

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

EXULTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION —EDWARD R. MURROW

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Thurmont's 'Gateway to the cure' raises \$15K

2017 marked the fourth year Thurmont has honored October as "Gateway to the Cure" month. This year, they once again proudly surpassed the prior year's donation and during the November 14 Thurmont Town meeting, town staff and local business owners presented Patty Hurwitz with their donations.

The Patty Hurwitz Fund began in 2000, after Hurwitz was diagnosed with breast cancer. After that initial experience, Hurwitz and husband decided that they wanted to find a way to provide the best experience for men and women in Frederick County facing breast cancer, so they wouldn't have to travel far to receive treatment. The fund is used to support early cancer detection methods at the Stockman Cancer Institute in Frederick.

Vickie Grinder, Thurmont Economic Development Manager, led the check presentation to Patty Hurwitz. Also present were representatives from some of the local businesses that participated this year. In total, 43 businesses in the Thurmont area held promotions to support the Think

Pink initiative. Before the grand total was revealed, Laurie Wilhelm, Maggie Doll of Candyland and Gateway Liquors, Niki Eyler of The Eyler Stables Flea Market, and Gateway Orthodontics talked about the initiatives their businesses supported this year to raise money for the cause.

Wilhelm was present from Catoclin High School, along with some of the football players from the school. For the second year, the high school held a "Pink Out" game during the October 13 football game against St. Paul's. To raise funds for the cause, the team sold pink t-shirts during the game. Wilhelm commented that her group doubled the amount they raised last year, handing a check for \$1,447 over to the fund.

Doll commented that all employees wore pink shirts during the month and one dollar was donated to the cause for each bottle of pink wine or breast cancer lollipop that was sold. "It's always fun," Doll said, "everyone gets into it, it's a great cause, and we love supporting it every year."

Eyler commented that her com-



43 Thurmont businesses held promotions to support Thurmont's Think Pink initiative in support of breast cancer research and treatment.

pany hung pink ribbons throughout the market and had donation jars to support the cause. Additionally, many vendors chose to donate part of their sales for the month to the fund. In the end, Eyler said her group's donation was four times as large as last year's.

The Town of Thurmont was happy to hand Hurwitz a check for \$15,000 this year. The first year Thurmont Think Pink raised \$4,760, the second year they raised \$10,000, and last year the community raised \$13,675.

Thurmont's Gateway to the Cure has really grown over the past

four years, and Town staff believes it will only keep growing. So far, Thurmont has been able to donate \$43,648, a significant amount of the \$1.5 million that had been donated to the fund since its founding. "It's amazing how many businesses participate," Hurwitz commented, "It's just so great that we all support this cause that is bigger than all of us." "It is a community effort," town Commissioner Marty Burns added, "we get into it and it's fun."

To learn more about the Patty Hurwitz Breast Cancer fund, visit www.pinkribbonfrederick.org/about-us.

Local elections bring newcomers onboard

On November 7, residents in southern Adams County showed up to their township offices to cast their votes to fill local seats. Across the board, Liberty Township, Carroll Valley Borough and Hamiltonban Township seemed to favor Republican candidates this year. Some candidates were elected, while some new faces were voted in.

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris ran uncontested for Mayor this year, receiving 453 votes; 97.21% of the votes cast. This is Mayor Harris' fourth term as Mayor of Carroll Valley. He has already served the Borough for eleven years, and was honored with the Mayor of the Year Award this past July. "Having been reelected for a fourth term has never been a more humbling moment in my life. Based on your faith in me, I hope to continue to serve you as I have in these past 12 years. When changes happen, I promise you I will work on your behalf to ensure your needs and concerns are voiced and considered. Thank you for your trust in me. I am honored to serve you," stated Mayor Harris.

The Carroll Valley Borough Council had three four-year positions and one two-year position

open. The positions to be filled were the seats occupied by David Lillard, Ken Lundberg, Dan Patton and a two-year seat replacing Janis Ashman, who resigned a year ago. David Lillard was elected to the Council in January to temporarily fill the position that was vacated by Janis Ashman. He was the only incumbent to run for re-election. Results showed David Lillard held the majority of votes, 336, (27.95 %) Robert Verderaine in second with 313 votes (26.04%) and Richard Matthews will fill the third seat with a total of 274 votes (22.80 %). Jared Huster, with a vote of 381, will fill the seat for the two-year term on the Borough Council.

In Liberty Township, one seat for Township Supervisor was up for election. This seat was occupied by Walter Barlow, who chose to run for re-election against newcomer, Vincent Gee. The vote was a close one, but Barlow received the majority, 229 (54.14 %) and Gee garnered 191 votes (45.15 %).

Supervisors are elected for six-year terms in Liberty Township. There are 947 registered voters in the Township, and close to half of those residents voted in this elec-

tion. This is a vast increase in votes cast from years past for similar elections. In 2013, only 197 votes were cast, and in 2015, numbers dropped to 173 votes. That makes this year's 427 votes more than double what they were over the past several years. This was a much-anticipated election for the Township; residents filled the parking lot throughout the day to cast their vote.

In Hamiltonban Township, two Supervisor seats were open; those held by Coleen Reamer and Robert Gordon. Both Reamer and Gordon ran for re-election for the six-year term seats. Contesting the incumbents were David Bradley Martin and Edward Fitzgerald. Martin received the highest number of votes, 255 (31.14

%) and Gordon pulled 236 votes (28.82%).

There are 1,471 registered voters in Hamiltonban Township, and only 437 votes were cast. This is representative of barely one-third of residents in the Township.



Mayor Ron Harris won his fourth term as Mayor of Carroll Valley Borough garnering 97% of the votes.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS



On November 10, U.S. Congressman Andy Harris (center), who represents Taneytown, paid a visit to the Taney Corporation. Jeff Glass (left) led the tour of the facility, proudly showing the cutting edge technology utilized by the Taney Corporation that has made them one of the top producers of both regular and custom stairs in the U.S.

Town split on warranty partnership

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners held a special public meeting, to learn more about the potential partnership with Utility Service Partners (USP). Residents were invited to attend, but only one member of the Emmitsburg community was present.

A potential warranty partnership with USP was first presented and discussed in July. The program is aimed at addressing the public policy issue of aging infrastructure for homeowners. The homeowners' portion of infrastructure maintenance is often overlooked, as many communities look at primarily maintaining public infrastructure. By utilizing this program, USP would partner with the town to make the program voluntarily available to all residents in Emmitsburg. The program would provide homeowners with an optional warranty on external water lines, external sewer lines and in-home plumbing.

The program offers three products for homeowners, however, those interested in participating would not be obligated to sign up for all three, but can pick and choose which products they want. The external sewer line warranty costs \$7.75 per month; the external water line product costs \$5.75 per month; and the in-home plumbing product costs \$9.99 per month. Residents wouldn't be required to commit for any particular length of time, as there is no annual contract.

As discussed, anything that impedes the sewer, water or plumbing lines is susceptible for repair. Under the warranty, up to \$8,500 would be given toward each external incident and every individual repair. For any in-home plumbing repair, the warranty will cover up to \$3,000 per repair incident. There is no annual or lifetime limit on the number of repairs a homeowner

may have, and there are no deductibles or service fees. This company also utilizes local plumbers who make it through a rigorous vetting process, ensuring customers receive the best contractors.

The potential for possible litigation down the road worries Commissioner Tim O'Donnell and Commissioner Joe Ritz. The warranty is only made available to residents if the town chooses to partner with the company, providing an endorsement of the product. Commissioner O'Donnell mentioned that he's not sure if there is any value in the town endorsing a single product because the town will be drawn into the consequences no matter what the outcome may be. If service is unsatisfactory for residents, the town may receive backlash as a consequence of "endorsing" this one warranty provider. "This service is a benefit to the community but not in this format," noted O'Donnell. There are

Emmitsburg

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Emmitsburg news-briefs . . .

VHC orders new ambulance

The Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) in partnership with the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance

Company (EVAC) is excited to be progressing with the merger of the two emergency service organizations. Recently, with the support

of EVAC, the VHC signed a contract to purchase a brand new 2018 F-550 Road Rescue Ultramedic Ambulance.

This unit, to be designated as Ambulance 69, will feature several state of the art items including: 100% wood-free construction, all-aluminum interior, Road Rescue CoolBar HVAC, full customized exterior and interior layouts for customer specific needs, interior and exterior camera monitoring, LED warning and ground lighting in the lower crash rail as well as many other features.

The men and women of the VHC are excited to see the progress of A69's build and expect the ambulance to be delivered Spring 2018.

Another town business closes

Emmitsburg has just recently lost two business, Tahiti Sun, which was located at the Silo Hill shopping plaza, and Antiques Folly, which was located on the square next to PNC Bank.

other companies out there that provide similar services, but don't require an endorsement by the town. Endorsing this product could lead to problems down the line.

However, Commissioner Clifford Sweeney believes this could be a very beneficial product for residents who may not be able to afford costly sewer and water repairs. It may also be beneficial for many, as many homeowners insurance companies don't cover these types of repairs; instead they focus primarily on property damage incurred as a result of plumbing inci-

dents. Plus, other small, local towns including Thurmont and Taneytown already utilize the program.

No official decision has been made, and the Board currently seems to be split. Town staff has received several emails and phone calls from residents voicing interest in the partnership thus far. A vote will be taken on this item during the December 5 Town meeting. Town Manager Cathy Willets will have the town Attorney look over the documents and provide comments on any concerns he may see.

The closure of Tahiti Sun makes Salon Soleil, located in Thurmont, the only exclusively tanning, tanning salon in northern Frederick County. Salon Soleil owner, Cindy Waynant, now offers spray tans, in addition to the normal tanning beds and is open seven days a week.

Council endorses new bike trails

During the November 6 Emmitsburg Town meeting, the Board of Commissioners President, Tim O'Donnell, presented the Board with some information regarding the possibility of a new bike trail in the area.

During the Frederick County Planning Commission Bicycling and Pedestrian Comprehensive Plan meeting, the project consisting of a new biking trail connecting Emmitsburg to Frederick city and the C & O Canal on the Gettysburg side, was discussed. The Commission already supports the Emmitsburg town and Mount St. Mary's University connection bike trail, which is currently experiencing a snag in funding, and sees potential for an additional trail linking Emmitsburg

to its surrounding areas.

The new trail connection was voted upon this past spring by the Maryland State Highway Department of Natural Resources as a priority item and actually received the number one priority slot. Linking Emmitsburg to Gettysburg and Frederick city, as O'Donnell stated, could have many benefits. It could promote tourism, promote a healthy lifestyle choice and could be economically beneficial for Emmitsburg.

O'Donnell is in the process of putting a letter together asking that the connection be mentioned between Emmitsburg, Frederick city and the canal. The more Emmitsburg "promotes" the idea, hopefully the better the chances that the project be seen as a higher priority, especially since the new trail would align with town-university connection. Fellow Commissioners agreed that this could be a great project for the town, if it comes to fruition, and agreed to endorse it. O'Donnell will bring additional information to the Board during the December 5 meeting.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Land Conservancy preserves 60 acres in Liberty Township

Ken and Connie Farabaugh recently preserved 60 acres of their land along Middle Creek in Liberty Township with the help of the Land Conservancy of Adams County.

The couple bought their home on Bullfrog Road 30 years ago—for the second time. They had first purchased the property in 1974, then sold it in 1979 when Ken was transferred to Harrisburg, only to buy it back eight years later when he returned to Gettysburg for good as an advisor with Prudential Financial Planning Services.

The whole story of this property starts long before that - over 250

years ago. The Farabaughs' property was among lands purchased from the Iroquois in the early 1700s by the family of William Penn. In 1741 Thomas Penn ordered a survey of what was then called the Manor of Maske, an area of land six miles wide by twelve miles long in the center of what would later become Adams County. His aim was to sell the land to Scots-Irish settlers moving into the area. This particular tract was on the western edge of the Manor of Maske. Records show that it was part of 194 acres deeded to Samuel Gettys, and that it was surveyed and warranted in 1765.

In 1963, when Charles and Anita

Rist of Towson, Maryland, began buying property in Adams County, primarily in Liberty and Hamiltonban townships, they aimed to create a planned community called "Chamita," a name derived from their two first names.

By the time the Farabaughs re-acquired their home in 1987, it was clear that many of the half-acre building lots in their area of the poorly planned Charnita development could not support development. A few months after buying back their home, they bought two small neighboring parcels, the first of many they would purchase in the years following. They have since cobbled together more than 60 acres of

woodland surrounding a picturesque stretch of Middle Creek and their restored historic home.

"Whenever I bought one of the Charnita lots, I told the sellers that my objective was to have the land go into the Land Conservancy," said Ken Farabaugh. "We may be the landowners right now, but the house was built in the 1760s—we're really just temporary caretakers. I didn't want to see anything happen to this land down the road when somebody would get some idea about developing it. You don't know what's going to happen in the future."

From the Iroquois to the Scots-Irish settlers, from the hapless Char-

nitia development and the many owners of its useless lots, and eventually to the careful stewardship of Ken and Connie Farabaugh, these 60 acres have a rich and varied history dating back to the 18th century. And thanks to the Farabaughs' decades-long commitment to rebuilding this part of Penn's Woods in their back yard, the land is protected from development forever.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is an accredited, member-supported nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving the rural lands and character of Adams County. For more information about the Land Conservancy, visit LCACnet.org.

Fairfield area news-briefs . . .

Liberty Township considers Citizen's Committee

Liberty Township will be voting again on an ordinance to form a Citizen's Committee after the vote tied during the November 14 Board of Supervisor's meeting. As explained by Supervisor Robert Jackson, the first task of the Citizen's Committee would be to review the \$35 septic letter fee currently held by the township. Liberty Township's fee is the highest in Adams County. Other municipality's fees range from \$10 - \$20. The Committee would consist of three to five residents who would be responsible for researching the septic fee, deliberating, and providing an objective recommendation for the Supervisors to vote on.

The concept of forming a Citizen's Committee received some backlash during the meeting, as resident Cindy Arentz questioned the necessity of forming this group. Arentz stated that the "group as a whole can provide feedback, why elect a small group of people to do your job and disregard the opinion of the community as a whole?" As noted by Jackson, the group would

simply provide a recommendation, which would be brought to the Supervisor's monthly meetings, to be further discussed and presented to the rest of the community, before taking a vote.

The ordinance was tabled until the December meeting, after receiving a tied vote with Supervisor John Bostek absent.

Townships choose Parks Garbage Service

Townships in southwest Adams County, including Hamiltonban Township, Carroll Valley Borough and Liberty Township voted to continue their municipal solid waste contract with Parks Garbage Service. Parks Garbage was not the lowest bidder, but after reviewing the lowest bid, from Advanced Disposal, it was determined that they were the lowest responsible bidder.

All three municipalities chose Option 2, which included quarterly electronic device recycling in addition to the usual biweekly recycling and large item pick-up. The electronic device recycling only costs residents as additional \$3 per

month, costing residents \$215 per year per household. This contract will be in effect for three years with a one-year renewal at no additional cost.

Borough Park proposed as no-smoking area

During the November 14 Carroll Valley Borough Council meeting, Council members voted to advertise the elimination of tobacco products in all Borough Parks. Recently, the Adams County Library System partnered with an organization called the Young Lungs at Play Initiative to designate the Adams County libraries as smoking-free zones. Carroll Valley proposes they follow suit and do the same.

The ordinance, as proposed, would establish all Carroll Valley parks as tobacco-free zones, including electronic smoking devices. The Young Lungs at Play Initiative will provide all signage free of charge if Carroll Valley decides to partner with them. The ordinance will be officially voted upon during the December Town Council meeting.

No tax increase for Carroll Valley

Carroll Valley Borough staff was pleased to announce that there is no projected tax increase in the proposed 2018 budget. However, Council proposes an increase in the police chief salary as well as the Assistant Secretary's salary. The increase for the Police Chief would be \$5,981 and the increase for the Assistant Secretary would be \$1,500. These numbers are based upon averages seen among surrounding municipalities to bring the Borough more in line with average salaries for the respective positions.

The proposed budget for Hamiltonban Township, however, may include a tax increase. In order to pay for the replacement of Hick-

ory Bridge road, new radios for the trucks, new mower and equipment repairs, the township would have to dip into the Capital Reserves account or raise taxes.

Supervisor Luann Dille proposed a \$¼ million tax increase instead of continuing to use the township's savings. The tax increase would mean approximately \$50 additionally each resident would have to pay each year. As Supervisor Chairman Bob Gordon noted, Hamiltonban Township hasn't increased taxes in twelve years. This increase would provide approximately \$61,000 more to the Township's budget, which would be used to help pay for some of the projects next year. This item is still being discussed; no final action has been taken.

Municipalities to opt out of new casino act

On October 30, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed Act 42 of 2017, thereby creating a new Category 4 Licensed facility referred to as "mini-casinos." "Mini casinos" are defined as having between 300 and 750 slot machines and table games. The Legislature authorized up to ten of these facilities, which can be owned and operated by any business that holds a Category 1, 2, or 3 casino license. These casinos are to operate no fewer than 25 miles from established casinos.

Within the Act, it is mentioned that municipalities have the option to prohibit the location of a Category 4 Casino within their boundaries. However, municipalities only have until December 31, 2017 to take action. Any municipality that wishes to opt out of the casinos must pass a resolution declaring their intent to prohib-

it Category 4 "mini-casinos." This resolution must then be delivered to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board by no later than December 31. If a resolution is delivered after this date, it will not be considered.

Opting out of the "mini casinos" right now gives the township the option to say no in the future. If a township chooses to opt out now, they may, in the future, choose to opt back in by rescinding the original prohibition. However, once the resolution has been rescinded, a municipality loses its authority to prohibit future Category 4 Casinos. If a municipality chooses not to prohibit the casinos now, they will have no leverage in the future if a casino is brought to the Township.

Seeing this as a high priority item, since the due date is fast approaching, Hamiltonban Township will be holding a public hearing on December 5 to dis-

cuss this matter and asks that residents attend to share their opinion with the Board before they make a final decision. Carroll Valley Borough and Liberty Township also discussed the Legislature, and will be bringing a resolution back to their respective meetings in December to vote on.

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THURMONT NEWS

Railroad bridge rehabilitation moves forward

During the November 21 town meeting, Thurmont Commissioners were presented with the results from the survey for the rehabilitation of the Maryland-Midland Railroad Bridge on North Church Street.

Members of the Town have been talking about making improvements to the bridge for many years, and agreed that it would coincide as part of Main Street improvements. A painted bridge could be a potential attraction to get more people to visit Thurmont. The bridge, which has been in place since 1936, is in need of some desperate aesthetic improve-

ments, as many view the bridge now as the town's biggest eye sore. For starters, the bridge needs to be painted.

A committee was formed during the summer consisting of persons interested in thinking of ideas and making recommendations for this project. The committee decided to place a survey online to gauge Thurmont residents' opinions on the project. The survey was online from July 20 through October 30 and a total of 354 online responses were polled and 147 emails were received. 264 of the online surveys were from residents of Thurmont; the remaining sur-

veys were mainly from surrounding towns. Commissioner Burns noted that the community gave some very positive feedback and really appreciated the survey as a way for asking for public's input on a town project. Surveys of a similar nature may be used in the future.

The survey showed an overwhelming response from the public that the bridge is in need of being repaired or refurbished. When asked about the preference for the overall appearance and design of the bridge, the public expressed that they would prefer the bridge to be painted black or a neutral

color with Thurmont lettering added on the panels. It was also preferred that the abutments not be just plainly painted, but instead include a stone or faux stone application or murals. In addition, the committee also looked into installing LED color changing lights on the underside of the bridge.

When the committee looked into the potential cost for refurbishing the bridge, they were provided with an estimated \$100,000 cost to paint the bridge. This cost wouldn't include engineering costs or the cost to hire someone to control traffic while the bridge is being painted. The commit-

tee also talked about doing the project in house, by volunteers.

Another committee member also mentioned that they could insert removable panels in the bridge, which could have lettering on them or murals. This option will further be discussed at a future meeting. In the meantime, the committee will be looking at potential grants and fundraising to help cover the costs of some form of bridge beautification. "Refurbishing this bridge will only beautify the town," said Commissioner Burns. The town hopes, in the least, to paint the bridge and repair the concrete abutments.

Thurmont Business Bucks—a gift that keeps giving

What does buying local mean to you? When you make a purchase from a locally owned business, you are contributing to a much larger picture, which ultimately comes back to you through the money multiplier.

The Small Business Administration states: "Out of every

\$100 spent at local, independent stores, \$68 returns to the community. The same amount spent at national chains results in only \$43 staying within community borders." This statistic equates to a 58% increase in the money multiplier for shopping at a locally owned business versus a chain,

and a locally owned restaurant recirculates 67%, while big chain restaurants return about 30%. But, how does that affect you?

One of the direct benefits of shopping local is the contribution to the local tax base, which allows more funds in the coffers for improved roads, sidewalks, parks, infrastructure, and local government services. Do you know someone who is involved with a non-profit organization, or who has children or grandchildren in school? That person may be you, which means your organization relies on donations from these locally owned businesses in the form of a check, gift certificate, or products to sustain sponsorships and fund-raising activities.

Additionally, when you shop at a locally owned business you will receive a personal touch from employees and often the owner of the business. Locally owned businesses garner another advantage because the owner knows the products or services needed by the community, and understands how to be responsive to the needs of the community while also being able to serve you on an individual basis.

When you shop at locally owned businesses you are reducing the carbon footprint by travelling less miles, and the business owner is also making more local purchases, thereby reducing their travelled miles. Locally owned businesses are also cognizant of purchasing more eco-friendly products because of their

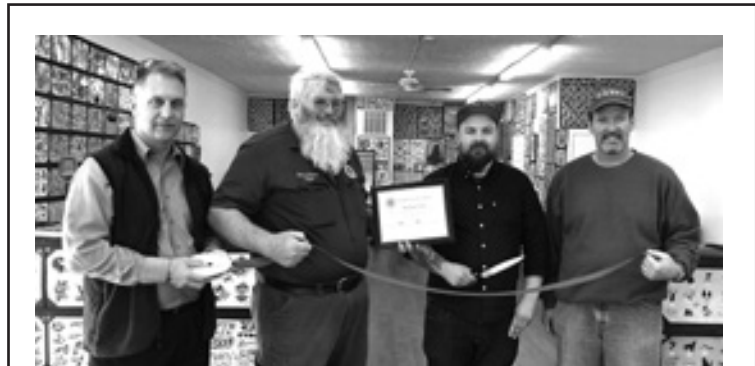
personal investment in the community, which therefore creates a more sustainable community.

So, how can you make a difference this year? Purchase Thurmont Business Bucks for gift giving! Thurmont Business Bucks is a gift certificate program that is available in \$25 and \$50 gift certificate increments. The gift certificates can be used at more than 30 locally owned businesses in Thurmont and are sold at the Thurmont Town Office located at 615 East Main Street.

When you purchase a Thurmont Bucks Gift Certificate, it comes complete with a booklet that lists all participating merchants with a description,

location, and all pertinent information about the business. Thurmont Business Bucks provides an incentive to keep local bucks in the community, while maintaining the convenience of not having to leave town to purchase a gift. Plus, Thurmont Business Bucks are for sale all year long.

Take the time to shop your locally owned businesses and make a difference by increasing the money multiplier and supporting your local tax base, non-profit organizations, and schools. When you are trying to figure out gift giving for loved ones, or eating out, working out, or getting your car serviced, remember your locally owned businesses all year long!



A ribbon cutting was held on November 4th for Red Canary Tattoo who recently relocated across the street to a larger space. Pictured here from left to right is Thurmont CAO Jim Humerick, Mayor John Kinnaird, Rick Toms, proprietor of Red Canary Tattoo, and Commissioner Marty Burns. Red Canary Tattoo is now located at 2 North Carroll Street.



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Land donated for new equestrian park

Richard Kanode has donated over 180 acres of farmland along Stevens Road in Thurmont to Frederick County Government. The land will be bequeathed by Mr. Kanode to be set apart as an agricultural and equestrian public park administered by the Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation.

"I am honored to accept this very generous gift of valuable farmland from Mr. Kanode that will benefit Frederick County residents for years to come, especially those who love agriculture and horses," commented Executive Jan Gardner. "His legacy will live on and contribute greatly toward the bright future of our community."

The Division of Parks and Recreation will develop educational and recreational programming for visitors to the park, which will be named the Richard W. Kanode Farm Park.

"Because of Mr. Kanode's generosity, children and adults of all ages will be able to enjoy this amazing property and learn about the importance of agriculture in our community for years to come. The Division of Parks and Recreation is delighted to receive such a generous gift," said Division Director Jeremy Kortright.

Mr. Kanode also created a park endowment fund of \$1 million through the Community Foundation of Frederick County for the operations and maintenance of the buildings and property in the farm.

<p>* Large Selection MOONSHINE *</p> 	<p>Merry Christmas!</p> 	<p>TUESDAY SPECIAL</p> <p>Save 10% Every Tuesday On WINE & LIQUOR ONLY! <small>PURCHASES OF \$40 OR MORE CASH ONLY 7% DISCOUNT ON CREDIT CARD PURCHASES</small></p>	<p>BAILEY'S PUMPKIN SPICE</p> <p>750 ML *  *</p>	<p>!!! SPECIAL SALE !!!</p> <p>WOODBIDGE BY ROBERT MONDAVI White Zinfandel Sweet White \$9.99 2 Flavors Only 1.5 Liter</p>	<p>BAREFOOT WINE</p> <p>WINTER BLEND * Limited Edition Now Available! 750 ML </p>
<p>NEW! ANTIETAM BEER * From Hagerstown! *</p>	<p>Paul's Pit Stop DISCOUNT BEER, WINE & LIQUOR Website: m.paulspitstop.net</p> <p>150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg 301-447-6262</p> <p>Monday-Thursday 9 am-10 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 am-11 pm, Sunday 11-8 pm</p>	<p>NEW! WEYERBACHER BEER * From Eastern Pennsylvania! *</p>			

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 1917

December 7

Christmas Decorations

The windows of the local stores have already been decorated for Christmas. Suggested gifts, children's toys and tree trimmings are very prominent at the special season of the year. All the storekeepers and businessmen in Emmitsburg have decorated extensively and their places of business present a beautiful spectacle.

Butchering Time In Emmitsburg

Quite a number of Emmitsburgians have taken advantage of the fine weather and are doing this year's butchery. Some very fine porkers have been recorded. On Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, Mr. Frank Kelly killed two immense hogs that brought down the scales at 752 pounds.

The Red Cross Rally

Last evening, the Red Cross rally, announced last week, was held in the public school auditorium, the Rev. Hensley presided. Judge Hummand Urner of Frederick, the speaker of the evening, made a patriotic address outlining the splendid activities of the various organizations aiding the government and the war and urged increased membership in the local unit of the American Red Cross. It is reported that fourteen joined the local organization last night, bringing the membership in Emmitsburg to 28.

Christmas Savings Checks To Be Mailed Monday

Members of the Christmas savings club of the Emmitsburg savings bank will receive \$11,000 in the form of prettily decorated checks on Monday of next week, the sum being about \$2,000 in excess of last year's club. The Christmas club idea, being a purely local one, actuates all of this money going to the people of the immediate community, and a good deal of it makes its way into the coffers of the local merchants, stimulating holiday buying as perhaps nothing else will. Next year's club promises to be bigger than ever. Cars may be taken out

now. As soon as the original supply is exhausted the club will be closed.

December 14

Local Men Busy Filling Ice House

Messrs. Isaac Annan, Joseph Hoke and others are busily engaged in filling their icehouses. The ice on Tom's Creek is reported to be about 5 3/4 inches in thickness.

Work Stops On Account Of Weather

Owing to the fall in temperature on Saturday, the work laying the concrete roadway on Gettysburg Street had to be abandoned until the snow has melted and warmer weather sets in. On Monday night, the temperature dropped to 6 degrees. Starting Friday night and continuing all day Saturday, snow fell to a depth of about 6 inches. On Saturday, the first sleighs of the season put in their appearance and from all reports the roads in the vicinity of Emmitsburg must be in fine condition for sleighing.

Notice To Movie Patrons

Why not take a sleigh ride to Thurmont on Saturday and stop to see the celebrated comedian Mr. George M. Cohan in the play entitled "Seven Keys To Baldpate" at the Gem Theater? Mr. Cohan, better known as the Yankee Doodle Boy, is a famous patriotic songwriter of the present time. Admission is \$.10.

Send Your Soldiers Lucky Strike Cigarettes

Send your soldier boy a box of cigarettes for Christmas. There is nothing better for his health than Lucky Strike cigarettes. Each box contains twelve packs ready for mailing at Matthew store. For under a dollar a box, you can send him a present he will treasure.

December 21

Woman's Auxiliary Association

The women's Auxiliary Association of the Defense League has made 42 sweaters and sent 40 of them to the men in the service from the Em-

mitsburg district. Two were sent to men from across the line in Adams County. This auxiliary had also knit a number of helmets, scarves and stockings for the boys.

Boozers Send Booze To Troops

In response to last week's notice encouraging people to send cigarettes to the boys overseas, the Former Former Boozers collected and packaged 'hooch' for the troops in hopes of getting it to them by New Years. "There is no better way to ward off the effects of cold weather than a smoke and a good drink." Said Dan Shorb, President of the Boozers. "We owe it to our boys to make sure they are well provisioned to withstand the weather on the front." As if to prove their point, during Wednesday's near record cold, the Boozers imbibed heavily as they packaged the booze for the troops - resulting in more being consumed here than being shipped 'Over There.'

Runaway Results In Broken Arm

While returning from Emmitsburg on Tuesday, Mrs. Charles Wagerman of Annandale had the misfortune to fracture her right forearm at the wrist. The horse Mrs. Wagerman was driving became frightened in the harness and caused the animal to kick, thus upsetting the sleigh, and throwing the occupants in the snow. In this way, Mrs. Wagerman received her injuries.

Black Trench Bird

Last week Mr. Joseph Bishop of this place received from a friend in Jerusalem a black Trench Bird, or Turkish carrier pigeon, taken from a captured Turkish officer. The bird - presented to the Chronicle Museum by Mr. Bishop - had under its wing at the time of its capture a note, and cipher, and the signed order for one million packs of Turkish Trophy cigarettes. Being a little under the weather at the time of his arrival in Emmitsburg, the "pigeon" was put on a diet and is now undergoing medical treatment at the veterinary offices of Dr. Brokaw.

Dividend Notice

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Emmitsburg Savings Bank, the regular semiannual dividend of 3 1/2 percent was declared, payable on



Sleigh races were a familiar sight in the streets of Emmitsburg and surrounding towns after snows in the early 1900s. Lack of snow removal equipment made roads nearly impassable for ill-equipped cars.

and after January 2. As usual, checks will be mailed to stockholders.

Shooting Match At Motters

On Monday, December 24, Rory Sharrer will hold a shooting match at Motters. Prizes offered will include buggy harness, turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens. Take home a turkey for Christmas.

December 28

Many Christmas Trees On Display

In many of the homes of Emmitsburg there are some very beautiful Christmas trees on display. These trees add greatly to the holiday spirit that prevails. Many of the younger set of boys and girls have greatly indulged in the spirit of Christmas by costuming in various styles and parading the streets, visiting neighbors and friends.

Winter Sports

The recent decrease in the temperature has caused the smaller streams and ponds in the vicinity to freeze over sufficiently so as to give pleasure to many of the boys and girls who enjoy skating. Each day this week, parties were held and were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Our local icy pavements afford many unusual opportunities to those wishing to become proficient in the fascinating art

of tumbling, hand springing etc. and the experimental lessons in astronomy are not to be considered a small item. We will, in all probability, have this form of amusement until spring.

Dr. Softon Will Give Up Practice

Owing to failing health, Dr. Softon of Fairmont, who for a number of years made weekly visits to Emmitsburg, has announced that he will discontinue his practice in this place. It is with deep regret that he makes the statement and hopes that soon another Dentist will take up the work he is leaving. Dr. Softon's many patrons will be sorry to hear of his giving up the practice that he has so successfully carried on.

Christmas Play

On Friday afternoon, before a large and appreciative audience, the pupils of St. Euphemia's parochial school presented the Christmas play entitled "Birds' Christmas Carol" in three acts. The young amateurs displayed much talent, each and every member of the cast deserving the highest praise. The stage, in which many of the younger children took part was beautifully arranged and represented the reward of the generous and noble-hearted to the poor and the needy.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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We wish you all a
Merry Christmas
and hope you have a prosperous &
Happy New Year!

FROM THE DESK OF . . .

County Council President Bud Otis

Reflecting on this year, it may be nice to see what your legislative branch has done. Here is an update on the Bills passed by the County Council in 2017 starting with them in order (we've also processed through Bills which did not pass, so that is why some Bill numbers are not included in this listing of enacted legislation):

- Bill 17-02 Re-allocation of Recordation Tax Revenues (Vote 7-0);
- Bill 17-03 General Obligation Bond Authorization (Vote 6-1 with Councilmember (CM) Shreve against);
- Bill 17-04 Farm Distilleries and Tasting Rooms, and Limited Farm Brewery, Distillery and Winery Tasting Rooms (Vote 5-2 with CM Donald and myself voting against);
- Bill 17-06 Amendment to Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-7-1 Ethics (Vote 4-3 with CMs Chmelik, Delauter and Shreve against);
- Bill 17-07 Solar Facilities and Floating Zones (Vote 4-2 with CMs Chmelik and Shreve against, CM Delauter absent);

- Bill 17-08 Zoning Map Amendments During Election Year (Vote 4-3 with CMs Chmelik, Delauter and Shreve against);
- Bill 17-09 Dog Tethering Law (Vote 4-2 with CMs Chmelik and Shreve against, CM Delauter absent);
- Bill 17-10 Continuation of the Payment in Lieu Option for Moderately Priced Dwelling Units and Adjustment to the Payment Amount (Vote 5-2 with CMs Delauter and Shreve against);
- Bill 17-11 Antique, Artisan and Craft Shops in the Limited Industrial District (Vote 7-0);
- Bill 17-12 Revisions to the Frederick County Employee Retirement Plan (Vote 7-0).

