

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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G-8's "silver lining"

As Frederick and Adams counties and municipalities prepare for the arrival of the G-8 Summit in mid-May, businesses may find themselves overwhelmed by the thousands of attendees.

Not only will representatives of as many as twelve different countries be present, but, as John Fieseler, executive director of the Tourism Council of Frederick County, pointed out, dignitaries and their staff and security will not be the only people converging on the area for the event.

Representatives from eight of the richest nations in the world—the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Russia—make up the G-8. Their primary purpose is to discuss global concerns and issues.

Several other nations are also expected to send representatives to event, held at Camp David.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 members of the media from various countries are expected to arrive to cover the event. "They are already booking rooms [throughout the region]," Fieseler stated.

International delegates are attempting to book rooms in Fred-

erick County in 30 to 50-room blocks, a feat that might possibly be more realistic in the Baltimore-Washington area than Frederick or Adams counties, where tourist season will be essentially getting underway.

Paul S. Witt, owner of America's Best Value Inn and Quality Inn Gettysburg Motor Lodge, both on Steinwehr Avenue in Gettysburg, said that his facilities were already booked up during the summit weekend as the result of normal business.

"That's a real busy weekend [in the Gettysburg area] and the two properties we operate are already filled for that weekend," he stated.

David Reel, president and chief executive officer of the Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association, Annapolis, said the relocation of the G-8 summit to Maryland is going to be huge, interesting.

"Not to say [housing the attendees] isn't going to be a huge undertaking," he stated, "but D.C. is already pretty much in the mode to take on conventions."

"We certainly can't expand the number of [existing] rooms between now and the summit, but hotels, just by their nature are sort

Mount class of 2012 set to graduate



The News-Journal's Assistant Editor Kelly Conroy and Senior Columnist Julia Mulqueen will be graduating on Sunday, May 13 along with 357 other members of the Class of 2012. To say that these two exceptional young ladies have been a God-send to this paper would be a huge understatement. Beginning with the June edition the pair will be authoring Graduate columns - Kelly's on life as a Graduate student at the Mount, Julia's on the adventures as a newly minted 2nd Lt in the Army!

of used to making last minute adjustments," Reel noted. "I think what you'll find pretty much across the board all the properties (motels and hotels) will do what they usually do: bring extra help in to deal with the injection of so many individuals associated with the summit in addition to normal demand."

Cozy Inn & Restaurant, sitting essentially in the middle of Ground Zero for the G-8 Summit, was already booked before April in conjunction with the upcoming event.

General Manager Vicki Grinder said, "We have some of the

continued on page 4

Farm launches hydroponics operation

If you're looking for pesticide-free produce or pick-your-own berries, then Brent's Berry (and hydro-greens) Farm in Liberty Township is worth a trip, a visit that will likely turn into a regular shopping event.

The pride of the farm, located at 138 Brent Road and owned and operated by William and Latricia Brent, and their son, James, is their new hydroponics operation.

Established on a family farm dating back to the early 1950s, the Brents initially maintained a traditional crop farm, the Brent's Berry Farm, on the 92-acre site in 1985.

The farm is now in its eighth year of doing business, and farms about eight acres of the total land available.

However, going into this year, the Brents decided to try their hand at hydroponics. They constructed a total of 11,264 square feet of greenhouses (four in all) to serve as home to their new, organically grown products.

Two of the greenhouses are used to grow more than a half dozen different varieties of toma-



William and Latricia Brent, along with their son, James, look over some of their first hydroponically-produced tomatoes at Brent's Berry Farm.

atoes, along with peppers and cucumbers, and the other two are used to grow an amazing array of 14 varieties of lettuces.

So, how are hydroponics crops grown? Tomatoes and peppers are planted in individual boxes

containing volcanic glass beads known as perlite, and then routinely fed nutrient-laced water, while the lettuce is grown in long planters rooted strictly in nutrient water.

Brent pointed out that, because hydroponics occurs indoors, "no pesticides, herbicides or fungicides" are needed, a major difference between the requirements of indoor-grown crops and those that are field grown.

Another advantage for the farmer is that the indoor crops are protected from wildlife and the effects of weather, since they are grown in an enclosed, climate-controlled environment.

Brent said the year-old hydroponics operation has been "a learning experience every day. Every day you learn something new. It's so much different than growing the crops out-

of-doors."

"We're just starting to pick" the first crops hydroponically produced, Brent stated. When talking about the first group of final production figures, he said, "We'll find out what it's like, but so far it's looking good."

He said the operation is already providing Emmitsburg Jubilee with produce, and is looking for other outlets.

The farm does have a produce store on-site, and the current hours until May 3 are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. After May 3, the hours will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

For additional information, visit the Brent's Berry Farm web site at brentsberrymfarm.com or call the farm at 717-642-1555.

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NEWS

From the Assistant Editor

It was a Thursday evening on Mount St. Mary's campus and my friend, Emma Haley, asked me if I wanted to go to a meeting with her. She said that she was meeting up with Mike, the News-Journal guy. Emma was the captain of the tennis team at the Mount and I was a freshman on the team, which meant that I basically did whatever she said. I didn't ask her any questions and followed her to the library after dinner. I sat down at a round table and listened as Mike went over each of the articles with the writers. He gave the writers suggestions for improvement, encouragement and ideas for their next articles. They all were having a lot of fun! Then, Mike turned toward me, "So Emma and some of the professors have told me that you're a pretty good writer. How about you try out an article for next month?" I realized why Emma

had brought me and I was thrilled to have been given a chance to share my love of writing!

I spent a lot of time writing my first article for the Emmitsburg News-Journal, which earned me a spot on the paper's Mount student staff, and I have continued to devote a lot of time to the creative writing column. I have written about foolery, the legend of Larry Dielman on the Mount St. Mary's mountain, and a three-part story about the sinking of the Titanic. I hope that you have laughed and smiled reading my articles! I also hope that you remember some of the characters and that you have looked forward to reading my column.

Being a part of the Emmitsburg News-Journal has really made me feel like I'm a part of the Emmitsburg community. I always read the whole paper and learn about

happenings in the town. Thank you for being such a welcoming community to me and the other Mount students.

It seems like I was just in that meeting with Mike on that Thursday evening. Now, three years have passed and I am graduating in May with a degree in Communication Studies. My time with the ENJ is not over yet, thank goodness! Next year, look for my column in the paper entitled "The Graduate Student." I will be a graduate assistant in the Communications office at the Mount earning my MBA with a marketing concentration and playing my fourth year on the Division I tennis team. I look forward to sharing stories from my life with you!

Sincerely,
Kelly Conroy

Town Council reverses position on tax rate hike

"It's very difficult to explain to people that raising the tax rate is not raising your taxes."
—Sister Eleanor Casey (who supports the tax rate hike).

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners backtracked on seeking a dramatically reduced budget for 2013 at their April 2 meeting, and now appear to be leaning towards implementing an increase in the real estate tax rate.

The board of commissioners directed town staff at their March 19 meeting to produce a draft budget that would cut town expenditures by potentially \$140,000, a cut that would translate into property owners not see-

ing a tax rate increase in 2013.

In fact, if the proposed slashed budget had been pursued, it would have meant most of the town's tax payers would have paid less in real estate taxes in 2012, as well.

However, at their first meeting in April, commissioners expressed concerns that not raising the tax rate for 2013 could stymie public projects, such as road paving and other town improvements, and would likely mean a higher tax rate increase down the road to compensate.

Board President Christopher V. Staiger, who had supported the preparation of next year's initial draft budget based on not raising the tax rate, turned against the concept. "I'm starting to buy into maintaining the reve-

nue [current level] we need by adopting the tax increase," Staiger said.

Regarding using the reserve funds to plug holes created by any proposed budget slashes, he said, "We're really hitting the bottom of the barrel." He noted raising the tax rate to maintain the current levels on incoming revenue seemed necessary to "maintain the current standard of living" in the community.

Mayor Donald N. Briggs said the town was in a "Back to the Future" situation, and that if the board averted a tax rate hike now, "next time it might really have to go up."

The request to produce a budget slash stemmed from discussion generated by the state's recent constant yield rate for Emmitsburg, which claimed that the town had a net, assessed real

Emmitsburg Area News Briefs . . .

Cost of trash service drops

The cost of trash service to the residents of the Town of Emmitsburg will be decreased as the result of action taken by the board of commissioners at their April 16 meeting.

In a 4-1 vote, the board agreed to enter into a trash contract with Allied Waste, ending their previous and current association with Key Sanitation.

As a result, when the contract with Allie becomes effective, the per unit cost for residential trash service will drop from the current total of \$6,403 (under Key) to \$5,291. Key also currently charges \$52.54 to drop off a dumpster, while Allied charges nothing for a drop-off.

The decision to enter into a contract with Allied followed a motion by Commissioner Patrick A. Joy and seconded by Commissioner Tim O'Donnell.

Commissioner Glenn Blanchard voted against.

Resolution paves way for grants

A resolution approved by the Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners at their April 2 meeting will help pave the way for grants that can be used to improve the community.

On a motion made by Commissioner Glenn Blanchard and seconded by Commissioner Tim O'Donnell, the board unanimously adopted a resolution designating Emmitsburg as a "sustainable community."

As a result, the town can become a member of the state Department of Housing and Community Development's Sustainable Communities Program, if approved by that agency.

While the state program does not, in and of itself, provide grant money, it does work with participating communities in pursuing them.

Only a portion of the town, such as the historic district, has been submitted for participation.

Employee attains 20-year mark

A Town of Emmitsburg employee was recently recognized for having served as a public service employee for two decades.

An employee-sponsored luncheon was held to celebrate James E. Click's 20th year of employment in the service of the community, according to Town Clerk Donna DesPres.

Click, 51, presently serves as the Emmitsburg public works superintendent, where he is charge of managing parks, streets, and the water and sewer services. He initially began his employment with the town as a public works laborer.

Click, who lives in Emmitsburg with his wife, Tiffany, and son, Dylan, is also a member of the

Vigilant Hose Company, wherein he has also served in officer positions, and serves as a coach with the Emmitsburg Little League.

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property base of \$168,149,433.

The state Department of Assessments and Taxation reported that, as a result of that real property base amount, the town could expect \$717,107 in revenue if it established a tax rate of 0.4265 cents per \$100 of assessed real estate value. The current tax rate is 0.36 cents per \$100 worth of real estate.

The values of properties in Emmitsburg dropped an average of 18 percent in value as a result of the re-assessment. Because of the reduced value of the properties, the anticipat-

ed revenue would not really increase with a tax hike. The increase would simply maintain the amount of incoming revenue from real estate taxes at the current level, and most local taxpayers wouldn't really see an increase in their tax bill.

Commissioner Patrick Joy voted against directing the town staff to prepare a budget incorporating the tax rate increase, and was the sole commissioner voting against the directive.

The town staff will be presenting the preliminary budget in May.

Town donates garden plot

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners agreed at their April 2 meeting to donate a plot of public garden land to the county library for a proposed raffle.

The town provides a dozen garden plots for the community to use for personal gardens in exchange for a \$20 deposit (per plot).

Last year, only two of the plots were used, but the town hopes as the word gets around that usage will increase. The plots can be used to plant annual vegetables, fruits, flowers or shrubs.

The winner of the plot to be donated for the library raffle will still have to fill out the necessary forms

to use the plot, but the \$20 deposit will be waived.

Ball field use questioned

Discussions regarding issues relating to the control granted by the Town of Emmitsburg to the Emmitsburg Little League over the ball fields have been tabled indefinitely, or at least until the current contract end.

Commissioner Clifford L. Sweeney had expressed concerns April 3 and April 16 meetings that non-league residents might have been denied use of the fields when the league did not need them.

The current contract ends November 30, 2013.



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Carroll Valley supports survey about emergency services

The Carroll Valley Borough Council voted at their April 10 meeting to contribute \$150 to a study being conducted to assess the future of emergency services in Adams County.

The Adams County Council of Governments' (ACCOG) Emergency Funding Committee and the Adams County Volunteer Emergency Services Association (ACVESA) are asking that municipalities help fund the study, which regards "past, current and future emergency service levels and

funding sources" in the county.

Carroll Valley Borough Councilman Neal Abrams commented, "This is an interesting study. It hasn't been done in a long time."

He said the study is a joint venture that will allow all of the county fire departments "to get some facts" regarding current and future services.

Each participating town or borough is being asked to contribute \$150 towards the project, which will collectively help defray the overall anticipated cost of the research by \$3,250, if all member municipi-

ties pledge the asking amount.

The full cost is projected to be around \$13,000. According to the ACCOG, the municipalities' share will represent about one-fourth of the total cost of the study. The balance of the funding will be provided by the ACCOG and the state Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

As part of the proposed study, expected findings include an assessment of the service level available in the county today and what is needed in the future to pro-

vide cost-effective and sustainable emergency services, a review of "past, current and future fire apparatus for fire and rescue fire station needs," and a "fair and unbiased review of the county's volunteer emergency services."

The Carroll Valley Borough Council was asked to contribute \$150 and to approve the ACCOG partnering with the ACVESA to contract a third party consultant to perform the study.

The purpose of the ACCOG Emergency Funding Committee

is to "facilitate adequate and effective emergency services, pursue partnerships between ACCOG and volunteer fire organizations, and coordinate county-wide initiatives that support emergency services."

ACCOG was founded "to provide a forum by which governmental entities of Adams County may meet to discuss issues of mutual interest, and to coordinate joint activities between members on an as-needed, voluntary basis."

Fairfield drafting stormwater regulations

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission continued to work on a draft of new stormwater run-off regulations at their April 9 meeting that reflect current, state-approved county plans.

The initial draft ordinance was prepared by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development (ACOPD), and was based on new stormwater regulations prepared by the county and signed-off on by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The borough Planning Commission received a proposed ordinance, which creates new stormwater run-off regulations, at their March 12 meeting.

At the April 9 meeting, the commission elected to pass the draft ordinance on to borough Engineer Aaron Jolin, C.S. Davidson, for engineering based changes and recommendations.

The engineer will then pass the amended draft to county Planner Robert Thaeler to be put into a form for final review by the borough Plan-

ning Commission, followed by a potential recommendation by the commission to the borough Council regarding adoption.

The estimated cost of the engineer work on the draft will run about \$2,500, and will include a review of the zoning ordinance and the subdivision and land development ordinance to ensure that those documents do not contain conflicting mandates regarding the new stormwater management guidelines, a review of definitions used, and providing a list of

recommendations for further consideration.

Thaeler said that the state will reimburse municipalities 75 percent of their accrued costs in working on new stormwater guidelines based on the state-approved county model, although "now [the state] doesn't have any money [to put towards reimbursement]."

The state recently decided to abandon Monocacy Plan-driven stormwater management and to allow counties to develop county-wide regu-

lations. The Monocacy Plan had stipulated that stormwater planning be done on a watershed-by-watershed basis.

The new rules, as promulgated by the county, not only change the focus of stormwater management from a watershed-centric concept to a county-wide concept, but also eliminate an extraneous and somewhat duplicative permitting process caused by the Monocacy Plan and soil conservation regulations.

The planning commission hopes to make a recommendation regarding adoption of the regulations to the borough Council by the council's May meeting.

Fairfield Area News Briefs . . .

Fairfield tables sign regulations

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission voted at their April 9 meeting to table a review of signage in the borough for at least 60 days.

The review was prompted by the realization that a number of commercial signs in the borough did not comply with existing regulations.

The planning commission had been awaiting input assimilated by the borough Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) regarding signage, especially as it pertains to the historic areas.

However, the commission decided at its April meeting that the work on proposed storm water management rules had to take precedent on other rule-making considerations until the work is complete.

Carroll Valley to add truck to roster

The Carroll Valley Borough Council voted at their April 10 meeting to approve the acquisition of a new truck for town staff use.

The council agreed to expending \$71,000 to replace a light weight

pickup with a heavier truck to aid in tasks the smaller truck could not handle.

The truck being purchased will be a new Ford F550 4x4, which will also be equipped for plowing. The new truck will replace the borough's 2000 Ford F250, which will be sold.

Because the borough went through the state contract system to acquire the truck, it wasn't necessary that the purchase be put out to bid, according to Town Manager David Hazlett.

"We're phasing out the pickups because they not made to do the jobs we need," he said.

Hamiltonban to eliminate dependent coverage

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted at their April 3 meeting to eliminate insurance coverage over a five-year period for township employee dependents.

The beginning of the cessation of coverage will start September 1. Over the course of the five-year period, town employees will pick-up an I increasing percent of coverage if they wish to continue to have dependent coverage until year five, when they will have to pay 100 percent of the costs.

Three of the five supervisors have previously given-up their dependent coverage, and the remaining two will cease being cov-

ered when their terms end.

The action taken by the supervisors was based on the increasing costs of providing dependent coverage.

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NEWS

Drought: Water supply begins to drop

A general deficit of rainfall, combined with the lack of significant snowfall over the winter, has begun to impact available water supplies in the area.

This could quickly translate into burn bans, less water available for natural growth and agriculture, and water use restrictions.

Emmitsburg Town Manager David Haller informed the board of commissioners at their April 16 meeting that the community's available water supplies have already dropped.

"Our wells are now averaging about 4.6 feet below their May 2011 levels," Haller stated. "We are in a drought."

During March, the Emmitsburg area received 2.3 inches of precipitation, the average being around 3.9 inches. The March rainfall is but part of a pattern that has been persistent over the past six months. "We have

a precipitation deficit of 2.9 inches (spread) over the last six months," Haller said.

While the official April numbers would not be available until May, the town manager noted that the wells have already dropped an additional two feet since the end of May.

The Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services lifted an open burning ban on April 15 that had been declared on April 6, but county Fire Marshal Michael P. Dmuchowski advised, "All residents and business need to continue to exercise caution when conducting open burning in the outdoors and never leave a fire unattended."

Adams County, however, has been placed under an open burn ban by county Fire Marshal Glenn K. Herring effective April 14. The ban includes campfires and fires at campgrounds, as well as all other properties.

Herring stated that the ban has been put into effect "due to the dry conditions in the woodland areas," and will remain in effect until, further notice.

Burning in a burn barrel will still be allowed if the individual conducting the burn employs a wire mesh cover and maintains a 10-foot cleared area around the barrel. Outdoor gas and charcoal grills are also permitted if they are not located near wooded areas.

Individuals planning to conduct an open burn are also advised to contact their local municipalities, who may have enacted their own burn bans or regulations governing them.

Cara Baugher, Penn State Extension tree fruit educator, said, under the current developing water supply situation, growers need to avoid causing stress to the fruit trees by not adequately thinning a percentage of the

growing fruit on each tree.

Planting new trees can also be challenging under drought conditions, she said, but in this area newly planted trees tend to be "trickle irrigated" to help ensure they have adequate water to help them to become established. The older trees also benefit by being deep-rooted, and are thus generally drawing on water deeper in the aquifer.

She said it could be another month before any adverse impact a water shortage might have on the upcoming fruit crop could be accessed.

As groundwater levels drop, municipalities may also be faced with water use restrictions,

Emmitsburg already has a year-round limitations on water use in place as of March 7, 2011, but could impose further restrictions if a drought condition would intensify.

The current regulations in

place only allow the watering of lawns, shrubs, flowers, and gardens between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during any given day of week.

Residents of various municipalities should stay alert to any restrictions that might be imposed on their respective communities.

Perhaps the only upside to a drought occurs at a 140-acre farm outside of Emmitsburg where the excavation of a 220 million year old prehistoric lake is an on-going process.

"The work on some of the most important layers at the moment depends on drought-like conditions because the layers are normally submerged partially underwater in a creek bed," said Cathe Curtis, Gettysburg, who is in charge of the actual recovery and preparation of prehistoric remains at the Rocky Ridge site.

G-8's "silver lining"

(continued from page 1)

press." The members of the media alone have already reserved 21 of their rooms. "Most are coming on Friday and leaving Sunday."

She categorized the role of the Cozy in such an event as "business as usual... We've been through this many, many, many times. We're always booked on weekends anyway." She said the restaurant end can handle up to 700 diners. "We're prepared and staffed for a full house [during the event]."

The Cozy Inn & Restaurant, which houses a Camp David Mu-

seum, has a long history of association with Camp David, and has frequently catered events there.

In fact, as Grinder pointed out, the restaurant was doing business in Thurmont before Camp David was even established (which was founded by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as a presidential retreat and named Shangri-La, later changed to Camp David by President Dwight D. Eisenhower).

The Cozy Inn is hopeful that it will be awarded a catering contract which would involve serving

400 to 500 members of the media at Camp Round Meadow in Catoctin Mountain Park. The restaurant has catered previous Camp David-related events.

Another catering contract hopeful is the Carriage House in Emmitsburg.

Bob Hance, co-owner of the Carriage House, said, "I'm waiting on an email [from the White House] regarding receiving specs from the white house on a bid for the proposal to do all or one of these meals for the press. We are on the list of possible caterers. I don't know what we'll end up with."

Hance also stated that a letter was sent off to the Obama family inviting them to have dinner at the carriage House. After all, Bill and Hilary Clinton did during Clinton's presidency. "I said, if you want a reference, check with your Secretary of State," Hansen joked.

This year's G-8 Summit was reportedly moved to Camp David to avoid anticipated massive protests at its previously scheduled



The Cozy Restaurant will be ground zero for many during the G-8 summit

location in Chicago. The White House has officially stated that the summit was moved to provide attendees with a more comfortable setting.

The protests are expected to continue in and around the Chicago area, but federal, state

and local police agencies are also preparing for possible protest activity in conjunction with the Camp David event. Current plans call for Catoctin Mountain Park to be completely closed during the weekend of the summit.

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One hundred years ago this month

May 3

The Road to Gettysburg

Perhaps nowhere in between two states is there a road in such bad shape as the road from Emmitsburg to Gettysburg. Autoists avoided it as much as possible and those who use it at all do so under protest. For several years past plans for modernizing this link between Washington and the National Battlefield have been discussed. The governors of Maryland and Pennsylvania have considered the improvement, even promised some material change for the better, if we mistake not. And yet there it remains in the same disgraceful condition that has characterized it for many a year-for many decades in fact.

There is no more direct road from Washington to Gettysburg than this, nor are there two more interesting and important places, in so far as a tourist is concerned than these two points. Hundreds of automobile now use the road, but the number would increase to thousands if it were made as it should be made.

Maryland made a state road of the Frederick and Emmitsburg Pike - conceded to be one of the finest roads in the state - and it is reasonable to infer that if Pennsylvania would continue the Battlefield Ave ("Confederate Avenue") to the Mason-Dixon line, Maryland would do her share to complete the link. As the idea of the Lincoln Blvd. has been abandoned why not still have a Lincoln Memorial and 10 miles of model thoroughfare?

May 10

Local Brevities

In unusually large crowd was in town on Saturday, at nine o'clock in the evening every hitching post was occupied. Owners of automobiles took advantage of the fine weather on Sunday. A large number of cars came to Emmitsburg.

Mr. Felix Diffendal presented the town with a new attachment for the public fountain in the square. The spray is now far more effective, especially since the fountain has been re-decorated.

During the severe electrical storm on Wednesday evening, lightning struck a bell wire on the property of Mrs. Charles Gillelan at the East end of town, and trying to force an entrance into Mrs. Gillelan's pantry, remove several boards. The same storm brought a large amount of hail to Emmitsburg.

The primary election passed off in Emmitsburg very quietly. There was no disorder of any kind. A comparatively light vote was cast in the presidential preference election. In the Corporation's election, Mr. Edward Rowe and Mr. Quincy Shoemaker were elected Burgess and Commissioner respectively.

Tax Collection

The town tax collector was sit at the Hotel Spangler on Saturday evening May 18 and 25th, at which time and place he will be glad to receive taxes due the Corporation. We respectfully ask all those who owe tax for either of the past two years to kindly arrange to pay them at once and save interest in cost.

Cinematograph and Gramophone Successfully Hitched

An invention, by means of which Cinematograph films and Gramophone records taken of a public man making a speech can be presented simultaneously with the sounds and movements in perfect unison, was demonstrated a few days ago in London. The invention was comprised of two electric motors of identical patterns for driving the gramophone and the Cinematograph. The possibilities of the invention are obvious. At election times, for instance, a great leader can be seen and heard simultaneously in every constituency. The records of famous people will go down to prosperity as they appeared and talked, every town will be able to have its "Cinematograph" opera house.

May 17

Town Fathers Organize

At their meeting on Tuesday evening at Fireman's Hall the Burgess and Commissioners of Emmitsburg organized for the fiscal year with the elec-

tion of Dr. McForeman as President and Edward Rowe as Clerk. The Commissioners reappointed Mr. Oscar Frailey as Treasurer, and appointed Mr. Frederick Dukehart as Constable and Lamplighter. After being told what was expected of him, Mr. Dukehart is now patrolling the town. The Burgess' office will be in the room along Frederick Street at the southwest corner of the Hotel Spangler.

Fire at McCarran Stables

An alarm of fire was sounded Sunday afternoon about 1:30. A blaze was discovered in a room at the McCarran stables on Gettysburg Street. The Fire Company responded, but a bucket brigade quench the flames. On Monday morning before seven o'clock there was another fire, this time at the home of Mr. Charles Long, on Gettysburg Street. The fire from the chimney had ignited a partition. It was not necessary to use the Fire Company's hose. Little damage was done either fire.

Storm Debris Cleaned

The heavy winds the past few days blew down branches from many trees in town. Main Street has been thoroughly cleaned. All the mud and dirt have been scraped up and removed and in many places the road has been regraded and resurfaced.

May 24

Local Brevities

Mr. Richard Zacharias has had installed in his confectionery store on Main Street on new soda fountain of the latest type.

Prof. Strauss met with a painful accident at the schoolhouse on Wednesday morning. In attempting to raise a broken window an artery in his right hand was severely cut.

Constable Dukehart was called to the home of a Main Street resident one night this week, where chicken thieves have been attempting to operate. No arrests in this case have yet been made.

Besides the extensive cement work on his property on Main Street-cement walks, porches and alley approach, Mr. Harry Hopp has im-



The Ways and Means Committee of the House

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District Manager,
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

proved his lately remodeled dwelling by adding a bathroom with every modern convenience including a toilet that flushes with a handle.

The persons or persons responsible for the dumping of tin cans and rubbish near the entrance to Mountain View Cemetery take notice. Information of trespassers who break trees and shrubs or deface tombstones within the cemetery will be paid for, and all offenders will be prosecuted.

May 31

Novel Scheme to Raise Titanic

A Matewan hatter is looking for someone to finance a scheme to raise the Titanic. He thinks 1 million or 2 million will do it. His plan is worth trying, he thinks as a sunken ship had a cargo worth 25 million.

The water were the Titanic sank is two miles deep, but the man argues that because of the increased density of the water the ship has not gone to the bottom-probably not halfway down there. He thinks that powerful magnetized hooks attached to chains and lowered from great barges would be attracted to the sides of the ship, he be-

lieves that with enough barges and sufficiency of grappling hooks the Titanic can be brought to the surface.

Speeders Arrested

Monday evening around 7:30 an auto with three occupants blew in the pike, rounded the fountain and shot up Main Street. The car came from Baltimore in it brought all kinds of speed with it-most of which were utilized in the short spurts to the end of town. Constable Dukehart quickly assembled at the hostelry where the machine stopped - for gasoline, it is said - and invited the owner and chauffeur to have a little chat with the authorities. All the citizens not having other engagements accompanied these gentlemen to the office of the President of the board of Commissioners - where at the suggestion of the said President, the sum of five dollars was presented to the Corporation by the said owner of the car.

Hoke Horse falls

A Horse belonging to Mr. Joseph Hoke fell on the cement crossing at the Hoke Patterson arcade on Tuesday, breaking the harness but doing no injury to the animal.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Kirby Delauter

It has been said before that the only things for certain in life are death and taxes. Welcome to the 430th Session of the Maryland General Assembly! To date there have been 1,099 bills introduced into the Maryland Senate and another 1,476 bills introduced in the House of Delegates. It is worth noting that 293 of those bills alone deal with just revenues and taxes.

While not all of the tax proposals are necessarily bad, some are quite good and would protect Maryland tax payers. Unfortunately, most of the good ones have only two chances for passage - slim and none, and rumor has it that slim was seen at the MARC station purchasing a one way train ticket out of town.

The Maryland General Assembly, and particularly this governor has become quite good at pushing class warfare in Maryland. They say their tax proposals and increases will always hit someone else, so we should support their proposals. It's the old adage, don't tax you, and don't tax me, tax that guy behind the tree.

The only problem with that mind

set is that in a free economy, we are all inter-related in the scales of finance. By taxing anything, thereby adding more costs, we all pay more.

Increase the costs of labor through taxes, you increase the cost of every product produced. Increase taxes on services, professionals will simply charge us all more. Increase taxes on capital gains and people stop investing. I think you get the idea.

This year the governor and the legislature have been working overtime to find more creative ways to separate us and our money. From wanting increases on the gas tax, I guess they don't mind spending \$4 to \$5 for a gallon of gas, an increase of 60% to 140% in some cases on toll roads in Maryland, a 100% increase in the "flush tax," along with income tax increases on the "wealthy" Maryland residents, and tax changes on our mortgages.

The Governor claims his income tax increases would generate \$182 million, but the independent Department of Legislative Services issued a report stating the increases would only generate \$130 million.

So even if the governors planned tax increases were enacted, we would already be set up for failure with another revenue shortage of \$52 million.

I guess he can come back next session and request additional tax increases to cover the shortage. I will not go into all the details on the taxes that were raised by this governor and legislature back in the special session of 2007 which raised an additional \$1 billion to "fix" our budget shortfall. Remember, that was to have set the state's books in balance, yet here we are again with another \$1 billion deficit facing the state in 2013.

Maybe, just maybe, we don't have a revenue problem, but rather a spending problem. I'm not a mathematician, or I guess in the governor's way of operating, I'm not a magician either, but if we keep having billion dollar shortages, maybe we should cut back on our spending. I have only addressed the tax increases, and have not detailed the teacher pension shift of more than \$200 million to the county governments. That topic has been adequately detailed and debated for its short-sightedness.

This session of the General Assembly has been about the most anti-business, anti-consumer, anti-taxpayer in modern memory. The state talks a good game about job creation and improving the economy, but when they have the chance to act, they work in the complete opposite direction.

As we have proven here in Frederick County, the local government knows how best to operate for our citizens. We have been more than frugal with taxpayer dollars in our actions and deliberations. We have also been very cognizant to create a business friendly environment, and we see this paying off.

We have one of the few county governments in America actually in effect running a profit. In 2011 we had a projected 2013 deficit of \$48 Million, thanks to the conservative actions of 4 out of 5 of this BoCC, we now have a projected surplus for fiscal year 2013 of \$29 Million, this was done by making tough decisions it was no accident. We will also give money (Approx. \$6.7 million) back to the taxpayers and NOT create new and ongoing government programs that require permanent fund-

ing! It is true as they say; the government that governs best is that which governs closest to the people.

As an aside here, there has even been a bill moving through the House of Delegates, House Bill 987 which would require local jurisdictions to collect a storm water utility fee to fund street retrofitting and other projects, helping them meet federal mandates to reduce pollution runoff to the bay. The bill does not stipulate any mandatory minimum fee.

Local governments are already able to impose such a fee without a mandate, and Delegate Maggie McIntosh (D-Montgomery County), the committee chair, was quoted in the media as stating, "The truth of the matter is, the local jurisdictions have been dragging their feet on doing this." So much for local autonomy and control. I know my message to both Annapolis and Washington would be pretty much the same, please just leave us alone.

As I stated, the only sure things in life is death and taxes, and with all the negative tax information coming out of Annapolis, I guess the afterlife will be our only salvation in Maryland.

From the Desk of Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

With spring comes Easter. Or more appropriately with Easter comes the spring. With Easter also comes the special traditional sunrise ecumenical service at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes sponsored by the Emmitsburg Council of Churches. Promptly at 6:30 AM the Emmitsburg Community Chorus transitions all in attendance to participation. This is Emmitsburg and northern Frederick County at its best. All differences of belief aside we come together at the inconvenient hour to give thanks. Raised voices in song, a welcoming by Father Smith seconded by Pastor Bill Wivell with a sacred reading then a wonderful sermon by Rev. Ben Jones followed by more lifting of voice. Attendance at this service is one of the most mayoral things I can and ea-

gerly want to do. As an etched memory many years ago while I served under Monsignor Phillips at the Grotto, I would open and set up for this special service that was always attended by Mayor "Doc" Carr and Chata Carr. It meant a lot to me to see and participate with them at this service.

With spring comes Emmitsburg Baseball Opening Day. Blessed with a wonderful sunny day the parade mustered on DePaul Street at 1 PM for a police escort procession through the Square down South Seton Avenue and over to the ball fields. What a special day, 57th year, fourteen teams and 170 players. A celebration that is all about parents extra sacrifices to get the kids to practices and games; the cadre of organizers and coaches and what they have to do; and, fi-

nally those wonderful young players to whom every decision made by our town should hinge.

With spring comes resetting of priorities and I had to make a hard one this spring. I am stepping down from the Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission. My interest has not diminished, but rather it is the evening meetings. Historic properties are the focus of the town's recent "Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area" grant and Sustainable Community applications. I will however serve another term on the County Sustainability Commission. I chaired this Commission for the first two years of its existence.

