our own personal finances. This is why we take time each year to meet the public, to talk about their hopes and priorities for the school system, and then advocate for a budget that is both realistic and adequate to do all the things a good school system is expected to do.

As we frequently mention, FCPS is one of the premier school systems in Maryland. Our students score consistently above state and national averages. FCPS is a leader in the state that leads the nation. The mission of Frederick County Public Schools is "to reach our students with exceptional teaching and caring support, challenge them

to achieve their potential, and prepare them for success in a global society." This mission is supported by goals that lay out how we plan to accomplish the mission. Supporting all of this is a budget that reflects our effort to reach every student with an outstanding educational program and supports. The Superintendent, Dr. Terry Alban has initially requested \$550 million in operating funds to support the system goals of FCPS in Fiscal Year 2015 (which begins, July 1 of 2014).

Each year, the budget process begins with several community engagement events during October and November when the public has opportunities to meet with the superintendent and members of the Board of Education to discuss community priorities for the school system. Following this in January is the announcement by the superintendent of her recommended operating budget. (The capital budget will be addressed in future articles.) Superintendent Dr. Terry Alban announced her recommended budget for FY2015 in early January. At that time, she announced a spending plan that she believes will cover the needs of the school system. It is the mission of the superintendent to advocate for what the school system needs.

The next step is the adoption of the superintendent's recommended FY2015 operating budget by the Board of Education. This takes place after a public hearing in February and after deliberation by the Board. The public is invited to attend all budget deliberations this year as all budget discussion will be held in open session. The first public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on Wednesday, February 5, at Oakdale High School at 7 PM. Citizens will be able to sign up to speak at this hearing before the BOE. The budget information as well as the budget calendar is available through the FCPS website: www.fcps.org. Members of the Board of Education are strongly encouraging Frederick County citizens continue to participate in this process, even those who may not be parents of students currently attending school. The Board recognizes the importance of full participation by the citizens of Frederick County who, of course, pay for our public schools.

And it is a hefty payment! The County's allocation of \$246 million represents "Maintenance of Effort" funding, the minimum amount required by State law. In addition to this sup-

port from Frederick County, the State of Maryland funding support will reach \$263.9 million. Federal government support is expected to be \$18.4 million. An additional source of income is from fees, tuition and interest, in the amount of \$4.3 million.

As previously mentioned, Superintendent Alban is requesting an amount that she and the FCPS staff believe is needed to continue providing the excellent quality educational services that the public has a right to expect from an excellent school system. Funding priorities were expressed by citizens at several community meetings held in the fall. "Maintenance of Effort", or MOE funding, however, allows for no expansion of programs nor does it recognize increases in costs associated with utilities, benefits for employees or the increase in needs for updating our technology. It will not support additional funding to continue to attract and retain high quality, highly qualified staff. Her recommended operating budget request for FY2015 totals \$550,053,710, or \$17.5 million more than expected revenues. This will necessitate some negotiating and perhaps some significant cuts in programs and

services if the Board of County Commissioners stay with their commitment to provide only MOE funding for the school system.

After the February public hearing, the Board of Education will work to adopt a final budget request to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners on or before March 1. The BOCC will hold a public hearing on the BOE budget on May 6. From there, the process proceeds to final budget deliberations with a final submission to the BOCC in the middle of June. Whatever the final budget figures are, the FY2015 operating budget goes into effect July 1.

Citizens of Frederick County: This is your school system! Your participation is needed, even if you do not have students currently in school. Excellent schools benefit everyone in the community. The extent to which an excellent public school system exists in Frederick County depends on its citizen support and participation. We have heard many of you tell us what you think is important. Now, we need to hear from you at the public hearing scheduled for February 5, 7 PM at Oakdale High School. To verify the information about this go to www.fcps.org.

Fairfield School News

Brad Rigler

As the Fairfield Area School Board's newly appointed Legislative Representative, I'm responsible for tracking legislation that could impact the district. However, I'm writing this editorial from my personal perspective in order to discuss a pair of bills in Harrisburg that I believe deserve our attention.

House Bill 1189 would allow districts to replace school property taxes with another tax structure such as earned income, mercantile tax and/or business taxes. Districts could opt to gradually draw down property taxes with dollar for dollar reductions from the new revenue sources, or eliminate school property taxes all together.

Rep. Will Tallman (R) who represents Adams and York counties was a co-sponsor of HB1189.

One of the key selling points of

HB1189 is that it empowers individual districts to decide which tax structure(s) works best for them. That local control is one of the reasons why the House was able to pass this bill onto the Senate where it's currently in the Finance Committee.

In theory, I'm in favor of HB1189. I believe that 'We the people' deserve the right to determine the manner (and amount) we're taxed. But even if HB1189 were to become law, it probably wouldn't be applied here in the Fairfield area.

Many of our residents moved here from just across the border to avoid additional income tax (on retirement). Creating an income tax could make the district less attractive to one of our largest pools of potential residents. That in turn would hurt property values and decrease the tax base in one fell swoop.

Still, I believe that districts ought to have the choice and that's why I support

HB1189.

House Bill 1506 (also co-sponsored by Rep. Tallman) would delay the implementation of 5 more Keystone Exams for 10 years. The Commonwealth currently requires students to take 3 Keystone Exams in order to graduate. An additional 5 more exams are scheduled to be added on over the next few years.

It's already cost the commonwealth \$200 million to implement the current Keystone Exams. There is growing concern that the Keystone Exams make standardized tests the focal point of education. By delaying the 5 new Keystone Exams, HB1506 will save tens of millions of dollars and gives districts time to study the positive and the negative effects of the Keystone Exams.

I look forward to sharing more information with all of you and please feel free to do the same by e-mailing me at brigler@prudentialhomesale.com.



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Liberty Mountain February Events

- Feb. 5 - Operation Thank You**
Free lift ticket for active duty Military, Paid & Volunteer EMS, Firefighters and Law Enforcement.
- Feb. 9 - "Do It For the Love" Rail Jam**
All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association
- Feb. 20 - Community Appreciation Day**
Local residents receive 50% off lift, lesson, rental, packages, children's products and snow tubing tickets!
- Feb. 21 - 98 Rock Baltimore Live**
Morning Show "Bacon & Beer" Broadcast
- Feb. 22 - Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge**
Free, Family Fun Race with lots of prizes!
- Feb. 23 - The Chill Shred-a-Thon**
Every Wednesday - College Days & Nights!
Current College Students Receive \$35 lift tickets and \$5 rentals! Must show valid ID.

Times, Pricing, Details & Restrictions for all events are available online.

Be sure to read the website before visiting for the most up-to-date information!

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

What's new at your library

Erin Dingle, Administrator
Frederick County Public Library

The library has partnered again this year with the Housing Authority of The City of Frederick to host an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site on six Saturdays. Pre-registration required. Call 301-662-0294. Specially trained volunteers provide free assistance in the library's Community Room from 1-3:30. Through the IRS VITA program, median to low-income tax payers are able to access free tax preparation services for simple returns for individuals earning less than \$51,000 annually. Advance registration is required by calling 301-662-0294. Session dates are: February 8 and 22; March 1, 8, 22, 29.

Learning Programs

We have a fancy new self-check terminal at the branch that we invite you to use. Staff will be telling you all about it

and how it can save you time if you're in a hurry to check-out. Kids really love to use it. It's easy and fast and is another tool that we are using to improve public service.

February 8, you can love your library when you visit the library for special Valentine's Day activities hosted by the Friends of the Emmitsburg Branch Library. The fun begins at 10 a.m.

We are making an effort to provide programming for Teens! On February 11 you'll re-imagine a Thrift Shop painting and on Tuesday, March 11 you can decorate a Springtime Mug. Both programs start at 4 and you must register to participate. Register at www.fcpl.org.

Saturday's At 11 am are reserved for special library events planned for elementary aged kids? Coming up will be Game Time on February 1st, Piggy Party on March 1st and Lucky Charms on March 14th. Hands-on fun, lots of good stories and more are all part of the

fun. Register at www.fcpl.org.

And finally, please feel free to talk to us at the library about how we can help you. Do you need help downloading books to your e-device? Want to host a book club for your friends in our meeting room? Trying to learn more about online genealogy? We can help with these and many other information needs. Just ask us when you visit next or call us at 301-447-6329.

Coming up

2014 Celtic Festival - We'll be bringing tradition back to the annual Celtic concert at Mount Saint Mary's University this year with the hottest acoustic Irish band on the planet, Lúnasa. Not only have we booked this super popular band that tours all over the world playing 'trad' music, we've booked this free performance on St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17. Lúnasa are internationally acknowledged as being the finest Irish instrumental band of recent

times. This is not a show to miss. Free ticket distribution begins Saturday, March 1 at 10 a.m. at both Emmitsburg and Thurmont Libraries.

Free Saturday Tax Assistance

Hands-On Gardening Series - The Emmitsburg Library is partnering with the Town of Emmitsburg Community Garden this year to encourage families to learn more about how to grow their food. You can participate by becoming a member of The Green Thumb Family Gardening Club. You

will with others to grow all types of vegetables in the town's garden located in the northeast part of Community Park. The Community Garden was established in 2011 and anyone can rent a plot for the entire season for a small fee. Our Green Thumb plot will 10 feet by 5 feet and seeds and plants will be provided. Through literacy activities and visits to the gardens, local families will be able to discover the fun of planting and harvesting food with their kids while taking part in interrelated literacy activities. There are three Saturday programs in the series and all start at 10:30 am at the library. For more information, please call the Emmitsburg library at 301-600-6321.

Mother Seton School

Lynn Tayler

After the jubilation of Christmas, January has always seemed a bit of a letdown. You spend most of the month recovering from the holidays, restoring your routines and catching up on all those things you let slide because, well, it was Christmas, and at Christmas who wants to mop floors or iron? But as January slides into February, life has returned to normal. At Mother Seton School, the month ended with much fanfare. The final week was dedicated to Catholic Schools Week, and we hosted an event each day, starting with the annual All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner. If you missed it this year, make a point to come next January. It's a fun and festive way to greet mid-winter with a smile. Perhaps that's too much to ask for, judging by my friends' Facebook updates and the continuous conversation at the bus stop. If I had a nickel for every time I've heard someone say they were ready for summer, I'd be able to pay off all my Christmas bills! Though the bitter cold and snowy air aren't unusual for this area this time of year, it does wear on people. Well, most people. I actually prefer the harsh winter wind to the stifling summer humidity. Not that I never complain about the cold, but 98% of my weather griping normally occurs in the summer.

February is one of my favorite months, always short and usually snowy. Maybe it's the Yankee in me, but I love the feel of a soft knit sweater and thick cushiony socks. Cuddling under a down blanket with a hot cup of tea, the Super Bowl, warm woolen mittens and snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes—these are a few of my favorite things about the win-

ter season (to borrow from Julie Andrews). It's second only to autumn in my heart. I even enjoy shoveling snow; you get a good

workout and you can see the progress you make, unlike cleaning the house when small children are underfoot. That's just a lost cause.



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- Feb. 14 - Blatant 80's
- Feb. 15 - Outbreak
- Feb. 21-22 - JJam
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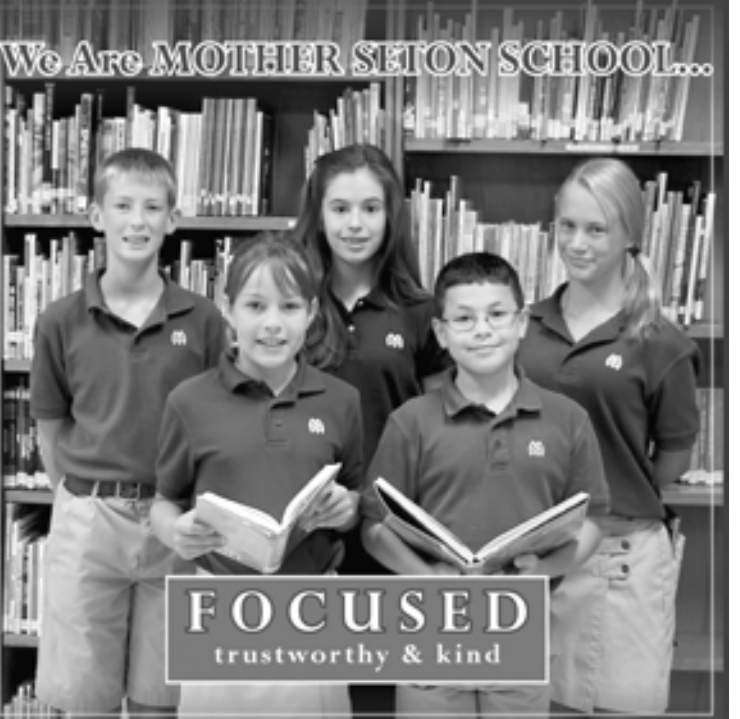
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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

The building blocks of every paper is its writers, and The Emmitsburg News-Journal is proud of its handpicked staff. This month we had the Four Years at the Mount writers interview our Commentary writers to learn more about the paper's diversity and purpose. They set out to discover who their fellow writers are, how they became involved with the paper, and why they write for it. In turn, the students were asked to reflect on why they felt these writers were chosen and how they benefit our readership.

