

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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NEWS

Emmitsburg Sewer Rates to Increase

Some customers could possibly see sewer fees increase fees by 80 percent, or more. **Page 2**

Rising Gas Prices Hitting Home

While the rise in gas prices is hitting many residents hard, there is an upside to it. **Page 4**

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Commonsense and our government, two words that in some ways seem incompatible. **Page 10**

Down Under

The last thing left in Pandora's box, that fabulous container of wonders and terrors, was hope. **Page 11**

ARTICLES

The Book of Days

The look at the life and legacy of our 7th Vice President, John C. Calhoun. **Page 13**

In the Country

The days are getting longer and evidence of spring is appearing all around us. **Page 15**

Pets Large & Small

"You're supposed to love it forever..." A look at pets and their unconditional love. **Page 18**

The Master Gardener

Spring often arrives before you are ready. Some timely tips to get you ready when it does arrive. **Page 20**

History

The Chronicles of Emmitsburg - 1908 interviews with the 'old timers' of the town at the time. **Page 24**

Mount Creative Writers

Part two of our three part tale that started with an old Leap Year tradition - and will finish with a fateful voyage. **Page 39**

JOURNALS

The Retired Ecologist

He was old for his kind, and Time and Chance finally caught up with my old squirrel. **Page 14**

Cold War Warrior

The Gorbachev coup - we entered the 1990s knowing all was not well in the Communist Paradise. **Page 26**

Simple Servings

Get your St. Patrick's days festivities off to a glorious start with a full Irish breakfast. **Page 36**

Complementary Corner

This month Chinese medicine's view on Sugar. **Page 42**

Emmitsburg loses friend, veteran, and hard worker

Robert Calvin Orner, a veteran of World War II, popular and respected Emmitsburg resident, and a valued employee of the Emmitsburg Jubilee passed away February 16 at the age of 87.

Orner, who was born July 12, 1924, in Harney, was the son of Dewey and Margaret Auchinbaugh Orner, and was married to Blanche R. Harbaugh Orner for 62 years.

Orner worked at Jubilee for over 25 years and was still a full-time employee there at the time of his death. He had previously worked at Cambridge Rubber Company in Taneytown prior to its closing.

Pastor Jon Greenstone of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, said Orner "served on the church council over the years. He was very faithful and attended church with his wife every Sunday. They were very quiet and humble. [His death] was a great loss."

Greenstone stated that Orner worked at area farms while growing up in Harney, and subsequently met his future wife, Blanch, at the roller skating rink in Taneytown.

"He was then called away for World War II," the pastor said. "He said he spent time in Germany and he generally didn't want to talk about

the things he experienced, which were [apparently] next to hand-to-hand combat."

Bob, a devoted husband & father, spent most springs and summers on his hobby, gardening. From A to Z (asparagus to zucchini) with tons of tomatoes & potatoes in between, Bob was an avid & proud gardener. During dry spells he could be seen carrying 5 gal. buckets of water across the alley to his garden to keep his crop growing.

Waiting on customers at Jubilee was, to Orner, "more than [conducting] a business transaction," the pastor noted. "He loved to work, which is why and how he was befriended by so many, because he loved the people."

Steve Trout, co-owner of Emmitsburg Jubilee, said, "He was a good man. He was probably one of the best consistent workers I've ever known."

"Bob was like the father figure and the soul of the community," Trout stated. "He was 87 years old, never worked less than 40 hours a week. He was a great man and a hard worker."

Jubilee Manager Rich Boyd said he was always impressed by how hard Orner worked. "He was



Robert Orner 1924 - 2012. Friendliness, kindness, sociability were mark characters of this fine gentleman.

dedicated and reliable. There's so many adjectives you could use to describe him."

"He was always helpful to customers," Boyd stated. "I really have been amazed at how many customers have come up to us and the staff and said how sorry they were to hear about [his passing]."

"He was fun. He'd be a little bit of a character and joke around and had a great sense of humor," the store

manager said. "He could dish it out. He was fun to work with."

Orner started off in the grocery department of Jubilee and ultimately worked in the deli and seafood section where he helped the deli manager, Lisa Manahan, order supplies, set up the seafood sales case and merchandise.

Orner was a member of the Masonic Lodge and VFW Post 6918 in Harney.

Village Arts to open in Fairfield

A restored barn, located off Main Street in Fairfield Borough, will serve as home to a new fine arts and crafts shop.

Work on the "up-cycled" Victorian barn, located behind 204 East Main, commenced around five years ago under the ownership of Sally Thomas and Heather Jenkins.

Sally is the wife of Dean Thomas, owner and operator of Thomas Publications and member of the Fairfield Borough Historical Architectural Review Board.

Sally and Heather had purchased the property containing an 1870 home and barn, and proceeded to restore the barn for a pottery shop. Sally had previously established a Polish pottery import business about ten years ago, she said.

"The barn was dilapidated," Sally reported, complete with dust and debris "including animal skeletons. "We decided the barn was worth saving."

The barn was so neglected that "the interior had to be power-washed," she said.

Sally and Heather "spent a full year" breathing new life into the ruined structure by engaging independent construction contractor John Gaston. "John did a great job," Sally stated.

The two-story barn offers some 2,000 square feet of floor space to accommodate the shop, multi-purpose room and offices.

The end product was a two-story, refurbished barn that preserved some of the structural beams, while the rest of the building was reinforced to support a second-story multi-purpose room and office. The first floor contains the main sales area and gallery.

The pottery sales operation, McKesson House, was subsequently relocated to the site of Thomas Publications when Sally and Heather decided to rent out the barn, which became occupied by the Back the Alley lawn and garden business.

When the owners of Back the Alley decided to move to another location in-town, Sally's son, Tommy Rodgers, expressed an in-



terest in establishing an arts and crafts business in the barn, to be named Village Arts.

Sally and Heather are helping to select arts and crafts to be offered at Village Arts. Thus far, the works of some 11 artists and crafters have been accepted.

"We're always looking for more artists. We're trying to provide a

venue for local artists," Sally. "It's important for Fairfield to have more enterprises. It's a great place to stay and shop."

For additional information regarding Village Arts, call Tommy at 642-8013 or Annie DeGeorge at 642-5317. Inquiries may also be emailed to mckessonhouse@comcast.net

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NEWS

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,
Something unusual appeared on my computer screen the other day. I was opening all of my usual website tabs—my Mount St. Mary's email to update myself about happenings at school, my AOL account to delete all of my junk e-mail, the social media site Facebook because you just *have to have it* when you're in college, and the *Emmitsburg News-Journal's* website, Emmitsburg.net.

I usually enjoy browsing on Emmitsburg.net to read the local news, upcoming events, and creative articles sections. The local history section is also one of my favorites because it's neat to learn about the people who were living where I am right now a hundred years ago! It's also a very convenient website address to give to visitors coming into town so that they can get a glimpse of Emmitsburg's history and culture.

However, none of these sections first came to my screen when I typed in Emmitsburg.net into my browser a couple days ago... And instead of being upset (like you might expect), I was pleasantly surprised by what appeared on the screen. Actually, "pleasantly surprised" is too weak of a term—"happily amazed" is more appropriate.

For anyone who missed it, the homepage of Emmitsburg.net was an adorable photograph of a dog with a banner above him that read, "Do you know me?" His cute face was irresistible; I asked some of my friends at the Mount if they knew anyone who was missing a dog.

It made me smile to think that a newspaper would be able to do this sort of thing—*Emmitsburg* is a small town that really is a close-knit community, and the New-Journal reflects this. What other newspapers websites could have done this?

Surely *The Baltimore Sun* and the *Washington Post* serve much too large of a population to give consideration to a lost dog and its owner. The lost dog would have been given to the shelter and the newspaper would not worry about the animal or its owner. Emmitsburg.net is different. It serves a much smaller community and truly is a part of that community. It enables us who live in Emmitsburg to better share life together—our joys and our struggles, even our lost dog.

Thank to the staff of Emmitsburg.net for serving the town of Emmitsburg so well! I really appreciated the "unusual" webpage that appeared on my screen – and the fact that in the end, the dog was reunited with his owners!

This could only happen in Emmitsburg!

Sincerely,
Kelly Conroy
MSM Class of 2012

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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Senior Advisers:

Eric Glass, Taney Corporation

Dan Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Dr. Peter Dorsey, Professor of English, Mount St. Mary's

Bo and Jean Cadle, Former Publishers of the Emmitsburg Dispatch

Managing Editor, Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com

Assistant Editors:

Kelly Conroy, (MSM Class of 2012)

Kathryn Franke, (MSM Class of 2013)

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

News Editor, Richard Fulton, news@emmitsburg.com

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

Advertising, Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

Graphic Design and Layout, Brian Barth, bbarthdesign.com

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

Sewer rate hearing continued

The February 20 Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners public hearing will be continued at their March 5 meeting.

The commissioners held the hearing to allow the public to have input into a proposed ordinance that would impose a sewer service rate increase on sewer customers that could possibly increase fees by 80 percent, or more for some users.

The commissioners decided to continue the meeting at a later date rather than make a decision at the initial hearing.

The board voted at their De-

ember 6 meeting to proceed with the ordinance, necessitated by a state requirement to construct a new facility to enable the town to meet federal Department of Environmental Protection standards, all the result of efforts that environmental agencies claim will help clean up the Chesapeake Bay area.

The new facility is expected to be online in "late summer of 2014," with construction slated to begin in 2012, and will be located in the area of the current treatment plant east of Route 15 on Creamery Road.

Town Manager David Haller stated that the state-of-the-art project will cost around \$20 million, and about "\$50,000 more per quarter to operate than the existing plant."

Of the anticipated \$20 million price tag, \$14.5 million will be provided to the town via grant money from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the federal Department of Agriculture (DOA). In addition, the DOA will be providing the town with a \$5.5 million loan bearing a 2.4 percent interest

rate payable over 40 years.

The Board of Commissioners also voted to implement the increase in two phases, each representing 40 percent of the 80 percent needed to pay for the balance of a new wastewater treatment plant that won't be covered by grant money, and for any accrued debt service.

The first phase will go into effect April 1, while the second 40

percent increase will go into effect in July 2014. Individual customers may experience a rate increase below 40 percent or above 40 percent in each of the two phases, depending on their average gallon usage.

The full 80 percent increase in anticipated revenue generated by raising the sewer rate is expected to generate \$1,105,923 by the time the new plant goes online.

Food drive aims to top \$20,000

Just over three years ago, an Emmitsburg businessman proposed encouraging local residents to save their change to help feed the poor.

Today, the "Change for Food" effort, originally conceived by local photographer Robert Rosensteel, Sr., and brought before the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) in 2009, continues to experience strong support.

As originally proposed, the money raised continues to go to

the Emmitsburg Food Bank to help provide for the needy in the Emmitsburg area.

To date, the three-year-old fund raising effort sponsored by the EBPA has raised around "\$600 shy of \$20,000," Rosensteel said.

In order to hit or exceed that \$20,000 mark, the EBPA is holding a special event on March 30 at Red's Tavern, 135 Chesapeake Avenue, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Rosensteel said, "They're (Red's Tavern) having a celebri-

ty bar tender night to help raise funds. They're also seeking 'celebrities' to participate. We're hoping to have the mayor and fire chief."

"Since we got so close to that \$20,000 mark, we were hoping to go over that," Rosensteel said. "For three years, that's (nearly \$20,000) a pretty good chunk of change for change just out of your pocket."

The fund-raiser primary raises money through the placement of change drop boxes located in var-

ious business in town.

"We have found some strange things in the boxes," Rosensteel said, "Strange coins, acorns, wire, all kinds of things. But I've also found \$100 bills and checks for large amounts of money."

Local businesses and organizations have also held special events to provide addition funds, including Jubilee, who sold paper Santa Clauses in exchange for contributions, Ott House, who held a "bartender night" as a fund raiser, and the American Legion, who has also hosted a celebrity bartending night.

"We've also had several peo-

ple who save their pocket change all year long, then towards the end of the year, they dump their change when the food bank really needs help," Rosensteel added. At least one local student activity generated \$100 for the food drive.

Rosensteel also said that occasionally a class at the National Fire Academy will seek donations among its attending members to give something to the town, which has raised as much as \$300 per effort.

"The generosity of the community of Emmitsburg is remarkable," Rosensteel stated.

Emmitsburg area news briefs...

Heart of the Civil War resolution passed

A resolution re-affirming the Town of Emmitsburg's interest in continued participation in the Heart of the Civil War program was approved at the commissioners' February 20 meeting. The resolution confirmed that the town would continue to incorporate the Heart of the Civil War Area Management Plan within the town Compre-

hensive Plan. The Emmitsburg Planning Commission recommended that town commissioners approve the resolution.

Neighborhood Watch interest grows

Residents representing more than 30 households in Emmitsburg have expressed interest in the establishment of a Neighborhood Watch program in town. Commissioner Patrick

Joy, who has been unofficially spearheading the exploration of the degree of interest among residents, told the board at their February 20 meeting that meetings previously held irregularly will now be regularly scheduled due to the amount of local interest. Should a Neighborhood Watch program be instituted, it would be independent of the town administration and would be held in conjunction with the

Frederick County Sheriff's office. Anyone interested in additional information should contact Joy at pjoy@emmitsburgmd.gov.

Vacant lot rules adopted

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners adopted regulations at their February 20 meeting that will govern the acceptable height of vegetation in housing development lots.

The purpose of the ordinance is to prevent overgrowth, while at the same time, prevent-

ing over-cutting. Town Manager David Haller said the ordinance is complaint-driven, and will impose restrictions on a lot or group of lots that would generate a meadow-like appearance.

March 5 Town Commissioners agenda...

1. Sewer rate hearing (cont.)
2. Resolution regarding municipal insurance carrier
3. Pool funding review
4. Pool splash park status
5. Resolution "Financial Literacy Week"

PA redistricting stalled by court

Pennsylvania state government is struggling to create a court-approvable redistricting plan that would redraw a number of state House of Representatives district boundaries within the commonwealth. But the effort stalled on February 3 when the state Supreme Court effectively rejected the current proposed plan, sending it back to the legislative drawing board. The result is that it could take months, or maybe even longer, to produce a court-approved plan, and with the gener-

al election scheduled for November 5, this means victorious candidates could find their overall constituency changing during their tenures.

Charles E. O'Connor, Jr., executive director of the state 2011 Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC), charged with producing a redistricting plan, said the process of getting an approved "redistricting could take months now." In accordance with the state Supreme Court opinions, he said, "We have to develop another preliminary [redis-

tricting] plan" which will then have to wind its way through the hearing process once again. Until there is a plan the court can approve, current districts will remain the same. Redistricting is the process by which the boundaries of elective districts are periodically redrawn to maintain "equal representation on the basis of population," according to the LRC. The current redistricting effort was initiated in response to the federal 2010 census.

The current redistricting propos-

al would have a direct effect on two districts representing Adams County. For example, incumbent Representative Dan Moul's current district (District 91) includes south and central Adams County and eastern Franklin County to Fayetteville. If the proposed redistricting went through as submitted, he would lose his entire Franklin County jurisdiction except South Mountain, and he would lose Arendsville in Adams County. On the other hand, he would gain a portion of Cumberland County.

Will F. Tallman's district (193) presently includes northern Adams County and southwestern York

county. Under the pending redistricting proposal, Tallman would lose his entire district in York County, would make some gains in Adams County, and, Like Moul, would gain new territory in Cumberland County.

Incumbent candidates running for House seats applicable to Adams County include Dan Moul (Republican, House of Representatives District 91), Will F. Tallman (House of Representatives District 193), and Richard Alloway II (Senate District 33). Of these incumbents, Moul and Alloway are presently running unopposed. Tallman is being challenged by Republican Jason McNew and Democrat Mike Strausbaugh.

Highland nixes community media funding

Highland Township Board of Supervisors voted to deny funding to Community Media at their February 14 meeting.

Highland followed the lead of many other Adams County municipalities whose governing boards also have voted to deny funding to the non-profit television station in recent months.

Community Media, formerly Adams Community Television, is

based in New Oxford and provides local news and feature programming, including coverage of local government meetings and community events, via Comcast cable and the Community Media website.

Community Media sent a letter to all Adams County municipalities last fall, asking for a donation equal to six percent of the cable franchise fee received by the municipality from Comcast.

This fee is paid to municipalities for the use of public right-of-ways and other public property used in delivering cable service. The six percent requested by Community Media varies by municipality, ranging from a few hundred dollars to several thousand.

Some boards said they could not justify the donation because it was either not in their budgets or not a priority.

Cumberland Township Manager Ben Thomas said at the municipality's January meeting that, when he received the funding request, he had asked for a copy of Community Media's budget and the number of township residents who access the Community Media station.

Thomas said he found that the station serves 1,500 customers in his township, and that Community Media already receives \$36,000 an-

nually from Comcast.

Cumberland Supervisor Al Ferranto said the township does not have the money designated in its budget this year.

"With all the needs that Cumberland Township has...the money could be better spent in the township," Ferranto said.

Other municipalities, like Hamiltonban Township, voted to deny funding because they believe the responsibility to fund public access stations lies with Comcast, not local governments.

Ten to run for vacated House seat

The decision by U.S. Congressman Todd Platts to not seek re-election has set off a mad scramble within the ranks of the local Republicans to fill what is considered a 'safe' Republican seat.

Platts has represented Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the past 11 years.

In announcing that he would not seek re-election, Platts stated he has been a strong believer in 12-year term limits, and 2012 marks the end of his twelfth term.

Eleven candidates have thrown

their hats in the ring to succeed Platts, including eight Republicans.

Republicans who have filed to run for Platts' position include Kevin Downs, a businessman, Eric Martin, a salesman, Mark M. Swowley, with Hershey Company project management, Ted Waga, a Baltimore County Police officer, Scott Perry, a current state representative, Sean Summers, an attorney, and Chris Reilly, a York County commissioner. John Van Volkenburgh Jr., President of the Carroll Valley Borough Council

had planned to run but was unable to raise the required signatures to get on the ballot

Kenneth Lee, an attorney and a board member of the National Civil War Museum, and Harry Perkinson, a defense contractor employee, are running as Democrats.

Mike Koffenberger, a second Baltimore County Police officer vying for Platts' seat, is running as a Libertarian.

The field will be narrowed to a Democrat and a Republican at the April 24 Primary Election, with

the primary victors, along with the sole Libertarian candidate, vying for popular election in the November 6 General Election.

The victor will also have a new district to serve effective January 3, 2013, when the 113th Congress is seated. On that date, the Pennsylvania 19th Congressio-

nal District will become the 4th Congressional District.

The redistricting was the result of population changes reflected in the 2010 U.S. Census.

Pennsylvania will actually lose one House member as a result of the census, dropping from 19 to 18 members.

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NEWS

Rising gas prices impacting lifestyles

Gasoline and diesel fuel prices continue to climb, having risen almost 12% since the start of the year. The rise in the price at the pump is a result of a rise in crude oil prices and decreased production of gasoline at U.S. refineries.

Brent crude, the global benchmark, hit a fresh nine-month high of \$125 a barrel at the end of February. Prices have risen 15% in the past month against the backdrop of growing tensions with Iran and supply disruptions in other, smaller producers such as Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Petroleum production from Europe, Africa and the Middle East flowing west tends to be priced relative to this oil.

Unfortunately for East coast American drivers, gas prices are based upon the price of Brent crude, not West Texas Intermediate, which is U.S. produced oil, and is currently at an all-time supply high.

As a result, fuel prices have broken all previous records during February, and economists are predicting that, "You ain't seen nothin' yet." Prices are expected to exceed \$4 or more per gallon - some are saying \$5 or more - at the gas pumps by spring.

Area residents are already reducing the number of shopping and family outing trips they make, while others have begun carpooling to save commuting costs.

Emmitsburg resident Diane Decker echoed the comment of many women interviewed for this story, "I have been cutting back on driving and making every trip count, and instead of shopping in Frederick, I try to do more shopping locally."

Tony Orndorff of Zurgable Brothers' Hardware heard unanimous agreement from customers gathered around the checkout counter. "It Sucks!... It's taking away all my spare money." Fellow worker Charles Shultz added, "I can't even afford the drive to go fishing anymore."

Pastor Jon Greenstone of Elise Lutheran Church commented, "Price of heating oil is really robbing our offerings away and preventing funds from being available for more important ministry expenses." Susan Allen of the Council of Churches remarked that that requests for gas cards from the Seton Center are up and wondered how folks on limited or low income manage to afford to get to their jobs.

While the increase in gas prices has hit everyone hard, some of the hardest hit are those who came to the area seeking a small town environment for their family while continuing to work in Washington, D.C. "Commuting five days a week to Washington with the current gas prices has drastical-

ly changed our household budget," noted one Brookfield resident. "Instead of spending over \$100 a week in gas, I know I pay close to \$200 which puts a financial toll on where our money is being spent. We as a family aren't driving nearly as far as we once had and when my wife shops we turn it into a family trip and shop where many stores are in the same general area."

Another resident of Brookfield, our very own Teen's View writer Kat Dart is tacking the issue head-on. "I'm 16 years old and going for a Motorcycle license. The motorcycle gets around 80 mpg, so I'm saving some serious money right there."

Emily McGlaughlin of Fairfield said she is looking for entertainment and recreational activities that are more local, for example, hiking trails. She is also appreciating the stories that her grandfather told her about when they had to ration gas during WWII and the struggles they had. She is ultimately choosing to spend more time at home with family.

Kay Deardorff of Strawberry Hill was more Philosophical, noting, "The price of gas is affecting visitation to our Preserve. This, in turn, makes my job more challenging as I am forced to become more creative in finding ways to make our facility appealing. At the same time it can be beneficial as we have a place where people can get out into nature and enjoy the creation around us without paying a high cost for Entertainment."

One parent noted that she had banned her son from his four-wheeler. "All he was doing was wasting gas riding around in circles," she said. "I told him to ride his bike, which is not only healthier for him, but has restored peace and tranquility to the neighborhood."

Local business owners are also being hit hard. Lynn Biller of the Emmitsburg Subway said, "It has affected the prices we pay for our products, so our food cost is higher. Yet we can't really raise our prices much, since we are associated with a high quality/low cost product and would lose customers."

Cindy Wivell of CJ's Embroidery



What's scary is that there is a good possibility in months to come we'll be wishing for prices to be this cheap!

in downtown Emmitsburg said she was keeping a weary eye on the cost of UPS shipments of supplies. "The cost of shipping keeps going up. So far we've been able to absorb the increase and not raise our prices, but that only means we make less."

Roddy McNair of McNair's Landscaping Supply echoed Cindy's comments. "Our business is very competitive, so I have to absorb the fuel increases, but it's getting harder to do that."

Local Veterinarians Drs. Gary Kubala and Kim Brokaw, who depend on their trucks to get to their clients, are also feeling the pinch of the increasing gas prices. Dr. Kubala said he spends anywhere from \$200 to \$300 a week on gas, and for the first time last week it cost more than \$100 to fill his truck. In spite of that, he hasn't raised his trip fees. "Things are hard enough on animals owners as it is. I don't want to add to their burden by raising our trip fee price and cause someone to hesitate to call us when needed. I would rather the money

go into the care of the animal."

If there is an upside to the downside, however, many residents noted that they are spending more of their income locally, as more distance stores, service stations and eateries no longer prove as lucrative as they once were, due to added transportation costs.

At \$4 a gallon, the 50 mile round trip to Frederick costs up to \$8, the equivalent of top of the line appetizer at the Carriage House, and entrée at J&Ds, restaurant or several handfuls of hardware at Zurgable Brothers.

Fitzgerald Automotive on North Seton Ave., which specializes in tune-ups, is seeing an increase in business. "While the price of gas is outside your control, how much gas your car wastes is within your control," said owner Pete Fitzgerald. "A properly tuned car will burn anywhere from 20 to 25% less gas. So a tune up pays for itself in just a few tanks." Bob Mort of Quality Tire added that proper tires also help with holding down fuel costs.

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HISTORY

One hundred years ago this month

March 1

High School is Alive

The enrollment of the scholars is equal to the average about this time last year. The graduating class only numbers seven and probably not all of those will be graduated. This is quite a contrast to the large class that graduated last year. Seventy-Five percent of last year's class are doing very well at the institutions where they are now studying.

Swastika Club's Latest Success

The story of the drama entitled "Who is the bravest daughter of the West," as produce by St. Anthony's church Swastika club was an overwhelming success. The scenes of the play are located in Arizona at the time of the Apache raids of 1882. The singing by the members of the club is worthy of praise. All understood their parts and were easily able to make the spectators understand the same. All entered into the spirit of the play and communicated that spirit to the audience. More than this no amateurs may do.

March 8

Swearing on the Streets

Every now and then, after a marked exhibition of unseemly behavior on the streets of Emmitsburg, accompanied by swearing and foul language, there is naturally an immediate and decided protests from law-abiding citizens. This is right. There should be protest, but it ought not to stop at that. The same law abiding citizens should go a step further. They should help to convict the guilty. There is both a state and local law that provides suitable punishment for persons who curse, swear or in any manner disturb the peace. These culprits, however, may not be arrested except by an officer of the law; nor can they be convicted unless evidence is provided proving their guilt.

If those who see or hear anything constituting an overt act and are either to indifferent or too timid to enter a complaint and appear as witness against offenders, they have only themselves to blame if there is a repetition or continuance of the offense. The remedy is in the people's hands. They have the law on their

side, but they must cooperate with the properly constituted authorities if they want the law enforced.

Road Work for Tramps

An able-bodied man without visible means of support, who of his own volition, continuously remains idle; who becomes intoxicated whenever he procurers liquor; who has no habitation or fixed abode and who insist on pestering the community or pillaging it, is a dangerous public nuisance and as such should be summarily dealt with. There is no reason why he should not be arrested, turned over to the county commissioners or town officers and by them put to work for a specific time on the public roads or streets.

It is safe to say that no district in the state suffers more from the tramp nuisance than Emmitsburg, which is annually invaded from April till November, buy ruffianly strugglers from that vast army of the don't-want-to-be-employed whose presence is a menace to morality and decency and a positive danger to women and children.

New Road Wanted Near Motters

The County Commissioners have received a petition from a number of residents of the Emmitsburg district asking for a new road, to begin at the Stony Branch schoolhouse on the road from Motter's to Detour, and, to pass between the lines or through the lands of the following: E. J. Fitzgerald, Harry Dern, Nevin Martin, and George Ohler, to the Emmitsburg and Keysville Road a distance of about one and a quarter miles.

Enjoyable Surprise Party

A very enjoyable surprise party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Harner. The guests began to arrive early in the evening and were made to feel entirely at home. The evening was spent in music, and games of all kinds are played. At 10:30 PM the guests were invited to the dining room where delicious refreshments were served.

Emmitsburg's Latest Organization

The Emmitsburg Generator Company has filed articles of incorporation. The purpose of the company is to manufacture and to deal in metal

castings and all supplies for the making of acetylene gas to private and public homes. The principal office of the company is to be in Emmitsburg. The incorporators who are the directors for the first year are: James Hays, Joseph Rosensteel, Dr. Stone, Stirling Gult, and Guy Motter.

March 15

Post Office Burglars Arrested

It has been reported that the authorities have apprehended the safe blowers who robbed the Emmitsburg post office a month ago. As we go to print the names of the culprits have yet to be released. While this crime may be solved authorities are looking for the individual who put a lighted candle under the steps of the creamery building, it is supposed with the intention of burning it down. Fortunately little damage was done.

Surgery Without Anesthesia

On Monday Dr. Eichelberger removed a 14-ounce tumor from the back of one of his patients residing at Bridgeport. The operation, which was successful, was very quickly performed and the patient was not put under the influence of an anesthetic.

Moving Picture Show to Come to Town

The Dixie Moving Picture Show will exhibit here for week beginning March 25. Showing all the latest life motion pictures and carrying their on electric plant.

March 22

Runaway on Main Street

On Wednesday, horses hitched to a wagon loaded with hay took fright at a passing motorcycle in front of the home of Burgess Rowe and upset the wagon, breaking one of the wagon wheels. One of the horses, with considerable effort, extricated himself from the upset wagon, much to the surprise of the crowd that has quickly gathered to help the animals.



James T. Hays & Son on West Main Street.

Attempt at Murder and Suicide Near Fairfield

On Wednesday evening James Hurley, living near Iron Springs store, not far from Fairfield, made an unsuccessful attempt on the life of Miss Renence Carlbaugh and afterwards shot himself in the head.

Hurley went to Fairfield and at Reindoller's store purchased a revolver evidently with the intention of murdering Miss Carlbaugh. He met the girl and shot four times at her but did not succeed in inflicting a fatal wound, although the chances of her recovery are slight. After the struggle with the girl he shot the remaining shell with better aim, the bullet entering his brain. Drs. Trout and Glenn, of Fairfield, were summoned and everything is being done to save the young lady's life.

It seems that Hurley's attention to Miss Carlbaugh was not desirable to her family and he was denied the privilege of calling on her. It is supposed that this was the cause of this attempt at her murder.

Death of James T. Hays

On Monday afternoon Mr. James T. Hays, one of Emmitsburg's leading citizens, died at his residence on W. Main St. The funeral service was held in the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday. Mr. Hays lacked a few days of being 80 years old. He is survived by his wife Sarah Witherow Hays and four children.

In January 1856, James Hays and his brother Joseph bought the Emmitsburg Foundry. They manufactured threshing machines, plows,

stoves, and general castings. In 1867 the firm was dissolved, Joseph taking the foundry and James the stove department. This business has been carried on continuously for 54 years, and is now known by the name James T. Hays & Son. In these years the business broadened out. Several patents owned by the firm form the nucleus of her lucrative business. The Hay's Acetylene light plant long made by this firm has been extremely popular.

March 29

Death of Rev. Schulenberger

News was received here yesterday of the death of Rev. Schulenberger, former pastor of the Emmitsburg Reformed Church. Rev. Schulenberger was elected its Pastor in 1895, the last charge of an active ministerial life that began in 1865. He had many friends among all the denominations and in every walk of life in town. Friendliness, kindness, sociability were mark characters of this fine gentleman. No one ever heard him speak of his fellow man except in complementary terms. Despite the ailment which advancing age brought on, he never lost his spirit of optimism. Ever cheerful, ever gracious, and with a kindly word for all. He lived a life that was full of inspiration and by that life he taught many a lesson for the resignation to the will of God. The people of Emmitsburg mourn his loss.

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

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Billy Shreve

I am quite sure by now that most, if not all, Frederick County residents are familiar with one of my mantras—Do the Math!

There are a myriad of challenges which face every elected official in the world, the economy and finances, the environment, education, jobs, infrastructure, and on and on. I really love the job of being a county commissioner because each day I awaken with new challenges, but also new opportunities. A new re-set so to speak. Each day I strive to do better and improve on my actions from the previous day.

I knew coming into office on December 1, 2010, that I was facing a big task in getting Frederick County Government under control. When we came into office we were immediately facing deficits, both in the immediate fiscal year budget, as well as a

long term structural deficit like most governments.

This Board of County Commissioners made a very conscious decision that we would reign in spending and reduce the size of government.

A lot of officials will cry crocodile tears when they raise your taxes and tell you how hard of a decision it was to do that, but it had to be done. Let me tell you that while wrong, raising taxes is the easiest alternative when a government faces a shortfall. It is not a challenge, nor is it hard work to make people pay more out of their pockets. It is a simple solution.

The hardest decision is to do what the majority of this Board did, and that is to reduce spending, to reduce the size of government, to reduce the public workforce to levels approaching the size of our government at 2004 levels.

With all this hard work, we have found we will have a surplus in fiscal year 2013. It is a lot easier to deal with a surplus as opposed to a deficit.

Now however, arises my new challenge as a county commissioner that I can't control. This year in order to do their math, the Governor of the state has decided to shift a sizable portion of the state teacher's pension responsibilities to the counties. Statewide, this will be a hit to local governments totaling \$239 million. Frederick County's portion could be as little as approximately \$1.5 million or as high as \$10.3 million in fiscal year 2013, or July 1, 2012. By fiscal year 2017 that local responsibility is estimated to grow by approximately 50% to more than \$15 million.

Now I know some are probably confused with the state math. As little as \$1.447 million next year or as high as \$10.281 million is a BIG window.

See, the state is going to help us (local governments) out by giving us off-setting "Local Relief," to cover some of the new obligations. I'll let you in on their language; "Local Relief" is a real nice name for taxes.

That's right, the state of Maryland will shift half of the financial responsibility and long term obligations to the local governments, and if all of



the Governor's tax increases are adopted by the Maryland General Assembly, Frederick County will receive over \$9 million in the new taxes to offset some of the teachers' pension obligations. Conversely, if those tax increases are not adopted, or only some of them are adopted, our offset will be smaller and thus a higher financial obligation to the county taxpayers.

The Board of County Commissioners has taken a very strong and vocal stance against this shift.

The state claims it's unfair that pension costs are determined locally and paid by the state, but sending the bill to county governments doesn't make

sense either. Counties aren't negotiating teacher raises, school boards are.

The main "cost drivers" cited by the Governor are: -The pension benefits (controlled by the state, and enhanced in 2006); -The system's investment returns (controlled by the state's Pension Board); and -Salary increases for teachers (negotiated by the school boards, not the county government).

And where did the money come from for all these teacher raises anyway? State-mandated Thornton funding. More money for education obviously means school systems hire more teachers and pay them better. That has been the state's policy for a decade, all the state-approved school plans say so, and now they claim its local decisions driving costs.

Also keep in mind that the state has not cut the education budgets while local and municipal governments, the arts, non-profits, all have taken more than their fair share of cuts. It also should be noted that the only budget under Maryland law that doesn't decline in a recession are the local Board of Education budgets.

