

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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“EXALTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION” —EDWARD R. MURROW

DECEMBER 2022

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NEWS

In-town Shooting Range Shot Down

Riled residents turned out in-mass to raise objections.

Page 2

Backyard Burial Lots Under Scrutiny

Burying Fido is okay, but Township draws a limit at grandmas.

Page 3

Petition To Stop Simmer's Farm Annexation Successful

Public referendum to be scheduled to determine fate of annexation.

Page 4

Taneytown Police Chief Resigns

Interdepartmental personal matter cited as reason.

Page 5

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival

The festival is sure to please kids of all ages – from one to ninety-nine.

Page 25

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

A postmortem on the red wave that did not occur.

Page 10

Country First

In the mid-term election there was one clear winner – Democracy.

Page 11

ARTICLES

Ecology

Ant's, molasses, and compassion.

Page 15

In the Country

A look at the history of evergreens during the Christmas season.

Page 16

Gardening

Age-old tips on winterizing your garden.

Page 18

Pets

A priceless Christmas gift – a forever home for an animal in a shelter.

Page 20

History

The legend of the Christmas Eve tradition of Larry Dielman.

Page 26

Cooking

Nothing warms the heart better than the smell of fresh baked Christmas cookies.

Page 32

Four Years At The Mount

A look at favorite Christmas presents – both given & received.

Page 34

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks 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.

—Luke 2:8-14



Merry Christmas from the staff of the Emmitsburg News-Journal: McKenna, Claire, Joey, Sarah, Steve, Ashley, Gina, Jack, Jen, John, Ron, Shannon, Mark, David, Amanda, Mary Ann, Marianne, Jefferson, Sonya, Sharon, Michele, Abby, Karen, Tana, Brian, & Mike.

Hileman retires as Carroll Valley Police Chief

Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Richard Hileman retired on November 1st after more than 30 years of service.

Hileman graduated valedictorian at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Municipal Police Academy about a week before being sworn into the borough "as a kid" in 1992. "My whole police life has been here at Carroll Valley," he said.

At his retirement ceremony, Hileman reflected on three decades of law enforcement service and noted the many changes that have occurred.

Hileman recounted that in his early days of the police department he had to supply his own gun and had a faulty portable radio. Hileman said he was always on the lookout for technology to streamline efficiency and grant opportunities to improve operations without additional costs.

Through his ever-seeking eye to grant funding, in 2017 Hileman jumped on a federal grant totaling nearly \$200,000 to equip every law enforcement agency in Adams County with new in-car computers and programs to allow document scanning and electronic filing. Before that, most agencies utilized handwritten citations and had to physically drive copies to the court to be manually entered into the system database, Hileman said.

"The new system really saved a lot of time for both the police departments and the courts, while improving accuracy. It also helped that I no longer received calls when the court couldn't read my handwriting," he said.

Hileman always enjoyed working with school districts, noting one instance that provided an opportunity for community service to bring a new gym floor to the Fairfield Area School District. In the mid-1990's Hileman recalled "one of those crazy incidents" in which while in the middle of arresting an intoxicated driver, another inebriated driver appeared. While attempting to apprehend this second vehicle, Hileman was struck by the fleeing vehicle and sent into the intersection. The driver was eventually brought into custody and as the perpetrator owned a contracting company and was unable to afford a felony conviction, a deal was made out for community service to install a new gym floor, he said.

"As the greatest injury that night was to my pride, it seemed a good deal to benefit our community in which his crimes were committed and save the taxpayers some expense," Hileman said.

"I was always quite proud when we could break a case or find the evi-



On November 1st, after more than 30 years of service, Carroll Valley Borough Police Chief Richard Hileman retired his shield.

dence to help another agency solve their case. Also, it was good to tell a victim that the perpetrator would face justice," he said.

Hileman was immensely pleased to see Corporal Clifford Weikert named his successor as Police Chief. Weikert has served Carroll Valley's Police Department for more than 20 years and displays the same dedication to serving the residents, according to Hileman.

"He is a talented investigator and has been such a valuable resource for me over those years and will do well. It is my greatest wish that they look on him one day and say, 'He is so much better than the last guy,'" Hileman said.

With his retirement, Hileman now looks forward to traveling, scuba diving, but will always be on the lookout for ways to contribute to the community.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Town to revise fencing ordinance

During the November 7th Town Council meeting, a homeowner from Pembroke brought up concerns over their fence being found not in compliance with town fencing codes.

The fence in question was built on June 6th after the homeowner was requested to replace a “dilapidated” split rail fence three times by the Pembroke Home Owners Association (HOA). The new fence plan met the approval of the Pembroke HOA, as well as Frederick County fence laws, however the homeowner was unaware he had to apply for a permit from the town for the fence.

The day after the installation of the fence, the town zoning officer stopped by the home and cited the homeowner for installing the fence without the required town permit.

When the homeowner applied for the required town permit he was told the permit would not be issued for the fence, as it did not meet the requirements for front yard fences. Per the current ordinance, corner lots are considered to have 2 front yards and the current town ordinance prohibits a front yard fence of more than four feet in height, which the new fence was.

Following an appeal by the homeowner to the Board of Appeals, the Board gave the homeowner a 6-month stay so the Town Council could consider the issue.

The town council took up the issue at their November meeting and unanimously recommend that the town staff prepare an amendment to allow fences greater than four feet tall in what would be considered the side yard of corner and thru lots. Fences in the ‘front’ of

the house will still be required to be shorter than four feet.

After the amendment is written, it will go in front of the Planning Commission for review. If the Planning Commission approves the amendment, it will then be brought before the Town Council for approval.

Town staff said they hope to have the amendment ready for the Planning Commission to review by its January or February meeting.

Taneytown has also been experiencing a corner lot fencing issue. Their town code allows for exemptions to be requested but this is time consuming for town staff and confusing for their residents. Taneytown started to look into their fence ordinances following a similar situation where a homeowner put up a fence with approval from the county, but not the town.

In town shooting ranges denied

In front of a packed meeting room the Town Council affirmed the decision by the Town’s Planning Commission to reject a zoning text change amendment requested by Thurmont resident Kirby Delauter to allow shooting ranges within the Town’s Industrial Zone.

The Council’s decision comes on the heels of Liberty Township denying Delauter’s request for a shooting range in Liberty Township.

Delauter withdrew his initial request for a range he had proposed building on land adjacent

to the new Rutter’s service station, just across Rt. 15 from the Emmit Garden, following concerns that the request was too vaguely written and lacked safety and sound control. While Delauter’s resubmittal did address safety issues, it failed to satisfy Planning Commission concerns over noise, and as a result, was rejected on a vote of 2 -1.

Christopher Jakubiak, of Jakubiak and Associates, who has been retained by the town to assist in zoning reviews and land use studies, told the Town Council prior to

their vote, that the shooting range was not a use consistent with intent of the town’s comprehensive plan which established the Industrial Zone for the purpose of attracting business to the town that would serve as ‘employment centers’ for local residents.

Jakubiak’s report noted that the proposed range’s size of 10 acres “would consume a large share of the land planned for the Town’s Employment Center.” In addition, a gun range “would create a noise impact that the zoning ordinance – now in effect – would not allow for permitted industrial use.”

Council members keyed onto Jakubiak’s findings, questioning the potential of any local employment the range would bring, or for that matter, any benefit Emmitsburg would gain from the range. Commissioner Sweeny pointed out that



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there where already 4 ranges within a few miles of Emmitsburg and saw no need to have one in town.

A representative of the new Rutter’s service station also spoke against the proposed range, citing concern for the safety of their customers. Residents questioned how many people would use the new Rutters if the first sound that greeted them as they got out of their car was the sound of gunshots.

Nine residents took the opportunity to voice their concerns against the proposed ordinance. All cited noise and safety. Several pointed out that while Delauter’s proposal would mitigate noise coming from the range, it did not eliminate the noise.

Dr. Portier of Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center

said that she was concerned about the effect of the sound of shooting on the many patients she treats with PTSD, and that the range would not be ‘healthful’.

Many who spoke against the range said they had moved to Emmitsburg because of the peace and tranquility it offered and feared that an in-town outdoor shooting range would destroy that tranquility.

Not a single member of the public spoke in favor of the range.

The final vote of 4-0 was met with audible sighs of relief from residents who had come out to speak against the proposal. (Per the Town’s ethic’s code requirements, Commissioner Davis abstained from voting as family member works for Delauter.)

2022 Emmitsburg Holiday House & Business Decorating Contest

Three categories:

1. Most Creative
2. Most Traditional
3. Best Business



To participate, have the exterior of your home or business decorated by Dec. 11th. Judging will be held Dec. 11—Dec. 18.

Interested in being a judge? Contact the Town Office.

The winners will be announced on our Town website and social media by December 21st.

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News Briefs...

New Town Appointments

Dan Garnitz, who moved to Emmitsburg in 2018, resigned from the Board of Appeals, but was appointed to the Planning Commission

for a five-year term. Dan grew up in Montgomery County and lived in Fairfax, VA till 2017. The Planning Commission members are appointed individuals who advise the Town Council on all the planning and development issues.

Jack Pollitt was also appointed as an alternate member of the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals hears appeals regarding zoning decisions, development decisions, code violations, and other appealed matters.

Small Game Hunting Is Back

The Town Council voted 5-0 to allow small game hunting to resume at Rainbow Lake and Watershed. Small game includes: crow, pheasants, quail, rabbits, ruffed grouse and squirrels. The hunting season for small game coincides with deer season.

Only deer, turkey, and small game are allowed to be hunted at the watershed. Residents that wish to hunt at the Watershed have to obtain a hunting license from the State of Maryland, and a free permit from the town office. Hunting is allowed Monday through Saturday.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Carroll Valley council talks lots, lights, and levy

Carroll Valley Borough Council is moving towards selling borough-owned lots.

The borough owns many parcels that were part of the ill-fated mid-20th century Charnita development that led to the creation of the borough in the 1970s. Residents have often shown interest in owning some of the properties, most recently at November's council meeting.

The council authorized Manager Dave Hazlett to acquire an appraisal for 82 Toms Creek Trail. The appraisal is the first step towards placing the land for sale through

public auction, Hazlett said. Neighbors have expressed interest in purchasing the property but state law dictates the borough must accept bids for the land.

The borough also authorized an interested resident to acquire an appraisal on 33 Mason Dixon Trail.

"With the market going up, I think so many people in Carroll Valley who own a property are buying the properties around them," Councilwoman Kari Butterbaugh said. "The borough owns a ton of properties and I think it behooves all of us to let the people of Carroll Valley buy the ones next to them."

Councilmember Michael Wight noted selling lots would be duly-beneficial for Carroll Valley. The borough would no longer be required to maintain them and the new owners would be required to pay borough taxes on the lands.

Traffic light

The borough must decide how much it wants a traffic light at the intersection of Routes 116 and 16.

Hazlett said PennDOT denied a light several times because there have not been any fatal wrecks at the site. Many residents believe

the intersection is dangerous and a signal would prevent crashes of any severity.

The crux of the issue may be which entity pays for the light.

"I really, genuinely believe that if PennDOT heard we were looking at alternative funding sources versus PennDOT needing to pay for the signal, I think it would be surprisingly approved and given the warrant necessary," Hazlett said.

Hazlett warned that if PennDOT deems a light is warranted, the borough could be required to pay for it if attempts to find grant funding

fail. He estimates the project would cost \$250,000 but "90 percent" of citizens would support it.

"It's kind of a miserable intersection," Hazlett said.

Budget

Hazlett said the proposed 2023 budget does not contain a tax increase, which has been the norm since 2012. In his budget document, which is available at www.carrollvalley.org, Hazlett wrote Carroll Valley's tax rate is the second lowest of Adams County's 13 boroughs. The borough's police department, highway department, and executive staff are the borough's largest expenses.

Residents speak out against backyard burial lots

Apparently it's OK to bury a pet in one's back yard, but residents of Hamiltonban came out in force at the November Board of Supervisors meeting to oppose the burying of grandmas in 'backyards' in residential areas.

Prior to the creation of public cemeteries in the late 1800s, and when farms were passed down generation to generation, it was traditional for every family to set aside land on farms for the burial of family members. But as farms began to be broken up, and develop-

ment began, most families opted to un-intern family members and re-intern them into public cemeteries where they could guarantee the dead long-term peace and quiet.

However, one land owner in Hamiltonban decided to bury a relative on a residential lot that is only a ¼ acre in total. He did not use a vault, nor have the body embalmed. This particular site, located at 45 Sloe Gin Road, has set aside room for approximately 20 burial lots. The area is illuminated by solar lights that adjoining neighbors have

compared to Friday night football field lights at the high school.

The process of burying a body that is not embalmed or in a vault is known as a "green" burial. It's less expensive and is a hot trend these days. But residents and Township Supervisors expressed concern about contamination of neighboring wells as the bodies decayed and rainwater carried the remains down into the ground water the wells draw from.

Hamiltonban does not have a zoning ordinance for burying on a residential plot, but the Town-

ship Solicitor suggested that Hamiltonban establish a requirement that all cemeteries be at least 10 acres and mandate vaults and embalming be utilized.

The Board of Supervisors told the residents that they were aware of the situation and their concerns. A letter has been drafted that will be sent to the lot owner by the Township's Zoning Officer directing that the body be exhumed and reburied elsewhere.

If the lot owner disregards the direction from the Township, they

will be required to pay a fee to cover the cost of a special public meeting of the Township's Zoning Board to decide on appropriate actions. This all could take more than 60 days to play out.

Supervisors told the assembled residents that all the adjacent property owners of the back yard burial lot in question will be notified by mail if a special zoning meeting will be held. A traditional public notice sign will also be placed on the property advertising the meeting, and its location, date and time.

News Briefs...

Community Media Seeks Financial Aid

Raymond Gouker, founder of Community Media, a local non-profit broadcaster, asked the Carroll Valley council to consider donating 40% of the 'franchise fees' the borough receives for allowing cable to be strung in the county. Cable franchise fees were initially established to help local broadcast stations like community Media compete with big cable companies.

Community Media is a non-profit PEG station, (public education and government) founded as Adams County Television in 1988 by Gouker. The non-profit's vision from the beginning has been to celebrate the people of Adams County and what they do as a community. "The goal was to take our neighbors that are doing awesome things in the community and give them a chance to be seen by all of Adams County and try to give them support," Gouker said.

In addition to current internship offerings, Community Media is currently working on new shows and programs including education curriculum for digital literacy. It also allows public use of their facilities he said. Community Media reaches thousands of homes in Adams County and has grown to telecast on two cable channels as well as live stream, and on-demand online. More information about Com-

munity Media can be found at communitymedia.net.

Giving Spree Breaks Record

November 3 was the 12th annual Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree and Oh! What a day! Once again, Adams County donors did the improbable. They sprinted right past last year's record-breaking \$3.08 million and gave more than \$3.1 million to 90 local nonprofits. We'll announce the final total on December 16 at "The Big Reveal" but know that our hearts

are full of gratitude for the incredible generosity of this community.

Based on initial results, 2,467 donors (individuals, families, and businesses) made 9,750 separate gifts. Donors gave from all over Adams County, Pennsylvania, and the United States. They contributed by check, credit card, and through their IRAs, Charitable Funds and Foundations. They made stock and mutual fund gifts. One donor even gifted their car to support Vida Charter School.

Fifteen percent of donor gifts were earmarked "forever" and added to their favorite nonprofit's

individual endowment fund held at the Community Foundation. Those endowments are invested for the long term, so each year a grant is made from the fund to the nonprofit, sustaining forever.

Eight nonprofits raised more than \$100,000. Twenty-two raised more than \$25,000 including the all-volunteer Gettysburg Garden Club. Their members worked hard to meet a donor's endowment challenge to keep Gettysburg beautiful for generations to come.

At the end of a very long day, it was clear Adams County donors

wanted to provide food, shelter, and health care to their neighbors in need. They invested in local education and scholarships. They supported nonprofits that create an arts-rich and vibrant community. And donors gave big to rescue animals, protect our environment and preserve our history. Hundreds of volunteers worked to make it all come together.

And finally, thanks to participating nonprofits and the donors who gave generously. The Giving Spree supports all that's good and important to us in Adams County.

THURMONT NEWS

Petition against Summer Farm annexation successful

The petition submitted at the November 1st town meeting by the leaders of Evasion Thurmont, a group formed following the Town Council's September vote to annex 16.7 acres of farmland into town limits and rezone it high-density residential development, had the requisite number of signatures on it to trigger the requirement that the annexation be voted on in a referendum by the residents.

In accordance to the town charter, Thurmont must put to vote any decision by the Town Council when a petition receives signatures of at least 20 percent of registered voters.

As of the town's latest election

in 2021, Thurmont had 4,553 registered voters, meaning the group needed 905 signatures to meet the 20% criteria. The petition submitted by Evasion Thurmont had 1,253 signatures on it, of which, town staff determined that 1,154 were qualified voters, which represents 25% of Thurmont's registered voters, exceeding the 20% minimum.

The annexation will now be placed before the residents of Thurmont at a special referendum where residents can vote for, or against, the annexation.

The farmland property owned by Patricia Simmers is located southeast of Apples Church Road, Roddy

Road, and Elyer Road intersection. It consists of approximately 24.5 acres. Seven acres are located in town and currently zoned R-5, while the other 17 acres lie in the county and are agriculturally zoned. Thurmont's 2022 Master Plan has the property identified in its future growth area as 'high density residential'.

Developer Daniel Cross worked with the town for years to finalize the annexation agreement. Cross looks to build a residential community on the Simmers property with at least 172 residential units, as well as an assisted-living facility and a day care center.

The Town Council narrowly

voted in favor of the annexation and zoning change back in September. Commissioners Blakeslee and Hamrick opposed the resolution, with Commissioners Buehrer and Hooper in support. Mayor Kinnaird broke the tie in favor of the motion.

Prior to the approval of the annexation by the Town Council, resident Louise Schafer presented a petition to the council with over 300 signatures in opposition of the development. "I want to make it clear we are not opposed to the annexation, but we are opposed to the R-5 high density residential," she said.

In collecting more than the man-

datory 20%, Evasion Thurmont took no chance for a repeat of the failed efforts of Taneytown residents who, in response to the Taneytown City Council's vote in support of the Sewell Farm annexation, started a petition drive to force a public referendum vote on the annexation. However that group ceased collecting signatures when they gathered the mandatory 20%. however they did not account for the fact that some of the signers where not registered to vote in the town. As a result, when the signatures where validated, they failed to meet the required 20%, allowing the annexation to move forward.

PTA request for reduction in Colorfest parking fees rejected

The Town Council dismissed a proposal by the Thurmont Elementary, Primary, and Middle schools' Parents and Teachers Association (PTAs) to increase the percentage of funds collected during their Colorfest parking fundraiser that goes to the PTAs to offset the rising cost of school lunches and extracurricular programs.

Christy Donnelly provided an overview of the recent struggle to maintain membership in the PTAs as a result of COVID, and with it, a decline in volunteers to raise funds to support the children in Thurmont schools. She went on to highlight the numerous programs and costs the PTA support,

such as offsetting the fees associated with field trips and funding science and educational assemblies.

Donnelly brought to the council's attention the drastic increase in the number of children that qualify for free or reduced lunches, from 38% to over 50% since the onset of COVID. She explained that the PTAs serve as a main source of monetary relief for these children, as they help cover the costs of overdrawn lunch accounts for children whose families are unable to pay, making sure no child goes hungry.

As a result of the severe lack of funds, Donnelly said that the PTAs are no longer able to offer free field trips. In

addition, the PTAs are now pressed to fund many other school programs, such as vaccine and wellness clinics.

To help offset the funding shortfall; Donnelly requested a reduction in the per-car fees collected by the town from the Colorfest parking on middle and elementary school grounds to allow the PTAs to utilize those funds to support children at Thurmont schools.

Donnelly noted that as a result of the 519 cars parked at the elementary school, \$7,785 was collected by PTA volunteers, of which \$4 per car, totaling \$2,085, was given to the town, leaving \$5,700 for the PTAs. The PTA was asking that the fee collected by

the town be reduced to \$2/car which would result in an additional \$1,000 going to PTA school uses.

Mayor Kinnaird however rejected the request, stating: "Stop referring to the town of Thurmont as taking money from the PTAs, that is not what we're doing." Kinnaird, said that the PTAs agreed to provide the town \$4/car when they secured the permit."

Donnelly suggested the town could recoup lost PTA parking fees by increasing the permit costs to for-profit vendors. However, the Town Council refused to budge despite pleas from both the principal of Thurmont Middle School and other PTA members

Kinnaird questioned what percentage of the students in the Thurmont schools actually reside in-district while Commissioner Buehrer said that the PTA were "not going to get an empathetic ear" from the board.

In addressing the issue of children needing support to cover school lunches in the Walkersville schools, the town of Walkersville recently approved a total doation of \$15,750, with \$6,000 directed towards school lunch programs and \$9,750 to provide a stop gap in funds to cover the costs of supplying food for weekend meals to students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Church annexations move forward

At its November 22 meeting, the Town Council agreed to move forward with a request by Apples Church to have its property annexed into the town limits.

The church, which owns 4.6 acres, requested the annexation to gain access

to town water and sewer services. The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the church's petition and found it consistent with the Town's Master Plan and voted unanimously to approve it, recommending that the property be zoned 'institutional.'

In addition to the church's 4.6 acres, an additional quarter acre adjacent to the church's property will also be annexed. The quarter acre, which is already town property but not within the town limits, houses one of the town's water wells and town staff wanted to use the Apples Church annexation to incorporate that land into the town limits.

The Council also agreed to move forward with the annexation request by the Thurmont United Methodist Church for its property of 4.3 acres. The Planning and Zoning Commission also approved the request, agreeing the Church's plan was consistent with the Town's Master Plan.

Located at 13880 Long Road, just

east of town, the church is looking to expand with the ever-growing needs of the community. Like Apples Church, Thurmont United Methodist Church is seeking annexation to gain access to the town's water and sewer services.

The church has been working on a new strategic plan for the last several years to grow the church, including increasing the population of the congregation and making the church more relevant to the town by providing a 60 student daycare center and a before and after school care program.

In order to incorporate a daycare center the church facility, built in 1988, needs infrastructure updates, including a sprinkler system. The church currently utilizes a well water supply and a septic system, which raises issues for necessi-

ties such as sprinkler systems. If annexed into the town, the church will have access to town water, which will provide both sufficient water pressure and flow necessary for the fire sprinkler system.

In recommending approval for both church's requests, town staff said that the anticipated water and sewer demand is expected to be low and that the annexation of the properties will not adversely impact schools or any other town services.

A public hearing on both annexations will take place on January 10. Following the public hearing the annexation requests will be voted upon by the Town Council, and if approved, the plans will be submitted to the County and State Planning Offices for their review and approval.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Police Chief resigns

On November 2, Mayor Bradley Wantz accepted the resignation of Jason Etzler as Taneytown's Chief of Police. In a statement released by the Town staff, Etzler had been placed on administrative leave prior to his resignation due to an intra-departmental personal matter.

Following Etzler's resignation, the Mayor and City Council appointed Major Robert Mitchell as the Acting Chief of Police. Mitchell has been with the Department since 2019 and has over 25 years of law enforcement experience. "The Mayor and

City Council are confident that Acting Chief Mitchell will provide effective leadership during this time of transition," the statement said.

The City will now undertake a thorough vetting process to select the next Chief of Police.

Etzler had worked for the Taneytown Police Department for 20 years. He became Chief of Police in 2019 after former Police Chief William Tyler was placed on leave. Tyler, who had served as Chief for 15 years, resigned on Jan. 30, 2019, and pleaded guilty in the U.S. District

Court of Maryland to one count of illegally possessing and transferring a machine gun. Tyler and another officer had taken two machine guns from the police department and were using them for their own purposes. In January 2020, a federal judge sentenced Tyler to a year and a day in prison, and three years of supervised release.

Etzler, 50, grew up in Taneytown and started his career with the police department in 2002, fresh out of the Maryland Police Academy. In 2019, Etzler told The Carroll County Times that the police department would "take the corrective actions needed"

following Tyler's resignation. I would like the citizens of Taneytown to know that the department is moving forward with very dedicated personnel that always have their best interest in mind," Etzler said. "We have taken many steps to improve the operational aspects of the department and will continue to do so.

"Taneytown police officers are frequently the first to respond to medical calls involving cardiac arrest or severe traumatic injuries and city officers are now fully equipped to provide emergency care when minutes are the difference between life and death."

Under Etzler's leadership, the City's police department saw continued improvement in personal staffing and equipment, including equipping police officers with tasers and automated external defibrillators for the first time.

Eyzer also oversaw the design efforts for the renovations to the police department building. The current building only has one restroom and is crowded for the number of employees

Taneytown's police department typically employs 12 to 15 officers with an annual budget of \$1,794,000.

Requirements in fence ordinance to be 'relaxed'

During the November 14 meeting, the Taneytown City Council voted to introduce a new ordinance to relax restrictions on equivalent yard fences in residential corner lots. Introduction of Ordinance 10-2022 Amendment to Yard Exceptions passed with no councilors opposed. It does not revise code for sheds.

If the ordinance is approved, the updated code will allow residents on corner lots to build six-foot fences on up to 50% of their equivalent yard rather than the previous 30%. The ordinance did not update four-foot fence code, which was already allowed up to the property line.

The current City Code restricts fences to four feet in any front yard whereas residents could build fences up to six feet in rear and side yards. However, a corner lot has a front yard and an equivalent yard. Since corner lots have two yards that face a street, both are considered 'front yards' and restricted to a four-foot fence.

These restrictions were in place in part to ensure safe sightlines needed for drivers to avoid issues in the intersections. The Planning and Zoning Commission experimented to ensure safety, finding that the taller fences should not go past 60% of the equivalent front yard for safety reasons. They

presented 50%, and up to 60% in certain circumstances to the City Council with safety in mind at intersections.

The City Council debated the percentage to add to the code, citing safety and the freedom of individual property owners as the dividing factors. Councilwoman Judy Fuller said, "I guess it comes down to people having power over your yard." She went on to say that residents, especially younger residents, deserve to have privacy in their own backyards with a six-foot fence.

Because houses in Taneytown are set back 35 feet from the street in most areas, homes on corner lots also tend to have smaller backyards than other

houses, further limiting privacy for many residents living in corner lots. Under the proposed regulations, residents in most zoning districts will be able to have an additional 17.5-foot fenced in area using a taller fence.

When presenting the ordinance details to the council, Wieprecht brought up the cumbersome process in place for residents to request exemptions. He hoped to streamline the process for the residents and for the zoning administrator.

Currently, the resident submits the request to the Zoning Office. The request then needed to be considered by the adjoining neighbors,

who the Zoning administrator contacts by certified mail. If they approve or don't respond within 15 days, the administrator can approve installation of the taller fence by up to 30 percent, or 11.5 feet closer to the sidewalk or property line.

Eliminating the need to get approval from neighbors not only relieves the zoning office from administrative duties but gives more control of the property to its owner. According to Wieprecht, currently the zoning administrator must deny any such requests that a neighbor objects to. "That does give neighbors a lot of control over the corner lots," he said.

News Briefs...

Christmas Tree Lighting

The City's Christmas Tree lighting will take place in Memorial Park on December 3rd immediately following the Candy Cane Hunt at 3:30. Santa will be escorted in by the Taneytown Fire Department. Gift certificates, donated by local businesses, will be attached to some of the candy canes hidden for the Hunt. Hayrides will once again be available for the kids and the young at heart. Local churches will be offering cider, hot chocolate, cookies, and some vocal performances.

The annual 'Pack the Police Car' event will be held Sunday, December 4th from 10-2 p.m. at Kennie's Market.

There will also be another Holiday Business Decorating Contest with local businesses in which the community will be asked to vote. Businesses can register for the contest with the city by December 2nd. Prizes will include gift cards and publicity spotlights. Between December 5th and the 31st shoppers will be able to vote for their favorite business decorations.

In addition to the Holiday Business Decorating Contest there will also be a Holiday Decorating Contest for Taneytown residents as well. For this contest, residents will need to register their address by December 15th. The Parks and Rec Advisory Board has volunteered to judge the entries and determine their top 3 choices; the winners will be announced on December 30th. The prizes will be gift cards from local businesses.

Observatory For Bollinger Park Scrapped

Erich Bender, from the Taneytown Astronomical Society, told the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that Bollinger Park would no longer be a viable location for the conservatory based on the light pollution from the city and Meade's Crossing.

Bender, the prime mover and shaker of the initiative, (and owner of Taney Auto Service Center) had hoped that this location would be suitable for the Society's premier observatory, featuring a 25-inch reflector telescope.

Bender said that the telescope would be capable of viewing deep space objects and capturing meteor showers, conjunctions, and other celestial events. The Society had also hoped to host public gatherings during these major events as well as monthly Star Parties and programs with local schools.

Bender had hoped that efforts of the City to be certified Dark-Sky Friendly by the International Dark-Sky Association would pave the way for the observatory. Taneytown is about 80% of the way to meeting these requirements by minimizing skyglow and glare that creates light pollution over the city, according to Bender. However, as Meade's Crossing is built out, resulting light pollution has made the placement of the observatory in the adjacent park untenable.

Sports Teams Will Have to Coordinate Games With Parks Board

Lorena Vaccare, Director of Parks and Recreation informed the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that she will be making a calendar of events for Taneytown sports leagues to make them aware of firm dates that are unavailable for each field.

Vaccare said that the need for an official schedule was highlighted when a double header was held on the same day as the Harvest Festival, which interfered with Harvest Day events.

Jerry Hobbs, a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, felt that firm rules needed to be put into place regarding the availability of fields, as this has been a repetitive problem. As it stands now, Vaccare said, there will no longer be games permitted on days when other events are happening in the parks.

Vaccare also told the Board that the Memorial Park grandstand repair from a July storm has been finished and the city is hoping the lighting retrofit will be finished before the spring baseball season begins.

As for the Memorial Park expansion, Vaccare said that the city has met with four engineering firms to get proposals and a contractor will be recommended at the January Board meeting.

Expansion and upgrade plans include replacement of all athletic fencing in Memorial Park, according to Vaccare, "it is years and years old". Because it is very cost prohibitive to do all the fencing at once,

fence replacement will be done in sections, beginning with Field One and then focusing on the worst areas.

Upgrades for the baseball field will include installation of a new scoreboard and accompanying

OOPS! ❄️

Looks like Santa is down to only 3 "reindeer power"...



We'll make sure you have the "horsepower" you need to get you to your Christmas celebration!

Call & make an appointment!

❄️ *Merry Christmas* ❄️

Taney Service Center
 94 York Street, Taneytown
 410-756-9256 or 410-840-9029


"A little hard to find, look for a cheesy sign"

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Congressman David Trone

When I decided to enter public service, I promised to always lead with compassion, civility, and competence. I knew that this approach would guide me to do what's right for those I represent. Since I first made that promise in 2018, it's worked, allowing us to make progress on the issues that matter most. And I'm incredibly proud — and humbled — that a majority of voters recognized the successes we have had and re-elected me to continue serving the 6th District in Congress.

Above all else, I want to say thank you. Thank you for placing your trust in me as your representative. Thank you for opening your door to me (sometimes literally) to hear my vision for our future. And thank you for sharing your hopes, your dreams, and your concerns with me. I don't take this responsibility lightly. Above all, I know that with your support, we can continue to build on the progress we have made.

In the months ahead, and throughout the next term, my team and I will be hard at work, delivering results for families across the district.

We'll continue to find ways to combat the opioid crisis which took over 107,000 lives last year alone. In my first two terms, I led bipartisan efforts to stop the suffering that too many families are feeling. I'll continue to work across the aisle to find common ground and increase access to treatment, promote harm reduction measures, and stop the flow of deadly drugs like fentanyl into our communities.

We'll provide compassionate support to those struggling with mental health challenges, ensuring that help is there for them when they need it. The pandemic highlighted the urgent need to help those strug-

gling with depression, anxiety, and other issues. It also revealed that our response to these challenges had been severely lacking. I helped launch a bipartisan task force to come up with solutions, and we made great inroads — creating pilot programs for mental health services in schools, providing confidential support for first responders, and more. But this can only be the beginning.

We'll continue to make access to world-class education a reality for every Maryland student. I believe our state can have the best schools in the country, provide opportunity to each and every student, and support our educators along the way. But it will take work. We need to invest more in our schools — both in infrastructure and in talent. In my second term, I introduced legislation that would mirror the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and implement it across the country. This term, I'll work to get it across the finish line. Because I know just how valuable a good education can be — and it's an investment worth making.

As important as these issues are, nothing is more important to me and my team than providing top-notch constituent service and helping Marylanders navigate challenges with the federal government. This will continue to be our top priority. In the wake of the pandemic, we answered tens of thousands of calls, helped thousands solve issues with unemployment benefits or small business loans, and returned tens of millions of dollars into their pockets. Nothing is more important to me than being there for you and your family, and I can assure you that this focus will continue.

The story of the Mordkofsky family showcases why constituent service is so important to me

and the people who work with me. When David and Tex Mordkofsky finally got approval to adopt their daughter Sophia from the Philippines last year, they were told they would have to wait up to a year to get visas that would allow her to come home because of bureaucratic delays. When we found out about the problem, we were able to secure a visa for them right away. Last month, my wife met the family at the polls. Sophia is happy as can be, and she sent me a congratulations video after I won the election. Helping families like theirs is my favorite part of this job — and I'm so grateful that I get to keep doing it for another term.

I couldn't be more excited for what we'll achieve together over the next two years, and I truly couldn't do it without your support. It's an honor to serve as your representative, and to play a role in creating a brighter future for all of us. Thank you, once again, for your support. Let's get back to work!

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Mayor Don Briggs

At the November 12th regularly scheduled town meeting the Commission concurred with the mayor's recommendation to appoint Dan Garnitz to serve as a regular member of the Planning Commission for a term of November 7 through January 18, 2027. Additionally, the Board concurred with the mayor's recommendation to appoint Jack

Pollitt to serve as alternate member of the Board of Appeals for a term starting November 7, expires October 1, 2025.

At the direction of the Commission, predicated on an independent study, water/sewer rates, water bills will increase 44+/-% annually for the next three years starting in January 2023, then 2024, 2025, and thereafter increase 3% annually.

The Commission voted 4-0, with one member abstaining, to deny approval of an ordinance to allow the private shooting ranges in the industrial zone, and use of firearms at private shooting ranges in Town of Emmitsburg.

The Commission relaxed some of the hunting restrictions and recreational usage at Rainbow Lake and watershed. Certain small game will now be allowed to be hunted during deer season.

The Maryland Mainstreet staff paid

a visit to Emmitsburg for a tour of the town. The town currently is a Mainstreet Affiliate. For over a decade the town has been recognized as a Maryland Sustainable Community which entitled among other things access to grants for private property facade improvements in the historic district which has contributed to over \$1 million. Ultimately full Mainstreet membership is the goal but can only be accomplished responsibly in terms of Town staffing and funding capabilities.

Don't forget December 5th is the

town Christmas tree lighting starting at 5 p.m., DJ, Christ Community Church child choir at 5:45 p.m., and the Emmitsburg Community Chorale at 6, and Santa and tree lighting 6:15 at the Community Center. This year a special tribute to our sister city Lutsk in Ukraine will be incorporated into the program. Then down the street to the Evening of Christmas Spirit festivities at the Carriage House Inn.

My best wishes to you and your family for the Christmas season and New Year.

