

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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NEWS

Evening of Christmas Spirit

The annual Emmitsburg Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be held on December 3 at the Town Square followed by holiday festivities at the Carriage House Inn. **Page 2**

Local Christmas Concerts

Once again, the area will play host to a plethora of Christmas concerts during the month of December. **Pages 36 & 37**

Harney Honors Veterans

More than 200 individuals attended the annual Harney VFW's Veterans Day commemoration. **Page 4**

COMMENTARY

Pure OnSense

Last month's election has done little to answer one question: Are we a deeply divided nation, or simply a thoroughly confused one? **Page 11**

Down Under

A collective sigh of relief rose up from the hearts and voices of the Australian people when last month's election results were announced. **Page 11**

ARTICLES

The Book of Days

Herein lies the history behind Christmas carols and Christmas decorations. **Page 13**

In the Country

Is it just me or was there an unusually large number of Woolly Bear caterpillars crossing the roads this fall? **Page 15**

Pets Large & Small

Looking to get or give love for Christmas? Check out the pets at Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter! **Page 18**

The Master Gardener

Have a gardener on your Christmas gift list? Here are a few hints as to what items no gardener would ever "re-gift." **Page 20**

History

The conclusion of the Chronicles of Emmitsburg—Interviews with the "old timers" of Emmitsburg in 1908. **Page 24**

Cold War Warriors

The Silent Service during the Cold War—the military career of nuclear submariner skipper William Hicks. **Page 26**

Creative Writers

"Tonight is the night lions will lay down with lambs and all will be safe." **Page 39**

JOURNALS

The Retired Ecologist

Winter is a gray season, but that doesn't automatically make it bad. **Page 14**

Four Years at the Mount

Let it snow! Our four Mount journalists recount their favorite stories of snowy days. **Page 32**

Simple Servings

Some recipes for a "Progressive Holiday Dinner Party." **Page 40**

In My Own Words

The holiday season is upon us once again, and all of the good feelings (and madness) that come with Christmas have returned. **Page 41**

Revised Town Square plans draw praise

Plans to revitalize the Emmitsburg Town Square have been well received overall by area businesses, town residents, and local commissioners.

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners voted unanimously at their November 5 meeting to approve a contract that could lead to improving the appearance of the Town Square. The contract to produce potential designs for Town Square improvements will cost approximately \$42,000.

The drafted conceptual plans were made public at four special meetings held in November, two of which were held with members of the business community on November 7 and 9, and two of which were open to the general public on November 14 and 15.

Susan Glass, co-owner of the Ott House, said, "We're excited, although we were a little concerned and kind of skeptical at first. I went to a business meeting and community meeting."

"We went as business people because we wanted to know if things were going to change with the parking," she said. "That didn't occur."

In fact, due to reducing the proposed size of the 12 existing parking spaces to county standards for 60 degree parking spaces, the current number of spaces can be maintained while still gaining ground



Artist rendition of one proposed design for improving the appearance of the Town Square.

that can be used to enhance the general area of the square.

She said the draft plans were "very nicely done. We're excited about it. We like the idea. It's going to be made very nice. We really like the idea of this clock and the area to sit around the square."

Glass also noted that the current plans call for moving the pedestrian cross walks further back than their current locations. "I think that would be so much better. It's kind of hard to get across the street where the crossings are presently located."

Commissioner Staiger said, after attending two of the meetings to help present the concept to busi-

nesses and the public, "I thought they had found a good compromise that addressed all the historic competing interests using the space, and that it is a plan that we should probably pursue."

"It is nice because it increases the perceptual space," he stated. "The traffic will have to stop back further as well, so you will open up that space in the square that is not that way now."

He said, however, there was "no discussion on how we intend to pay for this. We're sort of charging into this without a lot of thought about how we're going to fund it."

Staiger said he was also concerned that the Town Square was

getting the overwhelming amount of attention, when other aspects of the town should be addressed as well.

"My position is that these improvements to the Town Square are worthwhile to pursue, but they can't be the only thing we pursue. Here we have other keys elements of vitalization that need to be addressed."

The plans presented to business and town residents in November will now be further refined, with another meeting to be scheduled in December to present the advanced drafts to the public.

That date will be posted on the town web site.

Ski Liberty adding 'terrain park'

Liberty Mountain Resort & Conference Center, 78 Country Club Trail, Carroll Valley Borough, is preparing its new attraction, a terrain park, for the coming ski season.

Anne Weimer, Liberty Mountain Resort marketing director, said that Destoy Labs, in Auburn, Maine has been working on the new attraction, getting it ready for use as soon as weather allows. "They were working on it all summer," Weimer stated.

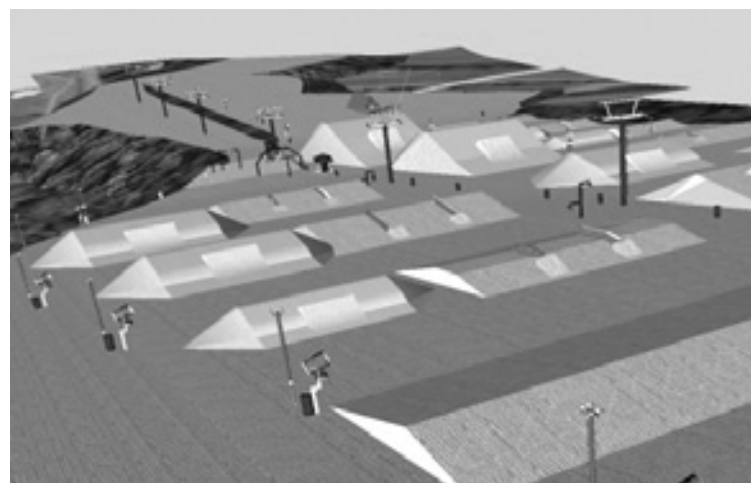
The terrain park will cover about ten acres of Ski Liberty and will consist of three courses designed around the different levels of users' expertise. "We have three terrain parks in the same section of the mountain and configured them to different user levels from beginner to intermediate, and then one that is a little more advanced," the marketing director said.

For the uninitiated, terrain parks are courses that take advantage of terrain intermixed with various "boxes," designed to offer skiers and skateboarders a challenge a bit over and above the typical ski slope.

The terrain park concept for ski sites "kind of stemmed from skate parks, except built for the snow," Weimer stated. "When you watch the X games and Olympic events these days, they're doing tricks on skis and snowboards. Terrain parks have become really, really popular."

Speaking of Destoy Labs, Weimer stated, "They have built a lot of features for us. Now we're just at the point of planning out the actual map of how they will be configured on the snow."

"When we get some snow, we'll build the park as quickly as we can," she said. "We would love to have everything all staged and open by Christmas week." Liberty Mountain Resort & Conference Center is owned by Snow Time, Inc. which also owns two other area winter sport resorts, White-tail Ski Resort and Ski Roundtop. According to Ski Liberty, "Liberty Mountain and Carroll Valley golf course were originally developed in the mid-1960s as a focal point for a major real estate development."



Artist rendition of the new terrain park courses in the works for Ski Liberty.

Today, the resort and conference center is located on approximately 450 acres, with over 100 acres of skiing, snowboarding and snow

tubing trails, and an 18-hole golf course. The resort offers over 30,000 square feet of meeting space ranging from boardroom to ballroom sizes.

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NEWS

Town takes on speeding issue

In the interest of monitoring and reducing speed within one of the several Emmitsburg housing developments, the town Board of Commissioners approved the installation of a speed bump.

The commissioners had been approached by at least one resident requesting that a permanent speed bump on Huntley Circle, one of two loop roads in the development, be installed. Town Manager David Haller said, "We know the spot. We put a temporary one in for about three years."

Commissioner Tim O'Donnell said, "The only concern I would have is that I would like an opportunity to talk to the neighbors on

Huntley Circle" and to be "certain emergency response folks are on board with it too. I don't think it's an issue [with emergency response times]."

Regarding any concerns residents on the circle might have, Commissioner Christopher V. Staiger said, "I don't think we've gotten any complaints about the temporary speed bumps. There are a fair number of houses on that street and they've been there for at least two summers."

Based on lack of complaints received in the two or three years the temporary speed bump has been employed, Staiger said, "I don't see any reason not to install it."

"There's a perceptual issue of the town putting speed bumps everywhere," he stated. "We sort of agreed previously to put the temporary ones in" where it was felt speed bumps should go in the past. Haller said a permanent speed bump would cost about \$750 to \$800.

The permanent speed bumps tend to be a little smaller than the temporary ones, Staiger noted. "We can plow over it, but you don't want to drive over it rapidly."

Haller indicated that the staff could get the speed bump installed soon: "I'll try and get it done this fall."

'An Evening of Christmas Spirit'

The annual Emmitsburg Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be held on December 3 at the Town Square adjacent to the PNC bank. The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m., and, in addition to the tree lighting, will feature a choir performance and Christmas caroling.

This year's festivities mark the 24th year that the "An Evening of Christmas Spirit" community holiday event has been held.

The Town Square served as the traditional location for many years for the tree lighting ceremony until the event was moved several years ago to

the county Community center property.

The move from the Town Square was apparently done out of safety concerns due to its proximity to Main Street traffic.

However, one of Mayor Briggs' campaign promises was to try and breathe new life back into the square, and this resulted in the ceremony being moved back to its former location on the Town Square last year.

Town Manager David Haller noted during the last year's relocation, "Three or four parking spaces in front of the old hotel have historically been blocked-

off for people to gather," and those spaces will be closed-off once again for the public to gather for the ceremony.

The Carriage House Inn will continue to hold its holiday festivities in conjunction with "An Evening of Christmas Spirit," which will follow the tree lighting ceremony at the square.

The inn will be offering free hot dogs, cookies and hot chocolate to the revelers, and will be featuring a live Nativity, entertainment, including choirs and vocalists in the inn's Joann's Ballroom, and hayrides.

Santa Clause will arrive to par-

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1 East Main Street
P.O. Box 543
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
Office Number: 301-471-3306 Fax: 301-447-3057
www.emmitsburg.com and www.emmitsburg.net

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Senior Advisers:

Eric Glass, Taney Corporation

Dan Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Bo and Jean Cadle, Former Publishers of the Emmitsburg Dispatch

Dr. Alfred Mueller II, Mount St. Marys

Managing Editor, Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com

Assistant Editors:

Kathryn Franke, (MSM Class of 2013)

Kelly Conroy, (MSM Class of 2012)

English Editor: Megan Kinsella, (MSM Class of 2013)

News Editor, Richard Fulton, news@emmitsburg.com

Cold War Warriors Editor - Commander John Murphy, USN Ret.

Advertising, Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

Graphic Design and Layout, Brian Barth, bbarthdesign.com

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take in the festivities at 6:30 p.m. Local choirs and vocalists will be performing at the inn's Joann's Ballroom from 7 to 9 p.m.

Can good and donations will also be accepted at the Carriage House during the event for the Lions Club's Christmas food drive.

County voters approve charter government

Frederick County voters elected to put an end to the existing Board of Commissioners form of governance. The county populace voted overwhelmingly on Nov. 6 to replace the existing board of commissioners with a charter government beginning with the election to fill the first-ever charter-based seats in Nov. 2014. The change-over would become effective in Dec. 2014.

According to the Frederick County Board of Elections 62,469 votes were cast in favor of adopting a charter government, with 37,368 against.

Under the charter, the county will consist of five districts, based on population density. Voters would, beginning November 2014, elect a council member from their respective district, and elect two "at large" council members. Thus, the

council would be a seven-member board (five elected by district and two elected "at large"). They each would serve four-year terms, and cannot hold more than three consecutive terms. In addition, voters will be electing a county executive. This position will also be a four-year term, and the executive cannot hold more than two consecutive terms.

The basic difference "in a nutshell" between a county board of

commissioners and a charter government are pretty simple.

In a county commissioner form of government, commissioners possess both executive and legislative powers, and the system lacks a county executive. What they can do regarding governance is more limited than the abilities of a charter government, and they must defer to the state when it comes to making certain decisions.

A charter form of government, on the other hand, separates the legislative and executive powers of the governing body. The board of commissioners is replaced with a county council, which is only granted legislative powers, and the county is actually managed by a county executive who executes decisions approved by the council.

Charter government is coming...now what? Page 7.

'Turkey Trot' held for Hope Alive

More than 200 runners and walkers participated in this year's "Turkey Trot" fundraiser, held in Emmitsburg Thanksgiving Day.

David Weigelt, who organized the event along with other family members in 2008, stated that some 121 runners and 80 walkers turned out on Thanksgiving morning to participate in the fundraiser.

At last count before the day of the event, he said, "about 130 people had registered to participate. Last year we actually had about double the amount of people than we had registered the day before." The event coordinators accept both pre-registered and walk-on registrations, but the walk-on totals cannot be determined until the day of the event.

The run consisted of a five-mile trek that started and ended at Community Park, taking in South Seton Avenue, Old Emmitsburg Road, Scott Road, Annandale Road and West Main Street. The walk consisted of a one-mile route also starting and ending at Community Park.

Weigelt stated that the fund-

raiser raised about \$4,000 at their November event this year. There is a \$25 donation fee for runners, and a \$5 donation fee for walkers. Over the course of the four-year history of "Turkey Trot," he said, "I would say were probably closing in on \$10,000. It's been growing slowly over the years."

"In addition to the amount we

charge, we take donations," he said, "and have a few sponsors." This year's sponsors included Mount Saint Mary's University, Apples United Church of Christ, Christ Community Church, Nusbbaum & Ott Inc., If The Shoe Fits, Jubilee, and McDonalds. Vigilant Hose Company fire police provid-

ed traffic control.

"My family had the idea to do this," Weigelt said. "It really kind of stemmed from seeing all these empty houses around us and hearing about people needing hope. We saw that Hope Alive did a good job with that and thought we'd try to support that somehow."

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Students to donate picnic tables

A trio of Fairfield Area High School students presented their plan at the November 13 meeting of the Carroll Valley Borough Council to provide free picnic tables to the borough parks.

Samuel Ruppert, Cameron Howe, and Patrick Little, all seniors at the high school, are working on the project as part of their graduation requirements.

Ruppert told the council, "We

are planning and fundraising for picnic tables for the parks," noting that there would be no cost incurred by the borough.

Presently, the students' goal is to raise sufficient funds to buy the materials and provide the labor for the construction of 15 picnic tables.

"We're appealing to local residents and businesses," he said. "We should (when all is said and

done) come out breaking a little over even."

As of the November 13 borough meeting, the students had raised enough money and supplies to build 12 tables.

Howe said the tables cost approximately \$68, materials included. The students got a discounted rate from a lumber company in Hanover on the materials needed to construct the tables, he said,

which includes #1 grade treated lumber.

Little stated that plaques will also be available to engrave at a donor or donors' requests, and which will be placed at the center of each of the completed tables. A plaque could be used to dedicate the table to the memory of an individual, or for advertising in the event the donor for that table was a business. The plaques are costing the students about \$5 each.

Accumulated money which exceeds the project's needs will be donated to

the borough, the students said.

Individuals, groups, or businesses interested in making a donation to the students to help produce the picnic tables may contact Samuel Ruppert at 642-6635 or by email at srruppert@gmail.com.

In a solicitation letter prepared for potential donors, the students stated, "As students of the Fairfield Area High School, we are proud to be giving back to our community by working alongside the Carroll Valley Borough to enhance these wonderful parks."

No tax hike for Carroll Valley

The Carroll Valley Borough Council approved the proposed 2013 budget at their November 13 meeting, which will avoid a tax increase for the coming year.

The 2013 general fund budget is proposed in the amount of \$1,797,468.00, while the tax rate would remain at 24.5 cents on each \$100 of assessed real estate value.

Although the proposed budget is some \$43,000.00 higher than the 2012 budget, which had triggered a tax increase going into 2012, the tax rate will remain unchanged for 2013.

Borough Manager David Hazlett stated that although the proposed budget is higher than the 2012 budget, no tax hike was needed because "we were able to project some higher revenues than last year. We are seeing the income tax stabilize and we're not projecting income revenue to go down as much."

In addition, he said, "We're projecting a pretty large boost in hotel revenues." The county recently raised the county-wide "pillow tax," which, for Carroll Valley, takes that revenue from a previous annual amount

of \$5,000.00 to \$20,000.00 for 2013.

Other budgets proposed in the budget package include the highway aid fund budget in the amount of \$173,101.00, the sanitary sewer budget in the amount of \$392,663.00, and the capitol improvement project reserve budget of \$214,343.00. The highway aid fund budget is financed by state liquid fuels money, while the sanitary sewer budget is financed "mostly through user fees," Hazlett stated. The capitol improvement project reserve budget is comprised of savings each year which

are then dedicated to capitol improvements, such as equipment replacement.

The borough's current 2012 budget was approved in the amount of \$1,753,807.00 in December 2011, and taxes were raised to 24.5 cents on each \$100 of assessed real estate value as a result. The tax increase was blamed largely on decreased income and real estate revenue within the borough. The borough tax rate has only been increased twice (2008 and 2012) over the past dozen years or so.

Councilmen Dan Patton and Bill Reinke voted against the 2012 budget and the tax increase. Patton stated at the December 2012 meeting that more

expense cuts in the budget should have been implemented. "There are still areas I feel were nonessential," and could have been trimmed or deleted from the budget, he said.

According to 2009 statistics, Carroll Valley Borough residents have an average per capita income of \$33,940.00, with the average resident age of 35.4, according to city-data.com. The pre-2012 tax rate of eight mills was set in 2008, effective for the 2009 budget— this at a time when the total real estate value in the borough approximated \$89,699,051.00.

Once advertised, the proposed 2013 budget will be considered for adoption this month.

SGI seeks change to tap ancient lava

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted at their November 6 meeting to forward their comments regarding a proposed zoning change to the county planning agency for review.

The comments explicitly address a request presented by Specialty Granules, Inc. (SGI), formerly ISP Minerals, to change the zoning of a 110-acre parcel located in the township.

The purpose would be to change the existing zoning of Woodland Conservation to Industrial to permit SGI to ex-

pand its current quarrying operation into the 110-acre parcel.

SGI, which quarries metabasalt deposits in Hamiltonban for use as granules in the manufacture of shingles, wants to quarry a significant deposit of metabasalt that lies in this 110-acre parcel of land. Metabasalt is the result of 500 million-year-old lava that flowed from a prehistoric volcano.

The deposit was initially mined for copper as early as 1833, but is also known to contain flake gold in other areas. Some of the old mines

remain, although few are accessible due to ceiling collapses.

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

SGI acquired the land through what some— especially among those who were involved in raising the funds to acquire the land for the state,

an effort that began as far back as 2007— viewed as a controversial exchange with the DCNR.

In January 2008, The Conservation Fund headed-up the acquisition of the old tree farm at a price tag of \$12.5 million, officially turning the property over to DCNR in May 2010.

Sometime thereafter, in 2012, talks began to take place between SGI and the DCNR regarding an exchange of land by which the DCNR would acquire three isolated pockets of private land physically located within Michaux State For-

est in exchange for tuning over the 110-acre, metabasalt-bearing tract to SGI.

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

However, to actually begin quarrying the metabasalt, SGI must acquire a zoning change that would allow the quarry to function as a conditional use. SGI would then have to apply for the condition use.

The township would not release their comments on the zoning change proposal at this time, stating that the county had not had an opportunity to receive them.

Sign changes to go to council

The Fairfield Borough Planning Commission voted at their November 12 meeting to send sign regulation changes to the borough council for consideration.

The planning commission voted unanimously at their meeting to recommend that the council implement changes to the signage rules that the commission developed with assistance from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development.

The regulations would only apply to the Village Core area of Fairfield, which consists of nearly the entirety of Main Street and the Historic District, which lies within the Village Core, and would take in changes to which signs can be regulated, color schemes, and other limitations,

including indoor signs viewable within 12 inches of a window.

The planning commission began its review of borough signs earlier this year, initially prompted by questions regarding color schemes of signs located in the Historic District, which would be governed by the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB).

However, the sign regulation review was expanded to consider all of the sign regulations as they currently existed regarding the Village Core, not only for apparent ambiguities in the rules, but also because it had been determined that there were a number of signs in town that were in violation of regulations.

There are reportedly 13 business signs in the borough which are not in compliance with the

current sign regulations, but most were "grandfathered" in, meaning they existed before the regulations were originally promulgated.

However, according to planning commission member Francis Cool, of those 13, five were not "grandfathered" and do indeed violate the existing regulations.

Carroll Smith, commission

member and liaison for the borough council, was concerned early on about the planning commission taking the lead in revisiting the signage regulations.

Smith stated at the planning commission's July meeting that said he felt the planning commission taking the lead was not the appropriate course of action. "I think we're going about this the wrong way," he

said. "We have various individuals giving opinions, but we still have not gotten any direction from the council."

Nevertheless, the commission persevered under the guidance of Robert Thaeler, county Office of Planning and Development.

A public hearing would have to be scheduled in order for adoption to take place, if and when the council approves the proposed changes.

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NEWS

Cozy turns on the Christmas lights!

The Cozy Inn, Thurmont throughout the years has celebrated the Christmas season with a spectacular light display, but did you ever wonder why all the lights? Cozy was not always adorned with thousands of twinkling lights, so in 1961 the tradition began! Cozy, founded in 1929 by Wilbur Freeze had big aspirations, but it was also the year of the Great Depression, so Cozy began as a camp kitchen. Camp Cozy would continue to expand in the decades to follow and expand to a thirty-four-seat restaurant which would eventually grow to a 750 seat restaurant.

Sadly, Wilbur Freeze would pass away in 1960, and for two years no Christmas décor would appear at Cozy. In 1961, Jerry Freeze, son of Wilbur and Mary, purchased

an electric tilting Santa at Sears and Roebuck. This tilting Santa is where the tradition began, and every year thereafter, new decorations and lights would appear at Cozy to make the holiday season merry and bright.

This Santa would soon evolve decades later into Cozy's winter wonderland! The Cozy Christmas traditions still include Dinner with Santa every Monday & Tuesday evening, 6pm-8pm, and breakfast with Santa every Saturday and Sunday morning 8:30am-11:30 am. Enjoy the homemade tastes of the season with holiday buffets, Christmas foods to go, or catered parties. Sleigh bells are a ringin' so walk through Cozy's Winter Wonderland, mistletoe not included!

Cozy...celebrating 83 years of tradition!



Harney VFW honors veterans

"In war, there are no unwounded soldiers."

-Jose Narosky

More than 200 individuals attended the Harney VFW's Veterans Day commemoration on September 10 to honor the myriad of men and women who have served in America's armed forces, past and present.

Spared by the recent cold snap, the Veterans Day tribute was held under a clear sky with mild temperatures at the headquarters of the Monocacy Valley Memorial Post 6918-07 in Harney. Several dozen members of the Maryland chapter of the Patriot Guard, Eagle Riders, and the Legion Rides also attended to

help with the commemoration.

The event was kicked-off with opening comments delivered by member Frank Rauschenberg preceding the posting of the colors by the Harney VFW honor guard. Monsignor Martin E. Field, pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Taneytown, offered the opening invocation, as well as the benediction. Patriotic songs, including the National Anthem and God Bless America, were performed by Iris Rodgers and Tom Nichols.

VFW post Commander Jim Pruitt, Marie Wolfe, president of the VFW's Ladies' Auxiliary, and Douglas Gross, president of the VFW's Men's Auxiliary, addressed the attendees. Pruitt pointed out that what we call Veterans Day to-

day began as Armistice Day, a day originally celebrated to mark the end of hostilities between the Allied forces and Germany on the Western Front in World War I in 1918, and to commemorate the fallen soldiers that had perished in the campaigns leading up to the armistice. Armistice Day became Veterans Day after World War II to commemorate all American veterans, living and deceased.

One of the highlights of this year's commemoration was the appearance of Mickey Myers, a former Marine who served in the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Marines in Iraq, and his service dog Chase. Myers was deployed twice during the Iraq War, and was injured three times during the course of his service there. He left the service in 2011, necessitating therapy to overcome his injuries, both physical and physiological. Myers suffers from injuries to his back and knees, and has difficulty sleeping sometimes at night.

He credits his service dog with helping him to recover, as the dog performs tasks Myers may not be able to accomplish alone or at all. Myers said



the dog also helps him with physiological issues with his presence and support. "He reminds me of the little things I forget," Myers said about Chase, in addition to picking up things the recovering veteran Marine may drop. The service dogs are made available to veterans through the Vet-

Dogs Association (vetdogs.org), an offshoot of a guide dogs association. Myers said some 200 to 300 service dogs have thus far been deployed to work with recovering soldiers.

The VFW's observance of Veterans Day concluded with the laying of wreaths at the memorial, and the playing of Taps.

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One hundred years ago this month

December 6

Hosiery Factory Opened

The Emmitsburg branch factory of the Union Manufacturing Company was opened on Thursday morning at nine o'clock. Twenty operators reported for work, they being the former employees of the Emmitsburg Manufacturing Company, no longer existing. Thirty machines were installed in the company's branch here last week. Additional machines will be placed as the increase in help warrants it. Wages range from \$3.50/week to \$12 or more. The company pays according to the work done, and as an operator becomes more proficient the rate of pay increases.

Boxing Match at Spangler Opera House

Last Saturday night in the presence of a small but very appreciative audience composed of those who value rightly the science of the manly art of self-defense, Mr. James McGreevy 'pulled off' in the Spangler Opera house the first sparring contest ever given in Emmitsburg. The initial bout was between two local boys, Grant Long and Emery Eyer. It was a three round go and as the contestants were very easily matched in height, weight and science, much delight was afforded those who were fortunate enough to be present.

Thomas Redman and Harry Eyer were next on the program. There was a slight disparity between the two in a matter height and weight, but both of them were right there with the goods. These preliminary events afforded a great deal of amusement and gave genuine pleasure to the on-lookers.

The star bout of the evening was a 10 round go between Charlie Gardiner of Washington and Tommy Winters of Baltimore. It was nip and tuck from start to finish. Everyone in the audience proclaimed it to be one of the best exhibitions of boxing they had ever seen.

John Wantz Unintentionally Shot by Companion

Mr. John Wantz met with a very serious accident on Tuesday afternoon while hunting on the farm of Mrs. Catherine Welty of near town. Mr. Wantz was on the Hill while Mr. Russell Whitmore, his companion, was on the level land below him. When the dog flushed a covey of partridges, they rose, and Whitmore fired and hit Mr. Wantz.

Mr. Wantz staggered and called to his companion that he had shot him. Mr. Whitmore did all he could to make the wounded man comfortable and went for his brother Robert Wantz who lives a short distance away. Mr. Wantz was brought to town in Mrs. Welty's team, but before reaching

there he was met by Drs. Jamison and Sefton in an automobile. He was hurried to Dr. Jamison's office where his wounds were dressed and later taken to his home. The shot was scattered through his body most of them lodging in the lower part of his body and legs. The shooting was altogether unintentional and Mr. Whitmore feels very bad to have been the cause of it.

December 13

Characters

During the holiday season the faculty of the University of Harney will engage in a pinochle tournament. The holder of last year's trophy, a dill pickle, is Dr. John Glass. The trophy this year will be a loving cup filled with spinach, presented for this event by the Young Lady Society for the Prevention of the Use of the Denatured Alcohol and Strawberry Shortcake.

There are all kinds of corn-big and little corn, red, white and yellow corn in the cultivator thinks this particular kind is the best. Mr. Walters has been experimenting with every variety and he has succeeded in producing what he calls the "Genius Bulbus Diminutives" which grow no larger than a fried egg and is shaped like a beehive. Mr. Walters has 189 acres of this kind; each grain is capable of sustaining the life of four horses for three days. It is the farmer's intention to send this year's crop to Roostem Effendi in command of the Turkish troops near the Italian border.

Carriage Accidents

On Tuesday afternoon a team belonging to Mr. Jerry Overholser took fright at an automobile. The horses ran on the pavement in front of the Emmitsburg Savings Bank, but were caught before any serious damage was done.

On Saturday afternoon a horse belonging to Mr. Mead Patterson took fright and stripped the bridle from the hands of Mr. Harry Harner and ran away. No one was in the buggy at the time except the dog. The horse continued until it came to his home where it stopped and preceded to graze. The dog jumped out as if nothing had happened and proceeded to chase a neighbor's cat.

December 20

Scarlet Fever in Emmitsburg

With new cases of Scarlet Fever having developed during the past week, health conditions in Emmitsburg are being examined. As a matter of caution for local schools were closed until after the holidays and several persons were ordered quarantine for definite period. It is hoped that the people of Emmitsburg will cooperate with a health officials in the

endeavor to prevent the spread of the disease.

No Truth in Report

We desire to state emphatically that there is no truth whatsoever in the report that there is Scarlet Fever in the family of Mr. Fred Troxel. The patrons of our barbershop therefore need have no apprehension on the score of contracting this fever or any other ailment on the premises. — C. F. Rotering

Prizes Given for Best Soap

Rises were awarded to those who made the best samples of homemade soap from Banner Lye, during the three soap making contests which were held during the month of September October and November. For some it was their first attempt at home soap making and these are to be congratulated for successful efforts. The four ladies of Emmitsburg who receive prizes were Mrs. Higbee Mrs. Guise, Mrs. Orendorff, and Mrs. Rowe.

Copper Vein Found Near Motter's Station

On the property of Mr. George Keepers at Motter Station there is a vein of copper-how extensive it is not yet known. Mr. Keepers brought two very fine specimens to the Chronicle office last week. One was sent away for analysis. A super-efficient examination, pending a more thorough investigation, discloses the fact that the rock contains a considerable amount of copper and likewise a faint traces of silver. Mr. Keepers is not imbued with the notion that he has struck a bonanza but he and his friends are naturally interested in discovering how much of the metal there is on his land and whether it will be of any value commercially.

Ready for Snow

People in Emmitsburg are not particular about waiting for snow to get out their sleighs. As the season is here for sleighing they are content to put them in a wagon. The first sleigh of the season was seen Friday driven by Mr. William Fretzell.



When it snowed in the good 'ole days, the much hyped auto cars were useless. When you really needed reliable transportation, it could always be found in the stable.

December 27

Christmas Traditions

Christmas is not Christmas in Emmitsburg unless it is ushered in by the singing of carols. On Christmas Eve, on the stroke of twelve, a number of young people carried out this time-honored custom serenading residents on every street.

On Christmas afternoon, following the custom inaugurated several years ago, sleigh racing was indulged in on the streets of Emmitsburg. Several residents, including Mr. Mead Patterson, Mr. Harry Ballinger and Mr. Lawrence Mordorff, were out in their sleighs. Everyone enjoyed the display of fine steeds running on snow, which lasted for about an hour.

Sleigh Overturns

Quite a commotion was occasion On Main St., Thursday afternoon, there was quite a commotion on Main Street as a sleigh carrying three men was overturned in front of the Zacharias' house, throwing a horse to the ground." Although no serious damage was done it took some time to get the animal to its feet.

While the horse was able to continue its task the same cannot be said for two auto cars which were unable to gain traction in the snow and left their owners stranded until an old reliable horse-drawn buggy could come to their rescue. Just

one more example of why the auto car will never replace the horse as the most reliable means of transportation.

Attacked by Wildcat

Last night about 11:30 as Francis Garner was harnessing his horse at Greg Schweikert's barn about half a mile from Emmitsburg, preparing to return to town, a large wild cat pounced from the hayloft above him and attacked the men. The animal fought in the proverbial wildcat fashion and would undoubtedly have borne Garner to the ground and inflicted serious injuries had not Schweikert' grabbed a pair of reigns, beat the animal back.

The noise exiling of the scuffle for a moment stampeded the other horses in the stable, one of which kicked several boards out in this boxed all, but by the efforts of the two men and the assistance rendered by the inmates of the house, who quickly came to the rescue, they were finally quieted.

It is supposed that the wildcat, driven towards civilization by hunger, came down from the vicinity of Rocky Gap, near which place several of the animals have been seen. This makes his second appearance of Wildcats in this neighborhood the season.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago this Month visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Billy Shreve Regarding libraries

Question: Is Commissioner Shreve trying to censor the library systems purchases?
Answer: No ... No, and ... No.

Question: Why do I ask so many questions about our libraries?

Answer: I am seeking to understand how our libraries work. I am seeking to learn how and why Frederick County Government will spend \$9,742,176 of your tax dollars this year to maintain Frederick County Public Libraries. I ask lots of questions to every entity that is requesting to spend tax payer dollars. Isn't it a good idea for your elected officials to learn more about how your tax dollars are being spent?

Question: Who proposed the Board of County Commissioners be given a list of the previous quarter's purchases by the library?

Answer: Darrell Batson, Director, Frederick County Public Libraries.

Question: Who proposed the Board of County Commissioners approve the budget to purchase media quarterly versus annually?

Answer: Darrell Batson, Di-

rector, Frederick County Public Libraries.

I want to thank the citizens who have contacted me or written letters to the Frederick News-Post. I value your support and feedback. That's what we want in government, citizen participation. So now that the conversation has started, let me clarify a few things.

Recently editorials in the local papers have stated, "the library is no place for politicians." The same editorials also alluded that the elected Board of County Commissioners should have no oversight of the library publications and purchases. I disagree.

I am very proud of our local library system and the job they do. In FY 2011 the libraries had over 1.1 million walk in visits and another 800,000 visits on-line. This equals 5,629 visits per day.