As of the writing of this article, we are in the process of promulgating three bills for County Executive (CE) Gardner and three additional Council Bills.

On behalf of the administration, CE Gardner's Bills regard the following:

- Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements

- (DRRAs);
 - Forest Resource Ordinance (FRO)
 - Adequate Public Facilities -Adjustment of School Construction Fees.
- Council Bills include:
- Bill 17-14 Location of Recreational Amenities and Facilities Within Planned Unit Developments and Mixed Use Developments;
 - Bill 17-15 Limited Wood Waste Recycling in the General Commercial Zone; and finally,
 - Bill 17-16 Veterans Advisory Council.

In more detail about the Veterans Advisory Council Bill, I dropped legislation to support our almost 18,000 Veterans here in Frederick County. Here's the link: <https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/301170>

This legislation will help me fulfill a personal pledge to those who have served our great nation at the risk of their precious lives. It creates a Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) which will be structured with 13 VAC members and three main

goals: collaborate with Veterans and their advocates, to provide links to federal, state, local and some non-profit services along with a monthly bulletin to keep updated communications with our Veterans. This "One Stop Shop" approach will include information and job links, employment services, suicide prevention, PTSD and other counseling, Veteran benefits, Veteran Service Organizations, education, health services, readjustment programs and more. We owe them what they've earned and I'm proud of this effort to support our veterans.

I invite you to come out to speak on December 5th at the 7 pm public hearing here at Winchester Hall on the Veterans Advisory Council Bill. If you can't make it in person, please email the Council with your thoughts at CouncilMembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Your advocacy will go a long way to get this Bill passed. Thank you.

On a side note, the Frederick County Veterans Treatment Court held a monthly docket for Veterans who were justice involved

starting in October of 2016 and ran through September of 2017. As I assisted in the start-up of this worthy program which involved the Frederick County Court system, the Veterans Administration, our health department, a number of non-profits, Veteran pro-bono attorneys and local business men, it is hoped that it will be off hiatus status and be reinvigorated under Judge Julie Solt in early 2018.

As a Council we also passed 26 Resolutions and 6 Ordinances, mainly Water and Sewer Amendments, Rezoning Cases and the annual budget. If you'd like details on any of the legislation noted above, please go to this link: <https://frederickcountymd.gov/591/County-Council> or simply "Google" Frederick County Council and click on the left column what you'd like to view.

Looking forward to 2018 I will continue to assist our residents, learn about even more facets of this county, visit with many people to hear their thoughts and concerns, attend various committee meetings and many other events. I'm here to listen and available at 301-600-1101, BOtis@frederickcountymd.gov.

It is a real honor to serve you.

Taneytown Mayor James McCarron

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." —(Lk 1:10-12) NIV

I am writing these comments a little more than a week before Thanksgiving. This year Myra and I will be experiencing a change for the holiday. Traditionally, we have a house full of feasting family and friends celebrating the joy that is Thanksgiving Day. Most years we gather at the beach. This year will

be different. We'll all be gathering at our home here in Taneytown. Myra will "cook the bird" and my daughter in law will provide the crackers & gravy and the fried oysters, my daughters will provide all the trimmings and my son in law, Tony, I know will have something special and there still will be plenty of "feasting". I can hardly wait!

By the time you read this though, Thanksgiving will have come and gone. Only a few weeks will remain until the Big Day. What joy this season brings to our tired old world. . . .If we will only let it. I guess that is quite a statement. Life is full of choices. We choose our happiness and I know of no other time, better than Christmas time, to choose hap-

piness. The starkness of winter begins to yield to the promise of spring. Days begin, ever so slowly to lengthen. Amid the winter bleakness we discover hope. My wishes to you and your family this Christmas season is that you'll find happiness in your friends; your family, your neighbors and all those you may meet in this time of joy!

As is our tradition, the town will "kick off" the Holiday Season with the annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree. The event will take place in front of the police station on Saturday, December 2nd, beginning at 5:30. This year's program will begin with a moving "luminary" celebration remembering all those who are struggling

with cancer. We will follow with the tree lighting with the children's choirs from Runnymede & Taneytown Elementary schools singing your favorite holiday carols. There will be free hot chocolate, candy canes and maybe a special visitor from the North Pole! You don't want to miss this special event. I hope to see you all there!

Your Mayor and City Council have had a busy fall. The business of running the City never stops. When I look back over the past few months, since I last wrote you, I can see we have made some real progress on things that will affect us all. Back in October several members of the City Council and staff attended Maryland Municipal League's

(MML) Fall Conference. I can testify it was one of the best I can remember. The topics were timely and the networking unbeatable.

One of the main things Maryland's municipalities do at this conference is to outline our legislative agenda for the coming General Assembly session (beginning in January). You have heard me go on for years about the need to have the legislature restore the highway user revenues (HURs) the previous administration took away in order to balance the State's budget. These are the funds earmarked to fix our roads. We have made progress but we seek to restore a reliable formula of expected funds. Without this, the benefit we receive from the transportation tax fund is just a guess. It's hard to make plans (& budgets) on just a guess. Restoration of these funds is our priority legislative item once again.

Please, as you see and talk with your delegates/senator during the holiday season, let them know how important these funds are to you City. Another issue adopted by the MML membership addresses a new situation, small cell (phone) towers. Technology has changed and now cell phone carriers are planning to construct individual cell phone poles/towers along city streets. Without regulation from the City this could turn into quite a mess. Our City has already begun to address this, prior to the MML proposed legislation. I will keep you informed about this issue. In a special meeting, on November 1st, Council gathered to discuss "capital projects" the City will require in the future. The needs are overwhelming. We will continue to evaluate and prioritize.

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! And a most prosperous New Year from: Your Mayor and City Council and the entire City's Staff. We are proud to serve you!



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Executive Jan Gardner

Any day in the life as County Executive is always interesting and always different. My days often include experiences that are fascinating, challenging, and sometimes even inspiring!

Take for instance, Friday, November 17th. I began the day speaking to a class of participants in the Leadership Frederick program sponsored by the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce. The topic was job creation and economic development. These future leaders asked interesting questions and thought it was important that we have jobs for people with all kinds of different interests and skill levels. They also recognized the importance of maintaining our high quality of life with great schools and a diversity of parks, recreational and cultural opportunities to attract people. More amazing, they wanted to make sure Frederick County is a great place to retire. Leadership Frederick is building the bench with a great group of future business, community and political leaders. These individuals will ensure our future economic prosperity.

After a couple hours of office work, I then traveled to Brunswick to congratulate the Smoketown Rotary on their formation as a satellite club of

the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek. This currently small but energetic group of Rotarians are committed to investing their time and energy to serve others and strengthen their community. Their motto is simple – service above self. Wonderful!

I then traveled to AstraZeneca and had a tour of their new expanded production capabilities and heard about two new products they recently licensed. Both are biologics with one medicine addressing bladder cancer and the other medicine for asthma. The production facility is impressive, high tech, and amazingly clean (lots of rules for that purpose). Not only has this expansion provided our community with new good paying jobs, the work that is being done is helping people to live longer and to live better. We should be proud to have jobs in our community that make such an incredible impact on public health.

Later in the evening, I attended the 40th anniversary celebration for the Walkersville Rescue Company #24. Many dedicated families and volunteers have been engaged for the entirety of the 40 years of the company. While a tremendous amount has changed over four decades, the commitment and dedication of the men

and women of the company remains the same. The history of their first ambulance covering most of the eastern side of the county north of MD 26 is pretty amazing too. I am most impressed by the people who volunteer their time and get up from the dinner table or out of a warm bed in the middle of the night to help their neighbor in need. Truly inspirational!

That same week also included a meeting with the Frederick County delegation, where we had a productive dialogue to advance stronger ethics laws and to seek state funding support for our schools, roads, Paratransit, and legislation to support agriculture. I also attended the annual dinner meeting of the Community Foundation which included recognizing three outstanding community volunteers with Wertheimer Awards for dedicated service to others. Rae Ann Butler was recognized for her work to improve the lives of seniors; Dan Campbell for his volunteerism with Mission of Mercy and his dedication to help veterans; and the Youth in Action award went to a high school student, Vanessa Fox, for her work with the Frederick Rescue Mission.

In addition to all of these events and community activities, I am busy

at work making sure the county provides stellar services to the citizens of Frederick County. This is made possible due to the hard work and dedication of our county employees – our public servants. I am grateful for all they do every day.

As we complete the third year of charter government, we continue to deliver exceptional results and provide open and honest government for the citizens of Frederick County. Working with the county council, we passed legislation to create a truly independent process for appointing members to our Ethics Commission. Frederick County is leading the way and we can all be proud that we are the only county in Maryland with this independent appointment process.

We are moving forward with new schools, roads and bridges, a new branch public library in Walkersville, and a new fire station in Middletown. Best of all, we are advancing these projects while living within our means. We continue to leverage every dollar to its best use and have not raised property or income tax rates.

Our schools are leading the way with innovation with the new Linking Youth to New Experiences (LYNX) program at Frederick High School. We have co-located Workforce Services with the Community College at the Monroe Center near

the fairgrounds. This collaboration saves money and better serves individuals looking for work and retraining, and our employers who are seeking new employees.

Frederick County has a thriving economy with over 4,200 new jobs over the past two years and an unemployment rate of only 3.1%. We are leading the way with the new collaborative business and innovation center called ROOT at 118 N. Market St. in Frederick. Our new technology business incubator will help to take advantage of job opportunities in IT and technology. We visited over 100 businesses a few weeks ago as part of Business Appreciation Week and 100% of our businesses said that Frederick County is a great place to do business.

Frederick County is well managed and delivering a high quality of life.

As we gather this holiday season, I am grateful for the many blessings we enjoy in Frederick County. I am thankful for your generosity to each other, for your hard work to ensure a strong economy, and for the sense of community and belonging that comes from a community that works together and cares. I am grateful to live in Frederick County and to have the incredible opportunity to serve this community.

Wishing all of you the peace and joy of the holiday.

Developer deals under review

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner that agreements made by the former Board of County Commissioners do not provide required public benefits and she has proposed legislation to correct this problem in the future.

“The Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements are supposed to provide public benefits in exchange for limited secu-

rity for the developer,” Executive Gardner commented. “Unfortunately, citizens did not see their interests reflected in the agreements because the prior administration made bad deals.”

Executive Gardner today shared a newly compiled summary showing that only two of the 14 contracts signed with developers by the last Board of County Com-

missioners included any public benefits beyond what was required by law. The citizens of Frederick County did not receive any infrastructure improvements or benefits as a result of these agreements. Officials gave away the county’s legislative capability for up to 20 to 30 years, and froze some fees in exchange for nothing.

According to a chart compiled

by the Frederick County Attorney’s Office, in 12 out of the 14 cases, developers were guaranteed the right to build while schools are overcrowded. The developments also will not be impacted by any changes in county laws or regulations for up to 20 to 30 years. The chart shows what was required through zoning and the adequate public facilities ordinance and compares them to the benefits required by the developers’ agreements.

To protect the public’s best interest, legislation Executive Gardner recently submitted to the County Council would limit the use of these agreements to developments of 1,500 homes or larger, limit the amount of time that these contracts can offer guarantees, require enhanced public benefits and prohibit the freezing of the fees.

The County Council has not yet introduced the bill.

“We deserve better”

Justin M. Kiska

I was visiting my parents in Walkersville the other day and as I was leaving and getting into my car, there was a group of children playing down the street. I heard one of the little girls say, “Alright, if

you want to play hide and seek, raise your hand.” A few kids raised their hands. Then she said, “If you want to play tag, raise your hand.” It’s funny how something as simple as a group of children trying to decide what to play struck me the way it did.

It occurred to me how the true essence of our democracy has been so ingrained in us that even little chil-

dren understand – maybe not fully – but know how important it is to vote.

Yet, the recent election in the City of Frederick had a dismal turn out. In a city with over 65,000 residents, only a little more than 42,000 are registered voters. Of that, just over 9,000 people went to the polls on Election Day. We know how important voting is, yet each year it seems

like less and less people show up to cast their ballot.

What is causing this disinterest in turning out to vote? Is it really voter apathy? Do people hate “politics” that much? Are people just too wrapped up in other things? Or is it that we’re all looking for someone better to vote for?

How often have you heard that someone is voting for a particular candidate because “they are the lesser of two evils?” Or even worse, “the lesser of who cares.” How many times has someone said, “All politicians are the same?” Maybe it’s not the politics but the people.

It’s been a while since we’ve seen true leaders stand up and inspire us to be greater, to raise us up instead of tear us down, to encourage and challenge us to be the best we can be.

Is this too much to ask for? Absolutely not.

A true leader is someone with visionary ideas who doesn’t want to demonize their opponent, but work with them to find common ground and actually get things done. A true leader won’t just point out the problems we’re facing and tell us how terrible things are, but rather find ways to move us forward. A true leader

can encourage a souring debate about the issues without making it personal and letting petty differences and politics get in the way of doing what’s right. A true leader needs to inspire and energize people and always see what can be.

Maybe next year, with the state and county elections, we can start to change things. It will have to be from the bottom up, but if we demand that our candidates are better and look for the individuals that inspire us, maybe we’ll see the voter turnout numbers increase.

I’ve always been amazed by Frederick County’s potential. Growing up here, I knew what was possible. That’s why I came back to Frederick after working in Washington where I joined my family in starting our company.

This is a community grounded in its history but always looking to its future. That’s why it’s so important to elected leaders who will encourage and enable the county and its residents to thrive as we continue further into the 21st Century.

The future is bright and we need to embrace the possibilities.

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FROM THE DESK...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On October 27th, the Carroll Valley Recreation and Parks Committee, in partnership with Jarrell Studios and the support of many entities and volunteers, held Carroll Valley's first movie night advertised as "Movie Under the Stars". The movie was Hotel Transylvania. Prior to the movie, a "Trunk or Treat" event was held. Approximately 200 were in attendance. It was so successful that six more are being planned for 2018. Thanks goes to Fairfield Fire/EMS, Carroll Valley Police, NEXTStep Martial Arts, Adams County Library and the Diamond Kings Baseball Travel Team. Special thanks to the volunteers: Tim Skoczen, Jeni and Jim Jarrell, Jessica Kraft, Lori Kilenda, Josh Laird, Kevan Taylor, Amanda Bell, Kathy Beard, Hunter Paulus, Charlee and Gayle Marthers. To see the pictures, go to ronspictures.net or type the website address in your browser: <https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-pgNVT3/>.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Veterans Breakfast held on November 13th by the Fairfield School District. Over 120 veterans participated. Thanks goes out to Superintendent Karen Kugler, school staff and teachers, students, and Liberty Mountain Resort. To see the pic-

tures, go to ronspictures.net.

On Tuesday, November 14th, the Borough Council met and approved the advertisement of the proposed 2018 Budget. This action made the proposed 2018 Budget available for residents' review prior to its final adoption at the December 12th Council meeting. The 2018 Budget is the end-product of a three-step review process over a three-month period. The first review was performed by the Borough Manager. The second review was performed by the Finance Committee. The third review was performed by the Borough Council with the Finance Committee during their Budget Workshop.

The tentative budget is based on a millage rate of 2.45 mills that is 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation which means there will be no Carroll Valley Borough tax increase for 2018. The distribution of the total tax paid, approximately, breaks down as follows: Carroll Valley is 14.50%, Fire Tax is 1.48%, Adams County is 23.19% and Fairfield School District is 60.83%. For every \$1 of taxes paid, approximately 15¢ is paid to Carroll Valley Borough for services. The proposed 2018 budget can be reviewed at the Borough office or at www.carrollvalley.org

for the online version.

Sarah Skoczen, our Council President, received the Nobody's Cats Foundation's 2017 Marley award. The Foundation is a 501©3 non-profit organization that promotes the adoption of Trap Neuter Return (TNR) as the preferred strategy for humanely stabilizing and reducing free-roaming domestic feline populations in 15 south-central Pennsylvania counties. This approach prevents suffering among the cats, protects public health, reduces stress on wildlife, and enables communities to redirect desperately needed resources elsewhere. The annual Marley award is given to recognize an individual's dedicated service in the promotion of the TNR program. Through Sarah's leadership and a colony of dedicated volunteer caretakers, over 200 cats in Carroll Valley have been trapped, neutered and returned. She has set an example with her "feet on the ground" involvement. Sarah has also become a valuable resource to other communities such as Bendersville and Fairfield. Congratulations on your award. It is well deserved.

The Carroll Valley Citizens Association (CVCA) will be closing down at the end of this year

after 44 years (1973-2017) of service to our Carroll Valley residents. CVCA was incorporated under the Membership Corporation Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on May 3, 1973. The purpose was to provide a community forum for the consideration of social, cultural, environmental, and government affairs. When the Charnita, (resort area development) went bankrupt, CVCA played a major role in the incorporation of the Borough of Carroll Valley in 1974. Thanks go to past and present members for all you have accomplished for the Borough over the past 44 years.

Thanksgiving is behind us and now on to December. The start of winter, also known as "winter solstice," is December 21st (Thursday). This is the shortest day of the year. Hanukkah begins in the evening of Tuesday, December 12th and ends in the evening of Wednesday, December 20th. Christmas is on the December 25th. Kwanzaa, a celebration that honors African heritage in African-American culture, is observed from December 26th to January 1st.

Internationally known photographer and Carroll Valley resident Kathy McCabe, is exhibiting her photographic art at the Garryowen Irish Pub, in Gettysburg, PA. The display will continue through the end of January 2018. Kathy's

work is being exhibited as "Kathy's Vision", which focuses on landscapes, modern art, photo manipulations and macro photography. She has a unique perspective of her world, having been born with a congenital optical defect which limits her field of vision. She says, "For me, it's not just about capturing the perfect image, it's about seeing my world more perfectly, through the camera lens. This is what photography means to me."

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A donation of \$5 per person is being asked. Children 10 years old and younger are free. I have been told by an air traffic controller that Santa plans to arrive at 8:00 a.m. If you plan to attend, please note the time changes. December Borough meetings are: Planning Commission (Dec 4th), Borough Council (Dec 12th), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Dec 20st). The Borough Office will be closed on Dec 25th and Dec 26th. Please reduce your speed to make sure you, your loved ones, your friends and neighbors will be safe. If you have any questions call me at (301) 606-2021 or email MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Happy Holidays! I wish you and your family good health and happiness topped with loads of good fortune in 2018. Happy New Year!

State Representative Dan Moul

Update on vehicle registration in Pennsylvania

Since the beginning of this year, PennDOT is no longer issuing license plate registration stickers when drivers renew their vehicle registrations. The elimination of registration

stickers will save taxpayers an estimated \$3 million annually, including about \$2 million in mailing costs.

The savings will directly benefit the Motor License Fund,

which invests in Pennsylvania's infrastructure to repair and maintain bridges and the thousands of miles of roads throughout the Commonwealth.

While the stickers are no

more, drivers are still required to maintain a current vehicle registration and must present a registration card to law enforcement when asked. A valid registration card is also still required when having a safety and/or emissions inspection completed. Law enforcement agencies can now verify if a vehicle is registered by accessing PennDOT's database from their patrol vehicles. In addition, many use license plate reader technology to efficiently validate registrations.

In addition to traditional methods for renewing a vehicle registration, motorists can now renew their registration online from home or a mobile device, in addition to printing and signing a permanent registration card. With this enhancement to the online registration process, drivers no longer have to print a temporary registration card nor will they need to wait for it to be mailed to them by PennDOT.

Despite the fact that law en-

forcement in other states and Canada have been apprised of our change in policy concerning the issuance of registration stickers, Pennsylvania drivers are being encouraged to remove expired stickers from their license plates to avoid being pulled over by police officers out-of-state who may not be aware of the change. Removal of the stickers is not required and is certainly not an easy task. Pennsylvania State Police encourage drivers who are pulled over to politely explain the change to the officer and show him or her registration paperwork, which should be in vehicles at all times.

A Penn State research study concluded that eliminating the registration sticker will have no impact on vehicle registration compliance. It is a change that makes sense as a cost-saving measure by eliminating a process no longer needed. For more information, visit RepMoul.com and click on "Old Registration Stickers."

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To our awesome friends, neighbors and families, we feel fortunate for your love and support.

Enjoy your holidays in good health, prosperity and happiness EVERYONE!

We wish you all a great New Year full of hope and love!

							
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Letter to the Editor

I would like to thank all the residents of Liberty Township for coming out and voting and making this election one of the highest turn out in our history. Thank you for your support.

We have a lot to work on in our Liberty Township, but with all your help we can get our Township back on track. It's going to take some time, but

I am here for each one of you and if you have a question or concern, if I can help I will. I look forward to serving you over the next 6 years.

Please feel free to contact me anytime. God bless and Thanks again for your votes.

Walter M. Barlow
Liberty Township Supervisor

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

If you voted in General Election on Tuesday, November 7, you probably experienced the steady cold rain that fell most of the day. Unfortunately, non-presidential and non-gubernatorial elections like this one, normally range from a 20-30% turnout. The recent election held true to that form with a 23% turnout. Precincts with supervisor, council seats and mayoral races fared slightly better than those with uncontested seats. Thank you to all the candidates who placed their hats, commitment and energy into the ring. Congratulations to Adams County row office candidates Jim Muller (Sheriff), Kelly Lawver (Clerk of Courts) and Crissy Redding (Treasurer). We wish you continued and future success in serving the residents of Adams County.

At the Wednesday, November 15 Commissioners Meeting, County Manager Al Penksa presented the Adams County 2018 Budget Tentative Budget. Adams County is in healthy fiscal condition with an A+2 bond rating and responsible reserves. 2018 is a tough budget year with state budget issues and mandates, growth pressures for needed services, and flat revenue with little commercial development. In order to combat lack of revenue we have consolidated rents to a county owned building at the new human Services Building, we have merged functions of departments, we have re-

financed variable debt at lower interest rates and reduced overtime at our 24/7 facilities. .

In the past four years our tax mileage rate has remained flat lined 3.9193 through good fiscal management. In visioning for the next three years, our finance department has recommended we increase mileage .027 to 4.1893. Adams County government is fiscally conservative and efficient. This small increase is necessary to meet capital needs and provide the vast array of significant human services that we are responsible for supplying. We anticipate strong fiscal management to continue, with marginal revenue beginning to increase in the next three years.

The commissioners held their most recent Adams County Commissioners Community Forum on Tuesday, November 14, at the Thomas-Harbaugh Library in Biglerville. The forums are held from 6:30-8:00 and the subject matter of this forum was Changing Tourism in Adams County. Panelists and presenters were Norris Flowers and Stacey Fox from Destination Gettysburg. The Adams County Commissioners forums move around the county and always include a relevant subject matter and the opportunity for discussion on other topics related to Adams County government. For those who are not able to attend the forums, they are taped and later broadcast by Adams County Community

Television Comcast channel 12, and also can be viewed on the Community TV website.

On Tuesday, October 24, District Court 51-3-04, District Judge Beauchat, opened for business at Adams County Human Services Building. The office that was previously located on Fairfield Road and serves Arendtsville, Bendersville, Biglerville, Carroll Valley, Fairfield and Cumberland, Franklin, Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, Liberty and Menallen townships. We wish District Judge Beauchat and staff best wishes in their new digs! This is the first in three court related moves that will have District Judge Beauchat's, District Judge Harvey's and Central Court relocating to the Human Services Building. President Judge George reflected that the move will allow the county to redirect taxpayer dollars from a lease, into property that will be owned by the citizens of this county for generations to come, and not only makes good fiscal sense; but will help preserve the heritage of both the court and of the county government in Adams County.

Speaking of the Adams County Human Services Building, Conewago Contractors was awarded the construction bid to construct the parking lot addition. The parking lot addition will be to the east of the current parking lot toward the St. Francis complex, and will add ap-

proximately 80 new parking spaces. Several trees on the back middle edge of the current lot have been removed and approximately twenty-five new trees will be planted around the perimeter to enhance the landscape, security and sight lines from the building. It is anticipated that construction will not dramatically impact current parking, ingress and egress. The entire project is expected to be completed by late November. We are very happy to report that Health Choices York/Adams joinder has now moved into the building offering mental health & drug counseling services in Adams County.

Congratulations to Community Television on serving Adams County for 30 years. It is difficult to believe that the media outlet founded in 1998 as Adams Community Television (ACTV) is celebrating its 30TH Anniversary as Community Media. The station was founded by Ray Gouker, a teacher of visual communications at Gettysburg High School. Ray is still very active in the stations operation and broadcasts. The station first aired five nights a week for two hours each evening. Community Media is now on the air 24 hours a day, seven days a week and makes its programming available by online streaming. Community Media has expanded its broadcasting to over 40,000 households in York & Adams County's.

Community Media broadcasts a variety of topics of local interest that includes several municipal meetings, including Carrol Valley, and all of the Adams County Commissioners Community Forums. Thus, thousands of viewers hear our forum message through Community Media. Community Media has announced they will be adding a new feature on the experience of our county veterans. They have requested the assistance of our Adams County Veterans Affairs Department which Stan and Vic are happy to provide. The CM Board members deserve special recognition for their commitment and dedication to making this community resource sustainable and available. They are Raymond Gouker (CEO), Carrol Valley Mayor Ron Harris (President), George Escalera (VP), Thomas Landis (Treasurer), Mark Lookenbill (Secretary), Lisa Bean (Director), Robert Witt (Director), and Mark Wherley (Station Manager). Thank you and best wishes for 30 more years informing our residents!

With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas on the horizon, The Adams County Board of Commissioners wishes you and your family best wishes for good health and happiness in 2018. There are a multitude of activities taking place during the holiday season. No matter what you do - get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.

State Senator Richard Alloway

As the bitter debate continues in Harrisburg about how to fund the state budget, it may be useful for lawmakers to take a step back and reevaluate how we can set aside our differences and cooperate in the best interests of our constituents. Pennsylvanians chose divided government for a reason; neither side of the political spectrum holds all of the right answers.

Bringing the battle over state revenues to a merciful conclusion will require cooperation among all parties. Although that idea may sound far-fetched given the current political environment, there is ample precedent for lawmakers transcending partisanship and doing what is right for the people we represent. We need to look no further than last month's passage of a bipartisan, bicameral animal protec-

tion bill as an example.

For years, almost everyone agreed that Pennsylvania's animal cruelty laws were too lax. Many abusers got away with torturous behavior with little more than a slap on the wrist - if they received any punishment at all. Even though all parties agreed the law needed to be improved, there was some disagreement about exactly what changes needed to be made.

That was one of the reason why the bill stalled in the House of Representatives last year and failed to reach Governor Wolf's desk, despite broad bipartisan support for the overall concept of preventing animal cruelty.

We renewed the fight for these critical animal protections this year, and that effort finally paid off with final passage of the most significant animal cruelty prevention measure that has passed the General Assembly in decades. The new law creates a felony statute for the worst abusers, prevents dogs from being tethered in unsafe conditions, adds horses to the state's

animal cruelty laws, and creates a new classification for crimes against guide dogs and police animals.

Although the process was long and difficult, the end result is something that all parties can be proud of. The fact that lawmakers from the Senate and the House of Representatives were able to find common ground on that bill gives me hope that we can do the same on the furious debate regarding the state's spending and revenue challenges.

We need to show our constituents that compromise is possible in Harrisburg. We have done it before. We can do it again.

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THE PASTOR'S DESK

Practicing peace this Christmas season

Joyce Shutt
Pastor emeritus
Fairfield Mennonite Church

I was listening to the radio the other day and heard this amazing statement. "There is no justice; just revenge or love." The speaker went on. "Justice is supposed to right a wrong, but that's impossible. We can't un-murder or un-rape someone. We can't un-abuse a child, un-lynch a victim. We can't undo the effects of slavery, racism, religious phobias, or wars. There is no justice, no way to right the wrongs of the past. In the end, we are left with two basic options, revenge or love. Learning the lessons of the past. Moving on to something better." Isn't that the gist of the angel's message to the shepherds, "Let it go, my friends. Peace on earth to men of good will?"

So here we are in the middle of the Christmas season. After this year of mass shootings, terrorist attacks, tweet storms, and political chaos, I am ready to let

go of our culture of revenge and self-aggrandizement. What can we lose by listening to the angel's message and trying something new like loving our enemies, practicing inclusiveness, cooperation, compromise, sharing, non-violence, forgiveness? I'm too old and impatient to get caught up in that squishy permissive love of Christmas cards and manger scenes. I'm ready for a radical, respectful, life changing love that requires give and take, logical consequences for crimes and misdeeds instead of punishment and revenge, helping people get back on their feet after hard times. Jesus stuff.

Louise Murphy in her beautiful little book *The true story of Hansel and Gretel* ends with the witch Magda saying, "Truth is no heavier, no more beautiful than lies. Yet there is something that makes me love the truth, and that love made me wander and worry until the truth was given to you, like a gift. For this, in the end, is all we have. The

love of something."

The love of something. Isn't that what we long for? Isn't that what Christmas is about? The love of something that gives meaning to life? The love of something upon which we can plant our feet, our faith, our hope? The love of something strong enough to forgive the unforgivable? The love of something that motivates us to let go of our anger, hatred, bitterness, fear? The assurance that life is not just "sound and fury signifying nothing"? The assurance that love is stronger than hate and beauty greater than ugliness? That presents and parties, however enjoyable can't replace loving caring respectful relationships? Isn't this what we long for in this Christmas and holiday season? Something bigger, better than ourselves? The love of something?

Our theme for Advent at Fairfield Mennonite is "Let it Be Unto me" based on Mary's response to the angel Gabriel when

he tells her she is going to have a baby out of wedlock. "Let it be unto me as you have said," she responds. That's an amazing response given the culture of her times.


I don't see Mary as the sweet, obedient, co-dependent person the church has wanted us women to accept and model ourselves after. I see her as a trouble maker, a rule breaker, a feisty female loyal to a higher calling. After all, anyone who is as politically outspoken as she was is no patsy. It takes guts to have a child at any time out of wedlock in any culture, let alone a child designated as The Messiah, the Son of God! And then there are all those others in the Christmas narratives who demonstrate courage and imagination: Joseph who defies the norms by refusing to stone Mary and marry her, the shepherds who are not completely freaked out by angel visitations, the wise men who are really gutsy scientists and go looking for hope for their broken world.

So what is this story telling us about ourselves and this period of history in which we find ourselves? Are we to continue bickering and fussing at each other like a bunch of spoiled brats or is God calling us to a new way to be a people and a country? Unlike Mary who is just a kid and full of energy, I am older and rather worn down by life, way past my prime. Burned out, wrung out, worn out, but still unwilling to curl up my toes and retire to my rocking chair. I figure that as long as I am breathing I still have

a lot of learning, living, doing, caring, advocating, loving, needing, sharing, and contributing to the well being of others yet to do. I can be like Elizabeth, another strong woman, but without the late life baby, thank you very much.

In other words, opting out of life and response-ability is not really an option, because God is going to hound us until we say "let it be unto me as you have said," so we might as well do what we can to make this world a better place for ourselves and others. After all, isn't that the gist of this story? Not waiting for others to take the lead? Doing our part however big or small? Isn't this what God wants from each of us? To put feet to this Serenity Prayer thing, this spirit of Christmas thing? No matter where we are, what we are doing, how young or old we are, each of us is called to be a decent human being, to pay it forward to the best of our ability, to let go of the political partisanship, religious and racial bigotry and social venom eating us alive, and instead do random acts of kindness, practice gratitude, be generous, help others, especially those we least understand or like... In other words, "Let it be unto me as you have said" motivated by the love of something, someone, everyone, God. Remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

Joyce Shutt writes a daily blog that you can read by going to stepshope.weebly.com.



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With a special message for children and Children's Choir, 5 pm
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"PREPARE HE IS COMING!"
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THE PASTOR'S DESK

Remembering the meaning of Christmas

Pastor Sean DeLawder
Thurmont Trinity United
Church of Christ

With Christmas rapidly approaching, it is appropriate for those of us who call ourselves "Christians" to reflect on this special and holy time of year. With all of the shopping for gifts, going to parties, holiday baking, sending out cards, decorating the house, and the many other distractions, we can easily get caught up in the busyness of the season, and forget the reason why we celebrate. Especially this year, when there has been so much division in our world, so many natural disasters, fears of potential wars, among other things, that is so important that we focus on what the birth of Jesus means to us as individuals and collectively.

The prophet Isaiah, while he too was living in times of uncertainty, fear of war and political turmoil, gave a message of hope to the people by reminding them that it is God who is in control, and that it is through God that peace would come; but they (we) had to live as people of God.

In the book of Isaiah, the proph-

et in chapter 9 says, that there will be no gloom for those who are in anguish, "for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace." (vs 6-7). Christians view Isaiah's prophetic words as the promise of the birth of Jesus, who would be the savior that God sends to redeem the entire world; the light that will overcome the darkness. Jesus himself says in the gospel according to John, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (8:12).

It is important to always remember this message, but especially during Advent and Christmas, we should reinforce this message within our own hearts, and spread this message to all who we encounter. For many people, Christmas is a time of great joy, but for just as many others, Christmas is a time of great sadness, hardship, and darkness. Regardless of your feelings of pain or joy, the light of Jesus shines down

upon all of us, and in this way, Jesus calls on us to shed this light wherever we go.