On Saturday, April 14th at the library I signed a proclamation on behalf of the town to the launch of "Fi-

ancial Literacy Awareness Week". The initiative is the inspiration of Sister Salvatrice Murphy of Seton Outreach and brought to the town's attention by Commissioner Tim O'Donnell who was in attendance with Commissioner Joy. It is so easy to become saddled by debt. Thank you to Sister Salvatrice and the staff of Seton Center.

Later that day at the NETC Chapel there was a ceremony honoring Matthew McKenna. Mathew was awarded the Eagle Scout award. This very prestigious award has been earned by maybe only ten other young men in our community. Congratulation Matthew to his brothers Alex and Chris also Eagle Scout award winners and their beaming parents Larry and Denise McKenna.

With spring has come wonder-

ful weather and an unwanted consequence; the water table at our wells are four+ feet below traditional levels at this time of year. So we must be prepared to conserve.

The G 8 Summit: The town manager and I have met with NETC personnel and have regularly been pestering the town deputies about the event. The summit will be held at Camp David on Friday and Saturday, May 18th and 19th. We will have many visitors most of whom will be housed on the NETC campus. With the event there will be stepped up police coverage in town. We should look for increased activity starting on Tuesday the 15th. Our guests will have to leave by midday Saturday to make room for the students and next slate of classes at the NETC.



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

I hope everyone has been enjoying our early spring! It's amazing that we have escaped winter with virtually no snow. Between the early blooms and cutting of grass, it's hard to remember that our typical planting season doesn't begin until mid-May.

At the April 2 town meeting, we were lucky to hear from Frederick County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Theresa Alban. Dr. Alban reviewed upcoming changes to the county curriculum as a result of state and federal mandates related to testing, 'no child left behind,' and graduation requirements. Sadly, she confirmed that we will not see a renovation of Emmitsburg Elementary in the foreseeable future.

The Board of Commissioners also approved a resolution to join the Maryland Sustainable Communities program. Participation will allow us to take advantage of a wide range of state programs offering financial support for public, private, and commercial improvement ef-

forts. This program compliments our recent 'Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area' grant application requesting funding for improvements on the town square.

From March, the town government has continued to examine the costs associated with building a second water plant in order to balance our sewer capacity and allow for future growth. Production and storage capacity in the Emmit Gardens area will not only provide additional resources, they will also provide some security against the interruption of the water supply from our only other facilities up on the mountain.

We have adopted our engineers' construction estimates and adjusted the water connection fee charged to residential and commercial developers in order to fund this future project. I expect some opposition to this move from residential developers and their proponents, but feel this change is in the best interests of the town as a whole. Providing water and sewer ser-

vices are our community's greatest assets - and costs.

With a new entrant to the town's garbage collection contact bid process, we have been able to score a decent savings on base garbage collection fees over the next three years. The new contract with Allied Waste management is about 25% cheaper than the next closest bidder, our current collector, Key Sanitation. Beginning with your October 1 bill, you should see a 10% reduction in the base garbage collection fee reflecting the difference between the new Allied contract and the current Key contract.

Allied currently collects residential recycling for Frederick County, so they are familiar with our area. They also offer lower fees for the roll off dumpsters required for yard waste collection at the sewer plant and for bulk trash pick-up - which should allow us to move back to two collections per year. There was some opposition to moving away from

Key, but I feel comfortable with the move and will monitor Allied's performance closely.

April and May typically bring consideration of the next financial year's budget. Annual budgets have declined every year for the last three years - dropping \$200,000 or 11.7% from a high of \$1.7 million in 2008. Over this period, we have substantially reduced costs and elected to use our "rainy day" fund if major expenditures were required.

Projections from the state tax office indicate that if the town property tax rate remains the same, the town will collect \$100,000 less than the previous budget year due to reduced property assessments. Faced with this reality, the Board initially challenged the Mayor and town staff to prepare a balanced budget based on the reduced funds available.

By mid-month, however, the Board decided to adopt the 'Constant Yield Tax Rate' (determined by the state) for budget planning pur-

poses. This allows the town property tax rate to increase enough to collect the SAME overall property tax revenue as the previous year - basically counteracting the drop in property tax assessments. If this change was not made, could we eliminate another community deputy, or fire two or three town employees, or continue not to save towards replacing snow plows and other equipment, or continue not to repave our roads?

Property owners will see a substantial decrease in the amount of property tax due after July 1 - if only because the county has maintained the same property tax rate while assessments have collapsed 20% on average. If the town raises the tax rate to collect the same amount overall as last budget year, that overall reduction will be a little less for each of us.

More on this over the next few months as the debate develops!

As always, I encourage your participation and feedback to your elected officials! Sincerely, Chris Staiger

From the Desk of County Commissioner Blain Young

Over the last year we have witnessed budget battles at both the federal and state levels that made it very clear that our so-called "leaders" couldn't manage an airport shoe-shine stand, much less manage the budgets of our country and our state.

Who can forget the theater last summer over the federal budget, and the down-to-the-wire negotiations over legislation to increase the legal amount we can borrow and force our children and grandchildren to try and repay. The only people who enjoyed that were the Chinese, as they know we're going to become more and more indebted to them so that the current administration can continue buying votes with public money to ensure re-election this November.

And this was followed by the pathetic performance of our state legislature in the session that just

concluded. The final act of this absurd drama was the legislature leaving town without agreeing on a budget for the next fiscal year. As a result, a so-called "Doomsday Budget" is in effect unless the General Assembly comes back for a special session.

We now have people crying because of all of the supposed cuts that will be made by reason of this "Doomsday Budget." Towns, cities and counties in Maryland are threatened with loss of funding if the "Doomsday Budget" is not "fixed" during a special session of the legislature. This is all propaganda served to you by your cowardly monopoly of Democrats who run the state in Annapolis. Let's look at the facts.

The so-called "Doomsday Budget" doesn't cut anything. In fact, the "Doomsday Budget" spends a half a billion dollars more than last year's budget! That's right,

this budget that is supposed to be the end of the world for all of us in Maryland, because it supposedly will require deep cuts in the social programs cherished by liberals, actually represents an increase in tax dollars extracted from us and an increase in government spending of one-half of a billion dollars.

You haven't heard that from the people wiping the tears from their eyes complaining about the dramatic cuts that will be made and how our lifestyles will be forever diminished because of this budget. And that is because you are not being told the truth by these arrogant gutless career politicians who lord over us from their thrones in Annapolis and treat us like their menial subjects in their kingdom.

And just wait until we see the special session that is sure to follow. It won't be long now before

our chief Taxecutioner Governor Martin O'Malley, calls upon his able lieutenants, Senate President Miller and Speaker Busch, to send out the call throughout the state for everyone to come back to Annapolis so that they can raise our taxes and spend more money to continue their political careers and their stranglehold on government (and our wallets) in Annapolis.

What came out of Annapolis this session is by no means a "Doomsday Budget." In the current economy we can certainly, as a state, figure out a way to live with only a half a billion dollars more money than we spent last year. But I can promise you that this special session will be a "Doomsday Session" for the taxpayers. I see no limits on the number of new taxes and fees that the monopoly of Democrats in Annapolis will concoct to help soothe

the fears of all of those addicted to the government dole, with enough left over for them all to bring some home to sprinkle throughout the countryside and buy votes for their next election. For as we all know, the real tragedy of the "Doomsday Budget" would be if all these geniuses down there in Annapolis, who can't figure out how to live on a half a billion dollars more this year than they had last year, were not returned to their precious legislative seats and allowed to continue to show us how they are smarter with our money than we are.

I do have some advice for our senators and delegates when they do get back to Annapolis for their Doomsday Session. How about taking a look at the other side of the budget. That's right, there are two sides to every budget debate, or at least there should be. They are revenue and expenditures. The only thing we hear coming out of Annapolis is the talk about how they need more revenue. How about cutting some expenditures? I would start with Casa de Maryland. Does anyone still think that there is any legitimate reason for tax dollars to be spent on this narrow interest group that exists for the primary purpose of protecting people who are breaking the law? Let's start there before we start talking about raising our taxes yet again.

And as a final thought, when Washington was turned upside down last summer because they couldn't reach a budget deal, all you heard was Obama and the Democrats blaming the Republicans for being stubborn. The Democrats in Annapolis can't do that. They run the state single-handedly, and the only people they have to blame are themselves. And after this sorry performance during this year's legislative session there is plenty of blame to go around, and I for one hope it falls squarely on their shoulders.



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Jim Martin

By the time this article goes to press, the month of April, 2012 will likely be history, but it represents a number of notable happenings. The House of Representatives unanimously approved HR 675. In today's political climate, people may ask, "What bill could possibly be unanimously approved?" HR 675 recognizes April, 2012 as National County Government Month and notes the vital services counties provide in protecting and enhancing the health, welfare and safety of the residents. The challenge for county commissioners and administrators is to provide these services in a sensible, cost-effective way.

Since 1991, the National Association of Counties has promoted the annual recognition of April as County Government Month to highlight the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties to meet the needs of their communities. The theme established by the National Association of Counties for this year's event was "Healthy Counties, Healthy Families," which encourages counties to promote healthy living and lifestyle choices in their communities. Appropriately, during the month of April, 2012 the Adams County Commissioners made a number of serious proclamations to promote healthy living and lifestyle choices in Adams County. Those proclamations included Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Alcohol Awareness Month, and National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month. It is a sad omen that we need to make such proclamations. We should also be aware of the damage and destruction of lives that

results from drug addiction.

Since the 1960's our social ills, such as those mentioned above, have continually escalated while the family structure has deteriorated. We have paid the price for this scenario, not only in ruined lives, but in increased cost to the county through administering programs dealing with crime, truancy, abuse, and addiction. These programs account for a staggering portion of our county budget. These costs and expenses are in addition to the funding that is needed for Mental Health and Mental Retardation program

The Governor's proposed budget cuts for the 2012-2013 fiscal year will reduce the MH-MR funding by 20%. One of the major effects of this cut would likely remove individuals from in-patient programs to an outpatient situation with an uncertain level of supervision. The fear is that many of these individuals will become prone to criminal acts and they eventually will be placed in our Adult Correctional Facilities. This scenario then results in a more expensive level of care due to incarceration. Our Adams County Warden is not looking forward to this situation. It creates a more difficult prison environment in addition to the increased operational cost that will likely put upward pressure on the county's prison budget.

Since the subject of Adult Correction and prison has been mentioned, it gives me an opportunity to turn to something of a more positive note. Recently the Adams County Commissioners had the honor of attending the Annual Prison Volunteers Ap-

preciation Banquet. Warden Clark graciously thanked us for our participation and attendance. Commissioner Phiel was amazed and thrilled to see more than 75 volunteers in attendance. Commissioner Martin has been a prison volunteer prior to become commissioner and as a regular banquet attendee was encouraged again to see so many faithful volunteers. The Commissioners and prison staff thanked the volunteers for their valuable service. Their service represents a genuine concern for the inmates, trying to lead the inmates to a better outcome in life. The prison administrators were quick to point out that the volunteer service provides a savings to the county of more than \$100,000 per year. Much credit goes to Chaplain Will Olson for keeping the volunteers current with prison policy and for coordinating the volunteers to fill the various programs.

At the banquet Warden Clark shared his vision of a new program to be instituted as a positive step to reduce recidivism (returning to prison). The new program will create a supervised family center at the Adams County Correctional Facility. This will allow family members to visit the inmate in a family setting rather than being separated by a windowed partition. A similar program has been instituted in the Pittsburgh prison system with positive results. The objective is to keep the family intact through regular contact so that over time family relationships do not fade and become difficult to re-establish after the inmate's release. Children

may be one of the biggest benefactors knowing that they can physically relate to their father or mother rather than just having a past remembrance. Also inmates have developed greater accountability for their actions as a result of the program.

During the month of April the all-new Adams County Board of Commissioners completed and surpassed their first 100 calendar days in office. Over this period much territory has been covered. The first significant action during the first 100 days was the authorization for the County-Wide Emergency Radio Project. Since then a bond to finance the project was issued and subsequently it has been closed with the authorized signatures. Per a local financial advisor, the bond issue sold in a relatively short period of time as a result of the County's good bond rating.

Prior to the bond issue we completed a detailed review of the vendor contracts relative to the radio project. This review was aided by our Radio System Working Group that included over 90 years of combined professional expertise provided by community leaders. The Commissioners were truly grateful for this generous contribution. Following a final legal review, on March 29th the final contracts for construction and implementation were signed. In the very near future, a final system's design review will be conducted to determine if any changes are required prior to the start of ground construction.

To fulfill one of our strategic goals of good community relations, we be-

gan our series of community meetings on March 13th in the borough of East Berlin. This meeting featured a lively discussion centered around economic development and planning as it related to Adams County. Please mark your calendars as the next Community Meeting will be held May 22, 2012, 6:30 pm to 8:00pm at the Littlestown Alpha Fire Company. The meeting topic will feature Adams County's water resources as it relates to supply, quality, and economics. Adams County has been designated as a critical water planning area, thus, learning what measures will help us to protect and conserve our water resources will be fundamental to the quality of life and the future economics of Adams County. In addition, the Conservation District will provide information concerning the control of the West Nile Virus. The meeting will conclude with public participation and an opportunity to meet the Adams County Commissioners.

In closing, I would like to answer a question that I have frequently been asked while attending public events "Are you enjoying your job as commissioner?" To be honest, it is not a job that I would describe as enjoyable, but rather a combination of rewarding and humbling. It is humbling to be entrusted with the affairs of the county and it is rewarding to find resolutions that lead the county in a positive direction. It is definitely enjoyable to work with the many talented officials, directors and support staff of the Adams County government.

From the Desk of State Representative Dan Moul

It is no secret that Pennsylvania's roads and bridges are in dire need of repair, and funding is in short supply. Fortunately, the House recently passed legislation to establish public/private partnerships (P3s) to address the state's crumbling transportation infrastructure. In fact, a study by the State Transportation Advisory Committee in 2010 indicated that an additional \$3.5 billion per year would be needed to meet Pennsylvania's transportation infrastructure needs.

The Commonwealth has nearly 5,000 structurally deficient bridges – the highest in the nation. I voted for this legislation because P3s have the potential to generate \$2.7 billion in revenue over a five-year period to address the repair and replacement of these bridges. Another substantial benefit of this legislation will be the jobs that it will produce.

Safe roads and bridges are also necessary to support Pennsylvania tourism. Tourism is the state's second

largest industry, employing about 452,000 people. An estimated 170 million visitors travel to or within the Commonwealth each year, generating a total economic impact of about \$36 billion. State and local tax revenue alone is about \$3.6 billion.

I serve on the House Tourism and Recreation Development Committee and never miss an opportunity to promote the greater Gettysburg and Adams County area as a significant tourism destination. The battlefield,

parks and other attractions draw millions of visitors to our area every year, which stimulates job growth and our local economy.

The House recently passed a bill I sponsored that would permit Adams County to raise the ceiling on its hotel room tax to generate more revenue for tourism promotion in the county. By giving the county the flexibility to increase its "pillow tax" from the current level of 3 percent to 5 percent, the county could raise as much

as \$800,000 in additional revenue to attract even more business to our region. Tourism promotion is what brings visitors to our parks, keeps our hotel rooms and restaurants filled, and provides much-needed jobs for our citizens. House Bill 1588 is now under consideration in the Senate.

Finally, another issue that is on the minds of citizens of Adams County is the need for property tax reform. Many of my constituents, particularly those who are older and on a fixed income, are fearful of losing their homes because they cannot afford their property taxes. A task force, created last summer by the state Legislature, recently issued its report on property tax reassessments in Pennsylvania and reaffirmed the need for reform. The report was issued just weeks after the House gave its unanimous approval of a bill to prohibit local taxing authorities from pursuing court-ordered countywide reassessments. The moratorium would remain in effect until the General Assembly has enacted property tax reassessment reform legislation or until Dec. 31, 2013, whichever comes first. The bill is now under consideration in the Senate.

If you have questions about any of the aforementioned topics or need help with any other state-related issue, please feel free to contact me or visit my website at www.Rep-Moul.com.

Blue Ridge Sportsman's Association

May 5th - Outlaw Shoot - Open To Non-Members
 May 5th - Kids Fishing Rodeo
 May 6th - Seniors Fishing Rodeo
 May 12th - Outlaw Shoot - Open To Non-Members
 May 20th - Bingo - Open To Non-Members
 Bar Bingo Every Friday Night 7-9 pm

Thurs. - All-You-Can-Eat Wing Buffet \$6.99 - 5-8pm
 Fri. - Full Menu - 4-9pm • Daily Special 5-8pm
 Sat. - Breakfast - 7-11am • Lunch - 12-4pm
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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

There are many holidays to celebrate in May. Some are bizarre – holidays like “No Socks Day”, “Lost Sock Memorial Day”, “Eat What You Want Day” and “Twilight Zone Day” to name a few. I do like that “Eat What You Want Day” which is celebrated on May 11th. No one knows who created the holiday or the origin of the day. However, who cares! One I do care about is Mother’s Day on May 13th. It is a time to honor and thank mom for all she has done for us. Some say that the origins of Mother’s Day can be traced back to the early days of the Egyptians. In their society, the people celebrated a Mother deity, the goddess Isis. This goddess was regarded as the Mother of the pharaohs. The Egyptians held an annual festival to honor her. A later incarnation of the holiday appeared in Europe to honor Motherhood in the 1600’s. In the United States, the first Mother’s Day was conceptualized by Julia Howe in 1870. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a declaration making Mother’s Day a national holiday. Another important holiday to recognize is Memorial Day, May 28th. It is a day set aside to commemorate the men and women who have died in military service to their country. Through their sacrifice we are free.

Venture Crew 76 Chartered by Camp Eder and based in Fairfield, PA continues to grow and expand its programming. The boys and girls of Crew 76 undertake many activities during the year, including kayaking, wall climbing, camping, whitewater, craving, target shooting, and bicycle hiking, as well as provide services to area camps and nature preserves. Newly elected Crew president Josh Hill is leading efforts to put together a broad set of programs and activities for the Crew. Hill is supported by a dozen Fairfield youth

dedicated to fun, interesting, and exciting activities while offering services to the community. Crew Advisor Mark Greathouse, recent recipient of the Boy Scout’s Celtic Cross religious award for service to church and Scouting, notes, “The Crew fills an important role for youth in our community and represents great hope for America’s future. We encourage youth and adults in our area to get involved with our Crew.” Venturing is part of the Boy Scouts of America. Venturing provides exciting leadership opportunities and high adventure experiences for boys and girls ages 14 through 21. Crew 76 was founded in early 2011 and is growing rapidly with a group of youth representing strong values and solid moral character. In fact, the Crew currently has three Eagle Scouts and three “almost” Eagle Scouts in the unit plus young ladies who advanced in Girl Scouting before joining us. Regular evening meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at Camp Eder.

Did you have the opportunity to attend the April 14th Fairfield Little League Association Opening Day parade on Main Street. Watching the young boys and girls smiling and waving to spectators was such an awesome sight and was definitely a slice of Americana. When I was growing up in East Harlem in New York City, we didn’t have any little league. We played ‘stick ball’ in a side street off an avenue. We used a cut off broom stick for a bat and a rubber ball. The tires on the cars opposite each other were considered first and third base. The sewage manhole cover was second. A fly ball caught off the fire escapes was considered out. Times have differently changed. I do have memories of my dad taking me to the Yankee stadium in the Bronx for a baseball games in the 50s. Whitney Ford was pitching. Yogi

Berra was catching. Billy Martin was playing second and Phil Rizzuto, the Scooter, was the shortstop. In the outfield, there was Hank Bauer in right field, Gene Woodling in left and the Yankee Clipper, Joe DiMaggio in center. I guess what I am saying parents your sons and daughters are going to remember these special moments when you made them the focus of your world while others watched. If you want to see the Opening Day pictures, go to www.ronspictures.net.

The Fairfield Area School District’s Athletic Association’s mission is to foster an environment that inspires athletes, students, coaches, parents, and the community to collectively create a positive and spirited atmosphere for all athletic programs. Their focus is to help build strong moral character, academic excellence, and physical conditioning through community involvement, fundraising, and mentoring. If you want to get involved you may want to consider joining the Fairfield Athletics Stand Together (FAST) organization. Based on the monies collected during their fundraising efforts, FAST was able to award four \$500 athletic scholarships, purchase a portable automated external defibrillator or AED for the trainer and provide the research and funding for storage locker installation at the football stadium. These are just some of their achievements. To get involved contact FAST at fast.fairfield@gmail.com.

On the May 5th weekend, soldiers will once again gather in our local community to commemorate Fairfield’s area involvement in the American Civil War. The two day event is being hosted by Fairfield. On Saturday, you will be able to visit re-enactor encampments, and join a Civil War house tour. At noon, you may want to go over to the Fairfield Inn for a

“Taste of History”. Traditional ham and bean soup will be cooked over outdoor fires. Enjoy a wine tasting from two of the areas local wineries: Reid’s Orchard and Hauser Estate Winery. My spies tell me that at 2 pm, the Confederates will attempt a rear guard movement around Landis farm. I was also told that there will be bonfire meeting at 7 pm behind the Fairfield Inn. Don’t know what that’s about. So you may want to get your hands on a Fairfield Civil War brochure that contains an event schedule for both days. I do know from my intelligence report that on Sunday at 2 pm the Union Cavalry is going to be riding behind the Landis farm. There is a lot to experience and to learn about our area’s involvement in the Civil War. Hope to see you there on May 5th and 6th. If you are interested in seeing what happened last year, go to www.ronspictures.net and scroll down to the gallery entitled “150th Civil War Fairfield April 2011”.

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA) is holding their 6th Annual Golf Classic on Friday, May 25th at the Links at Gettysburg on 601 Mason Dixon Road. The cost is \$65 per golfer which I understand is a very good price

to play at the Links. You will have an opportunity to win a car if you make a hole-in-one on the 12th hole. The winner will drive way in a Chrysler 200 automobile compliments of Buchanan Auto Park. The golf fee includes green fees, golf cart, pre-game snacks, beverages, door prizes, awards and post-game meal. Check in registration starts at 12:00. The format being used is a four person scramble with a 1:30 shotgun start. The purpose of the event is to raise money for the July 4th Carroll Valley celebration. If you are interested, contact Charles Dalton at (717) 642-420-0744 or charleswdalton@gmail.com. Help us raise the funds needed to continue to provide an old fashion July 4th family picnic in Carroll Valley that has been enjoyed by all for the last eight years.

The May Borough meetings are: Planning Commission (Monday – May 7th); Borough Council (Tuesday – May 15th); and Parks & Recreation Committee (Wednesday – May 23rd). The Borough Office will be closed on Monday, May 28th – Memorial Day. Please slow down while driving in the Valley and do not drink and drive. If you have any questions, contact me at mayor@carrollvalley.org or (301) 606-2021.



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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Growth, growth and more growth

Shannon Bohrer

Have you ever noticed that politician's, political parties, economists, news anchors, news papers, editorial writers, spokespersons, radio talk show hosts, your local dentist and anybody else you can think of seems to believe that growth is the most desired action for mankind. Growth is supposed to be good for the economy, individuals, and local and state governments, and very good for the federal government, in that it will be our salvation from national debt. According to one political party, our national debt can be assuaged if we stimulate the economy. The stimulation will grow the economy, and then our national debt can be paid down. Of course the other party says the same thing, but the argument surfaces around the question: how do we stimulate the economy? The ideas are endless: ear marks, tax breaks, tax reform, tax more, tax less, investing in the future, statehood for Puerto Rico, balancing the budget and electing the non-incumbent party. But, if both political parties take turns running the country, and growth does not occur—then what happens?

The word growth generally has

a positive connotation, at least from the perspective of individuals and groups espousing its virtues. Also, growth of one's possessions or income is generally thought of as a good thing. However, if one's debt grows faster than one's income, the individual is thought of as a poor manager of their personal affairs. Suppose you have two neighbors: they both have similar employment and incomes, they live and own similar homes, and they even have similar backgrounds. However, they also have differences. One of your neighbors drives expensive vehicles, has all of the latest electronics, takes very expensive vacations, and appears to be living way beyond their income. Conversely, the other neighbor lives what most people would consider a frugal life-style, definitely living within their means. After the financial problems we experienced (just pretend it's over), the neighbor that had everything puts it all up for sale. They always borrowed against their home, trusting that the value of their home would always grow. The frugal neighbor is not having problems, still living within his means. Is there a lesson here? Could the neighbors represent counties, states and/or even countries?

While growth can be good, economic growth is not always a good thing, and is not always immediately obvious. Economic trends in Frederick County, Maryland are a good example. Growth has helped create employment in the county, but it has also created traffic congestion, demand for more schools and need for county services. When growth occurs, plans need to be made for increases in roads, education and general county services. At times, growth will require more resources. And where do the county resources for the increases come from? The answer is simple: you and me. Does this same logic apply to the federal government?

Our neighbor to the south, Montgomery County, has experienced growth for a long time; property values have risen, along with property taxes and fees. Many people that currently live in Frederick County moved here from Montgomery County, because they could no longer afford to live in Montgomery County. Of course the migration from Frederick County to Adams County, Pennsylvania started a long time ago – and continues to this day. If we grow, do we need larger government? Promising less government and promising growth both at the same time may be very

short-sighted. If a farmer wants to double their crop output, he will require more resources. What happens when Frederick County starts to look like Montgomery County? With the traffic jams we are currently having around Frederick, maybe it already does. Can Montgomery County grow anymore?

At the federal level, economic growth is supposed to reduce the national deficit. It is easy to see, therefore, why politicians want and expect growth. The last time the United States did not have any debt (meaning that the country did not owe anything to anyone) was under President Andrew Jackson. For almost 200 years, our government had no problems creating the debt, which will always be carried over and, providing the economy grows, will be reduced as a percentage of the economy. Besides, our debt is so large that attempting to pay it off with our current revenue and/or income is not feasible, unless our country goes on a starvation diet. And, if our leaders have relied on growth for almost 200 years to pay down our debt, why would they change now? Thinking conversely, as Albert Einstein once said, "The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."

Since its inception, the United States has enjoyed economic

growth. During the 20th century, growth in manufacturing, industry, and trade created great wealth. A significant part of our growth was in exports to growing foreign countries—countries that needed our products and services. However, that has changed. The world has evolved and there are many countries that are very competitive with products and services. In fact, it would appear that many countries have also used our model of going into debt to either maintain a level of living and/or to stimulate growth. If the world, and I mean a large segment of countries and populations, is having financial problems and recession, why do we think we can grow? Even if we did have the products and services to sell, we have many competitors producing the same products and services, and the buyers are scarce. Maybe, just maybe, there is elasticity with economic growth. And maybe it has reached its limits.

So, if a politician tells you they have a plan to stimulate growth—like tax reform, tax more, flat tax, an ear mark tax and/or colonizing the moon—you should respond with the question: What happens if we don't have growth? I wonder how much interest we have paid on our national debt since Andrew Jackson was president!

Maybe a different kind of growth would help. "We find comfort among those who agree with us – growth among those who don't." –Frank Clark.

View from the Track

Transform

Kip Hamilton

On Monday, March 5th the White House unexpectedly announced that the 2012 G-8 Summit, the annual meeting of the world's eight largest economies, was going to be held at Camp David instead of the President's home town of Chicago. So, in as much as this publication is one of the closest newspapers to the site, on the off chance that one of the attendees might happen upon an issue, a rare opportunity presents itself:

Dear Mr. President, "TRANSFORM" (from Webster's Dictionary) "to change a thing into a different thing... implying a major change in form, nature or function."

Sir, you told us yourself what you intended to do and I suppose with the recent Executive Order claiming governmental dominion over all our country's natural resources and other materials, you imagine that you are just about done.

I believe the thing that might be your undoing, however, is that since you did not grow up in the United States, that you fail to understand the depth of the Amer-

ican spirit of freedom. Oh sure, you can ride roughshod over a great percentage of the populace because they are ignorant or have grown complacent over the years, but when you start to tighten the noose and the American People as a whole finally begin to understand what is truly happening, you will discover how important their God-given right of Freedom is to them. All of our other Presidents have had a deep love and respect for our country; we, naturally, expected that you would, too, so it is taking a while for the truth to wake the sleeping giant.

Our inspired Founders realized how important Liberty and self-determination is to the American spirit. They penned that our "unalienable" individual rights and freedoms are given by God and therefore, cannot be taken away by any man, including you, sir. It is not apparent that you have a good understanding of this truly American characteristic as described by Charlie Daniels: "You just go and lay your hand On a Pittsburgh Steelers' fan And I think you're gonna finally understand..." It is this hard-working, determined, indomitable spirit as epitomized by an American steel worker that made our great country the envy of the world; Mr. Reagan's "Shining City on a hill." It will be this

unshakeable spirit that will enable us to repair all the damage you have caused after you are gone.

In looking back at the past three years, it is now obvious that you have been doing everything you can to destroy this country. You have weakened our position and our respect among the other countries of the world. You have run up untold Trillions of dollars' worth of debt that our children's children's children will still be paying off. You have wrecked our economy by weakening the value of our dollar from printing so much money, the amount of which we will probably never know. In the name of "stimulating" the economy, you have transferred billions of dollars from our hard-working middle class to your banker and business friends, ruining lives and dashing dreams along the way. You have ignored and marginalized our Constitution at every turn. Your administration has enacted over 10,000 new regulations impacting on every conceivable aspect of our commercial and personal lives. You have utilized the EPA, the FDA, the TSA and other governmental agencies to terrorize your fellow citizens. You have insulated your actions by stacking our justice system to such an extent that you have no worry of them. You

have attempted to aggravate the tensions between different classes of citizens and instead of bringing people together as you promised; you have undone the progress that had been made from Dr. King's time to the present. Your policies are responsible for maintaining a permanent underclass of citizens many of whom have no ambition whatsoever to better themselves; pretty soon they will outnumber those who are paying their bills. Some say the damage that you have overseen is almost to the point that it can never be undone, just as the First Lady said in a 2008 speech at UCLA, "Barrack will never allow you to go back to your lives as usual..."

The American People are a great people; full of self-determination; willing to work hard for the benefit of themselves and their loved ones. All we want from the government is what it was charged with on its founding: to insure Domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the General Welfare and to secure the "Blessings of Liberty" to us and our children. Our government's role is to establish the framework whereby its citizens can strive to be successful... to pursue their happiness... then get the hell out of their way!

This notion that the government must guarantee our happiness is absolute rubbish. There is no right that a citizen must be

happy; our right as a free individual is the ability to STRIVE to be happy. The government has no mandate, legal or otherwise, to act as nursemaid from cradle to grave. Doing so makes the recipients weaker not stronger. Just because something sounds like a good idea and may even help someone, doesn't mean you have the authority to enact it. I cannot hold up a bank to get money to give to a homeless family and neither can you; except you do and are proud of it, as if it doesn't matter how many laws are broken if, in the end, you mean well. Real life doesn't work like that, Mr. President. In real life, you would go to jail.

More and more people are catching on to your "transformation", sir, and they don't like what they see.

In the words of Abraham Lincoln: "We the People are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who would pervert the Constitution." It is said that you think highly of Mr. Lincoln. One can't help but wonder what he would think of you.

Sincerely and patriotically yours,
A Concerned Veteran

To read past editions of View from the Tack, visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

Pure OnSense

Much ado about Russia

Scott Zuke

There's certainly no shortage of rogue nations to occupy the discussions at this year's G-8 summit at Camp David--Iran, North Korea, and Syria are all causing plenty of international headaches--but the head of one of the most troublesome regimes will be sitting at the table: Russia's recently elected president, Vladimir Putin. Mr. Putin is beginning his third term as president, having switched jobs in 2008 to serve as prime minister before easily reclaiming his old title after elections in March.

While there's no indication that Putin has changed over the last few years, Russia itself may have. Massive protests leading up to his rigged reelection showed that the Russian people, traditionally docile when it comes to democratic politics, may be becoming more difficult to pacify as the country continues opening up to the free world. This 'opening up' is occurring mainly at two levels: social and economic.

On the social side we have seen the recent protests over the Parliamentary and Presidential elections, and the rise of independent media, activism, and social networking that helped fuel them. Russian society is becoming more restless as it sees demo-

cratic movements breaking out in the Middle East's youth-led Arab Spring revolts.

On the economic level, Russia is closing in on completing its almost 20-year-long process of joining the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is the largest economy not yet in the WTO, and its accession would not only benefit Russia itself, but also the US and the global economy. There are, however, political obstacles still being negotiated, particularly between Russia and the United States.

In order to be able to establish a full WTO relationship, the US must first release Russia from an antiquated piece of Cold War legislation called the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which was part of the Trade Act of 1974. Created to put pressure on the Soviet Union over human rights abuses, the law establishes an annual review to evaluate whether non-market economies (i.e. communist nations) are in compliance with free emigration policies (The Soviet Union had been restricting the free movement of Jews trying to emigrate in 1972). As long as they were found to be in compliance, those economies would be eligible to receive "normal trade relations" status, meaning their exports would not be subject-

ed to higher tariffs than those placed on imports from other nations. Since the WTO requires all member nations to establish permanent normal trade relations (PNTR), Russia must be released from Jackson-Vanik before its accession can be complete.

The amendment itself is outdated, ineffectual, and needlessly provocative--few Americans have ever heard of it, but it's a sore spot for many Russian citizens. So why has it been so difficult to get rid of? One reason is, actually, that so few Americans are familiar with it, so there has never been much public outcry to energize Congress to bring it up. Second, though, is that the US doesn't want to let up the pressure on Russia for its human rights record, and this is a legitimate concern.