A good library also comes with a hefty price tag. In fiscal year 2013 the County Commissioners adopted a budget which expends \$9,742,176 to the Frederick County Public Libraries system. This was an increase of \$171,427, or 1.79% over the previous year. As a matter of fact, the fiscal year library budget from 2011, the last budget

adopted by the previous County Commissioners, was \$8,362,162. This represented a budget cut of more than \$400,000 from the 2010 budget by the previous Gardner/Hagen Board of County Commissioners.

The term "politician" has an understandably bad connotation in our society, but that is the name given to those we elect to serve and represent us. I personally consider myself a citizen legislator. By serving and representing the citizens of our great county, every elected official has not only a right, but an absolute moral and fiscal obligation to insure that all public monies are being well spent. Every county tax dollar spent is being closely scrutinized by this Board.

As a guardian of the taxpayers' money and by the power invested in me by the Maryland State Constitution, it is my responsibility to see what our taxpayer dollars are purchasing. I want to know what equipment, services, books, and materials we are getting. I have that right and obligation to ask these questions on behalf of the citizens of Frederick County. Nobody gets a blank check for \$1 million on my watch.

Further, I believe it was the fol-

lowing statement, printed in the Frederick News-Post's article on October 10, 2012, that may have caused some to wonder about my true intentions, "Why should my tax dollars pay for someone else's recreation? Why should my tax dollars pay for someone to watch 'Charlie's Angels' or 'Battlestar Galactica' or read about Lindsay Lohan?" This statement in isolation could come across as scary, I understand that. I am not faulting the reporter, this is what I said. This phrase in the general discussion of why do we buy things that we can get on the internet for free is not so scary. It is a very relevant and timely.

I can watch past episodes of almost any sitcom on the internet for free. I can watch new episodes of sitcoms hours or mere days after the original showing. Our library system now has built to the point where books account for 68% of total circulations in

the system, and electronic media accounts for the rest.

NOTE: Hours reduced 12% July 2011

A strong follow up question then is ... Should the Library continue to provide things we can get on the internet for free or should the Library provide things to get onto the internet for free?

I understand the need for hard books that can be held in your hand and the need for brick and mortar buildings but I need to ask, what does the Library of the future look like and what will be on the shelves? (Shelves in this context used metaphorically: 0)

I ask that everyone should please feel free to share your thoughts ...

To contact Commissioner Billy Shreve, find him on Facebook or email him at billy@FrederickCountyMD.gov - 301.639.4763.

Library Circulation Statistics from fiscal years 2008 through 2012

	FY12	FY11	FY10	FY09	FY08
Audio	218,692	231,476	228,423	217,767	128,343
DVD	479,798	471,382	488,924	419,080	369,050
E Books	51,362	21,880	13,602	9,225	7,079
Books	1,614,482	1,608,784	1,685,802	1,633,744	1,539,957
Total	2,364,334	2,333,522	2,416,751	2,279,816	2,044,429

From the Desk of Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

On Monday, December 3rd the 24th annual "Evening of Christmas Spirit" event will be held. This evening event will start with caroling on the Square at 6 pm followed by the lighting of the town Christmas tree at 6:30 pm.

Events then will shift to the Carriage House for hay rides, refreshments and entertainment until 9 pm.

The first town meeting in December will be held on Tuesday, December 4th.

Friday, December 7th the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Associations (EBPA) at its annual banquet will present its Extraordinary Service Award.

Square Update: What are we after with the square revitalization?

Disciplined focus on the overlooked realities like economic development - from echoed quotes in an article, Development in Stride, that appeared in the Washington Post Real estate section Saturday, November 17, 2012, - "Being able to walk creates a neighborhood feel"; "The strongest housing market is the walkable urban areas". "Walk-Up Wake UP CALL". "Walkable urban areas are now being recognized (and ranked)". Emmitsburg is likely characterized, but to a lesser extent as Frederick, under "Sub-

urban Town Centers... typically 18th and 19th century towns that were swept up in the sprawl... they have found a new economic role."

The town hosted November Square revitalization design working meetings to introduce our selected design team headed up by Seth Harry and Associates, Inc. The meetings as planned were interactive with first property owners and businesses then with the general public. In the end everyone got a peek at what the Square could be. In December a presentation will be made to the general public. Check the town website and channel 99.

Celebrated in our own confident, simple Norman Rockwell-esque way, Veterans Day in Emmitsburg again was inspiring. Falling on a Sunday this year the observance started with three generations of my family singing as a closing hymn "America the Beautiful" at St. Joseph's. Later in the day Commissioner Blanchard, his daughter Gracie, and I joined the American Legion and VFW color guard on one of their visits to a community cemetery for a 21 gun salute and a moment of silence. The color guard not only visits every cemetery in the community, but also visits the veterans at St. Catherine's. For me the day included two visits to the Welcome Center on Rte. 15 to meet travelers to our area including a family from Australia on a month "walk

about" In the USA. From Commissioner Blanchard also in attendance, thank you to Dave Yoder the Welcome Center manager for putting this event together to honor Vets and to the local restaurants for menu contributions.

From the Francis X. Elder American Legion Post 121. "A thank you to the participating businesses in town for the donations that will be used from canceled Halloween parade. To those businesses who know full well that the donations will be held in a special fund for next year's parade" - thank you area businesses.

The much awaited "Emmitsburg Wattle-Waddle - Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot" is now a fixture in the community with a 5k run and 1 mile walk/run; events are for Hope Alive. Last year there were over 100 participants. Have to tell you this, Dave got a call from a lady in North Carolina who was coming up for the holiday and said her family and six other families will enter the one mile event to start off the special day in the walk event.

On November 15th I had thanksgiving lunch at the Senior Center with a group of wonderful people. It was good to talk with long time residents of the town. I appreciated the positive feedback on the Square revitalization and extension of the North Seton Avenue sidewalk.

From Libby and I and the town, a very merry and peaceful Christmas season to all.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Blaine Young

Charter government is coming...now what?

“Take time to deliberate; but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go in.”

This is a quote from one of my favorite Americans, President Andrew Jackson. I use this quote in reference to the newly adopted constitution for our county, namely the Frederick County Charter. You, the voters, took the time to deliberate on the 25 page proposed charter which will elect a single person to serve as county executive along with seven elected county council members in 2014.

By a wide margin on November 6th, the voters adopted this document and new form of government. Out of nearly 100,000 ballots cast in the Question A charter referendum, 62,469 of us, or 63% voted in favor, and 37,368 or 37% voted in opposition.

Our new form of government will take effect on December 1, 2014.

As a little background information on this process, when I, along with Commissioners Paul Smith, Billy

Shreve and Kirby Delauter ran for office more than two years ago, we made the proposed transition to home rule government part of our platform. Giving the voters of Frederick County the opportunity again after 20 years to decide if they wanted to continue with the commission form of government or move to the Charter form of government. After being sworn into office, one of this Board's first acts was to appoint the Charter Board. On March 10, 2011, we appointed a diverse set of 12 individuals, who met over the following 17 months in public to hash out every detail of our new government.

I continually advocated for everyone to become educated with this document, to read it in its entirety, attend public forums and ask questions. All of the Charter Boards meetings were open to the public, and almost all of them were televised. All of their minutes and agendas could be found on their website along with updated drafts of the document, information on the

process and links to videos of their meetings.

The main reason I advocated for everyone to read the document and learn the facts on their own was because certain individuals and groups tried to spread inaccuracies and misinformation about the document and powers. I honestly have no problem with those who voted against the charter because of legitimate concerns or issues, but become disheartened when votes are made out of distortions.

Lately, I have heard rumors about new misrepresentations and errors being spread about the change to charter government. I will seek to address these falsehoods and correct the record.

First, the new form of government does not and CANNOT become effective until the November 2014 elections. This date and transition are in the charter as adopted by the voters.

In November of 2014 the voters of Frederick County will go to the polls and elect our first county

executive along with the seven council members. They will be sworn into office on December 1, 2014, and at the time, the “five-headed monster” as I call it, the board of county commissioners will be abolished.

Until the swearing in of our new leaders on December 1, 2014, Frederick County will continue to operate as we have with the county commissioners leading our government.

Another rumor is that the seat of our local government, Winchester Hall will be renovated. This is completely false! Right now there is more than enough room for the new council members and executive. None of the configurations of the meeting rooms will need to be altered.

One more rumor is that the new elected officials will have increased staff support. This also will not happen under our administration.

We have created a Transition Team lead by our county manager which will work over the next two years in putting the new form of government into operation.

Hopefully, this will allow for a seamless transition when our new officials are sworn into office in 2014.

The Transition Team has been directed by the county commissioners to assimilate the current staff into positions of support for the new executive and council. There will not be any additional personnel hired between now and December 1, 2014, nor any renovations or construction to Winchester Hall to accommodate the form of government.

The goal of this Board of County Commissioners was to foster in a new era with a single elected executive to lead our great county, along with legislative check and balance in the county council, all the while maintaining a lean, small and efficient government of, by and for the people! Whether or not the philosophy will continue of maintaining a lean, small and efficient government will be up to the voters in who they elected as the first county executive and first county council.

From the Desk of Town Commissioner Chris Staiger

I hope everyone has had a safe and happy Thanksgiving and is now looking forward to a joyous Christmas season spent with family and friends! I know I will enjoy a few extra days of vacation and the opportunity to relax at home. If you need to travel, please take your time in the coming and going!

Back on February 20, the Board approved a number of actions meant to breathe some life back into the Emmitsburg Afterschool Program—a three night per week, October through March, activity program intended to provide some outlet for local children during the winter months when it's typically too dark or cold to play outside. Activities take place in the Community Building gym. Participation had fallen from nearly forty children to just nine after a participation fee of \$35 was created in 2009 following the loss of grant funding.

Early this year the Board removed the fee and added town funding in preparation for the Fall 2012 program. We were forced to cap participation at twenty children should demand again rise. Well, the good news is that the program did bounce back. There were over thirty applicants for the twenty available spaces this October. The Board had asked that grant opportunities be identified, allowing for greater enrollment, and the program administrators brought back a number of possibilities. On November 19, the Board voted in favor of town staff making some applications.

This unfortunately led to a bit of a “dust up” since Mayor Briggs appears to feel we don't have the resources to pursue anything be-

yond the current town square design efforts. I just don't understand how with eight employees in the town office and two involved (albeit part time) with the Afterschool program we can't dedicate some time over the next few months to pursue grants for the October 2013 “class.” Obtaining some grant funding might allow us to grow the activity back to serving forty Emmitsburg kids. This would be a concrete benefit.

Regarding the “Design for Emmitsburg Square” project, it did move forward through a number of November meetings. At the November 5 town meeting, a contract proposal with a Baltimore based design firm was approved. \$48,000 had been budgeted by the Board for the project - \$28,000 from grant funds and up to \$20,000 in town funds or in kind services such as staff time. The contract was approved based on a bid of approximately \$42,000. By mid-month, a number of meetings were held between the Mayor and town staff, the consultant and business owners and residents.

Additional public presentations will take place in early December in order to communicate the results of the design work. At this time, no public plan has been formulated, much less approved, to implement any recommended changes. While the project has been presented as a town square redesign, I found at two meetings I attended, there is also a large focus on possible modifications up and down Main Street as well as securing additional parking in the Main Street area.

This project, in combination with the yet to be approved state

funds for façade improvement throughout the historic district, has been touted as an economic development plan by Mayor Briggs. Under scrutiny, terms such as “community development” have started to be used by the Mayor instead. In truth, this second description may be more accurate because simple Main Street “beautification” won't resolve the underlying issues standing in the way of economic growth along the Main Street corridor.

The majority of Main Street businesses are run by local owners committed to operating in Emmitsburg – come what may. To widen participation and bring in more new owners, town government needs to address a number of key issues standing in the way.

One, of course, involves the number of places to open a new business. Some recent success stories have simply bought homes and converted them to commercial uses – which the Village Zone category does promote. However, a substantial number of properties on Main Street are multi-unit rentals. We should find a way to promote the transition of some of these units to commercial use – perhaps with small businesses on the ground floor and rentals above, just as you see on Market Street in Frederick.

In addition we need to address our regulatory framework. At the November 19 town meeting, I questioned why a local business was charged \$637 for the ‘zoning certificate’ required to obtain a Frederick County building permit – while a homeowner with

a similar need was only charged \$54. I was concerned why a business owner would pay almost twelve times more for the same document. The answer is simply that the business project COSTS more – so the town takes a bigger fee even though there is no more effort evaluating or approving the business project than the homeowner project.

This makes such a fee nothing more than a penalty. The response that a business in some

other town might also have to pay a similar fee doesn't cut it. Perhaps if these issues didn't exist here, we might actually be MORE attractive as a business destination? The hard reality is that businesses make their decisions based on cost – not beauty. Having a nice façade on the building can't hurt, but it's not going to outweigh silly fees...

As always, I encourage you to contact your local officials to share your opinions!

PUBLIC NOTICE

Frederick County Planning Commission Vacancy

The board of County Commissioners (“Board”) is soliciting letters of interest from individuals to fill one (1) vacancy on the seven-member Frederick County Planning Commission (“Commission”).

The Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. and third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.; additional meetings take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month as needed.

The commission functions as an advisory body to the board on many planning and zoning related issues (comprehensive plan, region plans, rezoning, text amendments, water and sewer planning, etc.). The commission has final authority over site plans, subdivision plats and Planned Unit Development Phase II plans, and determination of adequate public facilities for new developments. For more information, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/planning.

Persons having a desire to serve in this capacity must be a resident and registered voter of Frederick County.

If interested in serving on this Commission, please send a letter of interest and a current resume by e-mail or first class mail (no facsimiles) to the attention of:

Mrs. Joyce Grossnickle, Administrative Officer
Office of the County Manager
Winchester Hall - 12 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701
E-mail to fcbgboards@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Remember to include current contact information in the documentation submitted, (home, work and cell telephone numbers; home mailing address, and an e-mail address).

Letters of interest and resumes must be received by
4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 2012.

Frederick County Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On Tuesday, November 13th, the Borough Council met and approved the advertisement of the proposed 2013 Budget. This action made the proposed 2013 Budget available for residents review prior to its final adoption at the December 11th meeting. The 2013 Budget is the end-product of a three step review process over a three month period. The first review is performed by the Borough Manager when analyzing the Borough Department submissions. The second review is performed by the Finance Committee. The third review is performed by the Borough Council during their Budget Workshop. At the November meeting, the public was given the opportunity to review the proposed budget. This budget predicts total revenues of \$1,820,223 and an expenditure of \$1,797,468 leaving a balance of \$22,755 in the black. The tentative budget is based on a millage rate of 2.45 mills that is 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation which means there will be no Carroll Valley Borough tax increase for 2013. However, you need to realize that while the Borough is remaining at the same level as last year, we do not know what the county or school district will do with their millage rate. The Borough tax is only a small portion of the total Property Taxes paid by you. The distribution of the total tax paid breaks down as follows: Carroll

Valley is 15.63%, Adams County is 23.82% and Fairfield School District is 60.55%. If interested, a copy of the preliminary budget can be reviewed at the Borough office. I have been told that an online version will be available by going to the Carroll Valley Borough website at www.carrollvalley.org.

Thanksgiving is behind us and now on to December. To some, December could be stressful especially for those who have lost a loved one. Also, there is a prediction that according to the Mayan calendar this December will be the end of time. I, like you, cannot predict the future. But I do know that being with love ones, friends and neighbors will help us all weather any storm we experience. December does have some unique and spiritual holidays. Hanukkah is celebrated from December 9th through December 16th. National Chocolate Covered Anything Day is celebrated on December 16th. I had to include this one for those chocolate lovers who need an excuse to have a piece of you know what. December 21st is the start of winter, also known as "the winter solstice". This is the shortest day of the year. After this date, the days start getting longer. Christmas is on the December 25th and the first day of Kwanzaa falls on December 26th. Oh yes, National Chocolate Day is December 26th. December is definitely a chocolate

month.

The holiday season is upon us and many of us will awake on Christmas morning to the joy of finding presents under the tree. Some families in our Fairfield zip code area will not be as fortunate. For many reasons, those families will not have presents to open on Christmas Day. Because of this, Toys for Tots was created. The Toys for Tots program is an annual toy drive sponsored by the United States Marine Corp. The goal of this program is to make sure every child has a present on Christmas morning. If you want to help to bring a smile to a child, please consider donating a new unwrapped toy. You can place your gift in the Toys for Tots Donation Box in the lobby of the Carroll Valley Borough Office by December 14th. Bill Eckert the campaign director is looking for families that are in need, so if you have any information of a family that may benefit from this campaign please contact Bill at (717) 655-5411 or (717) 830-6912. Confidentiality will be honored. The distribution date will be on Sunday, December 16th at the Fairfield Fire Hall. Distribution will start promptly at 12:00 pm and close at 5:00 pm. Those in need have to be pre-registered by December 14th by contacting Bill Eckert. I have been told that this will be Bill's last year as the campaign director. Thank you Bill for your relentless effort in trying to ensure those children in need would find a toy. And, I would also like to thank those in our community for their support of the Toys for Tots Program.

As we all know, Carroll Val-



Breakfast with Santa - 2011

ley has several beautiful parks. Whether walking pets, jogging, playing with children on the playground, or playing basketball, these parks create opportunities for residents of our community to come together and enjoy themselves. Three Fairfield Area High School students are in the process of working with the Carroll Valley Borough to enhance these parks. They want to give back to the community by building twenty picnic tables to be placed throughout the three parks. To accomplish this task, they need your help by donating funds to construct of one or more picnic tables. A single picnic table requires a donation of \$75, and in return they will build a table and place an engraved plate on the table with any message you wish. Whether you want to honor a loved one, promote your business, or pay tribute to a fallen soldier, you can leave your

lasting impression in one of Carroll Valley's beautiful community parks by sponsoring a table. If interested, please call (717) 642-6635 or email srruppert@gmail.com. Checks can be made payable to the Carroll Valley Borough, and receipts will be provided for a tax deduction. Please consider supporting these young men: Samuel Ruppert, Cameron Howe, and Patrick Little in their efforts.

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA) is partnering with the Fairfield Fire and EMS to hold their Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 8th from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. I have been told by an air traffic controller that Santa plans to arrive at 9:00 am. If you plan to attend and bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program, you will eat for free. As always, there will be lots of fun for the kids. On the evening of December 8th, a Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held behind the Carroll Valley Borough Office at 6:00 pm. Come and join your neighbors by experiencing the lighting of the tree, singing some Christmas carols and drinking hot chocolate. I want to thank the Carroll Valley Municipal Services for decorating the tree and park area. They always do a great job. The CVCA Holiday Gala is plan for Saturday, December 15th at 6:30 pm at the Carriage House in Emmitsburg, MD. If you interested in purchasing dinner tickets, call Charles Dalton at (717) 642-5844.

Borough meetings and office closures in December are: Planning Commission (Dec 3rd), Public Safety Committee (Dec 10th), Borough Council (Dec 11th), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Dec 19th). The Borough Office will be closed on Dec 24th and Dec 25th. Please reduce your speed to make sure you, your loved ones, your friends and neighbors will be safe. If you have any questions call me at (301) 606-2021 or email at mayor@carrollvalley.org. Happy Holidays and I wish you good health and happiness topped with loads of good fortune in 2013. Happy New Year!

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Randy Phiel

As difficult economic conditions at all levels of governments make some projects more difficult to justify, we need to think outside the box to get some worthy projects completed. One way is to form partnerships between governmental entities and private organizations. Unfortunately, that kind of cooperation, coordination and planning is far too rare. I am both proud and happy to report that in Adams County there is currently a shining example of that kind of initiative in progress.

The John Eisenhower Metal Bridge is a unique architectural structure that has straddled Willoughby Run, a tributary of Marsh Creek, in Cumberland Township since 1886. It was designed and built by Gilbert & Smith. Beside the entirely metal framework it is braced with metal pipe struts. The bridge also displays decorative metal castings at the top of the end posts. The county-owned bridge was severely damaged more than a century after it was constructed during the severe flooding of 1996. Tom Shealer, Cumberland Township Supervisor & Roadmaster, said the flood washed the bridge down Willoughby Run. It was recovered and stored at the township building until 1998 when it was reinstalled

and the lead based paint was removed. After the 1998 restoration the bridge was re-opened for pedestrian and bicycle use only. Recently, severe deterioration of the wooden deck planks caused significant safety issues and forced the Adams County Board Of Commissioners to make the decision to close it last February. County maintenance placed construction fencing and Closed signs at both ends of the bridge. Until the closure, the bridge had connected Red Rock & Waterworks Road to the Sachs Mill Bridge for pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists. "It is a wonderful area for peaceful recreation from walking to biking, fishing and birding," said Barbara Underwood, chair of the township's board of supervisors

In 2011, local community advocate, preservationist and benefactor Tim Shields approached me regarding some improvements to the historic Sachs Mill Covered Bridge, which adjoins his property on the Freedom Township side of Marsh Creek. He especially wanted the historic bridge to look at its best for this year's 150TH Anniversary Commemoration. I have some background in public/private partnerships and we discussed a public/private partnership for that proposed initiative.

When I mentioned the county recently closing the John Eisenhower Metal Bridge, Shields and I decided to join forces and resources to include both of these bridges in the improvement project; which did not include any funds from public budgets. After discussing the proposed John Eisenhower Bridge project with my fellow commissioners; as well as Adams County maintenance and Cumberland Township officials, it was determined that if private monies could be raised for the materials, county and township personnel would install the decking and trim overhanging limbs as their schedules permitted.

The approximately \$4000 required for the oak bridge decking was donated by the Tim Shields Family & The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee, organizers of the annual civil war reenactment. At the time of this submission for the Emmitsburg News Journal, approximately 75% of the decking has been replaced by the crews of Adams County Maintenance Director George Groft and Cumberland Township Roadmaster Tom Shealer. The overhanging tree limbs have also been trimmed. The bridge should be re-opened for recreation and foot traffic in December. The project gained even more momentum

and credibility when the National Park Service and The Gettysburg Foundation learned of the bridge(s) improvement project and the NPS offered labor and expertise while The Gettysburg Foundation committed \$1500.

We are now discussing painting the John Eisenhower Bridge in the spring and making several improvements to the Sachs Mill Bridge. The Sachs Mill Bridge improvements will hopefully include a seasonal water fountain on the Cumberland side, dusk to dawn lightning on both sides, graffiti removal and improved parking on the Freedom side to decrease erosion and enhance aesthetics. Most residents and visitors go to the Freedom side and are not aware that the Cumberland Township side of the bridge has handicapped access, parking and ramps leading onto the bridge. The Cumberland side of the bridge is accessed by Pumping Station Road to Roberta Way to Waterworks Road. Make a right on Waterworks from Roberta Way then go past the water plant. I recently had the opportunity to discuss some proposed bridge parking improvements with Freedom Supervisor Chairman Matt Young and will have follow-up discussions with the Freedom Board as the

project progresses.

These are the type of projects that should make all of us in Adams County proud. To engage in a positive community initiative, with a true spirit of cooperation between public and private sectors, with a tangible result, that does not impact the taxpayer, hopefully begins a pattern that can be repeated throughout Adams County. I have had a passion for these two bridges since I was a child and I cannot wait to see the final results. These two bridges are an iconic part of our Adams County history and fabric. They provide a sense of county pride, tranquility, recreation and "Kodak Moments" no matter what season of the year. We hope to have all the improvements completed by next June in time for the actual 150TH Anniversary on July 1, 2 & 3. If you haven't been to that part of the county recently, grab your camera, walking shoes, lunch bag, bike or history book and visit these bridges. You will be glad you did!

Get out there and enjoy all the historic, recreational, natural and cultural activities that beautiful Adams County has to offer. My best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and blessed holiday season and New Year!

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Celebrate the holidays

Shannon Bohrer

This is a wonderful time of year— Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is coming. Christmas infects me with joy and happiness. I like this time of year, the weather, the holiday spirit, the Christmas music, and the idea of peace on earth. There is something magical about the Christmas Holiday, getting together with family members, neighbors, co-workers, and friends for meals, visits and sometimes just coffee. For me, it is truly a magical time.

This year there is another reason to be happy— the election is over. I am sure that after the election about half the U.S. population is happy, while the other half is not. To the half that are not happy, if you must be unhappy, this is the best time of the year to be so. For the half that won the election, the holidays are like having extra dessert with dinner.

Although the election is over, the political experts keep rerunning the election and telling us why they won, why they lost, and how the strategy was flawed or how it worked just right. It is

amazing that the liberal press was responsible, the attack advertisements unfair, how the single women were brainwashed and how the demographics were for/against them. Given this wealth of information, the political experts are already telling us what each party has to accomplish before the next election. Primarily, what is required is to attract more minorities: more single women, more Hispanics, more Asians and more African Americans. As one political expert said, his party needs to have more non-white males as the face of the party. Forgive me, but I thought the election was about which party and/or candidates had the better ideas to fix the economy. If you listen closely, you would get the vibe that the purpose of a political party is simply to be in office, so that they can be in charge.

I do have empathy for the party that lost. They paid a lot of money to win the election and it did not work out for them. It is estimated that the total spending for the presidential election was about six billion dollars. That is a lot of money. Then of course the billionaires that spent

so much and still lost have the consolation prizes of senators and congress persons. There certainly are a lot of them for sale, but according to the news accounts they are getting very expensive.

On a related note, having a national election before the holidays comes with a second bonus: the political advertisements are over. I hate to admit it, but there were a few political advertisements that confused me. Take the advertisement that allowed you to buy a Chia pet in the form of Romney or Obama. I bought both of them and they both grew hair— I thought it was their noses that were supposed to grow. Anyway, I was considering cleaning them up and repurposing them. I have two close friends, one from each party. I think it would be nice to give the democrat the Romney Chia pet and to give the republican the Obama Chia pet. Who says we can't get along? Besides, these are difficult economic times and we all have to sacrifice where we can. I wonder if they will be collectables in the future.

I am surprised that the issue of voter fraud, which was all over the news before the election, has seemed to vanish. It must be that the major news media out-

lets think that since the election has passed that the fraud no longer exist. Let me give you an analogy. You go into a store and purchase a product. You inquire of the sales person about the use of the product, what the product is capable of and any problems that the product may have. The salesperson gives you assurance that the produce will perform as advertised and comes with a warranty. You purchase the product and take it home. Then you discover that it does not work as advertised. Is it false advertising, an uninformed sales person, or is it just fraud? If you purchase a product and it does not work, is that not like electing a politician who doesn't work, at least work as promised? Our elected officials are just like the products we buy, and we never seem to get what we pay for. Additionally, the product maintenance is very expensive. I believe that falls into the category of voter fraud. Of course since this type of voter fraud has been going on for so long, maybe it's just expected and that is why the news media ignores it.

Although the political advertisements are gone, in their place we now have the holiday advertise-

ments. We have gone from "hope and change" to "if you send me your change you can hope I will send you a product that you believe you need." We have the traditional holiday gifts that everybody needs and we have the standard gifts for someone that you have no idea of what to get them (i.e. the Chia pets and the clapper). I won't even bring up the traditional Christmas fruit cake— after all, I wish to stay in a good mood.

At a recent gathering, a family acquaintance said to my wife that Christmas is all about children and gifts and added that the gifts teach the children to appreciate the Christmas spirit. My wife replied that she thought Christmas was about the birth of Jesus Christ, the savior of our world. It's no wonder we get so upset about politics, if we can't agree on the purpose of Christmas, how could we ever agree on politics?

For me, it is a special time to enjoy our family, friends and neighbors, to enjoy the holiday spirit and to pray and hope for peace on earth. Maybe the peace on earth could start with a political truce, at least until next year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

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

Common Cents

Are we Greece?

Ralph Murphy

During a recent Capitol Hill protest, a young woman carried a placard asking the question "Are We Greece?" as debate on expanding the national debt raged inside the Halls of Congress. Recent national media coverage of such events leave the impression that there really is nothing wrong with being like Greece. Why not be like Greece?

The Greek economy generates \$303 billion dollars in revenue each year. Its national debt in 2011 was 165.3% of total domestic earnings. The European Union, is a 27 nation economic and political confederation of nations that is having difficulty helping the Greeks pay their bills. The Greek debt was 356 billion Euros - or close to \$500 billion dollars in 2011. A tidy sum to say the least. But, in comparison - the U.S. currently owes \$16 trillion dollars, or 104% of its annual domestic production. Realistically, we will never be able to pay this off in the reader's life time.

If the Greeks default on their national debt, it will hurt the "Euro zone" of 17 nations that share a common currency. If the U.S. defaults on its national debt ... it will take the global economy into severe recession. Perhaps even depression. So, we are NOT like Greece. There is a lot more at stake - worldwide - IF the U.S. does not

get its national debt under control.

How did we get this way?

I think that the U.S., along with much of the Western world, got accustomed to getting easy loans to fund a plethora of New Deal-type and associated Great Society spending. This, coupled with the cost of massive bank failures in the 1980's stemming from deregulation of our banking industry. It is easy to be careless with other people's money when you know Uncle Sam will pay for your mistakes - in our case through the FDIC

Our national debt has also accumulated because of arguably, worthwhile and noble ventures such as the ouster of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. We did this in just three weeks. Something the Iranians could not do in a decade of war. We then stayed behind to preside over the political reconstruction of Iraq that cost U.S. taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars - and, ironically - the creation of a Shiite state very similar to that of Iran.

There is also the more recent case of Afghanistan, where the Taliban insurgents were ousted after 9-11 by an American led invasion. They took to the provinces, and are waiting to return after the U.S. and Allied forces withdraw. Again, Afghanistan has cost us hundreds of billions of dollars - and countless, precious American lives.

Then there is the case of Libya.

Libya took 25,000 air strikes to remove Muammar Qaddafi from power. The outcome was viewed as positive because it reflected the will of the Libyan people. Libya was expensive though. The cost of weapons systems and support to allied military operations added to the U.S. debt. On the positive side - the conflict allowed Libya to join Egypt as one of the first democracies in the history of the Arab world. Incidentally, from a cost-benefit viewpoint - I believe that the CIA is better at nation building at a fraction of the cost of armed intervention. And, when the result is a pro-western government - the people can stand back and say "We did it! And we did it ourselves!" Foreign uniforms generate anger no matter how noble the cause

In retrospect, each of these military ventures has been costly and contributed to our ever increasing national debt. Something that many citizens are willing to accept as long as they are receiving a "piece of the action". In such an expensive world, tax revenues never come close to matching the expenditures. This means that our national debt is our legacy to the next generation - or two or three? Of course we can always choose the Weimar Republic solution that would wipe out our savings and creditor investments. A clear path to a severe depression. And worse.

Time to tighten the belt?

What economists like to call an "inflation debt cure" is possible for the West - but not recommended.



What really is needed, is to cut back on out-of-control, government spending. Yet, our government seems determined to spend its way through social crises such as health care and unemployment. Solutions that they pay for by raising the national debt ceiling. All this, at a time when they are sorely pressed to come up with the \$16 Trillion dollars needed (i.e. the National Debt) to keep current programs up and running. I believe this is a time when we must come to grips with reality. Either we must convince our domestic and overseas creditors that they should invest in the U.S.A. ... or, do what any good business would do - cut back on programs until it hurts.

With a population of 312 million Americans and abundant natural resources that most of the world envies, I believe our nation is poised for a period of growth and prosperity. But, only if we work together as a team and work closely with our overseas partners such as Germany, Spain, Japan, China and yes - even Greece. By buying their products we help them survive and flourish. We are all in the same boat

now. Imports, exports... We need a "win-win" worldwide economy.

Whether you are talking about a person, a family, a community or a nation ... we must all learn to live within our means. It is tempting to borrow to get what we think we need NOW, but we must learn to live more moderately. And - when we do incur new debt - we should do so with the clear intention of repaying it on time and within budget.

The U.S. and other nations have been ignoring their national budgets. Exceeding them at will. We cannot play this game forever. Eventually we will have to "pay the piper". How long until we are called to "pay up"? I don't know, but I don't think we have long to wait. The choices we make today will determine the answer. We must choose wisely. It just makes common sense.

Ralph Murphy is a former member of the CIA Headquarters Staff in Langley, VA. He holds a bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Maryland.

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

Pure OnSense

The fiscal cliff and you

Scott Zuke

Last month's election, while being by all accounts clean and decisive, has done little to answer one question: Are we a deeply divided nation, or simply a thoroughly confused one? The time right after a major election is typically used by politicians to interpret their "mandates" for how to lay out their legislative agenda going into the next term, but such a mandate must be based on a clear signal from the electorate. This time, however, they received fairly mixed signals, both in terms of electoral results and in subsequent polling on various policy questions.

The biggest policy issue for the next few months will be figuring out how to deal with the "fiscal cliff," a combination of sharp tax increases and spending cuts due to go into effect in January unless Congress can come up with a way to avoid it. Interestingly, the fiscal cliff is widely portrayed as an impending calamity that must be avoided at all cost, even though it accomplishes some of the key policy goals that the public has been demanding since the rise of the Tea Party.

What does the cliff mean to you? According to a report by the non-partisan Tax Policy Center, if Congress fails to intervene, middle-income households would see an average tax increase of nearly \$2,000 next year.

Nationally, this would amount to a significant anti-stimulus policy, almost as big as the stimulus measures enacted to prevent the 2008 financial crisis from turning into a full-fledged depression. The Congressional Budget Office projects that the nation would experience a recession in early 2013, marked by a 0.5% drop in GDP and a temporary spike in unemployment, up to as high as 9.1% (up from 7.9% at the time this was written). On the plus side, though, the dramatic increase in tax revenues, paired with mandatory cuts in government spending, would significantly cut the federal budget deficit and help to slow the increase of the national debt.