Need Help Paying Heating or Energy Bills?



The Office of Home Energy Programs Can Help!

Energy assistance is available to all Maryland residents who are eligible. Let us help make your energy costs more affordable.

Call
1-800-332-6347
to see if you qualify and to apply.



You do not need a Turn-Off Notice or to be off-service to apply.



GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jan Gardener

As the holiday season approaches, we reflect and give thanks for our many blessings. Like many of you, I am grateful for the love and support of my family and for the gift of good health. I am also thankful for the trust this community has placed in me over the past 8 years. It has been my great honor to serve as Frederick County's first County Executive. Together, we have made life better for the people who call Frederick County home.

Frederick County is a caring community. I have had the great privilege to witness it every day. During the pandemic, I saw the very best that people have to offer to each other. Our community worked together in truly amazing ways to keep our community safe, to protect public health, and to

assist our businesses and families who felt the brunt of the economic impacts of the pandemic.

I particularly want to thank county employees who stayed on the job and those who shifted to new jobs to make sure we could continue to provide county services and accomplish many new tasks, like successfully standing up mass vaccination clinics and supporting food distribution, including delivering groceries to hundreds of seniors and others who could not get food any other way. The pandemic was without a doubt the greatest single professional and personal challenge of my lifetime. I am grateful to our healthcare providers, our essential workers, our non-profit human service agencies, community funders,

and to the many individuals who stepped to the plate to meet the needs in our community.

I am proud of our collective accomplishments. These include a record investment in public education and school construction, the advancement of the Livable Frederick master plan which will serve us well into the future, and the support for our seniors through our Seniors First initiative and the retention of Citizens and Montevue. I am proud that we now have a more robust continuum of care to address substance misuse, addiction, and mental health with our mobile crisis unit, a detox center, and soon a crisis stabilization center.

I am leaving the county in excellent financial shape. After inheriting a

structural deficit, we now have robust reserve funds, fully funded long-term pension and retiree health liabilities, and have earned a coveted AAA bond rating from all three rating agencies. The AAA bond rating has saved millions of dollars to taxpayers as we invest in new infrastructure like schools, road, libraries, and parks.

The most lasting legacy my administration will leave is protecting our agricultural heritage, our historic and cultural resources, and the scenic vistas that our residents cherish. We have doubled our investment in agriculture preservation to accelerate the preservation of our best farmland for future generations and supported agriculture economic vitality with agriculture innovation grants. Rural historic preservation grants are helping owners to main-

tain and restore important rural cultural and historic assets.

And, we are blessed with a diverse and thriving economy with main street communities bustling with activity. We have added new jobs and new businesses, large and small, even during the pandemic. Frederick County can be proud to have welcomed some new major employers like Kite Pharma, Ellume, Kroger/Ocado, and Quantum Loophole.

My thanks and gratitude to the Frederick County community. Frederick County is a great place to live, work, raise a family, and retire.

Join me in committing our support to the next administration to continue the good work and the good life we have come to enjoy and to ensure that everyone can share in our community's prosperity.

State of the County address highlights

In her final State of the County Address, Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner touted a long list of accomplishments achieved during the county's first-ever administration as a charter government. From standing up a new form of government, to creating a shared community vision through Livable Frederick, the eight years of Executive Gardner's tenure have delivered opportunity, prosperity, and a good life for the people of Frederick County.

"The state of Frederick County is exceptional," Executive Gardner said. "It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Frederick County's first County Executive. Working together with our partners, we have created a strong community and delivered outstanding schools, safe communities, and a thriving economy with a diversity of jobs."

Key achievements highlighted in her address included:

- Restored trust in County Government. The County's ethics laws were strengthened to hold elected officials accountable. Frederick County is the only county in the state with an independently appointed Ethics Commission. All initiatives have included robust public processes to ensure open government.
- Secured a bright future through Livable Frederick. The award-winning Livable Frederick plan created a shared community vision for the future and a roadmap to protect and preserve Frederick County's unique sense of belonging.
- Advanced a legacy of agriculture. Over 73,000 acres of farmland are currently preserved with the annual investment in agricultural preservation programs doubled to protect the County's best farmland for future generations. The County created agricultural innovation grants to keep the industry economically viable and has invested in the next generation of farmers.

Supported record-breaking job growth and a strong, diverse economy:

- Created ROOT, a unique eco-system of economic development and community partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, higher education, and a business incubator to grow new ideas, innovation,

and jobs to help businesses take root and grow in Frederick County.

- Attracted new employers. Frederick County experienced record-breaking job growth and welcomed new large employers with Kite Pharma, Quantum Loophole, Ellume, and Kroger-Ocado locating here. During the height of the pandemic, more than 100 businesses opened or expanded their operations, including many in the county's Main Street communities.

Made a record investment in public education - \$640 million beyond required funding:

- In the classroom: Supported having the best teachers and staff in the classroom with a record \$113 million operating budget investment over mandated Maintenance of Effort funding.
- In technology: Provided almost \$3 million targeted to technology needs so every student could access a Chrome Book and a hot spot.
- In school construction: School construction projects totaled \$525 million over eight years.
- Built new schools so every child has a seat in a classroom. Completed the new Frederick High School; five elementary schools, including Urbana, Butterfly Ridge, Sugarloaf, Blue Heron, and Waverley; an addition to Oakdale Middle; and a brand new Rock Creek School. The first-ever limited renovation project was undertaken at Thurmont Elementary. Another nine school construction projects are under design and funded construction, including Brunswick Elementary.

Ensured Frederick County leads the way with innovation in public education. The LYNX program provides students with new experiences through work, the arts, and trades. The Early College partnership with Frederick Community College allows students to earn associate's degrees at the same time as they earn their high school diploma.

Supported libraries. New branch libraries opened in Walkersville and Myersville, and construction has begun on a new Middletown library that will be six times bigger than the existing branch. With the help of the Fry Family, the Point of Rocks

library was renovated and expanded.

Addressed public health crisis head on

Created hope for recovery from addiction. The County established a continuum of care for addiction and behavioral health by: adding a detox facility, so residents no longer have to leave Frederick County for treatment; starting a Mobile Crisis Response team to bring services to people where they are; and securing federal funds to establish a crisis stabilization center.

Rose to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic to protect public health and help the community recover. The health department along with county agencies opened mass vaccination clinics, Covid-19 testing, and contract tracing. Community partners collaborated with the County to provide 83 food distribution points and over \$17 million in rental assistance to people in need. County divisions managed millions of dollars in grants to businesses, farms, and nonprofits and others to support economic recovery.

Advanced diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging

Worked to solve health disparities. A temporary satellite office of the Frederick County Health Department on the Golden Mile transitioned to a permanent Equity Office to ensure underrepresented populations have access to health services and screenings. A community advisory board is helping to address maternal health disparities.

Advanced equity in County Government. Launched an Office of Equity and Inclusion and appointed an Equity and Inclusion advisory committee to ensure an ongoing community voice. Started the hard work to ensure the county workforce better reflects the community's racial and ethnic makeup. Established the EmPower Program to support minority businesses and develop minority business leaders, and created an employer toolkit so all businesses can improve their diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

Adapted playgrounds and created adaptive recreational programs to engage children and people of all abilities.

Jump-started park construction. New and expanded parks include Oth-

ello Regional Park, Point of Rocks Community Commons, Utica District Park, and Middletown Park.

Ensured safe communities

Added over 200 firefighter/EMTs to transition to tactical staffing in the Division of Fire and Rescue to ensure response times and a high level of service to people in need.

Added call takers at 9-1-1 communications to meet growing call volume and technology to prepare for Next Generation 9-1-1, which will include video and expanded translation services.

Added staffing in law enforcement and corrections as well as body cameras for sheriff deputies as mandated by the state.

Constructed the new Middletown and Northgate Fire Stations; improved the burn building at the Public Safety Training Center; achieved accreditation for the paramedic training program; and began construction on a new medical unit at the Adult Detention Center.

Improved access to transportation. The County's award-winning transit system eliminated fares and added all-electric buses. The zero-emission buses are powered by the sun, with a large solar array in a closed part of the landfill generating enough electricity to power the bus charging stations and six

county facilities. Thanks to strong advocacy, Frederick County will receive \$167 million to wide U.S. 15 through the City of Frederick, the largest new project in the state's Consolidated Transportation Program.

Implemented all the recommendations of the Seniors First Initiative. Executive Gardner created a new Senior Services Division to empower, educate and engage seniors. Expanded programming is available at physical senior centers, a new virtual senior center, and in hybrid formats.

Maintained County ownership of Citizens Care & Rehabilitation Center and Montevue. Frederick County continues its long-standing tradition of taking care of our own and has kept our promise to our seniors. Services are pivoting to help more seniors age in place.

Protected taxpayers and delivered fiscal responsibility. Property tax rates remain unchanged over the entirety of the Gardner Administration. Income tax rates were reduced for households with earned income of \$100,000 or less. The Senior Tax Credit was expanded, and a Veterans Tax Credit was adopted. Strong fiscal management led to Frederick County earning three AAA bond ratings, which saved taxpayers millions.

Executive Gardner's final State of the County Address can be viewed in its entirety at FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGtv.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

At the November meeting of the Carroll Valley Council, the proposed 2023 Budget was tentatively adopted with the intent to set the following tax rates: Real Estate – 2.45mils; Dedicated Fire/EMS – .25 percent; Earned Income – .5 percent; Realty Transfer – .5 percent; and Admissions – .5 percent or as permitted by law. This means that for the 11th consecutive year, no tax increase is proposed. The final adoption of the 2023 proposed budget and tax resolution is scheduled for the regular Borough Council meeting on December 13, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Borough Office. The proposed 2023 budget is available for physical inspection at the Borough Office or online at www.carrollvalley.org.

Hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The holiday season is definitely upon us. Life speeds up – trying to rush to the next store to get the best buy on a gift. This is positively true if you are not purchasing online or have waited until now to start looking for gifts. Do you know where I'm going with this – if you are using the car, don't rush, and the most crucial advice for all of us is to buckle up. You may not be rushing, but the other driver may. Whether you're on a municipal road/trail or the interstate, in a min-

ivan or an SUV, traveling cross country, or somewhere in the Borough, buckle your seat belt every trip. And, remember, don't drink and drive. Keep safe!

Winter officially starts Tuesday, December 21. This day is known as "winter solstice" and is the year's shortest day. Hanukkah is celebrated from Sunday, December 18, to Monday, December 26. Christmas is on Sunday, December 25. The first day of Kwanzaa falls on Monday, December 26, and ends on January 1. During this holiday season, please consider helping other families in need. The Borough of Carroll Valley's Parks and Recreation Committee, along with the Council, Committees, and Staff, are collecting the following items to make Holiday Meal Kits for local families in need: Turkeys, Roasting Chicken, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes, Canned Vegetables (corn, green beans), Canned Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing Mix, Desserts (non-perishable or mixes), and Dinner Rolls.

Drop off donations at the Borough Office, 5685 Fairfield Road, or cash donations are also accepted. Please make checks payable to the Borough of Carroll Valley. Ruth's Harvest program is about feeding hungry children. It is a volunteer program that provides hungry

children with a backpack for food when they are not getting school lunches. They receive individually packed servings of food to cover seven meals and two snacks for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. There are three ways to help: donate food, make a monetary contribution, and/or volunteer your time in distributing the food packages. A Ruth's Harvest collection box in the Borough's lobby contains a brochure that describes all food items needed, where a check can be sent and the point of contact person for volunteering.

On November 25, when our local young residents visit the Carroll Valley Borough building, they will be excited to see a life-size red Santa Mail Postal Box in the lobby. Santa letters dropped in this special mailbox are guaranteed to be delivered directly to Santa. On December 10 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., you can have Breakfast with Santa. Breakfast is \$5.00, while children 12 and under are free. The Fairfield Fire & EMS is sponsoring the event with the support of Carroll Valley Borough and American Bikers on a Mission. Thank you all. Sensitive Santa will be available at 11:30 a.m. by appointment. Call Gayle Marthers at 717-752-0063. On December 18, the Fountindale Volunteer Fire Department will be chauffeuring Santa. The

start time is tentatively set for 12:30, and the travel route will be posted on the Fountindale Facebook page. Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors are collecting items for the elderly in nursing homes and Meals on Wheels for the holidays. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Robin Dicken at dickenrobim@gmail.com.

Attention: One of the Adams County Board of Commissioners' goals is to bring access to broadband internet speed to county residents, education institutions, healthcare facilities, and businesses. The first step in the process is to identify where internet broadband speed is either unavailable or where the upload and download speeds are too slow or unreliable to support the needs of its users. The Federal Communications Commission's benchmark to determine whether the internet service counts as "broadband" is if the Internet Service Provider delivers download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (or Mbps) and upload speeds of at least 3 Mbps.

Adams County has partnered with Franklin County to contract Design Nine Inc., a Virginia-based company, to perform a feasibility study to determine where the internet broadband speed and reliability are needed and to provide an analysis of the types of technology that are required to offer an acceptable level of services in these unserved areas of

the county. The tool used to capture the data from the public is a survey.

The survey asks straightforward yet specific questions regarding one's overall experience with broadband at their address. You are asked to complete it by January 12. The survey is available online at www.tinyurl.com/broadband-residential or the Carroll Valley website, www.carrollvalley.org. You can also physically acquire a printed copy of the survey from the Borough office.

The printed copy can be returned in person or by U.S. Postal Service to the Adams County Planning Office. If sending by mail, use the following address, Adams County Planning, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. As asked, please supply your (location) full street address, city, state, zip code, and county. Your name is not required. Your identity and location will not be retained or disclosed.

Remember, without the location, the data is useless. Please complete the survey and help the Adams County Commissioners improve broadband access throughout the County.

Please reduce your speed to ensure your loved ones, friends, and neighbors will be safe. If you have any questions, call 301-606-2021 or email MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Happy Holidays and I wish you good health and happiness topped with loads of good fortune in 2023. Happy New Year!!!

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Our budget planning process is complete and the proposed 2023 budget has been advertised for adoption in December. We are pleased to report that despite the rising costs of fuel, labor, and materials, we were able to make appropriate adjustments to balance the proposed

2023 General Fund budget at \$559,185 with no tax increase.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has notified us that our estimated Act 44 Liquid Fuels Fund allocation for 2023 is \$ 76,688. These State Funds combined with our General Funds and

Reserve Funds, make up our proposed budget of \$288,000 for road improvements. This is our maximum budget for road projects for the year.

The actual decisions to use the budgeted amount will be made after road project bids are received in the spring. We would also like to thank the Adams County Board of Commissioners for committing a portion of their American Rescue Plan Act funds to local municipalities. We were pleased to receive an email outlining their decision to provide funds to assist in the recovery of lost revenues based on the Liquid Fuels funds lost in 2020 and 2021 as compared to 2019 pre-pandemic revenues.

Liberty Township is ready to

go in the case of winter weather. During the month of November, the township performed injector repairs on our big yellow dump truck. The truck is now back in service and equipped with snow chains. Plows, salt boxes, and spreaders, are mounted on all the trucks, and they have been loaded with ice melt/anti-skid mix. Recent deliveries of 100 tons of anti-skid, 45 tons of salt, and one and a half tons of magnesium chloride were made to the township. We will be testing out the magnesium chloride for the first time this year. Magnesium chloride added to our mix is expected to result in a fast-acting melt lasting for a longer time and at lower temperatures than salt alone.

We are following up with Fairfield Fire Chief Bill Jacobs to finalize our joint project to use Liberty Township ponds for fire suppression. The project began in as an idea during his presentation at the May 2022 meeting. The township then sent letters asking property owners for permission to use their ponds. After a great positive response, we provided Chief Jacobs with the contact information of the cooperative property owners. After assessing each pond for viability, the fire department would arrange an agreement with the property owner outlining the conditions of use.

Liberty Township is aware that additional assistance may be needed to complete the project. We are prepared to review cost proposals and consider funding to provide signs and other incidentals. We look forward to continuing to work with the Fire Department to improve the safety of our residents and the surrounding area.

Our committee volunteers have had a busy year. After several years of no Zoning Hearings, Liberty Township received three applications in a thirty-day period. The dedicated work of our residents who volunteer their time and guidance to serve our community is critical to maintaining a successful local government. We appreciate everyone who shares an interest in being involved.

Whether you are serving in appointed or elected position, or just turning out to vote, thank you for being involved in the governance of your local community. Who knows more what the neighborhood needs than the people who live there. Remember to support your local businesses especially during this busy holiday season. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

The Adams County General Election on November 8 saw an unusually large voter turn-out for a non-presidential election. Approximately 65% of Adams County registered voters cast their ballot. As a comparison, highly contested presidential elections have registered 70%. Mail-in ballot requests totaled 11,085 with a high rate of return of 10,230. The mail-ins were very efficiently processed by county staff beginning at 7 a.m. on election day, utilizing 4 processing lines, with the bulk of the mail-in ballots being processed and fed into the scanners by 3 p.m. Mail-ins that came into the courthouse election day, were quickly processed that evening.

All 50 precincts were tabulated and reported on the County website by 10:30 p.m. Election Day. Adams County consistently maintains a high standard of election integrity and service. This does not happen by accident! Our elections office staff, now supported by staff from all departments due to the recent mail-in ballot dynamic, and dedicated poll workers who roll up their sleeves to provide this significant community service, deserve thanks and recognition for what they do. Being at the forefront of elections administration is no easy task these days. On behalf of The Adams County Board of Commissioners - a job well done to our elections team.

At the Commissioners November 16th Public Meeting, the Board approved a 2023 Tentative Budget, without a tax increase. The \$87.7

million budget includes \$70.3 million in the General Fund, \$14.3 million in Special Funds, \$2.4 million in Hotel Tax Fund, and \$700,000 in Bridge Funds. The budget provides for no tax increase with no cut in services.

When pulling out American Rescue Plan Act funds from the proposed budget and considering an increased 8% cost of living index that we are all experiencing in our daily lives, it is worth noting the Adams County 2023 tentative budget is only 2% higher than last year's budget. The most glaring area of expense growth was 42% increase in elections and voter registration, which is primarily a component of recently instituted mail-in-voting labor, equipment, materials and postage. I am happy to report that Adams County is in a very healthy fiscal position with appropriate reserves and the highest bond rating we can obtain with our demographics.

Also at the November 16 meeting, the Adams County Board of Commissioners approved and announced that they will be providing a portion of the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated by the federal government to our local Municipalities, Fire Departments, and Emergency Medical Service (ALS) providers. Distributions to all 34 municipalities represented Liquid Fuels revenues lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically, lost revenues in 2020 and 2021 as compared to 2019 pre-pandemic revenues. Funds allocated to the municipalities will total

\$584,343.86. The distributions to local Fire Departments and EMS providers are based on an equally weighted average of the size (acres) and combined assessed value of the service area of each organization.

The total funds being provided to the Fire Departments and EMS providers is \$250,000.00. It has always been the intent of the Board to distribute these funds in a way that would positively impact every citizen in Adams County. It is important to recognize these entities and how critical they are to the well-being of our community. This distribution methodology assures that funding touches every resident of Adams County in some manner - either directly or indirectly. In addition to the aforementioned funding the Commissioners created a community grant program with another \$5 million of ARPA that has been designed to fund large-scale, high-impact projects in order to maximize the number of beneficiaries in our community.

Each year Adams County receives an allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to award to eligible projects. Adams County's CDBG funds applications may be used to benefit a variety of activities including water and sewer systems, streets, emergency housing assistance, recreation and community facilities, new public services, ADA compliance, and economic development. This year, Adams County received an allocation of \$321,145, from which the Board of Commissioners selected

two projects to award. Biglerville Borough will receive \$100,000 to upgrade its utility infrastructure by replacing approximately 3,500 linear feet of the water main serving the eastern portion of Biglerville Borough. Hoffman Homes, Inc. will receive \$163,338.90 to increase campus security by installing a steel fence approximately ¼ mile long along Orphanage Road in front of Hoffman Homes' property. We are excited to see these Adams County projects come to fruition.

The Broadband Community Assessment, authorized through a joint project between Adams and Franklin Counties, continues to make great progress. Currently the consultant, Design Nine, Inc., and county staff are finalizing a survey which will be distributed to Adams County and Franklin County residents and businesses. The survey will ask straightforward yet specific questions regarding one's overall experience with broadband at their address. The survey will be available online for everyone, as well as through a physical version that will be distributed through targeted mailings to portions of our County most lacking broadband accessibility. This information will be valuable for the Adams County Board of Commissioners as we work to improve broadband accessibility throughout the County that impacts quality of life, economics, and education.

Each year on Veterans Day, the Allied Veterans Council of Adams County holds their Annual Veter-

ans Day Program at the American Legion Post 202, 528 East Middle Street, Gettysburg. The program commences at 11 a.m. This program is both poignant and enjoyable, in honoring and recognizing veterans from all branches of our armed service. Along with a program and featured speaker, the Apple Core Band performs a variety of patriotic songs and plays the anthem for each service branch while recognizing those gathered from that branch. The program culminates by moving outside with the tolling of the bell for Adams County departed veterans.

After the ceremony attendees are treated to sandwiches and hot soup. Events such as this are what makes America & Adams County great! If you have not attended the event previously, take stock of what Veterans Day really means, and take the opportunity to attend this program - as well as other Veterans Day programs around Adams County! On another Veteran Days note, the WWII Museum, Adams County Veterans Affairs, and the Gettysburg Times sponsored a World War II Veterans Reunion, on Saturday at The WWII Museum, 845 Crooked Creek Road, Gettysburg. Over 20 WWII veterans from around the state were in attendance. There were five veterans over 100 years old. The reunion included a luncheon and tour for the veterans and guest. I was honored to attend this very special event.

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.

State Notes

State Representative Dan Moul House Advances Bill to Expand Prescription Assistance Program

The House has approved legislation to expand availability of prescription drug assistance to more senior citizens through the PACENET program. House Bill 1260 would expand PACENET, which provides life-sustaining medications to more than 300,000 older Pennsylvanians, by raising income eligibility limits to \$33,500 for individuals and \$41,500 for married couples. The current PACENET eligibility requirement is \$27,500 for individuals and \$35,500 for married couples. The bill also would eliminate the requirement that PACENET cardholders not enrolled in Medicare Part D pay a monthly benchmark premium. Instead, the bill would require the program to pay this monthly premium. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Open Enrollment Begins for State Insurance Exchange

The 2022 open enrollment period for health care coverage through Pennie, Pennsylvania's state-based health insurance marketplace, is now underway. Pennsylvanians have until Dec. 15 to sign up for coverage that will begin on New Year's Day. Created by the Legislature through Act 42 of 2019, Pennie aims to improve access to health care for all state residents, lower health care costs and premiums and ensure excellent customer assistance throughout the enrollment process. For more information or to enroll, visit pennie.com or call customer care at 1-844-844-8040.

House Advances Bill to Give Families More Education Options

The House advanced legislation that would give parents and students the ability to design a more individualized educational model. House Bill 1041 would permit stu-

dents who are home schooled to attend up to four academic classes during a school day, participate in co-curricular activities, such as marching band, and to have

access to programs offered at career and technical education centers. Enabling parents to supplement their children's home education courses with classes offered by their

local public school and co-curricular activities, would maximize the academic potential for those children. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

With thanks for a great year in real estate we send Best Wishes for a very Merry Christmas and prosperous and Happy New Year! Peace on Earth!

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Red wave or a red tide, and Christmas

Shannon Bohrer

The elections are over, but for many people the results were disappointing. One side expected a red wave that would benefit their party. The red wave that many predicted quickly turned to disappointment. Instead of a red wave, what occurred resembled a toxic red tide. When the premise of what one thinks will happen, is based on the idea that everyone should think like them, the probability for failure increases. The democrats were just hoping for minimal losses that could indicate support for their party. They were not as disappointed as it was predicted and have concluded that more people do think like them, which is also not necessarily true. The republicans immediately blamed Trump, ignoring their own unhealthy proposals. Both sides are neglecting the idea that sometimes people vote against ideas and issues, not necessarily for something, or someone.

Simultaneously, no matter what each side wanted or predicted, both sides are touting victory in some way, which can seem strange to any normal thinking person. At least my idea of normal. The Republican party that did not experience the red wave, now believes it was

the former president's fault. So, if they can distance themselves from him, they believe they can win in the next election. What they are ignoring is their own deplorable proposals. Examining social Security and Medicare every five years, to see if the country can afford these entitlements, is not very popular. Another unpopular idea is reducing and eliminating taxes on corporations earning billions. This is the same party that embraced the Supreme Court Dobbs decision, against a woman's choice on health issues. They also have promised to repeal the recent legislation that reduces prescription drug cost for seniors. These ideas do not sound like a party working for the people.

On the Democratic side, they believe the election results are a validation of their management of our government and the laws they have passed. Most people, according to surveys like the laws they have passed, but what they are ignoring is how bad the competition was, or still is. The Republicans ran on the economy, inflation, and a high crime rate as a reason to vote for them. They never said how they would reduce inflation, which is a worldwide problem. And while touting a high crime rate, they ignored some obvious facts. "According to 2019 FBI data, seven out of ten states with the highest per-capita rates of violent crime

voted Republican in the 2020 election. In contrast, seven out of ten states with the lowest rates voted Democrat." The national crimes rates are based on the number of crimes per-hundred thousand people. Accordingly, violent crime rates in Oklahoma are higher than violent crime in New York and California. It is amazingly easy to blame the other party for a problem, and yet not have an answer for that issue. Yes, the party that expected a red wave, was not offering much, except to return them to power.

One large clue that the Republicans knew they had a problem with the early results was when they ignored the present and began talking about the next election cycle. Blaming the former president and talking about the future, while not offering much for the future, again, does not sound like a winning approach. However, many of the races were close, some very close. When elections are won with small margins, 50.1 percent to 49.8, that is not a wave for either side.

The good news is that the election, including the volume of political ads and the plethora of political campaign signs are gone. Adding to our good mood is that Christmas is upon us. At least for a brief time we can forget the divisiveness and enjoy our good cheer, wishing for peace on earth and enjoying family gath-

erings. Maybe the Christmas season will heal our wounds, allow us to be more understanding and have more empathy for others. That may be asking too much of Christmas.

The good thing about Christmas is that we get to see our families, of course the bad thing is also that we also get to see our families. The differences, even in our own families is often difficult to understand. You would think that we could tolerate other family members for several days, just by ignoring political talk. We can talk about our common beliefs of what we want, safe neighborhoods, good schools, public parks, and libraries, meaningful work that pays a living wage and good health care. There is a lot of topics on which we can agree.

One topic you might think we could agree on is the celebration of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. However, even celebrating the birth of Jesus can sometimes be challenging. While attending a family camp meeting, Congresswoman Boebert was questioned about her love of assault rifles, she answered, "They like to say, 'Ah, Jesus didn't need an AR-15! How many AR-15s do you think Jesus woulda had?'," She added, "Well, he didn't have enough to keep his government from killing him, so..." Does she know that Jesus died for our sins. Following those remarks she said, "I do want you to know I pray for our president," fol-

lowing with 'May his days be few and another take his office.' from Psalm 109:8. So much for the holiday spirit and loving thy neighbor.

Two years ago, after the 2020 election, it was said that the "election seemed to amplify our differences more so than previous elections." Amplifying our differences has become a standard custom and practice, as well as both sides believing, and implying that we are heading in the wrong direction. Looking forward from our current election, many are saying, again, that they would like to get back to normal. We seem to hear this after every election cycle, and yet our normal – has been anything but normal. The question we should be asking is - what is today's normal?

When I was young, the "Twilight Zone" was believed to be science fiction, yet we seem to be living in a world that resembles the "Twilight Zone." According to both sides, we as a nation have been traveling in the wrong direction for several election cycles. Of course, each side blames the other for moving in the wrong direction. Who are the good guys, and just as important, who are the bad guys? I guess that depends on who you are talking to.

Merry Christmas!

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

Tumbleweeds

Political Medusa

Mark Greathouse

The mythical Medusa was one of the monstrous mythical Gorgons; the only mortal one. She was beautiful, but her hair was composed of snakes and anyone looking directly upon them was turned to stone. Perseus killed her. No, he didn't look directly upon her. He used his polished shield as a mirror to cut off the monster's head.

One of the trick gun contests in the wild west shows was to use a mirror to hit a target behind the shooter. I hope that image helps in visualizing Perseus and Medusa.

Today, the United States faces a political Medusa in the form of radical far-left politicians. Imagine the radical agendas as snakes emanating from a Medusan head. Mirrors may or may not be the answer, but the outcome of dealing with our nation's challenges will need more than reflection. Seems that every time a snake is severed from the head, another grows in its place.

The Medusan political snake heads have identities. The underbelly of today's woes is a far-left globalization movement (the European model) that has insidiously evolved into a Gorgon of ever-greater influence and flies in the face of our nationalistic republic form of government. Fortunately, the Gorgon is mortal. Little wonder that today's economic woes were created by a combination of two snakes, as wildly profligate government spending has been layered upon an anti-fossil fuel energy policy stoked by promoters of

climate change panic. To make matters worse, most of the snake heads insidiously leverage failure-ridden socialist and even Communist political philosophies. To wit, let's examine a few of these snakelike Medusan marvels.

Inflation, essentially too many dollars chasing too few goods, is at a 40-year high. The dump of Federal printed and borrowed dollars into the economy in 2021 was a huge contributor to inflation as exacerbated by reduced oil production and refining. Due to dependence on the U.S. dollar, all developed countries are suffering the extended effect of inflated dollars. It's not so much that goods cost more, as our dollars buy less. Today's dollar buys 11.7 cents less than a year ago. Oh, and don't ignore the 25 percent drop in your 401K. The administration's redefining of recession cannot change the fact that we're in one. Lastly, the misguided Federal Reserve's Medusan raising of interest rates despite historical failures of that solution will turn our economy to stone.

Our southern border is a clear and present danger fraught with drug smuggling, human trafficking, violent crimes, and sowing of economic chaos. Lying DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas condemned migrant whipping despite knowing in advance that mounted border patrol officers had not whipped illegals. Our border leaks like a sieve despite Mayorkas' claims otherwise. Fentanyl formulated in Communist China plus other hard drugs are smuggled across open borders by Mexican terrorist cartels causing loss of thousands of American

lives. My own family in south Texas has experienced dangerous encounters with illegal aliens and must always carry guns for self-protection. Like a Medusan snake, Mayorkas must go for his lies and derelictions.

The Gorgon monster snake of our education system is failing miserably. I'm reminded of President Reagan's caution that we're but a single generation from losing our republic. Transgenderism, critical race theory, and the like have no place in our education system.

Climate change panic is totally unfounded. Read the United Nations' 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) comprised of 195 scientists warning of dire consequences of global warming but not nearly to the extremes promoted by U.S. climate alarmists. Notably, we need CO2 to live, and the world will not endure mass starvations due to over-population! Meanwhile, the wrongly-named Inflation Reduction Act leaves us to suffer under Green New Deal boondoggles. EVs, hybrid vehicles, windmills, and solar panels are woefully insufficient to stop so-called global warming, and it will be decades before adequate infrastructure is in place to support energy alternatives. The Green New Deal agenda threatens to bring America to an inglorious end that our children must face. We need a vibrant exceptional America to inspire technological solutions to climate challenges. The Medusan "Green New Dealers" must be stopped.

The draconian lockdowns and masking mandates of the COVID19 pandemic deserve a separate op-ed in addition to a special place in hell. The

head liar of the Medusan snake is the narcissistic Dr. Anthony Fauci who sustained the panic so as to maintain government control. Vaccine mandates turned out to not be supported by "science." Natural immunity was ignored. Even election integrity was compromised due to lack of confidence in new voting processes. The new Congress must sever this snake head right away.

Crime is on the rise! I'm scared to go into a major urban area these days and fearful of crime metastasizing into suburban and even rural areas. The Democrat-supported defund police movement coupled with soft-on-crime George Soros-backed DAs and prosecutors has resulted in record high crime. Stores are ransacked at will, folks are attacked at random, police are disrespected, and citizens fear being unintended victims of gang violence on their streets. Congress can lead the rhetoric to restore confidence in law enforcement.

Our national debt is \$31 trillion. Visualize 62 football fields of \$100 bills stacked 6-feet high. Ironically, the largest holder of U.S. debt is our own Federal government. The debt-to-GDP ratio is rocketing past 130 percent, nearly three times its 2002 level. Scary! Cutting taxes will kickstart investment in our economy. The two-headed snake of printing and borrowing money must be severed. Money hemorrhaging must be stopped!

Wokism is the cowardly recasting of history manifested in stoking identity politics aimed at canceling or censoring everything in sight. We dare not attempt to engage these elitists in their irrational folly, as they'll bring us down to their level of stupidity and beat us with expe-

rience. As it is, we increasingly whisper political discussion or suffer persecution. Neighbors turn in neighbors as in "Fifth Element" and "1984."

More Medusan snakeheads? Our military is being ever-weakened by recruiting failures, stupid COVID policies, social experimenting, and inadequate budgets. American diplomacy is so inept, so counter-productive as to earn mocking on the world stage. Our workforce participation is at records lows while welfare increases. Ever-more-perverse cultural mores are promoted. And second amendment rights are threatened.

The midterms have given us the prospect of putting a tourniquet on the administration's wild agendas thanks to controlling purse strings and investigating malfeasance, but the battle rages on. We dare not allow our nation to fall into tyrannical big government control that our Constitutional republic was designed to prevent. Pray we fend off not just socialistic trends but radical democracy that would let folks do whatever they wish on a given day so long as they have the political power or votes to do it.

Let it not be "top of mind" for you, permit me to "circle back" to Medusan politics. The GOP has two years to map out extricating America from the clutches of the evil radical leftist Medusa. Congress better polish its shields so as not to be turned to stone. The new Congress must begin to behead the political Medusa without shooting itself in the foot.

Just sayin.'

To read past editions of Tumbleweeds, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net

Country First

Democracy was the midterm winner

David Marshall

It took a while for the election results to confirm who controlled the legislative power within our federal government, but we were finally able to determine which party controls the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. In both cases, the outcomes were not short of surprises. For some, it is a surprise the Democrats not only maintained control of the Senate, but have the potential to pick up one additional seat. As for the House, it was a surprise that the expected “red wave” never materialized.

We know that Nancy Pelosi will no longer be the Speaker of the House, but even with the call for generational change it was a surprise to some that Nancy Pelosi will not return as House Minority Leader. We also know that Kevin McCarthy’s long held desire to become the next House Speaker is close, but not guaranteed. Between the political surprises and predicted forecasts coming to pass, will the House of Representatives be an institution of order or chaos once the gavel changes from one party to the other?

After newly elected candidates take their oath of office and defeated incumbents end their terms, are we in a sense removing those who promote order and replacing them with those who promote chaos or vice versa? When those seeking higher levels of power finally achieve their political goal, will there be order or chaos?

The outcome of primary and general elections can have a lasting impact on the lawmaker, the voter and the way political power is achieved. One elected official once wrote, “This is a tragedy for the Senate and the loss is particularly felt by all of us who have been privileged to serve with Dick on the Foreign Relations Committee. It’s a blow to the institution during a period when the institution itself has been strained.

Whether he was serving as Chairman or Ranking Member of our Committee, wielding the gavel or working the floor, Dick’s approach to governing was always the same: he wanted to find serious answers to some of foreign policy’s most vexing questions. He’s a class act and a gentleman and in a Senate that has seen so much change and transition these last years, his expertise on complicated issues honed over 36 years simply can’t be replicated. I know, however, that Dick Lugar will finish out his sixth term in the Senate with the same determination and effectiveness that has marked every year of his service here, and he will have many more contributions still to an institution he reveres and that reveres him.