Freshman Year On Words from Winterbilt

Leeanne Leary
MSM Class of 2017

While driving up to Winterbilt Farm, the serenity is palpable, the perfect example of a farm tucked away from the chaos of the world. Knocking on the door, I was greeted by Shannon Bohrer and immediately introduced to his dog, Lily. There was a gentle air about the place, and his love for animals was instantly obvious by the calm interactions with his dog. In fact, his love for life, his wife, and his farm were evident the minute he greeted me. I started off with a few background questions and ended up thinking more in that hour than I had all week.

Bohrer shared his passions and influence both on and with the paper. His purpose in sharing his words and thoughts is simply – or not so simply – to be thought provoking. Through talking about his time in law enforcement, his time as a soldier, and

his reflections on his life, Bohrer shared lessons with me that he yearns to encourage his readers to think about. One of my favorites came from his mom: “Don’t think you’re ever better than anyone, because you’re not. But nobody is better than you.”

Through his commentary, Bohrer wants to make people think. He wants to make them think about their lives and choices, about what we miss and what we gain each time we decide something, about lessons that we never truly appreciate until later in life, and to give a different opinion than the popular press. Through everything that Bohrer hopes to, and does, share with his readers, he emphasizes the importance of careful consideration. Why we look at things the way we do, and why we believe what we believe. He wants readers to not only learn lessons and listen to what he has to say, but to also truly think about their waking days.

Before retirement and his time with our newspaper, Shannon was in law enforcement for 42 years. He spent 27 of those years as a state trooper before becoming a trainer with the FBI for 4 years. He then went on to work as a range master for the Maryland Police doing weapon training. Now he works for himself part time as a weapon training consultant, traveling around the country about 8 times a year. All of these jobs, as he says, just kind of came to him, and he considers himself incredibly fortunate. A lot of his lessons and thoughts come from his time in law enforcement, but most come from his family, animals, and the simple act of day to day living.

Through his years writing for the *Emmitsburg News-Journal*, Bohrer has written each article with the goal of making people think. He doesn’t aim to press his opinions or beliefs on anyone, but simply to make them think about their own. He writes monthly about whatever is pressing or thought provoking at the moment. He has written about his dogs and animals, world events, farm policy, local government, and more. He began the column

with some writing experience, but never for a newspaper. He got the inspiration for the column’s name: “Words from Winterbilt” from his own farm. He and his wife chose to name the farm “Winterbilt” in 1977 after they experienced 28 straight days of bad weather as they were building. The name beat out its contender “Bentnail,” and history was made. Now that he had a name for the column, Bohrer chose his first article to be a parody of the Wall Street workers, and claims that his original piece of writing is still one of his favorites. His wide range of articles are fueled by his opinion that writing is really just like artwork; it’s easy to write feelings as long as you have the inspiration, but it always takes polishing. Some of his ideas come out and onto paper freely, and others take days to articulate, but in the end they are all sharpened exactly how he wants, ready to prick readers and remind them that there is always time to contemplate the world.

After getting to know Bohrer and being let into his world for an hour, several things are obvious. He has an intriguing perspective on life that both the newspaper and the readers benefit from,

and he loves the life he lives, as he called himself “fortunate” several times. He has an appreciation for life that comes with experience and his time with his family, wife, and animals. He believes in education and likes to take a historical view when he can with his articles. Most importantly, Bohrer’s work has a value to the paper that is undeniable. His thoughts are those that cannot be bought on a wall decoration or read on a daily inspirational quotes iPhone app. They are unique to him but also universal in their relatable nature. The last thoughts that Bohrer shared on life and on writing for the paper struck me the hardest. He told me, “We’re always looking for more time in life, but that’s not something we have. It’s how you use your time that’s important. The clocks never stop. Using my time to write affects me in a positive way.” The next time you leaf through the *Emmitsburg News Journal*, make sure you stop by “Words from Winterbilt” and take some time to appreciate and consider your life.

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

Sophomore Year On Common Cents

Lydia Olsen
MSM Class of 2016

Ralph Murphy is the current author of the “Common Cents” column in the *Emmitsburg News-Journal*. Ralph’s personal experiences and passion contribute to his knowledge about world events. Not only does he present and elaborate on his topics in a helpful and informative manner, but he also demonstrates the importance of what he says in our daily lives.

Ralph Murphy was born in a Turkish hospital near a naval base in Istanbul. He doesn’t remember much about Turkey because he only lived there for a very short time before moving to Norfolk, Virginia with his family. During this time period, Murphy remembers his father going off to war in Vietnam for a year. This was one of his earliest memories. Shortly after moving to Virginia, his family relocated again, moving to Washington, D.C. with five year old Murphy in tow. He recalled having many foreign friends while growing up and living near the capital. A good majority of his friends had parents who were diplomats or employees for international organizations such as The World Bank. With a few exceptions, he lost

touch with many of the friends he made at this time, though their different lifestyles sparked an interest in foreign affairs for him.

One of Murphy’s favorite memories was winning the 50-yard dash in sixth grade. This made him the fastest kid in the school while also helping him to create a positive self-image. Later on, Ralph had many other athletic related successes, including some in football and track. Despite his strides in the athletic world, his desire to explore foreign politics stayed with him.

Murphy’s father had a tremendous impact on him. Growing up, Ralph was always curious about his father’s highly intriguing and secretive career as a Sovietologist, which took him on many different missions. He shared his thoughts on his father and his father’s career by stating, “The high-risk, no-nonsense lifestyle rubbed off on me and became almost intoxicating.” Since travel was a large part of Murphy’s life, he immediately became interested in geopolitics, the study of the effects of geography on international politics and international relations. With a taste for the no-nonsense, intoxicating lifestyle and his love for geopolitics, Murphy went on

to study economics at the University of Maryland. He graduated with his degree in 1982 and joined the federal government within a short period of time. In his article titled, “Divide and Rule,” which discusses the United Nations, he begins by describing the question on the eight-hour exam he took to obtain his position. Murphy explains that his view of the UN was critical and that he wasn’t quite able to see the UN’s potential as being a peacemaker. The federal government positively received his essay and he was given a position. Later, he became an economist for the CIA, where he scored in the top two percent in knowledge of world events. He continues to maintain a strong knowledge and love for world events by referring to them as his, “study, hobby, and passion.”

Murphy is currently retired from the CIA and is doing contractor work at Andrew’s Air Force Base. He lives in Washington D.C. near his brother and two sisters. He began writing for the *Emmitsburg News-Journal* in 2012. He has been focusing on his writing and sees it as an opportunity to express his worldviews in a constructive and informative manner. Murphy’s “Common Cents” enlightens readers about current events. Not only is Murphy well informed on his topic, but he also presents it in a way that allows readers to understand the importance of what is happening while simul-

taneously encouraging deep contemplation from his audience.

Many of his topics include both foreign and domestic affairs. Murphy usually begins his articles with an opening that describes a personal experience that he has had. This not only gives the readers a better sense of him as a writer, but it also provides the audience with a clear example of how the issue plays a role in one’s daily life. For example, his column published in April 2013 describes his encounter driving and entering work on a day when there was no electricity in the building or the surrounding area. Murphy used this experience as a way to express his concern about the risk of a cyber attack. He explains in his article that there would be little that could be done if the United States was to undergo a cyber attack, and he relates his and his coworkers’ inability to work without power as an example of how defenseless the government and other organizations would be if such an attack occurred.

When I asked Murphy what advice he would give to our readers, he explained that it would be to pursue your passions and to not always seek the so-called “easy route” to achieve your goals, “just because it’s expedient.” He stressed the importance of having “strategic, constructive objectives” but working tactically. Like any good economist, he insisted that people of my generation and those looking for em-

ployment should “try to aim for an inflation adjusted pension.”

I think it’s often challenging to recognize the effect that world events have on our daily lives. I’ve heard people question before that if it does not impact them, then why should they bother thinking about it? However, I personally believe that we live in a world where every action is connected to each of us. The drug wars that Murphy brought to light in his January 2014 article do not simply impact the drug users alone. The impact is much larger than that. Similarly, the illegal immigrants that he discusses in his June 2013 article “Citizens or Guests?” are not merely influencing their own lives; they are affecting ours as well. Each of us is not a single entity whose decisions only affect one person. Rather, we are individuals who live in communities that collectively function as a whole. We are lucky enough to read Murphy’s articles about world events that voice to us all the importance of domestic and international occurrences and remind us that we are all impacted by these events. We all depend on and affect each other. World events don’t happen in a far away place in some far off land. They happen in this land, this land that is your land, this land that is my land, this land that is our land.

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

ON OUR COMMENTATORS

Junior Year

On Pure Onsense

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

A great comedian once said, “Everything in life is about perspective; the *Titanic* was a miracle to the lobsters in the ship’s kitchen.” It’s a funny statement. Amusing enough to be told at dinner parties or out with friends, but just poignant enough to make people think that they really may be missing something in their daily lives. Perhaps in the things that they see, their vision doesn’t extend far enough. It’s a lesson that crops up in daily life. Sure, that bag of gooey, doughy, cookies looks phenomenal, but is it worth breaking that diet you’ve been planning? Is your self-worth worth sacrificing for a few fleeting moments of sugary bliss? That moment happens every time you walk to the trashcan, bottle in hand, rather than taking those three additional steps to the single-stream recycling bin. I’ve seen people go through that mental process where they look at the plastic bottle in their hands, look back at the recycling bin, shrug, and then toss the bottle in the trash. Those are small examples, I know, but they illustrate a greater point. Very few times in our daily lives do we take a second to meditate on how everything we do could possibly affect another person, and equally important, how something they do could affect us.

This month our assignment for the Four Years at the Mount section was to take a look at another part of this paper and see why it was important not

just within the context of the paper, but also within the context of our college, town, and wider community. I’m happy to say that I had a chance to sit down and truly appreciate one part of the commentary section of our newspaper: “Pure Onsense” by Scott Zuke. It’s not uncommon for a newspaper to cover things that happen in and around the local community. However, for a section of a local newspaper to take on world issues and connect them to our little home on the mountain is something that is incredibly special. When was the last time that you linked what happened at the Jubilee to events in the Middle East? Ever wonder why Israel’s foreign policy was distantly but inexorably linked to Mount St. Mary’s University? Read “Pure Onsense” and you’ll find out.

While reading Scott’s work I was struck by the simple honesty of his writing. It didn’t matter what issue Scott was tackling. He addressed it with the same matter-of-fact tone and genuine attention that a craftsman would use in hand-carving a statue. Whether he was talking about why it’s patriotic to question the actions of our president, or the emergence of the Tea Party, or the complexity of the United States’ relationship with China, Scott talks to the reader as an equal. He doesn’t pander or “dumb down” the language. He says what he wants to say and lets the person looking at his article ruminate on it. In a day and age characterized by political game playing, there is something to be said

about having an honest conversation.

Scott began writing for our editor, Mike Hillman, in 2005 when he was a student at Catoctin High School. However, “Pure Onsense” as we know it today did not come to be until 2010, when Scott had a chance encounter with Mike that led to the formation of the column. Its peculiar name stems from a quote attributed to William James, an American philosopher and psychologist. James was known for experimenting on himself with laughing gas, believing that it increased his clarity and abilities of perception. While he was on the gas he would write down the phrases that came to mind and occasionally the things he wrote wound up making more sense than coherent thoughts. His nonsense occasionally became “onsense” and the name stuck.

Scott currently works as a Communications Officer at the Middle East Institute in Eastern DC. Although busy analyzing foreign politics, Scott still finds time to write and emphasized its importance. “I learned that the process of writing was the most effective way for me to understand complex ideas and form well-reasoned arguments,” he said. “The column helps keep me sharp now that I’m no longer writing academic papers on a regular basis. It’s also an opportunity and incentive to research and develop a better understanding of whatever topic has recently sparked my curiosity.”