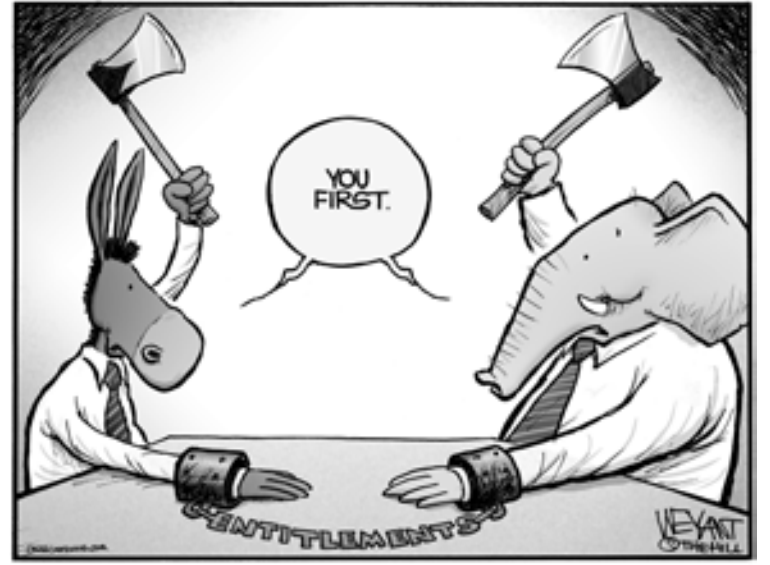
So wait, isn't that what we're asking for? In polls conducted by Gallup after the election, 72% of respondents indicated that making major cuts in federal spending should be an extremely or very important part of Obama's second term agenda. A majority, 56%, said they would be open to policies that would reduce the federal deficit either primarily through tax rate increases or in equal proportion to spending cuts. The fiscal cliff essentially meets these demands, and would have a non-trivial impact on the national debt, yet Gallup also found that 82% of US adults (split evenly across party lines) said that it is extremely or very important for Congress and the president to come to an agreement on how to avoid the fis-

cal cliff (Only 51% are hopeful that a deal will actually be reached, according to Rasmussen).

As we all know by now, the trouble is that people like the idea of cutting federal spending to reduce the debt and deficit, but are unwilling to let go of the services that that spending provides them. An overwhelming 95% of respondents answered that taking "major steps to restore a strong economy and job market" is an extremely or very important priority for Obama's second term. Eighty-eight percent said the same for protecting Social Security and Medicare, the main contributors to the growing debt. And there was relatively tepid interest in seeing major cuts to military and defense spending.

These conflicting priorities give lawmakers a limited policy space to work within, which ultimately leads to more symbolic gestures than real solutions. President Obama's insistence on seeing tax rate increases for the wealthy by repealing the Bush tax cuts for the top income brackets has bordered on being an obsession, yet no one believes it would raise enough revenue to close the budget deficit. Meanwhile, the Republicans, for all of their public bluster on seeking dramatic cuts to federal spending, have only made modest proposals that too often rely on accounting gimmicks to make it look like they're cutting significantly more than they are.

Even their plans that could actually produce significant cuts are little more than political chess pieces. The compromise reached in 2011 that allowed the US to avoid defaulting on its debts through a procedure called sequestration was designed to



be equally unacceptable to both parties in order to force a long-term solution to the debt crisis at a future date. Without a deal, Republicans would be forced to swallow sharp cuts to sacred defense spending, while Democrats would be hit with cuts to cherished entitlement programs. A disingenuous proposal put forward by Speaker Boehner would remove the sequestration cuts to defense, supposedly to help mitigate the fiscal cliff. He knows that this is a betrayal to the original compromise, and one that could never be approved in the Senate or by the president, but he put it out there anyway.

Members of Congress make decisions based on whether they will be blamed for unpopular policies. When it comes to fiscal responsibility, policymakers are now in a difficult position because the changes that need to be made and that people are demanding will also be deeply, deeply unpopular with various sections of the electorate.

For readers in northern Frederick County and into Carroll County, the fiscal cliff debate has suddenly become much more important to watch closely. For better or worse, we're no longer being represented by a rubber stamp congressman. Chris Van Hollen, who was reelected to represent the newly formed 8th Congressional District is a ranking member on the House Budget Committee, and was a key player in the 2011 debt ceiling negotiations. It will be important for constituents to monitor his role in the fiscal cliff and other budget talks in the coming months and to communicate their priorities to him when possible. That entails a further responsibility: to weigh the proposals that are out there and ensure that our own priorities and wishes are internally consistent. That is no simple task.

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

Down Under

The periscope view

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne, Australia

You may not realize the collective sigh of relief that rose up from the hearts and voices of the Australian people - most of them, anyway - when the election result was announced. It's not that we're particularly socialist or anti-capitalist, we just have to live in an isolated area of the world, rich in minerals and low in population, clever and mostly hardworking, that is on the western edge of the pacific, ready to be stomped on by a China that feels it has no option but to combat the American Hawks who cannot accept that their superiority will not last forever. This unrealistic viewpoint is founded on the notion that national dominance is far more important than the care of the people, of the environment, and of the cost to their allies and friends.

Having said that, I was reminded just how anti-democratic the republican leaders and big supporters have become. Not just mired in the murk of money, but openly indifferent to the citizens of your truly great nation as they seek their own betterment. This was highlighted by a press report

on that wonderful (!) man Karl Rove who founded two large fund raising groups, American Crossroads and Crossroads Grassroots, which raised and spent more than 200 million dollars on Mitt Romney's election campaign. Mr Rove is reported as saying, 'this was not a good return on the money spent.'

Since when was politics the fief of anyone who could get a return on their investment? When was it the same as buying shares in a publicly listed company, with the same capability of complaining to the chairman if the return was not up the promises made, and to your expectation? As I understand it, democracy is supposed to be the government of the people for the people - not just a few of them, but ALL of them. Of course this hasn't been true for many centuries, perhaps for all time - no system has actually done that, even though Voltaire at least thought democracy could - yet we have come to cherish the idea of democratic freedom as the cornerstone of our way of life. Why else keep trumpeting it, and trying to impose it on any country you think useful to you?

We have also provided one of

the truly great specters of the age, Rupert Murdoch. (He was born here, to our everlasting shame - but more about that next time). What interests me now is the view the members of the far right have developed about the world and their place in it. I've called it the periscope view, because it enables the viewer see what they want and ignore the rest. Our esteemed editor could no doubt write a book about periscope views, as I'm sure he has looked through them from time to time, and could confirm that the idea is that you can see the enemy but they cannot see you.

In this sense, a periscope is a very useful device, especially in wartime. And that indeed is what we are engaged in, an undeclared and bitter war between the far right and everyone else. And it a war we have to win, even though the odds are heavily against us, with the goals of the enemy well hidden from view. Strategy they fully understand - after all, some of them are military leaders - and one tack is to use their acolytes as a kind of acrid smoke screen, urging them to become the loony right. This becomes the focus of critics, the despair of the majority of reasoning and careful Republicans, and all those slightly to the left, and keeps the spotlight away from themselves.

To put it in plain language, their goal is simple - power and wealth. Absolute power and absolute wealth. Nothing less will do, and

the stratagems and smokescreens they raise to hide their lust are overwhelmingly successful. They learnt long ago that the way to brainwash the people was not the staged 're-learning centers' of Stalin, but the popular media. If you shout and deafen people with lies, if high-profile sports stars, celebrities from all areas and entertainments are seduced to commend them as the only truth worth having, then public opinion will swing towards the false and away from reality.

We have all been led to believe that responsible journalism is to be generally trusted, and for those whom 'responsible journalism' is an oxymoron, the promises of happy home and hearth is generally enough. Of course there is still a great deal of truly unblinkered, insightful writing, but how many read it? Certainly not nearly enough. There's just too many distractions, eh?

If this election proved anything, it was that the far right is stupid.

Looking at the populace thought their periscopes, they saw gullible fools who would happily trade their birth right for the mess of pottage offered, (to coin a phrase), have their civil liberties become tissue thin, die for their masters once more, and accept the monolithic totems to their power. Such would-be leaders see only what they want to see. And that, thank heavens, is their weakness - as their failed campaign showed.

For it is inescapable that you are not a stupid people, but ones who do care about your community, the environment, your country, its international relations, its reputation, and its ability to get back onto the track of grassroots progress. Not by making war, not by ravaging the life of other cultures, not by buying the lies and convenient half-truths spewed forth constantly, but by clear headed regard for the best person to achieve this.

No, President Obama is not perfect. He's surely the best there is, one who needs all the support he can get to prevent falling over the looming cliff of ruin that you face shortly.

The manic right will not willingly give one cent of their billions to see that happen. They want you to give your blood instead. They want you to believe that if they can be rich, so can you. I am so glad you, as a nation, saw through all this and were prepared to hold up a hand to them and say STOP! After all, you and I do not live in a submarine, not even a yellow one, but in the wide, wide world of love, caring, sharing and being responsible for our own actions.

So a Very Happy Christmas to you all - and a somewhat more prosperous New Year than you would otherwise have had.

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

A Christmas story

Pastor Gary Bachman
Emmitsburg Community
Bible Church

I love Christmas. I love the movies like, A Christmas Story, and any version of A Christmas Carol, and more. I love the sights and smells of Christmas, the dinners, the decorations, and the cookies. I love the cookies.

Christmas is a wonderful time when we remember that a young couple traveled 75-100 miles to register for a census and higher taxes and couldn't find a place to stay and probably found refuge in a cave or barn for animals or a caravan camp ground. We remember and focus on the birth of that baby, and on the angels who appeared to shepherds with incredible news and those same shepherds who witnessed the awesome sight of a baby in a manger. We remember the Wise Men that came a great distance to offer gifts and to worship this child who was designated to be the King of Kings and Savior of the world. Churches throughout the world will have pagants and Cantatas about all of this in December.

Consider with me that while all of these things make Christmas wonderful, we often don't stop and realize why all of this occurred. Why do we have Christmas? Some will say, "It's all about the children." While that makes a nice sentiment, it's not true. Many of you have seen cards or signs, or will wear pins that say, "Jesus is the Reason

for The Season." Now, we understand what that means. With so much emphasis on shopping, and Santa Claus, Snowmen, Jingle Bells, and the 'commercialism,' of Christmas, we forget that Christmas is about the arrival of God into our world. But what was the reason for His arrival into our world? Do you know?

The real truth, is that, we are the reason for the season. We are the reason that Jesus came. While not a traditional Christmas reading, John 3:14-17 tells us the reason Jesus came:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Read it again, only instead of the word, "World," say, "Me." For God so loved Me." That He gave His only begotten Son that if I believe in Him, I will not perish but have everlasting life."

Everyone loves a good story. Many of our stories are about people who have been captured and held prisoner, or kidnapped and held for ransom, and how a gallant hero or special ops. team put together a plan and then rescue the princess or the captives and bring them home safely. Remember 17 years ago when Scott O'Grady was shot down over Bosnia and eluded capture for several days and was rescued by our Marines; or how Shosana

Johnson and 6 others, or Jessica Lynch were rescued in the war in Iraq. The world rejoiced when the Chilean Miners were finally brought out to safety a few years ago. And we grieved when 12 out of 13 miners died in a mine collapse in Sago W. Va, or the 25 that died in the mine explosion in Massey, W.Va. in 2010, because we want to hear of rescue, of people being saved. Such is the story of Christmas. Christmas is about a special ops. Mission; a rescue story, from Heaven.

The world, in these verses, refers to the people who inhabit this world. It refers to you and me. We were, and many still are, destined to perish, lost forever unless we are rescued.

The reason we are lost is because we inherited a deadly disease called, 'the sin nature'. It is the part of our makeup that is entirely focused on what we want. It is what makes us selfish, self-centered and causes us to violate God's laws, our own mores and our societies' laws. This sin nature was passed down to every human being from Adam to us. Romans 5:12 says, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. Because God is Holy, He can not tolerate or approve of sin and but has to judge it and put it away from Himself, He pronounced death as the penalty for sin. Death is not the end of existence, rather it is separation from God forever in a place referred to as, Hell. Because all have the sin nature, and all have sinned, all are condemned to perish forever.

But our God's nature is not only Holy, it is also Love. His love means that He seeks the highest good for the objects of His affection. Who is the object of His affection? The world, you and I! "For God SO loved the world..." The word, "so," may appear to be quantitative; that God loves us, sooooo much, but it is not quantitative, it is demonstrative. That is, it is saying, this is how God demonstrated or proved His love to us the world. 1



John 4:9 says it like this, "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Paul said this in Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Though you and I were lost, and destined to perish, God proved His great love for us. He gave us the greatest gift ever. He gave us Jesus; His unique Son. Jesus volunteered for this special ops. mission (Hebrews 10:4-10), knowing that it would cost Him rejection and the hatred of many and His own life. But He came anyway, willing to offer His life in exchange for yours and mine, as John 3:14-15 reminds us. Jesus would, some 33 years after Christmas, be taken to a hill near by and executed in your place, paying for your sins. He died to rescue you and me. Three days later, however, He would rise from the grave to prove that our sins were indeed paid for and now we can have His life and be rescued forever.

We are the reason for the season. Jesus came to give us the best Christmas Gift ever. But it's only a gift if you receive it. In the middle of John 3:16 are the words of decision. These words imply that we must choose to accept His gift, "That who ever believes in Him..." We must decide if we will trust in Him or try to save ourselves, but

remember Solomon once said, "that everyman has a way which seems right to him, but the end of it is always death" (Pro.14:12). Note that it doesn't say, 'whoever believes about Him.' Many believe about Him; that He was born in Bethlehem to Mary; that as a young itinerant preacher He was arrested and put to death on a cross. Many even believe that He rose again and yet will perish, because it is not believing about Him, it is believing in Him. The word, Believe, means to totally trust your life to Him; in who He is, and what He did for you. Those who believe, get the greatest gift ever, His forgiveness, adoption as His child, eternal life, and a safe trip home, never to be lost again.

Its whole new perspective isn't it? We are the Reason for The Season. Christmas and the advent of Jesus is really about God wanting to rescue us. That's why Jesus came. Has He rescued you? He wants to. He just wants you to trust in Him, turn from your sins, and follow Him. That's what's implied in believing in Him. Why not make this Christmas, the year you receive the greatest Christmas gift ever?

If I can answer any questions or help you in any way, please write to me at pastorgarybachman@gmail.com. Or, visit us at Emmitsburg Elementary school every Sunday Morning at 10:00. May God bless you all with the best Christmas ever.

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Tiffany Kromer, Pastor

Christmas carols



Amid so many popular customs at Christmas, full of so much sweet and simple poetry, there is perhaps none more charming than that of the Christmas carols, which celebrate in joyous and yet devout strains the Nativity of the Saviour. The term is believed to be derived from the Latin *cantare* (to sing), and *rola!* an interjection expressive of joy. The practice appears to be as ancient as the celebration of Christmas itself, and we are informed that in the early ages of the church, the bishops were accustomed to sing carols on Christmas-day among their clergy.

The quaint and inestimable Jeremy Taylor, referring in his *Great Exemplar* to the *Gloria in Excelsis*, or hymn sung by the angels on the plains of Bethlehem, says:

'As soon as these blessed choristers had sung their Christmas Carol, and taught the Church a hymn to put into her offices for ever in the anniversary of this festivity, the angels returned into heaven.'

Milton also, in the twelfth book of *Paradise Lost*, thus alludes to what may be regarded as the first Christmas carol:

*'His place of birth a solemn angel tells
To simple shepherds, keeping watch by night;
They gladly thither haste, and by a quire
Of squadron'd angels hear his carol sung.'*

In process of time, these Christmas hymns became very much secularized, and latterly, were frequently nothing more than festal chants, sung during the revelries of the Christmas season. The earliest specimen which we possess of the medieval carol, belongs to this class, and is preserved in a manuscript in the British Museum. It is composed in Norman-French, and belongs to the thirteenth century. The same convivial quality characterises a 'sett of carols,' the earliest printed edition of these Christmas chants, published by Wynkyn de Worde in 1821. The 'Boar's Head' song, quoted in a subsequent arti-

cle, occurs with others of a similar class in the collection referred to.

As with the generality of our popular ballads, we find the earlier specimens of Christmas carols often extremely rugged and unadorned in point of composition, and perceive them gradually assume a more polished and harmonious form with the progress of education and refinement. This improvement is chiefly to be remarked after the commencement of the sixteenth century.

Christmas carols are sung on Christmas Eve as well as on the morning of Christmas-day, and indeed the former is regarded by many as the more appropriate occasion. Then the choristers, attached to the village-church, make their rounds to the principal houses throughout the parish, and sing some of those simple and touching hymns. The airs to which they are sung are frequently no less plaintive and melodious than the words, and, are often accompanied by instruments. The writer retains a vivid recollection of a carol which he heard sung, some years ago, on Christmas Eve by a detachment of the village choir, in front of a country-house in Devonshire, where he was at the time a visitor.

The sweet and pathetic melody, which was both remarkably well sung and played, the picturesqueness of the group of singers, whose persons were only rendered visible, in the darkness of the night, by the light of one or two lanterns which they carried, and the novelty and general interest of the scene, all produced an impression which was never to be forgotten. These Christmas-eve carols are very general in Devonshire, and the usual custom for the singers is to club the money; which they receive on such occasions, and expend it in a social merry-making on Twelfth Day, a fortnight afterwards.

The Three Magi

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

medieval times on the subject of these celebrated personages.

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

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

The barbaric pomp involved in this legend made it a favourite with artists during the Middle Ages. Our engraving is a copy from a circular plate of silver, chased in high-relief, and partly gilt, which is supposed to have formed the center of a morse, or large brooch, used to fasten the decorated cope of an ecclesiastic in the latter part of the fourteenth century. The subject has been frequently depicted by the artists subsequent to this period. Van Eyck, Durer, and the German schools were particularly fond of the theme—the latest and most striking work being that by Rubens, who reveled in such pompous displays. The artists of the Low Countries were, probably, also biased by the fact, that the cathedral of Cologne held the shrine in which the bodies of the Magi were said to be deposited, and to which the faithful made many pilgrimages, greatly to the emolument of the city, a result which induced the worthy burghers to distinguish their shield of arms by three crowns only, and to designate the Magi as 'the three kings of Cologne.'

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

His successor, Philip von Heinsberg, placed them in a mag-

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

The popular belief in the great power of intercession and protection possessed by the Magi, as departed saints, was widely spread in the middle ages. Any article that had touched these skulls was believed to have the power of preventing accidents to the bearer while traveling, as well as to counteract sorcery, and guard against sudden death. Their names were also used as a charm, and were inscribed upon girdles, garters, and finger-rings. We engrave two specimens of such rings, both works of the fourteenth century. The upper one is of silver, with the names of the Magi engraved upon it; the lower one is of lead simply cast in a mold, and sold cheap for the use of the commonalty. They were regarded as particularly efficacious in the case of cramp. Traces of this superstition still linger in the curative properties popularly ascribed to certain rings.

Christmas Decorations

The decking of churches, houses, and shops with evergreens at Christmas, springs from a period far anterior to the revelation of Christianity, and seems proximately to be derived from the custom prevalent during the Saturnalia of the inhabitants of Rome ornamenting their temples and dwellings with green boughs. From this latter cir-

cumstance, we find several early ecclesiastical councils prohibiting the members of the church to imitate the pagans in thus ornamenting their houses. But in process of time, the pagan custom was like others of a similar origin, introduced into and incorporated with the ceremonies of the church itself. The sanction of our Saviour likewise came to be pleaded for the practice, he having entered Jerusalem in triumph amid the shouts of the people, who strewed palm-branches in his way.


It is evident that the use of flowers and green boughs as a means of decoration, is almost instinctive in human nature; and we accordingly find scarcely any nation, civilized or savage, with which it has not become more or less familiar. The Jews employed it in their Feast of Tabernacles, in the month of September; the ancient Druids and other Celtic nations hung up the mistletoe and green branches of different kinds over their doors, to propitiate the woodland sprites; and a similar usage prevailed, as we have seen, in Rome. In short, the feeling thus so universally exhibited, is one of natural religion, and therefore not to be traced exclusively to any particular creed or form of worship.

The favorite plants for church decoration at Christmas are holly, bay, rosemary, and laurel. Ivy is rather objectionable, from its associations, having anciently been sacred to Bacchus, and employed largely in the orgies celebrated in honour of the god of wine. Cypress, we are informed, has been sometimes used, but its funereal relations render it rather out of place at a festive season like Christmas. One plant, in special, is excluded—the mystic mistletoe, which, from its antecedents, would be regarded as about as inappropriate to the interior of a church, as the celebration of the old Druidical rites within the sacred building.

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THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

A wandering mind on a gray (or was it grey?) day

Bill Meredith

"At night, all cats are gray."
—Benjamin Franklin,
Poor Richard's Almanac

That sly old gray fox, Ben Franklin, was smart enough to be born at a time when writers could get away with a bit of plagiarism. That line about cats was in a book of proverbs written by John Heywood in 1540; the original wording was "When all candles be out, all cats be gray." I don't know whether Heywood thought of it himself or stole it from somebody else; but I do know college freshmen who have got F's on essays for quoting things without giving credit to the original authors. And now that the internet has made it so easy to check sources, we hear we occasionally hear of journalists like Mike Barnicle or writers like Stephen Ambrose getting in trouble because they forgot or neglected to make proper citations. Of course it's possible that Franklin might have thought of the gray cat line independently, but it's more likely that he read it in Heywood's book and was lucky enough

not to get caught; or, maybe it just didn't matter so much back then. Whatever the case, I always think of Franklin when the subject of gray things comes up, as it did recently.

It was the last week of October, and fall was well under way. It wasn't really cold yet, but a lot of trees were already bare, and the ones that hadn't lost their color were past their peak. The sky was overcast... tired-looking rather than threatening, the kind of day that puts you in a reflective mood... and as I started off to the post office I decided it was a gray day. You need a day like that once in a while. You wouldn't want every day to be bright and sunny, any more than you would want rain every day; a little variety is good for you. So I decided that when a nice, quiet gray day comes along, I should take advantage of it. It offers the chance to think instead of complaining or worrying.

As I said, I was going to the post office, but my mind wasn't with me; it had wandered off on its own. First it visited Ben Franklin and his cat, and then it started wondering whether the day was gray or grey. That led it to recall my aunt,

who knew things like that. She had been a teacher for a couple of years around 1920... back when being a schoolmarm was one of the few jobs an unmarried woman could take outside the home without arousing gossip. When I was little, she was always correcting my spelling and grammar. She taught me the rule, "i before e, except after c," and scolded me for saying "aint" (that puzzled me because a lot of grown-ups said it, even nice people who went to church, so I knew it wasn't swearing). She died about 20 years ago, so I couldn't take the gray/grey question to her, but I enjoyed thinking about her until I got home, and then I looked it up in the dictionary.

The answer was a bit of a let-down. I was expecting to find an elegant Latin word that had split into two forms when it passed from medieval French to Old English, and got sanctified and set in stone when they wrote the Oxford English Dictionary; but it was not to be. Both spellings are acceptable; in England things are grey, and in America they are gray. It was just a case of careless spelling that someone like Noah Webster probably decided should be standardized after the Revolutionary War. I grumbled about it to my wife, but she just gave me that "Not Again!" look and said she had more important things to do than quibble about spelling.

She obviously hasn't completely mastered the art of being retired yet, but I had to admit that she might be right, so I resolved to put it out of my mind; but it wouldn't go. I was in a good mood, but everywhere I looked, there was gray.



The carpet in my room is gray; the chair where I read, watch TV, do my serious thinking and take naps is gray. Outside the kitchen window, the chickadees, titmice, juncos, nuthatches and goldfinches that populate the bird feeders are gray. Most of my friends have gray hair. Off in the distance, the mountain is gray. The logs I bring in for the fireplace are gray. So I sat down in the chair and thought about it, and by the time I woke up, half an hour later, I decided gray is a pretty good color. It isn't showy, but it's useful; it does its work quietly and competently, and creates a restful background that makes brighter colors show up better. The world is a kinder, gentler place with some gray in it. Just think how much higher everyone's blood pressure would be if everything was red or orange.

A few weeks after the gray day, I was going to the post office again and noticed a number of walnut shells on the sidewalk at the corner of the schoolyard. The shells were not in the random pattern that occurs when they fall from the tree; they were

lined up in a more or less orderly row along the edge opposite the pavement. I looked at them for a minute or two, but no explanation came to mind; so I went on my way, happily engaged searching through the gray corners of my skull for a theory to explain why the random arrangement of things in nature should be violated by a row of walnut shells. The answer appeared on the way back home. As I approached the corner of the schoolyard a squirrel came up from the field with a walnut in its mouth. It was a gray squirrel, and when it started to cross the road a car came by. The squirrel turned and came back, but instead of scurrying up the nearest tree it sat down on the edge of the sidewalk and began peeling the shell off the walnut. Apparently it didn't want to waste time while it waited for traffic to pass. When the way was clear, it went on across the road and buried the nut in the nearest yard. Obviously, it was running a regular supply route; the row of walnut shells was evidence of both its industrious habits and its prudence. It must have been an elderly individual who had profited from reading Robert Frost's poem, "Provide, provide!" and was putting its education to practical use.

*No memory of having starved
Atones for later disregard
Or keeps the end from being
hard.*

*Better to go down dignified
With boughten friendship at
your side
Than none at all. Provide,
provide!*

Winter is a gray season, but that doesn't automatically make it bad; you can decide not to let it be so if you choose. There is wisdom out there, even if you have to accept it from a squirrel. The Christmas lights will look good again this year, even if they are against a gray background. So, let's enjoy the holiday. We've earned it.

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Oh, the lowly Woolly Bear

Michael Hillman

Is it just me, or was there an unusually large number of Woolly Bear caterpillars crossing the roads this fall? From sun up to sun down, you couldn't go more than 20 feet without seeing one "attempting" to cross the street.

You'll notice I used quotes around the word attempting, as most of them sadly don't make it. Instead, they fall prey to tires of oncoming cars.

Which brings me to my next question: how many of you slowed down and weaved around the Woolly Bears to give them a break? I'll be the first to admit, I do—that is, when I can.

When I'm driving on back roads, I find my eyes glued to the road surface, looking for their telltale red striped coloring. When I spot one, I swerve the car left or right to give the Woolly Bear as much clearance as I can. At times I find myself weaving so much that I must look like a down-hill slalom skier, or worse, a drunk!

It would be nice to think that the caterpillars I swerve around, do indeed make it to the other side of the road, but unfortunately, more times than I care to admit, I find myself looking into my rear view mirror to watch the tracks of a car behind me roll over the spot I just weaved at. I do a quick mental calculation—"The Woolly Bear is crawling at two feet per

minute, the car is 45 seconds behind me... nope, they ran over it."

I sigh. The next one I come to is just near the yellow line in the center, "OK, you'll make it." I think to myself, "at least the next car won't hit you." And so it goes the whole length of the road until I get home.

One unusually warm day recently I turned onto Motter Station Road off of Route 15 to discover the road literally swarming with them. For the previous half hour on my drive north on Route 15 I had watched with sorrow the large migration of Woolly Bears attempting to cross the highway, knowing full well that few would ever make it to the grass median. Knowing that I had just passed hundreds of Willy Bears that were now dead, I pulled my car off to the side of the road and got out. I couldn't help those trying to cross Route 15, but I could help those trying to cross Motter Station Road.

I no sooner picked up the closest to my car when I spotted another 5 feet away. Then another a few feet more, then a pair, then another pair. As I picked them up, they immediately curled up into a ball—which made holding them rather easy. Once I had a handful, I walked to the side of the road and gently placed them safely out of harm's way.

It would be nice to think that they all continued in the direction they were originally heading, but as I looked

at the scene before me, with Woolly Bears headed in every direction imaginable, I cringed at the thought that most of them would probably find the old saying: "the grass is not always greener on the other side of the road" true, and turn around to head back in the direction from which they had come—and once again find themselves in the middle of the road, and at the mercy of the 'Michelin Man'.

I shrugged my shoulders. By the time they had decided that the side of the road they had been heading toward was not worth the trip, I could have been home and ridden at least one, if not both my horses, not to mention, written this article. So instead, I concentrated my efforts on simply clearing the road of the Woolly Bears that were on it at the time.

More than one driver slowed to look at what I was doing. Some waved and gave me a thumbs-up, others gave me a blank stare as if I were a nut case and went on their way. The former I noted, like me, seemed to make an effort to weave around the plethora of Woolly Bears on the road. The latter crushed more than their fair share of Woolly Bears.

Once the section of the road I was standing on was clear, I started my car and moved it to where I had left off and got out again. For the first 500 yards, each stop yielded easily 25 Woolly Bears. The further I got away



from Route 15, the lower the density of Woolly Bears on the road. I have no idea why, it was just something I noticed. Still, I was burning up precious daylight.

It was time for triage.

When no cars were coming, and it was apparent that a Woolly Bear would make it to the side of the road safely, I left them to fend for themselves. But if they were in the middle of the road, or just starting to cross the road, I pulled next to them and opened the door of the car and scooped them up, placing them gently on the passenger seat next to me. When the seat had filled to capacity, I would stop the car and place all my "passengers" into the grass and resume the operation.

I progressed as fast as I could, but unfortunately couldn't help them all. I watched in dejection as cars passed me, knowing full well that those that were not swerving were more than likely running over Woolly Bears I might have gotten to in the next few minutes. With each passing car, I redoubled my efforts, trying to pick up as many Woolly Bears as I could. But they were everywhere.

That day, my usual 5-minute drive from Route 15 to my farm took over an hour, and while I missed my opportunity to ride, I didn't regret it. When I did get home, I scooped out those that I had picked up along the road in front of my farm and carried them out into the far corner of the pasture. Even if they had wanted to try to re-cross the road, it would take them days to find it again, and maybe, just maybe, I thought, they might find a nice warm spot to curl up for the winter.

In spite of all my efforts the evening before, I found Motter Station teaming with Woolly Bears as I left for work the next morning. While I would have liked to have stopped to help each and every one of them, I couldn't imagine my boss accepting that as an acceptable excuse for not showing up for work that day, or the day after, or the day after that.

I wanted to save them all. Instead, I decided to save as many as I could. Every day when I returned home from work, I would walk down the road in front of my farm and scoop up those daring to cross the road. On the return trip back to the house, I scooped up those that had started to cross after I passed by the first time. Some days I only saved a few, other days my bag of Woolly Bears was overflowing.

Ironically, in spite of all the time I spent saving them, it never really occurred to me to inquire what they look like once they become butterflies. I was hoping they would be something beautiful, but they are not. Instead, they turn into plain old simple moths. But I discovered that they do have an interesting life cycle.

According to Wikipedia: "The moth *Pyrrharctia isabella* is known by different common names at its two main life stages. The adult is the Isabella Tiger Moth and the larva is called the Banded Woolly Bear. The Woolly Bear larva emerges from the egg in the fall and overwinters in its caterpillar form, when it literally freezes solid. First its heart stops beating, then its gut freezes, then its blood, followed by the rest of the body. It survives being frozen by producing a cryoprotectant in its tissues. In the spring it thaws out and emerges to pupate. Once it emerges from its pupa as a moth it has only days to find a mate before it dies."

Not exactly a life to write home about. You're born, you freeze, you thaw out, then you die. Oh well, at least they look cute when they are caterpillars... cute enough for this old writer to enjoy taking a few minutes every day to help a few of them out. After all, if I were a Woolly Bear, I would hope someone would look out for me.

In the end, we are all God's creatures, and we all share the same planet. When possible, we all need to look out for each other or there will be no one to look after us.

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



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IN THE COUNTRY

“Hibrrrrrrrrnation”

Tim Iverson
Seasonal Naturalist
Cunningham Falls State Park

Winter has settled in on us, and I can relate to this month's cast of characters. I abhor the cold. As far as I'm concerned winter is only good for two things: Christmas and my birthday (it's in January). That list used to include snow, but as an adult the world doesn't stop turning just because it snowed it just becomes more inconvenient. If I could I'd migrate south for the winter, or hunker down and take a nice long nap until the spring. I'm talking about hibernating! It's pretty common in the natural world, and I want in on that action.

Hibernation is an evolutionary adaptation that helps mammals and reptiles alike survive the winter months. Every living thing burns energy all the time simply by being alive. It takes energy to walk, sleep, breathe, and even to think! Mammals spend a lot of their energy just regulating body temperature. So in order to get enough energy to do all these things we eat. We eat food in order to put enough gas in the tank so we can continue to do all the stuff we do, like existing. This all works really well when there is enough food to go around. But during the winter plants stop pro-

ducing fruit, critters become scarcer, and food is all around a lot harder to come by. What's an animal to do?

Some animals migrate south in search of warmer temperatures and more abundant food supplies. Meanwhile, some animals that stay behind will hunker down and enter a hibernation state. During hibernation metabolic rates essentially come to a grinding halt. Heart rate can drop to as little as 3% of normal rate. For example, a chipmunk will go from 200 to 5 heartbeats per minute during hibernation. Breathing can slow to half (or more) of the usual rate, with some species stopping breathing entirely.

Hibernation, contrary to popular belief, is actually not at all like sleeping. These animals virtually lose all consciousness and are nearly impossible to wake up. When they do eventually come out of hibernation they often exhibit signs of sleep deprivation, and may need to dedicate a substantial portion of time to sleep. The primary difference between sleep and hibernation basically boils down to what the body is doing. During sleep there are minor physiological changes to the body, it's mostly mental change. It's also very easy to wake up from sleep, whereas hibernation is nearly impossible making these animals susceptible to predation. Brain



activity is actually very similar during hibernation compared with normal active brain activity. Hibernation just brings animals to the lowest possible metabolic rates they can stand so they require nearly no energy.