If Frederick County is to assume this new unfunded mandate from the state, a fiscal year 2017 potential \$15.3 million shift to the county could potentially translate into layoffs, furloughs, cuts to programs, and more. A cut of this magnitude roughly could be the equivalent of 34 furlough days (\$450,000 per day) for all county employees, or more than 210 employee layoffs (\$72,534 average salary & fringe of non-uniformed employee), or 170 law enforcement positions lost (\$90,272 average salary & fringe), or 172 fire & rescue personnel lost (\$88,600 average salary & fringe), just to name a few items.

I am asking for everyone to make their voices heard in Annapolis. If anyone agrees that this unfunded mandate to local government is wrong, and the state needs to be responsible for their programs and obligations, please contact your senators and delegates in Annapolis and ask that they vote to "Stop the Shift" of teacher pensions onto local governments.

In order to save space here and not list out all Frederick County senators, delegates, and contact information, you can go to the County Commissioners' Legislative Affairs webpage, www.FrederickCountyMD.Gov/Legislative, and click onto "Delegation Contacts" and can write, call or e-mail them to voice your opinion.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Kirby Delauter

As many of you know I am a fiscal conservative. I take the responsibility of spending your money very seriously. As you may have heard a few weeks ago the County department of utilities and solid waste management (DUSWM) came before the BoCC with a request to purchase a sanitary sewer camera truck. As always, I researched this purchase request extensively prior to the meeting and being in the construction industry I know a little about sewer and water issues and capital expenditures.

This item was placed on what is called the "Consent Agenda". The consent agenda is just what it says; it has the consent of the department head as an approved purchase. Items on the consent agenda are not reviewed by the BoCC unless we see something in our scan of the agenda that sparks an interest. I review all consent agendas mainly because I have found few of them

where I don't find something that catches my eye. It is a bit annoying that department heads don't view your money as important as I do, but they're learning.

This purchase was in the amount of \$360,000.00, a substantial sum of your money. When I saw this I went to work researching the history and using my own construction experience to justify this new asset. I found out that the County already owns a sewer camera truck. The existing unit is 16 years old and has only 26,000 miles or (900 hours) on it. This amounts to 1625 miles per year or 56.25 hours per year. Yes, just over an hour per week this unit was utilized. Now, it doesn't take a Harvard graduate to do the math equation and come to the conclusion that this purchase is ridiculous. I personally wouldn't purchase a used car that I would only drive 1625 miles per year.

In our discussion of the pur-

chase in an open meeting (you can go to the county website and watch it for yourself) I became annoyed by the repeated attempts by staff to justify this purchase. At one point I was interrupted by a staff member and the discussion took a turn for the worse. I walked out of the meeting because I was likely to start saying things that are not appropriate in a public forum. I find it better to leave the discussion and cool off rather than have the discussion escalate to an unprofessional level. I was wrong for letting the discussion get to that point, and will try to keep a professional demeanor in the future. The staff member felt as strongly for the purchase as I felt against the purchase. I treat all County employees with respect and I expect the same in return.

We instructed staff to do some research on subcontracting this work to a private sector firm. We

have 500,000 to 1 Million linear feet of sewer lines to televise over the next year and it is an ongoing process, so placing this item out to bid on the open market just made sense. The numbers in my opinion will prove my case. The county would be about \$2 - \$3 per linear foot to do this work, where a private company will be \$0.90 - \$1.00 per linear foot. A private sector company will televise 3,000 - 4,000 linear feet per day, whereas the county has historically done less than 1000 linear feet per day, or if we use the county's own data, they televise 32 linear feet per day. Having this information, it was an easy decision to subcontract this work, thus saving the taxpayer (you) \$360,000 along with future maintenance, fuel, repairs, insurance and all other soft costs that go with a purchase. My next question will be if we're not purchasing the truck, do we need the

four employees that were supposed to operate it? Would any of you out there keep four employees on the payroll if your business dropped off? Would the Ott House keep four additional waitresses if their business dropped off? Would Insurance Brokers of MD keep four additional employees if their insurance business dropped off? The answer is no, not because they're heartless, it is just simple economics.

I ran for office not because I wanted something to do, I have plenty to occupy my time, I ran for office because I want to do something. You elected me to reign in an oppressive bloated county government. Frederick County government grew by 80% from 2000 - 2010, while the county population grew by only 20%. Once again, it doesn't take a Harvard mathematician to understand that this equation does not pass the straight face test.

From the Desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

I hope everyone is enjoying our mild winter - I know I'm disappointed to be stuck inside when it's sunny and sixty five degrees outside... Now to just escape that late March "payback" storm(!) Town business in February focused primarily on money issues including the presentation of independent audit results for the budget year ending June 2011, discussion of possible spending priorities for the budget year beginning July 2012, and implementation of new sewer service rates. The Mayor and Board of Commissioners have also decided to participate in the Maryland Sustainable Communities Program as a spring board to promote public and private improvements in the historic district and Chesapeake Avenue corridor.

The recently revitalized Sustainable Communities Program is meant to better coordinate individual programs designed to achieve investment in housing, historic preservation, and economic and transportation development in existing neighborhoods and town centers. In many ways it can be similar to the Main Street Maryland Program - but without the upfront costs, additional administrative layer, and (primarily) commercial property focus. Substantial rehabilitation tax credits are available for both homeowner and commercial properties in the program area as well as low cost loans for property improvements. We plan to complete our application by April 10.

Town Planner Sue Cipperly has also submitted an application

to the State of Maryland Heritage Area Authority Grants Program. We are eligible for funding based on our participation in the Heart of the Civil War Heritage area. Grant support of up to fifty percent is available for local projects that meet the programs guidelines. One area for potential improvement identified in the Heart of the Civil War literature is the Emmitsburg town square - with a particular recommendation to make the square more pedestrian friendly.

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners have identified both programs as a method to provide an overall framework for our efforts at historic preservation, public and private investment, and commercial development. We are currently working to initiate a process for these im-

provements to take place - beginning with stakeholders in the community identifying improvement priorities. An organized and public process is necessary to build the broadest base of community support. I appreciate that historically, this has not been the town government's strong point...

Switching gears - and I always feel like a rude party guest harping on about money - the town has received additional budget projections from the state that show an extremely negative impact on the next financial year's budget, beginning July 1, 2012. With property tax reassessments in the Emmitsburg area resulting in a 20% overall drop in property values, the 'Constant Yield' tax rate formula suggests that we need to raise taxes from \$0.36 per

hundred dollars of assessed value to \$0.426 per hundred dollars of assessed value - an approximate 18% increase. Without the suggested tax increase, we can expect a reduction of \$110,000 to \$140,000 (about 9%) in revenue in the upcoming budget year.

Maintaining a balanced budget in our General Fund expenditures looks to be a difficult challenge again this year... I am committed to using our reserves, or 'rainy day fund', only for specific project related expenditures promoting the public health, safety and welfare. And these expenditures must be individually reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners at a public meeting. Too often in the past, large expenditures have been buried in the details of the General Fund with thin oversight or review. I oppose releasing any of our reserves to the General Fund simply to plug a hole in daily operating expenses. Doing this removes the incentive to find savings. I will continue to challenge the other elected officials on these points.

Finally, I want to thank those who took the time to attend the Public Information meeting on February 16 related to the sewer plant upgrade. This session was arranged by Mayor Briggs in an effort to share information on the decision making that went in to the design requirements. I think this valuable information helped everyone, including the elected officials, better understand the new state guidelines as well as the intended design and performance of the new plant.

As always, more to follow! Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other elected officials with your questions or comments.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Mother Nature has been kind to us this winter. At the time of this writing, we have only experienced two light snow events. In eleven days, on March 11th we will be springing forward by setting our clocks forward by one hour to change to Daylight Saving Time. And, on March 20th we will celebrate the first day of Spring, a time when days and nights are of equal length.

On the evening of March 1, 2012 Matthew Benjamin was awarded the Boy Scout Eagle Rank at the Memorial Baptist Church in Gettysburg with Fairfield Troop 76. He started his journey in scouting in August 2009 and met his goal in just over two and half years. He completed his Eagle project by building a much needed loft for storage at the Adams County Christian Academy in Gettysburg. Matthew is Junior and honor student at the Adams County Christian Academy and his ambitions is to become a commissioned officer in the United States Army. He is currently applying for an appointment at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

We all should be aware of changes in the law that may affect

us. On March 8th, Pennsylvania will be the 31st state to give the police the authority to pull over and cite a motorist for texting while driving a vehicle. Violation carries a \$50 fine. Since we are just a few miles from the Maryland border, you should be aware that text messaging is prohibited for all drivers. Maryland also has a ban on the use of handheld cell phone while driving. In Pennsylvania, Act 81 of 2011 has been updated. Act 81 has been reported to be the most comprehensive update to the Graduated Driver's Licensing Law since 1999 and seeks to reduce distractions caused by teen passengers, expands behind-the-wheel training for permit holders, and makes sure that minors are buckled up. Behind-the-wheel supervision of learner's permit holders under 18 years of age has been increased from 50 to 65 hours. The first six months after receiving a junior driver's license, the junior driver is not permitted to have more than one passenger under 18 who is not an immediate family member unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. After six months, if the junior driver has had no reportable crashes or traffic violations,

the restriction changes to three passengers under the age of 18. A reportable crash is one in which an injury or fatality occurs or at least one of the vehicles involved requires towing from the scene.

The Carroll Valley Police Department under the command of Chief Police Richard L. Hileman reported to Carroll Valley Borough Council that the Department responded to 2076 calls for service, a 4.4% increase over 2010. Calls for service are incidents requiring a police response and do not include vehicle stops or other routine duties. The 2076 calls for service resulted in 248 Uniform Crime Reports or UCRs. A UCR is crime as defined by the FBI and categorized into Part 1 and Part 2 Offenses. Part 1 are homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and arson and Part 2 are everything else except traffic offenses like stop signs or speeding. Part 1 offenses decreased about 13% and Part 2 increased 22%. Ignoring seasonal ski thefts, overall crime decreased 24% overall to near 2008 levels. The Police Department cleared (solved by arrest or other means) 45% of the Part 1 crimes. The rate goes

up to 54% if the equipment thefts at the resort are removed. The state averaged just 30.3% cleared in 2010 (most recent statewide figures available). 71.4% Part 2 crimes were cleared compared to 60.7% state-wide. Both represent an increase in the percentage of crimes Carroll Valley Police are solving. The state-wide rural crime rate for 2010 was 18.3 Part 1 and 41.1 Part 2 per 1,000 residents. Our 2011 Part 1 crime rate (serious crimes) was about 15% more and Part 2 was 26% less, at 21.6 and 30.2 per 1,000 respectively. Police issued 608 traffic, non-traffic and ordinance citations in 2011 including 317 for speeding, 254 for other traffic, 8 for ordinances and 29 for criminal violations. August 2011 marked the sixth annual National Night Out observance in Carroll Valley. More than 30 community groups, organizations and individuals presented and more than 230 citizens attended. More than 70 children received child ID kits. Our officers also participate in numerous Adams County DUI task force roving patrols and local checkpoints. All task force patrols were funded by state grant monies. Carroll Valley Police

arrested 56 impaired operators in 2011. Of these, 16 operators with only alcohol had blood alcohols of twice the legal limit or more, 9 were under the influence of drugs, 4 were persons under 21 driving impaired. We all can be proud of the service provided by our Carroll Valley Police Department.

The Blue and Gold Banquet of Cub Scout Pack 76 will be held at the Fairfield Fire Hall on Sunday, March 4th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Eighteen Annual Fairfield Fire and EMS Awards Banquet is scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at the banquet room of the Fairfield Fire Hall. The Carroll Valley Citizens Association is holding their dinner meeting on March 16th. The Borough will be holding the following meetings in March: Planning Commission (Mon-Mar 5th); Public Safety Committee (Mon-Mar 12th); Borough Council (Tues-Mar 13th); and Parks and Recreation Committee (Wed-Mar 28th). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at mayor@carrollvalley.org or by cell at (301) 606-2021. Please slow down while driving in the Valley!

A Commissioner's Perspective on Funding the Emergency Radio System

Jim Martin

Since the new board of Adams County Commission-

ers approved the levied tax increase of .181 mills to fund a new county-wide emergency radio system, the public response has been

mixed. Many are in support of the board's action saying that we made a difficult decision and it was the right decision. Others focus on the tax increase as being unacceptable and that the radio project is unnecessary. Obviously this controversy will continue. If a county tax increase was the only issue

at hand, a tax increase would not have been on the table.

The fact that the previous board authorized and adopted a plan for a new radio system, confirms their commitment to move forward to provide a new system. However, the process of developing and adopting a plan for the new system

occurred over a period of years, but a plan for funding the project was never developed. Additionally, no reserve fund was ever established to build a pool of revenues for future payment of the radio project. Nevertheless, the previous board set the project in motion with approved expenditures of nearly \$800,000 for system analysis, design, and planning.

As a new board, being handed the above scenario presented a major challenge and dilemma. The previous board's comment on the situation was given in their narrative of the 2012 Budget. Their statement was, "The 911 Radio System upgrade is in the final stages of review and is



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Marty Qually

On November 8th, 2011 the citizens of Adams County elected three new County Commissioners: Jim Martin, Randy Phiel, and Marty Qually. Since that date, all three of us have noticed how often people ask, "How are the three of you getting along?" Prior to this election, there was no reason for the now Commissioners to interact. With the exception of our love for Adams County and the commitment to serve our constituents; the voters could not have elected three more diverse people. After a long campaign season and countless social events, we did not know each other beyond where we stood on the issues. We did not know how we would work together as a team. Knowing that good communication is the basis for every good relationship; we set up eight meetings between Election Day and the Swearing-In Ceremony on December 30th. Those meetings were used not just to get to know each other, but to determine our goals for the next four years. In this article I will highlight our goal of improving communication between Adams County government and the citizens of the County and how we plan to achieve this.

We have started by fulfilling our campaign pledge to open up Coun-

ty government. Much of that effort to date has focused on our weekly Workshops and Commissioners' Meetings. Every other Wednesday, at 9am, we hold a public workshop in our meeting room. In this meeting we discuss items to be placed on our regular meeting Agenda. In the past these workshops were rarely attended by the public; now we regularly have members of the Press and public at the workshops. Commissioners' meetings were also poorly attended, with the exception of meetings that addressed highly volatile issues. Too often, past decisions were made with little or no explanation of how or why Commissioners came to their conclusions. We have changed the flow of both of these meetings by requiring that County Directors and elected officials, who have items on the agenda, be at the meeting to discuss their topic. Having directors and other elected officials available hopefully has greatly enhanced the public's understanding of our decision making process.

On January 23, 2012 we, the newly elected and sworn in County Commissioners, were invited to appear on Fred Snyder's Breakfast Nook. Since then Fred has invited us back each 3rd Tuesday to discuss County issues. In the past these interviews consisted of the Commissioners talking to Fred

about issues facing Adams County. We have changed this format to include not only a County Commissioner but also additional guests. February's show highlighted Commissioner Jim Martin who was joined by Planning Director, Nick Collona, and the Director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation, Robin Fitzpatrick. They had an enlightening discussion on the future of Economic Development in Adams County. On March 13th at 8:30 am, I will be joined by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Adams County Council of Governments (ACCOG). We will discuss how the County, School Districts, and Municipal governments are working together to save tax payer dollars. By bringing guests to Freddy's Breakfast Nook we are showing the listeners that we as Commissioners are a part of a much greater team serving our County.

We realize that not everyone can make it to the weekly Commissioners' meetings. In an attempt to facilitate citizen participation in local government, we are scheduling evening Community Forums to be held bi-monthly in areas such as East Berlin, McSherrystown, Littlestown, Cash-town, Fairfield/Carroll Valley, and York Springs. These forums will focus on a specific issue currently facing the County or on a hot topic in the area where the forum is being held. And at the end of each forum there will be time for citizens to bring their concerns directly to the Commissioners.

Our first forum will be held on March 13th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the East Berlin Community Center. We will again be focusing on Economic Development with Nick Collona and Robin Fitzpatrick. They will take the lead in explaining the County's role in bringing more jobs to Adams County. One of the topics to be discussed by Nick and Robin will be the creation of a survey designed to obtain citizen input in Adams County's Economic Development Plan. With input from the

ACCOG, the County Commissioners plan to distribute the survey to municipal leaders and citizens to determine the economic needs of the various regions of Adams County. In updating the County's plans for future economic growth, we thought it appropriate to obtain as much input from as many people as possible. The old paradigm of the County Commissioners telling municipalities what businesses they needed is out of touch and needs to be changed. At the risk of sounding redundant we want to make sure that the public has every opportunity to provide input on how and where their government moves into the future.

Speaking of more input, March 7th at 7:00PM in Valentine Hall of the Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg's Democracy for America will host a discussion with the County Commissioners. We will continue to outline our priorities during our term in office during this discussion. The event will be open to the public and is to be moderated by former County Commissioner Harry Stokes. In the past, Democracy for America has held forums for local Legislatures and candidates, but this is the first time that a Board of County Commissioners has taken the stage. This is just one more example of how this Board is opening up the channels of communication to the citizens of Adams County.

A few times in this article I have mentioned the ACCOG, a group that many in Adams County should become aware of. Their mission statement is: "to provide a forum by which governmental entities of Adams County may meet to discuss issues of mutual interest, and to coordinate joint activities between members on an as-needed, voluntary basis." You can find this and information about the council on their website www.accog.us.

In a time when public confidence in elected officials is low and few believe that they can work together, this group is breaking that percep-

tion. As County Commissioners we have made it a priority to attend the ACCOGs monthly meetings; in fact the membership was pleasantly surprised to see all three Commissioners attend both the January and February meetings. In working together the Townships, Boroughs, School Districts, and County Commissioners in Adams County have come up with more ways to save money than they could have individually. Recently, the ACCOG has testified in support of Prevailing Wage Reform in Pa. Reform would enable local workers and local pay rates to be used to complete municipal projects, instead of having to use non-local Union-rate companies. Together the ACCOG was a much louder voice than each municipality individually bringing their concerns to the State. The ACCOG has helped municipalities and School Districts get better prices on goods and services, thus saving members money on projects. Only a few municipalities are not members of the ACCOG and as Commissioners we felt that our active participation was a priority. In order for Adams County to really hear the concerns of the municipalities, we need to be an active member of the ACCOG. I encourage every reader to learn more about how the ACCOG is helping County government save money.

By being more open to the public at our meetings, having public forums throughout Adams County, enriching the monthly Commissioners Show on Freddy's Breakfast Nook and by being actively involved with organizations outside of the Courthouse, this new Board of County Commissioners is working to enhance communication between government and citizen. This enhanced communication will help citizens understand how County government works and will help to bring the right economic development to the right places and will help to reduce the costs of County government in Adams County.

a project which is direly needed, yet at a high expense for the county residents for 2012 and beyond." As the new board assessed this scenario, we had to ask ourselves, "How long can we continue to kick the can down the road?" Do we do nothing as some suggest and then say, "It is acceptable to continue to put first responders and our citizens at increasing risk?"

In the very short run we may be able to struggle through with our antiquated system that is not reliable and approaching the end of its useful life. However, at some point something must be done. A new system cannot just be dropped into place in a few days as with a car engine. Construction of a new system must begin before the existing system crashes. (As a reminder, our present system became totally inoperable during the 2011 flooding.) We need approximately a two year window for construction to occur plus time for transitional testing. The hope is that if we begin very soon, we will have sufficient time for the existing system to carry us to completion.

Not only is there the all-important and ever-present life and safety issue, but we discovered that to delay will translate into greater monetary costs for a new system. Some of the costs of delay are as follows: 1. The loss of nearly \$800,000 dedicated to system analysis, design, and planning, 2. The loss

of future Federal and State assistance due to having a non-compliant system, 3. The loss of our 800 MHz frequency licenses that will necessitate increased costs for redesign of the system, 4. Increase of material costs, 5. Projected increase in future borrowing rates, 6. Continuing costs of repair and maintenance of our present system, which is approaching the end of its life expectancy.

The decision to move forward with the new radio system came after serious self examination of our responsibility as Commissioners for the health, welfare and safety of our citizens. Also that decision followed days and nights of reviews and meetings to seek and verify the best solution. Our objective was to keep the tax burden as manageable as possible, knowing how overwhelming school taxes have become. In an effort to reduce the project costs, we have structured the bond financing into two phases. The second phase will be delayed to allow an opportunity to acquire possible State and Federal funding to reduce the project debt.

In final analysis, this was an extremely difficult decision and one that no one else was willing to make. We determined that the risks and costs of not proceeding with the construction of a new system were too great to do nothing. We sincerely believe that in the long-run we made the best decision for Adams County.



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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Commonsense, exceptionalism and the government!

Shannon Bohrer

This article is a continuation on the topic of commonsense and our government, two words that in some ways seem incompatible. Very often, conversations and dialogs about our government are confusing and sometimes annoying. Frequently, a lot of what we hear about our government is negative, and much of it is often from the party that's not in power. Then the party that is in power will talk about how bad the other party is. What is strange, or maybe not, is that both are often correct. See, both parties are capable of telling the truth, but the truth is usually limited to the negatives of the other party. Of course the logical conclusion, drawn from my own conventional wisdom, is that anybody that did not vote for Ross Perot is somewhat responsible for our current situation.

For some unknown reason, individuals often view politics in terms of absolutes, which does not always make sense. The avid members of each party believe their party has the answers and the other party is the creator of the problems. A relevant analogy is what we often hear about home team sports, our team is good, we wear its colors and any team that opposes our team is the enemy. When the Colts (that's a football team) left Baltimore it was reported that they snuck out in the middle of the night – because they had some-

thing to hide? And when the Browns (another football team) left Cleveland and came to Baltimore they were the new heroes. Two teams leaving two cities under almost identical situations and yet one team is good until they left, and now they are bad - unless we are talking about the Browns, then it's reverse! People often view political parties like sports - it's their team or nothing, the absolute thing.

Treating politics likes sports, where



it's either win everything or lose everything, is not necessarily a good attitude to have. Working together to accomplish something can be a good thing and sometimes it requires compromise. The reality is that we all have to compromise sometimes. The word compromise has become a red flag word in politics, with different connotations depending upon different views and perspectives. Some say they will not compromise on

their principles, and yet they are in politics! I guess they never compromise with their spouses, family members, supervisors, co-workers or even friends. Do they really think we are that dumb, that they always get their way? If I always got my way I would not be married, would have trouble holding a job and may not have any friends. Of course if one thinks about it the description sounds similar to a spoiled child: if they don't get their

way they cry, scream, or hold their breath. Spoiled children often get what they want, that's why they are spoiled. Of course they are eventually challenged, and when they don't get their way they aren't happy. However, in the case of politics, we are talking about adults, or at least individuals that should act like adults.

A very common statement from politicians is that one should not compromise one's principles. Does com-

mon sense dictate that one should not compromise one's principles? That is a very powerful and believable argument, except when challenged with the counter argument: negative consequences are possible if compromises are not made. Think of it like this, you are on a fishing boat in the ocean and it's taking in a lot of water. The boat has bilge pumps that are operated manually and it takes a dozen individuals working together to work the pumps. You would think that everyone would volunteer to work the pumps, but that requires individuals working together! Members of both parties have publically stated that they will not work with the other party, and therefore our country may be sinking. If an individual wants to be self-destructive, that is a personal choice. But, as in this analogy, we are literally in the boat with them— and we may be sinking, too.

Another side of the same argument is the value and the strength of the principle itself. What principle is so strong that we hold it so dear to our being and that we will not compromise on it? One could make a good argument that this is at the very center of this discourse, not the principle but the **value** of the principle. When I was growing up, the Communists were our enemies: they had secret prisons, they could arrest their citizens without warrants, and they tortured people. Maybe they had a patriot act before we did - times have changed. Our collec-

tive value back then was principled on our freedoms, and we would not compromise. I believe our moral and legal compass is no longer accurate and needs re-calibration.

What we need is a sense of common direction, something we can agree on and something to unite us. A very popular term today that we may be able to agree on is "American Exceptionalism." The term "American Exceptionalism" has often been used in discussions regarding our role in the world— and it could be our starting point for something we can agree on. "American Exceptionalism" could include football fans, because they can tell you why their team is not better. Even if the team has a winning record and makes it to the finals, football fans are capable of excellent constructive criticism. Another point is that we Americans know that the political party we belong to is good for the country and if the other party is elected we will suffer greatly. While many believe this, one must remember that there are two opposite sides, and both can be correct. Certainly, part of our exceptionalism is the universal truth that all of us are above average drivers. Have you ever meet anyone that told you that they were a very mediocre driver? If we look in the right direction, we can find something to agree on, well sometimes, maybe – at least theoretically?

"Whenever two people meet, there are really six people present. There is each man as he sees himself, each man as the other person sees him, and each man as he really is." William James, psychologist.

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

View from the Track

Too big to fail

Kip Hamilton

Who knows the name of the private banking cartel that is responsible for running our country into the ground? Anyone?

If you will remember back in October, we mentioned a very "dynamic" year in our country's history. Right around this single year, we elected our first Progressive President, Woodrow Wilson; the Income Tax was created by the 16th Amendment; the 17th Amendment forever changed the political landscape by directing that our Senators be elected by popular vote of the people, rather than the State Legislatures and, if all these weren't enough to throw us off the tracks, the unconstitutional Federal Reserve Bank system was created by the passage of the Federal Reserve Act on December 23, 1913.

The "Fed" as it is often referred to today was created in response to a financial crisis that occurred in 1907 when the value of the New York Stock Exchange fell about 50% and there were numerous runs on banks and trust companies that resulted in many banks having to close for good. The "1907 Bankers' Panic" as it is called, pointed out that had the

US had a central bank, it might have provided some stability to the banking industry and lessened the impact of the crisis. There was a commission established by John D. Rockefeller's father-in-law which resulted in the creation of the Federal Reserve System.

Although, it sounds as if it is a governmental agency, it is, in fact, a privately owned central bank. As such, unlike any "real" government agency, because the Fed is a private bank, it is not subject to Freedom of Information Act disclosures, so we actually know very few details about its business dealings over the past 100 years. What we do know about them is that they are partially owned by banks representing foreign countries. If you will recall, more and more people are calling for a full audit of the Fed just to see what they have been doing with OUR money.

The Fed's original mandate from Congress was very simple: 1) Maximum employment 2) Stable prices and 3) Moderate long-term interest rates. So.... How do you think they're doing?

Even though the Constitution dictates that our Congress is responsible for coining and regulating the value of the country's money, as of 1913,

they have totally abdicated that responsibility and turned the entire process over to the Fed.

The truth is that the Federal Reserve, instead of being the regulatory body that Congress had envisioned, has morphed into something much more dangerous. Our government today would be unable to create the MASSIVE debt that it does, without the enabling collusion of the Fed. If the government wants to spend money that it does not have all it has to do is print up some Treasury Bonds and give them to the Fed. In return, the Fed gives the Treasury "Federal Reserve Notes" (sound familiar? If not, check out the top of a dollar bill). Of course, this is all done electronically these days, so what's a few extra zeros?

Where does the Fed get these Federal Reserve Notes to give back to the government? They just create them out of THIN AIR! They are not backed by anything of substance anymore... used to be gold, but it's hard to counterfeit gold, so they had to get away from that! Now they are just computer generated entries in a ledger.

And what does the Fed do with the Treasury Bonds it gets from the government? They sell them; many

times to foreign interests and governments. In fiscal year 2011, we paid \$454 Billion just on the interest alone on these bonds. How many roads and bridges and schools could have been repaired with that money? The main problem has become the politicians and/or the citizens have become addicted to the spending and show no signs of doing what is required to stop. The Fed has just made it too easy to spend money we don't have. About six months after the creation of the Fed, our total debt was \$2.9 Billion. Today it is over 5000 times greater!

Look what is happening to the prices we have to pay for things like milk and bread. Have you noticed how the prices just seem to be going up and up? Are there fewer cows? Of course not. It's because the Fed is "printing" so much money to cover our debt. The more money you introduce into the supply, the less all of it is worth. The less the money is worth, the more of it it takes to purchase the same thing over time. That's where the term "Inflation" comes from... the cost of goods is being artificially inflated because the currency is losing its value. You can see the same thing happening with oil, gas, gold, copper... pretty much any tangible item that has its own intrinsic value is going up in price because by creating so much new currency the Fed is causing our dollars to lose their

value, so it takes more of them to buy the same amount of the goods. Tragically, the US Dollar has lost a staggering 96.2% of its purchasing power since 1900.

So where is our money going? A limited GAO audit of the Fed's books recently indicated that the Fed made trillions of dollars in secret bailout loans to the big Wall Street banks during the last financial crisis. They even secretly loaned out hundreds of billions of dollars to foreign banks! Naturally, our watchdogs in the media have neglected to point this out.

According to the results of the limited Fed audit mentioned above, a total of \$16.1 trillion in secret, unauthorized loans was made by the Federal Reserve between December 1, 2007 and July 21, 2010. The recipients included a cross-section of the US and international banks one could describe as "Too Big To Fail" (TBTF) such as the Bank of America, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, etc. In essence, the Fed made loans with OUR money without Congressional approval to their banker buddies. How could they do such a thing? Who the heck is going to stop them? The government? Are you kidding me... we have the best government money can buy.

To read past editions of View from the Track visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Pure Onsense

Nuclear madness

Scott Zuke

Last month reports surfaced that President Obama directed the Pentagon to develop three options for reducing the number of America's deployed nuclear weapons. One option that raised eyebrows would cut the nuclear arsenal by up to 80% of its current levels, down to between 300 to 400. The others are less drastic, but still go beyond America's obligation's under the New START treaty with Russia, which only requires that the US reduce its numbers to 1,550 by 2018.

None of the plans have yet been presented to the President, although critics on the right have already accused Obama of trying to undermine the strength and safety of the US and its allies. They have also, I believe, vastly overstated the likelihood that he would unilaterally choose any extreme reduction path. It is more likely that this is a prelude to future arms reduction negotiations with Russia, and that the leak of the decision making process is to signal that the US is serious about accelerating disarmament.

Let's get straight to the point,

though. Contrary to the alarmist, Cold War era rhetoric of the Republicans during an election year, nuclear weapons are no longer a vital component of America's offensive or defensive capabilities. They are instead an expensive liability with little tactical value. The best way to utilize our arsenal now is to reduce it as a way to encourage other nations to shrink their own.

Nuclear strategy is, to me, one of the strangest genres of human discourse. The nature of its catastrophic potential demands that those who spend their careers discussing nuclear exchanges speak in a manner that is abstracted from a terrifying reality. One example: During the Cold War missile race, when working to determine how many missiles, and in what concentration, to launch against Russia in the event of full-scale nuclear exchange, strategists had to take into account the fact that when detonating simultaneously, one nuclear warhead can cause other warheads nearby to fail. This phenomenon, called "nuclear fratricide," led to a staggered detonation approach. What, so that we got our money's worth? It's hard to say who would be around

to appreciate the plan's success should it ever be used.

That experts speak in terms of "rational actor models" for nuclear warfare just highlights further how strange these conversations can get. Our greatest threat, after all, is irrationality, or even just simple disorganization. To this day Russia maintains an antiquated ring of nuclear-capable anti-ballistic missiles around Moscow--not to launch against the US, but to explode above their own capital in the event that they detect inbound missiles. That sounds rational, right? Russia's nuclear system is so disorganized that there have been fears that, at a time of heightened alert when the ABM's are armed, someone might mistakenly launch one and the rest of the network wouldn't know whether the missile was coming from a hostile nation or their own domestic defense system.

Granted, most Americans aren't losing sleep over Russia these days, so what about Iran? Mitt Romney, who has been trying to build his Republican credentials by pumping military strength, has gone so far as to say that "If we re-elect Barack Obama, Iran will have a nuclear weapon. And if you elect Mitt Romney, Iran will not have a nuclear weapon" Again, the hawkish critics on the right are speaking about Iran's nuclear intentions with a certitude that is simply

not supported by the evidence. Despite its recent provocative displays, US intelligence analysts from 16 different agencies concur that Iran gave up on building a nuclear bomb years ago. The IAEA, despite frequently voicing concerns over transparency in Iran's nuclear program, lacks any concrete evidence to say otherwise. More than a few onlookers are hearing echoes of the "slam dunk" case for weapons of mass destruction that led the US into Iraq in 2003.

Even if there were a stronger case for Iran's nuclear aspirations, how would the US nuclear arsenal make any difference to its current course of action? The supposed deterrence factor no longer really applies. If the US or Israel were to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, they would not be doing so with nuclear weapons, but rather with conventional arms that are just as effective and risk less collateral damage. With today's modern weapons, and against modern targets that are often situated near civilian population centers, nukes are nearly irrelevant from a tactical standpoint. What would the US point them at that couldn't be better targeted by a smart conventional weapon?

China is another recurring target for unfounded nuclear fears. It entered the club of nuclear nations reluctantly, and only because it felt it had to retain legitimacy amongst other nuclear

nations (sound familiar?). It has maintained a minimal stockpile of a few hundred weapons and steadfastly declared a "no first use" policy, something the US has never been willing to do.

Strategically, nuclear weapons unfortunately do still have a role to play. Today deterrence isn't so much about preventing a nuclear attack, or even about stopping hostile nations from developing nuclear capacity, but rather about preventing friendly non-nuclear countries from feeling a need to do so. America's burden as the "nuclear umbrella" is why I don't think we'll be seeing a world without nuclear arms anytime soon. Reducing the US stockpile to the minimum level needed to fulfill this role is (finally!) a plan that can be rightfully attributed to a "rational actor."

So while the critics are factually incorrect to say that President Obama is planning to cut the US's nuclear stockpile by as much as 80%, they are also wrong to think that doing so would encourage rogue nations to step up their own nuclear ambitions. What is more likely at stake is an opportunity to engage with traditional nuclear powers, namely Russia, and encourage a long-overdue mutual disarmament that would be in humanity's best interest.

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

Down Under

Here's to hoping

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne, Australia

"In the factory we make cosmetics. In the store we sell hope."