Scott mentioned that in addition to keeping him sharp, the column is important to the community: “The *News-Journal* has a diverse lineup of local and, amazingly, even international personalities in its commentary section,” Scott told me in our correspondence. “It thereby serves as a bridge

between the local community and the rest of world, showing that even in small-town America, residents have an interest in stories and issues that otherwise would seem very remote from their daily lives.”

Still, as amazing as reading Scott’s work was and how nice it was to gain some insight about why Scott does what he does, I wanted to go straight to the source. I needed to find out why he was hired and what he brings to our staff. Pardon the pun, but I desired to find the proverbial Master Yoda behind Scott’s “Zuke Skywalker.” I decided to place a call to my editor, Mike, about why he hired Scott and what he thought about the article and its importance to the paper as a whole. Over the course of the conversation I found that Mike had an awful lot to say about why he enjoyed Scott’s column and the entire commentary section of the paper.

“I wanted to have people tell the news who didn’t have an ideological position,” he told me, “and every one of our writers is worthy of being in the *London Financial Times*.”

Mike went on to tell me that he loved the commentary section of the newspaper because he thought it was incredibly important to broaden the horizons of people in our community, and Scott’s column did a particularly good job at that.

“He can let people know why what’s happening in Egypt is important to Emmitsburg,” Mike said.

Scott contacted Mike when he was a junior at Catoctin High School and asked about writing a column on current political events. Mike was immediately impressed with Scott’s writing style and with the connections that he made between current events and

great thinkers of the past like John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

“To find someone so brilliant and so close to home was a gem,” Mike told me. “He’s your generation’s Henry Kissinger,” he gushed.

After speaking with Mike, it was apparent to me that “Pure Onsense” holds a special place in Mike’s heart and in the newspaper. The more I read about Scott, the easier it is to see why and how his work relates to what my fellow Mount writers and I do. Every month I try to bridge the gap between the town of Emmitsburg and the students here at Mount St. Mary’s University. I make it my solemn mission to tell the stories of our students and the experiences that we have and how they relate to the people who live and work around us. Scott does a similar thing, relating stories and experiences from the world stage back to our community. He does more than just tell us why something is important and what we should listen to; he provides us with a lens, a method of broadening our perspective. By doing so, he improves our lives. After all, the greater our vision, the more we can take in, and the more we take in, the more we learn. I can honestly say that I’m proud to share this newspaper with someone like Scott. You may not agree with the things he’s saying. You may not even like politics! But if you can learn something, if you can walk away being more informed about this amazing world around you, then Scott and this newspaper have done something amazing. I’m Kyle Ott, won’t you sit and read for a while?

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

Senior Year

On Down Under

Nicole Jones
MSM Class of 2014

“At a distance, this fine oak seems to be of ordinary size. But if I place myself under its branches, the impression changes completely: I see it as big, and even terrifying in its bigness.”

Artist Eugene Delacroix fully understood how a simple change in perspective can alter a person’s impression, thoughts, and opinions. Lindsay Coker, the *Emmitsburg News-Journal*’s own “Down Under” commentary columnist, offers us this change in perspective.

Coker began with the paper in a rather funny way. He submitted entries to the My Little Sister’s Jokes section of the Emmitsburg website. One of his submissions caught our editor, Mike Hillman’s, eye, and he reached out to Coker, exchanging emails and life views. Their companionship continues to this day, yet the friends have never been able to meet in person. Why? Because Coker lives in Melbourne, Australia.

This is a fine example of how the Internet seems to make this vast world just a little bit smaller, but in this case, it greatly benefits our read-

ership. Coker’s “Down Under” articles initially spoke about Australia but have since morphed into what Coker calls “an outsider’s view on America, the focus of which gradually shifted to American politics, values, and policies.”

Coker has a unique opportunity to express his outside-looking-in perspective in this paper. It’s much to our benefit to hear what he has to say, even if we don’t agree with his conclusions. “At this distance from you, I am somewhat better able to obtain a broader picture of the results of political policy and outcomes in the U.S.” Coker explains that his perspective and insight does not come without a little effort, “I have to read, read, read.” All this reading only fuels Coker’s curiosity. “I’d like to find out more about the people of Emmitsburg: their beliefs, predictions, problems, and joys,” he said.

Why does Coker do it? What does an Australian gain from writing in a small-town American newspaper? Well, of course, as a writer, he loves what he’s doing. “This has been an amazing experience, one I treasure, for my understanding has grown much better, my writ-

ing has improved, and some, at least, of your readers seem to like what I write,” Coker said.

Coker’s long history in writing has not including anything quite like the *Emmitsburg News-Journal* until now. He has written for school magazines and about medical research, business, history of music, and, most recently, development of science education materials. He is even – very slowly – trying to write a thriller. With all of these writing outlets, it is clearly not writing alone that keeps Coker coming back to the *News-Journal*, but his need to exercise his basic human rights. “Basically, I’m a humanist,” Coker said, “therefore putting civil liberties and freedom of expression and truth at the top of the list.”

Like any writer, Coker sometimes struggles with his work: “It is difficult at times to get onto the right topic or the right approach, and many a column has been binned and redone.” I was amazed to learn how long a process writing “Down Under” can be; then again, perhaps that’s the secret behind his articles, “Most ideas take a month or so to get the right focus, but once an idea is lodged, that remains the story.”

Of course, with all of this writing comes a vast wealth of experience, or as Coker calls it, “the perspective of age,” and Coker is not timid in sharing his advice to fellow writers. First, read. “Read the printed word, espe-

cially history,” Coker said, but avoid the electronic versions as Coker says these historical accounts are often too ephemeral, uncheckable, or plain wrong. “Travel in the spirit of discovery, do a course on logic, and have a need to put things to rights,” Coker encouraged. In other words, don’t be afraid to hang onto some idealism and encourage the world to live up to your standards.

Once you’re done reading, traveling, and studying? “Re-read and re-read,” Coker said, “Proof the output. Ensure that what is written has no double meanings.” To Coker, the best writing is simple but not simplistic in that the language is unambiguous but provocative. He enjoys challenging his readers to ruminate on a topic, to take it away and slowly form an opinion, to let it grow in their minds from the small seed he planted to a blossoming tree with more personal research and consideration.

Talking to Coker and absorbing all of this information was a pleasure. It let me know that my own writing ideals weren’t as surreal as I perhaps believed, for I too like to hold onto a small pinch of idealism and sprinkle its seeds throughout the world with my written words. I always thought I was perhaps preaching to deaf ears, but I suppose it wouldn’t matter if I was. At least I’m doing my part by exercising my freedom of speech.

It’s funny to think how our world

has fallen into a false perception of interconnectedness through today’s Internet. On Facebook we are “friends” with hundreds of people with whom we do not keep in touch in reality. Twitter allows us to spread the news faster than ever in the most concise way possible at the expense of connecting in a face-to-face conversation. Yet, this local paper is able to connect to an Australian writer who talks to us more meaningfully in one monthly article than most of my generation does in a week’s worth of texting. Many of today’s “plugged-in” community cannot appreciate the soul-searching clarity that a home full of books, a good education, and fine music – the kind of place where Coker grew up – can bring because they are too connected to the Internet and disconnected from reality.

If you’ve discovered anything today, it is that Lindsay Coker is a real person with real thoughts, someone who you can and should read and pay attention to. He is not a Facebook wall pruned to portray a certain image or a witty Twitter feed. He is his written words and his voiced opinions, he is his personal experiences and his constant research, and he is here to provide a much broader perspective to the very nearsighted American population.

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

Valentine's Day

Feb. 14th

Feb. 11th - 16th
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 When making reservations please specify Steak Oscar for 2!

Feb. 11th - 16th
Fondue for 2

A four course meal to include a rich cheese fondue with apples and baguettes for dipping. Field green salad with an array of dressings. Shrimp, lobster, filet mignon & chicken for dipping into boullion. Served with baby red potatoes, vegetable medley & portobello mushrooms. A mouth watering chocolate fondue w/ tantalizing desserts will top off your fondue experience!

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Archbishop Lori visits Seton Shrine for Feast Day Mass

The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton welcomed Archbishop William E. Lori to celebrate Mother Seton's Feast Day Mass. According to Amanda Johnston, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Shrine, about 400 people attended Mass at the Basilica, which is double the attendance of last year's Mass.

"We are honored to have Archbishop Lori celebrate this significant occasion with us...Mother Seton's life is an example for all of us on how to overcome adversity through our faith in God," said Rob Judge, Executive Director at the Shrine.

There was a full day of events planned on the Feast Day, including a special exhibit on Mother Seton's life and legacy, a showing of the feature-length movie about Mother Seton, *A Time for Miracles*, and evening prayers in the Basilica. Guests were invited to tour the historic Stone House and White House, where Mother Seton lived and founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's in 1809.

Anne Merwin, president of the Mother Seton House in Baltimore from 2001 to 2009, led a discussion titled, *Her Journey is Our Journey*, which reflected upon the guidance we can derive from Mother Seton's life experiences.

Merwin currently works in Adult Faith Formation and is an Associate of the Sisters of Charity of New York.

Archbishop Lori also made a special visit to speak with the residents of St. Joseph's Ministries. Archbishop Lori commented that it was a blessing for the residents to be in such a wonderful place, and because he attended the Mount St. Mary's University seminary, Emmitsburg is a place very near and dear to his heart.

Archbishop Lori admired Mother Seton's "tenacious trust in God's Providence," and he encouraged prayers for religious life vocations. After speaking to the residents, he



personally introduced himself to each individual in the room, some

of whom kissed his ring to offer their gratitude for his visit.

Volunteers in your organization workshop

If your organization is struggling to recruit and retain great volunteers, it's probably time for some new strategies that target specific age groups. Different generations respond differently, and not just to volunteer opportunities. Your generational cohort – the experiences you shared with other members of your generation – impact the way you approach life. For instance, the generation that grew up in the shadow of the atomic bomb tends to be motivated by different values and

concerns than the generation that grew up post-Watergate. When it comes to asking people for their time, energy and commitment, it's worth thinking about these generational differences and how they impact recruitment, retention and recognition of volunteers.

Penn State Extension is introducing a 4-part series *Volunteers in Your Organization* to help community groups, non-profits, congregations and others develop new skills and understanding in volunteer management. The se-

ries kicks off January 24: Working with Four Generations of Volunteers. Extension Educator Liesel Dreisbach will explore differences in generations and how to address them in your volunteer program. For more than 25 years, Dreisbach has managed volunteers for several different non-profits and informal organizations in a variety of settings. She has also provided leadership for the Society of Volunteer Administrators of the Lehigh Valley. Her focus as a Penn State Extension Educator is on communi-

ty and economic development.

The series is a collaboration between Penn State Extension and the Volunteer Administrators Network, a program of United Way of Adams County. VAN members will share their expertise at the workshops. "This is a great learning opportunity for organizations, combining research-based concepts with practical experience at a very low cost", said Vickie Corbett, Volunteer Center Director for UWAC. "We are looking forward to sharing our knowledge and experience with organizations looking to strengthen and expand

their volunteer programs."

Other workshops in the series are Tools for an Effective Volunteer Program on February 21, Leadership for All-Volunteer Organizations on March 28, and The Executive Role as a Volunteer Champion on April 25. All sessions are from 8:30 – 11:00 am at the Adams County Ag and Natural Resource Center in Gettysburg. Workshops are \$25 per session. You can register on line at <http://extension.psu.edu/volunteers> or by calling Penn State Extension Adams County (717) 334-6271.

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CREATIVE WRITING

On the nature of commentary

Alexandra Tyminski
MSM Class of 2015

"You see, this is why newspapers are so important. We will now go into the discussion about commentaries," my professor said.

"However, I want you to write an essay on why commentaries are important. I trust that you will have a sound essay with no grammatical errors, and..."

The sound of my professor's rambling quickly tuned out, and I rose from my seat faster than anyone could say, "Class dismissed." Suddenly, I heard my professor's voice come back into reality, and I think I felt my heart stop for a split second. I wasn't sure if I heard her quite correctly. But then, I was positive I did.

"This essay will be turned in for a grade, but I will also be selecting the best essay and submitting it to the local newspaper for publishing next month," she said.