Christmas is not about the gifts and the decorations, it is about giving thanks to God for the gift of Jesus and the promise of love and peace to a broken world. I pray that you too will walk in the light of God's love and that you will share this love and light during this holy season and throughout all the year. For if we all can bring our flame, no matter how small it may seem, together, we can spread God's light which will illuminate and bring love and healing to our world.

Join us on Sunday mornings at Trinity United Church of Christ, to hear more about God's love and good news for us - worship is at 11 a.m. at 101 East Main Street, Thurmont. There will be a Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.. For information about Trinity UCC, our services or for questions about what you read in this article, call 301-271-2305 or email Pastor Sean at PastorDeLawder@aol.com. You may also learn more about us or at our website - www.trinityuccthurmont.org. We welcome you to share your thoughts.



St. John's Lutheran Church

8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown

Join us

Christmas Eve - December 24th

as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

5 p.m. - St. John's Union Church

A service of lessons and carols.

Following the service enjoy a free meal:

Fried chicken, spiral ham, succotash, macaroni & cheese, sweet potato casserole, cheese platter, cranberry relish, desserts, coffee and hot chocolate.

7:30 p.m. - St. John's Lutheran Church
Candlelight Service with Communion

Pastor Wayne Blaser will preside.

Bring your family and friends.

For questions call: 301-667-4380

Seton Center Helping Hands Program

Seton Center Outreach Office in Emmitsburg once again is offering a holiday program called Helping Hands. At Christmas income-eligible families receive local food store gift cards so they may purchase foods and prepare a holiday meal according to their unique traditions. This Thanksgiving, because of the community's support, 70 area families participated and were able to enjoy a less stressful, more digni-

fying holiday celebration.

At Christmas, the Helping Hands program provides food store gift cards for meals and retail store gift cards for children age 13-18 to purchase gifts. Generous sponsors also provide unwrapped Christmas presents for children age 0-12 years old. The donated gifts are arranged in store-like fashion so parents may visit Seton Center to choose gifts their children are wishing for.

\$1,000 in Jubilee Foods and

Wal-Mart gift cards were donated from the Emmitsburg Sons of the American Legion to Seton Center's Director Sister Martha Beaudoin for the Helping Hands program. If you are interested in participating as a recipient or sponsor call 301-447-6102.



EmmitsburgCBC@aol.com • www.EmmitsburgCBC.org

Sunday Worship

10 a.m.

Seton Square Office Complex
 17750 Creamery Road Suite 8B
 Emmitsburg
240-397-1700



Pastor Joe Engel

Come, be a part of our family! We welcome you to worship with us as often as you can! God loves you and made you one of a kind! He has great plans for you, He wants the best for you. Come, discover His goodness!



Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us!

Trinity United Methodist Church
 313 W. Main St., Emmitsburg, MD

Worship during Advent season with the lighting of the Advent candles beginning on Sunday, December 3, at 9:00 AM

Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight and Communion, December 24 at 7:00 PM



Contact Rev. Andy Peck-McClain at pastor.trinityeburg@gmail.com or 862-204-9265

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

lowercase 'K' in kneeling

Shannon Bohrer

I know it is sometimes difficult to keep up with the news. A large reason is that what is said on the news one day can change, sometimes very quickly. A bipartisan group put forth a health care bill and the President praised it. The following day the President dissed it.

Recently there has been one divisive issue that has many on both sides – actually holding their positions. The issue is standing or kneeling while the national anthem is played. One side has the position that to not stand is unpatriotic and is disrespectful of the flag, which represents our country and also disrespectful of the military. Conversely, the other side says that protesting, by kneeling, is patriotic, and is an exercise and a right under the first amendment.

A little history could be helpful with the issues around this topic – because some of the controversies are not new. The Star-Spangled Banner became a National Anthem by a congressional resolution in 1931. In 1931 there were no rules of behavior when the anthem was playing. A few rules were developed in 1942, indicating that those in uniform would sa-

lute, while others just stood. In 1998 a distinction between those in uniform and military was added. Some of the changes were thought to address the confusion, between what we do when hearing the National Anthem and what we do when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. There were differences. The Pledge of Allegiance is an expression of allegiance to our Flag and to the United States of America and is related to the controversies.

During the last century when the national anthem was playing most people just stood with their hands at their side or with their hands together in front. During this time period, when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance people stood and held their hand, or hat, over their heart. It was only after 9/11, that people starting using the same custom(s), standing with their hand or hat placed over their heart.

Controversies with both the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance are not new. There have been numerous court cases with challenges to both. The courts have affirmed the rights of individuals to not stand during the National Anthem. The courts have also affirmed that the words; “Under God” in the

Pledge of Allegiance does not endorse a religion by the government. Jehovah’s Witness members do not sing the National Anthem and many do not stand. To the Jehovah’s Witness, standing is “an ‘ethical decision’ and individuals must make their decision on their ‘conscience.’” Basically, the courts have affirmed individual first Amendment rights to free speech, meaning that if individual are forced to stand, their First Amendment rights are being infringed upon.

When Francis Bellamy wrote the Pledge, he was also preaching that Jesus was a socialist. Francis Bellamy’s cousin, Edward Bellamy, was a well-known socialist that opposed capitalism. Francis’s views were allied with his cousins. They believed in nationalized education, nationalized industry – all run by the government – basic elements of socialism. Their intent was to replace the federalist view of sovereign states with a strong central government, a socialist government. To that end some thought the pledge was created for that objective.

The objections to the “Pledge” were well known and documented. A large objection was that our republic was built on the freedom to dissent. The United States of America should not require citizens to pledge their allegiance to a flag or a document. The

objection was reinforced with the first amendment which ensures one’s right to not speak or stand. The pledge was seen to be “... a form of speech in the context of the ritual of pledging allegiance.” The ritual pledging, while thought to be patriotic by many, was also thought by some to be indoctrination, not unlike communism and/or even fascism. We should not question authority, to do so is unpatriotic. Or, is it sometimes patriotic to question authority?

From my perspective, related to these issues is the display or misuse of the American Flag. I remember the controversies about the display, misuse and burning of the American flag in the late sixties. Protest of war in Vietnam, protest over too much government; the “Pentagon Papers” and the “Church” hearings, just to name a few. To protest, people would display an American flag in an improper manner, like letting it touch the ground, wearing it as a head band – and worst of all, burning it. All of those improper acts were characterized as being un-patriotic. Members of congress tried to pass laws that made it illegal to burn an American flag. The courts disagreed, again citing the first amendment, the freedom of speech.

Today, you can purchase shirts, bandanas, hats and dresses that resemble an American Flag. Times have changed to the point that you see celebrities and entertainers wearing American Flags at events that are deemed “Patriotic.” Fif-

ty years ago it was unpatriotic. There is a U.S. Flag code, part of which states “The flag should never be used as wearing apparel...”

So, is it patriotic to stand with one’s hand over the heart, or is patriotic to kneel as a dissent? An argument could be made that the answer is dependent upon one’s perspective. Another argument could be made that both positions could be patriotic. What could be more patriotic than upholding the first amendment and allowing every citizen to have his/her own views – and voice that view. These controversies are not new and I predict will reappear again.

The United States of America was created from dissent. Armed rebellion that created and then ensured our freedoms; including free speech. Instead of both sides complaining about the other, maybe, just maybe we should be celebrating the freedom, to protest, the freedom to have both positions and the freedom to disagree. That is a large part of what makes America great. After all, one of the lines in the National Anthem is “... the land of the free...” Should we not embrace our freedom? The last line in the Pledge of Allegiance is “... with liberty and justice for all.” If – we all don’t have our freedom, how can we have “...liberty and justice for all”?

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Common Cents

Are we in a “Post-American Era”?

Mel Gurtov

As Donald Trump makes his way to Beijing, we need to know that he will be dealing with a Chinese leadership that is much more self-assured about its international status than it was in Obama’s time.

The theme of the September 2017 issue of China-US Focus Digest, a publication of the China-US Exchange Foundation based in Hong Kong and the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, is “‘Post-American Era’ Arrives.” Various Chinese writers, all part of the foreign policy establishment, argue that although the US is and will remain for some time the world’s most powerful country, China’s time has come. “G-2” is a common shorthand for this new era: the US and China, whether collaborating or competing, are now co-movers of the world. The late Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Jimmy Carter’s national security adviser, may have been the first to use the phrase years ago, and now many Chinese seem to have bought into it. I’d say, however, that such an assessment is premature, and not necessarily welcome.

Chinese analysts often prefer to categorize international events in terms of eras. The era just passed is one of American exceptionalism and the American Century, and in their view we are now in the post-American era characterized by Trump’s America First and China’s emergence as a great power. China, the analysts say, is

a leader on behalf of sovereign equality, use of nonmilitary power, model of economic development, and promoter of international cooperation. They point to China’s advances in energy conservation technology and support of the Paris accord, economic achievements under globalization, and numerous strategic partnerships as evidence of its international coming of age at a time when the Trump administration has turned its back on global compacts and environmental protection.

Clearly, a good part of the motivation behind these claims is Beijing’s upset over US trumpeting (you’ll excuse the expression) of America First and periodic talk of trying to leverage Chinese policy on North Korea using trade retaliation and arms sales to Taiwan.

But surely another part, perfectly understandable, is a pervasive Chinese sense that the American experiment is failing while China’s is succeeding. While China’s leadership has kept social problems from exploding and avoided serious reforms of the one-party state, Trump’s America is deeply divided and becoming more so by the month. Legislative dysfunction, racial tensions, official corruption, assaults on media, violence, an opioid crisis, governing by tweets—you name it, we’ve got it. The Trump administration has in fact become a laughingstock of governments nearly everywhere.

But the pervasiveness of America’s

ills doesn’t necessarily translate into a world looking to China for new leadership. I and several other China watchers have written many times about its serious internal problems. Some authoritarian governments may overlook them as they eagerly accept Chinese aid and investments.

But the breadth and depth of China’s economic, social, and political weaknesses cannot be masked by rhetoric—and in fact, the best Chinese analysts acknowledge them. It’s not enough to quote Xi Jinping’s latest homily on the Chinese dream or assert that China upholds democracy and the rule of law—not when Xi’s “thought” is being enshrined, like Mao’s and Deng’s, in China’s party constitution and lawyers, academicians, and human-rights advocates are under constant pressure to conform, or be jailed.

On the international stage, moreover, claims of Chinese leadership are not convincing. Yes, Xi has embraced globalization, climate change, and all manner of regional trade arrangements while Trump has scoffed at the first, denied the second (a “Chinese hoax,” let’s recall), and withdrawn from the third (the Trans-Pacific Partnership). But on many other fronts, where is China’s leadership? Has China effectively come to grips with deforestation, desertification, water conservation, and air pollution? Does it set a positive example on internal migration, immigration, human rights (for women, ethnic minorities,

religious freedom, and civil liberties), or respect for international law (in the South China Sea, for instance)? Will China’s much-touted “One Belt, One Road” Eurasia development project actually benefit people rather than economies? Has China contributed anything to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the Middle East, from Yemen to Syria? Even on North Korea, Chinese criticisms of Kim Jong-un’s military buildup have not extended to a serious diplomatic campaign to reduce tensions between North Korea and the US even though China’s security is very much at risk.

So call the current era G-2 if you wish. But an objective view would be that China’s rise does not yet put it aside the United States. (As Jia Qingguo, a well-known Chinese analyst, writes, “As China has two sets of national interests on many issues, it finds it impossible to pursue a coherent foreign policy.”) Perhaps more importantly, neither country deserves consideration as an international leader. China has all too infrequently avoided taking the lead on major international issues outside East Asia. Even there, China’s muscular behavior is regarded with fear as much as awe. In short, few governments around the world look to China to provide leadership.

The US position is complicated by an administration that simply doesn’t seem to care what the world, including allies, thinks of its behavior. Europeans have apparently reached the conclusion that they are on their own when it comes to environmental, commercial, and political challenges. Canada and Mexico are likely to turn to Pacific trading part-

ners should Trump pull the US out of NAFTA. South Koreans worry about an unpredictable US president whose “fire and fury” rhetoric might lead to war with Pyongyang, while Japanese worry about US reliability in a showdown with North Korea. In both those countries, talk of having their own nuclear weapons is heard more frequently.

Other than in Tokyo and Tel Aviv, Washington’s preference for military over diplomatic approaches to problems (North Korea and Iran being the best examples) has few supporters. The US continues to be militarily overstretched, involved in numerous wars large and small at extraordinary cost to itself and to innocent civilians. America First is supposed to mean that the US will no longer play the role of maintaining world order, but in fact it continues to be global policeman—deploying “240,000 active-duty and reserve troops in at least 172 countries and territories,” as well as some 37,000 on secret missions, according to the New York Times.

Neither the United States nor China has shown interest in common security principles or practices, which would require consistent collaboration on the most urgent global problems: nuclear weapons, climate change, and poverty. Rather than focus on “the era,” these two great powers might better consider two fundamental issues: how to manage their differences so as to avoid confrontations, and how to cooperate in ways that truly benefit human security.

Mel Gurtov is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Portland State University.

The American Mind

Massive broad knowledge

William Hillman

Deutsche Bank recently announced it was laying off half its staff, close to 50,000 employees. Deutsche Bank is not in trouble (maybe a little bit), it just doesn't need people anymore.

"This week (Deutsche Bank boss, John Cryan) warned that technology could replace huge numbers of workers."—This is money.co.uk November 8th 2017

"Nearly half of American jobs are at risk of being taken over by computers within the next two decades."—a report from Oxford University.

The jobs that are in jeopardy from technology are not blue-collar: assembly-line, steel mill, physical labor, or repetitive jobs. Those jobs are all gone.

The jobs that are in jeopardy today are traditional college graduate jobs: accounting, finance journalism, and writing. As artificial intelligence continues to develop, jobs such as engineering, science, and research will begin to feel the squeeze, and opportunity in those fields will decrease.

The continuous automation of jobs affects our society in two ways,

the first is on an individual level -- there will be less employment opportunity; the second is on a national level -- it will make us more fragile as a society and vulnerable to unpredictable events.

How do we prepare our children for future employment?

In recent years, I've watched nephews and children of friends graduate from colleges with good grades and in disciplines that should guarantee a job right out of school. These young men and women then spend years looking for jobs that would justify the money their family spent to put them through college.

Future job opportunity will be greatest for a student who focuses on massive broad knowledge. They will need knowledge and skills that are portable between disciplines and scalable as unpredictable opportunities arise. These jobs will require critical thinking, problem solving and the skill of self-education.

Here is the current landscape.

Currently the unemployment rate for a college graduate is 2.0%, compared to a high school diploma worker's rate of 4.3%. Also, lifetime income expectation for a college graduate far exceeds that of a worker without one. But this is changing. These numbers include all existing

workers. What about new workers, and where are the job opportunities? Each year fewer college graduates find jobs in their field of discipline and the average salary of the college graduate continues to drop.

I like numbers, and every month I peruse the labor statistics from the Department of Labor. The following numbers come from the BLS Table 1, "Job openings levels and rates by industry and region, seasonally adjusted". Industries with the most job openings and largest job growth are: "transportation, warehousing and utilities" (drivers), "professional and business services" (trash collection and custodial services), "health care" (nurse assistant), and food services.

The following job opportunities have decreased even as the economy has grown stronger: financial services, construction, retail, real estate, and education services. Thirty years ago, when I was entering college, these same jobs were the ones we were told to focus on for stable, future work.

If we could predict the stable, wealth-generating, jobs 10 years from now, the elimination of other careers will create massive labor concentration and competition on the remaining fields. Competition causes downward pressure on wages and higher turnover.

As a father whose son is only a handful of years away from starting college, I spend a lot of time thinking about whether he should go to college and what he should study. So many of the jobs that the employment advisers say we should be preparing him for, might not exist in 10 years.

College as a vocational trading school is a big risk. I will encourage my boys to use their time in college to learn how to think, how to learn, and create broad universal skills.

Future employment will require massive flexibility, adaptability, and continued learning. Massive broad knowledge will be the buzz word of the successful college students in years to come.

On the topic of job security, there used to be a saying, "Bumpers and Fenders". What they meant was, don't limit your knowledge to your role in the factory, pay attention and learn other jobs on the factory floor. If that Friday ever comes when pink slips are added to the paychecks, the worker that knows bumpers and fenders will keep his job, and the worker that can only make bumpers will get the pink slip.

Today, it would not be enough to know bumpers and fenders. To hold the job, a worker needs to know every part of the car body, as well as computer science, human resources, communications, math, marketing, physics, and business. There is only need for one worker in the factory and that

worker will be the one who has the broadest set of skills. The worker's day will be mostly dull watching machines do their thing. But the worker will need the skills to deal with the unforeseen.

The truth is, my boys will most likely never work for a large corporation. Eventually, the large corporations will figure out how to eliminate all employees. The majority of Americans work for companies who employ under 50 people. Small business accounts for nearly 70% of new jobs. Successful small business persons need to wear many hats.

Also, broad skills help hedge against possible catastrophic events that could result from the fragility created on a national level from continued automation and consolidation. To quote Leonard Nimoy in his role as Spock, "The more complicated the machine, the easier it is to take it down." The more integrated the system is into the critical functions of our lives, the more catastrophic the result of minor errors will be. People with limited skills and inadaptability will be most vulnerable when the inevitable happens.

I believe that the best way to prepare for future employment is not to spend time preparing for a job, but to spend your energy preparing for any job.

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Down Under

Leaks

Lindsay Coker
Melbourne, Australia

Into a limbo large and broad, since called

The Paradise of Fools, to few unknown.

—John Milton, Paradise lost

From Panama to Paradise the trip wasn't far, the ship the captain and crew much the same, the journey almost boring. No lights were shown, but safely steered it was. Oh, what joy we had as we watched the heavens pour their golden boards into our waiting hands, the power over every land growing without protest. Kings to rule, posterity ours.

—Extract from the diary of an unknown 21st century financier

The foundations of democracy rest on the ability of those in charge -- governments, collectives, dictators, and kings -- to collect taxes. Without that power there can be no order, no progress, no justice, no equality (and no wars). Originally it was only the rich who paid, then landowners, and finally when enfranchisement arrived we were all placed in the melting pot. The right to vote became synonymous with the necessity to pay tax, disobedience was treated as heinous or treason. Governments achieved much with the wealth, building infra-

structure, public services and many of the things needed in a society that can grow and prosper.

Over time various means of collecting the loot were established by governments around the world, from tithes to duties, tax collectors to automatic deductions. In the case of the USA taxation was largely abandoned after the war of independence, because the British tried to impose idiotic taxes to show who was boss, (something they did over and over -- the Irish, the poor, the colonies), making tax a dirty word. As the necessity of raising money by governments at all levels was still there, various laws were passed to introduce taxes by other names. States, municipalities, and the central government all did their bit, with the current outcome being a piecemeal set of laws that have created a system nigh on impossible to understand.

The idea of tax being dirty has never disappeared from the minds of many, especially the rich. While 'ordinary' people have no power to escape paying their due, the moneyed classes have been able to buy or suborn the clever and devious to create schemes that reduce or eliminate their taxes. At the same time, they have had enormous help from certain economists, presidents and lobbyists. It seems strange that in a democracy a president would approve reductions of tax being paid by the rich, (when the rich derive more benefit from the infrastructure that taxes pay for), while

ensuring that the less well off pay a greater share -- but that is the reality.

So it has become a mantra that tax will be minimized by the rich in all walks of life; sports, modelling, actors, entrepreneurs, company owners and shareholders. Not just by deducting the allowable things, but by hiding their earnings and profits in places where little or no tax is charged. This has become so widespread that it has become a growth industry, one that's well hidden from view because while some of it is legal, much of it is not. No one is expected to be squeaky clean these days, but honesty in our dealings is the best way to ensure that society remains cohesive and progressive.

Although wealthy Americans appear to be the first who began hiding their riches this way, it has now spread to every corner of the globe, depriving governments of essential revenue and reducing the standard of living for many citizens. Coupled with the suborning of elected representatives who manage to get legislation in place that removes probes while approving more gouging, the frustration felt by citizens becomes unbearable. They then turn to anyone who promises to be different, allowing charlatans like Donald Trump to be elected. The deprivation of people across the world doesn't matter to Paradise dwellers, because they truly don't care. It's not about you, it's about them. They don't care about democracy either, although it gave them the ability to do their tricks; in fact, they have made a mockery of our most prized method of government.

The revelations from Paradise, coming as they did 12 months after the ones from Panama, caused a



three day wonder. That's how long it took for a media blackout to be put in place, thanks to well known tax havenists like Rupert Murdoch. Will any real action ever be taken? Probably not, because when rich people control Government and the media there's no will to achieve reform.

Not unless you are young, techno savvy, and able to capture the discontent that is growing rapidly as is the case in France, Italy and possibly Germany. Britain is well on the road to this inequality as well, but if there is any hope it may well come from the middle road of Europe. It is unlikely to come from your ballot boxes, as they too have been taken over by bots, those automatically generated messages that keep sending the same thing out to voters, generally made up news, slander, approvals and so on. Seeing about 65% of the population now rely on electronic messages as their only source of news, the chance of being able to decide on the actual worth of a candidate is quite unlikely. This means your 'likes' will determine the vote, and as your friends get the same propaganda

you will believe you have made a rational and justified choice.

The elite are happy for you to not continue with education, and put barriers in your way to achieve it -- an ignorant electorate is more easily duped, more likely to blame others for their loss of income and status. Being techno savvy is not good either unless your education also contains the ability to think logically and clearly.

Milton talked about a 'Paradise of Fools', and this paradise may well prove to be one, just as soon as the revolution happens. Russia will be in the news gain, this time for the parallels to their revolution, and for much the same reasons. Inaction on climate change, unbearable heat, stagnant wages and decreasing food supplies will bring the inhabitants of paradise into the same hell as we trusting citizens will be in.

In the meantime, enjoy Christmas, eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we.....

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

THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Even in December, life goes on

Bill Meredith

"I weep for you," the Walrus said, "I deeply sympathize."

With sobs and tears he sorted out those of the largest size, holding his pocket-handkerchief before his streaming eyes.

—Lewis Carroll, 1871:

Through the Looking-glass.

The year is winding down, and I'm not sure what to make of it. I've been thinking about it a lot lately, and I've decided that perhaps the way you interpret the passage of time depends on how old you are. I was talking to a friend the other day who was celebrating his first birthday, and he was of the opinion that it doesn't really matter; he just pulled on my beard and giggled when I asked him. His brother, who is eight, said firmly that it means we have almost completed another trip in our orbit around the sun, and when January gets here we will start another one. My wife expressed it differently, but she meant basically the same thing: "Same old same-old" ...not as elegant as "No new thing under the sun" in Ecclesiastes, but clear enough as an opinion. Of course, her opinion could mean some changes are needed in my theory that opinions depend on how old you are... but, then, my wife does say she is quite a bit younger than I am....

As October drifted into the past, temperatures dropped at a pretty regular rate each day, and migratory birds drifted off toward the south casually, responding to their pituitary glands rather than to sudden cold spells. Hummingbirds, chimney swifts, swallows and the like left a few days or weeks later than usual. Winter residents like juncos and white-throated sparrows showed up late; in fact, some of them, like purple finches and tree sparrows still haven't arrived.

As I get older I seem to forget things that should have been done on schedule until they become emergencies, and thus when November arrived I still hadn't put out the bird feeders. Finally we had hard frosts on two successive nights, so I got the two feeders cleaned and filled... sunflower seeds in the one hung from the plum tree, and mixed seeds in the one on the iron pole by the window. The next morning, it seemed that no one had noticed; but by noon some scouting parties of starlings and house finches found that the table had been set. They chirped out a bulletin, and by evening the yard was full of birds. Things seemed to be back to normal; but the following morning when I staggered into the kitchen rubbing the sleep out of my eyes, the feeder on the plum tree was still full of seeds and not a

bird was in sight. I was puzzled for a moment, but when I moved to where I could see the other feeder, the reason was obvious. Sitting on top of the mixed-seed feeder was a red-shouldered hawk.

The birds that ordinarily sit there are drably-colored little things, five or six inches long, and when you expect to see those little fellows, a hawk comes as a shock, even when you've seen it before. Evidently it couldn't see through the window glass, for it sat there at least five minutes, staring directly at me; it was probably seeing its own reflection. I estimated that it was about 20 inches long, so it was probably a male (females are larger... about two feet long, beak to tail). It looked just like the one Audubon painted 200 years ago... narrow red and white stripes on the breast, powerful yellow talons, broad black and white stripes on the tail.

This hawk has been around all summer; I would hear him frequently when I went out to get the morning paper. He likes to sit in the old sycamore tree beside the haunted house next door, where he has a clear view of any field mice, snakes or chipmunks that might be around, and he would scold at me in a voice like a blue jay's. He had probably been sitting up there that morning, noticed the sparrows and mourning doves around my feeders, and decided to make a pass at them... nothing ventured, nothing gained. But he was too far away; they would have seen him coming and scrambled to safety in the juniper bush when he dived at them. But he's used to failing. He was probably muttering "Better luck next time" to himself as he sat there on the feeder. If he catches something in



In a majority of eastern North America the Red-shoulder Hawk, a medium size hawk, has become uncommon, due to the effects of widespread deforestation. Red-shoulder Hawks typically live in tall woods with water. They are distinctively marked with barred reddish-peach under parts and a strongly banded tail.

one out of the next ten attacks he makes, he will call it a good day.

I don't mind having the hawk around my yard. He's a beautiful thing to see, whether he is perched on the feeder or soaring 500 feet overhead. I saw him there yesterday among the clouds with another of his kind, facing into the wind with his wings extended motionlessly, just hanging there in the air; it looked like a very pleasant way to spend some time on a clear fall day. I put out the feeder so I can see some birds, and he is a bird,

just like the chickadees and titmice. They are all part of the food chain, and the balance of nature requires each species to survive.

In a way, I envy the birds. They live in the present; they have no awareness of history, and they don't know a future exists, so they are unaware of the mess the world is in. Climate change, hurricanes, forest fires, wars, famines, epidemics and amoral politicians mean nothing to them. Their world is changing, just as mine is; but they have no awareness of it. Chances are that some of them will become extinct before this century ends.


So, here I sit, with my computer screen staring passively back at me, still wondering what it means that 2017 is nearly finished. For the past few years I have closed the year's writing with the words of Pogo, the wisest possum I've ever known; and I can think of nothing better now. Ergo,

*The gentle journey jars to stop,
The drifting dream is done;
And now we'll walk, as men
have walked,
Through years not yet begun.
For Christmas is a life-long
hope,
And hope, the stuff of years.
The gentle journey wanders on,
Through laughter, love and
tears.*

As Walter Cronkite gently reminded us every evening back when the world was simpler, "And that's the way it is, Friday, December 1, 2017."

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IN THE COUNTRY

Winter wonderland

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Snowflakes comes in all shapes and sizes. Legend even states that no two snowflakes are alike. These unique ice crystals form up in the clouds when water droplets freeze, making a six-sided crystal structure. As the temperature drops more vapor freezes branching out off of the initial ice crystal. While most snowflakes are symmetrical six-sided structures, some snowflakes materialize as triangles, hourglasses, spools, and other strange shapes. Shape and size depend mostly on temperature, moisture, and wind. The largest snowflake ever to be recorded was 15 inches wide and fell in Fort Keogh, Montana in 1887 (according to the Guinness Book of World Records).

Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley was the first person to photograph a snowflake. His interest grew as a small child in Jericho, Vermont. He was utterly fascinated by the falling flakes and tried drawing them as he viewed them through a microscope. Due to their fleeting nature he struggled to accurately depict them before they melted. As an adult he had the notion to attempt to photograph them. Bentley walked through his family farm fields holding a piece of black velvet catching snowflakes as they descended. With a feather he brushed aside the ones he wasn't interested in. When he found ones he liked best he would place them under a specially designed microscope attached to a camera. On January 15, 1885 he snapped the very first photograph of a snowflake. Throughout the course of his life he captured over 5,000 images and published about half of them just before he died in 1931.

Maryland is considered a mild or temperate climate. Averaging just 20.6 inches of snow statewide, though local results may differ depending on whether you reside in Garrett or Worcester county or anywhere in between. Locally the largest single snowfall event occurred in January 2016 when winter storm Jonas dropped 33.5 inches on Frederick, breaking the previous record of 31 inches from a blizzard in 1983.

Some like it hot, and as the reports from NOAA and NASA detailed 2016 was the hottest year on record. As was 2015 the year before that, and 2014 the year before that. Currently 2017 ranks as the second hottest year on record, but we are on pace to break the record yet again. With extended warm and dry spells, especially throughout winter, risk of wildfires increases exponentially. Increased evaporation from warm winter days dries out forest floors and leaves leaf litter less compact making them more susceptible to fire risk later in the year. The western United States has been thoroughly ravaged by fires the past several years, coinciding with warmer and drier winters.

It's a common urban legend that 10 inches of snow is the equivalent of 1 inch of rain. The truth is a little more complicated, but it isn't far off. This truism holds when temperatures hov-

er around freezing (32 degrees Fahrenheit), but in warmer temperatures (like late winter/early spring snows) snow is usually comprised of more water. The exchange rate could be as high as 5 inches of snow to 1 inch of water. With colder temperatures, where snow is fluffier and lighter, the ratio can be as high as 15 inches of snow to 1 inch of water. This can make the type of melt all the more important.

A slow melt would benefit the water table and aquifer by slowly percolating and trickling slowly through the soil refilling our aquifer and our drinking supply. Snowmelt that does seep into the aquifer will help to stave off drought conditions later in the year. On the flip side, a fast melt clears roadways, but leads to other problems. A fast melting heavier snow could certainly lead to potential flooding and polluted runoff. If drainage areas are obstructed or clogged this compounds the problem spilling polluted runoff directly into streams and waterways. Digging out gutters and drainage areas would help to mitigate these problems.

When old man winter pulls a blanket of snow over our heads the snow actually acts a lot like a blanket. Freshly fallen snow is comprised of 90 - 95% air, which like a blanket, acts as an insulator. The air contained within is constricted and prevents warmth from the ground leeching into the air above. The depth of snow increases the temperature about 2 degrees Fahrenheit per inch. This helps protect gardens, landscapes, and animals found sheltering within wild areas. One study found that at -14 degrees Fahrenheit the soil under a 9 inch snowfall registered at

28 degrees Fahrenheit. This difference can be critical for some species. Snow also lessens extreme temperature fluctuations. If the temperature rises high enough during the day plants will attempt to take moisture from the soil. If soil is frozen solid this can lead to dehydration causing some plants to die from thirst. Melting snow helps to prevent this by providing much needed moisture to plants. While mostly beneficial to evergreens, which keep foliage year round, dormant plants continue to lose water through evaporation. Snowfall and melt help to replenish much needed water supplies and prevent injury or death.

While most animals will either migrate or hibernate during the winter, others simply adapt. Many even thrive in the snowy conditions. When that blanket of snow covers the ground it acts as an igloo for many small mammals, keeping them warm and safe from predators. Mice, moles, voles, and shrews depend on these snow blankets because they don't have enough fur or fat to adequately protect them from cold or harsh conditions. Underneath the snow they create a network of tunnels that provides fresh warm air and plenty of escape routes from predators like foxes or coyotes. Other predators, like the Arctic Fox, will change coats during the winter months donning a fresh white fur to help camouflage with the snow. Living underneath the snow pack allows the chance for survival until temperatures rise and food is bountiful again.

If you're not a fan of snow try migrating south. Key West, Florida has never reported snow and the cold-



Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley was the first person to photograph a snowflake. His efforts revealed to the general public the extent of Mother Nature's artistic skills - which mankind can never come close to replicating.

est temperature ever recorded was 41 degrees in January 1981. Legislating against snow might be a nice gesture as well. In 1992 the city council of Syracuse, NY passed a decree outlawing any additional snow before Christmas Eve. It snowed just two days later though, proving yet again that nature

can't easily be subdued. Whether you despise snow or you dream of a white winter, remember as you inevitably shovel out that snow ensures a better, wetter, healthier year later on.

To read past articles of In the Country, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.



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REAL SCIENCE

The chemistry of dry cleaning

Michael Rosenthal

The scientific publications I read, magazines and newspapers, are currently dominated by issues that relate to climate change. These discussions focus upon the differences in opinion and approach between the federal government and the scientific community. No compromises or resolution of the differences of opinion seem to be in sight, so I'm taking the liberty of taking a month off in reporting on these energy issues.

All of us have experience with dry cleaning. Dry cleaning isn't really dry, it utilizes solvents that are not water to clean clothes, and is utilized for clothing that would not do well being immersed in water. The first thing is to sort the submitted items and pretreat any really tough stains. The clothes are then "washed" in a machine with an organic chemical solvent. The solvent used most is perchloroethene, referred to as "perc" by the dry-cleaning industry. Perc is an organic chemical with a C-C double bond and 4 chlorine atoms.

Those of you who studied organic chemistry in college may be thinking that dry cleaning plants may not be the healthiest place to work. Indeed chemicals of this sort are toxic, and long-term exposure is not

a good idea. Perc is classified as a probable carcinogen, and exposure may damage the liver and kidneys. Some 6.8 million kilograms of perc were utilized by the dry cleaning industry in 2012. These concerns have led to the seeking of alternatives to perc by the dry-cleaning industry, including 1-bromopropane, propylene glycol ethers, silicones, and high-pressure carbon dioxide. You may have noticed that your clothes returning from the dry cleaners often have a distinctive chemical smell about them until they air out.

When I went to college, there were nowhere near the safety precautions taken in the laboratory that we now implement. Laboratories are now better ventilated. Fume hoods, which are self-ventilating enclosures, are used for many experiments that involve more dangerous chemicals. Students are expected to wear slacks and long-sleeve shirts, and to utilize lab coats and wear goggles to protect the eyes at all times. Lab accidents do occur, and serious consequences are known to result. As I was finishing graduate school at The University of Illinois, a professor of chemistry of some distinction was fatally injured due to an explosion in his research lab. My thanks go to Andy Brunning in Chemical and Engineering News for pro-



Perc, the chemical used in 'dry cleaning,' has recently been classified as a probable carcinogen. Exposure may damage the liver and kidneys.

viding the necessary background for this explanation.