“Dick’s Nunn-Lugar efforts have become almost shorthand for bi-partisanship in foreign policy, and they should be recognized. But for me, on a personal level, two other efforts stand out as epitomizing who Dick is and why he’ll be missed. For me, it started with the work we did together in the 1980’s

to help bring about free and fair elections in the Philippines. I was just a freshman senator, but I was lucky to get to know Dick Lugar as a dignified, thoughtful and capable public servant who even then was becoming an institution within this institution. He was serious, he was fair-minded, and I saw firsthand during our trip to the Philippines that he had a very personal and special understanding of what the United States means to the rest of the world.

That cause animated a Hoosier who was a reserved and humble public person, but who proudly recounted for President Reagan the difference the United States made in giving voice to the Filipino peoples’ democratic aspirations. I saw that same commitment in Dick Lugar many times over the years but never more so than in the long, tough, and patient process required when we worked together on the New START Treaty two years ago. His wisdom and his patience was invaluable in laying out the case and particularly in building Republican support and finding the path to those 71 votes.

“It will soon almost sound clichéd to say that America is safer today because of Dick Lugar’s 36 years of service in the Senate, but it really does bear repeating. His record on our Committee will long be remembered in the same context as another chairman, William Fulbright of Arkansas, whose Senate service also ended in a difficult primary defeat, but who is remembered today not for one loss, but for a legacy of following the facts and speaking the truth despite the political risks. This is a tough

period in American politics, but I’d like to think that we’ll again see a United States Senate where Dick Lugar’s brand of thoughtful, mature, and bi-partisan work is respected and rewarded. That kind of seriousness of purpose should never go out of fashion.”

Those words were written in 2012 by a sitting U.S. Senator immediately after one of his respected Senate colleagues lost his bid for reelection. With the support of the Tea Party movement, Indiana state treasurer, Richard Mourdock defeated six-term incumbent Senator Richard Lugar in the 2012 Republican primary. Richard Lugar was a statesman in the true sense, and his willingness to embrace bi-partisanship made him a target which goes far beyond policy.

The tribute to Lugar was not written by a fellow Republican, but rather by Democrat Senator John Kerry. Bi-partisanship when done in the best interest of the nation is often not the goal for many of today’s lawmakers and voters. The pursuit and obtaining power is their ultimate goal.

There are reasons why former Senator John McCain eventually was the target of anger by members of his own party despite his lifetime 81% conservative voting score. McCain was a true patriot who lived up to his principles and values while becoming one of the leading Republican antagonists of the Trump presidency.

Republican voters, due to tribal politics, also turned their anger against Representatives Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger. Scripture tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil. Not

money itself, but the love and pursuit of money. The same can be said with power. The love and pursuit of power is another root cause of evil. In this case, political evil. January 6 occurred because of an out-of-control pursuit of power. The conspiracy theories behind the “Big Lie” are constantly pushed for the same reason. The surprises behind the House and Senate results came down to people actually playing attention.

Voters from both parties saw the events of January 6 with their own eyes, and they paid attention during the House committee hearings. While voters are concerned with issues such as inflation and crime, the attack on Democracy was seen as the greater threat. During this year’s election, many Republicans voted for Democrats for the very first time.

And while many of today’s younger voters may not know former Senators McCain, Lugar and Kerry, they accept having order over chaos. They understand having a sense of normalcy. Decency, character, true public service and normalcy were all on the ballot during the midterm elections, and in many races they overcame the candidates’ unhealthy pursuit for power. As a result, Democracy was this year’s biggest winner.

David W. Marshall is author of the book “God Bless Our Divided America” and member of Country First. Country First is focused on recognizing that Republicans, Democrats and Independents don’t have to be enemies because they have different experiences and perspectives. To learn more about Country First visit www.country1st.com.

Good Day, Neighbor

Community

Dorothea Mordan

May 1864. Lt Colonel Charles Lyon Chandler led the 57th Infantry of the Union army at the Battle of North Anna River. He and his men were over taken, and Lt Colonel Chandler was mortally wounded on the battlefield. The commanding officer of the Confederate Army had him brought to his own tent and stayed with him as he died. This show of respect was not unheard of in military history. What was unusual was that the Confederate officer then had all of Lt Colonel Chandler’s personal effects and the location of his grave sent to his mother, so that he could be reburied after the War.

Lt. Colonel Chandler was my great great uncle. When I told this story to a modern-day sutler (a person who sells provisions to soldiers) in Gettysburg, one theory they suggested was that both of these men were Masons, and shared a community that cut through wartime rules of exclusion. A clue in either man’s obituary might announce the death of a “Worthy Brother”, a reference

to let the community of Masons know that one of their own had passed.

I will probably never prove this theory of Masonic Brotherhood. The point is that humans are social animals and we seek community. We use community to get us into war—us against them. We cling to community when we need comfort and safe haven, even when we have created the danger by making up reasons to pit us against them.

Community comes in all shapes and sizes, and gives us support through any of the challenges we face in life.

A dear friend of mine, Sue Thomson, was a Frederick County girl, born and raised. She died this past September and at her Celebration of Life I learned a lot more about her impact on our community. Sue graduated from Walkersville High School and became a nurse, specializing in IV services. Several people spoke about her and how they knew Sue through the 1980s and 90s. The single theme that came through every story was that Sue was always interested in other people, where they were from, what was important to them.

In the last weeks of her life she was at a rehab facility recovering from a fall. As relayed at her Celebration of Life, the first time Sue arrived at the dining hall of the rehab center it was silent. No one was talking to each other. So many hurting and healing people and no conversation, no community.

Well, Sue said, “I wasn’t having that!” She started a conversation with the people at her table, and the room lit up from there. Like me, you have the personal and unique power to build community.

Our 2022 election, all the lead up and then the national result of an almost 50/50 split of campaign philosophies, shows a country halfway separated. The flip side is a country trying to come together, meet in the middle and find our American Community.

Small factions have been screaming the loudest that everything is rigged—elections, economics, social norms. For the last six years the public discourse has been one theory after another about secret groups plotting to control everything, each scenario bigger than the last. Nobody has that much time on their hands to rig everything.

As I write this, our shared Thanksgiving tradition and our varied mid-winter holiday tradi-

tions are coming and we miss each other. How we look at each other and build community is a conscious choice.

After a sweeping event such as a pandemic, humans move forward into a new normal. We had two years of compartmentalized living. There is opportunity now to create the new normal before it is created for us. That can mean practical changes, inventions created because of the challenge. Masks for reducing the spread of viruses were an easy, practical solution during a crisis. Mandates made a lot of people angry, and allowed others to feel they were part of a team effort to find solutions. In our new normal, masks may not be an everyday thing, but I’m now a believer in what my friends with allergies have told me for years. “Wearing a mask outside in hay fever season makes a difference.” They were right, it does. We learned a lot about the benefits and limits for shared versus individual health risks.

Living with social distancing for work and play brought out some options and contrasts in daily life that we would not have explored. Working from home, rather than a relentless weekday commute showed where flexible work locations made a difference. It doesn’t

really change human nature, but changes in lifestyle can freshen things up. Lots of variables being tossed up in the air to see where they would land, proved one thing over and over. We need community. Staying in our safety bubbles made each of us a captive audience. For some, captive to their own fears, for others forced listening to the fears of those close by. And, let’s be real, some of us enjoyed a quiet time in our own home.

If we are to have balance in our towns, counties and country, we need multiple points of view in government. If we act as though we are not part of the American community we get a narrow slice of the whole. Each one of us faces challenges in life. Not all challenges are visible. Sue understood this and met people with an initial, unconditional acceptance. The details of personality and common interests could be sorted out later.

We can choose how we embrace our community. Like factions that exclude others and keep their members secret, shhh don’t tell. Or like Sue Thomson who saw community everywhere.

I know who inspires me.

To learn more about Woodsboro’s own Dorothea, visit her site at chandlerdesignslimited.com.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

The promise of Christmas

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

I am excited that there is a particular day, Christmas Day, set aside to acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. I hold onto it in the midst of the commercialization of this sacred holiday, recognizing that in many homes there is a fight going on over what you believe. In other words, people in the same family don't believe the same thing, children have gone off to school and come back having different ideologies. And yet, as followers of Jesus, we know that what you believe matters.

The apostle John said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). And many of us are familiar with this verse, many of us are able to quote it, but that doesn't mean that we necessarily understand the depth of its meaning. You see, when the apostle tells us that God so loved the world, he wasn't saying that God so loved the church, but that God loved something that was far beneath him. And that is what's so exciting about Christmas, that a holy God would come into the world, born of a virgin, stooping down to fix the world he loves. Christmas is God stooping down, the Word becoming flesh, as God in Christ reached down to help us come up.

Isn't that amazing, that God would come down and take our sin upon himself so that we could take his righteousness. It's no wonder all of heaven started singing "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests" that first Christmas morning (Luke 2:14). In fact, from our human perspective, I think the magnitude of the incarnation often escapes us, but this was a once-in-a-lifetime. The appearance of Christ at Christmas was so significant that it had implications that have lasted 2000 years. In fact, everything before this moment pointed to it, and everything after it is still talking about it. And so, from a theological perspective the magnitude of this moment was unprecedented.

As followers of Christ, we must recognize the significance of this moment, because any time angels start rejoicing on earth, our praise should be even louder, because Christ came to redeem us. In other words, the angels were praising God for something that they wouldn't even benefit from, and so we should be shouting because it was us who he came for. We are the object of his affections, he came on a rescue mission to save us when we were in trouble, but his coming wasn't without problems of its own.

In fact, it wasn't surprising that Mary traveling on a donkey "from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town



of David" in her third trimester was the trip that took her over the edge. But all they knew was that Joseph had to go, "because he belonged to the house and line of David." And so, "He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child" (Luke 2:4-5). And so, they were traveling because everybody had to register for the census, but Joseph and Mary didn't know her water would break, they didn't know that she would go into labor and give birth in Bethlehem.

They had no idea that this was the moment the baby was coming, because God did not let them in on his plan. In other words, he let them travel in the darkness, and any time God does something for which you have no point of reference it can be frightening. And so, Joseph and Mary found themselves without a plan, traveling in uncharted waters, and the Bible says, "while they were there, the time came for the baby to be born" (Luke 2:6).

Now, Joseph didn't know what to do, the angel hadn't said anything about this, and everything happened a lot quicker than he

thought it would. And so, what do you do when God who was thoughtful enough to leave you with child, didn't think about giving you a place to stay? Well, Joseph saw a cave, a stable across the field, the word translated manger means a place where cattle are fed. And the Bible says, that it was there that, "Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son... because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). Of course, God knew Mary was going to have their baby in Bethlehem. It had been prophesied long before that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, but Joseph and Mary didn't know, they didn't have a plan or context for this.

Nine months earlier, the angel had said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son" (Luke 1:30-31). But now there were no angels, no words of encouragement, as Mary gave birth in a dirty stable alone with her husband. Without the help of her mother, or her community, out of the darkness of that night Jesus was born, because sometimes you have to "walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

In all of the uncertainty of this night, Luke pauses to tell us, "There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night" (Luke 2:8). And so, the angel came to them, not to Mary and Joseph in the manger, but to the shepherds

in the field. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

When the angels had left, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger" (Luke 2:15-16). This is what Christmas is all about, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16). You see, he couldn't redeem us from where he was, and so he stepped down into humanity, he came where we were. And the Bible says, that after the shepherds had seen him, "they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child" (Luke 2:17).

They returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:20). And that is our commission as well, whatever you do, wherever you go, declaring that God so loved the world, that "today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Tell this to your children, tell your friends, tell your neighbors, because "whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). That is the promise of Christmas!

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

John Elwes



Editors note: Evidence suggests that Charles Dickens based legendary miser Ebenezer Scrooge on the 18th century politician John Elwes, who had inherited a fortune but was loath to spend a single penny, preferring to live as if in poverty, squatting in empty apartments. Whether he went around muttering 'bah humbug,' we really can't say.

On the 26th November 1789, died John Elwes, Esquire, a striking example of the impotent poverty of wealth when it does not enlarge the understanding, or awaken the social affections, and, consequently, cannot purchase common comforts for its wretched possessor. Elwes was the son of a successful brewer in Southwark, named Meggot. Evil tendencies of mind are as hereditary as diseases of the body. Elwes' mother starved herself to death, and his paternal uncle, Sir Harvey Elwes, was a notorious miser, from whom, by one of those fortuitous turns of events that sometimes throws great wealth into the power of those who have least occasion for it, John Elwes derived his name and a vast fortune.

If Elwes had been a mere miser, his name might well have been omitted from this collection; but the extraordinary man possessed qualities which, if they had not been suppressed by the all absorbing passion of avarice, entitled him to the love and esteem of his friends, and might have advanced him to the respect and admiration of his country men. In spite of his penurious disposition, he had an

unshaken gentleness of manner, and a pliancy of temper not generally found in a miserable money accumulator.

One day he was out shooting with a gentleman who exhibited constant proofs of unskillfulness; so much so, that at last, in firing through a hedge, he lodged several shots in the miser's cheek. The awkward sportsman, with great embarrassment and concern, approached to apologize, but Elwes anticipated apology by holding out his hand, and saying: "My dear sir, I congratulate you on improving; I thought you would hit something in time."

Those afflicted by a habitual love of money are seldom scrupulous respecting the means of increasing their stores; yet Elwes abstained from usury on principle, considering it an unjustifiable method of augmenting his fortune. And contrary to an ostentatious meanness, too generally prevalent at the present day, by which many indulge in luxuries at the expense of others, Elwes' whole system of life and saving was founded on pure self-denial.

He would walk miles in the rain, rather than hire a conveyance; and sit hours in wet clothes, rather than incur the expense of a fire. He would advance a large sum to oblige a friend, and on the same day risk his life to save paying a penny at a turnpike. He would eat meat in the last stage of putrefaction, 'the charnel house of sustenance,' rather than allow a small profit to a butcher.

Like most of his class, Elwes was penny wise and pound foolish, not unfrequently losing the sheep for

the half penny worth of tar. He suffered his spacious country mansion to become uninhabitable, rather than be at the cost of a few necessary repairs. A near relative once slept at his seat in the country, but the bedchamber was open to wind and weather, and the gentleman was awakened in the night by rain pouring in upon him. After searching in vain for a bell, he was necessitated to move his bed several times, till a place was at last found, where rain did not reach. On remarking the circumstance to Elwes in the morning, the latter said: "Ay! I don't mind it myself; but to those who do, that is a nice corner in the rain!"

When his inordinate passion for saving did not interfere, Elwes would willingly exert himself to the utmost to serve a friend. He once extricated two old ladies from a long and troublesome ecclesiastical suit, by riding sixty miles at night, and at a moment's warning. Such wonderful efforts would he make with alacrity, and at an advanced age, to serve a person for whom no motives or entreaties could have prevailed on him to part with a shilling. In this, and all his long journeys, a few hard boiled eggs, a dry crust carried in his pocket, the next stream of water, and a spot of fresh grass for his horse, while he reposed beneath a hedge, were the whole of the travelling expenses of both man and beast. The ladies asked a neighbouring gentleman how they could best testify their thanks for such a service. Send him sixpence, was the reply, for then he will be delighted by gaining twopence by his journey.

So lived John Elwes, encouraging no art, advancing no science, working no material improvement on his estates or country, diffusing no blessings around him, bestowing no benevolence upon the poor and needy, and shewing few signs of parental care or affection. He never was married, but was the father of two natural children, to whom he bequeathed the greater part of his disposable property. Education he despised, and would lay out no money upon it. The surest way, he constantly affirmed, of taking money out of people's pockets, is by putting things into their heads. And no doubt he felt it so, for this strange man was a prey to every sharper who could put a scheme

into his head by which he imagined that money might be got.

Elwes has been compared to a great pike in a fishpool, which, ever voracious and unsatisfied, clutches at everything, until it is at last caught itself. With a mind incapable of taking comprehensive ideas of money-matters, and a constant anxiety to grasp the tangible results of his speculations, Elwes either disdained or was too indolent to keep regular accounts, and the consequence was that £150,000 of bad debts were owing to him at his death.

As we approach the last scene of all, the cruel tyranny of avarice, over its wretched slave, becomes more and more appalling. Comfortably domiciled in his son's house, Elwes fears that he shall die in poverty. In the night he is heard struggling with imaginary robbers, and crying:

"I will keep my money! I will! Don't rob me! Oh don't!"

A visitor hears a footstep entering his room at night, and naturally asks, 'Who is there?' On which a tremulous voice replies:

"Sir, I beg your pardon, my name is Elwes, I have been unfortunate enough to be robbed in this house, which I believe is mine, of all the money I have in the world of five guineas and a half, and half a crown."

A few days after, the money is found, where he had hidden it, behind a window shutter. And a few days more, Elwes is found in bed, his clothes and hat on, his staff in his hand. His son comes to the bedside, and the father whispers to John:

"I hope I have left you as much as you wished."

The family doctor is sent for, and, looking at the dying miser, says:

"That man, with his original strength of constitution, and life long habits of temperance, might have lived twenty years longer, but for his continual anxiety about money."

This notice of Elwes cannot be better concluded than in the following summary of his character, by his friend and acquaintance of many years, Mr. Topham. In one word, his Elwes public character lives after him pure and without stain. In private life, he was chiefly an enemy to himself. To others, he lent much; to himself, he denied everything. But in the pursuit of his property, or in the recovery of it, I have it not in my remembrance one unkind thing that ever was done by him.

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ECOLOGY

Where do insects go in winter?

Anne Gageby
Environmental Education Manager
Strawberry Hill

South Central Pennsylvania and Northern Maryland have already experienced the first hard frost of the year and with that, a significant decrease in biting insects. This is a welcome shift for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. Hikers no longer have to contend with mosquitos or no-see-ums and can simply enjoy their time outside. As cold sneaks into the spaces between the days and settles in, a question naturally comes to mind: "where do insects go in winter?"

The question is multifaceted, and the answer depends on the species. Many insects prefer a migratory lifestyle to aid in escaping plummeting temperatures. Monarch butterflies are probably the first insect to come to mind when we think of migrating insects. However, there are an estimated 71 different species of migratory insects including dragonflies, beetles, butterflies and moths, grasshoppers, and more. The milkweed bug, like the monarch butterfly, undertakes long migrations that begin in spring. They follow an emerging path which starts in southern states and Mexico and continues up to Southern Canada where they remain for the summer. As fall reclaims the land, the milkweed bug and monarch butterfly turn south toward their winter homes.

Dragonflies have about sixteen different migratory species. Green darners, like monarch butterflies, are multi-generational migrators. The first generation emerges in the

Caribbean, parts of Mexico, and deep southern areas of the United States. By May, this first generation will have traveled hundreds of miles north where they will eventually settle and produce the next generation of migratory dragonflies. This second generation will reach maturity sometime between July and October. With the coming of fall, the second generation reverses its course and heads south to lay eggs. The third generation is non-migratory and will spend its life in the comfort of the southern climate. This generation's offspring will become the first generation in the next cycle.

Not all insects' life cycles depend on migratory patterns. Some tough out the cold by depending on their colonies. Honey bees are famous for surviving deep freezes by huddling together and vibrating their wings to raise the temperature inside their hives. Unlike other bee and wasp species, honey bees stay active all winter despite a lack of available pollen and flowers. Ants, like honey bees, cluster together inside their colonies to maintain body heat and keep their queen warm. Ants don't remain active during the winter, though. As the temperature drops, they seal off the entrance to their colonies and enter a dormant state until spring.

Other insects spend the winter months as immature larvae and nymphs. Some bark beetles, like the mountain pine beetle and wood borers, spend the winter nestled under the bark of infested trees. Even the emerald ash borer has been known to winter in a pre-pupal stage despite being susceptible to extreme cold.

Enduring winter's harsh conditions is more difficult for early-stage insects. Few species can tolerate the chill as immature larvae and nymphs. Fewer still survive as eggs. Field crickets, praying mantis, mosquitoes, and aphids are some of the few insects that can spend the winter as eggs, waiting to emerge as new adults when the days grow longer. Male mosquitoes die off during the fall yet their counterparts, the frustratingly hardy female mosquitoes, burrow into the ground, in logs, trees, or any other safe place where they enter diapause, a state of suspended animation. Diapause is often used interchangeably with hibernation though they are somewhat different. Hibernation is a deep winter sleep while diapause is a state of delayed development. Female mosquitoes can remain in diapause for months until the temperatures rise, or enough water makes their environment more hospitable.

Mosquitoes aren't the only insect adapted to survive long, enduring winters. Mayfly and stonefly nymphs are well-suited to the cold. Both actively grow and feed throughout winter despite often living under a thick layer of pond ice.

Stink bugs are becoming infamous for invading homes during cold snaps. Despite being agricultural pests, they have taken to finding warm spaces in attics, crawl spaces, and inside walls. For many homeowners they have become an unwelcome sight, especially if the temperature rises slightly. Ladybird beetles, known locally as ladybugs, are another example of hardy insects that have adapted to endure winter's firm grip by seeking



Honey bees stay active all winter despite a lack of available pollen and flowers; however, it's a tough time for the world's most important pollinator.

out warm and well-regulated environments such as attics and the hollow spaces inside walls. Homeowners in Southern Pennsylvania and Northern Maryland are likely used to seeing large numbers of ladybugs in the fall as they congregate indoors. Ladybugs enter homes via tiny cracks and open window spaces. Once inside, they gather by the hundreds with other beetles before entering diapause.

Not every insect takes shelter in our homes, however. Rocks, tree holes, and under logs are common shelters for overwintering adult insects. Various beetles, including leaf beetles, most leafhoppers, and some aphids overwinter inside the loose bark of trees, under fallen leaves, and within debris on the ground. In general, insects are more likely to survive the winter as long as the temperature remains stable. Problems arise when the season has alternating thaws and freezes. Insects that burrow under leaves and within fallen logs do surprisingly well as long as they have enough snow cover. Snow is a fantastic insulator that can maintain a consistent tempera-

ture for insects wintering beneath its sparkling canopy.

This doesn't mean every insect can spend the winter in comfort. For Japanese beetles, ambient temperatures can dramatically decrease their chance of survival. Studies have shown that cold snaps with temperatures in the low-mid-twenties Fahrenheit for more than fourteen days can be lethal to Japanese beetle eggs. Despite being able to produce glycerol, the insect version of antifreeze, extended periods of extreme cold can devastate egg populations.

Insects, overall, are some of the most important pieces in the web of life. The value of pollinators such as honeybees, for example, is nearly incalculable. And while some insects such as stink bugs are seen as nuisance, many more are invaluable to our ecosystem. We might not be able to see them in the wintertime, whether hidden or on temporary hiatus, but we know that we will soon be seeing them once again during the first hint of spring.

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Ants, molasses, and compassion

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

Seeing ants in one's kitchen typically results in some response like, "quick! Get the ant killer!" Or, perhaps, the reaction is a call to an exterminator. Whatever the case, rarely does anyone ever just say to the ants, "here, you look hungry—let me provide some food for you!"

There is at least one person with such a compassionate response: Audrey Hillman. To the surprise of likely many households, she keeps a small feeding station on her kitchen counter for a little colony of ants that first paid her a visit a few months ago. They are given a robust menu of leftover salmon, molasses, cookie crumbs, pumpkin seeds, and more, all in a serving size applicable to an ant table, if there ever was such a thing.

Her kitchen counter is ordinary enough, with a little coffee maker, tea collection, sink, bowl of fruit, and a lamp. A little trail of ants gravitates to the assortment of ant food over by the lamp, and, notably, they do not stray anywhere else. When the ants first arrived, Audrey had the same reaction as most people: "I got the ant traps," Audrey explained, "and they ignored them. They just didn't bother. And I said, 'well if I can't beat them, I'm going to join them.'... I had a couple of crumbs of cake out on the counter [which the ants loved] and I said, 'okay, that's how I'm going to keep them away from crawling all over this kitchen.' So I set up a feeding station, and I just put out cake and a little molasses and whatever else happened to be out, and they were great! They just stayed pretty much over there."

The ants were coming from a small hole on the side of the counter, and walked up and across the counter to the food. Audrey explained that at first, the ants coming out of the counter found the food and would wander around to the edge of the counter, and over to the other side, and all around taking long ways to the food. Eventually, the ants "figured out the shortest point between a and b," and efficiently made use of that route on a daily basis. Since then, the rest of the counter was devoid of ants. It was almost as though they knew

what was out specifically for them, and what was off-limits.

At one point, however, Audrey said that she found the ants all over the sink. Though startled at first, Audrey then said she realized, "well if I was thirsty, I would go to where the water is." With a smile, she continued, "so I put out a little puddle of water [by their food] and they went to the water that was over there, and that was the end of dealing with them in the sink." It seemed too simple to be true, but as I watched the little ants explore the cookie crumbs, I knew they were content with what they had been given.

After glancing back at the sink, Audrey said, "if you're observant and you give it a little bit of thought, rather than just turning on the faucet and flushing them down the drain every day, [just consider that] they're looking for water." The ants' need for water reminds us that we share much in common with nature. How quick we are to take on an us versus them mentality, separating ourselves from nature in a way we were never meant to be separated.

With a background in professional gardening, Audrey stated, "I'm more of a plant person than an insect person, but the two go hand in hand." Modern agricultural practices seem to have largely forgotten this fact. One does not have to look far to see how man has tried to sterilize and curate the world he lives in so that nature is treated more like a machine than as living creatures and plants. Consider modern agriculture practices, especially industrial corporations, whose heavily-structured monoculture fields—endless rows of the same, one crop—deny the plants and soil their need for biodiversity. Insects, birds, and other visitors are told they are unwelcome, as they would hurt the overall yield and quality of the crops. The consequences of this imposed dynamic? The pitting of man and his needs against nature and its own needs; in reality, they can and should interdepend on one another. Man is not meant to be an alien to the natural world, but a steward and a guardian of it. A man only becomes an alien to the natural world when this identity is flipped so that he



Ants descend upon a drop of molasses for their evening treat.

merely becomes a miner of the finite soil he works with.

Insects, especially bees, are harmed by excessive habitat destruction and pesticide, for example, Audrey explained. All of nature becomes "in trouble... it's detrimental to the invertebrates, [and] they're what make the world go round, because they are at the bottom of the food chain." Audrey glanced out the window, where bird feeders hung. "I look at the birds, and the birds need food for their babies; they don't need beetles and the hard shell things, they need caterpillars that are soft, that can support the baby birds as they're growing; so with fewer moths there's fewer caterpillars... so there's been a plummet in bird populations as well. So I try to do my bit. I try to support what I can on this little bit of land."

How do we heal this broken bond between man and the land he cultivates? How do we heal the broken relationship between human beings and the natural world? We cannot all change the practices of industrial farms so that they are more sustainable, regenerative, and conducive for human and animal flourishing. But,

we all can practice integrity and respect for nature starting in the home, cultivating compassion for wildlife, and supporting one's local farmers.

However, not everyone needs to welcome ants in their home in the same way Audrey has. Notably, Audrey stated that if it were a different insect, such as a wasp, she would "try to catch them and throw them back out." Those insects are not allowed to "stay long enough to set up shop," so they are caught and put back outside. Reflecting on the rural topography of Emmitsburg, Audrey said, "We live in the country. We can't make this [home] impenetrable to nature, so we just send them back out." Certainly, insects belong outside, and it would be insensible to turn one's home so inside out that its function to shelter human beings no longer protects them from the natural elements and other creatures.

However, practicing compassion for the creatures who do make it inside, especially by simply sending them back outside, would be a helpful place to begin in healing the modern mindset of "us versus them." Human beings certainly are different from animals and plants, but this should not put us at such drastic odds with them.

"I like to try to encourage the wildlife," Audrey said. "Every animal, everything has a purpose; whether we appreciate it or not is another thing. And, how well we tolerate it is another thing." Appreciation for nature is a virtue worth cultivating. Growing in this aspect can occur in surprising ways, but ants, a little bit of molasses, and compassion can teach us quite a lot.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Oh, Christmas tree?

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

Christmas is just around the corner and soon sleigh bells will be jingling, Jack Frost will be nipping at your nose, Santa will have a quick layover in town, and the whole world may resemble a marshmallow. Boughs of holly, garlands, and wreaths will deck the halls, but the true centerpiece is the Christmas tree. As we have ourselves a merry little Christmas, silver bells and all, nothing quite captures the essence of the season as evergreens do.

Evergreens, as the name implies, are trees that remain green year round. They will keep their "leaves" or needles in almost all cases, all year, while deciduous trees will shed their leaves in the colder winter months. Evergreens are usually conifer trees, plants, or shrubs, and in some rare cases leafy trees.

In broad general terms trees are broken down into two main categories: coniferous and deciduous. Coniferous trees have needles, and produce cones. Deciduous trees have broad leaves, which die off in cooler temperatures in a process called abscission. Deciduous means "to die off", which is where the name comes from and this usually, coincides with winter and cooler temperatures. During the summer the broad leaves are essential for survival, but in the winter those leaves become a lethal liability. The leaves are a costly source of water loss and consumption, and during the winter months water is hard to come by. To prepare for this deciduous trees will shed their leaves. Conifer needles have less surface area and retain water better than leaves because of a waxy coating and smaller pores, which can allow for year round photosynthesis.

Conifer, or evergreen, trees have a higher density of foliage, which during winter means snow and ice accumulates faster on them. This makes them more susceptible to breakage, especially with the addition of high winds. To offset this problem conifers tend to be more

flexible and the cone shape of the tree helps to shed snow easier. The dense foliage also makes them more attractive to animals. Birds, deer, mice, and more eat the foliage and fruit that these trees produce during the winter months. Mice, rabbits, and a few others chew bark for the nutrients stored within.

Historically speaking evergreens have been a part of the winter season for millennia. These plants were brought in and adorned the homes of many ancient peoples across cultures and continents. December 21st and 22nd typically has the fewest daylight hours of the year, and is marked as the winter solstice. Most ancient cultures worshipped the sun as a god, and this solstice symbolized the triumph of life over death as the days would begin to grow longer from this point forward. Evergreens were a symbol of health and virility, and reminded them that green plants would grow and farms and fields would once again produce food. Ancient Egyptians, Romans, Celtic druids, Vikings, and Germanic barbarians all had similar traditions.

The contemporary custom of the Christmas tree can be traced back to 16th century Germany. During this period Germans would bring small trees into their home to decorate. Devout Christians adopted this from prior pagan ritual and Christianized it by selecting Christian symbols to place upon the tree. Early decorations were traditionally food items, such as apples or nuts. Apples represented the apple from the Adam and Eve creation story. The top of the tree is usually festooned with either an angel, representing the angel Gabriel, or a star, which represents the star of Bethlehem.

The tradition of decorating Christmas trees spread, and was fairly common by the 1800's. In early America things had progressed slower due to heavy puritan influence. In 1659 the state of Massachusetts banned any form of celebrating the Christmas holiday, with the exception a church

service, and provided strict penalties for violation of this law. By the mid 19th century there had been a huge influx of German and Irish immigrants and the political and cultural influence of puritans waned. Many Americans were still unsure or uninterested in this Christmas custom, but in 1846 the English Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert (of Germany) were pictured in an English newspaper surrounded by their children standing next to a Christmas tree. This picture made the custom highly fashionable with English and American political elites and upper class citizens. It wasn't long until the Christmas tree became commonplace in nearly every English and American home and town square.

Christmas trees have proven to be a huge market, as well. There are approximately 15,000 farms that produce 33 million trees in America every year. Americans spend on average 1.5 billion on Christmas trees every year. Despite the economic benefit, some have argued against the ecological impact this industry takes. Most Christmas trees are commercially farmed, harvested, and shipped off across hundreds of miles to surrounding areas and states. While a real tree is carbon neutral, it is estimated that it is responsible for approximately 7lbs of carbon dioxide per tree via transit activities. An artificial tree is responsible for approximately 106lbs of carbon per tree, but can be used over many years. Artificial trees are typically made of PVC, but have often been found to be coated in paint with traces of lead in it (usually originating from China). After 9 years these lead based paints have been shown to break down and can cause health risks to vulnerable populations, such as the elderly or small children, due to lead contamination. One research study showed that a consumer would have to use an artificial tree for up to 20 years before it had a smaller environmental impact than a natural tree.

Natural trees take about 7 years of growing before they reach maturity and are ready to be harvested. During this time they produce



oxygen and provide great habitat for wildlife. After Christmas however they are often thrown away. Better ways to reduce impact while celebrating the Christmas season is to ensure that you properly recycle your tree. Many counties, including Frederick, have designated drop off locations and will turn trees into mulch for parks, gardens, public space, and trails. A new idea rising in popularity is to use living trees as a Christmas tree. Select or purchase a small tree, ball the roots, and then set it in a pot inside. After the Christmas holiday is over you can plant your tree in your yard or another location

and it can still provide habitat and other positive environmental contributions to the ecosystem.

When the lights on the tree glow as bright as Rudolph's nose remember you're witnessing a tradition long held and venerated by our ancestors. We remind ourselves of all the good things of that have come to pass or have not yet. Roast some chestnuts, dream of a white Christmas, and baby, when it's cold outside rock around that Christmas tree.

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

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Anno COVID

Jack Deatherage

I've a new reference point on my timeline, BC "before Covid". Anno Covid (AC)- "in the year of COVID" naturally followed the change. In my case, AC 1 began on turkey day 2021, two days before I knew I'd contracted COVID. As I enter into the new year, AC 2, I ponder the cock-up the news media, governments, bureaucracies, medical institutions, pharmaceutical companies and the panicked populous made of the infection's release. In my lifetime, the only other disease I'm currently aware of that came close to unleashing the worst of human vileness was HIV/AIDS. And HIV/AIDS did not shut the world down, though there were certainly factions that urged governments to establish concentration camps for those infected with the disease. The less totalitarian suggestions were along the lines of tattooing those infected so the uninfected would know who to shun.

If the first year of Anno COVID taught me anything it's to trust no one in authority, especially those appointed, anointed or elected to dictate to the masses. Were I less an idiot I'd have known not to trust those supposedly in control after reading my fifth grade history book, which I only skimmed in 1965 because history, as taught in school, was boring. Maybe I needed to experience the manipulators' lies first hand to understand just how easily those grasping for power lie to keep power?

With distrust of the masters welded firmly in place, and being currently unable to do anything to change who is claiming control of this wobbling rock as it spins along the outer edge of our galaxy, I set about preparing for the next global crisis. (I'm certain of nothing but my eventual death and some genius of smart's next attempt at creating a utopia via killing off as much of humanity as needs be to fulfill its delusion of godhood.)

Vague memories of my GrandmaC's pantry, root cellar, refrigerators and freezers (there were more than one of each machine on that tiny farm) inform me that I am woefully unprepared for the coming crisis, whether it's man made or natural. Grandma canned what they grew on the farm. I remember going down into the dim, dank cellar and marveling at the shelves of Mason jars filled with pickles, fruits and vegetables. There were bins of carrots and

potatoes, possibly onions and cabbages, though that may be memories of later cellars overlaying hers.

I don't recall canned meats. Grandma may have canned beef while Grandfather and my uncles salt cured and smoked the hogs they raised before the freezers were acquired. That would have been a ways before my mom went to Bal'm'r to learn nursing. Chickens were dispatched and processed as needed. I still see a chicken's head lying on the chopping stump, blinking eye looking up at me as the body flopped and flapped blood all about five or six year old me and my hatchet wielding grandmother.