Russia has been sliding ever deeper toward authoritarian governance over the past decade. Its elections are heavily rigged, with opposition candidates sidelined, voters pressured, and rampant fraud at the ballot boxes. In Chechnya, more people voted for Mr. Putin in the recent election than were registered to vote (He won with 1,482 votes to the opposition candidate's one). One watchdog counted more than 3,000 reports of voting fraud.

Russia has become one of the world's most corrupt nations, ranking 143rd out of 182 nations in Transparency International's 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index. One Russian think tank esti-

mates that between a quarter and a third of the country's economy is devoured by corruption.

It has also made itself a roadblock to the international community's attempts to intervene in gross violations of human rights in conflict-ridden nations, such as Syria, where more than 9,000 civilians have been killed by President Bashar al-Assad's security forces since protests began in March 2011. Russia, which has lucrative arms deals with the Syrian government, has repeatedly vetoed UN Security Council resolutions condemning the violence and putting pressure on al-Assad to step down.

Russia meanwhile remains a dangerous place to report anything critical of the government. Independent journalists, activists, and other critics are all too frequently subject to harassment, prosecution, and physical violence. Several have been murdered, and their cases left unsolved.

One such case, which brings us back to the WTO issue, is that of Sergei Magnitsky, a 37-year-old lawyer who was jailed unjustly after publicly exposing a \$230 million tax fraud against Russian taxpayers. He died in pretrial detention in 2009, after being beaten and denied medical attention despite repeated pleas for help.

The US Congress has responded with the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which would "impose sanctions on persons responsible for the de-

tion, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky...and for other gross violations of human rights in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes." The sanctions include denial of Visas and the freezing of assets of Russian citizens found to meet the criteria.

The question now facing Congress is whether to tie the Magnitsky Amendment to the legislation that would grant permanent normal trade relations to Russia--thus replacing Jackson-Vanik with a new law to punish Russia's human rights offenses without violating WTO rules--or to pursue it separately. (A similar debate took place leading up to China's WTO accession in 2000).

Mr. Putin's recent ploys for solidifying power have become increasingly transparent and farcical. Recently he expressed support for non-consecutive Presidential term limits, but stipulated that they would, of course, not apply retroactively, meaning he could still seek another term in 2018.

While he has secured his position for now, as he takes his seat at the G-8 Summit, Mr. Putin should realize that he has the opportunity to heed the calls of his people and the international community to steer his country back onto a better course. The pressure to do so, both from within Russia and from the global community, is only getting stronger.

To read past editions of Pure OnSense visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Down Under

Money makes a world go round

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne Australia

Not every country in the world has a motto, because some of them would find it very hard to adopt something that was both descriptive and believable. Some possibilities, however, are: The Maldives: 'Going under', Greece: 'Hard times', Australia, 'Time to dig', China, 'Land of happy slaves', and so on, but in fact it could be that The United States is the only country that seems to actually have adopted one at all - no doubt a heartfelt hope: 'In God We Trust.'

Okay, it's not a real motto, but it stands in for one because it is used both as a statement to everyone who uses a U. S. dollar, and a declaration of a core American belief. When you consider it, it's a strange thing to have printed on every coin and banknote in this age, because as a statement it is surely no longer true, even if it once seemed to be, being as it was written at the behest of various churches after the civil war. But it still means that when you have a pseudo gold coin or a piece of green paper with pretty writing on it and pictures of those who

guarantee the truth of the words, and you use it to buy something, pay taxes or fines, or trade with it, you have a promise that it's more than a bit of ordinary paper: It's a real, genuine promissory note good anywhere in the world for any monetary purpose, and always will be, because it is backed by something that might even be real.

Why is the motto still there? Because the people who issue it must trust in God. Because the operative word in that statement is "WE", and that cannot be a declaration of the American people, as many have never subscribed to the reality of that statement. So the treasury, the cabinet, the banks who have these things printed by the million are the ones who perforce declare their faith. THEY trust in God, and if they do, so can we. So I have to ask the question - WHY do they tell us that they put their trust in God? After all, if the dollar collapsed in value, will they stave off the hordes by saying, in effect, "Sorry, folks, we don't know why he's let this happen, but like us you still have to put your trust in God."

It's a bit hard to do that, as he's notoriously difficult to find, and

even harder to understand: he does have a tendency to say what leaders want him to say, after all - "God is on our side" "We are waging a godly war" and, as President Lincoln said, both sides in the civil war were praying to the same God for victory. Did this mean He wasn't on the side of the Confederates? Anyway, if you were able to ask him directly, "What about my dollar?" would the answer be: "Sorry?" or "Try the banks?" The banks would then reply, "But we trusted him!" Oh yeah? Or, as the story has it, Cecil asks God what a million years is to him, and gets the reply "A second". He then asks what a million dollars means to him, and God answers, "A penny." "Then can I have a penny?" "Just a second."

Now I believe you are shortly going to have a convocation of group eight leaders close by, a group who believe they are the wealthiest and most influential in the world, and they may be right. And, although from diverse backgrounds, they have at least one thing in common: They don't question the power of money, and they do NOT trust their money to God, except as window dressing. God does not trade, condone war (well, only the ones he told the Israelites to wage) permit usury, or allow all the other things the G 8 do with it, and we can rest assured they will not be talking about God - any gods - at all.

But what will they be talking

about? I'll put my money on Productivity, Trade and its barriers, Growth, the Euro crisis, China, India, and sustainability. Maybe armaments and war. But will they be talking about Human beings, Family love, Extreme poverty, Torture, Slavery, or refugees? Probably not, but they will surely reinforce the notion that small debts, those of less than say a trillion have to be repaid, that business can be still trusted to self-regulate, and that because they are the greatest they are the greatest. At least they have more money.

Well, it is said that only God can make things out of nothing, which is probably why Americans worship him. After all, they make money out of nothing, and like the sorcerer's apprentice, continue to fill the sorcerer's well. When you think about it, what exactly is money? Nothing more than what our rulers and leaders, including G 8, say it is. It can be in any form - gold, silver, printed paper, cowrie shells, salt, anything that is the currency of the day or place - including the new magic, the non-existent legal tender that electrons, flitting around the world, transfer from one computer to another in unknown amounts as they buy and sell each other. The fact that we could hardly exist without money in some form is beside the point, but allowing a relatively few people to have cornered the trade in this nebulous stuff, making prof-

it from its nothingness, (just like God), has so skewed the balance of available sustenance and peace for the great majority that is has produced a stench - to use a biblical term - that has brought about anger and thoughts of revenge and despair in many parts of the world.

Trading money produces nothing for humanity, because it has to have taken on a substantive form for this to happen - but it is actually nothing, nebulous, and of no value in itself. So trading in it gives it a kind of life, a substance, and one that allows the token to become the reality. It might make one group or country owe or be owed lots of this 'non-stuff' for a while, but the total benefits flow to a very few. The sense that something is quite wrong with this style of 'trade' has been growing for quite some time, but it is now so big, so influential, that governments condone it and abide by it while citizens, when they become aware of it, are powerless alter or even reduce it. That we are in hock to nothing won't so stop us being marched off to the firing squad if we don't pay in the real stuff.

It is surely the future of this new economy that G 8 should truly be considering. The world will hardly survive otherwise.

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

PASTOR'S DESK

Lessons from a dandelion

Rev. Tiffany Kromer
Trinity United Methodist Church

This year, Spring introduced itself in quite a pesky, unattractive way to my yard. It was sometime in March that I noticed it. I walk outside with my dog in the morning, only to be greeted by patches of yellow dandelions. Every day they grew in number and in height. They would even survive the doom of the lawn mower! In fact, it would only be a couple hours after that the freshly mown grass in my yard would suddenly erupt with yellow heads of dandelions.

One day, sitting on my porch and looking at these yellow splotches of dandelions in my yard, I marveled over how invincible they are. And that is when it hit me:

The dandelion is a great symbol for Easter.

Throughout Jesus' life, the authorities tried to get rid of Him. They tried to slander Him, trick Him, ridicule Him and, in a final desperate attempt to get rid of Him, they killed Him. Yet not even death could overcome Him. Christ overcame everything to proclaim His victory over sin. To tell the world, "I have paid the price, your sin is forgiven." In the empty tomb, we confront new life, new hope, the reality that death does not have the final say, that death has indeed been swallowed up in victory.

The promise of the resurrection is that no matter what happens in life, no matter what we face in life, no matter who or what tries to knock us down—that NONE of it will have the final word. New

life will spring forth even when in the midst of death. In the words of the apostle Paul in Romans chapter 8 (from The Message):

"So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us—is at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us."

This is what the power of the resurrection is for us—it gives us victory over death so that we might live life not in order to die—but in order to live!

That is what the invincible dandelion reminds me of: Christ's resurrection!

There is another thing pesky dandelions remind me of: we human beings are so much like dandelions, aren't we? We fall short. We are pesky. We are not

perfect.

We are all dandelions.

We all are weeds.

The apostle Paul says it best, I think, in Romans 7 (NIV) he says: "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Let's face it: we are all dandelions that should be picked out of the ground and thrown away.

But, God does not look at us this way:

When God looks at us dandelions,

God sees flowers in these weeds And that gives me so much hope! This is good news for us, my fellow Dandelions!

Even when all seems lost, when it looks like the peskiness and darkness of life could have the last

say....

God's purposes still work themselves out! God sees flowers in these weeds!

The good news of Jesus Christ is still victorious! New life rises out of death!

And that is the good news we can be assured of for every day of our lives:

No matter what we are going through

Whether it be Conflict, Disappointment, Loneliness, Anger or Betrayal

New life and hope will always blossom...Love will always win... All shall be well

Whether it be Betrayal, Confusion, Depression or Rejection

New life and hope will always blossom...Love will always win... All shall be well

Whether it be Sickness, Worry, Doubt, Fear, or Loss,

New life and hope will always blossom...Love will always win... All shall be well

Whether it be Challenges, Insurmountable odds, or Stress

New life and hope will always blossom...Love will always win... All shall be well

New life and hope will always blossom...Love will always win... All shall be well

Here is the promise of the Resurrection—the promise of Easter—which, by the way, is a promise that is there for us for every day of our lives (not just for Easter Sunday):

Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Not because of anything great we dandelions have done.

But because God will always make flowers out of these weeds.

**Tiffany Kromer is the pastor Trinity United Methodist Church in Emmitsburg, MD. In her free time she loves going on adventures with her husband, play silly songs on her guitar, crochet, and playing fetch with her dog. Find out more about Trinity UMC by going to its website: www.trinityumcemmitsburg.com*

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Talleyrand



Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, 1st Prince de Bénévent, died on May 17, 1838 at the age of eighty-four. He had figured as a bishop before the Revolution, made a narrow escape in that crisis of the national history, was Napoleon's minister for foreign affairs under both the Consulate and Empire, was the leading Frenchman in arranging the Restoration, and did not forsake public life under either the restored Bourbons or Louis Philippe. The character of the age in which he had lived was strongly brought before our thoughts when, on taking the oath to the new system of things in 1830, he said—'This is the thirteenth—I hope it will be the last.'

He is generally reputed as the very type of the statesman of expediency and the slippery diplomat; and yet there is reason to believe that Talleyrand, all through, acted for the best in behalf of his country. It is true, he had an extraordinary amount of that sagacity which, in the midst of general enthusiasm, can coolly calculate chances; which is, accordingly, never carried away; which plays with the passions and sentiments of men. But he was not necessarily on this account a wicked politician. He was even honest in certain great crises—for example, when he counseled Napoleon to moderation after obtaining the purple, and lost his favour by discommending the invasion of Spain, which he truly prophesied would be found 'the beginning of the end.' Being out of the immediate service of the Emperor, he was perfectly at liberty to move for the change of dynasty in 1814, and he continued faithful to the new one in the trying crisis of the ensuing year.

The reputation of Talleyrand has arisen more from his words than his actions. He could justly appreciate the ardour of other people, and make cool, wit-

ty remarks upon them. Hence it was thought that he had no heart, no generous feeling. He could point out the evil consequences of openness and zeal; hence it was thought that he had no probity or faithfulness. But he was in reality a kind-hearted man, and generally acted correctly. All we can truly say is just this, that in the various difficult matters he was concerned in, he could see the inevitable consequences of being the simpleton or the enthusiast; and that, being a wit, he loved to put his reflections on these things into epigrammatic form, thus unavoidably giving them an air of heartlessness. The generality of men, repining at the useful self-command they saw he could exercise, took their revenge by representing him as a monster of cold-heartedness and treachery—which was far from being his actual character. Their injustice was supported by a sang-froid which was constitutional with Talleyrand, but which was merely external.

The bon mots of Talleyrand had a great celebrity. There was something cynical about them, but they were also playful. When told that the Duke of Bassano was come back with Napoleon from Russia, he remarked, with an expression of doubt on his countenance, 'Those bulletins are always lying—they told us all the baggage had been left behind.' Such a fling at a stupid statesman many might have made. But what are we to say of the depth of such of his sayings as that the execution of the Duc D'Enghien was 'worse than a crime—it was a blunder'? There we see the comprehensive and penetrating intellect, as well as the epigrammatist.

After all, as often happens with men's good things, some are traced to earlier wits. For instance, his saying that language was given to man 'not to express his thoughts, but to conceal them,' is traced back to South, the English divine.

So also his reply to the question 'What had passed in the council?' 'Trois heures,' had a prototype in a saying which Bacon records of Mr Popham, the Speaker of the House of Commons, who, being asked by Queen Elizabeth what had passed in the lower house, answered, 'Please your majesty, seven weeks.' It is not easy even for a Talleyrand to be original.

Some of his acts were practical witticisms, as when, at the death of Charles X, he appeared in a white hat in the republican quarters of Paris, and in the quartier St. Germain put on a crape; or, when asked by a lady for his signature in her album, he inscribed it at the very top of a page, so that there might be no order for ten thousand francs written over it.

Not long before the death of Talleyrand, an able English writer, speaking of his brilliant apothegms, said, 'What are they all to the practical skill with which this extraordinary man has contrived to baffle all the calamities of thirty years, full of the ruin of all power, ability, courage, and fortune? Here is the survivor of the age of the Bastille, the age of the guillotine, the age of the prison-ship, the age of the sword. And after baffling the Republic, the Democracy, the Despotism, and the Restoration, he figures in his eightieth year as the Ambassador to England, the Minister of France, and retires from both offices only to be chief counsellor, almost the coadjutor of the king. That where the ferocity of Robespierre fell, where the sagacity of Napoleon fell, where the experience of the Bourbons fell, this one old man, a priest in a land of daring spirits—where conspiracy first, and soldiership after, were the great means of power—should survive all, succeed in everything, and retain his rank and influence through all change, is unquestionably among the most extraordinary instances of conduct exhibited in the world.'

James Audubon

Born May 4, 1782

One of those enthusiasts who devote themselves to one prodigious task, of a respectable, but not remunerative nature, and persevere in it till it, or their life, is finished. He was born of French parents, in the then French colony of Louisiana, in North America, and received a good education at Paris. Settled afterwards by his father on a farm near Philadelphia, he married, engaged in trade, and occasionally cultivated a taste for drawing. Gradually, a love of natural history, and an intense relish for the enjoyment of forest life, led him away from commercial

pursuits; and before he was thirty, we find him in Florida, with his rifle and drawing materials, thinking of nothing but how he might capture and sketch the numerous beautiful birds of his native country. At that time, there was a similar enthusiast in the same field, the quondam Scotch pedlar and poet, Alexander Wilson. They met, compared drawings, and felt a mutual respect. Wilson, however, saw in young Audubon's efforts the promise of a success beyond his own.

Years of this kind of life passed over. The stock of drawings increased, notwithstanding the loss at one time of two hundred, containing a thousand subjects, and in time the resolution of publishing was formed. He estimated that the task would occupy him fifteen more years, and he had not one subscriber; but, notwithstanding the painful remonstrances of friends, he persevered.

In the course of his preparations, about 1828, he visited London, Edinburgh, and Paris. We remember him at the second of these cities, a hale man of forty-six, nimble as a deer, and with an aquiline style of visage and eye that reminded one of a class of his subjects; a frank, noble, natural man. Professor Wilson took to him wonderfully, and wrote of him, 'The hearts of all are warmed toward Audubon. The man himself is just what you would expect from his productions, full of fine enthusiasm and intelligence, most interesting in his looks and manners, a perfect gentleman, and esteemed by all who know him, for the simplicity and frankness of his nature.'

In 1830, he published his first volume, with ninety-nine birds, and one hundred plates. His birds

were life-size and colour. In 1834, the second volume of the birds of America was published, and then Audubon went to explore the State of Maine, the shores of the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf of St Lawrence, and the Bay of Labrador. In the autumn of 1834, the second volume of Ornithological Biography was published in Edinburgh. People subscribed for the birds of America, with a view to posterity, as men plant trees.

Audubon mentions a noble-man in London, who remarked, when subscribing, I may not live to see the work finished, but my children will.' The naturalist, though a man of faith, hope, and endurance, seems to have been afflicted by this remark. 'I thought' what if I should not live to finish my work? But he comforted himself by his reliance on Providence. After the publication of his third volume, the United States government gave him the use of an exploring vessel, and he went to the coast of Florida and Texas. Three years after this, the fourth volume of his engravings, and the fifth of his descriptions, were published. He had now 435 plates, and 1,165 figures, from the eagle to the humming-bird, with many land and sea views.

Audubon never cultivated the graces of style. He wrote to be understood. His descriptions are clear and simple. He describes the mocking-bird with the heart of a poet, and the eye of a naturalist. His description of a hurricane proves that he never ceased to be a careful and accurate observer in the most agitating circumstances.

Audubon died at his home, near New York, on the 27th January, 1851.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers' 1864, *The Book of Days*

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Traveling through space, from Earth Day 1 to Earth Day 42

Bill Meredith

*Only when the last tree has died
and the last river been poisoned
and the last fish been caught will
we realize we cannot eat money.*
—Cree Indian Proverb

I have reached the age of increasing forgetfulness, lapses of concentration and inability to multi-task; the only thing that keeps me from wandering off down Lincoln Avenue in pajamas and slippers is my adherence to routine. That routine begins each morning by sitting at the breakfast table and pretending to read the paper while I am actually making a list of the birds that visit our feeder. Breakfast consumed in this manner takes at least an hour. I then take the local paper to my desk, where I record the previous day's temperature and rainfall on graphs in my computer, and update my monthly bird list. My wife, who has never seen much practical benefit in such activities, refers to them as "number-crunching." Actually, I don't know enough mathematics to really crunch numbers, but I have to

admit that I enjoy nudging them around a bit. And it sometimes leads to unexpected ideas.

A couple of months ago, for reasons I no longer remember, I needed to know the velocity at which the earth travels in its orbit around the sun, so I went to the Internet and found it to be approximately 66,000 miles per hour. Since I often cannot remember the names of people I have known for years, I expected to forget that number promptly,

but somehow it hid in an unlit corner of my brain. It resurfaced yesterday when I was sitting on the front porch. My wife asked me why I was sitting there when there was so much work waiting to be done, and I replied that I was tired. She asked how I could be tired when I hadn't been doing anything. I started trying to think of an answer she might believe, and a light suddenly came on in my head. It wasn't a blinding flash of light like Einstein or Newton would have experienced... more like a candle, or maybe a small flashlight... but the words simply popped out of my mouth that I was tired because I had been go-

ing 66,000 miles per hour all day.

She didn't reply... at least, not verbally; she simply shook her head with the expression that says another screw has come loose from the rocker, and went back in the house. But the number stayed with me, so I got a pencil and started figuring. 66,000 mph x 24 hours per day x 365 days per year = more than 578 million miles in one trip around the sun. Multiplying that by the number of trips completed, I realized that in another few weeks my odometer will turn over 45.7 billion miles. No wonder I was tired. Parts are wearing out; it is harder to start the engine, the chassis is starting to emit creaks and other strange noises, and there are dents and rust spots on the fenders. I do the best I can to schedule regular tune-ups and maintenance, but it grows harder to find parts for my model year. It is anybody's guess whether my wife will decide to trade me in for a newer model before I simply collapse into a heap of rust and sawdust, like Oliver Wendell Holmes' wonderful one-hoss shay.

That was a sobering thought, and it was still in my mind on April 22, which was the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day. The event seemed to come and go without attracting much notice. There were speeches given here

and there, a few visits to natural areas, and programs at some schools and churches, but headlines and demonstrations like we had on the original Earth Day were missing. The April 22 issue of the *Frederick Post* did have a nice article about efforts to clean up the Monocacy River, but I scanned the *Washington Post* without finding a single article about Earth Day. If there was one, it must have been on a back page among the want ads and obituaries.

The original ideas behind Earth Day began to develop around 1960, with the election of President Kennedy. The Space Program had captured the imagination of the public, young and old, with its photos of our shining, blue planet suspended in the black void of space, and the Peace Corps had made young people realize idealism could lead to productive action. Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, made the public aware of impending ecological problems, and this awareness was extended by writers like Barry Commoner and Paul Ehrlich. The Civil Rights movement and opposition to the Vietnam War had energized and united disparate groups of people and made them aware of the power of non-violent public demonstrations and protests, but the Watts riots,



Kent State, and the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King reminded everyone that there is a dark side to protest movements. So the environmental movement was born in a decade of conflicting and polarizing events.

Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin conceived the idea for the first Earth Day, and it was held in 1970. Programs to increase public awareness of environmental problems were held at colleges all over the country, and at Mount St. Mary's I was one of the speakers. At that time I had made 37 trips around the sun, so for an audience who believed "you can't trust anyone over 30" I was a questionable choice, but I was still naïve enough to believe that facts and logic carried weight in an argument. I explained population growth by starting with the basic premise that growth rate is the difference between birth rate and death rate, and used census data to show how the birth rate on a worldwide scale was remaining constant while the death rate was decreasing because of modern medical successes. I then reviewed the classical ideas of Thomas Malthus, who predicted in 1799 that this would lead to overpopulation and ecological collapse. My opponent in the debate was a young economics professor who (rather cavalierly, in my opinion) announced that the population problem did not exist, and that everyone knew that Malthus had been proven wrong. He asserted that the "Green Revolution," which occurred in 1968 by the introduction of new genetic strains of hybrid wheat, was feeding the growing population well, and there was nothing to fear from the disaster Malthus had predicted. No scores were recorded and no judgments were pronounced that evening, but I came away feeling that I had lost the debate.

The earth and I have gone around the sun 42 times since then, and both of us are the worse for wear. The debate started that evening is still going on, and I still represent the losing side. After 42 years, we have had some successes... the ozone hole is getting smaller, and I saw an American Eagle in the wild this week. But although the environment is in far worse shape, the headlines on this Earth Day were all about economics and politics. The "Cree Indian proverb" quoted above was probably made up by someone living in the 20th Century, because the original Crees didn't have money, but it still has truth in it. My grandchildren will judge who won that debate.

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IN THE COUNTRY

It's S.N.A.C.K. time!

Kay Deardorff
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

“Spring Fever” is spreading throughout our children in the community. Watch for symptoms such as lack of focus on indoor activities: shedding of shoes, venturing into the woods, playing in streams, and a desire to get out of the house. The cure is coming, but symptoms can be treated by allowing your child to sign up for summer camp.

Abigail A. Van Slyck, author of “A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth”, recognizes that camps were introduced into North America in the 1880s. She notes that camps became part of the back-to-nature trend in many areas, as they provided respite from what were regarded as the moral and physical degradations of urban life.

In 2011, the American Camp Association (ACA) celebrated 150 years of Camp. ACA exclaiming, “Camp is the ultimate gift! It gives children a sense of who they are, helps them to become more independent, and opens up a world of opportunity where they see that they CAN become leaders, work with others, and accomplish goals through hard work . . . all while having fun!”

As Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve gears up for our 2012 camp season, offering variety of activities for children from ages 4-15, interviews with some employees at the Preserve have revealed how their lives were touched through camps during their formidable years.

Growing up as an inner city kid our executive director remembered specific field trips; recreational, team-building, and field games; as well as sleeping in canvas tents with bunk beds. With a smile on his face and a far-away look in his eye, he noted the way the exploration, hikes, and learning were FUN while promoting a healthy active lifestyle. Who knew time spent away from the normal, trouble-causing distractions in his life would lead him to a position of executive director of a nature preserve.

Our education coordinator followed the footsteps of her big sister. Too young to attend on her own, she enjoyed adventures with sis as they relished the arts, crafts, cooking, rope net climb, camp fires, and, of course, sleeping in a cabin. She acknowledged those years of camp as a “path to a certain destination”. Now a professional naturalist, she hopes to develop the same passion in youngsters attending Strawberry Hill’s camp; to find friends, enjoy play, and explore nature just as she experienced as a child.

Our camp coordinator, a high school teacher, expressed her preference for nature-based camps. Evermore excited to attend nature camps, she loved the chance to get dirty without getting into trouble for it. As she learned about her environment and the local ecosystem, she became more aware of her surroundings. She learned the value of exploring without the need to obtain all the answers. She is now one of Strawberry Hill’s leaders for— Summer Nature Adventure Camp for Kids, referred this year as S.N.A.C.K. time.

Summer camps can be attended either week by week or your child can sign up to attend the entire summer as a whole. Either way the experiences will be fun, educational, and unforgettable. The rest of this article will give you a window into the schedule for the vacation months.

Let’s go through the life of a child attending summer camp at Strawberry Hill. We’ll start by pretending you are a 4 or 5 year old. You will bid adieu to Mom and Dad each morning as you spend the next 5 days investigating flowers, leaves, and native plants. Next you’ll learn how to build a tent, then focus on hiking and discovery. You’ll love getting a real feel for camp life when sitting around the “campfire”. Moving on, you will be a “Weather Wanderer” who learns to read the clouds and discover how weather works. By the time you are ready for week 4 you will be anxious to dive into the experiences your five senses will bring to you. This leads you to the time

when you, as a Mini Naturalist, will discover the story of trees and dig into soil to check on the worms. Week 6 will uncover the life of butterflies and you will learn where insects live and what makes them special. Finally, the last week in the nature camp will emphasize the various shapes and patterns made by sunlight.

Advancing to a 6 or 7 year old, you would begin your summer with a week’s exploration of the world of insects, arachnids, and other creatures that share our habitats. Week 2 will turn you into a Mad Scientist as you perform some cool, messy experiments; being completely natural. But don’t stop there! You can learn to paint with plants and create masterpieces using materials found on site during the third week. Looking forward to weeks 4 and 5, you become an outdoor enthusiast as you explore local ecosystems as well as those of the rest of the world. You will need your imagination during week 6 to design sports using your surroundings. You will enjoy the wrap up of your camp experiences during the last week as you learn all about life under the water.

Now if you are a child age 8 or 9, you will look forward to getting up close and personal with some local animals during your first week of camp. Then you will become a nature detective as you sleuth your way through the second week. You will learn how to use forensic techniques to solve the mystery of the bug-napped insect. This will prepare you for your next experience when you will search for and collect many insects from our local ecosystem. The next weeks you’ll find that art isn’t only for indoors as you explore natural art and use your creativity to create, build, paint, and sculpt. Then be ready to discover roots and wings and shoots and things as you search the murky waters of the pond and peak under logs and catch frogs. This camp really rocks as you find yourself climbing a rock wall and making a primitive stone tool. You won’t want the summer to end after you’ve spent a week learning surviv-



al skills of foraging and how to build a shelter. Will you be the ultimate survivor of summer camp?

All of the exciting things going on at summer camp at Strawberry Hill this year and we haven’t even talked about the 10 through 12 year olds yet. They will be doing some really interesting things like making a fishing pole; building a primitive shelter; finding edible plants; not to mention fire making, kayaking, and canoeing.

The teens, ages 13 through 15, won’t be left out as they enjoy a week

of outdoor experiences on the Appalachian Trail, Michaux State Forest, a ropes course, and a day of kayaking. How could the summer end better than with an overnight camp out at the Preserve and dinner over the fire?

All this, plus a bonus week at the Gettysburg Rec Park! Doesn’t this make some of you adults wish you were young again? For information about how your child can gain his/her own positive camp experience, visit www.StrawberryHill.org. Registrations are now being accepted to treat spring fever!



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IN THE COUNTRY

Spring came early...But you can still enjoy the scenery!

Katy Lesser Clowney
Adams County Apple Blossom Festival

With the early spring we have experienced this year, there probably won't be too many more apple blossoms gracing the hillsides come the first weekend of May. But the scenery is still just as breath-taking all along the Fruit Belt of Adams County!!

Come to the 57th Apple Blossom Festival located at the South Mountain Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday, May 5th & 6th! The Apple Blossom Festival is a wonderful family-oriented festival that is sure to be the spring time event that you look forward to year after year.

We have a weekend packed with all sorts of activities and entertainment for you to enjoy! Free concerts are scheduled with performances by Leah Berkey, Borderline, Flashback, Creekside Soul, and the Klinger McFry Bluegrass Band. There are multiple performances throughout the day, so you can see them all! We'll have straw bales set up, but feel free to bring your own chair or blanket if you wish.

The New Oxford School of Ballet will have two performances on Saturday in the auditorium. Tap your feet along with the Carroll County Cloggers as they will perform both days. There will also be a Martial Arts demonstration on Saturday.

On Sunday morning, you can meet candidates for the Pennsylvania Apple Queen as they answer questions about the importance of the apple industry and why they wish to have title of "Pennsylvania Apple Queen." Prior to the interview process with the queen candidates, you can enjoy a performance by the locally renowned Apple Core Band which plays delightful big band melodies. After the lunch hour, you can enjoy the award winning Biglerville High School Jazz Band. You will be amazed by their talent and spunk! Following the jazz band performance, the Apple Queen judging will continue and the Coronation Ceremony will mark the beginning of a new reign of Pennsylvania Apple Queen!

The kids and grandkids will also have a blast at the Apple

Blossom Festival because there are tons of kids' activities! We have everything from petting zoos, magic shows, apple bobbing and pie eating contests, tractor pulls, wagon rides, puppet shows, mini golf, pony rides, antique cars and Corvettes, and antique gas hit & miss engines (okay, maybe the last two are for the kid in you too!).

The Apple Blossom Festival is also partnering with Healthy Adams County to host the 2nd Annual Kids Health & Safety Day. The exhibitors will have hands-on educational activities for children to teach them about healthy habits and lifestyles.

We will also have the Crunch Quest which is back by popular demand! Crunch Quest is a scavenger hunt around the fairgrounds and children and their families are challenged to find all eight Crunch Quest posts. At each post the child will learn about the health benefits of eating apples and a well balanced diet. They will also perform basic physical exercises. Pick up your free jump rope and then collect the unique rubbing at each post on the activity sheet, and children will be entered to win the grand prize which will be awarded at the end of the day Sunday. Visit us at the Crunch Quest table once you walk through the entrance to the festival to get started on the scavenger hunt.

Jen Baugher Snively, president of the Adams County Fruit Growers Association says, "We partnered with Healthy Adams County last year for the first Crunch Quest. Healthy Adams County has performed this type of scavenger hunt activity at their own events and youth camps. We all agreed that the Crunch Quest would be a great way to encourage children to eat apples, and

get some physical exercise while walking around the fairgrounds looking for all eight posts. We were happy to see and hear so many families enjoy this activity, that we are very excited to feature Crunch Quest as a popular children's activity again at Apple Blossom Festival!"

After spending time on your feet while completing the Crunch Quest, you can take a break and go on one of the Orchard Bus Tours through scenic Adams County. A favorite component of the Apple Blossom Festival is the Orchard Bus Tours, as your tour guide and host is an Adams County Fruit Grower. They will tell you how the fruit industry has changed over the decades, personal stories about their multi-generation orchard operations, and what they appreciate about living in an agriculture community.

Bruce Hollabaugh, board member of the association and fruit grower, says "The Orchard Bus Tours are a great opportunity to learn about the fruit industry in Adams County. Every year while giving the tour I meet people who are so surprised about the fruit industry and everything that is required to produce good fruit. It's a great opportunity for folks to hear our stories and make a connection with agriculture."

Also on schedule are two extremely unique bus tours: Deb McCauslin, a local historian will give the tours. The Saturday Tour is on the History of Yellow Hill, and the Sunday Tour is on Mary Jemison. You will visit the Yellow Hill and the Quaker Valley area which is where collaboration took place between races to free slaves during the Civil War. On the other tour, you will learn about Mary Jemison who was a young girl held captive by the

WHAT
Apple Blossom Festival

WHERE
South Mountain Fairgrounds
Rt. 234 about 8 miles north of Gettysburg

WHEN
Saturday and Sunday,
May 5 & 6, 9am - 5pm

COST
\$5 per person,
Children under 12 are free
Ample free parking
Most activities are free as well

MORE INFORMATION
www.appleblossomfestival.info

Seneca Native Americans during the French and Indian War. She married within the Seneca tribe, and after the war ended and captives were to be released, she chose to continue her life with the Native Americans. Deb McCauslin wrote and published the book Yellow Hill: Reconstructing the Past Puzzle of a Lost Community, and specializes in people and places of local interest around the time of the Gettysburg Battle.

The Apple Blossom Festival hosts plenty of food vendors and you can graze your way across the fairgrounds all day! You can support the Cashtown Lions Club, Upper Adams Lions Club, Arendtsville Lions Club, and South Mountain Fair Association. There are also a ton of other food vendors with typical fair food. And since the Apple Blossom Festival is hosted by the Adams County Fruit Growers Association, you know you can expect lots of fresh apples, cider, and apple baked goods provided by The Pie Lady!