—(Charles Revson, American business man, quoted in *Fire and Ice* by A Tobias, 1976)

The last thing left in Pandora's box, that fabulous container of wonders and terrors, was hope.

The reason, of course, is that we are taught to yearn for what we do not have; and, in the worst of times when everything else has gone, hope is the only thing we have left. Hope has been the mainstay of unfulfilled desire, deprivation, incarceration and abuse since we were able to come up with the idea. Do animals hope? I doubt it - it is a human trait alone, and there's a huge amount of it around today.

We do not hope the sun will come up tomorrow morning, or that the world will continue to spin on its axis; these things are general certainties, and there's lots more like them - but here's some other important things that have a large percentage of

hope built into them:

That there will be resolution of the European, American and other monetary crises; that there'll be a continuing supply of oil and gas; That there will be sensible resolution of the Middle East/Chinese/ Korean/African/Pakistani/Afghanistan crises; that the American financial system will not be downgraded; that reversal of global warming will happen, there'll be an enormous increase in humanitarian aid, and that China will continue to grow, consume, and be more benevolent, and that somehow war will be avoided.

Oh, yes, and there will be a president of The United States Of America who can see beyond the next election, who understands that money cannot be printed ad infinitum without something real to back it up and give it value, who is prepared to balance the books, will ensure the gap between rich and poor is narrowed, and is prepared to concede that Ronald Reagan and G. W. Bush between them destroyed the economy.

Some hope, eh?

It's also interesting - and distressing - to see that Americans have the highest percentage of obesity in the world, that it is

endemic, and that nothing is being done about it apart from the promises that keep getting less believable. It reflects, as no other statistic can, the by-now built in desire to be satisfied and replete all the time. 'I want it now because it will make me feel good' is greed's mantra. It's part of the dark side of capitalism, the ferreting out by manufacturers and marketers of ways to make us buy more and give them greater profits, without regard to the welfare of their customers, or indeed the nation as a whole. Tobacco has the same strategy, now a bit more discredited, but still the scourge it will always be.

And it is equally distressing to know that one of America's biggest retail chains, Woolworths, derives the majority of its considerable Australian business profit from gambling. Yes, I know you have casinos, betting shops, and the like - so do we- but we have something you don't: Pokies by the hundred in the great majority of clubs and pubs in the land. These, the latest electronic versions of one arm bandits, are the single biggest cause of suicide, marriage breakup, penury and grief ever developed. It is easy to lose \$1,500 per hour at this godforsaken activity, and there are over 200,000 of them here. That's about one hundred times the per capita ratio compared to the United States, and

in 2010 over ten billion dollars went to the owners of the machines. Safeway reportedly own about two thirds of them. Better than selling groceries, eh?

And reform? That has just been scuttled by our government, unable to cope with the pressure of such giants of business and their allies, the conservatives. Of course, the fact that the government derives many billions themselves from the taxes they impose has no influence. I wish.

Things like this are often defended by saying, 'Well, people can say no. It's their decision, we just provide good food, great leisure pastimes,' and so on. Say no to self-indulgence? Let the other guy have more than you? Practice self-discipline? Forgo the chance of a fortune? Well, we can always hope, but it's not a likely outcome.

There's also a striking parallel between fat bodies and fat heads. Self-indulgence saps the will - ask any junkie - and it does not matter which of the many indulgences we mean. Self-indulgence is a habit that's very hard to break.

But, given the basic necessities of life plus a bit more for comfort, going without is often better for the whole person than not going without. I know that quite a few among you are volunteers - doing things for no pay that are rewarding, even if only in small ways. Looking after grandkids,

supervising play groups, helping a neighbour, seeing to the poor and needy, supporting youth groups, and many more such deeds - all these are good because they get us out of ourselves, reduce our dependence on hope, and make reality just that bit better. It also builds up the indispensable component of living in today's world: Social Capital, an item that is not the product of politicians. The more we have of that the better our community will be, and thus the better will it be for detecting the ripe odour of political legerdemain.

Yet promises, promises now fill the ether in this time of the pre-selection madness you call caucuses, playing on your hope for a return to the good old days and grand old ways. If one cuts through the rhetoric the old message does, in fact, emerge: The poor will win the lottery if they support the rich. They will remain happily obese and self-indulgent, powerless to stop, and they will breed. I also see that the richest candidate has won the nomination for South Carolina - a bible belt conservative area, I'm told - a person who will ensure that hope will be the best currency with which to survive.

Lindsay, hoping like Candidate for the best of all possible worlds.

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

PASTOR'S DESK

Life's most important question

Pastor Gary Buchman
Emmitsburg Community
Bible Church

"Inquiring minds want to know!" Remember when that was the bi-line of a commercial for a popular news tabloid? At Emmitsburg Community Bible Church, we have assembled ten questions that many people ask, especially people who may not attend church on a regular basis. These questions have become the basis for our current sermon series called, Ten Questions That Skeptics Ask. Our questions include, How do we know if there is a God? How do we know if the Bible is God's Word or just the product of man? How can Christians claim that there is just one way to God? If God is good, why is there evil and suffering in the world? Would a loving God really send anyone to hell to be punished for eternity (and 5 more)?

Perhaps you have asked these same questions. As a pastor, I want to be able to give a good answer to questions like these. I want people to know that our faith isn't just based on a desire to believe, but on good and solid evidence. We don't have to believe because we are told to believe or because our family has always believed or the church says we should just believe, but we should believe because we have good reasons to believe. Saint Peter told us to, "Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you..." (1 Peter 3:15, NKJV).

Of all the questions that we could ask, one stands out and is, in this pastor's opinion, Life's Most Important Question. It is, in fact, a question that Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am," (Matthew 16:13, 15, NKJV)?

Jesus is perhaps the most influential person to ever walk the earth, but who is He, really? Many if not most Christians have no problem believing that He is the Son of God, or God

incarnate (in the flesh) as John refers to in the first chapter of His Gospel, "The Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us," (John 1:14). The Old Testament said that the coming Messiah would be none other than God (see Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; and Zech. 12:10). Micah 5:2, that foretold Bethlehem as the birthplace of Messiah, refers to Him as being the eternal one (God). Jesus Himself stated repeatedly that He is the eternal I Am, the name that God used when He revealed Himself to Moses (Ex. 3:14, cp. John 8:58). The miracles recorded about Jesus were done to show that He did what only God could do and these wonders should lead us to believe He is who He claimed to be (John 20:31; Mark 2:5-10; Matthew 11:1-6; John 5:36; 14:11). This is why Peter would say, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God," which was understood as God in the flesh. When Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of God, the religious leaders wanted to kill Him for blasphemy (see John 5:18; 8:58-59; 10:30-33; 19:7).

But not everyone would agree that Jesus is God in the flesh; including some who are called Christians. Consider the following:

- Jehovah's Witnesses say He is a created god also called Michael the Archangel who came as a perfect man.
- Mormon's say He is God's spirit child and brother of Lucifer by procreation
- Christian Scientist's say that He is a human being that showed the Christ ideal more than any other person.
- Scientologists say He is a great teacher who realized His personal divinity as a "Clear," or he is just a figment of the imagination.
- The Unification Church (Moonies) say He is a perfect man who attained deity but was not, the God and He failed

in His mission.

- Basic Judaism says He was a Good teacher but not the Messiah or God in the flesh.
- Islam says He was a major prophet with the spirit of Allah, but not God nor divine, and He did not die on the cross, and was not as great as Mohammed.
- Baha'i says He was the son of God but not divine, just one of the many manifestations of God along with Krishna, Buddha, Abraham, Moses, Mohammed, and Baha'u'llah.
- New Age people from the end of the 20th century say that He is one of the many appearances of God throughout the ages; one of many people who were fully aware of their true divinity.
- Secular Humanists say He was a good moral teacher but not God.
- Even many Theologians such as Albert Schweitzer, or the Fellows of the Jesus Seminar and others who are, 'In search for the historical Jesus,' believe that He was a great moral leader but question His divinity.
- Andrew Lloyd Weber asked the question in His Rock Opera, Jesus Christ Superstar: "Jesus Christ Superstar, Do you believe you are who you say you are?" This is what the people were saying, You are a great man, a great teacher, a man capable of wondrous things, a man of God, but no one is saying that you are God with us (Matt. 16:14). You must be the incarnation of a great prophet like John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah (Matt. 16:14).

So, what do you say? Who is Jesus, really? You have four choices.

1. He is a Legend. That He was a real person there is no doubt. We have documentation aside from the Bible about His life but certainly the Bible is the

greatest documentation of His life. But even so, many believe that the historical Jesus was not what the Bible has portrayed Him to be; that we have concocted legends and fables about Him like Robin Hood; or Davy Crocket. Lee Strobel and C.S. Lewis are examples of those that once held to such a belief but upon investigation came to believe that Jesus is truly God incarnate and thus, have become tremendous advocates for Christ. You can read C.S. Lewis' book, Mere Christianity and Lee Strobel's, The Case for Christ.

2. He was a Lunatic. If I went about claiming to be God, would you not think I was a lunatic? Jesus said that He is God. He was either telling the truth or He was crazy. Yet, He displayed no signs of mental derangement but on the contrary was the epitome of saneness.
3. He was a Liar. He must have been a liar, because He claimed to be God. If He wasn't God, He was a Liar. It is here that I want to affirm a statement by C.S. Lewis, "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level of a man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him, and kill

Him as a demon or you can fall at His feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about Him being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." (C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, New York, Macmillan Pub. Co. 1952; pp 40-41)

4. He is Lord; that is, He is who He claimed to be. He is the very God who created us, and then came as one of us, to die to redeem us, and rose again to assure us of His grace if we would repent and follow Him.

So, how do you answer life's most important question? Think carefully, your response will affect the rest of your life both for time and for eternity.

If you would like to read this full sermon, and the other nine as well, you can log onto www.Emmitsburgcommunitybiblechurch.com, or at www.Emmitsburg.net under Thoughtful Writngs.

It may be that you have asked some of the questions posted above, or you may have others that inquiring minds would like to know about God, the Bible, Christianity, or faith. If so, send me an email or give me a call, or stop by the church meeting on Sunday and ask me. If I don't know the answer right away, I will research it and get you one; I promise. Our phone number is 301-447-6565 and my email address is pastorgarybuchman@gmail.com. We would love to have you come and hear these answers at the Emmitsburg Elementary School gym each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you read the sermons online, email me and give me some feedback.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, I appreciate it. I hope to meet you or hear from you soon. Until then, may the Lord bless you and answer all your questions.



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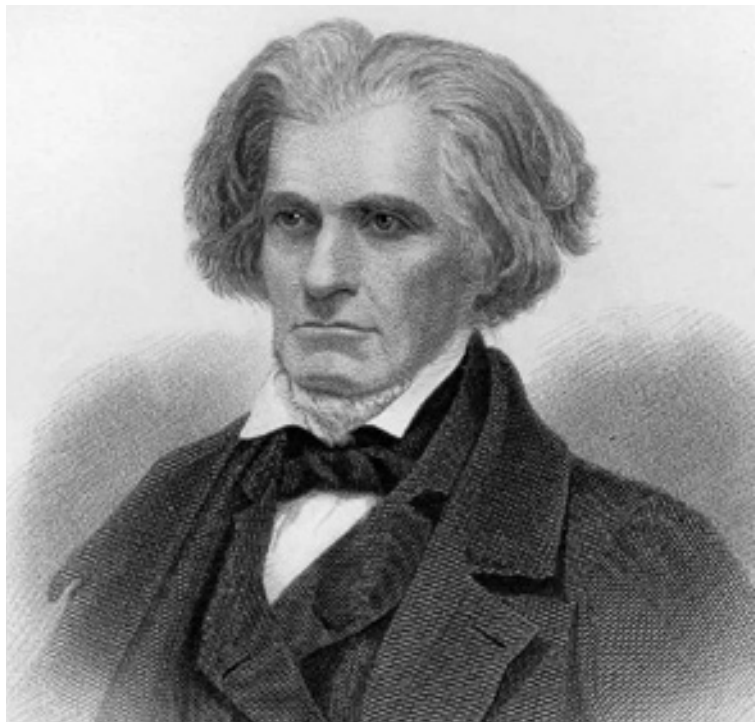
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THE BOOK OF DAYS

John C. Calhoun



March 31

Amongst the statesmen of powerful intellect who arose in America in the age succeeding Independence, a prominent place is due to Mr. Calhoun, who occupied the position of Secretary of War during the whole presidency of Mr. Monroe (1817-25), and was himself Vice-President of the States during the ensuing six years.

It was in 1831, during Jackson's presidency, and while Mr. Calhoun was senator for South Carolina, that that state and others threatened to secede from the Union, on account of the system of protection adopted in the interest of the manufacturers of the Northern States. Mr. Calhoun was the earnest and powerful advocate of Free Trade and of State Rights and State Sovereignty. South Carolina actually passed an Act of Nullification, or a refusal to pay the duties of a highly protective tariff, and the dissolution of the Union and war were imminent, when a compromise, proposed by Mr. Clay, was agreed to, a lower tariff adopted, and the danger for the time averted. A speech pronounced by Mr. Calhoun at this period, contained the following passage:

'We are told that the Union must be preserved. And how is it proposed to preserve the Union? By force! Does any man in his senses believe that this beautiful structure, —this harmonious aggregate of States, produced by the joint consent of all,—can be preserved by force? Its very introduction will be certain destruction to the Federal Union. No, no! You cannot keep the States united in their constitutional and federal bonds by force. Force may, indeed, hold the parts together; but such union would be the bond between the master and slave—a union of exaction on one side, and of unqualified obedience on the other. It is madness to suppose that the Union can be preserved by force. Disguise it as you may, the contest is one between power and liberty.'

In 1843, Mr. Calhoun became Secretary of State under the administration of Mr. Tyler, who, by the death of General Harrison, had become President. In 1845 he returned to the Senate, of which he remained a member until his death.

Mr. Calhoun is considered by many as the greatest of American statesmen. Loved, admired, trusted, and almost idolized in South Carolina and throughout the Southern States, he was necessarily less popular in the north. His free-trade principles were opposed to northern interests; his defense of State rights, and the right of nullification and secession, were opposed to the territorial passion of the north; while his opinions on the necessity, and even philanthropy of negro slavery, were such as only local feelings have ever been able to sanction. But while Mr. Calhoun's political opinions found little favour, except in his own section, his commanding talents, and the purity of his public and private character, made him everywhere respected. His influence in his native state was unbounded, and he, more than any other man, moulded the public opinion of the Southern States, and prepared them for the steps which they took at the election of Mr. Lincoln.

Honeycombs in timber March 10

Among the many interesting facts concerning bees which attract the attention not only of naturalists, but of other persons acquainted with country life, is the existence of honeycombs in timber. The little workers select their dwellings in accordance with instincts which are yet but little understood: penetrating through or into solid substances by means apparently very inadequate to the work to be done. M. Réaumur proposed the name of carpenter-bees to denote those which work in wood, to distinguish them from the mason-bees that work in stone, and the min-

ing-bees that work underground. Mr. Rennie says:

'We have frequently witnessed the operations of these ingenious little workers, who are particularly partial to posts, palings, and the wood-work of houses which has become soft by beginning to decay. Wood actually decayed, or affected by dry rot, they seem to reject as unfit for their purpose: but they make no objections to any hole previously drilled, provided it be not too large.'

It is always, so far as is known, a female bee that thus engages in carpentry. Mr. Rennie describes one which he saw actually at work:

'She chiseled a place in a piece of wood, for the nest, with her jaws; she gnawed the wood, little bits at a time, and flew away to deposit each separate fragment at a distance. When the hole was thus made, she set out on repeated journeys to bring pollen and clay: she visited every flower near at hand fitted to yield pollen, and brought home a load of it on her thighs: and alternated these journeys with others which resulted in bringing back little pellets of clay. After several days' labour, she had brought in pollen enough to serve as food for the future generation, and clay enough to close up the door of her dwelling.'

Many carpenter-bees dig perpendicular galleries of great depth in upright posts and palings. Réaumur describes a particular kind,

called by him the violet carpenter-bee (on account of the beautiful colour of the wings), which usually selects an upright piece of wood, into which she bores obliquely for about an inch, and then, changing the direction, works perpendicularly for twelve or fifteen inches, and half an inch in breadth. She sometimes scoops out three or four such channels in one piece of wood. Each channel is then partitioned into cells about an inch in depth; the partitions being made in a singular way from the sawdust or rather gnawings of the wood.

The depositing of the eggs, the storing of them with pollen, and the building up of the partitions, proceed in regular order, thus. The bee first deposits an egg at the bottom of the excavation:

then covers it with a thick layer of paste made of pollen and honey: and then makes over or upon this a wooden cover, by arranging concentric rings of little chips or gnawings, till she has formed a hard flooring about as thick as a crown-piece, exhibiting concentric rings like those of a tree, and cemented by glue of her own making.

She deposits an egg on this flooring or partition, then another layer of soft food for another of her children, and then builds another partition—and so on, for a series of perhaps ten or twelve in height. Few things are more wonderful in their way than this: for the little worker has no tools but two sharp teeth to help her; she bores a tunnel ten or twelve times her own length quite smooth at the side: and makes ten or twelve floors to her house by a beautiful kind of joinery.

This labour occupies several weeks. The egg first deposited develops into a grub, a pupa, and a perfect bee earlier than the others: and the mother makes a side door out of the bottom cell for the elder children to work their way out when old enough; they can penetrate the partitions between the cells, but not the hard wood of a piece of timber.

Discovery of the planet Uranus March 13

It was on the evening of the 13th of March, 1781, that William Herschel, while examining some small stars in the constellation Gemini, marked one that was new to him; he applied different telescopes to it in turn, and found the results different from those observable with fixed stars. Was it a comet? He watched it night after night, with a view of solving

this question; and he soon found that the body was moving among the stars. He continued his observations till the 19th of April, when he communicated to the Royal Society an account of all he had yet ascertained concerning the strange visitor. The attention of astronomers both at home and abroad was excited; and calculations were made to determine the orbit of the supposed comet.

None of these calculations, however, accorded with the observed motion; and there arose a farther question, 'Is it a planet?' This question set the computers again at work; and they soon agreed that a new planet really had been discovered in the heavens. It was at first supposed that the orbit was circular; but Laplace, in 1783, demonstrated that, as in the case of all the other planets, it is elliptical. It then became duly recognized as the outermost of the members of the solar system, and so remained until the recent days when the planet Neptune was discovered.

The discoverer, wishing to pay a compliment to the monarch who so liberally supported him, gave the name of the Georgium Sides, or Georgian Star, to the new planet; other English astronomers, wishing to compliment the discoverer himself, suggested the name of Herschel; but Continental astronomers proposed that the old mythological system should be followed; and this plan was adopted, the name Uranus, suggested by Bode, being now accepted by all the scientific world as a designation for the seventh planet.

To read past editions of Robert Chambers' Book of Days, visit www.thebookofdays.com.

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Bill Meredith

“...time and chance happeneth to them all.”
—Ecclesiastes 9:12.

I'm not sure when it started, but a year or so ago I noticed that everyone seemed to get quiet when I was around, as if there was something they didn't want me to know, or maybe they were afraid to tell me. About that time, I also noticed that my wife had changed; for instance, if she came in while I was watching “Last of the Summer Wine,” instead of asking why I was watching that again, she began to ask why I had the TV turned up so loud. I also noticed that I was developing a tendency to turn to the right instead of walking in a straight line. I usually ran into something before making a complete clockwise circle, but a couple of times I went off to get something and found myself back where I had started, which was very confusing. Things finally came to a head one day last fall, and my wife grasped me firmly by the shoulders, sat me down and informed me, with her usual gentle tact,

that I had gone deaf as a post and needed to get a hearing aid.

It's hard to argue with her about things like that, especially when there's a chance that she might actually be right. Nevertheless, getting a hearing aid seemed like a life-changing experience, and I needed to think about it. So I went off to re-stack the woodpile.

We don't heat the house with wood... we use the fireplace for entertaining guests, or for family occasions like the Yule Log at Christmas... so keeping the woodpile in neat order is a minor job, and if it gets ignored the rest of the world takes little notice. I do it mainly when I need an excuse for avoiding some other job, like raking leaves, or when I need to think about things of cosmic importance. On that particular day, things seemed quiet; the only sound was a helicopter off in the distance somewhere, and I was beginning to think if I could hear something that far away I didn't need a hearing aid, when sud-



denly it appeared just above the house, flying so low I could see people sitting in it. That had a sobering effect. It seemed to support my wife's theory about deafness, but it didn't explain the walking problem. It was just at that instant when I heard the Carolina wren.

Carolina wrens are permanent residents here. They are pretty little birds, russet brown on the back and cream-colored underneath, with a fashionable black line from the beak back through the eye. Like all wrens, their tail is cocked upward at a jaunty angle, and they bicker constantly at each other as if they had been hatched on the wrong side of the bed and stayed that way. Their song is perhaps not as musical as some thrushes or warblers, but they sing it with enthusiasm in all kinds of weather, even mid-winter. There are different regional dialects... as a child in West Virginia, I learned the words as “Tea-kettle tea-kettle tea-kettle;” while here in Emmitsburg they say “Chirpity-chirpity-chirpity”... but everywhere the song is clearly enunciated and easily recognized, even if your hearing isn't very good.

I heard it quite clearly; the song seemed to be coming from a tree

over on my right. Thinking that the wrens might have their winter nest in the back of the woodpile, I began poking around in that direction, but found nothing. Eventually I spotted two wrens; they were on the ground straight ahead of me, but the sound still seemed to be coming from my right. I puzzled over this for a while, and eventually found the answer by poking a finger into my right ear; the wrens stayed where they were, but the sound moved to the left and seemed a lot farther away.

Tests by an audiologist confirmed that my left ear was severely impaired, so I got a hearing aid for that side. Things immediately got better; people started talking at normal volume again, the TV got turned down, and I was able to walk in a straight line again. In honor of the improvement, I wrote a bit of verse for the wrens:

*Lord, grant your finest benison
Upon the Carolina Wren,
For it alone among small birds
Pronounces clearly all its words,
And then, as if to share its cheer,
Sings loud, so aged ears can hear.*

I stuck a copy of the verse on the tree by the bird feeder, but the wrens didn't seem impressed by it; in fact, they ignored it completely, as if their literary tastes were on a higher level. Actually, the squirrels seemed more interested in it, especially the old one that figured out how to get past the barrier I made last year to protect feeder that held the sunflower seeds. He pulled the paper down, examined it in



minute detail, and ate a piece of it. As I watched him, I thought what a shame it is that squirrels can't sing, since he seemed to appreciate the technical intricacies of libretto. But, sadly, I was wrong; rather than being interested, he was sinking into senility. A few weeks later, I noticed that when he found a sunflower seed and sat up to eat it, he repeatedly lost his balance and nearly fell over sideways. Over the following days he got worse, and then one day he did not come back.

The life expectancy of gray squirrels in the wild is about six years. This one had lived in my yard at least four; he was the alpha male, the boss squirrel, and I could recognize him by his tail, which had lost a patch of hair in some long-forgotten battle. He was old for his kind, and Time and Chance finally caught up with him, as the Preacher in Ecclesiastes said it would. The great naturalist, Aldo Leopold, once followed a chickadee he had banded for seven years, until one day it did not come back; he wrote, “Wherever he is, I hope he is still wearing my band.” I know how he felt. Wherever my squirrel is, I hope it's a place where squirrels can sing.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Nature springs to life

Kay Deardorff
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

The days are getting longer and evidence of spring is appearing all around us. Just what are the clues that spring is imminent? Well, the Super Bowl is over and Nascar fans are marking their calendars for race day. Then there are the sounds of loud motorcycles and the appearance of shorts and tank tops with rising daytime temperatures.

But let's look at the way the rest of nature begins a new cycle of life. Sure there is still the possibility of snow, but it probably won't last as long or be as dramatic as it was in January and February. Even though there may be snow on the ground the earliest bulbs are sensing that it's time to make an appearance. My crocuses and daffodils often show their heads undaunted by the fact that they had to break through a blanket of snow.

Since the days have warm temperatures, 40° + F, and the nights are cold, well below freezing, the maple trees' sap flows freely. Backyard tree tappers gather the sap and boil it into the sweet maple syrup. The maple trees are also among the first to bud, thus marking the end of maple sugaring time. While we enjoy our morning stack of hotcakes smothered with nature's nectar we gaze through our window expecting to see the return of robins.

Robins are migratory birds that tend to prefer an area when the temperatures are around 37°F. Therefore, these winged creatures will probably fly to the southern regions having fruit as their primary winter food. As the ground thaws we see the robins return to feast on earthworms and insects. As they settle in to their summer home we can hear them singing in hopes of attracting a mate - a definite sign of spring.

Our backyard not only provides nutritious delicacies such as the worms for the robins and the syrup for our pancake breakfasts, but we can find tender dandelion leaves to use in salads or boiled and seasoned with salt and butter. Selecting the earliest leaves before the plant blooms provides the best flavor. They are very healthy, as well, supplying our bodies with calcium, potassium, vitamin A, and vitamin C. So you can see that spring's early producer, dandelion, can be beneficial to promote good eyesight; healthy skin; strong bones; and overall growth.

Another plant flourishing in early spring is Skunk Cabbage, *Symplocarpus Foetidus*, which releases a skunk-like odor when the leaves or blooms are crushed. It grows along the wet areas near streams, creeks, and vernal, or springtime, pools. Skunk Cabbage has also been known as Skunk Weed, Meadow Cabbage, Pole Cat Weed, Hermit of the



Bog, and Swamp Cabbage. Whatever you choose to call it, you can see it as one of the first plants to bloom in spring. Its blooms are a favorite of bees as they withdraw from their hives in search of food after a long winter huddled within their colonies with limited supply of nutrition. Skunk Cabbage blooms before the leaves unfold and is attractive to the bees as they begin to forage for the season. It is one of the few complex plants that controls its tissue temperature, maintaining a comfortable 60° – 75° F in all weather. It can even melt snow as it warms itself to protect its delicate flowers. The plant generates heat by burning starch in special cells.

Black Bears also like to nibble on the ripened blossoms of the Skunk Cabbage. After all those months of hibernation, they need the blooms as a natural laxative to help get them "moving". The Native Americans also found the plant to have many medicinal purposes. But beware, ingesting the leaves can cause burning and

the roots are poisonous.

In the warm days of spring, the honey bees can be seen on those first blossoms, such as the skunk cabbage. As well as foraging for any pollen that may be available, the worker bees are busy with spring cleaning. They clean out dead bees and debris from the winter's accumulation as well as guard their home from any predator that may be in search of sweet nourishment from their hive. Another blossom that may attract our winged friends is that of the serviceberry tree. This small tree has pretty white flowers that bloom for a short period of time just before the formation of reddish-purple berries nicknamed Juneberries. Though the blooms are short-lived, they provide an opportunity for the honey bees to gain the precious pollen as they carry out their well-known job of pollination.

Meanwhile, the spring rains create pools of water where the ground may usually be void of

moisture as the summer heats up. If the wetlands remain long enough, the vernal (springtime) pools team with life. Who doesn't love to hear the male spring peepers fill the night air with their mating call? The peepers are actually tiny frogs that are about the size of a regular paper clip, around 1 inch long. While they are very audible, try to find the little critters. Their size and camouflage cause them to be heard rather than seen in grassy lowlands and wooded areas near ponds.

At Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, you can observe several vernal pools. If you were to hike to our quarry in the evening to visit one of those wetlands, be sure to bring your earplugs. The sound of the peepers becomes so intense that you will be forced to protect your ears. A moment you won't forget!

Also living in the vernal pool neighborhood is the mascot of

Strawberry Hill, the red-spotted newt. These spotted salamanders begin as aquatic larvae or tadpoles, living in the water. Then in the juvenile stage, the "red eft" live on land and have bright orange skin that they keep moist. After living four years on land, the salamanders return to the pool to lay eggs. From this point they spend the rest of their lives in and around the water. Adult salamanders can be about 5 inches in length and are recognized by the small black and red spots on their yellowish brown or olive colored skin on the top of their bodies and yellow on their bellies.

A closer look at the temporary springtime pools reveals more translucent, gelatinous masses of eggs laid by wood frogs. Together with fairy shrimp, the frog eggs, and salamander eggs will strive to survive long enough to grow and move on to their adult lives before the pools dry up leaving the critters homeless.

Whether on land or in the water; large or small; mammals, insects, or fowl; the warmer weather finds nature springing to life. As humans we are eager to escape our "caves" with windows and doors that have been closed to keep out the cold winter temperatures. Withdrawing from our own form of hibernation, we are free once again to enjoy the life that nature offers. So get out there and experience the beauty of spring.

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve is a great place to get away for anyone who is longing to get outdoors and stretch his legs. With 10 miles of hiking trails and two picturesque streams, it beckons the jogger or browser who is out for a leisurely stroll. Come by and see what nature is up to right now. Keep your eyes and ears open for the call of the wild as nature springs to life.

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve is located at 914 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-5840 or visit www.StrawberryHill.org.



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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Wild wines

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

What to do, what to do while the miracles happening in the mead jugs ferment their way to turning honey into ambrosia? Sip commercial wines of course.

As the Fates decree, I can no longer escape enlightenment, not even in the buzz of a half glass of wine. No, now I have to contemplate the friggin' grape and what yeast, oak and time has done to it! (Actually studying the grape and wine is proving to be more educational than school ever was, but watching a corpse beetle devour a carcass is more educational than school every was.)

The Texas Homesteader is talking about planting a vineyard. Nothing on a commercial scale, just enough grapes to ferment and cellar something of her own. Of course, the idea strikes a chord in me. Imagine, working a bit of ground in preparation for vines which might or might not thrive where I set them. Tending them as they grow, tormenting them as the fruit matures. (Good wine comes from tortured grapes, or so I have read. I've seen pictures of Spanish vineyards so desolate of vegetation I wonder the grape vines can grow at all. As it is, they barely produce a single cluster of grapes per vine! Gods, they must produce glorious wine!) Experimenting with various yeasts, fermentation times and temperatures, aging with and without oak, waiting for months and years to discover if I've made something drinkable or fit for the pigs (learning if there is a difference.) Perhaps having to start over again with some new vine. Oh, I could get as lost as DW in an art museum if I had the time and money to play at winemaking.

Instead, I'll dabble in other people's dreams and efforts. I'll read about the history of vine and wine, the regions varietals are grown in, the people who chase down the rabbit hole of perfection, and maybe, just maybe, I'll be inspired enough to plant a grape few others have bothered with and bottle something that is mine, all mine. Bacchus dreams swirling in a Mason jar?

As two 6-gallon carboys of honey and water bubble away, one flavored with blueberry juice, the other with cherry, a single gallon jug of cyser (apple cider fermented with honey) patiently sits in the pantry waiting for me to do something with it. It was so sour last I racked it I've kinda been ignoring it. A second gallon jug sits in the kitchen, a mead made with buckwheat honey, so beautiful and delicate that I hardly dare think of adding more honey to it and re-starting the ferment.

Until recently, I'd have hit the buckwheat with another jar of honey and worked the alcohol content out to at least 14%. I would have, but I started reading "The Wild Vine: A Forgotten Grape and the Untold Story of American Wine" by Todd Kliman. I get the impression that 12 to 14% alcohol wines are an American thing. One of those "bigger is

better" mind sets that leave quality in the ditch as we push for more and more of what is often less and less. Less quality, less flavor, less ... soul? What's wrong with seeking more flavor and less alcohol so our tongues aren't deadened beyond that first sip?

The "wild vine" was bred in Virginia, back in the 1800s. It found its way into Missouri where its fermented juices were bottled and eventually shipped to Europe where it astounded some wine experts who saw it as a serious threat to the Old World's noble grapes. I'm trying to grasp the history; the story, of this tormented grape. Its rise to stardom and its fall to a bootlegger's garden (while the hill-sides it once dominated were planted with Concord vines) is the stuff of humanity's genius and stupidity. (Concord? Really?)

I've chased down several vineyards that sell cuttings of the wildling. More importantly, I've acquired and shared a bottle of a Virginia vineyard's fermented stock. (Chrysalis Vineyards' 'Norton' sells for about \$19 a bottle, if you can find a supplier. The liquor store off US 15 north of Thurmont ordered it for me.)

Was the Norton, the American grape, worth the money and wait? Depends on how one chooses to look at it. Of the five people who sampled the wine, one, a friend who used to

live in California wine country, rated it a "3" on a scale of 1 to 10, "10" being "best". "Light." She called it. "Young, probably made from the left-over grapes after the best were used to make the premium wines." She said I'd probably like it.

The four of us that gathered around a dinner table with plates of fried chicken and zucchini and piles of herbed rice (all from Bulgarian recipes) topped with a wine sauce also of Bulgarian origin eagerly uncorked the Norton. Only the Mad One and I did more than sip of it.

"Too dry." DW chokes out.

Luke shrugs. "It's okay." He says as he pours a thimble of honey liqueur.

"Berries and smoke." The Mad One says.

I get the berries, but the smoke eludes me. Perhaps the Pinot Noir I had a week ago was so smoky I can't taste hints of smoke now?

"Raspberries." She sips again. "And a hint of strawberries."

Yep, raspberries. I like raspberries, but not strawberries. Happily I can't find them in the glass.

"A hint of sweetness and a sour taste I don't care for." She makes a face. "But it isn't bad overall."

I allow I get the hint of sweet, but I like the sour. She says the sour distracts her. I wonder if the sour is there because the wine is young? She allows it's both young and light bodied. We agree it is a pleasant wine, worth having again, but not at the price. At least not often. Perhaps we could cellar it



for a few years and improve the flavor? But who has a wine cellar among us? (Darn, I forgot to dig one.)

I find myself reconsidering the cost of the Norton. Is \$20 really too much to pay for a bonus to a pleasant meal in the company of people I like? Did it stimulate good conversation? Did it move us to a closer understanding of each other?