Animals can't undergo this process without a lot of work and forethought though. They must spend a great deal of time building up fat reserves to feed off of throughout this ordeal. Those that can't hold enough fat will store nonperishable food with them or nearby so they can access it during the winter. While hibernating the bodies of these animals halt nearly all activity, including excreting waste. Bears for instance will recycle nitrogen and other chemicals from fecal and urine waste back into their system.

Bears, along with several other species, don't actually hibernate by the traditional understanding of the word. They undergo a type of hibernation, sometimes referred to as brumation, which actually allows them to wake up periodically. Their bodies undergo the same physiological changes as other hibernators, but they are still somewhat aware of their surroundings. They will only wake up when disturbed, and this is most likely due to the fact that they only lower body temperature marginally. In general, they require a lot more energy. To lower their body temperatures anymore than just a few degrees

(from approx. 100°F to about 88°F) and then return to normal would require a great deal of time and energy. Reptiles will drop 40°F to 70°F or more from their normal body temperature! Depending on temperature black bears will enter their winter dens in October and November and undergo hibernation for about three to five months.

Similarly, bats also undergo this type of hibernation. Bats eat mostly insects, at least bats in our area, and during the winter insects also hibernate. Thus, it's easiest for them to hibernate during this difficult season. While bats undergo brumation, and will only awaken if disturbed, they face a much different challenge than other hibernators.

Currently there is an invasive fungus, *geomyces destructans*, creating a fatal condition in bats known as White-Nose Syndrome (WNS). This white fungus is introduced into cave systems on the soles of shoes from other infected caves and spreads rapidly once introduced. The fungus generally damages wing tissue, causes erratic behavior, and infected bats generally become very active during their usual hibernation period causing them to starve. The Little Brown Bat, currently the most common bat in MD, is expected to become extinct within 16 years. Because of the large number of bats lost it is estimated that 700 metric tons (that's 14 mil-

lion lbs!) of insects will go uneaten, potentially causing millions of dollars in economic damage to agribusiness.

While there is still much to learn about this disease research is underway. Caving activities have been banned in several states in order to curb the spread. If you do happen to venture into or out of any caves in the future make sure to disinfect clothes before and after to help stop WNS. You can also construct bat boxes to provide habitat for bats during the summer months. Planting native species of night blooming flowers will also attract insects for bats to feast on.

Eastern Box Turtles, and other reptiles, will also hunker down for the winter. They're ectothermic, meaning they obtain their body heat from outside sources, not through internal production and regulation like mammals. When the air temperature around turtles begins to drop and sunlight gets shorter body temperature drops and it is difficult to maintain normal metabolic rates. When this begins box turtles will find a suitable location, generally with good leaf pack or dense roots, and bury down (sometimes as much as 2 feet). This protects them from the elements, and would be predators. Some cold-blooded creatures can survive much closer to the surface because their blood contains a sort of "anti-freeze", made up of mostly glucose (which is just a fancy name for sugar). Species like the wood frog and painted turtle can essentially freeze solid during the winter, and then thaw out in the spring!

During the summer months forests are bustling with activity. The winter can be tough times for those of us still up to endure it. Maybe I should take a cue from geese and fly south, or follow suit with the black bear and check out until the spring. Either way there is way more than I could cover in about 1000 words so if you're interested in more on hibernation, or what happens to the forest in the winter I highly recommend checking out this website put together by the BBC:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/adaptations/hibernation#intro>.

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

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IN THE COUNTRY

Forest in the winter

Kay Deardorff

So Thanksgiving is past and you are looking forward to the festivities of our next holiday. Along with cookie baking and gift wrapping you are probably also enjoying the cozy heat of a nearby fireplace. With a roof over your heads and plenty of leftovers from your turkey feast, you are feeling very comfortable.

But humor me as I ask you to put on your imagination cap and take a journey with me into the forest. You lie deep in the mud in your cozy bed. It's so nice and quiet. No need to worry about predators. No bills to pay; no laundry to do; no snow to shovel. Winter is not such a bad time after all. For months all you need to do is sleep, dreaming of warm summer ponds filled with lily pads and tasty flies to eat. Who says it's tough being a frog?

To the mere human the forest appears to be empty of life. But on a closer look, there are many exciting discoveries to be made by the nature adventurer. The most exciting "gifts" aren't delivered by Santa and placed under the tree. (Besides, there are no fireplaces for Santa to make his appearance deep in the forest!) There are a lot of interesting things to discover in the winter that indicate to us the evidence of wildlife.

Winter is the best time of year to engage in the practice of animal tracking. When snow blankets the forest floor, the animals leave many clues behind that tell of their presence. Even though the animals themselves may not be seen, by following their tracks left in the snow, the careful nature detective can learn much about the woodland denizens. Often, an entire story unfolds before your eyes. For example, the tiny paw prints of a mouse closely followed by fox tracks and ending abruptly with a few drops of blood informs us of how the animals themselves track each other.

Even without snow, the passageways of many animals can be found by examining the winter weeds and shrubs. Be alert for weeds that have been trampled or pushed aside. Look for tunnels through the shrubs and vines. Most animals have regular territories with favored foraging and sleeping places. It is much easier to spot such places in the winter.

Aside from animal tracks, be on the lookout for other signs of life such as feathers, pieces of fur snagged on thorns and shed antlers from deer. Best of all, animal scat (their poop) is especially well preserved at this time of year!

Bird life is very interesting to observe in winter. While a number of local birds have flown south to warmer climates, many others remain with us all year. Winter also brings some new bird species to Strawberry Hill. The Dark

Eyed Junco, commonly known as the "Snowbird", flies south in the winter, but to this bird, Adams County is south. After spending the summer nesting as far north as Canada, the Junco spends the colder months in our area.

At night, the winter forest is anything but dull. Many of our larger animals such as deer, raccoon, bobcat and coyote are still very active. In fact, for our common barred owl this is the busiest time of the year. The courtship activity of owls begins in the winter months. Owls start nesting earlier than other birds, because their young take much longer to develop. When the owlets finally do head out on their own, springtime has arrived, making it much easier for them to find food.

Many other animals, such as frogs, toads, turtles and snakes, spend the winter hibernating. When you walk by a frozen wetland in winter, you are walking above literally thousands of creatures. Many rocks or old logs shelter a hibernating salamander as well as the cocoon of a caterpillar. Some butterflies hibernate under pieces of tree bark. So even in the winter, animal life is all around us.

If you don't have a forest in your backyard that you can explore, Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve is a fabulous place to come and make discoveries noted in this article. Instead of spending the winter indoors, bundle up (because you don't have a fur coat to

keep you warm like the coyote or fox) and venture into the woods. Even the honey bees that are huddled together in their hives will come out on a warmer winter day and do a cleansing flight before returning to their home to wait for spring to arrive.

Similar to the animals, some plants are active and others are dormant in this season. Signs of life include swelling tree buds and sap running in the sugar maples. Keep your eyes open for announcements about our Maple Sugaring programs that will begin mid-February through early March.

At the Preserve we have a couple of activities that you can attend while you wait for the temperatures to rise again. On December 7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th Santa will stop by to create a Kodak moment just for you. He will visit the historic Pink Cabin with his list in hand, checking it - twice. The photographer will be there to snap the perfect picture. Join us for Photos with Santa as he gives each child a gift and a cheery "Ho, Ho, Ho!" If you are a Strawberry Hill member, you can receive a digital copy of the photo. Walk-ins are welcome; however, a call to preregister would guarantee a time slot. The \$10 portrait package includes a 5 x 7 print and you can enjoy hot chocolate and cookies in a pleasant fireside atmosphere.

Also on December 15th Strawberry Hill will conduct a Christ-



mas Bird Count. Join us the bird feeding station to learn how to identify the winter feeder birds! Experience the value of the Christmas Bird Count as a conservation tool by using binoculars and field guides to count the totals of each species. Discover a variety of bird seed selections and bird feeders and enjoy hot chocolate and coffee cake! All equipment will be provided, and be sure to dress for the weather. Carole Simon, Strawberry Hill naturalist, and a

South Mountain Audubon Society member will lead the group. Preregistration is preferred.

For these and any of the nature programs offered at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, check the calendar on our website at www.strawberryhill.org or call the office at 717-642-5840 for further information. Remember the trails are open dawn until dusk every day with the exception of hunting season. Come out and see what you can discover in our forest in the winter.

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SHELTER PETS FOR ADOPTION...

As we all prepare for the holiday hustle and bustle, the folks at Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter are still working hard to find homes for our lovable animals. We've got tons of sweet babies looking for a place to call their own and our biggest wish this holiday would be for them to finally get out of a kennel and into the loving arms of a family.

Take a look over these faces and see if any tug at your heart. We know with the stress of the holidays it might not be the best time to bring a new pet into your home, but if you're feeling a little gloomy afterward, think about one of these sweet babies to brighten your life.

Thanks to the wonderful support we receive from the Emmitsburg Journal and their patrons, we are able to have two pages of pictures and stories to help find these sweet souls a forever home.

Please know that NONE of these animals is in any danger -- CVAS is a lowkill facility and once an animal makes it to our adoption kennels, he or she is typically there until adoption.

If now's not the time for you to adopt, please help us spread the word by talking about these guys and gals and get their stories out there.

Thank you to all the amazing people I have met and talked with because of my words in the Emmitsburg Journal. You all are AMAZING animal lovers and it means the world to me to know there are so many others out there who understand our fight and the value of speaking for those who have no voice.

To adopt on of these pets, contact the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit www.cvas-pets.org, or visit the shelter at 2325 Country Road, Chambersburg, PA



Tigger is a big, handsome gray fellow who loves to be petted. He's five years old and his previous owner had his front paws declawed. Tigger is a sweet guy who's just looking for the right owner to let him be himself. Could that be you?



Felice is a 1-year-old Pit Bull Terrier who is a happy girl with lots of puppy energy. She does need some training with jumping up on people, but she's such a smart girl, she'll learn quite quickly. We feel that if she is adopted into a home with children, they should be older than 8. Come meet this sweetheart and see if she's the right match for you.



Check out Fred. This handsome fellow is a 1-year-old tabby cat with gorgeous markings. He's been at the shelter since February 11 and we just can't understand why. Fred is the sweetest guy. He loves hugs and pets and kisses. He also loves to head-butt fingers for attention. Seriously, come meet this guy. We think you'll fall hard.

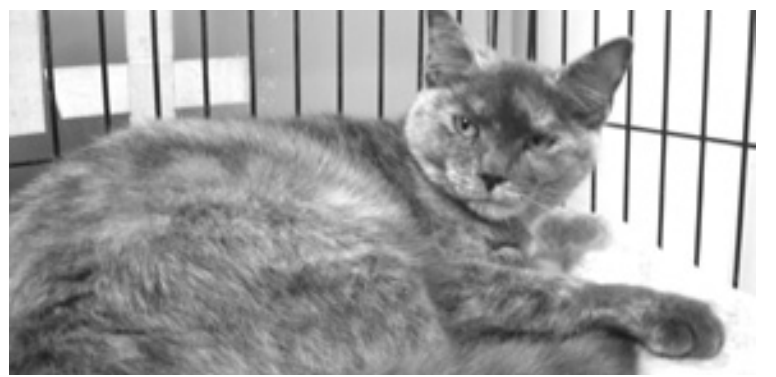


Oh wait until you hear the story about BAM. BAM was left in the outside dog run overnight, unbeknownst to anyone at the shelter. When a dog walker brought one of the dogs out for a run, the big, tough dog discovered BAM. By the time the altercation was over, BAM didn't have a scratch, but you couldn't say the same for the dog. You would think the experience would make BAM angry, but he's the sweetest 3-year-old fellow you'd ever want to meet.

He has a shiny black fur coat with a white patch on his chest and really is quite the lovebug. This guy really is one cool dude looking for a forever home.



Starfish is a 10-year-old Chow who was rescued from a tough situation. He needs to find a home that has love and respect for a senior dog and knowledge of the breed. Starfish would do best in a home with no children. Can you help this sweet guy celebrate his golden years?



Can you please help little Tulip? She arrived at the shelter in May when she was 5 weeks old. She is now 7 months old and still in a cage. She's a diluted tortie with white and she's a real sweet girl. She seems to get along with other cats and just really wants a place to call her own.



Philip has some of the most unique markings. He's mostly white with just a few spots of orange around his head and a ringed tail that looks like an orange tabby. He's one unique boy. He's 7-months-old and can be a little shy at first, but if you give him time to warm up, Philip can be a real lovebug. He just wants a second chance at a forever home.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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Rickey is a 5-month-old lab mix who needs a family that will show him love and patience. He lacks confidence right now, at his young age, and is a little unsure of what people want from him. Because of this, he can get shy and not want to walk. Rickey seems to love other dogs and gets excited playing with them, though. He just needs someone to help him out of his shell.

Cisco is a 4-year-old Chihuahua who came to us from a rough situation on July 26. Cisco can be quite opinionated when she wants to be, but can also be a real sweetheart. She wants very much to be the alpha, despite her little size. Once she knows you're okay, she'll curl up in your arms. Can you give this little girl the space she needs to be a best friend?



Yvonne is such a love bug -- she thinks she's a lap dog and tries to curl up on any lap available. This 2-year-old pitbull does know how to sit and shake hands -- she's been with the shelter since January 24. We just ask that Yvonne goes to a home where children are at least 8 years of age because of her size and energy. Please come in and spend time with this affectionate girl!



Sara is a 5-year-old Chihuahua/terrier mix who came into the shelter from a hoarding situation. She's the sweetest little dog and very social. If she's being petted and wants more attention, she'll headbutt any hand that's nearby. She also sits up on her back legs to beg for attention. Sara does have luxating patellas on both of her hind knees, a common condition for small breed dogs. She would need surgery to correct this. Please come meet this sweet little girl!

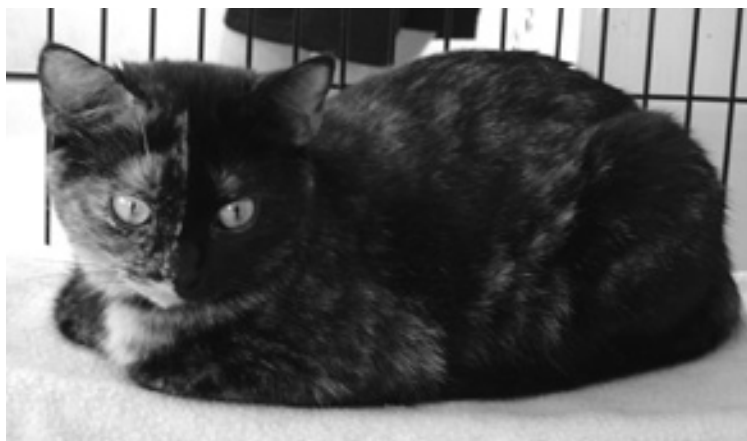
Perci is 2-year-old tortie cat who is quite the petite girl and has been at the shelter since March 19. She looks much younger than her age. Perci can come off shy at first, but once she feels safe, she relaxes and loves to be petted. If you're looking for a quiet, sweet gal, Perci just might be the one for you.



Rambler is a 1-year-old yellow Lab who is just full of energy. This handsome fellow was brought into the shelter as a stray, so we don't have a lot of background information on him. We do know that he LOVES to play fetch and seems to know some commands and is quite eager to please. With enough patience and love, this guy is going to make someone an incredible companion.



Sierra is a 5-year-old pitbull who is the sweetest girl. She intimidates people because of her size and looks, but don't let this love-bug fool you. She's really just a big mushball. She's been at the shelter since February 13. She loves to love and takes treats really sweetly. Because of her strength, we recommend she is adopted into a home with children 8 & older. Sierra is looking for someone to take a chance on her misunderstood breed.





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THE MASTER GARDENER

Christmas gifts for gardeners

Shirley Lindsey and Phil Peters, Adams County Master Gardeners

Many of us gardeners use the cold winter months to dream and plan about our gardens next summer. Since this is not the season to be planting and active in the garden, sometimes our family and friends forget that there are gifts we would love to receive. If you have a gardener on your Christmas list, ask for hints. Most of us will happily give some “not so subtle” hints, like leaving the nursery catalog open with the beautiful rose or shrub or perennial circled in bright blue! So here are a few “hints,” in case your gardener friend or family member is shy.

- **Tools:** Does the person you are shopping for have by-pass clippers? They are preferred over the type that clamp together, sometimes bruising the stem you are cutting. Any kind of tool is always appreciated. I have a dandelion digger - a long skinny forked metal blade on a handle. It gets lots of use. Another great tool is a lawn rake where the tines collapse to make a very narrow rake; you can get in between your plants with one of these
- **Garden Decorations:** How about a sun-dial or other garden ornament? If you are thinking bigger, maybe the gardener would like a trellis, bird-house, bird bath, some comfortable lawn furniture, or even a water garden.
- **Cozy Necessities:** Do you own some good garden gloves? If



When making your Christmas shopping list, don't forget about your feathered friends who sing to you while you garden!

- **A Truck:** Not a real truck, but one of those light weight 2-wheel jobs, which are so much easier to pull or push than a wheel-barrow. Our wheel-barrow is so heavy and hard to push that I can hardly move it when it is empty, but the garden truck that my husband fixed up for me is very easy to use. It has a bar handle and you can push or pull, depending on your needs.
- **Tool CADDY:** The one I have fits over a five-gallon bucket. Their pockets on the inside

- **Containers:** Those of us who have very little space really appreciate growing plants in containers. Although I may not be able to put an arrangement in a lovely container on my deck until next spring, I would be delighted to receive a nice pot or other container for Christmas. Hanging baskets, window boxes or seedling trays are some other container ideas.
- **Garden Calendar:** I have sat at my desk during 1997 and enjoyed a beautiful calendar that I received last year. Each month the flower pictures seem more attractive. Many of these garden calendars also have suggestions for what needs to be done in the garden each month of the year.
- **Hand Lens:** For the gardeners out there who really get into the botany of gardening, a hand lens might be just the thing to examine the fine respects of a plant.

- **Plants:** Of course we can't plant flowers in the garden at this time of year, but you can order from the nursery catalogs and they will send the plant at the appropriate planting time. Last year I gave my friend a plant. Having ordered the plant to be sent to her, I just cut out the picture from the catalog and enclosed it in a card. She was thrilled. If you are on a budget, you might want to send a picture of one of your favorite perennials in your own garden. Then scoop up the plant, or division, or cutting, and deliver it at the right time for planting.
- **Subscriptions:** One way to give a gift so the receiver will think of you with each issue is to give a subscription to a magazine. Most gardeners enjoy magazines about gardening or attracting birds, butterflies, or other wildlife to our gardens.
- **Gift Certificates:** You can obtain gift certificates at any nursery or store that sells gardening supplies. Then the recipient can go and pick out whatever he or she needs. It's such fun to go into a store and know that you have the equivalent of money that just must be spent.

icate is a “promise” type. Can you take your gardener friend to Longwood Gardens or some other lovely public garden in 1998? That would be something us garden lovers would look forward to with excitement!

And what about gardening books? Here are some “book reviews” from Phil Peters, a Master Gardener from Adams County.

The Green Thumb Garden Handbook (Borders Books, 1999) by Doc & Katy Abraham is my most consulted book. Its sub-title is ‘An Encyclopedia of Garden Know-How,’ and it lives up to its name. When I need to know about a particular plant or to answer a garden-related question, this is the resource I turn to. It is a compact paperback crammed full of information on all aspects of gardening. Its chapters give detailed coverage of everything: landscaping the suburban lot, choosing plants, perennials, indoor plants, fruit and vegetable gardening, home greenhouses, and pest control. The appendix is filled with useful conversion charts and tables that make it easy to use different measures and compare products.

Along the same line, but with a different organization is Rodale's All-New Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening (Rodale Press, Inc., 1997) edited by Fern Marshall Bradley & Barbara W. Ellis. Topics are arranged alphabetically.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener To tidy or to tarry?

Marianne Willburn

“Clean up your room!” Four of the most over-worked words in my home. No excuses are accepted, no bribes received. Yet of course, if positions were reversed, and my children happened to glance out of the window at the flower border and the vegetable garden and the back lawn, they might be tempted to utter the very same words. And, after they had finished scrubbing the baseboards for their impertinence, I might answer with, “I’m waiting until the [insert appropriate season].” or “I don’t have time right now” or “you missed a spot” or something else equally profound.

I’m aware of the mess out there. Every day it is being added to by bushel-baskets of browning maple leaves and various other vegetative clutter blown in from goodness knows where. Just when I get my porch swept and my world in order, a windstorm upsets the best laid plans of mice and men and it looks as if I haven’t picked up a gardening implement for three months, much less had the gumption to use it.

And of course, when I’m really harried – when the leaves threaten to blow over the threshold; when there is a six inch buildup on the beds; when twigs from the Silver Maple litter the front garden and a visiting friend looks around with raised eyebrows – I am often tempted to quote from whatever handy gardening reference will support my indolence.

I can always find someone to help me – there are plenty out there, and they don’t all agree. Some authors believe clean-up should happen in the spring, allowing for a natural mulching around tender perennials and trees; as seed pods and berries from browning twigs will feed hungry birds and provide structure and beauty to the winter garden.

Others maintain that leaves, weeds, canes and twigs provide convenient resting places for

pests and disease, and that a thorough fall clean-up will go a long way towards a healthy spring garden. These also tend to be the gardeners that have immaculate homes and sterile baseboards and so I’m naturally suspicious of their motives.

I guess I fall somewhere in between. November and early December usually elicit one or two large scale clean-ups out of me, and a fair amount of aimless pottering. After that, I tend to let the leaves blow where they may and avert my eyes when I realize that I never did manage to pull all the hops off of the fence this year. I tend to think that following the example of Mother Nature is usually the best way to go, and if she wants to mulch my lilacs with four inches of leaves over the winter, who am I to question her wisdom?

If, after a particularly large cup of coffee and a burst of unusual energy I happen to go all out in the middle of December and tart up the garden to within an inch of its life, I am always disappointed two days later. Invariably, ‘north winds doth blow and we shall have snow’ and an afternoon’s manic clean-up will not make one inch of difference to the beauty of the white blanket covering all the work. And four days after that, what is attractive about a two inch cover of hardwood mulch trapped in a soupy mix of melting ice and errant leaves?

Of course, you may be tied hand and foot by housing association regulations and city regulations and neighbor regulations, and all the regulations we seem to be tied up with these days. To some extent this applies to me – which makes at least a cursory tidy-up de rigueur this time of the year. But don’t try and remove every leaf, every twig, every browned branch and withered stem. There is a quiet beauty to the winter garden, and much of it has to do with just sitting back and watching it sleep. Just like your four-year old during a particularly sound slumber, it’s rumped and disheveled, yes ...but serenely enchanting not to mention desperately loved.

You don’t have to go to the index, even though there is an excellent one, to find your topic. The hundreds of entries contain a wealth of information on all aspects of the garden. Since the emphasis is on organic gardening, articles show how to enjoy the garden with minimum recourse to chemical products. The entries are illustrated with excellent drawings that convey the information in a clear, straight-forward manner. This is so well written it is a great book to leaf through and read at leisure.

One of my wiser investments is another Rodale book, *The Frugal Gardener* (Rodale Press, Inc. 1999) by Catriona Tudor Erler. There are only seven chapters, but talk about ideas and money-wise tips! Every page is packed with them. Lists of Smart Tips & money saving pointers abound. Clear illustrations take you through everything from building an arbor or planter bench to composting, taking cuttings and more. Shopping lists show how to get the most bang for your buck. Recipes help you make your own organic bug sprays, fungicides, etc. The book has a resource guide to companies and nurseries that supply garden products that give top quality for your money. I wouldn’t be without this book.

If you are a transplant, blown

across the state line as I am, Liz Ball’s *Month-by-Month Gardening in Pennsylvania* (Cool Springs Press, 2001) is a must have. The chapters cover annuals, bulbs, vegetables, houseplants, lawns, shrubs, trees, and more. Each of the eleven chapters is arranged according to the calendar. They begin with a general introduction to the chapter subject followed by a Pennsylvania-specific Planting Chart. Liz then takes you through the calendar year, telling you just what to do each month for each type of planting. Numerous appendices help with pest identification and control, state gardening societies and Extension Offices, local resources and Pennsylvania gardening facts. This book belongs on every Pennsylvania gardener’s bookshelf.

Another book that I keep handy is Roger B. Swain’s *The Practical Gardener: Mastering the Elements of Good Growing* (Galahad Books, 1998). This book is an excellent beginner’s guide. Still, Roger conveys a lot of useful information on a wide variety of topics in a very readable style. He has a way of taking the reader down into the garden and walking through every step of getting started with successful gardening practices. If you appreciate having one of America’s most authoritative gardeners at your side, you will enjoy this garden tour. When you have read this book, you know your next garden is bound to be better yet.

Whatever you decide to put on your Christmas list, look over the suggestions above and see if you find anything that might appeal to them.

To learn more about how to become a Master Gardener call Mary Ann Ryan at 717-334-6271

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

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2013 Master Gardener training classes

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This year the Master Gardener Training Program will be held in the evenings, one night a week.

An important part of being a Master Gardener is contributing to the community and the organization. In their

first year, Master Gardeners volunteer a minimum of 40 hours to educate the people of Frederick County about effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities. Volunteer opportunities are extensive. Master Gardeners host “Ask a Master Gardener” Plant Clinics at farmer’s markets locations - identifying plants, plant diseases, and insects found in and around homes. They share environmentally beneficial landscaping methods through the Bay-Wise program, participate at the Great Frederick Fair, speak to community groups, teach children about gardening, test and share gardening ideas in the

Demonstration Gardens on the Extension grounds; lead hands-on therapeutic horticultural activities; write articles for local newspapers, and support greening efforts throughout the region. They offer gardening seminars to the public in the Spring and Fall and share gardening ideas through the Grow It - Eat It program.

Frederick County Master Gardeners base their knowledge on their own experience as gardeners, as well as both classroom and hands-on training provided by the University of Maryland Extension horticultural educators. Master Gardeners continue to receive training at monthly meetings, statewide training programs organized by the Home and Garden Information Center, and on field trips.

Training Classes for 2013 begin January 9, 2013 and run through June. Classes are held Wednesdays, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. The cost is \$200. Instructors are University of Maryland professionals, Master Gardeners, and other experts in their fields. Class size is limited to 25, so please apply early.

If all this sounds appealing, visit the Master Gardeners website at www.frederick.umd.edu/MG for more information. To enroll, contact Susan Trice at 301-600-1596 or strice@umd.edu as soon as possible to complete the application process.

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

The invasion of Pennsylvania

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Civil War Historian

Part 1

On June 15th, 1863, the first portions of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia began crossing the Potomac River near Hagerstown, Maryland. At this time the Union Army of the Potomac under General Joseph Hooker was still in Virginia could not pinpoint General Lee's exact location, as he had used South Mountain as cover to screen his movements. The first thing that General Hooker needed to do was seize the mountain passes of South Mountain. But unknown to General Lee, Union scouts had seen his movements in Maryland as early as June 17th. Because of this General Hooker started to develop a plan of attack.

Confederate General Albert Jenkins' Cavalry Brigade was the first to cross the Potomac River on the 15th of June, securing the way for General Richard Ewell's Corps. Once the First Maryland Cavalry had safely crossed the Potomac River, General Ewell ordered them to Frederick to de-

stroy the iron railroad brigade at Monocacy. The Marylander's crossed South Mountain at Turner's Gap and entered Frederick where they were met by heavy resistance from a Federal Cavalry force. After a spirited skirmish, the Marylander's briefly occupied Frederick. After it was known that his force could not destroy the iron bridge, Gilmore pulled his Maryland Cavalry back. The Marylanders re-crossed Turner's Gap and made it safely to Hagerstown.

Because of the Confederate Army activity in the Cumberland Valley as well as in Frederick, during the morning of June 18th, General Hooker requested that a signal station be built at Crampton's Gap on South Mountain for observation and communication. General Hooker also asked for cavalry support that was near Harper's Ferry to seize all mountain gaps from Maryland Heights to Boonsboro. General Robert Cumming Schenck, commanding the Middle Department in Maryland received General Hooker's request to spare a portion of his artillery, infantry, and cavalry, to seize and hold the South Mountain passes, as well as



holding Maryland Heights and the passage via Sandy Hook. This is in preparation of the Union Army entering Maryland and a way to protect Washington as well as a Baltimore.

On June 19th, General Hooker ordered General Samuel Peter Heintzelman commander of the Department of Washington who was at Poolesville to help seize the mountain gaps on South Mountain. General Heintzelman's force consisted of 1600 infantry, one battery and five troops of cavalry. Realizing that his line would be stretched too thin, General

Heintzelman wrote to General Hooker and asked him if General Schenck's forces at Harper's Ferry could hold South Mountain as the mountain range was in the Middle Department under his command. General Hooker was forced to operate without General Heintzelman's support and manpower.

When Brigadier General Albert G. Jenkins with 1,500 cavalry entered Pennsylvania, he had sent several regiments of his brigade on missions to destroy the vital transportation brigades and communications around the

Chambersburg area. On June 19th, Company D of the 14th Virginia Cavalry was ordered to Waynesboro, Pennsylvania to capture horses and cattle for the army. A powerful thunderstorm surprised them during the night, and they were forced to take refuge on a large farm. While they took up refuge on the farm, the farmer was obligated to furnish them with rations.

The next day the men were foraging and around noon Company D came upon the farm of an old Pennsylvania German. According to Lieutenant Herman Schuricht; "He was scared to death at catching sight of us, and shouted "O mein Gott, die rebels!" I soon reassured him, telling him that no harm should result to him if he furnished us with a dinner and rations for our horses, and we were well cared for. A Federal cavalry regiment passed in sight of the place, fortunately not discovering our presence, and I concluded to march with my company to Lesterburg, [Leitersburg] Md., where the citizens furnished us with supper. We camped for the night in an open field, midway between Lesterburg [Leitersburg] and Hagerstown."

On June 21st, General Jenkins started out for Chambersburg again after hearing reports that no Federal soldiers had occupied the city. General Jenkins' took two companies of the 14th Virginia Cavalry and charged into Chambersburg at night. Captain Moorman's Company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry was ordered to proceed to South Mountain and capture horses, then pass through Leitersburg and enter the mountain region. At 11 o'clock at night the company came to Use's Iron-Works. Mr. Use, upon demand furnished provisions to the troopers. Unfortunately, Mr. Use secretly informed the farmers in the area and warned the Federal troops of their approach.

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Part 2 next month

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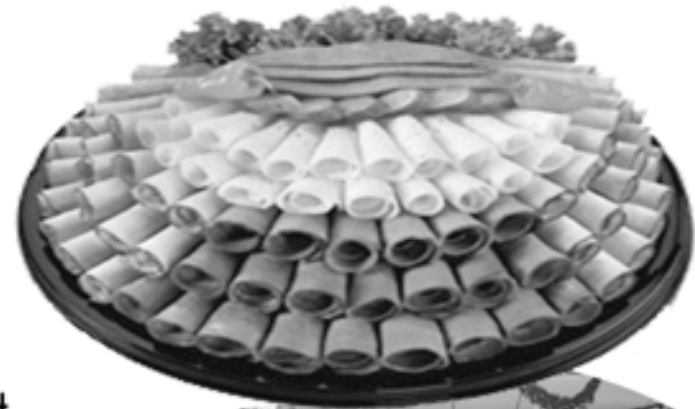
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HISTORY

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Conclusion

Remembrances of John Storm, continued from last month

The hills were there, just as I left them. The fields however, were much improved. I noted that many improvements had been made, but not enough to disappoint one in returning to his birthplace and finding so many changes that he could not recognize it. Emmitsburg is a typical village—once seen, never to be forgotten. It was my pleasure to visit St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, and all portions of the burg.

I found many reminders of my early days, and met many people that I knew in boyhood days. I was exceedingly glad of this. I made it my business to call upon Mr. Edw. Taney, and others; he in particular, was a special friend of my father, and I have in my possession today a cane made by Mr. Taney that was presented to my father by him in 1858; that cane, this fall, will have been in my possession fifty years. I shall celebrate the 50th anniversary of the possession of this cane in our family in a suitable manner.

Mrs. Barry and I had the pleasure of meeting, and I was much surprised that she, after more than ninety years, should look

and act as one scarcely half that age; she certainly is a remarkable woman. Lewis Motter was another old-timer that I had the pleasure of meeting; at that time, hale and hearty. I was much surprised with his activity and alertness, so much so that I said to him, 'Mr. Motter, when I get ready to die, I am going to return to Emmitsburg to live.'

My father, James A. Storm, and my mother, Margaret Baumgardner, daughter of Samuel Baumgardner, were born in Emmitsburg. My father is dead; my mother still living, in her 86th year, and she, as well as I, is much interested in Emmitsburg and their welfare.

I would be much pleased to go into many things that I believe would be pleasing to Emmitsburg, but time will not permit; in fact, I have already infringed upon your good nature, and apologize for doing so by saying that the temptation was irresistible. Those here who know me say that I am so imbued with the Maryland spirit that it makes no difference whether the individual be white or black, there is a soft spot in my heart for him provided he is one of the old school.