On a cheerier note, we have just enjoyed the season of fall leaves, typical of climates such as ours that have distinctive summers and winters. Leaves start out green, because they utilize a process called photosynthesis via the chemical transformation of air and water into sugar with the assistance of chlorophyll, the chemical that makes leaves green. As winter comes closer, chlorophyll production decreases with the less sunlight available, and the other pigments in leaves become evident, giving us oranges and reds. The exact coloring of fall foliage is the result of a mix of these red, orange, and yellow pigments. Such exposure, soil moisture, and temperature contribute to this process, and hence the variety of colors we see. As fall moves along, sunlight and frost kill off pigments, leaving behind tannin, which is brown. The brown leaves undergo cell breakdown, making them fragile, and wind and cold eventually remove them from the trees. In the spring, the process begins anew.

Let's take a look now at an important development beyond the earth's surface.

For thirteen years, NASA's Cassini spacecraft provided us with wonderful discoveries. It

was launched in 1997 to bring us information about Saturn and its moons. The last contact was September 15, 2017, as it plunged into Saturn's atmosphere and vaporized. The spacecraft spent 13 years orbiting Saturn, studying the planet and its system after entering orbit on July 1, 2004. On the way it flew by Venus twice, Earth, the asteroid Masursky, and in December of 2000, Jupiter. It revealed the methane lakes of Titan, the subterranean ocean beneath the Saturn moon Enceladus's icy crust, and a host of moonlets in Saturn's rings. The rings are now believed to have been formed 100 million years ago. Scientists feel that this project revolutionized human understanding of the Saturn system. The mission has especially revolutionized our understanding of gas giants and has examined the potential for life to exist in the solar system beyond earth.

The ozone hole is a region of exceptionally depleted ozone in the stratosphere over the Antarctic. Ozone protects the earth from the effects of ultraviolet rays, and thus depleting of the ozone layer has serious consequences for life on earth. The good news is that the hole in the protective ozone layer is its smallest size since 1988. The hole is 1.2 million square miles

smaller than last year, and it is still shrinking. The weather has an impact on its growth or shrinkage, but the reduction of the emission of ozone-depleting chemicals, a conscious human effort, has been the major cause in its protection. It is 30 years since the establishment of The Montreal Protocol, an international agreement that led to major global efforts to phase out the use of ozone-depleting chemicals. The culprits are chemicals that had been used in refrigerators, air-conditioners, and aerosol cans – chlorofluorocarbons – and replacing them with safer chemicals.

One of the scientific topics that tends to overwhelm us is that the universe is so large and that we are such a small part of it. Last month it was reported by a researcher at The University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy that a small bright object was observed streaking across the sky. Because of the unique path it followed, it was concluded to be a space rock from another solar system. According to NASA, the object was an asteroid about 400 meters across and moving at a clip of 27 miles per second. The object had approached from above from the direction of the constellation Lyra and had been cruising through interstellar space at a rate of nearly 16 miles per second. It is now zooming toward another part of the galaxy toward the constellation Pegasus. No interstellar asteroid had ever been seen before!

Astronomers aren't entirely sure what this object is. They first called it a comet, but since it had no corona, a cloud of gas and dust that surrounds a comet's core, they thus declared it to be an asteroid. The astronomers are confident that it comes from outside our solar system. Further studies of it are underway before it disappears to try to determine its exact size, shape, and spin rate, and to analyze the colors of light emitted and absorbed by the object to determine its composition. I will keep alert for more information on this remarkable phenomenon.

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To read past articles by Michael Rosenthal visit, the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE VILLAGE IDIOT

The M-65

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

It's past time I replace my M-65 field jacket. If memory serves I paid some online store \$85 for the piece of poorly made crap. It arrived with buttons about to fall off and was never water repellent. It was a new (made to US military specs) coat I'd have sent back if I could have found a better made jacket locally. Sadly, the last army surplus store I dealt with in this area had long since closed shop.

The first M field jacket I wore I found in a box of Dad's stuff in the garage at TJ's in 1968. Researching the M series- I think the coat was an M-51, the jacket that replaced the World War II jacket (M-43) and the Korean War jacket (M-50). Dad retired in '63. According to Wikipedia: "The M-1951 was given snap fasteners instead of buttons and a zipper. Unlike the M-1965 field jacket that replaced it, the M-1951 had button cuffs, a pointed collar and had a separate hood that buttoned on to the collar." That perfectly describes the jacket I eventually put on.

The M-51 jacket did not have the winter lining, though I wore it with only a T-shirt between me and it when walking into town to get drunk back when sub zero temps weren't unusual here. I'm not sure what year I took to wearing it, but I know I got growled at for not leaving it in my high school locker my senior year (1971-72). That was the jacket First Sister embroidered the Eye and Ring (from the covers of the second edition of The Lord of the Rings) on the back of. That jacket was literally a rag when I walked into an army surplus store in Hanover PA and bought the second jacket.

Worn though it was, the second M-51 was of the same quality as the first one. Sadly, the third jacket I acquired was just after the Vietnam war had ended. A retiring Warrant Officer had brought a trailer load of never worn M-65s home with him and was selling them for about \$45 a pop. I noticed immediately the quality was not the same as the earlier jackets I'd worn.

From what I'm reading as I ransack the 'Net for sites selling M-65s I'm concluding the price range of \$70 - \$85 is the cheap crap I'm currently wearing. The \$150, and up, jackets are better made and designed with hardware like the first two I wore- button and snaps rather than cheap, quick to degrade Velcro. Unfortunately, I'm too potbellied to wear them.

As I'm tired of buying junk that doesn't last, and I'm pretty much done stomping through briars, rolling under barbed wire fences, carrying firewood (to heat the homes of friends I never visited in the winter anyhow) and sleeping under bridges- I figure a \$150 (non-military jacket) should last long enough to wrap me in it as I go into the manure pit and on to

the next adventure. I'll buy a "civilian" field jacket, or barn coat, or travelers coat sold by reputable companies that have been around as long as I can remember, and with whom I've done business over the last couple of decades. So off I go to look at those offerings online.

And of course the reviews of the "civilian" jackets I want say they are imported crap of such a low quality -compared to the originals- as to make them worthless, in my seldom humble opinion. Somehow, I am not surprised. The rule of thumb in the manufacturing world is: *make a solid quality product and sell it as cheaply as possible. Once the customer is "hooked", make the product as cheaply as possible, for as long as possible, then come up with a new product when the customer stops buying the other one in disgust.* Back to the military jackets I go. At least I know the quality of the one I have- poor though it is.

Evidently I'm not the typical Google search engine user who gives up after the first page of offerings Google pushes on unsuspecting users. Sure, digging deeper into the Net requires an interruption of nap time, but most of what I'm interested in is seldom found within the first two, or even four pages of Google goop. When I start changing search words while looking for information it is not unusual for me to skim through a dozen Google pages. Which is what happened in the search for a decent M field jacket that I can afford, and will fit me.

What I eventually found was a reproduction of the M-51 with the familiar bells and whistles plus-

"Crafted from high-count military spec 100% nylon/cotton sateen"

"Machine wash warm, tumble dry low"

"Proudly made in the USA"

Yippee! Of course the jacket costs a bit more than the \$150 I wanted to spend. \$300, plus shipping nearly knocked me out of my computer chair! It took a bit of calming down for me to recall I once spent \$500 for a suit I wore two or three times before the moths found it. \$300 for a jacket I'll wear until it's a rag seems a pretty smart bargain when looked at that way.

The company that makes the M-51 I'm lusting after also makes a reproduction of the M-65 using the same cloth as the M-51's. An added bonus is inside pockets that I thought the military should have added way back when. But those pockets aren't worth an extra \$130 the jacket commands, though it is available in potbellied macaque sizes. I briefly consider spending the extra money so I can zip the jacket closed, but 99% of the time I leave the jacket open anyhow. Besides, I can suck the gut in enough to zip a size 2XL closed. Why spend the extra cash for a few hours of warm comfort each winter?

While I'm rooting around the website, hoping to find a pair of good winter military boots, I stumble onto the company's motorcycle jackets. Oh gods!

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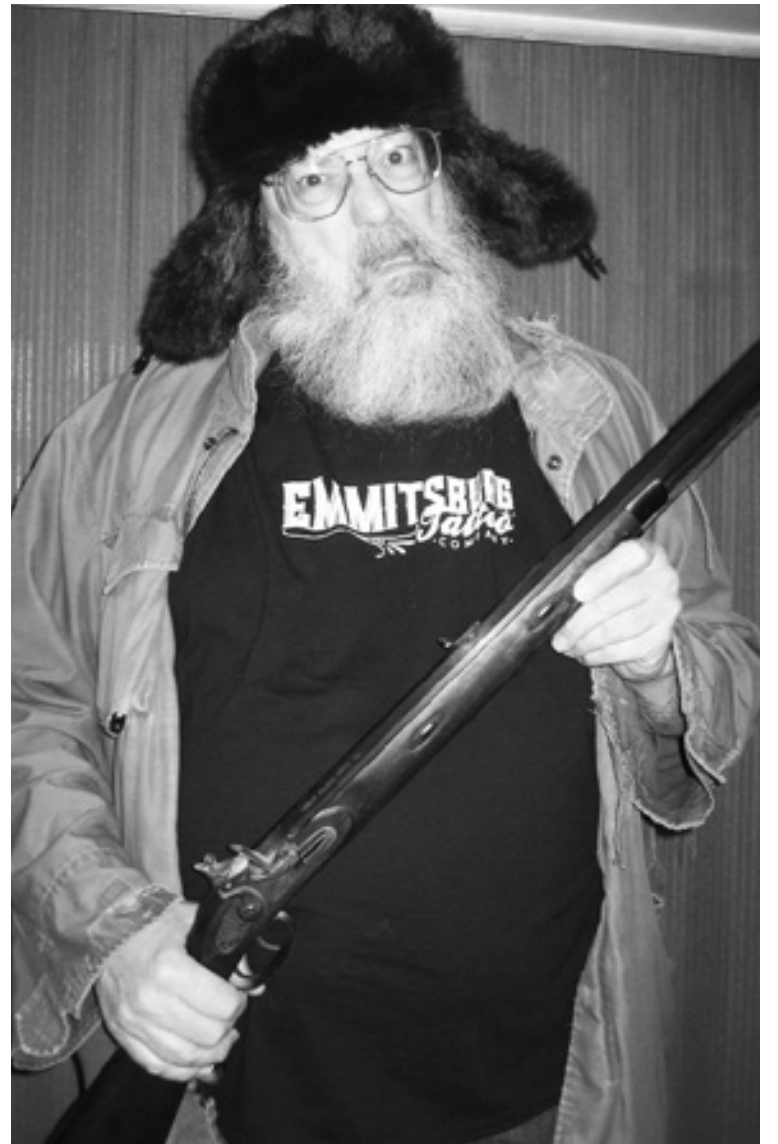
"Four oversized bellows snap down pockets"

"Two inside pockets"

"Proudly made in the USA."

Oo, I want one! But \$950 plus shipping? And it doesn't come in pot bellied sizes. And I no longer enjoy tears freezing to my face as I guide a motorcycle down US 15 when it's below freezing out. Nope. Back to the \$300 M-51.

While DW has given me her



Jack (wearing his old M-65) reports that this article is nothing more than fake news aimed at taking work away from overseas sweat shops.

"oakey doakey" to order the M-51 she balked at my acquiring the military winter gloves and boots similar to the ones Dad left behind. She muttered something about my never shoveling snow or walking anywhere further than the tattoo shop, so I didn't need those win-

ter accessories. In a rare moment of wisdom, I shut up and settled for the M-51. (Why should I shovel snow anyhow?)

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



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PETS

The day I lost my best friend

Gabrielle Barth

November 13. I could just feel something wasn't right. I couldn't explain the emotion, but I knew something was different.

It was 6:03 a.m., a cold and rainy morning. I typically don't get up to start my day until 7 a.m., but my mom came rushing through the bedroom door, and said with a shaky voice, "Bailey has fallen outside and you need to go downstairs to help your dad, we think she broke her leg." I rushed downstairs and my older brother Riley was already by her side and helping my dad. I saw Bailey unable to move. I could tell she was in pain and didn't know what to do. I sat with her, petted her, and tried to soothe her pain away, but I knew something was really wrong. My dad said, "Don't worry, she probably just has a broken leg. Your mother is taking her to the emergency room in Frederick." I didn't believe him; I just knew it was worse than a broken leg.

With tears in my eyes and an empty feeling in my heart, I got on the school bus.

I began texting my mom right away asking, "How was Bailey?" As a family, we tell the truth, and even though it was a tough decision my mom told me the doctors said that Bailey had a stroke or neurological condition in her spine and was paralyzed.

"What does that mean? Are you going to put my best friend down?" My mom said that is a possibility

but we are going to do whatever we can to save her. The blood rushed from my face and I had gone blank. I turned so white someone at school called me a ghost. All I could think about was losing my Bailey. However, as the day went on it got a little better. Everyone told me she was going to be okay and I desperately wanted to believe them.

I walked in through the front door of our house at 3:42 p.m.. Riley was in his room with the door locked, and both of my parents were at my youngest brother Andrew's school, waiting to pick him up. I could just feel something wasn't right.

I ran to my room, grabbed the blanket Bailey would always curl up to and just held it and began to cry. I didn't know why I was crying but I knew something was wrong.

A little later, my parents called all of us to the kitchen and they both hung their heads. I just hoped and prayed that they were going to say Bailey was going to be okay. My dad tried talking but just couldn't find the words. Riley spoke first and said "We have to put her down, don't we?" Right away my parents began to cry.

At first I thought this couldn't be true, Bailey was going to be okay, it's just a dream.

At 4:12 p.m. the entire family walked to the car and began the long, silent ride to the animal hospital. It was a 20-minute ride that felt like hours. As we drove to the hospital everything felt completely unreal. I was going to wake up and she

was going to be okay. She just had to be okay.

We waited in a room for the doctor to bring my best friend to me so I could see her one last time. As Bailey was wheeled over to us on a stretcher, I could tell she was happy to see us but she wasn't herself, she wasn't the happy dog I knew.

Bailey was the one I could reliably come to with my problems. She wouldn't judge me. All Bailey would do was look at me with her big eyes and listen to my problems while she laid her head on my lap to comfort me.

Now, it was my turn to comfort her. As painful as it was, I knew what she needed. We had a special relationship.

As I sat on the bed, the nurse and doctor unstrapped her from the stretcher and laid her head in my lap. At first, I was speechless. Finally the only words I could say to my beloved friend were "I love you Bailey."

The doctor had prepared an IV line in Bailey's leg. I couldn't bear to look at it. I could see the doctor looking toward my parents and with tears rolling down their cheeks they both nodded their heads. All I could do was lay my head on her and cry. A few minutes passed and I felt her calm down and seconds later she was gone, my best friend was gone. I couldn't believe it.

The house feels different and so do I, but I know she's in a happy place. I love my Bailey and always will. Goodbye my best friend, I'm going to miss you.

Rest in peace Bailey



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A HOME FOR SHELTERED PETS

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

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



Barbie is one silly cat. Look at that pose! This 3-year-old gray girl has quite the personality and ornery green eyes. If you're looking for a fun companion, stop out and meet Barbie.



Parker is a 1-year-old, incredibly handsome, gray tabby man who has kind of unique coloring. He's a real sweet fellow looking for someone to love. Could you be that person?



Sandy is a pretty, brown-tabby girl with white who has very expressive eyes. This nice, 1-year-old girl will make someone a wonderful companion.



Hutch is a 9-year-old beagle who was surrendered to the shelter because his owners were downsizing. He's an incredibly sweet boy who loves to be petted and play with toys. He did have a faint positive test for Lyme disease. We're treating him with antibiotics and he shows no symptoms, but the new pet parents should be aware. Please come give Hutch a second chance!



Turk is a 4-year-old boy who has been here over a year. He wasn't doing very well in his cage, so he lives in our treatment room. He just needed some space because he's so happy there and is so affectionate! Turk loves treats and fluffy beds - who doesn't? Would you like to snack with and snuggle this sweet black-and-white boy?

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



Patch is a happy 6-year-old pitbull mix with a lot of energy. He will need someone who can work with him and give him an outlet for all that zeal. Patch seems ok with other female dogs, but sometimes males bug him. He would probably be best as an only dog without cats and with kids older than 8. If you've got the right place for Patch, please stop out.



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THE MASTER GARDENER

Winter landscapes can be beautiful!

Mary Ann Ryan
Consumer Horticulture
Penn State Extension

The leaves are off the trees, the Christmas lights are hung, and the holiday season is here. But what about gardening? The days leading up to Christmas are a great opportunity to take walks outdoors and see the beauty of the plants. December brings us berries of all colors, interesting bark on trees and shrubs, and even a few flowers interspersed. If we take a look at where these winter spectacles grow, we can re-create wonderful winter gardens.

Winter landscapes can be beautiful. Shapes and forms come to the forefront in winter design as well as textures and silhouettes. Evergreen trees and shrubs become our mainstay in the winter landscape. But if we look beyond the obvious, we can recognize beauty in deciduous shrubs and trees, like bark and stems.

Trees like the paperbark maple, river birch and sycamore have three distinct silhouettes, three mature sizes and habits, but all share the same common interest: their bark.

The paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*, is one of my favorite trees. This slow-growing tree offers a cinnamon colored, peeling bark on the trunk and branches. It is a slow grower that likes part shade to full sun and reaches about 20-25'. It's not fussy about soil, but don't place it in a really dry location. Well-drained soils are ideal. This is a great selection for a specimen tree or focal point in the garden where the tree bark and color will be visited on a more personal level.

River birch, *Betula nigra*, a native tree to river and creek banks as well as marshy areas, has interesting bark. The cinnamon colored peeling bark is exciting in all four seasons. The leaves on

this tree are small; the canopy is not dense, allowing the bark to be visible in and out of leaf. This tree will reach 50' and will thrive in moist soils, but lucky for us, it is very versatile, adapting to drier locations as well. In a grouping of three or five, this selection is outstanding. Use it as a plant grouping in the yard, or as a single tree as a specimen in a foundation planting. Grown in clumps or single stemmed allows for a variety of design styles, from a more natural look to a formal appearance.

What about sycamores? Much like the river birch, this tree is also native and seen along creek banks. However, the sycamore is a large shade tree, adapting well to wet soils and well-drained soils. It too has a peeling bark, white and gray in color, making a very interesting addition to your winter landscape. Its heavy branching and coarse structure makes it an exciting tree in the yard.

The sycamore will reach to 100' if kept healthy. However, this particular tree does have some issues. Diseases like anthracnose and bacterial leaf scorch can cause early defoliation of the tree as early as August. The best defense against these problems is to keep the leaves and twigs that fall to the ground cleaned up as well as cutting out dead and dying limbs. It is a relatively fast growing tree, and may be a selection for quick shade.

In addition to trees, many shrubs also have interesting bark and twigs. Some of these include the oakleaf hydrangea and shrub dogwoods.

Oakleaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, is a lovely large growing native shrub. The interest in this plant for the winter lies in the bark, much like the paperbark maple. The stems peel, showing a pretty cinnamon color and texture throughout the winter months. This plant likes

more shade than sun. These plants have large white panicles of flowers in the summer, and have a lovely red fall color, making this a great choice for any season. As its name suggests, the leaves are shaped like an oak leaf, giving a coarse texture to your garden. This plant can be successfully used as a specimen plant or in a shrub grouping. Oakleaf hydrangeas will reach 6' - 8'. Since this is a very large shrub, be sure you place this at the right location so you do not have to prune to reduce or maintain the size. It looks best in its natural form.

There are dwarf cultivars available in the industry like 'Pee Wee'. This pretty shrub has all the characteristics of the straight species, but will maintain a size of 3'-4', making this an exciting shrub for foundation plantings for all season interest.

The dogwoods, *Cornus alba*, *Cornus stolonifera*, and *Cornus sericea*, are all species of the red and yellow twig dogwoods. These shrubs are not known for their flowers but for their winter color in the twigs. As their name suggests, the stems are a brilliant red or yellow, giving color in our winter gardens. Many varieties of these plants are available. Typically this group of plants can grow to 10', but some varieties have been selected to remain shorter, closer to the four - five foot range, to fit better into the average landscape. Ask your nurseryman for varieties that are shorter. This plant will adapt well to most soils, but naturally will grow in wetter locations. This plant group will need to be pruned regularly as the colored twigs are the newest growth. The old wood becomes brown. Just cut out the old wood in the spring before the plant comes out into leaf, and your plants will keep their bright twig color.

Often when speaking of berried plants, birds are the source of the discussion. As much as I love watching the birds in the winter and



The Winterberry Holly provides interest to the winter landscape with its vibrant, red berries and also offers an important food source for wintering songbirds.

value the food we provide through plantings, I'd like to propose a different perspective on our winter wonderland.

Consider the value of the textures and shapes these winter plants provide through their berries. Some of the plants I'll mention have berries that hang in clusters at the end of the branches, and some are up and down the branch, held singly. The snow enhances these textures as the lack of leaves enhances the branching structure.

Callicarpa Americana is a native shrub that has purple berries along the stem of the shrub. These purple berries are unique in color. The plants grow relatively quickly, reaching up to six feet so they

can create a barrier in short notice. They do best in moist, well-drained soil in part-shade.

Viburnum trilobum, American Cranberry bush, is a native shrub that reaches up to 12 feet tall. It likes sun to part shade, gets a nice red fall color, white flowers in the spring and red berries. The berries give a great texture to the winter landscape. It looks great used as a specimen or in a hedgerow.

Symphoricarpos Proud Berry™ is a smaller shrub that has pink berries. It only gets about 4 feet tall and wide, so it is a smaller deciduous shrub. Its description boasts that deer dislike it, and so far my experience has proved that to be true. However, the birds aren't crazy about it either, which just means that the berries will be lingering much longer than most berried shrubs! Part shade is best for this plant, but I have it growing in full sun and it's doing quite well.

'Winter Gold' holly, *Ilex verticillata*, is an unusual cultivar as it has golden berries instead of the typical red berries. It is a very exciting choice, appearance-wise, for a winter landscape and it is more available than ever in the nurseries. This plant likes part shade but will grow in full sun if it has enough moisture. It grows to about 4 - 5 feet.

Check out some of these trees and shrubs in catalogs and on-line. Also, look around at the plant life in nature as you take winter walks. Gather the stems and berries that you may see and identify them. They just may be the next best plant for your winter landscape.

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

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Master Gardeners host “Ask a Master Gardener” Plant Clinics - identifying plants, plant diseases, and insects found in and around

homes. They also share environmentally beneficial landscaping methods through the Demonstration Garden; the Grow It - Eat It program, the Bay-Wise program and via Seminars and Workshops. Master Gardeners love to share gardening ideas with our seniors via therapeutic horticulture programs and with youth via gardening projects and judging training, not to mention supporting greening efforts throughout the region.

If all this sounds appealing and you are a Frederick County resident, visit the Master Gardeners website at www.extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening for more information. Cost for training is \$225. To enroll, write to Susan Trice, MG Coordinator, at strice@umd.edu as soon as possible to begin the application process. Training Classes for 2018 begin in February, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m..

Small Town Gardener Making a lot out of a little

Marianne Willburn

At this time of year there is much advice floating about to “use natural materials” to create amazing holiday decorations cheaply. Indeed I’ve floated much of it myself. However it did occur to me this afternoon as I watched a resourceful young woman picking pinecones off the side of the road, that for the average suburban or urban dweller with little land at his or her disposal, it might not be second nature to make the most of what you have – both because you feel there isn’t much, and because of the great plethora of cinnamon-scented whatsits greeting you at the big box stores which make it ever-easier to hand over the plastic card.

Yet the more we hand over the plastic card, the more hours we have to work to pay off the contents of those highly inconvenient statements that appear with teeth-grinding regularity every month. So wouldn’t it be better to shave off a little here, a little there, and grind the teeth less fiercely?

And, since the children are always needing shoes and there seems to be no limit to the amount of insurance we are supposed to carry these days, why not start with holiday decorations – something whose usefulness is fleeting, cost far too much money, and which look best in rustic, handmade form?

Resources are everywhere, we just need to retrain our minds to see them. In many ways, our tunnel vision can be laid squarely at the feet of marketing teams who have showed us how we need to decorate and what decorations need to look like for far too long. Trained thus, it’s hard to look at a ‘hand painted’ Merry Christmas sign on aged barn wood and make the connection between that and the half gallon of remnant paint you have propping up a couple of pieces of scrap wood in the cellar. Somehow we categorize the former as “magic” and the latter as “mess.”

Believe me, that rustic barn wood is not kissed by the breath of angels, nor is it in all probability, barn wood. (How many old farmers laugh at this barn wood obsession these days I wonder?) In fact, it’s probably not as rustic as the pieces you found next to the paint can.

Sand the wood a bit, grab a pencil, map out your letters, and start painting. Remember, your bad handwriting is someone else’s ‘boutique country.’ Drill a couple holes, attach some wire (found in the bottom of the bottom of the junk drawer), and hang it. Glue gun a couple pinecones on it if you’re feeling defiant. You just saved yourself \$29.99.

Most of you don’t want a sign. That’s okay – I use the sign merely as an example of something you can create once you pull that silk curtain away from the wizard and realize that you can create it. It’s a symbol of looking at things differently.

So with that in mind, let’s look at an average small yard and use it to decorate the front door step.

First, our resources
And they’re not inspiring. There’s a naked dogwood and a solitary overgrown boxwood in a corner. The vegetable bed has gone to sleep, as has the prized hydrangea on the side of the house. In the back, the chain link fence is absolutely covered in wild grape tendrils.

Now our tools: A pair of pruners, a glue gun, a strand of white lights (you know you’ve got an extra), and a spool of lightweight wire (you have my permission to pay good money for that one).

Then, a wreath
Cut down the grape vines (or honeysuckle, or bitter-sweet, or Virginia creeper – you need to anyway, they’re taking over). Put the ends of three or four in your hand and wrap them like a hose to make a circle. Keep going until it’s the thickness you want and use your wire and/or another vine to roughly hold it together. That’s your base. Most stores would charge you \$9.99 for this alone, and you’re not even finished.

Remove the awkward dogwood branch you’ve been meaning to prune all summer and cut off the small sprays of berries on the end. Insert them throughout the framework of the wreath. Your wreath is now worth \$13.99, and when you glue-gun small pieces of dried hydrangea onto it, you can add another three bucks.

For the pièce de résistance, the boxwood (which also needed a summer pruning and never got it) gets a light haircut and offers a bit of greenery to balance all those tawny colors. Put two or three sprigs together with wire, then insert them deeply into the base. Boxwood isn’t cheap and elevates your wreath into the realm of ‘boutique-worthy.’ If you’re not satisfied, fiddle with it until you are.

Next, a miniature ‘tree.’
Go out to the vegetable garden and grab one of those rusting tomato cages. Turn it upside down and wire the three spiky legs together to form a cone at the top. Use a few more of those vines to wrap it like a spiral, using wire to hold it to the cone. Follow up with the lights, and don’t get precious about it – remember, we’re working for ‘rustic.’

Now put the base inside an unused pot, plug in the lights, hang your wreath on the door and stand back and see what you just created from what you had. If you really want to get fancy, pick up some pinecones or Osage oranges from the side of the road (c’mon, everyone’s doing it), and fill the pot with same. Fill another couple while you’re at it – groupings look best in threes.

You just saved yourself a lot of money. If you involved your kids, you can count this as “instructional bonding time.” If you involved a bottle of wine and your spouse, you can count this as “couples skill building.” Whatever you call it, call it good.

Look around you. Find your resources. There is another way. Merry Christmas everyone!

Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com or follow *The Small Town Gardener* on Facebook.

The Word did not become a philosophy, a theory, or a concept to be discussed, debated, or pondered. The Word became a person to be followed, enjoyed and loved!



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John 1:14

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Victory for the Catoctin academic team

Edison Hatter

This is the world's longest running television quiz that began in 1961 in Washington D.C. and has featured contestants Hillary Clinton, George Stephanopoulos, and Michael Chabon. Answer: It's Academic. Beginning every fall, 81 schools from the D.C. area and 81 different schools from the Baltimore area compete in a single elimination tournament for the title of Academic Tournament Champions. Catoctin High School's team, comprised of team captain Edison Hatter, Casey Ecker, and Jude O' Donnell, recently competed in their first round matchup, defeating Eastern Tech High School and Franklin High School to move onto the next round of the tournament.

The academic team has been coached by Catoctin science teacher Douglas Young for the past three

years. He is assisted by fellow science teacher Rebecca Hurley and photography teacher Theresa Hutchinson. Besides Hatter, Ecker, and O' Donnell, Sean Miller, Emmalynn May, Max Bingman, and Owen Bubczyk are on the team as well. The team has four seniors, Hatter, Ecker, O' Donnell, and Miller. None have participated all four years of high school, as Hatter and Ecker joined their sophomore year and Miller and O' Donnell joined their junior year. Hatter and Ecker were both contestants on the television show last year, but Catoctin narrowly lost to James M. Bennett High School.

The television version of the show consists of five rounds. All teams start with one hundred points and points are added or deducted for correct or incorrect answers. The first round is the common thread round. All of the answers have something in common and ten points are added or deducted for correct or incorrect answers. For Cato-

ctin's appearance on the show, all of the answers were eight letter animals. Eastern Tech took an early lead on the first question, but Catoctin fought back, answering four of the final seven questions correct. At the end of the round, Catoctin led with 140 points, Franklin had 120, and Eastern Tech had 100.

The second round is an individual team round where twenty points are added for a correct answer, but no points are deducted for an incorrect answer. Six questions are asked to each team including multiple choice questions and anagrams. In the round, Eastern Tech and Franklin each answered four questions correctly, while Catoctin answered five questions correctly to extend their lead. At the end of the round, Catoctin led with 240 points, while Franklin and Eastern Tech continued to trail. The third round is another competitive round where teams have to answer eight visual questions with correct answers adding twenty

points and incorrect answers deducting twenty points. Once again, Catoctin dominated, answering three of the questions to extend their lead even further. At the end of the round, Catoctin had 300 points. Meanwhile, Eastern Tech answered two questions correctly to jump to 220 points, while Franklin answered one correctly, but missed two to drop to 180 points at the end of the round.

The fourth round is another team round, where teams get eight questions, each worth twenty points, with no deductions for incorrect answers. Eastern Tech went first and answered six correctly to move to 340 points, while Franklin answered seven correct to move to 320 points. Catoctin answered the first five questions correctly, but faltered on the last three to move to 400 points. The last question is a grab bag round. Questions are asked until time for the show runs out. Regular questions are worth

plus or minus twenty points, while visual questions are worth plus or minus thirty points. Catoctin answered a regular question correctly in the early stages of the round to gain a 100 point lead. They then realized they didn't need to answer any more questions to win the match.

Soon, Eastern Tech and Franklin became desperate and began answering every question wildly. As a result, Eastern Tech ended up losing 50 points in the final round, finishing with 290 points. Franklin gained 50 points in the round, thanks to a decision change at the end of the match that awarded Franklin 40 additional points. Catoctin only answered the one question in the round and finished in the lead with 420 points. As a result, Catoctin will advance to the playoffs and play again on January 27 against River Hill and Middletown. That episode will be aired at a date to be determined later, likely in April or early May.

Over the hill and through the woods

Are you an outdoor enthusiast or avid hiker? Are you looking for some great products, locally made, or environmentally friendly? Look no further, and stop by South Mountain Supply Company! Jared Ferraro, owner of South Mountain Supply Company, can supply you with a gathering of good goods for life and its adventures.

Ferraro is a graphic designer by trade with eleven years of experience.

As a designer, he creates custom vinyl decals and signage for a variety of clients ranging from kayak clubs to tattoo artists. He also creates branding and marketing materials for nonprofits, community-focused events, environmental education centers, engineering firms, small businesses and nationally syndicated productions. With a passion for spending time in the great outdoors and his back-

ground as a graphic designer, Ferraro decided to combine his interests and create a store that caters to hikers and outdoor enthusiasts.

The original spark that turned the dream into a reality actually began with something a tad unconventional: stickers. Ferraro began by designing custom, high quality, vinyl decals for friends, but realized right away that stickers don't stand out on a dis-

play table. His solution, he decided, was to carry others' wares in addition to his designs. Drawing inspiration from the "general store" & supply wagons of long ago, Ferraro came up with the concept of South Mountain Supply Company.

In 2016, Ferraro opened South Mountain Supply Company as a pop-up shop to sell his decals as well as a handful of items made in the USA.

This past spring, Ferraro was presented with an opportunity to open a studio and retail space at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, located at 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. Ferraro couldn't resist the opportunity and jumped at the chance to be more involved with an organization that he believes in, as well as be part

continued on next page

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COMMUNITY NOTES



South Mountain Supply Company has all sorts of goodies for outdoor enthusiasts and hikers!

of the South Mountain area. Setting up shop at Strawberry Hill, which is linked with the Appalachian hiking Trail and Michaux State Forest, seemed like the perfect way to reach out to hikers and those who loved spending time outdoors.

“Everyone talks about American jobs, and I wanted to make a difference by supporting small, US companies,” said Ferraro. The products sold at South Mountain Supply Company include USA-made t-shirts and water bottles, locally-made beef jerky and other trail snacks, organic coffee, fair-trade chocolate and hemp products for life and all of its adventures. More recently, South Mountain Supply Company has expanded to include: Ruff Wear dog products, first aid supplies, camping gear, tick and bug repellents, identification guides and picnics, just to name a few.