I think it did. Now I'm curious about the vineyard's reserve wine. Costing about \$40 a bottle, after adding Maryland's sin tax, I hesitate to order it. \$40 buys a gallon of honey, which can make up to

5 gallons of mead, with no sin tax attached. Now there's a stimulating thought that led to, what some might consider, treasonous topics.

And why not treason? History is littered with tales of alcohol, taxes and rebellion.

I'll leave that for another evening. At the moment, a Zinfandel awaits my first sipping.

GA! Maybe I should have left it wait a bit longer!

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

“You’re supposed to love it forever...”

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

Shelley McAllister turns 14 in almost as many hours and she’s so excited, she can’t sleep. Her mind keeps turning over everything that’s going to happen tomorrow – almost like the night before Christmas.

As she watches the glow-in-the-dark stars on her bedroom ceiling, she ticks off her mental list for the upcoming day.

First, her party. All her friends are coming over. They have games planned and balloons and of course, the cake. Shelley grins into her blanket. Her mom always tells her someday her sweet tooth will come back to haunt her. Shelley doesn’t really know what that means, but her mom kinda smiled when she said it, so it’s probably supposed to be funny.

After the fun and games at her party, naturally, she’ll open her presents. She always gets so excited to see what’s beneath all the pretty wrapping paper. She wiggles a little under the covers just thinking about it.

Then will be the coolest gift of all. Her mom had finally told her she could have a pet cat. All her other friends have pets of some kind and she’s always wanted one, but mom had always said, “When you’re older.”

Shelley had heard those words so many times, she could almost say them along with mom when the subject of having an animal ever came up.

Well, now that she’s older, mom explained that Shelley will have to help take care of her pet and the cat will be her responsibility. Shelley eagerly agreed. She wants so much to be the mom to a brand new baby kitten. She imagines her four-legged friend sleeping right beside her at night and she thinks of all the secrets she could share.

She looks at the clock beside her bed and when she notices only five minutes have passed, she rolls over fitfully, certain that tomorrow will never get here...

• • •

Briana McAllister hopes she can reassemble her house after the rampage

of six adolescent girls on a sugar high. She vows not to think about the work that awaits her at home as she takes her daughter to the local animal shelter for the final present of the day.

Briana can practically see the excitement radiating off Shelley as she closes the door of their Volkswagen. Briana mentally chuckles when Shelley snaps her own seatbelt in place without being told. It looks like her daughter’s attempting to be the model child in the face of what she deems, “the best birthday present ever.”

Briana wonders how many animals she’d have to adopt in order to have her daughter behave this well until she turns 18.

After buckling herself in and pulling out of the driveway, Briana smiles to herself. She’s actually quite proud of Shelley. Her grades are always good; she’s active in school. She’s kind and treats people fairly. Parenting is hands-down the toughest job Briana McAllister has ever had, but looking at her daughter now, it appears as though she’s done pretty well.

It seems a logical time to introduce the responsibility of caring for a pet.

By the time they pull into the shelter, Shelley almost can’t physically stay in her seat. Briana warns her to stay calm and not upset the animals. Shelley bobs her head in immediate agreement as they open the doors.

Briana’s surprised at how clean the shelter looks and smells. She’s always associated animal shelters with messy places and animals that aren’t healthy. Looking around, she realizes her assumptions had been wrong.

They hear the dogs eagerly barking in the kennels and when Shelley asks if they could see them, Briana agrees, but reminds her daughter they’re actually here for a cat. Shelley swears they were just going to look.

Briana really does love animals, but over the years, taking care of her daughter took up most of her time and attention and energy and she didn’t have a chance to think about bringing a pet into her home. Now, though, seeing all the faces of the dogs inside the cages, Briana feels a knot start to form in her throat.



“Goodbye Yellow Brick Road” is a song that our cat, Elton, likes to sing. Elton is a 3-year-old orange and white male who’s really quite lovable and dear. He’s looking for a place to make some sweet music. Do you have a home for Elton?

She can’t understand why someone would surrender an animal to a shelter just because he “pulled too much on a leash.”

Briana watches her daughter let a Lab lick her fingers. Shelley giggles, but the expression falls to a frown as they leave the kennels.

“Ready to see the cats?” Briana asks.

Shelley merely nods.

The number of cats in the adoption cages is actually staggering. The felines are all different shapes, sizes and colors. Paws reach beyond the cage doors to try to make contact and others try meows to get attention.

Briana can help but touch one of the extended paws and whisper, “Hi there, baby.”

She can hear the purring from where she stands. Suddenly, the animal-lover in here is struck with the fervent wish to be able to take them all home so they’ll never be without touch or love again. She kisses the paw in her hand and turns to her daughter, surprised to find tears in Shelley’s eyes.

Briana slides her fingers through her daughter’s dark brown hair and before she can ask, Shelley speaks. “Mama,” she whispers. “All these babies need homes?”

Briana nods.

“Why?” Shelley asks around a slight snuffle.

Briana moves from cage to cage reading each reason for surrender or telling her daughter which cats were found as strays.

“But what do they mean they can’t care for the cat?” Shelley wants to know.

Briana shrugs. “I don’t know, honey.”

“When you take an animal into your home, you’re supposed to love it forever, no matter what, right? Isn’t that what you said? I mean, that’s what you told me before we ever came here.”

Briana can only nod, not trusting her voice not to break.

“Why didn’t these people know that?” Shelley asks, tracing the reason “we’re moving” with her fingertip.

“I don’t know, baby,” Briana whispers. “Some people don’t see animals that way.”

Shelley has never looked more serious or sounded more solemn. “That’s not right, mama. It’s not. Animals deserve love and respect and a home where they’ll be cared for forever, no matter what.”

A sense of pride and respect and admiration washes through Briana. The feelings are so intense that at that moment, she can’t speak. Instead she kisses her daughter’s head.

Shelley’s voice is just a whisper. “Let’s promise right now that whatever happens, we’ll love our new kitten and never give him up,” Shelley’s blue eyes are so sincere. “Okay, mama?”

Briana nods, kisses Shelley’s forehead again and clears her throat, trying to unclog the emotion that’s caught there. For the next ten minutes, she follows her daughter from

cage to cage until Shelley spots Oscar. She hears her daughter gasp, sees the resulting 500-watt smile and when Briana looks into the blue-green eyes of the tiny gray kitten, she knows, deep in her heart, that they’d met their newest family member.

Briana sits with her daughter to fill out the adoption application, reviewing and reading each section to Shelley, so they both know what’s involved in the process. The two are approved quickly and soon, they’re deciding on collar color and whether to keep the name.

The shelter staff explain that he didn’t have a name when he came in, so he wouldn’t necessarily recognize Oscar, but both Briana and Shelley like the moniker and opt to keep it.

Briana also reads the adoption agreement to her daughter and Shelley watches her mom initial each condition and sign the document. Soon, they were taking Oscar out the door, receiving well-wishes and thanks from the staff.

Briana leaves the shelter that day, new kitten snuggled into a carrier on her daughter’s lap, and she knows that Shelley’s 14th birthday had brought one of the greatest lessons in life – love and respect for all creatures...

• • •

Oscar lived with the McAllisters for an amazing 17 years. Throughout their lives, he was a friend, a confidant, a source of smiles, a stress reliever, and most importantly, a part of the family. Shelley was true to her word and Oscar never went without love and was never given up. Oscar taught the McAllisters about unconditional love and the McAllisters taught Oscar that some human beings can cherish a pet for all of his days.

He truly was the “best present ever.”

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communication for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter, Chambersburg, Pa., and can be reached at cvascomm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at (717) 263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org. CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.

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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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

“Doc, my horse got into the grain...”

Dr. Kimberly Brokaw
Walkersville Veterinary Hospital

Bo was a new horse owner. He had bought his first horse at the local auction. She was a pretty paint mare named Hope. He had gotten her for his daughter with the thought that she would take up riding and it would delay her interest in boys for a few more years. Unfortunately Hope was both poorly trained as well as lame. After the daughter had been bucked off a few too many times, Hope was sent for training where she was promptly sent back home as the trainer declared her too lame to ride.

Rather than doing a lameness evaluation and seeing if the lameness was due to something treatable, Bo decided he would turn Hope out with the neighbor's stallion in hopes that she would get pregnant and his daughter would then have a foal who she could start training from the beginning. At the very least he would get two attractive horses who could graze in his yard. Since Hope had good color and the neighbor's stallion was known to throw good color, a foal was likely to have that attribute.

As Bo was new to horse ownership, there were lots of things that he was unaware of. While he would ask people at the feed store and occasionally go to a clinic at a nearby stable, basically he was just lucky and his horses seemed to stay fairly healthy despite less than ideal care. He was fortunate in that Change was born without complication. Bo said he picked the name as the foal was supposed to be a change from Hope in that she would be rideable in regards to both temperament and soundness.

The first time I met Bo was when he came into the vet clinic with questions about deworming. He informed me that one of his neighbors had told him he was supposed to worm his horses but he thought they looked great and didn't need it. After all, he told me, he had never seen any worms. After a brief discussion, Bo agreed to drop of fecal samples for the two horses. The samples revealed large number of strongyle eggs. After

discussing the many methods of controlling parasites (rotational grazing, deworming, manure clean-up), we also realized that the horses had not been vaccinated in the last two years. While Hope had been required to get vaccines to go to the trainer, Change had yet to receive any immunizations. Bo immediately agreed that I should come out to the farm and vaccinate the horses. He also asked that they have a physical exam to make sure that the combination of failing to deworm or vaccinate, had not done any permanent damage to the horses. For while Bo was ignorant on most topics of equine husbandry, once informed he wanted to rectify the situation.

When I arrived at the farm, Bo was out in the middle of the field trying to catch the horses. He explained that he hadn't caught them in awhile and now they won't come to him. After some coaxing with grain we were able to get the horses caught, examined, and vaccinated. I told Bo that he really needed to practice catching his horses, leading them around, and grooming them. During the exam, I noticed that the horses hooves had not been trimmed in a very long time. I told Bo that he needed to get a farrier out but that he would have to work on restraining and hoof picking the horses first as no farrier would want to work with the horses in their current level of unruliness. Bo agreed and said that he would immediately start to rectify the situation. While at the farm, we also discussed some of the hazards in the barn such as the broken boards, protruding nails, and barbed wire fence that had strands that were down in places. On the plus side, he was providing the horses with fresh water and feed, adequate shelter and pasture space.

One morning I came into work, and as my morning appointments had not arrived yet, I checked my e-mail. It had been almost six months since I had heard from Bo, yet there was an e-mail in my inbox with the subject “Expect a Call.” In the e-mail Bo proceeded to tell me that Hope and Change had gotten

into the feed container that night and when he had come out to feed in the morning he found that they had eaten almost the entire thing of grain. He went onto say that he had just bought more feed the day before and filled up the bins and must not have latched it well enough. He said he planned to call later so I should expect a call from him.

When horses break into the feed room and eat a lot of grain, it is an emergency situation and needs to be treated immediately. They can colic, founder, or a combination of both. If their stomachs are immediately lavaged and then they are treated with oil and and other medications, hopefully they can be saved. I was not going to wait for Bo's phone call and instead pulled his number out of the computer system and called him. I explained why this was an emergency and the horses needed to be seen right away. Bo said that he had already left for work and that he had to work late. The soonest he would want me out there would be late that evening. While this was probably a tactless thing of me to say I told him to call me in the evening if the horses weren't dead but otherwise 1-800-DEAD-COW could pick up their bodies. Later as I thought about the situation I questioned my response. Yes I wanted him to know the gravity of the situation but at the same time I was thinking that was a rude thing to say. He never called.

A couple weeks later I ran into Bo at the gas station. “Hey Doc. You were right. They died. I don't understand what went wrong. They seemed so healthy and it was just a little extra grain.”

So this prompts my rules of grain storage. Have two barriers between the horse and grain. Keeping the grain in a horse proof container (e.g., not a trash can) inside of a locking stall is good. Or if you are going to use a trash can to store grain, keep it in a building that is outside of the horse pasture/ barn area. And to any inventors who may be reading the paper, I have a proposal for you on the ideal grain cart/ storage container.



1. It should be on wheels and should easily roll down the aisle of the barn to dole out feed as well as easily roll into a locking feed room.
 2. It should be made of a durable and waterproof material so it can be left outside of fence rows.
 3. It should be self locking with one catch similar to what you find on the hood of your car (so horses can't unlatch it). There should be a second lock that is stronger that has to be manually applied.
 4. The feed cart should come in a couple of sizes with one for larger farms with the bin holding about 10 bags of grain and have 3-4 divisions for feeding different types of food. A smaller one for your backyard horse owner should hold 6 bags of grain with 2-3 grain divisions.
 5. It should also have shelves for storing SmartPaks (supplement/ medication containers).
 6. It should either have an auger system or some sort of channel that allows for all of the old grain to be used before the new grain gets fed.
 7. It should have written on the lid of the container “if your horse eats a large quantity of grain call the veterinarian immediately.”
- Grain overload is unfortunately a common cause of illness and death in horses. Even though it is preventable, regrettably it remains a frequent problem.
- To read other articles by our Virginia Tech educated vet Kimberly, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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Spring often arrives before you are ready. There is nothing more frustrating than letting your lawn grow too tall in the early spring only to discover that the lawnmower won't start. And guess what? The lawnmower repairman is backed up 2 to 4 weeks by that time. That is why so many lawnmowers are sold to existing lawnmower owners. You just can't wait a month to get your equipment fixed. Going out on a dry day in early March to try to start the lawnmower or weedeater or chainsaw is a good practice. Usually just putting in fresh gas and changing the oil and spark plug is enough to get these machines running, but you want the option of taking it to the repairman before he gets busy.

Winter is also a great time to maintain all the garden tools. Shovels can use a sharpening. Handles can be checked for cracks and replaced if necessary. Pruners can be oiled and sharpened to be ready to use in the spring garden. Broken tools can be discarded and new ones purchased. You can coat the wooden handles of your wheelbarrow with linseed oil to protect them all year. Don't forget to grease the wheels and check for proper tire inflation.

Winter is a great time to prune many of your trees and shrubs. Pruning is a great way to maintain healthy and productive plants. Prune to thin plants, remove dead wood, train growth, reduce size and rejuvenate declining plants. By pruning in the winter, the chance of spreading disease or insects is greatly reduced. The rea-



When pruning, make sure you cut branches as close to the 'knuckle' as you can.

son for pruning in the winter is to correct flaws that came from the previous year's growth.

Obviously you want to prune out any dead wood. Suckers and water sprouts are easier to spot in the winter. Branches or suckers less than 1/4 inch in diameter can actually be ripped by hand. This takes the branch down to its growing point, lessening the possibility of a new sucker sprouting from the old wound.

Shrubs that flower later in the year can be pruned in the winter. These shrubs form their flower buds on the current year's growth, so a winter or early spring pruning is best for them. Butterfly bushes can be cut to the ground. Crape myrtles can be thinned to remove many of the canes that developed in previous years. Rose of Sharon can be cut back severely if necessary.

Be sure not to prune spring flowering shrubs during the winter. Plants like azalea, rhododendron, pieris, forsythia, viburnum, weigelia and lilac should be pruned during the month after flowering.

Fruit trees should be pruned during the winter. Many peo-

ple plant fruit trees and then forget them, never pruning them. Then they wonder why the fruit is stunted. Winter pruning will produce larger fruit the very next season. Orchardists spend their winters pruning their trees

If you are still looking for things to do in the garden, it wouldn't hurt to get a head start on cleaning up. Winter winds bring in a lot of debris that accumulates in your flower beds. There are occasional nice winter days that allow you to get some chores out of the way.

While you're working in the garden on that warm winter afternoon, consider taking a soil test. This is a good time of year to take a soil sample and send it in. The lab is not busy at this time and knowing the existing soil condition before you plant is recommended. The soil test results will tell you what you need to add to the soil to grow whatever crop you want to grow. Soil pH and nutrients in the soil are key to growing any crop. Knowing in advance what you need to do to improve the soil will certainly jump-start the season.

Check for shallow rooted plants like perennials for frost heaving. Gently tap down any plants that have been pushed out of the soil. It would help in the future to mulch over these plants in late November with some straw, pine needles or bark mulch to protect them from frost heaving. Actually a snow covering insulates and protects plants from winter tempera-

ture extremes. As we learned this winter, you can't count on a persistent snow cover, so mulch.

For those people who want to save money and have fun at the same time, late winter is the time to plant your seeds for your spring garden. Tomatoes grown from seed save a lot of money. You can start flowers like Impatiens in March to save a lot of money over the price of greenhouse grown plants. The amount you save could easily purchase grow lamps to make your indoor garden a thing to be proud of. Children especially like these indoor garden projects.

One of the biggest mistakes in seed starting is timing. Often times we get anxious for spring, and we time it too soon. When buying seeds, be sure to look on the back of the seed packet for how long the seeds need to germinate. Count back from the time that you are able to plant seedlings outside. Allow for one to two weeks of growing time after germination and you'll have your start-up date.

For instance, I have a seed packet of red and yellow pear tomatoes. On the pack, it tells me that it takes 7-14 days for the seeds to germinate. In our area, you can safely plant out tomatoes by mid-May. Counting back two weeks for the transplants to grow and another two weeks for the seeds to germinate, I'm looking at starting these seeds in mid-April. Giving a little time for mistakes or possible replant, the seeds should be started indoors by early April. How of-

ten we hear "What do I do with my tomato plants? They're getting so tall and I can't plant them out for another month!" If you time properly, this can be avoided.

After determining when the seeds should be started, giving the seeds the requirements they need becomes most important. Seeds need four things: light, water, oxygen, and heat. Getting to know your seeds makes this an easy step. Again, reading the seed packet will tell you the depth to plant the seed - this is the light requirement. Keeping the seeds evenly moist and the soil temperatures between 75°-85°F should provide just the right environment for these seeds to germinate - this is the heat and light requirement. The oxygen comes from the soil. Use a light soilless mixture that is formulated for seed starting. This will give your seeds and roots the air that is needed for good germination and growth.

Before planting your seeds, find out if they need any scarification or stratification before planting. Scarification refers to breaking the seed coat. This is sometimes needed for quicker germination of some plants. For instance, morning glory and gourd seeds germinate quicker if you soften the seed coat by soaking overnight. This allows for the embryo to break through the seed coat faster. Stratification refers to the temperatures required for the seed to germinate. An example of this would be the acorn. It needs a cold period, winter, in order for the seed to break dormancy.

After the seeds begin to grow, they will send up what appears to be leaves. These first set of "leaves" are called cotyledons. Next to develop are the true set of leaves. The true leaves take on the identification features of the plant. At this point, the seedling can be transplanted into a larger container or planted into the garden.

Spend some time planning for spring. You may want to add new plants or a water feature; install hardscape items like patios, decks, walls and fences; install irrigation or lighting systems, possibly correct some problem areas, or maybe renovate the entire landscape. Whatever your goal, research the project thoroughly, especially the cultural requirements of the plants you are considering and then write a plan. A plant out of place is a problem plant until it dies or is moved. A well thought out plan increases the chance of success and is less expensive in the long term.

One of the most rewarding parts of gardening is imagining what can happen in the future. With a little planning, imagining can turn into reality. That is what makes gardening so much fun.

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



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THE MASTER GARDENER

The Small Town Gardener A bee is a bee is a bee...or is it?

Marianne Wilburn

I am morbidly afraid of wasps. As I teenager I was chased around a lake one fateful summer's day after stepping near a ground nest. I endured so many painful stings from the horrible little creatures that the fear of them has never left me. To this day should a wasp decide to investigate what I am having for dinner, I quickly vacate the area with a surprising amount of embarrassing gesticulation and loud screeching. (It wreaks havoc with my credibility as a calm, controlled nature lover, I can tell you.)

I have also stepped on my fair share of clover-seeking honey bees with the bare feet of childhood, yet strangely feel no such hostility towards the humble honey bee. Perhaps the difference between these two buzzing cousins was made very clear to me during those formative years; one stings to defend its life or colony, one stings for fun and profit. I know that any entomologist worth his or her salt might take umbrage at my blatant prejudice, but there it is.

Since the very first days in our current home, we have had no shortage of flying pollinators. My son affectionately named our front garden "The National Bee-topia" in honor of the hundreds of bumble bees, carpenter bees, mason bees and yellow jackets that kept constant dotting attendance upon the flowers. As a determined gardener, I have cultivated a high level of tolerance as I brush past them to clip a stray stem of leucanthemum, or trim a lavender hedge. They are always unconcerned, and merely alight upon the next floral temptress.

With pollinators to spare, it might seem strange that three years ago, I decided to keep bees. Becoming a bee-keeper had never featured high on my list of life-priorities. In fact, I remember sitting down with our realtor years ago and listening with amazement when he told us with pride that he kept bees. The only question I could think to ask was, "Why?" Even when he gifted us a few jars of exquisite honey, the question still remained unanswered in my mind. Why not let someone else take the (surely) numerous stings and the anxiety and the work and the heat? Why not go down to the health food store and throw money at the problem? Why

keep bees yourself? It never occurred to me that the "bug" to keep bees would ever bite me...but it did.

Perhaps I watched one-too-many period films with quaint straw skep hives buzzing in the back of overflow-

ing flower gardens; perhaps it was the thought of all that honey dripping lusciously from sun warmed combs. In hindsight it probably had more to do with the simple fact that a friend started to keep bees and encouraged me to try it myself. By that time, it seemed like the natural extension to a vegetable and flower garden, and with a little help, a class or two, and a lot of reading, I became a bee-keeper - although I wasn't quite sure what we would do with all that honey.

Fast forward a few years to a family that eats this golden manna by the bucketful. We bake with it, we put in on cereal, it coats our toast and flavors our homemade ice cream. We couldn't stop now if we wanted to. And after the first year, my husband came to the conclusion that he too should have a hand in this bee-keeping endeavor. At first we had a few...er...disagreements over the management of our bees. But in the end we decided to stay married and just separate our hives. His now occupy our garden and I keep mine at a friend's place outside town. Luckily we're more in harmony when it comes to raising our children.

I hear many points of view when visitors realize what constitutes the family pet at the Willburn home. Many are very interested in the complex relationships that bees share with one another, and the fact that all workers are female. Others wonder if I am concerned about the various difficulties that plague the bee-keeper; pesticide use, pollution, Colony Collapse Disorder, DreamWorks Animation to name but a few. Some good-naturedly report that they saw "my bees" on their clover last week and still others inform me that all "bees" are the same, be they wasp or bumble. I assure them that there are far too many varieties of bees flying around to have mine feature too prominently in their landscapes, and that a honey-bee bears about as much resemblance to a wasp as Mrs. Tiggy Winkle does to a hedgehog, but as a bee-keeper, one seems to be responsible for all flying insects within a five mile vicinity - it just comes with the job.

So once again, the bees are gearing up for another busy season - searching for pollen and nectar, caring for brood, and defending their stores. It is a joy to watch them. There is much to be done for both of us at this time of year; and as either they or I could tell you, a woman's work is never done - whether she hath but two legs...or six.



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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

The skirmish of Braddock's Gap

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Historical Society
Civil War Historian

Part One

During the Maryland Campaign of September, 1862, many cavalry skirmishes were fought in Frederick County as a result of the Confederate army leaving Frederick, or occupying areas in the Middletown Valley. While the main Confederate army would march over the Catoctin Mountain at Braddock's Gap, detachments of Confederate cavalry would picket several roads that led into the Middletown Valley. One such pass was that of Hamburg, located near the Frederick City Watershed and Gambrill State Park. Hamburg overlooked the area north of Frederick, keeping an eye on Union General Alfred Pleasanton's cavalry division and their movements.

During the night of September 12th, 1862, as the rear of the Confederate army marched toward Hagerstown, to concentrate their forces in the Cumberland Valley, the Jeff Davis Legion was left to guard Braddock's Gap. The Mississippians were under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William T. Martin who was ordered to picket the National Road, keeping an eye on Union troop movements that may come from the direction of Frederick.

During the evening of September 12th, Confederate Captain James F. Hart, commanding the Washington (South Carolina) Artillery was ordered to send two of

the Blakely Rifles from his battery to support the Jeff Davis Legion picketing the Catoctin Mountain at Braddock's Gap. Before daylight on September 13th, Captain Hart deployed his section across the National Road commanding the gap.

General Pleasanton was ordered by General George McClellan to locate the Confederate army by sending his division in several different directions to the south, north, and west to locate the rear of the Confederate army. Union General Alfred Pleasanton ordered Colonel John Franklin Farnsworth's Second Brigade of cavalry and three batteries to scout the Middletown Valley and South Mountain.

Just after daylight on the 13th, the Confederates guarding Braddock's Gap opened fire on the Union cavalry. The Third Indiana cavalry was leading the advance, followed by the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, the First Massachusetts Cavalry, and the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry. Captain Casper Crowninshield of the First Massachusetts Cavalry ordered his men to dismount and they quickly lowered themselves to the ground while holding the reins. The sporadic artillery fire sent shells every which way.

Captain Hart's section fired upon the Union advance pushing them further back and forcing them to reorganize their advancing lines. As skirmishing broke out, the Jeff Davis Legion began to push the Union advance back, but only temporarily. The Union troopers deployed on both sides of



the National Road and attempted to advance on the mountain gap.

Soon, an order came to have a section from Captain James Madison Robertson's and Lieutenant Peter Conover Hains' batteries to deploy and return fire. Colonel Farnsworth then ordered some squadrons of the Eighth Illinois and Third Indiana to dismount as skirmishers and go up the mountain. Lieutenant Hains' later recalled: "Brought forward the leading section and placed it in action on the right of the road. The other section was held in reserve. Captain Robertson took position on my left and somewhat nearer the enemy. The firing was thus kept up for some time."

The fight became very hot as both sides were actively engaged for several hours. Union Lieutenant Hains': "Being under Captain

Robertson's orders, I received orders from him to bring forward my reserved section and open fire. This section I placed in an orchard about 1,400 yards from the enemy. The other section was moved up closer on the right. The whole battery then opened a fire of case-shot and percussion-shell on the enemy, and after a sharp cannonade of several hours the enemy retired."

During the afternoon, a brisk artillery fire was kept up by Captain Hart's guns. Lieutenant Colonel Martin received additional reinforcements from Middletown. The First North Carolina Cavalry under the command of Colonel Lawrence S. Baker was the rear guard for their brigade. The troopers formed their lines next to the Jeff Davis Legion, and in a sharpshooter manner, the troop-

ers became hotly engaged with the Union troops where they fought with "perfect satisfaction." General JEB Stuart later wrote: "They were exposed to a severe fire of artillery and musketry, which they bore without flinching, nor was there the slightest confusion in the ranks."

General Wade Hampton later wrote: "I beg to commend the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Martin and his command while he held the gap of the mountain. The men of Lieutenant-Colonel Martin fought with their accustomed gallantry, and they were able supported by a portion of the North Carolina Regiment, who had been detailed as sharpshooters. Lieutenant-Colonel Martin on this occasion, as on all others, conducted himself as a gallant and able officer."

During the climax, the Union troopers were held in check until the arrival of two brigades of Union infantry. General JEB Stuart later wrote: "Which was the only force we were yet able to discover, so well did he keep his troops concealed." Earlier in the day, General Ambrose Burnside received a message from General Pleasanton asking for additional support from the infantry. General Burnside detached a portion of General Isaac P. Rodman's Division of General Jesse Reno's Ninth Corps to Braddock's Gap.

William N. Pickerell of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry recalled the moments before the Union break through of Braddock's Gap: "Counted off by fours and the dismounted men crawled up the mountainside through bushes and over stone fences, and soon made it too hot for that battery to operate. In this fight Oliver H. Trester, of Company D, was killed as he leaped a stone wall right into a bunch of Confederates in hiding behind it. The Confederate battery with its supporting cavalry limbered to the rear and broke into a wild flight down the National Road across the Middletown Valley pursued by the Third Indiana and Eighth Illinois into

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

the village of Middletown”.

After a severe cannonading and several warm volleys with carbines, Lieutenant Hains’ stated: “Notwithstanding the inequality of position of our battery and that of the enemy, we drove them from their position with the loss of only two horses.” The Jeff Davis Legion began to fall back, having previously barricaded the road in several places. Captain Hart limbered up his guns, withdrew from Braddock’s Gap, and redeployed on the National Road, waiting for the Union troopers to appear. Lieutenant Hains’ recalled: “Upon

their retiring, we followed with alacrity, and overtook them again near Middletown.”

As the Union cavalry began their decent down the Catoctin Mountain, trooper Pickerall recalled, “Encircled with forest crowned mountain ranges, I have seen no lovelier landscapes than the Middletown Valley, as it appeared to me.” Charles M. Smith of the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry recalled: “Abandoned Confederate corpses lying motionless along the roadside and adjacent cornfields haunted me.”

Union Captain Horatio G. Gibson’s Battery then came up,

and “soon in beautiful style induced another backward movement.” Farnsworth’s Brigade then advanced, and engaged the cavalry until they were driven beyond Middletown about 1,000 yards, to a third position. A few rounds fired from a section of Hains’ Battery positioned on the left, and Gibson’s Battery that was deployed on the right, “sufficed to silence” the Confederate Blakely rifles of Captain Hart’s Battery.

Buying enough time for the Confederate army, those Confederates engaged at Braddock’s Gap were ordered to withdraw to Boonsboro.

General Pleasanton later wrote: “The Confederates retreated rapidly to Turner’s Gap of the South Mountain; but before doing so they blew up the bridge on the Catoctin Creek, and set fire to the barn and other valuables of the persons residing at that point.”

As Braddock’s Gap was overwhelmed by the Union cavalry, General Burnside ordered the rest of General Reno’s Ninth Corps to move at once to Middletown. After the Confederate cavalry retired, portions of Colonel Farnsworth’s brigade forded the Catoctin Creek and held the ground se-

curing it for the Union infantry advance. Lieutenant Hains’ positioned one section of his battery on the National Road where he was supported by three squadrons of the First Massachusetts Cavalry. The fighting soon died down as daylight gave way to darkness. More to come next month as there were several cavalry fights that took place on and along the Catoctin Mountain.

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

The Great Eggnog Riot of 1826

Bernadette Loeffel-Atkins

The Christmas of 1826 at West Point, New York was snowy and cold for the young, lonesome cadets. Under the watchful eye of Superintendent Sylvanus Thayer, “boodle” or alcohol was taboo at the military academy. Spirits were banned at the academy following a rowdy Independence Day celebration in 1825. The new regulations included a ban on drinking spirituous and intoxicating liquors and going to a public house or place where spirituous liquors are sold. Thayer issued a special order that

all Christmas festivities were to be alcohol-free. The cadets were not dissuaded by Thayer’s edict. Thus, one of the most infamous episodes in West Point history took place on Christmas Eve 1826.

The cadets carefully planned their clandestine holiday celebration by sending a few “volunteers” to Benny Havens’ tavern to secure a gallon or so of spirits a few nights before their big party. On Christmas Eve, the cadets had watchful guards posted, they blackened their windows and began concocting their spiked eggnog. The party went on unnoticed until 4:30 in the morning, when things got

rather noisy. Future Confederate President, Jefferson Davis busted into the room shouting, “Put away the grog boys, Old Hitch is coming!” But it was too late for Cadet Davis, Captain Hitchcock was already there and Davis was arrested and sent to his room without a fight. What happened next came to be known as the legendary Eggnog Riot.

After the furor settled down, Hitchcock returned to his quarters. Within minutes, chunks of firewood were thrown at Hitchcock’s door and stones were flung at his windows, breaking the panes. Hitchcock returned to the barracks to

investigate and he was bombarded by more pieces of firewood. The Captain retreated to his room, barred his door and took cover. The inebriated cadets ran through the hallways shouting, some carried swords or muskets with bayonets, some brandished logs and one even fired his musket.

Seventy cadets were arrested for mutiny. By the time all was said and done, nineteen cadets were court martialed and dismissed, six others would resign. Jefferson Davis, despite his involvement, received no punishment as he had remained in his room during the eggnog riot.

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Editor's Note: In 1908, the Emmitsburg Chronicle published a series of articles under the title, "Chronicles of Emmitsburg - a series of interviews with the 'old timers' of the town." Given their age and the date of the interviews, they provide exceptional eye-witness accounts of what life was like in the area during the early and mid 1800s. Over the next several months, we'll rerun these articles and hope you will enjoy them as much as the readers of the old Chronicle did when they last appeared in print.

Interview with Samuel Flaut

Mr. Samuel J. Flaut is one of the oldest citizens of Emmitsburg. He will be ninety-two next July 11th but he does not feel the burden of his years, and many a man of seventy looks older than does our well-preserved and well-beloved fellow town citizen. Mr. Flaut comes from a long-lived family. His father, Jacob Flaut, was eighty-six when he died; a brother died at the age of ninety-three; one sister lived to eighty two; another at the time of her death was eighty-eight

years and ten months, and one died at the age of ninety-three.

Mr. Flaut was born on the Blue Ridge Mountains near Euclid in Washington County. In 1835, he moved to Emmitsburg and has remained here ever since. Since the death of his wife, eighteen years ago, he has lived with his daughter, Mrs. Arnold, widow of the late James J. Arnold, who ministers affectionately to his declining years.

Apprenticeships

"When I came to Emmitsburg in 1835, I was apprenticed to James L. Wise, a wheelwright. I stayed with him two years and a half. After I was free, I worked at the wheelwright trade for about one year but didn't like it, so I went to carpentering. I worked at that until 1875 and since then, I have lived retired. That's the history of my life."

"But that won't do at all, Mr. Flaut," said the reporter. "We want to know what it was like to be an apprentice in Emmitsburg in 1835: how your boss treated you, what he paid you, how you lived after you became a journeyman, what kind of clothes you wore, what you had to eat, and what a good mechanic could earn it those days. All these details will interest The Chronicle readers, so you be good enough to brush up your memory and tell us something about the old times."