There are crafters that come from near and far to sell their hand-crafted items. We have crafters specializing in beading and jewelry, country quaint decorations, handmade candles and soaps, small furniture, wood carvings, floral decorations, hand sewn items, custom named-personalized items, pottery, photography, cement lawn ornaments, log furniture, embroidered bags, and much, much more! Come with a list of friends and you'll definitely be able to find birthday presents for them all. And Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th so don't forget to pick out something great for Mom!!

We hope you can join us at the 57th Apple Blossom Festival! The weekend is jam packed and it's sure to be one your favorite spring festivals! With the early spring and beautiful weather, you've had plenty of time to do your spring chores: your yard work is finished; you've already tackled your spring cleaning; so now it's time to enjoy a weekend with family and friends! And there's no better place than the Apple Blossom Festival!!

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Misanthrope!

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

May arrives with an invitation from an ADF Druid Grove in Baltimore, asking our family to attend the Beltane rituals as practiced by that Grove. While I've yet to set foot in said Grove, I did stand outside the Sacred Circles at a proto-Grove in Pennsylvania during Earth religion (Pagan/NeoPagan) festivals held there a few years ago. DW would like to join a Circle again (she misses the sense of community), but knows I'll not drive into a city short of a court order, or a medical emergency. (Even then, I'd be more likely to hire a cab. Upon entering any version of Hell, I prefer a knowledgeable guide at the wheel.)

The invite reminded me of another that came from a member of a church near Thurmont, back during the coldest part of last winter. He had his family along and was going door to door making a pitch for his church. While I enjoyed our exchange (they were freezing even bundled against the cold and me sitting on the concrete without benefit of shoes or coat) the conversation was short.

"We are Christians." They said. I allowed I's a Pagan. (The wife shoed the children behind her. They peeked around her, wide-eyed to behold a devil worshipper. I managed not to laugh.) The husband seemed intrigued, I suspect he'd have welcomed a challenge had his family not been with him, and it wouldn't have been so freakin' cold. Not that I was challenging their belief, merely stating my own, that their god ain't mine. The Missus probably thought I was able to sit so comfortably in that fridge air, and on frozen concrete, because I was warmed by the fires of Hell. She might well have been correct if gaining knowledge were as evil an enterprise as some Xians seem to believe. On the chance I'd learn something interesting, I simply ignored the cold.

"We follow the Bible as the word of God."

I allowed that was cool, but I didn't believe the Bible was the word of any god I'd follow. The man invited me to their church so I could get a better understanding of their purpose. So far, I've not been curious enough to attend a service.

An even older invitation came from a "whites only" Pagan group somewhere in the Midwest. They had established a compound, armed themselves and were seeking like-minded people to join them. I declined, just as I would have an offer from an Xian group trying to establish themselves in the Idaho/Montana area.

A conversation with a white

Nationalist, also attempting to enlist me in his cause, opened my eyes to a number of things I hadn't known about myself. He was the first person to call me a misanthrope, a term I happily embraced! (The longer I live, the more I hurt. The more I hurt, the crankier I get. The crankier I get, the less I give a damn what others think of me, and the less I think of them.) He also told me I was an individual in a time of clans. That I would soon be trampled by the stampeding races of apes as they begin to war with each other. (I think the conflicts will be pitched as race wars, but will really be political ideologies using race as a weapon.) I suspect there will be men and women who manage to avoid the ape wars, but not being particularly bright, I'm likely to wade into such conflicts clubbing any and all who demand I follow them!

All of this set me to cogitating (No wonder I'm a misanthrope! I hate cogitating as much as I dislike being inspired to do it.) about the philosophical argument that a benevolent creator god exists (I used to think a creator couldn't be proved by looking at humans.) I've managed to

survive several college lecture series on philosophy of religion and such, and was amused that the profs were able to bring me to the edge of agreeing with their arguments for a creator god still active after the creation. Somehow, they always failed to convince me with their facts and logic. No matter how close to acceptance they drew me, belief always entered the argument and their facts collapsed under my lack of belief.

I recall keen disappointment each time a philosophical argument fell apart due to the need for belief. Even the atheists (Oh, how I longed for them to prove their argument to me!) failed as miserably as all the religious. How surprising that I manage to find enough evidence on my own to prove beyond any doubt, (as far as I'm concerned) that there is a creator. Maybe not a benevolent one, but one nonetheless.

I accept that I can prove I exist, but can't prove anyone else does. (Well, maybe DW exists and I'm a conjuration in her mind, but she'd have to be sick in the head to conjure me, so I'll stick with my being provable and everything else a conjecture of mine.) Now I've tried to create people, places and situations in my head as I while away hours each day doing something at the

factory. Over time, I've noticed that nothing I create in my head comes close to the bizarre people and events I encounter every day.

If I stand in amazement at events I can't even imagine, then I can't possibly be the shaping force of my universe. Something must be creating the reality I'm in. This is especially true as I have little influence over anything I can't touch.

Having proven (at least to myself) that there is a creator, I suppose I should begin ruminating on what this thing is and what it expects of me, if it expects anything. I'd have much rather retreated to the garden, studied worms in the soil and bees on the blossoms. Or contemplated honey in ferment and sweet mead flushing heat from the belly outward. Maybe I can find this creator in such contemplation? I certainly didn't grasp it while in a pew, or standing in flickering bonfire light outside the Circle.

A second batch of mead is clearing. I promised a philosopher friend a couple of bottles. I guess it's nearly time to keep that promise. While I doubt I'll understand most of what I hear while tipping glasses, I know I'll come away with something worth pondering. If nothing else, I'll get an appraisal of my mead making



efforts and some ideas for future ferments. If the creator has waited this long for me to discover it, it can wait for a few more batches of mead to lubricate my pondering equipment.

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

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

He doesn't feel empty anymore

Jennifer Vanderau

The rat race. That's what he's heard it called and when he's in the car for the three hours it takes to get to and from work, in stop-and-go traffic, he figures the description is pretty apt.

He'd done it. Worked his way up the corporate ladder, made his parents proud, kept up with the Joneses, created a life for himself. He'd bought a nice house, furnished it well, and keeps himself in decent shape.

Sure, he sometimes works 50 to 60 hours a week, but he figures it's a relatively simple burden to bear to have the life that he does.

These are the mantras he tells himself as he unlocks the door to his home – sometimes well after the sun has already set, even in the summer time.

He looks around at his granite countertops, recessed lighting, leather sectional sofa, and nearly wall-to-wall entertainment system and he tells himself it's worth it.

And if occasionally he notices his own footsteps seem to echo on the floors as the only sound in the house, he ignores the small pang of solitude and doesn't even think the word loneliness.

His life goes along in an orderly fashion, just like he planned, until one evening when he arrives home



We're looking for help for Bones. Can you help him? This photo is SO PERFECT for this boy because he absolutely LOVES to chase soccer balls. He never seems to get tired! Bones is a 3-year-old lab-Shepherd mix who came into us as a stray weighing only 20 pounds. It was shocking to see him in that condition. He was out in foster care and gained 34 pounds, which is awesome. Weight gain is a slow process and we're sure he'll get to his ideal weight once he finds his forever home. Bones is a dear soul. He wags his whole body when anyone comes up to his kennel. He needs to find the right spot.

and, as he's jiggling the keys in his hand, he hears an odd sound. It's an almost human-like cry, quite soft, and it seems to be coming from the neatly trimmed bushes – maintained by a company that does

the work when he's not even home – just off the front porch.

Curiosity more than anything makes him stop and peer over the railing. He's not at all prepared for the sight of a small, gray kitten with striking green eyes looking up at him through the branches of his shrubbery.

His first thought, he has to admit is, a cat? Really? His family had a few dogs while he and his siblings were growing up and he really doesn't have anything against cats, it's just, he's a dude and has an image to uphold and plus, he's never really spent time with a feline.

Still, he schools his voice into a bit of a soothing murmur and asks, "Hey there. Are you okay?"

The kitten immediately steps out of the bush, tail high in the air – almost happy-looking – with a trilling meow for accompaniment.



Quirk is a 3-year-old, buff-and-white fellow with incredibly soft, almost bunny-like fur, who has been at the shelter since February 26, 2011. He's a very gentle soul and has one green eye and one blue eye—quite a unique look! Come meet Quirk and help him out of a cage—he's been in a shelter for too long

Something shimmies in his chest, producing a warm sensation and he smiles. It's dumb, but it feels kind of nice to have something respond to his presence in that way.

Against his better judgment, he makes the trip to the store for cat food and bowls and tells himself it's just so the poor thing doesn't starve. The old blanket he finds in the back of his closet, he convinces himself is just for warmth.

And if he maybe, in his head, calls the kitten Chevy after his dad's favorite 1967 Chevrolet Impala, it's only in his head, never out loud. And if he comes to think of the spot by the porch as Chevy's place, it doesn't mean anything.

If sometimes on his ride home, he stops off at the store for a cat toy, it's just so Chevy's got something to relieve boredom. And if in the middle of the day, at work, he finds himself smiling at the thought of Chevy's greeting when he arrives home, it's just because it's become so commonplace.

He gets a little worried the evening that Chevy races past his feet and gets into the house before him. He tries to stop the squirt, but the kitten walks around as though the house has never been off limits.

He spends the next hour chasing the kitten from room to room, with meows and mischievous feline looks for company. He laughs outright when Chevy discovers the

full-length mirror and jumps at least a foot in the air at the reflected image.

A few minutes later, he sighs to himself, retrieves his keys and goes to the store to get a litterbox and litter.

He becomes ridiculously well-versed with things like cat trees and scratching posts and catnip toys and even the concept of spaying and neutering. He'd never set foot inside a vet's office before, but the girls at the front desk start to recognize him after a while.

Three months after the fateful evening he'd discovered a vagabond transient beside his front door, Chevy's sleeping on the pillow next to his head and batting him awake with her soft paws – never claws – for breakfast each morning. He barely needs an alarm clock anymore.

And when the footsteps that join his on the stairs are four-legged, his house and his life, though both well-earned, don't feel quite as empty anymore.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvasoc@innernet.net. For more information, call the shelter at 263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org. Animals available for adoption can be viewed at www.petfinder.org.

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- The hand that stroked my fur & the sweet voice which spoke my name.

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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."

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-- Author Unknown

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

The post-purchase exam

Dr. Kimberly Brokaw
Walkersville Veterinary Clinic

“Hi Doc. I just bought a horse and I was hoping you could do an exam just to make sure he is healthy.” I hate conversations that start that way. The exam should have been done before money exchanged hands. When examining a horse after it has been bought, it seems that I only end up giving disappointing information to the new owner. After all, the perfect horse doesn't exist and if it did exist you can bet that it wouldn't be for sale. Hence, your average sales horse has some degree of lameness or a temperament issue. The average horse owner is unable to tell if a horse is going to be healthy and sound enough to do what they want it to. Because of this I strongly recommend that a pre-purchase exam is performed. The pre-purchase exam gives the potential owner an opportunity to not buy the horse if an abnormality is found on exam that makes the horse unlikely to do the job that the new owner would like him to do. It also lets the potential owner know if any expensive work (e.g., surgery to remove a big bone chip in the knee) needs to be done before the horse will be suitable for his intended use.

A pre-purchase exam can vary in what is examined. A person who is purchasing a horse to take on short trail rides is not going to need a horse that is as sound as a person who plans to take their horse to the Olympics for three day eventing. While a pre-purchase exam is not a guarantee that the horse is going to remain sound, it helps in that at least if the horse is currently lame the new buyer would be made aware of that.

Recently I was called out to a farm. The woman had just purchased a horse a few weeks ago and wanted me to examine him. The horse had been purchased from a local barn. The new owner was planning on using the horse for trail rides. She had purchased him for just under a thousand dollars

and as he was fairly inexpensive she had opted not to do a pre-purchase exam. While she hadn't had the opportunity to ride the horse yet, she thought that she had seen him limping occasionally in the field. I was asked to give him his shots and do an exam as she planned on taking him out on the trails this coming weekend.

When I arrived at the farm, the new owner showed me to the field to see her new horse. He was a good looking palomino but was obviously lame at the walk. She said that he was a little off but thought that he had just slipped in the mud. Unfortunately she was wrong. Fairly quickly into the exam I found myself telling her that the horse had not recently injured himself but instead had chronic arthritis in both knees. The arthritis was so bad that you could feel the boney proliferation and while I offered her x-rays to confirm the presence of arthritis, I told her I felt confident in the diagnosis. While there were numerous treatment options including joint injections and oral anti-inflammatory medications, the horse was always going to have difficulties with his knees and suffer from some degree of lameness. While occasionally a seller will take a horse back if the new owner is not happy with the purchase, in this situation that was not an option. The new owner requested that I vaccinate

the horse but said she was not sure that she was going to keep him.

To further complicate the matter, this was a younger horse and his new owner found herself in the situation where she would have to provide years of care for a horse she couldn't ride. While I wish I could tell you that the woman decided to keep the horse and take care of him, I can't. Instead she gave him enough pain killers to help him look sound and took him to the local horse auction.

Unfortunately this situation is all too common. While the ideal answer would be for people to keep their old and lame horses and continue to provide them with care, this isn't always financially possible. Keeping a healthy horse is expensive. A horse with arthritis can require expensive corrective shoeing and medications. So the question is, what do you do with an unwanted horse? Prior to purchasing a horse, one should consider some practical things such as can you not only afford the purchase price of the horse, but also the continued cost of providing food, shelter, and medical care. Horses can live for a very long time so it is important to keep in mind the long term costs as well. People often say they will just sell the horse after they have had it for a few years but that can be a difficult process. After all, if you have been riding this horse



The secret to making a “little” horse look “big” during the pre-purchase exam is to get a “little” person to jog the horse.

frequently for the past several years and now that it is older and lame, you are no longer willing to provide care for the horse, why would someone who hasn't had the “good years” with the horse want to take on the expense of the “bad” ones. Some of these unwanted horses are fortunate enough to end up at good quality rescues. Others are not so lucky and end up at slaughter houses or worse, owned by a hoarder who won't provide adequate care, and won't surrender the horses to animal control nor will he euthanize the half starved horses in his custody. There are fates worse than

death and being slowly starved and neglected is one of them. The Unwanted Horse Coalition is an organization with the mission to reduce the number of unwanted horses and improve their welfare. I encourage people looking to purchase a horse to seriously contemplate the length of their commitment as well as explore options for the future care of their horse.

Horse ownership is a lot of fun. It is also a huge responsibility and involves a big risk. A pre-purchase exam is one way of decreasing the risks associated with buying a new horse.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Selected plants of the year

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

It's May – the gardening season has arrived! After crazy weather: spring, then winter, then spring, then winter, oh, and throw a few summer days in there, we can finally – safely – begin planting for this growing season.

It's funny, as I write this article, we are experiencing snow in parts of PA – as well as parts of Adams County. My daughter just called me on her way to classes this morning and said she drove through snow! --Snow! Something we haven't had all winter! And just last week, it felt like June. It just shows us that even when it feels like spring, we're not safe till after the last frost date – May 15. Many of us have planted our

cool crops, like broccoli and lettuce, as well as pansies, but we've been chomping at the bit to plant more. Well, it's finally time.

As gardeners and plant lovers, we are always excited to see new introductions and selections from national organizations that trial and test plants for their characteristics in growth, habit and hardiness. Each year, the Perennial Plant Association chooses a Perennial of the Year. In order for the plant to be recognized as the perennial of the year, it must meet certain criteria. The plant must be low maintenance, grow well in a wide range of climates, be relatively pest and disease free, be readily available within the industry, and have multiple seasonal interest.

The selection this year goes to *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost'. This plant has silvery foliage and



Plant of the Year - Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost'

grows best in the shade. It will tolerate some sun in the morning, but must be protected from afternoon sun. Good moisture is needed for this plant to do well. In the spring, small blue flowers appear, resembling a forget-me-not flower. After finished blooming, the silver foliage lasts the entire summer and fall.

Another selection worth mentioning is the 2010 selection, *Baptisia australis*. This plant is a native plant, gets about 3'-4' tall and blooms in the spring. It has dramatic, blue flower spikes and the foliage resembles pea shaped leaves. It's very sturdy, so no staking is necessary. It maintains a nice green color throughout the

summer into the fall, and the foliage turns yellow as the days get shorter. This plant likes full sun, and does well in drier conditions. It doesn't transplant well, so be sure when you plant it, it's going to stay.

All American Rose Association is an organization that trials roses. This organization introduces and promotes roses and recognizes those that are exceptional due to ease of growing in the home garden. This year's All American Rose Selection is Sunshine Daydream. This is a *grandiflora*, noted for good vigor and good bloom production. It has light yellow flowers changing to cream as it matures on the plant. The nice dark foliage is a nice contrast to the light flower. It has good disease resistance and a bushy form, blooming from spring through frost.

The All American Selections Winners mission is "To promote new garden seed varieties with superior garden performance judged in impartial trials in North America." (<http://www.all-americanselections.org/about/index.cfm>). In doing so, new introductions for these winners are announced yearly as well. This year, the winner for All American Flower Selection is an ornamental pepper 'Black Olive'. This is an upright plant that requires no staking. It is heat tolerant and likes full sun. It's good for containers, and gets purple-black fruit that turn red as they mature. The contrast to the dark foliage is striking.

Another award winning flower is Vinca 'Jams 'N Jellies Blackberry'. This velvety deep purple flower with a white center is spectacular. Liking the hot sun, it will do very well in our summers. Good drainage is important for growing this group of plants as well as waiting till after the nights reach a consistent 60 degrees or more before planting.

The All American Selections for the Vegetable category is awarded to Watermelon 'Faerie' and Pepper 'Cayennetta'. As watermelon go, this particular variety only spreads to eight feet. The rind is yellow with a stripe and it has a sweet, pink flesh well worth the space it takes to grow. The fruit size is 7" – 8" making it ideal for a small family. It has been proven insect and disease tolerant.

The 'Cayennetta' pepper requires no staking. It has dense foliage and likes extreme heat. It has proven to be a heavy fruiting plant. The dense foliage protects the fruit from sunscald. This mildly spicy pepper gets two feet tall and is great for containers as well as an easy to grow plant for the novice gardener.

Many of these perennials you should be able to find at your local garden centers, and the annual and vegetable seeds should be found in seed catalogs. If this year you don't have luck locating them, I'll bet you will next year! So make a list, and be prepared for the season! Whatever your search,

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THE MASTER GARDENER

The Small Town Gardener The lusty month of May

you may want to take the time to find these winning plants. These trialed plants are labeled as winners for a reason, so grow them in your garden and enjoy the experience of gardening!

Since the gardening season is upon us, you may want to take the opportunity to see what new and exciting gardening techniques are happening. The Penn State Master Gardeners are sponsoring a bus trip to Temple-Ambler and Meadowbrook Farm on Tuesday, May 29. We will be leaving at the Agricultural and Natural Resource Center at 6:30 am. Garden tours will be guided at both locations, while allowing independent time to browse the Meadowbrook Farm Nursery. To register, go to <http://ag->

sci.psu.edu/spring-bus, or call 1-877-489-1398, or stop by Penn State Extension at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Suite 204, Gettysburg.

A fun opportunity to ask the Master Gardeners questions will be on May 18th from 9 am – 6 pm and May 19th from 9 am – 12 noon. Our Master Gardeners are selling perennials and annuals at the Agricultural and Natural Resource Center at 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. The best part of the sale is the species and varieties are a surprise! So you have to stop by to see what we've got! And take the opportunity to ask gardening questions of the Master Gardeners. It's not often that you have plant experts at your disposal!



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Marianne Wilburn

May is here, and once she steps onto the scene, resplendent in dazzling dresses of yellows and greens, our eyes – so dimmed by winter's punishments – first brighten, then glaze over again; and we walk straight to the nearest horticultural vendor like lambs to the slaughter. We hand over pieces of plastic in exchange for something green, something new, something fun, something that speaks of long summer nights on the deck with friends or quiet moments in the mornings with ourselves. In other words, we impulse buy like there was no tomorrow. And we wake up the next morning, and though our hands are chapped and our plastic cards are melting, we find ourselves doing it again.

Though I know her tricks, I am not immune to May's seductive caresses, nor her power to intoxicate with fragrance far beyond the skills of Ralph Lauren. I know that a hole must be dug for every plant, a place must be found for every ornament, and a price must be paid for everything in this life; but that certain something in the air right now tends to erase all moments of rationality.

Still, compared to most of the lambs around me, I pride myself on getting out of these places relatively unscathed. Since I start hundreds of seeds every winter, I am rarely tempted by many of the vegetable and annual bedding plants that trip up the average gardener; and I only start stumbling near particularly alluring racks of cheap perennials - hoping to snatch up a deal or two to fill a difficult corner or cover a bothersome slope. May is the month for coupons, deals and specials on all things garden and it would take a stronger woman than I to walk past four bronze Heuchera for \$10 without hesitating for more than just a moment.

However, you will be happy to know that there is a cure for May. There is a remedy for skipping through the nursery with stars in one's eyes and finding oneself inexorably snared into an ecstasy of horticultural impulse-buying. Using this method, you will find your enthusiasm doused, your fervor scuppered, and your purse strings unceremoniously snipped.

All you need to do is take your spouse with you.

Ironically, my husband is well-practiced in the field of impulse buying. He's one of those guys who instantly answers

"Yes!" when a wily waitress asks if he'd like a side of scampi with his steak – adding eight bucks to the check with a smirk on her face.

When I send him to the store to pick up a gallon of milk there is a strong probability that he will come back with a Hostess Pie and six Slim Jims. The supermarket is a veritable wonderland for him; a place filled with all things processed and pleasurable. And on those occasions that he visits the magical kingdom without a nutrition-obsessed wife in tow, his interests run merrily from a box of Fruit Loops to a \$6 DVD copy of 'The Pink Panther.'

But a plant nursery holds no magic for the man.

Surrounded by thousands of gallon pots of May promise, his eyes instinctively do what they cannot in the supermarket....look at the bottom line. His face starts to tighten, his hands clutch at my elbow, his eyes sit back beneath heavy brows – and his mouth starts to form the words that will burst my bubble like an old pro: "You don't really need that."

I try to reason with the infidel. "Heuchera are usually much more expensive... I have a difficult area that they could brighten...I was only thinking last week how much I wanted to try a few...If I don't buy them now they won't be here next week..." Etc...etc...etc.

It is useless to argue. He ignores my pleading, and deftly moves the dozen or so plants I have so carefully selected back out of the cart, piercing me with steely blue eyes reminiscent of a Barbara Cartland novel.

"What is the difference between this and a box of Fruit Loops?" he asks, his eyebrows arching insolently.

"Ha! Let me count the ways..." I splutter, reaching for the last of my little loss-leaders.

"It is a rhetorical question," he answers. "We came here for a bag of potting soil, remember?"

And I cannot answer. I no longer have the will. My enthusiasm for cheap drought-tolerants has just plummeted, and I no longer possess any desire to fight for them. Perhaps I'll come back tomorrow...

"And you're not coming back tomorrow either," says Mr. Omniscient with finality in his voice.

With all her wicked ways and feminine snares, you'd think May could try a little harder to seduce the man.

CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Picketing the Catoctin Mountains

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society Civil
War Historian

While the Confederate army was marching out of Frederick toward Hagerstown, many cavalry detachments picketed the Catoctin and South Mountains. On September 12th, as Confederate General JEB Stuart bivouacked near Middletown, he had left the Jeff Davis Legion to guard Braddock Gap in order to protect his wagon train, and to keep an eye on Union soldiers that may appear from the direction of Frederick. To the south portions of Colonel Thomas Munford's cavalry was guarding the approach to Jefferson, near Jefferson Pass.

To the north of Braddock's Gap lay three other mountain passes. Shookstown Pass, which was located on the Baltimore Road, High Knob, a rough and rugged mountain pass, and then

there was Hamburg Pass. Hamburg Pass overlooked the valley between Lewistown and Frederick. The Frederick Road that ran through this area was a major artery that took inhabitants from Frederick to Emmitsburg and across the Mason and Dixon Line into Pennsylvania.

On the morning of September 5th, the gray-clad soldiers forded the Potomac River into Maryland at Edward's Ferry. Edward's Ferry is downstream from White's Ford. The cavalrymen were ragged, some were even barefoot in the saddle. In Maryland they managed to buy boots, shoes and clothing, paying the merchants in Confederate money. While encamped at Barnesville they were ordered to attack a detachment of Union soldiers, who from their location at Sugarloaf Mountain, could see all of the Confederate movements. From there they were ordered to Frederick.

On the night of September 12th,



the 4th and 9th Virginia Cavalry left Frederick, as they were ordered to the Catoctin Mountain. East of Hamburg, the 3rd Virginia Cavalry, 4th Virginia Cavalry and the 9th Virginia Cavalry picketed the mountain gap to watch for troop movements leaving Frederick. The town that the gap is named after no longer stands, but during the Civil War it was a small mountain community. Today ruins can be seen in the woods in the park boundaries of Gambrill State Park.

During the evening of September 12th, Union General Alfred Pleasanton made his headquarters at Frederick. General Ambrose Burnside had arrived a half hour prior, after marching on the New Market Road. The brigade of cavalry under the command of Colonel John Farnsworth had bivouacked west of Frederick, while portions of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and a section of artillery ordered to Jefferson to meet up with General William Franklin's Sixth Corps who were bivouacking to the east of the Catoctin Mountain.

Early the next morning, General Alfred Pleasanton ordered a section of Lieutenant R. Hunter Chap-

in's 3-inch Rifles of the 2nd U. S. Artillery, Battery M, and the cavalry brigade of Colonel Andrew T. McReynolds to scout the Emmitsburg and Gettysburg areas to see if the Confederate army was moving into Pennsylvania. Under his command were two regiments of cavalry, Major James A. Congdon's 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and Major Alonzo W. Adams' 1st New York Cavalry, nicknamed the Lincoln Cavalry.

Pleasanton was to find the rear of the Confederate army. As the sounds of artillery broke the silence of the day six miles to the south at Braddock's Gap, the troopers near Hamburg Pass were enjoying their duty. They soon received an order from General JEB Stuart to move east of the Catoctin, and try to turn the Federal right flank. They mounted their horses and moved rapidly toward Frederick to the New Market Road.

As the 4th Virginia Cavalry, supported by the 9th Virginia Cavalry, moved they came into view of the 1st New York Cavalry as it moved to Emmitsburg. The Virginians attacked the rear of the Federal column. Within minutes, nine Union

troops and one ambulance fell into Confederate hands, although another account states that two ambulances were taken. As the fighting quickly began to die down, several Confederate troopers were taken prisoner. After the fight, the 1st New York proceeded to Emmitsburg where they encamped for the night.

Realizing that the majority of the Union army was encamped in and around Frederick and moving toward Braddock Gap, the troopers fell back to the eastern base of the Catoctin Mountain. There the Confederates remained in a line of battle until midnight. They were ordered to proceed back up the mountain and arrived at Hamburg just after 10:00 am on September 14th. As the Confederate soldiers passed through Hamburg, Sergeant George Beale of the 9th Virginia Cavalry noted the condition of the town, simply stating "Hamburg was a rude and scattering village on the crest of the mountain."

Sergeant Beale also noted "The manufacture of brandy seemed to be the chief employment of the villagers, and at the early hour of our passage through the place, both the men and women gave proof that they were free imbibers of the product of their stills, and it was not easy to find a sober inhabitant of either sex."

The Confederate troopers didn't receive a very warm welcome at all. Lieutenant Colonel Richard L.T. Beale of the 9th Virginia Cavalry wrote "A party of women seemed amused and delighted at the ragged outfit of our men, and were certainly as intensely hostile as any blue-stocking 'school marm' of Massachusetts."

As the Confederate troopers passed through Hamburg, they began to descend Catoctin Mountain. There, the valley in the distance opened up, giving the soldiers a spectacular view of the fertile farmlands in what Sergeant Beale described as "A scene of unusual beauty and loveliness."

As the Confederate soldiers came to a large grist mill, orders were given to halt. After a march of several hours on horseback, they rested in an apple orchard which provided them with shade. There they finally received rations and soon began to prepare them. This was the first time they had received them in two days. The troopers also took time to attend to their horses.

The men heard the sounds of battle taking place on the next ridge over at South Mountain. At 4:00 pm, the troops were ordered to mount up, and to head toward the town of Boonsboro, where they rested again after nightfall. Soon afterwards, they would be ordered on standby as the Confederate infantry retreated off of South Mountain, pouring into Boonsboro. Sergeant Beale noted "The nature of the ground was ill-suited to the operation of cavalry, and much relief was felt when, at dawn [15th], we began to fall back towards Boonesboro."

To learn more about local Civil War history visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Fairfield Civil War reenactment event schedule

More than 150 Confederate and Union reenactors will engage in Fairfield Borough in early May as part of the community's continuing commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War, the country's bloody second war of independence.

Events planned by the The Fairfield Sesquicentennial Committee to take place include (events designated to occur at Fairfield Inn will take place at 15 West Main Street; events designated to occur at Fairfield Village Hall will take place at 108 West Main Street):

May 4 (Friday)

- Noon-7 p.m., Re-enactor registration at the Fairfield Inn.
- 1:45 to 2:45 p.m., American history program for Fairfield Middle School fifth grade.

May 5 (Saturday)

- 8:30 a.m., Gates open to the public.
- 9 a.m., Meet Union generals as they plan the battle. Fair-



field Village Hall.

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Living History Village open to the public Civil War encampment, Steelman Street.
- 10:30 to Noon, Special presentation by Gettysburg historian Tim Smith at Fairfield Village Hall.
- 11 a.m., Noon, and 1 p.m., Civil War Era house tours (there is a charge for this event), 118 West Main Street.

- 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Quartermaster's Luncheon (there is a charge for this event), Fairfield Inn.
- Noon, "A Taste of History - Wine & Dine" outside the Fairfield Inn (there is a charge for this event).
- Noon, "Insight into the Civil War Spy Organizations," Fairfield Village Hall.
- 1 p.m., A moment with Gen-

eral Longstreet, Fairfield Village Hall.

- 2 p.m., Battle re-enactment, "Confederates Attempt a Rear Guard Movement," Landis Farm, North Miller Street.
- 3 p.m., Meet the Southern generals and their staff, Fairfield Village Hall.
- 4 p.m., "Insightful Conversation - General and Mrs. Lee," Fairfield Village Hall.

- 7 to 9 p.m., Bonfire with music by Kent Courtney, Fairfield Inn.

May 6 (Sunday)

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Living History Village open to the public Civil War encampment, Steelman Street.
- 9 a.m., Sunday morning Church service, Fairfield Village Hall.
- 10 a.m., Ladies Relief Society speaks of the courageous efforts during the war, Fairfield Village Hall.
- 11 a.m., "Insightful Conversation - General and Mrs. Lee," Fairfield Village Hall.
- 12 p.m., "A Moment with General Longstreet," Fairfield Village Hall.
- 1 p.m., "The Great Struggles of the Medical Department," Fairfield Village Hall.
- 2 p.m., Battle re-enactment, "The Union Cavalry Protects the Gap," Landis Farm, North Miller Street.
- 3 p.m., "Meet the Generals - Union and Confederate Q&A," Fairfield Village Hall.
- 4 p.m., Closing ceremonies, Fairfield Inn.

Fairfield Sesquicentennial Committee maintains a web site at battleoffairfield.com.

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Part 4 of many
Interview with Nathaniel Rowe continued

The day before the husking, the neighbor-women would come and help get ready the harvest supper. What did we have for supper? Good things, let me tell you. Chicken pot pie, roast pork and apple sauce, cakes and every kind of pie you could think of, and plenty of everything. Well, the ears of corn would be laid out near the barn in long rows about three feet high and three feet wide. As many men who could get to a row would fall to with their husking palms. We began about dark and worked until about ten o'clock. If there was no moon, great bonfires were made to give us light.

Mostly every farmer had at least one or two slaves, and the darkies would bring their banjos and sing the good old songs while we worked. It was a thirsty business and a bucket of water was kept going up and down between the rows. The water bearer would carry the bucket in one hand and the whiskey bottle in the other, for some needed a little stimulant to sustain them at their labors.

Sometimes as many as seventy-five men with their women folk would come to a husking, and they could shuck the corn crop of a big farm in one evening. The women didn't do any husking; they helped put the finishing touches on the supper and serve

it when the men were ready. Between the hard work and the whiskey, we had hearty appetites by quitting time and what we could do to a pile of grub would astonish you.

I believe the young people got more fun out of the apple butter boilings than out of the huskings. The night before the boiling, the neighborhood boys and girls would come to core and 'snits' the apples, as they called it, and that was always a great frolic.

"Must have been a great opportunity for courting," said the reporter.

"Well, I have heard say there was some kissing done on the sly," admitted Mr. Rowe, "but the next night was more interesting for the young people who were inclined that way.

In the morning, the big copper kettle in the yard would be filled with cider, as much as a barrel sometimes, and the fire would be lighted. The cider was boiled down one half. That generally took until noon. Then the apple snits were added a little at a time. Then the stirring began and never stopped until the apple butter was done. A paddle fastened at right angles to a pole about six feet long was used for stirring, and it was kept going slowly round in the kettle until way into the night. The young people in pairs would take turns stirring, one on each side of the pole facing each other. When a

boy and girl had hold of the pole, you can guess what might happen in the evening when it was dark except for the light of the fire under the kettle," said Mr. Rowe with a sly twinkle in his eye, as if his knowledge of what happened was not altogether a matter of hearsay.