Ferraro and his wife take pride in supplying customers with quality goods from independent, do-good companies, featuring products made in America. SoMoSuCo sells their favorites; tested, tried and true. They

consciously select brands that share their ideals and lifestyle while promoting the idea of buying local and spending time outdoors.

In addition to the shop’s permanent location at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, interested persons can find South Mountain Supply Company at brew festivals, farmers markets, community events and arts and crafts shows throughout York and Adams County.

In the future, Ferraro hopes to develop South Mountain Supply Company into a lifestyle brand for those who love to explore and be among the trees. The shop will eventually be online too! For now, take a peek at southmountainsupplyco.com for a listing of their upcoming events and shop hours. For any questions, reach out to Ferraro at southmountainsupplyco@gmail.com. Store hours are Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. or by appointment. Remember, this holiday season, stop by South Mountain Supply Company and pick up some one-of-a-kind products for the outdoor enthusiast on your Christmas list!



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HEALTH NOTES

Making healthy choices

Kelsey Shupe
Frederick Memorial Hospital

Have you ever found yourself wandering the aisles of the grocery store trying to make healthy choices only to find that some products that claim to be “healthy” contain high amounts of sodium, sugar, trans fats or saturated fats?

The challenge can be even greater for those who have been advised by their doctors to follow specific dietary instructions to prevent the re-occurrence of a major health event like a heart attack or stroke, or to manage their diabetes.

FMH dietitian Emily Spear provides nutritional consultations to patients who have recently left the hospital following treatment for conditions such as diabetes or a heart attack. Making healthier food choices goes a long way toward helping these patients avoid future hospitalizations. But for many, learning how to get healthier by eating differ-

ently can be overwhelming. It is not uncommon for patients to tell Emily, “I wish I could take you with me to the grocery store!”

To help these patients, members of Frederick Memorial Hospital’s Care Transitions team, along with registered FMH dietitians, lead helpful grocery store tours. The tours are specifically designed for patients who want to improve their health through better nutrition and each tour is specifically tailored to a specific topic, audience, or health condition.

Several times a month and by special appointment, Emily meets a group of 15 people at the Safeway on 7th Street or one of the local Weis locations for a grocery store tour. “Our initial tours were for people with heart failure and focused on selecting products lower in sodium,” she said. “Recently, we’ve collaborated with the Frederick County Health Department to add another tour for people trying to reduce their risk fac-

tors for Type II Diabetes. That includes menu planning based on lower fat options, fiber-rich choices, and healthy carbs.” The tours now focus more on general healthy eating to manage or prevent several types of chronic disease.

Members of Frederick’s deaf and hard-of-hearing community recently attended a tour at a local Weis Market led by registered dietitian Emily Spear. As the group made their way up and down the aisles, Emily would stop at various products to point out the potential pitfalls in certain labeling, such as salad dressings labeled as “low-fat” that are loaded with extra sodium and sugar.

Emily says one of her main goals is to provide real-world solutions for people who are earnestly trying to eat more healthfully, but may have limited time, energy, or money. “Right there in the grocery store is the perfect place to show them the exact products to



FMH dietitian Emily Spear (right) leads tours of local grocery stores to help patients better understand food labels and nutrition information so they can make healthier choices.

choose to make healthier, fresher meals that are quick, easy, and affordable,” she said.

Along the way, she also took questions from the tour participants on topics such as the nutritional value of fresh versus canned vegetables. “If you rinse canned vegetables it will eliminate some of the extra sodium,” she explained. “Cans labeled ‘No Added Salt’ or ‘Low Sodium’

can be as nutritious as fresh vegetables, too.”

For Dawn Watts, who is an active advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing community and who suffers from heart disease, the tour was informative and much needed for her and other members of her community. “Both of my parents had heart attacks and my doctor has told me I have high cholesterol as well, so I’m trying to follow his orders, but it can be hard because there aren’t a lot of resources or information for people in the deaf world.”

With the help of an American Sign Language interpreter, Dawn and the other tour members benefitted from Emily’s tips on how to make better food choices, such as choosing brown rice over white rice, since brown rice is higher in fiber and more nutrient-dense than white rice.

Pam Niziolek wanted to know more about how to prevent Type 2 diabetes and attended a tour specifically targeted toward that topic. “I had been trying to watch my carbohydrates and the tour was really helpful in showing us how to shop, and where to look on the labels for things like additional salt or sugar,” she said. “It definitely made me more aware of what I should be watching for.”

“Making good nutritional choices is the first line of defense when it comes to preventing and treating a lot of chronic diseases,” said Emily. “Our grocery store tours are just one way FMH is working to help people get or stay well, and live healthier, more active lives.”

Pam is now trying to incorporate more whole grain pasta and different grains into her diet, and is also using her spiralizer to make veggie noodles. “We are all creatures of habit,” she said, noting that she tends to prepare the same foods, the same way. She appreciated that the tour showed her how to try different foods or make creative substitutions that can “spice things up” while also helping her eat healthy.

Trying to plan menus to ward off the onset of Type II Diabetes, manage heart failure, or improve overall health? Visit fmh.org and search grocery store to download an aisle-by-aisle shopping list of healthy choices selected for each of these chronic health conditions. To join an upcoming grocery store tour or schedule a tailored tour for your group, call 240-549-2053 or email espear@fmh.org.

Dr. Maurice Smith is a thoracic surgeon and the medical director at Monocacy Health Partners Center for Chest Disease.

I've been working in oncology for 7 years.

Dr. Smith was just 5 years old when he watched a PBS special on heart transplants and set his goal to become a doctor. Today, with seven years of experience in thoracic surgery and Frederick Regional Health System's affiliation with MD Anderson Cancer Network*, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Smith and the oncology team are one step closer to reaching their goal: ending cancer.

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Camp Eder's 7th Annual Christmas Tree Festival

The second half of fall is finally upon us, as the days are shorter and the nights are colder. It's easy to begin anticipating the arrival of Christmas, which is fast approaching this year. Thoughts of hot cocoa, decorating the Christmas tree and fresh baked Christmas cookies fill the minds of many already, including the staff and volunteers at Camp Eder. They are busy elves working hard to prepare for the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Festival, a community event that celebrates the birth of Christ.

Designed as a "Celebration of the Birth of Christ" the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival offers a place where families and individuals can experience an evening of refuge from the many things that pull our attention away from the true reason for the season. Camp Eder, located on Mt. Hope Rd in Fairfield, invites neighbors, friends, and families to join in the festivities December 8 and 9, 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. each evening. There will be marvelous displays of lights, music, story telling by Dave Weiss, food, a bake sale, kids' activities and a luminary garden.

This tradition began in 2011 with an idea to offer Christmas trees for

folks to decorate and display in Geigley Lodge at Camp Eder. Each tree is sponsored by an organization, group, or individual, which they can decorate with a theme of their choice. Attendees can vote on their favorite tree by purchasing tickets for one dollar each. It's a great opportunity to get involved with Camp Eder and the surrounding community, and it's always a lot of fun! Every vote counts, so be sure to make your favorite known when you view these creatively adorned trees. Funds received from the ticket sales for the tree decorating contest benefit the variety of programs happening throughout the year at Camp Eder.

In addition to all the activities and spectacles offered for guests, Camp Eder also boasts beautiful walking creek side trails for those who want to take the celebration outdoors. Each evening, guests will hear the bell ring at 8 p.m., signaling the start of a serene candlelight service in a semi-shelter outdoor pavilion. The service closes with an *A Capella* "Silent Night."

Feel even more a part of the event by donating non-perishable food items for the Fairfield Food Pantry at the Fairfield Mennonite Church. In addition, this year's donations will

help buy geese and goats for small farmers as part of Heiffer International, an organization that reaches into remote parts of the world to provide small livestock to families in hard to reach places.

Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival

is a delightful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and is open to people of all ages. Mark your calendar now and plan to come to Camp Eder on one or both evenings, December 8 & 9. Grab a hot cup of Camp Eder cocoa, find a cozy spot by the fire, lis-

ten to Christmas carols and stories, take in the wonders and beauty, reminisce with friends, and recall the birth of Christ, the true meaning of Christmas. For more information, call the Camp Eder office at 717-642-8256 or visit www.campeder.org.

An evening of Christmas spirit

Emmitsburg kicks off the Christmas season in style on December 4th from 6 to 9 p.m. with its annual "An Evening of Christmas Spirit." Sponsored by the Town of Emmitsburg and the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association, this event is sure to represent the true meaning of Christmas spirit.

This year's "An Evening of Christmas Spirit," which has always been held in conjunction with the town's Christmas tree lighting ceremony, marks the 29th year that the Carriage House Inn holiday event has been formally held. It's been a tradition well cherished by residents since the very beginning.

This year, due to ongoing sidewalk and square construction, the Christmas Tree Lighting will be held in front of the Community Center, as opposed to the square.

The festivities will kick-off at 6 p.m. with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Community

Center. As per tradition, Mayor Don Briggs will lead the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree.

The Holiday festivities will then shift to the Carriage House Inn with Santa's arrival at 6:30 p.m. Santa invites everyone to the Carriage House Inn for hot dogs, cookies and hot cocoa. There will also be a live Nativity, entertainment and hayrides for all to enjoy.

From 7 to 9 p.m. the Carriage House Inn will be hosting local choirs and vocalists in Joann's Ballroom.

In the spirit of giving to those in need during the holiday season, canned goods and donations for the Emmitsburg Lions Club Christmas Food Drive will be accepted at the Carriage House Inn throughout the evening. Look for boxes in designated locations to place your canned goods or donations. The donations will fill Christmas baskets for local families within the community in need.

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FREE Community Dinner!

Trinity United Methodist Church, 313 West Main St., Emmitsburg, invites all residents of the Emmitsburg area to share a free meal and fellowship. There is no charge for these meals and we welcome your attendance.

Wednesday - December 27th, 2017

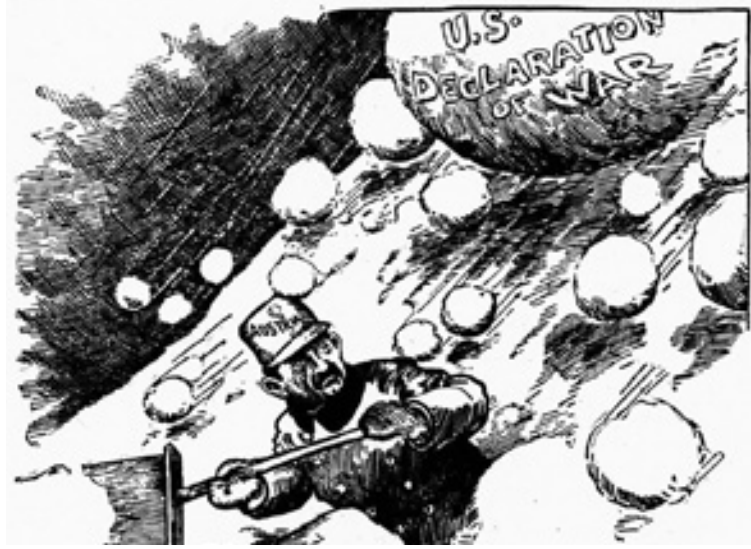
Meals will be served from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Please call Merri Sayler at 301-667-6169 for more information.



WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

Russia ceases to exist as a nation



Eight months after the American declaration of war on Germany, America declared war on Austria. The declaration freed America's hand in helping hard-pressed Italy. President Wilson, however, opted not to declare war on Hungary and Turkey. This greatly complicated the overall allied war effort.

December 7

America Declares War On Austria-Hungary

President Wilson, in his annual message to Congress, recommended America immediately declare war against the Austria-Hungarian Empire. The same logic would lead also to a declaration of war against Turkey and Bulgaria, but they are the mere tools of Germany and do not yet stand in a direct path of our necessary action, he said.

"Peace," the President declared, "could come only when the German people elect rulers that the world can trust; when they make reparations for the destruction that their present rulers have wrought, and when Germany recedes from all the territory acquired in armed conquest."

The President said he did not wish to rearrange the Austria-Hungarian Empire. He hopes to secure, he said, for the people of the Balkan Peninsula and for the people of the Turkish Empire, the right and opportunity to make their own lives safe and secure against oppression and injustice and from the distraction of foreign courts or parties.

Following the President's speech, a resolution for war against Austria-Hungary was introduced in the House of Representatives. It provided a declaration that a state of war exists due to Austria-Hungary's warlike acts against the United States and her support for Germany.

The declaration of war on Austria is regarded as a signal for the extension of America's help to hard-pressed Italy. With the declaration of war against Austria, America is free to assist Italy in the fullest sense.

Germans Open New Italian Offensive

The Austrian & German push to break through to Venice is evidently underway, but the Italians are standing the shock well. The fighting has been extremely heavy, with masses of infantry engaged in hand-to-hand combat. The first attack on the Italian left was met and repulsed with large enemy casualties. The main attack on the Italian right was contested for 36 hours. The Italians inflicted heavy losses be-

fore yielding ground.

Italian aviators had reported heavy concentrations of Austrian and German divisions behind the lines of the invaders, and official dispatches express the opinion that the objective of the new offensive is the plain between Venice and Verona, and eventually Venice itself.

Germany And Bolsheviks Sign Armistice

An armistice, signed by the emissaries of Austria, Germany and the Bolsheviks at Brest-Litovak, is in force on the Eastern front in Galicia and northward. The request of the Bolsheviks delegation that all the belligerents be asked to take part in reaching an armistice on all fronts was refused by the Germans, who proposed that the armistice affect only the front lines between the Baltic and Black seas.

The Russians said they were treating for an armistice on all fronts with a view of the conclusion of a general peace. The Russian Provisional Government however, now at war with the Bolsheviks, said that no separate peace will be tolerated and that its armies under Gen. Dukhonin will fight on.

As part of the armistice, the Bolsheviks demanded that the Germans agree not to take any troops from the Eastern Theater to other fronts and to evacuate the islands in the Gulf of Riga near their headquarters at Petrograd.

Berlin's terms called for the creation of a Kingdom of Poland as a buffer state, which will be administratively dominated by Prussian influence. Germany also demanded the formation of new autonomous states of Estonia and Lithuania and that Finland be allowed to decide her own fate, which decision is certainly to be for an autonomous republic.

The Provisional government's Russian ambassador in London, said that it was only a matter of a few weeks, when the Bolsheviks will be completely repudiated, and the forces in southern Russia, which is overwhelmingly opposed to a separate peace, and controls the supplies, are working quietly but surely in the right direction. The fact that the embassy's staff in London carries on routine work with the Dukhonin headquarters indicates that there is no intention to recognize the

Petrograd usurpers.

Romania, meanwhile, has sided with the Bolsheviks on the proposed armistice. The Romanian government was forced to enter the armistice negotiations with the Germans as a result of an ultimatum from the Bolsheviks who threatened to withdraw Russian troops from the Moldavian front and stop the export of food and war materials.

American Troops Receive Christmas Gifts

American troops are beginning to receive Christmas packages from home, and American bound mail with packages and gifts from the soldiers are going in the other direction. If these are not as numerous as friends and relatives expect, it is because the soldiers are not all able to visit the larger towns and make purchases of the articles permitted. All who can, however, are taking advantage of the opportunity to send something home from France.

In one town held by the Americans, six sacks containing gifts were delivered. The contents of most of them consisted of packages of various sizes. Some of the packages had written on them, "Open at Christmas" and similar inscriptions. The American Post Office has made every effort to keep the mail moving from them to the positions where the addressees are quartered. Many of the offices are small, and it is feared unless they are constantly kept clear, they would soon be congested as a result from the heavy Christmas mail that is expected.

December 14

U.S. Destroyer Sunk

The American destroyer Jacob Jones, one of the newest and largest submarine hunters of her class, was sunk Thursday night with the loss of two thirds of her crew. This is the first naval loss of great consequence since the country entered the war.

The attack was delivered by torpedo. In the rolling icy waters of the North Atlantic winter weather the submarine had plenty of opportunity to pick her time for the shot. The submersible probably came upon the

destroyer patrolling her course in the dark and as a result had the best of the engagement.

The Jones was one of the newest and largest American destroyers, with the displacement of 1,150 tons and a length of 310 feet. She was completed in 1916 at the New York Shipping Company, Camden New Jersey. The large loss of life would indicate that the torpedo, with its deadly charge of high explosives, made a fair hit on the destroyer's thin hull, and the submarine hunter probably was blown in two. That she probably went down like a rock is evidenced by the fact that nothing is said of survivors making it to lifeboats.

The survivors of the Jones undoubtedly owe their lives to the forethought of the Navy Department in having provided every destroyer with life rafts sufficient for the entire crew. They are lashed on the decks in such fashion that they release themselves and come to the surface if the ship sinks. Destroyers cannot carry enough lifeboats for their complement without masking the fire of their guns and torpedoes.

Navy officers took pride in the fact that the Jones and her crew had recently written new honors into Navy records before the vessel fell victim to a torpedo. In October, the Jones went to the rescue of the British cruiser Orama when she had been torpedoed. The Jones raced to the stricken cruiser as she began to settle and transferred all on board to her own decks, in doing so saving 305 British seamen.

Jerusalem Falls, Ends Turk Plan To Seize Suez Canal

The capture of Jerusalem by British forces marks the end of more than 1,200 years of the seat of the Christian religion being held by the Mohammedans. For 673 years the Holy City has been in undisputed ownership of the Turks, the last Christian ruler of Jerusalem being the German Emperor Frederick the Second, whose short-lived dominion lasted from 1229 to 1244.

The fall of Jerusalem marks the definitive collapse of the long protracted effort of the Turks to capture the Suez Canal and invade Egypt. In November

1914, a Turkish army marched on the Suez Canal and succeeded in reaching within striking distance of the great artificial waterways, before being pushed back. In 1915 the Turks, with German backing, reached as close as 85 miles east of the canal, but again were beaten back. In 1916 the Turks again advanced on the canal, reaching within fifteen miles of it. Here they were decisively defeated and driven out of Egypt, and the British forces crossed the border into Palestine.

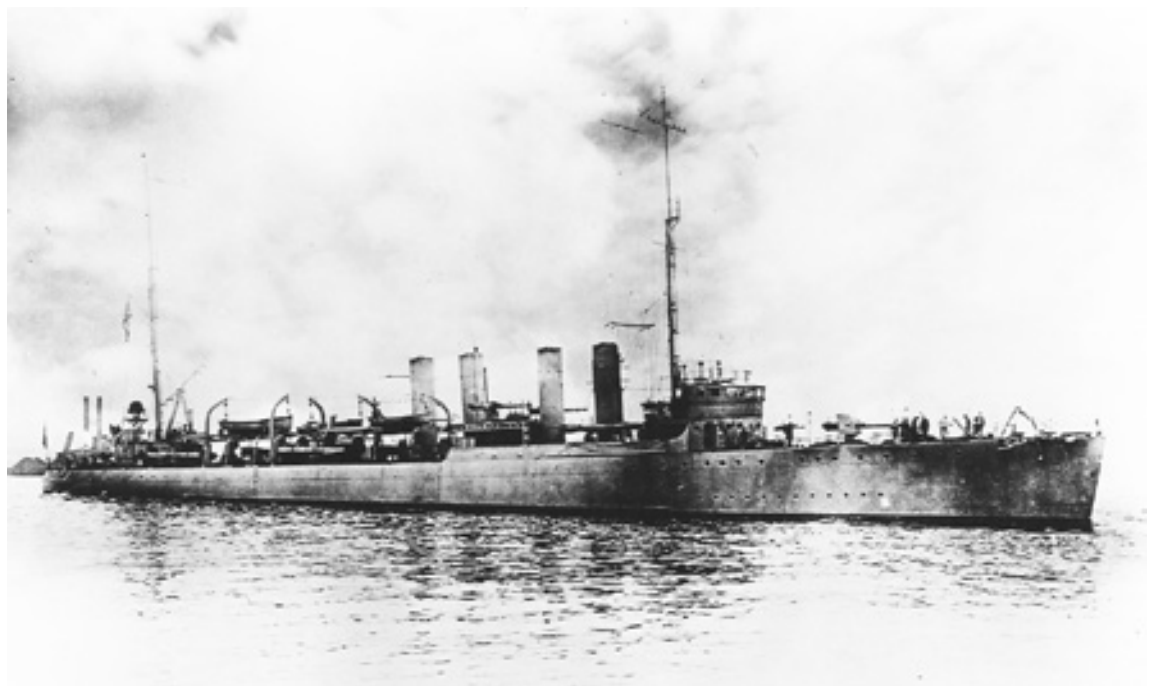
On March 5th of this year, the British captured Hebron, fifteen miles south of Jerusalem. The campaign, however, lapsed into stagnancy due to the heat of the summer, but was renewed with a setting in of cool weather this fall.

By November, Gaza was in the hands of the British. General Allenby, the British commander, kept his forces near the coast, and in rapid motions pushed on to Jaffa - the Port of Jerusalem. By November 22nd the British were within five miles of Jerusalem, cutting the city virtually off on all sides but the East. Few details have come through since that date, but the encircling movement must have been carried out with considerable speed, resulting in the surrender of the city.

Jerusalem contains about 60,000 inhabitants and is the home of pestilence, filth and fevers, but in historic interest it naturally surpasses, to Christians, all other places in the world. Since the days when Joshua wrestled it from the hands of the Jebusites, making it the capital of the Jewish race, Jerusalem has been the prize and prey of half the races of the world. It has passed successfully into the hands of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Persians, Arabs, the motley crowds of the Crusaders, finally to fall before the Turks.

Resistance To Bolsheviks Grows

Fears that the Bolsheviks will dissolve a Constituted Assembly are expressed in manifestoes issued by various non-Bolshevik Socialist bodies. The Central Committee of most of the Socialist organizations and the Executive Committee of the Peasants' Deputies have issued an address to the public, wherein they say: "Only the immediate conclu-



The American destroyer Jacob Jones, one of the newest and largest submarine hunters of her class, was lost with most of her crew when a torpedo hit and blew her into two.



Allied newspapers celebrated the capture of Jerusalem by British forces as an early Christmas present to Christians. The capture, according to the newspapers, marked the end of more than 1,200 years of the seat of the Christian religion being held by the Mohammedans.

sion of peace can save Russia from political and economic ruin and civil war, and preserve the acquisitions of the revolution, but it must be a stable peace, guaranteeing the economic and political independence of Russia, and the interest of the revolution. It must not be a separate peace, but a general. Nevertheless the Bolshevik government began negotiations for a separate armistice without awaiting the decision of the Constituted Assembly, without the approval of the people, without any control on the part of the people, without consulting other parties, without awaiting the replies of our allies, and therefore, the armistice signed by the Bolsheviks is invalid and should be opposed.”

Russian officials in London, who are in direct communications with leaders of the Democratic organizations in Russia, declare that the movement to overthrow the Bolsheviks was supported not only by the Cossacks, but by almost all the leaders of the other parties. These leaders, it was said, are confident that they will be able to make short work of the Bolsheviks. It is said that the ranks of the anti-Bolsheviks will soon number in excess of 400,000 Cossacks.

December 21

Ukraine Secedes From Russia

Dispatches from Petrograd throw little light on the military situation in southern Russia. Official statements issued in Petrograd are confusing and there are various reports regarding General Korniloff, the principle leader of the anti-Bolshevik troops whose present whereabouts and fortunes are not known definitively. The fog of war has settled all over Russia, says the Petrograd correspondent of the Post, although very little actual warfare has developed.

The Germans had already begun to obtain fats and other sorely needed supplies from Russia, according to information reaching Petrograd. It was announced that credit institutions here have been formed and that trade has been resumed with the Germans. New shops have been opened and Germans are exchanging metals and chemicals for vegetables and fats, especially soap.

Force is the only law in Russia today, and the strongest force for the moment is wielded by the Bolsheviks, who, under the guidance of Lenin and Trotsky

are said to have established a despot regime against which many other Socialists are murmuring. Lenin is an invisible mystery, inaccessible and closely guarded, having given up making speeches and now shunning publicity. Trotsky, on the other hand, speaks frequently and is very accessible.

Virtually every newspaper in Russia has been suppressed except those favoring or controlled by the Bolsheviks. The Railway Union, heretofore more or less neutral, has now been brought under Bolshevik influence.

The Rada, the governing body of the Ukraine, gave a negative answer to the ultimatum issued to it by the Bolshevik government demanding that within 48 hours it cease assisting Gen. Kaledines and to disarm all anti-Bolshevik troops in the Ukraine. In case of refusal, the Bolsheviks said that they would consider themselves in a state of war with the Ukraine. In its reply, the Ukrainians proclaimed they were forming a Democratic Republic and intended to join the anti-Bolshevik Russian Federal Republic.

Bolshevik newspapers are complaining that the presence of the Allied military missions in Ukraine is encouraging General Kaledines, leader of the counterrevolution, against the Bolshevik government.

As a result of the armistice between the Germans and the Bolsheviks, the Bolsheviks have been able to move divisions from the northern front against Gen. Kaledines, who is reported to be gaining new successes daily. It is also reported that Romanians on the southwestern Russian front have joined the Ukrainians in their fight against the Bolsheviks.

Meanwhile, it is reported that German railway traffic through the Rhine towns has been congested for several days, owing to the flow of troops and artillery being rushed from the Russian front to the Western front. Whereas the recent Italian victories excite little enthusiasm in Germany, the potential of success on the Western front is causing the greatest joy in the German people. Reports indicate that the Germans are about to undertake, in the West, the greatest offensive campaign of the war with the goal of breaking the Allied lines and finally reaching the Atlantic.

Italians Sink Two Austrian Battleships

Two Italian torpedo boats made a dar-

ing raid into the inner harbor at Trieste, Sunday night, and torpedoed and sank two Austrian battleships. The raid was planned when it was learned that the Austrians were preparing to send the ships, with their 240 mm guns, to bombard the Italian coastal positions.

By slow and silent movement through heavy fog, the little crafts reach the extremity harbor, where the officers examine the numerous obstructions, which barred their passage. Minefields and other structures were located and two hours were spent cutting the large wire cables that stretched across the harbor. Other obstacles were weighed and sunk sufficiently to permit the boats to pass over them. During this time Austrian outpost searchlights were being played on the water, but in spite of this the torpedo boats succeeded in entering the airport without being sighted.

The two Austrian battleships were discovered at anchor at the far end of the harbor. Proceeding cautiously, the Italian torpedo boats took up position for the attack and simultaneously launched four torpedoes. All four torpedoes exploded and the big battleships immediately began to sink.

At the sound of the explosions, Austrian searchlights swept over the waters and located the attackers and the Austrian guns were brought to bear on them, but the two torpedo boats escaped and returned safely to their base.

December 28

Troops Celebrate Christmas

The American Expeditionary Force capitulated to Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. With a light snow falling throughout the war zone, every man — doughboys, cavalrymen, artillerymen, engineers — stopped work as the sun went down and started to do the bidding of the jovial saint temporarily in command.

First there was the rush to open the Christmas packages from home, for during the day, mail truck after mail truck had arrived in the various towns where the troops are quartered, loaded to the top with presents. The mail arrived at the European ports late, and extraordinary efforts were made to get them to the soldiers on the front lines promptly. So many lonely American fighters who had come to the conclusion that their friends at home had forgotten them had cause to rejoice. With their new sweaters on, new pipes in their teeth, some of them smoking fragrant cigars, the men of the Army then set to work in earnest making it merry for the children of France.

During the afternoon, American officers and men worked hard to erect a gigantic Christmas tree and decorate it, while sentries posted outside kept inquisitive youngsters at a safe distance. Finally, the doors were opened and the procession filed in, each little French boy or girl dressed in his or her best and accompanied by their mother, or in the case of the little refugees, whose mothers and fathers were missing, by the women who are caring for them.

There was a tense air of expectancy until the lights were suddenly illuminated in the tree and Santa Claus revealed. All the young eyes were upon the tree, with its glittering tinsel and the customary red,

white, green and purple lights.

Crossed American and French flags were displayed on every branch and boxes of candy, jumping jacks, candy sticks, dolls and other playthings and a plentiful sparkling of apples and oranges, sewing sets, heavy woolen mittens, mufflers, warm clothes, dresses and shoes were piled high at the base of the tree.

Then the real live Santa Claus stepped out. His spring step called forth another appreciative chorus from the youngsters, and the host of khaki clad soldiers standing in the rear, some of them still covered with the mud of the training ground, grinned as they heard the children shout.

The only reason any soldier of the division was absent from the celebration was because there wasn't enough room for him. For it was the men, themselves, who provided the bulk of the money for the presents and they naturally, were eager to see the children being made happy by the gifts. Each of these gifts had been intended to fill as nearly as possible the heart's desires of the individual child. As quickly as the child's name was called from the box containing the presents, the smiling, bashful young citizens of France walked up and received it. Then Santa Claus's assistants distributed the candy, fruit and small toys to all.

The men themselves, in addition to the presents they received from relatives and friends, received many others from other sources, such as the Red Cross and the Tobacco Fund, which distributed large quantities of smokes on behalf of many newspapers of the United States.

Despite the fact that there was a turkey famine, many of these units managed to purchase a number of these birds in France, while others were provided with chickens or goats, so that Christmas promised a day of hearty eating for the troops on the zone. Taken all in all, the American Army is spending a real Christmas in France.

Russian Separatist Movements Spread

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik Foreign

Minister, declared that if Germany's Emperor rejected its peace terms, the Russians would fight on. We did not overthrow Czarism to kneel before the Kaiser he cried. Continuing, he said, but, if through our exhaustion we had to accept the Kaiser's term, we would do so to rise with the German people against German militarism.

Meanwhile, the Rada, the governing body of Ukraine, apparently is maintaining its determined stand toward the Bolshevik government. It is reported that it has converted its sympathies with the movement of General Kaledines, the Cossack leader, into a definite alliance.

Another report, received here, says that Odessa now has definitely gone over to the side of the Ukraine. Details of the capture of Rostov-on-Don printed in Petrograd show that there were six days of fighting before the Cossacks entered the town last Saturday, ejecting the Bolsheviks. The Red Guards lost 500 men killed and 1,000 wounded in the fighting. The Cossacks gave short shift to the Red Guards, whom they hate.

The apparent solidification of the Ukrainian Cossack movement in southern Russia seems to be giving the opposition to the Bolsheviks a firmer hold on that territory. The Bolsheviks themselves are considerably worried by the spread of the separatist movement, which prospectively is cutting off huge slices of Russian territory not only in the direction of Ukraine and the Don regions, but in various other quarters.

In response, the Bolsheviks are making an effort to restore amicable relations with the provinces, which have declared themselves independent and bring about a reunion with them. The spreading sentiment of separatism among the provinces, if consummated, will leave the Bolsheviks only in possession of the Muscovite Kingdom before the time of Peter the Great.

To read past editions of News Reports from the Front, visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

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HISTORY

The History of Emmitsburg

James Helman
 Edited by the Emmitsburg
 Historical Society

Part 9

Foundry

Jones & Hardman erected the building and started the present foundry; Fraley built the present brick shop; the log shop replaced by the brick was Hardman's smith shop, standing where the brick shop stands of Mrs. F. Hardman. It was rolled from up street down to the foundry; Jones sold his interest to Frederick Troxell, moving west. Troxell died in 1852; Hardman continued the plant; later sold it to Joseph Hays & Bro. who sold it to Fraley Brothers.

Gunsmith

John Armstrong was early in the town, as his name is on the plat of 1808 as owner of No. 1 and 2 lots; his reputation as a gunsmith was good; he made rifles and shot guns; dying, the business was continued by his former apprentice, Nathaniel Row, who retained Armstrong's reputation; his brother Samuel worked with him until he went west. David T. Hoff

is the only repairer of guns between Frederick and Gettysburg and Waynesboro and Westminster; he is a dandy as well as a No. 1 mechanic; very fond of artistic pictures.

Brick Yards

Very early a brick yard was conducted by George Houck where John Bell lives; David Gamble made brick along Toms Creek before 1840; he supplied all the brick for a long time; Hopkins Skile made some on the Byers farm; Thomas Clabaugh, and T. M. Stouter, afterward J. M. Stouter was the manufacturer; be added tile making; after his death his son continued.

Beer

Frederick Gelwicks manufactured beer at the old stand very early, 1800, continuing it till his death, when his son Mathias continued it until other beers made it unprofitable. John Elour, a German, came here 1860, a basket maker; later he started a beer cave, conducting it with profit; be retired and built a double brick house with the nickels the boys spent with him.

Tailors

The town had tailor shops, good mechanics, where work could compare with tailors anywhere. We do not know who the early tailors were, save John Devoy, 1811-12. Away back in the history of the tailors McMasters, who carried on where the bank now stands was a noted tailor. Jeremiah Pittinger carried on in the house now J. Henry Row's; John Zimmermann was one of the old tailors, living on the lot where Mrs. Blair lives; he had a shop below the house; his sons were tailors, John and Alven. Jeremiah Cridler, James Hosplehorn, Patrick Kelly, who did a large business, doing the work for the College, carrying the stock in the storeroom of J. A. Helman. France P. Blair, J. H. T. Webb, C. Danner, Jefferson Favourite. Today we are without a tailor.

Barbers

The barber had a poor field to operate in prior to 1860; an occasional stranger dropped in. Abraham Welty, after hat making failed him, took to barbering, between playing his fiddle and his few customers he eked out a livelihood.