Every part of my body got the chills and the hair on my legs, arms, and head stood up. I think everyone noticed I was so wide-eyed because my professor stared back at me as if I were an alien. The thought of writing about the commentary section of the newspaper was always a dream of mine. It also ran in the family.

When I was younger, instead of watching cartoons, I found it fun to always peek into the newspaper that my father was reading. My father always re-

minded me that it was important to read commentary sections of the paper because this was the light to our decision making. I was never quite sure what he meant by the light to our decision making.

...

"You see, Isabelle, this is the section that helps us not only learn, but also make smart decisions," he said, pointing to the small tiny words on the page. My father was a very educated man and he worked very hard as a newspaper journalist. He taught us the importance of the news, and not just that, but the importance of being educated about all sides of news. He died when I was thirteen from a tragic car accident while traveling in Africa to cover a global journalism story.

"I want to write and write and write like you, Daddy," I said, snuggling into his lap.

"Maybe one day you will, sweetie," he smiled at me with his big grin and hairy chin.

When I got my full ride scholarship to Yale, I knew exactly what I was going to do. I was going to study journalism. I wasn't just going to report the news; I was going to really write *about* the news. With one more year of college left, I have realized that I want to go even deeper than that. I want to be a commentator. I want to be the big name in the com-



mentary section. I may or may not get my name on the front page, but at least my writing will provide something more than just a report. My professor asked for an essay on the importance of commentary, and she may find that I might just be the next best commentator.

...

I sat down at my wooden desk and stared up at a picture of my father. He was always my inspiration. He had a funny sense of humor, and a whole lot of confidence. I figured that is where I got both of those things. Hopefully his writing was in my genes, too.

"Well, here goes nothing, Dad!" I said out loud.

Just as I was about to start typing with the inspiration of my dad in mind, I realized that as a future journalist, I should probably ask other people what they think about commentaries in a newspaper. Perspective was always good to have. It is also the key in journalism.

Where should I go to find different perspectives on commentaries? It seemed like a very specific topic to just ask anyone. I picked up the phone and called my mom.

"Hellooo!" My mom answered the phone with her perky voice. I could feel her smile through the phone.

"Hey, Mom!" I said, excited to talk with her.

"How are you sweetie? How are classes? Are they keeping you very busy?"

"Yes, they really are. I was actually wondering if I could ask you a question. Did Dad ever ramble on to you about the importance of commentaries? Or ask you why you think they are important?" I asked.

"Well actually, he did, but from what I gathered about reading the commentary section myself, I know that the importance of commentaries is very foreign to a lot of people," my mom said.

"Yes, most people do not understand how important they really are," I agreed with her.

"Well to understand a commentary section, like your father used to say, is to first understand what the goal of a newspaper is..."

...

A newspaper is meant to educate. Educating readers is more important than entertaining them. Those who write in the commentary section can be foreign writers or writers in the same country. Either way, both writers hold a different perspective, an insight into the details of the news. However, different

environmental issues, travel, international trade, etc. After she said this, I realized that if we are never exposed to other people's views, how are we supposed to develop our own?

Discover:

Finding your own viewpoint is key. My father was a very well-respected journalist. He wrote for the commentary section of the newspaper. He always used to say that his job was the most important job in the paper. He told me that writing commentary helped others formulate thoughts on a topic that may not have had any importance to them previously. He taught me that commentaries are more than just opinions. They are stepping stones and foundations for another person's intelligence. People can discover their own opinions, but also develop a deeper appreciation for the ability to form that opinion.

Commentaries educate, expose, and discover. They involve people from all parts of the intelligence map. You may disagree with me on the goals of the commentaries. Or maybe this is only a fraction of what commentaries really do for readers. However, I'm only one part of the map. If you've never read a commentary before, I encourage you to pick one up. These goals led me to understand the final importance of commentaries. Commentaries are in newspapers to **engage**. If a commentary engages you and challenges you to think harder about what is important in the news, then it is succeeding. So, have I engaged you?

...

"Buzz... Buzz... Buzz," my phone alarm whispered into my ears.

I picked my head up from my laptop. I could feel the droopy bags underneath by eyes, and I couldn't help but squint at the flashing cursor on my white screen. I must have fallen asleep while on my computer after submitting my essay last night. I wiped the small patch of drool off of my sleeve.

"Gahhh," I said, stretching my arms out behind me. I rubbed my eyes and double checked to see that my essay submitted correctly. It had. Phew. As I was reaching for the top of my laptop to close it, I heard "the ding." This sound was one I heard frequently. Who could possibly be sending me an email this early at 7:30AM? I switched over to my email browser and noticed an email from my journalism professor. Oh gosh, I can see it now. It probably read, "You did not complete the essay correctly." Or, "This was too opinionated." What if I end up failing the class that means the most to me?

"Okay Isabelle, just breathe. It's just an email," the voice in my head kept saying.

Oh well, it's just an email. I clicked on my professor's name. To my amazement, I sat in silence soaking in her kind words.

"You engaged me. Your father would be proud. Congratulations on winning this year's Yale Journalism contest. Looking forward to seeing your name in the commentary section of next month's local paper."

perspectives do not change the fact that those writers come from the same general background. They were all taught the basics behind journalism, but their writing provides a diverse way of approaching why certain news is important.

Commentary tells you why what's happening is important, and it allows you to be exposed to other viewpoints. They are independent of left or right wing views. They are there to help us readers make decisions and gather our own thoughts on the situation.

So why is this important you might ask? It's important because commentaries help frame what is significant in the news. When I was asked to write this essay, I thought that writing it would come easily, but I quickly realized that understanding the commentaries section first begins with understanding the goals behind it. In developing the importance of commentaries, I decided to take not a left or a right wing approach, but rather an independent attitude to first learning its goals:

Educate:

Education is one of the unique gifts that many people in this world unfortunately cannot access. For those who can, the freedom to independently pick up a newspaper is simply beautiful. The commentary section should be seen as a map. It is a map of all different minds and all different perspectives. We live in an international world. These different perspectives educate people on why something is important in the news and how it can relate to them. For example, a foreign commentary on America might be valuable to us because it helps us see how the rest of the world views us. It also shows us that international writers take interest in the news that goes on in our country. We would never know why certain news is significant to us without the opinion of others. Essentially, this is how we form our own opinions on that specific topic. Commentaries educate, not entertain.

Expose:

Commentaries expose readers to diversity and knowledge. I called my mother during the first few days I struggled with this assignment. And yes, I'm admitting, I had trouble with this writing task. She told me that commentaries give people another's opinion on an area that they may not be extremely educated in. "It's all about exposure." These were her words exactly. She said that this allows people to be exposed to all areas of education: business, economics, finance, en-



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Gallery welcomes new Mount professor

Caroline King
MSM Class of 2015

Mount Saint Mary's University was lucky enough to welcome a new member to the Department of Visual & Performing Arts faculty this year, Professor Nick Hutchings. The new Assistant Professor of Visual Art has been on campus since August, and he will have a chance to showcase his artistic talent in a feature exhibit at The Thomas H. & Mary K. Williams Art Gallery, located on the Mount Saint Mary's campus. The exhibit, titled "Nick Hutchings: Beyond the Firmament," will be on display until February 21.

A well-traveled artist, he worked as a paintings conservator for three years at a private company in Dallas before receiving his Masters degree in Fine Arts from Washington University in St. Louis in 2010. Hutchings has been exhibiting his artwork on and off since 2000 in places such as Dallas, Texas, St. Louis, Missouri, Louisville, Kentucky, and even Florence, Italy. So, it comes as no surprise to find out that he has been in the art scene for quite a while!

With his new art show opening at Mount Saint Mary's, he'll have a new location to add to the list of places his art was displayed. "I am really excited about this opportunity to exhibit my work here and open a conversation not only about my work, but also about art in general. This also grants an opportunity for the faculty and students to engage in a different type of aesthetic experience on the campus," Hutchings said.

Hutchings' ideas on the conceptuality of art and his creative ways of showing these conceptions are intriguing, to say the least. When asked about what one could expect to see in his upcoming art show, Hutchings had this to say: "For this exhibition I plan to create a place of reflection and wonder that actively engages the perceiver. The notion of the firmament or expanse between the seas as written in the first chapter of Genesis will inform the conceptual scaffolding of this artwork. The *raqiya* or firmament, also known as the second heaven in Jewish mysticism, translates as 'to beat or spread out.' This expanse, according to Genesis, is where stars of the heaven have been placed. Metaphorically, the firmament is the empirical limit of our universe. The boundaries of our perception and the context of the experience, aesthetic or otherwise, are what frame our understanding of the universe and our place within it." This is an interesting concept that will be not only exciting to see in this gallery, but also interesting to experience as an individual, as the concept itself seems to highlight the perceptions a person could have.

Make sure to bring a friend or two when you go to view this gallery! His pieces are conversation starters, and it will be interesting

to compare the different ideas you and your companions will have about his various pieces of art.

Hutchings is not a man controlled by mediums. He is, instead, controlled by concepts. "The materials I use vary depending on the concept of the artwork," said Hutchings. "Materiality has a conceptual weight, therefore I am really specific in what I use for each piece. The correlation of the space and the materiality of the artwork is essential." By focusing on the idea he wants to portray, Hutchings' art is influenced not by a preference for pencil to charcoal, but rather by trying to "find the medium and the visual language that is closest to my concept."

Reflecting on what he is working on now, Hutchings commented, "In my current body of work I am seeking to generate conscious awareness of presence within the aesthetic experience—an awareness of the tension between the object of perception, here defined as the artwork, and the conscious presence of the perceiver. This in-between space, framed by context of the viewer and their own unique experiences, and the artwork can be defined as the 'liminal' space or the threshold space of the encounter. The work is an inquiry into a conscious examination of presence, within the liminal space of the aesthetic experience, and how this awareness is a method of reflecting on one's 'being' within the world."

His concepts are complex, as are his art pieces. Usually involving high contrast that is reoccurring in black and white, each piece is confusing and intriguing on an artistic and personal level. From branches left in a kiln for thirteen years to cracked and folded sculptures, each piece of art tells stories, both what the artist intended but also what the individual interprets. As an artist whose work is "similar to the Haiku," Hutchings tries to "remove the superfluous elements within the work to speak in a more succinct and powerful voice. This voice is a quiet interruption into the noise of distraction, creating a space where the viewer can be still and reflect on their presence in relation to the artwork." Simplistic yet powerful, each piece tells a story that the viewer can take into his or her own hands and interpret the work personally. It's certainly worth coming to the gallery just to observe what Hutchings



Photo credit: Mount St. Mary's University

has created firsthand, as his pieces are extraordinarily unique and equal parts stunning and mystifying.

Hutchings uses a variety of mediums in his work, including wood, charcoal, dirt, and even gold. He puts a lot of thought into each piece. "I carefully consider each material that I use in my practice because with certain materials, there is conceptual baggage," Hutchings stated. With each piece being so thoroughly planned in terms of conceptuality, his exhibit promises to be anything but ordinary. Well thought out and brilliantly designed, Hutchings' artwork is captivating and leaves quite the impression to the viewer. As an aspiring artist, I find the choices he makes in his simplistic sculptures incredible. He narrows the concept down and in order to portray it, he chooses just the right amount of color, or concept, to make the pieces have meaning.

Mount Saint Mary's seems to be the perfect place for Hutchings, since he balances the spiritual and physical in many of his pieces. "I would say that it [the balance of spiritual and physical] is the foundation and structure of my aesthetic pursuit. The aesthetic experience is that of perception not limited to the realm of art. It is consciously dwelling within the world, and that art and life are saturated agents within experiencing this conscious presence and the two are divinely entwined."

This upcoming gallery will stand for many students as the first glimpse into Hutchings' art. We can only hope that it will be the first of many interactions with his creations. He will certainly be introducing the students to new concepts and ideas the way only an artist can through his balance between the physical and spiritual in his art, his focus on concepts over mediums, and his approach to making mediums an inseparable part of his concepts. Mount Saint Mary's students are lucky indeed, and will be exposed to a lot of concepts that will inspire them as developing artists.

To experience Hutchings' work and ideals in person is an experience that is once in a lifetime. His portrayal of the human condition, its frailty, and the strength of both the individual and the whole that lurks behind each of his pieces are incredible, but even more powerful in person. Grab a friend or two and head over to the Williams Gallery to see

what you can get out of Hutchings' inspirational art and sculptures. You might even run into the artist himself, between the sculpture classes he teaches on campus.