"Well," said Mr. Flaut, "when I was first apprenticed, my boss agreed to pay me \$30 a year. I was to buy my own clothes. Then he found he had to take some clothing in trade so he changed the arrangement and gave me my clothes and a little money once in a while. Of course I lived with him. He gave me a comfortable room and plenty to eat, so I had it good while I was with him, but I was not regularly bound out; we had only a verbal agreement. Some didn't fare so well.

The bad bosses didn't provide good clothing or nourishing food and some used to flog their apprentices. One boy, I remember, was treated so badly that he ran away to Philadelphia. But his boss followed him and brought him back and he served his time out. Some apprentices even had to go in their bare feet in the wintertime, but mostly they were well treated. As a rule, an apprentice got his keep and clothes and a small sum of money at the end of his term. Sometimes they were allowed wages for work done during the term, which were paid to them when they were free. It all depended on the contract.

After I was free, I worked, as I have said, 6 years at the wheelwright trade, but working as hard as I could I only made seventy-five cents a day. Later when I went to carpentering, I could earn seventy-five cents a day and doing found job work. That doesn't sound like much, but a dollar in those days would go further than it would now; our wants were simpler and living was cheaper."

Cost of living & clothes

"We paid only eight cents a pound for the best cuts of beef; fitch was six to eight cents a pound, but flour was \$4.50 and \$5 for the barrel. However, it was better flour than we get now. Good coffee was twelve cents a

pound. Sometimes we couldn't get coffee; we would parch rye in a Dutch oven and grind it in a mill, or sweet apple suits or chestnuts thoroughly roasted and ground made good coffee. We made teas of herbs: sage and thyme, balm and horehound, and these we sometimes drank with our meals.

Our medicine teas were made from Life Everlasting and Wood Betony, the latter to warm up the system, but it had a powerful strong taste. The women would sometimes drink a dish of Catnip tea for the headache. There were many more but I can't remember them. I think right well of the old remedies and I still use them occasionally.

Clothing was expensive. We boys generally wore Kentucky jeans or cassinette. There was no ready-made clothing. We would buy a piece of jeans at the store and have it made up at home or by the town tailor. The cloth didn't cost much but the tailor charged a good deal to make it up. I well remember my first pair of pants, which I got when I was four years old. They were made of bombazine and the legs rubbed at the ankles when I walked; that made a sound like wheat, wheet, wheet.

At the same age I was given a rabbit-skin cap; I was so proud of it that I took it out to show to my pet game rooster; I started to tease him by poking it at him. He made a jump for the cap, tore it out of my hands, and picked it to pieces on the ground. My, but he made the fur fly and I ran into the house crying, but my sister only laughed at me for being, as she said, so idle.

The tobacco we used was twist and we cut off the same plug for chewing and smoking. There were no pack or cut tobaccos then. You could buy two cigars or four tobies for a cent.

Everybody took snuff, and the women rubbed it on their gums. There wasn't much beer drunk, for there were so many distilleries that hard liquor was cheap. Around here they used to make applejack peach brandy and rye whiskey. At the distillery, apple brandy sold a pint for a fippenny bit.

I married when I was making seventy-five cents a day and went to housekeeping. I had saved enough out of my wages to furnish a house. My wife was a seamstress and her earnings helped us out. I remember she made Dr. Patterson's wife's wedding outfit. She got \$2.50 for making the wedding gown and it was flounced to the waist. As a rule, she made a dollar a week, so you see even with my seventy-five cents a day we didn't have much, but we made out to live comfortably and be happy together and raise a family of nine children. It meant hard work though. We were used to hardships in those days. Why, my sister and I, before I came to Emmitsburg to live, used to walk



Samuel Flaut

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from near Pen Mar to Mount St. Mary's to attend church on Sunday- ten miles each way. We would have no dinner and when we got home, we would be hungry enough to eat an iron wedge. The young people nowadays ain't as anxious to go to church as we used to be."

Neighbors and bad blood

"Mr. Flaut," said the reporter, "in your long life, what was the most interesting thing that ever happened to you?" After a moment's thought Mr. Flaut said, "I will tell you about something very strange that once happened, and it occurred just as I am going to tell it to you. It was when my father and brother and I were living alone up in the mountain. We had a neighbor named Wolff and he was a mean hard man and a bad neighbor. You never could tell what he was going to do, but he was most always in a bad humor. Once, he shot out of the window of his house and killed our favorite hunting dog. He owned a mean dog, which would run out at people on the road. I would stone him every chance I got and that would make Wolff mad.

One winter night, it was the middle of February and there was a foot of snow on the ground. Just as we were getting ready for bed, I said to my father, 'I heard Mrs. Wolff call.' He thought I must be mistaken and my brother could hear nothing, but I heard her call again and then again, three times in all, but the others heard nothing. I went out into the yard and saw the Wolff's house on fire. He and his wife were fast asleep and we had a hard time to rescue them. After it was all over I told Wolff it was providence that was sent to show him he ought to mend his ways. We were reconciled and were friendly afterwards, but I never liked him."

"Mr. Flaut," said The Chronicle man, "would you rather live in the old days or in the present, and what do you

think of the ways and manners of the nowadays people?"

"Well, of course, I prefer the old ways," he replied. "People were more sociable and neighborly- more helpful to each other. They act sociable now, but there doesn't seem to me to be much reality about it."

"To what do you attribute your long life?" queried the reporter.

"To hard work and a moderate way of living. I never could afford to be luxurious, but have enjoyed good health and have lived to a great age, so I must have had what was necessary. I have tried to use all things moderately. Never in my life was I drunk, thank God! But I have taken a little once in a while, as I needed it. Tobacco I have always used and I am nearly ninety years old."

"Yes," interrupted his daughter, Mrs. Arnold, "and he owes his good health and long life to his even temper and good nature, as much as to anything else. He was always the same- never cross and never impatient."

Young people

"Now," said Mr. Flaut, "in conclusion I would like you to let me say a few words to the young people, for they are much in my thoughts and I may never have a chance to speak to them again. Perhaps they will listen to an old man who was once young like them. I see that the world has changed, but the great rifles of life have not changed. Therefore, I say to the young men, be sober, honest, truthful and industrious, and above all things, shun excessive use of intoxicating drink.

To the young women I say, be not given too much pride; strive to be good daughters at home so that when your time comes to have your own home, you may have learned to be good wives and mothers. To all I say, cultivate a spirit of true humility, respect the aged, and be obedient to parents. I grieve to see that the children are not as



View of the West end of Emmitsburg 1908

obedient as they used to be. My father never spoke to me twice- I minded the first time. And it is the fault of the parents that the children are deficient in these respects.

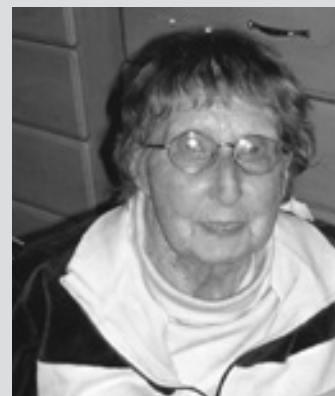
Children should be taught at home the virtues of humility, respect and obedience. If they don't learn these lessons at home, they will have to learn them sometimes by sad and bitter experience when they go out into the world.

"The more I read about the old days in Emmitsburg," said an appreciative Chronicle subscriber, "the more I wish I could go back seventy or eighty years and live in those times and see for myself what they were like. I can't do that, so the next best thing is to read about them in the Chronicle. The Chronicle has been telling about the old ways and the old people and you can't print too much of it for me." Whereupon a member of the staff was sent out to interview the ancient authorities on the history of Emmitsburg and get them to tell more about the days when they were young.

Part 3 next month

Anna Mort / 1923 - 2012

Members of the Incarnation United Church of Christ fondly recalled Anna Mort



Anna Mae Mort, age 88, of Fairfield died peacefully on Thursday, February 16, 2012. Born June 24, 1923 in Emmitsburg, Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Lawson and Elsie (Sheely) Herring. She was predeceased by her husband, John M. Mort, Sr. in 1982.

Anna was a much-beloved, life long member of Emmitsburg's Incarnation United Church of Christ where she served as secretary of the Women's Guild and as secretary of the Consistory. She was a member of the church's choir and was also active in the Emmitsburg Senior Citizens Group.

She was a living example of what it meant to be a disciple of Christ. She worked tirelessly for her church and the congregation has many loving memories of Anna.

Tommy Hoke: I went to school with Anna and remember her as a blazing redhead. I also remember that she and Bud Burdner would dance every day at lunchtime and Anna was a very good dancer.

Sue Martin Allen: Anna and my mother, Anna Margaret Martin, were childhood friends; they both belonged to the Lutheran Church, they both married men who belonged to the Evangelical and Reformed Church (now the United Church of Christ) and consequently became members of the E & R church and were very active members in that church.

Allen Crouse: I will always remember the dedication she gave to caring for her husband for many years. She was just as dedicated and faithful to her church, which she loved.

Cleo Martin: Anna was a wonderful friend to me and she was a friend of the Lord.

Eric Glass: When she was secretary for the Consistory she never missed a meeting, was never late for a meeting and her minutes were very thorough.

Janet Springer: Anna always had a twinkle in her eye.

Audrey Glass: Anna was one the best and most willing worker I ever had the pleasure of working with. She was neat as a pin. She was a teeny, tiny woman who never hit 100 lbs. on the scales. When her friend Anna Margaret Martin was taking chemo treatments and lost quite a bit of weight, she always said in her comical way, "I lost an Anna Mort."

A former member of Incarnation UCC, Harold Craig: She was a lovely person and a wonderful worker. I'll miss her.

Surviving are sons, John Mort and wife Darlene of Waynesboro, Charles Mort and wife Agnes of Altoona, PA, Robert Mort and wife Bobbi of Waynesboro, Bernard Mort and wife Helen of Trenton, FL, Philip Mort and wife Shawn of Fairfield, and David Mort and wife Judy of New Port Richey, FL.; 19 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; 6 great-great-grandchildren; brother, Lloyd Herring of Hanover, PA.

Anne was interred in the Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery where she joined many, many friends. Memorial contributions may be made to Incarnation Church of Christ" to Memorial contributions may be made to Incarnation United Church of Christ" We need to put in "United" between Incarnation and Church.

Farewell, Anna, we'll miss you.



Old Emmitsburg Road - 1870. Taken at the Mason Dixon Line looking towards Emmitsburg

COLD WAR WARRIORS

Gorbachev coup and end of the USSR

Commander John Murphy,
USN, Ret.

We entered the 1990s knowing all was not well in the Communist Paradise – back in the USSR. Still, from a military viewpoint – they appeared to be a formidable and unpredictable foe. We also were aware that their economy was having serious problems. That their state planning system could not compete in a free world market. Their citizens were aware of what was available in the West in the way of consumer goods, but their industry could not produce what they wanted. TVs, radios, automobiles, telephones, computers and appliances that worked! Sure they could build missiles and

Prize in 1990. Quite a feat for the leader of the Evil Empire. He was the “Top Tovarishch” during a period of dramatic change. A period when Soviet Troops were removed from Afghanistan (the USSR’s Vietnam); the Berlin Wall was down; East and West Germany had unified and the Baltic States wanted out of the USSR.

By 1990 I had decided my Cold War was over and done with. I sold my home in the Washington D.C. area and moved to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and took a job teaching Russian at Gettysburg College. I was still doing some Soviet émigré interview work in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. Not enough to live on, but at least it kept me reasonably fluent in Russian. Also,

was coming via Norway. My ‘partner’ (sputnik?) was an expert on a new, commercial navigation system that just been installed on the Soviet ship. It was not performing as advertised. I arrived in Copenhagen on Monday, 19 August and settled into my hotel room in downtown Copenhagen. I turned on the TV and tuned into the CNN Noon-time World News. They were issuing special reports ‘Live from Moscow’ that had something to do with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. That he was on vacation at his dacha in the Crimea and it appeared that some sort of a coup might be underway. Then there were dramatic images of President of the Russian Federation, Boris Eltsin standing on a Soviet tank addressing a large crowd outside Moscow’s White House (i.e. Parliament building). This historic scene was being fed live across the USSR by state TV.

Boris Yeltsin’s surname is spelled ‘Eltsin’ in this article. A spelling that is preferred by many Russian linguists (e.g. Library of Congress). However, English language media sources have adopted the spelling as ‘Yeltsin.’

My partner arrived from Norway in the late afternoon, and we discussed the breaking news and its potential impact on our next day’s plans. Would our Soviet research ship still arrive in Copenhagen as expected? Would we be able to talk with our scientist? We checked with the Copenhagen Harbormaster early the next morning (Tuesday, 20 August) and were told “Your ship is scheduled to arrive at Copenhagen quay sometime this morning.”

I decided to go for an early morning jog along the waterfront. The clock ticked from 6 to 7 and then to 8 AM. There was no sign of any Soviet ships approaching Copenhagen harbor. Around 9 AM I saw a dark, blue van moving slowly along the pier area. I was advised to stay clear of this van.... That it was probably a KGB van and it was suspected that the Soviets might be concerned about ANY of their ships acting ‘strangely.’ That they might be on the alert for possible defectors? Around 10 AM I saw a Soviet trawler approaching the harbor entrance. I ran back to the hotel and alerted my partner. It appeared our guest was arriving. Now, would we still be welcome on board? Would we be able to meet with our scientist? We soon had our answer.

My partner and I approached the Soviet ship just before noon and a slightly built, middle-aged man waved to us and indicated we should come aboard. I would soon learn that it was my contact, Dr.



Demonstration in the streets of Moscow during the 1991 coup d'etat

Anatoliy Labkin from the St. Petersburg Branch of the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology. The Soviet equivalent of the Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts.

We went aboard and were greeted by Labkin and the ship’s Captain. The Captain was most cordial and invited us to join him for lunch.... along with our scientist ‘Akademik (Professor) Labkin.’ We were encouraged. Also, it was clear that the Captain was pretty drunk. Anatoliy whispered to me “We have been hearing the news from Moscow all night. The Captain is a die-hard Communist and has been drinking heavily. He is overjoyed. In his mind ... the Soviet Union and Communism have been saved. Gorbachev has been destroyed. The world is looking very bright to him today.” I thought Great! – Just so long as I get to spend some private time... somewhere ... with our ‘esteemed Professor Labkin.’ Labkin assured me that we could work something out.

After some polite introductions, we settled down to a four-course luncheon in the Captain’s cabin. Complete with vodka toasts. I was mindful of the Russian custom that the recipient of a Russian toast must respond in kind in 45 seconds (or less) after a glass had been emptied. I believe we had five or six toasts before the meal was over. During the toasts we were assured that the on-

going Gorbachev coup was good for the USSR – for Russia and for America.

That President Gorbachev was out of control and was bad for Mother Russia. After lunch, the Captain gave us each a small bottle of Dagvino Russian Cognac in a special wooden presentation case. The Captain had personally signed and dated the case – “20.08.91” (20 August, 1991). Today I treasure that small bottle of cognac as it sits proudly in my library. For me, it is a symbol of the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union, which would cease to exist in a short, 126 days. Of course we did not know that back then.

Following lunch, my partner repaired the malfunctioning navigation system and we asked the Captain and Dr. Labkin to join us for dinner at our hotel. They readily agreed. We drove by the ship in the late afternoon and took them to our hotel’s dining room overlooking the Copenhagen harbor. The Captain was almost giddy as we settled into cocktail hour in this magnificent, bourgeois setting. My partner was quite a pianist and proceeded to entertain our Captain and all in the dining room with anything they wanted to hear. Great entertainment.

After dinner Anatoliy and I slipped out for a meeting in the hotel’s main lobby while my partner and the Captain sampled the Dan-



Instead of prosperity, Communism only brought empty shelves to the long-suffering citizens of the Soviet Union

satellites for the military, but how about appliances that would were not ready for the junk pile shortly after purchase? Where were the Soviet State Stores (GUM or Gosudarstvenniy Universal’niy Magazin) where one could purchase reasonably priced clothing, appliances and quality, packaged and processed foods? Fresh fruit and vegetables – like they saw everywhere in European super markets? Not just vodka or matryoshka dolls.

Gorbachev had been in power for over five years and his concepts of “glasnost” (openness) and perestroika (restructuring ... whatever that meant) had the diehard Communists confused and becoming hostile to his leadership. In the West we loved Gorbachev. So much so that he was awarded the Nobel Peace

I had a contract with CIA as a “contract Russian language officer” to provide language services” on demand” . Unfortunately, there was little demand. This was a job on my resume only.

Then things started to change. I did not see it coming. Nor did millions of Soviet citizens. In July of ’91 the Warsaw Pact was dissolved. In early August I was asked to meet with a Soviet scientist in Copenhagen, Denmark. An expert in Soviet submarine warfare with some new ideas on submarine detection techniques. He was due to arrive in Copenhagen on Tuesday, 20 August aboard a Soviet research ship out of St. Petersburg. I was to work with an American engineer who



Boris Eltsin on a tank outside the White House – Monday, 19 August ’91

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COLD WAR WARRIORS



Gorbachev and his family return to Moscow after being freed after the collapse of the coup.

him. First, the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and, Lithuania in September, followed by the Ukraine and Belarus.

The President of the Russian Republic, Boris Eltsin, on the other hand was trying to introduce a free market economy and was taking over the dysfunctional Soviet ministries and industry. After the August Coup, Eltsin had seen enough of the Communists.

Andrey Sakharov's wife – Elena Bonner during a lecture at Gettysburg College in 1993 told us what it was like to be in Russia in 1991. She stressed that Eltsin, who was elected President of the Russian Republic in June 1991 – was the first Russian leader ever (in over 1000 years) to be elected by the Russian people. They were behind him. In November Eltsin totally banned the Communist Party in Russia. By December he had decided that both Gorbachev and the Soviet Union had to go! The Ukraine and Belarus supported him. Together they signed an agreement (the Belavezh Accords) to create a Commonwealth of Independent States (the CIS).

On Christmas Day 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as President of the USSR. The next day the USSR's highest legislative body "The Supreme Soviet" dissolved itself and turned over the keys to the Kremlin to Boris Eltsin and Russia. All Soviet organizations went out of business at midnight on New Year's Eve – December 31st, 1991 and the Soviet flag was lowered over the Kremlin for the last time.

For the average Russian, I am sure this was a scary time. They were not



The Hammer and Sickle—the emblem of the once proud Soviet Union—quickly became a distant memory.

happy with the Soviet system, but it was the only world they knew. Their place of employment was either shut down or operating at a fraction of its capacity. Their pensions from the USSR were worthless. For many ... the only solace could be found in a good bottle of vodka. Alcoholism was on the rise as was the death rate of Russians. A people that had known war and devastation for over 1000 years... now seemed to teeter at the edge of a great unknown abyss.

For over a thousand years they had survived the Swedes, the Mongols, and Ottoman Turks, Napoleon, the Nazis and the Cold War. They had endured all – for Mother Russia. But, by the end of the Soviet Union in 1991 they had little or nothing to fall back upon. For most of their history they had religion – the Russian Orthodox Church – for comfort and a sense of purpose. The

"opiate of the people" as Lenin called it. – But Communism had destroyed that – along with many of its churches and cathedrals. "What should we do?" they asked themselves.

Westernizers vs. Slavophiles controversy

In 1991 the former Soviet Union was like a nation with a bipolar disorder. Part of it saw the path to the future in the West and Capitalism. They were the "Westernizers." The other part wanted to return to the past – to their Slavic roots and, of course - Communism. They were the "Slavophiles." It was the rebirth of a controversy that Russia had seen before – in the mid 19th century when there were the first stirrings of revolution against the Tsar and his autocratic regime. Now the controversy was back. Which path would they choose this time? After 73 years under Communism?

The early 90s were confusing, but hopeful years. Elena Bonner, wife of renowned Soviet dissident Andrey Sakharov put it best in her visit to Gettysburg College in November 1993 when she said "Every path is open to the Russian people. And the path of peaceful coexistence with the world should be the path of choice." Memorable words. But, which path would Russia choose this time?

We would gradually learn as the rest of the 1990s unfolded.

Next – Cold War Fallout – Russia chooses its future.....



Demonstrators confront the Soviet Army outside Russian Parliament. Having just torched a bus to block the approach of Soviet Army personnel carriers and tanks to the White House, the demonstrators tried talking the soldiers into deflecting to their cause.

To read past editions of Cold War Warriors, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

ish after dinner drinks. Early in the meeting, Labkin gave me about 200 pages of scientific documents, which we took to the hotel's Concierge for copying. We just about burned up the hotel's copying machine. It broke down a couple of times. Both Labkin and I nervously watched with one eye on the copying machine and the other on the lobby in case the Captain should come looking for us.

Fortunately the task was completed successfully and we went back to the lobby to complete our discussions. It was around 11 PM when we heard the Captain wandering through the lobby calling "Anatoliy... Anatoliy ... gde vy?" (Anatoliy ... where are you?). He seemed to have sobered up a bit and was visibly agitated. We 'flagged' him down and said we had been looking for him, but could not find him. Meanwhile ... on the hotel's TV we were receiving reports from Moscow that our Captain would not have found good news. It was late Tuesday evening. We told Anatoliy what we were hearing, but decided to let the Captain have a good night's sleep. Tomorrow was another day – Wednesday, 21 August 1991 - the day the coup started falling apart.

The next morning, Labkin told me that they had received urgent orders to return to St. Petersburg immediately. I estimated that they would arrive home by Friday, 23 August – the day after Gorbachev

had been freed from house arrest in the Crimea and returned to Moscow.

Also, the day when Boris Eltsin unexpectedly confronted him in front of the Russian Parliament and demanded that he resign as Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party. The Captain would not be pleased to learn that the coup plotters were all under arrest or had committed suicide. Also, as he entered St. Petersburg harbor - he would have seen the historic White-Blue-Red - Russian national flag flying prominently over the city. Not good news for a die hard Communist.

From the USSR TO CIS

I arrived back in the USA on 23 August and could see that the Cold War had changed dramatically during my visit to Copenhagen. Even while I was there... I was mindful of the fact that the events that were taking place right "next door." It was like witnessing the 1825 Decembrist Revolt in St. Petersburg or the Bol'shevik Revolution of 1917 – via TV from the comfort of a modern hotel in Copenhagen – 800 miles to the west of Moscow.

By the time I got home we knew that Gorbachev had survived and was back in power in the Kremlin. But was he really? We now know that within a few months the USSR would be dissolved. Gorbachev was working for major changes in his state planned economy while his Republics were walking away from



Boris Eltsin demanded that Gorbachev resign his position as Secretary of the Communist Party.... in front of the entire Parliament.

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STAGES OF LIFE

Mom's Time-out

Public school –home school?

Mary Angle

Public school...yes, home-school...no, private school...we wish. Public school...yes, homeschool...maybe, private school...we wish. Public school...maybe, homeschool...maybe, private school...we wish. Public school...no, homeschool...maybe, private school...we wish. And this is where you find me today. Actually not quite since all of my school aged kids are in public school. I am currently interviewing all of my friends who had the bravery (or insanity, depends on who you ask) to go the homeschooling route. There seem to be different motivations for homeschool and I am determined to find out what they are.

It turns out that I have some friends who had no intentions of doing anything but homeschool. Whether it is the way they were raised, some personal opinion about public school, for still others the expense of private school is out of their reach, and for most it turns out to be a combination of several reasons that led them to never even consider public school. Most of the people I know who do not currently attend public school did start in the public school system. At least those that are homeschooled mostly started in the public school system. I do know many families that interviewed private schools and ended up foregoing public school for the private school offerings.

Private school has many appeals over public school, or so many believe. There are the uniforms which many parents love, not so sure about the students. There is no hassle with picking out clothes in the morning or spending a ton of money on the "right" outfit. There is also the idea that because you are paying tuition your child is offered more options in their education. Having recently toured a wonderful private Christian facility I can tell you that in many cases this is true. Their computer equipment was much more updated, every high-schooler was assigned an ipad to do their assignments on, foreign languages were taught at a much younger age, and there was in school tutoring available daily. This all being said private school still comes with a hefty price tag that many families just can't swing. It also doesn't guarantee that your child won't experience some of the same problems that drive parents to pull their kids out of public school and into the homeschool sector. But if you have the money and do the proper research and interviewing private school is an excellent alternative to public school.

Homeschooling was always the big judgment choice to make. Years ago when I first started having kids my friends would say, "oh those crazy homeschoolers", and I would agree. Maybe it was jealousy because I knew I could never do it, or maybe it was a lack of understanding on how it worked or why you would even consider it, or maybe it was just a fear of the unknown. For whatever reason, I thought it insane to even entertain the idea of homeschool. It was one of the few things I said, "Never" about. I actually have a rule about never saying never be-



cause you never really know. Ironically that I am investigating homeschool now, see it is a good rule to live by. Well the years passed and I kept having babies and the other babies kept growing up whether I liked it or not. Until one day the first one started school. It started off great with kindergarten. There were no worries in kindergarten back then, or at least nothing passed basic "how was he doing in school" stuff. When my first son started second grade then my second son entered kindergarten. At this point we had experienced a few bus issues and some basic school conflicts but nothing to write home about and certainly nothing to drive me to what I perceived was the insanity called homeschool. Then my first daughter started kindergarten and the boys were in fifth and third grade and things started getting a little more difficult, but not yet unbearable.

It wasn't until the middle school for my oldest, fifth grade for the next and my daughter was completing her first grade year when

I found out she was being bullied at school, and had been since kindergarten. I then found out that my sons were both having trouble at school and that one of my sons may have a learning disability. After many conversations and meetings with the school we decided to move our daughter, my son could not be diagnosed so no one was willing to work with him in any way, and the educational arguments had become our routine every night at home. Even then, I still was not considering homeschool. It actually wasn't until two of my children who had friends that had left school to be homeschooled asked if I would do the same for them. At that point it was a lurking consideration in the back of my mind, that little voice that says, "Well, maybe". Over the next few weeks they asked a few more times and the problems at school and with school continued and I started weighing the pluses and minuses of both.

I thought for some of my kids classes I have to reteach everything they are taught during the day again at night, so why not just teach them once while homeschooling. I considered the fact that I have been out of school for a long time myself and might struggle with some of their subjects. If I homeschool that opens up our schedule since that can go anywhere we go, but if I homeschool I can't go back to work during the day when they are "in school". And what would they miss socially by being home with me and what extra stuff could I teach them when I don't have a whole classroom full of students to accommodate. What is the right answer? Is there a right answer?

This is where you find me today, undecided and unsure. Knowing there is no perfect answer, but still needing and desiring to do what is best for my children and family.

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

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A TEEN'S VIEW

Touching Reality



Kat Dart

It's hard to believe that three years of preparation are starting to come to a head as the end of junior year looms ahead. Even as I type on my laptop on the floor of my bedroom, I see my SAT study guide in one corner of my desk and a copy of "Princeton Reviews' 365 Best Colleges" open to the "M" section as it lies on top of information packets.

Three years of prep work for college, and as senior year becomes the light at the end of the tunnel, we the juniors are swamped with mail (electronic and snail), and constant standardized test reminders, and scores for said tests, and guidance councilors on our backs because this is the year it all matters -

And then, to top it off, most juniors are also understanding that they need to have a good college application - they cannot just have good grades and test scores, for those scores are purely academic. Those scores may help to define how good a head one has on their shoulders, but they do not under any circumstances define the more liberal part of the brain.

And thus, there is the reason for the section to describe extra activities outside of school on the appli-

cation. Someone can have an un-weighted 4.0 GPA, with high scores on AP exams and SAT/ACT tests, and not get accepted to a college.

Colleges search for the active, involved, and interesting people - that's why extracurriculars are so actively examined. The Applications office will look for the years that a high school student participated in a certain activity, and they look for a variety of activities, your commitment to them and your loyalty to them.

Beyond what colleges are looking for, we juniors are also realizing that, oh right, we have to pay for college (after acceptance) because it's not free - and submitting an application isn't cheap either. So many of us look for a job, but with the economy that's more than a little difficult - who wants an inexperienced, hyper teenager when they can have a mature, responsible adult with experience (with the exception of people interested in what teens have to say - like Mr. Hillman, and the others who run this newspaper)?

These past few years have been amazing in helping me figure out what I like and don't like in regard to hobbies, and academically, and habitually. I have found, for example, I love writing but dislike essay work. Writing is my preferred area of academics, but I'm stronger in history and science classes. I love working with technology, but dislike graphic designing.

I've also found my strengths and weaknesses. I'm very good at researching things, but I'm very bad at planning for deadlines. I can memorize facts easily, but I take bad notes and lose focus too easily.

Finally, I suppose one of the hardest things that I realized throughout high school is that I have many, many acquaintances I can get along with very well. However, I went through my facebook friends (a feature on FaceBook that allows you

to virtually connect to people you know) - I went from "being friends with" three hundred and eighty seven people to eighty three in one swoop. And in that eighty three, excluding family, I would actually call a grand total of six people my friend.

That's just counting the people on a virtual friending website. Counting people I know who do not have an account on facebook, I would add about three more to that list of six people.

Nine people. Nine. I talk to about three hundred people, and I would call nine of them my friend.

And of those nine people, only two I would talk to about almost anything. I say almost because, we all have our secrets. And something's only a secret if only one knows about it. Two people is private, three is semi-private, four is the whole world.

So yes, nine people. Those are the people I will try (and hopefully succeed) in keeping contact with during and after college. They are the ones I will catch up with when we are back for breaks. And they are the ones, who since I consider friends, will reach out to me as I will to them.

Honestly, it was a startling realization to come to. However, I try to be a realistic and the reality is that I will fall out of contact with many people I know now, because of distance and time and the fact that, bluntly, we aren't friends. We are acquaintances that have crossed paths, we may get along well, but chances are that we won't think to reach out and contact each other.

So here's the question for the month: When thinking about time management, distance, availability, who is really your friend? Who will you actually keep in touch with?

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

Life in High School



Lizzy Ryan

I now have started high school. But before I started school I was very nervous about so many things. One of the many things that I was nervous about was getting to all my classes on time. I guess I was picturing looking stupid walking aimlessly around school and getting to class late and teachers yelling at me. I was also nervous about the teachers being really strict, like bellowing at me for simple, no-big-deal reasons. Before I even started school I just had this feeling that I was going to forget a bunch of books for certain classes and then getting yelled at by the teacher. Overall I was just plain worried about high school.

I heard nothing but bad things, like people stealing from locker and peer pressure. It turned out, though, that I did all that worrying for nothing. High school has been fine so far (knock on wood.) When I first started I didn't really get lost because I would ask a teacher whose class I was in where the next class was. The teachers were actually real-

ly nice about it. I don't usually get to my classes late because I don't go to my locker after every class like other kids do. I go to my locker sometimes, like before English class, because it is in the same area as my locker. I also go to my locker before my quarter class which is gym, so I can get my gym clothes. I go to my locker at lunch too.

It may sound like I am the typical freshman, but I don't actually carry around a bunch of books to class. Some books you don't always need to bring to class because you don't always use them. For some classes you barely need to have any books at all like my Religion class. I only need one folder, a small notebook, and a skinny textbook. However there are certain days that I have to take a load of books to class. There are so many classes that I have that I really can't be late for like global history, Spanish, or biology. Those teachers really don't like it if you are late to class. Overall, though, my teachers are pretty nice. They are not any meaner just because they are high school teachers.

In the beginning of the year I used to forget a lot of stuff because I didn't know what books belonged to each class. So I got smart and got a mini white board to put in my locker to write down what subjects had which books. That helped a lot. The one thing that I really don't like is locking the lockers. It just has not worked out for me. I never had a locker at my old school so I really don't get how one works. When I close my locker all the way I can't get it open. I don't know what I do wrong but I would always have to get my friends to open it. For some reason they usually get it right away. I actually think that there is something wrong with the lock on my locker that it gets jammed. Twice I have had to get one of the teachers to come down to my locker to get it open with their key. Now I just prop the bottom of it so that I can get it open quickly without problems. Now you may think, "what if someone steals from your locker?" Well, I don't have anything for them to steal. I don't keep anything valuable in my locker and the only thing that would be left for them to steal would be my books, and I don't think anyone would want to steal my books.

I try to avoid any drama and that makes high school life worse. I'm not on facebook and I don't text. So, overall, high school is alright. I hope that the rest of my year continues as well as the first half has.

To read other articles by Lizzy Ryan, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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SCHOOL NEWS—EMMITSBURG ELEMENTARY

News from EES

Along with spring flowers and birds chirping comes spring testing at Emmitsburg Elementary School. Even though most of this winter has been more spring-like than winter-like, students have not been hibernating!! They have been working very hard every day learning exciting new material to be able to perform their best as state testing rolls around. This year students have had more uninterrupted learning time than any recent year as FCPS has had no snow days, no late arrivals, and no early dismissals due to inclement weather. Let's hope it stays that way right into the coming months!

Maryland School Assessments (MSA) will take place for students in grades 3, 4 and 5 here at Emmitsburg Elementary School on March 12 through March 19, 2012. MSA is a measure of student achievement in Reading and Math.

This assessment fulfills recommendations of the Visionary Panel for Better Schools and meets the federal testing requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. All three grade levels will test for two days each in both Reading and Math. The format of this test provides two ways in which students respond. Students have selective response items (multiple choice) and also are required to create written responses for some items. Results of these assessments are examined carefully to ensure adequate student learning and growth in these subject areas and instructional adjustments to be made where necessary. Students at Emmitsburg Elementary School have historically performed very well on this assessment and we are confident this trend will continue for the 2011-12 school year.

Immediately following FCPS's

Spring Break, all second grade students here at EES will be taking the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-10). Students will be tested in Reading, Math, and Environment. All questions on this measure are in the selective response format. This assessment provides younger students with authentic practice on this type of assessment and allows for confidence building before they are required take the Maryland School Assessment in grades 3-5. SAT-10 results provide administrators and teachers with valuable data upon which they can build to make instructional decisions and plans that will ensure further academic success for our students.