Political Campaigns

"Were politics as interesting when you were a young man as they are now?" enquired the newspaper man.

"Yes, more so. You can't imagine the fervor and enthusiasm of the campaign of 1840 when William Henry Harrison, the Whig candidate for the presidency, ran against Martin Van Buren, the Democratic candidate, and defeated him. A national election now is a pink tea affair by comparison with the



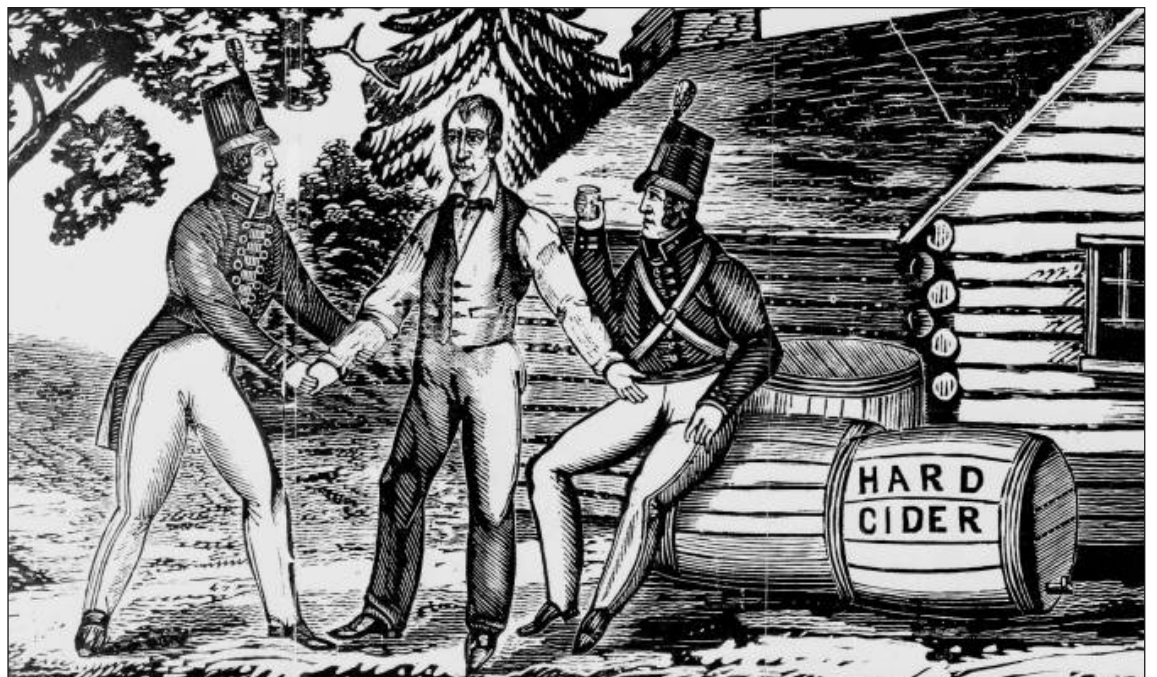
Nathaniel Rowe

'Tippecanoe and Tyler Too' campaign. You know Tippecanoe was the nickname given to General Harrison on account of his defeat of the famous Indian Chief, Tecumseh, in 1811.

The battle was fought on the Tippecanoe River in what was then the territory of Indiana, of which Harrison was governor. He and John Tyler were nominated by the National Wig convention in December of 1839, and during the succeeding year up to the

election, the fight was red hot. It was the most exciting presidential campaign the country had ever experienced, and Emmitsburg was not less aroused than the rest of the nation. Political mass meetings and processions were first employed in that campaign to stir up enthusiasm and make votes. Party emblems and watchwords were used as never before. It was also known as the 'log cabin and hard cider campaign.'

One end of his house consisted



During the presidential campaign of 1840 newspapers were filled with political images depicting the themes of the two parties, such as this image depicting the 'frontier' aspects with William Harrison as the frontier hero, the log cabin in which he was born, and cider, not wine, which was served on his table.

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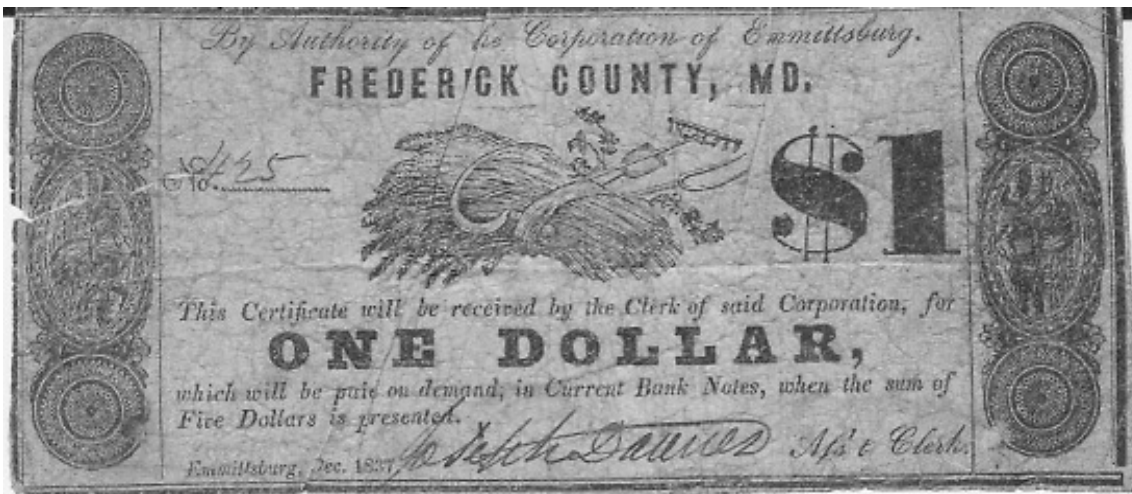
The Grill For All Seasons!

of a log cabin covered with clapboards, and it was said that he used hard cider instead of wine on his table. The Democrats, I believe, were really responsible for the log cabin and hard cider becoming issues in the campaign. They ridiculed Harrison for his primitive way of living, but the Whigs accepted the challenge and made the log cabin and hard cider emblems of democratic simplicity, which of course was very effective.

In our campaign parades in Emmitsburg, we had a log cabin built on a wagon. It was six feet wide, about sixteen feet long and one story high. Coonskins were nailed beside the door and inside on the walls. The door of the cabin had the latchstring hanging out and everybody was welcome to go inside and tap the barrel of hard cider that was kept on hand.

We made a big campaign ball of muslin stretched on a wooden frame. It was twelve feet in diameter. Through the center of the ball, a long pole ran horizontally so that the ends stuck out about five feet on each side. It rolled on the ground on a wooden flange, running around the outside at right angles to the pole. Men would trundle the ball through the streets by taking hold of the ends of the poles on each side and pushing it ahead of them. It was painted with cartoons and political mottoes.

Once we rolled the ball to Frederick for a big meeting there. We left here in the evening and rolled all night, getting to Frederick after daylight the next morning. We took a wagon along with straw on the floor and plen-



During the first half of the 18th century, the US Treasury only issued silver coins in dollars and fractions of dollars denominations, but there weren't enough coins to go around, especially in rural areas. To fill the gap local banks, towns, and many businesses issued their own currency, as in the case of this 1837 Emmitsburg dollar bill. While backed by silver or gold, it's real value was directly related to how far away from Emmitsburg it was used, as the owner of the bill would have to factor in the cost of traveling to Emmitsburg to exchange the bill for the silver or gold backing it. So while worth a dollar worth of goods in Emmitsburg, this bill may have only been worth 90 cents in Thurmont, 75 cents in Frederick, and 25 cents in Washington.

ty of provisions. When a crew got tired, they would climb into the wagon and go to sleep and another crew would keep the ball rolling on through the night. That showed our enthusiasm. Would any of the young men now do as much for Taft or Bryan?

After the election was over, a big celebration was held at a tavern kept by a man named Harvey opposite to the tollgate on the Thurmont pike. You know Harrison gave Van Buren a tremendous licking, the latter only getting 60 electoral votes out of 294. The result was very popular in Emmitsburg. Most of the people were Whigs and everybody joined in the celebration, which lasted a day and a night. It was held in the field back of the tavern. We needed plenty of room for our celebrations in those days. People came from all over the

county, and it was easier to come than to get away, for hard cider and other hard stuff flowed like water.

Of course it is a good thing that such a custom has died out. Political campaigns have improved in another respect. You have no conception of the personal bitterness politics engendered seventy years ago. Outrageous and slanderous attacks on private character were usual and were often the cause of personal encounters, which sometimes resulted seriously. However, there was little, if any, buying of votes. Bribery as we have it now wasn't practiced in those days."

Mr. John T. Eyster Remembers School Life in Emmitsburg

"The first school I attended, now long since removed, was in a building situated on the road leading to Gettysburg, just beyond and on the same side of the street as the Catholic Church. Here I entered armed with that most formidable of all books, the 'Yaller-Back Primer. (Formidable because it is the key that unlocks to the grasping and aspiring' young mind all English literature.) It was in this house, I do not remember the name of the teacher, I first started out to hew my way through and, let the 'chips fall as they'

"As I recollect from that time to the end of my school days my progress was decidedly slow and if I was noted for anything, it was for what I didn't

learn at school. Since then I have found out that there is a whole lot to be learned outside of school, (much more than the average boys reckons,) and sooner or later most of us learn at least a part of it. Well if I didn't stow away for future use very much 'book learning' while at school, I did have a whole lot of fun at such times when I was not the subject under consideration for correction or chastisement.

I remember going to school to "Jimmy Knauff," as he was familiarly called. It was in summer time and there were but few scholars in attendance. One afternoon it was quite sultry and warm, Mr. Knauff took out his corn-cob pipe and had a smoke, after which he put his feet up on the stand before him, leaned back in his chair and went sound asleep.

He had done this two or three times before. One of the boys had prepared a stout twine long enough to reach from his seat to the chair occupied by the sleeping teacher. To one end of the twine he tied a short piece of cord, not so stout as the long piece, then he slipped up and tied the weak end of the twine to the back of the chair and returned quietly to his seat.

After all this preparation he commenced to pull on the string and just about the time 'Jimmy' Knauff's feet began to slip off the stand he gave the twine a sudden jerk. Snap went the string next to the chair and over backwards went sprawling 'Jimmy' Knauff. In less time than it takes to tell it the boy had his long twine wound up and in his pocket.

The scholars were tittering and laughing all around. The teacher got up, looked dazed and puzzled, as tough he was sent for and couldn't go. Wonder if there are any who can Tell and verify this story and thus help me out.

At one time Emmitsburg was noted for having a pretty tough lot of scholars and it was not every teacher that could control them. The trustees took cognizance of the state of affairs and tried to get a teacher who could hold the boys down. Mr. Tearce, as your article calls him, was selected. According to my recollection his name was Pearce; however, we will call him Tearce. Shortly after his term commenced a few of the larger scholars undertook to run things to suit

themselves. They were called upon the floor for correction and punishment. One of them refused to be punished he was quite tall and stout suddenly he made a vicious pass or grab for Tearce's throat, but the teacher was too quick for him and grabbed him by the hair of his head and gave him a whirl that brought him to his knees. With the boy in this position Mr. Tearce applied his stick, or whatever it was, upon his back until he cried for mercy. That settled it. The boys went to their seats with a full knowledge of the kind of a man they had to deal with.

"Mr. Tearce was a man of commanding presence and possessed all the attributes that he is credited with in the "Chronicles of Emmitsburg." He was the most successful and best-liked teacher of them all. I remember of attending a term of school taught by the lawyer, Isaac Pearson, as principal, and a young graduate by the name of Biggs. Mr. Biggs was qualified to teach but did not possess the requisite commanding qualities. It sometimes happened that Mr. Pearson's business as a lawyer required his presence down town. Upon such occasions he would leave the school in charge of his assistant, Mr. Biggs.

It was not long until the scholars found the weak points in Mr. Biggs, and they were not slow in taking advantage of them. They knew that as soon as Mr. Pearson's back was turned they could do just about as they pleased and he, Mr. Biggs, could not help himself, he could not control them. On some such occasion a few of the boys would commence to titter and it would soon turn into a laugh, so contagious, that, every one in the house must perforce join in it, so the whole house would be in a roaring guffaw. Mr. Biggs would stand at his desk with ferrel in hand and shout, 'Come to order! I tell you to come to order!' but they would all laugh until they could laugh no more. I felt sorrow for him but I had to laugh with the crowd.

"It was not long until Mr. Pearson found this out, and the next time he had occasion to go down town he prepared himself with a lot of switches (good stout ones.) When the time came for him to go down town he started out as usual but stopped at the corner of the house, and waited for results. It was not long until the house was in a roar. Mr. Pearson stepped back and opened the door. No sooner did the boys see him all were silent, you could have heard a pin drop on the floor. Mr. Pearson stepped inside went to his desk and hauled out the bunch of heavy switches and use them on the bigger scholars until he was exhausted. After that Mr. Biggs had no more trouble.

Well I have written, I suppose as much as you are to publish if indeed you will publish any of this. Therefore I will close."

To learn more about local history visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

Continued next month



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COLD WAR WARRIORS

A pivotal year in U.S.-Russian relations

Edmond D. Pope,
Captain, U.S.N Ret.

"I have never met anyone who understood the Russians."

—Grand Duke Alexander Mikhail'ovich, brother-in-law and adviser to Tsar Nicholas II.

Attempting to explain the character of Russia is a daunting task as they are an extremely diverse people. Russia comprises eleven time zones from Europe to Asia and her population differs in the extreme when comparing a citizen of Moscow or St. Petersburg with those living in the remote outreaches of the nation. My comments in this article come nowhere close to representing a complete picture of the Russian people and nation. Rather, it attempts to provide some insights gained from my personal experiences and postulate some things that might lie ahead for Russian-American relations.

2000- Setting the scene for my Russian experiences

Few people expected the year 2000 to be noteworthy with regard to the evolving relationship between the U.S. and the "new" Russia - least of all me. Even fewer people, myself included, understood the true significance of what was taking place in late March of that year when Vladimir V. Putin was formally elected President of the Russian Federation. Only days after his election, I found myself under arrest in Moscow, charged with espionage. In the weeks following my arrest, it became clear that my arrest had very little to do with me personally, but was part of a much more complex plan that had begun in early 1999 - or even before that. During the nine months of my im-

prisonment, I learned a great deal more about Russian domestic and international politics than I ever cared to. While languishing in Lefortovo Prison, I was specifically told by three prison employees that my case was purely political and that I should be patient because I would be allowed to leave as soon as the politician's goals were achieved.

In this article, I will attempt to use some of the experiences from my incarceration to help explain why I believe 2012 could well be another very significant year in the relationship between our two countries- experiences that could portend some exceptional events. Indeed, I believe the ashes of the Cold War are still smoldering and we need to be mindful of the fact that the nuclear arsenals of the U.S. and the USSR are still there and capable of world annihilation. By design or accident.

A Carefully Orchestrated "Surprise"

Vladimir V. Putin was named acting Prime Minister of Russia under Boris Yeltsin in August of 1999. Little was thought of his appointment at the time other than that he was a relative unknown who had spent most of his career in the KGB (Committee for State Security). Putin appeared to be just one more name on a long list of possible Yeltsin replacements who had been placed in that position in the preceding months. Putin had emerged from the shadowy world of the KGB to join the staff of St Petersburg's first, post Soviet-era Mayor, Anatoly Sobchak. By 1999, he had become well known to the new, behind-the-scenes power brokers of Russia (AKA the "cabal") and he fit well into their plans as they became increasingly disappointed with Yeltsin. I believe that

the Russian cabal made Putin's August 1999 appointment carefully and deliberately. Certainly during the time leading up to Yeltsin's unexpected resignation on 31 December 1999, plans for the Putin era were being fine-tuned. In making his "surprise" announcement, Yeltsin said that he was leaving the Russian Presidency immediately and was appointing Vladimir Putin as the acting President. This gave Putin three months to identify his team and tighten plans for his "new" Russia. But Putin's specific actions could only be put into motion when it was clear that he had at least a four-year term to enact and solidify his plans.

The two central themes of the new, Putin doctrine included re-establishing stronger control over the domestic population and reasserting Russia as one of the two bipolar powers of the globe. It was a confrontational approach for Russian relations with the U.S. The Putin plan was designed to position Russia as a nation that was just as important as the U.S. Indeed, one of the most frequent criticisms leveled against Boris Yeltsin from within Russia was that he had become a "lackey" or puppet of the U.S.

Perceptions Become Reality

Throughout my 25-year career in the U.S. Navy, most of which was served during the Cold War, I always had a strong desire to better understand our principal adversary- the Soviet Union. I could never understand why they seemed to hate us so much? Why they were driven to spread their beliefs with such a passion by whatever means- including the near-constant threat of war? Was the general population so fervently supportive? It did not take long for me to understand that a people who had barriers designed to keep them in, were, in fact, living under duress and for a reason.




Pro-Democracy demonstrations following 2011's parliamentary elections, which many Russians felt were unfairly rigged.

Were the Communist Russians really that different from the Russians who lived under the Tsars? Could a people really be so susceptible to government propaganda and control that they really believed what they were being told? I was skeptical before arriving in Russia for that first visit in 1992, but anxious to see for myself. I had read copies of "Soviet Life" over the years and one thing that always struck me as peculiar was the strange sense of humor the Russians exhibited. Before my first trip to Russia had ended, I understood the extreme cynicism and symbolism of Russian humor as a self-serving method of showing defiance for a system that was totally out of touch with reality.

I also learned first hand that Soviet propaganda, combined with the tight controls on travel and dialogue outside the borders of the Soviet Union, did impact the beliefs and understanding of the popu-

lation. During my first trip to the city of Nizhny Novgorod (formerly Gorky) in 1992, I was allowed several hours of rest before my first meeting of the day. I was staying at one of the best hotels (at the time) in this city of over one million people. It was a city that had been off limits to westerners during the Soviet era. Indeed, this city had been established during WWII in efforts to disburse the Soviet defense industry after Nazi Germany came close to capturing Moscow and Leningrad (St. Petersburg). Thinking I was in a large metropolitan city, I turned on the television and learned that my options were limited to three local channels. At that moment, my own perceptions were dictating what I expected. This being mid-afternoon, I expected the Russian versions of talk shows and soaps but what I saw almost sent me into cardiac arrest: all three channels were simultaneously air-

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Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the once proud Soviet military found itself with out the means to pay troops or put ships to sea, let alone maintain them. Many Soviet ships were stripped of anything valuable and left to rust or sink at their docks. Some, like the former Soviet aircraft carrier Varyag, the pride of the Soviet fleet, were put up for auction. Sold to China for a mere 20 million dollars, she underwent extensive renovations in China and is now set to enter service as China's first carrier, allowing China to project it military might far beyond its borders.



COLD WAR WARRIORS

ing hard-core, western pornographic movies!! I could not contain myself at the evening dinner and questioned a Russian friend about this. His reply: "We are just trying to be like you and that is what it is like in the West, isn't it?" We then had a most humorous discussion at the dinner table as I explained to them that such TV would never be tolerated on public television and certainly never during hours when our children would be home. This topic resulted in a long evening where both sides learned a great deal about each other. This experience

frequently left me wondering if the Russians saw me as having hidden horns in my forehead and a bifurcated tail- based solely on the propaganda they had received in the past?

More importantly and interesting to me, I watched and listened carefully over the next eight years of travel in the "new" Russia as the society made rapid steps forward in its quest for joining the Western World: shopping malls, convenience stores, varied and appropriate public television, quality consumer goods, automobiles that would run without venting exhaust fumes into the passenger compartment, etc. There were so many changes in a brief period of time that it made one's head spin. But you could see that the people of Russia were starved for the things - real and imagined- that they had been doing without in the Soviet state. This realization of the basic creature comforts they had been denied for so many years will have a strong impact on Mr. Putin's second term as President.

Wounded Pride

Throughout my travels in Russia, I was constantly impressed by the achievements of these humble people throughout modern history. Despite the purges under the Tsars, Lenin, and especially Stalin - a new intellectual class would inevitably rise up, grow and lead the nation into the forefront of modern science. Likewise, the Russian people impressed the world with their achievements in the arts, sport and other fields of human endeavor. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, many Russians and other nationalities of the former Soviet republics have been left with a deep sense of bitterness and resentment at being relegated, by much of the Western World, to the ranks of a third world country. If one were to judge Russia by its creature comforts and general standard of living (except for the privileged Communist Party bosses) I would have to agree that Russia resembles a third world country. The one thing that set the Soviet Union apart from other nations, was its massive military arsenal- especially its nuclear forces. Much of the former Soviet military forces have declined in both quality and quantity since the demise of the Soviet Union. This is due in large measure to their lack of funding support from the new Russian government. Nevertheless, the Russian Cold War military arsenal remains a very real concern for

global peace and security- especially when left in the hands of unpredictable, old-style leaders.

In this regard, I will never forget one of the most memorable events I ever experienced in my travels to Russia. During a late fall trip in 1997, I was invited to attend a very special dinner in Moscow hosted by a close Russian friend. I only recognized the importance of the event when I arrived and found that I was the only foreigner among the 10 to 12 people in attendance at a formal birthday, dinner party. At least two of the guests at this dinner were heads of Russian ministries but the one who really caught my eye was Valeri Kubassov, - the Flight Engineer from the Soviet SOYUZ space mission in 1975, which had rendezvoused and mated with the American APOLLO capsule.

All eyes turned towards me early at this event, to measure my response to the things that were being said and to the fact that they included fond memories of the USSR in their toasts. I also was in awe of the people and events that were being described and raised my small but all-important shot glass to respond to their toasts. This small act on my part noticeably affected the atmosphere and issues discussed during the remainder of the dinner. My only regret was that I could not have recorded that dinner's conversations! It would have made a marvelous book in its own right.

While my dinner companions expressed a longing for past Soviet achievements and pride in the role they had played in such momentous events- they expressed no bitterness towards me. They seemed to understand that the "good times" could not have continued considering the waste and corruption they had so frequently witnessed. Old Soviet, hard-liners such as Vladimir Putin, however, carry a much deeper resentment over their seeming loss of power within the society.

Survival Above All Else

If one word can be used to describe life's goal in Russia through the ages, it would have to be "survival." For centuries, the Russian people have been subjected to invasion, domination and suffering through horrible acts of brutality perpetrated by foreigners- the Mongols, the Turks, Swedes, French and Germans, among others. The binding force that unified Russians against these outside aggressors came in the 1700's, but life under the elite Tsars, then the Communist Party Bosses, often left the Russian citizens wondering which was better, the outside hordes or the oppressors controlling every aspect of their lives from within? During the early chaos that followed the demise of the Soviet Union, the crime rate rose dramatically and this helps explain why many citizens had a desire for the relative stability of Communism and the Stalinist way of doing things- even though they knew that 20 million innocent Russians perished in the "purges" of the Stalinist era.

During my trial, the one person I despised was "Glavny (Chief)

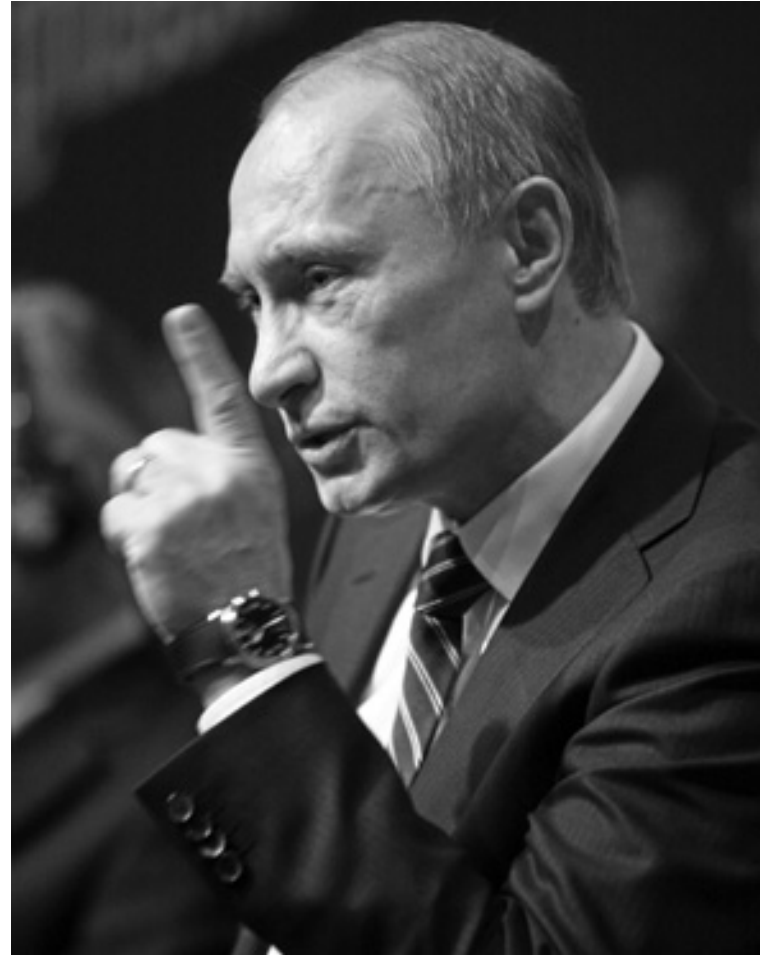
Judge Comrade Nina Barkova", the senior jurist in a three-judge panel overseeing my case. Comrade Barkova appeared to be a genuine hard-liner. She addressed everyone by the Soviet habit of preceding a name or title with "Tovarishch" (Comrade). I was Comrade Defendant. I was represented by Comrade Chief Defense Attorney and Comrade Assistant Defense Attorney and so on. She did exhibit several traits, however, which in retrospect make me believe that she was under severe pressure from her superiors to make the trial keep to the script they had given her. Every once in a while, she would make comments or give orders that almost made her appear human and compassionate, but then she would quickly revert to the inevitable puppet role she had been ordered to play. By sheer accident, it just so happened that my senior attorney, Pavel Ashtakov, and I both spoke Swedish. Just to irritate Comrade Glavny Judge Barkova- one day Pavel and I began speaking to each other in Swedish during a break. After listening to us for a couple of minutes, she flew into a rage and demanded that we tell her what we were talking about. Naturally, she did not believe our answer and became even more irate. She then ordered us to stop our conversations immediately and threatened us with "special treatment" back at Lefortovo Prison if we did not cease immediately. The pressure she appeared to be under did seem to take its toll. On several Monday mornings of the trial, she looked like she had spent the entire weekend swimming in a pool of vodka and sleeping in a pigpen. On these days, she would be in a particularly foul mood so we would avoid any actions that we thought would irritate her. On days in which she looked and acted like her normal, "commissar" self, we had a stable of subtle ways and actions that we enjoyed using just to watch her blood pressure spike. We knew that she would not be allowed to step out of line too much or her superiors would come down hard on her. She was merely "surviving" under conditions she had lived with in the Soviet system.

Standard of Living and Human Rights

A society's standard of living must be judged by what is available and how it could be improved. Living in a closed society, the "standard" is what the leadership allows you to know. A frequent subject of Russian humor goes something like this:

The Tsar/Commissar/Comrade asks, "What color is that building?" and the immediate and automatic reply from the Russian citizen is "Whatever color you would like it to be!"

Upon completion of my trial, which they would only allow after the 2000 Bush-Gore election was resolved- my guilty verdict was read and I was immediately taken back to Lefortovo Prison. That night at 10:00 p.m. the warden of the pris-



Russian President Vladimir Putin

on called me into his office and told me "You must write a letter to President Putin immediately" requesting a pardon. He seemed rather nervous and actually helped draft the letter. Then, as I sat in his office waiting, the letter was faxed to the Kremlin. Early the next morning, Mr. Putin forwarded the letter to a special "Pardons Commission" that had been established by Boris Yeltsin to expedite release of political prisoners from the "gulags." This commission took only two days to review my case and then held a public news conference announcing they saw no indications of spying but they did detect "old Soviet spy-mania" in my case. The Pardons Commission urged that I be released and allowed to return home "immediately." Indeed, three days later I was released and taken directly to Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport for a special flight to Germany and freedom. Ironically, the pardon system that had released close to one-quarter of a million prisoners under Yeltsin and another several thousand during Putin's first few months as President, was disbanded shortly after my pardon. I am the last person ever released under the auspices of the Pardons Commission. While these incidents now appear amusing to me- they were not so funny as I sat locked in an iron cage in a Russian courtroom a decade ago.

More importantly for the people of Russia, these conflicts - old and new - will continue to shape their lives for many years to come.

Mr. Putin will continue to employ the methods of the old, but I believe the people of Russia have grown far too sophisticated and well informed to go along with his ways.

Where these signals could lead

I have intentionally avoided a discussion of the tensions in our own country that are at the highest levels I've ever seen in my lifetime. The burgeoning debt crisis perhaps is the most ominous. I personal-

ly saw what happened in Russia in 1998 and see it as an omen of what could happen here - if we do not take the similar warnings seriously.

Regarding today's Russia, facing another tenure with Vladimir Putin at the helm, I foresee some conflict internally and engineered tension in their international relations.

A few of the more significant issues facing Russia would include the following:

- Putin's call for a stronger military can only be afforded when oil is at a price close to \$130 a barrel. Increased funding for the military like Mr. Putin wants will impact civil programs and infrastructure rebuilding, which Russia desperately needs to make up for more than 70 years of virtual neglect. He will also attempt to squeeze more tax revenue from the working public, which will not be taken lightly.
- Any tightening of human rights and personal freedoms will not be welcomed by the people of Russia. Neither will any return to the "old ways" be accepted by Russia's new middle class- a dynamic and thoroughly modern part of Russian society.
- The people of Russia are well aware of Putin's record of corruption, fraud, abuse of power, graft, etc. from his earlier stint as President and fully expect more of the same.
- Putin will use a stronger position of support for rogue nations such as Syria, North Korea, Venezuela, and Iran - primarily to further establish a counter position to the U.S. and the West.
- Mr. Putin has learned some bitter lessons from his first term, but will continue to seek confrontation with the West and the U.S. in particular at every opportunity. It is his nature.

To read past editions of *Cold War Warriors* visit the Authors' section of emmitsburg.net.

STAGES OF LIFE

Mom's Time-out

Mary Angle

The other day my husband and I were discussing something that really didn't even matter and realized how differently we felt about it than we had in the past. It wasn't so much the topic we were discussing as the stage of life we were in that had affected our viewpoint on the matter. That led me to think about all of the stages of life a woman goes through and further contemplate how my kids stages of life so greatly affected my husband and I and the decisions we would make in our lives

When I was little girls there was nothing I couldn't do. If I wanted to be girly I could, if I wanted to climb a tree and play baseball with the boys, I could. For me,

as I got older, I was expected to be more feminine. I was expected to show a little more of that girly side. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoyed playing dress-up, it was just a more mature form of dress-up. I was no longer sneaking into moms closet to walk around in her heels; I was buying my own for my first grown up job. I experienced puppy love and teenage crushes and went to college and had a whole separate set of hills and valleys, but this is all what made up my youth.

Then I moved on to my mid-twenties and graduated from college and was now in the "real" world. I had my first real job in the social work field and thought I would change the world. I was interested in dating but really had no prospects. Then along

came my husband (or would-be husband). We met at work and started dating...it was great. We went out to dinner all the time, eventually became engaged and then finally married. We didn't have a care in the world and were completely content (keep in mind that I was terrified of babies). We traveled, not as much as we should have, but as much as we had the time and money for. This was the early years of marriage and this was the stage when there weren't too many cares in life. The biggest worries in this stage of life, for my husband and I, was simply getting used to living with another.

This was the point when everything changed! I decided I wanted to try the biggest fear of my life and have a baby (preferably one without a wobbly head). My husband took a little longer to get on the baby train but eventually it happened. We became parents for the first time when I was 28 and I can honestly say that nothing has ever been the same. Our days of travelling whenever we wanted were gone. We traded travel for diapers, a stroller and sleepless nights. Our quiet evenings were exchanged for taking turns holding the baby or changing diapers and I most definitely became the mom who lived up to the saying, "early to bed, early to rise". Only it turned out that with a new baby you were rising frequently throughout the night. Compound the lack of sleep with the nerve damage I had from giving birth and there were times when the new parents thought they were crazy for deciding to have a baby. This is the first baby stage of life, and some women stop here and find that as their only child gets older thing become much easier. Then there are those of us who jump into the



next stage all too willingly.

The next stage in my life was the multiple children stage. I word it this way because at this point there isn't much difference between two or four. Actually, my husband and I both agree that two to three and three to four were very similar. It was moving from one to two that was more of a culture shock. The only shock from three to four was that we were suddenly outnumbered and when I went out alone with the kids I didn't have enough hands to keep them in tow. Having four kids actually comes with its own set of stages but with regards to my husband and me it affects what our worries and concerns are depending on the ages of the

kids. With little babies I really didn't worry much except maybe about basic health issues like ear infections, colds, and with my kids' croup. But as they get older, yes teenagers, it is way more worrisome. Whether it is school issues or emotional issues or, I can't even say it...issues of the opposite sex, the issues are just bigger and way more serious. Even the less serious issues are way more serious to a teenager. Add to the teenage drama all of the extracurricular activities involved in having four kids, all the homework, four different schools, and lions and tigers and bears...oh my!! So far this stage in my life is by far the hardest and most emotionally draining.