If you want to learn more about Hutchings and his artwork, his artist statements and some ideas he has regarding space and the process he uses for his work can be found on his webpage: www.jnhutchings.com. I encourage you to come to Mount Saint Mary's University to view some of his artwork during the exhibit. The exhibit will be on display until February 21. The gallery is open on to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you find yourself in the area, stop by the Williams Art Gallery, located inside the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center, and see some of Hutchings' works for yourself. It's an experience you won't want to miss!

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FIRE COMPANY AWARDS BANQUETS

Vigilant Hose Company



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Line Officers (bottom left to right): A. Frank Davis, chief; James Click, Deputy Chief; Christopher A. Stahley, Assistant Chief; Chad Umbel, Captain; Josh Brotherton, Jason Powell, Lieutenants, (top left to right): Robert Rosensteel, Jr., and David Wilt, Lieutenants; Douglas Yingling, Sergeant. Fire Police; Paul Krietz, Captain; Stephen Orndorff, 1st Lieutenant; Lynn Orndorff, 2nd Lieutenant.



Chief Frank Davis presents Austin Umbel with his 50 year Length of Service award



Chief Frank Davis presents the Outstanding Member of the Year award to Tom Vaughn



President Tim Clark presents the President's Award to JoAnn Boyd & Julie Davis



Auxiliary Officers (left to right): Diana Hoover, President; Tina Ryder, Vice President; Jo Ann Boyd, Treasurer; Joyce Glass, Secretary; Mandy Ryder, Fanatical Secretary.

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Rocky Ridge Fire Company



Members of the Rocky Ridge 4H.



Alan Brauer, Sr. speaking about his 50 years in the fire service.



Junior members (left to right): Josie Kaas, Kelly Kass, Robert Albaugh, Sadie Finneyfrock, Kelsey Mathias, Brezzi Combs.

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Chief	Alan Hurley
1st Asst. Chief	Jim Rice
2nd Asst. Chief	Luke Humerick
Captain	Kevin Albaugh

Top Ten Responders for 2013

1	Buddy Stover	7	Luke Humerick
2	Christina Hurley	8	John Reese
3	Alan Hurley	9	Jim Rice
4	Matt Moser	10	Donald Kaas

5	Kevin Albaugh
6	Bonny Hurley

FIRE COMPANY AWARDS BANQUETS

Harney Fire Company



Once again most of Harney turned out to show their support, and pride, in this exceptional volunteer fire company



James Waybright, President presenting Brian Martin with one of the top responder awards



The swearing in of the 2014 Harney Fire Company Officers: (Left to Right) Lee Bowers, Donald Yingling Sr., James Waybright, Richard Yingling, Eugene Curfman, Donald Yingling Jr., Robert Baughman, Jeffrey Yingling, Larry Bowers, Jennings Martin



President Jim Waybright

Harney Fire Company Officers for 2014

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Utilities Tres.	Gene Curfman
Secretary	Richard Yingling
Recording Sec.	Bobby Baughman
Chaplin	Jennings Martin
Trustees	Larry Bowers

Top Ten Responders for 2013

- 1 - Donald Yingling, Sr.
- 2 - Lee Bowers
- 3 - Donald Yingling, Jr.
- 4 - Robert Baughman
- 5 - Matt Nye & Matt Vosburgh
- 6 - Chris Waybright
- 7 - James Yingling
- 8 - Brian Martin
- 9 - Bradley Waybright
- 10 - Kye Nye



Standing at the mic: Chief Donnie Yingling, his wife Linda, sitting next to Donnie, President Jim Waybright, Fire Department Chaplain, Pastor Day and his wife.



Administrative Officers (left to right): Jamison Mathias, Director; Melissa Mathias, Asst. Secretary; Heather Mathias, Asst. Treasurer; Andrew Mathias, Director; Dale Kline, President; Donald Kaas Jr., Director; Charles Rigg, Director; Dennis Mathias, Vice President; Paulette Mathias, Secretary. Missing from photo: Bernard Wivell, Treasurer; Robert Eyler, Director; Ronnie Eyler, Director; Alan Brauer, Director.



Betty Ann Mumma and Dale Kline presenting the President's Award to the Rocky Ridge 4-H President and Advisor, Breann Fields



Robert Albaugh receiving his father's Fireman of the Year award



Christina Hurley receiving the Robert Albaugh Award



Leon "Buddy" Stover receiving his award for top responder for 2013

COOKING WITH LOVE

Hearty dishes to fill your bellies

Brooke Hagerty
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February is traditionally the coldest month of the year in our region which means lots of hearty dishes to fill our bellies! Soups and Stews are some of the easiest and heartiest dishes out there. What makes them so great is that you can add anything you want.....have fun and be creative! As always, at Gunner's Grille at Taneytown we like to put a little twist on our favorite comfort foods; thus we have several options from the

not so heart healthy to heart healthy.

First on the agenda is Beef Stew, a long standing favorite in all households and second will be a lighter and healthier stew, Chicken and Artichoke. And finally we will honor Gunner with his favorite soup.

Beef Stew

Ingredients – stew beef, carrots, celery, sweet onion, red potatoes, green beans, whole wheat flour, extra virgin olive oil (EVOO), red wine, lemon pepper, truffle or kosher salt, dry thyme, dry parsley, Montreal Steak seasoning, dried

bay leaves, beef bouillon or beef stock.

- Cut beef and vegetables into bite size pieces
- Combine flour lemon pepper, salt, thyme, parsley and Montreal seasoning and lightly toss in the stew beef until completely covered.
- Coat the bottom your pot (be sure to have a lid for it) with EVOO and allow to slowly heat up
- Layer beef to cover the bottom of the pot and brown beef on all sides
- Add red wine to just cover the bottom of the pan. Allow to caramelize a bit. (5 minutes or so)
- Add just enough stock or bouillon to deglaze bottom of pan and form a "gravy"
- Lightly coat remaining ingredients with remaining flour and mix with beef. Cook approximately 10 minutes or until the "gravy" is almost completely soaked into the beef and vegetables

- Pour stock or bouillon to just about $\frac{3}{4}$ high and turn heat on high. Bring to a boil, stir and deglaze bottom of pot
- Reduce heat and simmer for one hour
- Serve with your favorite biscuits in a soup or pasta bowl!

Chicken and Artichoke Stew

Ingredients – white chicken breast meat, unsalted butter, carrots, celery, sweet onion, canned artichoke hearts, whole wheat flour, white wine, EVOO, dried parsley, fresh basil, lemon juice, lemon pepper, truffle or kosher salt, chicken stock or bouillon

- Cut chicken into bite size pieces, artichokes into lengthwise quarters and carrots, celery and onions into $\frac{1}{2}$ bite size pieces
- Place chicken in bowl with EVOO, dried parsley, lemon pepper and salt; toss to coat
- Heat pot and lightly brown chicken on all sides. Deglaze pan with white wine,

just enough to cover the bottom of the pan.

- Add carrots, celery and onion; toss with chicken and cook until slightly softened.
- Add butter and toss to coat, sprinkle with whole wheat flour and cook until flour is attached to chicken and vegetables; add artichoke hearts and mix in (be careful not to break the hearts up)
- Add basil (leave whole and on stem, you will remove before serving) and lemon juice and stir
- Add chicken stock or bouillon to $\frac{1}{2}$ high and turn heat on high. Bring to a light boil, deglaze bottom of pan and reduce to simmer for approximately 30 minutes
- Serve over your favorite rice in a pasta bowl!

So, we now have our "fly by the seat of our pants" recipes with stews. Let's move on to soup. While most of the soups I prepare do not have recipes, there are two that definitely do. I would like to share one of them with you this month. This is a very special recipe to me as it is one that honors my father, Gunner. If you have eaten at Gunner's than you know that we have New England Clam Chowder on the menu. This is in honor of my father who ate "Chowda" and Grilled Cheese most days for lunch at one of his favorite lunch spots.

New England Clam Chowder

- Ingredients, 1/3 pound bacon; medium diced, 1/3 Vidalia onion; medium diced, 4 celery stalks, small diced, 1/3 tablespoon dried thyme, 1/8 to 1/4 cup dry white wine, 1/2 teaspoon each lemon pepper, truffle salt, and Montreal steak seasoning, 1/8 cup unsalted butter (not melted), 1/4 cup whole wheat flour, 2 cups red potatoes, small diced, 32 ounces canned clams (with juice), 1 pint half and half, 2 quarts, heavy cream.
- Cook bacon in a large pot until just browned on medium heat. Add onions, celery, thyme, lemon pepper, truffle salt and Montreal – stir. Add white wine and reduce for minutes.
- Add butter and stir to coat until melted. Add flour and cook until slightly browned
- Add clams and bring to a boil, stirring almost constantly. Add half and half and every cream and bring to a boil. Reduce to simmer for approximately one hour.



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Mount swimming

Bridgette Nitza
MSM Class of 2015

Eighteen Mount St. Mary's University women are competing in this school year's swimming season. Prepared to finish with a splash, these competitors are anxious to continue on with their team's current success.

Two athletic ladies and members of the Mount's swim team have explained why this season is about more than just the competition. Junior Amanda Malmstrom stressed, "What I love about my Mount team is that we are not only teammates but also best friends outside of the pool." Sophomore Katie Powell added, "I think our biggest strength is and always will be our attitudes toward each other. We are a family through and through, and we always encourage one another and inspire each other to do our best."

All of the women on the swim team hold high standards for themselves and will not succumb to any pressure. "So far this season we have set a standard of giving each race our all, regardless of the current score. We have all shown amazing mental toughness and grace under pressure," Powell said.

These high standards could not be

reached without the preparation and training that comes from challenging practices. Powell added, "Similarly, we all hold each other accountable. Being tired after a workout is not a bonus; it's an expectation. It is part of the idea that each person is working hard for the team's benefit and not for their own. It is this kind of 'greater good' mentality that allows us to strive when it's time for competition."

The workouts do indeed strongly contribute to the women's achievements in the competitive waters of each meet. Powell explained, "We have been competitive with teams who we have traditionally lost to, and we placed 2nd at our mid-season meet (Radford Highlander Invitational), which is higher than we have ever placed before."

As Powell said, the Mount women last competed at the Radford Highlander Invitational in Radford, Va. "We were all very excited to place second at the Radford Invitational in November and we hope to keep this motivation going into the end of our season," said Malmstrom.

The team came home to the Mount with not only the second place title and 709 points, but also with

many outstanding achievements by Erin Regan, Mollie Walsh, Amanda Moore, and Morgan Runk, plus three new school records set by sophomore Haley Fournier.

Haley Fournier has been an all-around outstanding achiever for the swim team. She was named the Northeast Conference swimmer of the week during the month of November for her performances in the early meets against Howard and Mary Washington.

Hailey Fournier and all the other Mount swimmers are lead by head coach, Neil Yost. Yost joined the coaching staff in 2005, when the swimming program of Mount history was born. His contributions to the Mount Athletics community are numerous, including a 41-29 dual meet record and a fifth place finish in the Northeast Conference Swimming and Diving Championships.

The tenacious team coached by Yost did grow from last season. "We came into this season with seven new teammates who have been assets to our season thus far," Malmstrom said.

With these additional seven ladies, this year's roster consists of: freshmen Allison Baker, Sarah Bonson, Claire McManimon, Amanda Moors,



The 2013 Mount women's swim team.

Morgan Runk, and Hailey Vogt, sophomores Haley Fournier, Lenna Castro Marquez, Katie Powell, juniors Amanda Malmstrom, Erin Reagan, Catherine Sukovich, and Anne Thelen, and seniors Cat Coppler, Emily Dargay, Nicole Helmick, Victoria Shaw, and Mollie Walsh.

It is important to note that the Mount swim team currently holds a 3-2 record after a total of 5 meets and does not plan to let their lead go. They won the meet against McDaniel (59-36), the meet against Howard (189-51), and the meet against Mary Washington (139-119). Malmstrom outlines their high hopes, "As a team, we are striving to place better than we ever have at our conference meet in mid-February. We have two more dual

meets against Duquesne and Loyola, and we plan to place well in all events."

The girls will compete at Duquesne on January 25 at 1 p.m. and at Loyola (Maryland) on January 31 at 5 p.m. for their final matches before the Northeast Conference Championships. The highly anticipated championships will be held from February 19 through February 22. The time and location of the championships have yet to be announced online.

Though all are welcome and encouraged to attend any swim meets, you can stay up to date on the Mount St. Mary's University Swim Team and all that makes up Mount St. Mary's University Athletics by visiting www.mountathletics.com or www.NEC-FrontRow.com.