Later in April, all fifth grade students here at EES will take the Maryland School Assessment in Science. This assessment is given electronically to all of our students in fifth grade. It follows the same format as the Reading and Math MSA, having both selective response and written response items. Students will type their answers to the written response items using the computer keyboard. Our school has performed at the very highest level on this test over the past few years.

As one can see, the next two months are filled with a number of exciting opportunities for our students here at EES to demonstrate what they have learned over the course of their years here with us. What can parents do to assist and support their children in doing their best? Be sure your child gets plenty of rest and a nutritious breakfast. Plus, as always, encourage their success by letting them know, "THEY CAN DO IT!!"

Janine Sherman
Emmitsburg Elementary School
Testing Coordinator and Reading Specialist

Wanda T. Severance SCHOLARSHIP

The Emmitsburg Elementary School PTA is offering one scholarship for \$300 to a graduating Catocin High School senior.

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Submit completed application to:
Scholarship Committee
Emmitsburg Elementary School PTA
300 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Requirements:

1. Attended Emmitsburg Elementary School a minimum of one-full year (K-5)
2. Include a letter of recommendation from either a high school or community related person (i.e. teacher, counselor, employer, clergy, activity coach)
3. Received an overall 2.85 GPA for four years of high school (verified by the school's guidance office).
4. Acceptance by any accredited two or four year college or technical school.
5. Brief, one page essay on how your experience at


Please forward applications to the above address on or before April 11, 2012. The announcement will be made at the awards ceremony.

The scholarship award must be used in the first year after graduating from high school and is non-renewable. The scholarship funds will be disbursed upon receipt of a certificate of full-time student enrollment, sent to Emmitsburg Elementary School PTA by the registrar's office of the educational institution.

Emmitsburg Elementary School Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child who will be age 4 or 5 on or before September 1, 2012 and you live in the Emmitsburg area? If so, it is time to register your child for Pre-K and Kindergarten at Emmitsburg Elementary School. Registra-

tion will begin on Thursday, March 1st and continue daily from 9:00 to 3:00, each day that schools are open. If you are registering for Pre-K, you will need to bring the child's birth certificate, proof of residency, proof of immunizations and income documentation to be copied and included in the child's registration file. If you are registering for Kindergarten, please bring the child's birth certificate, proof of residency, and proof of immunizations. The following documents may be used to provide proof of residency: lease agreement, utility bill (electric, water, gas) or a tax bill. Income documentation that is requested for Pre-Kindergarten registration can be any one of the following: three consecutive pay stubs from the past six months, a W2 form showing the prior year's earnings, a letter from an employer or social services agency (on letterhead) stating the applicant's family income, or foster care documentation. If you have any questions or need more information, please call 240-236-1750 and ask for Ms. Golightly.



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SCHOOL NEWS—MOTHER SETON

News from MSS

On January 29, Cheryl Carney from Mother Seton School (MSS) was awarded the Teacher of Excellence Award from Friends of Catholic Education (FOCE) at its 14th annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner.

Carney, who has been teaching Music at MSS for 15 years, is no stranger to the Emmitsburg area. The daughter of Clyde and Sis Springer of Emmitsburg, Carney received her BA in Music Education K-12 from Frostburg State. Before beginning her teaching career, she taught private voice, piano and flute lessons and has performed with the Dixie Hiway Band for over 30 years. Besides teaching at Mother Seton School, Carney also currently teaches at Sacred Heart School in Hanover, Pa and directs the choirs at Elias Lutheran Church in Emmitsburg. "Cheryl brings her wide experience and love for music to the students and faculty of Mother Seton," said Princi-

pal, Sister JoAnne Goecke, D.C. "She skillfully opens musical doors from kindergarten through eighth grade with her wonderful smile, endless patience, excellent organization, and love for music and children," continued Goecke.

When asked what her favorite part of being a music teacher was, Carney replied "I would say that my very favorite part is working with the chorus. The chorus students have such an abundance of enthusiasm for singing and performing. It doesn't matter if it's a "moldy -oldie" or a brand new song. They sing every song with great joy in their heart." Samantha Nigida, a current eighth grader who has been in chorus for four years, was happy that Carney received the FOCE award. "I love chorus! Mrs. Carney works really hard on all the plays and makes it fun. She definitely deserves the award," said Nigida.

The FOCE awardee is chosen

by their peers in their respective school. "Being nominated by my peers to receive this award reaffirms the team and family spirit that is always present at MSS," said Carney. "It is such a pleasure to teach in a school environment where the students feel safe and loved and the staff is always supportive." At the awards dinner, Sister JoAnne Goecke, D.C. said "Cheryl once remarked that she always had a special attraction for Elizabeth Ann Seton. Could this be because Elizabeth Ann was an accomplished pianist? Whatever brought the two together, we at Mother Seton School are the better for it!"

Mother Seton School provides affordable, faith and family centered education for Pre-K through Grade 8 as part of a vibrant, Christ-centered community. Scholarships and transportation to the modern Emmitsburg campus are available and Mother Seton School is currently accepting applications for fall. Please visit www.mothersetonschool.org for information or



(Left) Mrs. Caroline Pugh, Executive Director Friends of Catholic Education and Sister JoAnne Goecke, D.C., Principal of Mother Seton School, Emmitsburg present the Teacher of Excellence Award to Mrs. Cheryl Carney, music teacher at Mother Seton School.

to donate to support children in need. To schedule a school visit, please call 301-447-3161 or

email development@mothersetonschool.org. Mother Seton School - Great kids happen here.

8th grade exam - 1895

Could You Have Passed the 8th Grade in 1895? This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 from Salina, Kansas. It was taken from the original document on file at the Smoky Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, KS.

Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of Capital Letters.
2. Name the Parts of Speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define Verse, Stanza and Paragraph.
4. What are the Principal Parts of a verb? Give Principal Parts of do, lie, lay and run.
5. Define Case, Illustrate each Case.
6. What is Punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of Punctuation.
7. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50 cts. per bu., deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?

5. Find cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at

- 7 percent.
7. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
8. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per are, the distance

- around which is 640 rods?
9. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

Continued next month

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Freshman Year

Of moss and mountains

Kyle Ott

Memory is one of the most powerful and terrifying aspects of being human. Our memories can become distorted, making the people, places and events of the past seem overwhelmingly large, bigger, better, or unmanageable with the passage of time. Sometimes the things in our heads that may have made us who we are today can become completely small and insignificant, losing the place of honor they should have, enfolded within layer upon layer of grey matter.

But sometimes memories find their way to a place within our consciousness, where they're enshrined forever in complete clarity, enthroned in a spot where they can be looked at and appreciated. We can review the lessons, emotions, and wonderment of those moments over and over again. The passing of time does not seem to tarnish the luster of these precious gems.

For every college freshman the first few weeks of college are the equivalent

of social euphoria. It's a kaleidoscopic full of more people and ideas being crammed into your head than you ever thought possible. In that small space of time things that you do and say may become insignificant or overblown. In some rare wonderful cases these memories are forever captured in the frame of your brain.

One of those moments that have been forever enshrined for me occurred the third week of first semester, when the air was finally starting to get cool, and the wind had just begun to bite at the tips of our noses. I was sitting in my friends Maria and Charlotte's room with a couple of people, quietly watching everyone as they goofed around. The day seemed to be going exactly as planned until my roommate Francis walked in and decided to join us. For those of you that have never met the amazing Francis Lukban, he's a man of few words and frenetic action. When he arrives on a scene it's to herald change and the arrival of a random adventure. When I hang out with Francis,

I don't know where I'm going to wind up; I just know it's going to be a place I never expected.

And so after three minutes I looked at Francis and asked what was, at the time a seemingly innocuous question: "Francis, do you want to go for a walk?" With typical nonchalance Francis responded, "Yeah, sure."

With crazy excitement we sprinted out of the room and out the door of Pangborn dormitory towards the mountains behind campus. While we burst from the doors, we caught another of our friends, John Powers (not to be confused with the British secret agent). Without saying a word John joined us and our intrepid band of three moved into the mountains. We moved with a singular purpose, none of us knew where we wanted to go but our legs seemed to be guiding us to some unforeseen goal. We slipped onto the trails through a hole in a rusted chain-link fence and dodged thorn bushes. We made our way to an old path that was worn with the footprints of a thousand other hikers and fellow students before us. As we wound our way up the mountain and drew closer to our goal, we became closer friends with every passing step as our conversation turned from school and

classes to other things. We discussed which "Lord of the Rings" character we would each be and what kind of food we would have to eat when we returned from our journey.

After an hour of slow, methodical hiking we stopped by a cluster of boulders that bore a serious resemblance to the fantasy worlds we had just been discussing. Grabbing a stick and jumping on a larger rock I struck a heroic pose and yelled "Dudes, take a picture!" My friends laughed and hastily took a photo on my cell phone. Thinking that my statue-like duties had been completed I was going to hop off the boulder, when John pitched a clump of moss at my face. Moving (with what must have been logic-defying speed) I sidestepped the clump and bashed it to the ground with the stick. An idea seemed to wash over us, and John and Francis began taking turns hurling clumps of rich, emerald moss so that I could bat it aside. In that instant, moss baseball was born.

But, as fun as our newly created sport was, we had a goal to get to, a place that we were guided to by a singular force within us. As the sun moved lower and lower in the sky, its bright face just starting to descend below the crests of the oak mountains,

we reached Indian lookout. Of course we didn't know it was called Indian lookout when we discovered it, or that it was a popular destination for Mount students who knew the trails. No, on that particular evening we were blissfully ignorant and completely sure that we had discovered a secret place that only we knew about. The three of us stood together arm in arm and quietly watched the sun sink below the horizon. We could have said many things: about how great the experience was or how happy we were that we'd gone on our little excursion. But on that night we said one quiet prayer about how thankful we were for the blessings of beauty and friendship. The hike back had a sort of reverence to it. I imagine that how we felt on that day was kind of like how the apostles Peter and John felt after Jesus' transfiguration, because we walked in quiet awe of the splendor and wonder of discovering a magical place and time with people we loved.

We came to that mountain as friends. We left it as brothers. And from that day on, until the day I finally kick the bucket, that memory will be enshrined. Cherish college and be wary. You never know when a wonderful memory is on the way. I'm Kyle Ott; won't you sit and read for a while?

Sophomore Year

Thrive

Carolyn Shields

C.S. Lewis wrote a novel called "The Screwtape Letters" which is written in a series of letters from Uncle Screwtape (a demon) to his nephew Wormwood with advice on how to get humans away from Christ. The following passage has hit me hard as of late:

"The humans live in time but our Enemy destines them to eternity. He therefore, I believe, wants them to attend chiefly to two things, to eternity itself, and to that point of time which they call the Present. For the Present is the point at which time touches eternity...Our business is to get them away from the eternal. With this in view, we sometimes tempt a human to live in the

Past...And it is far better to make them live in the Future, the Future inflames hope and fear."

It hit me because I'm falling for this trickery. I live so often in the past because I know it was beautiful. My past is safe. And every day I'm working so hard for my future to ensure that it is beautiful, but I have such trouble focusing on the here and now. In Europe I felt like I never lived for the moment so often in my entire life, but back home it's different. Back home—here, it's difficult focusing on my first Faith and Field meeting tomorrow, my book club tomorrow, the two speeches I have due on Thursday, the exam that I haven't studied for yet this week, my job application for this summer, and upcoming retreats...

So this month we Mount writers decided to look into our past and review some of our favorite experiences. I have a shelf full of twenty journals in our home library that I could review, but I need to realize that right now—this moment—is just as precious to me as my past. That my journal entry for today (a long solitary walk on the mountain and stress from drowning in work) is just as important as last year's. But my past has made me who

I am, and like I said, my short history at the Mount is filled with so many beautiful experiences...

When I think of my favorite memories here, I first think of the parties we had at my house with my friends during the school year. The Pringle Mingle last January was the epitome of finding excuses to get people together. My sister Kathy (a senior) and I decided last year to celebrate the vast variety of Pringles. Who knew Cheddar Cheese and Cheesy Cheddar tasted so differently? The night was filled with DanceDanceRevolution, a toasty fire with crusty snow outside, and a little bit of swing dancing. Another was David, Emily, and my Surprise Going Away party when my house was flooded with green and orange balloons and so many friends. Or our recent Cookie Baking Night, with so many cookies, and a jam session around the piano where we belted CeeLo Green's "Forget You," and my dad won every ping pong game against all of my guy friends.

But at the Mount? Behind all those hours of work in the library and tapping my pen anxiously on my desk looking outside at the beautiful weather? There's been a lot of laughs. Like the first big snowfall of my freshmen year when after 10 p.m. Mass all of us were ambushed and got into a snowball fight with Fr. Bri-

an. Or last St. Patrick's Day when all of my friends went square dancing and stood in lines clapping as friends dosey-dosed down the line. Or whispered discussions with friends in empty chapels. Or just simply capturing the moment for others by being asked to take photos of social events with my camera, like the first Mass of the year or Campus Ministry picnics.

The FOCUS Halloween party in my freshmen year was also superb. I dressed as Robin Hood/a boy scout/Peter Pan, and the night was filled with dancing beneath the stars and guitars around a bonfire. That was also the night I met Emily. There must have been fifty people crammed in the small dining room of the off-campus house, jumping up and down and twirling and wiggling to the music.

"Stir the pot! Stir the pot!" Emily, who was dressed as Wanda in red and white stripes and thick black glasses said.

We made eye contact stirring the pot, ready to jump at the climax of the song.

And our friendship blossomed from there. And who knew then that just one year later, I would be in Paris and she would be traveling in western Ireland with her parents? That we would think of each other constantly on the sole weekend during our study-abroad trip that we weren't together? That exactly one year from that date, she would buy me a bracelet from the Our Lady of Knock Shrine, and I would buy her nail polish on the Champs Elysees? Who knew that Wanda and Robin Hood/a boy scout/Peter Pan would become so close?

So I've had amazing memories here at the Mount, and I know there are so many more to look forward to. I'm not quite half way done, and it blows my mind that these memories are about to be doubled.

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FAVORITE MOUNT MEMORIES

Junior Year

Make a difference

Samantha Strub

You're talking about your kids? Oh wait, I must talk with you! How are they? Aren't they just darlings?

This is a common theme of excitement when education majors see each other. The conversations about their students can go on for hours; talking about everything from their honor, to their special education students, to the crazy comments that they say, what they said about your outfit and the conversations that you have over the course of the day. Their "students" all quickly become their "kids." It's amazing how attached you become in just a few weeks' time.

You become so excited that you can hardly wait to express your passion to anyone who is willing to listen. Those of my friends who are not education majors are probably thoroughly annoyed by my constantly talking about my students and everything that goes on in just one day in a middle-school classroom. I don't even realize that I'm essentially talking only about my students; it has become a habit, it seems. We probably become very annoying with our endless chatter about our kids and all of their good and bad habits.

Every day of teacher is like a roll-

er coaster ride. There are days when you are soaring high and days where everything that could go wrong, goes wrong. Quickly, you must adapt to this constant change by finding a way to deal with all of the unexpected events. Learn not to take things so personally and remember, on the bad days, why you are studying to become a teacher. This is where Education Breathers come in. My roommates and I have gotten into the habit of having a weekly breather—as we have called it. These weekly breathers have become a God-send. We have created so many wonderful roommate memories by having breathers in order to keep our sanity as well as have a nice opportunity to brag and brag about our students. We take a breather to sit and relax among friends and share good food and teaching stories. After we all had taught our first lesson we had our weekly breather. We all had been incredibly nervous standing in front of our students for the first time with our mentor evaluating us. We all had played the "What if" game—thinking of every possible event that could go wrong. Not even trying to be positive but instead thinking (and planning) for the worst. This fear helped us realize that we needed to breathe and later we laughed at how

well, most of our lessons went. The fear helped us plan for the worst and as a result we came away from that first lesson feeling high on life.

Definitely part of the reason that my education roommates and I have created these breathers this semester has been because we want to share our teaching stories with fellow teachers. We can chit-chat for hours, swapping serious, silly and crazy stories about our kids that no one ever gets bored with. We hang onto every single word that they say whether it is positive or negative. Since we are all taking similar classes, work in the classroom and have experienced similar situations, we are able to rejoice about the successful lessons and overall good days, where nothing unexpected or serious happens. We are able to give advice about situations when needed because there are always occasions in teaching that come up that you weren't expecting. As roommates, we are able to sympathize when those unexpected situations occur and encourage each other to keep pulling along. When my supervisor came to observe my second lesson I was a basket case. I could tell my nervous were showing when I was teaching. I thought that it was over for me and my roommates were able to ensure me that it really wasn't over and that my supervisor would understand that I was nervous and not hold nervous against me. We provide life-support to our fellow teachers, friends, and roommates. Everyone needs sup-

port from those who care about them and want them to succeed in life. Teachers just have a unique way of giving each other that extra booster shot that will keep them pushing forward.

All education majors have times when they get super excited to talk all about their students. These are classic moments that all education majors will have many times in their four years at the Mount. Your students become such a huge part of your life as you build relationships with each one of them. They all become so special to you that you can't help but talk about them. For instance, just the other day I told everyone I met how excited I was when my 7th grade students questioned where I was, seen as how I was supposed to be teaching the lesson. When they saw me at the door they became so excited and kept saying, "There is Miss Strub! I found her! She is right there!" I felt so blessed that all of my students were so excited and eager to have me teach the lesson. Every single one of your students is unique and ready to take on the world in their very own way. You are there as their teacher to help them reach their goals in their life—one step at a time.

As roommates we have the special connection of being great friends in addition to being roommates, so we know when we need encouragement, a de-stressor or just a laugh. In a way we have these weekly breathers every day when we need a hug or encouraging smile. Everyone needs a daily pick-

me up. However, these weekly breathers are now a tradition with my roommates and me that we will carry with us to life after college, even to our future classrooms. These weekly breathers have developed into wonderful memories that we all look back upon with a smile. We will remember them as pick-me-ups that kept us moving forward, step by step to the next task.

Sharing teaching stories helps put life in perspective because then we are able to see though the stress of the endless drama in order to remind ourselves of why we are here. Once a week at least we hear the stories that keep us going and help us realize that amidst all of the lesson plans, time management, co-teaching, observations, reflections, papers, and tests there is hope and joy at the end of the tunnel, something to look forward to. There is a purpose for putting all of this time and dedication into your degree. We get up every morning because we want to make a difference. We want to take our passion and knowledge and share it with future generations.

This is how education majors take a step back and remind ourselves of why we are getting this degree in the first place. We are here because we have a passion for children and sharing our love of learning with them. We are here to make a difference—one life at a time.

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

Senior Year

Situation Tactical Exercises

Julia Mulqueen

For the past three years, the Mount has without fail offered us her land for a Saturday ROTC field exercise in the springtime. Our training on these days consists of STX lanes. STX lanes are Situational Tactical Exercises. In ROTC, we run through these lanes at the squad level. It is a way for senior cadets to evaluate junior cadets as they prepare for their leadership camp in the summer. Last year for the Saturday field exercise, myself and the 20 other juniors in my class were to lead STX lanes.

Field exercises like these are my favorite part of ROTC. We are allowed the opportunity to move from the classroom into the field in order to better learn. We receive hands on training and detailed evaluations of our leadership. This is how we best learn where we need to improve. To top this off, we get to spend the day with our ROTC buddies building bonds that will last a lifetime. It's a complete package!

Our Saturday training day last year was a beautiful one. The sun was shining; the air was crisp. Myself and the other cadets met at Memorial Gym and then marched over to the east side of campus for our training. Our training officially began, as always, with a battalion formation. The battalion commander at the time, a senior from McDaniel, gave us a morning pep-talk and

encouraged us to do our best on the STX lanes. Then we broke up into our squads.

STX lanes begin with the evaluator reading an Operation Order-OPORD for short-to the cadet who is leading the squad. This cadet, as the squad leader, must convert the platoon level OPORD to a squad level OPORD. He or she must use the information given in the OPORD to develop a plan to properly execute the mission. The mission could be anything from setting up an ambush alongside a road to knocking out a bunker.

The first cadet to lead a STX lane in our squad was Cadet Sheriff. He set about preparing his OPORD. He then briefed it to us, and we readied ourselves to execute the mission. After we ran through the lane, the senior evaluating Cadet Sheriff pulled him aside and immediately counseled him on his evaluation. This is the most important part of the STX lane; it is time for the evaluator to give the cadet who

led the lane direct feedback.

One by one, the juniors followed the same pattern as Cadet Sheriff. Each of us received a mission and led the squad through the lane. Around midday, the sun began to duck behind a few ominous clouds in the darkening sky, and the rain began. The spring gifted us with a beautifully short, but still heavy, rain shower. Fortunately, the day remained warm. The rainfall turned the dirt that we had been running lanes on into thick, sloppy mud. Muddy training might sound awful at first, but there is nothing more motivating than a little grime on your boots during STX lanes.

Soon the rain shower broke, and we arrived at the start of our last lane. Everyone except Cadet Davis had gone. He stepped up to receive the OPORD. He quickly prepared it and converted it from platoon level to squad level. Cadet Davis briefed his plan to the squad, and we jumped into our last mission of the day. We moved stealthily through the trees looking for signs of the enemy. Our mission was to knock out a bunker that lay deep in the woods.

As we got closer to our target, we approached a small stream with

flowing water and muddy banks from the recent rainstorm. Cadet Sheriff was the first to cross it. Midway through his crossing he stopped. He stooped down for a second, then straightened up and turned around. He had the cheesiest grin on his face. His smile stretched from ear to ear. On each check, he had smeared mud on his face. That was why he had stopped so suddenly. His smile and his idea rubbed off on the rest of us. One by one, we each stooped down in the river so we could smear some mud on our faces, too. It was the simplest, smallest thing, but it is my

favorite memory of my time at the Mount. In that moment, we were truly a team. In that moment, we were building friendships that will last our entire lives. I cannot explain the joy that filled my heart when we finished that mission and gazed at each other's faces, covered in mud and trying (unsuccessfully) to look tough. No matter where I go or what I do in life, I will never forget my time at the Mount spent running STX lanes with muddy faces.

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

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THE GRADUATE

Why Delone?

Katie Phelan
MSM Class of 2011

People wonder, I think, what's the point of going to a Catholic school? Why bother paying tuition for four years of high school to turn around and pay for four years of college? Isn't that a waste of money, especially considering that public high school is free? Well I believe that it's actually not wasteful at all.

I am a complete product of Catholic school. The only year of public school I attended was kindergarten. After that I attended Catholic grade school, Catholic high school, and a Catholic college. Now as a college graduate what am I doing? I'm teaching in a Catholic high school.

Given that I've chosen to not only chosen Catholic education for my own formation but have decided to serve Catholic education as an adult, I obviously think that Catholic schools have something to offer. I clearly think enough of my own educational experience to help make it possible for others. I think Catholic schools have a great deal to offer developing children and adolescents. But what exactly makes them so significant?

Well first of all, I think that Catholic schools have a unique opportunity to influence and affect who a student is. This is because Catholic schools are able to address God and his role in our life. This is a subject which public schools cannot touch because of separation of Church and state. The focus on the importance of this separation has seemed to grow over the last several years. The subject has graced headlines of newspapers over issues like the word "God" in our Pledge of Allegiance. Even a teacher saying, "take a moment of silent prayer" to remember a tragedy, like the death of a student or September 11th can result in a lawsuit.

But Catholic schools don't have this problem. As an institution they can freely mention God and so can their teachers. They can and do make God an integral part of a student's education, which it seems to me, is really what education is all about. An education isn't just about learning a series of facts and skills; it's about developing knowledgeable, moral, and respectful citizens. Education is about building character as much as it is about learning knowledge. And that is where Catholic schools excel. They can unite facts and morals to help form complete people. Because they are allowed to talk about morals and respect, they can present things like morality not in an abstract way, but as part of the religious foundation that Catholic schools build and promote. They can then give concrete examples as to why morality is important and what it means.

In today's world especially I think it's important for teens to have frequent conversations about morality. They frequently watch shows on MTV like "Jersey Shore" which promotes terrible behaviors without consequences. Characters on the show drink to excess, do drugs, and have sex constantly. You don't have to be Catholic to know that you don't want your child emulating one of these people on the show. You want your high schooler to learn responsibility and healthy living habits. Unfortunately their "entertainment" isn't teaching them that.

In order to fight against this behavior, adolescents need positive role models who are just as clear with their positive actions as the Jersey Shore cast is with their negative behavior. Students also need conversations about morality and how to live a fulfilling, healthy life. This is a topic which Catholic schools don't shy away from. They encourage students to take their moral actions seriously.

They engage students on moral and social issues that they will encounter through their entire lives like, abortion, euthanasia, genocide, racism, hate crimes, poverty, and more.

But a foundation in morality is not the only things students in a Catholic school are exposed to. They also get an education on scripture, Church teaching, and Church history. These things form the basis for the discussions on morality. They help set these students of a modern age into context. We, today, are only a tiny fraction of the people who have come before us. This of course is a message also delivered through history classes, but as any teacher knows, repetition is essential.

Lest you think that at Catholic schools we sit around and discuss morals all day, we follow a stringent curriculum. Catholic schools cover all the same main courses that public schools do—English, history, science, math, language, and technology, in addition to religion. However, they are free to focus on the methods which they have seen before their very eyes to be successful, instead of following things the state tells them are successful. A huge example of this is the idea of "teaching to the test". Many public schools get funding depending on how well their students perform on standardized tests. Poor test results mean little funding, so administrators put pressure on teachers for high scores, and teachers put that pressure on their students. There is a great emphasis on teaching to the test, or teaching the material that is guaranteed to get good test scores.

The problem with that is that it allows little time for spontaneous questions or diversions from the set material. Your students are asking to learn more information about a topic you've mentioned? They're curious for more? Too bad, it won't improve their test scores, so you can't devote time to it. Also, creative things like art or creative writing are often neglected because those skills can't be tested.

In Catholic schools none of this



is an issue because we don't get state funding anyway. We don't have to teach to the test. This means that when my freshmen asked to read some of Dante's Inferno in our poetry unit, we did. In fact we spent 2 weeks on it, and while we read and talked about it they were silent as mice. They also asked wonderful questions ranging from Dante's conception of hell to the theology behind it to history to even questioning why certain things were included. From what I could see they enjoyed the poem immensely, got a lot out of it, and they felt some ownership of the class because we did what they asked to do. If I was in a public school, there is not a chance that I would have been able to do that, and I believe that students are the ones to lose out.

In Catholic school we are able to have some flexibility to do what we know and see is best for the students as opposed to what lawmakers, who likely haven't ever taught a day in their life, tell us is best for student learning. If we don't get money from the state, then where does our money come from? Well it comes from tuition and fundraising. Some state money is provided for things like textbooks, but we largely support ourselves. This means that we operate with very little money. Many public school districts are swimming in funds. They have things they don't need, use, or really want laying around. But Catholic school teachers know how to stretch money and make wise purchases so that not

even a single cent is wasted. I think this is a great testament to teachers and administrators who are creative and resourceful and also a great lesson to students who learn that resources are not unlimited.

Catholic school teachers do not just go without limitless classroom budgets, they also take a cut in salary to work at a Catholic school. Salaries for Catholic school teachers are just 75% of what they would earn at a public school. To me, that says you're getting a force of teachers who are truly dedicated to what they do. They believe in the fact that morals and religion are emphasized to the students. Not all teachers at Delone are Catholic, and the students they teach aren't all Catholic either. But, the important part is that students and teachers alike are allowed to discuss what religion means to them in their life, how it has affected them, and just the fact that it exists. Catholic schools are not barred from mentioning a huge part of living; they can teach that life is not a free-for-all. We cannot live it as we please. We must respect others, love them, and make it part of our mission to help the underprivileged.

Are these lessons you want your adolescent to learn in school? Do you think morality and life attitudes are important? Then consider a Catholic education at Delone High School today.

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




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TIME IS ON MY SIDE

Baby talk

Jacqueline Fennington
MSM Class of 2010

Communication is one of life's most vital necessities. It is the bridge between two people in every marriage, the essence of a classroom and workplace. Authors communicate their imaginations through fictional stories. Politicians communicate their views and beliefs through campaign messages. A deaf child communicates through sign language. Animals communicate with actions. And the list goes on and on. The outlets of communication — books, music, television, conversation — and ways of communicating — language, body language, sign language, actions — are unlimited. The amazing part about communication is that we can understand each other through many different ways of communicating that do not even involve the most basic tool — speech.

Everyone knows it — the key to any good relationship is quality communication. In order for a relationship to work and grow, we must be able to communicate our thoughts with each other through words and/or actions. I do not know the science or studies behind communication and humans and animals learning it, but I do see it in my own experiences and relationships. Aside from my relationships that involve talking, watching a baby learn and develop from day one is the most amazing "study" I will ever experience.

It starts with crying. Babies cry when they want something because crying is the only way they know how to communicate. Then they progress to developing more body language and making sounds. Though Lucy does not say any words yet, I feel like I completely understand her and her desires. Luckily, she is pretty simple and sticks to the four main desires — food, sleep, bathroom and play. I may not be such a pro at understanding her when she adds more to the mix.

My in-laws always point out that Lucy never cries and if she does it's only for a brief second because I run to her rescue with a bottle, diaper or toy. It's not that I spoil Lucy and never let her cry, I just know that if she makes a little whimper she is trying to tell me something. "Ma, the bottle! Pronto!" is most likely what she would say if she could talk. She has a bit of sass to her.

Her sassiness also shines through with her body language when she gives you "the eyebrows" as we call it. I almost don't even know how to explain it because it's oh so different from the standard eyebrow raise. "The eyebrows" is when Lucy furrows her brow and looks at you as if you just said the most ridiculous thing she ever heard. She might even let out a little sigh as if to say, "That's just

preposterous." We could write an entire book about the funny expressions Lucy says with her eyebrows. Not only does that give you an idea of how animated Lucy is, but also alludes to how crazy her parents are. Yes, we literally just spend time watching Lucy's funny expressions and making up funny things we think she would say if she could talk.

Within the past month Lucy began talking her own language, which mainly includes sounds in a singsong tone and the occasional consonants like G, K, D and others. When Lucy wakes up in the morning she begins talking to her friends around her crib (Tigger, Pooh and the butterfly on the bumper pads). Through the baby monitor it sounds like she is having a full conversation with them. Though Lucy's crib talk is a nicer wake-up call than my alarm clock or the old days when she would wake up crying, I still can't press the snooze button to pause her conversation for just another 10 minutes before I'm ready to get up. Sometimes I wait a while to go into her room because she is happily talking away and I can take my time to get ready. But if a while has gone by and I don't go into her room we notice her voice gets louder as if she's calling us — "Mommmy? Daaaaaad? I'm



ready! Where are you guys?"

When speaking to a baby, we naturally talk in a higher pitch and tone because babies respond better to different pitches. Well, my little 5-month old Lucy picked up on this high-pitched baby talk and began mimicking us. One day I was sitting on the couch with Lucy and patting her back to help her burp after a bottle and she began talking in this high-pitched tone. I was amazed by her tone and kept wondering, "What is it Lucy?" It seemed like she was talking at something similar to how she talks to Tigger in her crib because it was conversation-like noise. I looked in the direction she was looking and saw that she actually was talking to one of her toys — a "talk and play" puppy that has a big smile on its face and labeled

body parts (hand, feet, etc.) for children to push and listen to the pup talk and sing. Lucy was adamantly trying to get the pup's attention with the same kind of voice we use when talking to her. It seemed like she was saying, "Do you want to come and play? Come on! Don't be shy!" She takes this tone of voice more often now and it sometimes feels like she is the adult speaking baby-talk to us.

The rapid pace that Lucy picks up on things makes me think twice about what I do and what I say. We change our ways when there is an infant around all the time to cater to her needs and try as best we can to communicate with her, but soon enough we will be changing our ways again to help her grow out of baby talk. Not everyone can communicate with babies. It is difficult to communicate with someone or something who does not speak the same language. This is a major barrier in communication. But I know that Lucy and I

communicate, as crazy as it sounds and as crazy as it makes me as a mother. I know and my friends know that I am a wacko mom. It was simply my destiny. Hopefully when Lucy is older I will not embarrass her too much!

Communication, in my opinion, is one of the most rewarding natures of humanity. It simply feels good to have a nice conversation with someone and it brings us closer. Communicating with my baby is one of the most rewarding communications I have ever experienced. When I do something right, she tells me with a giant grin on her face and a giggle to go along with it. Lucy's smile just makes my day! I can't imagine how happy she will make me when she actually talks. Hopefully I can avoid being the wacko mom who tells everyone the cutest thing her kid said today... every day.

To read more articles by Jackie Fennington, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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ARTS

Thespians present “Bessie Darling”

The Thurmont Thespians will stage a world premiere of a brand new musical play based on a true story that happened here in Frederick County in the early part of the 20th Century. “Bessie Darling”, written by Spence Watson with music by Barbara Watson, was a Baltimore-raised single mother who parlayed her musical abilities and her winning charm to become a successful business woman as owner of The Valley View Manor Summer Resort in Deerfield on the north slope of Catoclin Mountain, now part of the Catoclin Mountain Park. She was brutally murdered by a jealous ex-suitor, George Schultz of Baltimore, at her Deerfield hotel on Halloween morning of 1933, just before she planned to attend the Hagerstown Parade with Charles Wolfe, a widower from Foxville who had taken an interest in her that summer. The sole eye-witness to the murder was Mazie Willard, an 18 year old employee who was staying with Mrs. Darling at the time.

George Schultz then attempted suicide but was unsuccessful. He recovered and was put on trial for first degree murder the following March in Frederick District Court in downtown Frederick (now the

Frederick City Hall Building). He pleaded self-defense because Bessie also had a pistol but Miss Willard was the State’s star witness against him. He was convicted of second degree murder in an unusual one-day trial overseen by then Frederick District Chief Judge Hammond Urner. Bessie Darling was buried in Thurmont and her hotel property passed from her son Wesley eventually to the Department of Interior in 1934 to become part of the Catoclin Recreational Development Area, now known as Catoclin National Park.