Illustrative of this, I wish to say that two or three years ago I was in Canada, and there was

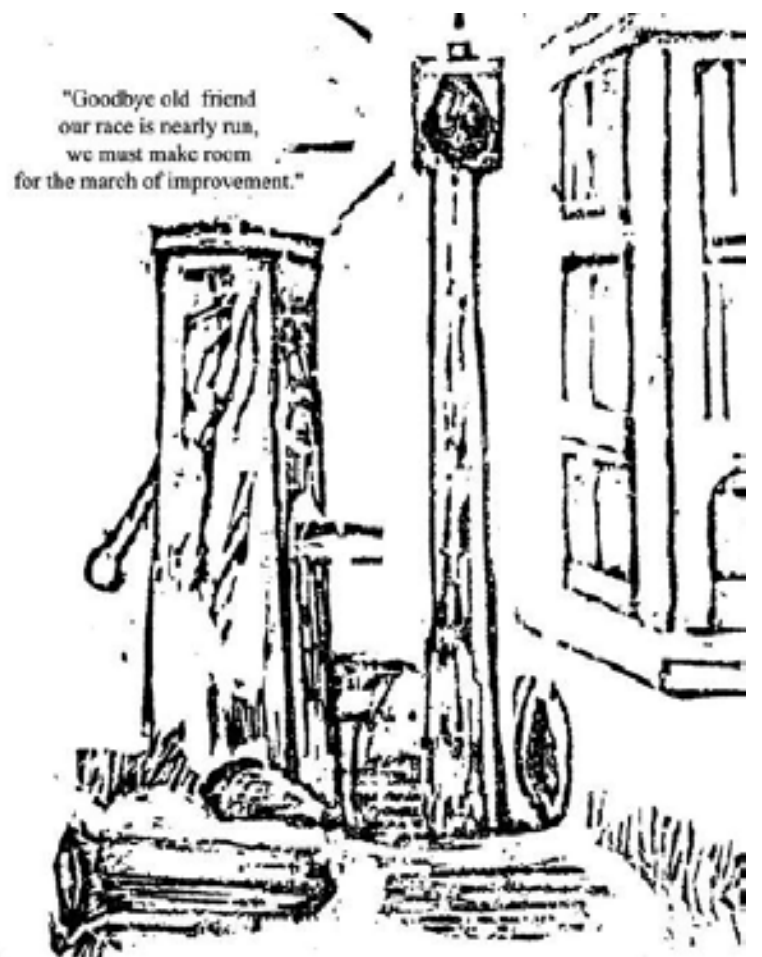
an old Negro man playing a fiddle, and his tin plate was on a little stand, in which to deposit whatever you chose to give. I said to my wife, who was with me, 'There is a typical Maryland Negro,' and she laughed and said, 'Nonsense.' I approached the old fellow and said, 'Uncle, where are you from?' The old fellow straightened himself up, evidently with much pride, and said, 'I'se from Maryland, Sah,' and in turning to my wife, she had to acknowledge my ability to recognize a Maryland Negro. On asking where he was from, he said Hagerstown, and as a part of my family came from Hagerstown, it was not long until the old man and myself had much to talk about.

I might continue this 'ad libitum,' but really I must close. Wishing you and Emmitsburg generally, prosperity, health, happiness and long life I am with kindest regards."

Yours respectfully,
John. F. Storm

Memories and Pleasant Associations of the Town Pump

A correspondent from the West, in a recent communication to the Chronicle, deplored the passing away of the town pump, but having served its day and generation it has gone and in its place we have the fountain, a much more slightly and imposing structure. But a great many associations and memories cling to the old pump. Someone has said it was an old custom to dig a well in the square when a town was laid out.



Prior to the fountain, a water pump stood in the center of the Town Square. The sketch above is the only known image of that pump.

Many families living near the square obtained their water from the town pump, as the water was more limited than now when we have our fine mountain water in our kitchens and yards. No one knows the exact date when the well was excavated; it has been suggested the well was first dug and the town built around it, but this cannot be, for the original settlers got water from a spring, long ago filled up, in the cellar of Mr. L. M. Motter's log house on the street leading to the R. R. Station, this L. M. Motter being the father of the present Mr. L. M. Motter, one of our oldest citizens. The well was not a large one, being only 25 feet deep and 4 feet in diameter, yet it was never known to go dry.

Before railroads traversed the country, six-horse teams carried the produce from Pittsburgh to Baltimore. On their return, they brought merchandise to the merchants along their route. The town pump furnished water to all these teams. Man and beast alike found refreshment from the excellent water it brought to the

surface. Our old teamsters had a song, one stanza of which ran as follows:

'We go to a merchant and ask him for a load, he would turn around and tell us, it's gone on the damn railroad.'

The old pump was the rallying ground for most of the scenes of youthful gatherings of political and other meetings, of town fires and jollifications, and generally for the exercise of the fire company of the town.

The boys had an old mill gudgeon into which they drilled a hole, filling it with powder; this they ran into the pump where it exploded with a noise of cannon, splitting the pump and cracking the windows in the neighborhood. In the great fire in 1863 in our town, the town pump furnished the water supply with which they fought, unsuccessfully, the flames. It has been said that anyone who drank from the town pump would never lose his desire to return to his old home, and this accounts for the yearly pilgrimages to dear old Emmitsburg by many of those

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HISTORY

who were born here or whoever lived in its vicinity.

"The above cut, representing the central object of our town square, was executed by a friend who, sojourning for a few days at the Western Maryland Hotel a short time ago, made a drawing of the same, and after returning to his home prepared the cut for the Chronicle. It speaks for itself, though the talented artist suggests the idea that the pump is saying to the lamp-post, 'Goodbye old friend, our race is nearly run, we must make room for the march of improvement.'- Aug 16th, 1884 Edition of the Emmitsburg Chronicle

Romance and Legend

Once upon a time there was an old town, and in the centre square of the town stood a well with and old wooden pump. It was called by way of preeminence the Old Street Pump, because it appeared to be the property of the town in particular and everybody in general. It has long ago disappeared, but the town still remains, and, wonderful to relate, has taken in recent years a second growth which promises to far exceed all its previous advances and achievements, so that it will soon be justified in putting on metropolitan airs.

But where is the old street pump? Echo (which like a woman or an Irishman always has an answer ready) says, where? Why was not its old stock turned into souvenir walking sticks and sold for \$10 a piece for the benefit of the town? Why indeed?

There is a legend that says that everyone who drank from the old street pump, although he might be far away, feels a strong desire to return to Emmitsburg. Perhaps it may be something else that brings him back, but it is attributed to the "Lure of the Pump."

The pump is gone, but the well remains, sealed and covered by the great fountain erected over it, which sends its cooling spray high in the

Angela M. Rigby 10/10/78-09/14/12

Angie's cousin wrote: "The world was a better place. Angela Marie Rigby was a lifeline for some, a daughter, mother, sister, cousin, niece and true friend to many, but she was also a light in this world whose presence will be missed."

Gratefully acknowledging and thanking everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy during the recent death of our loved one who now watches over us from the heavens above.

To the overwhelming numbers that came out to pay tribute during the service, 500 names were signed in the guest book alone, lines of people that were 2 blocks long waiting to express their sorrow and show their love one last time to a life that was taken way to soon by a drunk driver. Dasani says "thanks to those who wore bright colors to celebrate her mom's life." An additional heartfelt thank you to those who paid tribute by candlelight and flowers in front of her salon, "Red, White and Beautiful, again showing the support and love from the community.

Special thanks to Reverend Norm Hartz and his kind words and prayers as he spoke of Angie and all her accomplishments, and to Daddy John Dowling during the Eulogy. Dad we know it was hard to stand up and address the crowd, but you served her proud and Wayne your voice is of that of an angel.

We also would like to thank Ventura's for the unending supply of food brought to the house and then supplying and serving food during the reception/celebration and thanks also to Dunlap's Restaurant for the delicious deserts. Thanks to all for the unending supply of cards being sent, additional food dropped off and the lovely flowers as well.

We've had numerous questions



about the trust that has been set up for Angie's Daughter, Dasani A Shields. Contributions can be made at any PNC Bank. It's an educational fund and last 4 digits of the account are 6552. Or you can send a check made out to Dasani A Shields sent to William or Brenda Rigby, 4950 Fairfield Road, Fairfield PA 17320

A dear friend wrote: Angie taught her daughter to be strong and to be like her. She taught us to love our family and friends. She makes us want to be better. She gave us a granddaughter, an infectious smile, a wit and no matter how many mistakes you make in life you can right your wrongs and be an inspiration to many. Angie would tell you I didn't take the easy road, but in the end I did take the right road!

Please remember her often and never forget that she believed in the freedom that she fought for and she believed in being an individual and being beautiful in unique and special ways. We each have our place in time, and if we live right, we change that place and that time for the better.

Love your family and friends, touch an animal's life and always remember to celebrate and enjoy life with a designated driver..... the life you save may someday save yours.

Brenda, Bill, Bobby Rigby & Dasani Shields

air. But the water that it sends forth is not the "real thing" to the boy or

girl who once drank from the Old Street Pump. It may be said of all Emmitsburgians:

"Where e'er they be,
Where e'er their footsteps roam,
The Pump is still a memory Of
"Home, Sweet Home."

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

The Silent Service during the Cold War

Captain William Hicks, USN Ret.

Editor's Note: I will be the first to admit that I was less than perfect as a submarine officer. While I loved running the submarine's nuclear power plant, I did not inherit my father's seafaring skills, which made me a captain's nightmare. However, I can say with all honesty having now worked with Captain "Bill" Hicks for over 15 years, that had he been my Captain I would have grown to love the sea and the submarine service, and the Navy would have been my career choice. I guess you can say thankfully he was not, otherwise you would not be reading this note. Bill reflects everything that is great about the US Submarine Service.

I was born in 1940 on a family, dairy farm in central Pennsylvania. World War II is a time of vague memories such as collecting cans and scrap metal and milkweed pods for the war effort and listening to my mother fuss over ration stamps. The Korean Police Action is more vague with the main memory being the firing of General MacArthur and discussions in the milking barn with the hired help as to whether President Truman should be fired, or not. As I remember, I had no opinion.

October 4, 1957 was the day that my life changed and my career was defined. On that day, Sputnik 1 was launched into orbit by the Soviets and the cry across America was about the missile gap and the need for our education system to focus on science and the need for more engineers. At my small high school in central Pennsylvania, the curriculum was focused toward jobs on the farm, the railroad, or the paper mill. Science and engineering were not on the screen, but that all changed following the launch of Sputnik. I now had a mission—to become an engineer even if I did not know what one did or how to become one beyond going to college.

Going to college—that was another challenge for a boy from a poor, family farm. I looked into scholarships and grants, and the Naval Reserve Officers Training

Corps (NROTC) came to my attention. It provided full tuition, books, fees and a \$50 per month stipend. What a deal!! I applied, was accepted and the die was cast, it did not include the farm, and I never looked back. When I arrived at Penn State as a freshman in the NROTC program, I had never been on a ship and had only seen the ocean from Jones Beach in New York when visiting my Aunt. I did not know anyone who was or had been in the Navy. Let the adventure begin.

I majored in engineering and NROTC. I did well in class and received an intense indoctrination into the Navy, both in theory and practice. Summer cruises took us to small ships with port visits in Boston and Montreal; amphibious training at Little Creek VA, and Naval Aviation indoctrination at Corpus Christi, Texas and aboard an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean. I found all that Navy stuff to be interesting and not too hard, although my cruise aptitude grades did not always reflect my successes. However, none of it really "turned me on".

By the beginning of my senior year at Penn State, I became aware of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program run by Admiral Rickover. For the first time, the program was accepting direct inputs into training. Previous entrants were required to be qualified in submarines (or some other warfare specialty) before applying. I had never been on a submarine, but it could not be all that bad and the Nuclear Propulsion program sounded challenging. I applied, was tested and interviewed in Washington, and accepted. I have no interesting stories to tell about my required interview with Admiral Rickover. It was pretty benign—and we were told that he had some upcoming, congressional testimony on his mind.

Early submarine training

June 6, 1962 was both my Penn State graduation and Navy commissioning day. My orders were to report to a diesel submarine, USS Trutta, SS 421 in Key West for three months to await the start of my nuclear power school class.

In Key West, I got my introduction to submarines as well as the men and families who make them function. I also learned that Cuba was closed which was a great blow to the Key West submarine community who spent many weekends in Havana. There was even an LST that took the wives across the Florida Strait to enjoy the weekends. I qualified as a diving officer on the diesel submarine and learned about torpedoes as the assistant weapons officer. We also watched the filming of the movie PT 109 about the exploits of President Kennedy as a Lieutenant in WW II. One retrospective memorable event in Key West was visiting the USS Thresher SSN 593 following the shock testing. It was my first visit to a nuclear submarine. The shock tests had caused visible damage which was to be repaired in the upcoming shipyard availability in Portsmouth NH. Thresher sank on the initial deep dive following that shipyard availability on 10 April 1963 when I was on my way to Submarine School. Some of the damage had not been visible.

I arrived at Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge MD in October 1962. The school had just moved from New London, CT so we had the adventure of opening the buildings and berthing in a shuttered section of the, WW II Naval Training Center. Shortly after arriving, we were restricted to base as the "Cuban Missile Crisis" unfolded. The Cold War was now up close and personal. We had no idea how we could contribute, but we were on the base and ready.

Nuclear Power training was intense and the most difficult academic curriculum I ever experienced, before or since.

College engineering was easy in comparison. After six months, most of us graduated and moved onto Prototype training at which we would learn and become qualified to operate an actual nuclear propulsion plant. I was assigned to the prototype in Windsor, Connecticut. We lived in the community and had to cook and clean for ourselves as we spent many 12+ hour days at the site trying to keep up or catch up. Again an



Captain William Hicks, USN Ret.

extremely intense six months of training. After six months, most of us had qualified as Engineering Officers of the Watch (EOOW) and moved on to the Submarine School in Groton Ct. While on my way to Submarine School, I heard on the radio that the Thresher had sunk.

Submarine School, Groton, CT (1963)

Submarine school was a change of pace from nuclear power training. The attitude was more relaxed—more like what I had experienced in Key West. The material was challenging, but the pace was more relaxed and the evaluations were more subjective in areas such as acting as a diving officer or as a member of the fire control party during a simulated approach

to attack a target. The culture and the values of the submarine force that were so successful in WWII were to some degree in conflict with the rigorous adherence to formal requirements that we had learned in nuclear power training. It is often described as a conflict between knowledge based (experience and memorization) and requirements based (procedures and process) philosophy of operating. This conflict in values and methods continued to be a challenge for the next 20 years of my career in nuclear submarines. President Kennedy was assassinated while I was in submarine school.

I was in the tactics trainer about 2 on that Friday afternoon when we were told of the assassination. Classes were suspended for the day. As I remember, we were back



Time cover featuring Admiral Rickover. Every nuclear submarine officer has his own, humorous, interview story with the Admiral.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

in class as scheduled on Monday morning. As submarine school was reaching graduation in the spring of 1964, we had the opportunity to select the submarine to which we would be assigned. The selection was in the order of class standing. There were few operating submarines and even fewer attack submarines available. The Thresher sinking had resulted in much delay in delivery of both new construction and submarines in the shipyards for maintenance. Due to the threats from the Soviet Union, the top priority for delivery and manning was given to the ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) at the expense of the attack submarines (SSNs). My class standing was such that I could select an SSN and I was drawn to the possibility of a trip under the Arctic Ice and chose the twin screwed Skate Class SSN, USS Sargo, SSN 583 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Lieutenant (JG) Hicks Reports to Sargo (SSN 583)

SSN 583 was a Skate Class SSN. The four ship Skate Class was the first class of nuclear submarines. In hull design, they looked like the diesel submarines including having bow planes and twin screws. Due to the twin screw and bow plane configuration, they were ideally suited for missions under the arctic ice pack. Sargo made a winter trip under the ice and experienced significant damage as the ice was thicker than thought. Sargo also experienced a serious fire while charging oxygen which resulted in significant improvements in the equipment and procedures used in charging oxygen. This issue would be mitigated in the later class submarines who had oxygen generating equipment installed and thus did not routinely charge oxygen banks from off-hull.

Following graduation from submarine school with orders in hand, I headed for Sargo. A phone call from the Weapons Officer informed me that they would be in the Western Pacific when I arrived but I was to stop in Pearl Harbor for a week of prospective weapons officer school. My orders did not reflect this stop over, so there was some confusion when I informed the trans-

portation folks that I need to stop in Pearl Harbor. Fortunately my flight from California to Japan had a stop in Hawaii and I found my bag in the hold and got off. Getting me on to Okinawa after my week in school was now the problem for the COMSUBPAC Staff and they did it.

I met Sargo in Naha, Okinawa on a Sunday night, was given some scary security briefings to sign about the upcoming operations, given a bunk on a bench in the wardroom, and told we were sailing in the morning for a special operation of 60+ days. Welcome to the operating fleet Lt.(JG) Hicks. The Spec Op was in the Sea of Japan and for me was mostly about getting qualified as EOOW and Officer of the Deck. As the prospective weapons officer I did get involved in some tactical parties including photography and fire control tracking. Much of the operation was associated with the Soviet, first generation nuclear submarines, including attempts to determine whether they were in fact nuclear powered. The most significant event was running aground that resulted in loss of part of the rudder that we did not know about at the time. The mission continued until its scheduled completion at which time the divers in Naha reported the damage. Our Naha port visit was shortened and we proceeded to Subic Bay in the Philippines for drydock and repairs.

While in Subic Bay, we were forced to leave drydock to avoid a typhoon. Upon returning from typhoon evasion, we learned of the Tonkin Gulf events in which the Maddox and Turner Joy were attacked. Within a few days, we were ordered to get underway and proceed to the Tonkin Gulf for surveillance of activities and to ensure the Chinese did not decide to become involved. A very uneventful few weeks once we stopped patrolling in areas that were reported to be uncleared, WWII mine fields. Fortunately we found no mines. We did face the challenge of operating up to and at periscope depth in an area with lots of Vietnamese craft without engines. We could not hear them and they were too shallow-drafted for our torpedoes to

hit. We found some comfort in the fact that our sail was hardened to penetrate the Arctic ice sheet so we hoped it could penetrate a wooden junk as well. The term "Ramming Speed" took on new meaning. Fortunately we never tested the theory.

After a few weeks in the Tonkin Gulf, we returned to Subic Bay, completed some repairs and returned to Pearl Harbor after six months away. During the deployment we had a few sightseeing and liberty opportunities. Flights were arranged from Naha to Hong Kong and to Tokyo. I had the opportunity to go to Tokyo via the Yokosuka Naval Base. One interesting situation was that due to the continuing occupation, only occupation currency could be used to pay for things and we did not have very much so our purchases were limited. We went to Tokyo which was very active rebuilding the city for the Olympics. We then flew back to Naha after about 48 continuous hours of activity. While in Okinawa we visited what was reported to be the actual Teahouse of the August Moon made famous on stage and in movies. While in Subic, we visited Manila. The most memorable part was the trip to Manila. The countryside was rice patties and poor villages with the houses on stilts. Water Buffalo were in use with few motorized vehicles. The people were extremely friendly and remembered the liberation of WWII with great gratitude. During my next visit on Bates, I did not find the same level of appreciation and friendliness.

Upon return to Pearl Harbor, Sargo operated locally for the next few months with mostly one week at sea at a time, known as weekly OPS. Torpedo exercises were frequent and as the weapons officer, I had some interesting challenges managing the preparation of torpedoes and documenting the torpedo exercise firings. Five months after returning, Sargo again deployed for two months on a special operation directly from Hawaii. Once again, Soviet submarine operations were the primary focus of our operation. I was the photography officer for the operation which required me to select, catalog, classify, and prepare the photographic record for submission.

Only selected officers were granted the highest security clearances for these operations. I was not one who had the special compartmented clearance which resulted in the interesting twist that once I had classified the photographic record I managed, I was not cleared to have access to it.

The Cold War continued to define my career. Just prior to the deployment I completed my qualification in submarines which meant I could wear the submarine dolphin insignia. Completion of qualification in eleven months was unusually fast, but I had little else to do since we were at sea so much and I had little social life due to limited time in port. Following the second spec op, I was transferred after only 13 months aboard the Sargo. During those 13 months, we were at sea nearly 11 months which put significant strains on family and personal lives. It was a very short tour, but submarine qualified officers were in demand in other places. I was on my way to provide some salt and sea experience to the nuclear power school in Mare Island, California.

Shore Duty as a Nuclear Power School Instructor

I arrived at the Nuclear Power School at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo California in July 1965. It would be my last shore duty until I completed my Squadron Command in 1989. I was one of about five sea-experienced officer instructors in the enlisted department. The Nuclear Power School was an intensive six month course that starts with enlisted students who are high school graduates and provides them with the basics of nuclear reactor theory and operations. The necessary math and physics to permit them to understand the theory of the material they are expected to take away from the school was provided as academic building blocks. The six month course was much more intensive and fast paced than any college curriculum. As a

result, many of the students struggled, both to accept the pace and to keep up with the material, but to their credit, most completed the training successfully and some were very successful, showing a strong academic capability.

In 1965, the draft for the Vietnam War was in full swing, so the Navy and the nuclear power program were the beneficiaries of many enlistees with education beyond high school. In many cases they had college degrees and a few advance degrees. During my two years, I taught mostly practical subjects which built on the basic courses in math and physics. I was also a senior student adviser which meant that I got to work with the ones who were struggling the most to succeed. Watching and helping them work so hard was a gratifying experience. As a division director, my group developed a consolidated three month duration course, including the texts and training materials, in Chemistry, Radiation Controls, and reactor materials. Life in the community in Vallejo was enjoyable. No ship at the pier to demand attention; Time for a social life and sports including being a 12th Naval District Wrestling Champion for 1966. The major cloud on the horizon was the anti-war and free speech movements which were in full swing at UC Berkeley a few miles to the south.

Some of our staff instructors were fresh out of college and Navy Officer Candidate School and were spotted participating in the anti war, demonstrations. A difficult leadership challenge!! After two years at Nuclear Power school, it was back to the fleet, sort of; as I was assigned to a new construction pre commissioning unit for USS Sunfish SSN 649 at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy Massachusetts.

To read past editions of Cold War Warriors visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

To be continued next month



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MOM'S TIME OUT

Motherhood and forgetfulness

Mary Angel

My mom used to joke, when I was old enough to understand, that children (or childbirth) caused her to lose some of her brain cells. I used to respond with the always expected, "likely excuse", followed by some reference to growing old. Well, now that I have kids of my own I actually believe there is some validity to that statement. I can say with a fair amount of certainty that childbirth has definitely affected total of my brain cells.

At the young age of forty-something I do not feel old. When I look in

the mirror I don't look old (as long as I haven't gotten behind on my coloring regiment). Unless I try to wrestle with the kids or go for a walk with my one of my girlfriends (who loves a certain 3 mile walk) I don't feel old. I, of course, do have to admit that I can be found quoting my mother and grandmother more often than I care to count. So maybe I sound a little older than I would like to realize. But, my brain is a completely different story.

I am pretty sure that with each birth of each child I have gotten a little bit more forgetful, a little bit ditzy, and a little bit slower in my reasoning. Sev-

eral times a day I will get up from a chair or leave a room with a definitive task in mind only to take one or two steps and forget what I am doing. I get papers from school and forget completely about them until it is too late. I have even forgotten to mail payments for bills. I cannot deny forgetting appointments, birthdays, or even anniversaries. I am absolutely positive that this has gotten progressively worse with each birth I have gone through.

I have had many moments where I can't even think of a word I am looking for and it is literally on the tip of my tongue. The other day my 13 year old was telling me about a script that his best friend had created with his help that was based on characters from their science book. In this script he claimed his best friend was trying to seduce a squirrel (or some other woodland creature). I knew for sure that he didn't mean seduce, but for the life of me I couldn't come up with the right word. It was a very lengthy conversation while he explained that his friend's character was going to give the squirrel a shot to calm him down. After some well needed silence it finally came to me and the word was "sedate". This of course led to a rather comical explanation of the meaning of seduce.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't realize that I have misplaced something else. Today it was scrapbooking tools. I had put a lot of

my tools in a bag to take them to a friend's house to teach scrapbooking for a homeschool art class. I ended up running out of time and decided to teach that at the next class. When today rolled around I couldn't find the bag. I remembered bringing it in the house and I also remembered moving it from the kitchen. I couldn't, however, remember where I took it at that point. So today when I needed it I looked in all the places I felt I might have put them. Guess what, I never found them. I do however specifically remember putting them in a place "I wouldn't lose them". The good news is when I find them I will find a bunch of other things that I put where "I wouldn't lose them".

Luckily there are tools I have discovered that have made all of the difference in the world. Don't misunderstand, I still forget and lose everything. There are just a few areas where I have found little helpers to make things easier. The first and most important is the calendar on my phone. I put everything into my calendar and I set reminders (at least 2) for everything I put in the phone. The minute I schedule our next orthodontist appointment, I enter it into my phone and do not even bother to get the reminder paper they offer to print out. Then I set 2 reminders, one for about a day before and one for about one hour before (enough time that no matter where I

am, within reason, I would be able to make it to the appointment). Today was my mom's birthday and she unexpectedly called me as we were trying to get out the door to go to school. The minute I got off the phone with her my alarm went off on my phone and reminded me it was her birthday. We all called and sang happy birthday and I didn't end up with a lecture tomorrow morning for being the horrible daughter who forgot her birthday. There isn't anything too small or too big to go in my phone.

If you have a smart phone there are also sticky note apps that allow you to create digital versions of sticky notes on your phone. This is an excellent tool that I don't use nearly enough. If I did I would know where I put my scrapbooking tools. So with the birth of each child I would recommend finding more and better tools like these to help a failing mommy brain.

Suffice it to say, I am a scatter-brained mother of four who would legitimately lose her own head if it weren't attached. Someday the kids will be grown and I will declutter my house and my brain and hopefully it won't be too late for me. But for now I will enjoy their childhood and hopefully not forget too much. Thank goodness for the technology that at least allows me to get my kids to the doctor on time!

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TEEN'S VIEW

Christmas



Lizzy Ryan

This December I know will be a hectic one. There are so many things going on that has never happened in past years. First, I have to go to my cousin's wedding. I've only been to maybe two and that was a long time ago - so I don't really remember them very well. I think they are having a Christmas/ winter themed wedding which fits, considering that it is a few day before Christmas.

The next thing that is going on is my 16th birthday. My grandparents always take their grandchildren out to a restaurant of their choice for their sixteenth birthday. I have yet to decide where I am going. So I have to decide where to go. Then a day after my birthday we are going to see the Trans-Siberian Orches-

tra. It's not part of my birthday present or anything but my family has always really wanted to go to see them.

Then the day after that my family is holding a Christmas party at our house. Every year each family in my extended family holds this Christmas party. It is a tradition. We haven't worked out all of the details yet but I know that we are serving different kinds of soup. Since we are serving soup my mom and I went out to pier 1 to get soup bowls since we only had six and we are expecting twenty- four people at our small house!

On another note, we have two kittens that we rescued from a farm, Roscoe and Sidney. They are about 6 months old now. They tend to get into a lot of trouble like knocking things off tables, and trying to eat everything they see. Anyway, it will be interesting to see how the kittens handle two dozen people with food everywhere. An extension to our deck is being built by my uncle so that should be completed by the time we have the party.

Another thing that will be exciting about the Christmas party is that I will get to see my older cousins who I haven't seen in a long time because they are ei-

ther working or are at college. One of them who is coming up, Tony, will be visiting from Texas for Christmas. This Christmas party, I think, will be a lot of fun.

On Christmas Eve, we are having a party at my aunts' house. We have a Christmas Eve party at her house, after church, every year. She buys shrimp and makes crab cakes for dinner. Then after that it's Christmas!

So far I have no idea what I am getting for Christmas, which is surprising because last year, by the middle of December I knew what over half of my presents were. I don't actually go looking for them like my sister thinks I do. I just happen to come across them. Sometimes mom will leave a list of things lying on the table or somewhere that I can look over it. The list is of things that she has gotten or things that she is thinking about getting. The most common way I run across my presents is if my mom or dad asks me to get something from their closet or out of my moms' desk and they forget that they have a bag of presents in there. Now, don't think that I snoop because I don't. I just happen to see through the thin bag. I told my mom this year that I think she need to hide my presents a little better.

In conclusion, I think that this December will be a crazy, hectic one but in the end a great time with family.

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Art, art, ART—

Thora Stith
Emmitsburg Elementary School

Hi, I'm Mrs. Stith and I'm the art teacher here at Emmitsburg Elementary School. I came to this county from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, graduating from Salisbury University with a Bachelor's degree in art in addition to a teaching certificate. I did my student teaching in Greensboro, MD and Cambridge, MD. Assistant coaching a high school track team, combined with my interest in art is what made me decide to be a teacher! This is my 23rd year of teaching art, all of which has been in this county. After my second year of teaching, I came to Emmitsburg Elementary with the vision of doing good art with good kids. Working with the students here exceeded my expectation in that they produce great art and are great kids! It is quite a rigorous program here, not only are students producing art but they are tested on their knowledge of art vocabulary and concepts, which is required by the county. We are very, very busy getting art smart!

Be on the lookout for student art

in the library. Thanks to Julie Scott at the Emmitsburg Public Library, a new display area is available for bi-monthly exhibits which premier the talent at EES. A piece of student artwork is chosen from each grade level. As far as art class goes, every student with the exception of Pre-K comes to the art room, where lots of high quality art is produced. Choosing art for shows is difficult as there are many talented artists at our school. Students are encouraged to give their best effort to produce work that is creative and shows good craftsmanship. Typically in an art class we start out with a vocabulary review which then transitions to a demonstration of the art task for the day. Most of us are fortunate in Frederick County to have "technology carts" which holds the equipment we use to enhance our delivery of subject matter. Students come to art twice a week for 45 minutes. A variety of mediums are focused on within a year. We work with paint, clay, paper mache, cutting, gluing, weaving, and the list goes on and on! We also study art from all over the world and the work of famous artists. Next time you are by the circula-

tion desk in the library, stop and take a look at the art work hanging. It is a good sampling of what is done in the art room.

In October, onlookers may have noticed a parade of students walking from Emmitsburg Elementary to the downtown. The fourth grade art students were invited to visit the Rebecca Pearl Gallery located on Main St. Much to the student's delight not only was local artist Ms. Pearl at the door to greet them but her friendly, inquisitive German shepherd as well! The shepherd is a pet of Ms. Pearl and her husband, and adds quite an exciting element to visiting children. Ms. Pearl opened her gallery as a special occasion for the students to come for an art tour and talk. We were all so happy to have her accommodate our schedule! Students enjoyed a gallery walk of professional art, most of which is Ms. Pearl's masterpieces. In the end, Ms. Pearl did a watercolor demonstration. This demonstration was connection to what they were doing in the art room making their own watercolor collages. What a great opportunity it was for students to get some exer-

cise and to see a real live artist at work.

On December 8th, a small group of 5th graders from EES will be traveling to see the state government Christmas tree in Annapolis. Under the tutelage of art teacher Mrs. Stith, students created decorations for this tree. This is an annual invitation where chosen art students and their families are invited to a reception at the State House and then to the Government House. Since the tree is SO large, only 8 ornaments from each school are allowed to be hung. The challenge for each student will be to find their ornament on the large tree where thousands of ornaments will be hanging! The ornaments were sent to the Frederick County VPA supervisor who will be taking them to Annapolis for the tree hanging. The ornaments were created from a metal lid, found on the top of frozen juice. Designs were punched into the lid with a nail and a "hammer" and were then painted and decorated.

The ornaments followed the theme of this year's tree "In Honor of Their Service", to pay tribute to our men and women in uniform. Each year this project is done with 5th grade which eventually provides all students in the school ornament. Hm, how to decide which eight get to make an orna-

ment and attend the ceremony? Letters were sent home asking each 5th grade parent if they had to time and inclination to take their child to Annapolis during the busy Holiday season on December 8th. Eight families could make that promise, so those are the eight students going! Art teachers from the entire state of Maryland choose to participate as well as our own from Frederick County.

On that note I'd like to add that I've really enjoyed being the art teacher at Emmitsburg Elementary School. Having the opportunity to guide students through cultural studies, application of media and the learning of art concepts and vocabulary has been very rewarding. I'm always interested to see what they create, given some supplies and some direction. Often I will have students proudly exclaim how their parents take the time and care to hang their art work in the home. Or give them a special storage container to house what they've made. You'd be amazed at what a child can produce given simple art supplies and a space to make things. If you have the means, I encourage you to support their naturally inclination of imagination and creativity! Mrs. Stith Art Teacher at Emmitsburg Elementary School.

Career and Technology Center

Kate Groth
Frederick County School Board

One of the best programs offered by Frederick County

Public Schools is the career preparatory program offered at the Career and Technology Center. The CTC, as it is called, offers 21 programs at its campus, including such things as

CISCO Networking, culinary arts, building trades, automotive technology, cosmetology, criminal justice, and several others.

The Career and Technology Center is conveniently located adjacent to the campus of Frederick Community College on Opossumtown Pike in Frederick. Conveniently, several of the programs offered at the CTC lead directly to coursework at the community college. For example, preparation in the CTC Academy of Health Professions leads directly to the nursing and biomedical technology programs at FCC. Students can transfer directly, having been prepared for college

level training at CTC.

One of the challenges we face in public education is preparing students for making career choices once they leave high school. Fortunately, students who attend Frederick County Public Schools are given many opportunities to explore career options while still in high school. The Career and Technology Center is an excellent option for students who not only want to have hands-on career exploration experience while still in high school, but also for those students who have already decided on career directions and want to gain valuable on-the-job experience leading to college or

to the job market after high school.