Some evenings when the kids are in bed and we have a few moments to talk uninterrupted, before I pass out from exhaustion, we smile at the joys we are experiencing in this stage of our lives. Every once in a while we will imagine what it will be like when the kids are grown and out of the house. This is the stage we don't usually totally agree on. My husband sees a couple of condos in different locations and us travelling more than we ever have in our lives. I see us in the same house, because there is room for the kids and grandkids to come visit, paying off the second mortgage we had to take out to pay for college. Truth be told I hope we find a happy medium between our two visions and I hope we have a blast enjoying all the stage between now and then. Life is a stage...enjoy the show!

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

A TEEN'S VIEW

Second chance, last chance



Kat Dart

In a lot of ways, a college visit is like a job interview, with the potential student as an employer and the college as a job applicant. They have one shot at making a good enough impression to inspire a student to apply.

Some colleges focus on how grandiose and beautiful and ornate their campus is. Some focus on the surrounding sites – the history, the social life, the nearby cities. More focus on all the extra things they have for their students, such as clubs and organizations and their Division-1 teams. And some focus on the core of their purpose – their educational standards.

But really, when searching for something, it's the small things that count. In the span of forty eight hours, I toured three colleges, each very different.

One led us on a tour through their smaller-than-average campus, pointing out fun facts and showing off their fun programs, like their fashion design buildings and full gym, and told us about the off-campus places to visit and how easy it was to travel on a weekend to major cities.

The second led us on a tour through their absolutely gorgeous and utterly stunning campus, point-

ing out their major rebuilds and showing off their latest-and-greatest technology they used. They showed us the gorgeous scenery they were located by, how peaceful a town they were located in.

The third? They showed us how very institute-like their campus was. It was majestic but not really beautiful in a way the other campuses were. They focused heavily on their core education and stressed that they were not a "nerdy school" but a serious one with some fun activities outside of school.

At the end of the visits, I decided that the first and third colleges were definitely on my "apply-to" list and the second was most definitely not. Really, what made the difference?

The tour guides for one thing. Both the first college and the thirds had excited guides who were quickly throwing out interesting facts about their respective colleges, such as pranks pulled or interesting events that happened.

The second college's tour guide was almost rehearsed and speaking from memory, and honestly didn't seem interested in what she was saying.

The second thing was the student body. And the first college, there were students screaming "WOOOOOO COLLEGE" from halfway across the campus, or yelling at us to apply to them.

The third college would tell us about student-hosted events, such as throwing liquid-nitrogen pumpkins off the roof of a twenty-story building at Halloween.

The second was, in a lot of ways, just dead feeling. No one talked to us except the guide, no school pride was really shown. It almost felt like we were in the way on our tour.

The small things made the biggest

difference, and really influenced my decisions (for now). There was never anything bad at each college, some were just better than others in different ways, and each had its own traits to look into and make decisions over.

I left the college visits, driving back to Maryland, and having a discussion with my Dad about each college I liked, didn't like, why, and what I was applying to. At that moment, I knew exactly what I was doing in six months, where I was applying, what tests I needed to take, what classes I needed to schedule.

I was so sure for each of my deci-

sions, and I had that moment where I was positive that I knew what I wanted to do and where I wanted to go, and I had made a million plans on how to get there and I was SO READY to get started...

...and then another college pushed its way into the picture, carrying neon-colored banners saying "Look at Me!" in bright letters, and my mom informed me that she wanted me to visit it.

So, all I was left with is a few opinions, an incomplete decision process, and reprioritizing, and a lovely phrase one of my teachers taught me echoes through my mind. "Starting all over again..."

I suppose, in a way, there are a lot of things that I do now that are simi-

lar to the college process. There are always a lot of factors that help make a decision, a lot of small things that solidify it. The little dumb things make the biggest difference, the large things form a general opinion.

It's like friends. They are all a lot different, different interests and personalities and sometimes you wonder how you get along with them. It's because of their little personality quirks – that person who knows your coffee order, or just comes up to you every day to say "hi." The little traits that make them special are what stick out in the end.

To read other articles by Kat Dart, visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Emmitsburg Elementary

We are now entering our last full month of school for this school year. It is an exciting time for our students and staff. Our students will be taking field trips to extend their learning outside of the school building. May also brings our annual Community Play Day.

Going on a field trip is a highlight to each student's year. This year all of our grade level field trips are taking place in the spring. Our second and third graders attended a production at the Weinberg Center in Frederick on March 29th, right before spring break. It is a wonderful experience for the students to see a live performance in a beautiful setting such as the Weinberg Center. Our first graders have just visited the new Catocin Creek Nature Center in Middletown.

They experienced this beautiful, new resource on Arbor Day. Our kindergarten students participated in a Community Tree Planting on Arbor Day, as well. The Town of Emmitsburg graciously donated the tree for our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten recess area. The shade tree will be greatly appreciated.

Both the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students will get to spend more time learning about science when they go on their field trips. Our pre-kindergarten students will be visiting Explore and More in Gettysburg. They will have the opportunity to understand how things work by visiting this hands-on children's museum. The kindergarten students will be traveling to Fountain Rock Park and Nature Center

in Walkersville. The students will observe and learn about animal and plant species that are native to Frederick County.

The two big field trips are reserved for our fourth and fifth graders. The fourth graders will be touring Annapolis for an extended day trip. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to visit the state capital where laws are made. They will also spend time exploring The Naval Academy. This is a fun field trip that students talk about for years. Our fifth graders get to tour another capital. They are going to Washington, DC. They will tour the city and make a stop at the National Archives. This extended day field trip is also a very memorable day for our students. These field trips provide a real-life connection to the information that they learn in school.

Our Community Play Day will occur on Wednesday, May 30th this year. We welcome community members and community leaders to join us as the children enjoy this day of supervised activities. One of the highlights of this day is the students having lunch and using the playground equipment at the Community Park. This is also one of those memories that last a lifetime. We would like to thank the Town of Emmitsburg and the community members and organizations who have donated to make this day special for our students.

On another note, Mrs. Charlene Rippeon, math teacher at Emmitsburg was honored by the Thurmont Lions Club as being the EES Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Mrs. Rippeon!

Good things happen at Emmitsburg Elementary every day.

Emmitsburg Elementary School Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child who will be age 4 or 5 on or before September 1, 2012 and you live in the Emmitsburg area? If so, it is time to register your child for Pre-K and Kindergarten at Emmitsburg Elementary School. Registration will begin on Thursday, March 1st and continue daily from 9:00 to 3:00, each day that schools are open. If you are registering for Pre-K, you will need to bring the child's birth certificate, proof of residency, proof of immunizations and income documentation to be copied and included in the child's registration file. If you are registering for Kindergarten, please bring the child's birth certifi-

cate, proof of residency, and proof of immunizations. The following documents may be used to provide proof of residency: lease agreement, utility bill (electric, water, gas) or a tax bill. Income documentation that is requested for Pre-Kindergarten registration can be any one of the following: three consecutive pay stubs from the past six months, a W2 form showing the prior year's earnings, a letter from an employer or social services agency (on letterhead) stating the applicant's family income, or foster care documentation. If you have any questions or need more information, please call 240-236-1750 and ask for Ms. Golightly.

Come Join the Fun at the Emmitsburg Library

The Emmitsburg Branch Library is located at 300 South Seton Avenue. Phone: 301-600-6329. For more information and to register for programs, visit the library website at www.fcpl.org.

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THURSDAYS

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@ 10:30 am

Celebrate a love of reading through books, music, and activities.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 3

@ 5:00 pm

Teen Board Game

Recycled Books

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Saturday, May 5

@ 10:00 am

Annual Friends of the Library Plant Exchange

Expand your garden by exchanging plants with other collectors!

Saturday, May 12

@ 11:00 am

Bird Nest Fest

Create your very own bird nest filled with chirping chicks.

Monday, May 21

@ 4:00 pm

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Mother Seton school students SPELL their way to the top of the class

Mother Seton School's Annual Spelling Bee for grades four, five and six was held Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in the school auditorium. Samantha Mariano, a fifth grader in Mrs. Vines's class won first place by spelling the word exaggerate. Samantha is the daughter of David and Snow Anderson of Littlestown, PA. Second place was won by Michael Kiley, son of Michael and Laura Kiley of Taneytown, MD, and a sixth grader in Mrs. Kuykendall's class. Winners from each class competed in the final contest. As

first place winner, Samantha will compete in the Archdiocese Spelling Bee to be held May 8 in Baltimore, MD. Kiley will be the alternate if Mariano is unable to complete. Congratulations to all of the great spellers who competed!

The annual Spelling Bee is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore Department of Catholic Schools, the Integrated Language Arts Curriculum Committee, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers.

Mother Seton School (MSS) trac-

es its roots to a small school begun in 1810 by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native-born citizen of the United States to become a canonized saint. MSS provides affordable, faith and family centered education for students in Pre-K through Grade 8. Scholarships and daily bus transportation to the modern Emmitsburg campus are available and applications are currently being accepted for fall. For more information or to donate to financial aid for children in need, please visit www.mothersetonschool.org.



Won't you be our friend?

Stephanie Long

At the Emmitsburg Branch Library we rely on a lot of different sources and volunteers to help keep things going. One vital group of volunteers that has been around for many years to serve the library and its patrons are the Friends of the Emmitsburg Branch Library.

The Friends of Emmitsburg Branch Library is a non-profit organization of public spirited citizens who believe in the value of public library service. The Friends help fund library-run events, but is independent from the Frederick County Public Libraries. FOLEB, as we affectionately refer to the group, has been helping the library for many years with various fundraisers and volunteer support. All of the money FOLEB raises goes directly the Emmitsburg Branch Library and helps fund the various programs the library puts on.

In that spirit, FOLEB will once again be hosting their Annual Friends of the Library Plant Sale on May 5 from 10 AM to 1 PM. This is an event everyone looks forward to and all you have to do is bring a plant to swap or make a donation in order to take a plant home. All proceeds benefit the Emmitsburg Branch Library. According to Susan Cardella, my coworker who heads up the plant sale, the sale is in its tenth year and there are going to be quite a few unique plants and shrubbery at the sale this year.

Cicero once said, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need" and I couldn't agree more. For if you have a garden and a library you can feed both your body and mind for life, so why not come out and join us on May 5. Wait, what was that? You don't have a green thumb? Don't worry, we have a large selection of gardening books and magazines you can checkout to ensure that your new plant survives.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Small Space Gardening

Herb Gardening from the Ground Up

Small Space Container Gardens

Quick and Easy Curb Appeal What Makes Heirloom Plants So Great

Organic Gardening (Magazine)

If gardening isn't your cup of tea but you are still interested in be-

coming a member of FOLEB they will hold a meeting on May 15 at 6:45 PM at the library. There are many different activities the friends participate in and they are always looking for willing community members to join their group.

Recently FOLEB helped sponsor a mini golf event in the library and was able to raise over \$60 for the library. Over 30 library patrons played a round or

two of golf at the nine-hole golf course that was set up throughout the library and FOLEB has decided to make the event an annual occurrence.

This summer FOLEB will also be helping to sponsor our annual Summer Reading Program, which runs from May to August. This years theme for children aged Birth through fifth grade is Dream Big READ! For those entering sixth grade and older the theme is "Own the Night". All throughout the summer we have programs planned to coincide with the theme and keep

the kids and teens of Emmitsburg busy. Check out my column next month for a full breakdown of our Summer Reading Program and all of the programs we will be holding at the library. Just a reminder, the library will be closed all day May 27 and May 28 in honor of Memorial Day. If you have any questions about the above mentioned programs or any other programs, please call the branch at 301-600-6329 or visit fcpl.org for more information and we hope to see you at our next FOLEB meeting!



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Freshman Year

How college has changed me

Kyle Ott

It's hard to believe but the adventure of college is almost over. The snow and cold which held Mount St. Mary's in its icy grip has all but faded from our memories, and even now the mild touch of spring is slowly giving way to the humid grasp of summer. For many of us, the year marks an end to classwork, and the return to our lives at home. Regardless of how the year ends things will certainly be changing for all of us. Whether we'll be moving into the workforce, grad school, or back on campus next year, how we let those changes alter us will play a fundamental role in our lives. As a member of the freshman class and a brand new member of the Mount Community, I have the privilege of realizing how this year has changed my life. In an effort to give some of the limited wisdom I've gained, here's a list of some important college lessons.

4. Be like the water

Bruce Lee couldn't have been more right when he said to "be like the water." While Mr. Lee was referring to the fluid style of kung-fu that required constant skill, motion, and precision, his advice can be easily applied to the social karate of college life. One of the things that's changed about me is that I've become like water when it comes to my friends. On any given day I can be found hanging out with my hall-mates on the third floor of Pangborn Hall chilling or watching a movie. Or I could be practicing songs with the choir or, working in the Office of Social Justice. The people I'm with fluctuate in a way that would not have happened in high school. In the past I would have been way too scared about constantly moving about, but here at Mount the fact that I share a common bond with so many people has allowed me to, as Henry David Thoreau

said, to "suck the marrow out of life."

3. Take the plunge.

College is inherently scary. You pack everything you own in a van and are forced to adapt to a new life. And you know something? It completely rocks. Never be afraid to live college like you could drop dead at any second, because it's a place of unbridled opportunity, and all that's required is for you to reach out and grab it. In college I got a chance to travel to Canada with the Mount Chorale, and perform on stage as Don Juan in the Delaplaine Theater. Yes, there were times when I was scared of failure or embarrassment, but I overcame that fear and my life is better for it.

2. Work.

This is a lesson that while self-explanatory, should be addressed, and readdressed. The college experience has been exhilarating, and enlightening. However, it has also been hard, requiring an equal amount of work to be put in for all the fun that you get out. In high school I would procrastinate for days on end, whip out

a simple assignment in no time at all and get a good grade. If I tried that here at Mount I would get laughed at. If there's something to be learned from school it is that, when something needs to be done, do it. Work until it fits, not only the parameters of the assignment, but the image of perfection that you hold in your mind. A running joke among my friends is that I'm married to the library, and, while funny, it's true. When I sit at my desk on the second floor I don't leave until I'm completely satisfied that what I've produced is a quality piece of work.

1. Learn from the Frisbee.

Ok, so I know a lot of you are probably scratching your heads in confusion at this last one, but I swear that there is a lot you can learn from that humble flying disk. The piece of knowledge I gleaned from the Frisbee is that it's ok to put out an idea that may seem stupid or absurd at the time. Imagine being one of the first people to use a Frisbee. Before it became an instant classic the name Frisbee was embossed on the bottoms of pie tins. But

somewhere, someone said, "you know what, these pie tins can fly?" And yes, I'm positive that people probably thought he was crazy, but today the name Frisbee is known as being a staple of college life, instead of something in the dessert aisle. The same lesson can be applied to anyone. I've become like the Frisbee. I've lost that intrinsic fear of my ideas being viewed as ridiculous, and I've become unafraid to share who I am. Yes, I sometimes trip over my words. But there are times when what I've said has made a difference and those more than make up for any momentary period of foolishness.

So there you have it, the changes that college has had on me turned into lessons straight from the trenches. Hopefully the things I've learned will set you on your own path to self-discovery. I leave you with a quote from the Father of Philosophy, Socrates, who said: "the unexamined life is not worth living." I'm Kyle Ott; won't you read for a while?

To read more articles by Kyle, please visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore Year

Overture

Carolyn Shields

Change at the Mount? I'd like to think that nothing can change this little university on the side of the mountain. I would like to believe that the only thing that changes are the students that walk on its campus for four years, but I would be wrong.

The Mount has definitely kept its charm, but it's so beautiful that I don't want a single finger to touch it. I think it's perfect as it is. If it were up to me, I'd keep the rolling green fields as farmers from a hundred years ago made them. I wouldn't fill it with giant solar panels that collect ener-

gy for something. I would keep the rustic and worn down Honors Lounge where my dad used to have a beer at the bar with friends twenty years ago, and not convert it into another dorm for the ever growing number of freshmen. I would have kept the library—the one place on campus where silence was welcomed—just that, silent.

But if there's something I had to learn since coming here, it's that change is good. Jacques Philippe says in "Interior Freedom" that if we cease changing, if we cease growing, then we stop living. I want to dedicate the rest of this article to my oldest sister, Kathy, who's going to receive her diploma and a lot of change in two weeks.

For those like me, change is normally something that I avoid. It can stem from choices that we must make, but more often than not it comes from something that leaves no choice. Oftentimes, according to this Philippe fellow, there are fundamental features in

our lives that we never choose at all like our parents or our sex. And there's something to be said about that. But I'm limited to a thousand words. The fear of change, for me at least, comes from my fear of making decisions.

But what's great is to know that God has our interests in mind, Kathy. He's not going to drastically change something that we can't live with or without. So we have to be open to God's will, which is hard, obviously. Being receptive to His will is also kind of scary because we are afraid that Christ is going to whisper, "Great. Now that you are finally listening, I want you to go to the jungles of Africa and evangelize." But He won't ask something of us that will make us forever miserable. "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you" (Isaiah 43:4). Does that sound like a God who is going to ask us to live miserable lives forever? No, but we still need to trust Him because He knows what is best for us. We aren't all called to be heroes, missionaries, and warriors, but we are all called to be saints. A saint is the stuff of legends.

But I love moments when time ceases moving forward, and a midnight with friends is just that. When my friends have a dance party late at night and the guys in their ties form a brotherhood line and do the can-can. When at 2 a.m., we find ourselves at the Lincoln Diner in Gettysburg, rolling our eyes at the drunk woman hitting on our guy friends, and then minutes later they are slurping syrup from a spoon. When change is in the back of my mind and a choice is just something to be made down the road. And Kathy is right there next to me throughout it all.

But she's graduating this month and is about to walk across a stage for the final time. It was a long journey for her, and my sister is leaving the Mount a completely different person than the one she entered it. Kathy has kept her laugh (though in sisterly mockery, I call it her cackle), and her faith has strengthened tremendously. Mostly our relationship has changed once we started sharing the same friends, and we still fall on each other as safety zones at parties or whatever, but our independence has grown enormously as well. We've each become our own woman.

I can't believe that after twenty-one years together, after all we've been through, that she is about to start another bigger adventure without me. We had Daddy snuggle with us each Sunday night, and we stood on the front porch and cried together when we watched the same Daddy leave for Iraq. We suffered through miserable years of high school together, each putting on a false smile for the other to get the other one through it. I like how we are honest about school now,

though, and genuinely love it, and how we went from twirling little girls in lace dresses singing "God Bless the Outcasts," to her punching out half of my tooth, to super late nights out, to finding ourselves kissing the Blarney Stone, to recent license excitement...all of this with change interwoven between.

Not many sisters go to the same college, but without her guidance through these two years I've had here I probably wouldn't have half the friends I do now. And these past two years together have been our best. I think the main way I made friends my first few months last year was by being associated with her. She was the one who nudged me out of my comfort zone. I don't tell her I'm thankful enough for even the dumbest of our memories.

Kathy, I could never be the oldest sister, not with all the careless things I do without considering others in my actions, but you are able to balance freedom and family, unlike me. It's beautiful how much you care for us. Concerning your heart, remember Dante's words: "In His will is our peace." By submission, we are free. You don't need a diamond, and you don't need a life plan because the present moment is the point of time that touches eternity. Your knees are already worn, but keep pouring out your heart to Christ. People should be thoroughly honored to be your friend, to be a part of your life, and I don't know what I would have done if you weren't my voice for the years when I was petrified to whisper. Mostly, I love you.

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

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CHANGES WE HAVE WITNESSED

Junior Year

So much has changed...

Samantha Stub

I look at the freshmen lying out on the quad, and my mind floats away to another world where I had time to lie out on the grass and in the sunshine. Between all of the running from West Frederick Middle School to the Mount and back again every day, along with my job, homework and lesson planning, there is no time to sleep, much less lie out enjoying the sunshine. I can't help but get lost in the memories over the past three years. Once I realize that I have been at the Mount for three years and have all those precious memories, I'm struck by how fast time has flown by and how much has changed...

I can easily remember shaking with nervous excitement as I brought bag after bag into my new room in Sheridan Hall on move-in day freshman year. I remember not believing that I was done with high school and that I was really in college. I couldn't imagine living on my own, but my concerns were more about wondering if I would be able to get out of bed on time to get to class without my mom

coming to wake me up. Freshman year was about meeting new people and enjoying the social life of constantly staying up until 2 a.m., doing absolutely nothing or doing a paper that was due the next morning. It was a whole new experience of being responsible for myself and not having anyone tell me what I had to do. I was free to make my own decisions and go where I wanted when I wanted to go there.

Sophomore year brought new responsibilities and lessons to be learned. I still loved the independence that I had at college. The summer after freshman year brought about fights with my parents about where I was going and how late I was out. They had no idea that at college I'm out so much later...I had to adjust to living with rules and guidelines after not having them for a year. Once I adjusted, I had a much more relaxing summer, but I couldn't wait to get back to the Mount. Once there, things became a little busier. Classes became a new challenge as they started to be more focused on my major, though I loved the challenge because I was finally taking courses that I was ac-

tually really interested in. I still had some difficulty with some of the core classes, which now have all changed into the Veritus program. Too bad that wasn't in place when first came here; I could have possibly had a higher GPA. Everything happens for a reason though; I'm a well-rounded person now because of the core. I became more involved in extracurricular activities like the Mount Ambassador, field hockey, and Big Sister programs, and I worked a lot more. I felt that I had better control over my life, as everything was going well with new opportunities that I never expected. Looking back, I can see it was my know-it-all sophomore mentality because I was not prepared for what was coming the following year.

As I rush past the freshmen lying in the grass without a care in the world, I'm professionally dressed, thinking about my middle schoolers. I realize that in my junior year I have a completely different mindset than I did the past two years. Though I still struggle with getting out of bed in the morning—I don't think that will ever go away—I realize that I have grown into a different person. I'm not concerned about all of the pointless drama that seemed to run my life when I wasn't doing coursework. I'm done with that immature mentality. I'm worried about my friends and the

people that truly matter in life. I'm worrying about my students, making sure that I'm teaching them in a way that will be beneficial for them. I always seem to be looking for ways that will explain concepts to them in the best way possible. My teacher mentality has gotten so bad that I couldn't even read and watch *The Hunger Games* without my teacher eye coming out. I made the connections between the plot of the novel, real life and the practical and moral lessons that develop throughout the novel. Such as, the dramatic contrast between the ways that the controlling society (Gamemakers) see themselves to how we have an idealistic view of ourselves and the values that we hold in high regard. It is a different perspective that I still need to get used to, but I guess that means I chose the correct career. I'm a different person with my teacher-mentality perspective.

The roller coaster that I have been on has taught me that life will constantly change and I just have to learn to have the "serenity to accept the things that I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference." Life will constantly throw new challenges and obstacles in your face, and you just have to learn to roll with the punches. I have different prior-

ities in life now than I did even just a year ago. One such example is, knowing that I have to focus more on academics' and my internship instead of participating as much in my extracurricular activities field hockey and horse-back-riding. It is all a part of life's roller coaster that we have been blessed to be on. I realized that though I still constantly worry about everything and wonder if I will ever be able to get everything done on time, that these things are not the memories that I will think of first. When you look back on your college experience, or any experience for that matter, you remember the priceless moments, whether they are serious or completely ridiculous. It is about the times you stayed up all night watching movies, playing cards, and being insane. It is about finally experiencing something that you have only ever dreamed of. Those are the things that will take you back down memory lane.

I look back over my years at the Mount and can't help but realize how far we have come...and how much things have changed along the way. I'm almost done with my junior year of college... I only have two semesters left...Yikes! Where did the time go? Well...let's make it count!

Senior year...gulp...deep breath... here we go....

Senior Year

Thank you!

Julia Mulqueen

I am sitting in my room at the Mount. The sun is shining brilliantly in the sky. The grass is lush; leaves are gently rustling in the breeze. I cannot help but feel a little blue as I write this, my last article for the "Senior Year" column. It was just two years ago that I sent Michael Hillman a letter that landed me this job. It was just three years ago that I completed my freshman year at the Mount, and it was just four years ago that I visited the Mount to check out the ROTC program. Where has this time gone? How did it slip through my fingers? When this article goes to press, I will have just 12 days left here at Mount Saint Mary's.

So with this article, I will glance back over my past four years. I came to the Mount in August of 2008 with my parents and more stuff than any 17-year-old needs. They helped me move in and drove away-my mother with tears in her eyes. I loved my college classes, and I loved meeting so many new people. During the fall, I had to write a piece about myself for freshman seminar. I had just gone to our Commander's Introduction lab for ROTC. Sitting straight and tall but feeling nervous, I watched as the Cadet Battalion Commander introduced himself. When I returned to

campus to finish writing my paper for freshman seminar, I included a new goal of mine: to become the Battalion Commander when I became a senior.

My first semester flew by; soon it was springtime at the Mount. I could barely focus on my studies. Every day was a new opportunity to explore the mountain, study in the sun, or just relax with my friends. I feared the approach of summer, because I knew I would miss the Mount and all of the people I had met terribly.

Summer proved to be a nice time to relax with my family and catch up on the sleep I had missed during my first two semesters. Little did I know when I returned to the Mount in the fall of 2009 that exciting changes would come my way. For my first three semesters at the Mount, I had been a biology major in the hopes of eventually going to medical school. My sophomore philosophy class completely changed my mind. After reading Aquinas and Augustine, I realized that I no longer wanted to be a trauma surgeon; I wanted to be a

Theologian. Two days before the end of add-drop week, I changed every single one of my courses. I had already taken one German course, so I decided I could fit another in for my spring semester and become a double major in Theology and German. I also signed up for a month abroad in Salzburg, Austria.

The summer in Austria proved to be extraordinary, and I soon returned to the Mount for the third time. The thought of my junior year made my stomach churn; I knew that in just a few short months I would fly to Fort Lewis for the ultimate test of my Army prowess. The year was difficult. I was carrying a heavy course load: 21 credits, and I felt continuous pressure from myself to do well. In case it has not been evident in my articles up to this point, I am a little bit neurotic about everything I do. I constantly try to better myself, but sometimes this leads to me burning myself out. So by the time finals week of my junior year rolled around, my brain felt like a mass of soggy bread sitting in my skull. The summer sun washed over me, but I continued to worry about going to Fort Lewis. That month was the most difficult, but most rewarding,

month of my life. I wrote about it earlier this year in a series called "Conquering LDAC."

Soon, it was time for my fourth and last trip back to Mount Saint Mary's. I loaded up my new MINI Cooper and set off. Life was calm; my senior year had finally arrived. When I reached Emmitsburg, my phone rang. It was our Professor of Military Science calling to tell me I would be the Battalion Commander for the year. My face broke into a giant smile; I had reached my goal.

And now, as commissioning and graduation quickly approach, I

realize I will soon reach two more goals. More importantly, I realize now that I can do nothing on my own. The only reason that I have been so successful in college and ROTC is that I have had a wealth of amazing supporters around me. I have a team of fans who have consistently helped me on this journey through school. So with this, my last article, I want to say thank you. Thank you for everything.

To read more articles by Julia, please visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE GRADUATE

The price of an education

Katelyn Phelan
MSM Class of 2011

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about education—not only because my job is to educate or because I'm taking an education class, but also because I've been reflecting over the last few years—what exactly have I learned in school and in my life? And what has been the cost?

Certainly I learned in school; I memorized facts and dates, patterns and techniques. I mastered responding to vague prompts and developing clear and concise prose. I wrote papers; I painted paintings; I studied for exams; I read books, essays, articles, and ramblings; I sat through hours upon hours of class; and I loved all of it. I loved living in the slightly artificial world of academia, with my primary concerns being whether I would finish my paper on Edith Wharton's Ethan Frome on that night or the next. The cost of this education was...um, a lot. With scholarships...it was still a lot, but I truly did learn so much.

Even so, the world of books and papers can only teach its students so much. And so I ventured to a different continent to interface with real people from a different background than my own. I spent three months in Florence, Italy talking with people from all over the world, seeing buildings constructed hundreds of years ago, and eating a lot of pasta. My immersion in this country was at once exhilarating and frustrating, but more importantly, it was intense-

ly educational. I left Europe with a self assurance that previously I did not possess. The price for this education? Again, a lot of money, especially because the worth of the dollar compared to the Euro, but the things I learned and did in Italy will certainly stay with me throughout my entire life.

That book learning and self assurance would be soon tested though, with my arrival at my first real job—Delone high school. This first year of teaching has taught me more in some ways than my own education or study abroad experience. I've had to rely on and develop skills and qualities which I previously possessed in varying amounts, some of which have been essential to my success thus far.

The first and perhaps most important one is patience. I have always considered myself a patient person, but let me tell you, patience is a necessary quality in education and it will be tried and tried again. When I explain an assignment once, twice, three times, and the kid who has been doodling on the cover of his ripping vocabulary book looks around bewildered and asks what he's supposed to do, it takes all of my self mastery to explain myself again. Of course patience is also needed when a student doesn't understand something and I have to explain it several times in different ways. This patience is much easier to have; I'll happily explain myself all day to someone who is having trouble understanding, but to the kid who ignores me and then

wants to know what's going on—it takes a truck-load of patience to deal with that.

Flexibility is also essential. This is a skill I'm 50/50 on. I like to think I'm flexible, but planning is also very important to me. I always like to have an idea of what's going on at any given time: what am I going to do that day, that weekend, next summer, the next five years...you get the picture. I like to have a vision of where I'm going and what I'm doing. Seemingly this is wonderful for teaching. You should always have a plan because it's not a good idea to walk into a room of teenagers without a single idea of what to do.

However, rigidity is a serious problem, because really, few things ever go according to plan. Maybe the periods are shortened and you suddenly can't fit everything into that day, or maybe when you present something the kids stare at you like you've sprouted two green furry heads and you spend ten minutes explaining what optimism and pessimism are, complete with detailed examples, which takes away time from the activity you had planned. Or, maybe you anticipated that they're going to have trouble with the difference between objective and subjective descriptions, but they grasp it easily and you're left with twenty extra minutes to fill. Flexibility with your school, your students, and yourself is essential to doing a good job and keeping your own sanity.

The things I've listed are some of the more frustrating aspects of teaching, which as May rolls in, seem to be coming about more often. Despite all of this, there are incredibly rewarding aspects of teaching, which I'm really enjoying. I love seeing students improve, whether it's in their study skills or in writing, any improve-



ment is a huge reward to a teacher. This satisfaction that comes from doing my job well is what keeps me coming back each day and trying my hardest.

Based on the ways I've grown personally and the things I've learned this year as a teacher, it's almost hard to believe that one year ago, I was holed up in the Mount's library contemplating Dostoevsky to finish my honors project and spending hours on end covered in oil paint as I tried to finish my senior art project. There are times when I really miss my immersion in classes these humanities classes, but there are huge perks to what I'm doing now.

For one, I'm a "real" adult now. I have responsibilities, get a regular (small) paycheck, and wake up at 6 a.m. every day. Okay, so the last point doesn't make me an adult, but sleeping in is one of the things I long for from college. Though

I still look like I could be in high school (as more people than I wish to count have told me or wrongfully assumed), I have entered the "real world." This real world, as you've read, has been a thrill, an accomplishment, a challenge, at times unwelcome, but an important step in my life nonetheless.

For the three and a half years I have written regularly about my daily life. When at the Mount I wrote about everything from classes to anxieties about the future. And thought it may seem like college students have the easiest life of all, there is that worry that lies on the horizon for every student: what am I going to do with my life and how am I going to get there? Especially in today's economy that's not an easy question, and it's something that plagued me during my years at the Mount. You've seen my solution at least for the present to the question "what's after graduation" and how it's turned out for me. I've taken you along some of the problems, anxieties, and joys of a first year teacher, and though I've learned that it's not possible to know what teaching is really like until you actually do it, I hope I've given you a taste.

This is my last article for the graduate column, and my last regular article, though I'll still be here and there around the paper. If you've been a faithful, sporadic, or even one-time reader, I thank you for listening to my thoughts and reflections. I also thank you for growing with me as I went from a junior year intern for the paper to a college graduate at her first job. I've loved writing for the paper and learning from it and you. In some ways, my education from the Emmitsburg News-Journal has been the best kind of all—it was free!

To read other articles by Katelyn Phelan visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

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TIME IS ON MY SIDE

Pros and cons of childhood milestones

Jackie Fennington
MSM Class of 2010

Let's get straight to it...

Pros: Isn't it obvious? The biggest pro of children reaching milestones is simply the rewarding nature of watching your child develop into his or her own person. Parents feel proud of their children when they accomplish even the little things like rolling over or clapping hands together. Imagine the feeling of that same child graduating with a college degree...wow!

Cons: Your child is growing up faster and faster each day, which can only mean one thing – you will have to parent an adolescent. When my sister was an adolescent, my mom received a comforting gift from her work friend that hangs in her office to this day. It was a ceramic plaque that said, "Raising A Teenager Is Like Nailing Jello To A Tree."

Try not to take my negativity the wrong way. I am simply facing reality. Let's just say that during my teenage years, my parents were not my favorite people (sorry Mom and Dad – I love you both and hope you take this with humor rather than offense). I loved my parents very much, but I was experiencing what most human beings do during that time, which meant I did not get along with my parents. It happens to every kid – when you become an adolescent you start feeling out the terms of independence, which sometimes result in – dun, dun, dun... – rebellion! Let's hope Lucy takes on her father's side of becoming independent without the rebellion part, though I think we are inevitably doomed because adolescence seems naturally worse for girls.