I've since dispatched more than a hundred birds, never a pleasant task and generally a moral dilemma for me as I didn't have to do the killing to feed myself as my grandmother had to feed whichever of the clan was living under her roof at any given time. Chickens, as I kept them, were a want, an experiment, rather than a need. Grandmother's birds converted kitchen and garden wastes into the richest flavored eggs I've ever eaten. Chicken manure went into the compost piles along with whatever humans couldn't eat of the birds when they were taken as meat. The compost went into the garden to grow the plants that fed the family. I've yet to establish the cycles Grandmother grew old with. She could morally justify everything she did, while I struggle to justify buying flavorless meats.

Meat aside, I wrestle with canning beans and hot dogs! How hard can that be? (I failed to can 6 quarts of water when learning the variables of my canner and stove. One jar cracked and one lid didn't seal.) Now I've four quart jars of beans and dogs that leaked and didn't seal out of five jars that went into the pressure canner! One could think that having most of recorded knowledge just a few keyboard taps away would make learning to can easier than my grandmother, born in 1899, ever had it. But one would have to not be this village's idiot I suppose.

I've had better success turning 5 pounds of bananas into 13 ounces of dried chips.

The DW, shocked at that weight conversion, remarked, "Too bad we can't eat the peels."

Eh-hem. I'm now slicing the naners, peels included, and drying them, though the finished weight isn't much more than it was minus the peels.

Now that winter temperatures

are on us and we need to heat the unoccupied upstairs apartment well enough to keep the plumbing from freezing, I'm taking to making hardtack, rusks and sourdough crackers more seriously. Turning the flours I've stored in the freezers into desert dry breads (to be stored in air tight containers in the SHTF pantry) frees up the freezers for what little meat we occasionally acquire until I can master the canning methods well enough not to poison whoever might eventually open the jars and partake thereof.

Fermenting, preserving vegetables in salt brine has been an eye opener. The Mad One left me the last of the cabbage she fermented before she went off to Russia seven years ago. I only recently opened the jar which has been in one of the downstairs fridges all that time and started eating it right from the unprocessed jar. Delicious! And inspiring! Thanks to the Mad American Bulgarian, I've several times successfully fermented cabbage- whole heads and chopped.

Being in the camp that no longer trusts the governments and their oligarch masters to have the masses' best interests foremost in mind, I've been wondering how the DW and I might survive another disruption in our vitamin/medicinal herb supply lines. That has brought me to microgreens, which I vaguely recall the my oldest homesteading friend telling me about years ago. (As is often the case, I ignored her.)

While whole wheat hardtack bakes in the oven, and red cabbage and cauliflower chunks perfume the upstairs with their fermenting fragrances (the DW calls it something else while making gagging sounds)



Rumor has it that Jack was motivated to go on his canning binge after finding a 100-year-old can of Maryland Chief beans in his attic (which according to Jack, were still good. Not surprising, Jack plans on calling his line 'The Village Idiot').

I do a deep dive into the hows and whys of growing microgreens as I gather the fixings for the first trials before I assemble my notes into a booklet I'll take to the library sometime this month to hand out to those few to none who show up for my lecture on the topic of gardening on a window sill through the winter months so's to have constant, fresh, nutrient dense greens to stopgap a potential break in the nutritional supply chain.

Sighing, the DW asks how much this "garden" is going to cost us. So far... \$50.

I don't dare mention the clover seed I'm planning to use in the first microgreens trial could produce cyanide if allowed to grow out its true leaves.

Hmm... I might escape the library lecture after all.

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Winterizing your garden

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Now in my 50's, I have seen many different gardening practices. Looking back, one may wonder why the changes?

As little kid in the 70's with a father that farmed in his spare time, our home vegetable garden was quite large, probably close to 100' x 100'. Our home was on about 3/4 of an acre, and the farm was in walking distance, just down the street and around the corner.

The vegetables were planted in rows that were probably 2' - 3' apart, so a rototiller could be run between the rows to manage weeds. We didn't water - much... I guess there was enough rain to satisfy the water needs of the plants. The vegetables chosen were things my mother would can or freeze for winter use - green beans, tomatoes, beets were the crops that I remember most.

I recall my dad covering the soil with cow manure in the fall. He would bring in the tractor from

the farm and spread the manure, then till it under.

The other plants on my parents' property consisted of a few evergreen shrubs that were pruned into meatballs. From a distance, they could have been any evergreen shrub - juniper, holly, yew - they weren't distinguishable, but as a matter of course, they had yews. My mom planted some annuals. I remember marigolds mostly. She had climbing roses along the fence, and that was about it. If it wasn't in vegetables or a bed along the foundation, the land was in turf. In those days, When referring to plants, I don't think the term "native" was used.

Now, our home vegetable garden is a bit different today. Our weather is a bit more erratic today than in the 70's. We have longer periods of no rain, longer periods of lots of rain. Rows are not 2 - 3 feet apart. We plant our veggies close together to reduce the weeds and increase productivity per square foot. We don't use rototillers because it breaks

up the soil structure and the soil ultimately becomes compacted and gets hard when it dries out. The existing soil structure helps with water drainage and retention. The no-till system also keeps the critters undisturbed - those critters that we need for a healthy soil. We do continue to use manures to provide organic matter to our gardens, but also add other organic materials that include compost, leaves and straw.

In our garden, we do our best to keep the soil covered at all times, whether that is with a cover crop or some type of organic mulch - we like to use straw any time of the year. This not only enriches the soil with microbes, beneficial bacteria, and fungal threads, but also reduces weed seeds from germinating. It allows for better moisture retention and less runoff.

We use raised beds, with walkways between. This allows for little soil compaction as we don't walk where the plants grow. It's amazing how easy it is to plant seeds. Tools are typically not needed - the seeds can just be pushed in with our hands because the soil is so pliable.

The ornamental areas look very different than a typical 1970's planting too. Now we have lots of layers of plants: trees, shrubs and perennials fill spaces around the house, along edges and borders, and even areas throughout the lawn. Turf is reduced as much as possible. Perennials are not cut back, leaves are not picked up.

Before we purchased this property, much of it was mowed.



Leaving stems and leaves in the garden is a great way to support our native insects and birds through the winter.

We've added trees to the hillsides, riparian buffer along the stream, and added meadows to areas that were mowed grass.

Why? As we learn more about our ecosystem - how critters are dependent on plants, the habitat needed for insects to survive, the impact insects have on our life - food, clean air, clean water - we begin to realize all the mistakes humankind has made. Our need for tidiness has left many insects homeless and dead, even extinct. Our need for no berry droppings, or no leaves in the pool, or our love affair with mulch has harmed our ecosystems, taking away those precious areas needed for overwintering insects, or seeds

for the birds to feed, or dead and decaying logs for amphibians and reptiles to hide.

This fall has been a crazy one. Not only has the weather been a bit erratic but it seems our outside chores are never ending. Although we don't rake leaves, cut back plants, or do a winter mulching, we have been planting, planting, and planting!

As I mentioned, we have been transitioning turf areas into meadows. This requires either seeds or plants. Since we went the seed route before in another area, which took quite a few years for the space to look like something, we decided to start this meadow with plants. We started seeds in flats this spring, then transplanted them into quart-sized nursery pots, then planted them to the meadow. Finally, this fall, the meadow has been completely planted. This has allowed us to choose where the plants go, where they will grow best - as some of the areas are wetter, some areas drier. It also allowed us to plant any particular species in large drifts.

So our first fall project has been to get all these plants in the ground and our second project is to get trees in the ground. We are always working on our riparian buffer. For us, this is a very large area along the stream that flows through the property and is very important. Much of our property is low, parts are a wetland. We are in a valley where water runs from many hillsides.

We have planted literally hundreds of trees and shrubs over the years to beef up the buffer. As a reminder, riparian buffers are plantings that filter water as it runs to the streams, slows the water, thus reducing run-off and soil erosion. By doing this, it allows water to filter to our water reserves.

That said, we had another 100 trees and shrubs to get into the ground before things froze. Although many did make it to

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener

Old Man Time meets Mother Nature

Marianne Willburn

Lately I am of two minds regarding the passage of time. In one, I stare out of my bedroom window in the early morning at tiny junipers and Japanese maples, and yearn for additional seasons of growth and maturity to flesh out designs still in their infancy. Not a minute later however I have turned from my window and caught my reflection in the mirror, realizing that that which enriches the garden is robbing me blind. How can early morning light be so kind to one and so cruel to the other?

Such thoughts are better saved for late night poetry-fests with others who find themselves in similar circumstances – where the wine is flowing and no one is noticing the crow's feet much less the junipers – but the paradox is making me smile this morning...and reflect. For as much as I would slow time on one hand, I would speed it up on the other.

Children are of course anxious for the months, the years, to pass – just as I was, just as we all were. You would think that, with millions of years of evolution under our belts, we'd have gifted a bit of DNA-imprinted wisdom to the next generation, vis-à-vis "don't be in such a hurry my darlings;" but alas, such a concept is better taught by Madame Mortgage and Monsieur Knee Replacement Surgery and all of their demonic teaching aids.

So...to embrace the process when we eventually come head-to-head with it – that is the challenge. And without fail I find I am at my most receptive when wholly present in the world outside the front door. Whether your garden is in its early stages, or fully mature, there is always room for something new, something to renew your sense of excitement at the passing of the seasons. If you don't garden, just observing the natural



world can impart a great sense of peace when you're struggling with bigger issues of life, the universe, the mirror, and everything – as to one degree or another, we all must (particularly those of us with winter birthdays).

One would assume that the best time to make such observations would be in the spring and summer when the landscape exudes light, youth and energy; but in my opinion, there is overmuch visual and mental stimulation in a spring setting to delve too deeply into such matters. What is the point of analyzing the question of beauty if the landscape is only going to hit you over the head with the answer?

Instead, the winter scene breathes quietly in gentle rhythms and subdued colors. Here we view the remains of what has come before and smile in the certain knowledge that it will all come again, just as it has for millennia. Setting our own short life span against such a backdrop is subtly empowering when life seems grim or we are feeling old and tired. After all, 45, 70 or 85 winters is nothing to a world that has seen thousands. We are babies in comparison.

In the face of shorter days and

a quieted landscape, the little pleasures that surprise me do so with startling power. The pop of miscanthus heads backlit by winter sun, the resiliency of tiny sedums coated by a hoarfrost, the artistry of water frozen into sheets of glass on the top of a rain barrel. Each one catches me unaware, and I am enchanted for a moment – quite silly in my excitement some days – as I was last week upon finding a huge cache of oyster mushrooms on a decaying stump.

Renewal! Rebirth! Life from death. This is what winter lays gently at our feet – beauty in an ever-aging landscape.

Seeing that beauty in my own ever-aging landscape is slightly more challenging as the years go by, but as a gardener my face is often obscured by a generous layer of dirt anyway. It's cheaper than Botox and it comes with a bonus gift: Mental, visual and emotional connection to the natural world – and the guarantee that I'll always be the youngest in that particular room.

Marianne Willburn is an author, speaker and columnist and blogs at GardenRant and MarianneWillburn.com.

their final home, some did not. Which brings us to another fall chore – overwintering plants. We have a cold frame. This allows us to easily overwinter plants, like these trees we didn't get in the ground. Although raking leaves isn't on our fall to-do list, we did need some to cover these potted plants to help insulate them this winter.

In an effort to continue reducing turf, we added many early spring blooming bulbs to a grassy area that has, over the years, become shady. Over 800 little bulbs were planted – like crocus, scilla, tete-a-tete daffodils, and so on. I'm thinking once we see how this looks, another no-mow area will be established.

Things we have learned through other people's research is that allowing nature to do its thing – like leaving the leaves

on the ground, and stems on the perennials so insects can overwinter, and allowing seed heads to remain for the birds, is not only beneficial, but imperative to the survival of the insects, who we rely on for our food, our clean water and a viable ecosystem. Those fall chores have become things we do to enhance those needs, as opposed to taking natural needs away.

We've come a long way from manicured lawns, evergreen balls for foundation plants, and vegetable gardens that are tilled. As we learn more about our ecosystems, how they work and are intertwined with our survival, lets all do what we can to take care of our environment

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A PRICELESS CHRISTMAS GIFT...

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

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



Norland arrived at the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about his past. We do know that he is one sweet boy who loves attention and treats. This 1-year-old gray-and-white fellow is going to make someone an incredible companion. Could that be you?



Trey came into the shelter as a stray. We think he's about 6 years old. Trey has a toe that was broken and sits up higher than the rest. Because of that, the toe nail had grown into the pad of his foot. Trey will need someone who will keep a close eye on that toe to make sure this doesn't happen again.



Pokey is a 3-year-old orange boy who came into the shelter as a stray. We discovered he had a bad urinary tract infection with a partial blockage. The vet flushed his bladder and he was put on pain medication. Pokey is doing much better but he will need to be on special urinary food for the rest of his life.



Penelope is a 3-year-old medium-haired, black-and-white girl who was adopted from CVAS when she was a kitten, but now isn't getting along with the other cats in the house. She's a sweet girl who loves to be brushed, but would probably do best as the only cat in the house. Can you give Penelope her second chance?



Look at little Bayou's face! How cute is this guy? He is super sweet 3-month-old orange-and-white boy who came into the shelter as a stray. Bayou starts purring as soon as he sees you. He's going to make someone an amazing four-legged friend. Could that be you?



If you're looking for a chill day and a spot of tea, Earl Grey might be the perfect companion for you. This 3-year-old gray-and-white fellow came into the shelter as a stray and is just about as laid-back as a cat can be. He loves napping in soft beds and would enjoy relaxing with you.



Milo came into the shelter because his owner was moving and could not take Milo with them. He's a 2-year-old, orange-and-white boy who can be a little shy. Milo likes to lie under his blankets, but will come out to greet you when he hears you. Do you have the right spot for this sweet fellow?



Look at little Nemo! Doesn't that face just get you? Nemo came into the shelter as a very tiny kitten and was raised in foster care until he was old enough to be neutered. He's now looking for his forever home. Could that be with you?



Aphrodite is a 2 year old terrier mix who needs a little time getting used to people. She may require more than one meeting with her potential adopters to establish a relationship before she goes into her new home. Once Aphrodite is comfortable, she will seek out attention. She also has a wonderful smile! She loves to play ball and with squeaky toys (she does have to be supervised with stuffed toys, as she likes to rip them apart).



Luna was surrendered to the shelter when her owner was moving and could not take her along with them. She is a 2-year-old husky/terrier mix who is a super sweet girl who loves attention. Luna knows sit but will need some work on other commands. She likes to please her people and is treat motivated. Luna does have a high chase drive with cats and other small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.



Maggie came to the shelter as a stray. She has since come out of her shell and is a very silly girl! She is a "velcro" pup with her people and wants to be wherever you are! Maggie loves to play in the outside play yard! She especially likes to play "keep away" which she thinks is great fun, however due to this we are requiring her potential home to have a fenced in yard so that Maggie has a safe area to run and have fun!



Sansa is a black lab who came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her. We're guessing she's 2 years old. Sansa is a typical lab and will do best with someone who knows the breed. She will need someone that can provide her with regular exercise and can help her work on her manners. Sansa may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply.

...A HOME FOR A SHELTER PET

What's in a 'woof'?

Bethany Davidson
Frederick County Animal Shelter

Canine adoption floors in animal shelters can be loud and overwhelming places not only for the dogs themselves but for visitors and staff as well. Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center is no exception. We work hard to create an environment that is as comfortable and stress-free for our residents as possible and we recognize that a quiet kennel is part of that. We provide calming music, puzzle feeders and toys, visual barriers and safe zones, quiet nap time hours, behavior modification, and more but the fact of the matter is that dogs bark. And with an ever-changing canine population, keeping the kennels quiet is a constant work in progress.

Recently our facility has received some criticism on social media for the kennel behavior of our canine residents. Walking through our kennels, yes, you will see dogs barking and jumping up. But how many dogs in loving homes, do exactly the same? Barking is a completely normal canine behavior and while it can be part of an aggressive display, it's also done for so many other reasons.

It's very important to note that FCAC behavior assesses all of our animals and would never place an animal that we believed to be aggressive or a risk to public safety on our adoption floor.

So, why do dogs bark? There are a handful of reasons including: alert/alarm, anxiety, boredom, demand barking, fear, frustration, greeting/excitement and play.

When people enter the kennels, especially people the dogs are familiar with like staff and volunteers, they get excited. Our presence means food, treats, walks, play time and affection. They are just as happy to see us as your dogs at home are to see you and they want to let us know. Sometimes they like to shout it at the top of their lungs.

Some of our dogs are fearful of strangers, so when unfamiliar people approach their kennels, they bark. These displays may seem more aggressive than others. The dogs want to appear intimidating to make you go away so they can feel safe again.

Much like small children in the throws of a tantrum, we have dogs who demand bark. They want their dinner or to go on their walk and they want it right now and they really want to make sure that we know how they feel.

At FCAC we try to modify these barking behaviors to reduce the level of noise and stress in the kennels and to also make the dogs more adoptable. Most often we reward the behavior we want, quiet. When we walk by and the dogs are sitting or at least standing with all four feet on the ground calmly and quietly, they receive a reward. If they are barking and jumping at the front of the kennel door, they receive nothing and we walk away.

Soon our smart canines learn that calm and quiet brings good stuff and they continue to provide that behavior over and over. For fearful dogs, we provide counter conditioning to change their emotional response to things or people they find scary. Over time they begin to view those things as the bringer of good stuff like extra tasty treats.

At present, we have more than 20 dogs on our adoption floor. Half of these are very new to our facility and have not yet learned that being quiet makes treats happen, but in the meantime, don't judge the dogs by their kennel behavior. If you're interested in a dog, meet them. Most are completely different outside of the kennel environment and one of them might just be the new furry family member you've been looking for.

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the barn

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the barn,
All the creatures were sleeping, all safe, snug and warm.
The feed pails were hung by the stall doors with care,
In the hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The ponies were nestled all warm in their beds,
While visions of carrot cakes danced through their heads.
The Arabs, the Thoroughbreds and even the Apps,
The jumpers and hunters were all taking naps.

When out in the paddock there arose such a clatter
I awoke in my stall to see what was the matter.
I moved to the window quick as I could
To see where the noise came from, if I could.

The sight I beheld as I gazed out that night
Was a beautiful horse all whiter than white.
He wore a red blanket so nice to behold,
His hooves how they sparkled all glittery-gold.

With swift certain motions to our barn he came,
and silvery moonlight danced from his mane.
More rapid than racers his hoof beats they came,
And he neighed and he snorted and called us by name.

He was our Christmas, a ghost-horse of white,
Who has come to all horses, since that one special night.
A gallant example who served man so well,
Especially those with whom A baby did dwell.

For those special horses who shared stable and stall,
To give comfort and warmth to the Savior of us all.
Now thinking of them, he entered the door,
To distribute among us his gifts and more.

Down the aisle he came, his hoof beats so light,
And he stopped by each stall in our stable that night.
Gifts he did give to all in our barn,
More heart or more courage, or to be free from harm.

He spoke not a word but went straight to his work,
And he filled all the feed pails then turned with a jerk.
And nickering softly on gold hooves so bright,
And giving a nod he went into the night.

and I heard him neigh as he went out of sight,
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good Ni-i-i-ight!

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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LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

Monday – Children’s Story Time 4 – 5 p.m., Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30-minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesday – Coffee club from 3 – 4 p.m.! Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Wednesday– VITT (very important teens and ‘twens) night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4 – 6 p.m.. just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

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

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century and was brought

to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club is also meeting at 5:30 p.m. on November 15. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

Frederick County Library

December ushers in the beginning of winter, the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, and the last month of the year. What a year it’s been! 2022 started with the Northern County Branches opened with limited hours due to the high level of COVID-19, and is ending with a full - breadth of library services and much more! In-between, FCPL updated our strategic plan with input from the community to prioritize these goals: expanded access, building bridges to foster strong and vibrant communities, and sparking excitement in big and small ways.

In addition to our strategic plan, we’ve been able to offer more services and access to technology. Through a

partnership with Frederick County Workforce Services, FCPL has been able to provide tablet and laptops with hotspots for a one week borrowing time. They can be accessed and placed on hold through the catalog, and staff are always happy to help in person or over phone.

A new library service that has been added, and offered earlier in the year at Thurmont Regional Library (TRL), is Public Notary Service. Notary serviced is offered during most opening hours at TRL, please call ahead to ensure the service is available when needed. The service is free with a library card, and \$2 for each notarized document without – a great reason to get a library card!

Our annual summer reading challenge was hugely successful this year! The challenge was simplified to allow easier access and to highlight reading. Incredible grand prizes of kayaks, chromebooks, and more were offered and won. Over 7,000 people participated in the challenge with almost half completing it at an average of 24 days read per person!

Other highlights of the year include our BookBike, literally a mobile library on a bike! This will be showcased at various community events throughout the year and allows us to pedal the books directly to you at events! More recently, FCPL has gone to auto-renewal for your convenience. Items will automatically renew up to 5 times unless there is a request for the item. Visit FCPL.org for more information.

December continues to offer fun

activities and programs for the whole family! Join staff and the community in Emmitsburg for some upcoming holiday events. Monday, December 5 is the annual Tree Lighting along with Mount Saint Mary’s University Flute Ensemble. Drop in the library to create Ukrainian holiday ornaments and other fun holiday activities from 5 – 6 pm, all ages are welcome. Do you have many gifts to wrap with little time to do it? Bring your gifts to the library for complimentary gift wrapping by Emmitsburg Community Teens during the “Holiday Wrap - Up” on Saturday, December 17th from 1 – 3pm. Stop by any FCPL branch throughout the month and pick up a new, weekly themed STEM project sponsored by the United States Army Medical Research and Development Command. A reminder that libraries will be closed December 23rd - 26th, and January 1 & 2; digital books, movies, and content are always available 24/7 with your FCPL library card. For additional December programming, please visit FCPL.org.

All staff in the Northern County Branches wish everyone a healthy and safe holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in the library!

Upcoming December Programming:

- Emmitsburg Branch Library:
- Thursday, December 1, 15, 29: Open Game Night with Wookie Walkers (teens), 5:50 - 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, December 5: Holiday Open House & Mount St.

Mary’s University Flute Ensemble (all ages), 5 – 6 p.m.

- Tuesday, December 6, 13, 27: Family Storytime, 11 – 11:30a.m.
- Wednesday, December 14: Exploration Station (Elementary), 2:30 – 3:30p.m.
- Saturday, December 17: Microgreen Secrets with Jack (all ages), 10:30 – 11:30a.m.; Exploration Station – Holiday Edition (elem), 1 – 2p.m.; Holiday Wrap - Up (all ages), 1 – 3p.m.
- Thurmont Regional Library
- Thursday, December 1, 8, 15, 29: Musical Storytime (birth – 5), 10:30 – 11a.m.
- Saturday, December 3: Santa Visits the Library (all ages), 1 – 2p.m.
- Monday, December 5, 12: Preschool Storytime, 10:30 – 11a.m.; Preschool School Skills, 11:15 – 11:45 a.m.
- Tuesday, December 6, 13, 27: Babies Storytime, 10:30 – 11a.m., Elementary Explorers (Elem), 4 – 4:45p.m.
- Wednesday, December 7, 14, 28: Toddler Storytime, 10:30 – 11a.m.
- Monday, December 12: Library Learners: Ancient Egypt (elem), 1 – 2p.m.
- Thursday, December 15: Handmade Gifts (teen), 6 – 7p.m.
- Wednesday, December 28: School’s Out: Lego Build (elem), 1 – 2p.m.

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Fairfield Area School District

No Change to School Dress code

District Superintendent Thomas Haupt told the board a review of the district’s dress and grooming policy concluded with a determination that no changes are necessary. The policy was last reviewed in 2018.

The district also reviewed the guidelines that accompany that policy, Haupt said, and made changes for the first time in 10-15 years. The guidelines were created with student input, Haupt said.

“They indicated they liked that it is no longer, in their view, more geared towards what females cannot wear,” Haupt said. “It is more general neutral.”

Haupt said it was important to gar-

ner student input before finalizing the guidelines and the students appreciated having a voice.

“They are the ones who are going to be living by the guidelines,” he said.

Haupt does not believe the guidelines are extremely restrictive and added the district had no interest in “dress-coding” students.

“We want kids to wear a top, we want kids to wear a bottom, we want kids to wear footwear,” he said.

Haupt said building administrators will make the final determination if a staff or faculty member believes a student is violating the guidelines. The new guidelines will go into effect after the Thanksgiving holiday, he added.

Volunteers hope to enhance Fairfield Area School’s football program.

Fairfield Youth Football Coach Jake Johnson told the district’s board of directors at its Nov. 14 meeting there are a large number of youngsters living in the district who are interested in the sport. Johnson fears the students’ enthusiasm could diminish if the district does not incorporate a middle school program.

“The majority of those players are coming from Fairfield,” the eight-year coach said when Board Vice President Jack Liller asked if students in Johnson’s program live within the district.

Johnson told the board a middle school program would give ninth-grade players the opportunity to play on the middle school team, preventing them from being forced to play older students who are larger and stronger. The program would also be better equipped to prepare students to play at the varsity level than the youth football program.

“We want successful student-athletes across the board,” Johnson said.

Fairfield Area High School began its 2022 football season with 19 players. Injuries forced the team to cancel its Sept. 9 game against Hamburg.

Johnson said the youth football program currently includes 13 seventh graders and 8 sixth graders. Participation by younger students shows those numbers are sustainable, he added.

The board took no action but seemed willing to discuss the possibility of a middle school program with Johnson.

Thumont Community Ambulance Service
FREE Breakfast with Santa!
Saturday, December 17 7-11 a.m.
Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Orange Juice, Milk & Coffee
Thurmont Event Complex 13617 Strafford Drive, Thurmont

SCHOOL NEWS

Frederick County School System

Karen Yoho
Frederick County Board of Education

Greetings from the Frederick County Board of Education. We hope you were able to enjoy a time of good company and good food for Thanksgiving this year.

Election Day 2022 has passed and counting in Frederick County was finally concluded on Friday, November 18. Your four elected school board members for the term 2022-2026 will be: Karen Yoho, Rae Gallagher, Dean Rose, and Nancy Allen. They will join Sue Johnson, Jason "Mr. J" Johnson, and David Bass, who were elected in 2020 and will serve through November 2024.

It took a week and a half to finish counting the ballots due to a combination of factors: a greatly increased number of voters opting for mail-in ballots, not being able to count a larger portion prior to Election Day, having to train new canvassers, and scheduling around other planned responsibilities by the Board of Elections. Observers from many of the campaigns and central political committees were in attendance throughout the counting. The Board of Elections certified the results on Monday, November 22.

An important partner supporting

education in Frederick County will be newly elected County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and a Council made up of Jerry Donald (D1), Steve McKay (D2), MC Keegan-Ayer (D3), Kavonte Duckett (D4), Mason Carter (D5), Renee Knapp and Brad Young (at-large). Of course, we will have to see what impact inflation will have on funding as we go forward together, but we know education was a central issue for many of the campaigns. The county office holders will be sworn-in on Monday, December 5 at 10 am at the Weinberg.

The four elected Board of Education members will be sworn in at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7 in the FCPS Central Office Boardroom. The only regular Board meeting in December will be held at 3 p.m. that day.

If you were not able to attend the public budget meeting on November 30, it's not too late to give input or ask questions. The process is just getting started. You can send an email to fcps.budget@fcps.org. The budget will be released to the public on January 9th, time and place TBD. There is a budget calendar available on the FCPS website.

From the FCPS website, "Four FCPS high schools will have new turf fields installed through the allocation

of \$10 million in additional school construction funding set aside for the specific projects. The funding, made available through the Maryland General Assembly's Built to Learn Act, will lead to the installation of turf athletic fields at Brunswick High, Catocin High, Tuscarora High and Walkersville High." We are appreciative of the collaboration between FCPS and CE Gardener's administration, as well as the funding from the state.

As the fall sports season wraps up, many of our high school teams are making appearances in the playoffs. Check the FCPS website for the latest updates.

During the month of December, the ESSL will have an evening show entitled "Mystery of the Christmas Star" at the Planetarium on the 13th, 15th, 20th, and 22nd at 6 and 7 pm. One of the gems of FCPS, the Earth & Space Science Lab is located at 210 Madison St, Frederick, Md. 21701. There are only 80 tickets per show. Tickets are \$6.00 each. Check the FCPS website-click on: Our Schools, Special Programs, Earth & Space Science Lab for details and to purchase tickets.

Our support personnel are the foundation of our school system. They are often the first and last ones our students see as they ride their buses to and

Nominate an outstanding FCPS support employee

Frederick County Public Schools is accepting nominations for the school system's 2022 Support Employee of the Year Awards. The awards recognize outstanding members of FCPS support staff.

Examples of staff classified as support employees are bus drivers and bus assistants; custodial, maintenance and warehouse staff; instructional assistants, community liaisons and user support specialists, secretaries and resident substitutes; as well as those working in business support positions.

Nomination eligibility, criteria and process information are on-line at www.fcps.org/awards.

Nomination packets are due Friday, January 27 to the FCPS Public Affairs Department, 191 S. East Street, Frederick, Md., 21701.

The Board of Education of Frederick County will recognize one finalist from each of eight broad job classifications at the April 19 Board meeting. During the recognition, Superintendent Dr. Cheryl L. Dyson will present two of the eight finalists one school-based and one non-school-base. The 2023 Support Employees of the Year Finalists and Support Employees of the Year are chosen by a panel of FCPS staff across a number of departments.

from school. They keep our schools clean, prepare meals, provide valuable assistance to the teachers in the classrooms, keep the main office running smoothly, and on and on. If one of these indispensable employees comes to mind, you can nominate an outstanding FCPS support personnel by January 27. Nomination eligibility, criteria and process information are on-line at www.fcps.org/awards.

The Academic Tournament will

begin on Friday, January 6. Be sure to put the dates on your calendar and join us at Frederick High School for the fun and excitement.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season to those who celebrate. There are many opportunities to incorporate math (recipes, measuring, schedules) and reading (directions, sharing favorite stories) with families and help keep students' skills sharpened. Here's to a safe and healthy December for all!

County receives \$10 million in school construction funding

Frederick County has been allocated \$10 million in additional school construction funding, one of only six counties in Maryland to have funding set aside for their specific projects. The pass-through grants are made available through the Maryland General Assembly's Built to Learn Act.

Frederick County has been approved to use a portion of its grant to install turf fields at Brunswick, Catocin, Tuscarora and Walkersville High Schools next summer. Once the four fields are upgraded, every high school in the County will have at least one turf field. Installation of the four turf field will cost approximately \$7.8 million. The remaining \$2.2 million will be applied toward the completion of Thurmont Elementary School's limited renovation project.

"We were able to seize this opportunity because we had projects lined up ready to go," County Executive Jan Gardner said. "The grant allows us to address the equity issue by ensuring all our high school have turf fields. We can be proud that Frederick County is a leader in Maryland for school construction."

The Built to Learn Act, which legislators passed in 2020, has sped up the collection of State funds for several school construction projects in Frederick County, including Waverley Elementary School, which opened this past August. Three additional projects were able to begin sooner than originally planned. They include Brunswick Elementary School, which will open next year, followed by Valley Elementary School in Jefferson and Green Valley Elementary School in Monrovia.

To qualify for pass-through grant funding, projects must be selected by

the local county government, according to the parameters set by the State Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC). The IAC approved Frederick County's grant project Thursday morning. Next the projects will come before the Board

of Education for approval, and the grants must be accepted by the County Council.

Artificial turf fields provide a consistent surface for athletic events, long-term durability, excellent performance in inclement weather, less ongo-


ing maintenance, and more frequent use by community groups. The pass-through grant provides a new source of

funding so that Frederick County can advance these four projects in the current budget year.

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HEALTH

Frederick Health announces nursing scholarship program

Joshua Faust
Frederick Helath

The COVID-19 pandemic was both a challenge and a learning experience for healthcare systems across the globe. One of the primary lessons learned was the importance of ensuring that the pool of nurses and other clinical professionals was continually refreshed. To help address these concerns, Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in Frederick County, is pleased to announce that it recently awarded five well-deserving individuals within the organization scholarships to promote and encourage their professional development in the field of nursing.

Nurses and clinical staff at Frederick Health provide comprehensive healthcare services to the residents of Frederick County throughout its expanding healthcare network. The system includes Frederick Health Hospital, Frederick Health Medical

Group, Frederick Health Employer Solutions, Frederick Health Home Care, and Frederick Health Hospice. Frederick Health Medical Group is a multi-specialty practice with more than 100 providers, 18 specialties and 24 locations across the county.

The system has several ambulatory care locations, the freestanding James M Stockman Cancer Institute, three urgent care locations, and the Frederick Health Village. With over 4,500 team members Frederick Health provides a full spectrum of healthcare and wellness services to support its mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community.

Keeping this network of facilities staffed and able to treat members of the community is paramount.

To staff its expanding network of specialties and locations, Frederick Health has continued to develop ways to recruit and retain team members, as well as systems

to promote their development and advance their education. Several different departments within the organization have collaborated over the last two years to begin developing professional pipelines for recruitment and developing incentives to keep employees, both new and existing. This scholarship program came from those discussions.

Each recipient of the scholarship will receive between \$4,000 and \$5,000 annually, dependent upon which nursing program they are enrolled in each year. They must be enrolled in an accredited Maryland nursing education program, demonstrate a commitment to community service, have a GPA of at least 3.0, and commit to working within the Frederick Health system for at least two years.

The recipients were selected by Frederick Health's leadership and human resources teams. The scholarships were awarded to the following individuals.

- Janelle Keyser - a Medical Assistant at the Frederick Health Tollhouse location. She resides in Middletown.
- Sarah Auxt - a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Frederick Health Hospital. She resides in Frederick.
- Juan Castillo - a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Frederick Health Hospital. He resides in Frederick.
- Chloe Saunders - a Medical Assistant working at the Frederick Health Urbana location. She resides in Middletown.
- Karla Simpson - a Medical Assistant at the Frederick Health Tollhouse location. She and resides in Frederick

The winners of this scholarship were announced by Tom Kleinhanzl, President & CEO, Cheryl Cioffi, Chief Operating Officer & Senior Vice President, Chris Bumbaugh, Vice President of Human

Resources, and Diane McFarland, Chief Nursing Officer.

All of the scholarship recipients expressed excitement, gratitude, and a bit of shock when they were named the winners.

"This scholarship means everything," said Keyser, a Medical Assistant who currently works at Frederick Health's Tollhouse Urgent Care location.

When asked what this meant to here in the long run, Keyser smiled and wiped away a tear.

"I am a mom of two, and this scholarship allows me to alleviate some stress and let me focus on my career. It's truly a blessing."

Upon winning the scholarship, Auxt, also a mother, expressed her gratitude and an appreciation to Frederick Health.

"This scholarship makes me love Frederick Health even more because Frederick Health is willing to support me in something that could have been a real struggle," she said.

Auxt is certainly has a full plate. Like many of the other recipients, she is working while also attending school.

"I am working full time and going to school full time, so having a company that is willing to support me in fulfilling my dream, that's just amazing," continued Auxt.

Saunders said that Frederick Health is like a family to her.

"Working in healthcare has been my dream since I was ten years old. Knowing that there are people supporting me within this organization, it hits home. There is no family like Frederick Health," said Saunders with a smile.