For example, a student who has already developed advanced computer skills can take the CISCO Networking program at CTC, receive certification in this technology, and get a well-paying job in the field and earn money for college. This same student would be well positioned to enter the job market and further explore career directions on the job. In addition, students at the CTC who are interested in the automotive field have the opportunity to train with auto mechanics who are currently employed in the field and who can teach the latest in engine repair technology. Students completing this program might go on to college in engineering or go right into regular employment in the automotive industry.

This week, the students and staff at the CTC, along with partners from the real estate and construction trades community in Frederick, broke ground on the 30th house to be built by CTC students. Students work alongside the professionals taking part in each step of the project from start to finish. Often, these students have the opportunity to gain job skills leading directly to employment upon graduation from FCPS.

Programs at the Career Technology Center are open to high school students in grades 10-12. Students must demonstrate a high level of interest in a career field of their choice and must have shown academic ability as well as good school attendance. High school counselors work with students to help them apply for the programs they are interested in. Students must apply and be accepted into the programs. They spend half of each school day at the CTC. Shuttle transportation is provided from all 10 high schools.

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

The reason for the season

Lynn Tayler

It's Christmas time, and my kids have finally caught on. The reaction has been surprise, confusion, dismay, and a little bit of disgust. No, I'm not talking about the whole—ahem, Santa—thing. I'm talking about the premature Christmas advertisements that seem to begin earlier and earlier each year.

"Mom, why does this store have Christmas trees up when it's not even Halloween?!" "Why are they playing Christmas music? It's not even Thanksgiving!" If you thought trying to explain where babies come from was awkward, try explaining retail marketing and microeconomics. We no sooner choose our Halloween costumes when we're bombarded with images of snowflakes and twinkle lights, the sound of sleigh bells shaking in the background.

It's enough to turn even the jolliest among us into Grinches.

It can be difficult to strike that balance between the holiness and commercial aspect of Christmas. We want our kids to believe in Santa Claus, we enjoy picking out just the right gift for someone, we get excited when we get a good deal on something we otherwise might not be able to afford. I admit, I'm one of those crazy people that goes out on Black Friday, not because I've forgotten what Christmas is all about, but because we are on a tight budget and I need to pinch pennies when I can. (We need pillows and the good ones are on sale for less than \$8—what a blessing!) That's something I think most of us can relate to. But at the same time, how much "stuff" do we really need to get? Christmas isn't supposed to be just about giving and getting material gifts.

One of the reasons I am thankful for Mother Seton School is that they provide a remedy for the commercialization of Christmas. As a private, Catholic school, MSS is able to turn the students' focus to "the reason for the season"—celebration of the birth of Jesus. In the Catholic Church, we actually don't refer to the four weeks prior to December 25th as the Christmas season, but rather Advent, which means "the coming" or "arrival". We are called to make preparations in anticipation of the arrival of the Savior, and encouraged to spend these weeks in prayer and reflection. It's a welcome antidote to the hustle and bustle, the "One Day Only!" and "Doorbuster!" sales, and the pressure many of us feel to get the biggest, the newest, the best presents for the people we love.

In the spirit of Advent and the true meaning of Christmas, the school encourages students and staff to embrace service to others, in accordance with our mission statement: "...a Christ-centered community...to inspire

students...to love and serve Christ...". In that spirit, we collected over 30 boxes of food for Seton Center, as well as donations for Hurricane Sandy survivors. Our students from Pre-K through grade 8, as well as the Vincentian Marion Youth in middle school, take part in service projects outside the school. The sisters at Villa St. Michael's are treated to Christmas carols and visits from the youth, who enjoy raising the sisters' spirits.

That's not to say the Church discourages anyone from embracing the joy that abounds at this time of year. We Catholics believe in Santa Claus, too, and like to "Rock Around the Christmas Tree" as much as the next person. On December 8th, for example, MSS is hosting its annual Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar beginning at 8 a.m. Proceeds benefit not only the school, but also the individual crafters and vendors who participate. It's a great way to get your shopping fix while helping out the people in your community.

Other events this month include our annual Christmas pageant on December 10th. Students in all grades take part, performing traditional and contemporary Christmas songs with the accompaniment of the school band and chorus. On the 12th, we celebrate Mass for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It's a fitting service in honor of the woman who gave birth to our Lord. And just before we break for Christmas vacation, there will be a Prayer Service on December 21st at 10 a.m.

Being able to offer these spiritually uplifting events is one of the unique benefits of our school. I'm proud that my children recognize the silliness of starting Christmas before the candy corn has even been eaten, and I credit Mother Seton School with help-



ing them keep what's important foremost in their minds at this time. If you'd like to see some of what the school has been up to, join us for a Take-A-Tour Tuesday on December 4th from 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointment necessary. Just show up and we'll be glad to show you what makes MSS such a special school.

From our family to yours, we wish you the merriest, the most


joyful, and the most peaceful Christmas. We pray it's filled with more love and hope than you could ever ask for. Merry Christmas and we'll see you next year!

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Freshman Year

Walking in a winter wonderland

Lydia Olsen
MSM Class of 2016

The best days are the ones when I have to put on layers. On these cold winter days, it is a procedure for me to leave the house because I have to put on a long sleeve shirt, a sweatshirt, a jacket, two pairs of pants that swish when I walk, three pairs of socks, fuzzy earmuffs, a scarf and winter gloves to stay warm. The bulk of the clothing slows me down but when I finally make it from my room to the front door and step outside, I am completely satisfied. The car windshields are covered with frost. The grass has iced over and crunches under my boots. I watch my breath disappear into the air along with the smoke from the chimneys. The greatest part of it all is the indescribable smell of the crisp, cold weather that turns my nose red. It is a smell beyond compare because it promises approaching snow. My favorite winter memory begins on one of these days. It was a day that I will always remember, a day when the falling of snow was inevitable.

Winter mornings seem to be more difficult than mornings during any other time of the year. Combining a winter morning with the darkness of Daylight Saving Time cries out as

a recipe for disaster, at least for me. You see, it's not that I have trouble with the actual waking up part of the mornings. I have never been one who hits snooze or begs for five more minutes. For me, the hardest part of waking up on a winter morning is just getting out of bed. Being tucked in the warmth of the blankets is much more appealing than rolling over and having the frigid hardwood floor greet my bare feet. I would much rather just lie awake in bed and avoid beginning my day until the last possible minute.

This inward debate is exactly what was happening one day last December. When I finally got the nerve to pull off my covers and get ready for school, I was completely behind schedule. I rushed around chaotically as I got dressed for the winter weather. I exchanged I love you's with my mom as I stood hesitantly at my front door trying to muster up the courage to brave the cold outside. Ultimately, I had no choice but to run through the morning darkness to my car. Blasting the heat in that old Camry was pointless, but I banged my gloved hands helplessly on the dial anyway. Somehow it always seemed to kick in as soon as I got into the school parking lot, but that's just my luck. When I ran into

school on these cold winter days, I praised the warm air that hit my face as I passed through the maroon and gray doors.

The rumor of snow circulated quickly throughout the halls, like any other high school gossip did. Some of us got our hopes up more than others, but when the first flurries were spotted through the windows, we all became optimistic. By the time second period approached, it became clear that we would be having an early dismissal! Once this became known, it was nearly impossible for the teachers to calm us down or get us to pay attention. All 2,600 students waited in anticipation for our release. When the time came to leave, we all ran outside with excitement. We danced around in the parking lot as the flurries lingered in our hair and attached to our winter jackets. We embraced in our enthusiasm before we headed home.

When I arrived back at my house, my mom and I eagerly watched the snow as it accumulated quickly on the grass, and more importantly on the roads. My mom is a third grade teacher. She is great at what she does and is highly respected and admired among the community and her co-workers. But like children, we keenly awaited the cancellation of school. After all, who doesn't love a snow day?

When the word eventually came that evening that there would not be school the next day, my mom and I were overjoyed. Our cheers filled the house; however, the phone call did

not come until almost midnight. It was late at night but we were both so wide awake with excitement that there was no way we could go to bed. My mom, being the adventurous type, asked me to go on a walk with her. I smiled and went to put on more layers.

Bundled up, we stepped outside into what felt like the arctic tundra. All around us the trees held snow where their leaves had once been. The grass had vanished and was replaced by a perfect blanket. Neighboring house lights allowed the snow to glisten. Everything was peaceful. All the commotion of daily life was suddenly silenced and it seemed as though time stood still. With our gloved fingers intertwined, we strolled through the streets. As we traveled, we left footprints in the snow that were quietly covered behind us. Mesmerized by the pureness around us, we breathed in our surroundings. The neighborhood was mysterious in the darkness of night but was captivating in the beauty it obtained once it was covered in a sheet of white. There is something magical about snow. Whether it is through coldness that it has the ability to bring people together, or whether it is something more, my mom and I bonded while we walked in a wonderland that night. Upon returning to our house, we decided to disrupt the flawless snow in our front yard. We agreed to make a snowman and took off our boots as we rushed inside to gather the necessities.

Meeting back in the snow, we quickly became aware that this was not going to be an average snowman, but we continued on anyway. We rolled our snowballs until they fit our satisfaction. We constructed the body of the snowman and then moved onto the accessories. Our snowman acquired a bucket hat, Oreo eyes, a paint stirrer nose, an M&M smile, rock buttons, oversized pencil arms, and a plaid scarf to complete his look. My mom and I looked at each other and smiled. We were completely pleased with our finished creation and we headed inside for the night. When we woke up on our snow day, we once again took a walk outside. We admired the snowman in our yard that literally appeared overnight. He was far from perfect or even ordinary, but he had character, that's for sure!

With the heart of winter approaching, the smell of snow lingers longer in the air. Along with the smell comes the remembrance of my favorite memory involving an early dismissal, a winter walk, and an unforgettable snowman. As the weather gets colder every day, I find myself waiting impatiently for the flurries to begin to fall. In anticipation, I wait to hear my mom ask me that question that promises an adventure. Do you want to take a walk?

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

Sophomore Year

Magic is in the air

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

I don't know what it is about snow, but no matter how old you get there is something absolutely magical about the flurries of white powder that fall from the sky when the tempera-

ture drops below a balmy 32 degrees. Perhaps it's the fact that as children, we would look at the world outside on Christmas and see the snow and as we watched it fall, our innocent minds forever fused the magic of Christmas with the soft snow in the sky. Or maybe it was the fact that snow had the power to get us off school or work. Whole days could be spent in our pajamas because the weather had decided to slow our world of steady progress to a grinding halt. It gave us an easy excuse to spend time with our friends and family, to shirk the cultural guilt associated with doing nothing and just "being" for a change.

Or maybe, just maybe it's the simple idea that snow can change everything. Think about it. The avenues we travel every day, the old buildings that we pass by every morning, even something as familiar as our backyard can be utterly altered by the falling snow. It's the one natural event that doesn't just affect our world around us, but our perceptions of that world. The way that snow clings to the trees, illuminating an entire forest in a cool clean whiteness, the simple freshness of the air after snowfall, these things as well as many others create a veritable wonderland that has fas-

inated and enamored us for generations.

Last year, on Halloween Weekend I woke to find that my entire world at Mount St Mary's University had been covered in a gentle but constant dusting of snow. It clung to the eaves of buildings, squatted in gutters, lined the roads in large heaps and made the rolling ground of our campus into a beautiful almost flat land. I woke to my roommate pulling on his leather shoes, a T-Shirt and shorts and exclaiming, "We're going sledding!" as he tossed me a tray from Patriot dining hall that had somehow found its way into our room. I should have known then that it was going to be a wild day. Without bothering to change out of my PJ's, I threw my sneakers on as fast as my hands would allow and sprinted down the stairs with my roommate to the small hill outside of Pangborn Hall. We climbed up, using what had been a staircase before the snowfall and jumped onto our trays, hoping to slide gracefully down to the bottom. We got the sliding part right; we tumbled from our makeshift sleds almost as quickly as we had climbed on, rolling to the bottom of the hill. At the bottom, we discovered our bodies were covered in cold, wet snow.

Having both overestimated the ability of our makeshift vehicles and the ability of shorts and thin PJ's to keep the cold out, we sprinted into the hall hoping to find warmth. We immediately ran to the girls' hall in

the hopes that some kind hearts would spare some hot cocoa. We limped in looking bedraggled and freezing and our friends gave us an amazing greeting. As we lay underneath the radiator, they brought out cocoa and mugs, a large fleece blanket and a laptop complete with a movie. My friend and I laid our trays in the middle of the hall and allowed our friends to pamper us into a state of luxury. We had a blanket, food, and a movie full of chase scenes and explosions; nothing could have roused us from our reverie.

Nothing that is, except for the ringing of my cell phone. I answered unsure of who would be calling me on such a strange snowy day and a little frustrated that my impromptu relaxing session would be interrupted. "Hello?" my voice sounded so strange after the sound of the special effects and the loud slurping of warm drink. "Hi Kyle!" My aunt Kathy was calling from her minivan, which at that very moment was on its way to my residence hall. My mind recalled a conversation over Facebook a few weeks prior. My aunt had been asking about bringing my three cousins, Shannon, Anna and Justin to visit the campus and most importantly, visit me. "We're almost there!" she exclaimed. I looked at my still moist clothing, my tasseled hair and the fact that I was laying on the floor of the girls hall under a fleece blanket clutching a steaming coffee mug for dear

life. "Awesome," I said, trying to cover up the fact that I would be playing the situation with all my improvisational skill. "I will see you soon!" With that, I left my friends behind and flew up to my room to hastily prepare for my aunt and three little cousins.

Well, my aunt arrived without incident and found her oldest nephew put together and dressed by the time she arrived. After a brief tour of the campus with my family in tow, my aunt revealed that she was taking me out to dinner, which for a young starving college kid is incredibly exciting. As we made our way from my room to the parking lot, I picked up a clump of snow and lobbed it playfully at Shannon, the oldest of my three cousins. This caused the others to laugh and pick up clumps of snow and begin throwing them at my face. What ensued was a full-on snowball fight between my three cousins and me. We ducked behind cars, leaped over snow banks and slid through slush in an epic impromptu battle to the finish.

To this day I cannot think about snow without thinking about the way the day when my world was turned from a snow-covered school into a white wonderland. Hopefully your December is full of snow and adventures. I'm Kyle Ott, won't you sit and read for a while?

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

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LET IT SNOW

Junior Year

The little sled that could

Nicole Jones
MSM Class of 2014

Snow. That simple word brings forth so many memories from the far reaches of my dusty mind. I remember playing with my cousins in the backyard when I was around twelve, creating the largest possible snow boulder – it was at least as tall as the sides of our above ground pool. I remember building a snow man reclining on a lounge chair on our front porch. I remember Snowmageddon and being out of school for a week my senior year of high school. Perhaps one of my fondest memories, though, is of the very common childhood adventure of sledding.

Before we moved onto the farm where I live now, my family used to live in a more suburban area. The yard was very flat and therefore not a sledding paradise. To compensate, my father would always take me and my older brother to a local hillside at the Western Maryland College golf course for some proper sledding terrain. The hill was, and still is, a popular sledding location. Overlooking the college's track field, it's never had much of

a view, but it makes up for it with a steep incline.

The dynamics of the hill could be divided up into three basic groups: those who climbed part of the way, those who climbed all the way, and the stunt attempters. The "part-way-ers" usually consisted of families with younger children. The protective parents tended to stay closer to the bottom of the hill, going just high enough to let the child sled, but not so high that the sled would speed out of control. "All-the-way-ers" were families with older or more daring children who headed to the top of the hill, just inside the tree line that graced the peak. It was a steeper, longer walk, but well worth the long, fast ride down the hill. The "stunt attempters" were often a group of young men attempting to snowboard – usually not very well.

My family has always been of the "all-the-way" classification. I trudged up the hill in line behind my family. My brother carried a black sled, my father had a boogie board, and I followed up the group in my pink snow pants, dragging a bright red sled behind me. My mom was less daring, and would usually take a spectator po-

sition – probably awaiting any injuries to come sliding straight into her arms.

The snow was usually properly packed down by the time my family arrived. Other families had already conquered the terrain, packing down any powdery snow into a tight sheet of icy track begging to be put to use. Of course, this also made the climb to the top much harder. The designated foot path was by then full of pot holes, ruts, and hundreds of footprints which had sufficiently churned what was once a smooth, white blanket into a bumpy, frozen wasteland.

At least three stumbles were required to earn your place at the top of the hill. Only the proficient dared to run the path. Many failed. Some were unlucky enough to slide down on their stomachs when they lost their footing and had to restart the arduous journey to the top. Others would stumble and regain their balance but lose grip of their slide. They could do little but watch as the piece of plastic slid quickly away from them, knowing that turning back was the only other option.

The survivors bore their burden in silence. All cheerful chatter ceased until the top was reached and an easy breath could be taken. The successful were able to stand at the summit and look out over the conquered hillside, reveling in their accomplishment and eager for what was to come.

After my family reached the top, we took such a moment of pause, catching our breath and watching the specks below us playing in the snow. Then we set about finding the perfect take off point. My father found a spot just inside the tree line, the highest you could go. Only the brave would dare it. He analyzed the area. It was well packed, no trees blocked the exit from the woods, and none were waiting at the bottom. Satisfied, my brother was allowed to go first. He took his position on his black sled, shoved off and flew down the hill side. My father and I watched, waiting for him to reach the bottom, and shouted in triumph when he did.

I was next. I positioned my little red sled and sat squarely on the seat. My hands wrapped around the rope handle like a vice. A moment of hesitation, then I dove down the hill side. I was unable to hear anything but the wind roaring past my ears. My eyes watered from the cold air hitting my face, and my mouth froze in a large grin, when all of sudden – Houston, we have a problem.

A group of "stunt attempters" lingered to my right, just off the high traffic sledding zone. Their misguided attempt at mastering the snowboard led them to build a small two-foot jump out of snow. Presumably, a simple enough task for a snowboarder, but an unanticipated obstacle for a young

sledder catapulting down the hill side.

I yanked on the rope and leaned to the left, trying to redirect my sled, but it was too late. All I could do was shout and wave the snowboarders out of my way. I closed my eyes, thinking I was certainly going to collide with one of them. I opened them to see the faces of five teenage boys watching in awe as my little red sled soared over the jump, landing with a sharp thud on the other side.

I heard cheering follow me down the hillside, but I could only feel the instant bruise on my bottom. Amazingly, my sled didn't crack on impact, and I drifted to an easy stop at the bottom of the hill. My dad soon slid to a stop beside me, roaring with laughter. "You went straight for it!" he said in between chuckles. Trust me, I didn't mean to.

I've since had many more snow adventures, and while this one will always stand out because of the unique circumstances, I cherish each memory. Whether it's because we're snowed in for a couple days or we've gone out of our way for a sledding adventure, each snow memory has one thing in common – it's a time I've spent with my family and friends. As far as I'm concerned, each memory with them is just one more reason to love snow.

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

Senior Year

Weekend winter morning

Samantha Strub
MSM Class of 2013

A cold crisp wind blew against our faces as the 4-wheeler made its way down the pasture over the top of the snow. The bitter coldness made what would be an enjoyable trip on the 4-wheeler unbelievably miserable. Any part of your body not covered was affected immediately. The two of us were bundled almost from head to toe. Only our eyes and cheeks were showing at any given moment except when we needed to take off our gloves because we needed our fingers to get the correct grip. The rest of our body was as covered as possible with everything from Carhartt overalls on top of our jeans to jackets, long sleeves, sweat-shirts, hats, neck warmers, warm work gloves, and insulated boots. This seems excessive, but it was vital to surviving the bitter temperatures.

Normally this get-up is enough, but not on this crisp winter morning when the temperature was below zero and the wind was strong and bitter. The two of us worked our best at staying out of the wind while we were doing chores, but we had no choice. We had to feed hay. We feed up against the side of the barn and in the shelters in order to give the horses their hay and protect them as much as possible from the wind. There was not enough space to have protection for all of the horses. As the two of us moved out into the open pasture, the bitter wind was immediately hitting us as we drove the 4-wheeler and the hay trailer into position. As the wind was pound-

ing against us, we spread the hay out around the fence for the 30 horses that were at the barn. We struggled with the bales of hay, praying and hoping that the twine would not become tangled and we would have to take off our gloves while braving the elements. The snow was lightly falling but with the wind it felt like a blizzard and we were unable to enjoy it. Haying seemed to take forever, but it really only took about 20 minutes. It was a challenge to move and spread out the bales, but this is routine.

As Noelle and I spread the bales, I wondered why on earth I was out at the barn in below zero temperatures. Why do I come out early on Saturday and Sunday mornings to feed the horses? Why was I freezing with my toes, fingers, and nose growing numb? Why wasn't I laying under the covers in my warm bed like normal people do on weekends? Well, it has been known for a long time that Noelle and I are not normal. We are horse lovers. We do chores even in the bitter cold so we are able to pay board in order to ride. We do this because we love it.

Once we were done haying we had stalls to clean. Most likely surprising to many of the readers, this was an enjoyable part of the morning for us. For one, it was warm in the barn and since the doors were closed, it was protected from the wind. Second, there were no horses to interrupt us from drinking warm coffee. Third, this was our prime talking time and we could also listen to music. Lastly, we could finally warm up and regain feeling back in our toes. We turned on the radio and

grabbed our coffees, sipping them as we got the wheelbarrow and forks and began to clean stalls. We didn't stop to sit down because we were sure we would freeze if we did. In the process of cleaning stalls, we warmed up, which is a good thing because we still had riding to do.

Once we were all done we got a refill of coffee and our tack and grooming supplies. We braced ourselves for walking out into the bitter wind and snow. To our wonderful surprise, the wind had died down a little bit. This was a relief because as Noelle and I walked outside, we saw the snow clinging to the trees and creating a spotless blanket across the pasture. This filled us with great excitement. If only the wind would truly die down. We brought our horses back in and got warm drinking coffee and grooming our horses. It is a relaxing tradition and we both become lost in our own world as we groom and tack our horses.

Once the horses were tacked, it was the moment that we were the least excited for: taking off our Carhartt overalls. We left our jackets on but we had to take off the overalls in order to ride. Sadly, we wouldn't be able to ride properly if we kept the warm work overalls on. We both become chilly as we donned our riding boots instead of the insulated boots and removed the Carhartt overalls. We quickly mounted our horses, double-checking that the doors were closed to block out the wind. We spent a wonderful 45 minutes or so riding in the area. We enjoyed our wonderful time of peaceful relaxation with good friends and horses.

After we had enjoyed our riding time and began to lose the feeling in our toes, Noelle suggested that we see how strong the wind was. I knew

what was on her mind and we eagerly looked outside. The wind has died down, almost to the point where it was non-existent. We had renewed energy and our horses were feeding off of our energy and starting to become impatient while we opened the gate. Have you guessed it yet? We were going on a pasture run to disrupt the peaceful stillness of the snow-white pastures. If you are a horse person, you know what a thrill it is to go out on a pasture run. For those of you who do not know, it is an unbelievable feeling of freedom, strength, energy and beauty. It is an exhilarating feeling. We made sure there was nothing laying around in the area that the horses would destroy and then we walked off into the pasture. We waited until we got out of the other horses' way and then with a simple look at each other, we gave our horses the signal and off we flew.

We flew across the pasture, enjoying the freedom and the escape that it gives us. The wind seemed to have picked up and it blew against our faces, making our noses and whole face cold. Our wonderful horses were flying us away to another world. We were

escaping reality and moving across the snow-white stillness of the pasture. We flew around the pasture a couple of times until the raptures wore off and we realized we needed to go in before we caught cold. It was a wonderful feeling as we rode our horses back into the area where some of the horses had taken refuge. Noelle and I had huge smiles on our faces knowing that that pasture run was exactly what we needed. We brought our horses into the barn and untacked and showered them with treats as they trotted off happily to finish their breakfast.

As Noelle and I began to move in order to gather the grooming supplies and tack we realized that our limbs and faces no longer had feeling. It hurt to walk and put pressure on our feet. Painfully, we put everything away and swept the aisle. We gathered our now empty coffee mugs and climbed into the car. Looking at each other we knew only two things would make this day complete: Starbucks and breakfast.

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



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THE GRADUATE

My four Christmases... at the Mount

Kelly Conroy
MSM Class of 2012

Christmas Eve is the big Christmas celebration in my family. We have Polish roots so we go to Mass on Christmas Eve, enjoy a large traditional Wigilia meal, and share presents late at night. On Christmas morning, we just wake up to a few presents from Santa. In the days leading up to Christmas, my family also has special traditions. Some of them include going to a night of Advent lessons and carols at my parish, and driving around to see Christmas lights. We also light our advent wreath every week on our dining room table, and put emphasis on the days after December 25th during the Christmas season that officially ends with the Baptism of the Lord, which is celebrated on the Sunday after January 6th every year.

These were my Christmas traditions for 18 years. Then, I packed my parent's mini-van in Florida and they left me in Maryland to attend Mount St. Mary's. I knew that I would meet new friends in college. I knew that I would have to study hard, and play hard on the tennis courts. But what I didn't realize is that my Christmases would never be the same.

My favorite number has always been four. I had number four on my jersey on soccer teams from when I was four until I was a senior in high school. I like even numbers, and since my older sister already had chosen two as her favorite number, I had to choose four. My past three Christmases at the Mount have been awesome and have taught me a lot about COMMUNITY, FAITH, and TRADITION. But I know my fourth is going to be a very blessed Christmas too!

My first Christmas at the Mount was like a Christmas card—literally. Those Christmas cards that we all receive from friends and relatives every year are actually based on reality. This was news to me. I had never seen snow in my life when I first came to the Mount, and my freshman year was the blizzard year at the Mount. We didn't just get a couple inches of snow—We were bombarded with feet of snow!

I'll never forget that first night. I was doing homework in my dormroom when one of my friends called me, "Hey, it's snowing! We're going outside!" I didn't need to hesitate, "I'm in!" I threw on a pair of yoga pants, the only winter jacket I owned, some cotton gloves, and my rain boots and ran outside.

I wasn't three feet out the front door of Sheridan when a snowball crashed into my arm. Happiness overwhelmed me—Snow! I tried forming snowballs of my own, but was getting hit too quickly by snowballs from my friends to really make good ones. Plus my cotton gloves just weren't going to work. My hands were freezing, but I barely noticed. I laid back into the snow and made my first snow angel. Then, I was table-topped to the ground. My friends briefly showed me how to table-top and I tried it. Unfortunately, I was too caught up in the excitement and knelt in front of my friend instead of behind my friend. Table-topping doesn't work like that.

Then, I looked around me. Everyone was outside. It wasn't just my friends. It wasn't just my class. It was the Mount community.

We stayed outside playing in the snow until two in the morning. It is known as the "infamous snow fight of 2009." I had friends to my dorm for hot choc-

olate afterward. My hands needed the warmth. School was canceled for a week. We watched movies, played games, and even caught up on schoolwork. I also dragged my northern friends out to play in the snow more—football, sledding, anything.

Freshman year, I experienced the community of the Mount. We shared a lot together, including snow-fights, and supported each other. My friends and I strived to be good friends especially when we needed friends the most entering college. This experience of community stayed with me as I went home for Christmas.

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."
—Romans 12:9-10

* * * *

There was no blizzard my sophomore year at the Mount. However, my Christmas was enhanced because of my time at the Mount. One occasion that stands out in particular is the Seminary Open House.

The seminary houses about 170 seminarians on the Mount campus. Undergraduates most often see the seminarians in the cafeteria, library, and gym. They're not hard to spot in their all black attire. When students take Moral Philosophy or Moral Theology as a part of the core class requirement, they will most likely have some seminarians in their class. The seminarians are also team chaplains for the Division I sports teams, and help with campus ministry functions. Yet, their life inside the big stone building on the south side of campus is mostly unknown to undergraduates.

When the seminary announced its Christmas open house date, the seminarian team chaplains for the tennis team invited all of us to attend. We showed up expecting a brief tour through some parts of the seminary and some refreshments. We were pleasantly surprised.

Ever year, the seminarians compete to construct the best Christmas decorated hallway. This is no fifth-grade door decorating contest. This is an all-out event. The



first hallway was filled with hay. A "live" Mary and Joseph were standing around a cradle with a baby. Live goats were also present!

Another hallway was designed to look like the inside of an airplane. We sat down in the seats in the airplane and a "flight attendant" walked through the aisle with Christmas treats. Air masks were hanging from the ceiling. Someone announced over a microphone that we had almost arrived at the North Pole. It really felt like we were on an airplane, but we were really just in a hallway in the seminary.

The tour of the seminary really inspired me by witnessing the faith of the seminarians. They leave their homes and families to serve the Church. It gave me a boost in my own faith to bring home for Christmas.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."
—Hebrews 11:1

* * * *

Junior year, my friends and I decided to do something different. We hadn't gone into Washington, D.C. enough, and it is only a quick car or train ride away. We wanted to make a new Christmas tradition.

The capital of our nation has carried on the tradition of lighting a National Christmas Tree since 1923. The tree is located on a grassy area called the Ellipse in D.C., just south of the White House. In 1954, a Pathway of Peace was created that showcases fifty-six small, decorated Christmas trees representing the fifty states, five territories, and the District of Columbia. The large-

est National Christmas Tree was erected in 1978. It was a forty-foot Colorado blue spruce.

The tree that my friends and I found in D.C. last year wasn't forty feet, but it was an impressive tree. We enjoyed partaking in a tradition that's made for our whole country to enjoy—just an hour and a half from the Mount.

I had grown up with a lot of Christmas traditions, but this experience was a new Christmas tradition. It made me reflect again about how remembering Christ's birth is the important tradition—It is why we celebrate Christmas. There'd be no Christmas tree if God hadn't humbled Himself and took on the form of a man to save us.

"To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter."

—2 Thessalonians 2:14-15

* * * *

Community, Faith and Tradition are themes that emerged from my past three Christmases at the Mount. I could have never imaged what I have experienced at the Mount. My first snow-ball fight was a gathering of the Mount student community. Christmas was a very appropriate time for me to recognize the value of community in my family and my friends. In my second Christmas, I witnessed a glimpse into the life of seminarians striving to serve God. It only made me want to serve God, who became man at Christmas, more. Finally, visiting the Christmas tree in D.C. helped me to recognize the worthiness of traditions, especially the most important ones.

Who knows what is in store for this Christmas. I have high hopes. The Mount hasn't disappointed me in the past. I'm ready for another adventure, another experience, anything that will make Christmas more enriching—And four is my lucky number!

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

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CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Camp Eder's Christmas Tree Festival

Alan Patterson
Camp Eder

Many folks are starting to feel the stress of the season; from shopping wars to house guests to overbooked schedules, the "most wonderful time of the year" can easily turn into the "the most overwhelming time of year".

In response to the growing busyness of the holiday season, Camp Eder, a Christian Camp & Retreat Center in Fairfield, is hosting their Second Annual Christmas Tree Festival on December 14th-16th from 5pm-9pm. Designed as a "Celebration of the Birth of Christ" the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival offers a place where families and individuals can experience an evening of refuge from the many things that pull our attention away from the true reason for the season. The festivities will include a tree decorating contest, indoor & outdoor lighting displays, refreshments, live music, nativity collections, a candlelit service, alternative giving options and a wonderful evening out with family, friends, and neighbors.

This new tradition began in 2011 with an idea to offer Christmas Trees for folks to decorate and display in Geigley Lodge at Camp Eder. Each tree is sponsored by an organization, group, or individual which they can decorate with a theme of their choice. Attendees can vote on their favorite tree by purchasing tickets for a dollar each. All funds received from the tree decorating contest ticket sales are donated to Children's Disaster Services of the Church of the Brethren and will be directed towards assisting with relief efforts for displaced families of Hurricane Sandy.

Food and refreshments are



plenty as the Camp Eder staff and volunteers offer free cookies, punch, and warm drinks as an a la carte food court provides menu options for those wishing to purchase an affordable meal. This year a bake sale table will offer Camp Eder Cookies and other handmade items.

Live music, dozens of nativity scenes, decorated walking paths, and the cozy fires set the stage for an evening of reflection as commercialism is tuned out and the simplicity of the Nativity Story comes into the spotlight for this event. Each evening an 8:00pm candlelit service with a small live nativity is set off with the ringing of the Camp Eder bell and the singing of a couple of Christmas Carols followed by the reading of the Nativity Story directly from the Scripture, the service closes with the a capella singing of Silent Night, Holy Night. The beautiful sound of Middle Creek and the Christmas and candle lights shining in the forest all make for a serene atmosphere of reflection for all.

In addition to offering a place for celebration and reflection the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival also offers a place where we can work together to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

As an outreach to our community Camp Eder will be collecting new or gently used children's clothing and canned food during this year's Christmas Tree Festival. Children's clothing and canned goods can be delivered at any time during the Christmas Tree Festival (December 14-16, 5pm-9pm) or arrangements can be made at the Camp Office to drop off items at any other time. Canned food that is collected will be directed to the Fairfield Food Pantry at the Fairfield Mennonite Church for distribution. Children's clothing will go to God's Closet, a clothing pantry run by Children's Aid Society of New Oxford, PA.

Throughout the year, Camp Eder offers a number of events that welcome the local community; the Spring Golf Tournament,

the Summer Camp Program, the Fall Festival, and now The Win-

ter Christmas Tree Festival. Each event has very specific elements that make each one very special to all; however it seems that even as young as the Christmas Tree Festival is, it is stealing hearts and becoming a favorite event for the Camp Eder Staff and those who visit during this very special time.