Catoctin Baseball Club

Speed & agility training and pitching are key

Ed Lowery

CBC has started their 2014 campaign with a focus on Speed & Agility training as well as Pitching. The Speed & Agility program is a weekly program that started January 10th developed by local Coach Jason Crum who has a variety of certifications in Strength and Conditioning, Athletic Training, Performance Enhancement, and Cross Fit for Kids. Jason has had a successful track record working with many different area programs including the 2013 Catoctin High School Girls Soccer team. The program was developed specifically by Coach Crum to positively impact the ball player's speed and agility as it pertains to baseball movements. Coach Crum commented, "Baseball is a game of speed, power, and quickness. Our focus is to provide these young athletes with as much high intensity, multi-directional activities as possible while keeping it fun. We provide the players with a variety of agility drills to improve their ability to change direction and reaction time. Plyometrics at a basic level is introduced to develop power and explosiveness. Having young, growing boys the program would not be complete without addressing coordination, balance, footwork, and core strength through station work."

CBC is also working with Dustin Pease (of Pease Baseball Training) on pitching mechanics and core fundamentals. Dustin has returned to his Alma Mater (Mount Saint Mary's University) as the pitching coach at

after nine successful years of pitching in professional baseball. The importance of developing young pitchers is vital at CBC, but most importantly, giving them the access to the best possible instruction puts them on the right path from the beginning. "We are very fortunate to have access to someone like Dustin to be working with our kids. By simple fact of where we are geographically located. The breadth of knowledge and experience he brings to our kids is invaluable. His approach to teaching youth pitchers is first class. We have seen immediate results in kids after simply working with Dustin for 15 minutes. It's a real benefit for our kids to work with someone who has lived something they all dream about today" said Ed Lowery of CBC. By ensuring proper mechanics are established and taught, the pitcher's velocity, control, and reduced stress on the arm are maximized.

Dustin's approach to teaching is highly effective and has made an immediate impact on the CBC players. Pease commented on instructing youth pitchers, "Every pitcher has their own unique pitching motion and style; molding the fundamentals around each pitchers style is important to the safety of their arm, and to their success in the future". The importance of having pitching cannot be understated for any baseball team. However, with the amount of tournaments that the CBC teams play in, it is crucial to have the majority of each of their kids on the team ready to pitch. Above all, it is a firm belief at CBC to protect their player's arms at this age to prevent overuse. This is evident in CBC's U8 and U9 teams. Being the youngest teams in the program, they have developed 8 to 10 players on each of those teams that could pitch at any given point in time.

The season will be starting early at CBC with a multitude of tournament play beginning in March against some of the most competitive baseball teams in the Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia regions. The CBC program will be represented in ten tournaments with each age group playing 4 to 5 tournaments per team. CBC's 9U, 10U, and 11U teams have been invited to play in

the highly competitive and invitation only Chesapeake Regional Amateur Baseball (CRAB) League featuring some of the most successful tournament and travel baseball programs in the region. The U8 team will play in the Mid-Atlantic Baseball Association (MABA). Follow the CBC season on Facebook at: Catoctin Baseball Club or visit their website: catoctinbaseball-club.com.

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Warming winter recipes

Renee Lehman

Winter is nature's "resting season". It has been cold, there is less day light (which makes the days "shorter"), and there is a quietness outside. Many aspects of nature look dead (at least you may think that); however, nature is actually storing its potential deep in the earth and the roots of vegetation. Winter appears to be nature's "low" point. However, this is only the external manifestation of Winter. Remember that the bulbs that are in the ground are not dead, and the seeds that fell to the ground from the trees/plants in the Fall are still alive. Life does not stop during the winter months. Nature is storing up energy and preparing to burst forth during the growth period of Spring.

The gifts that Winter gives us include the strength of reserves (storage) and endurance (just remember about the hibernating animals), wisdom, stillness, deep listening (the "quietness" of winter allows us to listen), reflection, strength, a solid foundation, and reassurance (Spring will come again!). The amazing thing about Winter is that the bulbs, plants, trees, and animals do grow and survive given nature's stark and unfruitful appearance. The strength of reserves (storage) and endurance (just remember about the hibernating animals), and the ability to use these inner resources to survive and endure a more "barren" time relates to the true inner qualities of Winter. There is will and determination to see winter through to spring.

The Winter season in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is associated with the Water Element, one of the Five Elements, and also the Kidney and Bladder organs (see previous articles on the Five Elements within TCM). In TCM, foods are classified according to their energetic essences (or energetic qualities of temperature, taste, and ability to moisten and strengthen the body), and are supporting to us in many ways. During this time of year, consider eating foods that, based on the TCM perspective, are very nourishing to your Water Element. Consider eating foods that have a salty taste. Eat foods that come from saltwater (fish, seafood, and seaweeds); salty-flavored foods (if you don't have blood pressure problems); walnuts; pine nuts; black sesame seeds; dark fruits (blueberries) and dark colored foods (red/black beans). These types of foods support your Kidneys (think about how kidney beans look like a Kidney) and Bladder. Finally, spices, like garlic, ginger, and cayenne pepper are great to add to your food, especially when the weather is cold and damp.

Here are 3 wonderful recipes to help support the functioning of your Kidneys and Bladder this Winter (from Nan Lu, OMD of the TCM World Foundation, at www.tcmworld.org).

1. **Baked Marinated Salmon With Scallions**

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees and then bake the fish with this rule in mind: For each inch of thickness of the fish (measuring at its thickest part), bake it for 10 minutes.

Ingredients

Oil for baking
4 or 5 scallions, washed and trimmed and then cut in half lengthwise
Marinade (see recipe below)
Salmon (about 1 pound) marinated overnight

Preparation of the Salmon

Cover the bottom of a baking dish with oil. (Use about 6 tablespoons of oil for an 8-inch by 12-inch baking dish). Line the bottom of the oiled dish with about ¾ of the scallions and spoon about ½ of the marinade over the scallions. Place the fish in the center of the dish on the bed of scallions covered with marinade. Spoon the remaining marinade over the fish and toss the remaining scallions over the marinade. Cover the dish with foil and refrigerate, allowing the fish to marinate over-

night (if you are really pressed for time, this step can be several hours; however, the flavor is best when more time is allowed). Remove the dish from the refrigerator and bake uncovered at 425 degrees until fish is fully cooked. Serve hot.

The Marinade

This recipe makes about 5 to 6 tablespoons of marinade, which is enough for approximately 1 pound of fish. Combine all ingredients thoroughly in a small mixing bowl.

Ingredients

2 tablespoons of hoisin sauce
1 tablespoon of oyster sauce
2 tablespoons of soy sauce
1/2 teaspoon of fish sauce
2 teaspoons of ginger root, finely chopped

2. Seaweed Salad

Reconstitute a handful of mixed seaweed (you can buy dried seaweed salad mix or use wakame) by soaking in warm water for 6 to 8 minutes. Then drain the seaweed well and place in a serving bowl. Mix the following for the dressing: 1 tablespoon each of rice vinegar, soy sauce, and sugar; 1 teaspoon of toasted sesame oil; salt to taste; ½ teaspoon of ginger juice; toasted sesame seeds; and 1 finely chopped scallion. Add dressing to the drained seaweed.

3. Walnut And Black Sesame Seed Paste

Eat 2 tablespoons of this healing food every day for maximum benefit!

Ingredients

1/2 pound of raw walnuts
1/2 pound of black sesame seeds
3 to 4 ounces of honey

Preparation

Roast the walnuts at 325 degrees for 15 minutes. Toast sesame seeds in a frying skillet (use a lid – a few may pop out of the skillet) over medium heat (tossing occasionally) until they have a nutty fragrance (usually 3 – 5 minutes). Grind the walnuts and black sesame seeds in a food processor or blender. Thoroughly mix the honey into the cooked nut mixture and then refrigerate.

Enjoy these nourishing recipes.

I hope that you enjoy the quietness of the winter!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

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Keep Moving

Make winter exercise fun!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer/
Therapist

I know the days of winter are long and dark and that makes it harder to find energy for the things you have to do and even the things you enjoy. There are many ways to walk or get aerobic exercise. Some include a treadmill or exercise bike. If you don't have access to either of these some other ideas are walking at a local mall or checking with a school that is close by. Sometimes they open the track to the public at certain times of the week or day.

If these are not for you, make your own exercise routine right in your house. Many people like to exercise along with a tape so they are guided in the correct form and speed. By following an exercise tape you keep your steps going for a prolonged time at a speed that will burn calories as well as keep your heart rate and breathing up for a beneficial outcome. The important thing in any exercise is that you keep moving. Exercising after work can be even harder so try to find a time that works best for you. Stop on the way home from work or recruit a friend or family member after dinner. The important thing is to set an appointed time and be committed to it. Even if you feel tired and really don't want to do anything that day, make yourself do 10 to 15 min. of exercise. If, after that you still feel that your body is not up to exercise that day, stop for a while and try later. You will notice I said your body is telling you it doesn't want to exercise, not your mind. Sometimes you just feel lazy and it is easy to talk yourself out of exercising. Most of the time, if you get started and do something for at least 10 min. you will feel like continuing.

Marching in place or walking through the house is a great way to get started if you are not doing anything right now. You don't want to start too

aggressively, as this could cause injury or make you not want to exercise. Always check with your doctor before starting any exercise program or changing anything in your daily activities to be sure your body is able to handle the new activity. Once you have mastered walking, get creative and add a little dance step with the walking. Adding music to exercise always seems to make it more fun. The next step may be adding some dumbbells, a can of soup or a soda bottle. You don't have to go out and buy exercise items, you can always find something around to house to use for weight. Many people already have exercise equipment and machines and just need a little guidance in how to use them. Feeling confident in the proper form and use of equipment can go a long way in motivating you to exercise. A trainer can be very helpful in getting you started and making you feel accountable to someone if you have a little trouble staying on track with your workouts. If you do decide to invest in some type of equipment for home use, exercise bands are a great way to add resistance to your workout. The bands give you a challenge while making the workout fun and they do not require a lot of storage space. You will be surprised how this little bit of movement will give you energy and make you feel better not only physically but emotionally. Knowing you are doing something for yourself makes you feel better about yourself. We will often do something to improve things for others but when it comes to doing something for ourselves, we hesitate. Just do it, no matter what, and you will be so glad you did. Some of you may have received an exercise program or system for Christmas. This is the big sensation today. The games are geared toward balance, movement and exercise while having fun at the same time. This also lets you involve other people. Set aside a time each day or as many days of the week

that you can to exercise. Make an appointment with yourself or a friend to exercise, then enjoy your new found energy and satisfaction. Exercising with someone else usually makes the time pass faster and makes exercise fun instead of a chore.

Most of the time when people get together the main attraction is food. You can still have light refreshment but make an activity top of the list. Make bowling, skating, skiing, or walking what the party is all about. Play charades, ping-pong or something that involves moving around. Be creative and come up with your own ideas for a party that do not always center around food. Invite friends to bring their favorite healthy recipe and ask them to bring copies to share if you do what to have food. This is a great way to get ideas for healthy, low calorie, yet still flavorful foods. Someone else has already tried them so you can feel a little more confident that you will like them. Some people are also very informed on changing ingredients to keep or improve the taste of a recipe while using lower calorie sugar and fat items.

I'm sure you don't want to think about vacuuming or cleaning as a form of exercise but that is a great way to get moving, burn calories and get the housework done all at the same time. Usually, thinking about doing something that you don't especially like to do is worse than doing it. After you finish you will have more energy and feel better that the job is finished.

Start out slow and add more exercises as you feel ready. Soon, you will look forward to your workout or even cleaning the house to get your exercise. Think of the benefits you will receive and how much energy you will have for your family, yourself and yes, even your job.

If you have any questions, check with your doctor and if you are able to, start a program that is right for you. Explore the video section of your local store or see what fitness programs are available on your TV to guide you to a healthy, active lifestyle. If you have any questions for me, please call 717-334-6009. I will be glad to help. Remember, Keep Moving!! You'll be glad you did.

Fitness Matters

Expert answers to your health questions

George Puvel
Anytime Fitness Owner

Question: I've been having a tough time with my energy levels for my 6am workouts. I was thinking coffee might help with this, but it seems like it's always getting mixed reviews. Any cause for concern before a workout?