Upon one occasion Colonel Harney was stopping at Mrs. Agnew's hotel, he called upon Mr. Welty for a shave, he gave the old man a \$2.50 gold piece. Welty never ceased to speak of Col. Harney. We have had barbers white and barbers black. Not until Charles Kretzer furnished his shop complete did we have a barbershop up to date; located in his own house, between the Slagle House and Richel Berger's drug store. Brinkner, who has recently opened a barbershop opposite



Probably one of Emmitsburg's most notable historical residents was John Armstrong. His name is on the plat of 1808 as owner of lots 1 & 2. His reputation as an exceptional gunsmith was known far and wide. Armstrong rifles, today, are considered one of the finest examples of early American flintlock rifles.

the foundry, is complete in his shop also. Few towns can boast of such good accommodations in this line.

Kidnapping Ned

Ned, or Ned Crummel, a colored barber, held forth near 1844 in the Barry room. Solomon Day, a stone cutter, was in the chair, when Tom Finigan and Mulhorti entered his shop; they seized Crummel and overpowered him, tying his hands (Day seared badly), succeeded in getting him to the Square, where they had a vehicle to carry him off. At this juncture the people exited to a lynching point and were stopped by Dr. Andrew Annan, who came riding up the street, jumped off his horse, inquired the cause, using his knife to cut the rope, and freed Ned. These men persisted in a claim due on his service term, their pretext for the seizure. Richard Gilson was sent for, who had some knowledge of the dispute; when he came it was proven beyond a doubt a fraud and Ned was free. They left speedily or summary punishment would have been inflicted on them.

Negro woman hung

Jacob Troxel the tanner, son of John, owned a black girl Kitty; for her disobedience he sent her to Peter Troxell's farm; she became dissatisfied with farm work and returned to her master; she was told she could remain at home so long as she obeyed, her first disobedience would send her back to the farm. A few nights after she stole away and set fire to Peter Troxell's barn; barn and house were burned. She took this plan to remain in town. She was tried for the crime, found guilty, and hanged in Frederick May 20th, 1820.

California Fever

The California fever of 1849 induced some in this place to seek the golden treasure -George Grabill, George Hockensmith, Dr. James Shorb, John Davis, Francis Hoover, Richard Gilson, Jeremiah Martin. They all found graves in California but Gilson, Shorb and Martin.

State Militia

The military formed tinder the State law was compelled to minister at stated times; these days were known as muster days. Review days in 1848 when war with Mex-



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James T. Hays' tin and stove shop, started in 1856, was a fixture on West Main Street. They made stoves of all kinds as well as plumbing parts and roofing. In later years, they made equipment that produced acetylene gas that was used for lighting homes and public buildings.

ico was in progress, the State militia was regularly drilled at stated times. The following companies in Emmitsburg, a troop of horsemen, Capt. J. W. Baugher; they presented an inspiring sight; the long white horse tail floating in the breeze from their hats; a finely uniformed body of men. One company of infantry, Capt. Manning, afterward Capt. Anthony McBride; this company was equipped with guns; one company, Capt. Alfred Jones, Lieut. Henry Winter; one company, Capt. John Taylor, called the corn stalk company; these companies were not called into active service; Furney, the old fifer, played for them. H. J. Favourite was with Gen. Scott at city of Mexico; James Bowers enlisted, but got no further than New York.

Military at Mount St. Mary's

Mt. St. Mary's college boys had two companies prior to 1860. One the large boys, uniformed and equipped with guns, the other bows and arrows; regularly on Washington's Birthday they came to town to parade. It was a gala day for all; the band was a fine one, led by Dr. Henry Diehlman, James D. Hickey and other professors and young men; when the bow and arrow boys shot the arrow in the air, the town boys had to scramble for possession of them; the day was one of merry making for militia and town; the president of the college and other officials accompanied them in a carriage; after this day the town boys usually formed one or more companies to drill; boy-like it lasted until something else presented itself, a show or foot race, to divert them; the boys engaged in foot races on the Frederick road.

Shoe Makers

This army of mechanics can only be named as heads of the trade. Radford in his day was a leading man; Noah Walker, who achieved so great success as a clothing merchant in Baltimore, learned the shoemaking trade with Radford; amongst the later is Joseph Hoover, his son John Hoover, John Barry, Lawrence Owen, Isaac Wright, Arthur McGinnis, Joseph Row, his sons Joshua, Eli and James, Stephen Adams, John

where Mrs. John Neck lives; Benjamin, his son, carried on where John Glass lives; James Wise carried on the lot John Jackson built; Nicholas Baker, Hess & Weaver, Dukehart & Crisomer carried on coach making.

Blacksmiths

In 1786 Michael Smith was the blacksmith of the town; Ben Smith, called Ben the Ranger, 1830; later Wilson carried on where John Mentzer lives; Thomas Reed in the Frizzel property; George Mentzer where Henry Stokes lives; Wm. Smith at the same place; Philip Hardman in town; Wm. Webb, Detrick Zeek, Chas. Zeck, J. Welty, W.B. Ashbaugh, Fraley Brothers; this business, like all other trades, has been injured by the store keeping the manufactured article heretofore made by hand.

Saddlers

The saddlers of early times are not known, except Wm. Long in 1808, prior to 1830. David Gamble and his brother William are the first we have account of after 1830. Samuel Morrison carried on this enterprise where Harrier's saloon stands; McCarty where M. Hoke lives. This man was a great temperance man; he had a life-size of a man stuffed in his shop, King Alcohol; he built and lived where the Sisters live on Green Street. Henry Stokes came here from Mechanicstown in 1845; Edward Zepp carried on in 1858 and later in the Zacharias store-room. William Ulrich for a short time, J. Henry Stokes now 80.

Hopp, Jacob Lantzer, Philip Lawrence, M. F. Row; at one time as many as twenty-five men worked at the bench. It was difficult to get shoes; today but two are engaged in the trade; the manufacture of shoes has destroyed this enterprise in the towns.

Wagon Makers

This was a business employing many hands; the work of a farming community like this required their wagon making and repairing; first, Henry Dishour was here in 1787; George Winter was the prominent worker; they built the large road wagons as well as all other kinds; G. Winter was here as early as 1796; John Nickum carried on where the Reformed church stands, 1840; his son John carried on where Mrs. Lambert lives. Asa Webb was one of the early wagon makers; had his shop

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Tinners

Joseph Beachey was amongst the early tanners, as he bought the property now J. A. Helman's store of Jacob C. Winter in 1804; there he carried on the tin and copper-smith trade; continuing until 1847, moving opposite, where his son David carried on for a short time, selling out to James F. Adelsberger, the house occupied by Zacharias' store. In 1860 James & D. G. Adelsberger moved their shop to where Rotering's store stands; it was burned in the conflagration of 1863, rebuilt, and occupied until his death in 1878; afterward his son, P. A., removed to the present location, where his widow carries on the trade.

In 1833 Michael Helman came to Emmitsburg, carrying on the trade where S. N. McNair's house stands until his death in 1865. James T. Hays started a tin and stove shop in 1865; has continued to this day, now J. T. Hays & Son, adding plumbing; he is the in-

ventor of the acetylene apparatus now used in lighting the Presbyterian Church, the Reformed, the Roman Catholic; also inventor of a creamer of note. The manufacture of tin ware has destroyed that part of the trade, as this article is now sold by all the stores. Stoves in the early days were sold only by the manufacturer and now the tin shops are the distributors.

Livery Stables

George Sheets Prior to 1840 was the pioneer liveryman; he had stables in the rear of Bennet Tyson's house, living in the house. Later, Jacob Moritz, Madison Fisher, Agnew & Jarboe, Uli Smith, Guthrie & Beam; it was their stables in which the fire started that caused the great conflagration of 1863; it stood where the Elder's stable stands. Jacob Smith, John Long, G. P. Beam, and Howard Row are the liverymen now.

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MOM'S TIME OUT

My children don't believe in Santa

Michele Brown

December 1ST! What?! When?! How?! Every year my family commiserates all of the Christmas decorations and items for sale in the stores as people are taking down Halloween items. Then along comes Thanksgiving and some awesome family time. Suddenly Thanksgiving is over, December is here and Christmas is around the corner. I don't believe there is a month that flies by quicker than December.

It is the same thing every year. The Halloween decorations are being taken off of houses and putt away until next year. In the stores the few remaining Halloween items are moved to the clearance racks and suddenly all of the stores are full of Christmas decorations. Houses are converted over night to winter wonderlands and I am left wondering how I got so behind. I am still sorting Halloween candy while everyone else is stringing lights on their roofs. As I slide my turkey

into the oven I am blinded by the twinkling of Christmas coming in my window.

This year, however, as Christmas grows closer I am faced with mixed emotions. I am of course extremely excited. After all, I am like a little kid at Christmas time. I love giving other people gifts. I love the feeling that surrounds Christmas and enjoying time with friends and family. I am even one of those crazy people who don't mind the hustle and bustle of Black Friday, since I know it is a step in the right direction. I love the chill in the air, hot chocolate and even tinsel (but not too much). I have even resigned myself to the fact that I am going to be substantially behind in preparing for the holiday festivities.

This was expected since we took an impromptu vacation right after Thanksgiving. The next limiting factor was all of my mother-in-law's things are blocking the storage room where we have all of our Christmas decorations (including

the tree). Once we get back from out vacation it will take at least a week (taking into consideration everything else we have going on at the same time). That means we won't be decorated until at least December 9th. Then I have to actually go Christmas Shopping and wrap everything. A little side note, I always pride myself on starting my Christmas shopping in the summer. Unfortunately, I also piddle out by October and haven't accomplished much in the way of present completion.

All of this being said, I am still excited for my favorite holiday. My mixed emotions come into play when I realized that I no longer have any children who still believe in Santa. My youngest had apparently been asking her sister about the validity of Santa several times a week for months. Finally her sister came to us and asked what she should do. My husband and I decided, even though she was younger than the rest were when we told them, that it was time. She is our most analytical and inquisitive child and it was not unexpected when we found out she had been asking for a while. When we told her she handled it very well (They all did except one, who burst into tears and said that I had killed Santa). She actually handled it better than I did. She is my baby and maybe, just maybe, I was hoping she would believe forever.

In our house when you are too old to believe in Santa you become a Secret Santa. Your job is to find someone who wants or needs something, acquire that something, wrap it, get it to the person, and all without the person realizing it was you. When we told her this she was beyond excited and has come to us repeatedly with ideas for being someone's Secret Santa. Even though she is this excited, I still can't get over the fact that she is old enough to not believe. It is the changing of an era for my heart.

Now the question buzzing



Do you remember when your kids still believed in Santa? Better yet, do you remember when you believed in Santa? Life was definitely easier then...

around our house is how this realization will affect Christmas, if at all. The younger ones want to know if they can still pretend Santa is real. The older ones want to know if we will be spending the same amount of money now that Santa had been revealed. These are all good questions, but questions I am not prepared to answer. Either I haven't given it any thought or my husband and I aren't on the same page. He feels, since everyone is in the know, that we should forego the gifts and all go see a show together. I explained that I am not sure the kids would enjoy giving up all of their gifts even if the show was amazing. I know the youngest especially is so nervous that Christmas will change that she still made her list out to Mr. Claus himself.

We have contemplated a Christmas scavenger hunt, cutting back on what we spend, some gifts and a show, regular Christmas and we draw names to exchange one gift.

The possibilities are endless. This year I think we will avoid making too many changes to tradition as this is the first year that everyone knows about Santa. That in itself is enough of a change. My husband is most excited that the kids can help move our elf around and he isn't always the one trying to come up with new Elf on the Shelf ideas.

I have guaranteed all of the kids that Christmas will remain, for the most part, our same old traditional Christmas. I have also let them know that some little changes will happen and if they are well received then there might be other little changes in Christmas Future. I have also explained that above all Christmas is about Jesus first. As long as we remember this and are together on Christmas it will always be the most wonderful holiday. Merry Christmas to you all!

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

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Christmas cookies

Carol Cogliano
Hollabaugh Brothers

I just returned home from a few days in Philadelphia, where my eldest son had the opportunity to participate in their annual Thanksgiving Day parade. It was quite the production: rehearsals, television production run-throughs... months of others' efforts and planning, compressed into a mere 24-hour experience for him. It was a chaotic whirlwind of a trip, but I have never found myself MORE in the Christmas spirit, than I am now.

While my son was busy with his group's rehearsal activities, my husband and I were able to spend time exploring the city. Seeing everything decorated for Christmas, hearing the music, and picking up a few unique gifts made for such an enjoyable kickoff to our holiday season. I found myself in front of the Macy's (formerly Wanamaker's) holiday windows, wishing that their annual light show would be running, to experience something my family did almost every year, back in "the day". (Alas, it was scheduled to begin on Black Friday.) Simply being in all of the retail spaces that were already decked out for weeks to come...well, I'm ashamed to say that it worked. It got me all excited for Christmas.

The parade itself was an experience that I'll not soon forget. I mean, I've watched plenty of parades on TV over the years, but as I stood at the curb, I realized that I'd never seen one in person before. The huge character balloons, with their crews of people trying so desperately to control them...being met with fun chants of "Spin around! Spin around!" from the crowd, and obliging them by furiously running around in a circle, to make the characters spin - to the numerous marching bands from all across the country, belting out Christmas carols and seasonal tunes - to the floats with local celebrities, sports stars and cheerleaders - it was so much fun.

Not to mention the finale, when Santa and Mrs. Claus welcomed in the holiday season. Just as Santa's sleigh rounded the corner, I noticed the children that were sitting near us all started getting up, shedding the blankets that had kept them warm during the parade, and pulling out envelopes and letters. The next thing I knew, uniformed postal workers started approaching all of the kids in the crowd, collecting these letters and envelopes - the kids' letters to Santa! I found myself tearing up, realizing how completely exciting this moment must be to them.

It was a great trip. One that I enjoyed to the fullest, but also one that made me appreciate being home in my small town, looking forward to the weeks ahead of decorating, shopping, preparing and worshipping! So much of my family's preparation is all about little family traditions and the time we spend together. My daughter's favorite part is spending time baking cookies together, and she has made me VOW that we will take time for that in the weeks to come. I've already started planning by finding some new recipes that will be combined with several of our family favorites that without, no holiday is complete.

I hope that you enjoy the following recipes with your families and have a healthy, happy holiday celebration! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Candy Cane Cookies

Recipe courtesy of: www.kleinworthco.com

Soft buttery cookies coated in crushed candy canes & drizzled in white chocolate. Candy Cane Cookies are the perfect complement to hot chocolate, by a warm fire. Also, a colorful addition to Santa's plate!

Ingredients:

- 1½ cups sugar
- ½ cup butter softened
- ½ cup shortening

- 2 eggs
- 2¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Topping

- ¼ cup crushed candy cane crumbs
- ¼ cup melted white chocolate

Instructions:

Heat oven to 400°F. Line baking trays with parchment paper, set aside.

Place crushed candy canes in a small bowl & set aside.

Cream together 1½ cups sugar, the butter, shortening and eggs in large bowl.

Mix together dry ingredients. Stir into wet ingredients.

Shape dough into 1¼-inch balls. Dip 1/2 of each ball in the crushed candy canes.

Place 2 inches apart on baking sheets.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Cool 2-3 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack.

Drizzle each cooled cookie with the melted white chocolate & then sprinkle with additional candy cane crumbs

Kris Kringle Crinkles

Recipe courtesy of: <http://www.twosisterscrafting.com>

Festively-colored sugar cookies, with a touch of mint. Rolled in powdered sugar, these cookies will remind you of the snowflakes that are blowing outside as you enjoy these delicious treats, warm and cozy inside!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Butter (softened)
- 1½ cups Granulated Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla
- 1 teaspoon Peppermint Extract (or Almond, Lemon or Mint)
- ½ teaspoons Baking Soda
- 3 cups Flour (all-purpose)
- Powdered Sugar



Forget Black Friday - the Christmas season doesn't really begin until the first Christmas cookies are baked and set out to be gobbled up!

Instructions:

Cream the butter and sugar until completely combined.

Add in eggs, vanilla and peppermint extract and mix until the dough is fluffy.

Add in the Baking Soda. Mix in the flour, a third at a time. Split into two portions and color one red and one green.

Refrigerate the dough for 2 hours. Roll dough into balls then roll in powdered sugar.

Bake in a 350 degree oven for 9-10 minutes.

Oatmeal Lace Cookies Recipe

Recipe courtesy of: www.addapinch.com

Oatmeal Lace Cookies are thin, crisp, delicate and buttery cookies. This lace cookies recipe is a family favorite. Makes 5-6 dozen cookies!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- 2¼ cups light brown sugar, packed

- 2¼ cups rolled oats
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 375° F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper or silicon baking mats. Set aside.

Heat butter and brown sugar in a 2-quart saucepan over medium heat, stirring frequently with a wooden or silicon spoon, until butter has melted and mixture is smooth. Stir in oats, flour, salt, egg, and vanilla.

Drop cookie batter by the teaspoon onto prepared baking sheets, leaving about 2 inches between each cookie to allow them to spread.

Bake for 5 -7 minutes, watching closely to prevent them from over-baking. The lace cookies should be golden brown.

Allow to cool on the cookie sheet for 30 seconds and remove onto racks to cool completely.

Store in an airtight container.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

Standing Events

Monday - Lego and Wee Build Creation night!!! Let your imagination show its genius! All ages welcome. From 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Wednesday - Coffee club in the community room from 3:30 - 5 p.m.!

Wednesday - VITT (very important teens and tweens) night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday - Join us at 11 a.m. for Story and Craft Hour and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book, a good snack, and a fun craft?

Upcoming Special Events

On Dec. 5th we will have our Christmas scherenschnitte get together with Bill Hammann. New members are welcome, old members are appreciated. Please bring your knives and boards if previous students. Younger children must be accompanied by an adult.

On Dec. 12th we will be viewing the FREE family holiday movie "Arthur Christmas" rated PG. "Santa's clumsy son Arthur gets put on a mission with St. Nick's father to give out a present they misplaced to a young girl in less than 2 hours." Bring your pillows!

Please join us on Dec. 16th from 4 - 6:30 p.m. for our annual holiday Open House! There will be crafts, carriage rides, caroling, fire trucks, mov-

ies, books, cookies, a tree lighting, and more! Free and open to the public.

Anime Manga club is on Dec. 18th at 6 p.m. Movies, graphic novels, books, and cool crafts will be showcased.

Digital Graphics Club is on Dec 20th at 6:30p.m.. Come to learn or come to help! We will be creating new graphics, animated and static, for our digital sign.

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club is meeting on Dec. 19th at 5:30 p.m. New members and new projects are always welcome!

Dec. 22nd through the 25th the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will be closed for the Christmas holiday and then Dec 29th through Jan 1st for New Years! See you in 2018!

Frederick County Library Events

Emmitsburg Branch Library

Hello Holidays: Mount St. Mary's Flute Choir Concert (All Ages) December 2, 2-3 p.m.

Caregiver Connection & Coffee Break (Adult) December 6, 11-11:30 a.m., Network with other caregivers and learn about childcare resources.

Homeschool Connection (Grades 1-5), Wednesday, December 6, 2-3p.m., 12/6: Elf Houses, 12/20: Crazy 8's Math, 1/3: LEGO WeDo, 1/17: Winter Books and Art, 2/7: Library Olympics, 2/21: Cubetto. Register For Event 301-600-6329 or FCPL.Org.

Hour of Code: Virtual Reality (Grades K-8) December 7, 6:30-7:30p.m. Interact with a VR headset during Hour of Code week, a global celebration of computer science.

Hello Holidays: Junior Gardeners - Tea Cup Arrangements (Grades 2-8) December 9, 10-12p.m. Silver Fancy Garden Club members lead participants in creating floral tea cup arrangements. Register For Event 301-600-6329 or FCPL.Org.

Hello Holidays: DIY Gifts (Grades 6-12) December 16, 1-3 p.m.. Create a special holiday gift for a friend or family member.

R.E.A.D. with Wags for Hope (Grades K-5) December 21, 5-6 p.m.. Children read to Reading Education Assistance Dogs.

Painting on Rocks (Grades K-8) December 28, 10:30-12 p.m. Create winter-themed friendship rocks!

Hello Holidays:

New Year Party (Ages 0-10) December 30, 10:30-12 p.m.. Fun and games to ring in.

Thurmont Regional Library

Hello Holidays: Annual Holly Jolly Event (All Ages) December 2, 10-11 p.m. Hands-on crafts for all ages, Ugly Sweater contest, Santa and Mrs. Claus read "The Night Before Christmas" at 1 p.m.. Bring a camera!

Hour of Code: STEM Exploration (Ages 3-18) December 4, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. TRL Community Room, STEM activities led by Mount St. Mary's University Women in STEM.

Hour of Code: Virtual Reality (Grades K-8) December 6, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. TRL Children's Program Room, Interact with a VR headset during Hour of Code week, a global celebration of computer science.



Blue Ridge Summit Librarian retires after 42 years

Hello Holidays Art Series: Paint A Glass Ornament (Adult, Teens) December 6, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. TRL Small Meeting Room, Artist Michele Maze of Seven Dragonflies Studio provides hands-on instruction to help you create a holiday ornament on glass. All supplies provided. Register For Event at 301-600-7212 or FCPL.Org.

Hello Holidays: Ornaments from Nature (Grades 5-12) December 7, 6 - 7 p.m. TRL Community Room, Using pine cones, seeds, teasel, and more, Thurmont's Green Team will lead us in making unique ornaments to hang on any tree.

Hello Holidays: Folded Paper Holiday Card (Grades 4-12) December 9, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. TRL.

Children's Program Room, Learn how to make beautiful holiday cards using the Iris Folding technique!

Hello Holidays: Folded Paper Holiday Card (Grades 4-12) December 10, 2 - 3 p.m. TRL.

Community Room, Learn how to make beautiful holiday cards using the Iris Folding technique!

Stop Motion Animation (Grades 6-12) December 11, 1 - 2 p.m. TRL Small Meeting Room Create your own short videos. Register For Event at 301-600-7212 or FCPL.Org.

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SCHOOL NEWS

'Tis the season once again!

Lynn Taylor
Mother Seton School

Good tidings we bring from Mother Seton School! 'Tis the season once again for making lists and checking them twice, for eggnog and fruitcake, and for at least four area radio stations to switch to an all-Christmas-music-all-the-time format. (Not that I'm complaining, mind you. We all need a little Christmas!)

It is also the season for warm woolen mittens and down parkas, which feels like whiplash after the balmy early autumn we've had. As much I love the cooler temperatures, however, it does make getting children ready for school in the mornings challenging. I have

also yet to solve the mystery of the one missing glove. I have a theory that those gloves are running away with the missing socks. It would explain "toe socks", those things that look like gloves for your feet.

Despite the chill in the air—or maybe because of it—our students are shivering with excitement over what comes next—Christmas! We begin with our annual Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Bazaar, December 2nd from 8 a.m. until noon, where the kids can talk to Santa about their wish lists and have their photo taken with the jolly old elf. What's great about that for parents is that you can avoid the huge mall crowds and get a nice photo of your child with Santa

that doesn't cost as much as a train ticket to the North Pole.

When the whirlwind of holiday preparation has you overwhelmed, we have just the thing you need to get you back into the Christmas spirit! Our chorus has been diligently practicing for the MSS Christmas Program on December 18th at 7 p.m., where they will entertain the crowd with a musical. The lower grades are also getting ready for their own performances, and if you've never been to one of our programs, you should make a point to come this year.

There's almost nothing more entertaining than watching a group of 5- and 6-year-olds performing "Here Comes Santa Claus". Seeing our first-graders

playing roles in the nativity on stage is also a sight to be seen. There's something about experiencing these things in person that increases your Christmas spirit more than watching reruns of "Frosty the Snowman" at home. Maybe because it's a reminder of what Christmas is really about—the humble birth of our Lord.

Amidst all the fun this month and the visits from Santa, we all remain aware of the true spirituality of the season. Most of our students, with the help of faculty and parents, are engaged in various service projects. From making blankets for Project Linus to delivering food to the Emmitsburg Food Bank, we strive to instill in our students the giving spirit. After all, what better way to celebrate

the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, who gave His life for us, than by giving of ourselves to others?

We hope we will see you this December so we can wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in person. May your holidays be filled with warmth, happiness, joy, and the Peace of Christ!

p.s.: As we head into the last month of 2017, it's time to begin looking ahead to the next year! Enrollment for most schools, especially preschools, normally begins in January, so why not get a head start? On December 12th, we are opening our doors to anyone looking for the right school and who wishes to take a tour of MSS. From 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., stop by and see how our students grow strong and true in a nurturing, academically challenging, and spiritually enlightening environment.

Not enough days in the year

Ken Kerr
Frederick County School Board

The modern calendar was established by a 6th Century monk, Dionysius Exiguus, and was known as the "Anno Domini" calendar. The next major innovation was the Gregorian Calendar, was introduced in 1582. Pope Gregory more closely calculated the year as 365 days and 6 hours and gave us the Leap Year. Everything went along pretty well until August 31, 2016—the day Governor Larry Hogan issued an executive order requiring that Maryland public schools must start after Labor Day and must conclude the school year by June 15. We now live under the "Hogan Calendar."

In making his decision, Governor Hogan cited research that claims there would be no adverse effects and the change would be a boost to the Maryland economy—\$74 million to be exact. The opportunity for county school systems to apply for a waiver to start earlier or end later was originally part of this order. However, a few weeks later, after unhappy counties began to file for waivers, Hogan tightened the requirements so that only "a handful of charter and other specialty schools and school districts that traditionally have a lot of weather-related closings will be eligible." This began to look, according to the Washington Post, like the "governor [was] imposing a mandate that may help tourism on the Eastern Shore but might not be in the best interest of students."

Looking back, it was a 2014 legislative order which led to a Governor O'Malley task force that voted 12-3 in favor of a post Labor Day Start. And a February 2015 Goucher College poll showed, "Residents continue to support Comptroller Peter Franchot's 'Let Summer Be Summer'

initiative. Seventy-two percent support a statewide mandate requiring schools to start after the Labor Day holiday." But this just might be a case of "Careful what you wish for . . ."

The Frederick County Board of Education is faced with a dilemma—how to fit 180 days of instruction, 3 snow days, all state and federally mandated holidays, traditional holidays (such as Fair Day) and recently granted days off that coincide with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The short answer—it can't be done.

It is important to realize that, by Maryland law, schools are not permitted to close for religious holidays. Rather, schools close when there is reason to believe a certain date will result in high absenteeism. Unfortunately, the prior Board that established days off for the two traditional Jewish holy days, did not justify their decision with any data supporting the reasonable expectation of high absenteeism.

The board of the Great Fred-

erick Fair lobbied hard—not only to have Fair Day remain a school holiday—but to establish the new concept of "Fair Friday." With the high Jewish Holy day of Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) on Wednesday September 19, and "Fair Friday" two days later, someone was bound to be disappointed. The proposed calendar, released for public comment, takes Yom Kippur off the calendar in favor of Fair Day. The Jewish community is understandably upset.

It gets worse the following year when Christmas Eve is a Tuesday and June 15 is a Monday. Do we have children come in for a one-day school weeks? It would be reasonable to think absenteeism would be high on both of those days—making them legitimate days to close schools. But we can't. The Hogan Calendar forbids it.

The bottom line is that the Frederick County Public School calendar is no longer in the hands of the Frederick County Board

of Education. It is controlled by Governor Hogan.

Let's get back to the original justification. How did that increased revenue work out? Apparently not so well. Katie Tabling of OC Today reported in October that the Ocean City Town Council announced, "Revenues from tourism-driven sources this summer differed little from last year." What about the promises of the \$74 million in increased revenue? Apparently that didn't happen. Only time will tell if

there are student performance implications.

There are two ways to overturn an executive order—passing legislation to overturn the executive order, or overturning the executive himself. Now that the nostalgic euphoria of long summers and post Labor Day schools years gone by has worn off, the time might be right for one of those two options.

After hearing public comment on November 29th, the Board of Education may make adjustments and vote on the calendar on December 13. If this year was painful—next year will be agony.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

With the start of the Christmas season we asked our writers to reflect on what Christmas means to them and what traditions they hold close to their hearts. From our family to yours, we wish the community a Merry Christmas!

Freshman Year

Christmas magic

Kaitlin Marks
MSMU class of 2021

Golden lights shimmering against the deeply evergreen tree; sparkling ornaments dancing, shadows and light falling on the faces of those in the room. I glance around at my family each year and feel my heart grow warm with gratitude and joy. Since I was little, Christmas has been my absolute favorite time of year. Mention the word Christmas, and my eyes light up with glee and cause those around me to laugh at the childlike joy I experience during the festive season. Christmas represents an essence, a sparkling vision of the pure humanity and spirit of giving. Of course, there are presents, representing their own subcategory of Christmas magic, carefully chosen and given to others to bring joy. However, I speak of giving in a more traditional sense, as in serving others. This is the time of year to be selfless, to reach out and connect with other people, to weave a golden thread of humanity and common good that spans time and generations, all surrounding the warmth of such a holiday as this.

As a little girl, I was mystified by the

shift I experienced in the world around me as the world became alight with snow, with lights and stories and magic, anticipation of joy and receiving love and light from all directions. There was a tangible sense of peace in the air, a transcendent joy that surpasses the stress of shopping mall parking lots and long lines and icy roads. One Christmas tradition that has encapsulated that essence for me is baking. When I was younger, this meant helping my mom and dad in the kitchen, begging to crack the eggs into the bowl, to try my hand at decorating the cookies, to mix the ingredients together into their own form of magic, and of course, to lick whatever confection we were whipping up from the spoon, my sister and I giggling side by side at the kitchen table as we snacked on dough. As I grew older, the scent of gingerbread, chocolate and cinnamon wafting through the air from the oven became a beacon to me of the family time that comes along with the holiday. Although I became more independent and now bake often without help, my favorite memories in the kitchen are of the laughter bouncing around the room as the mixer whirrs in the background, inside jokes and easy, familiar conversation filling the air with as much joy as the baked goods rising in the oven will

bring later. Life is busy, and throughout the year, it is easy to become preoccupied with deadlines and work and phone calls, stress and applications, daily routines and full planners. Christmas is the time of year in my family where it is most possible to truly live, to just be with those you love in comfort and familiarity. Christmas brings my soul the contentment of home and of love. It brings with it nostalgia and peace, and an opportunity to reflect.

Perhaps as magical as home and family is the actual magic that people around the world actively work to create for their children as Christmas approaches. When asked what Christmas means to me, I think of my sister and I having sleepovers in my room, staying up to try and hear sleigh bells on the roof in the night, sleeping with one eye open in the hopes of catching Santa. Moreover, I remember how every year, I woke up first, tiptoeing down the stairs to find that overnight, our living room had transformed, red, green and gold shimmering packages in haphazard piles under the tree, stockings filled and resting atop our piles. I remember smiling as I felt so happy, not from the presents themselves (of course, those were lovely as well), but from being taken care of, loved and valued. I would tiptoe back upstairs, rather unsuccessfully containing my excitement, bouncing on my feet as I walked, and

wake my younger sister, Lindsay, up, gently whispering that it was Christmas, excitement quickly blossoming in both of us. We knew that the day ahead would be one of relaxation, of giving our parents and grandparents the gifts we had so carefully picked out and so precariously and tirelessly worked to wrap perfectly, and anxiously awaited seeing their reactions on Christmas morning.

Curled up under piles of blankets, lights turned off in our living room, watching *The Grinch*, *The Polar Express*, movie after movie, I often think of not only the immediate joy I am experiencing, but the opportunity to create such memories with those around me. Just as magical and valuable are the memories I create during the holidays in which I am able to meet and give to others, in whatever ways become possibilities. This, for me, means purchasing the gifts for foster children written on the backs of pastel colored tags hanging on trees in the grocery store. This means driving through Thurmont on a Saturday morning in harmony and blessed grace with the seminarians from the Mount on a mission trip to deliver groceries to families in need for a Thanksgiving meal. That particular occasion brought me closer to the true meaning of Christmas: experiencing companionship, joy, family and love while giving to others, reflecting on

gratitude and creating memories that last forever. As the holiday gets closer, I aspire to embody the spirit of Christmas, to serve others, to be gracious and humble in receiving my own blessings, to be grateful for all I am given and am able to give. Peeking through old journals, my handwriting sprawling across the pages in haphazard lines, I can see vividly in my mind's eye the richness of the stories told on Christmas, the sparkling surprise of a snow-blanketed sky on Christmas morning, the warmth and light filling the room as such unparalleled joy flows through everyone present. To me, Christmas is a gift in itself; it is a time to embrace tradition and community. Conjuring up the scent of gingerbread, the nostalgia of gently cradling ornaments passed down through time, the recollections of years past and family memories, Christmas will always remain my favorite time of year. As December begins to pass, I hope we all can embrace the spirit of giving, of living fully and of loving with our whole hearts. In a world that sometimes feels all too dark, let us feel happy and bright under the twinkling, glowing lights of the Christmas tree and the warmth of our lives and families, especially by giving to those in need of a little light.

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

Sophomore Year

A child's Christmas

Morgan Rooney
MSMU Class of 2020

I wake up to the first break of daylight shining through the shutters and projecting onto the wall across the room. There is a slight chill in the air, as would be expected early on a winter morning, yet the smell of the potpourri emanating from the kitchen across the house is more inviting than the warmth and protection of my duvet which my mother had lovingly tucked around me the previous night. The scent of cinnamon and cloves fills my airways and levitates me from my bed into the hallway. The lights wrapped around the railing twinkle, and the scent of last night's spiral ham and potatoes mix with the aroma I had previously savored. Atop the dining table, at which we only eat for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, our centerpiece still sits: A Norwegian blessing lamp. The lamp is a wood carving which holds a red candle. Lighting this lamp Christmas Eve is one of the few traditions my family has. Passed through the Norwegian lineage in my family, it is said that if you fall under its candlelight, you shall be blessed throughout the coming year. The drippings of the wax from the candle now stick to the tablecloth and the crafted wood. This Christmas is not a white one, as it would be in Norway, nor has it ever been. Texas winters are mild, and snow only falls on an annual occasion.