As Frederick Health's Chief Nursing Officer, McFarland understands the need for advanced, clinical education. McFarland, who is also a Registered Nurse, was instrumental in helping to bring the scholarship program to life. She beamed as the recipients were presented with their scholarships.

"Frederick Health is honored to be able to provide these scholarships to our employees and area nursing students. This scholarship program demonstrates the organization's commitment to having a highly skilled and dedicated nursing team to care for our community," said McFarland.

The scholarship program is in its first year and will be awarded annually to qualified recipients. Interested individuals throughout the organization are encouraged to learn more and apply. McFarland hopes that this scholarship will encourage not only additional professional development among staff, but also continue to demonstrate Frederick Health's commitment to the community.

"By encouraging and supporting the further development and education of our team members, we are holding true to our mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community," said McFarland.

For more information or to join the Frederick Health team, visit frederick-health.org/careers.

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Fourth Annual Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival

A Celebration of the Birth of Christ

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 Fourth Annual Christmas Tree Festival on December 9th & 10th from 5 - 9 p.m. 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, luminaries, refreshments, live music, nativity collections, a candlelight service, and alternative giving options. Visitors will enjoy all this as 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 one dollar each. Every vote counts, so be sure to make your favorite known when you view these creatively adorned trees.

Food and refreshments are plentiful as the Camp Eder staff and vol-

unteers 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. If Christmas preparations provide no time to sit and eat, a bake sale table will be selling delicious, homemade Christmas Cookies. Keep in mind that certain someone who would love to receive a gift of beautifully boxed yummys from the Camp Eder kitchen!

Everyone is invited to compete in the tree decorating contest. Voting will be during the Christmas Tree Festival. The Christmas Tree Festival is a great opportunity to get involved with Camp Eder and the surrounding community. Trees are limited, so you will want to sign up soon.

Live music, dozens of nativity scenes, a featured model trail display, decorated walking paths, and 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. Camp Eder's bell tolls each evening at 8 p.m., announcing the beginning of a peaceful candlelight service with a small live nativity to be held in the Heckman Pavilion. Everyone is invited to blend your voices in singing Christmas carols, followed by the reading of the Nativity story taken directly from the scriptures. The service closes with the acapella singing of Silent Night, Holy Night. Nearby, the beautiful sound of Middle Creek as it gently flows past the pavilion and the lights shining throughout the forest create a serene atmosphere of reflection as we ponder the true meaning of Christmas.

Located just behind Geigley



Lodge is the Tree of Peace Lodge which reveals a nativity collection you won't want to miss. Browse slowly so you can take in the beautiful variety of styles and sizes as over 75 different replicas simulate how we imagine that first Christmas was celebrated.

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. All

food donations received during the event will go to Fairfield families in need via the Fairfield Mennonite Food Pantry.

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 Winter Christmas Tree Festival. Each event has specific elements that make that particular one very special. However, it seems that even as new 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 majestic time of the year.

Camp Eder is located 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. Experience the joy, peace, and hope that can be found in remembering that Christmas is a birthday party for a very special Baby Boy.

Christmas at the Eisenhower Home

This is the season! Eisenhower National Historic Site is happy to share that once again we will deck the halls, throw some tinsel on the tree, and bring the Eisenhower home alive with the spirit of the Christmas season! From Thursday, December 1, through Saturday, December 31, Eisenhower home tours will resume for the holiday season.

The Christmas season was a favorite time of year for the Eisenhower's. Mamie Eisenhower celebrated all holidays, but Christmas was her time to shine with decorations and warm festivities. In this spirit, the staff and volunteers of Eisenhower National Historic Site will once again decorate the Eisenhower's Gettysburg home this December. Decorations will include several original Eisenhower Christmas decorations on display at the farm and the nativity scenes at the Museum and Visitor Center.

Holiday tours of the Eisenhower home are available by reservation and shuttle bus only. Shuttle buses will depart the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays. On Saturdays, shuttles will depart at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.. Note: no shuttles or house tours will run December 22-25 and only two tours, 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. will be offered on December 31. Call 1-877-874-2478 to reserve tickets.

No home tours will be offered Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays, though the grounds of Eisenhower National Historic Site remain open 7 days a week, with limited parking on-site. Please be aware that winter weather may impact operations, so check the weather forecast and the park website and social media channels for update to conditions before visiting.

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HISTORY

Larry Dielman

Kelly Conroy,
MSMU Class of 2012

His boots were brown, but not the brown they used to be. When Larry Dielman first bought his shoes they were a crisp, medium colored brown with darker laces that tied from his toes to above his ankles. Now they were spotted with various shades of brown and there were holes in the front. Larry had replaced the dark laces with bright white ones just last week. There are some things in life that are not so easy to repair or replace, the old man muses as he trudges up Mary's Mountain.

Yup, my father was good, I'll admit that, Larry thought to himself. "A hard act to follow," neighbors would always whisper. But I heard those neighbors, every time. I heard their fake pity for me, acting like they were being sympathetic.

Larry kicked a stone and continued the climb. Then he sighed: Now I look at my own behavior. No, I didn't look at that back then. I could have just admitted my father was good and moved on. Instead, I acted the role of the kid who had a hard act to follow.

Wrinkles circle the man's eyes and a beanie hat covers almost all of his thin gray hair. Mary's Mountain is steep, but not so steep that a cleared path is needed; Larry grips a walking stick with his gloves. The ground is covered with mushy snow that turns

to a brown almost the color of the man's boots with every step that he takes. A perfectly clear sky showcases the stars and moon. Light streams through the leafless trees.

Things got better though – I married her, Larry reflected. She had sparkling blue eyes and a ready laugh. My hands were shaking and I almost fainted when she said yes. I can still feel her slender hand that I always held when we walked in the land near the Gettysburg battle site. I hear the rough voice that yelled at us for kissing on the train that streamed through our town. Larry paused for a moment and restricted the water in the crevice of his eye.

The air was getting a little colder as he ascended. He would always make the climb, no matter if he was sick or tired or cold. He did not pause in one spot for long in his hike or in the time of happiness with his wife. How did I not go after her as she walked through the door? Larry broke down. How many times did I return to my spot in front of the store and hunch over in tears?

The same thoughts and the same steps repeated year after year. After some time the man reached the tip of the mountain. He loosened the pouch that was swung over his shoulder and carefully revealed his father's flute. Larry smoothed a patch of snow for a seat and back rest. He checked his watch – 11:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

Larry entered Bradley, a building on Mount St. Mary's campus used for classes and functioning as a dormitory. He had been in there when he was little, but this was his first time visiting as a teenager. Everyone knew Mr. Henry C. Dielman, whose office was down the hallway on the left side. A sign reading, "Music is the prayer your heart sings" hung on his office door. Larry would always say "Hi" to Mrs. Smythe when he walked in the main door. After expressing how much he looked like his father, Mrs. Smythe handed him the usual apple from her orchard that she had hidden in her desk.

Larry stuck it in his backpack for later. I hope it's as good as the apples always used to be, he thought. He walked past his dad's office and entered through the next door on the left. The room was quiet and three men in suits were seated in chairs. There was sound protection covering on the walls. He gripped tightly onto his flute and walked slowly towards them, his head towards the floor. The walk felt like a mile and he wished someone would break the silence.

"Welcome, you must be Larry, Henry's son." The men stood up and held out their hands.

"I am, thank you," Larry replied and slowly looked up to meet their gaze. Mr. Geralt, Mr. Solomon, and Fr. Richmond – he had heard their names around the house. My dad's their boss, he surmised.

"Please, make yourself comfortable," Mr. Geralt spoke again and pointed to a table for Larry to set down his bag and his flute case. Larry slid his flute out of the case and gazed at its perfectly formed shape.

"Whenever you're ready," Fr. Richmond instructed.

Larry remembered his dad leading the symphony orchestra on a Friday night in New York City. He could hear the applause of the crowd after his dad's show in Philly. He looked up at the three men who were about to hear him play. They've heard my dad play too, he realized.

Then he started to play. Hesitation in the beginning was soon replaced with confidence. Larry had played this difficult piece hundreds of times and his fingers moved the way they always did. He was back in his corner of the living room in his home and he did not need to glance down at the sheet.

"Well done," the three men smiled, and Larry was suddenly aware of the white walls again. "Be assured that you will be hearing from us soon."

Larry smiled and sighed as he walked out of the door with his bag



Larry Dielman's grave marker in the old St. Mary's Church's cemetery adjacent to the Grotto of Lourdes.

and his flute. He hadn't yet put it back in its case. Two other young men were wearing suits in the hallway, but they were a little older than him.

Two days later, a letter arrived at Larry's house. He tore it open and read its contents: "Mr. Larry Dielman, Congratulations! You have been admitted to the School of Music at Mount St. Mary's University." Larry made a slight jump in the air and waved the letter! He was just about to find his Mom when he read the closing: "Sincerely, Mr. Henry Dielman, Chair and Mr. Geralt, Mr. Solomon, and Fr. Richmond."

"Why did he sign the letter?" Larry asked. He tried to guess the size of the crowd in New York City and how long the applause lasted in Philly. Then, he ripped the letter into a million little pieces.

"Hi honey," fifteen year old Larry winked at a girl in a pink skirt as she walked past. She slowed her step and glanced over her shoulder. Larry smiled and nodded his head to the bench next to him. Slowly, he started playing his banjo and then picked up the pace to create a wild love tune. The girl kept her gaze upon him until she knew she was out of time.

"Come back," Larry flirted, "You know you're the prettiest!"

The girl felt all jittery as she walked into the store. She would make it a point to do the family shopping for her mom in the future.

The step in front of the general store was a usual spot for Larry on the weekends. He was too young to enter the war and he did not mind having some of the men of Emmitsburg gone for a little while. And although Larry did not really like the banjo or practice it much, it still provided a means of

entertainment for the girls.

One day, his sister Adelaide walked up. He tipped his hat and played a slow and respectful song as she entered the store. Oh stop it, Adelaide flipped her hair and turned towards him.

"Looks like you're taking great care of the store – Mom and Dad would be so happy that you're being so attentive to the customers inside," Adelaide said aloud.

"The other worker is in there," Larry revealed a big smile and played a couple chords on the banjo in reply. Adelaide pictured her dad leading the symphony orchestras in New York and Philly and then stared down at Larry.

"You know, when we both started playing the flute, you were always better," Adelaide recalled, "but I didn't let that stop me from playing."

"Hmm ok," was his only reply.

"I love it and I know you do too," Adelaide spoke quietly, "Playing at the nursing home to make the elderly smile is great."

"I'll never be as good as him," Larry stared hard at her.

"Maybe not. I hope you can find another reason for sharing your talent with the flute."

"I don't love it," he tried to convince her and he put his hands back on his banjo.

Adelaide turned and walked into the store. Larry looked down at his feet, but not for long. A girl with long, flowing black hair and bright blue eyes was walking past. He struck up a chord on the banjo and the girl flashed him a smile.

"Margaret," the girl held out her hand, "But you can call me Maggie."

Larry pulled her hand closer to give it a kiss. "Oh princess, how charitable to allow me to call you Maggie," Larry's eyes laughed as he spoke.

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HISTORY

Maggie slowly pulled back her hand and laughed but didn't know what to say.

"A princess needs a prince you know..." Larry informed her.

"You are so forward!" Maggie interjected and took a step back.

"Date - Saturday night at 7:00?" Larry asked.

"Fine," Maggie replied.

"Great!" Larry smiled, "See you then!" His banjo played a little more lively than usual as Maggie walked away.

From inside the store, Adelaide watched as Maggie walked away and a group of five giggling girls gathered around Larry. This is embarrassing, Adelaide believed. She slid into the front of the group of girls by Larry and it was soon just her and her brother again.

"Thanks a lot for scaring the girls away," Larry grumbled.

"They all think you like them," Adelaide started to raise her voice.

"Isn't that a good thing?" Larry winked at her.

"I hope you will be able to calm down some day and just choose one!" Adelaide yelled at him and left.

shouted.

"Hi sweetie! Don't you even want to give me a kiss before you start questioning me?" Larry opened his arms for a hug.

"Where have you been?" Maggie repeated herself. "I thought that phase in your life was over. I thought you already found your girl."

"Of course I did," Larry smiled and again opened his arms for a hug.

"It's so pathetic - you still flirting with the girls in front of your store." Water started to gather in Maggie's eyes.

"Oh Maggie, I'm your prince, remember? You know it's not like that," Larry replied.

"What I know is that this is not the first time you've flirted and who knows what else with other women in the three months we have been married," Maggie's knees wobbled and her face drooped with tears.

"Aw, come on, Maggie, let's go inside and eat dinner," Larry walked towards the front door.

"I'm not eating with you," Maggie's face became stern. She walked inside, packed her bags, and never returned.

A large vase held red roses that had been so alive just a couple months ago, but now were brown and withered. Thank-you notes for the wedding presents still needed to be written. Even the "Just Married" sign was still in the front yard.

Maggie dusted a picture of her wedding day with Larry that was hanging above the fireplace. Her fingers lingered for a minute as she thought about how he had called her a princess on the first day. They had gone on a date that Saturday and many dates after that, including walks, train rides, and a honeymoon to the shore.

The smell of burnt rice brought Maggie back to the kitchen. She was making his favorite - pepper chicken with rice and asparagus, and peanut butter chocolate chip cookies for dessert. Maggie heard a whistle and knew Larry had to be home. She glanced out the window and saw his banjo under his arm. She slammed the potholders onto the counter and walked outside.

"Where have you been?" Maggie

The house stood two stories high with a white railing around the front porch. The porch swing let out a loud creak as Larry brushed his hand over it. He twisted the doorknob and with a little push, he stepped inside. There was no sweet smell of apple pie coming from the kitchen. The family picture collection above the fireplace was covered with dust. The brand new record player was in the center of the room - his mother did not live long enough to witness the invention.

"Dad, I'm here," Larry, now in his mid-thirties, pours himself a glass of water and takes off his coat. After a minute, he repeats himself. He glances out the window to the back yard. Then, he walks upstairs, turning his eyes away from his own wedding picture on the wall. "I come to visit and he's not even here to see me," Larry grumbles.

Larry grabs his coat and heads for the front door. Halfway there, he pauses and tilts his head back to look in the master bedroom off of the kitchen. He sees his dad's hand hang-

ing off the side of the bed. He retraces his steps and looks down at his Dad's face. It is red and his dad's lips are moving. His dad's fingers are motioning down to him. Larry slightly bends his knees.

I wish she could be with me now, Larry thought about his wife. I should've gone after her.

A noise came out of his Dad's mouth and Larry again looked at his face. "I'm sorry," his dad whispered.

Sorry for your greatness? Sorry that everyone liked you? Larry wondered. St. Mary's on the hill. That's where my Mom is buried and he will be too. Larry reminded himself and looked down at his Dad again.

"You were such a good son."

"Good," Larry replied.

His dad's voice was getting quieter and he could not pick up his head when he talked. His speech started to break: "Larry... promise me..."

"Dad, just calm down," his son told him.

"Please... listen," his father begged.

"Just relax," his son instructed.

"Do what you love," his father's eyes opened and stared into Larry's.

"That is only something for people like you," Larry interjected.

Larry's father closed his eyes. There were no women in the house to help Larry make funeral arrangements. His mother had died twelve years ago. His wife had left him; otherwise he would have brought her with him.

Glorious tunes from Larry's flute drift through the trees, across the snow, and all around the men and women going to Midnight Mass near the Mountain. He sits very still and the air comes from deep inside him.

The Churchgoers could whisper the words to When Glory Lit the Midnight Air: "With glory lit, the midnight air, Reveal'd bright angels hovering there. In fear beheld the raptur'd swains, when rose the heav'n inspired strains."

And then hum along to "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Catherine A. Tenace



Catherine Annette Tenace, 80, of Emmitsburg, passed away at her home on Friday, November 25. Born June 9, 1942, she was the daughter of the late Edward and Helen Sprinkle, nee Golembiewski. She was the loving wife to Richard Anthony Tenace, to whom she was married to for 58 years. She was a homemaker. She

enjoyed watching the Ravens, reading, gardening, flowers, painting and doing puzzles. She loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Surviving in addition to her husband are children, Edward Tenace and wife Isabelle of Batesville, AR, Cathleen Tenace of Irmo, SC, Matthew Tenace and wife Michelle, and Jennifer Dennis and husband Bodie, all of Frederick; five grandchildren, Caylin Tenace, Christopher Tenace, Jacob Tenace, Michael Ridgley, and Alexander Tenace; and nephew, Michael Sprinkle. Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by brother, George Sprinkle.

Arrangements by Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home, P.A., Emmitsburg.

For Memorial Service info, please visit www.myersdurborawfh.com/obituary/Catherine-Tenace.

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him born the King of Angels: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

Larry could see his own home and his parent's home from his spot on top of the mountain. He could see the building where he auditioning and his store. He saw most of the town of Emmitsburg and the railroad tracks running through it.

Larry looked down at his parent's gravestones in front of him. I hope... no... I know you're smiling down, Dad. The people are humming along - Can you hear them? They join in every year. The music makes them smile. I push myself hard. I think I've gotten a lot better. You could still probably give me a couple tips. Larry's blue eyes glimmer in the moonlight.

He thought about the hikes he had made up the mountain every year. The mountain had not changed much and his legs had gotten older, but the climb had grown easier every year. I

did not always talk to you Dad, as I climbed up, but I've always done it for you, Larry smiled.

And Maggie, this climb is for you, too. I remember how you had made my favorite meal on the day I came home with my banjo. Oh the sweet smell of peanut butter chocolate chip cookies! I love you with my whole heart now and I'm sorry it's too late. Please feel my love with every step.

At 11:55 pm Larry was just about to slip his flute into his pouch, and make his way to find his usual seat in the back pew of St. Anthony's Catholic Church when he suddenly stopped playing. He faltered and soon became unconscious. Larry's faithful listeners came to his rescue, but he died just a couple months later in 1923.

Yet, the Churchgoers in Emmitsburg still listen to Larry on Christmas Eve. His flute cannot be silenced after forty years of playing on the mountain. The music welcomes Christmas and the legend of Larry Dielman.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 7

Indian Summer & Squall Winter

Did Friday mark the beginning of Indian Summer? The warm breeze which sprang up on Thanksgiving Day prevailed the entire day. Not once did the official thermometer register freezing temperatures. The lowest for the day was 34° above freezing and for two or three hours the thermometer remained at 59 degrees, or just 11 points below summer heat. Rain fell at times but it was a warm gentle rain rather than those cold rains of early spring.

"It is Indian Summer, all right," said several of those weather wise men. "It always comes just about this time and always follows Squall Winter, and we have certainly been having Squall Winter."

Indian Summer and Squall Winter have their origins with the Indians who claimed that the Great Spirit sent the early cold spell as a warning of the approach of winter and then a warm spell to enable men to prepare for the winter.

Automobile Burned

Last Thursday evening the Ford touring car belonging to Mrs. Emilia Baker took fire which badly damaged the body. The machine was being filled with gasoline at the Thurmont Motor Company's supply tank, when it suddenly burst into flames. The supply tank ignited and things began to look serious for a time. The fire alarm was sounded and the chemical apparatus was soon brought to the scene. Within a very few minutes after the stream was turned on the fire ceased. A shot or two at the gas pump and all was over. Just what caused the gas to ignite is not know.

Emmitsburg Bank Admits insolvency

An answer to the petition for a receivership for Emmitsburg's Annan & Horner Bank was filed in court in which the respondent admitted the insolvency of the firm as alleged and consented to the appointment of a receiver. It is thought that the judge will appoint a receiver this week that

will immediately investigate the business of the company. Dr. Jamison, the complainant, alleges that he deposited \$645 in the bank in 1921, to bare 4% interest, and that to today none of this amount has been paid.

Moving Picture Show On Telephones

A moving picture entertainment was given in Shriners' Theater, Taneytown, Monday night, showing the development, operation and maintenance, of the modern telephone system, the whole being very instructive. The pitchers demonstrated the remarkable efficiency of telephone service, and how every feature works harmoniously together to the end. Phone users have only to do their part, and the management can be dependent on for the best in service.

Water Supply For Fairfield

Plans for installation of a water supply system for Fairfield have progressed to the point where the Borough Council is prepared to submit the matter to the voters for their approval in the spring. The Borough had preliminary plans drawn up by a firm of consulting engineers in Harrisburg.

It is contemplated that large springs within the Borough limits shall be used as a source of supply. The water will be pumped to an elevated storage tank to secure adequate pressure. Fire pressure will be obtained without the aid of a fire apparatus, as it will be sufficient if the plans are approved by the voters.

The estimated cost of the project will not exceed \$15,000 in the opinion of one of the members of the firm who made a preliminary survey of the territory. It is thought that if the loan is approved the town should show growth and would have sufficient facilities to attract new industries to the community. It is also expected that the use of wells in Fairfield would be eliminated once the new water supply system is installed.

Harney School Master To Become Taneytown Postmaster

Harney school patrons and pupils are sorry to learn that their very effi-

cient teacher, Harry Freezer, has been appointed postmaster, at Taneytown, not because they do not wish him success, but owing to his many years of valued service. They are sorry to lose him as a teacher, and they believe that where he to say just what he really thinks, it would be that he would as soon see someone else appointed; because, they believe, that he is as sorry to leave all the children as they are to see him go. They hope however that those in authority will see to it that they get a good teacher to fill his place, so that their school may be kept up to a usual high standard.

The current Taneytown Postmaster, William Burke, who will soon retire, will do so with an excellent record. He has conducted the affairs of the Post Office with general satisfaction to the patrons, and one of the best recommendations of Mr. Burke's administration is the fact that many Republican patrons would not have raised serious complaints had he been appointed for a third term; but two-term seems to have been established as a limit, for the past 36 years.

Gathering Christmas Greens

This is the season of the year, when property owners, especially along the highways, should exercise the utmost vigilance in protecting their evergreens, holly's, running pine, laurels and the like. The gathering of Christmas greens became such a serious matter, because of vandalism, that the Legislature of 1918 enacted a special law covering the subject. This law makes it a misdemeanor, with a fine of \$25 or 90 days imprisonment, or both, to remove, injure, or destroy any tree or shrub without the written consent of the owner.

Ice Plant For Emmitsburg

There is a strong possibility that Emmitsburg will have a new industry here next year. Several out of town parties were in the neighborhood during the past week looking over the field with a view of establishing an ice manufacturing plant in this section of the County. These people are experts in the ice business and have several plants in other parts of Maryland. The

Merry Christmas

Only one more Shopping day till Xmas.

I still have a full line of Candies. French mixed, 13c lb.; Chocolate Drops, 15c lb.; Peanut Butter, 15 and 20c lb.; Chocolate almonds, 49c lb.; Dolly Varden Chocolates, in one-half and one lb. boxes, prices 35c to \$1.00.

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We have a full line of Cigars, Cigarettes and Pipes for Xmas.

Don't forget to give us your order for Oysters.

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Cash Grocery and Meat Store
TANEYTOWN, MD.

purpose of their visit was not in the nature of looking for investors but to see some of the leading citizens of the town as to the prospects and if such a plant was needed and would be a paying proposition.

December 14

Electric Fly Killer

A new electric fly killer consisting of a panel frame connected to a transformer that is attached to a lightning circuit. Parallel rows of wires, carrying a current a 500 Volts, cross this frame. The frame is placed where flies congregate and as they are attracted to the wires they are killed by the high-voltage. Bug traps along the same lines have been perfected. It is rumored, that some wives of Boozers are experimenting with a version to put them out of their misery as well.

Women Fight Calls For Equality

The National Council of Catholic Women have announced its determination to fight to propose legislation establishing complete legal equality between men and women, which is sponsored by the National Women's Party. Their opposition is based on the belief that it would endanger the present rights and privileges enjoyed by married woman, the laws for the protection of women and industry, the wife's legal claim to support from her husband and that it threatens the stability of the home.

The Ku Klux Klan

The Ku Klux Klan is getting a vast amount of free advertising these days. The organization is both commended and condemned, and on both classes of publicity it seems to thrive. So far as this newspaper is concerned, it does not desire to publish comment on the principles of the organization, either for or against, as it is one of the sorts of questions that lead into endless controversy, and in the end, nobody benefits.

As a fraternal organization, this newspaper considers the paid advertising of the Klan as allowable as that of any other, but further than this we do not consider that it is evolving upon us to publish articles, either for, or against. It is one of the class of movements, involving politics, religion and race that occasionally springs up, and instigates strong

feelings—some of it news, but most simply opinions.

Unquestionably, the acts of the Klan may be considered as news. The fact that Congressional, and other forms of actions have been publicly urged, and that the Klan has been showing itself as a political power, establishes that. In other ways, it has forced itself before the attention of the public, and apparently it has many adherences, all of which very naturally make it more talked about, and with the result that newspapers large and small have been compelled to recognize it, along with the many other doings of this remarkable country of ours.

While it is considered legitimate enough, by some papers, to run an open forum concerning such subjects, this newspaper has neither the inclination, nor the space, to do so, but in case it becomes necessary to handle KKK news, we prefer to do so in its own way as circumstance may require.

Fined \$25 After Auto Accident

As a result of an automobile accident Sunday evening on Emmitsburg Pike near Mount Saint Marys College, Edward Carbaugh, of Catoctin Furnace, was arrested and taken before Justice Stokes of Emmitsburg and find \$25 in cost.

Albert Harbaugh, of Highfield said he was driving a car in the direction of Emmitsburg, when he met the machine driven by Carbaugh traveling towards Thurmont. Harbaugh's automobile was on the right side of the road and the car operated by Carbaugh came across the wrong side of the highway and side-swiped Harbaugh's machine, breaking the front left wheel, ripping away the running board and damaging both fenders on the left side of the car.

The sheriff's office was notified and deputies went to Catoctin Furnace and arrested Harbaugh. Rumor has it that Harbaugh was returning from a 'supply' run of recently distilled hooch for Boozers in the Emmitsburg area at the time of the accident.

Fairfield Divided Over Water Project

"To be or not to be" as applied to the question of a town water supply to supplement the system of private wells, has created a sharp line or division in the community of Fairfield. Opinions and recommendations have been banded about following the announcement of

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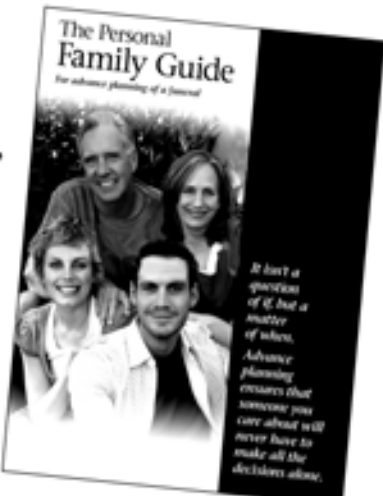
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it.

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the project last week.

The Town Council of Fairfield first considered the proposal about six months ago and voted for the plan by an overwhelming majority. A number of town people, however, have opposed the project on the ground that taxes would be increased, and they feared that if an adequate water supply were piped to the town, the state Board of Health will condemn all private wells.

On the other hand, supporters of the plan claim that the wells are out of date and unsanitary, and that a pipe water supply would be a convenience and would furnish a more adequate supply for firefighting. In addition, it would be an improvement, which would attract industry to the town, and with thus benefit the town more than the cost would amount to.

The question now rests with the voters of the town, who will have an opportunity to express themselves on the subject this spring. The town Council said that if the voters do not ratify the proposition by at least a 2/3rds vote it will be impossible for the town to put in the water as a community project. In that case, a franchise will be granted to some outside concern, who will then own and operate the plant.

December 21

Eyler Released

Milliam Eyler, who was pardon from a life sentence in the Eastern Penitentiary, was brought to his home near Emmitsburg last Friday, by Dr. Bowman, one of the instructors at the institution. This was Eyler's first ride in an automobile, and he became quite sick on the way, caused by the car's motion, something on the order of seasickness.

Dr. Bowman told a remarkable story of the farewell Eyler was given at the penitentiary. He left the place Wednesday but on the request of a large body of prisoners he returned Thursday morning to say goodbye to every one of the 1,709 prisoners. It required five hours and their farewell was most touching, many of the long term men declaring that they take greater delight in seeing Eyler given his freedom than if they

themselves were to be released.

He was generally loved by all in the place, and the Board of Prisons inspectors made up a purse of \$50 for him, while a church society gave him a complete outfit of clothing. Presidents of two large manufacturing concerns in Emmitsburg informed Dr. Bowman that they would give Eyler employment. He learned secretarial work while he was in prison and will not be without employment for any length of time it is expected.

Annan-Horner Bank Receiver Appointed

Reno Harp has been appointed receiver for the banking firm of Annan-Horner of Emmitsburg. It is understood that an accountant will be employed to investigate the conditions in the business of the institution, with a view of settling up the partnership for the benefit of its creditors.

The court order, naming the receiver, directed the latter to take possession of all the property of the partnership of every kind and description, wherever situated, and all money coming into the hands shall be applied first to the payment of cost of the receivership and bonds, then to the satisfaction and payment of the indebtedness to the compliant and all other creditors of the partnership, and the residue, if any, to be distributed among the members of the partnership.

Mr. Harp, stated that he would proceed to sell the real estate of the bank and to collect all notes and other assets of the firm for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the bank. The petition of Dr. Jamison placed a liability to the partnership at \$110,000, but no estimate was made of the assets.

Edgar Annan, named in a petition as one of the members of the partnership, has filed a paper in court denying that he has a partner in the firm and asked to be dismissed from the proceedings.

Christmas Vacation

The Christmas vacation of Mount Saint Mary's College will begin Saturday morning, December 16 and will last until January 3 when classes will be resumed. St. Joseph's does not have as long of vacation. The holidays

do not begin at this college until Tuesday, December 19 and will end on the morning of January 3.

The town of Emmitsburg and the village of Saint Anthony's will be ghosts towns for the next three weeks for the student bodies of the two colleges unquestionably make up a large portion of the population of these north county centers.

Says Girls Should Play More

Girls require more opportunities for play than they get and boys should share domestic tasks with girls, in the opinion of Dr. Hammer of the London School of Medicine. He has come to the conclusion that schoolgirls have too much work to do and that as a consequences they suffer more than boys from defective vision, heart disease, and spinal curvatures. "These can all be traced to the same set of causes," he said, "less opportunity for play than boys, less time spent in the open air, the performance of household duties, and, in regard to school, a different curriculum."

December 28

Churches Overflowing

The attendance at the Christmas services in the churches where usually large this year in every town. Over 200 people weren't able to get seats in the Lutheran Church In Emmitsburg on Sunday evening and were forced to return home.

Sterling Galt Dies

Mr. Sterling Galt died at his home in Emmitsburg, on Thursday evening, following an illness of about a week from pneumonia. For a number of years, Mr. Galt was the editor of the Emmitsburg Chronicle.

Mr. Galt was a man of fine intellectual attainment. He was a member of the State Board of Education, was an active promoter of many local movements for community uplift, and among other things, took active interest in encouraging athletic sports.

Upon taking up his residence in Emmitsburg Mr. Galt became interested in politics. He was a Democrat and exercise considerable influence in his community. He was once a candidate for state senator – the only time he ever aspired to public office – and conducted a vigorous campaign.

His home was visited by President and Mrs. Wilson after the former's sec-

ond marriage. Mrs. Wilson was the former Mrs. Edith Galt. Her first husband was the brother of Sterling Galt.

He had been in failing health for the past two years, but for the past six months had apparently been greatly improved, and on the road to full recovery. He was 56 years of age.

Splinter Causes Blood Poison

Harry Clutz, who had the misfortune to run a splinter into his finger, was compelled to endure great pain for nearly a week, when it was taken to the hospital, and an examination by the doctors they pronounced he had blood poison and immediately operated on him. We are informed that it was just in time to prevent serious trouble. After the operation he was greatly relieved, and that this writing is getting along nicely.

A Virginia Horse Advertisement

The following horse ad recently appeared in the Scottsville Virginia News and it said to have brought almost 50 replies, and a quick sale.

"For sale – one male animal, alleged to be a horse. Age unknown, but in all probability was foaled sometime during the present century; 15.3 hands high, incline to be angular. Harness will hang on him anywhere and at any angle. Condition fair to midland; 11 ribs on each side: (you can count them for yourself); the rest of his anatomy is fairly well conceal. Four legs, one of them in excellent shape – better in fact than many that have been in evidence of late. Two eyes, which are normal for a horse of his age, teeth need some repairs and some replacements. Any lady with plenty of time, patience, and a good whip can drive him – and he will stand without hitching. This is probably the best thing he does. Price, with the usual factory guarantees, exceptions as above, \$12: price 'as is.' Halter extra."

Another Barn Is Burned Down

The latest in a series of barn fires which has occurred in this county broke out shortly before 5 O'clock on Saturday morning in a barn belonging to the Blue Mountain Orchard Co., on the Zora Road between Fairfield in Emmitsburg.

Samuel Long, who occupies the farm and runs it for the banking house of Annan-Horner, which is now in bankruptcy, discovered the

blaze as he was getting up this morning. Calling the rest of the family, they rushed out to the flaming structure, but the fire had gained such headway by that time that it was impossible to save more than one horse from the lower part of the barn.

The barn, which was one of the largest in this section of the country, contained 14 calves, seven horses and two mules. One horse was the only animal saved, the rest of them perishing in the flames that swept like wildfire through the doom structure. In a fruitless attempt to rescue the stock, Mr. Long's hair was singed by the intense heat.

The fire loss also include a silo and a small shed that adjoined the barn. Hay, grain and farming implements which filled the upper part of the barn were also destroyed. Mr. Long said that he estimates his losses on livestock at \$3,500, hay and feed at \$1,000 and on the machinery at \$800. The insurance carried amounted to \$2,700 or less than half of the losses.

Mr. Long said he woke at the usual time in the morning and heard the crackling of flames as he went to the window. The flames where just breaking through the sides of the building and it appeared that the entire upper part of the barn was already ablaze.

Since none of the family had been in the building since Friday evening, and so many hours had a lapse from then until the place was discovered, Mr. Long stated that he believed the fire was incendiary in nature.

His first glance at the doomed structure showed that the flames had progressed too far to save it, so no call for fire engines were sent out. Other buildings were not in danger at any time, as only a light wind was blowing, and that was in the direction away from them.

Several neighbors had reported that they were out and working around their places by 4 o'clock in the morning, and that there were no signs of fire in the Long barn at that time. None of them noticed anything wrong until the alarm was raised by Mr. Long himself.

According to statements of neighbors, there is a reason to believe that Mr. Long had at least one enemy who would be capable of firing the barn. For during the past year, five of his cow have died under mysterious circumstances, allbelieved to have been poisoned.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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Happy New Year!

FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

December 7

When word reached Frederick that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor, shock was quickly replaced with a determination to do whatever it took to protect this nation and defeat its enemies.

In early February 1941, Company A of the Maryland National Guard went onto active service for what the men thought would be one year. Many of them would die in the service of their country. Others would not come home until 1947.

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Sunday morning December 7, 1941. It was already evening here, but radios and telephones quickly spread the word.

Civic leaders began early the next morning to organize for the civil defense of Frederick. Four days later the Frederick County Council of Defense opened a headquarters in the People's Courtroom in the courthouse at Church and Court streets.

On Thursday morning the 11th, local units of the Maryland State Guard were mobilized. As the men, outfitted in full uniform, with guns and packs, marched from the Armory to Market Street, down to Patrick, up to Court, then north to Second and back to the Armory, storekeepers, clerks and others silently watched them pass.