Answer: First things first. If you're experiencing low energy levels, and you're not necessarily focused on fat loss, try having a small breakfast, or even a bar or a shake, before you go workout. This will definitely provide the much-needed energy you're looking for. However, if you're trying to drop body fat and you'd like to avoid calories that early in the morning, coffee is an excellent alternative. The caffeine in coffee is considered a central nervous system stimulant and will provide a boost of energy, though the effect varies greatly among individuals. Caffeine is actually considered an ergogenic aid, meaning it enhances physical performance. In the right amounts, caffeine has been shown to reduce the perception of effort during a workout, which means your workout will seem easier than it actually is. Not bad for a little cup o' joe, huh? Keep in mind, coffee does increase heart rate, respiratory rate and blood pressure, and it can make you a bit jittery if you're a newbie. Luckily, these effects are relatively mild, especially for healthy folks. In fact, much of the research these days is focused on the potential health benefits of coffee, rather than any health risks.

Question: I was in the gym the other day and I overheard a guy talking about his "No Pain, No Gain" weightlifting philosophy. Do I need to adopt this attitude for my own workouts to see results?

Answer: No, not necessarily. It is true that weight training sessions can be intense, resulting in micro-tears and subsequent muscle soreness for a day or

two afterward. This is completely normal, and as the body heals itself, the muscle fibers gradually become larger and stronger. This is the essence of strength training.

Question: Do I really need to sweat profusely to get in a good workout, or is this another fitness myth?

Answer: Myth all the way! Sweating and the overall quality of your workout do *not* go hand in hand. Workout quality depends on the type of activity, the intensity and the duration. Sweating is simply a way for your overheated body to cool itself...that's it. Some people sweat from the very beginning of physical activity and others end up doing 30 minutes before the first bead hits the floor. Your environment, specifically the temperature and humidity, certainly plays a role, but the amount you sweat is very individualized as well. When you're physically active, your core body temperature rises and the body looks for an easy way to dissipate heat. So, the next time you're sweating and someone mentions that you look hot, just tell them, "Really, I was just starting to get cool."




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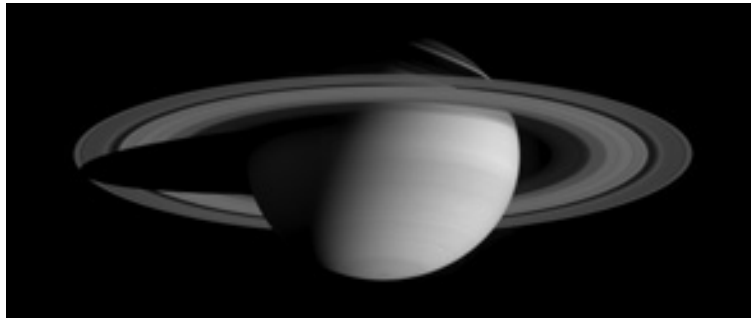
ASTRONOMY

The night sky of February

Professor Wayne Wooten

For February, Mercury is briefly visible just after sunset in the SW, with a nice grouping with the crescent moon on February 1st. It passes between us and the Sun on February 15th. Venus has now moved into the morning sky, and dominates the dawn. It is pulling away from the Sun and earth, and thus becomes smaller but more fully lit this month; she is 13% sunlit as February begins, but 36% sunlit by March 1st. Mars rises about midnight in Virgo as the month begins, and gets brighter and closer as we overtake it this month. It will be at opposition, with us overtaking it and passing between it and the Sun on April 8th; this will be the best time to study the red planet in the telescope for the next two years. Jupiter dominates the night sky, high up in the NE at sunset in Gemini.

Check out the four Galilean moons in a scope, and the belts and zones and Great Red Spot on the disk of the largest planet with it high in the sky in the evening sky. Saturn is now in Libra, and rising about midnight by month's end. The ringed planet will be coming to opposition on May 10th. The rings are much more open than last year, and are open about 20 degrees now, compared to 27 degree when fully opened at Saturn's solstice in 2016; when this open, the huge reflecting surface of the ring's ice boul-



Over the next two years, Saturn will increase in brightness in the night sky as it approaches its solstice in 2016.

ders will double the planet's brightness.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs

imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

At Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way

here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. 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. In 2014, giant Jupiter sits in the middle of the constellation, far brighter than either of the twins.

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. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope.

Just east of Betelgeuse is the obscure constellation Monoceros the Unicorn, notable this month for the beautiful cluster and nebula visible faintly with binoculars as NGC 2244 on your SkyMap chart. While the cluster is not as pretty as many others, it is so young it is still surrounded by the red hydrogen rich nebula giving birth to it, the Rosette Nebula, a fine cosmic rose for your Valentine. Our fine portrait is by EAAA member John VeDepo with a

long exposure photo to bring out the fainter outer regions of the nebula.

In the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye.

When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, a reminder of Spring coming; look for the bowl of the Big Dipper to rise, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. But if you take the pointers south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". Fitting for our cosmic king of beasts, whose rising at the end of this month means March indeed will be coming in "like a lion".

Farmers' Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Windy and very cold (1,2,3,4,5,6,7) with blizzard (8,9,10). Windy and very cold again (11,12,13,14,15,16) turning not so cold with snow in the northern region and rain in the south. Fair and cool (19,20) turning colder with a Nor'easter and heavy snow (21,22). Windy and cool (23,24,25,26,27) and not as cold with rain in the north and storms in the south (28).

Full Moon: February's Full Moon will occur on Friday, the 14th (perfect for a romantic Valentine's Day evening!). It has been named Hunger Moon by many Native American tribes living in cold and temperate climates who faced the harsh winter weather and scarcity of food during this month. It has also been referred to as the Snow Moon because snow was often its deepest in certain parts of North America.

Holidays: The Christian Festival of Lights, or Candelmas, is celebrated on Sunday, February 2nd. Many churches traditionally marked the day by displaying more candles than usual during the services. In addition to providing more light, it was also believed that they provided protection from illness and plague in the coming year. Valentine's Day, February 14th, falls on Friday in 2014. Plan something special under the beautiful full moon's light for your sweetheart and let them know how much you appreciate them in your life. The birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Wednesday, February 12th) and George Washington (Saturday, the 22nd) are collectively celebrated on President's day, which falls on Monday, February 17th to provide us with an extended holiday weekend.

The Garden: Hopefully, "Punxsutawney Phil" will be giving us some good news and we can start thinking about an early spring. Begin uncovering perennials and do some light pruning on those warmer days. Seal all of the cuts well to prevent any infections as the weather warms. Don't get rid of too many low-hanging evergreen boughs, though. They will protect ground plants from that late-winter blizzard. Consider cutting some branches of flowering shrubs such as forsythia, pussy willow, quince, and magnolia and bringing them inside for forcing. Keep tabs on all of your houseplants. They need special attention having been cooped up indoors for so long. Check to be sure they are getting enough sunlight and water and don't ever let the pots dry out. Always be checking for pests. And please remember to put seeds out for the birds!

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COMPUTER Q&A

All good things must come to an end...

Aysë Stenabaugh
Owner of Jester's Computer Tutor

Support for Windows XP and Microsoft's Office 2003 will end on April 8th 2014. But don't panic! -- Okay, maybe just a little bit! You will still be able to use Windows XP but it won't be recommended. Updates that Microsoft currently pushes weekly to online XP computers will be discontinued leaving your computer vulnerable to exploits or security flaws that the updates would normally patch. If you find yourself needing technical support for an XP computer you won't be able to reach out for help directly from Microsoft support.

In addition to the above, while Microsoft's Security Essentials will continue to receive updates for a limited time, those using the software will still be vulnerable because Microsoft will no longer be providing updates to your XP computer that would normally protect it. Small Business's may have increased complications which may resolve some issues by using a special Windows 7 with XP mode.

Different programs and applications that you normally use will become outdated and may not work properly or at all. Manufacturer's for devices such as printers, digital cameras, scanners etc. will no longer provide drivers for Windows XP so that means, if you need to buy a new device, you may not be able to use it with your XP computer. Always check the product specifications on the packaging before you make a purchase to be sure your computer will be supported, don't assume it will be.

What do I do now that XP is retiring?

Option 1: You may be able to upgrade your current computers operating system by installing either Windows 7 or Windows 8.1, (Jester's Computers recommends Windows 7 over Windows 8.1). Running some tests on your computer will help to determine if your system's hardware is compatible with the new operating system. You may only need a small system upgrade like adding additional memory to complete the upgrade. The first step in the upgrade process would be to determine if you are currently running a 32 BIT version of windows or 64 BIT you can find this by right clicking on computer (or my computer) and choosing properties.

Upgrading your computer from an outdated operating system to a new one can be challenging and it is recommended that you have a professional help you to evaluate your system setup to determine exactly what your upgrade will require. Upgrading your XP computer to Windows 7 or 8 will remove all of your applications and personal files. You can use the included Windows Easy Transfer tool to move your data files (not programs) to an external storage space which can later be restored once the upgrade is completed.

Of course cost will always be a large factor in your decision. The cost of either operating system is a minimum

of a hundred dollars, and for most having a professional complete the installation is a must. Those who decide not to have a professional do the installation will want to be prepared to spend some time backing up all of your data, re-installing all of your compatible software, and locating drivers for devices that are compatible with your new system. If you choose to have someone do it for you, always make sure you are receiving a licensed copy of windows (meaning you receive an original operating system disc and license key that will prove your Windows is genuine) Prices will vary from place to place but will typically average around one hundred dollars also.

Before you consider an upgrade (or a new computer) complete the following checklist prior to purchasing any software or making any final decisions

Determine if your current Windows XP is 32 bit or 64 bit, determine if the system is upgradable by visiting Microsoft's Website and running the upgrade advisor tool (or a professional can check it out for you as an alternative).

If your system is upgradable total all your costs and decide if the cost is

worth the outdated hardware already in your system -- other parts on your computer may also be outdated even if they are compatible, your money may be better spent on a new system.

No matter if you purchase a new system or upgrade your existing system you need to consider that your existing equipment such as printers, scanners, graphics cards, etc. will have updated drivers to support work properly with your new system. You can visit the manufacturer's website for each device to determine if drivers are available for the operating system you wish to upgrade to.

Remember that programs or applications will need to be re-installed. You will need to have a copy of the software on a disc or removable media to re-install it on the new or upgraded computer. Most software will also require a license key which should be included with the software packaging. Also consider that the software may not be compatible and be sure to check the packaging or manufacturers website to ensure that you will be able to use it on your system.

Make sure that your system can really support your needs long term. No one wants to upgrade a computer to find that it really runs too slow and it

would have been better to purchase the new system instead. Also remember to add antivirus right away to protect your computer from being unusable!

Microsoft Operating systems are only licensed for use on one PC meaning once you install that operating system on a computer you won't be able to install it on another so you want to be sure you are making the right decision. In most cases people find that the better investment is purchasing a new computer that will have more power, all new components, and a warranty. Unless you find yourself in the situation where you built

your XP computer within the last two years and aren't having any other hardware issues.

If you are in need of PC computer repair or would like for us to build you a Custom Built desktop computer call or visit Jester's Computer Services located at 5135 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, PA. You can reach Jester's Computer Services by phone at (717) 642-6611 or send an email to: customerservice@jesterscomputers.com.

Part 2 next month

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 8
St. John's Lutheran Church's Oyster and Turkey Dinner, 8619 Blacks Mill Rd. Creagerstown. Feast starts at noon.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's Cash Bash, 3 – 8 pm at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Center, Thurmont. 4 drawings per hour. Grand prize \$3,000. \$25 per person includes food, refreshments and live music. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Anthony Shrine parishes.

Mother Seton School's Vera Bradley and Coach Bingo. Doors open

at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. (Snow date Feb 15) Beat the winter blahs and enjoy a night out with the girls! This month's Bingo at Mother Seton School features prizes by Coach, as well as Vera Bradley. The fun includes raffles, door prizes, and concessions for sale. For more information call 301-717-8860 for tickets, or 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

Feb 9
Music Gettysburg! presents Felix Hell, Organist. The pride of Baltimore returns to the chapel for his annual performance – always

a magnificent event! For more information call 717-338-3010 or visit www.Ltsg.edu.

Union Bridge Fire Company's Country Breakfast at the Union Bridge Fire Hall at 8 Locust Street, Union Bridge. 7 am until 12 noon.. For more information go to "www.ubfc8.org", or call 443-340-9465.