For a young child like myself, this morning has been highly anticipated. I can finally fulfill all this excitement I have built up for the previous month

and a half, watching the classic animated movies like *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* and *Frosty the Snowman*, listening to my father's compilation of all the popular timely Christmas songs, viewing the lights and wreaths displayed around the house and around town and visiting Santa Claus himself at the local mall to tell him what I most desired to unwrap Christmas morning. This anticipation is so great that I feel no remorse for awakening my parents and practically dragging them across the house to the living room with solely the giddiness and pleading tone of my words.

I am certainly sleep-deprived myself, as I lay awake for half of the night, doing my best to keep my eyes entirely closed and not move a single muscle—a preventative measure I took to trick St. Nick into believing I was asleep rather than punishing me for my involuntary insomnia by leaving nothing behind. I was told that he would not come unless I was asleep by midnight. By the time I get to the living room, I can see that my scheme was successful, as there is an additional stack of gifts to the side of the tree wrapping in an unfamiliar wrapping paper. Half of them are addressed to me and the other to my younger sister, who currently crawls around on all fours, requiring my father to follow her around to prevent her from breaking something or hurting herself; this room has not been baby-proofed. My dearest friend, a white terrier, wanders around the room discovering the new scents that had recently been added to the room before finding a comfortable place to rest on the floor beside my feet.

After the long, borderline painful process of my parents needing to take precious time out of Christmas morning to fulfill their addiction to their morning cups of coffee, it is finally time to open those gifts that I had only previously been limited to staring at and shaking when no one else was there to watch me. Before each gift I unwrap, and after it is opened, my mother pauses me, and I am required to sit still for a grueling five seconds so her camera can focus and capture the moment with clarity. These might well be the longest few moments of my life. The requirement of each photograph is only prolonging and increasing my excitement to discover what I am about to receive. My mother does remind me, once again that one day, I would be grateful that she is taking so many pictures of this precious childhood of mine, and she is right. One day, down the line, I will be grateful.

I do wonder in the moment, as I quickly cycle through each and every box, why grown-ups do not share my prominent giddiness directed at opening the gifts that have been collected over the past month. I do not understand this now, but one day I will understand why. Fifteen years into the future, I will understand that Christmas isn't about what you receive from others, or how much you give to another. I will understand that Christmas is about the memories you make and the love you share. In fifteen years, I will not remember what is in these packages, wrapped up with red paper and green ribbon, but I will remember sitting with my family, untying the ribbon, and tearing the wrapping paper from the box. I will remember the smell of cinnamon and cloves in the air, and the aroma of last

night's dinner. I will remember my infant sister, full of energy and occupying herself with everything around her. I will remember the terrier sleeping besides my feet, delighted to be in our presence. I will remember what is most important

to me, and it is not receiving expensive gifts, but instead the proximity of the people I love most.

To read other articles by Morgan, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Junior Year

The season of receiving

Shea Rowell
MSMU Class of 2019

Christmas is the season of giving. At Christmas, humanity was given the greatest gift it has ever known; that of a savior. God came down to earth. This is a gift whose value cannot be quantified. As Christians, we do our best to imitate the example of Jesus. Christians celebrate the season of Christmas by giving to others. We give gifts to our loved ones, cards to family and friends, and donations and time to charitable causes. Giving is a beautiful imitation of Jesus, and is a pure and wonderful way to celebrate the season of Christmas. Giving, however, is only half the battle.

As strange as it may seem, Christmas is also the season of receiving. While this may seem like a selfish and unchristian way to celebrate Christmas, it is vital to the Christian lifestyle. This type of receiving is different from the type that is touted in television commercials and radio advertisements. It is not about what you receive—it is about receiving the gifts of others with grace and humility.

This is even more important in the Christmas season than giving it-

self. If God gave humanity the great gift of His son, the way in which we receive this gift is vitally important. While expecting the gifts of others is a form of selfishness, receiving the gifts of others is a form of selflessness, as shifts the focus onto the giver. The first step in properly receiving any gift is recognizing its value—not only its monetary cost, but the time, consideration, and effort that went into the gift. The gift of Jesus Christ is a gift of infinite magnitude. It is God's way of showing that He cares for us—enough to come to earth in the form of a little child. Enough to live among His creation and perform a saving mission which would cost Him His life. That kind of love and sacrifice cannot be measured. Its value does not have a dollar sign attached. It is the ultimate act of love, as valuable as life itself.

If the first step to receiving properly is recognizing the value of the gift, the second step is recognizing the value of the giver. Any gift we are given reflects kindness on the part of the giver, and his or her desire to make us feel happy and loved. Even if the gift we receive is not something we want or need, it communicates the generosity and

love. Likewise, the gift of Jesus reveals the nature of God the Father to us. He was willing to give us His Son on Earth so that we might feel His love and share in His life. Jesus, likewise, was willing to be given to us. He gave us the gift of Himself. Through the sacrificial cost of this gift, we can see the true goodness and love of God.

After recognizing the value of the gift and the giver, the third step to receiving is to accept the gift. As strange as it seems, acceptance is one of the most difficult parts of receiving. Accepting the gifts of others means accepting that they have spent time, energy, and resources on you. They have decided to use their kindness to brighten your day, or to provide you with something you may want or need. A first reaction may be to say, "I appreciate the gesture, but you didn't have to do this!" This response, however, is not necessary. The giver already knows he or she was not obliged to give; giving gifts is a free act of love. Thus, accepting that love is a gift in itself. How would God react if humans responded to Christmas by saying, "thanks, but you didn't have to give me a savior. I could have gotten one for myself?" How ridiculous it would be to reject the kindness of God! When we accept the kindness of others, we give them the opportunity to share their love with us. It takes humility, but sometimes ac-



cepting the gifts of others is the greatest gift you can give them.

Once you've gratefully accepted the give you've been given, the final step is to care for it. Caring for the gifts of others shows them how much you value them, their gifts and their kindness. This can be as simple as putting flowers in a vase, or wearing that new sweater in public. Gifts, however, aren't always possessions. They may come instead in the form of friendship; in other words, people give you the gift of themselves. When people give themselves as gifts instead of material things, proper care becomes even more vital. Relationships need time and attention to survive. We show our friends how much we value the gift of their friendship by spending quality time with them. During the Christmas season, Jesus gives us the gift of Himself. This gift requires special care and attention like any other. What does it mean to care for the gift of Jesus Christ?

Luckily, Jesus told us how to properly use this gift. We must follow Him. We must imitate His example of love toward God and others. We must identify our own failings and give them to Him in repentance. We must forgive generously and lovingly provide for the needs of others. In other words, receiving the gift of Jesus Christ enables us to give as Jesus did. Receiving is giving to others. When our friends and family approach us this year with carefully-wrapped packages, we must receive their kindness and love as manifestations of the goodness of the people themselves. In the same way, we must respond to the gift of God's Son by reflecting on the true value of the gift and the pure love of the giver. Then, we can accept His gift gratefully, and allow it to guide our lives toward Him.

Merry Christmas, and God bless!

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

Senior Year

A tradition—broken and shared

Sarah Muir
MSMU Class of 2018

The night before Christmas is, with few exception, always the same. Over the river and through the woods a table is almost groaning under the weight of food. There's enough, someone jokes, to feed a small army. My grandmother brings out some wine, pours it out, and my mom and I help to lay the table with plates and glasses. My grandfather sneaks me a piece of ham that tastes salty and faintly like clove and goes to check the fire, adding another log to be sure it doesn't go out. After dinner and a soporific nap everyone dresses up for mass. I make sure to wear my bright red stockings and green dress to ensure that tradition is kept.

However, even before dinner there is a touch of tradition. As a family with roots in Poland and Slovakia, no Christmas Eve dinner is complete without oplatek. In comparison to the savory and sweet dishes on the table it is decidedly bland. Resembling a communion wafer, about the size of your hand it is dry, tasteless and usually embossed with a nativity scene. It is made to be broken, shared and consumed before the meal.

The tradition itself has been in practice since about the 10th century when designs were cut into a thin bread called podplomyk to make breaking it easier. The un-

consecrated wafer is a symbol of family unity and is sometimes sent to absent family members or loved ones. In some parts of central Europe where the tradition is still practiced, oplatek is dyed and used as decoration. The Catholic faith is centered around community and the tradition of sharing a simple wafer serves as a reminder of the inner communion shared within families. Oplatek is a tradition of forgiveness, reconciliation, remembrance and most of all love.

The Christmas season is my favorite season—a sentiment I share with my entire family. As soon as November begins so does the decorating, the cookie baking and the excited texts that share the news that the next week's weather forecast has a snowflake on it. I have always valued the traditions my family has passed down to me and the scattered memories that pop up all around the house this time of year. Throughout our entire house are mementos of the life we have shared: an overturned, painted clay pot snowman from fourth grade, my sister's rather comical paper gingerbread man ornament with white tissue hair, a matched set of puppet ornaments my parents got on their honeymoon as souvenirs. Even reminders of my great grandmother live on in recipes written in her neat, curved handwriting; these are recipes that my mother probably knows by heart, but none the less reads

multiple times to be sure. As she pours out the flour she would tell me how perfect her grandmothers cookies were and, mimicking the Pennsylvania accent to perfection, she would tell me what her grandmother told her: it's a good cookie, Chrissy.

On top of everything, dwarfed in ratio to the tree and lost in the lights, limbs and sparkling glass is a light pink-clad angel with small gold wings that we have had for a lifetime. Through the headaches of tangled lights and the misleading labels on boxes whose lids don't quite fit any longer, my family creates memories that will always be added to and shared.

I will always remember that I woke up early. Before the sun even peaked over the horizon my eyes would open and I would slip out of bed, shivering slightly as my feet met the cool hard wood. It took me many years to learn where to step to avoid the creaks and groans that would, no doubt, stir any creature or mouse. My father's less than soft snoring would ensure me that Ma and Pa were still in the midst of their winters nap. How I would make my way past my parent's room without being heard?

I will remember how it felt to step as lightly as possible down the steps, smelling the fragrance of pine, candles that were blown out hours ago and the soft scent of the heat coming off the metal radiators. The doors to the room that housed the Christmas tree were always closed on Christmas morning (by Santa no doubt) and they

rattled lightly as they opened. I only opened them wide enough to squeeze through because any noise could wake my sister who is not the most pleasant when her sleep is interrupted. After the lights glittered into being I would sit in the light of the Christmas tree, swaddled in blankets, until my patience wore thin. Unable to wait any longer, I would make noticeable rustling that would no doubt be heard by my parents and sister.

Christmas has changed a little. I needn't worry about waking my sister; between work and school I haven't been around for a majority of the cookie making. However,

I still wake up early. As I get older I am able to wait longer before waking anyone else. Now, I peacefully enjoy the silent, dark, mornings lit only by the Christmas tree. It is my own personal tradition. Even when I am old and gray and full of sleep, on Christmas Eve I'll make sure the oplatek is broken and shared around a table full of food and family. And before the sun reaches through the night I will wake up early to keep my morning tradition and vigil with the Christmas tree.

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FASHION

Appreciating the whites of winter

Valerie McPhail
MSMU Class of 2015

As simple as winter white may seem there is a lot more involved than meets the eye. This special holiday outfit requires more intention, more coordination, and more planning – as if we need more to consume our thoughts in the festive season. An old-fashioned societal rule governs the color white unacceptable past Labor Day. However, in today's world of style, the more fashionable, and most time outlandish outfits trump any question that would challenge previous arguments. If it is controversial, intriguing or the slightest of strange it is now acceptable in fashion, despite the rigid calendar.

This poses a challenge for the perspective of practical fashion. For winter white is statement: monochromatic floppy hats, crème coats and the options such as cashmere turtleneck sweaters, chunky oversized knits and flowy blouses creates a standard look that communicates sophistication. Extravagant for both men and woman the affect is congruent: glamorous. For men the look presents an athletic winter look – ready for the ski slops and comfortable as cabin fever, type of lifestyle. For woman, the style presents an elegant, high society persona.

Winter white is an aged rule, a classic fashion statement. It is a rare look, (making) it a special one. For such reasons it is mostly uncomfortable and of question. But not current in debate, rather a conversation carried in the same demeanor of friendly jargon. Although monochromatic outfits are eye catching,

trending and stunning for special occasion, the idea of wearing winter white poses more of a risk above anything else. I have never been one to wear all white, but rather choose its opposing color black for my work uniform.

Black is a low maintenance, unassuming and yet just as striking. To the contrary, the shade of white in fashion evokes stressful upkeep to sustain and pristine, and a chore to stay far from any trace of dirt or blemish. Amidst the grime and pollution custom to New York City – traveling underground subway stations, walking alongside muddied sidewalks, winter white becomes a ludicrous idea. Although, the site of full-length winter coats and white suits are enchanting, especially when paired with accents of black – loafers or tights – its unaccompanied fashion statement elicits pretension, ostentation and difficult to relate with in everyday fashion.

The golden rule

Reaching for the embrace of personal style and unique statements the rule of wearing white instituted among high society customs of the late-to-early 1900s, a time when the color in fashion represented affluence in the United State's fashion capital. Similarly, the color proved appropriate in the warmer weather seasons as the temperatures rose; for those reasons alone white became a fashion of the summer months, Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The question around accepting this during winter is hardly formally addressed; but behaves more of an unspoken exception, as there is to every rule. Winter white is ap-

propriate – how so, for how long and under what circumstances, are all great questions under such exceptions, and expectations. The answers may be stricter in the men's industry of fashion, which more or less operates like a gentlemen's club – where rules creates standards of dressing. And in women's fashion the more creative and unique combinations are admired.

Any influence on the “new” or refreshed forward-thinking fashion industry would appear in the form of abandoning the rule. Fashion rules and society expectations have been pushed out the door, and replaced with interest in the next, new and interesting – even if it appears wayward and different from any expectations previously made. The industry supports the public underdog, the risqué and daring. Despite the fact, the industry is stiff towards particular ways of dressing, allowing some designs to never go out of style.

Skinny pants are a casual way to incorporate winter white into an outfit. The style of pants are most welcome in warmer weather counterparts – tanks, silky blouses and sandals. However, the white skinny jean is a style chosen among younger fashionistas, paired with a chunky sweater. Likewise popular among men's fashion. Even though these classic style reveal influence from an “old” mindset towards fashion, they are style that have nonetheless provoke new thoughts on fashion.

Skeptics question what does winter white actually entail. Does all white translate into the same shade, without color blocking or hues to break the singular color scheme. Or, could the rule include black accents – tights, oxfords or a long driving coat? Crème tones surface, deeming acceptable to the rule. Such options expand the possible definitions of winter white, while at the same time also enabling such complications.

From the runway to everyday

Winter white has become a classic way of dressing in the way its pieces have dictated its style. Cozy knits, in recent designs from Sonia Rykeil,



Victoria Beckham's Fall/Winter 2017 oversized winter coat presents a charm and romance around winter white.

Michael kors collection and Joseph offer chunky and oversized styles, as full length coats from Fall/Winter shows such as Victoria Beckham and Tory Burch and Jill Sanders fulfill a winter look. The later of designs provide food for thought over concepts of minimalist fashion co-existing with extravagant style. Tory Burch's Fall 2017 runway coat was oversized with a cursive ornament letter “B” at the left pocket while Jill Sanders and Victoria Beckham's design showed astonishing monochromatic looks, an old-fashion way of dressing in a modern perspective.

Winter white is for the risky, daring and adventurous. It is also a custom for the comfortable, those who cozy up in chunky sweaters and oversized knits, items that could care less about breaking or building

fashion empires, but feel comfort in white for the winter season.

In such a perspective, descriptions of chic harmonize with Park Avenue and celebrity fashion. In this world, fashion has zero limits, excited by new applications towards classic style of dressing. The world of winter white can be lavish and decadent, even as it derives from simple forms of design, such as the skinny jean and cable knit. Such complexities keep it in question among the fashion world. An industry that operates with unspoken rules, believed to be broken, and where standards are respected and yet always in question.

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

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The story of the Resolute



The British government ordered a desk to be made from the timbers of the ship and presented it to U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880 as a gesture of thanks for the rescue and return of Resolute. It became one of the most recognizable pieces of American furniture during the administration of President John F. Kennedy, after his wife realized its historic significance and had it placed in the Oval Office.

Perhaps the most remarkable voyage on record, was that of the arctic exploring ship Resolute. Abandoned by her officers and crew to anticipated destruction, she, as if instinct with life, made a voyage of a thousand miles alone, back to regions of civilization—as if in indignant protest against her abandonment.

In April 1852, Sir Edward Belcher, with the ships Assistance, Pioneer, Resolute, Intrepid, and North Star, left England to search for Sir John Franklin and his companions. Captain M'Clure, in the Investigator, was at that time struggling against appalling difficulties in the ice-bound seas north of the American continent. On the 6th of April 1853, Captain M'Clure and Lieutenant Pim had their memorable meeting on the ice; the former having come from the Pacific, the latter from the Atlantic. Lieutenant Pim belonged to Captain Kellett's ship Resolute, part of Belcher's squadron. The Investigator, the ship with which M'Clure had practically solved the problem of the North-west Passage, was abandoned in the ice, and her commander and the remainder of the crew were received on board the Resolute. With the exception of this single fact of rescuing M'Clure, Belcher was singularly unfortunate: achieving little or nothing in other ways.

On the 15th of May 1854, at his express command, but sorely against their will, Captain Kellett and Commander M'Clintock finally abandoned the Resolute and Intrepid, locked in ice off the shores of Melville Island. On the 24th of August, in the same year, again at the

express command of Belcher, Commander Sherard Osborn abandoned the Pioneer, while Belcher himself abandoned the Assistance, both ships being ice-locked in Wellington Channel. The officers and crews of no less than five abandoned ships reached England before the close of the year.

It was one of these five deserted ships which, we may almost say, came to life again many months afterwards; to the astonishment of every one conversant with the arctic region. Late in the year 1855, the American whaler George Henry, was sailing about in Davis's Strait, when, on the 17th of September, he descried a ship presenting unusual appearances; no signals were put out or answered; and, when they approached, no crew was visible. It was the Resolute, as sound and hearty as ever, with the exception of a little water which had got into the hold, and the spoiling of some of the perishable articles inside.

Any one with a map of the arctic regions will see what a lengthened voyage the good old ship must have made from Melville Island, through Barrow Straits, Lancaster Sound, and Baffin's Bay, during the period of 474 days, which intervened between her abandonment and her recovery. It is supposed that ice, loosened during the short summers of 1854 and 1855, drifted with the current into Davis's Strait, and carried along with it the ship.

The gift of the adventurous old ship by America to England was gracefully managed. The United States Congress, on the 28th of August 1856, passed the following resolution:

'Whereas it has become known to Congress, that the ship Resolute, late of the navy of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on service in the Arctic Seas in search of Sir John Franklin and the survivors of the expedition under his command, was rescued and recovered in those seas by the officers and crew of the American whale-ship, the George Henry, after the Resolute had been necessarily abandoned in the ice by her officers and crew, and after drifting still in the ice for more than one thousand miles from the place where so abandoned—and that the said ship Resolute, having been brought to the United States by the salvors at great risk and peril, had been generously relinquished by them to Her Majesty's government.'

'Now, in token of the deep interest felt in the United States for the service in which Her Majesty's said ship was engaged when thus necessarily abandoned, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby requested to cause the said ship Resolute, with all her armament, equipment, and property on board when she arrived in the United States to be purchased of her present owners, and that he send the said ship, after being fully repaired and equipped, back to England with a request to Her Majesty's government, that the United States may be allowed to

restore the said ship Resolute to Her Majesty's service.'

The final incident in the story was the formal presentation of the ship to the Queen of England, on the part of the government of the United States. The Resolute, in excellent trim after her repairs, set sail, and arrived at Portsmouth England on December the 12th 1865, under the care of Captain Hartstein of the United States Navy.

Sir George Seymour, naval Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, made arrangements for a royal visit to the recovered ship. The Queen and the Prince Consort steamed out to the old ship, which was decked out in colours, with the English and American flags flying at the peak. Captain Hartstein and the officers, in full uniform, received the royal party, to whom they were introduced. Captain Hartstein then said to the Queen:

'Allow me to welcome your Majesty on board the Resolute, and, in obedience to the will of my countrymen and of the President of the United States, to restore her to you, not only as an evidence of friendly feeling to your sovereignty, but as a token of love, admiration, and respect to your Majesty personally.'

The Queen made a short but kindly recognition of this address. The royal party then went over the ship, and examined it with great interest. Captain Hartstein, with a map spread out before him, traced the course that the deserted ship had followed, and the relation whom

that course bore to arctic voyages generally. After the departure of the royal visitors, a dejeuner was given in the ward-room, during which one 'toast' was, 'The future success of the Resolute, and may she be again employed in prosecuting the search for Sir John Franklin and his comrades.'

On the following day, the Resolute was brought into Portsmouth harbor, amid great rejoicings, and complimentary salutes to the American flag. On the 30th of December, the formal transfer of the interesting old ship took place. Captain George Seymour, of the Victory, with two subordinate officers, and small parties of seamen and marines, went on board the Resolute. Precisely at one o'clock, the Victory hoisted the American flag at her main, and fired a salute of twenty-one guns; while Captain Hartstein hauled down the American colours from the Resolute, and substituted the British, and the American crew manned the yards to give three cheers to the Victory. Captain Hartstein then addressed Captain Seymour:

'Sir, the closing scene of my most pleasant and important mission has now to be performed. And permit me to hope that, long after every timber in her sturdy frame shall have perished, the remembrance of the old Resolute will be cherished by the people of the respective nations. I now, with a pride totally at variance with our professional ideas, strike my flag, and to you, sir, give up the ship.'

To read other selections from Robert Chambers' Book of Days visit www.thebookofdays.com.



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ARTS

Totem Pole's 'A Christmas Carol'

Totem Pole Playhouse, in association with Gettysburg Community Theatre, will once again bring its original adaptation of the Charles Dickens' holiday classic A Christmas Carol to the stage of Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater this December 8-17. This year's production boasts an even larger cast of over 60 professional union, non-union, and local community actors, making it by far the largest production in Central Pennsylvania.

A Christmas Carol is an original adaptation by Totem Pole Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Rowan Joseph, who directs the show. Much of the text and dialogue is preserved verbatim from the original novel by Charles Dickens, restoring many of the Christian references left out of other versions. "One of the aspects that sets this production apart from others is that we've added back into the text of the play Dickens' original focus on the birth of the baby Jesus and Christian charity as the dominate theme of Scrooge's redemptive journey.

Most other modern adaptations tend to secularize these passages from the story, placing it in the same category as stories of Rudolph or Frosty," Joseph said, "but that's not where it belongs. To quote Stephen Skelton, author of the book, A Christmas Carol: Special Church Edition, 'In

the first place, with Charles Dickens, you're dealing with a self-proclaimed Christian author. And in the second place, he has infused his story with Christian meaning. After all, Dickens is the writer who said, 'I have always striven in my writings to express the veneration for the life and lessons of our Savior.'"

Joseph's production has also grown extensively from the revival of the Carl Schurr and Wil Love version he originally staged at the Capitol Theatre in Chambersburg four years ago. The cast has almost doubled in size since then to over 60 actors. While the centerpiece of the set remains Scrooge's large two-story revolving Victorian house and accounting office, two additional one-story revolving structures have been added with two more two-story set pieces planned for 2018.

Many new special effects have been added to the production including the addition last year of 3D hologram skeletons rising out of the stage floor of the Majestic Theater along with Scrooge's tombstone. An equally terrifying childhood memory for many grown-ups in the area, the loud flash, bang, BOOM at the disappearance of the ghost of Jacob Marley, remains frightening and delightful to new audiences today. Totem Pole General Manager Sue McMurtry, remarked, "The production has evolved so much since we brought it back four years ago

that anyone who hasn't seen it since is in for a real shock. As one of the local papers said, it's a production fit for Broadway."

Once again this year the show will be a family affair with siblings, parents and children joining each other on stage. Shippensburg University professor and Greencastle resident, Paris Peet, who has been starring as Ebenezer Scrooge since 2014, will be joined on stage this year by his son, Owen Peet, as Young Dick Wilkins. Emily Windover of Orrtanna, returns as Mrs. Fezziwig, to be joined on stage by daughters Ruby and Mia as Fezziwig Dancers while daughter Phoebe will portray Scrooge's sister Fan. Brothers and sisters: Thomas and Claire Hydock of Fairfield will appear as Belle's son and daughter; Gettysburg's Justin and Hope Beach will play the Fiddler and a Fezziwig Dancer; Sisters Liliana and Kalia Hoedemaker and Stella and Mina Gladson of Gettysburg will appear together as dancers in the Fezziwig party scene. And New Oxford's Mark Kleinman will return as the Lamplighter with his son, Jacob, tak-



Totem Pole Playhouse, in association with Gettysburg Community Theatre, will once again bring its original adaptation of the Charles Dickens' holiday classic 'A Christmas Carol' to the stage of Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater this December 8-17.

ing over the pivotal role of Tiny Tim in the new production.

Totem Pole Playhouse's Producing Artistic Director, Rowan Joseph, will direct the production and Chad-Alan Carr, Executive Artistic Director of the Gettysburg Community Theatre, will serve as choreographer and associate producer. Equity Stage Manager, Bob Tolaro, will serve as production stage manager for the show. Jim Fouchard, who designed the first production in 1987 at the Central Center in downtown Chambersburg, is the set designer for the current reincarnation as well.

The Majestic Theater's Technical Director, Jonathan Stiles, is serving as lighting designer for the show.

This year's public performances are scheduled for December 8 and 15 at 8 pm, December 9, 10, 16 and 17 at a new family-friendly time of 6:00 pm, with matinees December 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, and 17 at 2:00 pm. Ticket prices range from \$32 to \$38 for adults, and \$20 for students (age 18 or younger).

To purchase tickets call the Majestic Theater Box Office at 717-337-8200 or visit www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

GNP's new Artist-in-Residence

Catherine Lawhon
Gettysburg National Park

U.S. veteran and award-winning combat artist Chip Beck is Gettysburg National Military Park's new artist-in-residence, beginning in mid-November. Beck is a retired U.S. Navy Commander, combat artist and cartoonist who has personal-

ly witnessed 20 wars on four continents, traveling to 130 countries and islands to record historical and political events with his camera, pencils, pens, and paints. Beck is one of several military veterans selected for the 2017 Gettysburg National Military Park Artist-in-Residence program.

He has served as the Director of the State Department's African

peacekeeper training program, and as the U.S. Navy's official combat artist in Operation Desert Storm. He has been an unofficial artistic chronicler of history in war zones ranging from Vietnam (1969) to Iraq (2003-2005). In 2013, Beck was asked by the Zimbabwean opposition to draw 100 editorial cartoons on site during Morgan Tsvangirai's unsuccessful bid to oust Dictator Robert Mugabe from power. Soldier of Fortune magazine once referred to him as the only painter who could honestly claim to be the Cold War's official combat artist.

Beck has early ties to Gettysburg National Military Park and the surrounding area. "As a kid in the 1950s, I grew up near Antietam battlefield and visited Gettysburg on several occasions," said Beck. "More recently, I have tracked a sizable portion of my ancestors who lived and settled in the Gettysburg, Fairfield, Carroll Valley, and Liberty Mountain areas, including during the battle of Gettysburg."

"Gettysburg National Military Park has offered inspiration to artists for more than 150 years," said Chuck Hunt, acting superintendent at Gettysburg National Military Park. "The Artist-in-Residence program engages new audiences and tells Gettysburg's stories in new and compelling ways."

The program is offered thanks to the input and support of the National Park Service and the Gettysburg Foundation and the partnership with the Poetry Foundation, whose joint efforts make the park the foremost visitor destination for those interested in the epic history of the American Civil War.

For more information about Commander Beck's artists showcase event call 717-334-1124.

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Christmas time is here again

Hannah Opdenaker
MSMU Class of 2018

December. The leaves are gone, the mornings are frigid, and Christmas is just around the corner. Even though the Fall Semester at Mount St. Mary's is coming to a close, the curtain is still rising in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center. This December, the Emmitsburg community will get to experience the many voices of the Mount Campus, as well as an out of this world art exhibit. Though this month brings less events to the Horning Theater that does not mean the talent will be lacking. All three divisions of the Visual and Performing Arts Department will be presenting work this December, celebrating the Christmas Season and end of the semester.

Caroling anyone? Mount Music Society is planning on singing Christmas Carols for the Emmitsburg Community at St. Joseph's Ministries Nursing Home. This event will take place on Tuesday December 5th, and surely will include all of the your favorite Christmas tunes and hymns. The event will begin around 6:00 p.m. and is scheduled to go until 7:30 p.m. Can't get enough Carols? Mount Theatre is sponsoring a Winter Student Spotlight performance on December 8th at 7:30 in the Horning Theater. Student Spotlights act as "open mic" style nights for the Mount Community. Students sign up the week before, and attend one rehearsal before strutting their stuff for the student body and surrounding community. This student Spotlight is themed "Christmas Presence".

Christmas Presence is a theme that will focus on songs, monologues, short scenes, dances, etc... that revolve around coming together for the Holiday Season. November 30th Horning Theater will also host its annual end of the semester recital, spotlighting student vocalists and instrumentalists enrolled in lessons at the Mount.

Also available for viewing this month in the Williams Art Gallery is "Moon Dwellers". Moon Dwellers, an exhibit "inspired by ideas in space exploration and science fiction, Moon Dwellers by Elliot Doughtie imagines a "what if" scenario of the Moon as a potential new domestic space. Extraterrestrial landscape drawings, domestic still-life sculptures, endlessly punctured photographs, and collage that blend all of the above populate the Williams Art Gallery from November 2 through December 8. This fictional world created by Doughtie obscures the binaries of internal and external, topographical and psychological, quotidian and strange. Here, boundaries are challenges that need transforming, as we must literally construct the worlds in

which we exist and not be subject to those we are given. Alchemy is real and the everyday is a Terra Incognita" (Delaplaine Fine Arts Center).

While many are preparing for the end of the semester or concocting their Christmas Wish Lists, it is difficult to stop and appreciate art and culture during this busy time. However, the Christmas season is full of art and rituals. Just think of your own homes, how many of you redecorate your homes for the holidays, and meticulously place your ornaments in the perfect arrangement? The Christmas Tree has been a part of my own family tradition since I was little, but until recently, I hadn't thought about why. Like any good college student, I checked Google to do some research on the decorating of the Christmas Tree. The History Channel did not fail me. Did you know that evergreens were once believed to ward off witches, evil spirits, and illness? Evergreen trees were a common household decoration throughout history for this reason. The advent of Christ, however, was not the first time everyone's favorite conifers were used in a seasonal setting. The Ancient Egyptians celebrated the Winter Solstice, which is the shortest day of the year. As greens were believed to hold healing powers, they would offer them up to Ra, the god of the sun, as he recovered from illness (winter) and prepared for summer.

This still, however, did not answer my question about the tree. Further investigation of the History Channel offered up some more information. The Christmas Tree as we know it was first erected by the Germans in the 16th Century. In fact, it is believed that Martin Luther, the Protestant Reformer, was the first to erect a tree with lights in his home. There is some debate among historians as to when the American Christmas Tree was popularized. German set-



The Cast and directors of "Working" on their final night of performance.

lers had community trees during the eighteenth century in Pennsylvania, but the tree was still an oddity among the other colonies. In the 1840s, Christmas Trees were seen as pagan symbols and were still not popular. It was not until Queen Victoria, England's most famous monarch, married German Prince Albert that the Christmas Tree became a household ritual. Victoria was loved by her subjects, and even by Americans. Many followed in her cultural footsteps, and when she erected a tree in her court it became common practice in many homes.

By the 1890s, ornaments were a common import from Germany, although homemade ornaments were preferred by Americans. With the invention of electricity, candles on trees were replaced with twinkling lights. This also popularized extravagant trees in town squares. Rituals, then, become theatrical. Just think of the Rockefeller Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. How

many performers show up to sing, dance, and put on a show? Audiences crowd around as these performers prepare the hype for just a simple act of "plugging in" the tree. The theatricality behind the tree is nothing new.

From the ancient Egyptians to the Royal Family, the art of Christmas is something that has grown

into American culture and art. I sincerely hope that this little art history lesson has inspired you to think about your Christmas ornament placement this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

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

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SPORTS

Catoctin state cross-country meet

Edison Hatter

Just two years ago, the Catoctin girls' cross-country team set a school record by finishing third at the state cross-country meet. Last year, they took the next step and finished second, led by senior standout Julien Webster. With the loss of Webster and two other talented seniors, Lillie Perella and Kia Braithwaite, the team was unable to qualify for states this year. However, two individuals, Rachel Waldron and Emma Strickland, qualified for the chance to run in the 1A State Cross-Country meet at Hereford High School.

Waldron, a junior, finished in forty-third as a freshman and medaled last year with an eighteenth place finish. Strickland, a sophomore, was impressive in the state meet last year, finishing in fourteenth place overall and second among all freshmen in the race. Both came into this year's state meet with a strong chance of finishing top ten, while Waldron was given a chance at winning the

individual state title.

The cross-country course at Hereford High School is notorious for its difficulty, famously called the "toughest three miles in cross country" by the Washington Post. The first mile of the Hereford cross-country course takes runners around the baseball fields and beside the school, a fairly easy mile considering the rest of the course. After hitting the mile mark, runners have a downhill to relax before tackling the backside of the big hill at Hereford, known as "the dip."

Runners continue to experience hills on the backside of the course before ultimately coming down the backside of the dip and back up the front side. Tackling the dip this time, with two and a half miles of running already complete, is a much more difficult task than the first time. Declared the "test of champions," many state races have been won or lost on the dip.