Friday night more than 500 people crowded into the Circuit Courtroom to be sworn in as civilian volunteers. They were all resolved "to stand behind the man behind the gun."

On Monday, December 13, the first blackout drill was conducted with great success.

The determination that had been displayed so fervently was muted on the 16th when Mr. and Mrs. Roy Baker, of Emmitsburg, received word that their son, George Baker, had been killed at Hickham Field near

Honolulu, where he was training as an airplane mechanic. His death was noted as the first Frederick County casualty of World War II.

However, a week after the announcement of his death, his parents received a call from Baker saying that he was okay.

December 14

Seldom in the history of Frederick County have the citizens been aroused to a fever pitch by the exploits of criminals. Usually the crime was committed and the culprit captured within a short time.

Everybody wanted to know as much as possible about the misdeed and the offender. But seldom did the citizens rise up to help law enforcement officials as they did in the fall of 1919.

In the early morning hours of October 18, four Frederick businesses were burglarized. One of them, Markell and Ford, was nearly wrecked by explosion as the burglars attempted to blow the safe.

As daylight arrived the two criminals caught a ride on the early morning trolley to Lewistown at Montevue Hospital. Upon arrival, they disembarked because they had to wait for the through trolley to Thurmont.

While they were there, word of the burglaries reached Lewistown, and because they were strangers, they aroused suspicion.

When the Thurmont trolley left Lewistown, someone called Sheriff Charles Klipp, who in turn called Deputy Sheriff Clarence Lidie in Thurmont. He told Lidie to meet the trolley and arrest the two men for questioning.

Lidie called upon Leo Creager, Samuel Vanhorn, William Foreman, Charles Spaulding, and William Har-

baugh, local residents, to help him in the apprehension.

At the station Lidie saw that one of the men had already boarded the Western Maryland train. He told Harbaugh to arrest the man on the train. Shortly Harbaugh emerged with the man in tow and Lidie put handcuffs on him.

While this was happening, the other man stated to run and Lidie drew his pistol and fired several shots at him without effect. The Thurmont men then climbed into Creager's car and took off after the man. Spaulding followed the man on foot. Lidie remained at the train depot to take charge of the other suspect.

The men in the car circled around to get in front of the escaping criminal. At Apples Church road, Spaulding came upon the others in the car and jumped on the running board. Creager attempted to run the man down on the road but missed him and ended up in a ditch.

All of the men jumped out of the car in hot pursuit. Creager, apparently was faster than the others because he gained on the suspect quickly. He chased him into a peach orchard near Latimer Schildt's barn.

Suddenly the suspect turned and fired directly at Creager. The bullet hit him in the left side just below the heart. When Spaulding's gun failed to fire, the burglar held these men at gunpoint and then started running away again.

The men then turned to Creager in an attempt to save his life. Dr. Kefauver arrived, but was unable to save Creager. With Creager's death, Sheriff Klipp organized a huge manhunt, involving more than 500 men. It went on for three days, but no trace of the suspect was found.

The Frederick County commissioners even offered a \$1,000 reward for the capture of the man "dead or alive." The man who was arrested on the day of Creager's death was identified later as Irwin Mantz of Waynesboro, PA. Information obtained from Mantz eventually identified the other suspect as Clarence Wallace, also of Waynesboro, who had worked in Frederick helping to construct a building at Hood College, and in the construction of a new high school in Thurmont. For several weeks nothing was heard of the investigation.

On Saturday December 14, 1919, acting on information supplied by Frederick County officials, Santa Barbara, California, police attempted to arrest Wallace at the local post office.

During a shoot-out Wallace received three gunshot wounds. He died the next day at Cottage Hospital.

But the story doesn't end there. Frederick County officials ordered the body shipped back to Frederick so that positive identification could be made. The casket arrived in Frederick December 22 and was taken to the county courthouse the next morning. Hundreds of people went to see the body. Wallace was identified by several witnesses.

There was one surprise, however. George Foreman, night clerk at the City Hotel, said, after seeing the body, that it was the same man who had robbed him earlier in the year. In that crime, the culprits made off with more than \$1,000.

Creager was the son of John Creager and had been in the lumber and coal business for several years. He was survived by his wife, Florence, a daughter Betty, and a stepdaughter Dora Long. His mother, Mrs. Wesley Creager, also survived. He was buried October 20, 1919, in the United Brethren Cemetery.

December 21

The columns of the Frederick Examiner of December 21, 1881, told the story of an elopement. It wasn't your usual case, however.

Other Frederick newspapers had already covered the story of Mrs. John Devilbiss and A. M. Geisbert, both of the Creagerstown area, when it was carried by The Examiner.

The lady was described by its writers as: "a woman of comely appearance and pleasant address, vivacious and all that, but never taught to be 'fast'."

Geisbert was said to be "a man of sober habits, sedate, and gives evidence to the beholder of anything else than a romantic disposition... There is no accounting for taste, for Mrs. D. became enamored of one far from being altogether lovely."

However, both left their homes in early December, leaving spouses and small children behind.

Mrs. Devilbiss was the wife of a physician, who, when she abandoned her family, was in Cincinnati on business.

For weeks following the elopement, Frederick County was abuzz with all sorts of rumors concerning the pair. They were tracked to Baltimore, but then all trace of them seems to have disappeared.

Geisbert was a former county school teacher who worked on weekends and holidays for The National Photographic Company, enlarging pictures and daguerreotypes.

The Examiner said he was the agent for the executor of the estate of Adam Black at the time of his elopement and was suspected of taking some of that estate's assets when he left.

Mrs. Devilbiss was the daughter of William Shank, who had left her more than \$1,300, which she withdrew from a Frederick bank the day she eloped with Geisbert.

December 28

A little piece of Frederick's history - about 2,000 pounds of it - rests today in the U. S. National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, still ticking after nearly 200 years.

As most towns in their native Germany had a town clock, so the German settlers of Frederick wanted one also. The steeple of Trinity Church was already up when the city corporation and the church combined to order a clock to be built by Frederick Augustus Heisley, a Frederick artisan.

It is believed that Heisley moved to Frederick Town in 1783, shortly after marrying Catherine Hoff, herself the daughter of a clockmaker in Lancaster, PA.

He quickly became active in the affairs of Frederick, owning several parcels of ground on Market Street and on Church Street. He was also a jeweler and made technical instruments for surveying.

After constructing the clock, Heisley asked another local clock and watch maker - John Fessler - to assist in its installation in the steeple.

There are some who believe the clockworks were installed as early as 1791, but it is more likely to have happened in 1807.

The Heisley's had four children while living in Frederick, although all were not born here. The death of daughter Caroline in 1815 apparently led the Heisleys to leave Frederick for Harrisburg. It was there he died March 18, 1843, as noted in Jacob Englebrecht's diary.

In 1928 the clockworks were removed and stored in the Price Electric warehouse. The Fessler family, which had maintained the clock, including winding it regularly, ended with the removal.

On December 28, 1931, the Heisley clockworks were presented by the city to the Smithsonian, where they were restored and where they remain on display.

To read past selections for John Ashbury's *All Our Yesterdays* visit Emmitsburg.net.



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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Dick Sutcliffe's Davey and Goliath

Michael Bule

With the holiest of months approaching for most religions, it is only fitting to write about one of the most influential Lutheran leaders of the twentieth century, Richard (Dick) Towne Sutcliffe (1918-2008).

Although Dick was born in Columbia, Pennsylvania, he spent most of his formative years in Taneytown as his father, Reverend Alfred Sutcliffe, was the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church from 1928 until he died in 1945.

Dick attended Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and Catawba College in North Carolina, though he never graduated. He began his professional career in Roanoke, Va., as a reporter and photographer.

In the 1950s, Sutcliffe moved to Massapequa, New York, to become an ecumenical radio producer for the United Lutheran Church in America. As the 1960s drew close, he was asked for advice on a new project. The "new project" was soon outlined as 1 million dollars (roughly 10.3 million dollars today) for a future children's religious television program. Sutcliffe's daughter said in his obituary, which appeared in the New York Times on May 25, 2008, "The Lutheran Church was interested in using this new-fangled thing called television to reach people." This would have been a minister delivering brief sermonettes, "but my father said theology wasn't appropriate for television."

Soon after, Mr. Sutcliffe contacted Clokey Productions, Inc., headed by *Gumby* creators Art and

Ruth Clokey, to create a new children's show: *Davey and Goliath*. Children's book author Nancy Moore wrote scripts in consultation with the church. Davey and Goliath was a stop-action animated show about a boy and his dog finding their way in a world of temptation.

The ULCA and Art Clokey teamed up to make the first *Davey and Goliath* episode in 1960, called "Lost in a Cave," which would be the first shown in syndication in 1961. In this premiere episode, the figures were entirely clay (with some latex/rubber clothing showing visible seams), and the scenery was also mostly clay. The early voices included Hal Smith (who did several voices, including Davey's father), Dick Beals (Davey's voice), and Ginny Tyler (the voices of Sally and Davey's mother). These three did many other voices as well.

After making "Lost in a Cave" in 1960, the Clokeys made "The Wild Goat," "Stranded on an Island," and "The Winner" in early 1961. The clay figures were now clothed in natural cloth, and more model buildings and trees were added, giving the episodes a more realistic appearance. In 1961, the series of these four episodes began airing free on local television stations nationwide, ranging from ABC, NBC, and CBS Network affiliates to independent stations. Occasionally, two or more stations in the same market aired the show several times. Many stations ran these episodes leading into network Saturday-morning lineups. Other stations ran them in religious Sunday morning lineups between other

evangelists' programs. By 1964, the show was airing in over 90% of U.S. television markets.

In 1965, Davey and Goliath returned to television when a 30-minute Christmas special called "Christmas Lost and Found" was aired. The episode was more overtly religious and distanced itself from traditional Christmas figures such as Santa Claus and Rudolph, with spiritual Christmas songs included. Additionally, it was Dick Beals' last appearance as Davey's voice.

In 1967, three 30-minute holiday specials were aired: "Happy Easter" in March, "Halloween Who-Dun-It" in October, and "The New Year Promise" in December. By now, the background music was changed to an unknown music library, also used in the *Gumby* episodes produced during that time. Davey was closer to junior high-school age and was voiced by Norma MacMillan. "Happy Easter" confronted the death of a loved one, as Davey's beloved grandmother dies suddenly (off-camera) within hours of a fun-filled visit.

In 2001, *Davey and Goliath* appeared in a Mountain Dew soda commercial, and the royalties from this commercial financed the 2004 Christmas special *Davey & Goliath's Christmas Snowboard Christmas*. The holiday special addressed religious and racial diversity as Davey demonstrated his snowboarding expertise to two friends: Sam, a Jewish boy, and Yasmeen, a Muslim girl. During the show, they get caught in an avalanche and end up in a cave. Goliath goes for help while Davey and his new friends discover that

they aren't all that different. The three children learn of each other's holiday celebrations: Jewish Hanukkah, Christian Christmas, and Eid al-Fitr.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the program was a staple on both religious and secular TV stations across the country on Saturday and Sunday mornings. In the 1980s, commercial stations began gradually dropping the series. Religious stations picked it up in many markets and ran it in their blocks of Christian children's

programs. By 1990, few commercial stations still aired the series.

The show continued to air on CatholicTV Network until late in 2009, on Tri-State. Christian Television until 2010 and can still be seen on a few local Christian Television stations.

On cable, the Odyssey Network ran the entire series commercial-free from 1992 until 1999. Since the network's rebranding as the Hallmark Channel in 2001, they have only aired a few of the holiday specials with several commercial breaks, including the Snowboard Christmas special made in 2004. In 2008, iTunes began offering episodes as free downloads. By December of that year, more than Twenty episodes had been made available. Nowadays, the episodes cost 99 cents each.

In addition to its high production values, crisp, unpredictable scripts, and profound lessons in godliness, the show was initially provided free to television stations across the country on Sunday mornings. Despite the small number of aired episodes, some parodied episodes appeared on "The Simpsons" and "MADtv."

In 1969, Dick and his wife



Art Clokey and his wife Ruth created the stop-action animated show Davey and Goliath. Like Dick Sutcliffe, Ruth's father had served as a Lutheran minister in Chicago.

moved to Texas, where he served as Director of University Relations for Southern Methodist University and Director of Communications for the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. When he retired in 1982, he returned to his investigative reporter roots and took on the avocation of the family genealogist. Going well beyond the role of the data collector, he wrote not only about the lives of many of his ancestors but also several hundred vignettes about memorable moments in his life and the lives of family and friends. During these years, he also volunteered at Baylor Hospital in Dallas.

On May 11, 2008, Richard (Dick) Towne Sutcliffe passed away shortly after celebrating his ninetieth birthday in Dallas, Texas, from complications following a stroke.

For more information, contact David Buie through Downtown Taneytown's Facebook page or by email at downtowntaneytown@gmail.com.

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COOKING

The smell of cookies in the oven...

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

Baking: the smell of cookies in the oven, cracking eggs, proofing bread, always gets families in the holiday spirit. It is also a great way to start a family tradition of your own households cookies, or special bread. Kids love to be involved as a sous chef, especially when a sweet treat is the final outcome.

Thumbprint Cookies

My mom and nephew used to make a version of these cookies together, his little thumbs were perfect for making the wells to put icing, or in this case jam, in the cookies. Kids love playing helper with these cookies. This version of thumbprints are buttery and delicious and filled with fruit jam from the store.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (230 grams) unsalted butter softened
- 2/3 cup (135 grams) granulated sugar
- 2 large egg yolks room temperature
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 and 1/3 cups (290 grams) all-purpose flour spooned & leveled
- 1/2 cup strawberry or apricot jam

Instructions : Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone. baking mats and set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, or in a large mixing bowl using a handheld mixer, cream together the butter and sugar for 1-2 minutes or until well combined. Mix in the eggs yolks, vanilla extract, and salt until fully combined, then mix in the flour. The mixture will be a little crumbly at first but it will come together as you continue mixing it.

Using a one-tablespoon cookie

scoop or measuring tablespoon, measure out the cookie dough, roll into balls. Use your thumb to press an indentation into each ball of cookie dough. Spoon 1/2 teaspoon of jam into the indentation in each one. Bake at 350°F (177°C) for 12-14 minutes or until the cookies are set and the bottoms are lightly browned. Remove from the oven and cool on the baking sheet for 10 minutes, then carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.

Freezing Instructions: Baked cookies will freeze well for up to 3 months, thaw to room temperature before serving. Cookie dough will also freeze well for up to 3 months. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator, then roll in sugar and fill with jam right before baking.

Classic French Toast

Bake Recipe

This French toast casserole is our go to for Christmas morning. Prepared ahead of time, it can be placed in the oven to bake while opening presents and starting the coffee. It uses simple ingredients like French bread, eggs, maple syrup and everyday baking spices that you likely already have in stock - so it is also an easy make and bake. You can substitute Challah bread which also delicious for soaking up all the eggy mixture.

Ingredients:

- 12-15 slices French bread or about 1 loaf, cut into 1" pieces
- 2 cups Milk
- 12 large Eggs
- 1/3 cup Maple Syrup
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 2 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 pinch Nutmeg

Streusel topping

- 6 T Butter at room temperature, cut into cubes
- 1/3 cup Brown Sugar light brown sugar
- 1/3 cup Flour all-purpose
- 1/2 tsp Cinnamon



Instructions : The day before you want to serve this, spray a 9 by 13" baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Cut or tear the French bread into 1" pieces and place them evenly in your baking dish. In a large mixing bowl, add the eggs and whisk to break them up. Add the milk, maple syrup, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg and whisk again until all the ingredients are combined. Pour your egg mixture evenly over the bread, covering as much of it as possible. Use a fork to gently stir your bread and egg mixture together. Cover with saran wrap and place in the refrigerator overnight, or for at least 4 hours to allow time for the bread to soak up all of the liquid

For the Streusel Topping - In a medium-size mixing bowl, add the room temperature butter, brown sugar, flour, and cinnamon. Stir or mix with a fork until the streusel has 1/4" pieces. You can also use a standing mixer with the paddle attachment on low speed, making sure to stop the mixer once you have 1/4" pieces.

Baking the Classic French Toast Bake

In the morning, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Take the baking dish out of the fridge and let it come to room temperature. Be sure the baking dish has a chance to come up to room temperature before putting it in the oven so that your baking dish doesn't crack. Sprinkle the streusel evenly over the bread and egg mixture and put into your preheated oven. Bake for 45-50 minutes, or until the top and edges are light golden brown. Remove from the oven, and cut into 12 portions once it has cooled slightly. Serve with whipped cream, berries or your favorite syrup.

My brother and I have a lot of trouble getting into the Christmas

spirit without spirits, when putting batteries into new toys. So, of course a themed holiday cocktail is on the menu for just after (or with) the breakfast bake. You can make this Christmas sangria the night before and let the fruit sit and mingle with your moscato.

Christmas Sangria Cocktail

This delicious holiday cocktail will impress all of your guests!

Ingredients:

- 2 Green Apples; Chopped
- 2 Cups of Fresh Cranberries
- 1/2 Cup of Granulated Sugar
- 1 Bunch of Rosemary
- 1 Bottle of Moscato
- 1 Bottle of Sparkling Apple Cider

Instructions: Chop both green apples into small pieces. Add all but a few of the pieces of green apple to the bottom of your drink pitcher. You will use the other pieces for garnish. Rinse the cranberries in a colander and immediately roll only a handful in sugar. Set aside the sugared cranberries to use for the garnish. Add all cranberries except the sugared cranberries to the pitcher. Use a muddler or wooden spoon to crush some of the fruit in the bottom of the pitcher. Pour in the moscato and the sparkling apple cider. Add rosemary to the top to garnish. Rim your champagne glasses with sugar and fill with the Christmas Sangria. Add a few of the she sugared cranberries and apple pieces to the top of cocktail. Garnish each glass with one piece of rosemary.

Buckeyes

Ingredients:

- 1 18 oz. jar Peanut Butter
- 2 Sticks Butter
- 1 One Pound Box of 10x Sugar
- 2 C. Graham Cracker Crumbs

- 24 Oz. Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 4 T. Shortening

Cooking Directions: In mixer bowl, blend peanut butter and butter. Beat in 10x sugar and graham cracker crumbs. Roll into balls and place in freezer for 15 minutes. Melt chocolate chips and shortening and stir together. Line cookie sheet with foil, spraying well with Pam. (You can use parchment paper as well.) Spear a buckeye with a toothpick and dip in chocolate sauce. Makes about 80 balls.

Pecan Delights

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

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 C. Brown Sugar
- 1 C. Butter
- 1 C. Corn Syrup
- 1/8 Tsp. Salt
- 1 14 Oz. Can Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1 Tsp. Vanilla
- 1.5 Lb. pecans (24 ounces)
- 1 C. Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels
- 1 C. Milk Chocolate Morsels
- 2 T. Shortening

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

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MOMS' TIME OUT

My favorite time of the year

Mary Angel

I can't believe it is almost here, my favorite time of the year! As soon as I hear my first Christmas carol, I am hooked and ready. Then I roll into the I can't wait phase of the holidays. Wait maybe it is already here. Honestly it seems like Christmas comes earlier and earlier every year. Even though it is my favorite time of the year, it seems less special when it comes too early. My kids are split down the middle on this idea.

During the pandemic my oldest daughter, 16 at the time, began putting her Christmas tree up in July. Simply put, she needed something to look forward to, something to brighten her days of isolation. We definitely encouraged her as it was apparent her focusing on the holiday was keeping her head above water. When she asked if I would help her get the tree from the basement, I have to admit I was a little shocked and a bit confused. After she set it up and decorated it so beautifully with a ton of lights and enough Christmas balls to sink a Navy ship, I knew she was serious. She started a Christmas Tic Toc channel and began making videos of her decorating, baking, and doing holiday crafts. All of her enthusiasm totally got me in the mood. It was Christmas in July and I loved it. However, starting Christmas in July tends to cause the holiday spirit to fade away by the time Christmas actually rolls around.

After the pandemic she stopped her Christmas-all-year-long spree and we returned to normal, or so I thought. This year my husband planned to have a Christmas fun and decorating day the day after Thanksgiving. We both figured that is when the holiday season would kick into gear for the family. Then I planned a little get away to celebrate all of the birthdays my daughters missed during the pandemic. I surprised them with a trip to Pennsylvania. We stayed near Lititz (an amazing town that I hope to share more about in the future), did a little site seeing and mother daughter bonding, and we started our Christmas shopping. We ended that trip with the "Home for the Holidays" show at The American Music Theater in Lancaster. All bets were off. As soon as we saw the stage all decorate for Christmas all three of us turned to one another and started to laugh. We were immediately in the Christmas spirit.

The show and the carols just added to the atmosphere of Christmas. I wanted to decorate, shop, and drink eggnog (which I don't even like). When we returned home my husband suggested we spend the weekend going through Christmas decorations and do a purge of the items that haven't been used in twelve years since we moved into this home. Little did he know that

the minute the girls saw the decorations we would be decorating for the holidays. The good news for him is that the kids love all the games and activities he plans for Black Friday. So, although the girls and I were already in the mood for Christmas, the boys would join us on Black Friday. It also made purging old decorations a lot easier because we decorated and then quickly realized everything we would never use.

The day began by putting up the tree and me stringing the lights and then the kids put the ornaments on while I took pictures. This is my favorite part of the whole day, because the kids reminisce with each ornament they pick up. After the tree was decorated, we placed the rest of the decorations around the house, which didn't take long. I am not sure if the kids were tired from loading the tree with ornaments or lugging the tubs of decorations up from the basement. I just know they finished decorating quicker than Santa can put gifts under the tree and head back up the chimney. After the decorating was finished it was time for the activities.

A little Christmas Themed Jack Box began the festivities. Every answer that we gave had to be

Christmas related, and as long as you could tie your answer to something holiday related you could use it. After that we played my favorite, Christmas movie charades (hysterical every time)! Next was the snowflake contest. We each cut a snowflake out of paper, yes, just like you are back in elementary school. Then, we took a picture without names, so the judges couldn't show favoritism. Some years they vote for the most artistic, sometimes they vote for the most rustic, you never know. After a quick lunch we had a cookie decorating contest, then it was cookie eating time. At this point I could have taken a nap, but there was no time for that. I had to head to my craft room and bring up an obscene amount of craft supplies including some blank cards. At this point we all rolled up our sleeves and decorated Christmas cards for a local charity. Even my least artistic child loved this activity. There were no rules, just decorate and write a little sentiment for someone who needs to know that they are loved, because He first loved us. Once dinner time came, we were all exhausted and in need of some down time before bed.

No matter what tradition we



have had for the holidays, I love them all. This new tradition, that started last year, is no different. It is all about the family time and not to sound too cliché the reason for the season. This is the time of year to count your blessings, show love to those who feel unloved

and to remember those who are less fortunate than you. To each of you I say Merry Christmas and enjoy your family traditions with your kids, they grow up too fast!

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In the spirit of the holiday season, we asked our students to write about a favorite Christmas gift that they have either received or given, and why it is special to them.

Freshman

A Christmas dream

Sarah Miller
MSMU Class of 2026

When I think of the greatest gift that somebody has ever given me for Christmas, my heart always goes to a specific moment during Christmastime. The day after the Christmas of 2021, I received a very specific phone call.

In December of 2021, I got the call that I was selected to be a part of the JROTC Flight Academy where I would learn and become a Private Pilot. The acceptance criteria and testing were intense and had an eight percent acceptance rate, but I achieved my goal. Applicants had to submit a resume, take the AFOQT (The Air Force Officer Qualifying Test), pass a physical fitness test, and obtain a First Class Medical Certificate. I passed with soaring colors, and little did I know this experience would change my life.

Flight Academy is an 8-week flight program, fully funded by the Air Force where I would receive 60 hours of flight time to complete my private pilot's license. If you didn't complete it in 60 hours, you had to finish your requirements when you arrived home. In the summer, I was relocated to Florida Memorial University, in Miami-Gardens, Florida where I flew out of Opa-Locka Airport to do my flight training.

I was faced with much adversity during the whole experience. It is very challenging to get your

private pilot's license in 8-weeks, let alone having to complete it in Florida's heat and aggressive weather in the summertime. My first phase was completing my written exam, which was a test just on aviation ground knowledge and flight procedures. We had to take this test two weeks after arriving in Florida, and the transition was very challenging. I needed strength because this training was rigorous, and to be completely honest, I would not call myself good at math or STEM at all, in general.

I passed the written exam with a 94 percent, one of the best in my class. I stayed up every night studying and checked my first box. After this time, I really started flying through the program (literally). After my 6th week, I was at 40 hours of flying and I was cleared for my first solo. Unfortunately, I was hit with some adverse weather cells along the course of my flight, so I had to land in the Everglades at an unsupervised airport, low on fuel with no cell reception at all.

I was in contact with the tower at the airport about 15 miles away, keeping in touch with the NOTAMS and aviation weather that was surrounding my flight. I waited about 30 minutes, and the weather was already better, so I flew back to Opa-Locka. As I was flying back, I was in contact with Opa-Locka tower and they notified me about a jet that was westbound from Miami International Airport as I was flying east. I looked around for this jet and, of course, 100 feet right under

my little single-engine, Cessna, he rocked my airplane like a tsunami on a canoe.

I wouldn't like to be cheesy and say that the greatest gift someone ever gave me that day was my safety, but I would be lying if I didn't say that I thought I was going to die that day. Let me just say, this was quite a first solo.

I touched down at Opa-Locka, tied down my aircraft and as tradition played out, I got a bucket of ice-cold water dumped on me. That feeling was so euphoric, and I thanked God and my flight instructors up and down for teaching me how to face adversity in one of the hardest times of flight.

As the weeks started concluding, my oral exam and check ride (my in-flight exam) were right around the corner. I was very nervous because I soloed so late in my training and I felt very rushed, but I knew that I could do it.

My check-ride day was a beautiful, sunny morning and I woke up ready to become a pilot. My oral exam was over in 30 minutes, and my examiner told me that "I knew my stuff." After my oral exam, my check-ride commenced and I started with my pre-flight. I inspected the aircraft and started the plane up, my examiner watching every single move. I had to complete all of the private pilot maneuvers, emergency procedures, and 3 different kinds of takeoffs and landings in the traffic pattern. I was in the air for about two hours. There was another storm on the horizon, so I had to complete every maneuver



in a timely fashion. I flew over the Everglades, completed everything perfectly, and even recovered from a spin that was induced by a power-on stall.

I flew back to the airport, landed, and my examiner shook my hand and said, "great job, pilot." That instant, my life was changed. I had my 'Private Pilot Graduation' that my mother and grandmother flew out to see; it was a beautiful ceremony and I received my wings with pride. After graduation, my grandmother gifted me with her rosary from her first communion many years ago.

That day, I was also gifted with the second-greatest gift that anyone ever gifted me.

I grew closer to God after my experiences with becoming a pilot, through all of the trials that I had to face throughout the eight weeks. My grandmother, one of the most Catholic individuals I

have ever met, solidified that God was watching over me throughout this whole experience. After she gave me her rosary she said, "this rosary has given me safety throughout my whole life, so now, whenever you fly, keep these in your pocket and it will keep you safe, too."

For the past year and a half, I have always flown with her rosary in my right pocket. I have not been hit with any adverse weather or even any close calls with jets. That call the day after Christmas will always be close to my heart. It is the greatest gift I was ever given, and one I will forever cherish. When the snow falls it reminds me to look at the sky. Whenever I see an airplane, I think of how thankful I am. Thank you, Santa!

To read other articles by Sarah Miller, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

There is no better gift to give

Joey Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

The only gift that matters is the kind of person you are for those you love. Physical gifts are just one practice of this but, ideally, the physical gifts you give to those you love are simply a gratuitous addition to the gifts you give to them in living for them.

When I was in third grade, there was an item on TV that I put at the top of my wish list. It came with all sorts of weird plastic parts and tubes and things which could be put together and customized to make a track for a ball you'd put at the top. If I remember correctly, it was \$300, and since it was at the top of my wish list, my parents got it for me, though we were by no means rich. When we got it, I was excited briefly, I gave up on putting it together, my father finished building it, I used it a few times, and never used it again. My dad donated it. They never mentioned it again.

To them, the point of purchasing that item was to love me.

Even if they were simply watching their money burn, they were willing to let it burn for the possibility that it would make me happy. There is much to be said about prudence, but even more to be said about mercy.

As you can tell, I grew up entitled. I never had to worry about anything besides normal adolescent stuff (school, social life, etc.) because it was a given that my parents would take care of everything else. What is especially surprising is that most of my close friends seemed to have generous parents too. I am certain that I was blind to much going on in the lives of those around me.

I had a friend in high school who was Jehovah's Witness. Jehovah's Witnesses don't believe in holidays, so my friend never received presents on holidays. I remember asking him about it and he said that it didn't matter because his dad gives him presents randomly at other times besides holidays. I thought that was odd, but it seemed like he had a lot more gratitude than I did. Since he didn't expect to receive presents, when he did, it meant more.

There have been years when I haven't gotten one or two of

my family members anything. They never cared, though I often thought that they should have cared. They basically didn't notice. When you give, truly give, you do not expect anything in return. So, while anything I gave them was nice, if they didn't receive anything back, they barely noticed because that is just not what they cared about. They cared about making me happy, and I was happy, so they were happy.

This way of thinking about gifts has gradually changed for me. The first step was probably my getting a job, and realizing the value of money in terms I understood: ten dollars an hour. If I had gotten that weird \$300 gift for my parents, it would have taken me at least 30 hours to pay for it from my own labor. That struck me; my time was so precious, and money had seemed so spendable. I used to ask my dad for money to walk across the street with my friends to buy Chick Fil A. He always gave me more than I needed, and I rarely gave that money back; I just spent it on more Chick Fil A. There were weeks during the summer when I would buy an eleven dollar meal three or four times. When I began working for Chick

Fil A, and that meal cost an hour of my life, I wasn't so quick to order it.

The second step was my having someone whom I actually wanted to give gifts to. A little over three years ago, I had my first girlfriend, the same person I am in love with now. I am fortunate enough to be partnered to my best friend. For the first time in my life, I wanted to give someone something, and I did not care about receiving anything back. I imagined proposing to her and giving her dozens and dozens of roses (overkill, I know). I did get her things; I insisted on buying her meals, flowers, chocolate. I still do that, though the one who pays for the meal has since been the one who makes the most money at the time (which is definitely her at some points).

The most important, and ongoing step, has been my realizing the immense chasm between the quality of her gifts and of mine, and what that says about her and I. The best I've ever done has been writing her songs, poems, or letters. She paints, and she is very good at it. My walls are full of hundreds of hours' worth of her effort. She rarely keeps her paintings; she

only ever gives them away. Her first Christmas gift to me was a painting that she had apparently spent the least time on (according to her, four hours isn't a lot, though she did spend 40 hours on something she recently gave to her mom). It was something I had said that I would love; an icon of our Lord Jesus and His Sacred Heart, but where the heart is a rose. I do love it; it helps me pray every single day. There is no better gift to give.

I have still managed to be ungrateful often. Burning money, or even worse, time (which is your life), rarely has its desired effect immediately. The realization that I exist and that I live a happy life only because of the intense wasting of other peoples' resources is frightful. I wonder whether it was worth it for them to do that. They sure think so. Giving without expecting anything back is slow and monotonous, requires a profound love, and often takes years to see gratitude; but if you ever wanted to change someone's life, that's the best way to do it.

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

OUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Junior

All I want for Christmas is world peace

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

“What do you want for Christmas, Poppop?”

I'm nine years old, sitting on the arm of my grandfather's recliner chair, swinging my legs back and forth. It was only November, on the brink of December, but I was already planning my Christmas list for everyone in the family. I'd give Mom a homemade beaded necklace, Dad an ornament made from bottle caps, and my sister a coupon book. Really, at this age, I was quite creative. And everyone knew it.

Poppop smiled. My favorite things about him were the smell of his cologne and the way his blue eyes twinkled whenever I said something. With a soft laugh, he looked around the living room, and then at me. “I want world peace,” he said.

“World peace?” I'm only nine. I had no idea how unfathomable this idea was.

Poppop smirked. “No, I'm just messing with you. I'll take a bottle cap ornament, like your dad.”

Laughter erupted around the room when my grandfather said this, and for a moment, I felt a pang of shame. Of course he didn't want a bottle cap ornament. He wanted world peace, and I simply couldn't give it to him. After all, I was only nine.

“I—I guess,” I said. “Yeah, I can do that.”

Poppop gave me a little hug, and then he walked away to help my grandmother wash dishes. Everyone else in the living room was talking, laughing, and eating, but I sat on the arm of my grandfather's recliner chair, wondering how I could possibly give someone world peace for Christmas.

I thought about this for the next two weeks. November had faded to December, and the air had grown colder, smelling more and more like snow. In short, everything was starting to look like Christmas. And I still had no idea how to give Poppop world peace as a present.

Until one day. I remember looking through an old drawer in the basement, and finding a dusty, empty mason jar. Suddenly, everything clicked.

I spent the entire afternoon painting the jar with brushstrokes of deep blue and green, mixing the colors together and watching them blend, creating new shades. It looked like a

globe, with different patches of green swirling into the blue of the ocean, and the colors layered just perfectly so that they still remained translucent against the glass. And then, with just a dip of red, I painted a small peace sign in the center. It was almost perfect.

What happened next was the height of my nine-year-old creativity. I took a tealight candle and dropped it into the jar. Then, I showed my sister.

“You got Poppop...a candle?” she asked, tilting her head.

“It's world peace,” I said, turning the mason jar. “See? It's the world. With a peace sign. And yes, there's a candle inside.”

Christmas Eve arrived, and on that night, we exchanged gifts with everyone in the family. When it was my turn to give my presents, I was terribly nervous. Dad had really loved his bottle cap ornament, and Mom was wearing her necklace, but truly all I cared about was if Poppop had gotten what he asked for. World peace.

It was wrapped in twinkling tissue paper, stuffed in a striped, red gift bag. Poppop held the bag in his hand and slowly started unwrapping the gift. As he lifted the mason jar candle in his hand, a smile grew on his face.

“Claire,” he said, voice lighthearted. “This is—”

“World peace,” I finished, beaming. “I know it doesn't look like the world—just some green and blue patches of paint with a peace sign in the middle—but if you light it, it might give you some peace. Not the world, but just you. I hope that's enough.”

Poppop hugged me, and I breathed in the warm smell of cologne. As he released, I watched a soft twinkle grow in his eyes. His blue and green eyes. “It's perfect,” he said. “You really got me world peace for Christmas.”

“No, I didn't,” I said, laughing. “It's a candle.”

“Maybe,” he replied. “But if it's from you, it's all I really could ask for.”

And so was the Christmas of 2010, when I had given the greatest gift ever: a dusty old mason jar splashed in uneven shades of green and blue, with a jagged peace sign in the center. And a tealight candle dumped inside. World peace.

Okay, maybe it's not the best gift I've ever given. But I think there is a certain magic, a certain feeling that exists only within the spirit of children during Christmas. At this age, I still believed in Santa Claus. I still left out cookies, drank eggnog, and wrote a wish list with every single American Girl Doll I wanted (I only got one, of course). Children do everything they can to cultivate and feel magic during Christmas,

and one of the most beautiful things is when they do this through gift giving. When I brainstormed how I could give my grandfather world peace as a present, I took it as literally as possible. I thought and imagined with my heart, and therefore, I truly believed that what I had given Poppop was the best gift in the entire world.