The musical version of “Bessie Darling” begins with her hiring as an accompanist and personal secretary to the Conductor of the Baltimore Oratorio Society, Dr. Joseph Pache, who is portrayed by Spence Watson, the Sabillasville author. The role of Bessie Darling is being created by Lori Hockley of Gettysburg, PA and the role of Mazie Willard, her maid, will be played by Rosalyn Smaldone of Emmitsburg. The show is under the overall direction of Beth Royer Watson with Musical Direction provided by Anne Raugh of Frederick and Choreography by Jennifer Buchheister of Fairfield, PA.

The cast of “Bessie Darling” in-

cludes over thirty-five local volunteer actors and singers from the area playing various roles as the saga unfolds from 1914 to 1943. Supporting roles include Paul Smaldone as George Schultz, the murderer, Norman Gibat as Charles Wolfe, Anna Perry as Bertha Grosnickle, Bessie’s friend, Johnny McCracken as Charles Bowman, Mazie’s future husband, Emmet Kragger and Todd McQuinn play young Wesley Darling Jr. at ages 15 and 29. Steve Ross and Christine Kreitz play Bessie’s surprise hotel guests – President and Mrs. Hoover and Charles Long also makes a surprise appearance in the last scene of the play as Sir Winston Churchill in 1943 when the former Bessie Darling hotel was then being used as a training ground for Office of Strategic Services’ Special Agents before being inserted behind the German occupation lines during World War II.

“Bessie Darling” – the Musical will be presented over two weekends at the American Legion Auditorium at 8 Park Lane in Thurmont with a total of eight performances opening Thursday night, March 22 at 8PM and continuing through Friday and Saturday nights of both weekends. There will be two Sunday matinee



Rosalyn Smaldone of Emmitsburg plays young Mazie Willard, and Johnny McCracken, a MSM undergraduate plays her boyfriend in the Thurmont Thespians upcoming production of Bessie Darling.

performances on March 25 and April 1 at 2PM. All tickets are \$15.00 per person and early reservations are encouraged due to limited seating. There will be one dinner theatre performance on Saturday, March 31 starting at 6:30PM with food catered

by Cozy Restaurant for an additional @20 per person. Due to the adult content of the show, parental discretion is advised. Reservations and information about all “Bessie Darling” performances can be obtained from Mrs. Becky Urian at 301-271-7613.

Shakespeare Festival’s “Dead Man’s Mambo”

The Maryland Shakespeare Festival returns modern comedy theater to its Italian roots with a production in Frederick of “Dead Man’s Mambo.” A co-production with OMBELICO MASK ENSEMBLE, a Philadelphia-based theater company, the performance is a one-man show starring Maryland Shakespeare Festival Artistic Director John Bellomo. The show promises a fast-paced, raucous night of entertainment on two weekends, January 20-22 and January 27-29, at the Cultural Arts Center in downtown Frederick. Commedia dell’arte, a form of improvisational and physical comedy, was born in 16th century Italy and quickly became popular throughout Europe. The dialogue is highly improvised with an emphasis on comedy. Another stock element is the use of masks to represent the specific characters or nature of the characters. Commedia dell’arte influenced many important writers throughout history, among them Moliere and Shakespeare, both of whom employed many of the elements of the art form.

Mr. Bellomo studied Commedia dell’arte in Italy and has performed it throughout Europe and the United States. In addition to being an actor/director and artistic director of MSF, he is a co-artistic director of Ombelico Mask Theatre, which produces original ensemble-driven theatre that reveals the absurdity of


human behavior through Commedia dell’arte, building on tradition and reinventing Commedia for the modern audience.

“I studied Commedia dell’arte in Italy with Antonia Fava, an internationally renowned artist in the craft and realized how much this art form is part of modern theater,” Mr. Bellomo explained. “It is quite easy to see that Shakespeare’s original practices are not that different from Commedia dell’arte and to see its roots in modern comedy.”

“Dead Man’s Mambo” features Mr. Bellomo playing a stagehand who finds out that the acting troupe scheduled for the evening’s performance is stuck in traffic and ultimately will not make the opening curtain. While waiting for the troupe to show up he ends performing all 10 of the characters in the play, accompanied only by a mute musician. He juggles love, swords and scudi (Italian money) in this fast-paced Commedia clown show—500 years in the making. Part Commedia dell’arte, part clown, “Dead Man’s Mambo” is a unique mix of highly structured scenario, wildly improvised performance and live music with a nice dose of audience participation.

The production is written and conceived by Brendon Gawel, founder and co-artistic director of Ombelico Mask Ensemble, and Bellomo. For ticket information see ad below.

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Art you going to recycle that?

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

I am writing this article in the midst of the Mount's "Recyclemania," a campus-wide effort to recycle plastic, aluminum, paper, and glass in order to better our environment and prevent damage to it from the overwhelming number of trash that is wasted on even just a daily basis. Of course the typical call to action for all of us because of efforts like this one is to reduce, reuse, and recycle. This time, let's focus on reusing.

I was pleasantly surprised at the number of efforts there are to encourage recycling in the area. The Adams County Arts Council will be hosting its 17th Annual Recyclable Art Contest in April, which is open to students across the county, including all Adams County schools, home-schoolers, Scout troops and other student organizations for children in grades K-12. Participants are invited to turn trash into treasure as they transform bottles, paper, and aluminum into works of art.

The contest is coordinated by Ann Walsh and is sponsored by Just Jennifer Gallery, which is located at 33 York Street in Gettysburg. Cash prizes will be awarded for the masterpiece that wins "Best of Show" and also for each grade level of the competition. Entries will be on display at the council's Arts Education Center, located at 125 South Washington Street in Gettysburg. The exhibit will open with a First Friday reception on April 6th from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and it will close with the Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 21st at noon.

There will be an opportunity for the public to be involved with part of the jurying process, as everyone is invited to vote for the People's Choice Award during the exhibit hours, which are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guidelines about the contest can be found at adamsarts.org, or you could call the center at 717-334-5006. With this program, the Arts Council aims to cultivate an arts-rich community while raising awareness about recycling and the different ways that we can reuse materials to make beautiful works of art.

I'm sure you've all heard the saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." Well, this next organization is the epitome of that concept. The "Put A Lid On It" (PALOI) project is a creative project for the Quad-State region of West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Designed by David F. Heatwole and organized by The Arts Collaborative, the project has already gotten attention from as far away as California.

The project asks us a simple

question: what are you doing with your lids? As most Americans would agree, they are probably being thrown away. The lids on most bottles are made of a different type of plastic than most of the bottles themselves, and therefore cannot be recycled. Millions of lids are being dumped into landfills, and this project helps us think of ways to reuse these non-biodegradable items in a thoughtful and creative way.

So, in an effort to prevent wasting these lids and in an attempt to take a whole new approach to art, David Heatwole and The Arts Collaborative ask you to save your lids! Why, you ask? Because they can be used as the medium or "paint" for an art project. So how exactly can you use these lids as "paint?" Well, you can arrange the lids based on size, color, etc. to achieve different shapes and values, which ends up looking like a sort of mosaic. The projects are usually murals or a series of murals, all of which are made up of the lids.

As this project continues to grow, it is uniting people by making it a collaborative effort to utilize recycling and create masterpieces. The project has been an inspiration to many people by allowing us to do something positive for the environment, all the while "educating the community on the power of art and the imagination" and "creating works of beauty for the community in which we live," as stated on the program's website (<http://putalidonitproject.wordpress.com/>). The ultimate goal is to have the project become a national program.

For those of you who wish to be more involved in this process, you have a few options available to you. First, the most obvious, is to donate your lids! There is a drop off spot right here in our very own Frederick, MD. It is located at the Blue Elephant Arts Center, which

you can find at 4a West 5th Street. The phone number for the center is 301-663-7809. They will be taking lids only on the second Sunday of the month. Those "useless" lids that you would originally throw away could become part of a masterpiece, so why not donate them to a great cause such as this one?

Secondly, you could make a monetary donation to the project. The funds would go toward salvaging the lids and preventing the environment from the amount of waste the lids would create, and the funds would of course contribute to making beautiful works of art in our communities. More information about making a monetary donation can be found on the project's website.

Or, if you want a truly interactive way to be a part of this project, you could purchase your very own PALOI Masterpiece Art Kit. Heatwole explains that each kit is a "large mural project that is as simple as a paint-by-number to construct." The kits are wonderful for schools and communities to work together to create a colorful mural that is in the pattern of an artistic masterpiece. Some examples include A Field of Tulips in Holland by Claude Monet, The Walk, Woman with a Parasol by Claude Monet, Starry Night by Vincent VanGogh, The Basket of Apples by Paul Cézanne, A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte by Georges Seurat, and Woman in Front of a Mirror by Pablo Picasso. Projects can also be custom made for your specific interests and preferences, because there are thousands of paintings that could be used as an inspiration for a mural like these ones.

The murals come in four different sizes, but they can be made specifically to fit the location you have decided to dedicate to your mural. The four sizes include 8



feet by 16 feet, 12 feet by 32 feet, 16 feet by 40 feet, and 20 feet by 56 feet in both horizontal and vertical sizes.

This is a great low-cost, instructional, and fun art project for individuals or groups of any age. It unites the school or community while raising awareness and education about recycling. Through active participation and interaction, those involved can learn

about art and the environment as they make stunning artwork that makes a statement both visually and environmentally.

Heatwole expressed that he believes the arts can play a role in society like never before. He believes "the key to solving many of the man's ailments and ongoing problems are stored in the imaginations of the artisans." So think of this as a challenge. Make recyclable art. Save your lids. Do something to make a difference in the world while still being able to express your artistic nature in a way that you never have before. This project is a great lesson for all of us by encouraging us to think outside the box and outside the canvas.

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

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SPORTS

Spring sports preview

Megan Kinsella
MSM class of 2013

This month I thought I would provide you with a little preview of all the sports teams that will be representing the Mount this spring. Most teams began season action over spring break, the week of February 24 through March 3, and all have been training throughout the entire school year in preparation for a big year.

Men's and Women's Tennis

Both the men's and women's tennis teams opened spring play at Lehigh University on February 11, and will be traveling to sunny Florida to play Webber International and Bethune-Cookman on February 27 and 28. Last year, the men's team lost senior captains Andrew Marinucci and Patrick Plastow to graduation, but freshmen Adam Salam and Pat McGinley have immediately been impact freshman, breaking into the starting lineup from day one. The women's team also lost their two senior captains last year, number one singles player Emily Bloch and number five Emma Haley. Current senior Kelly Conroy commented, saying that "they were determined,

encouraging, and fun teammates." Also new to the team are assistant coaches Chelsea Johnson, a recent Mount graduate and member of the top-10 all-time wins list, and Bill Holloway. "Chelsea is great to hit with in practice and she is very positive when we are on the court," Conroy said. "She knows how to win tough matches and is helping us do the same!" The team's goal this year is to win a Northeast Conference championship, and with these fine new additions, that goal does not seem far out of reach. Home matches for the both the men's and women's teams include Niagara (March 16), Robert Morris (17th), Saint Francis (17th), Bucknell (20th), UMES (21st), George Mason (23rd), Delaware (April 10), Loyola (11th), and Morgan State (14th).

Softball

The women's softball team is also traveling to Florida for spring break, where they will play thirteen games to open their spring season. The women lost five key seniors last year: Amanda Hanson at starting pitcher, Nicole Reeder at starting catcher, Jenna Zimmerman in the field, and Beth Everist and Courtney Zingle, whose reliability at the



Junior Allie Fife faces off with her opponent as teammates Meg Conlon and Kaitlyn Larrimore look on.

plate will be greatly missed. Zingle, however, is taking graduate classes at the Mount and therefore is able to act as assistant coach for the women, who thrive under her advice and leadership. Despite their losses, the team still plans on coming up big in Conference play, especially with the help of eight new freshmen players. Junior third-base player Alexa Tuck commented on the new additions to the squad, saying that they "all seem more than ready to fill the shoes that were left for them." She continued, "We have two new pitchers (one left-handed) who are very skilled and continue to get better at each day of practice. We have three freshmen catchers that play like seniors. We have another third basemen and another outfielder. Also, the speed of freshmen Kendra Hayward on the bases is almost always a guaranteed run." Like every year before, the team's ultimate goal is to make it to and win the NEC tournament. "In order for us to do that, we must play all seven innings of every game to the fullest," said Tuck. "We need all players on the team to be supportive of one another and buy into what coach is trying to do, and we need to NOT take advantage of any game, be-

cause every single play counts." Home games for the softball game include Quinnipiac (March 24), Sacred Heart (25th), Robert Morris (April 15), Coppin State (18th), Long Island (22nd), Towson (25th), and Wagner (29th).

Baseball

Like tennis and baseball, the Mount Baseball team travels to Florida to play nine games to kick off their spring season. They also lost many seniors last year who will be greatly missed, but that leaves room for a new, fresh dynamic this year. Junior catcher Mark Quaranta said that "each year the team creates a new identity for itself, as seniors graduate, underclassmen become upperclassmen, and freshmen are brought in. It's always interesting to see how a team identifies itself." The team welcomes nine freshmen who will no doubt make major contributions and add to team identity and dynamic. The team's goal, as always, is to win the Conference Championship. "But that's everyone's goal," said Quaranta. "For us, we just need to take it one day at a time, one game at a time." The men will be hosting conference opponents Bryant, Wagner, Long Island, and Cen-

tral Connecticut State, each in four game series on the weekends of March 16, March 30, April 5, and May 10 respectively.

Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team is sticking closer to the Mount for spring break, traveling to Temple on March 25th and Columbia on the 29th. The women graduated three seniors last year, including two stellar captains: Aly Jost was a huge part of their defense, while Lucy Pompa and Alexis Salerno will be missed as starting midfielders. Five freshmen and one sophomore walk-on will be a big part of the team this year, and BJ Johnson is sure to make moves in her second year as the women's head coach, giving the women reliable leadership after having four different coaches in the last two years. The Mounties are last year's conference runner-ups, finishing the 2011 season with an over-all record of 8-11 and falling to Quinnipiac in the NEC championship game. With that being said, their goal for this season is simple: bring home the championship title. Home games include Iona (March 10), Longwood (12th), Virginia Tech (17th), Robert Morris (23rd), Saint Francis (25th), Bryant (April 5), and Central Connecticut (7th).

Men's Lacrosse

Last but certainly not least, the men's lacrosse team will open their season against Virginia at home on Tuesday, March 28. Last year's Northeast Conference champions and 2010 Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference champions, the men have once again been picked as conference favorites. Last year, the team graduated dominant goalie T.C. DiBartolo and key face-off player Ben Trapp, as well as several significant defenders. DiBartolo and Trapp have returned this year as assistant coaches, so their imperative input is still present. Junior standout attack player Andrew Scalley said that the team welcomed 15 new freshmen this year, all of whom are "looking to make a difference. But, at this point we are still young and have sophomores and juniors that are filling the shoes of graduates until the freshman get into the swing of things." Scalley also said the team's overall goal is quite obviously to win another conference championship, while at the same time setting minor goals as well. "We always approach the season with the mindset of winning the championship," he explained. "If we do this we set little goals along the way that will help motivate us towards our ultimate goal, such as being undefeated at home, winning the groundball battle, and having few turnovers." This season, the men host VMI (March 10), Drexel (17th), Quinnipiac (31st), Sacred Heart (April 21), and Maryland (25th).

Next month, I will highlight the Mount's golf and track & field teams, including one standout track & field freshman, whose performances thus far have been unrivaled. Enjoy the warm weather!



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MOUNT CREATIVE WRITERS

A rivet of love

Kelly Conroy
MSM Class of 2012

Part 2 of 3

Editor's Note: This story is continued from the last Emmitsburg News Journal. Sean and Arlene Stuart were just married in Belfast, Ireland. Arlene left to prepare their new life in America, joining an Uncle living in Emmitsburg; Sean is planning to join her in April after he finishes work on a ship.

Letter #1

Dear Arlene,

I got your uncle's address from your parents. Did you make it there yet? I have been thinking about you since the moment you left. I miss you so much already. I hope and pray that you made it there safely. Please let me know as soon as you can.

Do you know what a rivet is? I doubt that you do. Don't worry—I'm not going to give you a long lecture about shipbuilding and the sort—you'll see that rivets relate to us! Rivets are metal pins that are used for passing through holes in two or more plates or pieces to hold them together. Rivets have a head at one end and the other end is hammered into a head after insertion. We are using over 3 million rivets on the ship that I'm working on. I'm including a photo of the ship—which is nearly complete—and you can see the rivets on it.

I kind of think of our love as the rivets of our relationship. You know I'm not good about sharing my feelings, but I know that we can make it through this separation. We have a bond that just can't be broken. I am a good riveter for the ship and I want to be a good riveter in our marriage, too.

The ship really is amazing. Can you believe it has a swimming pool on board?? It also has cafes and squash courts, Turkish baths and barber-shops... Not to mention the three libraries! I can't wait until I'm on board and headed straight to you.

Yours (thank you for being mine),
Sean

Letter #2

Dear Sean,

After traveling on a cramped, smelly ship I landed in America. I ran into my uncle's arms when we finally docked. I know that you will have a much more comfortable sea voyage than I did—especially with the Turkish baths and everything!

We took a train that brought us right to the center of the town of Emmitsburg in the state of Maryland. It's not as close to the water as Belfast, but I think we will eventually like it here. Right now I just miss you and my family. I liked hearing about the rivets and you comparing our love to them. You're already being a good riveter in our marriage

and I know we can both be even better.

I overheard one of the locals singing a song about the town and caught part of the lyrics:

"Emmitsburg's a pretty place, not far from the mountain, Most of it's along one street, and in the Square's a fountain..."

That's pretty accurate. The town has a great mountain backdrop and miles and miles of beautiful fields. Can we climb the mountain and watch the sunrise together? Can we build our house so that we overlook the green fields and the mountain in the same view from our bedroom window?

The Spangler Hotel, Annan's Bank and General Store, and the Annan Brother's twin houses surround the town's fountain. The real center of town, though, is Peter Burket's Store, where all the gossip is shared. A couple of the men in town whistled when I first walked up to the store. I made sure to hold my hand (with my ring on my finger) up as I walked around. I heard some of them saying that they think my husband left me when I arrived in America... or you're a prominent doctor who stopped to visit patients on the way... I'll let them keep guessing!

I'm already starting to forget the long days that I would spend in the factory in Belfast. My uncle has arranged for me to take classes at St. Joseph's College and do some sewing work on the side. The townspeople seem to be separate from the college people... but I hope that I can be a part of both groups. There's a college here for men too—Mount St. Mary's—perhaps you would like to attend some classes? I know that we will want to get our house built and start farming but this place is a great opportunity to receive a higher education!

Much love (Of course I'm yours),
Arlene

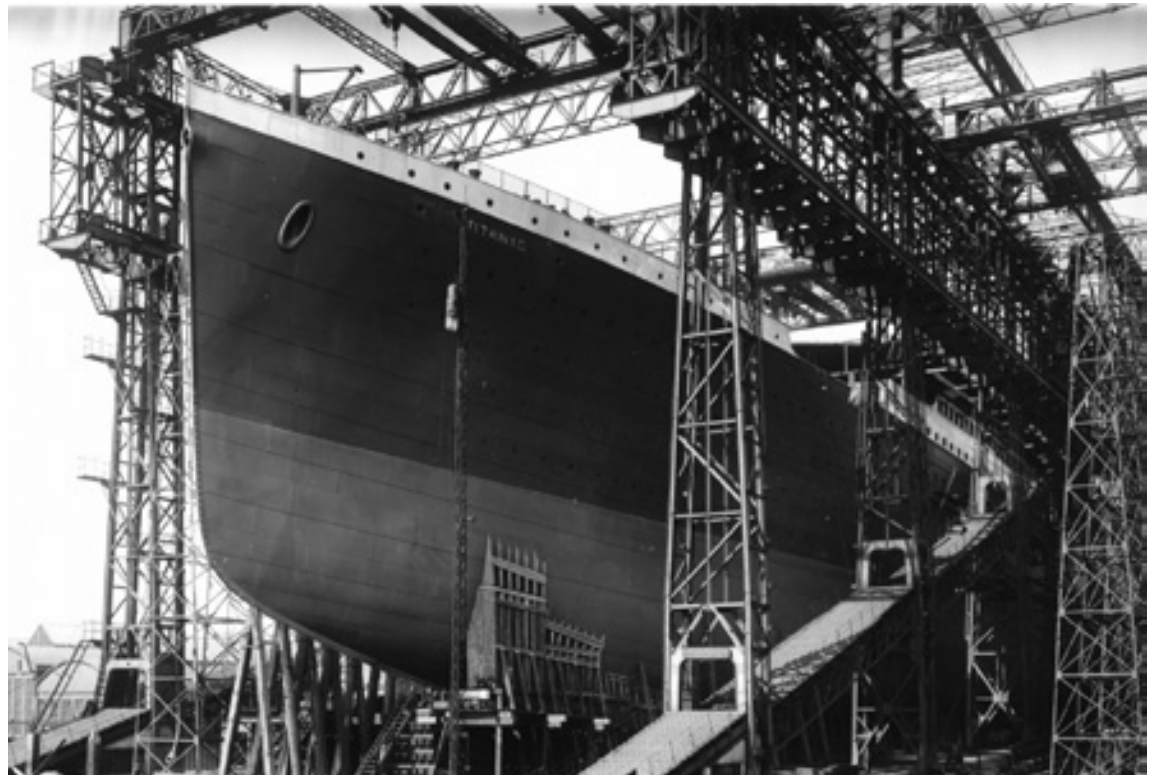
Letter #3

Dear Arlene,

I was so happy to get your letter! Emmitsburg sounds really great. The people must be nice if they welcomed you into school in the middle of the semester and if they are already supplying you with sewing work.

I wish I were already there. If you can remember back to the days when you were exhausted after factory work, that's the way I've been feeling after being at the ship-yard. I don't want to frighten you but I'm not feeling the best... I'm actually not feeling well at all.

I've had to take a break from my riveting work. I can't get out of bed all day. I need to try again soon, though. You know we spent most of our money on your trip. The only way I will be able to get on a ship anytime soon is if I finish my work on this ship. Remember I made a deal with the foreman that I'd get a ride on the ship if I



did a certain amount of riveting work? I still need to do a lot more if he's going to let me on...

The riveting work is really taxing on my body because you have to heat the rivets to the perfect temperature and hammer them in—they can be pretty tricky. My riveting crew is also really suffering without me there, since there are few guys who really know how to do riveting. I've been telling the crew that we should use the highest quality rivets because that would make the ship more sound (and our work easier) but we are only using the No. 4 steel rivets for the ship's central hull. They're sticking with lower quality No. 3 iron rivets for the stern and bow. I know that doesn't make sense to you, but I just can't understand what they are cutting corners on such an important item when they are spending so much on making the interior so lavish.

As I lay in bed, I think about what a sensible and beautiful girl you are. I don't know if I've ever told you that. There are a lot of things I haven't told you. I loved you that day when you came to the ship-yard and you tripped and fell and smiled as water poured over you. You're always getting the boys to whistle at you. I yelled at the guy who whistled at you at the ship-yard to back off of my girl after you left. You were so radiant when you asked me to marry you. What a clever girl to rely on an old folklore to get a husband! I was going to ask you soon anyway.

Arlene, you should read Chapter 6 of the Book of Tobit in the Bible. It is a good story about how to approach a relationship without fear. I'm fearful right now because I don't know when I'll ever see you again, but God gave Tobias the ability to get rid of his fear.

Take care, my love. Yours,
Sean

Letter #4

My dear Sean!

I've been so upset thinking about you sick back in Belfast! I should have stayed with you. I know that you must be really bad if you're not going to work. This is miserable wondering about you all day and not being able to do anything.

I sure hope that our friends are looking after you. Please ask people to help

you and don't do everything on your own. I've actually been sick here too. I feel queasy in the mornings and I have had to take lighter work loads.

I did read the Book of Tobit—I know everything will work out somehow. I really hope that you can make it on the ship you're helping build. Did they name it yet? I feel desperate here without you but if it doesn't work we will earn money and find another way. "The course of true love never did run smooth..." (Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream).

Yours,
Arlene

Letter #5

Arlene,

I have to write this note quickly. There is not much time. I have been working on my ship again, but still not that much. They decided to name her the Titanic! Titans were powerful gods in Greek mythology and the Titanic is the largest ship in the world!

Now for the big surprise: I was awarded a spot on the Titanic as part of the crew to repair anything that might go wrong on her maiden voyage to America. I worry about the rivets, but they claim she is unsinkable.

It's almost time to see you, we sail in 7 days, so by the time you get this note I will be on my way. I can't wait to see you, America, and Emmitsburg, the community we will call home until we are old and gray.

Yours,
Sean

Arlene pushed back her dark brown hair and a couple tears dripped from her eyes onto the last note from Sean. Her husband was coming! Now she had to get ready for him. No, she would do more than that, she determined. She would go meet him in New York City and surprise him on the pier when the giant ship Titanic pulled into port!

... To be continued in the next issue of the Emmitsburg News-Journal.

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SIMPLE SERVINGS

Full Irish breakfast

Sharon Racine

9:00 a.m., March seventeenth, two thousand and nine. I hopped out of bed, slipped into my jeans and green t-shirt, and sauntered into the kitchen to greet the day. This was no ordinary day. No, this day was St. Patrick's Day, and not only was I in St. Patrick's motherland to celebrate (Galway, to be exact), but the sun was out and the mercury was at a steady sixty-five degrees, both rarities in the great Emerald Isle. It's worth mentioning that St. Patrick's day is a bank holiday in Ireland which means no classes, which means one thing to the Irish: find your nearest friends, and drink.

This St. Patty's day was no exception. With the help of our wonderful Irish friends, myself and some of my fellow study abroad-ers concocted a traditional Irish breakfast to prep for the day's upcoming festivities. The Irish kids prepped the rashers and beans, eggs, white and black puddings and boiled potatoes, and we Americans threw in a few pancakes to mix it up a bit. We all got a true taste of Ireland that morning, and I still don't know how I feel about black pudding (see definition below); needless to say, I washed it down with a lot of beer.

With full bellies, we proceeded into town to join the rest of the NUI Galway student population at the Claddagh (Irish for stony beach), a beautiful open area near the center of Galway where the Corrib River meets the Galway Bay. On any other day of the year the Claddagh is a calm, grassy oasis with striking water views on the edge of the busy city. On St. Patrick's day, however, every inch of grass was covered with blankets and students, standing, sitting, stumbling or laying, quite literally drinking in the beautiful day. Music was playing, friends were all around, and everyone was simply reveling in this rare period of solid camaraderie.

My favorite moment of the day was joining the scores of students lining the edges of the Corrib River. It was low tide, so the stone walls rose high above the water and we all dangled our feet over the edge of the drop. The famous Old Long Walk of Steve Earle's "Galway Girl" stretched to the left, Galway City rose to the right, and the Corrib River flowed directly below; it was a unique experience, and I felt lucky to be a true part of Galway at that moment, surrounded by my American and Irish friends.

Full Irish Breakfast
Recipe and definitions adapted



from MrBreakfast.com

- 4 Irish sausages (also known as bangers)
- 4 slices of Irish bacon (rashers)
- 1 8-ounce tube of black pudding
- 1 8-ounce tube of white pudding
- 4 large eggs
- 4 small tomatoes - cut into quarters
- 4 boiled potatoes - cooled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 can of Irish beans
- Grated Dubliner cheese
- Irish brown bread

Definitions

Irish sausages are usually made from pork or a combination of pork and beef and are larger than traditional American breakfast sausages. The term banger refers to a sausage's tendency to burst or explode out if its skin while cooking.

In Ireland, slices of bacon are referred to as rashers, and are similar to a fattier version of Canadian bacon. Irish bacon is often made

from the back meat of a pig and is cooked with a ham steak methodology: it's considered done when it's fully cooked through and browned.

Black pudding (sometimes called blood pudding) is a soft-textured sausage made from the cooked and congealed blood of pigs or cattle mixed with fillers like pork, beef, fat, oatmeal, bread, potato or barley.

White pudding is basically black pudding without blood. As part of a traditional Irish breakfast, both black and white puddings are usually sliced and then grilled or fried.

Irish beans are similar to American baked beans, but are less sweet due to the lack of brown sugar included in most American baked beans.

Instructions

Preheat oven to 250 degrees.

In a large frying pan over medium heat, melt about 2 Tbsp of butter.

Fry Irish bacon until cooked

through and browned, just short of crispy. Remove from pan, place on stacked paper towels to remove excess fat. Transfer to two heat-resistant serving plates. Place in oven to keep warm.

Place the Irish sausages in the frying pan and cook until done and nicely browned. Transfer to oven to keep warm.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, warm the baked beans.

Slice the puddings to desired thickness and begin frying in the frying pan. Add the potatoes. After a couple minutes, add the tomatoes. Continue to cook and flip until all ingredients are nicely browned. Transfer to the serving plates in the oven.

Finally, fry the eggs to your liking. Top with grated Dubliner cheese if desired and season to taste.

Remove plates from oven. Transfer the eggs to the plate along with a generous scoop of baked beans.

Serve immediately with Irish brown bread. Wash down with breakfast beer of choice.



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LIBRARY

Celtic time

Stephanie Long
Emmitsburg Public Library

We're feeling a wee bit Irish, mysterious and hungry here at the library

March has always been one of my favorite months for two reasons- St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner and Spring is that much closer. While I might only be one-third Irish, I have always loved celebrating St. Patrick's day and all the fun that accompanies it in the form of green food and Celtic music. Here at the Emmitsburg Library we enjoy celebrating St. Patrick's Day as well and are once again hosting our annual Celtic Fest at Mount St. Mary's University.

This year we will be featuring the high-energy musical group, The Rogues. Hosted by the Thurmont Regional and Emmitsburg Branch libraries, the free concert

will be held Thursday, March 8 at 7 pm. The Rogues delight audiences around the world with their signature rock-folk-classical Celtic sound and now, just in time for St. Patrick's Day, they'll be appearing at the Marion Burk Knott Auditorium on the Mount campus. There's plenty of free parking and tickets are not required. All ages are welcome! This event is underwritten in its entirety by the C. Burr Artz Trust and is co-sponsored by the Thurmont and Emmitsburg libraries.

For those of you who are looking for something a wee less Irish, join us on March 10 for our annual BookFest, a day of celebrating mysterious books. This year's theme, Where Spies and Mysteries Lie, is sure to be a hit with everyone in your family. Centered around all things mysterious, the day is full of activities everyone in



the family can enjoy.

All day long we will have I Spy activities set up around the library for everyone to enjoy. From I Spy posters to I Spy jars, these self-paced activities are sure to bring out the sleuth in anyone.

At 10:30 AM all children ages 7 to 12 with an adult are invited to participate in our Become a Junior Secret Service Agent program. If you think you have what it takes to be a Junior Secret Service Agent come join a Ranger from the Eisenhower National Historic Site for this special program and learn about the skills needed to be a Secret Service Agent. Registration is required for this program, so don't forget to give us a call or register online by March 7.

At 1 PM a very special and mysterious guest will be visiting the library, so stop on by to visit with our mystery guest and have your picture taken with him/her. And why not stay after your visit with our mystery guest for our 2:30 PM program, I Spy Clue Kits, where you will be able to create your own mini spy kit to take home, ensuring that the fun and intrigue will never end.

If Celtic music and mysteries are not your thing, fear not for we aim to please. Perhaps you're feeling a bit hungry? That's right, on March 23 the much anticipated movie, "The Hunger Games", based on "The Hunger Games" young adult book trilogy, is set to hit the big screens and I am set to prepare all of you

tributes to partake in this event. You've read the books, you know all the facts and the story, but could you survive The Games? Join me, dear tributes, as I train you to survive The games and test your skills and knowledge to the end. "May the odds be ever in your favor."

We hope to see you all at the Library in March, where things are sure to be a wee bit Irish, mysterious and hungry. For more information on all of the programs offered at the Emmitsburg Library and to register for library programs, visit fcpl.org or call the library at 301-600-6329. If you have any questions about the above mentioned programs or any other questions, please contact me at stlong@frederickcountymd.gov.



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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Chinese medicine's view on Sugar

Renee Lehman

This is the 2nd of 3 articles discussing sugar usage in America. Last month's article dealt with the amount of sugar that Americans consume and its effects on the body. Next month's article will deal with hidden sugar in foods, and alternative sweeteners. This month deals with Traditional Chinese Medicine's view of sweets. To understand this viewpoint, one must understand the Five Elements (Water, Wood, Fire, Earth, and Metal).

Review of the Five Elements

These Elements or energies are felt to be the prime energetic building blocks from which everything in the material world is composed. So, every living thing and every person is a unique embodiment and combination of these Five Elements. Therefore, when it comes to our health, if all Five Elements are in balance within us, then we are at a state of optimal health/wellness. Each element has associations that correspond with them (the organs and a taste, just to name two).

The Five Tastes

The five tastes are spicy, salty, sour, bitter, and sweet, and can be used to predict the effects they will have on the body. For example, Spicy will have a warming action (onion and cayenne pepper), and will affect the Lung and Large Intestines; Salty will have a cooling action and hold fluids in the body (kelp and soy sauce), and



will affect the Kidneys and Bladder; Sour will have a cooling action (grapefruit and olives), and affect the Liver and Gallbladder; Bitter will tend to drain heat and cool (rhubarb and bitter greens), and affect the Heart and Small Intestines; and Sweet will be nourishing or warm and nourishing (meat, legumes, nuts, and dairy products) or can have a cooling action (fruits, sugar, honey and other sweeteners), and affect the Spleen and Stomach. Finally, many foods belong to more than one of the five tastes, for example, cheese can be viewed as being both sour and sweet.

The Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) viewpoint of "balanced eating" is a diet which includes all of the five tastes. A bal-

anced "taste" in your diet will be helpful for the organ functioning on a body/mind/spirit level. If a "taste" is craved, or consumed too often, then the opposite effect will happen – there will be a weakening effect of the organ functioning on a body/mind/spirit level. A great example of this is seen with the over-consumption of the sweet taste. Too much ingestion of "sweet" will weaken the digestive system. In ancient Chinese medicine texts, the taste of sweet was associated with whole foods like rice, grains, dates, and fruits. Today, the sweet taste is also associated with various sweeteners.

Actions of the Sweet Taste (TCM vs. Western viewpoint)

According to TCM, the sweet taste:

1. Enters the Spleen/Pancreas and Stomach, vs. in the Western viewpoint, sugar activates insulin production by the Pancreas.
2. Causes energy to rise and

disperse (warm), vs. in the Western viewpoint, sugar dilates blood vessels, causing the blood to move to the periphery of the body.

3. Harmonizes the body, vs. in the Western viewpoint, balanced blood sugar levels maximize tryptophan (an amino acid) to the brain which will decrease insomnia, depression, and pain.
4. Removes coldness and nourishes the body, vs. in the Western viewpoint, sugar metabolism promotes warmth, and is fuel for the bodily functions.
5. Lubricates dryness in the mouth, throat, and lungs, vs. in the Western viewpoint, the most effective cough syrups/drops, and throat lozenges are traditionally made in a sweet base.
6. In excess it makes the bones ache, vs. in the Western viewpoint, excess sweet food slows down calcium metabolism and causes bone loss and arthritis.
7. In excess it makes head hair fall out, in the Western viewpoint, excess sweet food acidifies the blood, and depletes the body of minerals – which can cause hair and other problems.

(Pitchford, P., Healing with Whole Foods, 2002)

What is the difference between the two viewpoints? If you said nothing, you are correct! It is just explained using different terminology. So, how can the sweet taste be used?

Sources and Uses of Sweet

The best source of the sweet taste in a person's diet is whole foods, especially vegetables, fruits, grains, and legumes. For

example, apples, bamboo shoots, tofu, beets, cabbage (savoy), carrots, celery, cherries, cinnamon, coconut, corn, cucumbers, dates, figs, grapes, grapefruit, honey, kidney beans, lettuce, mango, mung beans, papaya, peaches, peanuts, pears, pumpkin, rice, squash, strawberries, string beans, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, walnuts, and watermelon are all good sources of the sweet taste. If you begin to eat these whole foods, your "cravings" for something really sweet will gradually fade. Also, if craving for sweets occur, try eating something sour, or spicy to decrease the craving.


The sweet taste can be used to warm and nourish an individual who is "cold" or "deficient", and someone who is nervous, thin, weak, or scattered. However, a sluggish, overweight person, or an individual with bloating, regular sinus drainage/phlegm, who easily retains fluids should consume the sweet taste sparingly (Pitchford, P., Healing with Whole Foods, 2002).

Balanced Eating:

In an effort to eat in a more balanced way, consider some of the following recommendations:

1. Eat whole foods (whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and unprocessed foods).
2. Reduce the intake of sugar (including juices, soda, sweets, and ingredients such as glucose, sucrose, and high fructose corn syrup).
3. Eat more fiber (will happen if you eat a plant based and whole food diet).
4. Eat foods of all colors (red, yellow, white, blue, and green).
5. Drink room temperature water when you are thirsty. Drink warm tea after meals.
6. Eat until you are 70% full to place less stress on your digestive system.
7. Eat slowly and mindfully. The digestive system doesn't like to be "rushed."
8. Chew food thoroughly (much of digestion starts in the mouth).
9. Eat the larger meals of the day in the morning or at lunchtime. Avoid eating late, or 2 hours before bedtime.
10. Eat all foods in moderation (keep some variety in your meals – if you notice eating a certain food or a certain taste more often, try something different). The key to healthy nutrition is to maintain a balanced diet.

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.




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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Fitness Matters

Inga Olsen
Anytime Fitness
Personal Trainer

Question: I'd love to run a 5K with some friends this spring, but I am not active at all right now. How should I go about training for something like this?
Answer: This is a great question! There are actually several plans on the internet that can take you from the couch to the 5K course in as little as 8-10 weeks. In fact, you can even use one of these plans if you have no intention of running a 5K, but simply want to start incorporating

fitness (running) into your lifestyle. Most of the plans start with combination walk/jog/walk session, 3 days per week, steadily increasing the actual jog time from just 2 or 3 minutes to about 10 minutes by weeks 4 or 5. At this point, you also start to add an extra day of training, totaling 4 sessions each week. As you continue to increase your jog time, you gradually remove the walking warm-up, thereby finishing each workout with just a basic walking cool-down. By the time you get to 10 weeks, you should be able to run consistently for 25-30 minutes

without stopping. Not bad for a former couch potato, huh? Do a Google search for couch-to-5K training programs, or check out www.halhigdon.com for more information. Good luck!

Question: I'm looking to add some serious muscle mass, and I'm curious about the engineered weight gainers out on the market? In other words, do you think weight gainers should be used to gain weight?

Answer: Weight gainer supplements can have a place when it comes to adding muscle, but

here's my general philosophy on the matter. First of all, we know calories are of prime importance if gaining weight is the goal. We also know that some people simply can't eat enough to gain the type of weight that they'd like to. This means that liquid calories become pretty important because liquids obviously aren't quite as filling as solid foods. But my personal preference would be to create my own weight gainer smoothies with real foods, like fruits, yogurt, protein powders, oats, milk, and even things like peanut butter, frozen yogurt, and a little bit of chocolate. Then, you can combine these "beverages" with some hearty meals, and you'll be on your way to a bigger you in no time. If

you've found a particular weight gainer supplement that you happen to like, and you can afford it, then you can certainly go that route too. I just happen to be a "food first" kind of guy, and I've always found my smoothies and shakes more palatable than what is on the market. In the end, do what you think is best, and don't forget to train for weight gain as well.

About the author: Inga Olsen is the Club Manager and NSPA Certified Conditioning Specialist and Nutrition and Weight Management Specialist at Anytime Fitness in Thurmont. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com.

Benefits of having a personal trainer

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Many people don't realize what a Personal Trainer does. Hopefully this article will answer some of your questions like: What weight should I start with? What exercise will help me reach my goal? Should I eat before or after my workout? By having a trainer, you have the confidence of knowing that you are doing the best workout for you.

People think having a trainer is expensive. Depending on the area you live and the program you choose, trainers can actually be less expensive than paying those advance fees at the gym and then never going to use it. With a trainer, the program is designed especially for you. Your program is made to fit your goals and ability. Your weights are set up for you. The trainer demonstrates each exercise and refreshes your memory each time. Your form, reps and weights are monitored and increased as your strength and ability allows. There is no guess work on your part.

Working with a trainer also means no waiting on machines. Being able to move from one exercise to the next, without a long break waiting for others to get finished with the machines, giving you an aerobic workout right along with your lifting program. Having a scheduled appointment helps you keep your exercise commitment.

When you go to a gym, an instructor, not a certified trainer, may show you how to use the equipment the first time but then you are on your own. The next time you go, hopefully you will remember how to use the machines. You may not be sure when it is time to increase the weight you are using and if you push yourself too fast, that's when injuries occur.

If you've been thinking about starting an exercise program, remember the benefits a trainer can add: personalized program just for you, guidance for proper form to prevent injury, confidence of knowing your progression is monitored and advanced properly, support for questions, a scheduled appointment for motivation, no advance fees or contract for a long period of time, personal attention for your needs and other benefits you can only get by working with a trainer.

Winter is a hard time to get motivated to do anything. It gets dark early in the evening and it is dark

when you wake up. Having an appointment and working with a trained person may just give you that extra push you need to get started. We get more exercise in the summer just by doing the outside chores like mowing the grass and weeding the flower beds or taking care of the necessary things around the house. We are even more motivated to go for a walk because it is warm outside during the summer evenings. It stays light longer and therefore the evenings are a great time to walk with a friend or by yourself to release the stress of the day.

Many of my clients tell me they wouldn't stick to an exercise program without the appointment and how much better they feel after their workout, both mentally as well as physically. Let a trainer guide you to better health for yourself and your family. Give me a call and let's get started on your healthier future.

For further information or any questions please call 717-334-6009. Remember, Keep Moving!!

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of March

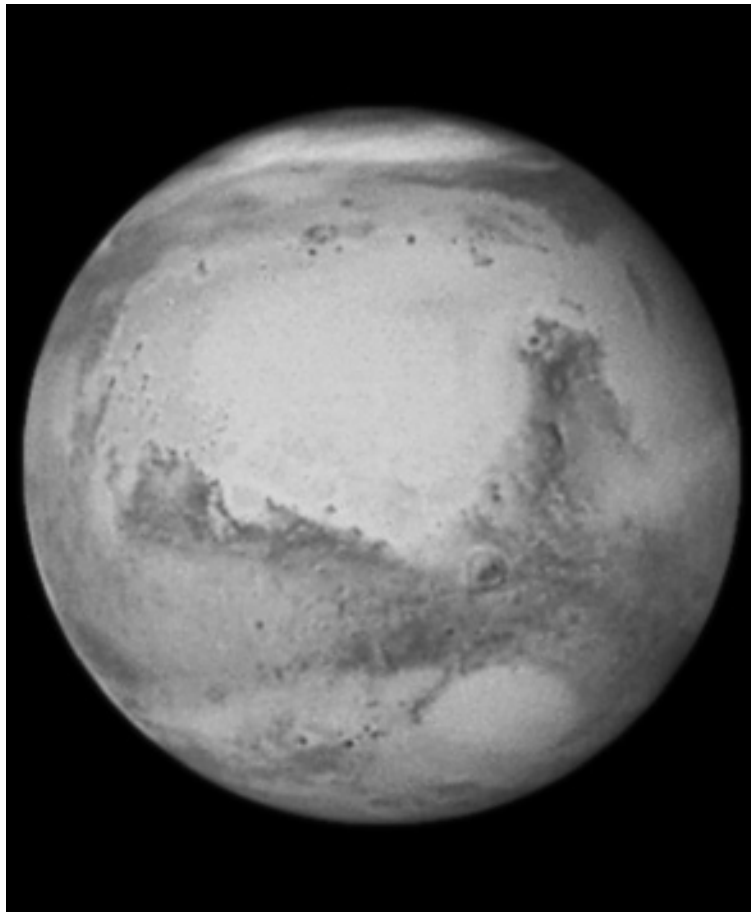
Professor Wayne Woten

For March 2012, the Moon will be first quarter on March first, rising about noon and high overhead at dusk. The full moon, the Grass Moon, will pass nine degrees south of bright Mars on March 7th; Mars came to opposition on March 3rd, so will be a bright red object near the moon and get a lot of attention that evening. We will spring forward to CDT on Sunday morning, March 11th, the same morning the waning crescent moon passes six degrees south of Saturn in the dawn sky. The moon is last quarter on March 15th.

The Vernal Equinox has spring beginning on March 20th at 12:13 AM CDT, as the sun crossed the equator heading north. The moon is new on March 22nd. It passes three degrees north of Jupiter in SW on March 25th, then passes about two degrees north of brighter Venus on March 26th. This would be a great time to use the crescent moon in the afternoon sky to help you find Venus in broad daylight. About 5 PM on March 26th, look for Venus to the lower right of the crescent moon. The moon returns to first quarter phase on March 30th. This complete phase cycle is called the synodic month, and takes about 29.5 days; it is the basis of our modern month in the early lunar calendars of the Romans, Jews, and Muslims.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about March 1st visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for the new month; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map.

It is a great month to be observing the planets. Mercury makes a brief appearance in the evening sky as the month begins in the SW, reaching greatest eastern elongation about March 5th, but then retrogrades quickly back between the earth and Sun by midmonth. But brilliant Venus finally overtakes



Mars – taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, Dec 17, 2007

much slower moving and more distant Jupiter in the western sky on March 13th, with Venus passing three degrees north of Jupiter in the evening twilight. Venus is overtaking Earth as well, and reaches greatest eastern elongation, when she will appear exactly half lit to earth based telescopes, on March 27th. But by then, Jupiter will be getting lower in the SW each evening, to disappear in the Sun's glare in April.

But the real planetary treat is in the east, as we overtake Mars and it comes to opposition, rising in the east at sunset in Leo on March 3rd. At that closest approach to earth, Mars shines bright red at mag. -1.4, almost as bright as Sirius the brightest star, in the SW now. Its disk is 14" of arc across, and scopes 6" or larger at high magnification may spot its north polar cap, shrinking in the martain spring, as well as some dark markings in its red deserts. Mars's orbit is elliptical, and we were unusually close to Mars back in August 2003, when Mars was almost twice as close and large as it will get this March, but still worth checking out with big scopes.

Remember the nice Full Moon grouping with it on March 7-8.

Finally, Saturn is still in the morning sky in Virgo, but will come to opposition in the evening sky on April 15th, so those who stay up late can observe it rising in the east about 9 PM in mid March, and about 8 PM at the end of the month. In fact, by March 30th, you can spot Jupiter low in the SW, Venus shining brightly about 15 degrees above it, then Mars well up in the NE in Leo, and Saturn rising in the east around 8:30 PM. Only Mercury, now moving into the dawn sky, will be missing from our March Planetary Parade.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. South of Cassiopeia is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. At Per-

seus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky in the northwest. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini; it is directly above us as darkness falls in early March. The star names are associated 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 southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope.

In the east are 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 as darkness falls. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida. Compare its brightness about March 3rd to Mars, coming to opposition; does Mars ever appear as bright to you as Sirius does? When Mars was at opposition in August 2003, it was much closer, and was for a few weeks about five times brighter than Sirius, almost as bright as Jupiter

appears!

When Sirius is highest, along our southern horizon look for the second brightest star, Canopus, getting just above the horizon and sparkling like an exquisite diamond as the turbulent winter air twists and turns this shaft of starlight, after a trip of about 200 years!

To the northeast, look for the bowl of the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Look for Mizar-Alcor, a nice naked eye double star, in the bend of the big dipper's handle, rising by 7 PM at the start of March. If you take the pointers of the Big Dipper's bowl to the south, you are guided instead to the head of Leo the Lion rising in the east, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star".

If you follow the handle of the Big Dipper to the south, by 9 PM you will be able to "arc to Arcturus", the brightest star of Spring and distinctly orange in color. Its color is an indication of its uniqueness. Its large speed and direction through the Milky Way suggests it was not formed with our Galaxy, but is a recent capture from the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a smaller satellite galaxy now being assimilated by our huge spiral galaxy. Many of its lost stars, like Arcturus, follow a band across the sky at about a 70 degree angle to our galactic plane. Arcturus is at the tail of kite shaped Bootes, the celestial bear driver chasing the two bears from his flocks.

By 9 PM, many more galaxies will be following as the Virgo Supercluster, just above Saturn now, rises in the east. This huge cluster of over a thousand galaxies is centered about 60 million light years away. The brightest star of Virgo, Spica, lies just east of the center of the cluster, and its rise just after sunset marks the time of year for spring planting in folklore. Time to get your peas in the ground....

March goes out like a lamb, not just from Easter tradition, but because Aries the Ram is setting in the west by the end of March. Many of our sayings and traditions have astronomical origins.

To read past articles visit the astronomy section of emmistburg.net.

Almanac

Mid-atlantic Weather Watch: Fair and cold (1,2) with light snow or rain (3,4); fair and cold (5,6,7) with heavy snows, rain along the coast (8,9,10). Windy, colder with flurries in the northern part of the region (11,12,13), remaining windy and cold, flurries in the north (14,15); cloudy and cool (16,17,18,19,20) turning windy and colder with some flurries in the north (21,22,23,24). Cloudy in the north 25,26) with

showers in the south. Fair and cool (27,28,29) with more windy and cool weather in the north and STORMS in the south (30,31)

Full Moon: March's Full Moon will rise March 8th at 4:39 AM EST. Many Native American Tribes called it Worm Moon because March's warmer temperatures often softened the earth just enough to allow earthworms to begin burrowing out of the ground. It also has been known as SAP MOON because the sap would start to rise and run at this time throughout the region.

Special Notes: The Vernal Equinox will occur on Tuesday, March 20th and signals the arrival of Spring (finally!). Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead when Daylight Savings starts on Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 AM EST. Take advantage of the high winds during March (throughout the month, as The Almanac predicts!) and "go fly a kite" with a child. Nothing is more exhilarating except maybe flying itself!

The Garden: Get the rake out and start clearing away old grass and debris from the lawn (that is, if the

temperatures have warmed up and the snow has all gone!). Apply a pre-emergent fertilizer to the lawn during the month for healthier grass and there will fewer weeds to contend with later on in the Summer. Seed any bare spots when the soil warms up. Begin removing protective mulch from around rose bushes. Don't feed azaleas or rhododendrons until after they bloom. Then, give them a fertilizer that is specially formulated for plants that prefer acid soil. And don't forget to throw old coffee grounds around the base of these blooming beauties!

As soon as your compost pile thaws, begin to turn it with a fork as best you can. Start slow-growing and cool season seeds such as onions, leeks, parsley, celery, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, eggplant and peppers. Remember to plant peas around St. Patrick's Day (March 17th). Transplant and fertilize sprouting seedlings after a light rain when the ground is much easier to till. For plants that need protection from heat and wind, plan your planting on a cloudy day or late in the afternoon.

COMPUTER Q&A

Computer cleanup – why it is necessary

**Aysë Stenabaugh,
The Computer Tutor**

Many times computers will lock up, bog down, or just plain don't work right. Some people assume that they need a new computer without ever considering regular maintenance. We recommend a clean up once a year. At Jester's Computer Services we offer a clean-up special twice a year (spring & fall), to promote the importance of computer maintenance. Below is a list of what we do in a cleanup and why we do it to keep your computer running optimally.

What is a computer virus?

A computer virus is a computer program that can copy itself and infect a computer. The term "virus" is also commonly but erroneously used to refer to other types of malware, adware, and spyware programs that do not have the reproductive ability. A true virus can only spread from one computer to another (in some form of executable code) when its host is taken to the target computer; for instance because a user sent it over a network, on the Internet, or carried it on a removable medium such as a CD, or USB drive.

Adware, Spyware, and Virus removal

Even if you are running an antivirus program, most computers that come into our shop have several viruses. Your antivirus may be doing a good job, but programs that you legitimately install may have bad software bundled along with it. Your antivirus will not stop you from installing software that you agree to install. Also, you may be running antivirus but it may not have protection against adware, spyware, or the worst of all: Root kits. Leaving viruses and other bad software on your system can be extremely dangerous.

Viruses left on computers have the possibility of:

- Using up valuable system resources causing your computer to slow significantly.
- Logging your keystrokes and passwords.
- Taking over your system and sending out spam.
- Causing system crashes and blue screens.
- Erasing all personal and system data leaving the hard drive blank.
- Wiping out your desktop icons.
- Corrupting the operating system.

What about all those temporary files?

Programs create temporary files primarily for backup purposes. Many programs, such as those included with Microsoft Office, will save a temporary version of a file every few minutes while the original file is open. Then if you have not saved the file and the program unexpectedly crashes or the computer shuts down, there will be a temporary file that was recently saved. Temp files are typically deleted automatically when the program is closed normally, but if the program quits unexpectedly, the temp files are not deleted.

Remove all internet temporary file

Over time surfing the internet causes an accumulation of temporary internet files. While your web browser has the ability to clean out these files, it doesn't do a very good job of getting all temporary files.

Cleaning you're your temporary internet files can

- Save space on your hard drive.
- Help ensure you are viewing the most recent version of websites.

I didn't install that!

Many programs are designed to start automatically when Windows starts. Software manufacturers often set their programs to open in the background, where you can't see them running, so they'll open right away when you click their icons. That's helpful for programs you use a lot, but for programs you rarely or never use, this wastes precious memory and slows down the time it takes Windows to finish booting up.

Turn off programs that run in the background

You may notice that anytime you install a program it either asks you if you would like the program to load when the computer starts, or the program runs automatically when the computer starts up. Many times programs run

in the background, which are not visible without viewing your task manager. The majority of the time computers have many unnecessary programs running when the computer boots.

Turning off programs that run in the background will

- Lower the amount of time it takes to start the computer up.
- Allow you to be able to use the computer faster when it boots.
- Free up resources, speeding up the computer.

Why are there so many updates and which ones do I need?

Most of us are aware of the little pop ups we get while on the computer asking us to make important updates. While they only take a few minutes to complete, many of us are guilty of postponing them or just ignoring them completely. But keeping up with these computer updates is actually very important when it comes to having a healthy computer. Here is a look at why computer updates are so important.

One of the biggest and most important reasons why keeping up with computer updates is so important is because they help to keep our computer secure. While they may not directly say so, a lot of these updates have to do with updating our security software and ensuring our computers are kept

safe from any possible threats. Not updating or postponing these security updates can leave your computer vulnerable to things such as malware or computer viruses that can go in and steal important information.

We will download and install all Windows, Java, Adobe, and Flash updates

Windows releases updates for your system every month. You should always update your operating system in order to prevent problems.

- Patch security holes within the operating system.
- Fix bugs which can cause errors and system crashes.
- Update system drivers.

Visit us here at Jester's Computer

Services, March 1st through March 31st to save \$ 20 off your computer clean-up. We recommend having your computer cleaned at least once a year. Heavy users sometimes require a clean-up more often. Save yourself frustration and visit us today. We will also perform a free diagnostic to determine if you are in need of any hardware upgrades. No appointment is necessary for our clean-up. We generally complete work within one to two business days. For friendly professional computer repair services contact Jester's Computer Services by calling (717) 642-6611

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CONTRACTS CORNER

The Builder Olympics

Andrew Wivell

On the third weekend every year in March, The Frederick County Builders Association (FCBA) hosts its annual Home Show. This year the Home Show will be held on March 17th and 18th at the Frederick Fair Grounds. Outside of Building #9, in a large white tent, one will find the Builder Olympics. I have been the Chair or Co-Chair of the Builder Olympics for the past 10 consecutive years.

The Builder Olympics is a series of contests for Career and Technology Center (CTC - formerly Vo-Tech) students. The instructors divide the students into small groups and the teams compete against each other. The students compete in the categories of Framing, Plumbing/HVAC, Electrical, Masonry, and Landscaping. According to FCBA publications, over 1,000 local carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heating and air condition-

ing technicians, masons, and landscapers have competed in Builder Olympics since 1978.

The Framers get things started bright and early on Saturday morning before the show even opens. They begin the construction of a full scale section of wall that is open on one side for viewing and access. The wall section is complete with interior and exterior walls, ceiling joists, and window and door openings. The framers are judged on speed, quality, accuracy, safety, and cleanliness to name a few.

Throughout the framing competition, a panel of judges "mingles" with the competitors to inspect the work and answer questions. The judges are current or former builders, framers, or building inspectors. Past judges have included local residents such as Steve Wivell Jr., currently with Liberty Insulation, Sam Wivell of S.K. Wivell Contracting, and John Topper of Bollinger Construction.

The "live" feedback from the panel

of judges is one of the highlights for both the competitors and judges. The judges enjoy the youthful exuberance of the competitors and the competitors get instant feedback from professionals that, in some cases, have made a living framing houses. The competitors are much more receptive to the critical feedback when it comes from professionals rather than their instructors who, over time, sound like Charlie Brown's teacher.

The masons begin their individual projects at about 8 am. The projects vary by year. Typically, the project consists of building a block and brick veneer wall about 5' wide and 36" high. The masons are judged on similar categories as the framers by current masons in the trade. It is a thrill to watch these 16 and 17 year olds learn the intricacies of their trade.

The landscaping competition definitely results in the nicest finished product. The small teams of competitors lay out and organize a 12' x 6' bed of various plants, shrubs, and trees. The competition is held at a prominent location at the Show - usually near one of the main building entrances. The finished product remains for the duration of the show both to promote the CTC program and to enhance the beauty of the Show. Dave Hawkins of Hawkins Landscaping has been judging this competition for



the better part of 20 years.

The plumbers and HVAC technicians re-start the Builder Olympics on Sunday morning. They use the walls built by the framers on the previous day to run duct work and to rough-in the plumbing lines for a small bathroom.

The electricians follow the plumbers and use the same framing section to lay out a panel box, switches, wall outlets, and lighting. Allen Witmer of Capital Lighting and Supply has been helping to judge this competition for over 20 years. Rich Wilson of Silver Dollar Electric got involved several years ago and is enjoying the mentor role that comes with judging. From a Chairman's perspective, I just love the electrical competition from the sheer aspect of how quietly they work.

The electrical competition officially ends the Builders Olympics competition. However, there is another competition that is running simultaneously called the Team Works Competition. Team Works is 4-person teams that consist of a mason, a framer, an electrician, and a plumber. We usually have 2 4-person teams that are not only competing against each other, but are also getting valuable practice for their state competition which usually happens the week after The Home Show.

Team Works consists of framing a 4' x 8' section of floor with two exterior walls complete with a door opening. The "mock" wall section is set on a small masonry knee wall for support. Electrical wiring and plumbing pipes are installed. Drywall is hung and a vanity, vanity top, and faucet are installed. The Team Works competition runs all day Saturday and Sunday and is judged by the same judges as the Builder Olympics

The Builder Olympics and Team Works competitions require a significant amount of material. I have been blessed over the years of my Chairmanship to be able to connect with building suppliers who share my concern for providing a venue to help train the next generation of skilled construction work force. It has been more difficult in recent years to get the required donations. If you or someone you know would like to donate time or treasure for the upcoming competition, please call me at the number below or contact Donna Kraft at the FCBA office at 301-663-3599, x101.

This year we are expecting a total of 60 competitors for the Builder Olympics and Team Works combined. This will be the largest number of participants in my 10 years of Chairmanship. The CTC and the FCBA have done an excellent job of promoting the industry and the individual trades. I will continue to strive to provide a memorable experience for them by assembling an excellent team of judges. One of the most satisfying things about the competition is seeing the interaction between the competitors and the judges. I'm sure this year will also be a rewarding experience for all involved.

Homeowners: If you are considering a Renovation, please visit our website at www.wivellhomes.com, or call me at 301-748-5344 to schedule an appointment. If you are considering the construction of a custom home, please contact me prior to obtaining any blueprints.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays

Elias Lutheran Church will be beginning a Lenten Sunday sermon series entitled, "Christians Wrestling Faithfully with Controversial Issues." Topics to be discussed are Suicide (3/4), the Economy (3/11), Church and Society (3/18), the Death Penalty (3/25), and War vs. Peace (4/1). Services begin at 10:30am. 100 W. North Ave., Emmitsburg. For more information please call 301-447-6239 or email Pastor Jon at eliasluhth@yahoo.com

Wednesdays

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's Wednesday walk in the woods. Start the New Year off right and join us for a walk in the woods! We'll pick a new trail each week, and get fit while having fun. Free.

Fridays

St. Anthony's Church's "All You Can Eat" Fish Bakes, \$10/adults, \$5/children 4-12, Free 3 and Under

Hauser After Hours - At Hauser After Hours, live music featuring acoustic artists through full bands provide rousing entertainment. Hauser Estate Winery, 410 Cashtown Road, Biglerville. For more information call 717-334-4888. Or visit www.hauserestate.com

Saturdays

2012 Tour de Tanks - presented by the Mason-Dixon Wine Trail Discover the heart of Adams County wine country as the Mason-Dixon Wine

Trail presents the 2012 Annual Tour de Tanks Event! Celebrate the arrival of new vintages with special tank and barrel tastings every Saturday and Sunday in March from 12:00pm to 5:00pm. With your souvenir Mason-Dixon Wine Trail glass in hand, you'll chat with Trail winemakers, meet fellow wine enthusiasts and enjoy tasty treats as you travel the trail. www.MasonDixonWineTrail.com

March 2

Elias Lutheran Church's Spring Supper and Bazaar - Roast Beef, Ham and Turkey Dinner with Apple Fritters and all the trimmings. For more information call 301-447-6239

Mother Seton School's Bull Roast. For more info, contact Mother Seton School at 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

Gettysburg Festival Sock Hop: Kick off Your Shoes & Kick the Winter Blues. Enjoy a fun evening of dinner and dancing, 50's and 60's style. For more information call 717-334-0853 or visit www.gettysburgfestival.org.

March 6

Candidate for US Senate Dan Bongino is having a fund raising event at the Shamrock Restaurant March 6th. Anyone interested in more information please contact Dawn Knox at: deknox@verizon.net.

March 8

Emmitsburg and Thurmont Libraries Sponsor Free Celtic Concert - Featuring the top-quality, high-energy, Celtic, rock, folk, world, and classical music of the Rogues. Kick off your St. Patrick's Day celebrations early with the annual Celtic Concert at the Marion Burk Knott Auditorium at Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg. For further information, contact the Emmitsburg Branch Library at 301-600-6329.

March 9

The Majestic Theater presents "Mom's Let Loose." For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org March 10, 11, 17 & 18

Cunningham Falls State Park's 42nd Annual Maple Syrup Making Demonstration and pancake breakfast. Learn how sap has been made into syrup for hundreds of years.

March 17

Seton Center Thrift Shop March \$5 Bag Sale

Fourth annual Mountaintop Community Spring Fair, held at the Blue Ridge Fire Hall. All proceeds from this event benefit the Amanda Bowders Community Memorial Garden. Information regarding the event is available by contacting Lynn or Duke Martin (717) 642-5645.

March 18

All-You-Can Eat Country Breakfast - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Center.

The Majestic Theater Celtic Nights - Journey of Hope - Direct from Ireland, this show features the finest male and female voices of the Celtic world, showcased against a thundering backdrop of expert dancing and musicianship. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

March 24

Bingo for WorkCamp 2012 at Mother Seton School. For more information call, John Dowling (301) 271-4439 or Patty Goff (301) 271-4555.

March 30

St. Joseph's Parish Knights of Columbus and Holy Name Society Fish Fry at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Depaul Street Emmitsburg

Seton Center Thrift Shop
\$5.00 BAG SALE
 Fri., Mar. 16 - 10am-4pm
 Sat., Mar. 17 - 10am-3pm
 16840 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727
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Academics

5 to 8 week sessions in June and July: Whether you are a visiting student hoping to get ahead while home for summer or a high school student looking for a head start on college, choose from over 40 fast-paced undergraduate courses to set you on the path to a bright future.

Grandparents University

July 19 and 20 (ages 8 through 108!): Grandparents and their grandchildren select the "major" of their choice, and attend hands-on classes taught by Mount St. Mary's faculty. Make memories for a lifetime as you share stories, learn, and have fun together. Unforgettable!

Project Discovery

June 25-28 and July 9-13 (ages 6 to 13): Professional teachers engage children's minds, inspire their joy for learning, and build skills within academic themes, all in a fun, camp-like atmosphere. Half day and full day programs available in both Frederick and Emmitsburg locations.

C.S.I. Camp

June 25-29 (ages 14 through Adult): Experience the real world of forensic investigation with the help of crime scene professionals. This 15 hour program includes team processing of crime scenes.

Outdoor Adventure

July 23-27, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Ages 11 to 13 Cost: \$300
Looking for some major adventure for your active child this summer? Rockclimbing, caving, canoeing, hiking, and high ropes course activities (all led by our professional Outdoor Adventures staff). Lunch, equipment, and transportation to all activity sites is included. Space is very limited, so sign up early.

Catholic Live!

June 28 (high school youth): This amazing 12 hour youth conference will inspire you!

3rd Annual Scripture Institute

July 11 and 12: join the Mount St. Mary's Undergraduate Theology Department for this engaging exploration of Scripture and the Moral Life. Prayer, study, reflection, and more, plus the option to stay overnight in Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

www.msmary.edu/summer | 301.447.8329 | summer@msmary.edu



Want to keep up-to-date with Mount happenings? Follow us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/MSMUniversity

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MID-SEMESTER MUSICAL ENSEMBLE CONCERT

March 7
7:30 p.m., Knott Auditorium
Please join our Mount Ensembles as they perform all periods of music during our Mid-Semester Ensemble.

CHALLENGES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY: PANEL DISCUSSION

March 7
6:30 p.m., Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

OCCUPY WALL STREET AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY—IS THERE A CONNECTION?

March 8
3:30 p.m., Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center
Sponsored by the BB&T Center for the Study of the Moral Foundations of Capitalism.

BROWN BAG CONCERT

March 14
Noon, Knott Auditorium
Bring your lunch and enjoy a concert by our very own Mount instrumental and vocal students. Free Admission

CONGRESS TO CAMPUS

March 14
7 p.m., Knott Auditorium
Former Congressional Representatives - Rep. Dan Miller (R-FL, 1993-2003) and Rep. Martin Lancaster (D-NY, 1987 - 1995) will share insights into the inner-workings of Congress and the issues Congress currently face.

CONGRESS TO CAMPUS PANEL DISCUSSION

March 15
9:30 a.m., Priest Dining Room, McGowan Center
Informal discussion with friends of the Mount and local alumni. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Katherine McDonagh at mcdonagh@msmary.edu

SIMON GABRIEL BRUTÉ STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

March 15
5 p.m., Williams Art Gallery, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center
The Simon Gabriel Bruté Student Art Exhibition is an annual juried event open to all current students at the Mount. This exhibition encompasses all mediums including painting, printmaking, ceramics, mixed media, design, photography, and drawing.

SPRING MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION: MOLIERE'S DON JUAN

March 29-31: 8 p.m., Horning Theatre, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center
April 1: 2 p.m., Horning Theatre, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center
His very name conjures his reputation... libertine, gigolo, an insatiable lover, undeniably appealing to women—the character of Don Juan has found a much-deserved place in Western culture. From his roots in seventeenth century Spain to the present, it seems that every generation re-invents the man who simply submits to his every desire. Moliere's version gives us one of the earliest versions of the story, complete with statues coming to life and devils dragging characters to Hell. All tickets \$5