If you're looking for a way to accent the true meaning of Christmas this year with your loved ones, consider stopping by Camp Eder during evening hours (5pm-9pm) on December 14th, 15th, or 16th. Camp Eder is found at 914 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, PA; additional information can be obtained from www.campeder.org or you may reach the Camp Eder Office at 717-642-8256, Tuesdays - Saturdays 9am-4pm. Experience the joy, peace, and hope that can be found in remembering that Christmas is a birthday party for a very special baby boy.

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ARTS

Christmas Carols—The Arts of Christmas

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

Christmas. The word brings forth such joy and excitement in people of all ages. Children loyally write their letters to Santa, listing the countless things they want and reassuring him that they were in fact good this year. Cookies are baked and halls are decked. The coveted "25 Days of Christmas" begins to play on television, and Christmas carols cycle through our radios all day, every day, until the big day arrives.

As they say, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," and we are able to spend it with family, friends,

and all those who are closest to us. But in the spirit of all the festivities, we sometimes forget the real meaning of Christmas. It's not done intentionally, but we tend to lose sight of the true wonders of the holiday. With all of the pressures to buy and wrap presents and decorate our homes, Christmas itself often becomes overshadowed by the material value we place upon the day. Presents, which were meant to be a symbolic gesture representing the gifts from the Three Wise Men, have seemingly become the main reason behind the holiday.

I myself have been guilty of this, and I am making a special effort this year to change that. As a senior at a Catholic university, I have real-

ly grown in my faith over the years. The Mount has provided me with a nurturing environment for my faith, one that has encouraged me to explore and develop it over the years.

With this coming Christmas, I am approaching it in a different way. I know that I will get much more out of the holiday by removing its material mask from its religious foundation. I encourage you all to do the same, because Christmas is so much more meaningful than it sometimes seems. If we look beyond all the things that we have come to deem as "necessities" of Christmas: the presents, the candy, the decorations, what do we have left? The foundation upon which we base all of these traditions.

This is not to say that we shouldn't be partaking in these traditions, but we need to remember why we have them in the first place: the birth of Christ. That is what Christmas is all about. I'm sure many of you have seen the holiday classic, "A Charlie Brown Christmas." In response to Charlie Brown's plea, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus comes out onto the stage, blanket in hand, and explains the true meaning of Christmas.

Reciting from the King James Version of Luke 2: 8-14, Linus read:

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in

a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

Going off of Linus' message, I wanted to give you all a plethora of events that can make this holiday season that much more enjoyable by helping everyone get in the holiday spirit and delve deeper into its true meaning. This month is full of wonderful events for the family, so mark your calendars!

December 1st

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve is hosting a Natural Wreath Making Workshop on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm at the Preserve. Learn how to make a "field and forest" wreath, which is made entirely from natural collected materials. Everything will be supplied to make one 10" wreath including cones, nuts, and seedpods, but you may also bring any additional decorative items and ribbons.

Be a part of the 3rd Annual Old Getty Place Christmas Parade! Come light the great tree in the Lincoln Square and sing Christmas carols together to bring in the holiday season. At the parade, you will be able to enjoy a wide variety of bands, floats, costumed characters, distinguished guests, dancers, youth groups and, of course, good ol' Santa Claus! The parade will take place in downtown Gettysburg. For more information, call 717-334-1515.

Come experience Emmitsburg's 24th annual "Evening of Christmas Spirit." There will be caroling on the Square at 6pm followed by the lighting of the town Christmas tree at 6:30pm. There will be hayrides, refreshments and entertainment at the Carriage House until 9pm. Cel-

brate Christmas at The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton with Candlelit Tours of Historic Homes, luminaries throughout the grounds, and festive music in the Basilica.

December 2nd

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus will host their annual Christmas Concert at the Basilica in Emmitsburg at 4pm. On the playlist for the concert is a list of Christmas favorites. "Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming," Adolph Adam's "O Holy Night" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" are just a few of the traditional favorites that will be performed. On less traditional note will be "It's A Swinging Christmas" and "Getting In the Mood." Some selections will feature soloists Betsy Graham, Mary Barrett-Friend, Chris Krietz, Felicia Albert, Cheryl Carney and Tom Steigerwald.

The chorus will also be performing some new selections that will surely become chorus favorites in future years. John Rutter's "Angels' Carol" and "What Sweeter Music" are beautiful songs that present the Christmas story to the audience and leave a lasting impact on them. Lori True and Shirley Erena Murray's "Dream A Dream" will be performed, incorporating the traditional "Dona Nobis Pacem," which encourages us to dream of hope, peace and the gift of Christ, the true reason for celebration during Christmas. The chorus will share their holiday music with Heartfields and Crumland Farms in along with a few other area concerts. The concert at the Basilica is free and open to the public, but a free will offering will be collected.

Music, Gettysburg! presents Advent Vespers, a holiday tradition of candlelit choral music, prayer, and meditation, led by the Schola Cantorum of Gettysburg. For more information, check out the Music, Gettysburg! website at musicgettysburg.org or call 717-338-3000 ext. 2197 for more information.

The Mount St. Mary's University Visual & Performing Arts Department will hold their choral and instrumental concert at 2pm. The Lab Bands, Wind Ensemble and MSM Chorale will be performing musical selections with themes of Peace and Unity for Advent and Christmas. The concert will be held in Knott Auditorium, and it is free and open to the public.

December 6th

Come on out to the 2nd Annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony with Mother Seton School at 10 am. Mother Seton School's sixth and seventh grade students are excited to help the Shrine kick off the Christmas season with the ceremonial lighting of the Basilica Christmas tree. The tree will be decorated with their own hand-made ornaments. The students will also lead participants in Christmas carols. All are welcome to attend!

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January 17th, 2013
7:30 pm

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<p>Thin Crust Pizza At Home Mon., January 14, 6:30-8:30pm \$63/\$59 Members</p> <p>Cajun Creole Cuisine Mon., Jan. 14, 5:00-8:00pm, \$63/\$59 Members</p> <p>Sushi 291 Jan. 24, 6:00-8:00pm \$39/\$36 Members</p> <p>Once & Done Lasagnas & Casseroles Thurs., Jan. 31, 5:30-8:30pm \$56/\$52 Members</p> <p>Love Potion: Valentine's Cooking Class Thurs., Feb. 7, 6:00-8:00pm \$49/\$46 Members</p> <p>Healthy Eating & Calorie Counting Wed., Feb. 20, 6:00-8:00pm \$39/\$36 Members</p> <p>Mexican Fiesta Wed., Jan. 23 - Feb. 27 9:30-11:30am, \$143/\$128 Members</p> <p>Terrariums & Indoor Landscape Trays Sat., Jan 26, 10:00-11:00am \$27/26 Members</p>	<p>YoYo Quilts Tues., Jan. 15, 6:00-7:30pm \$18/\$16 Members</p> <p>Knitting Thurs., Jan. 24 - Feb. 28, 10:00-11:30am, \$65/\$65 Members</p> <p>Focus On Photography Fri., Jan. 18, 10-Noon</p> <p>Introduction To Digital Photography Session 1 Mon., Jan. 21-Feb. 11 10-Noon</p> <p>Session 2 Wed., Feb. 6-26 6:00-8:00pm \$95/\$85 Members Each Session</p> <p>Organizing Your Digital Photographs Thurs., Jan. 17-Feb. 7, 6:00-8:00pm, \$95/\$85 Members</p> <p>Introduction To Adobe Photoshop Thurs., Feb. 7-28, 6:00-8:00pm, \$95/\$85 Members</p> <p>The Art Of Social Media Wed., Jan.-30, 7:00-9:00pm \$95/\$85 Members</p> <p>Memoir Workshop Sat., Jan. 19, 1:00-1:30pm \$30/\$27 Members</p> <p>Wordsmith III! Sat., Feb. 9, 1:00-1:30pm \$30/\$27 Members</p> <p>Piano 1 & Piano 2 Thurs., Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 9:30-10:30am & 10:45-11:45am \$125/\$115 Members</p>	<p>Introduction To Guitar Tues., Jan. 22-Feb. 26, 7:00-9:00pm, \$143/\$128 Members</p> <p>Dance Your Way To A New Year Tues., Jan. 22-Mar. 22, 11:00-Noon or 6:30-7:30pm, \$95/\$85 Members</p> <p>Intro. To Swing Dance Wed., Jan. 23 & 30, 8:00-9:00 pm, \$46/\$40 Members</p> <p>Intro. To Silver Wire Fusing Tues., Jan. 29, 10-12:30pm, or Feb. 19, 5:30-8:00pm, \$55/\$52 Members</p> <p>Simply Pretty 3D Charms Tues., Feb. 26, 9:30-12:30pm, \$51/\$47 Members</p> <p>Simply Pretty Rings Tues., Feb. 26, 2:00-5:00pm, \$51/\$47 Members</p> <p>Intro. To Wheel Throwing Thurs., Jan. 24-Feb. 29, 1:00-3:00PM, \$178/\$163 Members</p> <p>Pottery Without A Wheel Sat., Feb. 2-23, 9:30-11:30 am, \$115/\$105 Members</p> <p>Stained Glass Sun Catcher Sat., Feb. 2, 1:00-3:30pm, \$45/\$42 Members</p> <p>Stained Glass 101 Tues., Feb. 5, 12, 19, 6:00-8:30pm, \$114/\$105 Members</p>
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Register today!
Details at adventart.org

December 7th-9th

The Gettysburg Community Theatre presents *Frosty The Snowman*, a children's musical. Tickets are available online for \$11 reserved seating. Go to www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org or call 717-334-2692. Performances will be held at the Gettysburg Community Theatre, located at 49 York Street.

December 7th

Celebrate many different cultural holidays through food, music, dance, children's activities, and more! Holiday Stories from Around the World is an event that is co-sponsored by the YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Programs at HACC-Gettysburg. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 717-334-9171, ext. 113, or visit www.ywcagettysburg.org.

December 8th

Christ's Community Church Christmas Bazaar and St. Nicholas Workshop will be held at 303 W. Lincoln Avenue in Emmitsburg. There are over 20 vendor spaces available. Free refreshments will be served, and kids get a picture with St. Nick and make gifts in the workshop. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per child. For more information, visit www.cccaog.org or call 717-321-5522.

The Gettysburg Foundation presents a Fireside Tea, "St. Nicholas Tea." Children of all ages can sip hot chocolate with St. Nicholas as he describes a holiday celebration during the Civil War. The event will be at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center and is hosted by the Gettysburg Foundation & National Park Service at 1195 Baltimore Pike. For more information, call 1-877-874-2478 or visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org.

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum and the National Fire Heritage Center will be open to the public from noon to 5pm to participate in Toys for Tots, the United States Marine Corps Reserve program that collects toys for children whose parents cannot afford to buy them Christmas gifts. Representatives of the Marine Corps Reserve will be there to receive the toys. Light refreshments will be served.

The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton will participate in Museums by Candlelight, a Frederick County-wide holiday program sponsored by The Tourism Council of Frederick County. The event will begin at 10am and conclude at 9pm. It will consist of a Christmas organ and sing-along concert in the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton at 5pm, and holiday music will be played every hour on the hour for 15 minutes in the Basilica. Everyone can make his or her own Christmas luminaries as a free craft, and the Shrine's grounds will glow with thousands of luminaries. Candlelit tours of the grounds will be offered.

December 8th-9th

The Gettysburg Civic Chorus Christmas Concert will help celebrate a half-century of music. The Gettysburg Civic Chorus, under the

direction of Tom Kittinger and accompanied by Sharon Gattens, will present "A 50th Anniversary Christmas, These Are Special Times." The chorus has chosen to do two performances at the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary Chapel. The first will be on Saturday, December 8 at 7pm, and the second will be on Sunday, December 9 at 3pm. Due to the special anniversary of this season, a professional recording will be made at the Saturday evening concert. Sound Works of Hanover will be available at both concert performances to take CD orders. Cash, check or credit card will be accepted. A History of the Civic Chorus will be available, free of charge, to all members of the audience.

This is sure to be an outstanding performance by many talented musicians from throughout Gettysburg, Adams County and south central Pennsylvania. The concert is free and open to the public, but a goodwill offering will be taken.



The Gettysburg Civic Chorus will celebrate a half-century of music with their Christmas Concert on Dec 8th & 9th.

December 10th


Mother Seton School's annual Christmas pageant - all grades will take part in the pageant, performing traditional and contemporary Christmas songs under the accompaniment of the school band and chorus.

As you can see, our little town of Emmitsburg and the surrounding communities will be buzzing with hol-

iday events for the whole family. So as you're singing along to all of the Christmas carols, take the time to really listen to the lyrics and what they mean. As you open presents on Christmas morning, remember that you are celebrating the birth of Christ. As a community, let's rejuvenate the season and make this Christmas unforgettable. Have yourself a merry little Christmas, and I hope you


have a holiday that is filled with the joy and love brought forth by the birth of Christ. After all, that's what Christmas is all about.


For more information or to see the list of other local events that will take place throughout the month, be sure to look at the upcoming events section of Emmitsburg.net.




Frederick Speaker Series

"Iron Man" Cal Ripken, Jr.
Lessons of perseverance from baseball's living legend
February 14, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.
 \$35, \$30, \$25. Meet and Greet, additional \$75


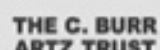


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 \$35, \$30, \$25. Meet and Greet, additional \$75

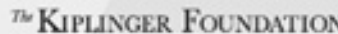


General Colin Powell, USA (Ret.)
Statesman, Author, Business Leader
May 9, 2013 – 7:30 p.m. 
 \$60, \$55, \$50. Meet and Greet, additional \$75





Terry Gross, host of NPR's "Fresh Air"
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MOUNT SPORTS

Keeping up with Mount sports

Elizabeth Puleo
MSM Class of 2013

With the start of December, students at Mount Saint Mary's are making their final push towards the end of the semester. After months of lectures, papers, tests and hard work, the academic year is coming to an end. With finals slowly approaching, students try to remember all of the material they learned throughout the entire semester and study until they can no longer obtain any more information. However, the end of the fall semester does not just mean the end of classes, but also the culmination of some of the fall sports seasons.

Cross Country

The Mount St. Mary's Cross Country teams have proven to be extremely competitive this season and have been very successful at every meet they have attended. At the Northeast Conference (NEC) Championships, both the men's and women's teams placed 6th overall. After running the 8K in 25:08.16, Tommy Gruschow came in 2nd place out of all the men in the conference. That is the single best finish by a Mount runner since 1998. Chris Swisko completed the race with a time of 25:40.25. Both Gruschow and Swisko earned All-NEC Honors for their

stellar performance at the meet.

For the women, McKenzie Doyle ran a time of 18:37.40 on the 5K course, closely followed by Megan Schott, who had a time of 18:50.69 and Megan Kinsella, who came in at 18:55.21.

Some of the runners ended their season by running at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional. Schott had a strong performance and led the women with a time of 22:43 for a 6K. Doyle kept a close pace, coming in at 23:22 on the 6K course. Freshman Madeline Rico, who impressed everyone with her performances throughout the season, ran a time of 24:38. Swisko completed the men's 10K race in 61st place with a time of 32:02 with Gruschow close behind with a time of 32:13.

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team ended their season with a loss to Sacred Heart and a tie against Saint Francis (PA). During their game against Sacred Heart, Mark Plaisance scored after an assist made by Dillion Johnson, but it was unfortunately not enough to win. In the final match against Saint Francis (PA), senior goalie Peter Steve made a total of nine saves. Jimmy Ockford also shot four times in that game. The men finished their season with 4 wins, 12 losses, and 1 tie.

Women's Soccer

After a great start to the season, the women's soccer team unfortunately lost the final six games of the season. Their last two games were against Bryant and Monmouth. The overtime loss to Bryant came after a tough, competitive game. Trying to hold onto hope of winning in overtime, both Alicia Miranda and Jackie Corley were stopped by Bryant's goalkeeper. Bryant went on to score on Mount goalie Rachel Bourne. Kelly Baker tried to keep the women alive in the game against Monmouth by shooting four times, but the Mountaineers were just not able to come away with the win.

Swimming

In the home-opener against VMI and McDaniel, the Mount's swim team looked good as they gracefully and skillfully swam through the water. At the meet, Erin Regan won three events: the 200 fly (2:30.88), the 100 fly (1:08.47), and the 100 free (1:01.25). Junior Cat Coppler also won three events: the 200 back (2:29.44), the 200 free (2:10.44) and the 200 IM (2:31.65).

The team also just competed at the Radford Invitational, which was a three-day event. They had a fantastic start after the 200 free-relay. The team consisted of Anne Thelen, Mollie Walsh, Courtney Griffith and Cat Coppler, and they finished the race with a time of 1:37.38.

Individual performances that stood out were those of Katie Powell, Amanda Malmstrom, Victoria Shaw, and Rebecca Kasda. Powell placed 10th in the 200 fly (2:20.33) and 16th in the 1650 free (19:37.21). Kasda swam the 200 breast in 2:48.17, placing 16th and 17th in the 1650 free, right behind Powell.

The same team that had the incredible performance on the 200 free-relay two days earlier ended the meet by swimming the 400 free-relay with a time of 3:32.41.

The swim team's next meet is at James Madison University on December 1st.



Julian Norfleet and the men's basketball team are ready to "Mount up" this year.

Men's Basketball

After losing their first game at Pittsburgh, the men's basketball team had a hard-fought home opener against Hartford, winning 70-63. The team looks rejuvenated and unstoppable this season. Junior Rashard Whack had an incredible performance, scoring 20 points for the Mountaineers, which is a career high for him. It was impressive to see how each player stepped up in the game.

As promised by Julian Norfleet earlier, Sam Prescott immediately made a huge impact on the team. After stealing the ball in the final minutes, he tapped in two free throws, giving the Mountaineers the lead. It was Norfleet's and Josh Castellano's shots in the final seconds that ended the game. That marked head coach Jamion Christian's first win at the Mount. Despite suffering a loss at American University, the men's team looks ready to take on the season.

The next home game is Friday, December 7th against Navy.

Women's Basketball

The women began their season at Maryland with a tough loss but then returned to action with a close win over Rider. Sydney Henderson had a good night, shooting a career-high of 30 points and scoring the final points of the game. Junior Kayla Grossett also

was on fire that night, scoring a total of 14 points. It was Selina Mann who secured the win for the Mount with a free throw. Mann had tallied seven points, six rebounds, five assists and five steals during the game. Both the men's and women's teams look good this season. Basketball is back at the Mount!

Their next home game is on Wednesday, December 5th against Maryland Eastern Shore.

Men's Golf

The Mount St. Mary's men finished up their season at Wendy's Kiawah Classic in South Carolina. Sophomore Ryan Triller stood out during the three-day tournament, helping the Mount to a 26th place finish. Triller shot a one-over 72 the first day, two-over 73 the second day, and an 81 the final day, placing 33rd overall. Senior Andrew Lawton also had a solid performance at the Classic, posting an 80, 81, and 79, only 14 strokes behind Triller.

Women's Golf

The women wrapped up their season at the Sacred Heart Fall Invitational. Both Marisol Doglioli and Kelsey Hayward shot an 88 in the first round. Doglioli went on to score a total of 173, earning 25th place overall after posting an 85 on the second day. Hayward finished the Invitational in 26th place, scoring a total of 174, one stroke behind Doglioli. The Mount ended the event with an 8th place finish after placing 9th on the first day of the Invitational.

On another note, the Mount has also discontinued three sports. The decision has been made as a way to cut back on the budget. The sports that will no longer exist in 2013 are men's soccer, men's golf and women's golf. According to President of the university, Thomas Powell, "This is a decision we didn't want to make, but the budget realities require it to protect and re-invest in our remaining Division I programs."

By doing this, the university will save over \$400,000 a year. The Director of Athletics, Lynne Robinson, understands that this decision is in the best interest of the university. "This action doesn't lessen the success and dedication our athletes, coaches and alumni have exhibited through the years. They have contributed greatly to the strength of our program and our strong Mountaineer tradition and pride."

For more information regarding sports at the Mount, please visit www.mountathletics.com



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Dec. 14 - 15 - Red Line

Dec. 21 - DJ Soularize

Dec. 22 - Ragged Maggie

Dec. 28 - DJ Soularize

Dec. 29 - TBA

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The day I became fearless

Alexandra Tyminski
MSM Class of 2015

I was told that I was going to have to move to a smaller home. I was unsure of what that exactly meant, but hopeful it wasn't going to change much. When I showed up in this smaller home, I found that it was a bit too crowded for my liking. My faithful owner Neil, the only friend I've ever had, was in trouble. I didn't understand why he had brought me to this place though. I watched him as he exchanged a few sad glances with the man at the counter.

"Goodbye Spark, you were the light to my life," Neil said. He bent down, and I felt his elderly hand smooth over my right ear.

He stared in my eyes, and I watched a tear roll down his face.

"I have to leave you here. The doctor told me that I'm dying, and I can't take care of you anymore," he said looking down.

"I'm sorry bud."

He handed my leash over to the hippie-looking man at the counter. I watched Neil walk slowly with his cane to the door and to the red beat up Ford truck we had spent years in together. I ran toward the door, pulling the attendant behind me.

Neil turned toward me. "No, stay Spark stay, someone will come here and get you soon. You're a lovely dog... and..." he began to choke up.

"I love you, we are both getting old now and you have to trust me when I say that it will be better this way. Be fearless for me." He wrapped his arms around me quickly, and I licked his face for the last time.

I felt a strange peace in my heart, and I sat down on the cold floor beneath all of my fur. As he pulled out of the gravel lot, he glanced over and caught my eye. He smiled and nodded. I nodded back, and he winked at me as if our minds and hearts were in sync.

The attendant walked me to a cage. This was the time of day Neil and I would take our long walks in the country, now all I had was four feet of the cage to walk in. I didn't want to be here.

I'm not sure what was worse, not knowing what was happening to my Neil, or not knowing what was going to happen to me. After 13 years of the same routine, I was too old to learn new tricks. I just wanted to go home. But I no longer had a home.

* * *

Every time I heard a door open, my heart jumped. I keep looking for Neil— was he finally coming back to get me? It had been almost a week and I was beginning to give up hope of ever going home.

I heard a door open slowly, and tuned in to the conversation, hoping that it would be something of interest to me.

"I was wondering if I could take some dogs out for a walk. I want to adopt today, and I'm curious to see how the dogs are. I think it is important to well, ya know, get to know them if you understand?" The man said.

"Yeah that is totally fine, what are you looking for? One friendly enough with other pets? A puppy? An old fart? What is this for your children? You got any children at home sir?" The attendant asked the man.

"No, no children at home, just my wife and I now. I was thinking more of an older dog, male maybe," the man said.

The man had on bright colored clothes, a thrifty wool sweater, and had gray hair. I watched as the man and attendant began to walk down the rows of cages. My tail began to sweep across the floor faster and faster as they got closer and closer. But they turned just before my cage and went down another aisle. I looked down at my paws, thinking about Neil. I really missed him.

I don't know what made me do it, but something made me look up. I was surprised to see the man staring directly into my eyes. His eyes told me he was searching for something I wanted as well.

"I'll take him," the man said pointing to my cage.

"You sure?" The attendant said. That's the oldest one we got in here. You might want one you can have for a bit longer wouldn't you?"

"No, thank you though, I think he will do," the man replied

"Well, mister, you're going to be that dog's hero today. I heard his old owner died today. I was here when he brought the dog in. It was a pretty sad scene. He couldn't take care of him anymore and had no family to give him to. I'm not sure who took it worse, the old man or the dog. They both lost their best friend. His name is Spark."

The attendant unlocked my cage and looked me in the eyes. "It looks like Neil made it to heaven and is looking out for you. Now you look out for this old man. Will you do that for me?"

I ran up to the man and jump up on him. It was probably the most active I had been in a long time. I could have sworn that man knew that I was attempting to hug him.

The man, Sam, hooked me onto my new black leather leash. "Sometimes I think that the older you get, the more love you need," Sam said. He gave me a look as if I didn't understand what most humans said, but I licked his face to let him know I did. His smile was so genuine. I knew Neil would have approved of my new friend. "Be fearless," I thought.

* * *

"Click, clack, click, clack," the sounds of her heels were coming.

She approached the counter where the attendant was standing. Once the dogs settled down, I began to key into their conversation.

"I just think that it would be nice to bring a new pet home, and adopt an animal."

"Ah, yes, I see you want to be a hero too. You know a man earlier came to pick up another lucky animal this morning," the atten-

dant said.

"I guess so," she laughed.

"Do you have cats by any chance?"

The attendant raised his eyebrows, "I haven't heard that question in a while. Yeah, we recently got a new cat that was rescued from a horrible environment; she was used as bait to train dogs to fight. Needless to say, she has a fear of dogs. I mean naturally since she was used in such a horrific situation."

"I want to see her," she said.

"That's me they're talking about," I thought to myself. Yes, I finally will get out of here. My heart began to beat faster as I saw the attendant bringing her my way. She stepped in front of my cage, and it was something unsaid that spoke to her. I stared into her eyes, and she smiled with them, so gently.

"I want her," she said. "It is this cat that needs a new home and a first real Christmas."

The attendant pulled me out of the cage and into her warm hands. I have never been handled so nicely, it felt comforting.

She carried me to her car, and she placed me in a new cage in the backseat. Inside was a maroon colored blanket. Ah, I haven't felt a warm blanket since, well, really ever? Her car smelled amazing, sweet cinnamon and coconut. She looked back at me, and I back at her. As I observed her car, I somehow began to think she was looking for more than a new pet to feed. Everything seemed like a normal car except when I noticed the cracked picture of her and some handsome looking man with blue eyes and a scruffy looking beard. It sat on the other side of the backseat along with millions of tissues.

She sighed, looked back at the picture, and quickly turned it over. I placed my paw up against the cage and it began to make noise. She noticed my way of reaching out to her and put her focus back on me.

"You're the nicest little cat I've ever known," Jane said. "I don't know why anyone would ever use you as bait. You deserve better than that."

She smiled her sweet smile with a similar understanding of my response she saw in my eyes which was, "so do you."

* * *

"Mom, Dad, I'm home!" She brushed through the door. "I finally made it! Anyone?" She yelled again.

"Ah! Yes yes, finally you have made it Jane!" Her dad came down the stairs.

"I have a surprise for you!" He said.

"Ha! Well that's funny because I have a surprise for you, too." She answered back. "Well, let me see yours. I don't know if you will be able to handle mine."

"Okay well, here he is," her dad said. He headed towards the kitchen. The side door creaked open and then shut really quickly. Next thing she knew, a dog was running straight at her. A big black and tan colored German shepherd.

"He came from the shelter a cou-



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ple miles uptown in Springfield where dad used to volunteer," her mom chimed in as she came into the foyer from the kitchen.

"His name is Spark," her mom said again.

"The guy at the shelter was trying to talk me out of getting him because he was older than the other dogs," her dad said.

"Oh Sam, you did such a good thing to bring that dog home. He needed one. We all do," Jane's mom said.

"Now for your surprise Jane!" Her dad exclaimed.

* * *

Jane went to the car and came back with the small crate in hand. I sat in the crate as she recounted to her dad my story. I didn't get it all, but what I did get worried me. There was talk about taking me back to the shelter.

"Let's not make that call right off. Let's let her out and we'll keep an eye on them," her father said. "Remember, it's Christmas Eve. Tonight is the night lions will lay down with lambs and all will be safe. Maybe tonight we will witness the true spirit of Christmas. What do we have to lose?"

"Your right dad," the women said, "something tells me there are angels watching over both of them."

"Her name is Lily," she said handing me over to her father.

Jane's dad held me like I've never been held before. His hands were warm and full of love. "What a great Christmas Eve Surprise! Now we can add one more to our family."

I didn't know what I was going to do. I noticed the big dog across the room. I had never met a single nice dog in my whole life. I could quickly feel the fur on my back stand up. But, I caught a glimpse of anxiety in his eyes, as well. He wasn't sad, but looked concerned that I may not like him. He was scared, too.

"This is Spark. Lily, meet your new friend," Sam said, putting me on the ground, all the while petting me.

Spark began to take a few steps forward. I glanced up at my new family. This was going to be the first Christmas Eve I've ever experienced happy and safe. Something told me I need to trust, if just for one last time. I stared back at Spark. His big brown eyes met with my green ones, he placed his paw out just like I did with Jane, and I could have sworn he was saying Merry Christmas, welcome home, and let's be fearless together. I decided to trust one last time.

It was the merriest Christmas one could ever hope for.

To read other articles by Alexandra visit the authors section of emmitsburg.net.

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COOKING WITH LOVE

Progressive dinner

Brooke Hagerty

When I was growing up my parents and neighbors were known for their progressive dinners. Most of these were impromptu and usually during a winter storm dig out but I remember that they were always fun. Fast forward to my adulthood and being the Chef/Owner of Gunner's Grille at Taneytown. I was approached a few months ago by the Carroll Vista Cooking Club and asked if I would do a cooking class for them. Not being shy and always looking for new business I agreed in an instant. Then it suddenly dawned on me that

I needed to have a theme. Carroll Vista is a tight knit community, as was my neighborhood growing up, so I decided that a Progressive Dinner Party was the way to go.

Since this was going to be a planned event, I wanted to "jazz" it up a bit, but also keep it simple as far as time and flavorful as far as taste. The recipes I have chosen are time efficient, the longest preparation and cook time just a little more than an hour. In fact, if the entire meal was being cooked in one home, an afternoon of fun in the kitchen is all it should take!

Having always been a strong believer in not only the most bang for my

back but also the most flavor with the fewest ingredients I thought back to my favorite party recipes from my early catering days in Baltimore and came up with what I believe to be tried, true and very tasty recipes! I hope that you will enjoy the recipes I have selected.

Please be sure to visit us at www.gunnersgrille.com for my new blog, beginning in January 2013. Also, "Like" us on Facebook for daily specials and entertainment notices!

Roasted Beet Salad

Ingredients – red, gold and candy stripe beets, spring mix, red onion, dried cranberries, bleu cheese crumbles, dark balsamic vinaigrette dressing

- Pre-heat oven to 450 degrees
- Generously rub beets with EVOO and Montreal Steak seasoning
- Wrap individually in foil and roast until tender (time will vary based on beet size)
- Once cooled, peel skin with a vegetable peeler and cut into bite size cubes
- Place spring mix on a plate and arrange beets, thinly sliced red onion and remaining dry ingredients on top.
- Drizzle with dark balsamic vinaigrette

Stuffed Pork Loin with Garlic Cream Sauce

Ingredients – boneless pork loin, chiffonade cut sundried tomatoes, baby spinach, feta cheese, chiffonade cut fresh basil, lemon pepper and truffle salt

- Combine sundried tomatoes and remaining ingredients in a bowl and toss together
- Butterfly pork loin and lightly pound out to tenderize
- Fill pork loin with stuffing mixture and roll tightly



- Spray with EVOO and season with lemon pepper
- Cook to 150 degrees in a 350 degree oven (approximately 45 minutes, depending on weight)
- Garlic Cream Sauce *Ingredients* – two tablespoons garlic, ½ stick unsalted butter, lemon pepper, truffle salt and one quart heavy cream
- In a sauce pan melt butter with garlic, lemon pepper and truffle salt
- Add heavy cream, bring to a boil and reduce to desired thickness

To speed up the process, once the mixture is bubbling whisk in a slurry (corn starch and water combined to a loose paste consistency)

Parsley Red Potatoes
Ingredients – baby red potatoes, vegetable base, water, unsalted butter, fresh parsley & lemon pepper

Cut potatoes into bite size pieces and place in a pot with cold water. Add vegetable base (approximately one tablespoon – depending on the number of servings)

Bring to a boil and cook until potatoes are fork tender

Drain and return to pot

Toss with desired amounts of butter, fresh parsley and lemon pepper

Roasted Brussels Sprouts

Ingredients – Brussels sprouts, vegetable base, thinly sliced red onion, lemon pepper, truffle salt, EVOO, dark balsamic vinegar (if desired)

Cut bottoms off sprouts and place in a pot with cold water

Add vegetable base to taste

Bring to a boil for 5 minutes

Drain and place on a cookie sheet

Spray with EVOO and season with lemon pepper, truffle salt and thinly sliced red onion

Roast in a 350 degree oven for approximately ten minutes or to desired tenderness

Toss with dark balsamic vinegar (if desired)

Chocolate Covered Strawberries
Ingredients – stemmed berries, chocolate chips

Create a double boiler – a pot filled half way with water and a bowl large enough to rest on the rim

Place chips in bowl and turn on the heat and bring the water to a boil

The chips will slowly melt, distribute with a rubber spatula

Dip berries and roll them to cover bottom two thirds of berry

Place on a piece of parchment or wax paper and refrigerate until chocolate is hardened

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Comfort Food With A Twist!

The Wine Connoisseur

When the last bottles have popped and all the merry-making is over, it is time to think about what to have for the New Years Feast. With the New Year comes the promise of a fresh start and the New Years dinner has traditionally been one where foods considered to be lucky are served. What to serve, however, depends on your culture and country, for the foods considered lucky are as

varied as the cultures themselves.

Hauser Estate Winery is deep in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch country. Traditionally, pork and sauerkraut are staples for the feast. The pig, as it roots forward is the perfect symbol for many for good luck and progress. Try pairing the pork and kraut with Jack's Hard Cider. Semi Sweet and bubbly, perfect for the tangy sauerkraut.

Down south, black-eyed peas are

considered the fortunate food. Hoppin John, Baked Black Eyed Peas are good foods to serve with a variety of greens. The myth goes that the peas represented coins and the greens paper money. Try a sweet apple wine, like Hauser Estate's Abe's Apple.