Now, I give gifts that I don't find in a random drawer of my basement. Maybe my family likes them better, but every now and then, Poppop will remind me of the Christmas when I got him world peace. The candle still sits on his bookshelf upstairs, and whenever I visit to spend the night, the little, nine-year-old part of me glows. He kept it. After all those years, all the laughter, and all the paint splatters on my skin, he decided that my tealight candle in a mason jar was worth keeping. Not because it actually was world peace, or because it was functional (because let's face it, it wasn't), but because it was from a nine-year-old who still believed in the spirit of Christmas—of magic, in all forms.

And sometimes, that is the best gift you can get.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net

Senior

The gifts behind the tickets

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

I am grateful for the many Christmas gifts I have received over the years, but one gift I received last Christmas was particularly special to me. To understand why it meant so much, though, a little backstory is needed.

I grew up on the many albums of John Mayer. His style was a little on the blues side, sometimes on the campy acoustic side. His lyricism was clever and original, and only a handful of his songs didn't pass my and my mom's “clean music” standards. This is significant, because John Mayer has released around nine albums; these days, I find it a rarity for a music star to have almost all clean songs in even a single album.

Nonetheless, John Mayer's music was a familiarity for me that was helpful as I moved all around with my military family. In high school, his song “Neon” became a go-to on grocery runs with my mom (which often turned into trips to get sushi and plants). As I started learning how to play guitar, I grew in appreciation for his incredible talent. I've played guitar ever since and still am nowhere near being able to play “Neon,” but I'm content with that; basic chords work for me since I prefer singing over playing fancy guitar riffs. Do I wish I could do both? Absolutely. Will I ever be able to? It seems unlikely, but that is okay. I'll leave that to people like my brother, who actually have the patience and skillset to learn complicated guitar.

When I started dating my boyfriend in college, he had never lis-

tened to John Mayer. As we got to know each other and our interests better, John Mayer eventually came up as we decided on what music to play on drives. My boyfriend was attentive in getting to know what was primarily important in my life—my Catholic Faith, my family, friends—but he also paid attention to the secondary things that were important to me: coffee, writing, and music—John Mayer's especially. He was interested in learning what songs were my favorite and about how it was something I have shared with my family for years.

Our second Christmas as a couple, 2021, my boyfriend handed me two gifts and said I could open either first. I unwrapped the first gift, and found myself holding St. Louis de Montfort's “True Devotion to Mary.” We already had talked about plans for the upcoming spring semester to complete a Marian consecration, and this book would be perfect for preparation for it. I can say with confidence that the Blessed Virgin Mary has had a significant role in our relationship, as praying the rosary together at school daily was a habit for us before he graduated from the Mount, and is still one of our favorite things to do when he visits. I have no doubt that she has listened to our frequent requests for her to pray for us to be holier, more virtuous, and more committed to loving Christ in our relationship. I was incredibly grateful for this book, which was a visible statement of our shared love for the mother of God. Then, I opened the second gift, and saw two tickets to a John Mayer concert in February.

To see John Mayer play “Neon” live? To get to hear the many songs I've grown up listening to, but this time, in person? I was so excited.

Two months later, I went to this concert with my boyfriend, and it was one of the most special gifts I've ever received. It may sound shallow: “concert tickets are one of the best gifts I've ever gotten!” But that isn't the point. The significance of his gift that year was all the memories behind it: moments I shared with my mom in the car; playing cards with my siblings and John Mayer playing in the background; my brother being patient enough to teach me how to play a John Mayer guitar song even though it's practically futile; explaining my favorite songs to my boyfriend on long, happy drives; him learning a John Mayer song on his guitar to cheer me up when I had a bad day; and my dad listening to all two hours of “Where the Light is” on an 8-hour car trip with me, even though he didn't like John Mayer much at first—he just knew it was special to me. Each of these memories is beautiful in its own way, and these tickets show that behind one gift, there are often many others.

None of these gifts would be quite the same without Jesus and His mother. Behind all of our ordinary interests, there is the story of Mary's maternal love carrying all of us. The relationships that made my gifts special would not be the same without everything she has taught me through her example in Scripture and the prayers I know she has prayed for all of us. Mary cares for us attentively, inspires hope in our hearts, and helps us orient even small gifts in our lives towards Christ. We bring Christ so much joy when we offer our hobbies and interests—even the simplest ones like enjoying a good John Mayer song—to Him with love.

For Jesus' birthday, shower Him with gifts of gratitude for all the little blessings in your life. Let Mary

teach you how. She received the Magi, who came offering gifts to her newborn son, and directed them to Him. This season and always, she wants to do the same for us as we seek Christ. Indeed, Christmas would not be the same at all without Christ's Blessed Mother, who courageously brought Christ into the world. Through her “yes,” humanity has been given the greatest Christmas gift: Jesus Himself. I am thankful for my many

gifts at Christmas, and the ones I receive year-round, but at the heart of it all, I know they all originate in Jesus' gift of Himself. Let “Glory to God in the highest” be your response this Christmas, knowing that all gifts, great and small, point back to Him. We have much to sing for joy about.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
from the Ott House*

HOME DECOR

Why on earth should you buy used furniture?

Jessica Crawford
Owner, Cotton & Co

We are in the full Christmas spirit over at the shop right now. Sleigh bells are ringing, holiday music is playing over the speakers, there are trees of every shape and size in every nook and cranny. And glitter. So much glitter. The store looks like a winter wonderland. And I would be lying if I didn't say that retail Christmas is my favorite time of the year at Cotton & Co. It's just all around lovely.

And while this season in retail is generally the season of smalls; small items, décor, gifts, etc... it's also a great time of year to make an excuse to spruce up your home in general. During the holiday season, we tend to host guests and company more.

And if you're like me, you like to make sure your home is a representation of you and your style, for not just you but also your guests. Sometimes you just need a fresh piece of furniture to change up or update a space in your home.

We are also approaching the winter season, where we are inside much more than other times of the year. And your indoor environment affects your mindset greatly. Especially when the days are darker and longer. So you want to make sure that your home is in good spirits, so that you are also, during the long winter months.

Which leads me to the topic of this month's article. We hear it occasionally from customers or friends and family. "Why would you buy 'used furniture' when you can buy it new?!" Well, let's talk about that.

First, given the way that the world turns right now. Or more so, is grinding gears or at a screeching halt altogether, in terms of production. What you see on our sales floor and our social media posts, is actually in stock. It's ready to take home that day and grace your home. You may have heard that it is taking upwards of a year, a whole year, to receive furniture ordered from the big box shops and furniture stores. Production and freight are so inconsistent at the moment and still recovering worldwide from the pandemic. So production and shipping times are drastically delayed. But when you shop furniture from small shops, what you see, is ready to take home immediately.

Vintage and antique furniture was also craftsman designed and built. It was built to last and stand the test of time. I always say, you'll likely never have to replace a piece of vintage furniture, unless you want to. Unlike the mass produced furniture, that's made of laminate veneers, composite wood and glue, vintage furniture was built with art and skill. Vintage pieces took time to build, with their dovetailing, solid wood and attention to detail, as well as years of trade skill and training. New and contemporary furniture is designed to fail within a few years, so that it requires replacing regularly. It also tends to show wear and tear and age rapidly, especially if you have cute little kids running around like I do. They can wreak havoc on a poorly or cheaply constructed piece.

Vintage pieces are also one of a kind! As they were hand-built versus factory-made, each piece is an individual work of art and craftsmanship. Each piece has its own personality and design. And if you were to purchase a piece of vintage or antique furniture that's been refinished, no one



A few of my favorite vintage pieces in my personal collection.

else is going to have that same piece. You now own a completely one-of-a-kind piece as no one else is going to have that piece of furniture in that same color with that same technique. You are preserving and saving a little chunk of history, while also owning something completely individual and unique.

We also are living in a world right now where we are really embracing and appreciating our impact and influence, both positive and negative on our Earth. We recognize the things that we can do to help our planet and also the things that we are doing that are leaving it worse for future generations. We are living within a Green Revolution. And one of my personal favorite aspects of buying vintage pieces, is that it is one of the greatest forms of recycling. Reduce, reuse, recycle. By purchasing or refinishing your own vintage pieces, you are lessening the waste in landfills. At the same time, you are also lessening factory production of new furniture, which is in effect lessening worldwide pollution. And did you also know, that a lot of the glues and solvents used in the laminate veneer and composite style furniture, slowly and consistently emit harmful toxins into your home? So yeah, there's also that.

By purchasing from small mom and pop shops, you are stimulating and growing your local community and economy. You are keeping your

hard earned salaries in your neighborhood, rather than submitting them to a large corporation that doesn't need, care about or appreciate your purchase. Every small business owner does a small little happy dance with every purchase. Your support and business mean the world. You're helping buy karate and ballet lesson for little ones in your community. You're helping support and house and feed your local families. It's just a beautiful, symbiotic relationship to shop small and local. And it never goes unappreciated or unseen.

So, have I convinced you that there's a lot of value in buying 'used furniture?' As I see it, it's a way to support and grow your local community, while helping our our Mother Earth. And not only that, you're purchasing and appreciating pieces of history. Probably hand-built by someone who is long gone, preserving their legacies and life's work. You're keeping waste and pollutants at a lower capacity too.

While the shop is filled to the gills with holiday décor, gifts and inspiration, the vendors also keep it stocked with an abundance of original and refinished vintage pieces. Stop by and see what's going on, there's always something new weekly. Cotton & Co Vintage Boutique 900 FSK Hwy Keymar, MD, Open weekly Friday-Sunday. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates!

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COMMUNITY NOTES

FY24 Community Partnership Grant Program Application Process

Frederick County announced the opening of the application process for the FY24 Community Partnership Grant program that awards competitive grants to non-profit organizations serving the needs of county residents. The grants can be used for community needs, seniors, and housing.

“Our human service nonprofits do an amazing job connecting people with the resources they need,” Executive Gardner said. “The benefits to our community have been clear, especially

during the pandemic. Together, the County and our nonprofit partners are able to leverage our efforts to provide effective services so we can all flourish and share in Frederick County’s prosperity and high quality of life,” she said.

This year marks the ninth round of the grants program. Grants can be for operating expenses or for one-time purchases. The link to the online application portal will be available beginning Nov. 21 at <https://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG>.

The deadline to submit an application is 4 p.m., Dec. 16, 2022. Final funding awards will be considered in the county budget process and announced in April 2023, with funding available beginning July 1, 2023.

For more information, technical assistance, and program updates, visit the website at <https://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG> or contact Citizens Services Director of Operations Kelli Goetz at 301-600-1410 or via e-mail at kgoetz1@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Administrative Charging Committee Members Appointed

Five Frederick County residents have been appointed to serve on the County’s newly established Administrative Charging Committee. The Committee fills a key role when a complaint is filed against a local law enforcement officer, as required under Maryland law. The Administrative Charging Committee will meet at least monthly to review the findings of law enforcement agency investigations to determine if it is appropriate to administratively charge a law enforcement officer who is the subject of investigation.

When a person lodges a misconduct complaint against a law enforcement officer, the complaint is filed with the Frederick County Police Accountability Board. The Board forwards the complaint to the appropriate law enforcement agency to investigate. The findings are presented to the Administrative Charging Committee for review. The Committee determines whether to administratively charge the accused officer and, if so, what disciplinary actions should be taken.

The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 required every county to establish a similar process. Frederick County’s process applies to law enforcement officers

who are employed by the Brunswick, City of Frederick or Thurmont police departments or the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office.

“On behalf of the Police Accountability Board, I want to thank each of the 18 Frederick County residents who applied to the Administrative Charging Committee,” said Board Chair Dawn Oram. “We appreciate each of the residents and their desire to be a part of our continued efforts to build trust between communities and law enforcement agencies in Frederick County. We believe these individuals will bring increased accountability and transparency that will improve our law enforcement agencies and public safety in Frederick County.”

The Administrative Charging Committee consists of the chair of Frederick County’s Police Accountability Board (PAB), or their designee, as well as two appointees of the County Executive and two appointees of the Board. Members should

have familiarity or experience within the legal field, the behavioral health field, social services, human resources or personnel management, the operation of a government agency, criminal justice agency, or community service organization.

In addition to PAB Chair Oram, the inaugural members of Frederick County’s committee include:

Theresa Bean of Thurmont (2-year term, appointed by the PAB) brings diversity coupled with an extensive background as a former career prosecutor, trial lawyer, defense attorney, and local and national lecturer.

Howard Cox of Frederick (2-year term, appointed by the County Executive) brings federal law enforcement experience, including roles where he conducted internal investigations of misconduct complaints.

Kevin Grubb of Jefferson (1-year term, appointed by the County Executive) has extensive knowledge of the community,

having served on the Frederick County Ethics Task Force, the Frederick County Mental Health Advisory Board, and as Deputy Chief of the Frederick Police Department.

John Shatto of Frederick (1-year term, appointed by the PAB) is a court and human services professional committed to providing an unbiased forum for the community, with experience working Members must complete State-mandated training from the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission before reviewing any specific cases. That training is slated for mid-December.

The Administrative Charging Committee will meet at least once a month. This meeting will be held in the first floor hearing room at Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick. Questions about the Administrative Charging Committee or the Police Accountability Board should be directed to Executive Adminis-

trator Sarah Ambrosio at sambrosio@frederickcountymd.gov. Information about the Administrative Charging Committee and the Police Advisory Board can be found at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/PoliceBoard.

County Generates Solar Power at 2 New Sites

Frederick County Government continues to lead the way with renewable energy, boosting its solar energy generation by nearly 2 million kilowatts hours annually with the addition of two new projects. Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner announced that a new solar array began operation this year and two solar canopies are nearing completion on County properties.

“We know that we save green when we go green,” Executive Gardner said. “The actions we take today will help to slow the rate of climate change and lead to lower energy costs. Now is the time for us to take action.”



Notice of Public Hearing

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Emmitsburg will hold a public hearing to discuss the necessity and advisability of a proposed water and sewer rate increase. Water rates have not been increased for all users for over fourteen (14) years. High end user water rates increased nine (9) years ago. Sewer rates have not increased in eight (8) years and an increase is necessary to fund the costs of operation and maintenance of both systems. The proposed water rate increases are as follows:

Projected Water Rates (Alternative Rate Design) Three-Year Increase

	Current	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Quarterly Minimum Charge*						
3/4	\$35.00	\$50.40	\$72.60	\$104.55	\$107.70	\$110.95
1	\$45.00	\$84.00	\$121.00	\$174.25	\$179.50	\$184.95
1 1/2	\$50.00	\$168.00	\$242.00	\$348.50	\$359.00	\$369.85
2	\$100.00	\$268.80	\$387.20	\$557.60	\$574.40	\$591.75
4	\$400.00	\$840.00	\$1,210.00	\$1,742.50	\$1,795.00	\$1,849.20
6	\$800.00	\$1,680.00	\$2,420.00	\$3,485.00	\$3,590.00	\$3,698.35
8	-	\$2,688.00	\$3,872.00	\$5,576.00	\$5,744.00	\$5,917.35
10	-	\$7,056.00	\$10,164.00	\$14,637.00	\$15,078.00	\$15,533.00
Overage Rates (per 1,000 gallons)						
Tier 1 (6,001 - 10,000 gallons)	\$2.40	\$3.46	\$4.98	\$7.17	\$7.39	\$7.61
Tier 2 (10,001 - 20,000 gallons)	\$4.50	\$7.79	\$11.21	\$16.13	\$16.63	\$17.12
Tier 3 (20,001 - 100,000 gallons)	\$7.50	\$12.11	\$17.43	\$25.10	\$25.87	\$26.64
Tier 4 (100,001 - 1,000,000 gallons)	\$10.50	\$16.44	\$23.66	\$34.06	\$35.10	\$36.15
Tier 5 (1,000,001 - 2,000,000 gallons)	\$13.80	\$20.76	\$29.88	\$43.02	\$44.34	\$45.66
Tier 6 (Over 2,000,000 gallons)	\$17.25	\$25.09	\$36.11	\$51.98	\$53.58	\$55.17

*includes 6,000 gallons

Beginning on July 1, 2026, the minimum charge and overage charge for water services will increase annually by 3%.

The proposed sewer rate increases are as follows:

Projected Sewer Rates (Alternative Rate Design)

	Current	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Quarterly Minimum Charge*						
3/4	\$113.00	\$116.40	\$119.90	\$123.50	\$127.20	\$131.00
1	\$122.00	\$194.00	\$199.85	\$205.85	\$212.00	\$218.35
1 1/2	\$175.00	\$388.00	\$399.70	\$411.70	\$424.00	\$436.70
2	\$175.00	\$620.80	\$639.50	\$658.70	\$678.40	\$698.70
4	\$700.00	\$1,940.00	\$1,998.35	\$2,058.35	\$2,120.00	\$2,183.35
6	\$1,400.00	\$3,880.00	\$3,996.70	\$4,116.70	\$4,240.00	\$4,366.70
8	-	\$6,208.00	\$6,394.70	\$6,586.70	\$6,784.00	\$6,986.70
10	-	\$16,296.00	\$16,786.00	\$17,290.00	\$17,808.00	\$18,340.00
Overage Rates (per 1,000 gallons)						
Tier 1 (6,001 - 10,000 gallons)	\$2.40	\$2.47	\$2.54	\$2.62	\$2.70	\$2.78
Tier 2 (10,001 - 20,000 gallons)	\$6.00	\$5.56	\$5.72	\$5.90	\$6.08	\$6.26
Tier 3 (20,001 - 100,000 gallons)	\$10.00	\$8.65	\$8.89	\$9.17	\$9.45	\$9.73
Tier 4 (100,001 - 1,000,000 gallons)	\$14.00	\$11.73	\$12.07	\$12.45	\$12.83	\$13.21
Tier 5 (1,000,001 - 2,000,000 gallons)	\$18.50	\$14.82	\$15.24	\$15.72	\$16.20	\$16.68
Tier 6 (Over 2,000,000 gallons)	\$23.00	\$17.91	\$18.42	\$19.00	\$19.58	\$20.16

*includes 6,000 gallons

Beginning on July 1, 2024, the minimum charge and overage charge for sewer services will increase annually by 3%.

The public hearing will take place Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at 300A South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727. If you have a comment or concern please attend in person, or via Zoom or email your comments or concerns before the public hearing to info@emmitsburgmd.gov.

ARTS

Totem Pole Playhouse's 'A Christmas Carol'

Totem Pole Playhouse in association with Gettysburg Community Theatre will present an original adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*.

Featuring 34 actors, young and old will grace the stage in a myriad of characters. Once again the show will be a family affair with 5 sets of siblings joining each other on the stage. Gettysburg sisters Kalia & Liliana Hoedemaker will portray the Fezziwig daughters. Orrtanna sisters Mia & Phoebe Kauffman will join each other on stage as Belinda & Martha Cratchit while their older sister, Ruby will take on the role of the

Ghost of Christmas Past.

This will mark Elliott's 7th production of 'A Christmas Carol' adding the role of Belle's husband to his list of characters. Jasper will take over his brother's role of Peter Cratchit and Dick Wilkins as a Boy. Chambersburg's brother Liam and sister, Alice Spang will join the production again this year. Liam, along with his best friend Isaac Bucher of Orrtanna will share the role of Tiny Tim this year.

Taking on the coveted role of Ebenezer Scrooge is Bill Eissler. Richard Sautter of Gettysburg will portray Jacob Marley. The three spirits taking Scrooge

on his journey of redemption will be portrayed by Ruby Kauffman (The Ghost of Christmas Past), Christopher Kauffman (The Ghost of Christmas Present) and Luke Lyman (The Ghost of Christmas Future.)

This year's performances are scheduled for December 9, 10, 16, and 17 at 7:30 pm, with 2 p.m. matinees on December 10, 11, 17, and 18.

To purchase tickets call the Majestic Theater Box Office at 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org. The Majestic Theater is located at 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg.



Way Off Broadway's 'The Elves Who Saved Christmas'

Christmas is always the busiest time of the year at The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre. In addition to the theatre's Mainstage Christmas production, it offers several special events for the holiday season. This year's Family Theatre presentation will be the limited run of the brand new children's musical *The Elves Who Saved Christmas*.

In the show, when Mayor Winnifred Wannataalk outlaws Christ-

mas in Littleton U.S.A., it's up to Ginger Snap and Graham Cracker, two of Santa's elves, to save the day -- Christmas Day to be specific. *The Elves Who Saved Christmas* is the second installment of Way Off Broadway's North Pole Series, following the 2015 premiere of *The Great Elf Adventure*. Both stage shows have featured elves who audience members have gotten to know over the years from Way Off

Broadway's annual Breakfast with Santa (and Mrs. Claus) and have taken on lives of their own.

Leading this year's elf misadventure are Megan E. West as Ginger Snap and Joey Leavitt as Graham Cracker. Joining them on stage are Jessica Billones as Mrs. Andrews, Bill Kiska as Postman Morgan, and Bekah Burgoon as Veronica. Having recently moved back to the area, Sarah Biggs returns to the Family Theatre stage to take on the role of Mayor Winnifred Wannataalk.

The Elves Who Saved Christmas was written and is directed by Justin M. Kiska, who also penned *The Great Elf Adventure*.

"Writing the North Pole shows is so much fun," Kiska says, "because regulars at Way Off Broadway's Breakfast with Santa have gotten to know some of these characters because they have been around since the very first breakfast in 2002. In a full stage show, they get to really see these comical elves in action."

The Elves Who Saved Christ-

mas runs December 3rd - 21st, with performances every Saturday afternoon, a Sunday matinee on December 11th, and an early evening performance on Wednesday, December 21st. Tickets for all of the performances are \$22 and may be purchased by calling the Box Office at (301) 662-6600.

To learn more about *The Elves Who Saved Christmas*, or any of Way Off Broadway's productions, including its upcoming 2023 Season, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

Can You Smell the Gingerbread?

You will the moment you arrive at the Adams County Arts Council's 13th Annual Gingerbread Celebration & Holiday Mart on December 3. Admission

to see the gingerbread houses, which range from large intricate structures to charming, simple creations, is free for children with a \$1 donation requested for

adults. Kennie's Market and the Gettysburg Chocolate Market are major sponsors for the event at the Arts Education Center, 125 S. Washington St., Gettysburg.

The public is invited to vote with dollars for its favorites either in person or online at adamarts.org. Houses with the most dollars win cash prizes for the bakers. A new prize was added this year for the young baker whose house garners the most cash.

Think one of the houses would look great at your house? You can take one home when you are high bidder in the Gingerbread House Online Auction at biddingowl.com. No room for a house but would like to support ACAC's community arts programs? Be high bidder, donate the house, and volunteers will deliver it to a school, care facility, or charity just in time for the holidays.

Shop at the Holiday Mart, featuring handmade gifts by 15 local artists and craftspeople. The Mart also features a gift basket silent auction with perfect presents for everyone on your list. Enjoy free children's activities with prizes, a bake sale with tasty treats, and a 50/50 cash raffle.

The celebration is being held in conjunction with the Gettysburg Christmas Festival. Find out all about the wonderful schedule of activities Main Street has planned at www.mainstreetgettysburg.org.

The mission of the Adams County Arts Council is to cultivate an arts-rich community. For more information, contact aa@adamarts.org or 717-334-5006.

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St. Cecilia's Day concert

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU Class of 2024

With the semester soon ending, many of our performance groups conclude the semester with their art of performing on the stage. The first major performance of the last few weeks of Fall 2022 was the St. Cecilia's Day concert. St. Cecilia's Day is the celebration of music to the patroness of such, St. Cecilia. It is celebrated on November 22nd and has been celebrated since 1570 in Normandy.

Who was St. Cecilia?

To reiterate, St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music, who we celebrate annually for a year of good music. However, the story of St. Cecilia starts much earlier, centuries earlier. Catholic tradition holds that St. Cecilia was a citizen of Rome who came from a rich family and was given away in marriage during her youth to a man named Valerian. Legend has it that she wore sackcloth, fasted, and invoked the saints, angels, and virgins to protect her virginity. On her wedding day, it is said that Cecilia sang, in her heart, to God, and told her husband she had taken her vow of virginity, with an angel protecting her. Her husband asked the angel if this was true, but instead, Cecilia told him to venture the Appian Way and be baptized by Pope Urbanus.

Her husband did as his wife asked. When he returned home, he found the angel by her side. The angel had crowned Cecilia with a chaplet of roses and lilies. During this time, it is said that her husband's brother, Tibertius, was also baptized after hearing of both the angel and of Valerian's baptism. The men dedicated their lives to burying the saints who were martyred each day by the prefect of the city, Turcius Almachius. Both men were eventually arrested and

brought before Almachius, where they were executed after refusing to offer a sacrifice to the gods.

St. Cecilia spent her time preaching after the deaths of her husband and brother-in-law. During her lifetime, she converted over four hundred people, the majority of them being baptized by Pope Urbanus. However, like the brothers, Cecilia was later arrested and condemned to be suffocated in the baths. During her time of arrest, she was shut in for one night and one day, with fires blazing around her. Cecilia, however, did not seem to sweat as the flames grew to greater heat. When Almachius heard of this, he sent an executioner to behead Cecilia in the baths. The executioner tried three times, but was unable to decapitate her. Cecilia was left bleeding and lived three more days before passing. The impact she had on the Roman community is amazing, to say the least. During those three days, it is said that crowds came to view the saint, collecting her blood while she preached to them and prayed.

Pope Urbanus and his deacons buried her. In 500, Pope Symmachus held a council that dedicated a church to St. Cecilia. In art, she is depicted with an organ, or organ-pipe in her hand. It is said that in 1599, her body was exhumed and was found to be uncorrupted. This is significant because it is the first of all incorrupt saints. She was found draped in a silk veil and wearing a gold embroidered dress. It was reported that she also had a "mysterious and delightful flower-like odor which proceeded from the coffin."

After this discovery in 1599, Cardinal Paolo Emilio Sfondrati, the nephew of Pope Gregory XIV, rebuilt the church of St. Cecilia. Her remains now lay in Cecilia's titular church in Trastevere, being placed under the high altar.

What is St. Cecilia's day?

St. Cecilia's day is a Roman Catholic feast day celebrated on the 22nd of November. It is a feast that originated

in the fifteenth century in Normandy, France. She was remembered for several centuries in the early Church by her courage in the face of persecution, her identification with the purity of virginity, like Mother Mary, and her heavenly visions. During the fifteenth century, she was more known to be associated with music, as it was seen as a revelation of the Divine order. From then, the feast has been celebrated by the Church even to this present day. Many works of art have also depicted the great saint, paying respects to her sainthood. Creators such as Raphael, Guido Reni, W. H. Auden, John Dryden, Alexander Pope, Christopher Fishburn, Nicholas Brady, John Blow, and Daniel Purcell are some of the few renowned names that are associated with creating works that use the saint as a muse.

Many of our Mount music programs pay homage to the great saint by performing concerts annually to her. However, this year, they performed on November 14th instead of the 22nd.

Why do we still celebrate this day?

We still celebrate this day at the Mount because we ask St. Cecilia to bring us great music in the next year. The chorale, wind ensemble, and percussion band all played songs to contribute to the great Saint. The concert was held in the Immaculate Conception Chapel—also known as the I.C. Chapel—here on campus. Organ player Nicholas Norse played Louis Vierne's Carillon de Westminster, a piece composed in 1927. The next group to perform was the wind ensemble, directed by Dr. Mark Carlson. The wind ensemble performed a piece composed by Giovanni Gabrieli in 1597 titled Canzon Septime Toni No. 2. The third group to perform



This is a stained glass depiction of St. Cecilia with her organ-pipes. A beautiful work indeed!

was the Mount St. Mary's Chorale, directed by Dr. Andrew Rosenfeld. The chorale performed a piece from Quinto Libro de Madrigale titled Deh Bella e Cara. The Italian piece was composed by Claudio Monteverdi in 1507. Finally, concluding the night's concert was the Mount St. Mary's wind ensemble with percussion. The large group performed Brian Eno's 1/1. Composed in 1977, the piece was from "Music for Airports," which was a calm and peaceful conclusion to the night.

St. Cecilia's Day concert is an annual tradition at the Mount. It is so special to witness our beautiful music groups perform selections from the greatest musicians of all time. Next year, the performance will be held around the same time, and it is free to all who wish to view it. Please join us next year in celebrating St. Cecilia, her legacy, and her significance to the Roman Catholic Church, while also praying with us for a good year full of musical blessing. The music groups hope to see you attend next year.

Upcoming Art Events For The Month Of December:

The Advent Concert at the Basilica in Emmitsburg on Saturday Dec. 3rd at 7:30 p.m. (yes, a chance to witness our music groups off campus! You won't want to miss this great opportunity); the Student Recital in Knott Auditorium on Monday Dec. 5th at 7:30 p.m.; the Daysia Barr Art Show in the Williams Art Gallery in Delaplane (reception is on Thursday Dec. 8th from 5 to 6:30 p.m.); the Directing class on campus will host performances at Horning Theater in Delaplane on Thursday Dec. 8th through to Saturday Dec. 10th, all shows' start time is 8 p.m.; finally, the last performance of the semester is the Wind Ensemble Concert at the I.C. Chapel on Saturday Dec. 10th at 7:30 p.m..

There are many opportunities for the first two weeks in December to go out with the family and support our students through the last weeks of the Fall 2022 semester.

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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For more information and schedule, check our Facebook page or Website: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=thorpewood> or <https://www.thorpewood.org/our-events/>

CATOCTIN SPORTS & ACADEMICS

Senior wins cross country state championship

Mia Ferraro
CHS Class of 2022

Catoctin High School runners have completed another extremely successful season after the boys cross country team claimed the titles of Central Maryland Conference (CMC) Gambrell Division champions and runners-up at the 1A west region and state championships. The success of the runners this past season is consistent with the past two CHS sports seasons, following the boys indoor track and track and field teams' state championship titles in 2021. The CHS boys cross country team placed first at the CMC championship Oct. 21 at Boonsboro High School. On Oct. 27 they competed at Middletown Park for the Frederick County tournament at which they placed fifth. The team then went on to place second at the regional meet at home Nov. 3, where they set nine personal records. Finally they took to Hereford High School on Nov. 12 to take second place in the state. One CHS athlete, senior Alex Contreras, won first place for the boys in the entire state.

Contreras won first place at the states in 17 minutes, 7.54 seconds for the three mile run, more than 40 seconds faster than the second place finisher. His personal record in the three mile run, however, took place in this year's CMC championship where he took first place with a time of 16:17.9 -- ranking him as fifth in the CHS top 20 all-time rankings for the three mile run. The previous week, Contreras won first place at the cross country regional championship by roughly 40 seconds with a personal record of 16:13.0: the fastest CHS 5,000 meter run since Zach Gascho's time of

16:12.0 in 2014. This ranks Contreras as fourth in the top 20 rankings for 5,000 meters in CHS history. Prior to regionals, Contreras finished in second place in the Frederick County cross country championship with 16:49.04 in the 5,000 meter race. Contreras currently holds the record for the fastest 3.04 mile run in CHS history, which he set last year with a time of 16:54.5. He broke the record 11 years after it was set by David Dorsey by more than 40 seconds. The senior has participated in the CHS cross country and track teams since ninth grade.

Junior Santiago Canadas Fraga finished in fourth place at the state championship's three mile race in 18 minutes, 3.22 seconds. He had finished with a personal record of 17:38.0 at the regional championship, putting him in fifth place. Along with Contreras, Canadas Fraga's performance in the regionals placed him in CHS' top 20 scores for 5,000 meters with the rank of 16th. He finished in 13th at the county meet, with a time of 18:07.47. Canadas Fraga also set his personal record when he won third place in the three mile race at the CMC championship earlier in the season with 17:20.0, ranking him as 16th in CHS' top 20 scores. He is also currently ranked eighth of the CHS top 20 scores for the 3.04 mile run from the 2021 season. The junior has been a part of the cross country teams since ninth grade.

Junior Gabriel Riling finished in 18 minutes, 24.97 seconds at the state championship, ranking him in ninth place. He had taken sixth place at regionals with a personal record of 17 minutes, 49 seconds.

His time also ranked him 19th in CHS' all-time top 20 for 5,000 meters. Riling had finished 23rd at the Frederick County meet with a time of 18:44.37 in 5,000 meters. He also made the top ten at the CMC meet with 18:02.5, placing him in 10th. He follows Canadas Fraga in the CHS top 20 scores for the 3.04 mile run since he earned the rank of ninth last year. The junior has also been a member of the cross country and track teams since ninth grade.

Junior Jenna Conley finished 12th for the girls at states with a time of 22 minutes, 26.85 seconds. She had led the CHS girls team in eighth place at regionals with a season best of 21:08.0 in the 5,000 meter run. Conley also placed 12th at the CMC tournament with 21:53.3. Alongside Contreras, Conley also set a record last year as the fastest time in the girls 3.04 mile run (20:25.1) since Kristen Myers set the record in 2010. Conley currently holds a CHS top 20 ranking in two other races from previous years: 11th in the three mile run (20:32.0) which she earned in 2021, and fifth in the 5,000 meters (20:11.5) as a freshman in 2020. The junior is another committed runner who has been on the CHS cross country and track teams since her freshman year.

The cross country team's performance has evidently been improving steadily over the past year, having placed fourth last year in regionals and sixth in states. At the 2021 states meet, Contreras (18:01.30) led the boys team in sixth in the 3.04 mile race; Canadas Fraga (19:25.31) placed 30th and Riling (19:25.92) followed in 31st. Conley (21:16.21) placed fourth for the girls. While the



Senior Alex Contreras was crowned the 2022 Class 1A state champion in cross country.

cross country team will lose Contreras and four other team players when they graduate in the spring, next year looks promising with fourteen members to hopefully return to the track, including star players Conley, Canadas Fraga, and Riling.

As the cross country season comes to a close, there is much to look forward to as winter sports begin. The winter sports teams began their season with try-outs commencing Nov. 15 through 17, with the exception of the try-outs held for unified bocce Nov. 21. The winter sports consist of basketball, coached by Amy Entwistle (girls) and Zach Woodward (boys); unified bocce, coached by Charmane Nesbitt; winter cheerleading, coached by Stephanie Munday; swimming and diving, coached by Justine Wantz (girls) and Will Warram (boys); wrestling, coached by Rick Reeder; and indoor track,

coached by Robert "Trey" Davis (girls) and Dave Lillard (boys).

Winter competitions began Nov. 28 with the boys basketball team's first scheduled game. Indoor track begins competition on Dec. 9 with the Terry Baker Invitational at Hagerstown Community College. Several runners on the cross country team hope to carry their success over into the indoor track season. The indoor track team had to send off a handful of players to graduate last year, but many return for another exciting season, with others joining for their first year on the team. The boys team, for instance, has 16 returning players, and 12 newcomers. Last year's 1A state championship victory was the first ever claimed by the boys indoor track team, and the accomplishments of the cross country team this past season further supports an optimistic outlook for the winter.

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Mount basketball

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

Both the men's and women's basketball teams of Mount Saint Mary's had something to look forward to coming into the 2022-23 season. Before the end of the 2021-22 school year, the university announced that it would be leaving the Northeast Conference (NEC) and joining the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). Widely regarded as a much more competitive conference, the Mount left their old conference after spending close to thirty years in the NEC. This announcement came with a lot of unknown factors, but it is widely regarded as a good decision for the future of the school's athletic program. Especially when it comes to the basketball side of things, for both the men's and women's programs.