Lucy has recently accomplished many milestones. She officially reached the high point of teething with the emergence of her first tooth! What seemed like immediately following, Lucy's second tooth popped through, giving her a beautiful pair of pearly whites on her bottom gum. Babies usually react to teething with extreme fussiness, drooling, gnawing at anything (in Lucy's case, my chin – ouch), minor diaper rashes and other symptoms dependent on each baby's coping methods. When I saw that Lucy's first tooth broke through her gums, I could not believe it. I did a double take and felt her gums for solid tooth evidence to be sure it was really there. Sure enough, it was there!

Breaking the gum is the worst part of teething and Lucy never let on that she was going through such a painful experience. Though, that does explain why she tried to eat my face any chance she had. When I felt her tooth, I looked at my tough-skinned daughter in disbelief and let out these high-pitched screeches of joy that she got her first tooth. She responded to my wacky mom pride with her usual flail-

ing arms, big smiles and encouraging laughs. If I ever want to make Lucy laugh, I know I will succeed if I jump around with screams of joy.

I will probably jinx myself by publicizing Lucy's incredible coping method with teething and we will start spending endless nights awake with the ever popular screaming and incurable pain of teething. If we do start disrupting our wonderfully peaceful 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. schedule with waking teething woes, the only thing I will be upset about is the pain Lucy feels from teething. Lucy has been the most wonderful baby that she deserves to give her parents some late night troubles here and there. I might regret saying that.

Milestone development can make parents feel a bit competitive. We see baby so close to doing something new, so we position baby to set her up for success. This never works. She will only roll back over to the same spot, stay still and do nothing or yell because you just made her uncomfortable. This is when you realize you are being too competitive and must let baby do things on her own terms. In the weekly updates I receive from an official baby website, I read about specific milestones and what to expect along with a 'disclaimer' that reminds parents, "Every baby develops at his or her own pace and if you're baby does not roll from belly to back and back to belly by six months, do not be concerned."

Sure enough, Lucy waits until a week after her six month check-up (or any milestone check-up) to do what other babies her age "usually accomplish." Of course, she first performs for her dad right on cue when I am conveniently not in the room. Then when I go to the milestone doctor's visit without dad and they ask me if Lucy did such-and-such milestone, I say, "Well, yes, but I have yet to witness it." The doctor



innocently notes something on her clipboard and continues on with the visit. An hour later we return home and Lucy successfully accomplishes the milestone in my presence with a grin on her face. "Gotcha, Mom!"

Lucy's incredible coping mechanism with teething thus far gives me high hopes for her adolescent years. However, after Lucy's recent milestone development, she began to develop some 'sass' in her attitude with the classic high-pitched sighs of disgust. At Lucy's age, these 'disgust sighs' are hilarious since they are delivered without words. We can only imagine what she would be saying and it would probably be something along the lines of, "What is taking so long to heat that darn bottle? Can you at least give me that teething ring to keep me satisfied while I wait? Oh wait, I found my thumb...we're good for five minutes." And the sass is gone. Come Lucy's adolescent years, that

sass will be followed with, "Are you serious, Mom?" and "Oh my gosh that is SO ridiculous!"

Luckily for us we have a long ways to go before Lucy's adolescent years. For now we can continue to make Lucy happy with simple things like silly dancing, clapping hands and tickling. Every day Lucy

surprises us with something new and every day I find myself loving Lucy more than I thought possible. These little everyday moments make me the proudest mother.

To read other articles by Jackie Fennington visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.



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ARTS

“John Tesh -Big Band Live”

Two-time Grammy nominated, four-time Gold-selling artist and six-time Emmy Award winner, John Tesh will bring his national tour featuring his newest album “John Tesh -Big Band Live!” to the Majestic Theater, Gettysburg on Friday May 11, 2012 at 8:00p.m. Tesh, whose 25-year career includes six hit public television specials, a string of #1 radio hits, his popular nationally syndicated radio show “Intelligence For Your Life” in which he has 14.5 million listeners, will be paying homage with his “Big Band experience” to jazz, big band and swing music that shaped the world from the early to mid-20th Century.

“Gettysburg loves big band music and John Tesh’s show is one of the very best with 15 terrific musicians and a dazzling light show,” commented Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic’s Founding Executive Director.

The show will feature songs such as “The Summer Wind,” “I’ve Got The World On A String,” “The Way You Look Tonight,” “Blue Skies,” “In The Mood,” “Sway” and “Beyond The Sea.” Tesh says, “We’ve been testing out our live Big Band shows over the last few months on the road, and during these shows, we could see instantly the way people were reacting – with arms around each other, smiling, singing along with me

to ‘Blue Skies.’ My goal is always to make an emotional connection with my fans, so I was inspired by this type of response.”

In addition to Tesh’s award-winning daily and weekly syndicated radio show, “Intelligence For Your Life”, which airs on more than 350 stations across the U.S., Canada and the U.K., Tesh also has an advertising and marketing company, TeshMedia, which handles clients such as Fortune 500 companies, including General Motors, Home Depot, Macy’s, Kohl’s, PetSmart, Amway, Geico Insurance and PetSmart. Tesh’s book “Intelligence for Your Life: Powerful Lessons for Personal Growth”, has spent time on

the *New York*

Times, *USA Today*, *Publisher’s Weekly*, *Wall Street Journal* & *Amazon.com* best-seller lists. Tesh launched his career in entertainment in 1986 with a 10-year run as anchor on *Entertainment Tonight*.

Tickets are priced \$100 VIP with a “Meet ‘N Greet” after the show which includes a free CD, or \$67, \$64, \$60 (fees & taxes included). To purchase tickets, call 717-337-8200, or stop by the Box Office, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday from Noon until 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

For the show, we are offering Free Parking – Free Shuttle service before and after the show at the Gettysburg College’s Constitutional Parking Lot. Shuttle starts one hour before the performance. A pre-show buffet dinner in the Majestic’s Patron’s Lounge is also available featuring Pecan Crusted Chicken with Apricot Glaze, Baked Haddock, or Beef Tips with Mushrooms & Onions in a Demi Glaze over Bowtie Pasta. For pricing and Dinner Reservations call The Altland House at 717-259-9535.

The Majestic Theater at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center is proudly owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a cultural treasure for its campus and the community.

Festival brings arts and culture to Gettysburg

Beth Kirby

For 10 days in June, a small town just over the border in Pennsylvania becomes the cultural center of American arts. The Gettysburg Festival will host more than 100 events from June 8th to 17th, including a kick-off concert by five-time Grammy Award winner Robert Cray. Tickets to all events are available at gettysburgfestival.org or by calling 717-334-0853.

The fifth annual Festival will also explore a full range of American art

forms: Broadway-style “improv” theater, farm-to-table cuisine, traditional as well as contemporary brass, America’s largest gathering of historical artists, Americana music, and the roots of America’s Negro spirituals, along with much more.

The festivities begin in May with the Sunset Garden Party: An Evening in Provence, a fundraiser held at the picturesque Beech Springs Farm in Orrtanna on Friday, May 18. The evening features an exquisite menu by Claude Rodier, Executive Chef at the

Wyndham Gettysburg, the Festival’s premier culinary partner.

The Robert Cray Band will perform in a June 8 concert on the Festival Main Stage at Gettysburg College. Cray is credited with carrying America’s blues tradition into the 21st century and was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2011. The blues continues as “sizzling” singer Shemekia Copeland teams up with the festival’s most popular culinary event Blues, Beer & BBQ on June 9. Critics have hailed her as the eventual “Queen of the Blues,” following in the footsteps of Ruth Brown and Etta James. The Boston Globe writes, “She roars with a sizzling hot intensity.”

A Festival performance by Red Mol-

ly (June 16) dabbles into the Americana, folk and bluegrass genres. This all-female trio based in New York City features, “Tick-tight arrangements, crystalline vocals and caramel harmonies,” writes Boston Globe.

The Gettysburg Festival presents a rich musical history of America through the show *Then Sings My Soul: Songs and Spirituals from the American Experience* (June 17), featuring award-winning mezzo-soprano Cheryse McLeod Lewis. Spirituals, rooted in the Civil War era, are combined with inspirational Broadway favorites and historical narration.

Perennial festival favorite, the free All-American Brass Picnic (June 16)

includes returning as well as fresh performers including the nation’s first all-female brass band – Athena Brass—as well as the critically-acclaimed “dream team” of brass – Rodney Mack Philadelphia Big Brass.

The Festival’s 2012 theater highlight is Broadway’s Next HIT Musical, hailed by *The New York Times* as “hilarious.” Set for June 15, this interactive show features a veteran cast of improv actors who play off ideas from the audience to create a spontaneous evening of music, theater and laughter.

Culinary events, sprinkled throughout the festival schedule, feature a potpourri of personalities. Former White House Chef Walter Scheib, the festival’s Artistic Director for Culinary Events will host an elegant White House Dinner (June 16) while Biker Billy (Bill Hufnagle), entertains the Blues, Beer & BBQ crowd with a free-wheeling, fiery cooking demo (June 9).

New to the Festival’s visual arts lineup is the Quick Draw (June 15), offering plein air artists the chance to compete in an artistic downtown showdown on Gettysburg’s historic Lincoln Square. The public has multiple opportunities to watch artists in action, painting on location as part of the Artist Colony (June 14-17) and Plein Air Paint Out (June 8-17). The Adams County Arts Council Juried Art Exhibition (June 8-17) is known as one of the finest juried shows in the mid-Atlantic region; while the History Meets the Arts gallery events highlight the work of America’s most noted historical artists. All offer free admission to the public.

Art Market, stretched across the first festival weekend of June 9th and 10th, features free admission to enjoy live local bands at the Festival Main Stage, as well as artisan tents and numerous food vendors. Artisans include painters, wood workers, photographers, quilters and others who will demonstrate their craft.

There is something for everyone at the Gettysburg Festival. “Local businesses and artists have dreamed up some fantastic events for 2012, and I know the public will enjoy kicking off the summer season with ‘the Fringe.’”

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Mount art at its finest

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

Well, Emmitsburg, the month of May is upon us. Whether this school year seemed to drag on for eternity or go faster than the blink of an eye, we are preparing for the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. The Mount Saint Mary's students are slowly but surely packing up their belongings. Walls are becoming bare as decorations come down. Students are already groaning at the thought of the long nights in the library that await them, when they will try to cram countless pages of study guides into their already overloaded brains, hoping for one last chance to boost their GPAs. But as we prepare for the school year to end, it is important that we highlight the artistic accomplishments of some standout students at the Mount.

The fascinating thing about the arts is the passion that they bring forth in their students. Senior Jeff Valonis is a prime example of this. Jeff chose to be an art major because he has always loved art. He explained, "I have always known that I want a job dealing somehow with art because I'll be able to wake up and be excited about my day. Majoring in art was an early start to this."

One of the highlights of the art major at the Mount is the senior project. Jeff's senior show focuses on how his past has influenced his present. He explained that the inspiration for this concept actually came from his Moral Theology class with Mount professor Dr. Cloutier. Because of some introspection he did for this class, Jeff was able to develop this reflective and insightful theme for his artwork. Jeff explained, "Working on the paintings, as well as trying to figure out all the details for the show, is time consuming but also very rewarding." It is an experience that enabled him to utilize his studies from the past few years and also challenge himself in terms of his artistic ability and creativity.

Looking back on his four years at the Mount, Jeff noted that, although he enjoys his Graphic Design classes, Life Drawing was his favorite art class. He admitted that figure drawing was always a challenge for him. The Life Drawing course challenged him and helped him improve his figure drawing skills so much that he chose to make all of the paintings for his senior project figurative. After graduating this year and completing a summer job, Jeff hopes to work in graphic design. We wish Jeff the best of luck and look forward to seeing his work in future years.

Another prominent tradition at the Mount is the Lighted Corners literary magazine, which is an annual publication that is devoted to art, fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry,

and photography by Mount Saint Mary's University students. Students are involved in the entire publication process, from start to finish. The publication has received awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and the American Scholastic Press Association. I had the pleasure of getting to learn more about the behind-the-scenes of the literary magazine thanks to Arts Editor Teresa Fredericks and Editor-in-Chief Karolina Gajdeczka.

Regarding her position as the Arts Editor, Teresa said, "I've really enjoyed the collaborative atmosphere between the editors and staff, and I feel like I've been able to make a meaningful contribution to the arts community at the Mount. I know that Lighted Corners was a major reason why I came to the Mount, so I like to think of it that way, that I'm helping to influence how people see the Mount."

She described that the main goal of the Lighted Corners publication is "to give stellar artists and authors the chance to be published, but also to raise awareness about the incredible talent at the Mount!" She explained that talented writers and artists could be found in many places that one would not necessarily expect, and she wants the Mount campus to "take pride in and support these incredibly creative people." Her role as the Arts Director of the publication has helped develop her own skills as an artist in that it has given her a better editorial eye. Art of course involves subjectivity, so Teresa admitted, "Some pieces I adore, but I also have to accept that I'm not just making the magazine for myself. I have to consider my audience and the printing process while also staying true to my own artistic vision for the magazine. It's kind of like recognizing the interdependence of process, audience, artist, and editor."



Karolina Gajdeczka is the Editor-in-Chief of the publication, and when describing her role, she said, "It has been both challenging and rewarding to work on Lighted Corners. I have had to make a lot of decisions regarding what's best for the staff and the magazine. Creating the magazine has been an incredible process. I would definitely say that watching everything come together after months of hard work in the last weeks before the magazine was sent to print was the most rewarding part that made all the challenges worth it."

The process of creating the publication is indeed complicated, but it is a process that is enjoyable and gratifying. The submissions come from both students and staff, and the entries are chosen in a double-blind voting process. They remove all names from the entries and vote for them by number and category. That way, the authors or artists of the works are anonymous as well as the voters themselves, and the names of those who are chosen are not revealed until after final decisions are made. The editors then compile the votes and make the final selections. Following the

selection process, everything is edited, formatted, and arranged within the publication.

Karolina, Teresa, and Olivia Tyfa, the Design Editor, make the majority of the decisions when it comes to the layout and overall compilation of the magazine. Teresa admits that her favorite part of the process is the formatting because she enjoys arranging and designing the magazine. They have to take signatures and print guidelines into account to determine which pages can be printed in color or black and white, but once they have done that, she says they can "go in and play with font, page design, paper, and color."

The Lighted Corners staff was ecstatic to have such a variety of entries this year. For the first time in terms of the written content, they have creative nonfiction in their publication in addition to the regular genres of poetry, short stories, and flash fiction. As for the art, there is digital and film photography, drawing, painting, and even a wide variety of print media, including woodblock, collagraph, and dry point. The themes of the works are also very diverse, and Teresa refers to

them as a "great sampling of the art community" at the Mount. There are some abstract pieces, surrealism, still-lives, nudes, landscapes, and travel photography.

Both Teresa and Karolina have big goals ahead of them, which have grown even further as a result of their work with Lighted Corners. Teresa would love to work on a community project such as one like Lighted Corners. She said, "I used to just want to go into museum work, but this semester I've had a lot of experiences that have really convinced me that I want to work to simply help people. Whether that's helping undiscovered talent get published or whether that's bringing art to underprivileged kids, I want to use art to empower people." As for Karolina, she plans to apply for graduate programs in Creative Writing after her time here at the Mount. She is also interested in pursuing a career in publications. Karolina said, "Working on Lighted Corners has made me fall in love with it."

It's amazing how much of an impact we can have on art, and how much of an impact art can have on us, as well. Stay creative, Emmitsburg!

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MOUNT SPORTS

Jamion Christian named men's basketball head coach

Megan Kinsella
MSM Class of 2013

Jamion Christian, 29, has joined the Mount St. Mary's community as the 21st men's basketball head coach in Mount history. Following in the footsteps of Mount greats Jim "Bowtie" Phelan and Milan Brown, Christian intends to uphold the legacy to which they were so committed. "I am both thrilled and humbled to be returning to the Mount," he said during a press conference on March 27, 2012.

Christian graduated from the Mount in 2004, where he was a three-year captain on the basketball team. He started in 56 of 90 career games, and scored 581 career points. During his sophomore year, he led the Mount in scoring, averaging 11.3 points per game, and averaged 8.2 points per game the next year. "It feels great to be back here at the Mount," he said. "I have always carried being a graduate of the Mount with great pride and I look forward to leading our program wearing that badge each day."

Christian, who had the privilege

of playing under both Coach Phelan and Coach Brown during his time here at the Mount, said of his former coaches: "They've had such a divine inspiration on my life, so the chance to come back and follow in those shoes is something that just couldn't be passed up."

After graduating from the Mount, Christian began his coaching career with Emory and Henry, a private university in Virginia, where he was the assistant coach for two seasons. He then moved on to Bucknell University for two years, where he acted as the Director of Basketball Operations.

Next, he spent three seasons as an assistant coach with the Tribe of William and Mary, where he helped the team make their second NCAA postseason appearance in school history in 2010. Along with his assistant coaching duties, Christian also had a huge hand in successfully recruiting three stellar groups of freshman.

For the 2011-12 season, Christian was the assistant coach at Virginia Commonwealth University. Under his assistance,



the Rams won a record-high 29 games this past season, captured the Colonial Athletic Association championship title, and made it to the third round of the NCAA Tournament. Christian also worked one-on-one with VCU's starting guard, whose 94 three-pointers on the season broke the school record.

With all that being said, all of us here at the Mount welcome Coach Jamion Christian with very open arms.

Christian, who University President Thomas Powell referred to as "a man of great character," has a deep seated love for the sport, and wants to give that love to his players. He said, "I love basketball and I have a great appreciation for what it has done for me in my life. My core value intends to make each of our guys better in all aspects of their lives."

Coach Christian has been working with the men's basketball team for the past four weeks, ever since he accepted the position in mid-March. He says that he intends for the team to play with extreme energy and intensity, which requires a lot of communication. Commenting on the last few weeks of practice here on campus, he said "The number one goal we wanted to accomplish during preseason was for our guys to play and exhibit an extreme passion for the game that we all love, and we have done just that."

And he could not be happier about the players that he has found himself with: "I love these guys! They have tremendous character and tremendous heart. I'm really excited to work with them. They're hungry to win and hungry to listen and learn. It's a great time to coach at Mount St. Mary's."

The Mountaineers were 8-21 in the 2011-12 season, and Jamion Christian, with the help of assistant coaches Tony Bethel and

Darryl Bruce, is excited to start fresh and begin working hard to produce a championship caliber team. "I look forward to bringing energy and enthusiasm back to our historic program, one passionate day at a time," he said. "I believe in our leadership, our campus, and our community to help us return our program to prominence in the NEC."

Praise for Jamion Christian:

"We are very pleased Jamion is coming home to lead our men's basketball program. Coach Christian comes to us with tremendous experience, and as a graduate of the Mount, he brings a distinct passion to our campus. We are very confident he will be successful in guiding our program and our student-athletes."
—Thomas H. Powell, University President

"We are excited to welcome Jamion Christian back to his alma mater as the next head men's basketball coach. Jamion's successful Division I playing and coaching experience perfectly positions him to guide our program. We are thrilled that Jamion has returned to the Mount and we look forward to his leadership in the years to come."
—Lynne Robinson, University Director of Athletics

"Jamion was a quick, good defender, and was a very enthusiastic player, a guy that kept the team moral up. He was a significant contributor because he was a tough defensive player, he really went after people. He gave us a lot and brought a lot to the team. He was a contributor to success."
—Jim Phelan, Mount St. Mary's legendary men's basketball coach

"Jamion is one of the young and talented coaches in our business. I have always liked Jamion's leadership qualities, basketball IQ and his passion for the game. He is going to bring a ton of competitive energy to recruiting, practices and game preparation. I am extremely proud of Jamion and can't wait to see him walking the sidelines at the Mount."

—Milan Brown, Holy Cross Head Coach

"I think he's got a great perspective on the game, and it's different, much different than anyone else on our staff because of his background and who he's worked for. That's always something you invite. You don't want to bring someone in that has the exact same views as you and knows the same things as you because then they basically become a 'yes' man. Jamion's brought up a bunch of interesting ideas that the rest of us haven't thought of."
—Shaka Smart, Virginia Commonwealth Head Coach

"Jamion's work ethic and ability to relate to young people makes him a great recruiter. He displays maturity beyond his years and contributed in every facet to our program. Jamion has groomed himself by working and playing for a number of exceptional head coaches like Jim Phelan, Pat Flannery at Bucknell and Bob Johnson at Emory and Henry."
—Tony Shaver, William and Mary Head Coach

Stay up to date on Jamion Christian and the men's basketball team, along with all Mount sports teams at the Mount St. Mary's Athletics website: www.mountathletics.com.



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MOUNT CREATIVE WRITERS

Attention all sons and daughters!

Kelly Conroy
MSM Class of 2012

If you had the chance to institute a new holiday, what would it celebrate? Perhaps you would make a holiday for lovers of peanut butter or for people who write reminder notes on their hands or for snake-lovers. Anna Jarvis came up with something to celebrate and eventually helped make it a national holiday. Her reasons for instituting this holiday were a little more serious than the reasons would be for a national peanut butter lovers' holiday.

They are often described as wonder-women who can do it all. They take care of the kids, cook, clean, and work to provide for the household. But more often they are called wonder-women because of the hugs they offer on bad days, the smiles that warm the home, and the forgiveness that keeps peace. Mothers have played important roles in the world, in society and in families from the beginning of time and the year 2012 is no different.

Picture a young mother of three children. It's Saturday morning at 3 am and the baby won't sleep. The mother and the father rotate waking up to rock the child. At 7 am, the other two children, Jacob and Sarah, wake up and are ready to start their days. The mother, who hasn't gotten much sleep, smiles as she gets out of bed and takes the two children on an early morning bike-ride. She is a hero for her children.

On Monday, Jacob and Sarah go to school. During recess, Sarah is jumping rope with a group of her girlfriends. "Bet you can't get to 20 jumps in a row," one of Sarah's friends challenges her. "Of course I can," Sarah gets ready. Sarah starts jumping as her friends watch . . . 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . 16, 17, and then stumbles on the 18th jump. Her friends laugh and then show her how they can get to 20 jumps.

That afternoon, Sarah can barely hold back her tears on the bus-ride home. She runs into her house and immediately finds herself in her mother's arms. Her mother does not need an explanation and Sarah doesn't need any words. All she needs is that special "mother's touch" to make her feel better. Sarah thinks that no one else in the world understands like her mother.

"Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers, and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world," Kate Douglas Wiggin once said. Wiggin is right—we all have one mother who has the opportunity to be the best mother for her children. She can choose to be

that constancy, that source of love and encouragement, support and strength for her children that no one else can replace. A good mother is an invaluable blessing.

Anna Jarvis must have been blessed with a good mother. Jarvis did not just tell her mother what a good mother she was or just share about her mother with others. Jarvis did not forget about her mother when she passed away. Instead, she embarked on a mission to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday. Jarvis thought mothers were so important that they should have a special day set aside specifically for them every year. Jarvis's mother was the founder of Mothers' Day Work Clubs which worked to improve sanitary conditions in various cities, and also spent time helping the soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Jarvis's mother obviously cared about other people and she probably loved her daughter, Anna, very much!

Instituting a national "Mother's Day" was not easy. Jarvis remained determined, and with the help of John Wanamaker, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant, she promoted her idea. Mothers should not be forgotten; "Mother's Day" is a day to honor all mothers. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made "Mother's Day" an official national holiday. Since then, mothers across the United States are remembered on the second Sunday in May every year. Mother's Day is also celebrated in various ways in other countries.

In England, "Mothering Sunday" is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is called Laetare Sunday by the Catholic Church. Historically, young people who were in apprenticeships were allowed to attend their home parish on this Sunday and so they were often reunited with their mothers. Now the British continue to give their mothers flowers and chocolates to show their appreciation for their mothers on this Sunday.

In France, there were movements in the early 1900s to institute a national holiday for mothers of large families because of the low birth rate in the country. The concept of celebrating mothers was encouraged by the American soldiers who were stationed in France during WWI. Since the American soldiers sent



The greatest mother in the world - My Mom!
Happy Mother's Day! Love, Kelly

so much mail back home to their mothers, France designed a postal stamp specifically for that purpose.

Slovakia is divided between the people who support the center-right party and celebrate Mother's Day and the social-democrats who want to recognize a Women's Day instead of Mother's Day. The controversy has not yet been decided and until then, neither holiday will be official.

Argentina purposely puts Mother's Day at the end of October in order to start the large sales that will follow in the next two months for the Christmas season.

Argentina is wise in planning for large sales for Mother's Day, especially in flowers, treats, and cards. Stores prepare customers months in advance about the approaching Mother's Day with signs like "Pre-order your carnation bouquet with personalized card today" and "Don't forget to be sweet and pick up something sweet for your mom." You can buy roses, carnations, lilies, sunflowers, daffodils, and daisies in bouquets of various sizes and colors. Boxes of chocolates and sales on days at the spa abound as May approaches. You can choose your favorite saying on a Mother's Day card: "Love you more than hugs can say" or "You've cheered me on, encouraged me and believed in me

pretty much since forever... and that's how long I've been grateful for you." Children of all ages often spend a lot of money on gifts for their mother, but is this a good thing?

Remember those crafts you made back in elementary school as gifts for your mother? They were all about the "thought" and not necessarily about the quality or cost of the gift. Your mother probably liked them because you had put a lot of time into making the crafts and really cared about making it nice for your mother. Jarvis was so upset with the commercialization of Mother's Day that she once said, "A printed card means nothing except that you are too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone in the world. And candy! You take a box to Mother—and then eat most of it yourself. A pret-

ty sentiment." Jarvis worked to overturn the official recognition of Mother's Day.

It might be time to re-analyze our actions on Mother's Day. The holiday was not instituted as a day to complete a checklist, to say that you've given your mother x, y, and z and so have fulfilled your requirements. You know your mother. You know what she would like or appreciate. Maybe she would love a dinner that you home-made or a long hike in the mountains. Maybe she would appreciate a poem that you wrote or a song that you sing to her. She might really enjoy the funny saying on a Hallmark card with a personal note inside.

You know your own mother, but do you know other famous mothers, good and bad, in history? Eve, the first mother on earth; her story is found in Genesis. Mary, the mother of Jesus, lived in the 1st century AD. In the 1700s, the Cinderella story popularized the idea of an evil stepmother. In 1813, Mrs. Bennett, obsessed with finding husbands for her daughters in *Pride and Prejudice*, reminds all mothers to not be silly and to not embarrass their daughters. Born in 1905, Maria von Trapp became a good stepmother who toured with her new family as a singing group and Julie Andrews personified her in "The Sound of Music."

Anna Jarvis instituted a national holiday and then spent the rest of her life trying to save it from falling into apathy. Warning: Be careful when you try to institute a national holiday. One day, you might find yourself revolting against the very thing that you created. Final Warning: Mother's Day falls on May 13th, 2012 this year!

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

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SIMPLE SERVINGS

Innovations in healthy eating

Part I: Chia seeds

Sharon Racine

Does the catch phrase “Ch-ch-chia!” mean anything to you? If you ever had a Chia Pet growing up, then you probably remember the crazy clay figurine, the chia seeds, and the green “fur” that your Chia Pet grew after healthy doses of sun and water. But did you ever consider the health benefits of the tiny seeds hidden beneath the surface of your Pet’s furry façade?

Sizing up at a little less than 1 mm in diameter, chia seeds pack a serious punch. One serving size (approximately 3 tablespoons) is rich in omega-3 fatty acids and contains 12 grams of dietary fiber – almost half the Daily Value percentage (48%). These little guys also boast 5 grams of protein (approximately 10% of the daily value) and 20% of both calcium and iron daily values. Other essential minerals crammed into these seeds include phosphorus, manganese, potassium, and sodium.

Native to central and southern Mexico and Guatemala, this “superfood” can be eaten whole without losing any of its nutritional benefits. If soaked in water for

about 30 minutes, chia seeds will yield a glass of almost solid gelatin. Scientists believe this is the result of the soluble fiber in the chia. These fibers, known as mucilages, may also form this gel-like texture in the stomach when chia is consumed, creating a barrier between carbohydrates and the digestive enzymes that break them down, thus slowing the conversion of carbohydrates to sugar.

The benefits of chia don’t stop there. Because of their high fiber content and nutritional density, chia helps consumers feel fuller more quickly and for longer periods of time. In addition, chia seeds are considered to be hydrophilic, meaning that they can absorb large amounts of water quickly. Even better? Chia seeds can hold up to ten times their weight in water, making them a seriously valuable dietary supplement for athletes.

All of this research on the benefits of chia prompted me to add chia to my grocery list, and I’m probably a little too excited to test it out in any and every piece of food I consume; as an avid runner and yoga enthusiast, I can certainly use the extra energy. Without

further ado, here are some fantastic recipes to help incorporate chia into your daily diet. Enjoy!

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvia_hispanica; www.huffingtonpost.com/healthy-living.

Easy Blueberry Chia Seed Jam From Healthfulsense.com

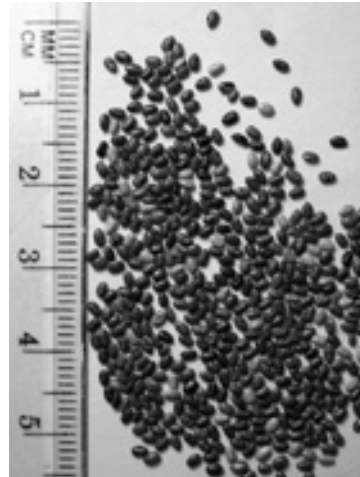
Ingredients

1 cup frozen wild blueberries
1 packet NuNaturals white stevia powder (80 mg. stevia extract)
1 Tbsp. chia seeds

Instructions

In a glass bowl, microwave the frozen blueberries for one minute. Add the stevia extract and mash with a fork for about 1 minute. Stir in the chia seeds. Microwave for 1 minute. Let sit for 30 minutes to let the chia seeds form a gel. To thicken jam after letting it sit for about 30 minutes, add more chia seeds.

The entire batch of this jam (about 8 tablespoons) is 130 calories, or approximately 16 calories per serving (1 Tbsp.). Compare that with regular jam at 50 calories per serving from the added sugar! This jam has NO added sugar, making it a perfect alternative to regular jam.



1/2 c. old fashioned oats
1 c. milk
1 egg
1 tbsp. canola oil
2 tbsp. honey
1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. chia seeds (plus more for garnish)
Syrup or other desired toppings

Instructions:

Spray griddle or pan with cooking spray and heat to a medium heat. Beat egg and add milk and oil. In a separate bowl, combine flour, oats, pumpkin pie spice, baking powder and salt. Slowly stir flour mixture into egg mixture. Add honey and stir until combined. Last, stir in chia seeds. Pour 1/4 c. portions of batter onto griddle and cook until edges of pancakes start to bubble and bottoms are light brown. Flip and cook until centers are complete-

Whole Wheat Chia Seed Pancakes From Shape.com

Ingredients:

1 c. whole wheat flour

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ly done (about three to four minutes). Top with syrup, additional chia seeds or desired toppings and enjoy.

Cinnamon Chia Seed Granola From Shape.com

Ingredients:

1 c. old fashioned oats
2 tbsp. chia seeds
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
2 tbsp. honey
1 tbsp. canola oil

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300 degrees and spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray. Combine oats through nutmeg in a small bowl and stir. Slowing stir honey and canola oil into oat mixture until oats are adequately coated. Spread granola onto prepared cookie sheet and bake for approximately 15 minutes, stirring halfway through. Let cool until oats become crunchy – makes four 1/4-cup servings. Enjoy all week as a topping on Greek yogurt, with milk, or by itself as a crunch snack.

Banana Chia Seed Pudding From Healthfulsense.com

Ingredients:

1/4 cup chia seeds
1 cup vanilla almond milk
1/2 banana, mashed
1 tbsp. nut butter (I used peanut butter)
Dash of cinnamon

Instructions

Simply combine the chia seeds, almond milk, peanut butter and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Mash 1/2 of a banana and stir into chia seed mixture.

Let the mixture sit for 15 minutes. Give it a good stir and then let sit for an additional 10 minutes. Once pudding has reached desired thickness, enjoy! Makes 1-2 servings.

*Alternative: replace banana, nut butter and cinnamon with 1 Tbsp. of cocoa powder and 1-2 tsp. of sugar for a chocolatey treat with a tapioca pudding-like texture!

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COMMUNITY NOTES

CYA Spring lacrosse on the attack

Michael Hakkarinen

Boys and girls ages 15 and under are geared up and ready to go for this year's lacrosse season throughout northern Frederick County. The Catoctin Youth Area "Cougars" started their practices the first week of March and are now nearly half way through the spring season.

The CYA Lacrosse program has historically been one of the smaller programs in the Western Maryland Youth Lacrosse League, but has seen substantial growth in the past four years. For the 2012 season there are over 50 boys and girls from the Emmitsburg and Thurmont area now in the program under the leadership of head coaches Dave Maze (U11), Gary Swanson (U13), and Kenny Bromfield (U15).

The first games of the season were played on March 17th with the U11 team traveling to Chambersburg, where most of the kids were playing in their very first lacrosse game. Bryant Palmer, third grader at Emmitsburg, kicked off the season with the team's first goal while Chase Wilhelm held strong in the goal for Cougars giving the team an 8-2 victory. U13 and U15 played their first games at home on Eyer Field. The U13 team lost their opener to the Frederick Spires 11-2, a game in which Thurmont Middle 6th grader



Gavin Palmer put the ball in the net for the team's first goal of the season. The U15 team then wrapped up the afternoon with a 12-2 win over Middletown.