Both Catoctin runners began the race well, with Waldron going immediately to the front and

Strickland finding a nice pocket around ninth place. As the first half mile progressed, Waldron continued to extend her lead on the rest of the field, while Strickland appeared to settle down around twelfth place. Unfortunately, both went out a little too fast in the first mile and paid for it on the last two miles of hills.

Waldron was overtaken for first soon after she passed the mile mark and started up the backside of the dip. She continued to struggle as she worked up the hills of the course and fell to fifth place. However, she was able to hold onto fifth as she came out of the dip for the last time and finished the race. Strickland, meanwhile, faced similar difficulty, falling from twelfth place to about thirtieth place as a large pack of runners passed her on the backside of the course. She came out of the dip for the last time in twenty-ninth place and held off a few challengers to hold onto twenty-ninth place at the finish line. The top twenty-five runners medal in each states race, so Strickland ended up narrowly missing a states medal.



Rachel Waldron (left) and Emma Strickland (right), students from Catoctin High School, after the state cross country meet.

In the end, Waldron finished in 21:13, just slower than her time from last season, but finished in a much better place, and improved thirteen positions. "Although I would have liked to have been able to hold on," Waldron commented after her race, "I'm satisfied with my top five finish and I look forward to running the course one more time next year." Additionally, Waldron commented that she is looking forward to

the indoor track and field season, where she has a strong chance of finishing very well in the state in a few different events.

Strickland ended up finishing in 22:42, a somewhat disappointing result considering her race last year. Nonetheless, she commented that she felt that she gave the race everything she had and that she too is looking forward to indoor and the chance to capture a state title in the 800 meter run.

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Catoctin staff win powderpuff game

Edison Hatter

On a cold, rainy, Thursday night, Catoctin hosted the third annual Powderpuff game between the senior and junior classes. The event was organized by the Catoctin Crazy's, an organization founded six years ago to bring back school spirit. The group is supervised by Kim Flabbi, an instructional aide at the high school, and led by president Noah Wivell. "Considering the weather," said Wivell, a senior at Catoctin this year, "I'm very happy with the turnout for this event.

I think it was very successful."

The first game featured the senior and junior classes, with the winner advancing to play the staff in a second game. On the first play of the game, Shayna Gerring returned the kickoff the whole way for a touchdown by the seniors. The extra point was missed by Jordan Manahan. The score held up through half time, as a key Rachel Boggs interception in the red zone maintained the seniors' lead. The juniors looked strong coming out in the second half, however, quickly scoring on their first possession of the half on a Sydney Zentz fifteen-yard touch-

down reception. The extra point was just right for Gracie Harrison.

The next opportunity for the seniors came in the fourth quarter, with the juniors pinned at their own one-yard line. Steph Study appeared to tackle Zentz in the end zone for a safety, but an unnecessary roughness call gave the juniors another chance. They took advantage and Marlena Hand scored on an 85-yard run on the very next play. This time, Harrison kicked the extra point right through the uprights for a 13-6 juniors lead with three minutes to go in the game. After a 60-yard return from Gerring on the kickoff and a 36-yard run for Manahan, the seniors scored on a pass to Gerring. The senior coaches considered going for two, but ultimately decided to go for the extra point. Unfortunately, Manahan could not convert and the juniors were able to run out the clock on the ensuing possession for a 13-12 victory.

In the staff game, the staff drove down the field on the first possession of the game, but an interception from Zentz kept the game scoreless. The staff were finally able to break through at the end of the half on a 50-yard touchdown catch from Rob Phelan, a math teacher at Catoctin. Towards the end of the game, a Phelan interception led to a touchdown run from fellow math teacher Tyler Ausherman as time expired to give the staff a 14-0 victory in the game. The staff have now won all three installments of the Powderpuff games.



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MOUNT SPORTS

Winter season

Samantha Barbato
MSMU class 2018

Thanksgiving is over, which means we are able to reflect back on our 2017 fall sports and look forward to a new sports season. As the winter season creeps around the corner, plucking each leaf from the trees, our cold weather sports are heating up for their full season at Mount St. Mary's University!

The fall season is finally over, and fall sports are collecting their honors! Women's soccer's own junior, Jenna West was named All-NEC Second Team, while redshirt first year Maggie Barron was name All-Rookie Team. West played in all 18 games for the Mount this year and was able to register 15 points throughout the season with 5 goals and 5 assists. West ranked in the top-eight in the conference in all three scoring categories and even led the conference in shots. Barron, who stepped into the starting role this year for the Mount had 46 total saves, started in 15 of the 18 games this season, and posted a .648 save percentage for the year.

Also earning honors in the fall were junior, Nicholas Fransham, and first year Isaac Kole of the men's cross-country team. The runners both earned All-Conference at the NEC Championships hosted by Central Connecticut. Fransham finished eighth overall in the eight-kilometer course and earned All-Conference back-to-back years with the finish, becoming the first Mountaineer to do so since Dylan Bernard (2008-11). Fransham also led the men's team at NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regionals in November at Lehigh University. The junior finished 71st overall on the field of 180 total runners. Kole, finished 14th overall to earn his honors, finishing as the second-fastest rookie in the race.

This month men's and women's swimming and diving will travel to Loyola University on the third and fourth of the month to compete in the Loyola Invitational for their only

meet of December before they head on their training trip somewhere warm. The women's team has won all five of their dual meets for the 2017 portion of their season and posted a placing of third out of thirteen total teams at their first invitational at Franklin & Marshall. The men's team this fall season have recorded their first two wins of program history as well as recording third place out of eleven teams at their invitational at Franklin & Marshall.

At the most recent meet at Franklin & Marshall, junior, Alyssa Felos was able to break the school record in the 200-meter breaststroke, joining the ranks of senior, Maddie McGraw, who was able to break her own program record in the 100-meter backstroke. Felos broke the record, which previously stood at 2:27:63, with a time of 2:26:67 in the prelims, before breaking her own time in the finals with a time of 2:26:47. McGraw broke her own 100 back record with a time of 57:16, defeating her previous record from last year's Northeast Conference Championships.

The indoor season will begin for men's and women's track and field with three meets total for the month of December. First, the men will travel to Annapolis on Saturday, December 2 for the Navy Invitational. Next up, the women have their turn at Navy as they will head to Annapolis on December 5 for the Navy Lid-lifter. Finally, for the last competition of the month, the team will travel to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for the "Fast Times Before Finals" Heptathlon at Lehigh University.

Meanwhile, the men's and women's basketball are both coming out of the gates in full force with a jam-packed month of December. The Mount St. Mary's University Women's Basketball Team has a packed month ahead of them coming off of their first few games. The women will kick off the month with their first home game of the season on Saturday, December 2

facing Loyola University. The same week, the women will face University of Maryland in an away game against last year's number 4 ranking on Wednesday, December 6. The women will travel back to Emmitsburg where they will host two home games, one facing Rider University on Saturday, December 9, and the second facing Gardner-Webb on Sunday, December 17. The team will finish their 2017 year on the road with three consecutive road games. The team will face University of Maryland-Eastern Shore on December 19 to round out its non-conference slate of the season before some time off. The team will head North after the holidays to meet Central Connecticut University on December 29 to begin conference play, and Bryant University to round out the year on Sunday, December 31.

The men's team hosted their first home game of the season on Tuesday, November 21 where they faced York College. The game was part of the Maui Jim Maui Invitational in the Maui on the Mainland series. At the start of the game, the Mount unveiled the 2016-2017 Northeast Conference Championship banners. The men began their home court season with quite a bang, beating York 91-80 in an entertainment packed game ample action for that fans. Junior Robinson, the shortest point guard in the NCAA proved once again that its heart over height as he led the Mountaineers with a game high 27 points. Following the suite and success of the senior, red-



Mount St. Mary's first year student athlete, Donald Carey, on the men's basketball team, shoots from the three-point line during the school's home opener.

shirt freshman Jonah Antonio and freshman Donald Carey both posted their first career double-doubles in the home opener. Antonio contributed a career-high 23 points, many of which were earned behind the 3-point line, alongside ten rebounds, while Carey added 11 points to the scoreboard with a career-high 12 assists for his first double-double. Senior, Greg Alexander also added 15 points to the board for the Mount, who led the game every minute.

To begin the month, the men will be home again for a televised game versus Loyola University on Saturday, December 2 where they will be giving out Mount Hoops rally towels for the first 400 fans in the arena! Then, the team will travel to Pittsburgh where they will face the Pitt Panthers that Tuesday, December 5 for another televised game. They will stay on the road to hit Lehigh on December 9 on their route home. The

men will then return to Knott Arena for a home game on Friday, December 15 to come head to head with Washington College. The men will then have a short streak of away games starting close to home on Monday, December 18 at American University in Washington, D.C. Later in the week on Friday, December 22, the men will play at Coppin State University in Baltimore. Finally, the men will reconvene after the holidays to travel north to Staten Island, New York to face Wagner College on December 29 and then Brooklyn, New York to face LIU Brooklyn on the last of the month.

It may be cold outside, but our winter Mount sports are packing heat as they trailblaze into their seasons to round out 2017. Join the Mountaineer men's and women's basketball teams in the Knott Arena as they both begin fight for the Northeast Conference Championships in 2018.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Preparing for Winter

Renee Lehman

We are gradually transitioning from Fall into Winter. This article is meant to help you remember that while you were preparing for all your holiday festivities, what the season of Winter is all about. Because, by following nature's laws you will be more likely to stay healthy. For as is written in the one of the original texts of ancient Chinese medicine, the Su Wen, Chapter 6:

*"Warmth of the Spring gives rise to birth,
the Fire of Summer fuels rapid growth and development,
the coolness of Fall matures all and provides harvest, and
the coldness of Winter forces inactivity and storing.
This is the rhythmic change of nature.
If the four seasons become disrupted, the weather becomes unpredictable
and the energies of the universe will lose their normalcy.
This principle also applies to the body."*

Winter is nature's "resting season." When you look outside, it is cold, days have less light (are shorter), and the countryside is "quiet." Some aspects of nature may look dead (at least you may think that); however, nature is intentionally storing its energetic potential deep in the earth and in the roots of vegetation. Life does not stop during the winter months. Remember that the bulbs that are in the ground are not dead, and the seeds that fell to

the ground from the trees/plants are still alive. They are storing up their energy and preparing to burst forth during the growth period of Spring.

Also, think about how animals like bears and ground squirrels hibernate during the winter. We know how bears hibernate, but did you know about ground squirrels? The ground squirrel's body temperature drops to within a few degrees of the cold outside its den, its heart rate decreases to 1 – 2 beats/minute, and its breathing slows from a few hundred times/minute to once every 5 minutes. Basically, these animals slow down and sleep until the first signs of Spring warmth. Nature and the animals know how to flow with nature's changes. They follow the natural changes in the seasonal patterns. Imagine if we followed the changes in nature during the seasons. We would flow in harmony with Nature and have less suffering.

The gifts/opportunities that Winter gives us include the ability to strengthen our reserves; wisdom that comes from being still and deeply listening to our inner voice (the "quietness" of winter allows us to listen); a time for reflection, and reassurance (Spring will come again!).

Can you imagine slowing down during the month of December? Our "adrenaline addicted" culture tends not to value stillness, quietness, and taking time for rest and reflection. Can you see yourself needing any of the gifts of Winter? Can you see how the energy of Winter is needed in your life? Now is the time to take advantage of what this season offers us!

You can stay healthy (body/mind/spirit) this Winter by: 1) seeking replenishment; 2) getting quality rest and sleep; 3) taking time for meditation and/or qigong practice; and 4) eating for healing.

Seek Replenishment. What type of stress are you experiencing? Is it emotional or physical? Often the solutions to these stresses can be simple! Let go of your worries and allow your mind and body to deeply rest. By reducing your stress, you can conserve energy and slow down unnecessary drains on your energy. Also, Winter is a great time to decrease the number of activities that you are involved with. Imagine taking a few things "off your plate." Wouldn't it be nice to feel energized in late Winter to early Spring because you conserved some energy?

Get Quality Rest & Sleep. The important word here is quality. When you go to sleep at night keep the room dark. If there is even the slightest bit of light in the room it can disrupt your circadian rhythm and your pineal gland's production of melatonin and serotonin (both are involved in the regulation of your sleep).

Turn the TV off before going to sleep (and don't sleep with the TV on). The TV is too stimulating to the brain and it will take longer to fall asleep (disrupts the pineal gland function). Turn off any electronic devices around 2 hours



Some photos just don't need a caption

before going to sleep. Also, don't read, eat, or work in your bedroom – keep it for sleeping only. Finally, try going to bed ½ hour earlier than usual and assess how you feel upon awakening. You might be surprised how much more "refreshed" you are.

Mediation/Qigong Practice. Take this "quieter" time of the year to go deep within yourself. Sit in quiet meditation or hold the Qigong posture, 'The Dragon Stands Between Heaven and Earth.' Doing so will help you connect with the unlimited Universal Life force. You never know what "information" you will receive.

Also consider other gentle exercises, such as, yoga, tai chi, and Pilates instead of energy expanding exercises such as jogging, cycling, and swimming. These gentle, more subtle forms of exercises strengthen your inner self and build your "internal" energy and tend not to run your "batteries" down like the energy expand-

ing forms of exercise. They also help to "clear" excesses such as too much food, work, tension, etc.

Eat Well. How many of you tend to get cold easily in the Winter? Since the weather is colder, consider eating foods that produce more internal heat/warmth. What sounds better to you right now: a cup of soup or a garden salad? Eat bone soup and fish to help build the energy of your Kidney, the organ related to winter (Nourishing recipes can be found at: www.tcmworld.org/dragonsway/recipes/). Treat your body right! Start by feeding it warm, loving foods and warm, loving thoughts. Remember, on a lower level of consciousness, you are what you eat. But on a higher level of consciousness, you are what you think!

So, if you normally dislike Winter, consider looking at it from a different angle/perspective. Allow this season to give you the opportunity for rest and rejuvenation.

"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."
–Ralph Waldo Emerson

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."
–John Steinbeck

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with 30 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.



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FITNESS AND HEALTH

Easing your holiday stress

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Stress and the Holidays seem to go hand in hand. The Holiday Season is supposed to be fun, joyous and a happy time to spend with family and friends. How many of us really get to enjoy the season as it is meant to be? I know when my kids were young I tried to make everything the best for them and ran myself ragged trying to get everything done. Now that I am a bit older and hopefully a little wiser, I realize that some of those things that I spent so much time on were nice but if they don't get done now it is ok.

Christmas will come and go and nobody will notice if you didn't get all the different types of cookies baked or if some of the decorations didn't make it to the windows. Sure, you know what you didn't get completed like you used to, but the kids are happy with what you did do. I know there are many extra things you like to have to make the Holidays special for your friends and family but maybe this year you could think about scaling back on one or two of them.

You have heard of working smarter instead of harder. This may be the time to think about how you could get some of the Holidays chores done a little earlier, like baking some of the

cookies early and putting them in the freezer in October. Baking early will give you more time to do other things and the cookies really do taste just as good. Maybe getting some of the shopping done throughout the year will help with the stress and added financial crunch that comes with waiting until right before Christmas. Asking family members to help decorate or even wrap presents can take some of the time and responsibility off your shoulders and they may even enjoy doing it. Some people get together with a group of close friends and share the baking, wrapping, shopping and decorating. It can be fun to work together at each other's

houses and share ideas and traditions.

Time is always a precious value during the Holidays but it is important to make a few minutes to de-stress with meditation, exercise, talking with friends, reading or whatever helps you relax. Too much pushing yourself may lower your immune system, cause depression, or affect your health in a negative way. We all have heard that we need to take care of ourselves so we can take care of the others we love. Keep up with your regular exercise routine if you have one. Getting off track with your routine can make it very difficult to get back to it later. If you don't exercise now, try doing something for yourself, even if it is only for a few min-

utes every day or so. Starting an exercise program right before the Holidays is probably not something you will be able to do, but you can think about it for the New Year.

Whatever you decide to do, please remember to add in time for yourself and hopefully you can relieve some of the added stress the busy days ahead will bring. Think about what you enjoy doing and how you can incorporate it into your schedule. Look for my Open House information and date in the next issue and remember to Keep Moving, it will get you through to busy days ahead.

Have a healthy and very Merry Christmas.

If you have any questions about getting started just call me at 717-334-6009 and remember to Keep Moving.

Self care

Hilary Rothrock

A "meme" has popped up across social media feeds recently. It states simply, "It's almost time to switch from my everyday anxiety to my fancy Christmas anxiety." It makes us chuckle because it's 'oh so true' to many of us, especially the caretakers of the world.

While the holiday season can be a time of relaxation, the added stress of holiday activities can create the perfect storm for irritability and exhaustion. Making sure you take care of yourself during the holidays can help ease this tension and make them more enjoyable.

Larry Stouter MS LCPC, Clinical Director of Catoctin Counseling Centers, has some tips for managing stress during the holidays. "Really, the only way to reduce holiday stress is to be willing to cut our schedules and willingly experience some guilt" he says. "Only do the things that you genuinely want to do. You'll find that others don't mind or they get over it rather quickly. It's okay to simply say no thank you to an invitation. In fact, some consider this capacity an indicator of solid mental health." Overextending ourselves because we don't want to miss out only leads to exhaustion and burnout. Saying "no" to things that don't bring you joy leaves you time to say "yes" to the things that do.

Another important step towards enjoying the holidays is to treat your body

well. Make plans to rest, make healthy food and beverage choices, and get plenty of sleep. What helps some people is focusing on breakfast. If they can have a healthy, vitamin rich breakfast they start out their day with their self-care, making choices throughout the day easier. Plan on one self-care step a day throughout the holidays. Sudden or unexpected changes to routine happen often.

The shorter days, colder temperatures, and bad weather can trigger anxiety and depression. "Shorter durations of sunlight produces a natural reduction in levels of energy," says Stouter. "Getting outside and even using a Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D) light may be helpful." If this is something you find yourself coping with every year, it is a good idea to speak with your physician about your vitamin D levels. Some locals enjoy the benefits of 10-15 minutes in a tanning booth, like those found at Salon Soleil in Thurmont. Owner Cindy Waynant says she often gets tanners complaining of the 'Winter Blues'. "They walk in with a frown and leave with a smile, saying they feel like they just spent the day at the beach," she stated.

Holidays also mean being around a lot of people and a lot of activities, but don't feel bad about taking a break to return to a calm state. "On one particularly cold Christmas all my family was around making the typical holiday noise. I stepped into the basement for about ten minutes, sat down and took

some nice deep slow breaths. It was very refreshing and I was then able to go up and enjoy time with my family." This is a skill being taught to children in our schools and it's important as adults to take those moments instead of rushing into a stressful situation in a stressed out state.

Mindfulness techniques help to manage anxiety and stress, and they don't take much time at all. Taking a few moments everyday to clear your mind and just breathe has been shown to actually shrink the part of your brain that's associated with anxiety. One mindfulness activity is called grounding. Grounding is a simple technique actors often use to counteract stage fright and performance anxiety. First, look around and identify five things you see, then four things you can touch starting with whatever is beneath your body, next identify three things you can hear, followed by identifying two smells, then find something you can taste. Once you've done this you will be grounded in the here and now. Try it! Take your time and practice, it gets easier the more you do it.

The holidays can be a stressful time, but with the right self-care you can stress less and celebrate more. If you are interested in speaking with a counselor about your seasonal stress or anxiety, there are several counselors available at Catoctin Wellness Center in Thurmont or at the other offices of Catoctin Counseling Centers throughout Central Maryland. Mr. Stouter has been in practice for nearly 30 years and specializes in anxiety, couples issues, and addictions. They

can be reached at (301) 271-4870.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of December

Professor Wayne Wooten

For December, the full moon, the “Long Night Moon” occurs on December 3, 2017. The last quarter moon is on December 10th. The waning crescent moon passes just north of Mars on the morning of December 13th, and then north of Jupiter the following morning; this is also the peak for the best meteor shower of the year. The Geminids will begin coming out of the northeast shortly after sunset, and peak at about a meteor a minute about 3-4 a.m. on the 14th. The moon is new December 18th. First quarter moon is on December 26th.

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 November 30th visit the www.skymaps.com

website and download the map for December 2017; 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. Also notable is wonderful video exploring the sky, available from Hubble Space Telescope website at: http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/ Mercury and Saturn are briefly



This fine shot of the “Eye of God” in the Helix Nebula probably anticipates what our own solar system will look like six billion years hence, when the evolved red giant sun passes through a similar cosmic strip tease stage.

visible just after sunset during the first week of December, but lost in sun’s glare for rest of month. Venus is also lost in the Sun’s glare, to reappear in the dawn in early 2018. Mars and Jupiter

are in the dawn sky, with closer Mars overtaking more distant Jupiter throughout the month, with the two only 3 degrees apart on New Year’s morning.

The square of Pegasus dominates the western sky. South of it are the watery constellations of Pisces (the fish), Capricorn (Sea Goat), Aquarius (the Water Bearer), and Cetus (the Whale). Below Aquarius is Fomalhaut, the only

first magnitude star of the southern fall sky. It is the mouth of Pisces Australis, the Southern Fish. Between the foot of Aquarius and Fomalhaut is the Helix Nebula, the closest planetary nebula. This fine shot of the “Eye of God” probably anticipates what our own solar system will look like 6 billion years hence, when the evolved red giant sun passes through a similar cosmic strip tease stage.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus’ Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant ob-

ject visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. Overhead is Andromeda’s hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus’ feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. Their appearance in November in classical times was associated with the stormy season, when frail sailing ships stayed in port. Aldebaran is not a member

of the Hyades, but about twice as close as the Hyades; distances in astronomy can be deceiving.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew of adventurers.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active starbirth all over the place.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter’s two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 p.m., and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see “clearly now”. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year’s sky feast.

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Farmers' Almanac

“He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree”

—Roy L. Smith (1887-1963)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Fair and cool (1, 2, 3) turning windy and colder, lake-effect snow (4,5). Nor’easter, snow heavy in the northern part of the region (6, 7, 8, 9) returning to fair and cold weather with periods of more lake-effect snow (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17). Fair and cold (18,19) with more snow, some rain in the south (20,21); fair and cold again (22, 23, 24, 25, 26) with heavy snow (27, 28) ending the month with fair but very cold temperatures (29, 30, 31).

Full Moon: December’s Full Moon occurs on Sunday, December 3rd. For obvious reasons, it has been referred to as Cold Moon and also Ice-forming Moon because of

the ice forming over many lakes and ponds in the region during the month. Some Native Americans called it Beaver Moon because beavers are most active in December, scurrying to finish building their dams and lodges before winter sets in.

Holidays: Hanukkah begins at sunset on Tuesday, December 12th, the Winter Solstice occurs on Thursday, December 21st, and Christmas falls on Monday, December 25th. Have fun with family and friends but also resolve to keep that joyful and giving spirit alive throughout the entire coming year! New Year’s Eve falls on Sunday, December 31st. For a safe and family-oriented evening of fun, food, and entertainment on the very first night of the year, consider attending a First Night Celebration. If your town or municipality doesn’t hold one, check regional and metropolitan newspapers for

one being held near you.

The Garden: Utilize this time to do any major last-minute cleanup projects around the garden area. Haul away any debris that is too large or woody for compost, build paths, turn the compost pile to keep it warm, and generally make the garden space tidy before the spring returns. Make sure that your beds (especially ground beds) are properly protected from any erosion with leaves, mulch or other organic materials. Consider a garden shop gift card, garden tools, or offering to clean, refurbish, or sharpen garden equipment for the gardener in your life. Books on their favorite type of plants, or a gift card to a popular gardening catalog are also welcome gifts.

J. Gruber’s Thought For Today’s Living

“The thought that goes into the giving of a gift to a friend or loved one is so much more important than the value of the gift.”

COMPUTER Q&A

Holiday gadget buying guide

Ayse Stenabaugh

Holidays are stressful enough without having to worry about getting the right gifts, so we have put together a few tips and tricks to make buying this holiday easier. Don't know what to get the techie that has everything? – we have a few ideas for buying for those who have virtually everything!

Computers

When purchasing a computer this holiday you will want to determine the habits of the person you are seeking a gift for. Are they a gamer? Microsoft Office user? Or just a basic web browser? Determining the gift receiver's needs will help you to choose a computer that will do more than just get them by. Gamers are going to require a higher end video card while Office users are going to need access to their software (Microsoft Office does NOT come with new computers – and must be purchased separately!). Those who are basic browsers won't need much in the way of extras but it's important to be mindful of the processor speed and the amount of memory on any new computer. Be wary of budget computers with Celeron or Atom processors else you may leave your gift recipient wishing that they unwrapped socks instead!

Tablets

When considering purchasing a tablet as a gift ensure that it will meet the needs you are trying to fulfill. Unless you are purchasing a Windows tablet such as a Microsoft Surface it's unlikely that it will perform all of the same functions as a computer. Many budget tablets are available today that lack quality so it's recommended to refer to reviews to determine if the price is worth the potential sacrifice. Another thing to consider is what operating system the tablet should run on. If the gift is for an iPhone user, you will probably want to stick with an iPad so that they can sync their apps and data seamlessly. The same holds true for Android users who will likely appreciate an Android tablet. Windows tablets and Amazon's Kindle are a great option for those who aren't familiar with iOS or Android devices. Ensure that whatever device you choose has enough storage capacity, some devices have the ability to increase space with an external storage such as SD cards, other devices do not support expandable storage. Many devices also take up a good chunk of the storage space with the operating system so it's best to go with the larger storage capacity for the devices that don't support expandable storage.

Smartphones

As with tablets, you should try to identify whether the user

will find an iPhone, Android or Windows Phone more useful. In fact, its recommend that you determine exactly which phone the user will want prior to purchasing or setting up a new phone since many companies have semi-strict return policies on new devices. There are lots of new devices on the market all with varying features and storage capacities. Ensure that you are choosing a data plan to go with the phone that will provide enough data to cover the gift receiver's usage!

Tech gift ideas for the person who has everything

So what do you get for the person who seems to have everything? There are lots of new and innovative tech gifts emerging so check out some of the unique gift ideas below.

For the iPad or Android user that would like to be able to easily

transfer documents and photos, at Jester's Computers we have a USB flash drive device that makes this possible!

For the techie that has all the other gadgets, consider a smart watch. They sync to your phone and some can even make and receive phone calls among many other features!

For those who use their devices in bed consider a lazy arm bracket that can attach to beds and other devices using a clamp and easily allows you to read or watch tv with your device hands free!

What about the person who constantly misplaces their gadgets? Checkout Bluetooth tracking devices such as TrackR so they can find their devices with ease! Unlike the Tile, TrackR has replaceable batteries!

The media lover will enjoy Roku or Amazon Fire Stick which allows users stream internet content to their TV without needing

to connect their computer!

For the beginner who has gadgets but doesn't know how to use them yet consider a gift certificate to Jester's Computers for a one-on-one technology class! Classes are available by appointment only and are just \$25 for a one hour

session! Call 717-642-6611 to order a gift certificate.

As always for computer repair service and technology advice you can trust contact Jester's Computer Services at 717-642-6611 or visit us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2

PCCW Christmas Bake Sale at St Mary's Catholic Church in Fairfield. The kitchen is open for lunch along with vendors with lots of Christmas goodies. The ladies will be selling their Amish quilt with the final drawing at 3. Please come, support and enjoy yourselves. For more information call 717-642-8815.

Catoctin Furnace Historical Society's Traditional Village Christmas. Decorate a fresh wreath with bows, balls, bells, pinecones, holly, icicles and ornaments! Select unique handmade gifts for the holidays. Enjoy food, hot mulled wine, apple cider, taffy pulling, and heirloom-recipe baked goods. Children can make a punched or painted tin holiday ornament and have their photograph taken with Belsnickel. Also experience Kris Kringling, a costumed holiday tradition of dancing, singing and eating while visiting village homes! For more information, visit www.catoctinfurnace.org.

Mount St. Mary's Chorale concert. Visit the Basilica at the Na-

tional Shrine for music from the Mount, a concert featuring the melodic voices of the Mount St. Mary's University Chorale.

Annual Olde Getty Place Christmas Parade. Be part of it all as we delight in the annual parade, light the great tree in the Lincoln Square, and sing Christmas carols together to bring in the holiday season. Enjoy a variety of bands, floats, costumed characters, distinguished guests, dancers, youth groups and, of course, Santa Claus! We are honored to have the US Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps lead this year's parade! After the parade, Santa's Shanty will be open on the Square for the children. For more information call 717-334-1518 x229.

December 3

Music Gettysburg! presents Festival Choral Vespers for Advent. The holiday season kicks off with candlelight prayer the Schola Cantorum singing some of the last millennium's most beautiful music of hope and expectation. Mu-

sic Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. For more information, call 717-339-1334 or visit www.musicgettysburg.org.

December 8 & 9

Camp Eder's Christmas Tree Festival. This year's events include Christmas lights and music, story telling by Dave Weiss, food, bake sale, luminary garden, kid's activity cabin horse-drawn carriage rides and a tree-decorating contest. This time of year can be very difficult for families. Please bring any amount of the following items for local families in need: Small bags of rice, oatmeal, applesauce, and cereals. All donations will go to Fairfield families in need via Fairfield Mennonite Church Food Pantry. For more information visit www.campeder.org.

December 11 & 18

Mackenzie's Light, a bereavement support group, will meet at the Thurmont Regional Library.

Anyone impacted by the loss of a loved one is welcome. For more information, call 240-288-1300.

December 15

Ladies Night Out & Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest at the Red Door Boutique in Taneytown. Attention all Ladies! Take the night off and join us for a night of fun, food, and friendship. Local vendors and crafters will be set up in the store offering their latest creations and additions. Wear your "best" Ugly Christmas Sweater to compete for fun prizes! Light appetizers will be served and as always, BYOB. For more information visit www.reddoor-taneytown.com.

The Gettysburg Choral Society presents "Christmas in Song" featuring beloved Christmas favorites. Hosted by Trinity United Church of Christ, 60 East High Street, Gettysburg. Dessert reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

December 16

Blue Ridge Mountain Christmas

Celebration. This year's event, sponsored by the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will be held at the library and plaza green, located at 13676 Monterey Lane. There is something for everyone. Songs of the season by Rich Fehle; fire truck rides; horse-drawn sleigh rides; s'mores on the plaza; refreshments will be served from the library porch, craft making for the kids; and the historic Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will open its doors for the annual Holiday Open House. Santa will be here with treats for the kids and the young at heart. Come share the joy and good feeling of the Christmas season. For more information, call 717-642-5645.

December 17

Music Gettysburg presents Christmas Offering. Our annual holiday sampler, of favorite performers and festive music, this year led by Wayne Hill, the Ben Jones Brass, the Gettysburg Children's Choir, and the Schola Cantorum with Stephen Folkemer on the organ. Music Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. For more information, call 717-339-1334 or visit www.musicgettysburg.org.

December 18

Mother Seton School Christmas Program. Come celebrate the joy of Christmas with us! The program will include choral perfor-



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UPCOMING EVENTS

mances from the Mother Seton School Chorus and from individual classes, our award-winning band, and a student-produced Christmas play. For more information, call 301-447-3161 or visit www.mothersetonschool.org.

December 31

Gettysburg's New Year's Eve Celebration. Welcome 2017 with music, magic, fireworks and much more! Countdown to midnight begins at 11:30. Fireworks display over Lincoln Square at midnight. For more information call 717-334-5006.

Events at Hollabaugh Bros.

December 1 - 3

Hollabaugh's 8th annual Holiday Open House. Join the Hollabaugh family for a celebration

of the holidays, featuring lots of great products to sample, wonderful refreshments to share, sales and specials throughout the market, and seasonal gift items and decorations to prepare your home for the holidays. Come share in the holiday cheer at Hollabaugh's! No registration required - free event! For more information, call 717-677-8412.

December 3

Silent Night Paint-Along Event at Hollabaugh Bros. A professional artist will walk you through the entire painting process. The basic design is pre-drawn for you. Beginners are most definitely welcome! Bring a friend and enjoy an evening of creativity and fun, or meet some new friends at Hollabaugh's! Cost includes all painting supplies needed to complete a

16 x 20" canvas panel, along with some light refreshments from Hollabaugh's bakery! For more information call 717-677-8412.

December 9

Ladies' Holiday Tea at Holla-

baugh Bros. Join us at the market for a lovely holiday teatime! We'll start with an informal tea with time to chat with your friends and new acquaintances. We'll conclude our gathering by making a craft to add a touch of

the holiday season to your home. Join us for a fun, relaxing time with your friends...and make a new friend or two! This event is open to all Ladies - teens and up! For more information call 717-677-8412.

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Mount St. Mary's University Chorale Concert

Saturday, December 2, 7-8 p.m. at the Seton Basilica at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Join the Mount St. Mary's University Chorale as they celebrate the beginning of the Advent season with a concert under the direction of Andrew Rosenfeld, D.M.A., in the beautiful setting of the Seton Basilica.

Free admission. For more information call 301-447-5308.

Seminary Open House

Sunday, December 3, 2-4 p.m. at McSweeney Hall, patio entrance
Tours every 20 minutes

Holy Hour 3-4 p.m.
The Office of Vigils for Advent 4:30-5:15 p.m.
Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

Events at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Worship Opportunities

All Masses Held at Noon
December 2 & 3, Weekend Mass
December 8, Mass of the Immaculate Conception
December 9 & 10, Weekend Mass
December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
December 16 & 17, Weekend Mass
December 23 & 24, Weekend Mass
December 30 & 31, Weekend Mass
January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass

PLEASE NOTE:

December 24: Chapels, Miller Family Visitors Center and St. Bernadette's Shoppe will close 2:30 p.m.

December 25: Grotto grounds are open; Chapels, Miller Family Visitors Center and St. Bernadette's Shoppe are closed.