With regards to the men's program, there was a lot of hesitation towards the possibility of playing in the new conference, especially because they were missing players like Mezie Offurum, who decided to take his fifth year of eligibility to play for James Madison University in the Sun Belt Conference and Nana Opoku, who finished out his fourth year of eligibility and tested the waters of the NBA Draft. But there was also excitement coming into the new season, as returners Jalen Benjamin, senior, Deandre Thomas, graduate student, and Malik Jefferson, graduate student, were all coming back and healthy for the new season. Jefferson coming back was very important for Coach Dan Englestad as Jefferson is the all-time rebound leader in the history of the school. With the edition of senior transfer George Tinsley, who was named on the 2019-20 AEC All-Freshman team and won the AEC Rookie of the Year with Binghamton, the coaching staff looked to shore up another big man next to Jefferson under the basket.

Before conference play begins on December 1st reigning conference champions and 2022 Elite Eight Finalist, St. Peter's, the Mount had to play a series of out-of-conference and exhibition

games. Play started on November 7th against West Virginia in Morgantown, resulting in a 76-58 loss. The eighteen points that separated the two were noteworthy, as the Mountaineers faced off against Basketball Hall of Fame head coach Bob Huggins, who has a career record of 919-399. The Mount faced off next against Coppin State, whose head coach, Juan Dixon, was a member of the Maryland Terrapins team who won the 2002 National Championship. The game ended 83-78 in favor of the Eagles, leaving the Mount heartbroken in Baltimore.

After a close loss to Coppin State, the Mountaineers returned home to face local rival McDaniel College for the first time since the 1970's. With Coach Englestad out with an illness, associate head coach Will Holland stepped in to fill the roll. The game ended 60-38 in favor of the Mount, and while many fans in attendance begrudged the score line against Division 3 school, the Mountaineers were solid on defense. Both forwards Jefferson and Tinsley brought down eight rebounds each, and Benjamin brought down seven of his own as a guard. Benjamin also shined on offense; leading the team in scoring at 18 points, he used his small stature to go around McDaniel's big men and score.

Leadership is the key for the men's team this year going into MAAC play. Postgame, Benjamin had something to say about this, commenting, "We have to change the culture, bringing the energy every day, making this school really a basketball school, winning games, and then hoping the younger guys take off of us: no off days, just constantly grinding. It's a grind every day."

The Mount's women's team started the new season off on the high of retaining their NEC crown from 2020-21 into the 2021-22 season which earned them a spot back to the NCAA Women's Division 1 Tournament where they exited in the First Four against Longwood in a heartbreaking 74-70 loss. The women's team also saw a significant loss in



Having joined the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, both the men's and women's basketball teams are looking forward to a more competitive season.

offensive prowess and experience in losing Kendall Bresee and Tess Borgosz after both of their final years of eligibility were up. But they retained many rising leaders in the team including Michaela Harrison, graduate student, Isabella Hunt, junior, and Jessica Tomasetti, junior. They also added graduate student Natalie Villaflor, who decided to take her extra year of eligibility at the Mount from Robert Morris.

The women's schedules were a lot tougher to start out than the men's, as they had to play #13 Virginia Tech and #10 North Carolina State, in which they lost 101-45 and 86-38, respectively. In between the two ranked games, they played Richmond, another tough school, in which they were bested 87-44. All three games were on the road and were played in a six-day period. But before MAAC play is set to begin on December 17th, they have a flurry of out-of-conference games including Cornell, Loyola, Pitt-Johnstown, UMBC, and their home opener against Navy, which occurred on November 19th.

The team played the incoming Navy Midshipmen at Knott Arena, a game that was meant to set the pace for the upcoming out-of-conference games and unveil the NEC Championship banner. The unveiling, however, was pushed back to December 10th. The game started off with good pace, but they could not put together a good scoring run, as the Midshipmen kept them

on their toes going into halftime with a score of 23-21 in favor of the Mount. But with the offense finally finding its feet in the last quarter, led by the electric partnership of Harrison and Tomasetti, the Mount settled in and won out 68-59. On a more somber note, promising first year student Giana Hoddinott of Littlestown, PA came off the court with an injury. She was seen on the bench later in the game receiving treatment, but head coach Antoine White said she would go out for a scan the next day.

Although the team pressed high throughout the whole game and tied up Navy well under the basket, they just could not pull away. Coach Antoine White commented, "We wanted to come in and have tempo in this game, that's why we started out pressing them. It didn't go the way we wanted it to go, to speed them up and get the turnovers; they wanted to play in the half court and grind it out, and we allowed them to do that, but we battled them in the post. We

made them take some tough contested shots down there and we did a fairly good job for the most part of taking advantage of them on the other end of the court."

This upcoming season is full of unknowns for both the men's and women's teams at the Mount. That comes with being in a new, more competitive conference for the first season. It will be exciting to see how both teams go from here, but that is a part of its beauty: the potential that it brings. For most of its athletic history, the Mount was in the old College Division of the NCAA, now known as Division 2. Change has always been seen as a challenge at the Mount, but a great challenge, as it has led the school to bigger and better things. And moving to a more challenging conference can only be seen as a good thing, both for the current teams and the future members of each respective team.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Anxiety for everyone!

Jefferson Breland

Please bear with me as I am going to discuss a range of topics related to health, scientific research, the medical industry, and common sense.

My biases will be showing. I believe our health care industry is not the only way or the best way to provide medical care. It is only one way, helpful and not helpful at the same time. I will get to this last point later in the article.

Last month I attended an online video conference call with a group of new and long-time friends, men ranging in age between 51 and 75. The call was set up as a “check in;” a call for mutual support in yet another “topsy turvy” year on the personal, local, state, national, and international levels.

Of the seven attendees, there were five acupuncturists (two of whom were teachers of mine), one geologist, and a guy who fixes appliances (God bless him).

Two common subjects of concern arose. 1) Where are we headed as a nation and 2) what the “h-e-double-hockey sticks” is wrong with Russia’s leadership and its effect on global relations, i.e. the mental health of the world.

The general tone of the conversation was sadness and real doubt for

the future of our country and planet.

The “clouds of grey” that loomed over our group’s time together reflect the general mood of many people I have met. These “clouds” also reflect media reports around the world across the political spectrum. It seems many of the now 8 billion citizens of planet Earth have more to be concerned about than ever.

In late September 2022, a number of news outlets published articles about a health panel recommendation that all adults under the age of 65 be screened for anxiety.

Using 2020 census statistics, the health panel is recommending that roughly 214, 321,586 adult Americans be screened/tested for anxiety. (It might be a good time to start an “Anxiety Screening/Testing” company if you ask me, just sayin’.)

In October 2022, this same health panel published a recommendation for screening anxiety in children and adolescents aged 8 to 18 years. That is roughly 50 million humans. (I am serious about starting that testing company.)

What is this health panel? They are The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force or USPSTF.

According to the USPSTF website, www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org

(I guess the acronym was already being used for another website), they are “an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in disease prevention and evidence-based medicine. The Task Force works to improve the health of people nationwide by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services.”

I’d like to restate, this is an independent organization, unaffiliated with any U.S. Government organization. I would also like to point out the members are volunteers.

While independent, the USPSTF works in partnership with professional organizations such as the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association to name but a few.

The USPSTF also has relationships with federal organizations such as the Center for Disease Control, the National Institutes for Health, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and a host of others.

I add the above distinctions to qualify their statement as an “independent” organization. Administratively, they may be separate. In truth, they are intimately woven together with all aspects of the US modern health-care system, including the insurance industries who, as you may be aware, have a heavy hand in how healthcare is administered in this country.

Where to begin?

I’ll start with Spiderman. “With great power, comes great responsibility.”

The initials, U.S., carry great weight. The use of them in the title of this organization bears a strong resemblance to a group that represents our country, an authority, if you will. They are self-described experts in their fields. The members represent the best our healthcare system has to offer.

All this points to a certain gravitas. Basically, when the USPSTF speaks, we should listen. (Right? Maybe. Perhaps their very speaking is contribut-

ing to the very anxiety they want to test for. Nothing calms me more than a test or a visit to the doctor’s office.)

This is all well and good, however, the entire Western medical model is only one way of looking at health. Actually, they spend most of their time looking at disease, at the symptoms. Speaking of which, what is “Anxiety?”

When people talk about their anxiety to me, they say it as if I know what they are talking about, as if there is only one type of anxiety. I’ll bet you dollars to donuts, I experience the signs and symptoms below for different reasons than you do.

The Mayo Clinic lists these anxiety signs and symptoms: Feeling nervous, restless or tense; having a sense of impending danger, panic or doom; having an increased heart rate; breathing rapidly (hyperventilation); sweating; trembling; feeling weak or tired; trouble concentrating or thinking about anything other than the present worry; having trouble sleeping; Experiencing gastrointestinal (GI) problems; Having difficulty controlling worry; having the urge to avoid things that trigger anxiety.

There are many reasons we may respond to life with the above signs and symptoms. These responses, generally speaking, are perfectly natural and reasonable.

All the above signs and symptoms can have an association with our emotions. Anxiety is not an emotion unto itself. Let me repeat that: ANXIETY IS NOT AN EMOTION. Anxiety is an imprecise word used to describe a variety of responses to different emotions.

The proposed recommendations to test approximately 265,000,000 million Americans for an ill-defined health concern is, to my mind, grossly mis-directed. It is an ineffective and very costly idea which will only produce more anxiety (Yes, I said it.)

So, Mr. Smarty Pants, how do we deal with this apparent epidemic of imbalanced emotions?

I believe the primary thing which will help is to not “medicalize” or “pathologize” human behavior to the degree that we do. There are a lot of serious concerns in today’s world and, rightly, people are not comfortable.

The first step is to better understand that emotions are a response to life. Second, is to understand not all seemingly “extreme” or strong emotions are inappropriate. We experience horrible things from time to time. Emotional responses to life are a way of processing, of making sense of what we experience. And since we are all different, we will have different ways of understanding what has happened. It is also helpful to understand we will have different timelines of processing and understanding because there is no “timeline.” It takes the time it takes.

Third, there are different causes of “anxiety.” When we understand there are specific emotional root causes of the signs and symptoms, we can be more specific in how to help. If someone is fearful, we can understand their fear. If someone is worried, we can understand their worry. If someone is sad, we can understand their sadness.

My concern about the proposed testing is “what are we testing for?” How will we help the people who truly need help? There is no “one easy answer.” And certainly, I don’t believe medicating over half the population of our country is the answer.

The healthiest choice is to decrease the causes of the fears, worries, and sadness. Is it the easiest, no. Is it possible? I want to believe it is. In this season of miracles, isn’t it time to remember how to truly take care of each other.

I heard a story about Saint Teresa, when she was simply Sister Teresa. She was asked, “How do you perform miracles?” Her answer was, “I don’t. I simply perform acts of kindness everyday.”

I tried finding this quote online and couldn’t. Does it matter if she said it or not? What a different world we would live in if we focused on being kind with each other.

To read past Complementary Corner articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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FITNESS & HEALTH

Christmas dinner

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Turkey or ham is still the main part of the meal but you can add so many vegetables and fruits to spice things up for Christmas Dinner.

Dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, warm bread and dessert are also part of the traditional meal. I'm not saying don't have these favorites; just alter the way they are prepared. Try mashed sweet potatoes or mashed cauliflower this year. The cauliflower trend has really taken off. There are so many recipes out there for traditional dishes that use cauliflower instead of pasta or potatoes. Try whole grain bread for the dressing. Whole grains are much healthier than processed white bread and supply added fiber. You can also sprinkle flaxseed meal or wheat germ to add a bit of nutty flavor and nobody will be the wiser. Gravy is one of the most important parts of this meal. Let your broth set for a while till it forms a solid skim on top. Remove this and you will have broth with much less fat. The gravy still tastes the same, without the fat. Gravy can even be made a day or two early to save you time on the big day. The warm bread can be a variety of different whole grain buns. This way, everybody gets their favorite kind such as wheat, rye, pumpernickel and now even whole grain white. Add a veggie tray with low fat dip. Cooked seasoned veggies such as squash, carrots and cauliflower are also a great combination if you prefer hot vegetables. One half of your plate should be filled with veggies. Raw vegetables give you the most nutritional value. Have them on the table or the kitchen counter for your family and guests to nibble while the main meal is being prepared. They will fill up on these and maybe not eat as much later. Supply a variety of vegetables to pick from. Hopefully, you will have at least one kind that the kids like.

Gluten is something that will give people a problem. There are many new gluten free products on the market today. Check the frozen section of the grocery store and you may be pleasantly surprised at what you find. I now use vegetable pasta instead of the traditional pasta and I can't tell the difference. I also use zucchini noodles and spaghetti squash and my whole family likes it. We avoid some of the carbs and still have the great flavor.

DESSERT! Some people live for the dessert table. That's OK. Give yourself a treat. Just look over everything carefully, and decide what you really want. Maybe even sample a few different kinds. Try cutting the slices in half. That way you can try a bigger variety. Watch out for the pumpkin pie, you know who you are! Preparing a small plate of dessert for your guests to take home is also a thoughtful way to let them sample everything, just not all at one time. They can take

a little piece of Christmas home to remember for the rest of the holiday. This way you do not have all of that dessert leftover and tempting you. Your waistline will thank you later. Check into some small changes in the recipe that will make a big difference in the fat and sugar content of the dessert. Pumpkin is a great way to add that creamy texture to your cakes and cookies and even a good thickener for other recipes, while lowering the fat and raising the protein. Flaxseed meal can also be added to pies and cakes to give your family that added health benefit without them even knowing it is there. Applesauce in place of oil is another helpful, healthy hint. SUGAR is a big ingredient that packs on the pounds. Add a little less sugar to your recipes and you may just discover you didn't need all that the recipe called for anyway. Check out your grocery store's healthy cooking aisle for alternatives to sugar. Coconut sugar is lower in glycemic index and still tastes great. Artificial sweeteners can leave an after taste. I wish someone could come up with a way to sweeten food without the calories, bad taste and harmful effects of sugar. Maybe someday someone will. Remember, fresh seasonal fruit also makes a great dessert. Fruit has natural sugar but has much less calories than desserts made with sugar.

Start a new tradition this year that will continue for years and hopefully make you feel better because you are doing something healthy for yourself and your family. Taking a walk after your meal is a great idea. I know how everybody feels after eating a big meal, all the more reason to get moving. Take the whole family for a walk in the brisk air. Share this time and walk off some of those extra pounds you just consumed. If you can't get the whole family involved, pick a friend or family member that you would like to spend a little extra time with. Share conversation, ideas and just time with them. Maybe after all day together preparing the big Christmas feast you may want to escape by yourself for a nice, quiet, peaceful walk of your own. If you can't get outside for a walk use the treadmill or an exercise tape. Don't have a machine or tape, turn on the music and just dance. You will have fun and bring the family together. These tips work for any holiday gatherings.

Think about giving the gift of health this year. Gift certificates to an exercise program may get a person into a lifetime of health. Get yourself and someone you love into exercising. That is the best thing you can do for yourself and your loved ones. Call me to explore the benefits of an exercise program designed just for you and start your Christmas shopping early by getting a gift certificate for someone on your holiday list. 717-334-6009

I write this annual article each year and while some of it is

repeated year after year I like to add a few new ideas and things I have learned over the past year. If you or someone you know is having a reaction or chronic problem it may be helpful to keep a diary of the food you are eating and see how you feel. If you notice a headache or particular problem that keeps reoccurring you may want to stop eating certain foods and see if that stops the problem. I had no idea simple foods like chicken and potatoes were giving me headaches. This elimination system may take a little time but is well worth it to feel better again. You can also have blood test to determine what you may be allergic to. A homeopathic



practitioner will be able to help you with these tests.

The most important thing is to

"Keep Movin", you'll be glad you did.

Merry Christmas to everyone!

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

The waxing gibbous moon passes just below Jupiter as December begins. Then a week later, it rises as sunset as the Long Night Full Moon. Parallax will shift the moon far enough south to make it occult the Red Planet. You will see an occultation, with the Moon covering Mars for up to an hour in some places.

The last quarter moon is on December 16th. The northern hemisphere of the Earth is tilted most away from the Sun at Winter Solstice on December 21st at 3:48 p.m., the shortest day for us. The new moon is December 23rd, and the next evening, we get the thin waxing crescent passing just south of brilliant Venus in SW twilight; if it is clear enough, you also see fainter Mercury to the upper left of much brighter Venus. The first quarter moon is overhead on December 29th, to bring the year to an end.

As noted above, Mercury and Venus both are returning to the evening sky by mid December. On the solstice on December 21st, Mercury lies six degrees above far brighter Venus, but then retrogrades back toward the Sun. It passes 1.7 degrees to the right of Venus in the dusk about 40 minutes after sunset on December 29th. By the 31st, Venus climbs higher and brighter in the SW, but Mercury is disappearing in the Sun's glare as the year begins. Venus will dominate the western sky for most of 2023.

Mars reaches opposition, passing closest to us on December 7th, the



M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, is an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirths all over the place.

same night the full moon just misses it! It is in Taurus, and passes almost overhead around midnight, the best time to see it at high power. It lies .55 AU from us then, and shines bright orange at magnitude -1.9, brighter than Sirius, but not quite as bright as Jupiter. It spans 17" of arc then, or appears about 100X smaller than the full moon, which is .5 degree, or 1800" of arc across.

Jupiter is still well placed for evening viewing in Aquarius, due south

at dusk, and Saturn is getting lower in the SW in Capricornus. So all three of the best planets for amateur viewing from Earth are well placed now; get out and observe!

The best meteor shower of the year, the Geminid meteor shower, peaks on the morning of December 14, with best observing after moonset about 3 AM. Look for a meteor a minute coming out of the NE.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. South of it are the watery constellations of Pisces (the fish), Capricorn (Sea Goat) with Saturn in its tail, Aquarius (the Water Bearer) with Jupiter now, and Cetus (the Whale). Below Aquarius is Fomalhaut, the only first magnitude

star of the southern fall sky. It marks the mouth of Pisces Australis, the Southern Fish.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Their appearance in November in classical times was associated with the stormy season, when frail sailing ships stayed in port. Aldebaran is not a member of the Hyades, but about twice as close as the Hyades; distances in astronomy can be deceiving. Mars sits between the horns of the bull as December

begins. Compare its color with that of Aldebaran.

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. 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 p.m., and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.

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Farmers' Almanac

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

—Charles Dickens(1812-1870)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Cloudy, occasional flurries and drizzle (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7); wet snow, ice, rain near coast, then windy and colder (8, 9, 10, 11); fair, chilly (12) turning drier, milder 13, 14); rain, then brisk with flurries, snow showers west (15, 16, 17);

Severe Weather Watch: The Almanack sees heavy snow and a wintery mix (8, 9, 10, 11); high winds (11) and more heavy snow (25, 26, 27).

Full Moon: December's full moon falls on the 7th. Because of the lower temperatures during the month, it has been appropriately called Cold Moon by many Native American tribes. Other tribes noticed that the beavers were scurrying to finish building their dams and lodges before the lakes and ponds begin to ice over so they called it Ice-Forming Moon or Beaver Moon.

Special Notes: The Winter Solstice will occur on Thursday, December 21st.

Holidays: Hanukkah begins at sunset on Sunday, December 18th, celebrate Christmas on Sunday, December 25th, and Kwanzaa, on Monday, December 26th. Enjoy the holiday festivities with family and friends and try to keep that joyful and giving spirit alive throughout the coming year.

Everyone here at the Almanack wishes everyone the happiest of holidays and again, pledges to its loyal readers to continue to inform, inspire, and entertain as it has done for the past 227 years! New Year's Eve falls on Saturday, December 31st. Plan and enjoy a safe, family-oriented evening of fun, food, and entertainment on the very first night of the year. Look online at www.firstnight.com/cities to find a First Night Celebration nearest you.

The Garden: Enjoy a rest! The days are becoming too short and getting colder to push to do any more things outdoors. Instead, turn your garden-

ing attentions to those houseplants (and other plants you have moved inside for the winter). Remember that warmer indoor temperatures can quickly dry out most plants so they will need a bit more than usual. It is never too soon to start planning for next year. Go to www.smartgardener.com for a free online vegetable garden layout tool that will help you to successfully grow healthy and tasty food

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (17, 18); weeding and stirring the soil (12, 13); planting above-ground crops (1, 27, 28); harvesting all crops (2, 3); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28); transplanting (23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (1, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26), (27, 28); harvesting and storing grains (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22).

John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"The thought that goes into the giving of a gift to a friend or loved one, is so much more important than the value of the gift itself."

COMPUTER Q&A

Holiday gadget buying guide

Ayse Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer Services

Holidays are stressful enough without having to worry about getting the right gifts, so we have put together a few tips and tricks to make buying this holiday easier. Don't know what to get the techie that has everything? – we have a few ideas for buying for those who have virtually everything!

Computers

When purchasing a computer this holiday you will want to determine the habits of the person you are seeking a gift for. Are they a gamer? Microsoft Office user? Or just a basic web browser? Determining the gift receiver's needs will help you to choose a computer that will do more than just get them by. Gamers are going to require a higher end video card while Office users are going to need access to their software (Microsoft Office does NOT come with new computers – and must be purchased separately!). Those who are basic browsers won't need much in the way of extras but it's important to be mindful of the processor speed and the amount of memory on any new computer. Be wary of budget computers with Celeron or Atom processors else you may leave your gift recipient wishing that they unwrapped socks instead!

Tablets

When considering purchasing a tablet as a gift ensure that it will meet the needs you are trying to fulfill. Unless you are purchasing a Windows tablet such as a Microsoft Surface it's unlikely that it will perform all of the same functions as a computer. Many budget tablets are available today that lack quality so it's recommended to refer to reviews to determine if the price is worth the potential sacrifice. Another thing to consider is what operating system the tablet should run on. If the gift is for an iPhone user, you will probably want to stick with an iPad so that they can sync their apps and data seamlessly. The same holds true for Android users who will likely appreciate an Android tablet. Windows tablets and Amazon's Kindle are a great option for those who aren't familiar with iOS or Android devices. Ensure that whatever device you choose has enough storage capacity, some devices have the ability to increase space with an external storage such as SD cards, other devices do not support expandable storage. Many devices also take up a good chunk of the storage space with the operating system so it's best to go with the larger storage capacity for the devices that don't support expandable storage.

Smartphones

As with tablets, you should try to identify whether the user will find

an iPhone, Android or Windows Phone more useful. In fact, its recommend that you determine exactly which phone the user will want prior to purchasing or setting up a new phone since many companies have semi-strict return policies on new devices. There are lots of new devices on the market all with varying features and storage capacities. Ensure that you are choosing a data plan to go with the phone that will provide enough data to cover the gift receiver's usage!

Tech gift ideas for the person who has everything

So what do you get for the person who seems to have everything? There are lots of new and innovative tech gifts emerging so check out some of the unique gift ideas below.

For the iPad or Android user that would like to be able to easily transfer documents and photos, at Jester's Computers we have a USB flash drive device that makes this possible!

For the techie that has all the other gadgets, consider a smart

watch. They sync to your phone and some can even make and receive phone calls among many other features!

For those who use their devices in bed consider a lazy arm bracket that can attach to beds and other devices using a clamp and easily allows you to read or watch tv with your device hands free!

What about the person who constantly misplaces their gadgets? Checkout Bluetooth tracking devices such as TrackR so they can find their devices with ease! Unlike the Tile, TrackR has replaceable batteries!

The media lover will enjoy Roku or Amazon Fire Stick which allows users stream internet content to their TV without needing to connect their computer!

For the beginner who has gadgets but doesn't know how to use them yet consider a gift certificate to Jester's Computers for a one-on-one technology class! Classes are available by appointment only and are just \$25 for a one hour session! Call 717-642-6611 to order a gift certificate.



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CHRISTMAS HUMOR

The History of the Christmas Carol

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially that partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning; the surface meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtledoves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
5. The Five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the

first five books of the Old Testament.

6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history lesson for today and now you know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol!

It was the day after Christmas

The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got him from the church."

"And why did you take him?"

The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it."

One particular Christmas season, a long, long time ago, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip. . . . But there were problems everywhere.

Four of the elves were sick, and the trainee elves did not produce toys nearly as quickly as the regular elves, so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of falling behind schedule.

Next, Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mother was coming to visit. This stressed Santa out even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer for the big flight,

he found that three of them were about to give birth, and two had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where. More Stress.

Then, Santa began to load the sleigh, but one of the boards cracked! The toy bag fell through to the ground, scattering toys everywhere.

So, frustrated, Santa went into the house to have a cup of coffee and a shot of whiskey. When he got to the cupboard, Santa realized that the elves had hidden all of the liquor, and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration, Santa accidentally dropped the coffee pot and sent it shattering to the floor. It broke into hundreds of tiny pieces.

Santa went to the closet to get the broom, but discovered that mice had eaten all of the straw, leaving only the handle.

Just at that very moment, the doorbell rang. Santa cursed all the way to the door. He opened the door, and standing there in front of him was a little angel with a big Christmas tree.

Very Cheerfully, the angel said, "Merry Christmas Santa! Isn't it just a wonderful day? I have a beautiful Christmas tree here, just for you. Don't you think it's just a lovely tree? Where would you like me to stick it?"

. . . And, thus began our tradition of the little angel atop the Christmas tree.

Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration . . .

. . . and the FAA examiner arrived last week for the pre-Christmas flight check.

In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. He knew they would examine all his equipment and truly put his flying skills to the test.

The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and even Rudolph's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for sled's enormous payload.

Finally, they were ready for the check ride. Santa got in and fastened his seat belt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?!" asked Santa incredulously.

The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell



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Saturday, December 10
\$10 Per Person

At the door, Friday night bingo or www.eventbrite.com
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Music 9:30 p.m. - Midnight
 Food & Cash Bar Available
 Must be 18 - Photo ID required
 Tip Jars

Thurmont Event Complex
 13716 Strafford Drive, Thurmont



CHRISTMAS FOR COMMUNITY KIDS

ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF
 NEW TOYS
 CLOTHING
 AND
 NONPERISHABLE
 FOODS





**CHRISTMAS FOR
 COMMUNITY KIDS**



Our annual "Christmas for Community Kids" is in full swing!

Please stop by and drop off a new, unused, unwrapped toy or new items of clothing for school age children up to age 18. We will also be a collection site for Non-Perishable foods through the holidays. Help us to brighten Christmas for those in our community who can use a little Help!

**Donations will be accepted now through December 16th at the following locations:
 Wantz Chevrolet, Taneytown Bowl & Grill, Taneytown Liquor Barn, Kennies Market
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CHRISTMAS HUMOR

you this ahead of time," as he leaned over to whisper in Santa's ear, "but you're going to lose an engine on takeoff."

Gift Wrapping Tips for Men

This is the time of year when we think back to the very first Christmas, when the Three Wise Men -- Gaspar, Balthazar, & Herb -- went to see the baby Jesus &, according to the Book of Matthew, "presented unto Him gifts; gold, frankincense, & myrrh."

These are simple words, but if we analyze them carefully, we discover an important, yet often overlooked, theological fact: there is no mention of wrapping paper.

If there had been wrapping paper, Matthew would have said so: "And lo, the gifts were inside 600 square cubits of paper. And the paper was festooned with pictures of Frosty the Snowman. And Joseph was going to throweth it away, but Mary saideth unto him, she saideth, 'Holdeth it! That is nice paper! Saveth it for next year!' And Joseph did rolleth his eyeballs. And the baby Jesus was more interested in the paper than the frankincense."

But these words do not appear in the Bible, which means that the very first Christmas gifts were not wrapped. This is because the people giving those gifts had two important characteristics: 1 - they were wise and 2 - they were men.

Men are not big gift wrappers. Men do not understand the point of putting paper on a gift just so somebody else can tear it off. This is not just my opinion, this is a scientific fact based on a statistical survey of two guys I know. One is Rob, who said the only time he ever wraps a gift is "if it's such a poor gift that I don't want to be there when the person opens it." The other is Gene, who told me he does wrap gifts, but as a matter of principle never takes more than 15 seconds per gift. "No one ever had to wonder which presents daddy wrapped at Christmas," Gene said. "They were the ones that looked like enormous spitballs."

I also wrap gifts, but because of some defect in my motor skills, I can never completely wrap them. I can take a gift the size of a deck of cards & put it the exact center of a piece of wrapping paper the size of a regulation volleyball court, but when I am done folding & taping, you can still see a sector of the gift peeking out. (Sometimes I camouflage this sector with a marking pen.) If I had been an ancient Egyptian in the field of mummies, the lower half of the Pharaoh's body would be covered only by Scotch tape.

On the other hand, if you give my wife a 12-inch square of wrapping paper, she can wrap a C-130 cargo plane. My wife, like many women, actually likes wrapping things. If she gives you a gift that requires batteries, she wraps the

batteries separately, which to me is very close to being a symptom of mental illness. If it were possible, my wife would wrap each individual volt.

My point is that gift-wrapping is one of those skills like having babies that come more naturally to women than to men. That is why today I am presenting Gift Wrapping Tips for Men:

- Whenever possible, buy gifts that are already wrapped. If, when the recipient opens the gift, neither one of you recognizes it, you can claim that it's myrrh.
- The editors of Woman's Day magazine recently ran an item on how to make your own wrapping paper by

printing a design on it with an apple sliced in half horizontally & dipped in a mixture of food coloring & liquid starch. They must be smoking crack. If you're giving a hard-to-wrap gift, skip the wrapping paper! Just put it inside a bag & stick one of those little adhesive bows on it. This creates a festive visual effect that is sure to delight the lucky recipient on Christmas morning:

In conclusion, remember that the important thing is not what you give, or how you wrap it. The important thing, during this very special time of year, is that you save the receipt.

Thurmont Community Ambulance Service
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NEW YEAR'S EVE *Bingo!*

Saturday, December 31

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\$50 Per Ticket

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<p>9 pack of 27 games (\$250 ea.) 3 games (\$1,000 ea.) 3 50/50 games & 1 jackpot (\$1,500) (1 sheet of 3 for each 50/50 & 1 jackpot)</p> <p>Doors open @ 5 p.m. Bingo starts @ 8 p.m.</p> <p>No reserved seating - 1st come 1st served No Exceptions!</p>	<p>Meal served 6 - 8 p.m. Roast beef, fried shrimp, mashed potatoes w/gravy green beans & applesauce</p> <p>Cash bar - Kitchen open at break</p> <p>Tickets: 301-748-5359 or 301-271-3820 <small>**We reserve the right to lower payouts if less than 300 tickets sold**</small></p>
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TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
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**CONGRESSMAN
DAVID TRONE**

Thank You

Thank you for giving me another opportunity to represent you in Congress. As you know, I don’t take any contributions from PACs, corporations, or lobbyists. I’m there to represent you and only you. Most office holders don’t like campaigning. I do, because it gives me a chance to meet thousands of you and listen to your hopes, your dreams, and your worries. But what I really love is to roll up my sleeves and get back to work for you.

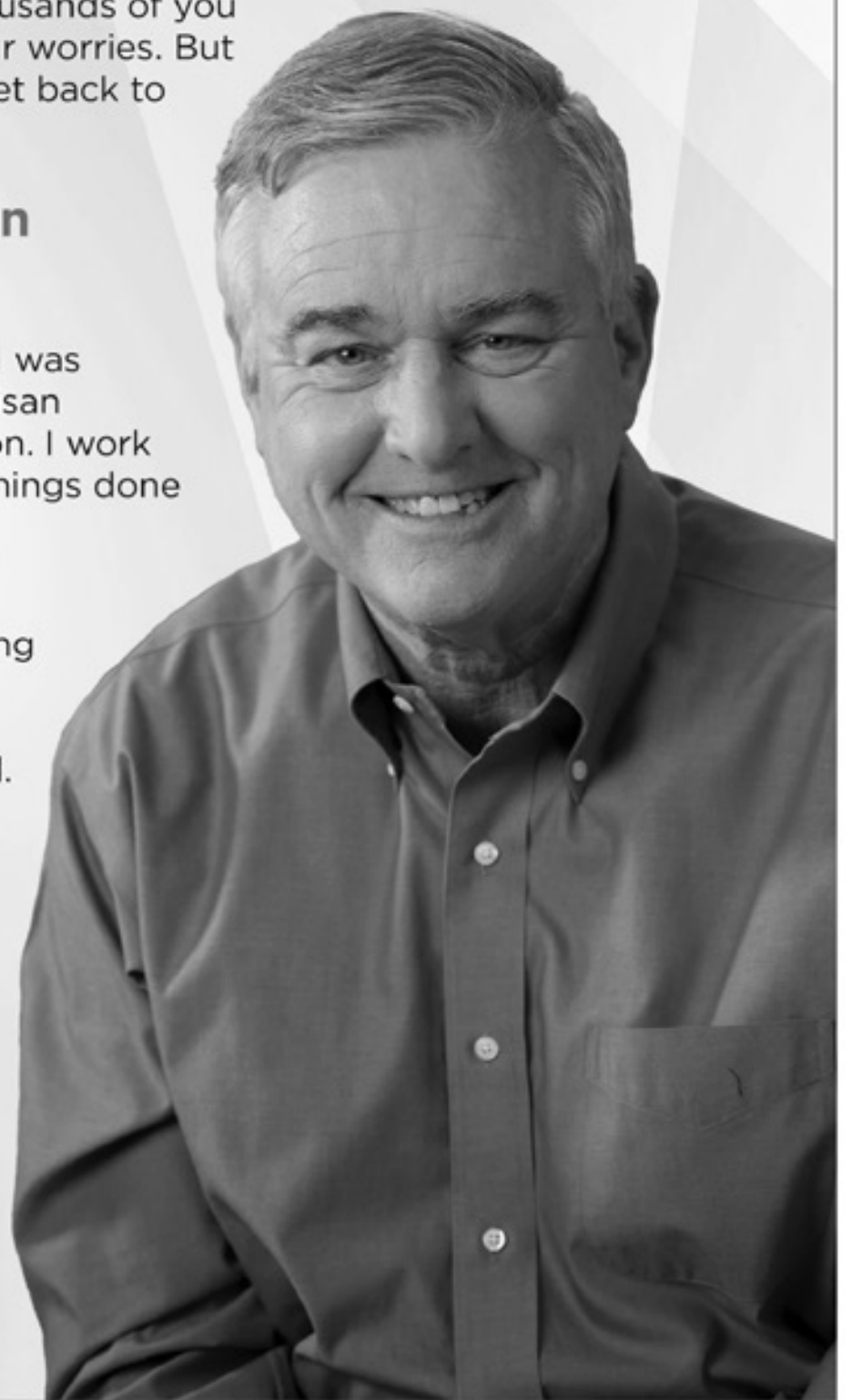
**What I’ll Continue To Work On In
Congress**

I’m proud that in this last session of Congress, I was named by the Lugar Center as the most bipartisan member of Congress in the Maryland delegation. I work with both Republicans and Democrats to get things done for Maryland families, and have gotten results.

My priorities include improving our economy, reducing inflation, improving health care, helping those with Opioid and other addictions, and driving federal dollars into our communities to improve roads, bridges and expand broadband.

Contact Me If You Need Help

If you are having a problem with a federal agency or program, please contact my congressional offices around Maryland and in Washington, DC. Every year we successfully help people resolve issues. My best wishes to you and your family for the holidays, and a very happy and healthy new year.



DAVID TRONE

U.S. CONGRESS

Paid for by David Trone for Congress, Inc.