As the season continues the U15 team has remained undefeated with several close games against Walkersville, Brunswick, Carroll Manor, and Hagerstown. The most intense shoot out occurring in the pouring rain on March 24th when the regulation game ended in a last minute tie leading to sudden death overtime. Stand out midfielder Tyler Wilhelm, 7th grader at Thurmont Middle, has been leading the team with 16 goals over the first 5 games.

Games continue through the end of May for the CYA Program and a complete schedule can

found below. Come check out the fastest game on two feet!

U11 Schedule

- April 28th vs. Hagerstown at Eyer Field 10:30 AM
- May 5th vs. Middletown at Remsburg Park 12:00 PM
- May 12th vs. Poolesville at Eyer Field 10:30 AM
- May 19th vs. Frederick Spires at Clerestory Park 1:30 PM

U13 Schedule

- April 21st vs. FSK behind Taneytown Food Lion 10:30 AM
- April 28th vs. Middletown at Eyer Field 12:00 PM
- May 5th vs. Poolesville at Poolesville High 10:30 AM

May 12th vs. Smithsburg at Smithsburg Middle School 1:30 PM

May 19th vs. Frederick Spires at Clerestory Park 4:30 PM

U15 Schedule


- April 21st vs. Smithsburg at Eyer Field 3:00 PM
- April 28th vs. Boonsboro at Boonsboro 12:00 PM
- May 5th vs. Chambersburg at Chambersburg Middle School 3:00 PM
- May 19th vs. Middletown at Remsburg Park 1:30 PM.

For more info, pictures, and scores you can connect with the Cougars on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cyalacrosse



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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Ancient ways to deal with weight and chronic stress

Renee Lehman

More than six in ten American adults (63.1%) were either overweight (36.6%) or obese (26.5%) in 2009 (Gallup Organization, 2010); and in 2010, the Center for Disease Control reported that Pennsylvania and Maryland had a 28.6% and 27.1% prevalence of obesity, respectively.

Sixty-nine percent of employees report that work is a significant source of stress and 41% say they typically feel tense or stressed out during the workday (American Psychological Association, 2009). Fifty-one percent of employees said they

were less productive at work as a result of stress (American Psychological Association, 2009).

Have you ever attempted to lose weight? Have you lost weight, only to gain it back and more? Do you have stress in your life that is challenging? If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, read on about a weight and stress-management program based on the principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

Traditional Chinese Medicine Principles

As I have discussed in previous articles, TCM is the oldest continuously practiced medi-

cal system in the world (more than five thousand years). TCM deals with balancing the flow of the natural vital energy, or Qi (pronounced "chee"), which flows through all living things. This Qi flows through the body on specific pathways called Meridians, and is essential for health.

When the Qi is balanced, moving smoothly, and in sufficient quality and quantity, health and wellness are promoted. When the Qi is unbalanced or blocked in any way, disease or dis-ease, will occur. This dis-ease may show up as symptoms on a physical, mental/emotional, or spiritual level. It is important to realize that these symptoms are only the end result of an imbalance, and not the illness itself.

The ancient Chinese also observed a cyclical pattern in nature. They called this the Five Elements. These Elements are felt to be the prime energetic building blocks from which everything in the mate-



rial world is composed. So, every living thing and every person is a unique embodiment and combination of these Five Elements. The Five Elements are Water, Wood, Fire, Earth, and Metal. Therefore, when it comes to our health, if all Five Elements are in balance within us, then we are at a state of optimal health/wellness.

Weight gain and feeling chronically "stressed out" are examples of signs/symptoms from the body, mind, and spirit that there is something out of balance within us, and needs to be addressed. It is important to realize that TCM does not "fix" the signs/symptoms. TCM is focused on bringing the whole person into harmony, and getting to the root of the problem. So, the underlying root cause (energetic cause) of weight gain or "stress" is addressed. Therefore, if you resolve the root problem (body out of balance), the symptom (excess weight) will be resolved! So what is this TCM based program called?

The Dragon's Way®

This is a six-week weight and stress-management program that helps you to learn self-healing tools to bring the body into balance and harmony, to cultivate Qi, and to tap into the body's innate healing ability. This program was developed

by Nan Lu, OMD, who is the founding director of the Traditional Chinese Medicine World Foundation in New York City (you can read his biography at www.tcmworld.org); and has helped thousands of people lose weight, improve numerous health conditions, and discover their own healing abilities.

The Dragon's Way program is not about food restrictions, appetite suppression, or vigorous exercise. It is about understanding the miraculous complexity and delicacy of the body and the way it truly works, about how the organs should operate in harmony, and how Qi powers all its functions. This program provides a real owner's manual for the body. The main components and principles of the program are Wu Ming Meridian Therapy Qigong, an Eating for Healing Plan, and learning how your body works from the TCM perspective.

The Wu Ming Meridian Therapy Qigong is an ancient energy practice of ten simple movements that can increase energy, open energy blocks, and prevent energy from stagnating. TCM uses qigong as a way to open the door to healing (therefore, getting to the root cause) and allow the body's organ systems to work in harmony. This qigong can help you deal with stress, lose or maintain weight, and increase your energy because it reawakens your body's own natural healing ability.

The Eating for Healing Plan chooses foods for their ability to heal and build your energy. Food is not looked at as an enemy; it is viewed as an ally. This is not a DIET! It is a way to use food to help heal the root cause of weight and stress issues (the body's organs not working in harmony).

Based on the TCM Principles, one learns to listen to what your body wants to eat, when to sleep, and how to function. On the deepest level, the body has wisdom far beyond anything we generally acknowledge. Once you recognize these messages, you can open lines of communication within your own body, and become healthier.

If you are interested in getting to the root of any weight or stress-management issues, please call Renee Lehman at the number given below. The Dragon's Way program will be taught this summer in Gettysburg.

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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Linda Stultz
Certified Trainer/Therapist

Exercise is talked about so much today. Advertisements in the newspapers, books and TV try to get you to purchase their machines or programs. They present their product as the best. Their programs promise to make you loose weight and look great in a short amount of time. I'm sure these products will help you work toward your goal if you keep using them. The problem with buying products like these is that we use them for a couple of weeks or maybe even a couple of days and do not see the results promised in the advertisement. We loose interest in them quickly and do not continue to use them. I have said and written much of

this before but I really feel it is important to repeat again. The first time you read something it may not be a time in your life that you need the information. You may come across it months or years later and now the information may pertain to your current needs.

Any good program to loose weight or improve your health will not work in only a few days or weeks. Our health is something we need to continually work on. We want instant results and forget that we did not instantly gain that extra 20 or 30 pounds in a few days or weeks and we can not loose it that quickly. A good program helps you learn to eat properly. By that I mean healthy, nutritious foods in proper portions. A good program also teach-

es you how to start slowly with an exercise routine and gradually build up to your max. Each person must find the exercise that they will enjoy and therefore continue. If you start a program that you do not enjoy or if you start by pushing yourself too hard, you will not stick with it and it will be just like buying the equipment and not using it.

Someone once told me that a Bad Habit is picked up in a week or two, but a Good Habit takes at least six to eight weeks to stick with you. When it comes to exercise and nutrition, I really believe this is true. No matter how much you want to start a program, your mind must be the first place that is ready. If you are not committed to helping yourself, you will not continue, get discouraged and quickly find



yourself back where you started. Start slow, try different kinds of exercise and keep plugging away.

Exercise is not easy. Remember to Try, Try Again. Once you see how great you feel, you will be addicted. This is the kind of addiction you want and the kind you will be so glad you have. Use all the advertisements on TV and all you read about to give you ideas to see what works for

you. Use them as a tool, to decide what works best for you and what you will continue for the rest of your life. You will achieve your goal and once you are there you will never think about stopping.

If your have any questions about how to start, call me at 717-334-6009.

Remember, Keep Moving, You'll Be Glad You DID!

Fitness Matters

Inga Olsen
Anytime Fitness
Personal Trainer

Question: I have a very simple question for you...how often should I weigh myself?

Answer: Assuming you're trying to lose weight, it really depends on where you are in the weight loss process and how sensitive you are to the results. If you're in the early stages of active weight loss, I'd only recommend weighing in once every one to two weeks. Keeping it to a minimum will help you focus more on your behaviors. After all, consistency is key when it comes to both diet and exercise, and obsessing about the numbers on the scale won't change anything. And let's not forget that it can take some time for the scale to start trending down, especially if you've just started an exercise program. However, if you've reached your weight loss goals, and you're now in maintenance mode, I'd recommend weighing yourself more frequently. That's right—I said more often, and there's actually research to support this. The logic behind it is simple. If you're weighing more frequently, you'll be able to quickly identify weight gain trends and respond accordingly. A couple days each week is probably enough to keep you at or near your target. There's one last point that's important here, and it sort of goes without saying. The number on the scale is just one aspect of the weight loss process. In other words, tracking other metrics of success, like how you're feeling, your circumference measurements, and your body composition are just as important!

Question: A friend of mine keeps telling me I should be doing more

compound movements. What does this mean and what are the benefits?

Answer: Your friend is right! Isolated movements are really more appropriate for targeting weak areas or for rehabilitating after an injury. Today's fitness trends typically involve more functional movements that mimic real-life activities. That's why compound exercises are becoming so popular. They're essentially just multi-joint exercises that work several muscles at a time. Examples include pull-ups, push-ups, squats, lunges, deadlifts, kettlebell swings, dips, and even jumping rope. And this is only scratching the surface when it comes to compound exercises. There are numerous reasons to incorporate more compound

movements into your training. Here are just a few of the benefits:

- Provides a full body workout in a shorter period of time
- Improves coordination, reaction time, and balance
- Provides cardiovascular benefits by keeping your heart rate elevated
- Decreases risk of injury during sports
- Burns more calories
- Allows for heavier lifts that will build strength faster

I highly recommend adding compound movements to your workout regimen, and if you give them a try, have fun with them and get creative. Think of new ways to use stability balls, medicine balls, Bosu balls, bands, kettlebells, ropes, and, of course, your own body weight to work

multiple muscle groups at a time!

Inga Olsen is the Club Manager and NSPA Certified Conditioning Specialist and Nutrition and Weight

Management Specialist at Anytime Fitness in Thurmont. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.

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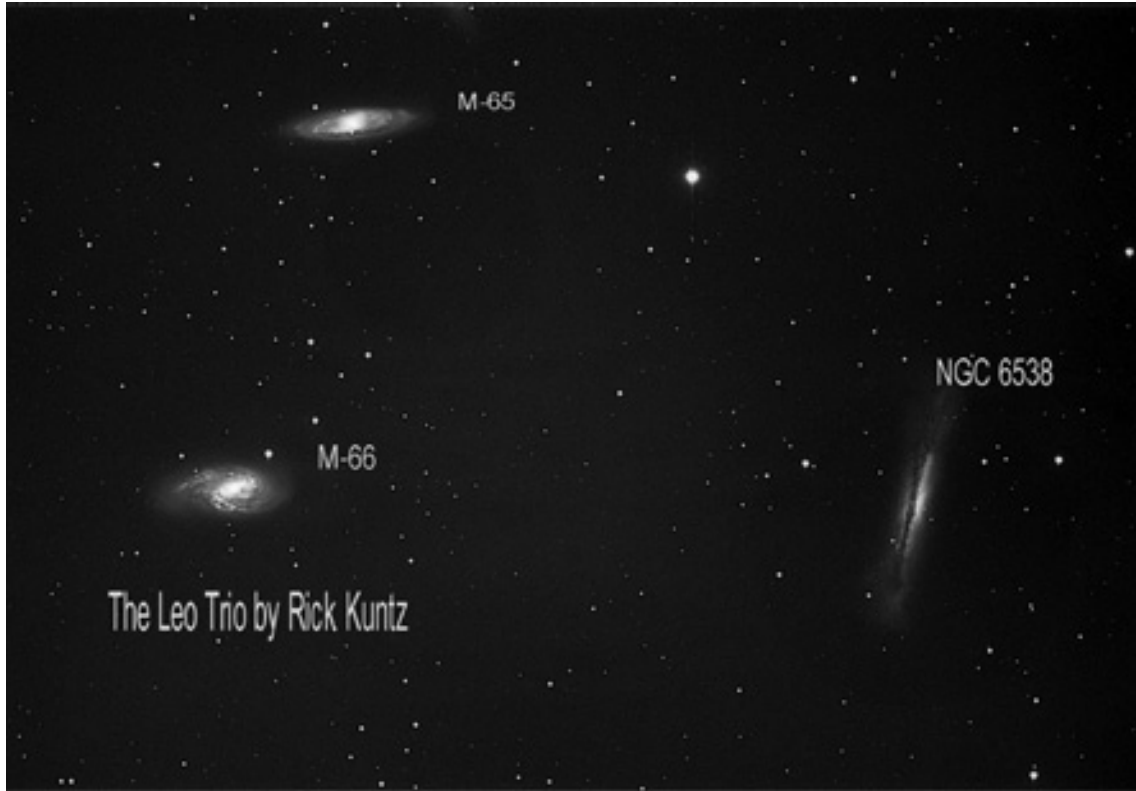
ASTRONOMY

The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May 2012, the moon, just past first quarter and high overhead, passes seven degrees south of Mars on May 1st. The waxing gibbous moon passes about six degrees south of Saturn in the SE evening sky on May 4th. The rose moon, the Full Moon for May, will be on May 6th. The last quarter moon is on May 24. This new moon produces an annular solar eclipses, but only for the western half of the US and the Pacific Rim. The sun has already set here on May 20th, and we do not see a solar eclipse locally until the 'big one', August 21, 2017, which will be 82% covered here, and total about 300 miles north of us in Tennessee and the Carolinas. At month's end, the first quarter moon again sits high overhead at sunset, only six degrees south of Mars in Leo.

Mercury lies too close to the Sun for observation this month, and Venus will soon join him. She starts May dominating the western sky, setting about 10:40 PM, a crescent 26% sunlit with a disk 38" of arc across. But she begins retrograding on May 5th, heading back toward the sun. At month's end, she is much closer to us and larger, in both the telescope and hand held binoculars, now 57" of arc across, but a very slender crescent only 1% sunlit. Watch Venus change dramatically in evening twilight with scope or binocs, best seen about 30 minutes after



The "Leo Trio" of galaxies, M-65, M-66, and NGC 6538.

sunset against a blue twilight background. Remember that on June 5th, starting about 5 PM CDT, we will witness a very rare transit of Venus, when it passes directly between us and the Sun.

Mars is being left behind and fading fast, but still obvious overhead near Regulus in Leo. Its reddish color makes it easy to spot. Jupiter is now lost in the sun's glare, not to return into the morning sky until late June. Saturn is the brightest object in the southeast as darkness falls; it lies just east of the bright star Spica in Virgo now. Its rings are now opened up to 13 degrees, much more visible than when they were edge-on during

2010's Saturnian Equinox. You may also see some belts and zones on the planet's disk. The largest moon, Titan, will be seen in any small telescope, but others will need larger scopes to spot. As the planet is now only half are bright as when the bright rings are tilted more open, up to six moons may be spotted, in a straight line with the rings, with an eight inch telescope.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky.

When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the NW is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes

all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west. If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. Below the triangle that marks the lion's hand quarters you find the "Leo Trio" of galaxies, M-65, M-66, and NGC 6538. They are obviously distorted and interacting in photo this month.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapley Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. As noted earlier, Saturn is the only planet now in the evening sky, and is located to east of Spica, and more yellow in color and slightly brighter than Spica as well. Our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years away from us.

Almanac

*"A mother is a mother still,
The holiest thing alive."*

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge
(1772-1834)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Storms, some severe in the southern part of the region (1). Fair and warm (2,3,4,5) with showers and storms (6,7). Fair and warm again (8,9) with more severe storms coming from the south (10,11). Fair and rather warm (12,13,14,15,16) turning cloudy and not so warm (17,18,19,20). Very warm with more storms from the south (21,22,23), remaining warm with showers in the north (24,25). Fair and very warm (26,27,28,29) with more showers in the north and storms in the south (30, 31).

Tornado Watch: Watch out for tornado activity in the Mid-Atlantic Region on May 10th and 11th. Full Moon: the Full Moon for May will rise on Saturday, May 5th at 10:35 PM EST. With so many flowers blooming after those April showers, the Full Moon of May has naturally become known as the Flower Moon. The Huron In-

dians called it the Budding Moon for similar reasons. Farmers called it the Milk Moon because of a noticed increase in milk produced during this month.

Holidays: Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Saturday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day which is celebrated on Sunday, May 13th. The smallest gesture of a nice card, bright flowers, or a nice dinner out will tell her just how much she means to you. Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 28th. Celebrate the start of the 2012 summer season but do not forget those who have served and are still serving in our armed forces. We owe them all so much for what they have done in the past and more importantly, what they continue to do today and in the future to protect our way of life.

The Garden: Before you start mowing the grass again, let it grow a little taller than the recommended growing height before cutting. This will give the lawn a jump-start and make it stronger. Set the mowing deck to trim the grass back one-third, and then gradually lower it to the proper height for the specific type of grass. Now is the time to

set out colorful annuals like geraniums, impatiens, marigolds, petunias, and zinnias. Trim up hedges and shrubs to shape and tighten them with new growth. Most flowering shrubs will respond to a light

trimming at this time of year but don't trim away too many of the emerging buds or you won't have as many flowers. For the vegetable gardener, check when the ground temperatures reach around 70 de-

grees Fahrenheit and then go ahead and plant. It will be safe to begin planting Okra, Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Eggplant, Peppers, Watermelon, Butter Peas, and Butter Beans.

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COMPUTER Q&A

PC tips you always needed to know

Aysë (Jester) Stenabaugh

Recently I have been finding some common computer mistakes that can be very easily avoided with a little insight on how and why the mistakes can damage your computer. Read on for some free tips and solutions to common computer problems!

Turning the computer off

You're all done with the computer and you're going to shut it down so you hold down the power button until the computer turns off. It seems harmless but, shutting down your computer manually (pushing the button) as opposed to going to the "START MENU" and choosing "SHUT DOWN" in Windows makes a big difference on the wear and tear of the hard drive in your system.

Shutting down the computer improperly can cause files to be damaged or lost and can cause enough corruption to prevent your computer from booting. Doing so regularly can cause your hard drive to develop errors which may prompt your computer to do a disk error check when the computer boots up.

Turning your computer off in many cases is unnecessary. We suggest you leave your computer on and adjust sleep settings so that your virus scan and other software can run and update on its regular schedule. Always shut your computer off in the event of a thunderstorm or if you will be away from home for an extended period of time. If you are unable to shut windows down through the start menu you will need to hold the power button down until the computer shuts down. Always use this method as a last resort to avoid corruption.

Keeping your laptop plugged in

It seems like a good solution to keep your laptop plugged in whenever you're not using the battery so that it can stay fully charged. The problem with keeping it plugged in all the time is while most computers stop charging when they reach 100% they use some of the charge while being used and then the computer recharges the battery again. The constant recharging of just a small portion of the battery starts to cause the battery to lose a charge. This is why you might notice that when you first got your computer it lasted two hours on a charge and now it only seems to last an hour or less after keeping it plugged when you had a full battery. Charging your battery also cre-

ates additional heat that you want to avoid if you don't need it.

One solution to your problem is to remove the battery from the laptop when you are not going to be moving it around. Replace the battery before you unplug the computer if you want to move the computer without shutting it down first. Batteries do lose a charge over time so if you plan on removing the battery remember to recharge it fully after storage before using it again. Another solution is to simply remove the power cord when your battery say it is 100% charged. You should see a battery icon by your clock which gives you the percentage of battery power and charging status.

Computer monitor displays "no signal"

When your monitor is not receiving any data from an output source it will display the text no signal. If your computer is off and your monitor is on this message will also appear. If everything is on and you see this message the reason could be several different things. The first thing to check

is whether or not your monitor is plugged into the computer. Some computers may have more than one video input so if one is not working you can try a different video output. If you have tried that then you want to try using a new cable instead of the one currently connected between your monitor and your computer. If you have another working monitor available you can switch them out to determine if it was the monitor. If you are still not getting a signal to your monitor you may need a new video card for your computer.

No Internet connection

Losing your internet connection can be frustrating. If your internet goes out the first thing to do is power cycle your devices. First unplug the modem that your internet service provider (ISP) sent you. If all the lights do not go off your modem may have a backup battery which you should be able to temporarily remove by removing the battery latch. If you have a router you will want to unplug this as well. Once both are unplugged and completely off you can plug

your modem back in (also replace battery into compartment). Most modems have a green light that indicates when the internet is on. Wait for this light to come on and then plug your router back into the power also. If the internet light does not come on your modem you need to call your ISP the outage could be due to a service interruption.

Transporting your laptop

When you are transporting your laptop from one location to another be sure to shut down your laptop properly. If you do not and you drop your laptop it could cause serious damage to your hard drive. Again never leave the power adapter in the power jack, should

the power adapter get bumped it could damage the power components which is a rather expensive repair.

Have a question? If you would like to see your question featured in next month's issue, please email your question to help@thecomputertutor.info please put "Article Question" in the subject line. If you are in need of one-on-one computer lessons, web design or graphics design please contact me at 717-help-4-me (Jester's Computer Tutor).

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In-Law suites

Andrew Wivell
Wivell Homes, LLC

One challenge facing many families these days, including my own, is deciding the best way to care for aging parents. Many factors go into the decision making: health status of the parent(s), time availability for direct care, costs of nursing home or in-home care, and finally the availability of a safe living space.

One option that the construction industry can provide to homeowners is an In-Law Suite. An In-Law Suite is a semi-private area of a home that has a bedroom and a bathroom. It may also have a small Family Room or Sitting Room and a Kitchenette and often have their own private entrance. In-Law Suites provide temporary or long term accommodations for family or friends. Here is a quick overview of the pros and cons of this type of living arrangement.

PROS

The Convenience of Health Care: Aging or convalescing family members may require a significant amount of daily care with meal prep, medications, etc. The convenience of having them in your home will obviously make this easier and result in better overall care.

Economics: There is definitely an economic component to combining households. While the utility costs and taxes of the "Host" will increase, the total cost will undoubtedly be less the cost of two individual dwellings.

Re-sale Value: An In-Law Suite will almost always add value to your property. The exception being if you are just converting existing finished square footage and not adding finished square footage.

CONS

Utilities and Taxes: As mentioned above the cost to heat and cool the

additional space and the property taxes will surely increase. These costs will be fairly constant (varying seasonally and with use) even if the Suite is un-occupied.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

For a smaller space intended for an elderly person with limited mobility, interior design can be a challenge. Most existing homes aren't built to accommodate a wheelchair. But a in-law suite space doesn't have to look like a hospital room. With a few modifications, any space can function for a disabled person. And there's no need to sacrifice trendy decor. By planning everything out in advance and customizing the in-law suite for your family member(s), the space can be functional and tasteful at the same time.

The size of your building lot and any prominent physical features of it will determine a lot of what you can do if you are considering a In-Law Suite Addition. You will need to determine your Building Setbacks (or Building Restriction Lines - BRLs), locate your well, septic, and electric

line (if buried). You may also have gas lines, Gas Tanks, or Geothermal trenches to navigate. If you are on a private septic, you may have to increase your tank size to add a bedroom. Or you could be denied an additional bedroom based on the original Perc results for the lot.

Zoning: Part of the initial design process is to determine if your governing jurisdiction allows multi-family arrangements. Typically, the multi-family rules kick-in when the renovation includes the construction of a second Kitchen.

Curb Appeal: An experienced Builder or Architect can ensure that your new Addition looks like it "belongs". The ideal scenario is to avoid the look of a multi-family (or duplex) building for both aesthetics and maximizing re-sale value. We did an In-Law Suite once where the Addition was a 1100 square foot Rancher attached to an older two story farm house. In this instance we were able to maximize the curb appeal by hiding the Addition with the original house on one side and with large ev-

ergreens on its north side. We were still able to maintain an easterly and southern exposure to maximize natural light.

Handicap Accessible Bathroom: This portion of an in-law suite construction project will require a great deal of design time and a high percentage of the budget. There are numerous fixture options available to residential homeowners to accommodate all levels of mobility. Handicap bars are an easy item to install around toilets and bathing fixtures that provide stability for unsteady gaits or transition assistance from wheelchairs.

Bathing is typically a challenge for many aging parents, especially those who require a walker or wheelchair to get around. A roll-in shower can be the perfect solution. Roll-in showers are designed as an open stall with no curb so that wheelchairs or walkers can be rolled in and out easily. The shower floor is level with the bathroom floor, so there is nothing to step over or into. For those who cannot stand, a roll-in shower can provide a convenient way to bathe without assistance from others. These showers offer easy entry and exit, and they eliminate the risk of bathing-related falls. Various models offer safety grab bars, seating and shelving options. Shower controls are fitted at a level that is easy to reach from a seated position, and a handheld showerhead is standard.

Kitchens: Part of your in-law suite project may include a functioning kitchen if one or both parents are still able or like to prepare their own meals. When working on the initial design, determine the exact needs of the person(s) who will be using the kitchen. Here are some things to put on your project checklist: (1) Make sure that the entryways are wide enough to comfortably accommodate the passage of a wheelchair or walker. (2) Use a lever-style door handle if an actual door is to be used. Professionals recommend that the amount of force necessary to open or close the door not exceed five pounds. (3) Ensure there is plenty of open floor space. Turning a wheelchair or walker requires more room than a standing person would need. (4) Mount all appliances at a height where they are fully accessible from a wheelchair. (5) Use counters and install sinks that are not too high to be accessible from the wheelchair, and have enough open space beneath them for the user's knees. (6) Install cabinets and shelves at a low level where they can easily be reached. Alternatively, you can use adjustable shelving that can be lowered to a reachable level when necessary. (7) Install all electrical outlets, light switches, thermostats and other controls at least 15 inches above the floor, if allowed by code.

Obviously, there are many factors to consider to maximize the enjoyment of your construction project. If you are considering a Renovation, please visit our website at www.wivellhomes.com, or call me at 301-748-5344 to schedule an appointment. If you are considering the construction of a custom home, please contact me prior to obtaining any blueprints.

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"Bike Night at Sanders Square, Fairfield. Come show off your ride or just come to look at all the styles, shapes and colors of the bikes that show up. Good food, ice cream, camaraderie and hopefully sunshine.

May 4

The Catocin Forest Alliance's Connecting our Children To Nature conference at Mount St. Mary's University. The focus of the meeting will be to raise awareness of the importance of connecting our children to nature for their health and well being as well as for the future health of the environment.

May 4, 5, 6

Fairfield Civil War Days - See article of page 23 for details.

May 5

Catocin Furnace Historical Society's Traditional Spring in the Village, featuring "pass along" and heirloom plants, craft demonstrations such as pottery making, basketry, plein air painting, leatherwork, and weaving. Spring fruit punch and baked goods made from village recipes handed down over multiple generations will be available for sale. 12607B Catocin Furnace Road, Thurmont. For more information visit www.catocinfurnace.org

May 5, 6

57th Annual Apple Blossom Festival - See article of page 16 for details.

May 7

Mother Seton School's Fine Arts Program. The MSS Band and Chorus will perform and artwork will be displayed throughout the school. This is an enjoyable event showing support for the Young Arts. For more information visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

May 11

Tom's Creek United Methodist Church's Crab Cake For advance tickets call, Dottie Davis 301-447-2403 or Jimmy and Anita Hill 301-447-2633. Please come out and enjoy dinner in our new building.

The Majestic Theater presents: John Tesh: Big Band Live! John will play all your favorite big band classics, as well as his renowned piano solos and love songs. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org

May 12

3rd Annual His Place Car Show to benefit Mother Seton School and Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center. Cars, trucks, hot rods, motorcycles, and tuner cars are welcome. A fun day of awards, door prizes, music, and food.

Harriet Chapel's Sarah's Garden Social. Have lunch or breakfast with your mom, chose some bedding plants—flowers and herbs—shop the displays of local crafters. For more information, con-

tact Donna Clabaugh at 301-693-8207.

Willow Pond Farm's Spring Open House - Observe National Herb Day with a celebration of the rose, the Herb of the Year. On Sun., May 13, we'll celebrate Mother's Day with a free plant for every mother.

St. John's Lutheran Church's Community Dinner. For more information visit www.emmitsburg.net/sjlc

May 13

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's Mother's Day Wildflower Walk. Treat Mom to a guided hike through the Preserve. Come to Strawberry Hill to enjoy the beauty of nature as you locate and learn local wildflowers. For more information see article on page 15 for details.

May 15

Gettysburg College's Lecture of Series - "Foundation of a Republic" This lecture focuses on the men who helped frame the thoughts of our founding fathers during the development of the Constitution. For more information please contact Elizabeth Hower at 717-357-4424.

May 19

Gettysburg Outdoor Antique Show. This one-day event features 125 antique dealers displaying their unique pieces on the sidewalks radiating from the historic Lincoln Square. Downtown

Gettysburg. Please direct inquiries to Jonn Angstadt 717-253-5750 or visit www.gettysburgre-tailmerchants.com

May 20

Music Gettysburg! Presents Boston Shawm and Sackbut Ensemble, with the Schola Cantorum of Gettysburg at the Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg.

May 21 - 26

Mother Seton School Carnival. Rides, games, food, and entertainment available each night. An annual tradition in Emmitsburg.

May 24 - 26

Saint Anthony Shrine's Yard and Bake Sale. Come and enjoy the day with us. For more informa-

tion call Helen Reaver at (301) 447-6431 or the parish office (301) 447-2367.

May 25

Tom's Creek United Methodist Church 2nd annual golf tournament, scramble format. For information contact Frank Negro, Phone 717-359-8737 or visit www.tomscreekumc.org for registration form and farther information.

May 28

Gettysburg's 145th Memorial Day Parade. The annual Memorial Day Parade enter the Gettysburg National Cemetery through the Baltimore Street Gate. The annual Service at the Soldiers National Monument in the Gettysburg National Cemetery will follow at 3:00 PM.

www.ShopJubileeFoods.com Jubilee515@comcast.net

Mom Deserves The Very Best!

Live Lobsters \$9.99 LB. 1-1/2 lb. Average Weight Steamed FREE!

Call Ahead! Order By Friday May 11th Noon! While Supplies Last!

Jubilee Foods will have a wide selection of items to make your Mother's Day meal a really special occasion!

Jumbo Snow Crab Clusters

Fresh U.S.A. Lump Crabmeat

Steamed Crabs
Check For Availability

Fresh Strawberries

#1 Wild Caught Gulf Shrimp

#1 Mom Bouquets

Porterhouse or T-Bone Steaks

Beautiful Planters

Martha Washington Geraniums

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WEEK ONE - JUNE 25-29

MAIN CAMPUS

16300 OLD EMMITSBURG, ROAD,
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND

Celebrate Spanish!

Explore the culture of the Spanish speaking world through music, customs, and, of course, learning some Spanish. Activities for children will include crafts, music, food, and more.

9 a.m.-Noon: Grades 1-3 | 1-4 p.m.: Grades 4-5
\$99

Dream it and Engineer it

Explore concepts in science, technology, engineering, and math through this hands-on enrichment program. Students will design and develop projects using various materials and technologies, and then come up with fun ways to test their designs.

9 a.m.-Noon: Grades 4-5 | 1-4 p.m.: Grades 1-3
\$99

You Are There: The Battle of Gettysburg

Journey back 149 years to the dusty streets of Emmitsburg, Maryland, all abuzz as soldiers from the Army of the Potomac march northward. There is a battle brewing where highways from the north, south, east and west converge, in the small borough of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This exciting camp includes a field trip to the famous battlefield.

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. with supervised lunch hour: Grades 6, 7 & 8

\$218 per person (box lunches optional)



Bradley Hall, Room 113
301.447.8329 | Fax.301.447.5865
summer@msmary.edu

WEEK TWO - JULY 9-13

FREDERICK CAMPUS

5350 SPECTRUM DRIVE,
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

Journey Around the World with Spanish (No Passport Needed!)

Experience the sights, sounds, and flavors of the Spanish-speaking world while learning the Spanish language. Activities for children will include crafts, music, food, and more.

9 a.m.-Noon: Grades 1-3 | 1-4 p.m.: Grades 4-5
\$99

Dream it and Engineer it Some More!

More great fun with science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will design and develop projects using various materials and technologies, and then come up with fun ways to test their designs. NOTE: This camp is not a repeat of week one, and contains new material.

9 a.m.-Noon: Grades 4-5 | 1-4 p.m.: Grades 1-3
\$99

You Are There: Frederick, 1862

The Battle of Antietam brings thousands of casualties over the mountain, and much of Frederick, Maryland has become a hospital. You must figure out how to care for the wounded, both on and off the battlefield. Through field trips and hands on experiences, you will discover the pivotal role that this Civil War battle played in the development of the modern medical system we have today. This camp is offered in partnership with the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. with supervised lunch hour: Grades 6, 7 & 8

\$218 per person (box lunches optional)

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We have several spiritual retreats and conferences specifically for teens, men, women and alumni.

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CSI (Crime Scene Investigation)



Why is CSI so popular? Find out during this hands-on week for teens and adults.

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Outdoor Adventure Camp



Looking for some major adventure for your active child this summer?

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