Feb 14
Elias Lutheran Church's Coffee House featuring Silver Lining Band and opportunity for Open Mic performances. Free Snacks and Coffee! Come on down for

Valentine's Day for Emmitsburg's best contemporary Christian Music scene. Elias is located at 100 W. North Ave. Emmitsburg, just one block up from Fire Dept. 301-447-6239.

The Majestic Theater present's Glen Burtnik's 'Summer of Love Concert'. The show recreates 'note for note and absolutely live' the songs, and the psychedelically flavored spirit, of the Woodstock Generation. The concert includes music by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Dylan, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, Santana,

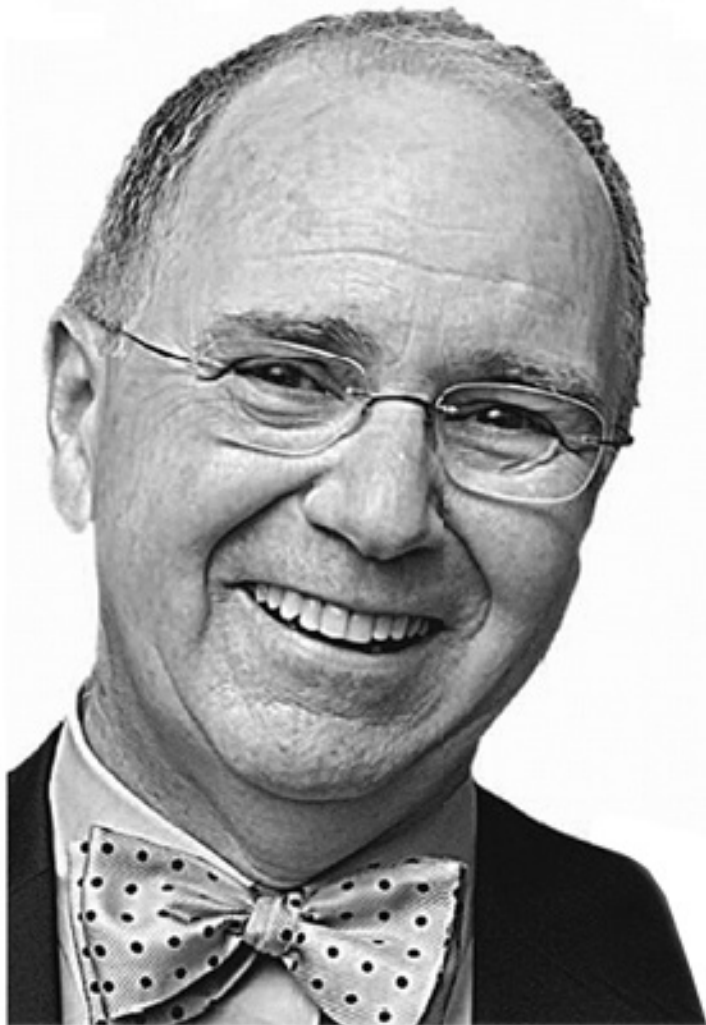
Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Jefferson Airplane, The Association, The Turtles, The Beach Boys, Mamas and the Papas, Ravi Shankar, Joe Cocker, The Youngbloods, and many more nuggets and surprises. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Feb 16
St. Mary's Church in Fairfield all you can eat spaghetti dinner, 3 pm to 6 pm, 256 Tract Road, Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-8815.

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's

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- Farms
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- Itemized deductions
- Partnerships
- Sole proprietorships
- State returns
- Trusts
- Sale of business, home or stock
- Foreign earned income exclusion



1275 York Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325 ■ 717-334-4851

11 W. Main St., Fairfield, PA 17320 ■ 717-642-8011

7 Potomac Ave., Boonsboro, MD 21713 ■ 301-432-5880

223 N. Market St., Frederick, MD 21701 ■ 301-662-6354

1041 W. Patrick St., Westridge Square, Frederick, MD 21702 ■ 301-662-2720

5732 Buckeystown Pike, Evergreen Square, Frederick, MD 21704 ■ 301-668-1039

8429A Woodsboro Pike, Discovery Crossing, Walkersville, MD 21793 ■ 301-845-0809

UPCOMING EVENTS

Full Moon Owl Prowl at the Preserve. Walk softly and carry a good flashlight – even though you won't need it with a full February moon! We will quietly explore the Preserve on a winter's evening listening carefully for the sounds of owl. We will also learn a bit about these mysterious feathered friends and just why they're calling at this time of year. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org.

Feb 22
Strawberry Hill and Camp Eder's Maple Sugaring Festival. The art of making maple syrup, has been practiced for thousands of years. The tradition began the Northeast United States centuries ago with the Native Americans and colonists. You will learn how trees are tapped, view sap-collecting methods past and present, and see the boiling process that produces delicious maple syrup. Two public demonstrations, including a pancake breakfast; a local arts and craft fair; and local musician, are held at Camp Eder, Christian Camp & Retreat Center at 914 Mount Hope Road in Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Light the Night team Barkers 4 Blood Cancer will hold the 3rd annual Dance 4 a Cure Zumbathon at the Vigilant Hose Company in Emmitsburg, 1:30 to 4:30 with a multi-prize raffle drawing

at 2:30. For more details and registration information call 240-674-6444.

Feb 23
Union Bridge Fire Company's Turkey & Oyster Dinner at the Union Bridge Fire Hall, 8 Locust Street, Union Bridge. Buffet Dinner, noon until 5 pm. Call 410-775-2509 or 410-775-2872 for more information, or check out our website "www.ubfc8.org".

Second Hope Rescue and Tip Me Frederick are hosting Bets 4 Pets, a casino night to benefit feral and rescue animals. 7-10 p.m. at Langanore Winecellars. Snow

date March 8. Sponsors, vendors and donations are welcome. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and are going fast! Visit bets4pets.com, or call Barbara at 301-845-1061 for details.

Feb 27 & 28
Elias Lutheran Church's spring yard sale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 100 W. North Ave. Emmitsburg. For more information call 301-447-6239.

March 1
Pig Roast to benefit EOPCC, Dr. Bonnie Portier's clinic in Emmitsburg. The pre-Lenten party will feature Irish music and dance lessons, courtesy of Cormo-

rant's Fancy, and Irish and American food, including pork and oat dishes and heritage recipes such as Castleconnell Cake. A raffle, silent auction, and drawings for door prizes will be offered through the evening. A prize will be offered for the best Irish toast

presented to the assembly. Tickets can be bought at the EOPCC at \$35/person, or by check. Please mail checks to P. O. Box 291, Emmitsburg MD 21727. Ticket sales end Feb. 22. For more information call Bill O'Toole or Cathy Bodin at 301-447-2690.

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THURMONT BUSINESS EXPO
Friday, March 21, 2014
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Check Out All The Details In Next Month's Edition!

BINGO!
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Valentine's Day
Friday, February 14th
Roses, Roses, Roses!
Jubilee has a beautiful selection of roses for Valentine's Day at great prices that are so much less than traditional florist shops!

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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

MOUNT INTRODUCES THREE NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Mount St. Mary's University is offering three new programs—an undergraduate major in health sciences for traditional undergraduate students, a human services program for adults completing their undergraduate degree, and a graduate-level degree in biotechnology and management.

The health sciences major is designed to prepare students to work in health-focused careers, including nursing, physical therapy, or occupational therapy. The program has a strong emphasis on biology, with studies in the social and behavioral sciences, providing students with critical thinking skills, effective oral and written communications skills and a strong ethical foundation.

The human services program combines courses from sociology, education, psychology, theology, and business—providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively and compassionately work in various social service agencies and organizations. Examples of such agencies and organizations include mental health centers, drug and alcohol treatment programs, child and family welfare programs, and agencies on aging.

"The need for well trained, highly educated, compassionate and ethical human services workers is tremendous and well documented. The Mount's new program in human services will help meet this need," says Tim Wolfe, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and program director.

The master's degree in biotechnology and management is designed for scientists and technicians in the biotech field who wish to navigate the terrains of both science and business. The program has a dual focus on biotechnology research and development and on project management and finance. The curriculum includes extensive discussions in ethics.

"This degree program fills a real need in the region. We have so many scientists trying to start up or manage their own biotech businesses but they don't have the management training. With this program they can get the training they need to be successful," says Jeff Simmons, Ph.D., dean of the School of Natural Science and Mathematics.

Classes for the human services and biotechnology and management programs will be held at the Mount's Frederick campus beginning in August 2014.



"This degree program fills a real need in the region. We have so many scientists trying to start up or manage their own biotech businesses but they don't have the management training. With this program they can get the training they need to be successful."
—Jeff Simmons, Ph.D., dean of the School of Natural Science and Mathematics

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Art Exhibition by Nick Hutchings

Saturday, Feb. 1–Friday, Feb. 21
Williams Art Gallery
Delaplaine Fine Arts Center
Gallery Hours: M/W/F 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
T/TH 10 a.m.–1 p.m. & 2–4 p.m. or by appointment

Nick Hutchings, assistant professor of visual and performing arts, presents an exhibition of sculpture and drawings reflecting on the concept of the firmament as written in the chapter of Genesis in the Bible.



Adult Undergraduate Program Information Session

Thursday, Feb. 6
4–6 p.m., Mount St. Mary's Frederick Campus,
5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick
Finishing your undergraduate degree is easier than you think! Learn how with the Mount's accelerated undergraduate program. Bring your transcript and meet with an academic advisor. Classes are held at our Frederick Campus.

PNC Fitness Center Orientation

Thursday, Feb. 6
6:30–7:30 p.m., Knott ARCC
PNC Fitness Center
Learn how to use and set the PNC Fitness Center equipment safely and properly. The trainer/instructor will offer advice on repetitions and sets as well. To register, contact Lisa Martin at 301-447-3810 or lmartin@msmary.edu



Some Enchanted Evening Musical Revue

Thursday, Feb. 13–Saturday, Feb. 15
8 p.m., Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center
Join us for an evening of music containing many of the Rodgers and Hammerstein songs you've always known and loved. From "Climb Every Mountain" to "Some Enchanted Evening" to "Oklahoma," you'll be captivated by the melodies and lyrics of American musical theatre's first true geniuses. **Tickets are \$5.** For more information, call 301-447-5308.

PNC Fitness Center Orientation

Saturday, Feb. 15
9:30–10:30 a.m. Knott ARCC PNC Fitness Center
Learn how to use and set the PNC Fitness Center equipment safely and properly. The trainer/instructor will offer advice on repetitions and sets as well. To register, contact Lisa Martin at 301-447-3810 or lmartin@msmary.edu



MEN'S HOME BASKETBALL GAMES

Feb. 1 vs. LIU Brooklyn (Homecoming), 2:30 p.m.
Feb. 13 vs. Bryant, 7 p.m.
Feb. 27 vs. Sacred Heart, 7 p.m.
Mar. 1 vs. Saint Francis (Pa.), 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HOME GAMES

Feb. 1 vs. Robert Morris (Homecoming), 5 p.m.
Feb. 3 vs. Cent. Connecticut St., 7 p.m.
Feb. 22 vs. Fairleigh Dickinson, 1 p.m.
Feb. 24 vs. Saint Francis (PA), 7 p.m.

FOR TICKET INFORMATION, CALL THE BOX OFFICE AT 301-447-5700 OR GO ONLINE TO WWW.MOUNTATHLETICS.COM.



MASS OF HEALING & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2 p.m.
St. Mary's Chapel
National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Find peace and deeper faith at the Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick.

For more information about the Mass, which is held on Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day, contact the Grotto at 301-447-5318 or grotto@msmary.edu



Graduate Business Programs Information Session

Thursday, Feb. 20
4–6 p.m., Mount St. Mary's Frederick Campus,
5350 Spectrum Drive,
Frederick

Learn more about our graduate-level business degree and certificate programs. Choose from programs in health administration, project management, government contracting, organizational development and more! Classes are held at both the Emmitsburg and Frederick campuses.

Chamber Music Concert

Thursday, Feb. 20
7:30 p.m., Knott Auditorium
Members of the Mount St. Mary's Instrumental Ensembles will perform a short program of chamber music. Music composed for smaller ensembles usually without a conductor. Free admission.



NFL Concussions: Who's Responsible? Who Pays?

Symposium on Corporate Social Responsibility
Monday, March 3
7 p.m., Knott Auditorium
Join us for the 20th annual Symposium on Corporate Responsibility. This year's event features a panel discussion on the topic of the NFL and features Tony Agnone, C '75, sports agent with Eastern Athletic Services.