Seafood is another lucky food, especially in cultures where the coastal areas are large. Cod and herring are popular with some at New Years, for fish never swim backwards, they always are moving forward. Lobsters are one food actually considered unlucky, for they move backwards! There are many ways to prepare a seafood feast for the New Year, and a good guideline for seafood is to stick to white wines. Chardonnay, Pinot gris or our Jennie Wade White, a semi sweet table wine may make an excellent choice with your meal.

Wherever you hail from and whatever foods are on your table at New Years, cheers to a prosperous and happy 2013.

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Rekindle the season

Nick Pane

As Andy Williams so famously put it, it's the most wonderful time of the year. The holiday season is upon us once again, and all of the good feelings (and madness) that come with Christmas have returned.

It's likely that people have already brought the decorations down from the attic, are making plans to set up the Christmas tree if it hasn't already been done, and of course, buying gifts for friends and loved ones. Add in the Christmas songs that will be played on repeat from now until Christmas day, preparing the Christmas dinner, and any other traditions that each family has, it is certainly a time of year that brings about a lot of stress, but also joy. It seems fair to say that Christmas is a time of year that everyone looks forward to, as it is a holiday celebrated by the billions across the globe.

There are certain things about Christmas that differ from culture to culture, but the aura and wonder that comes with the season is something that is universal. Christians around the world celebrate and commemorate the birth of Christ, and recognize Saint Nicholas, more popularly known as Santa Claus, as the central figure of the Christmas spirit. Santa Claus is, without a doubt, the most significant and identifiable personality that is related to Christmas, and the most famous Christmas story involves Santa arriving at children's houses late at night on Christmas Eve to deliver them gifts if they have been good during the year. It is one of the great traditions in Western cultures, as the ties between what Santa Claus represents and the wild imaginations of children are undeniable. It's also a terrible shame that this integral part of Christmas seems to have been lost on so many people.

If you were to come to America without any prior knowledge of Christmas, there is a good chance that you would think the holiday season starts in October. People seem to have forgotten the idea of too much of a good thing, and the commercial part of Christmas has certainly diluted the holiday spirit. I'm sure that I'm not the only one that saw Christmas decorations and arrangements in stores before Halloween, and surely you have probably heard a Christmas song or two by about now. Given that Thanksgiving was not too long ago, things like this disappoint me.

Not only are people overlooking the true meaning of Christmas, they are doing so at the expense of other holidays. For the first time, shoppers had the option of skipping out on Thanksgiving festivities early to begin their Black Friday spend-

ing spree, as stores were opening their doors as early as 8:00 Thursday evening. If you ask me, such an idea is appalling. Thanksgiving is an equally popular holiday that promotes family values and being together. However, if you decided that you wanted to get a head start on your holiday shopping, all you had to do was wait until Thanksgiving dinner ended, and it was off to the stores to grab video game consoles and winter clothing while there was an additional 15% off. I don't know about you, but I don't see how keeping an extra ten dollars in your pocket outweighs being with your family and loved ones. Not to mention, with the limitless powers of the internet, isn't it more convenient to do some online shopping and save yourself the trouble? Personally, I've never liked the idea of Black Friday, because it promotes Christmas in such a commercial and superficial way, although people seemingly start to get their Christmas fill far before Thanksgiving.

Being a pretty avid user of social media, I have seen people make comments about Christmas as early as July, which is ridiculous. Many of my Facebook and Twitter friends like to boast about how they are listening to Christmas music before the leaves even begin to change color. I understand the love that people have for Christmas, but I don't find it necessary or plausible to start thinking about it before the calendar year is even half over. If it's the summertime, I'm much more interested in enjoying trips to the shore, and baseball season. My leisurely activity is going to pertain

to the time of year that it is, and if you are getting in the holiday spirit before schools are even opening up again, you clearly are missing what we are really supposed to be celebrating.

I admittedly do not consider myself a devout or religious person in any way, and it has definitely been some time since I attended church. That being said, everything that Christmas and the holiday season represents is something that I try to remember and uphold. Christians have celebrated Christmas by honoring Jesus' birth to the Virgin Mother, and the 25th of December is believed to be a specific anniversary of his conception. One of the popular traditions of this day happens to be the exchange of gifts, because who doesn't love getting something for free? Kidding aside, giving and receiving gifts has become a staple of the holiday, and is one of the many things that brings families together. Homes are decorated with, among other things, Christmas trees, lights, and decorations of Santa, the manger, and wreaths. If you happen to live in a colder climate, snow is very often associated with the season as well, and caroling is also very frequent. To me, these are the lasting impressions that I have of Christmas. Everyone is in good spirits during this time of year, and when Christmas Day finally arrives, all of those good feelings and traditions come to fruition.

Do people really feel as if they are in the holiday spirit when it's 1:30 in the morning the day after Thanksgiving, and they are wrestling with other shoppers over the extra toys they intend to give to



their kids? The story behind gift-giving is that children that were "good" received presents and children that were "naughty" received coal. What kind of message does it send when shoppers are pressed up against the doors as they wait for stores to open, followed by a furious race from aisle to aisle to make sure that they can grab every last thing on their list? Not only is it such an empty way to celebrate Christmas, it's wrong. Christmas is about revisiting core familial values, and showing a little affection in the form of gifts goes a long way to make the season feel whole. Sure, in this economy, saving a little extra money by taking advantage of sales is always a plus, but at what cost? I think people ex-

pend too much energy on the trivial parts of Christmas, and not enough on what really matters.

Everyone should just take a step back and put all of the catalogs down. Start listening to Christmas music in December, and you'll enjoy the music that much more. Don't be in such a rush to leave the house at midnight on Black Friday, and maybe indulge in a little more Thanksgiving dessert. And when Christmas Day arrives, try to revisit your childhood when Santa Claus was very much a real thing, and appreciate what you have instead of what you want.

To read other article by Nick Pane visit the Authors section Emmitsburg.net.

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Rest and sleep

Renee Lehman

Thanksgiving Day celebrations are over, and you may find yourself getting pulled into the frenzy of the Christmas holidays. Are you dreading the holidays? Feeling “stressed” out? Finding that you don’t have enough time to get your shopping completed? Feeling tired? Do you not want to go to all of the parties, or make all of the trips to see friends and family that you committed yourself to? If you want to stay home and rest, THEN DO IT! Instead of listening to your mind which is telling you that you NEED to “Go, Go, and Go.” Listen to your BODY. Your body is wise. You may need the rest. You may need to sleep!

If you observe what is happening in nature during this time of year, you will see that the days are shortening, the days have less light, it is getting cooler, and the countryside is “quiet.” We are moving into the season of winter, nature’s “resting season.” Some aspects of nature may look dead (at least you may think that); however, nature is actually storing its potential deep in the earth and the roots of vegeta-

tion. Life does not stop during the winter months. Remember that the bulbs that are in the ground are not dead, and the seeds that fell to the ground from the trees/plants are still alive. Some animals are hibernating during the winter. Everything in nature is taking a “rest”, and is storing up energy so that it can burst forth during the growth period of Spring. This is a natural cycle! Everything in nature follows this natural universal law. We humans are the only species that tries to go against it.

So, getting back to sleep... Do you know that nationwide, an estimated 50 to 70 million people suffer from chronic sleep loss and sleep disorders? Also, about 10 percent of adults report not getting enough rest or sleep every day in the past month, according to a four-state study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>). Sleep loss is associated with many health problems, including obesity, depression, increased risk for diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems, and increased risk of



stroke. Sleep deprivation is also a leading cause of car accidents. In fact, \$15.9 billion/year is added to national health care costs by sleep problems, according to the National Commission on Sleep Disorders.

So how much sleep do we need? The National Sleep Foundation reports that most adults need 7-9 hours of sleep each night to feel fully rested, while school children aged 5-12 years require 9-11 hours, and adolescents aged 11-17 years require 8.5-9.5 hours each night.

What are some lifestyle issues associated with sleep deprivation? Certain risky behaviors can lead to an inability to sleep, such as, cigarette smoking, physical inactivity, and heavy drinking. Also, sleep patterns can be affected by: consuming too much caffeine (coffee, soft drinks, energy drinks, snacks); certain medications (prescription and over-the-counter drugs); being “over-wired” (video games, Web browsing, social media, texting); being overstressed (making us too restless to sleep); being overworked (longer hours, night shifts incompatible with our biological clocks); and finally there’s societal pressure, “the

pervasive, erroneous attitude that sleep is not a biological imperative, that it is negotiable.” “We have raised sleep deprivation to a badge of honor,” reports nationally recognized sleep expert, Dr. Mark Mahowald.

Traditional Chinese Medicine Tips for Better Quality Sleep

So, what are some things that you can do to strive for a better quality sleep?

1. Drink green tea instead of coffee in the morning. It has half the amount of caffeine than coffee.
2. Go to sleep before 11pm. Your body spends twice as much energy per hour for every hour that you stay up past 11pm. Also, give yourself some time to “wind down” before going to sleep.
3. Do NOT drink very cold water at night. Your body has to expend extra energy to heat up the cold water, which will over-stimulate you and cause you to stay awake.
4. Do NOT eat for at least two to three hours before bed-

time. Your body will expend extra energy to digest the food, which will over-stimulate you and cause you to stay awake.

5. Massage your feet. This helps to relax and calm you.
6. Avoid over-stimulating food like hot peppers, alcohol, and coffee. These over-stimulate the nervous system, and may disrupt your sleep.
7. Block out all the light in your room (and turn off the TV). Light will continue to stimulate your nervous system and will disrupt your sleep.
8. Begin a Qigong practice. The regular practice of qigong is associated with stress reduction and the encouragement of a deep, restful sleep.
9. Meditate. Meditation helps you to feel peaceful. This will help you to not get caught in your mind, and in what you think the outside world is telling you to do. Listen to your heart and spirit, instead!
10. Stay connected with the season of Winter. There is less light so it’s natural to go to bed earlier and get up a little later.

Allow yourself to be in harmony with the season of Winter. Even as we enter into the time of year when our culture wants you to “run, run, run”, be true to yourself. Give yourself what you need – REST and SLEEP! You may just find yourself feeling more “rested” and “alive.”

“To achieve the impossible dream, try going to sleep.”
—Joan Klempner

“I have never taken any exercise except sleeping and resting.”
—Mark Twain

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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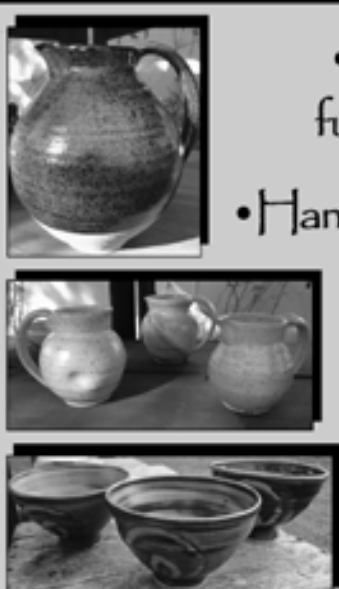
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FITNESS

Keep Moving

Healthy christmas presents

Linda Stultz

Christmas presents are supposed to be fun but they can also be something to improve your health. I know this doesn't sound like a present you might like to receive but hear me out. Kids see all the advertisements on TV around the Holidays and say "I want that" or "I'll ask Santa to bring me one of those". With all the video games out there, you can find one that gets them off the couch and keeps them moving. Look for the kind of games that challenge them and the ones that you can use for a couple of players. Those games will teach them friendly competition and keep them on their feet. They will not even realize they are exercising; they will think they are playing.

The video games are the popular things right now but don't give up on the old things like table tennis, jump rope, basketball or bike riding. I hardly ever see a child riding a bike anymore and that really makes me sad. Bike riding is a great way to have fun and keep you healthy at the same time. I remember when the big present under the tree was a bright, shiny, new red bicycle. The children's eyes lit up with joy. Kids today are so overloaded with the new technical items on the market that they don't realize there are other toys out there. We, as parents and grandparents, need to introduce some of our favorite games and toys to them. I know I sound like I'm going back in time and that is just what I am suggesting. Remember how you played with your siblings or the neighbors

with your new toys after Christmas. You couldn't wait to show them what Santa brought you. Kids are still that way today, but they don't get up and move while they are playing. They sit on the couch and move their thumbs. Think of a present that will get them outside in the brisk air and something they can enjoy doing for a long time to come. You may get some resistance from your kids at first but join in the fun and this will also promote family time. Exercise and being together is a healthy, happy gift in itself. I have only mentioned a few of the great gifts that are available to give your kids for fun as well as helping them stay healthy. Anything that will keep them moving and make them laugh will be a gift of love. Things don't have to be expensive to be the one that they will remember for a lifetime.

Christmas is just around the corner, so while asking your kids what they want for Christmas, think about what they like to do and try to come



up with a present that will keep them moving as well as keep them happy. Kids are not the only ones that would benefit from a healthy Christmas gift. Think of something you can ask Santa for that will get you off the couch and moving too.

I hope this article will help you think of gifts and ideas for your child that they will enjoy and benefit from. Please take a few minutes to

research what is out there that will be right for your child. This can be fun and healthy at the same time. Santa would be the first to say, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

If you have any questions or come up with a great gift idea call me at 717-334-6009. Gift certificates available. Keep Moving, You'll Be Glad You Did. Merry Christmas!!

Fitness Matters

George Puvel
Anytime Fitness Owner

Expert answers to your health and wellness questions

Question: Do you have any thoughts on some of the new functional training equipment on the market—things like TRX bands for example?

Answer: Generally speaking, I'm a fan of TRX bands and other pieces of functional training equipment. Things like TRX, the ViPR, and the Rip-Core FX are taking the fitness industry by storm, and for good reason. They're new, innovative, and fun to use. But best of all, they're functional, which means that using them allows you to mimic traditional daily activities, thereby improving movement, balance, coordination, and strength all at the same time. That's pretty cool! The only real concern here is that people may not know how to use these pieces of equipment properly, which could potentially result in injury. There's definitely a learning curve with these products, so it's best to watch the experts first. I also strongly recommend working with a trainer until you're completely comfortable with the training methodology. As always, the goal is to educate yourself so you can get the most out of whatever training you decide to do!

Question: How do I manage my food intake during the holidays, especially with all the cakes, cookies, and other goodies seemingly everywhere? Help!

Answer: I thought we were going to skirt by without addressing this, but I'm glad you asked. Interestingly enough, the answer depends almost entirely on you. Assuming you're susceptible to sweets and other treats, you really only have three options—go all-out and worry about the ramifications later, avoid them at all costs, or take a reasoned approach and indulge

to a modest degree. I think most people would argue that the third idea is the best one. After all, why not treat yourself to a few holiday goodies, especially if you can limit yourself to one or two here and there. And don't forget to continue with your workouts during this time as well. Restricting foods that you truly enjoy will only increase your cravings for them, and make for an unhappy holiday season. Bottom line—it comes down to choice, and you can choose to make healthy decisions or not, but you have to be realistic. Keep variety, moderation, and balance in mind, and reward yourself for being active all year long!

Question: Several friends are using websites to track their nutrition and fitness, and they're trying to get me to do the same. Do you think these health and wellness

websites are worth the time, money, and effort?

Answer: Ultimately, it depends on the individual. However, research has proven that consistent monitoring and added accountability can pay off in the long run when you're looking to make lifestyle changes. This can come in many forms, but one of the most popular these days is certainly through the use of websites. They can be a great tool as you try to change your behaviors, and may be just what you need to maintain your motivation. There are a number of options out there, from basic nutrition or fitness tracking sites to others that offer a wide variety of capabilities in all areas of health and wellness. I have to admit that I'm biased when it comes to this discussion. Anytime Fitness has created one of the most progressive, comprehensive, and fun websites to use if you're looking to facilitate your own health and wellness. It's called Anytime Health (anytimehealth.com)! The site has a diet tracker, an

activity tracker, a workout planner that uses over 300 high-definition videos, as well as a robust community with a Q&A section, support groups, a contest page, and a site blog. And these features are just the tip of the iceberg. If you get a chance, check it out. You can sign-up for a free account that gives you

somewhat limited access, and if you like what you see, you can join for a nominal yearly fee.

About the author: George Puvel is the Club Owner. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.



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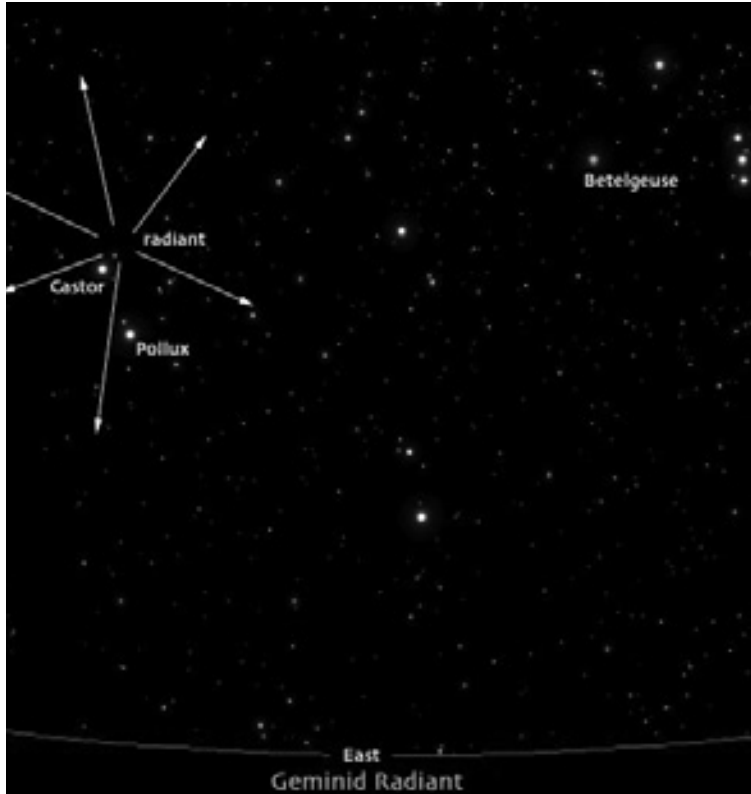
The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

For December 2012, the Moon will be last quarter on December 6th. The first two weeks find the moon waning in the evening sky. The waning crescent moon passes four degrees south of Saturn on December 10th. The moon is only 2 degrees south of Venus on the morning of December 11th. The moon is new on December 13th, and will not interfere with the peak of the Geminid Meteor Shower. This major shower gives us about a meteor a minute in the morning hours, with the radiant in the northeast at sunset and high overhead by dawn. The waxing crescent moon passes six degrees north of faint Mars on December 15th, probably your last chance to catch the red planet for several months. The winter solstice occurs at 5:12 AM CST on December 21st, and winter begins on the shortest day of the year. The waxing gibbous moon passes a half degree south of Jupiter in the evening of December 26th, and covers the planet for observers farther south in Central and South America. The Full moon occurs on December 28th. This is the Long Night Moon, out for about 14 hours for local observers.

Jupiter dominates the evening sky for the next five months, brighter than any other planet now and imbedded among the Hyades and Pleiades Clusters in Taurus. Jupiter reaches opposition on December 3rd, and rises in the NE at sunset. Any small telescope will show the four large Galilean moons around at 10X or higher power, but larger scopes will be needed to show the famed Great Red Spot, which seems to be shrinking currently.

Venus is still visible in the morning sky, but heading behind the sun in early 2013, not to emerge in the evening sky for several months. Likewise Mars and Mercury lie too close to the sun to be easily seen this month. Saturn rises about midnight in Libra, and the famed rings are now open about 10



December always plays host to the Geminid Meteor Shower, which will peak on December 13th.

degrees. They were edge on as seen from the Earth in 2009, and will be tilted 27 degrees toward us at solstice in 2017, when they will double the planet's present brightness.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs

imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Aldebaran is not a member, but about twice as close as the Hyades; distances in astronomy can be deceiving. Jupiter dominates the constellation Taurus this year, and now is retrograding just east of the Hyades.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the

twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. You can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida. You must be in south Florida to spot Alpha Centauri on June evenings. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.

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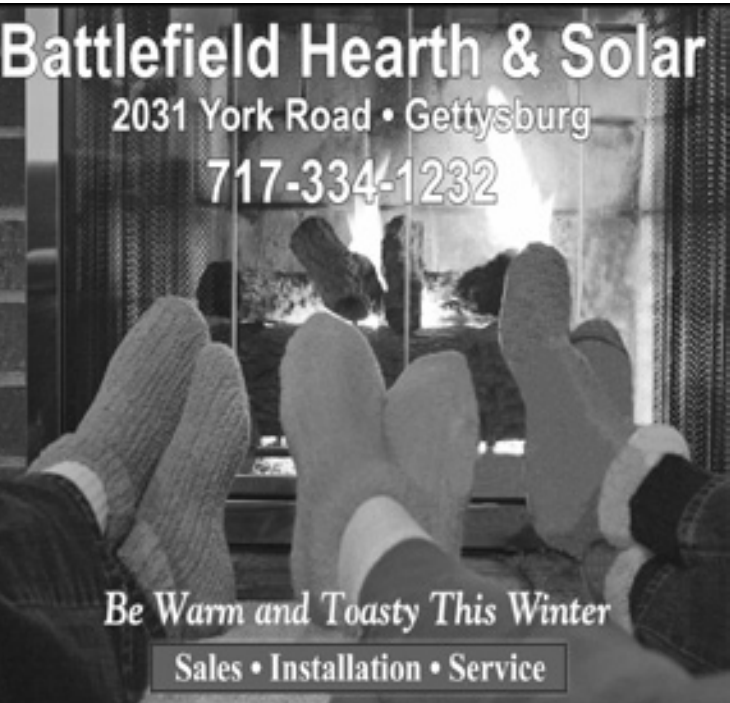
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Farmers' Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Cloudy and cold (1,2) with stormy, snow, some rain in the south (3,4,5). Fair, windy, and cold (6,7,8,9) with an Arctic cold wave with flurries (10,11,12,13). Nor'easter bringing heavy snow (14,15) turning fair and rather cold (16,17,18,19,20,21,22). Heavy snow in the north and rain in the south (23,24,25) returning to fair, windy, and cold weather (26,27,28,29). The month ends with colder temperatures and flurries (30,31).

Full Moon: The Full Moon for December occurs on Saturday, December 10th. Many Native Americans referred to December's Full Moon as the Cold Moon (for obvious reasons!). It also has been known as the Beaver Moon and sometimes Ice-Forming Moon because beavers are quite busy trying to complete their dams and lodges before winter sets in and because ice starts to appear on lakes and ponds at this time of year.

The Garden: Plan flowerbeds now and have the soil tested. Make a list of seeds that need to be ordered, when to start them, and a list of any bedding plants to buy first. Replant any perennials that have been heaved out of the soil by frost and consider covering them with pine bark mulch. To avoid rodent damage during the winter, keep a couple of inches clear of vegetation and mulch around the base of young trees. Plastic or metal hardware cloth can be wrapped around the base to deter chewing on bark. Remember to put plenty of seed out for the birds, especially if the ground is covered with snow.

COMPUTER Q&A

Electronic gift care guide

Aysë Stenabaugh,
Jester's Computer Tutor

With so many new and exciting gifts this holiday season it can be difficult to understand exactly what are the best practices to care for your new toys!

Charging Batteries

- Do not leave rechargeable batteries on the charger. Once the battery is charged it should be removed from the charging device. Prolonged charging can destroy the charging cells and cause the battery to fail prematurely.
- Make your best attempt to charge batteries when they are almost drained. Charging batteries that do not need charging is not a good idea because batteries tend to last based on the number of times it is charged. Also charging a dead battery is not as effective as charging an almost dead battery.
- Charge your battery before you need to use the device, not a week before hand. It is great to have your device charged and ready to go but some batteries lose their charges when not in use.

General Care

- Keep your new devices away from extreme hot or cold temperatures. Usually your owner's manual will cover the temperatures the device can tolerate. Remembering to not leave your electronics in the car can be difficult, but can be the death of your device if you are not careful.
- If the device has an LCD display, consider investing in a screen protector. You can purchase universal protectors just about anywhere and they can prevent scratching of your displays.
- For computers or devices that build up dust, use canned air to spray the dust out. Do not use a vacuum as it creates static electricity which can harm your device.

Long-term Care

- Most devices come with a one year manufacturer's warranty. Register your device as soon as possible, by doing so it can be much easier to handle warranties when the time comes.
- Some warranties require that you have your proof of purchase. Scan your receipts into the computer or make a second copy. Receipt paper does not hold up forever and you will need a legible copy to receive repair services.
- Consider purchasing addi-



tional warranties for your devices. If the device is expensive you may even want to consider accidental insurance so that if the device gets broken and is not covered by the warranty you may get it replaced.

Learning how to use your new product

- You may be surprised that many of your questions may be answered in the owner's manual.
- Ask a well-informed friend for help or call the sup-

port phone number before returning the device to the store. More than likely, the store will not know enough about the product to answer the questions for you.

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Terry & Doris Kiser

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In 2012 the Homeowners returned to us for a Basement Renovation Project. They were looking to transform their unfinished basement into a warm inviting area they could enjoy and make complete use of. Our staff sat down with them to review their plans and designs and to make a few suggestions. We were then ready to begin the project.

We began with the layout for

each room. Interior walls were constructed and the existing block walls were framed, insulated and drywall was installed and finished. The walls were painted with a light color to reflect more light. For the ceiling we used a 2' X 2' drop-in ceiling panels.

One of the rooms was designated for a Home Office, 10' X 12'. Being a collector of Civil War memorabilia, we custom built floor to ceiling bookshelves on a 12' wall. The Homeowners are able to adjust the shelves to accommodate the many books and collectables. Fluorescent lay-in light fixtures were installed to allow for adequate lighting as well as plenty of electrical receptacles needed for the many office accessories along with the TV connections.

Our Homeowners also planned for a 9' X 6' Bathroom to be in-

stalled, a perfect place for a small powder room. It included medium oak cabinets, 6' of base cabinets and 6' wall cabinets. Formica counter top, toilet, pedestal lavatory and faucet accessories to match the existing bathrooms in the home. They finished off the bathroom with an oval mirror, vanity lighting along with a bathroom fan and vent.

A simple Utility Room was created with the added feature of a double door to make the chore of moving appliances in and out with little hassle. Again, adequate lighting and receptacles was a necessity.

Storage is always an important area in any basement. We all try to make use of every area available. Our Homeowners again came up with great designs. Under the stairway custom built pull-out drawers were installed along with a custom built closet beside the drawers. The closet door was a custom built bi-fold door with wire shelves installed in the closet. With this design and layout, the area under the stairway was completely utilized and became a very attractive part of the family room.

In the family room area extra receptacles were installed along with TV hookup. Once the pre-finished laminate flooring was installed the Homeowners were ready to decorate with their favorite furniture.



This project also involved many sub-contractors, Electrician, Plumber, HVAC and others. Everyone worked well together and the Homeowners were a pleasure to work with on both the sunroom and basement projects.

Having a competent Contractor is a must for any project. Our staff here at Central Maryland Sunrooms will always strive to make our clients feel confident in us and know

that their project will be completed to their satisfaction. Terry Kiser, the owner of the company, has been in business for over 37 years, serving the Maryland and Pennsylvania areas. Both sons, Mark and Dave, are on every job site.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1

3rd Annual Gingerbread House Celebration. Enjoy a gallery of gingerbread houses created by area chefs and artisans. Place your bids to own a gingerbread masterpiece, with proceeds benefitting the non-profit Gettysburg Festival. For more information call 717-334-0853 or visit www.gettysburgfestival.org.

St. John's Lutheran Church Christmas Bazaar and Indoor Yard Sale. 8619 Black's Mill Road, Creagerstown (off of Rte.550). Homemade Cookies sold by the pound, Soups, sandwiches, pies, cakes, candies, breads, Eat-in or Carry-out, no early birds or early sales please. For info please call 301-898-5167.

Emmitsburg Lion's Club annual Children's Christmas Party at the Vigilant Hose Company firehouse, 25 West Main Street. The party will feature crafts, hot dogs and hot chocolate. Also present will be Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Elias Lutheran Church's Annual Ham, Turkey and Roast Beef Supper with Christmas Bazaar. The supper includes: Filling, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, coleslaw, green beans, applesauce and cake. Crafts, Home baked products, White Elephant table. Adults \$11 Children 6-12: \$4 Carryouts \$12.

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve Natural Wreath Making Workshop. For more information call 717-642-5840 or www.StrawberryHill.org. See page 36 for additional details.

December 2

Emmitsburg Community Chorus annual Christmas Concert at the Ba-

silica in Emmitsburg. See page 36 for more details.

Music Gettysburg Present's Advent Vespers. For more information visit musicgettysburg.org or call 717-338-3000. See page 36 for additional details.

December 3

24th annual "Evening of Christmas Spirit". See page 2 for more details.

December 7

St. Francis Xavier Parish's First Friday Dinner at Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg. Adults \$8, Seniors and High School Students \$6, Children K-8 \$4, Children under 5 Free. Take outs available. For more information call 717-334-4048.

YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County and the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Programs at HACC-Gettysburg present "Holiday Stories from Around the World." For more information, call 717-334-9171, ext. 113, or visit www.ywcagettsburg.org. See page 36 for additional details.

December 7 & 8, 14 & 15

Strawberry Hill presents Photos with Santa - Visit Santa by the fire in Strawberry Hill's historic Pink Cabin built in 1798. Portrait Package includes: (1) 5 x 7 Print, hot chocolate with Santa, & a free holiday gift from Strawberry Hill. For more information call 717-642-5840 or www.StrawberryHill.org.

December 8

The Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum and the National Fire Her-

itage Center will be participating in Toys for Tots, the United States Marine Corps Reserve program that collects toys for children whose parents cannot afford to buy Christmas gifts. Representatives of the Marine Corps Reserve will be on hand to receive the toys.

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve hosts a clinic of fly tying with Custom-Tied to be held at the Preserve. Nothing adds to the fly fishing experience like fooling fish with something that you made with your own hands! For more information call 717-642-5840 or www.StrawberryHill.org.

Christ's Community Church Christmas Bazaar and St. Nicholas Workshop. For more information visit www.cccaog.org or call 717-321-5522. See page 36 for additional details.

The Gettysburg Foundation's "St. Nicholas Tea." For more information call 1-877-874-2478 or visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org. See page 36 for additional details.

December, 7, 8 & 9

Gettysburg Community Theater presents Frosty The Snowman (a children's musical). \$11 Reserved Seating. Available online at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org or by calling 717-334-2692. Gettysburg Community Theater, 49 York Street, Gettysburg.

December 8 & 9

The Gettysburg Civic Chorus, present "A 50th Anniversary Christmas. See page 36 for details.

December 10

Annual Mother Seton School Christ-

mas Program. See page 36 for details or call 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

December 14

17th Annual Gettysburg Tuba Carol Fest. Tuba players from everywhere playing Christmas Carols on "historic" Lincoln Square in Gettysburg. The snow site will be the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church. For more information call 717-334-7719.

Dec. 14

Elias Lutheran Church's Basement Coffee House Annual Christmas Party, with Pot Luck Supper! Evening begins with Pot Luck Supper--bring dish or dessert to share, then the Children's Praise Choir followed by Silver Lining Band--rocking in Christmas to the glory of God. For more information call 301-447-6239 or visit www.eliaslutheranchurch.org.

December 14, 15, & 16

Gettysburg Community Theater presents 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. The traditional play perfect for the whole family. \$11 Reserved Seating. Available online at www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org or by calling 717-334-2692. Gettysburg Community Theater, 49 York Street, Gettysburg.

December 15

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Join the Strawberry Hill's staff at bird feeding stations to learn how to identify the winter feeder birds! Experience the value of the Christmas Bird Count as a conservation tool by using

binoculars and field guides to count the totals of each species. For more information call 717-642-5840 or www.StrawberryHill.org.

December 15 & 16

Winter Solstice Celebration - Join Liberty Mountain as they celebrate the start of the Winter season with a Winter Solstice Celebration. This family-friendly event will involve a variety of activities for the entire family! Liberty Mountain Resort, 78 Country Club Trail, Carroll Valley.

December 21

The Majestic Theater presents "Bowfire" Holiday Heart Strings. An "All Star Show" of the finest lineup of fiddle and violin virtuosos ever assembled on one stage, taking its audiences on a musical journey that moves seamlessly from Jazz, Classical, Bluegrass, Celtic, Rock, Swing, Ottawa Valley and Cape Breton styles and mixes in incredible step and tap dancing and a beautiful voices. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

Dec 24

Elias Lutheran Church's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Family oriented service with Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome.

December 31

Gettysburg's New Year's Eve Celebration - Entertainment at downtown venues, fireworks and party in Lincoln Square. Lincoln Square, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-5006 or visit www.adamsarts.org.



Happy Holidays!

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Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!

Amid the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, may we all find time to find peace and stillness in anticipation of the coming of the Lord. Grace and Blessings to the Emmitsburg community now and through the new year!

Thomas H. Powell *Irene Q. Powell*
President Thomas H. and Irene Q. Powell

Join Us to Celebrate the Christmas Season

Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m. Knott Auditorium

Celebrate the Christmas season with choral music and scripture readings featuring the Mount Chorale and Wind Ensemble.



Seminary Open House

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2-4 p.m.

Mount St. Mary's University Seminary
Tours every 20 minutes, light refreshments

Holy Hour: 3:30-4:30 p.m., Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

Advent Lessons and Carols: 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Chapel of the Immaculate Conception



Mass at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes

Sunday, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, Noon

No Christmas Day Mass

